

Visit to Carlton Centre and Strydom Tower

The visit which took place on the 18th February, 1972 was a departure in that the places visited had no direct connection with the work in which members of the Institute are normally engaged.

It was refreshing and stimulating to see important and involved operations normally outside ones own trend of life and to have experts to speak about technical, financial and matters of general interest concerning their work, not forgetting their troubles and problems and how they overcame them.

Carlton Centre

The members of the Institute were received by Mr D. Appleton, Public Relations Officer of the Carlton Centre Limited, who introduced Mr L. R. M. Fee of W. Rhodes Harrison, Architect in charge of the project; Mr W. C. E. Skilton of Murray and Roberts, the Engineer in charge of the construction of the complex and Mr A. Horne the Senior Operating Engineer of Carlton Centre Limited.

Each of these gentlemen addressed the members giving short rundowns on the project with special reference to their particular sphere of the undertaking. A variety of particularly interesting statistics relating to the planning construction and the ultimate operation and maintenance of the complex was given. Mining engineers present had an opportunity to compare the problems encountered by them associated with depth to problems encountered by the civil engineer in the construction of a building rising to such an enormous height.

To some of the members a sense of similarity of the labour problems encountered must have been recognised.

After tea the visitors were divided into groups, each under the guidance of an official, and then visited the highest floor accessible and thereafter the 19th floor where the internal arrangements for airconditioning, lighting, plumbing, power supply and communication arrangements were explained. Thereafter a visit to one of the seven basements which houses all machinery required to serve this enormous complex enabled the visitors to see the standby power arrangements as well as the refrigeration plant. The visit finished in time to proceed to the Crest Hotel in Hillbrow for lunch. To our hosts for the visit to the Carlton Complex a special vote of thanks is recorded.

Strydom Tower

In the afternoon the party proceeded to the Strydom Tower where Mr Knight from the Public Works Department who was the Engineer in charge of the construction of the tower gave details on the construction and the extraordinary methods which had to be adopted to achieve the desired objectives and to overcome known as well as unforeseen difficulties. The comparatively short time taken to complete the project and the good safety record appeared to impress the visitors.

The final phase of the visit was taken care of by Mr Bothma of Telecommunications Department of the Post Office, who gave an extremely interesting explanation of the telecommunication organization of the

Post Office with particular reference to the part the Hillbrow Tower plays in the South African telecommunication system. Both gentlemen answered many questions willingly and interestingly.

Following the explanatory talks the visitors were shown the technical equipment housed in the two top levels of the tower. Short explanatory talks gave members an insight into the workings of one of the most important aspects of modern life. Even to the amateur photographer opportunities existed to view and photograph the city from the highest available observation point. We are indebted to Mr Gouws, the Regional Director of the Post Office for granting permission to visit sections of the tower normally not accessible to the general public and to our hosts for the manner in which we were received and entertained on the explanation of the many interesting features of this important installation.

In conclusion, the programme for the day can be classified as interesting, of exceptional educational value, and an opportunity to see something of the engineering skills put into two vast and ambitious undertakings and the results achieved.

University of Queensland Summer school

COMPUTERS IN MINERAL PROCESSING

The University will hold a Summer School in August 1972. This will be preceded by a one day symposium designed to give senior and middle management an appreciation of the role of computers in mineral processing.

Particulars may be obtained from:

Professor R. L. Whitmore,
Department of Mining and Metallurgy,
University of Queensland,
St. Lucia.
Queensland 4067.

RETIRED MEMBERSHIP

The attention of members is drawn to the following revised by-law:

7.4 All subscriptions shall become due on the first day of July, in each year and shall be payable in advance.

Any member who has bona-fide retired from active business may retain membership at a reduced subscription of R5,00 per annum provided the number of years of membership added to his age exceeds 70 years.