

Spotlight

on the 1983 SAIMM banquet

by J. J. Geldenhuys*

The Institute revived a valuable tradition when, on the 19th of March, 1983, it held its first 'annual' banquet in some fifteen years. It was such a sparkling success that it is sure to be held more frequently in future.

The success of the occasion was borne out by the fact that the main banqueting hall at the Wanderers Club was filled to capacity, with over four hundred members and guests. The function was considerably more than fully subscribed, and the organizing committee regretfully had to turn down many requests to attend.

Members and guests from all walks of life and geographical areas attended. In fact, the list of those present was a representative extract of Who's Who in the mining and metallurgical industry, with the necessary numbers of doctors and professors appropriate to an Institute such as ours. The presence of eleven Past Presidents was much appreciated.

The evening started with drinks and snacks in the main lounge while the guests were being welcomed by our President, Professor Alf Brown, at the entrance. After every one had moved into the banqueting hall, grace was said by Mr Dennis Malan, and all had the opportunity to enjoy the good food and well-selected wines. The conviviality of the evening was enhanced by appropriate background music and by entertainment from Mr John Edmunds, who also acted as master of ceremonies.

*Anglovaal Limited, P.O. Box 62379, Marshalltown 2107, Transvaal.

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The highlight of the evening was a most entertaining talk by our guest speaker, Mr Lynne van den Bosch, President of A S & T S and Fellow of the Institute, who spoke on the topics of banquets and symposia or dinner clubs, and other related matters. Mr Van den Bosch was thanked by Mr George Nisbet.

During the latter part of the evening a special presentation was made to Mr Charles Macphail. The SAIMM and GSSA presented an inscribed silver salver to him as a gesture of thanks for all his hard work in organizing the Twelfth CMMI Congress, which was held in May 1982. The presentation was made on behalf of the two societies by Mr George Nisbet and Dr W. van Wyk, Presidents of the two respective institutes during the Congress. Mr Macphail replied suitably, thanking in particular the tour managers and Mr Henry James and his publications committee.

A significant compliment on the success of the occasion was volunteered by a lady VIP guest, who had previously thought that mining people were a somewhat uninteresting lot. Her impression had been changed by the entertaining speeches and the general light-heartedness and success of the evening.

In conclusion, the Institute wishes to record its thanks to the sponsors, without whose generous contributions the event would not have been possible, to Judith Money for an incredible amount of effort put into the organization of the function, and to the organizing committee for its hard work.