



Impala and fountain lift the heart of Johannesburg

Johannesburg took a look at the new fountain on the old Standard Theatre site today. The people in this photograph had got in before the lunch-hour rush. The fountain was officially opened on Saturday.

By a Staff Reporter

UNIFORMED ATTENDANTS just gave up at Johannesburg's new fountain yesterday. The people had been given the fountain and nothing was going to stop their enjoyment of it.

GLOWING VELD

Mr. Oppenheimer and Mr. Wald and the Mayor, Mr. Gorshel, all wrought better than they knew. This fountain has brought something of the glowing veld right into the heart of the metropolis.

Mr. W. G. Sheat, Director of Parks, has added to the illusion with tall dried up winter thorn trees, aloes, rocks and grass and even, overnight, a tall leafy Cussonia tree whose roots are safely spread 12 feet under the rock.

And now everybody, with the Mayor and City Council, hope it will not be long before the Government removes the unsightly buildings behind this centre city oasis and throws open the block right to the City Hall.

Children yesterday afternoon clamoured to be allowed to "ride" on the backs of the impala—and some succeeded, clutching the horns and shrieking with joy.

But most of all Mr. Harry Oppenheimer will surely be delighted with the "lifting of the heart" that this lovely gift has given to Johannesburg.

On Saturday evening long lines of cars drove up Market Street and down President Street to view from every angle the statuary in the dancing amber light of the water. And even above the traffic noises the soft rushing of the water could be heard.

HAVE COME BACK

"A hundred years ago," said the sculptor, Mr. Hermann Wald, on Saturday morning, "impala were running around here and now they have come back to claim the ground."

A little later Mr. Oppenheimer said: "Johannesburg certainly has developed into a great and imposing city but in many ways it is rather forbidding. Its canyons of concrete tell us of hard work and success but we want to have something visible of beauty and grace as well as the success and power of the industry on which this city is based. I believe this statuary will bring back to us the wide sunlit spaces."