



THE WORLD'S STRANGEST MILLIONAIRE

by Bob Deindorfer

What would you do if you made a fabulously rich diamond strike? John Williamson made one. Here's the fantastic story of what he has been doing with his millions . . .

Photographs by George Rodger

MWADUI, TANGANYIKA

A SHY Canadian named John Thorburn Williamson has made the ridiculous fantasy of the millionaire ditchdigger come true. After years of poverty he found an enormous diamond mine. Practically all Williamson did with his sudden fortune was buy a new patch for his trousers — then he hurried back to work in one of the most desolate spots on earth.

Today Williamson is a certified millionaire of unmeasured potential wealth. He can afford whatever he wants, travel in the most luxurious fashion and live in glittering comfort anywhere in the world. He does none of that. Instead he lives miles from civilization and continues searching for more diamonds. Aside from a pleasant home, a vintage sedan and two first-edition books, he has no more visible property than any other pioneer along Tanganyika's bleak grasslands. His neighbors and employees are bewildered.

"Why did he bother to find a diamond mine?" asked one of



GIANT ASKARI guards mine-area entrance

HANDSOME, 42-year-old Williamson sorts a tray of the diamonds that made him one of the world's richest men