

Adventurers' Club report in Stythian 1986 p028

OKAVANGO, MOREMI, CHOBI AND THE VICTORIA FALLS August 4 — 20, 1986

Touring party included: Mr. M. Park, Miss I. van Helvert, K. Phitidis, K. Williams, K. Viljoen G. Dykes, R. Eichweber, G. Macmillan and C. Meyer

At Chobe Game reserve we camped at Savuti, game-viewing in the mornings, lazing about our 'waterhole' during the heat of the day and game-viewing again in the afternoon. Yet again we saw spectacular game — a pride of nine lionesses and cubs, a lone male lion and a personal visit of a friendly elephant who popped into camp for lunch. There was such excitement during the day and at night we were privileged to have hyenas visiting our camp and 'looking in' on the occupants of a tent or two. At Nogotsaa we camped next to a waterhole which, at one stage, hosted about 200 elephants.

Serondella was our next stop, where we all looked forward to trying our luck at fishing in the Chobe River. Kimon Phitidis surprised us all by catching two large bream which we promptly cooked and ate — a delicacy compared to tin foods.

We then left the last of the Game Reserves behind and headed for Victoria Falls. At Kasane, in Botswana, disaster struck when we were involved in an experience none of us shall easily forget. The car behind which we were parked at a petrol station caught fire while its tanks were being filled. After much panic and confusion we got ourselves and the Landrover to safety while tremendous explosions destroyed the car and petrol station which burnt to the ground. We were all very shaken by the incident and the rest of the journey to Victoria Falls it was quieter than usual inside the Landrover.

We were greeted by "The Smoke that Thunders" as it cascaded over the magnificent falls and into the gorge below. After a hearty breakfast at the Vic. Falls Hotel, we went bartering our clothes for carvings and keepsakes; many friends were made and great fun was had by all before we had to pack up and set off on the long journey home.

The trip of a lifetime was at an end and we carried home with us memories to be cherished forever.

"It's magical moments such as these that leave memories of places wild and uncluttered by man's position in the scheme of things . . ." S. Courtney.

KURT VILJOEN Std. 9

