



SPRINGBOK-STORMLOOP SPRINGBOK STAMPEDE

19 July 1968



Ken Jackson interviews two Stampeders on his popular TV show in Bulawayo

BULAWAYO BLAST-OFF

The whole city was talking about it, even before SPRINGBOK STAMPEDE arrived in Bulawayo for an action-packed week. For six days beforehand The Chronicle carried articles and photographs. Then SPRINGBOK STAMPEDE hit Bulawayo on July 1. The week-long visit was highlighted by several appearances on TV and radio, as well as eight performances. These included two matinees for schools, and a morning show at Townsend Girls' High School, where Stampede High studied during the week.

The response to SPRINGBOK STAMPEDE ran through the city, and resulted in "sold out" houses all week. The youth of Bulawayo took this idea and made it their own by starting a cast on the spot. More and more came to rehearsals, and fifty turned up for the most recent one. They have such a spirit and eagerness to start this positive musical demonstration that it blows like a fresh cool breeze across arid land.

The older generation by the dozen offered their help and support. This crowd is ready to take off, and may well become the Flame Lily Rockets of this country.

EDITORIAL

South Africa and Rhodesia have always been very closely linked economically. But it is not often that a group of young South Africans has been received with such open hearts and homes as we have experienced in these past three weeks. Young and old have packed out hall after hall. Local musical shows have started overnight with hundreds participating. Friendships and important links have been forged upon which a future can be built.

The spirit of SPRINGBOK STAMPEDE provides an entirely new kind of diplomacy for this continent, and must be exported to as many countries as possible.



The Mayor of Bulawayo, Councillor W.R. Kinleyside, receiving the cast in the City Hall

YOUTH ON THE MOVE

From THE CHRONICLE, Bulawayo, 2 July 1968 - leader page

Everywhere youth is in revolt. How often do we hear that phrase? Daily, almost - and usually to the accompaniment of some hair-raising account of rioting in city streets, or the sordid activities of the back-alley deadbeats of society. And it's not only the ageing fuddy-duddies who feel constrained to shake their heads and wonder what the world is coming to.

The picture, of course, is false. If we may borrow an analogy, we see only the exposed portion of the iceberg. Beneath it are the unseen and frankly un-newsworthy millions of young people who go about their business in sane and sober responsibility. This is not to suggest that they are apathetic or complacent, content to let the world roll on as it may. If this were so, society really would have something to worry about; but it isn't so.

Consider the group of young South Africans who are in Bulawayo this week with a stage show. They're on a crusade of a kind. One of their number has said: "We want to make contact through the show with people of our generation to find out how they can take on the challenge of tomorrow, and the development of this continent." A tall order, that, at which the cynics may snort. Yet the size of it is itself a tribute to the young folks' enthusiasm.

Whatever the outcome of their visit to Rhodesia, these young South Africans will at least have tried to achieve something. They're trying to make something better of the world, which is much to be preferred to trying to opt out of it.

WANKIE - "THE BLACK ROCK THAT BURNS"

This name typifies Wankie. Here is the richest coalfield in the world. The next coalfield to the north is in Biafra. The Congo and Zambia are both dependent on Wankie for their coal: another example of the need for cooperation throughout Africa.

SPRINGBOK STAMPEDE visited Wankie for three days. A local committee made outstanding arrangements for the visit and the two shows. There was a trip to the Game Reserve and a day at the Victoria Falls. The Stampeders will be talking for a long time to come about this interesting glimpse of the north of Rhodesia.

THE MIDLANDS

Gwelo The Stampeders immediately felt at home when they were received on their arrival in Gwelo by the Afrikaans community. This town, often spoken of as the capital of the Midlands, lies in a very rich mining area. The largest chrome mine in the world is here, as well as the biggest shoe factory in the Southern Hemisphere.

SPRINGBOK STAMPEDE gave three shows in Gwelo. The cast were also invited to Fletcher High School, a leading school for African students from all over Rhodesia, where a half-hour show was received with great enthusiasm. Guinea Fowl High School also requested a full performance.

The young people of Gwelo have decided to start their own cast. More than 100 came to the first rehearsal, 150 to the second, and another is arranged.

The Mayor, Councillor B.I.S. Tunmer, spoke after the last performance. He thanked the cast for coming to Gwelo, and added, "If this is an example of the present young generation, then we haven't got much to worry about in the future."

Que Que SPRINGBOK STAMPEDE was welcomed on arrival in Que Que by the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. V.L. Jenkinson. The beautiful new Civic Centre, where the reception was held, is symbolic of the growth of this town, which started as a small gold-mining centre and now supplies all of Rhodesia with steel and is putting up a £17-million fertiliser plant. Again we were received with open-handed generosity, and the two performances of the show were fully booked.

SCORE SO FAR: 17 full performances to 6,884 people, 4 short performances, 4 TV appearances and 3 radio broadcasts in 17 days.