

Dear Member,

With Parliament once more in full blast, it is satisfying to see the Sash banner still "Stream like the thunderstorm against the wind".

A Stand was held at the top of Adderley Street to protest against a White District Six. The posters read:

"We mourn the loss of livelihoods and homes"

"We mourn the loss of Churches, Mosques and Schools"

"We mourn the loss of this old-established Community"

There was also a banner reading "District Six". At least 60 people attended, including members of the public. We feel this was well worthwhile and have been heartened by spontaneous congratulations. It is also heartening to see the volume of protest in the Press and elsewhere against this piece of callous injustice.

MORNING MARKET:

This reached new heights last year. The nett amount raised, to the middle of February, including the money taken at the stalls, donations and sums raised by Branches before and since, is R3,289.43. This represents a gain over the previous year of R248.10. Our grateful thanks go to Mrs. le Feuvre for organizing the Market and to Miss Pete Lomborg and her assistants for putting up the posters, and our congratulations to the many members who so devotedly contributed by organising, and by giving merchandise and service. The Dean of Cape Town opened the Market with a delightful address.

Two questions have arisen in this connection which call for the consideration of all our members. The first is that of food. Cakes, delicatessen and everything eatable sells off so rapidly that we must consider whether they should be left to two Branches to provide, or whether all the Branches can be asked to contribute.

The other question is whether there should be an official opening, especially once the noise and commotion of buying and selling has started.

This year's Morning Market will be held on November 1st.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

Mrs. Robb gave an excellent resumé at All Branches of proceedings at the Conference, and many Branches have had delegates reporting it at their meetings. Some of the very worthwhile fact papers read at the Conference were printed in the November issue of the Magazine, which also has Mr. Paton's fine address.

ADVICE OFFICE REPORT:

	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Total</u>
Men endorsed out	8	13	21
Women endorsed out	8	14	22
Miscellaneous	11	41	52
Old cases returned	<u>48</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>127</u>
TOTAL	<u>75</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>222</u>

This is the 15th year since African women began to register, and more and more will qualify to remain here as having worked in the area for 15 years. It would appear that those who are likely to qualify in this way are being hurried out while still "unqualified", and that women who qualify as wives of qualified men, ordinarily residing with their husbands, and with a legal right to their houses, are in many cases being "persuaded" into "voluntarily" accepting repatriation or resettlement.

If people or families do qualify, they can only be resettled if they agree to it. A circular issued by the Secretary for Bantu Administration and Development instructs officials continuously to exercise persuasion on people who qualify to remain and are unwilling to leave, to consent to be resettled, "on ethnical grounds". This continuous persuasion, exercised also on employers, many of them uncertain of the laws, amounts to coercion, and the women are then sent to the homelands or to resettlement villages, without having their books stamped. An endorsement out stamp would enable them subsequently to appeal against their being sent out as illegal, but by the time they have discovered the conditions to which they have gone, of living on charity with no possibility of work, they have lost the right to come back, and the Advice Office can give them no help.

A Case From Our Files:

P.M. came to Cape Town from Grabouw, where she was born, in 1947 at the age of seven years. She was married here in 1962. Four children were born here and the family lived together with permission until 1968, when their temporary hut at Guguletu (Allocated to them in 1965) was demolished. At this time, her husband was six months short of his fifteen-year qualification. The authorities said that she must go with the children to her father-in-law in Lady Frere. Her husband duly went into the zones, while she and the four children shared a hut with nine others at Lady Frere. In December 1968 she returned to Cape Town without permission, alarmed because the children had become ill. Although her husband is now a "qualified" man, they can no longer be said to be "ordinarily residing" together and she may not remain in the Area. Her husband has applied for a site of his own at Lady Frere on which to build a hut, but this has not yet been allocated.

SASH PARTIES:

In October Wynberg had an evening of poetry reading at which 45 people were present. Mr. Denis Bullough, Mr. Adam Small, Mrs. Adèle Naudé and Mr. Bill Curry took part in the readings, which everyone very much enjoyed. Light refreshments were served and altogether it was a most successful evening.

On the 8th February Fish Hoek had a "braai" for parents and children, 45 in all. It was a gay and delightful occasion, and after supper music and dancing went with a swing.

INTER-RACIAL CONTACTS:

A new and more inclusive statement on what is still permissible has been drawn up by Mrs. Jackie Beck, and copies may be had at the Office or from the Branch Chairmen.

SCRAPBOOKS:

The following branches are keeping cuttings from the Press, for their own information, as reference books for Council or other members, and as sources for Fact Papers:

Claremont:	Recreational facilities in the townships.
Rondebosch:	Education; primary, secondary and university for all races
Simon's Town:	Group Areas removals in Simon's Town.
Rosebank:	Coloured education.
Plumstead:	Transport
False Bay:	Kalk Bay removals
Elgin:	Resettlement Villages

RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATIONS:

Please make sure that your name is on the Municipal Voters' Roll. If possible join the Ratepayers' association in your ward. If you live in Wards XIV and XV you will be able to give greater support to Mrs. Stott, who will be standing for election in 1970.

PERSONAL:

We were sorry to have to take leave of Mrs. Botha at the beginning of this year, as she had to resign owing to ill-health. We are glad to welcome Mrs. Clancy to the Office, and hope she will be happy with us.

Last year we joined with other societies to which she belonged to present Mrs. Stoy with an illuminated address commemorating what she had meant to all of us. We miss her many contributions and her élan, and we wish her and her husband well in their new life.

We sent our very good wishes for renewed health to our beloved treasurer, Mrs. Willis; to Miss Windhem, who did such sterling work on the Council for many years from its inception; and to Mrs. Jessie Hertslet, whose articles in the Press called forth compassion and courage.

ALL BRANCHES:

The next meeting will be, by her courtesy, at the home of Mrs. Robb, "Silverhurst", Alexandra Road, Wynberg, on Monday, March 3rd at 8 p.m. There will be a speaker on a subject of immediate interest.

ELGIN PICNIC:

This will take place at Miss Denniston's house, "Ridgelands", Elgin, on Sunday March 9th, starting at 11 a.m. Entrance to the farm will be 25c per head or R1.00 per car load. Picnickers are to provide their own food, but afternoon tea and biscuits will be served. Farm produce and fruit will be on sale.

LETTERS TO THE PRESS:

- October 22nd 1968 - Cape Argus - On Group Areas on Cape Flats
- December 3rd 1968 - Cape Times - Human Rights
- " 9th 1968 - Cape Argus - Apartheid notices on beaches
- " 19th 1968 - Cape Times - Broken African families at Christmas
- February 5th 1969 - Cape Times - "The African Dilemma" and the Advice Office

On Tuesday, 4th February, the Deputy Minister for Bantu Development quoted at length a letter from our Chairmen, Mrs. Wilks, written to the Cape Times on the subject of Lime Hill. This shows the importance of writing letters to the papers concerning matters of national importance, such as black spot removals.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Wilks

BARBARA WILKS
CHAIRMAN