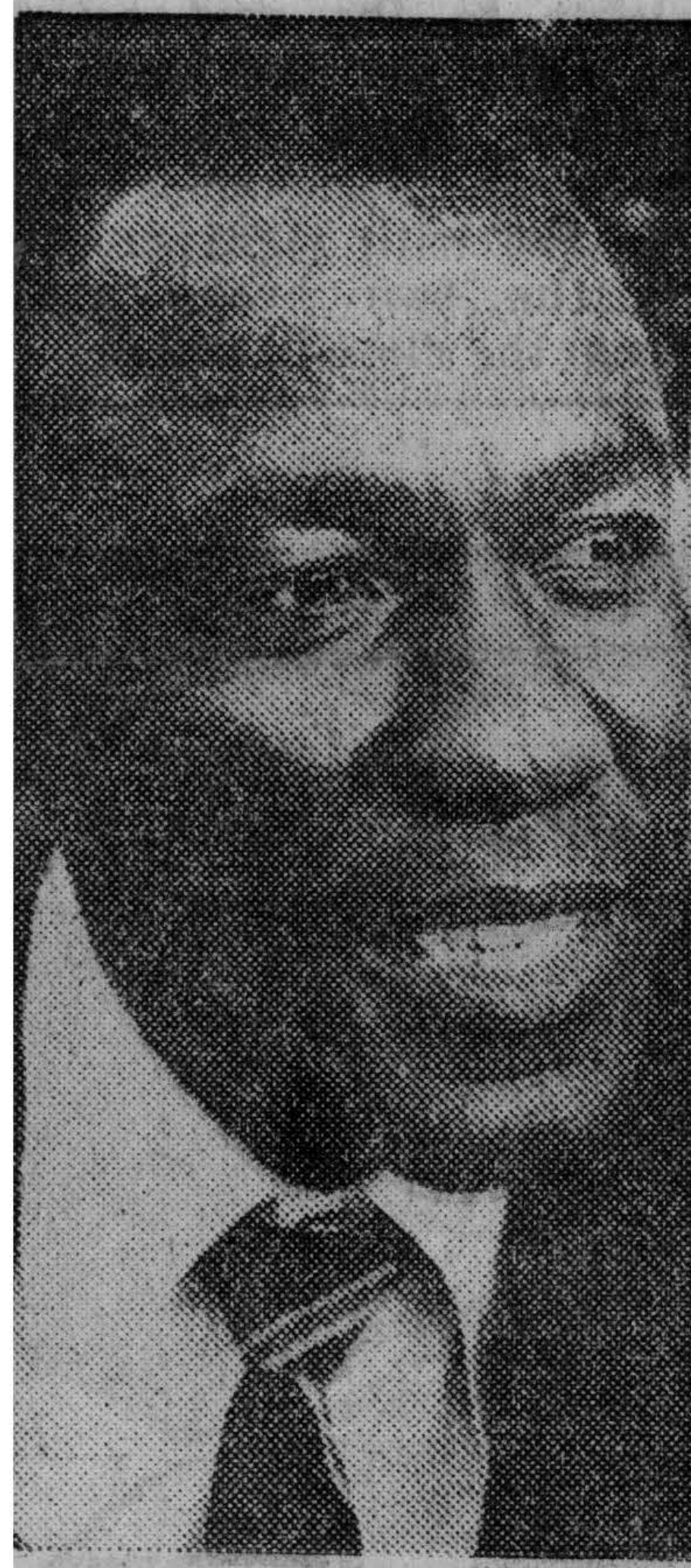


# I'm not hopeful on your cricket future, says Hunte

Daily News Reporter



Hunte

ONE of the world's greatest opening batsmen arrived in Durban at the weekend during his first visit to South Africa.

Conrad Hunte, who braved the first ball from the fastest bowlers in cricket in all his 44 test matches for the West Indies, is now working for the Moral Rearmament Movement.

He stressed that his visit was a private one on behalf of the movement. He has already been to Johannesburg and the Transkei.

Discussing cricket he said he was pessimistic about South Africa's chances of returning to the international scene soon.

He said he was impressed with what he had seen and heard about attempts to bring about multi-racial cricket. But he doubted if these moves would impress all members of the International Cricket Conference to the extent of allowing South Africa back.

Half of his former team, the West Indies, would welcome a test match against a multi-racial Springbok team chosen on merit but others were against sporting contacts with South Africa.

Hunte can rattle off at breakneck speed the figures of his own career.

"I played in 42 tests, scored eight centuries, made 3245 runs for a test average of 45 and my highest score was 260.

"I made that with Gary Sobers when we put on a West Indies record partnership for the second wicket of 446 against Pakistan. Sobers made 365 not out altogether but I got myself run out on 260."

Hunte considers the Australian Alan Davidson to have been the best bowler with the new ball he has faced.

And the best batsman outside his West Indian colleagues?

"Colin Cowdrey when in form was the best batsman — he made cricket look so easy."

It is not difficult to single out the best test match he played in.

"It has to be the match Down Under with the Australians in 1961. It finished in a draw with both teams having the same scores at the finish."

Hunte rocks with laughter when he recalls one game he did not play for the West Indians. This was in 1968 in Belfast when an Irish team had the West Indies, including a number of test stars, out for 25 runs in their first innings. The match, it should be added, ended in a draw.

His favourite cricketing stroke was the on drive and he always loved opening. "I liked to go in when the fun was on and not wait around."