

MR WILBERT ASKEW, our REGISTRAR, HAS GIVEN SOLID, VALUABLE SERVICE TO RHODES FOR 21 YEARS. HIS REPUTATION FOR SUSTAINED AND CONSCIENTIOUS WORK BELIES THE FACT THAT HE WAS BORN IN THE ENERVATING CLIMATE OF THE BANANA PROVINCE, WHERE HE ALSO RECEIVED HIS EDUCATION AT GLENWOOD AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL. WHILE HIS DIPLOMA IN HIGHER EDUCATION EQUIPPED HIM FOR TEACHING, HIS B.COM DEGREE GAVE HIM TOO MUCH BUSINESS SENSE TO VENTURE INTO THAT FIELD. INSTEAD HE MADE A CAREER IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE WHICH STARTED IN DURBAN AND LED TO THE POSITION OF TOWN TREASURER OF NIGEL. HE CAME TO RHODES, AS ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, IN 1960, AND BECAME OUR REGISTRAR IN 1967. HIS TENURE OF THIS IMPORTANT OFFICE WAS A PERIOD OF RAPID TRANSITION, IN WHICH THE UNIVERSITY TREBLED ITS STUDENT NUMBERS AND WAS FACED WITH THE CONSTANT NEED TO ADAPT TO NEW METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION. OFTEN, I AM SURE, HE MUST HAVE BEEN GRATEFUL FOR THE CASE-HARDENING LEFT ON HIM BY FIVE YEARS OF WAR SERVICE WITH THE 1ST DIVISION AND ALSO THE 6TH ARMoured DIVISION. BUT NO MATTER HOW HIS ENVIRONMENT CHANGED, HE WAS ALWAYS EQUAL TO HIS TASK, IMPERTURABLE, METHODICAL AND CORRECT. IN THE RHODES OF TOMORROW, HE WILL BE SADLY MISSED AND WELL REMEMBERED, AND OUR VERY BEST WISHES GO WITH HIM, AND ALSO WITH JEAN, IN THEIR RETIREMENT.