



Dr. Malie Smuts (left), principal of the school attached to "Springbok Stampede", and Miss Molly Silberbauer, the French teacher.

Teachers without a schoolroom

THE head of a travelling school has a responsibility not usually shouldered by principals—where to find a schoolroom.

Fortunately, Dr. Malie Smuts, principal of the school attached to the touring show "Springbok Stampede", which

will be staged at the Grootte Kerk Hall to-morrow, Friday and Saturday, is used to making do.

"At the moment we're using a hotel dining-room, and an oven timer as a school bell. Before the children finish their studies for the day, they set the tables for dinner! In Paarl we were fortunate to be offered 'antique' desks from a farm school."

Sixteen of the lively 45-strong cast are of school-going age, but change of scene and schedule does not affect their concentration. "They're determined to do well," says Miss Molly Silberbauer, French teacher who recently announced her engagement to the group's financial manager, Mr. Chris Schutz.

"They'll even suggest school on Saturday if they feel they are falling behind."

After teaching for three years in Natal, Miss Silberbauer joined "Springbok Stampede" when it developed from a holiday show. "I don't think I'd go back to ventional teaching. Our children are so receptive—there's a wonderful teacher-pupil relationship, without the battle against a resistance you find so often in schools."

When travelling light "has to become a habit", school books are an added problem. Each member of the cast is allowed one suitcase, but apart from books, clothes and stage costumes, there are backstage props to consider.

"With a convoy of small bus, station wagon and three cars, it's sometimes necessary to travel in relays to fit in everyone—and everything."