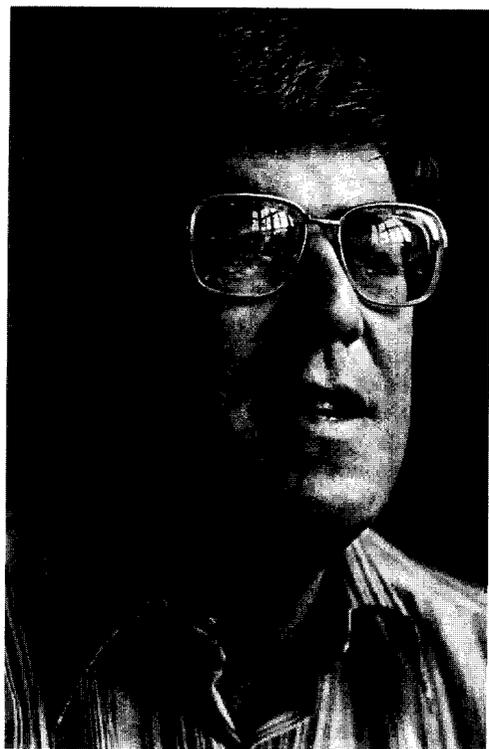


Introducing new members of Council . . .



Mr G. Maude was educated at Huish's Grammar School (Taunton) and Leeds University. He graduated in 1961 with a B.Sc. degree in Mining. He joined Union Corporation in 1961 and progressed through the positions of learner official, shift boss, and mine overseer at East Geduld and St. Helena Mines. He worked as Underground Manager at Marievale and Bracken Mines, and as Mine Manager (Underground) at Leslie Mine. In 1979 he was appointed General Manager at Bafokeng North Mine, and was also General Manager of Beatrix and Buffelsfontein Mines. He is at present Technical Manager (Mining) of Impala Platinum Limited. Apart from mine management, he has been involved in several planning projects, including those of Beisa and Beatrix Mines.

Mr E.B. Crocker was educated at Florida Park High School, Witwatersrand Technical College, and the University of the Witwatersrand. He later underwent a ten-week general-management course at Henley Management School, England. Starting as a learner official at Rand Mines Training Centre, he went to Durban Roodepoort Deep Ltd, where he progressed to Underground Manager. He then worked at Harmony Gold Mine, finishing there as Assistant Manager. He is now Managing Director, Rand Mines Group Chrome Mines. An Associate Member of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, he is also an Associate Member of the Mine Managers Association of South Africa, and in 1978 won their gold medal for a paper on strata control.



SPOTLIGHT on proposed science centre*

The 1981 De Lange report on education in South Africa proposed the establishment of science centres as one means of enhancing interest in science and mathematics in this country. As a result, in February 1982 Professor W.J. van Biljon, then President of the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa (AS&TS) and now the scientific counsellor in Bonn for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), submitted a proposal for the establishment of a science and technology centre in Johannesburg, a 'living' museum where basic scientific principles would be illustrated in application to everyday life.

Discussion now taking place between the AS&TS and the National Sport, Recreation and Exhibition Centre (NASREC) should mean that former Crown Mines land, south of Johannesburg, will see the construction of a science and technology centre, unique to Southern Africa, well before the end of the decade. A committee appointed by the AS&TS and on which a representative of NASREC served investigated the proposal and recommended to AS&TS that the AS&TS should proceed with a full-scale feasibility study of the project. For this purpose, a non-profit company is being registered by the AS&TS.

The proposed centre will be situated within the heart of the metropolitan cluster of the Pretoria – Witwatersrand – Vereeniging area, the most industrially developed part of South Africa, and will be accessible to more than seven million people within a 50 km radius by the turn of the century. The favoured site adjoins the new showground of the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society, is 7 km south-west of central Johannesburg, and 4 km east of Soweto, Johannesburg's Black residential township. It is proposed that the centre will occupy 7 ha of a 270 ha site owned by NASREC. It would be one component of a larger NASREC scheme, which includes a sports complex and stadium to accommodate 100 000 spectators, a theme park comparable to the Disney corporation's 'Six Flags' in the U.S.A., though on a more modest scale, plus a hotel, hostels, restaurants, ample parking, and all the attendant facilities required to make this development a major tourist attraction. In addition, the Agricultural Show Grounds will form part of this complex. The factors that made the site an excellent choice for NASREC also make it appropriate for the AS&TS science centre; it is well served by the existing and proposed transport services, both public and private, and it is suitably located for access by all race groups.

The proposed centre will have the primary function of educating and interesting the public, particularly our youth, in science and technology while simultaneously entertaining them and exploiting natural human curiosity. Exhibits, which the committee hopes will be designed and built by industry, will be rotated on a regular basis and will be relevant to school curricula. Although the proposed centre will contain historical and classical elements associated with the traditionally accepted concept of a museum, the intention is to establish a living workshop where great achievements in science and technology can be highlighted. Exhibits will stimulate, motivate, and

ultimately educate visitors in pure science, applied technology, medicine, and agriculture. Scientific endeavour—past, present, and future—will be presented in a lively, down-to-earth manner with emphasis on participation by the public.

Students in the Department of Architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand have been given a brief to produce ideas for the centre as a design project. It is likely that a series of themes will be displayed, each theme telling the story of the science and technology involved in a particular industry or field of knowledge. There may, for example, be a science hall of exhibits in the academic disciplines, from physics to botany, chemistry, geology, zoology, and the metallurgical sciences. Displays in a hall of applied sciences would range over, among other topics, transportation, electronics, television, photographs, and communications. South Africa's celebrated scientists and engineers would be honoured in a hall of the famous, where particular milestones in science and technology would be high-lighted. Changing and up-dating of exhibits would encourage repeat visits from the public. It is visualized that groups of students could conduct experiments under the supervision of trained instructors, and that manufacturing facilities on a modest scale may be set up in specialized laboratories.

The size of the centre will obviously depend on the funds available. To establish some 17 000 m² of facilities, as is proposed, an investment of from 30 to 40 million rands might be needed. The project could be divided into participation 'packages' and promoted to the private sector in one major drive. South African industry could regard the proposed centre as an opportunity, not only for promoting its own interests, but also for exerting a much-needed educational influence on our school-going population. Further benefits to participants will include market visibility, naming rights, product launching, and low-cost venues for functions. It is anticipated that such a centre could attract any number from 600 000 to 800 000 visitors a year.

Participants and planners have the benefit of such overseas models as the Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institute, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto, the Parc de la Villette in France, the Munich Science Museum, and the Epcot Future World of Florida. Ultimately, South Africa's Science and Technology Centre would be innovative in its own right, characterized by features not found in these other centres. It should become a potent force in the educational system, and should be seen as a first exercise in bridging the historical gap between science and technology and the people of the subcontinent. Given the necessary impetus and publicity, as well as support from government and the private sector, it is possible that the science centre could open to the public in 1988.

Discussions have been held with S.A. Transport Services, who are thinking about a live Transport Museum on the premises, and this promises to be a unique contribution.

* Release from AS&TS, P.O. Box 61019, Marshalltown, Transvaal 2107.