

THE CASBAH

GREY STREET CASBAH & SURROUNDINGS NEWS

Dedicated to the Casbah spirit of Aziz Hassim
greystreetcasbah@gmail.com

Edition 22 - Vol 3

01 February 2015

Stories and adverts from The Leader - year 1980

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THIRD TIME 'LUCKY' FOR UMBILO TEMPLE

The Shree Ambalavanaar Alayam at Cato Manor, also known as the Umbilo Temple, has been declared a national monument.

The Temple, although of simple construction, is ornately decorated. Its embellishment of figurines is said to be among the finest of its type in the country. Sculptors from India were brought out to do the work. The history of the Temple can be traced back more than a hundred years. The present structure stands on the Temple's third site.

Originally the Temple was built on the banks of the Umbilo River but was destroyed by floods when the river burst its banks in 1905. It was rebuilt near Rossburgh, Clairwood, but was again affected by flooding and fell into disuse for some time.

A few worshippers, however, continued to use the Temple in spite of its condition, but the end came when the structure was bulldozed because of road widening. The Temple was then moved to Bellair road in Cato Manor. It is the scene, each year, of the largest fire-walking ceremony in the Durban area.

A notice proclaiming the Temple as a national monument was gazetted last Friday. It now enjoys 'protected' status.



general view of the Temple at Cato Manor which is now a national monument.

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TRADERS WILL HAVE OPTION TO BUY

'Leader reporter'

Former Victoria Street stall holders who have moved from pillar to post can look forward to a more settled era once the long awaited Oriental Plaza is built.

Speaking to the 'Leader' this week Mr R.J. Naran, secretary of the Market Traders Association said the Department of Community Development had carried out a survey amongst stallholders to find out what type and size of premises were best suitable for their needs.

He disclosed that traders would be given the option to buy their stands under sectional title or that rents would be nominal. All the traders, Mr Naran said, had already signed to move to the Oriental Plaza which is expected to be in Ordinance Road.

Mr Naran warned that with the move he expected business's in the Grey Street complex to deteriorate further. Traders who move to the plaza would be assured of steady business because of the heavy commuter movement at the nearby station in Ordinance Road.

Mr Naran said market stall holders and businessmen who were affected due to road development in Warwick Avenue would receive first option.

It is expected that parking facilities for 2000 cars will be provided at the plaza. Mr Naran said that he expected the plaza to be designed along similar lines to the one in the Transvaal.

FIREWALKER VELLO HAULED OVER COALS

Leader' Reporter

VETERAN fire-walker Mr Velloo Padayachee, has been hauled over the coals because of certain remarks and allegations he made in an interview with 'The Leader' last week.

In the report, Mr Padayachee, who had participated in the annual fire-walking ceremony for the past 50 years, indicated that he would be quitting because he was dissatisfied with the Temple's administration. Mr Padayachee, who has assisted others to prepare for the fire-walking event, further warmed devotees that, in his absence they would be taking part at their own risk.

This week, however, Mr A.J. Pather, a trustee of the Cato Manor Umbilo Temple where Durban's biggest fire-walking takes place, hit back at Mr Padayachee and challenged him on his claims. "It is surprising and perhaps amusing when he warns others that they will walk the fire at their own risk. Is he suggesting that only if he is there will the others walk over the embers in safety?" Mr Pather asked. He questioned if Mr Padayachee was implying that the faith of the other followers would be absent if he (Mr Padayachee) was not there.

Mr Pather added that although Mr Padayachee played an important part in the fire-walking ceremony he was not indispensable. Further, Mr Padayachee, has never been the official priest at the Temple. "The priest in charge is Mr. P.A. Pather", he said. Mr Pather said as far as he was concerned Mr Padayachee had never been told not to enter the grounds or the Temple.

"Anyone including Mr Padayachee is welcome to the Temple. The Temple is a place of worship and as such no one who

follows the Hindu faith is forbidden".

He pointed out, however, that many temples also observe the prayers and fire-walking and Mr Padayachee could go there if he wished. "I have great respect for Mr Padayachee as a fire-walker, and indeed still have much respect for him, as he has been without doubt a pillar of strength", said Mr Pather in a tribute to the man who has been linked to the Temple from the early days. Mr Padayachee is 86 years old.

Mr Pather also wished to clarify the position regarding the Temple's funds. Mr Padayachee had said that "funds could be put to better use by improving amenities at the Temple". Mr Pather claimed that the Temple had no funds to speak of and on numerous occasions he had to use his own money to get things done. He wished to stress that at no time had he misused funds.



VELLOO PADAYACHEE

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CANINES ARE HIS BEST FRIEND

A 15 year old boy is fast making a name for himself in the kennel club world of breeding and showing dogs. Ahmed Hansa, who enters standard eight at Sastri College when school reopens, became seriously interested in dogs three years ago.

Today he runs Naseema Kennels, registered with the Kennel Union of South Africa, and specialises in two German breeds, Dobermann Pinchers and Rottweilers. He is believed to be the only Indian breeder of the latter breed and also the only Indian registered kennel owner.

“At the time I was 12 years old we had 13 mongrels running around the house and then I decided to go in for pedigreed dogs.”

A year later becoming as a registered owner he began showing his dogs. The first time was at the Royal Show in Pietermaritzburg. Since then he has made great strides. Some of his dogs have won prizes at various shows. The pick of his animals is a Rottweiler named Rudsje Arpat, of Naseema, which he calls Bullet. It won six prizes at a recent show organised by the Pietermaritzburg Kennel Club.

He bought the dog as a pup from a breeder in the Free State, and at the time cost him R350 inclusive of air freight. Ahmed has developed a great liking for this particular breed and his interest has led him to write a book on the Rottweiler in order to increase the public awareness of this exceptional dog.

“The Rottweiler is a large cattle dog, which is now much in use by the military because of

its strength and size yet it is the best of pets as it is good with children.”

He hopes to get the book published soon. The dogs have a large appetite and Ahmed has to see that they are fed and exercised everyday, he spends up to two hours daily with his dogs.

“Running the kennel is a costly affair and the money I get from selling the dogs all but covers my expenses, but I am doing it because I love dogs.” Ahmed said.

Rottweiler breeders maintain strict standards and dogs are not sold to just about anybody if they can afford it, of course. “Our main aim, is to get people to show their dogs and we are selective about who we sell to. In spite of this we have quite a waiting list” he said.

Ahmed has the smaller type of Rottweiler but there is a glint in his eye as he talks of his ambitions to impart the larger variety, hopefully by the end of the year.



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TERMINUS APPEAL TO COUNCIL

'Leader Reporter'

The Natal Commuters Association has appealed to the City Council not to move the bus terminus in Victoria Street to its proposed new siting in Old Dutch Road.

The present terminus has been there for over 50 years and is close to the busy Warwick Avenue trading centre. The new site is near the proposed Oriental Plaza in Ordinance Road about two kilo-

metres from the central Grey Street area.

Mr J. Ramdhani, secretary of the association, said many SAIC members had supported the move to have the Oriental Plaza sited in Ordinance Road much to the anger of the commuters. "Urgent representation will be made to the council. We are tired of being kicked from pillar to post." He said.

CONGRATS TO INDIRA

A telegram has been sent from Durban to Mrs Indira Gandhi congratulating her on her return to premiership after her resounding victory over her opponents in the recent Indian elections. Mr J.P. Gokool, chairman of the 1860 Indian Settlers Association and long-term admirer of Mrs Gandhi, has sent the following message to India's Prime Minister.

"Indian South Africans rejoice with millions of India's electoral voters and extend their heartfelt congratulations upon achieving landslide election victory. Pray God grant you good health and courage to shoulder under your premiership the immense burden and responsibility of restoring political stability and ensuring progress towards economic and social order amongst India's teeming millions".

Mr Gokool, who has been an interesting observer of the political scene both here and abroad for almost four decades, came out in support for Mrs Gandhi when she was being hounded by her political opponents after her election defeat in 1977.

He cabled then Prime Minister, Mr Morarjee Desai, with the plea that Mrs Gandhi be pardoned for any alleged corruption or misuse of power. "Her decade

of dedicated service and thousands of acts of good for India's millions far outweigh the alleged crimes she may have committed....Pray no stigma is attached to present and future leaders...."

Mr Gokool did not receive a reply to his telegram but India's electorate has given the answer to the Janata Government by inflicting a shattering defeat upon it.



INDIRA GANDHI



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SOCIAL SCENE

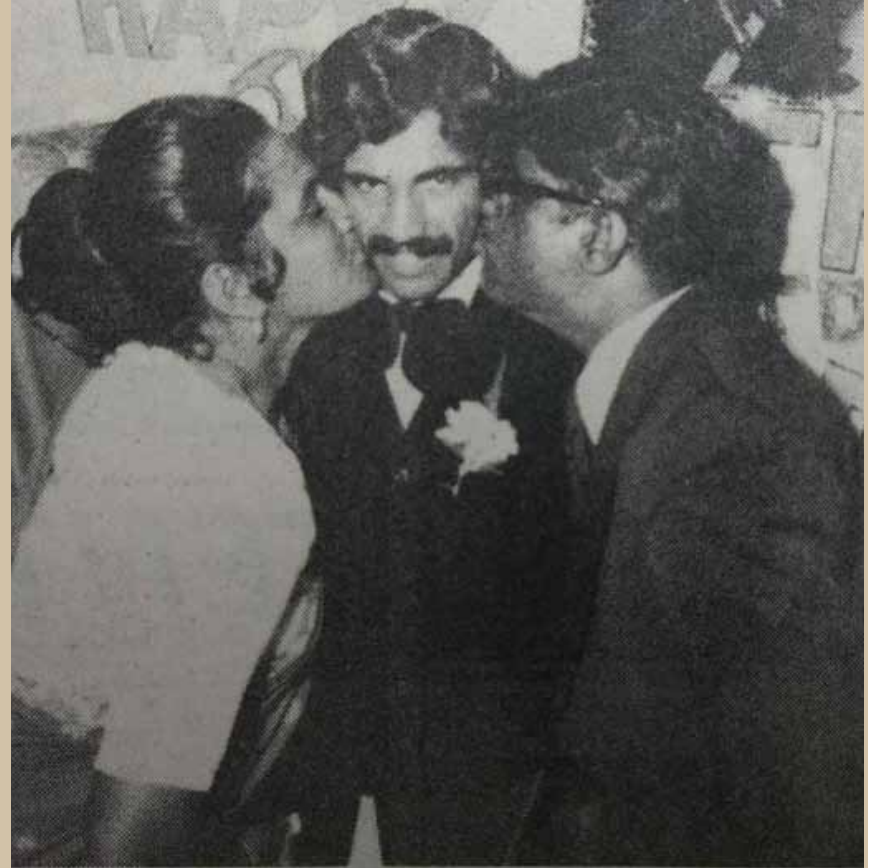
Good work by Puntan's Hill women



The women of Puntan's Hill have formed a club to cater for their interests and to assist the community in whatever way they can. Since the club was formed late last year several fund raising functions have been organised. Among the first to benefit financially was the Andhra Vidhya Sabha, the treasurer of which, Mr C. p. Naidoo is seen receiving a cheque from Mrs Devi Naidoo. Also in the picture are from left: (back row) Miss Saras Naidoo, Mrs Maliga Naidoo, Miss Sandra Nair, Mrs M. Naidoo, Mrs Zarina Naidoo, Miss Regina Naidoo and Miss Cookie Govender.

(front row): Mrs Sandra Chelliah (treasurer), Mrs P. Naidoo, Mrs Vanatha Govender (secretary), Mrs Bana Naidoo, Mrs Chilka Naidoo, Mrs A. Naicker and Mrs Seetha Naidoo.

21st BIRTHDAY



George Govender recently celebrated his twenty first birthday with friends and relatives. He is seen here been congratulated by his parents Neela and Morris Govender of Kharwastan, Durban.



The Sea Cow Lake Cultural Organisation received a big boost this week when Clover Dairies' agreed to sponsor its Eight Annual Eastern band contest to be held at the City Hall on 22 March. The picture shows members of the organisation with Mr J. B. Fischer, marketing manager of Clover Dairies (seated). They are (L ti R): S. Ramgith (record clerk), T. Sunker (secretary), R. Thakundin (treasurer), R. Thakurdin (chairman), and B. Biridgelall (organiser).

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Story from the Drum Magazine 1969

Songbirds

A Girl Group from Merewent

The compare shouted at the top of his voice for attention. The packed hall obeyed instantly. The announcer thanked them and said: “Ladies and gentlemen, we introduce to you the Songbirds. They are three pretty sisters with a rare talent, and as you can see they are now set to bring to you soul members the Motown Sound.”

Then hell broke loose. There were deafening wolf-whistles and cat-calls all at once. But the twang of a pop guitar and drums broke through. The “Songbirds” had come. They fell into rhythm with the music and then burst into song. Shouts for more were still in the air when they calmly slipped off the stage and the glare of the spotlight. That show itself helped them add another batch of fans and admirers.

DRUM visited them at their Merewent home, Durban, and found the three sisters sitting in the comfort of their lounge rehearsing a few new numbers in preparation of their next show.

The Pieterse sisters are Olga (17), June (16) and Hilda (15) and all three are JC students, June told DRUM that they are well known in their township. “We always keep together and we share the same interests. “What is good for one is good for all, that’s our policy.”

“We started off singing since our hockey days. As a group of girls we used to sing in the bus on our way to the hickey fields.

“It was just by sheer chance that we took singing seriously. One day in 1965 we were approached by the Leader of the Insects, Louis Mcknight, to appear on a show they were organizing. We were bashful and shy to appear before a paid audience just in case we were booed off.

“ By the time we could sort out feelings properly we realised we were doing our first number in a packed hall. The first applause and encouragement made us forget our feelings. We sang two other numbers and the crowd certainly wanted us to do more. That was the day the Songbirds were born. After that we did not turn back.

“Luck also played an important role in making us popular. We have been having engagements nearly every weekend. Our friends and fans gave us all the encouragement we needed. They have been very good to us,” says June.

The Pieterse sisters are certainly unlike the other girls their age. They are set upon trying everything they can lay their hands on. On Saturday mornings they have the girls from the neighborhood moving in to have their hair styled. And judging from the numbers they are getting, they should be good. “We may take up hairstyling seriously but at the moment we are more keen to learn the art than anything else.” Says Olga.

The sisters do a lot of swimming and cycling. During their spare times they just pack up and cycle to the beach, five miles away. “And mind you – we don’t want any wolves around us, we are no weaklings.”

The girls hold a recording contract for their first recording soon and they are considering a tour of the Transvaal. “We are confident we can make the grade elsewhere – especially Johannesburg.”



Singing at a Durban nitespot, the girls really wow the audience.



June and Olga practise at home – where they write songs with Hilda and work out rhythms. The lounge has been their practice “stage” since they started out.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Blue Lagoon

In the Victorian period, two young cousins, Richard and Emmeline LeStrange, and a galley cook, Paddy Button (Leo McKern), survive a shipwreck in the South Pacific and reach a lush tropical island. Paddy cares for the small children and forbids them by "law" from going to the other side of the island, as he found evidence of remains of bloody human sacrifices. He also warns them against eating a scarlet berry which is apparently deadly.

Paddy soon dies after a drunken binge, and his body is discovered by Richard and Emmeline. Now alone, the children go to another part of the island and rebuild their home.

Years pass and they both grow into tall, strong, and beautiful teenagers. They live in their hut, spending their days together fishing, swimming, and diving for pearls. Richard and Emmeline (now portrayed by Christopher Atkins and Brooke Shields) begin to fall in love, although this is emotionally stressful for them because of their lack of education on human sexuality. Emmeline is frightened after she begins her first menstrual period and is nervous when Richard wants to inspect her for a cut.

Sometime later, their relationship suffers a major blow when a ship appears for the first time in years. Richard's desire to leave comes into conflict with Emmeline's desire to stay, and she does not light the signal fire. As a result, the ship passes by without noticing them. Richard's fury leads him to kick Emmeline out of their hut. They make up for this fight after Emmeline is nearly killed upon stepping on a stonefish and Richard admits to his fear of losing her. Emmeline recovers and after she regains her ability to walk, they go skinny dipping in the lagoon and then swim to shore. Still naked, Richard and Emmeline discover sexual intercourse and then passionate love. They regularly make love from then on while occasionally spending their time together in the nude. Due to their regular sexual encounters, Emmeline becomes pregnant. Richard and Emmeline themselves do not know about the truth of childbirth and human reproduction and assume that the physical changes in Emmeline's body is her getting fat. They are stunned when they feel the baby move inside her and assume it's her stomach causing the movements.

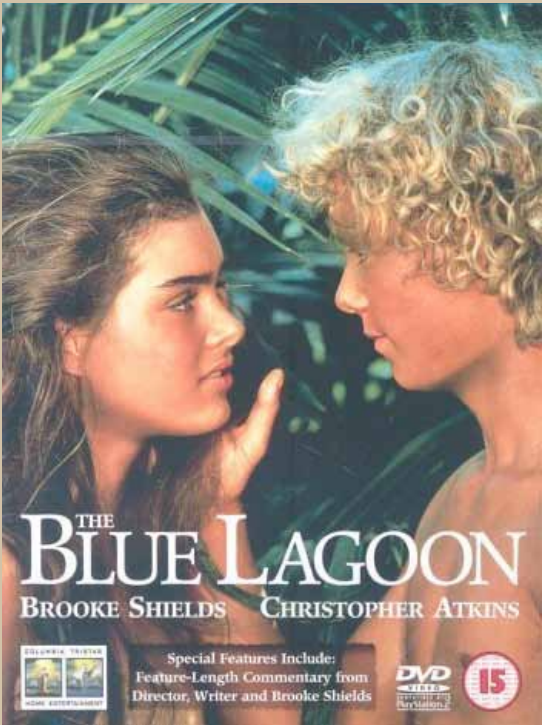
One night, Emmeline gives birth to a baby boy, whom they name Paddy. Frustrated at not knowing how to feed the baby, Emmeline holds him and learns how to

feed him as the baby instinctively starts sucking on her breast. The young parents spend their time playing with Paddy as he grows, teaching him how to swim, fish, and build things.

As the family plays, a ship led by Richard's father Arthur (William Daniels), approaches the island and sees the family playing on the shore. As they are covered in mud, Arthur assumes these are natives, not the young couple they have been searching for all these years, and the ship passes.

One day, the young family takes the lifeboat to visit their original homesite. While waiting for Richard, Emmeline and Paddy remain in the boat. Emmeline falls asleep and does not notice when Paddy brings a branch of the scarlet berries into the boat. She awakes as Paddy tosses one of the oars out. The tide was sweeping the boat into the lagoon and Richard swims to her, followed closely by a shark. Emmeline throws the other oar at the shark, striking it and giving Richard time to get into the boat. Though close to shore, they are unable to return or retrieve the oars without risking a shark attack. They paddle with their hands to no avail; the boat is caught in the current and drifts out to sea.

After drifting for days in the boat, Richard and Emmeline awake to find Paddy eating the berries he picked. Realizing that these are poisonous berries, they try to stop him, but he had already swallowed a few. Hopeless, Richard and Emmeline eat the berries as well, lying down to await death. A few hours later, Arthur's ship finds them floating in the boat. Arthur asks, "Are they dead?" and the ship's captain (Alan Hopgood) answers, "No, sir. They're asleep." Although, in the following movie the idea of this is changed a bit.



SONG LYRIC's

Peaches & Herb

I Pledge My Love

Always together, together forever
Always together forever

I will love you 'til the day I die
I know this now and my love won't run dry
You came along, my life has begun
Two hearts are now beating as though they were one

Like the stars that make the night so bright
You shine on me with a love that's so right
A love that is lasting, a love that's so pure
Each time I feel it, it makes me more sure

I know with all my heart, we'll never part
For this is the day when our love comes alive
And I mean what I say as I stand here saying

I pledge my love to you
I pledge my love is true
I pledge my life to you
I do, my dear, I do, my dear

Like a river finds the deep blue sea
Love took your hand and led you to me
This is the us that I'll never forget
Both sparkling with love but happy we met

I know with all my heart, we'll never part
For this is the day when our love comes alive
And I mean every word and I want you to know that

I pledge my love to you
I pledge my love is true
I pledge my life to you
I do, my dear, I do, my dear

I'm so proud to have you by my side
You'll be my strength and I'll be your guide
You are the one, you're a dream that is real
Heaven has sent you, it's love that I feel

I know with all my heart, we'll never part
For this is the day when our love comes alive
And I mean what I say if somebody should ask me

I pledge my love to you
I pledge my love is true
I pledge my life to you
I do, my dear, I do, my dear

I do, I pledge my love to you



GORI BIBI'S Lonesome Corner

IF YOU wish to correspond with someone with a view to pen-friendship or even marriage. Write to Gori Bibi, "The Leader", 224-227 Goodhope Centre, 92 Queen Street, Durban. Give your full name, address, interests and a pen-name and we will print your letter. Don't forget to enclose 4c in stamps when you write in reply to a letter that has appeared, then we can send your reply on to the writer.

KOGIE, 18. Matric student would like to hear from Tamil guys. Interests are general.

SHAINI 39. Hindi divorcee would like to hear from decent gents of sober habits. She lives in Durban.

HAKIN 32. Moslem gent interested in farming, family life, travelling seeks sincere females and widows with a view to friendship or marriage. I promise to reply to all letters.

THE SAINT 38. Good looking Tamil gentleman divorced, company director, well dressed, light complexioned, broad-minded, very loving, kind, tolerant, offers a beautiful home, tastefully furnished, for sincere relationship or marriage to a beautiful young lady. Widows and divorcees are welcome.

RAVE 23. Hindu youth would like to hear from decent Hindu girls from nice homes. They must be tolerant, neat, well-spoken and intelligent. They should be about 20 to 24 years. Interested in early marriage. Photo will be appreciated. Hobbies are swimming, soccer, radio and reading.

LONELY LIBRA 30 is a lonely spinster from a decent family. She would like to correspond with Hindu men between 30 and 35. Hobbies are general. Those who are really interested should write to: 88 Sambalpur Road, Merebank, Durban.

RAVI 21. Single youth from a decent home on the North Coast is interested in writing and chess. Tamil girls should write.

ROSHNEE 24. Hindi girl would like to hear from Hindu gents under 30, of sober habits. Interested in reading and cinema.

RICKY 19. would like to hear from Tamil females aged 16 to 19. He is interested in singing and swimming.

SHEILA 19 is a Hindi orphan. She would like to hear from Hindi guys aged 20 to 30. Correspondents may write to c/o Sheerana, P.O. Box Glenanil, via Stanger 4452.

GREY EYES 39. Muslim gent would like to hear from Muslim females aged 27 to 50. View friendship. Interests are reading and cinema.

ASHERVILLE LASS 24. Tamil lass would like to hear from Tamil males aged 26 to 30. No chancers please.

MISS LEO 31. is a single Hindi girl who would like to hear from bachelors or widowers of sober habits. Interests are pop music and baking.

VIGIE 40. is a Tamil female working in a factory. She would like to hear from gents up to the age of 44. View marriage.

SHIREEN 35 is a Hindi girl who would like to hear from Hindi guys aged over 36. View sincere friendship. No chancers.



Devagie (Devi), daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Kuppusamy of Montford, Chatsworth was married to Gonaseelan (gonnie), son of Mrs and the Late Mr Govindasamy - Stanley of Parlock at the City Hall (West Street) on 30 December 1979.

Photo: SOLIDA STUDIOS



Govindamma (Vassie), daughter of Mrs and the late Mr Govindsamy of Montford, Chatsworth was married to Soobramoney (Sadha), son of the late Mr and Mrs Velayudam Govender (George) also of Montford at the Saiva Sithantha Sungum Temple on Saturday 19 January 1980.

Photo: SOLIDA STUDIOS



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HARRY LALLA REMEMBERED

Tuesday February 26 1980, was exactly one year that Harry Lalla died. But he is not forgotten. His family has decided to carry on with the good work Harry use to do for non-racial sport.

In memory of their father his three sons have decided to sponsor a junior soccer club playing in the Phoenix Football Association. The club is to be called Aces United.

Aces United was one of the founding teams in the old South African Soccer league days and also of the Federation professional League. Mr Lalla's family has also decided to continue sponsorship of the FPL student cards – something Harry readily did when he was asked by the FPL officials to do.

Two days before Harry died he withdrew a letter which he had sent to the FPL asking for Aces to be accepted into the folds of the FPL.

When Harry made the application to the Federation Professional League he did not do it for financial gain nor was he in any hurry to hug the soccer limelight again. He wanted to do it to save the League and the non-racial South African Soccer Federation.

Harry played a silent role until Aces United blazed a new trail for soccer in the 1960's. He championed the cause of the club and professional soccer and helped form the old SASL.



SPORTING COMPLEX OPENING

The official opening of the Siripat Road grounds, which forms part of the new sporting facilities now being developed on the banks of the Umgeni River, will take place on 23 February 1980 at 2.30pm.

The recreation grounds, which presently comprise of the soccer and cricket fields, will eventually make up the

linear Park complex which will provide for sports such as tennis, golf and athletics as well.

The facilities now being developed replace grounds that have been taken away for development works, particularly by the railways at nearby Springfield.



Nicholas Mlaba's straight left find the target in his points win over Johnny Lutchama in a welterweight contest over four rounds in Durban recently

LESSON FROM LEEDS

by Dan Manicom

NEWCOMERS Leeds United gave a power-packed display that left an indelible impression at Curries on Sunday when they scored an easy 3-1 victory over their experienced opponents Manning Rangers.

Spiritely and energetic, Leeds went about their business from the first whistle in a determined bid to stamp their authority on the match. So convincingly did they succeed that they were able to prise open the jittery Rangers defence in the opening minutes to register their first goal via Brian Fynn.

As Leeds forwards Cheesa Baptist, Brian Fynn and Denzil Bull tore away at the Rangers defence, the promising 19 year old Leeds goalkeeper, Buddy Govender (a former Royals amateur) was in excellent form on the odd occasion when demands were made upon him by the Rangers forwards.

Resuming the second half with a one goal lead, Leeds kept up their attacking tempo and were rewarded for their efforts when Cheesa Baptist notched the second. Margo McKenzie who came on as a replacement for the injured Buddy Govender, had difficulty in handling a tame shot, while well out of his goal line. Margo dropped the ball for no apparent reason, when close in attendance; breathing down his neck Eugene de Lange and Victor Govindsamy was close on hand to tap the loose ball into the net.

Undaunted by this setback, Leeds did not ease up but continued a relentless attack against a token resistance. With 15v minutes left Denzil Bull let loose a pot

shot at goal. The ball hit the underside and trickled over the line, with replacement goalkeeper Ravi Naidoo stranded. The next 10 minutes were frustrating for Rangers as Leeds moved the ball from player to player in a show of exhibitionism.

Blondie Campbell, Leeds trainer said after the match, "I am quite pleased with the result, but the team has not hit peak form yet". Rangers trainer Willie Lewis said, "Leeds taught us a lesson, it will be a different story when it comes to the real thing".



The Clairwood High School held its annual inter-house athletics sport meeting at the school grounds last Friday. Seen above are some of the winners who represented Drobini House with Mrs Indira Bissetty, (secondleft) wife of Durban journalist Mr Nagoor Bissetty, who presented certificates to prize winners. With them is the school's Afrikaans Head of Department, Mrs F. M. Chelien (left), who acted as one of the sports officials.

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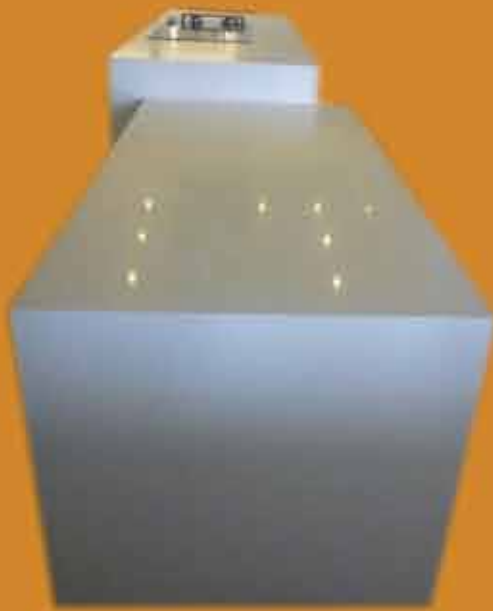




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