

## ALGARVE NEWS TAKES A LOOK AT

## Almansil

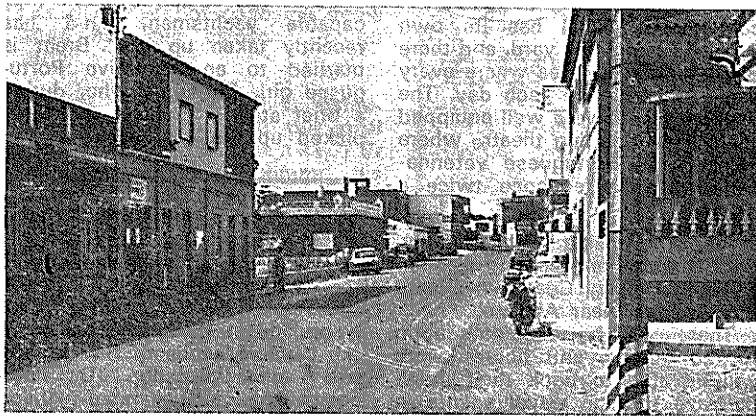
BY JIM PLAYER

It may surprise many readers of this supplement to see that we are devoting space to a small village like Almansil. However, in the following article, we will show the people and places that depend on this little township, and how important an area it is.

It might be the case, if you are not familiar with the Algarve, that you cannot place Almansil. Well, some 12 kilometres west of Faro, on the main Estrada 125, you will come across a large church on the right hand side. This is the Church of São Lourenço. Only two kilometres further on starts Almansil. It might be that you know this village by the water wheel in the middle of the roadway.

Although still smallish, it is an extremely busy area. Cars, buses, lorries and motor bicycles speed through the town making it always a dangerous task just crossing the road. But it is the businesses that have sprung up that make the story interesting. A quick check list on these might surprise you: two supermarkets, three international style restaurants, an art gallery, a furniture shop, garage, garden centre, a well stocked hardware store, a butcher, three Portuguese style restaurants and a cinema. This area is the shopping and supply centre for the two main developments nearby: Vale do Lobo and Quinta do Lago.

One of the characters who make up this community is John Howes, who owns and runs the successful furniture business, Candia. John, with his wife Helen and their two sons, Robert and Adam, came to Portugal in 1972, and after trying



UNUSUALLY QUIET — ALMANSIL'S MAIN STREET.

one or two things, decided that what he knew best would be best for him and his family. John had previously been sales manager of Minty of Oxford. The 1974 Portuguese revolution set him back temporarily, but he quickly recovered, in is deeply involved in all types of furnishing including contract packages for hotels, apartment blocks and restaurants as well as looking after private customers who visit the showrooms. Next spring a special garden furniture department is planned. Obtaining suitable furniture in Portugal in sufficient quantities has always

been a problem, so John took off in search of good manufacturers who would tool-up to his designs. The result is most satisfying from John's point of view and his customers'.

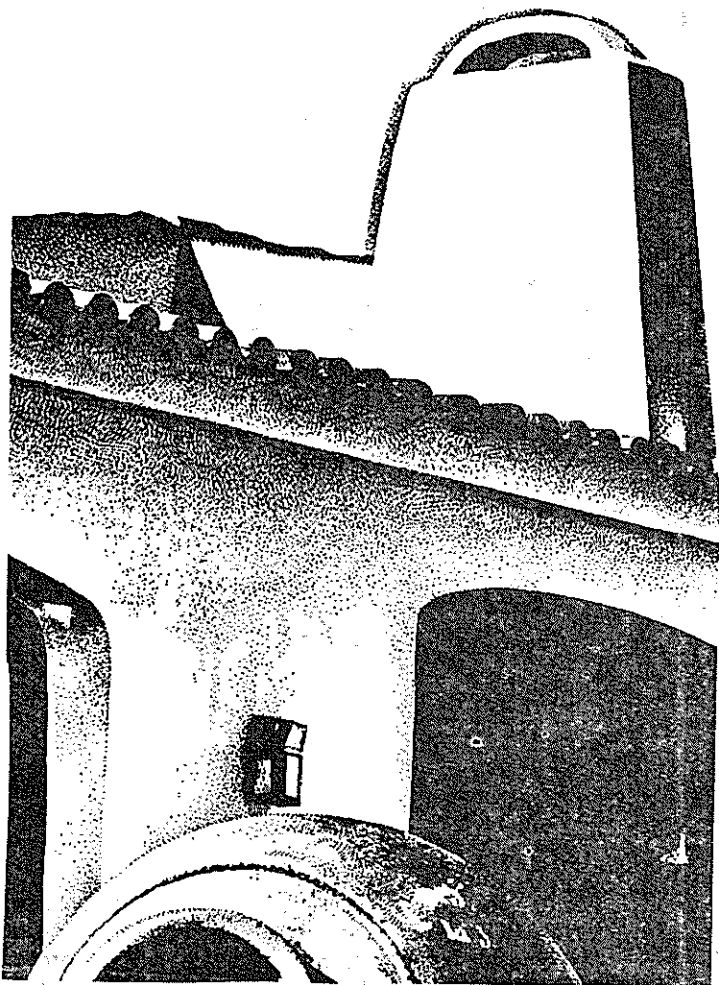
Detlev von Rosen was born in Estonia, as were his brother, Bengt, and his sister, Christina. They moved to Poland and then to Austria and, a few years later, to Sweden. As well as the languages of those countries, they also speak English, Danish, French and Portuguese. They opened their O jardim garden centre in 1972, and I would be surprised if

any single resident in the area had not at one time or another bought flowers or plants from them. Detlev runs the nurseries, and has developed a big export business in ferns which he ships in climate-controlled trucks to Haesslehom in Sweden. From there they are distributed to Norway, Finland and Denmark.

If you come across a dark-bearded Englishman wearing shorts, sandals and maybe, if it's winter, an anorack, you will probably have bumped into the biggest pool man in the Algarve: Terry Cleaver of Pacific Pools. Terry saw the opportunities in 1971, and sold liner pools at a price so competitive that people doubted if it were possible. Terry also realised that after sales service was important, and planned accordingly. So good was the business in 1973 that he planned to expand into a "leisure centre", but the 1974 coup upset his plans. We are glad to say that Terry survived that period, and Pacific Pools is now stronger than ever.

Many foreign residents in the Almansil area are comforted by the knowledge that a British State Registered Nurse and Chiroprapist, Miss Jennifer Kafetsis Crowley, is in permanent residence at Casa Agua Pura, Vale do Lobo II (formerly Ocean Club). Miss Crowley worked at the British Hospital in Lisbon for 16 months, and is qualified to give injections, take blood pressure readings, and provide all general nursing.

A new store, to be known simply as "Shop One", will shortly be opened on the road between Almansil and Vale do Lobo. The



Gourmets say  
it's  
"The  
Algarve  
Restaurant"  
and we agree.

Casa Velha

Quinta do Lago — Almansil — Algarve

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