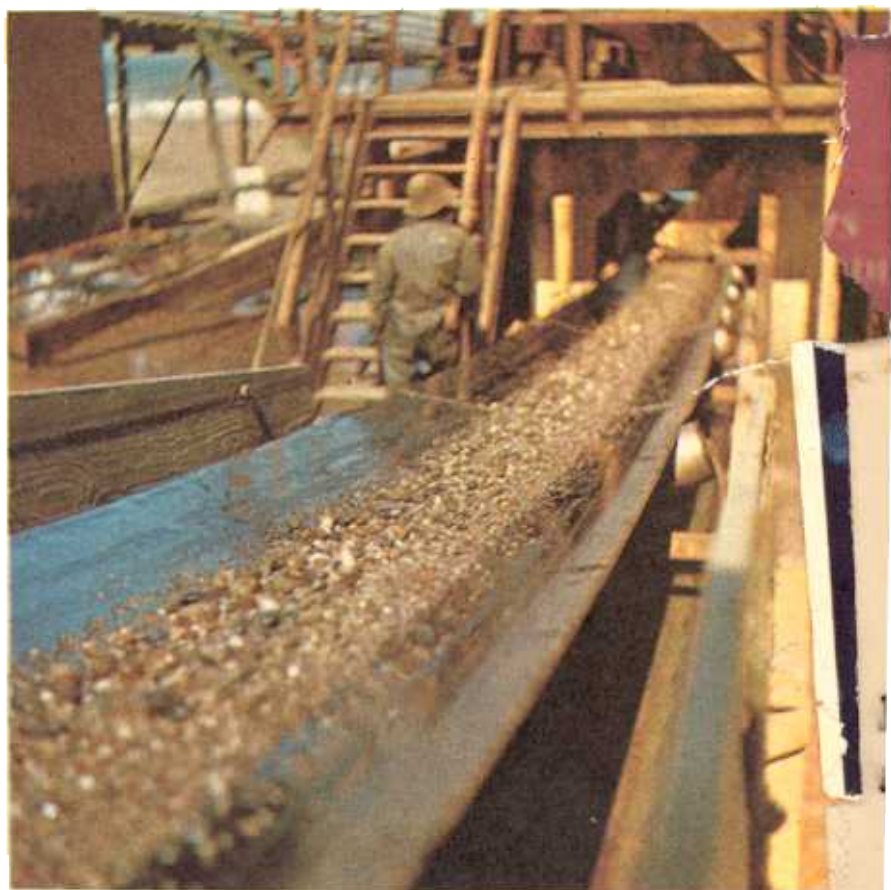






*Above: To find those elusive little diamonds man has to use mighty, heavy machines such as this, which rip up tons of earth at a time, clearing away the overburden of sand to expose the diamonds.*

*Below: A pattern in line and shadow is provided by conveyor belts criss-crossing at one of the separation plants at Oranjemund.*



One of the latest and most unusual innovations is a giant "vacuum cleaner" which sucks up diamondiferous gravel. When the overburden, as the sand layer is known, has been removed by bulldozers and scrapers, mechanical shovels dig out the valuable gravels and load them on trucks for conveyance to the treatment plant. The



*Before the diamonds come into human hands they have to be separated from the sand and gravel in a long mechanical process of sifting, vibrating, washing and floatation which starts here with the dumping of the rough bulk on to a conveyor belt.*





Oranjemund has an interdenominational church building, a Roman Catholic chapel and a Dutch Reformed Church to cater for the religious requirements of the miners and their families.

can buy groceries and household necessities at cut-rate prices in a modern departmental store run by the company. The company has its own farm on the Orange River to provide fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the year, and its own abattoir, to slaughter animals and provide high-grade meat at prices that would be the envy of housewives elsewhere. Servants (all male) are subsidized by the company.

Though many people feel they want to "get out" after a few years, many get over this, and there are some who have been at Oranjemund for more than 15 years and can tell of days when they had to cross the Orange River by pont. Generous leave and a holiday bonus keep people happy, too.

The larger part of the Oranjemund population is made up of Africans from Ovamboland, who do anything from washing dishes and minding babies to operating gigantic mechanical shovels. They are a cheerful lot, well paid and housed in comfortable compounds, where they are kept healthy and generally gain a lot of weight on scientific diets. They also enjoy the advantages of free housing, medical treatment and sports facilities.

In their spare time they can attend classes where they are taught to read and write, sew and do woodwork and tribal arts and crafts. They have canteens (no liquor), lounges, a library, film shows and their own church, where services for various denominations are conducted in turn. At weekends they play draughts, "mill" and other games for hours on end. They

*Continued on page 91*



*Proud moment in a boy's life. This youngster won a competition at the Oranjemund yacht club, and here he receives a large floating trophy from the general manager, Mr Devlin.*



*Ovambo miners are taught first-aid by qualified instructors. They can also attend classes in tribal arts and crafts.*



*Oranjemund is a town of young people, with a high child population. Here, at a fun-fair, one of them tries his luck with this hammer.*



*One of the annual highlights at Oranjemund is the "Mule Derby". Nowadays they use horses, but it all started with mules, and the "jockeys" are still brawny Ovamboland miners. Like a flutter?*



Right: While the oldsters try their luck at the Mule Derby the youngsters find plenty of amusement at the funfair at Oranjemund.



reaching and must go a long way to raising the general standard of living back home. It would provide an interesting subject for students of sociology to study.

The money they do not spend or send home can be deposited in a savings bank so that when they return they can take cash or presents bought in the non-profit shop at the compound, which is run by the company and offers sound articles at reasonable prices.

World. \$6  
A big favourite to take home, while leather any shoes are just jackets, new sweaters and the thing for the man about the south.

People are not used to being surrounded by barbed wire and tracker dogs. But this is an unobtrusive and all-encompassing security. The diamonds this way. Considering the value of the diamonds, it is very necessary and is placed into the area, a person, as well as a motor car, are not to be X-rayed before they pass through the entrance gate at the town. It is unrestricted, and its introduction is a shopping centre though, and the string of other amenities in the proximity of the free transport to work and facilities make private sports fields and recreation company buses are provided free for trips to the beach, the golf course, or for special occasions.

Wonders never cease here. This is certainly true of this strange and isolated town, surrounded by a vast and relentless desert. Hence come price- less jewels of great beauty that grace courts, rooms around the embassies and drawing

the for the wife or mine, while leather any shoes are just jackets, new sweaters and the thing for the man about the south.

that Oranjemund search-lights and Security is strict an unobtrusive the diamonds this apted as such. Pri- ered into the area, nce gate at the person, as well as be X-rayed before t within the town is unrestricted, shopping centre centre of the town, proximity of the facilities make pri- company buses are the beach, the golf is.

is certainly true wn, surrounded by hence come price- hat grace courts, oms around the

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