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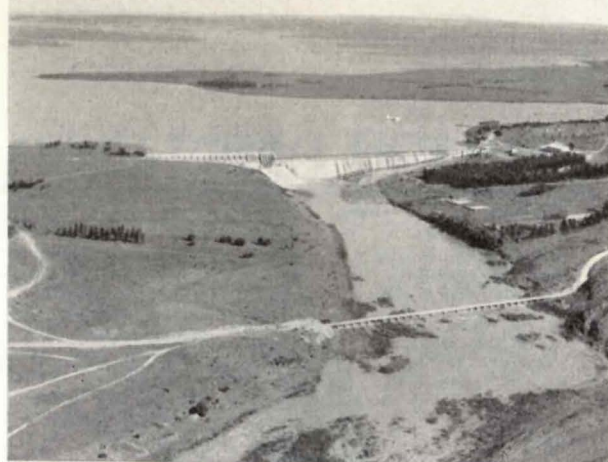
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"THE BIG WATER"

By **JIM CLARKE**

YACHTING types, exiled in land-locked Transvaal Province, have always moaned about their cruising grounds. They have, in the past, talked of "our silly little damp patches called sailing waters, which are no bigger and no wetter than two licked postage stamps."

But they have suddenly woken up to the fact that they have the finest inland cruising water South of the Limpopo.

I cannot help but suspect that if the enterprising pair, Peter Siebert and Freddie Farrell of Johannesburg, had not pointed this out to them, they would have fallen right in it not knowing it was there.

The cruising water is the Vaaldam—116 square miles of it, with a good, unobstructed 60-mile stretch of excellent water.

The Vaaldam is the largest man-made dam in Africa—although it will soon lose that title to Kariba.

The Siebert-Farrell team have a plan to start a club on the banks of the dam called the Deneysville Yacht Club. The idea struck them while they were cruising on the deserted waters of the dam with its fascinating islands and abundant bird life. They were quick to realise its potentialities and a few days later did a survey from the air. They saw the fascinating lagoons, bays and inlets and the great arm of the dam stretching towards the horizon.

The centre of activity will be at Deneysville—the old flying boat base, and the authorities at the base have given every possible help and co-operation to get the club going.

They have given the Deneysville Yacht Club an excellent club house, right on the shore, to be used as a headquarters, and there is a large double garage for stowing gear. They have agreed to lay moorings, build a jetty, provide a winch and help in any other way possible.

There are some comfortable huts and rondavels right on the water's edge which will be available to members at a reduced rate, and the local hotel, which owns the huts, has agreed to reduce prices for members at the hotel too.

Vaaldam is 20 miles from Vereeniging.

Secretary of the Deneysville Yacht Club is Peter Siebert of Johannesburg, 46-2774 and his address is 7, San Michele Avenue, Risidale, Johannesburg.