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Few See This N.R. Holiday Paradise: But A Change Is Due

Sunday Mail Reporter

Abercorn, Saturday.

EVERY year, hundreds of Rhodesians pack their bags, throw them in the boot, and head south for a holiday. Only a small number dream of spending their "long" holiday in Rhodesia, and when they do, the names that leap to mind are Inyanga and the Vumba Mountains.

Meanwhile, one of the most beautiful areas in Africa stands almost deserted. Abercorn, a little frontier village steeped in Northern Rhodesian pioneering history, is nestling in the heart of the perfect family holiday country.

It is within easy distance of Lake Tanganyika (25 miles), the Kalambo Falls—highest in Africa—and the croc-free, no-bilharzia Lake Chila.

But today these places are so deserted that you almost expect an echo when you whistle.

Luxury hotel

It won't be that way for long. Plans have already been launched to make Abercorn a thriving little holiday centre—the ideal spot for the fisherman and the family.

Tenders will soon be called for a small luxury hotel site right on the banks of Lake Chila—only 20 minutes' walk from the green and sleepy main street of Abercorn, which has hardly changed since the pioneer days of 1900.

The hotel will look down across the lake, across to the rolling golf course on the far side, and the country club. When

finished, it will overlook the little boats, and the youngsters' paddling and swimming in water where sharks and crocodiles will not snatch them.

On the other side of the town—it's really just a village—is another hotel, almost finished, which commands one of the finest views in Africa. It faces down towards Lake Tanganyika, across rolling forest land to the blue waters of the lake which stretch as far as the eye can see.

Built by a local businessman, Mr. D. "Westy" Westwood, it is within easy reach of both lakes, and some of the finest fishing in Africa.

FIFTY AND 60-POUNDERS ARE PRETTY COMMONPLACE ON THE LAKE, AND IT IS NOTHING TO COME BACK AT THE END OF A DAY'S FISHING WITH A 100lb. "BAG."

Game to view

Also at Sumbu is a game reserve, where the family man can take his children for a day's trip. From the border of the reserve, District Commissioner Mr. Steve Symons told me, holidaymakers can see plenty of big game. Few are taking the opportunity.

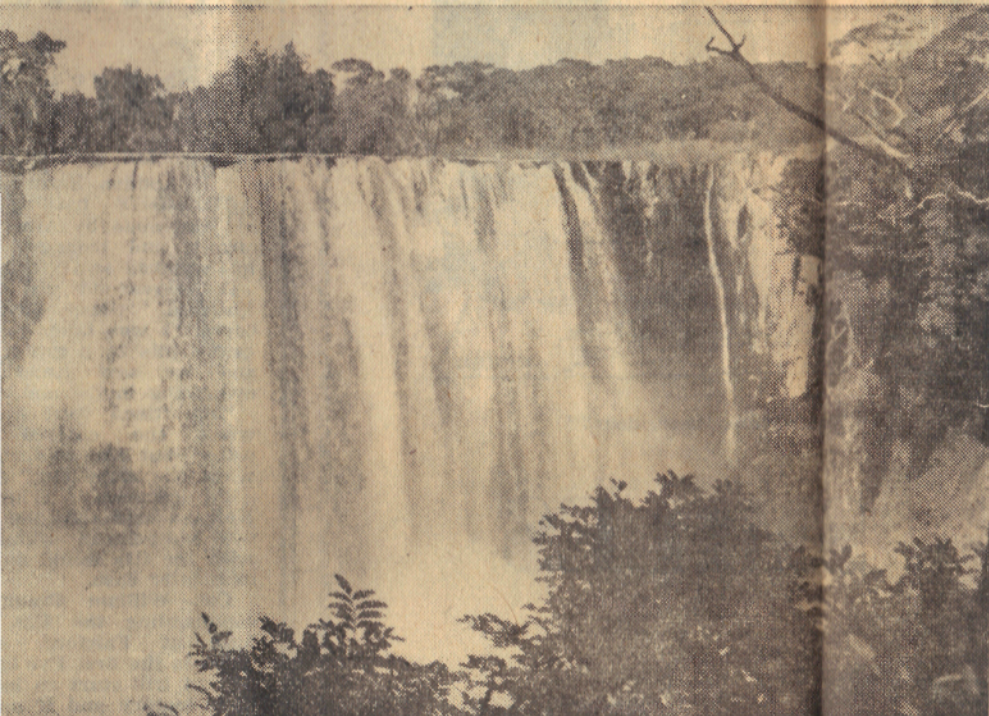
Twenty miles from Abercorn, on a fair road, are the Kalambo Falls, highest in N. Rhodesia. Water plunges 714 feet down into the Kalambo gorge. It is an ideal picnic spot for the family and a gem for the amateur photographer—but at present one group of holidaymakers a week at Kalambo is a crowd.

For the courting and honeymoon couples, Lake Tanganyika will be a paradise when the area is developed. There will be no bright city lights, but they can watch the beautiful lake sunsets, and the little fishing boats bobbing out after dark with their pressure lamps sending back long pencils of light across the lake.

Roads are bad

There is now only one major drawback to Northern Rhodesia's Northern Province becoming Rhodesia's favourite holiday spot—the roads. They are mainly gravel, and some of them are badly corrugated, although not potholed.

When these are improved, Northern Rhodesia will have a new industry in the making.



No, not a view of the Victoria Falls. These are the Chishimba Falls, a few miles from Kasama.

Left: One of the most beautiful places in Africa—and it is almost deserted. A view across Lake Tanganyika, to Northern Rhodesia's only port, at Mpulungu. The trans-lake steamship is in dock.

