

Joytown was opened in 1963, after the Government had asked the Salvation Army to do something for the disabled. I think older young people came at first but it soon became a school. Captain Baird was the first Officer in charge and I came in June 1967. At that time there were 120 pupils with 6 in Standard 7. John Mugo was one of them and was the first disabled student at Thika High School.

I found a long waiting list of children wanting to come to Joytown and was determined to get more accommodation. I discovered that there was money available at Headquarters for Joytown so we soon got started on another dormitory. I was there until January 1971 and in those 3 & half years we added three dormitories, 1 classroom, a room for the shoemakers (Patrick & David) extension to the dining room, Hall, cottages for the Headmaster and Kenyan Officers, 2 Units for teachers so all the teachers were able to live on site. The Kindergarten was finished just as I left. All the money was raised by donations to the Salvation Army. When I left there were 200 students.

When I arrived there was 1 choir but together with the Music teacher (Mr. Wariua) we formed 4 in all and began to take part in the National Music Festival, you will know how well you did. There were Scouts and we started guides and Brownies. I wanted Joytown to be like other schools so we had an Annual Speech Day, Sports Day and various competitions. I must add that in all this Mr Myatu and I worked together and had the cooperation of all the teachers. We had plenty of help, mattresses from the USA, 29 wheelchairs from the Salvation Army in Denmark, and my niece in Wales raised money for us. The Lions club of Thika were very good and sometimes brought food and donations.

We could not have managed without the help of the physios from England. Sheila, Anne and Beth who looked after the domestic side and the clinic, they were wonderful in all the work they did for the pupils and help to make them self sufficient. Mention must be made of Mrs Myatu who was a great help to the physios and pupils, also of the Kenyan Officers who all played their part.

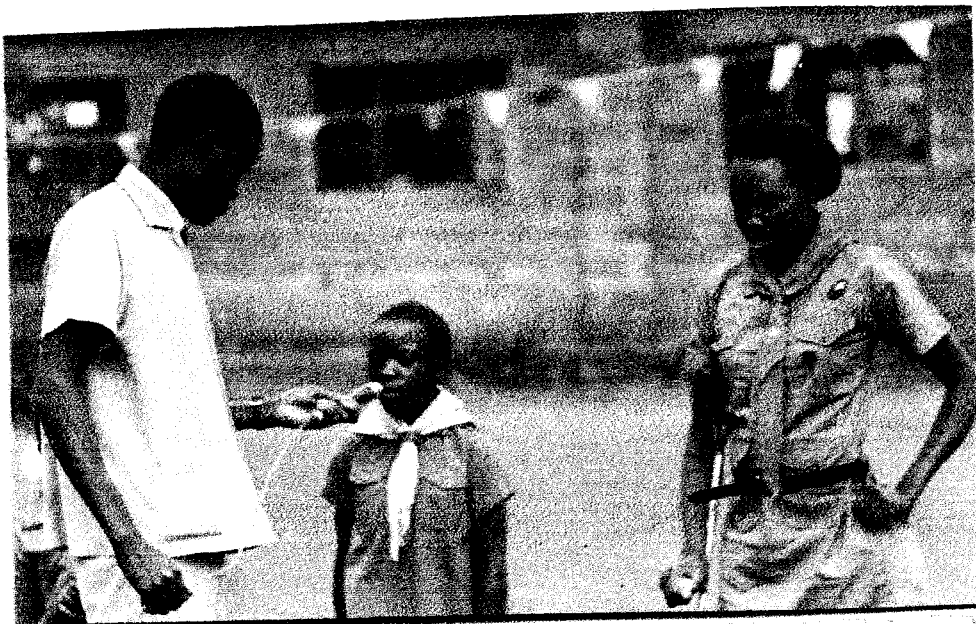
I was very happy at Joytown and did go back from February 1973 – November 1975 when the Government took over, I was not ~~on~~ in charge then, that was Major Kotten.

It has been wonderful to be in touch again and to know ^{how} well you have all done. Greetings to everyone, God bless you all.

I forgot to mention the trips to Mombasa
with Standard 6.



Teachers & Staff
on a outing
to Nakuru.



Prize giving
not sure why
you were pulling
this face!

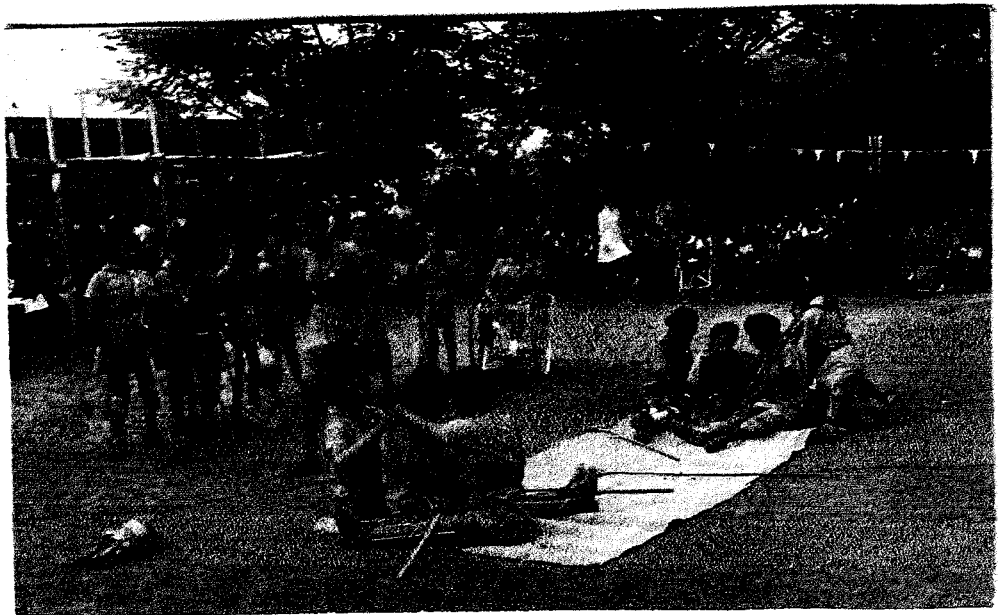


This is when you
were in High School.
You came to Kabete
I think during
half term.

Joel
Top Student in
Sr 7 exams in the
District. Went to
Thika High School



Guides at
Speech Day



Kindergarten
at Speech Day
1974

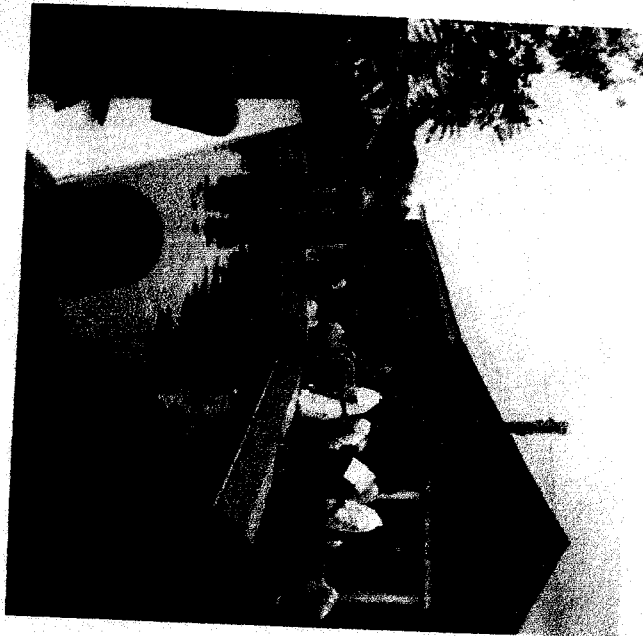


1973



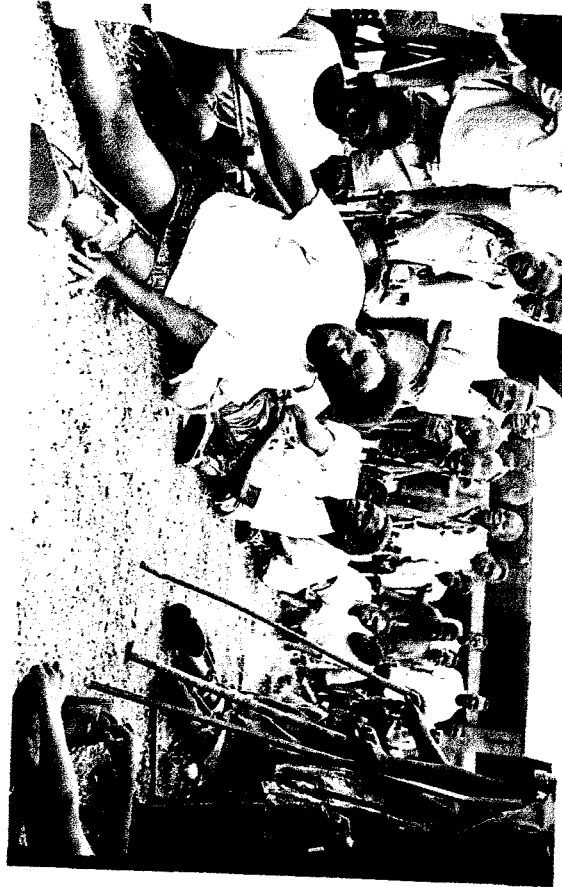
THE NEW KINDERGARTEN GROUP WITH MAJOR KOTEN

Visit of English Variety Clubs.
Henry Cooper (Boxer)



1969
Sports Day
Swimming
with Sheila
(Phylicia)

Sports Day



Girls choir with Music Certificates.



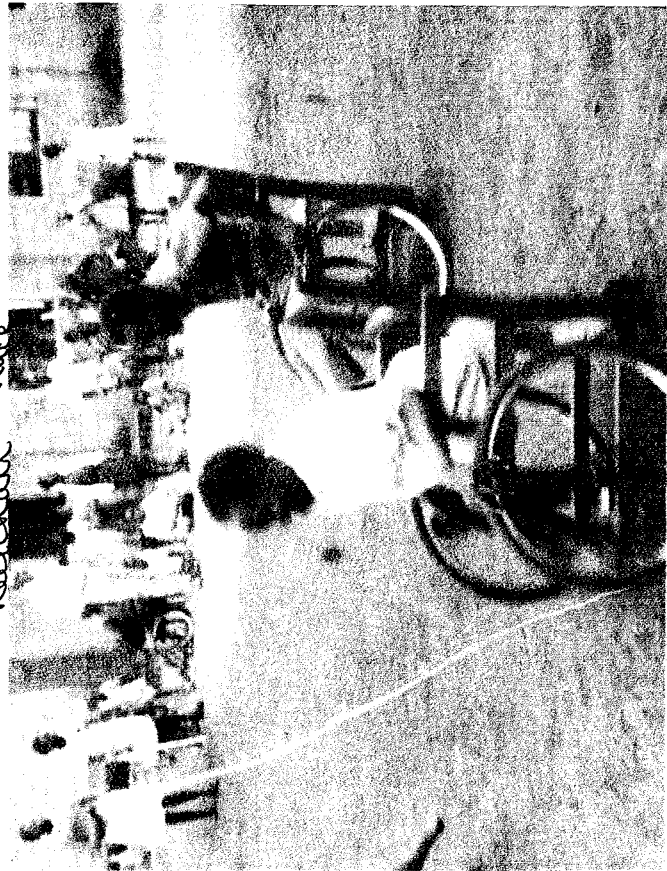
First Sports Day 1969



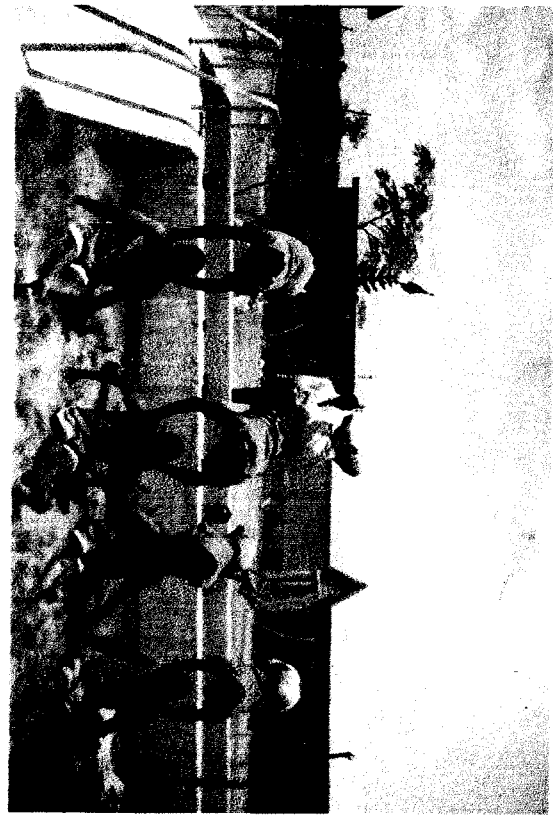
Walking on Hands



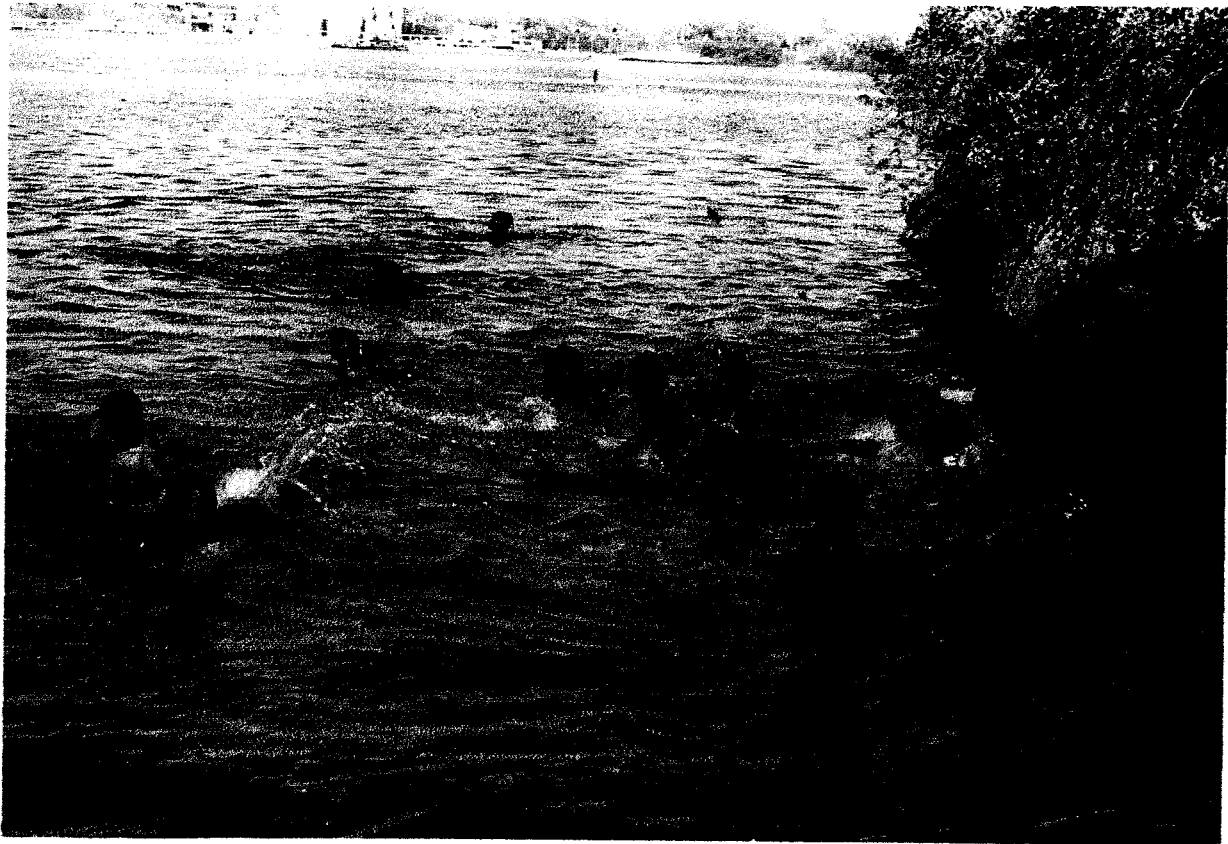
Wheelchair Race



Speech Day
Gymnastics



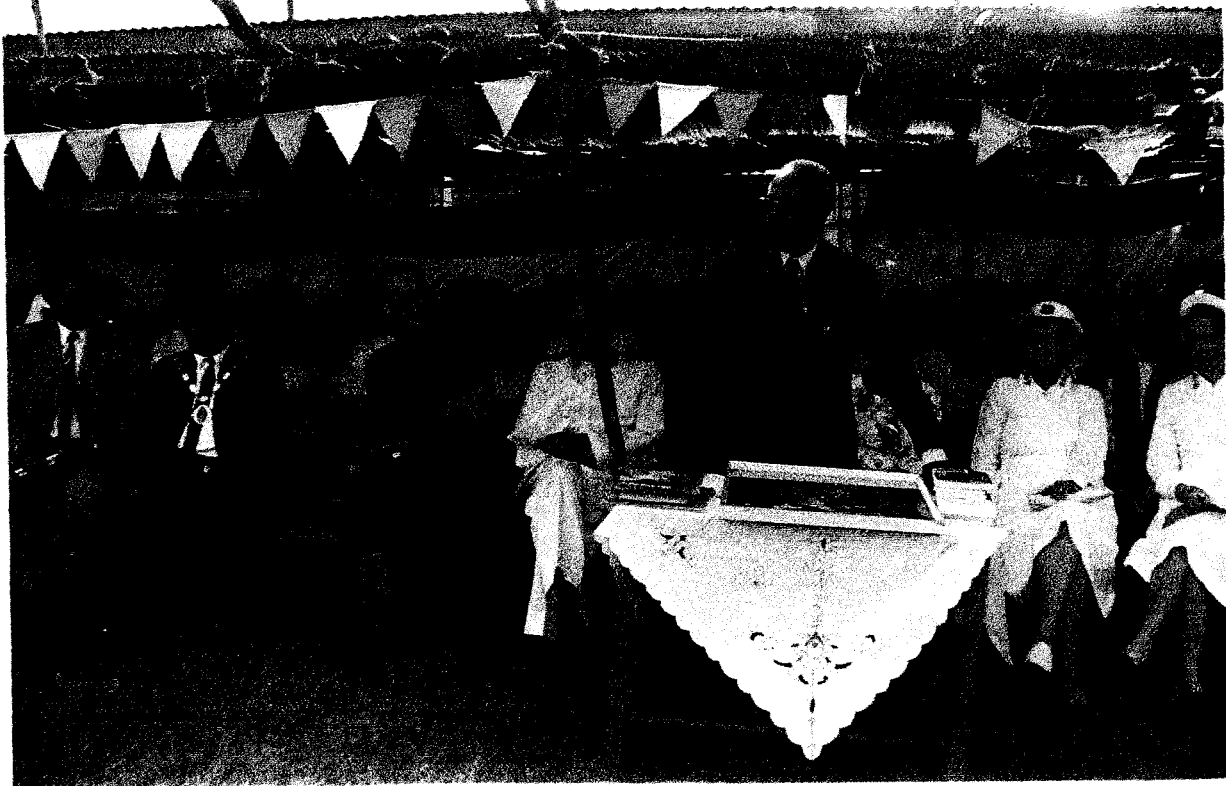
Mombasa - Std b Trip
with Beth. & Mr Gusa



FORT JESUS - PROFESSOR who discovered it

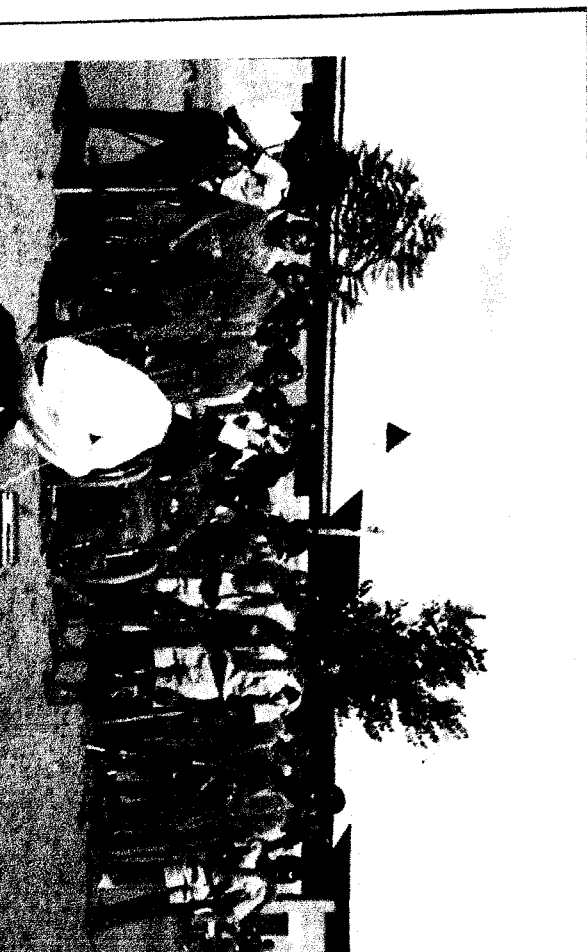
Speech Day 1969

DR KIANO - Minister for Education opening it.



DR KIANO arriving at Toyrash.

Senior
Mixed choir →



National Choir winners

Speed Day 1969
Mixed Choir.



Cups we won at various choir
competitions.

Donation of Mattresses from U.S.A.



New Red Sweaters for
the younger children.
Older ones have yellow
shirts for base wear
donated by my niece.



Varsity Club
Bobby
Charlton
playing with
boys.

Famous
English
Footballer.