

]-----Original Message-----

]From: Jan H. Joubert [mailto:janjoubertsafaris@absamail.co.za]

]Sent: 10 February 2005 05:18 PM

]To: eiportne@mweb.co.za

]Subject: Re: [T4A] van Zyls Pass.. Alternative route {02}

]

]The original drum was a red Caltex 45gall drum that Mr Ben Van Zyl put  
]down there after using it as a petrol stash. In those years you could  
]actually leave petrol like this there without being stolen!! In the end  
]he used it as a marker and called it Rooidrom (and please respect this  
]and not anglicize the word).

]

]Towards the entrance of the Hartmann valley, a mine sprung up run by  
]Israelis. They were mining garnet as far as I could remember, but  
]whether that was successful. I do not know. They put up different  
]colored drums at the turnout to Orupembe and the mine, I have not been  
]there for quite a while and suspect that it may not be there anymore.

]

]The original drum at Rooidrom was taken by Hereros penetrating from the  
]south in their bakkies. They would fill it with river water and take it  
]to their cattle in the Marienfluss. This is one reason why the area  
]about 20km from Otjinungwa is so badly overgrazed. Chris Eyre, who was  
]the nature conservator there, replaced it with a new drum that he  
]painted red and it was immediately taken again. The last and third drum,  
]he made full of holes and put gravel inside. It is still standing and  
]next year I will paint it again.

]

]Finally a joker came by about eight yeas ago and installed a neat  
]telephone on the drum plus the little metal extension where he put a  
]neat menu with all types of food that you could order by phoning. This  
]was destroyed by vandals. The little kraal nearby belongs to a Himba  
]called Kahanganga. A tall chap given to regular bouts of VD that we have  
]injected with penicillin several times. He was also, when I was still in  
]Nature Conservation one of our spies who reported to us who was doing  
]what. There is a little fountain nearby and so on and so forth. I could  
]lecture you on the flora and fauna, but let that be for another time.  
]Attached is my 2005 programs.

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]http://tracks4africa.com/misc/Programme2005.doc (32kb)

]

]Please send this to your selected friends---nature lovers only.

]Salutations

]Jan Joubert