

Matilda.



Price **9^{D.}**

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AN OFFICIAL TREASURE BAG OF GUIDERS' INFORMATION FOR

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

HEADQUARTERS, VICTORIA . . . STATE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MALVERN
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NOTICES.

On March 27, a Farewell Rally by the Scouts and Guides was held for His Excellency the Governor, Chief Scout of Victoria, and the Countess of Stradbroke, State Commissioner, who left Victoria on April 7. Lady Helena Rous, our Honorary State Secretary, left on March 9, taking with her a book of photographs representing the Victorian Companies—a gift from the Guides and Guiders of the State.

Guiders will be interested to know that Miss Behrens (Head of Training, Imperial Headquarters), will be in Victoria during June and July, and while here will hold a Training Week (details of which will be found elsewhere). Miss Behrens is to spend about a month in each State and in New Zealand.

Guiders are reminded that credit accounts are payable monthly; a moment's consideration of the matter will show the necessity for prompt payment. No goods should be ordered from a Company unless the money is in hand, or will be at the end of a month.

Exchange should be added to country cheques. Receipts are not posted for amounts under 5/-.

Captains are reminded that, before deciding to hold any entertainments, Church parades, or Field Days, the permission of the District (or Divisional) Commissioner must first be obtained.

If Guiders would write orders for equipment, etc., on a separate sheet, instead of including them in the body of a letter, it would simplify, and thus hasten, the filling of the order.

The new Headquarters and Guide Shop are on the 4th floor, Colonial Mutual Life Building, 314 Collins Street, Melbourne, but quite a number of people still wander up to Spring Street—especially the mothers of Guides. Could Guiders explain the change of address to the Companies, so that the parents would be saved unnecessary exertion?

We are very happy in the new quarters, and wonder now how we ever fitted into the original office. It is so much more convenient in every way.

The State Commissioner (the Countess of Stradbroke) has given us a photograph of herself, and among other gifts to the office have been the following:—8 chairs, an electric kettle, book-shelves, waste-paper basket, wire baskets, cups and saucers, a tin of tea, biscuits and sugar.

We are very grateful to the voluntary helpers who made cupboards from petrol cases, and helped in so many ways to set the office in order.

For the next issue of "Matilda," all contributions should reach Headquarters by May 15.

VICTORIAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee, the following resolutions were passed:—

1. That Lady Chauvel be appointed Deputy State Commissioner.
2. That Miss R. Hamilton's resignation as Head of Examinations, be accepted, and that Miss Gwen H. Swinburne be appointed in her place.
3. That the Victorian State Badge be a single sprig of wattle, in enamel.

(In accordance with Rules, Policy and Organisation, Rule 58, this badge will be worn by Guiders on the hat, and by Guides on the right shoulder-strap. This badge will not be available for some time.)

S. H. IRVING,
State Secretary.

A CORRECTION.

In the last issue of "Matilda," two articles—one on "Saluting," and the other on "The First Class Test"—were inadvertently published over the name of D. M. Andrews.

It is necessary to explain that these articles were written by Miss Andrews at the request of the Trainers' Committee, to express the Committee's considered opinion on these matters, and that the responsibility for their publication rests with the Trainers' Committee.

FIRST INTERSTATE CAMP.

January 8 to 16, 1926.

Imagine a scene on the bank of the Nepean River, at Camden, New South Wales. Grey skies, a misty rain falling, and the tents of the Camp, like a veritable Canvas Town, set in a semi-circle, with the tree-fringed river bank for background. Here we see fifty or more tents of varying sizes—principally bells—awaiting the arrival of the last detachment of inhabitants.

Behind the tents stretches open country which gently undulates, then falls suddenly in a steep descent on to a main road leading to the town.

Along this road, on the late afternoon of January 8, 1926, two motor lorries, crammed to overflowing with Guiders and Guides, made slow but sure progress Campwards. Queenslanders, Victorians, South and Western Australians, and a few late Sydney arrivals, scanned the country eagerly for the first glimpse of the journey's end. Thrilled cheers greeted the first glimpse of white against the background of trees; and a few moments later, the travel-stained ones were on terra-firma, being welcomed by the Commandant, Miss Shanks, and Staff, no one the worse for the wear of the journey from distant States, but all in the cheeriest of spirits, joyfully anticipating the events of the week to follow.

In a very short time all were allotted to their respective groups, of which there were four, each in charge of a Group Commandant.

During the whole of the week, each Group worked, rested, and had meals separately from the others. The entire Camp united only for Colours and for Camp Fire. The entrance to the Camp Fire circle was guarded by two sentinel trees standing about 20 yards apart. Passing between these, one stepped into cleared space, bounded by a ring of other guardian gum trees. A more perfect spot would be difficult to imagine for such a ceremony as Camp Fire. Up to this ring of trees the bush crept from the water's edge; not dense, but ragged, inhabited by hundreds of birds, and seemingly thousands of those summer-sirens, the cicadas. Merrily went the singing on that first night. In spite of travel-weariness, one felt the thrill of a united Australia—united in the hope of building strong foundations of Empire and of world-wide fellowship.

Up betimes the next day—Reveille was blown throughout the week at 6.20, with the exception of Sunday. The rainclouds had cleared away, and the sun shone fiercely even at that early hour, on tents and parched paddocks, and those from cooler States began to have a little insight into a New South Wales summer. On the signal for Colours, each Group marched to the Flagpole, which stood in the centre of the Camp. Here they were dismissed by Group Commandants, called up again and formed into Horseshoe by the Captain for the day, who was appointed each morning from a different Group. Up went the Union Jack—and the National Anthem was taken up by 130 voices. Then Prayers were conducted by the Commandant, and the Camp dismissed, the members strolling back to their Groups for breakfast.

After Orderly Duties and Inspection, which latter event took place at 9.45, the Groups usually practised gadget-making, or else singing, under some friendly tree. Several times the Camp combined for Singing practice, under the leadership of Miss Shanks, or Miss Bayes (the Quartermaster). Canteen was available and much appreciated at 10.30; then there was free time till 11, when Swimming Parade took place. The Swimming Pool was a delightful spot formed by a weir, about 50 yards across.

Beyond the pool itself, trees grew in the centre of the stream, and made the whole scene one of great beauty. Dinner was the next event after swimming; then Rest Hour from 1.30. Following this there was Free Time for an hour and a quarter, during which one might visit friends in different Groups. As members of different States were scattered all over the Camp, this was much appreciated.

Sunday was marked by Church Parade in the morning, to the quaint little Church of England in Camden, which was reached by crossing the river in punts—a new experience and an entertaining one. Camden is especially interesting as one of the oldest settlements in New South Wales, and the Church possesses a clock with chimes. During the busy days these were unnoticed; but in the quietness of the nights these chimes came soft and clear over the fields and seemed to breathe an atmosphere of peace. The nights in camp were full also of the singing of birds—of larks principally, and others not so easily named, but whose songs were sweet. Sunday in Camp closed with a Guides' Own, at which a Scoutmaster gave the address and set forth with clearness the Ideals of Scouting and Guiding.

The main events of the week after Sunday were three: firstly, the Swimming Sports, which took the form of an Inter-Group competition; secondly, the visit to the Camp of Lady de Chair, State President; and thirdly, Visitors' Day, when each Group gave a demonstration of Guide work. This included tent-pitching, First Aid, Gadgets made in camp, and the setting of all the different kinds of fires known to a good camper. A delightful display of Folk Dancing was given.

That night, everyone went bedwards with mingled feelings—joy for the day that had gone, and sorrow for the one to come, which meant breaking camp, good-byes, and a return to the world of everyday affairs. Round the Camp Fire, Lady Marjorie Dalrymple's accounts of Guiding in Borneo and in different parts of the world helped more than ever to the realisation of the power of the movement for good, and also of the great difficulties that are so cheerfully undertaken by many Guiders in lands other than our own. Thanks were given at the last Camp Fire to New South Wales for the hospitality accorded by her to the other States and New Zealand. The New Zealanders supplied a novel item during the evening by expressing their thanks in Maori—ending with a dance, and singing "For they are jolly good fellows," in Maori.

And to that gathering of Guides, representing six States and a Dominion, the Commandant spoke, that last night, of our Sisterhood, and gave us a vision of how our Garden of Guiding must be laid out—not in little hedged-in plots in which we play alone, but in a broad landscape, where we may all share the joy of its beauty and peace. And each one who walked thoughtfully away from that last Circle must have felt that at such a Camp Fire does one's Torch kindle afresh, and give one a new zeal for Service.



SWIMMING AND BATHING.

The attention of Guiders is directed to the following rule regarding Boating and Bathing (Rules, Policy and Organisation, 1926, Rule 63):—

“No Guide shall take part in any boat training until she can swim 50 yards.

“With a view to prevention of accidents, bathing places will be divided into three categories:—

- (a) Dangerous — requiring a Life Saver with Bronze Medal of the Royal Life Saving Society;
- (b) Fairly safe—requiring a Life Saver who has the Swimmer's Badge;
- (c) Baths or Shallow Water, etc.—where a responsible person who can swim 50 yards and has a knowledge of artificial respiration may take charge.

“In all these cases the person in question must be over 18, and must have a knowledge of the organisation of Bathing Parades. The Guide authorities in whose County (State) bathing takes place will decide under which category their bathing comes.

“This rule cannot be too rigidly adhered to. Its observance has already saved several lives, and has also exonerated Guiders from the charge of negligence.”

It is to be noted that the Life Saver must be a “responsible person” over 18. It does not necessarily follow that a person who can swim 50 yards, or has other swimming and rescue qualifications will be able to organise and control those on picket duty as well as the bathers, and will be able to act promptly in an emergency. It is an extremely responsible position, and Guiders cannot give too much care to the bathing arrangements for their Guides.

It is perhaps often thought that, because bathing is taking place at Baths, there is no need for a Life Saver or a picket, but this is by no means the case, and the need for an adequate picket is emphasised by the fact that there are usually a great number of other people bathing at the same time as the Guides. For this reason it is most urgent that only a limited number of Guides are allowed to bathe at the same time, and also that they bathe within a restricted area of the baths, and can thus be watched more closely by those on picket duty. It would also simplify greatly the work of the picket if all Guides under their charge had

caps of distinctive colour, or design, bearing perhaps their number. Each bather should have a number, and should answer to it when called by the picket. It is extremely urgent that instant obedience should be given to the life saver and those on picket duty. The bathers should be instructed beforehand in regard to answering numbers and any whistle signals arranged by the Life Saver, and general behaviour (e.g., no “pretend” alarm signals).

The picket is in charge of the Life Saver, and should be on shore or in a boat (as convenient) in bathing gowns, with coats on if necessary, and should not enter the water themselves while on duty except for rescue purposes. Their duty is to be ready to respond to any call for help, to watch the bathers, and constantly count them. The roll should be called when bathers come out of the water. When the picket bathes, after the others have left the water, they should also have a picket to watch them, and check numbers.

The “knowledge of the organisation of bathing parades” thus forms a very important part of the qualifications of the “responsible person.” Details of such organisation—pickets, numbering, etc.—are given in Chapter XII of “Campcraft for Girl Guides;” and there is also a very interesting article on the subject, written by Lady Marjorie Dalrymple, in the “Girl Guide Gazette,” of June, 1924.

Further information on the whole subject may be obtained from Headquarters.

OPENING OF THE NEW OFFICE.

Many women who were active in the successful issue of the Girl Guide Cafe Chantant, which was held at Federal Government House last October, fully realised on March 17 how necessary this effort was. At the suggestion of Lady Stradbroke, all who formed the executive committee for the Cafe Chantant, together with office-bearers of the Girl Guide movement, were invited to view the new Girl Guide Headquarters office.

They met at noon on March 17, and were greeted by the State Commissioner, the Countess of Stradbroke. The Headquarters are situated on the fourth floor of the Equitable Building, and comprise a small outer office and a large inner room.

Lady Stradbroke made a little informal speech, in which she expressed pleasure at seeing in the Headquarters many who had helped to establish it, by their splendid work for the Cafe Chantant. It will be remembered that this entertainment resulted in £2700 being gained. Hanging over the mantelpiece is a large full-length photograph of Lady Stradbroke and her late youngest son, the Hon. Christopher Rous. Another photograph which will always be of interest to Girl Guides is that of Lady Baden-Powell, Chief Guide.

Those present included Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Harrington Lees, Mrs. Harry Emmerton, Mrs. Norman Brookes, Miss M. Herring, Miss G. H.

Swinburne, Mrs. R. A. Staughton, Lady Miller, Lady Fraser, Mrs. Gilbert Lodge, Mrs. J. H. Hewison (who was hon. general secretary for the Cafe Chantant), Mrs. A. S. Woolcott, Mrs. C. H. Edmondson, Lady Hennessy, Lady Rutledge, Mrs. J. W. Springthorpe, Mrs. P. J. Slater, Mrs. C. H. D. Steele, Lady Garran, Lady Barrett, Mrs. W. N. Robins, Mrs. R. Knox, Mrs. Charlie Lyon, Mrs. D. Cameron, Mrs. Fink (England), Mrs. G. G. Henderson, and Mr. Thomas Brentnall, who was hon. treasurer for the Cafe Chantant."—Adapted from the "Sun," March 18.

Miss de Bavay, Head of Lones, is also Head of the Post Box, and in this connection a record is kept, showing which of our Companies are in correspondence with overseas Guides. In order to keep this interesting record up to date, Miss de Bavay would be glad to hear from Guiders if any of their Companies are already writing to Guides in other countries, without the fact having been brought under her notice already.

It may not be generally understood that the Head of Post Box arranges for this correspondence, on application, which should be made direct to her.

TRAINING CLASSES.

The regular Training Classes for prospective Guiders will resume at the beginning of May; definite dates will be available on enquiry by the first week in May. It is expected that these will be held on the same days as before, viz., Tuesday mornings, Monday and Friday evenings.

Pending the resumption of Classes, a Course of Home Study has been prepared for the use of prospective Guiders, to serve as a preliminary to the regular training. Prospective Guiders may obtain a copy on application at Headquarters.

It is hoped that a series of Classes (probably monthly) will be arranged for Guiders on a variety of subjects, including Handcraft, Nature Lore, etc. Further details re subjects and dates will be announced shortly.

M. HERRING,
Head of Training.

TRAINING DEPARTMENT.

During the visit of Miss Behrens, Head of Training, Imperial Headquarters, a TRAINING WEEK will be held at Grendon, Sherbrooke, if the entries warrant it. The dates will probably be from June 22 to 29.

Grendon has again been generously lent for the purpose by Mrs. Mountain, District Commissioner for Ferntree Gully.

Applications must be sent to the Secretary, Training Department, Girl Guide Headquarters, before May 10, accompanied by 5/ deposit, which will not be refunded unless application is withdrawn before June 1.

THE POST BOX.

Quite a number of Victorian Guides are corresponding with Guides in other countries, and a good deal of help and pleasure is derived from thus hearing what our sisters in other lands are doing.

NEW IDEAS FOR COMPANY NOTES.

What Have You Invented?

Guiders and Guides! Company Notes have so far been concerned mainly with your "special" activities and anniversaries. We suggest that you exchange through "Matilda" your ideas of what can be done at the regular Guide meetings.

We want particularly to know what each Company has invented; all the interesting things that are not in any book, and perhaps have never been thought of before. We may some day be able to make a special Australian series of Guide work and games that will be very useful to all Australian Companies, and interesting to Guides all over the world.

Just to see if this will be possible, let us know what YOU are doing. A plan has been arranged to make your suggestions more valuable; it is as follows:—

The subject of the first Invention List will be "Field Days and Hikes." Each Captain is asked to send to the Editor of "Matilda" a short but complete account of the most interesting thing that her Company has thought of for a Hike or Field Day. It is just possible that some one else may have thought of the same thing, but that will not matter, so long as the Captain certifies that it is the entirely original idea of a Guider or Guide, or of several together, in her Company.

The ideas sent in will be carefully considered. "Matilda" will publish as many as possible, and all will be filed for future use and reference. A short commentary will be made on the "inventions," giving reasons why one might be preferred to another, and suggesting possible improvements.

The first Invention List will be published in the June number of "Matilda." All notes must reach the Editor before May 15.

L.A.H.

THE EDITOR.

DISTRICT NEWS.

Ballarat.—Since the last issue of "Matilda," the chief events for the Ballarat Guides have been the Rally, held at Trawalla Estate, and the

Inter-Company Choir Competition. The first of these was an exceptionally enjoyable day, owing to the kindness of Commander and Mrs. McKenzie in inviting all the Guides and Guiders to spend the day in their lovely garden. Cars were kindly lent to drive the girls out a distance of 30 miles, which seemed all too short when everyone was so jolly. As the different cars arrived the girls were taken over to the shearing shed, which was quite a novelty to many of them, and it was with disappointment that they had to leave the shed when 12 o'clock came.

Lunch was then much enjoyed upon a beautiful lawn, shaded on three sides by thick hedges and looking down upon a glorious bed of blue forget-me-nots. Commander and Mrs. McKenzie most generously provided lunch on the verandah for the drivers of the cars, and some of the Guiders. The grounds proved an ideal place for Guide games, and some time of the afternoon was spent in Flag Raiding and Dispatch Carrying, and, judging by the distance covered by many of the Guides, they must have seen a good deal of the Estate.

Before leaving to drive home, there was yet another surprise for the girls. Upon another lawn, beneath shaded trees, afternoon tea was laid on tables so gay with pretty flowers, cakes and sweets that many were quite taken aback at all that had been done for them.

The Morse squad then signalled a message of thanks to the Commander, and one big horseshoe was formed, while our Commissioner spoke a few words of thanks on behalf of us all, for it was certainly a day that would live as a happy memory to every Guide.

The Inter-Company Choral Contest took place at the C.E.G.G.S. Hall on Saturday evening, November 7, when the four Ballarat Companies took part in an excellent programme. Each Choir sang The Girl Guide Marching Song, Taps, and one song of their own selection. In between these items the 2nd Ballarat gave two country dances which were very gracefully done; 4th Ballarat signalled a message to the audience, and 3rd Ballarat gave an excellent display of physical drill done to music, with perfect time.

Before the adjudicator announced his awards, the 1st Ballarat performed the most impressive ceremony of lighting a Camp Fire, and sang some of their favourite songs around it.

Excitement among the Guides ran very high when the points for the contest were finally announced and the judge made his comments upon the different Choirs. First came the High School (2nd Ballarat), with 263 points; then Central (3rd Ballarat), 240; Grammar School (1st Ballarat), 204; All Saints' (4th Ballarat), 187. A shield was presented to the winning Company, to be held for a year, when it will again be competed for in some other form of Inter-Company Competition. Our only disappointment of the night was that we had not our former Commissioner, Dr. Cooper, with us, as the Competition was her idea, and we felt sure that she would have been pleased to see the keenness and enthusiasm displayed by the Guides.

There is little more to report, except the sad news that we have lost one of our able and much-loved Captains. Miss Mills was given a

little farewell supper party and wished bon voyage by the Commissioner from all the Guides, and by her Lieutenant and P.L.'s on behalf of the Company, who seem to thoroughly appreciate all she has done for them.

The Companies have been in recess for some time, owing to holidays, but this year we hope to increase our numbers and form some new Companies.

KATHLEEN MUST,
Hon. Dist. Sec.



COMPANY NEWS.

1st Fitzroy.—The last few parades of 1925 were rather erratic, as Captain was away a lot through illness, and so we did not get very much work done. We made scrap-books to take to the Children's Hospital as a Christmas good turn, and, as two of our number were in the hospital at the time, it was rather fun going to see them. Captain gave us a party at her flat at the end of the year, and we played lots of games and enjoyed ourselves very much. At our last parade for the year we had two ex-Lieutenants of 1st Fitzroy with us, and they gave out a Second-Class Badge and some Proficiency Badges for Athlete, Knitter and Milliner. Our Patrol Leaders had a wonderful week-end at Woodend in December, staying with the Woodend Guides and they have come home with many excellent snaps that have made us all quite jealous.

We have now arranged a more or less permanent Company good turn. A dear old lady who was a patient of Captain's at the hospital was discharged and went home. We found that she had no one to look after her, and, as her leg had been broken, she found it very hard to get about. So the Company has adopted her, and, after a general spring-cleaning when first she went home, a different Patrol is in charge each week to keep her house clean, do her messages, and generally look after her.—Alison Campbell, Captain.

3rd Fitzroy.—We are all looking forward to welcoming back Miss Morton when we commence on February 16. We hear she is well, and had a wonderful time in England. We are all longing for the hour when we shall hear all about it. Fifteen of us marched at the Rally, and wasn't it thrilling? We held a Social in November for Company funds. We had some bonnie hikes, one at Heidelberg, where Miss Irving joined us; and in October we paid a visit to a paddock in Vermont East. The 3rd St.

Kilda came too, and we had a happy time. Three of us now have Second Class Badges, and one P.L. was invested in October. Our Christmas party was great fun; after an Enrolment and the investiture of our third P.L. by the State Secretary, we had all sorts of jolly games, and ended up with supper. C. T. Engel, Acting Captain.

1st Kew.—On February 2 we held our first Company meeting for this year. Last Christmas we all wanted to do something as a Company to help bring a little happiness to others, and if possible to help those who would not otherwise have received help. After making enquiries, we found that the best way we could do this was by making up hampers containing groceries, and a list of families needing help could be supplied to us. With this object in view, a dance was held to raise funds. We were only able, however, to make up ten hampers, each containing a Christmas pudding, cake, sugar, tea, jam, preserved fruit, jelly crystals and sweets. A portion of our break-up was spent in making up the various hampers, and on the Saturday before Christmas a very happy afternoon was spent in taking the hampers to their various destinations. We found afterwards that we still had 11/-, and this was handed to our vicar for the Poor Fund.—M. Oliver, Captain.

3rd St. Kilda.—Our Company is growing, and now numbers 23. We have been in recess for such a long time that we shall be glad to begin parades again. We had our Colour dedicated by the Rev. H. Clark on September 29. He gave us a wonderful sermon on Guide Ideals, and altogether the service was most impressive. We were thrilled to be able to attend the Second Victorian Rally, which to us was a marvellous experience. We also took part in a District Display for funds with the other St. Kilda Companies. Then right at the end of the year we celebrated our birthday, and we did have a happy time. A few of us were at the 2nd St. Kilda party, which we enjoyed very much. As our Hall was to be used, we had to break up ever so early in December. From September we had been making toys for a Christmas Tree, and at the end we had quite a large number made; animals of all sorts, golliwogs, and rag dolls, etc.—C. T. Engel, Captain.

1st Omeo.—On July 8 last Miss Warren, who was then Commissioner for the District, addressed a public meeting here, and the 1st Omeo Company was formed on July 14. The girls of this Alpine town have taken to Guiding very enthusiastically, and since then 29 members have been enrolled, and at present we have three recruits. Hikes are particularly appreciated. We held a Social Evening in August to raise funds for the starting of our Company, and we were also able to purchase a Union Jack. We are looking forward to the time when it will be dedicated. We were fortunate in having a surprise visit from Miss Kelso King, the Hon. State Secretary for New South Wales, and we did enjoy her interesting and jolly talk. We do hope that any Guiders or Guides who may be touring through Omeo will visit our Company, as we are so far from the centre of things, we feel visiting Sister-Guides are able to help us

very much with new ideas and suggestions. We should appreciate any such visits very much.—Elsa M. Ball, Captain.

THE WOODEND WEEK-END.

"To one who has been long in city pent,
'Tis very sweet to look into the fair
And open face of heaven. . . ."

—Keats.

It had seemed as though the 12th December was a date somewhere away in the future that would never come; so when one morning we found ourselves at Spencer Street Station with our tickets in our hands and our haversacks over our shoulders, we could hardly believe it was not all a glorious dream.

There were eleven of us all told—Miss M. Brown, Acting Captain of 1st Toorak, with six Patrol Leaders and Guides, and three Patrol Leaders from 1st Fitzroy, with their Captain, Miss Campbell, and we had been invited to spend the week-end with the 1st Woodend Guides.

At Woodend we were met by Miss Anderson, Captain, and two Patrols of Guides, and Brownies; the other Patrol had gone ahead to the Picnic Site to make ready for us. The District Commissioner had very kindly sent cars for us all, and so we had a most glorious drive through the bush, arriving at about 3.30 at the Hanging Rock, where we found the afternoon tea awaiting us.

After tea came free time to go exploring and to make friends with our hostesses. We climbed right up to the top of the rock, and had a perfectly lovely view, and found lots of exciting birds and plants and things. At about 5.30 we came down to the foot of the Rock and played Ninepins on the flat ground, also other games and dances.

Then we cooked tea—chops and potatoes—and even had fruit salad and cream! After tea we had a few more games, until Miss Anderson's whistle warned us that the Camp Fire was burning, and we gathered round and sang all the jolly songs that we had learnt in our town clubrooms. The Kookaburras came and joined us and laughed in chorus from the trees round, and as the pink and grey twilight faded to darkness, with just the black trunks of the gums standing out against the pale gold of the eastern sky, two 'possums came out and sat watching from the trees above our heads, and then showed us how they hike from tree to tree through the branches. Miss Anderson told us a thrilling yarn about the life of Sister Dora, and we finished by singing "The Sun is Sinking in the West," The Chant of the Guide Law, and Taps. Then came the wonderful drive through the dark back to Woodend and bed—all very tired but ever so happy, and looking forward to the morrow.

We were billeted with the parents of different Woodend Guides, and they all seemed to be trying to outdo each other in making us feel at home and giving us a good time.

On Sunday nothing had been arranged till after Sunday School in the afternoon, so in the morning some of us went to church with our hostesses. Others who were a few miles out of the township had a great time watching the milking and having their first riding lessons. We all found time to go and see the 1st Woodend's den, and were very thrilled with it and with the model camp on the Captain's lawn.

At 5 o'clock we met at the Guides' paddock, a lovely scrubby bush place full of wildflowers and birds. We had our tea there and then a Guides' Own out in the open. There had been a shower or two, and the bush smelt simply wonderful; few of us will ever forget this, our first Guides' Own, with the still white trunks of the gums round, and the mountain all blue and misty in the distance.

After Guides' Own most of us went to one or other of the church services and then to bed early, so as to be up in good time for the 7 o'clock train next morning. Nearly all the Woodend Guides came down to the train in uniform to see us off, and gave their war cry as we drew out of the station.

It was indeed a wonderful week-end, and we all came back to town full of new ideas for our Patrols and Company, and with a fresh feeling of the joy and adventure of Guiding, and of having country "sisters" like those at Woodend, who had given us such a happy time, and with whom we had become such firm friends. We feel we can never say thank you enough to all the Woodend people, from the Commissioner down to the smallest Brownie, who all took so much trouble to give us one of the very jolliest week-ends we have even spent.

THE JOY OF THE ROAD.

Perhaps one of the greatest joys in Guiding is found in "The Road"—any road, to anywhere—whether on foot or in fancy. "The Road" is one of the most romantic things in life, and its fascination has been strong upon man since the beginning of time. In the oldest of old fairy tales the youngest son sets out penniless, but with a song upon his lips, to find his "tomorrow," which lies somewhere—he knows not where—along the road. In the far-off days of chivalry the Canterbury Pilgrims ambled along the road on their sleek pads, a goodly company; and the young knight rides forth alone, fresh from his vigil, in quest of the Great Adventure.

Even in these safe, comfortable days, life is still as great an adventure as ever to those who are prepared to see it fully, and see it as a whole, and in modern literature the "Joy of the Road" still appeals irresistibly to our romance-loving hearts. It is so much a part of that intense love of life which characterises modern writers—that desire to "drink life to the lees, to enjoy greatly and to suffer greatly," and that love for "all sorts and conditions of men," which cries, "Laugh and be proud to belong to the old proud pageant of man."

In Kipling's "Kim" is the true spirit of the vagabond, the pure joy of living from day to day, without thought of the morrow, and unfettered by circumstance; the feeling that he is

free of the whole wide universe. He is a "Little Friend of All the World," and knows—

"The song of men—all sorts and kinds,
As many tempers, moods and minds
As leaves are on a tree.
As many faiths and castes and creeds,
As many human bloods and breeds
As in the world may be."

Stevenson has said somewhere that "no man can know much of human life whose own career is sedentary, uneventful and ingloriously safe." There was nothing "ingloriously safe" about Stevenson's own life. His footsteps were dogged by the shadow of death, and he knew it; yet, instead of taking sanctuary in a daily round of medicine bottles, thermometers and invalid diet, he walked gaily abroad, taking the road with a book in his pocket, and a knapsack on his back, asking nothing more than the "clear blue sky over his head, and the green turf beneath his feet, a winding road before him, and a three-hours' march to dinner—and then to thinking." I wonder if we are imitating him in our hiking song: "Strap your pack to your back."

Stevenson was a true guide. His poem, "The Vagabond"—

"Give to me the life I love—
Let the time go by me;
Give the jolly heaven above,
And the byway nigh me"

suggests Henley's vivid portrait of him—

"Valiant in velvet, light in ragged luck,
A deal of Ariel, just a streak of Puck,
Much of Antony, of Hamlet most of all,
And something of the shorter Catechist."

His moods are as mutable as the sea, and perhaps at the end of an "unforgettable, unforgettable day" on the road, he leaned from out the window of some friendly inn into the darkness, in his heart "desire illimitable and still content," and thought of "Requiem," for the time when the shadows of death would at last overtake him.

"Under the wide and starry sky,
Dig the grave and let me lie;
Glad did I live, and gladly die,
And I lay me down with a will."

In it is faith passing all understanding, faith that—

"Leaves a white,
Unbroken glory, a gathered radiance,
A width, a shining peace, under the night."

Suddenly the mood changes, and he wonders "whether for the interval he has been the wisest philosopher or the most egregious donkey? Human experience is not able to reply, but at least he has had a fine moment, and looked down upon all the kingdoms of the earth. And whether it was wise or foolish, to-morrow's travel will carry you body and mind into some different parish of the infinite."

Masefield's "Tewkesbury Road" describes the almost ecstatic joy of the wayfarer who sets out upon the road, not knowing into what

"parish of the infinite" his steps are leading him, but surrendering himself absolutely to the intoxication of the open air—

"He is a pipe for any wind to play upon."

"It is good to be out on the road, and going one knows not where,

Going through meadow and village, one knows not whither or why;

Through the grey light drift of the dust, in the cool rush of the air,

Under the flying white clouds, and the broad blue lift of the sky."

Then, in his "Wanderer" is that intense happiness and feeling of expectation that comes to the traveller on the first glimpse of the sea. This poem cries aloud with the joy of the road, and the glorious feeling that comes of wandering alone "under the flying white clouds."

"The scarlet berries in the hedge stood out

Like revelations, but the tongue unknown; Even in the brooks a joy was quick, the trout

Rushed in a dumbness, dumb to me alone. I had not walked the glittering world before,

But up the hill a prompting came to me:

This line of upland runs along the shore,

Beyond the hedgerow I shall find the sea."

The unexpectedness, and all the sights and sounds of the road are described by a multitude of other poets—by Drinkwater, in his "Mamble." What a gloriously expressive lazy name. Perhaps after casually coming across that signpost pointing to Mamble, he went along the road repeating "Mamble—Mamble—Mamble," over and over, as a child does, and laughing joyously at the ridiculous name.

"So leave the road to Mamble,

And take another road

To as good a place as Mamble,

Be it lazy as a toad."

In Meredith's "Juggling Jerry" we scent the gorse, "gold-like and warm"—

"Better than mortar, brick and putty

Is God's house on a blowing day."

And in Rupert Brooke's "The Hill" there is again that ecstasy of movement in the open air.

"Breathless, we flung us on the windy hill, Laughed in the sun, and kissed the lovely grass. You said, 'Through glory and ecstasy we pass, Wind, sun and earth remain, the birds sing still.'"

Then at twilight time there is nothing more wonderful than the road, when little sobbing winds creep, shivering, through the branches and poplars, slimly beautiful, sway before the darkening sky, when infinite longing and vast loneliness steal into the heart of the wanderer, and he longs to follow the beckoning road to the world's end.

"In the glowing sky that gilds the edge of the world,

I have seen a vision hang with the evening star;

I have heard a voice, I have seen a flag unfurled,

And I must go, though the edge of the world be far."

When at last night falls, and the branches stir across the moon, that peace which passeth knowledge descends, known only by him who has "known the large unrest of men bewildered in their travelling." Then—

"Around him the feet of thy watchers tread, There is a rumour and a radiance of wings above his head,"

and, caught up by the stillness and the darkness of night, "he looks down upon all the kingdoms of the earth."

The road is as full of stirring adventures and peaceful understanding to-day as of yore. Its joys are for all, no matter whether we are Canterbury Pilgrims, poets, vagabonds or "Girl Guides marching along the King's highway." So,

"Strap your pack to your back,

With a sandwich for a snack,

And take to the road with a song."

"For Pan is not dead, and in every wood, if you go with a spirit properly prepared, you shall hear the note of his pipe."

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