

HISTORY

THAT BRAVE COACHING ERA

In the pioneer days when coaches helped blaze the way northward to riches and a wonderful future for South Africa, the coaching men, the highwaymen and the seekers after gold and diamonds were too occupied to write about their adventures, writes Denis Godfrey.



the Publicity and Travel Dept. South African Railways

The result is a lack of material on that brave era. But recently at least some of the void was filled by a descendant of one of the most famous of all South Africa's coaching firms, Harry Zeederberg, with his *Veld Express*.

The son of Mr Abram "Dolf" Zeederberg, who died in 1943 aged 93, Harry has worked on his manuscript off and on for over 30 years.

One interesting sidelight that emerges in *Veld Express* is the fact that, while historians contend that Rhodes and Kruger never met, they did, in fact meet on two occasions, according to the author.

South African Digest, August 27, 1971 11

To return to the Zeederbergs and their coaches — Harry says the Zeederberg coaching organisation is remembered so vividly because its coaches ran until well after Union in 1910, and were still operating to Swaziland in the early 1920s.

Mr Zeederberg is currently working on a follow-up to the present work. Preparation of his new book, which deals with the history of a number of companies, is nearing completion.

An authority on the history of the Transvaal, Harry Zeederberg has worked diligently for the preservation of historical landmarks and items and many museums have benefited from his research.

TRAVEL

GOLDEN CITY FOR TOURISTS

Johannesburg can attract tourists, according to its director of publicity, Mr Pat Sullivan.

Johannesburg has the potential to become a major tourist centre, he says, and it needs only to project itself.

Jan Smuts Airport has 2-million passenger movements a year, which could increase to 8-million in 10 years.

If Johannesburg can hold these people for two or three nights, it can

set itself up to earn R50-million a year from tourism.

The city has a miscellany of activities which can be made attractive to visitors from abroad, neighbouring countries and even the South African country districts.

He cites the cosmopolitan atmosphere, more shows and theatres than ever before, sophisticated night club entertainment, restaurants that are getting into world class, international exhibitions and events, and an abundance of shops.

One airline has recognised this to the extent of including Johannesburg as a stopover on a world-wide tour through Rio, New York, Montreal and European cities.

Johannesburg residents, he says, tend to be blasé about activities which would interest a tourist on his way to, say, the Kruger National Park.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY EXPANDS

Extensive expansion projects running into millions of rands have been announced by Stellenbosch University, reports the *Burger*. Plans for constructing new academic buildings at an estimated cost of R29-million over a period of six years have already been approved.

Satour

Impala Fountain by Herman Wald in Oppenheimer Square, Johannesburg, gives the tourist a taste of what he will see in the Kruger National Park



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