

Blazing the Trail
Ninety Years of Black Golf in South Africa

Preface

The book is not just a remarkable chronology of black golf, the people who were involved but an insightful reflection on South Africa during the period of apartheid.

The attention to detail, the events, and achievements will now always be on public record and that is an amazing achievement.

Content and reflections

Content covers in detail the achievements of black golfers their trials and tribulations.

As importantly it emphasizes the golfer's commitment to achieving, despite apartheid barriers, including white mind sets and apart from some notable exceptions an indifferent sporting community.

Two things i remember about black golf was Papaw Sewgolum and some golf titles he won.

We, as white golfers, had little knowledge of what was happening (and probably did not care) "behind the scenes."

I remember lee elder's visit and the publicity it got.

Through the book I recalled the banning of home and away rugby and cricket tours and of course the non-participation in the Olympic games.

This resulted in strong resentment from myself, friends and white people I knew.

It was only when i started working for J Walter Thompson, I began to realize the reality of the apartheid situation. The Chairman was a member of the United party in parliament, and he and his son, who was my boss, had the same views (both very liberal). It was here I first met black and coloured people who were not domestic workers or gardeners.

At Kellogg once again I became aware of the reality and ramifications of apartheid.

I got to know Gary Player through Kellogg's and the numerous senior Kellogg's management and U.S.senators who visited South Africa to assess whether the company should remain in the country.

I used to take them to his farm outside JHB, he did a great job in helping to convince them to stay, so much so that Kellogg sponsored his farm school.

Conclusion

The book itself is an encyclopaedia of facts figures achievements and racial incidents well worth reading and deserves a wide circulation amongst South African's living in Australia.

The author's notes on pages (385 387) sums up his commitment to his effort and dedication to create awareness of a dark part of S.A. history and to conceive such a book. This despite the hurdles and challengers that it must have presented. He must be admired and commended, as in his own way he has made a positive contribution to South African history.

Finally, I am sure the book will not appear in the libraries of Strydom, Verwoerd, Botha, Vorster, de Klerk.

As Barry Cohen has suggested if you have not already done so, take a photo holding the book and post it on social media.

Thanks for the opportunity to read it, a nostalgic trip down memory lane.

Cheers Mike ps if i had more time, I would have written a shorter summary