

INSTITUTE for
SOCIAL
RESEARCH

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 2
MARCH 1966

UNIVERSITY
OF NATAL

(i)

Number of Issues of Newsletter per Year:

This newsletter has not yet "settled down" to a regular production schedule. On review, it seems as if an issue twice a year will best meet the needs of the members - one early in the academic year, and one midway, with the Annual Report issued towards the end of October, providing a third source of information about the Institute. We will try this arrangement during 1966 - comments on the scheme would be appreciated.

Editor - Hilstan Watts (Director)

Secretary - Nancy Pratt

News Reporters:

Durban - Cliff Shearing

Pietermaritzburg - Gustav Fouche.

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INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

** NEWSLETTER **

Number 2
March, 1966.

Not for
publication

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editorial

This issue of the Newsletter is in the true sense of the word a co-operative effort. It has been a great pleasure to receive the number of contributions which various members have submitted. If the trend continues, then there will be no danger of this Newsletter ever becoming "a one-man show" - a situation which would be most undesirable. I would like to express sincere appreciation to all those who have submitted manuscripts, and hope that even more will do so next time. In addition, I am grateful to the two 'reporters' of the Institute; Mr. Shearing in Durban, and Mr. Fouche in Pietermaritzburg, who supplied the news about members.

The function of a Newsletter is by definition to communicate news and, I think, views and ideas. The purpose of such a 'publication' is to keep members of a decentralised organisation in contact with one another. The contents of this issue are a fair example of the type of news and articles which a house organ typically carries. However, I see no reason why, if members so desire, an occasional brief article of rather more technical interest, or a technical fact, should not be included. Thus, if any of you are interested in submitting something of a more-or-less technical nature, which while not being inconsequential, is not of the scope that would demand submission to a recognised journal, then I would be quite willing to consider it for publication. It would of course, have to be something of not too specialised an interest. If it turned out that members were interested in submitting technical articles of this kind in sufficient volume, then we could always consider bringing out a separate technical bulletin of

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the Institute. At this stage, however, there would seem to be no point in considering a bulletin as there may not even be a demand for it. What I am really trying to say is that this Newsletter should take the form which is of the greatest interest and the greatest service to you, the members of the Institute. It is up to you to submit the type of contribution which you would like to see published - and by the process of following our noses, this Newsletter can develop into the type of organ which you would like it to be.

We have as yet no correspondence column in the Newsletter. If any of you feel moved to submit letters for publication, please see that your impulse is translated into action! A correspondence column, and comments on articles published in the Newsletter, can serve a useful function.

The second issue of the Newsletter to come out during 1966 will be dated July. The closing date for the submission of manuscripts will be the 15th of July. This is giving you plenty of warning to think up something for the next issue - so please take note.

1.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S !

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations!!!

congratulations!!!!

Congratulations to Mr. Walter Felgate who has been appointed lecturer in Anthropology at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. He assumed duty on 1st March, but will return to Durban on leave during the last quarter to complete his report on the Tongaland Study.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Higgins who has been appointed lecturer in Sociology at the University of Natal.

Congratulations to Miss Ann Perry who has been appointed temporary lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, University of Natal.

Congratulations to Mrs. Eleanor Preston-Whyte, who has been appointed lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, University of Natal.

Congratulations to Mr. Clifford Shearing on his marriage to Miss Memory Lindeque on the 30th October, 1965. This occasion warranted champagne instead of tea in the Institute 'common room'.

Congratulations to Professor W.H.O. Schmidt on his appointment as Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton (Canada). We will be sorry to see him go.

This and that or around with the
Durban Members -

Farewell: On Sunday, the 28th November 1965, Professor James W. Fernandez, a visiting Anthropologist of Dartmouth College, U.S.A., left after a very successful sojourn at the Institute. His farewell at the airport proved to be both unusual and colourful. A large group of Institute members together with a group of Africans from the Makhehleni sect, with whom he had been working, gathered to see him off. The Africans, dressed in their religious regalia bade him goodbye by softly chanting their farewell. It is reliably understood that the ancestors are favourably disposed to his further research.

The 'sari-affair' - The Institute held a very successful Christmas dinner on the evening of the 10th December in the staff refectory. The oriental theme was supported by all present, who co-operated by dressing appropriately. An enjoyable evening was ensured when 'Father Christmas', (otherwise our bald Director), presented each guest with an amusing little present. Our grateful thanks are extended to all those people who helped to prepare for the evening, and especially to Mrs. Fatima Meer who prepared the meal.

Student Assistants - The Institute took advantage of the University Christmas vacation to employ students for coding and interviewing. With the coming of the students, sighs of relief were heard from the research workers who now were at last certain that those frightening thoughts of doing much of the coding themselves would not become a reality. We would like to thank these students for the work they have done (and in some cases are still doing), and to congratulate them on the cheerful and conscientious way in which they approached their work. (Getting to grips with the work was a different matter, then? - ed.)

'Unhappiness is a coding sheet' - L. Weber

The Tea Club - The tea club has long been the social hub of the Institute (see article - 'Inside Story'). The tea club's greatest contribution to the Institute is that it provides an opportunity for discussion between the members of the Institute and its neighbouring academic departments.

Pests and Staff - The only things that the Institute has a full compliment of are cockroaches and fishmoths. While the insects remain the best consumers of our publications, we are nevertheless trying to alter the staff to insect ratio.

Welcome - A warm welcome is extended to Mr. E. Higgins, Lecturer in Sociology, and to Mr. Berry, (Research Assistant to Dr. Davies in connection with the Urban Geography Project), who joined us at the beginning of the year.

Back Again - Margaret Sugden is once again a Research worker in the Institute - this time as a part-time assistant to Dr. Davies in connection with the Study of Urban Geography, in addition to her duties as a junior lecturer in Geography. We are glad to see her as a researcher once again.

Return to the United Kingdom - Anne McGhee returned to the United Kingdom towards the end of last year. Since 1964 she had been a research officer working on the study for the Durban non-European Children's Fund. Ill-health dogged her stay in South Africa and we hope she recovers fully. She has accepted a post at Manchester University under Professor Suisse.

'I would like to see the formation of a Trade Union of Institute workers to press for better working conditions and for better pay'. - L. Douwes Dekker.

THE "I.S.R." - AN INSIDE STORY

(Written by one who came, who saw, and who was eventually 'conked' by I.S.R. members).

One sultry February afternoon I hurried down the Social Science corridor - a place darkened by the profound intellectual thoughts which emanate from behind the tightly-closed office doors - in search of a book by Kummel (or is it Simmel?) in the Departmental Library.

My ears were suddenly assailed by a torrent of raucous noise which seemed to come from the end of the corridor, where a beam of yellow light sliced into the gloom and led me to presume that a door stood slightly ajar. Apprehensively, I crept forward.

Fearful thoughts tormented my confused brain was this a crowd of ardent anthropologists busy brain-washing a conflict theorist colleague? was it a bunch of degenerate sociologists performing isometric exercises under the direction of a kindly social worker?..... was it an educational psychologist educating psychologists? By the sound of it, it was a combination of all three!!

As I reached the door, the noise seemed to envelop me, to draw me towards it, to force me to open the door, to discover what hideous spectacle would confront me in Room No. 181. Robot-like I advanced towards the door and flung it wide open!

Silence, Silence which seemed to stretch off into the mists of infinite time, confronted me. Men and women, some with beards (the men), some without (the women), stood, sat, and lounged about the room as if taking part in

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some obscure charade-cum-tableau. They stared at me in unison and, when I realised that the non-participant observer was now the observed, I swallowed awkwardly, muttered a belated "good afternoon", and rushed away into the gloomy depths of the corridor.

I am now accustomed to the weird and unearthly sounds which come from room No. 181 at regular intervals twice daily.

But, whenever I see a stranger casting apprehensive glances in the direction of the fateful "room", I hurry forward to reassure them with the following words:

"DON'T WORRY! IT'S ONLY THE I.S.R. CROWD
HAVING TEA!"

Anon.

Editors note: If only our publications were read and not eaten this biased view of the Institute would not have been possible!

'Happiness is a projective test - that works.' (could have been said by C. Shearing).

PIETERMARITZBURG PERSONALIA
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Dr. J. B. McI, Daniel - Department of Geography:

Dr. Daniel was invited to read a paper at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the South African Institute of Race Relations held in Durban. The paper was entitled: "The Economic Development of Swaziland".

Professor W.H.O. Schmidt - Department of Educational Psychology:

Professor Schmidt was away on leave during the academic year 1965. He visited universities and research centres in England, Holland, the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., Canada and Israel.

In August 1965 he attended the conference of the International Association for the Advancement of the Study of Education, held in Cambridge. He read a paper entitled: "The Socio-Economic Status, Formal Schooling, Intelligence and Scholastic Achievement in a Community in which Schooling is not yet Compulsory." It was well received - especially in the light of intensive research which is being done, especially in the U.S.A., on the effects of cultural deprivation on human development. The paper will be published in the next issue of 'Paedagogica Europae'.

During an extended visit to the Institute of Education of the University of Utrecht, the Director, Professor Langeveld invited him to deliver a lecture. He lectured on: "Spontaneous and non-spontaneous formation of scientific concepts by young children". It has subsequently been published in 'Human Development' Vol. VIII, No. 4. It will be translated and published in a

Norwegian journal.

While visiting universities and research institutes in the U.S.A. and Canada, Professor Schmidt was able to gain first-hand knowledge of the research work which is being done on cultural deprivation. He found that at various centres the research is carried out along multi-disciplinary lines. Psychiatrists, medical doctors, sociologists, psychologists and educationalists are working together studying the effects of cultural deprivation on human development. Two centres in particular, the centre for Child Development at the Medical School of the University of Columbia (Director: Martin Deutsch), and the University of Chicago's School of Education, have already made interesting contributions.

Professor Schmidt was also invited to join a group of lecturers and senior students of the Institute of Education of London University on a study tour of educational and psychological institutions in the U.S.S.R. They visited Moscow, Leningrad and Riga.

The last leg of tour took him to Israel. We have in the meantime heard, much to our regret, that Professor Schmidt is leaving the University of Natal to take up an appointment as Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

Before his departure, we shall have the opportunity of hearing him speak on his impressions when he delivers the College Lecture in Pietermaritzburg on 23rd March.

From his new post he hopes to maintain in some form or another the stimulating and fruitful association with the Institute for Social Research.

Mr. G. W. Fouche - Department of Educational Psychology:

The College of Nursing in Pietermaritzburg, invited Mr. Fouche to give a series of lectures on 'Human Relations in the hospital', to the student nurses.

He is acting as a consultant to the Natal Provincial Hospital Services in planning a course in Educational Psychology to be given to prospective African tutor sisters. This course is part of a new training scheme to provide for the proposed expansion of hospital services in Natal.

Dr. H. Shiels - Department of Educational Psychology:

Dr. Helen Shiels, senior lecturer in Educational Psychology will be away during the academic year 1966. She has been awarded a senior bursary by the N.C.S.I.R. Dr. Shiels will spend approximately seven months at the Institute of Education, University of London, where she will do advanced study in the field of School Guidance and Counselling. After this, she will visit schools and other educational institutions in England, Scotland, Holland and Sweden before proceeding to the U.S.A. in October, 1966. There she will spend most of her time at the University of Columbia to familiarise herself with recent developments in the training, at the post-graduate level, of Guidance Personnel. She hopes to be able to see Guidance workers in the field.

Research is exploration - you never know what you are going to fall into or trip over next - H.L.Watts.

Editors comment: The following participant observers report of fieldwork undertaken by the I.S.R. may be of interest to social scientists, especially methodology lecturers.

THE PILOT SURVEY FOR THE PRESTIGE OF
OCCUPATIONS IN "MIDLANDS TOWN"^{1]}.
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..... as seen thru the eyes of inexperienced assistants.

After several months (how many? Well, that's hush-hush professional research etiquette forbids me to answer) of preparation - we are at last to sample our first taste of 'Research in the Field'.

"Well girls, go home, pack quickly, and be ready to leave early this afternoon".

We comply. 7 p.m. approaches. Well, we know assistants don't amount to much, but the boss could have told us they were leaving us behind after all.

No telephone number in the directory so after trying several computations without success we try Mrs. 'A'.

"We are from the Institute for Social Research and are trying to contact your son".

"Oh! but he has gone to 'Midlands Town'."

"That's what we are afraid of."

However, we phone.

1] There have been various amused/interested/sceptical/amazed enquiries as to why 'Midlands Town' was singled out for the signal honour of being Pilot Study Town. No amount of rationalisation could justify such a pilot investigation being conducted beyond the provincial boundaries by the University of Natal. The choice lay between: Escourt, Eshowe, Dundee; Vryheid; Ladysmith and Newcastle. With the generous aid of the Geography department and the recent Year Book, 'Midlands Town' was found to have the most proportionate occupational, school and language distributions.

(Proportionate to or with what? - Ed.)

"Hello ... 'XYZ'." Silence. Should we introduce ourselves?

"How's the weather your way?"

"Oh - fine - fine". More silence.

"Just thought we'd enquire about the proposed trip to 'Midlands Town'."

"Oh! Yes, when J. is out of the bathroom here I'll be able to brush my teeth."

"Good. Glad there are no serious hitches."

Approximately 9 p.m. we set off. We are a little cramped as the back of the Opel is completely filled with about 500 questionnaires. However, the assistants were wedged in quite comfortably at the back with all the luggage plus guitar, and soon passed out with the fumes of petrol. We awoke to huge flames in the sky and a dazed realisation that this was The TOWN and AMCOR. The men were still discussing the most efficient sampling techniques. This impressed us, for they had been doing this 3 hours previously. Was sampling so devious? More of this anon.

After one night at one of the travellers' hotels it was decided that a random sample of hotels had not proved valid, so the full voting strength, i.e. 4 persons, went to every hotel, i.e. 4 in the dorp. We decided our original method of complete random choice was quite effective. None of the other hotels could take us. Booking in for 2 weeks at a merely one-night hotel also provided some obstacles to the erstwhile proprietress. O.K., she eventually conceded, the deal was made. Then suddenly, "Are the two ladies working too?"^{1]}.

1] An interesting query, and one which in one form or another crops up with most team fieldwork in a strange town There was a case of the serious difficulty hotel staff in a small town had in "figuring out" why one male research officer had four female assistants. As they were overheard to say, he was too young to be the father of the group, so who was he? - Ed.

"Er, um, yes, of course."

The sampling of the Town turned out to be a very practical thing. Neither the Town Clerk nor local estate agents could give us any exact figures as to the population, nor which racial groups lived where. For the next few days, a white Opel Kadet was to be seen driving up and down every single block in the town and four faces (driver included, which accounted for our erratic course) gazing intently at each house/hotel/block of flats endeavouring to determine (a) the number of occupants; (b) their possible racial identity. Once this was accomplished* we again weaved about on the actual sample, counting every Nth presumed white dwelling. When introducing ourselves to Respondents later, we were to encounter such remarks as - "Oh! Yes. The white car. So that's what you were doing." One woman, in fact, was on the verge of phoning the police, so sure was she that she was being spied on. (Comments are invited).

Despite an item in the local press regarding the survey not one of our respondents had heard of it.

On the whole the reaction to this invasion of foreigners was not regarded as an intrusion of their privacy, but rather as a welcome break to a monotonous day. (There was only a 4% refusal rate in contrast to Durban's estimated 7%).

* (It is greatly to be regretted that the technique for measuring, from a car in the street, the number and race of occupants of a dwelling, has not been described fully by the author - this technique is obviously of tremendous importance for social surveyors! After all, scientists should share their 'trade secrets'-- Ed.)

Owing to "Midlands Town's" expanding major industries of coal mining and metal works, and the migratory population of the workers, the population is made up of many newcomers. These people complained of in-group exclusiveness and the high cost of living. Accommodation is difficult to come by, with disproportionately high rentals. Essential goods are most expensive.

The powerful in-groups are usually established business people, with positions of control in local council, and so are well able to prevent competitive businesses being established. "Midlands Town" being pretty well equally divided politically, also at this level, leads to bitter rivalry regarding local elections.

The ingredients for a rewarding community study are there major industries with inevitable expansion, warring political power groups, established businesses threatened with an imported growing population ... but time was short and questionnaires had to be completed.

Of course there were some who have been by-passed by the modern turmoil. One dear old lady when asked if there were social classes in the Town replied: "Oh, yes. There's the Pigeon Club, Badminton Club, ... and sewing class."

Another gent when asked if he had done anything to make himself well-known in the community took this very literally. "O, ja. Ek het baie bykaste".

The 130 adult questionnaires were completed in just over 2 weeks with the help of 4 local interviewers. The 267 youth questionnaires were divided between an Academy for Girls, standards 7, 8 and 9, and the dual-medium High School, standards 7 and 9. These too elicited some interesting comments:

On the subject of streaming in schools, a 14 year old in standard 8 felt that "the advanced stream is for people wanting to go to university, and the ordinary stream for those wanting to work".

Another 16 year old in standard 7, "Advanced stream is for people who has lots of intellegents". Ordinary stream for un-intellegedames?

Regarding social class in South Africa, there are:

"The up-and-ups,
the medium ups,
and the up-starts".

"About my choice of occupation", a 14 year old in standard 7 wanted to be: "(a) a short hand and tpeest.
(b) a stewardess".

And

"Q. Do you think a person should try and follow an occupation which is much better than his father's occupation?"

"A. Yes. Because his father might have been an engine and he might want to be a teacher."

(Coded: One should do the job one is capable of).

A 16 year old in standard 9:

"Dit is 'n baie goeie vraestel. Dit laat jou dink en besluit oor dinge wat jy nog nooit werklik in aanmerking geneem het nie. Dit mag wel soms voorkoms asof die vroe baie persoonlik is maar in werklikheid stel dit jou in staat om te dink. Al wat ek werklik verlang was meer tyd om te dink want 'n mens is geneig om in haas die dinge neer te skryf soos dit moet wees en nie hoe jy daarvoor voel".

The objectives of a pilot study, I believe, were met. All previous doubts were confirmed, new difficulties arose, some of which were manfully dealt with on the spot, viz., wholesale elimination of great chunks of the questionnaire as costs had risen astronomically and the level of conceptualisation and verbalisation of the public in general was considered to have

fallen proportionately. This is no disloyalty to White South Africans, but will prove positively that the ratings of the prestige of occupations in the Americas, Japan, Zambia, Turkey etc., are invalid as illustrated by the I.S.R.!

Concepts, such as the standing of an occupation, are not uniformly understood, and consequently differing frames of reference are being coded on one scale that being the frame of reference of the Senior Research Fellow, which, we'll all agree, is quite something!

The unknown quantity of the local interviewers is also a problem in these itinerant surveys.

Choosing "Midlands Town" for its proximity to the berg and Johannesburg was a complete failure. We only got as far as seeing AMCOR on the outskirts of town, which while being both mountainous and hot in its own way, was not quite what we had anticipated. Perhaps that's just the female angle, for the night before returning to Durban the two male members of the Institute came rolling back to the hotel in the early hours, and Mr. 'A' was heard to mumble, "well, I larked meeting all these narse people here."

"This is the sweetest place I have ever worked in" -
L. Schlemmer (see list of publications).

RESEARCH NEWS.

Research workers are invited to send in brief notes on their ongoing projects, so that the members of the Institute can know what research is in progress, and how it is faring.

GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF AREAS:

Professor Williams reports that his department is promoting local area studies in geography. This would involve an intensive study of, for example, local industries and farms. At a meeting of the Natal branch of the South African Geographical Society, considerable interest was shown in this approach. A small committee was elected to explore the possibilities for such studies.

THE EFFECTS OF VALUE ON PERCEPTION:

Professor Theron is at present engaged in research on the effects of value on perception.

With the change-over to the new coin series, unique empirical material could be collected to investigate the effects of value on the perception of the size of coins.

This study is related to the work which Brunner and his associates did (1947) on the effect of value on perception.

A preliminary analysis of the results indicates that there is a relationship between the value of a coin and the perception

of its size.

Another project which Professor Theron is preparing is the development of a test battery for certain types of workers in the rubber industry.

NORTH COAST STUDY OF INDIAN LAND TENURE:

The study of Indian Land Ownership and Occupation on the North Coast of Natal, on which Mr. Greyling is working is progressing well.

The fieldwork has been completed and the data have been coded and punched on to cards. The material is being tabulated on the I.S.R.'s Power-Samas card sorter. There is every indication that the wealth of material collected will be of great interest not only to regional planners, but to geographers and social scientists as well.

The study was being sponsored by the Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, with a grant of R5,000-00. It is being undertaken in collaboration with the Indian University College, under the supervision of Dr. Ron Davies.

FLOODS, MUD, AND SUSPENSE:

Cyclone Claude hit Mocambique early in the year, and as we know seriously disrupted normal life for many. One of the ones affected was Walter Felgate, working in the field amongst the Tembe-Thonga tribe near the South African border. In Lourenco Marques at the time of the storm, he was cut off by floods and mud from his camp, and for days no one knew whether or not all his field notes and equipment had been destroyed.

Eventually he battled through in a land rover, navigating the veld across Swaziland, and found all his belongings and data safe. Apparently the cyclone itself missed the camp, and his African assistants had saved everything from the floods by moving to high ground. He brought his belongings back to Durban at the cost of a burnt-out clutch in the land rover, and stiff muscles from digging the vehicle out of the mud at frequent intervals.

He is now at Rhodes University, turning to the problems of imparting knowledge to the Social Anthropological students. One wonders whether he thinks fieldwork in the wilds is easier than his new tasks?

SOUTH AFRICAN TOWNS:

Ron Davies' study of the urban geography of South African towns is proceeding apace, now that he has found two assistants in Margaret Sugden and Robin Berry. One of the key problems is the lack of detailed census data for individual towns (not economic regions) in the Republic. However, a good deal of data have been obtained from various sources, and are now being mapped. One of the next tasks is to calculate the equipotential distribution of population in the Republic - a task which could not have been considered if the university did not possess an electronic computer, in view of the thousands of repetitive calculations involved.

IMAGE STUDY NEARLY FINISHED:

One of the largest projects of the Institute is almost completed - the study of the public image of a certain South African industry. Two reports have already been submitted to the sponsor, and the last report is being drafted.

BANTU HOUSING SURVEY:

The Institute has started planning a study to be undertaken for the C.S.I.R's National Building Research Institute in Pretoria. The proposed investigation will deal with the housing preferences and living habits, and rent-paying capacity, of urban Bantu on the Reef and in Pretoria, and is intended to guide the preparation of new designs for houses intended for erection in Bantu townships. The existing dwelling designs in use are almost 20 years old, and have not kept pace with the developing tastes and improving economic levels of urban Bantu families.

The study will also collect data relevant for the community planning of Bantu townships. The whole survey will take about two years.

FIELDWORK FOR STUDY OF OCCUPATIONAL PRESTIGE*

The main fieldwork for the study of occupational prestige amongst Whites in South Africa was launched in Durban and Pietermaritzburg at the beginning of the year. The survey team will shortly spread out across the Republic, to collect data for a national sample of 12 towns.

As the largest and most ambitious study being undertaken by the Institute for Social Research, this project has produced many headaches, of which the costs involved are not the least. The fieldwork will occupy the team for at least a year, and we all hope it goes smoothly. If not, does anyone know of a good witchdoctor to 'smell' out the source of all the 'gremlins' which the project has attracted?

* An article relating to the pilot study for this survey appears on pages 9 - 14 above.

STUDY OF A COMMUNITY DISASTER:

The Effingham Rail disaster towards the end of last year provided an opportunity for a socio-psychological investigation into a disaster situation affecting Africans. Mr. Page initially conceived of the project, and he and Professor Fernandez organised fieldwork as soon as possible after the accident. Focussed interviews were conducted with readily available subjects within a few hours of the disaster, while a total of 140 standardised interviews were subsequently conducted by a team working in Kwa Mashu. In addition, newspaper reports were collected.

Analysis of the material is now in progress.

A clear explanation of the purpose and confidentiality of an interview?

At the end of an interview, a very worried subject asked the interviewer: „En nou baas, gaan ek tronk toe?"

So you want to be a Social Scientist?

L. P. McCrystal.

Unlike the physical scientist who can bury himself in his laboratory, free from the tribulations associated with the "madding crowd", the social scientists' laboratory is the "madding crowd" itself. So he must enter into the midst of it and take all the battering that goes therewith, if he is to pursue his studies by way of empirical research. Though this often requires courage of a high order there are times when the effort is rewarded with insights into human behaviour that add greatly to the joys of living.

Whilst conducting an investigation into the economics of farming some years back, a fieldworker came across one farmer whose farm was obviously in rather poor shape. The fieldworker and the farmer sat down together, and over innumerable assaults upon the former's liver by way of cups of coffee, and after wading through dog-eared cheque books, dung-splattered invoices, and mutilated receipts dug out from a dusty box kept in the attic (the fieldworker's sneezes kept the farmer amused for over half-an-hour), they discovered that the farming had produced a net loss of over R250-00 for the year. This upset the farmer so much that he became quite incoherent with rage; so much so that the fieldworker suddenly remembered an urgent appointment and began muttering that he wanted to be excused. The farmer would not let him go however, and when his rage had subsided he explained that nothing upset him more than having to pay money to the government. When he had submitted his tax return he had forgotten the box in the attic, and so had shown a profit for the year, on which he had paid tax! To-day this farmer's accounts are the most accurate in the district.

Another farmer interviewed during this survey, had a fairly elaborate filing system, all the sections of which were clearly and neatly marked. Whilst the fieldworker was conducting the interview, the farmer's wife came in to ask for their marriage certificate. The farmer replied that he only had the financial files there, and she should look elsewhere. "Oh no," replied his good lady, "it is here", and she promptly pulled it out of the file marked "Investments".

House-to-house interviewing is probably one of the most fertile sources of mirth available to the social scientist. On one occasion, the lady who responded to the knock at the door appeared to be in a very harassed state. Three children clung around her skirts, a fourth was in her arms, and a fifth was on the floor screaming for attention. Unabashed, the fieldworker pressed his questions: "And now madam, could you please tell me what you do in your spare time?" The reply was concise: "Spare time!? I go to the toilet!"

In an effort to establish whether the burden on public transport could be eased in any way, a fieldworker had to establish whether people would be prepared to stop work a little earlier or a little later than at present. An Indian when approached on the point, insisted that he could only stop work at 4.30 p.m. - no later and no earlier. The subsequent dialogue went something like this:

Fieldworker : "Why won't you stop work earlier than 4.30?"
 Indian : "Because there's no bus".
 Fieldworker : "Well then, why aren't you prepared to stop work after 4.30?"
 Indian : "Because there's no bus".
 Fieldworker : "So the only bus you can get is at 4.30?"

Indian : "No boss, there's no bus at 4.30".

Fieldworker : "Then what bus do you catch?"

Indian : "No boss, I don't catch bus. You asked me about bus".

Fieldworker : "But oh, forget it!!"

And so another questionnaire got rejected.

In a study of the location of certain types of firms in the centre of Durban, one businessman, when asked which of a number of factors would be most likely to induce him to move out of the centre of the city, replied, "the humidity".

A few years ago, when Cat^o Manor was still largely an African area, the Durban Corporation asked that an analysis be made of the rent-paying capacity of the people. This entailed obtaining income and expenditure data. Frequently reported income was found to be well below reported expenditure. When asked why this was so in his case, one African replied: "I am not quite sure, maybe it comes naturally, on its own".

One last incident comes from a fieldworker who needed to do some telephoning in order to ask for an interview, having used the telephone directory to draw his sample. One lady whose name came up, was a Mrs. Robertson. On 'phoning the listed number a man's voice answered. The interviewer asked if he might speak with Mrs. Robertson, to which the man replied that she had been dead for over eight years.

"Then why is she in the 'phone book?" asked the interviewer.

"Oh, we just keep it there as a mark of respect" replied the man.



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