

**FIGHTING THE SYSTEM:** Photographs of young ANC stalwarts Nelson Mandela and the late Walter Sisulu burning the hated dompas are on display at the Gold Reef City Apartheid Museum

## The bleak realities of apartheid start at the door

**T**HE Apartheid Museum at Gold Reef City in Joburg serves as an eye-opener for the younger generation who never lived through the days of legalised segregation.

Opened in November 2001, its access cards marked "white" or "non-white" serve as an introduction to race classification.

"This is done to make visitors feel what apartheid was like," says museum spokesman Wayne Davy.

The access card determines which entrance you use, as the turnstiles are also classified — much like all facilities

were during the apartheid years.

"Today's youth don't have an idea of what apartheid was," says Christopher Till, director of the museum.

South Africa's long history of racial discrimination is evident in a photograph of Khoi and San prisoners, arrested for trespassing and sentenced to life imprisonment in the 1800s.

The museum tour takes you through old Joburg, after gold was discovered, right through to the time when Soweto was established.

Replicas of solitary confinement cells show the hardships prisoners

went through. There are pictures of forced removals in Sophiatown, of the day-to-day lives of ordinary citizens, copies of the dompas that black people were forced to carry at all times, and depictions of the so-called homelands, where black people were confined according to ethnicity.

The museum takes one through the history of the liberation movement, and the contribution of the ANC and PAC. The story ends with the first democratic elections of 1994, following the Kempton Park talks between the various parties.

## A showcase of rainbow culture

**W**ALKING through MuseumAfrica at the Market Theatre Complex in Newtown, Joburg, is like taking a journey through the history of various Southern African cultures, from ancient art to modern inventions.

Curator Deon van Tonder says the museum has more than three million items, covering all aspects of Southern African history.

It even has life-size replicas of Iron Age Batswana huts on display, complete with the traditional courtyard and grinding stone.

The paintings and engravings in the rock art section graphically tell stories of the lives and religion of the Khoi and San peoples.

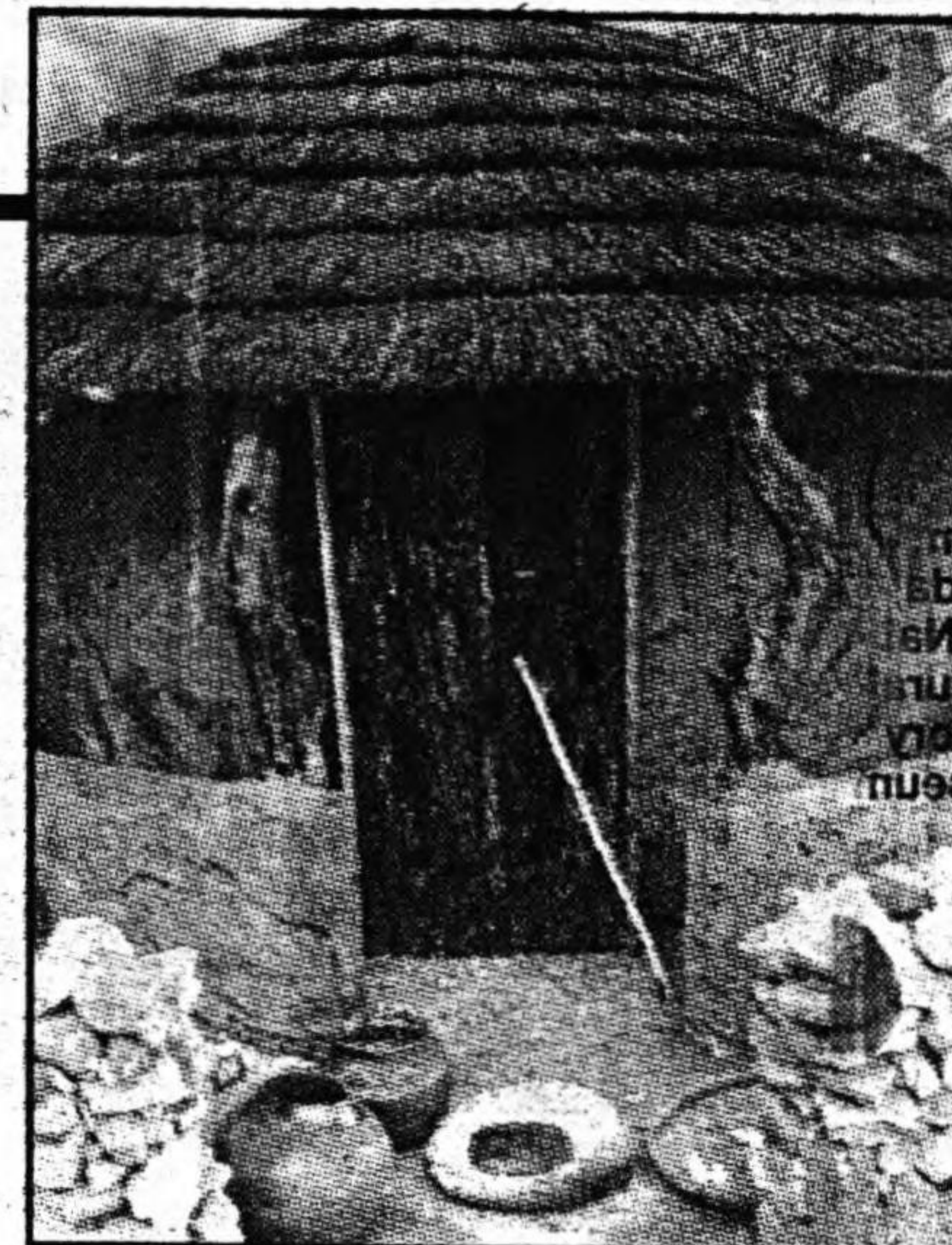
The collection includes cameras and pictures taken in the mid 1800s, shortly after the introduction of photography.

It also has a copy of the skeleton of *Tapinocaninus* — the oldest reptile found in the Karoo.

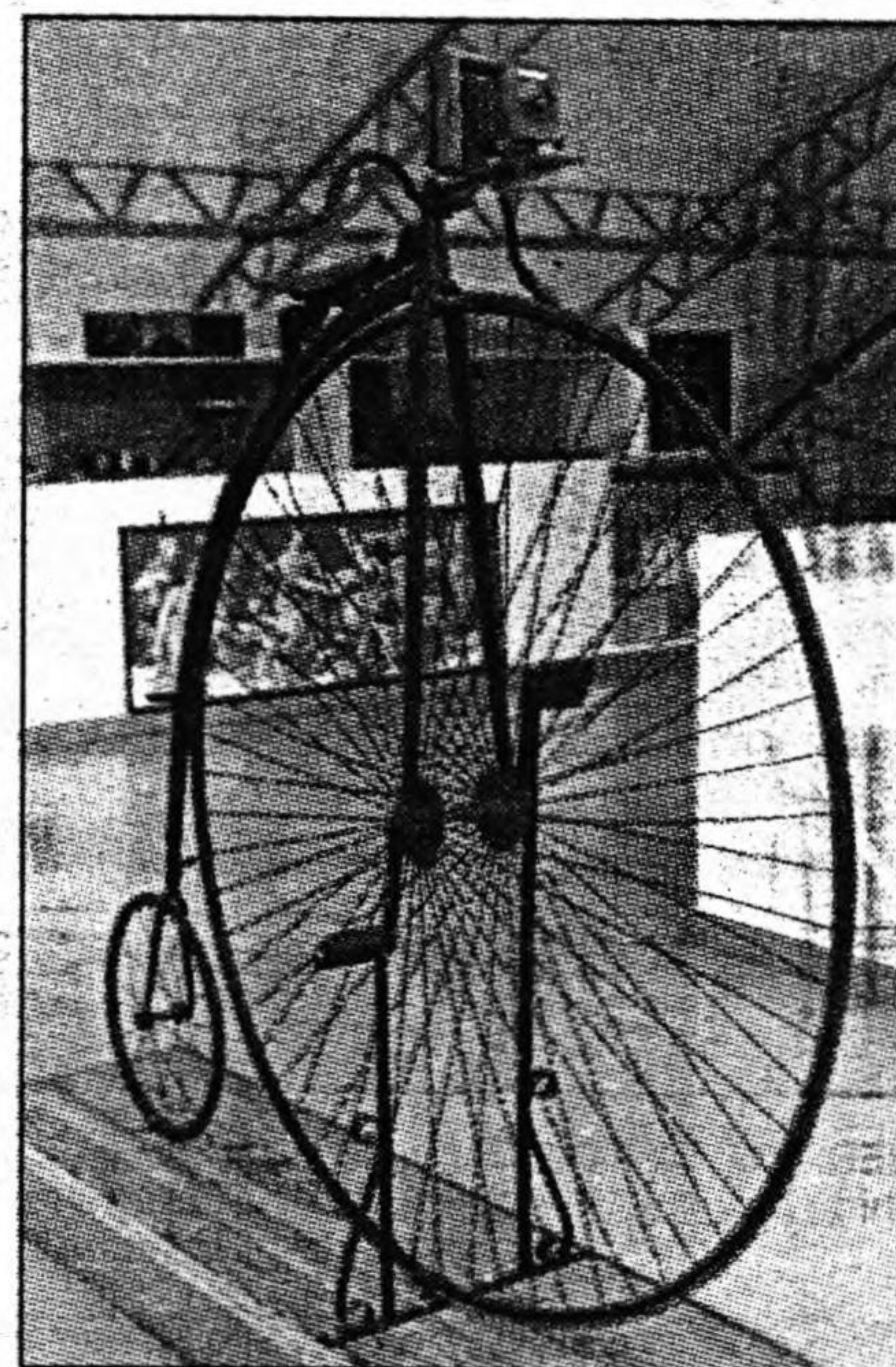
"We have many significant collections and it's difficult to point to one as the most significant. We also have Zulu King Dingaan's original chair," says van Tonder.

The geological section boasts more than 25 000 specimens, including unusual minerals from a mine in Tsumeb, Namibia.

There's also an exhibition on the landmark Treason Trial which incorporates photographs of the arrested activists and articles from various South African publications.



**IRON AGE:** A life-size Batswana hut



**SNAPPY WHEELS:** The 1880s picnic camera mounted on a bicycle