

Miss Bush

Matilda



SEPTEMBER, 1936.

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Volume XIII.

SEPTEMBER, 1936.

Number Three.

EDITORIAL.

May I draw your attention to the warning issued by the State Secretary and the Secretary of the Guiders' Committee that in future no circulars will be sent out, but all Notices will be published in "Matilda."

We hope in this way to increase membership of "Matilda," and to help Headquarters lessen expenses.

Twelve months' membership counts from the month the 4/- fee is sent in.

Health.

Beating up Bourke Street in a gale one day last week, I came upon a shop that advertised "Physical Culture and Health Books." Sure enough, flapping unhappily over the doorway were three periodicals: "Health and Vigour," "Health and Strength" and "Health and Physical Culture." Inside was a wide selection of others: "Health and Physical Fitness," "Health and Beauty," "Nature's Way to Health," and "Strength and Health," to name only a few.

Apart altogether from periodicals, a mass of literature is being published dealing with health from every conceivable angle; and from this mass, one fact stands out beyond all others: For the vast majority of us, our health is in our own hands to make or mar.

Nature turns us out separate entities, self-adjusting and self-repairing, to run for upwards of seventy years. Surely a wonderful achievement, and the least we can do is to take reasonable care of ourselves.

Life is essentially a process of building up and storing, and simultaneously breaking down and using of energy. For the answer to the origin and destination of that energy, we need go no further than the Guide Health Laws. I am afraid many of our Guides learn off for their Second-Class just enough for them to scrape through, but how often do they apply what they have learned to their daily life?

Food and Fresh Air are our first two laws. These are our only sources for the supply of energy, and unless they are adequate, both in quantity and quality, our store of body and mind reserves must suffer; but food and fresh air are of little use to us without sleep. To quote a recent well-informed writer: "One reason why sleep is absolutely essential to us is

that during sleep, and during sleep only, is nourishment able to reach the tissues." Not all adults need the same amount. Some seem able to do with considerably less than others, but growing children should have not less than nine hours. All day, energy is being burnt up, both physical at play, and mental at lessons, not to mention the large amount that is needed for growth of body and brain structure. To quote again from the previous writer: "A brain which for long periods has been deprived of sleep loses from its cells a substance which is essential to vital activity; sleep, and sleep only, is capable of restoring that substance."

All burning of energy produces waste products which must at all costs be got rid of. One of the best ways of helping this is to take plenty of liquid—milk, water or weak tea, the form does not matter greatly; but the fact remains that the majority of people take far too little.

Of Health and Physical exercise much could be said. Owing to modern social conditions most people sit or stand for long periods at a time. If all these people sat and stood correctly there would be far fewer aching backs and painful feet. One authority has said: "Most people set themselves automatically and unconsciously in good standing posture as soon as they step under any height-measuring device. They endeavour to make themselves as tall as possible—to 'draw themselves up their full height,' like the haughty heroine in a novel. And in doing so they—quite unconsciously—throw their weight on the balls of their feet, tighten their knees, bring their hips forward and up, straighten out the lower spine, lift up the chest, throw the head back and the chin down—and there they are! If they would only 'hold it' at that! But no! As soon as ever they step off the machine, the whole body is allowed to slump back on itself again." "Practise this mode of carrying yourself in the face of God, man, nature and work. At first it will be by self-conscious effort. In the end the effort will be taken over by your unconscious nervous system. And the result will be not only stronger muscles and better digestion, but a braver and more independent outlook on life. It is no accident that God said to the prostrate prophet Ezekiel: 'Son of man, stand upon thy feet!'"

Never since the days of ancient Greece has there been such interest in health and physical well-being. The time has gone, we hope

for ever, when people were said to "enjoy poor health." Now if we would move with the times, we must move upright.

Let us Guiders and Rangers look first to our own health and see to it that we practise while we preach, that through our practice and preaching the young things whom it is our responsibility and privilege to influence, may grow into the healthier mothers of a healthier nation.

J. U. BOYES.

The Misfit.

"I've brought a new recruit. Look, Cap., isn't she little!" I looked, and she was. She was no taller than a child of seven or eight, pathetically thin, with a pinched, white face and worried expression.

"I'm so glad you've come! What's your name?"

"Rene." In a whisper so small I had to bend down to hear it at all.

I have just been to call on Rene's mother.

"Well, now, I am glad to see you! Rene told me you were coming. Of course she is very small—doesn't seem to put on any weight no how. Y'see, when she was six weeks old . . . (here followed a highly technical and purely medical recital) and she never seems to have done well since. And another thing, she's that nervy and peculiar, always worrying about something or other, and for ever bringing the little ones in off the streets for fear they'll be run over or hurt themselves. As if it hurt 'em, playing in the street.

"Why, certainly she can go to Camp. Getting away like that might do her some good now. No, her father isn't working regular like—gets a day now and again, that's all—that's him there, standing out in the street now. And what about Joanie? She's twice as big as Rene but she's only eleven. Can she be a Guide too? Yes, I'll get them uniforms somehow. Do they have the same colour or different? Well, now, of course it's nice for them to be all the same.

"You only meet once a week? Good-bye, Miss, I'm real glad to have seen you."

Has Guiding the answer?

Here is a highly nervous, delicate child, weighed down with apprehension and a sense of responsibility towards the younger children.

Can she find among the members of her patrol a happy comradeship, and in learning "services useful to the public, and handicrafts useful to herself," gain that self-confidence now so painfully lacking?

She needs encouragement, but not coddling. Extra help, but certainly not being regarded as the company "mascot," on account of her size, and if possible keeping one lap ahead of sister Joanie.

What's in the Library?

(Librarian: Miss Pearson)

The Reference Library is a treasure-house of helpful information (like "Matilda") but its treasures are probably unsuspected by many who would value them.

Here are just a few of the particularly useful books which Guiders would like to own if they could afford to—books cost so much, don't they?

First, let us remember that the Boy Scouts' Association publish excellent books which are just as useful for Guides; the series of Gilcraft publications include books on Scout Handicraft, Camping, Scouting Out-of-Doors, Camp-fire Yarns, Knotting, which are all included in the Library.

Then there are books which are not actually Guide publications, but written by experts of other Associations, such as the Junior First Aid, Nursing and Health Manuals of the Junior Red Cross; books on games, such as "Games Suggestions," "Recreative and Competitive Games," and the "Second Book of Indoor Games;" Morton's "Hike and Trek," which carries woodcraft out into a very wide world.

Some of us can manage to subscribe to "The Guider" and "Matilda," but could not afford to see the following magazines except through the Library. There are the monthly papers from the other States ("The Waratah," N.S.W.; "Scout and Guide Courier," W.A., and others); the "News Sheet" from India, and "The American Girl," an excellently produced magazine of the Girl Scouts! "Le Scout," the French Boy Scout magazine, which is a joy to anyone who can read it. These are monthly publications, and help to keep us in touch with the wider Guiding world.

Do you want to know "How to Study Birds," or to identify any "South Australian Orchids"? Would "Botany for Beginners" help you when the Guides find "something of interest" that is rather a mystery to you?

Do you want to find some stories to tell? It is no good asking anyone to choose a book for you, but you can look through the titles of the books available, and ask for a few of them to be sent to you. You don't know what is suitable for you to tell till you have read it. Books that are fairly certain to have one or two bits in that you could use at some time are "The Piper of Pax" (about the Chief Scout's life); "In Word and Deed" (ideas for talks on the Law—just short thoughts), "The Golden Windows" for enrolment stories); but try the others, too!

If you want to get some ideas for the next hike, what about reading "Saturday afternoon Scouting," "Scouting out-of-doors," "Shacks and Shelters?"

And, of course, there is one book in the library that I would give a great deal to have the right to possess, myself, because it is part of Guiding history. If Guides hadn't a first Guide Law of Honour, I should be terrified for fear someone might steal it. Have you seen this treasure?

F.V.B.

Stradbroke Cup Competition.

Judging for the Stradbroke Cup goes on apace. As this goes to print there is only one more week, and it will be completed. And here's a consoling fact—the judges are still enjoying it! Enjoying the contact with the Guides, enchanted with the displays, amazed at some of the standards achieved, helpful in their suggestions, and kindly in their criticisms. They have fully realised what sustained efforts and what infinite patience have been achieved on the parts of the trainers in the different sections, to produce the finished results that they have been judging all this month.

So, Guiders, the struggle has not been in vain. Even to those of you whose points are low—for alas! it isn't humanly possible that we can all achieve the summit of success—there is this consolation. As well as having given to your district the incentive of endeavour, you have added another notch in the history of Guiding, by gaining the interest and sympathy of a few serious-minded people hitherto quite ignorant of the Movement and its effect on the children. They have kept their eyes open—these judges. They have seen various sorts of districts—prosperous and poor, central and remote. They have seen the friendliness, the courageous surmounting of difficulties and the air of happy goodwill which pervades all districts alike. They have received impressions which, carried into their own interests and activities, will be remembered, and may react favorably.

We would like to tell you all the helpful things they have said about your efforts. So will any district wanting the judges' critiques please write to Headquarters, marked S.C.C., and enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for the reply. These must be in by the 15th September.

Executive Committee.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office on 6th August, 1936.

Present: Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Fairbairn, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Littlejohn, Mrs. Tate, Misses Boyes, Bush, Cameron, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Guide and Scout Ball.—It was reported that Lady Fairbairn had agreed to be chairman of the Ball committee, Mrs. E. I. Littlejohn hon. ticket secretary, helped by Lady Best and Mrs. Norman Barrett.

The ball is to be held at the Palais on 18th September. Tickets 12/6.

Federal Council.—It was agreed that Mrs. Frank Tate and Miss Margaret Moore should represent Victoria at the meeting of the Federal Council to be held in Adelaide on the 9th and 10th September.

S.A. Festival.—It was reported that over 50 applications had been received for the Guide Festival in September.

The points of all districts will be published in next month's "Matilda," also in the Guide notes of the "Argus" and the "Age," as soon as they have been finalised.

Owing to the very encouraging reports of the judges there will probably be a display of outstanding items from various districts. It does not necessarily mean that the winning team will supply the whole programme, but it will be made up of whatever the judges have considered to be the best representation in each section. As we will not know ourselves for some time which items these will be, will districts please ask the guides (a) to keep intact all costumes for either the play or original dance, and (b) to revise and remember their lines perhaps once a week in case they are chosen for this final performance. We will not keep them in suspense any longer than necessary. We will print the list of the items chosen as soon as possible in the "Argus" and "Age."

We hope to hold this display of the collected talent about the second week in October. Its object will be mainly to show all other districts the height of the standard attained in this competition of 1936, as an incentive to those not-quite-so-good ones who have struggled so manfully. Also as an inspiration to those who did not enter. We hope to obtain a large enough hall for there to be room as well for your friends—the Local Associations who work so nobly for you, and those outside the Movement who are interested as well as curious.

But more of this anon.

In closing we—the sub-Committee—would like to say "Thank you" to the Commissioners and Guiders in charge of the competing districts. You have done nobly, surmounting all the difficulties of rehearsals, disappointments, illnesses—all the unforeseen occurrences that seem to form a Guider's career. Yours hasn't been a bed of roses, but, believe it or not, we've tried to help you!

M.R.F.

W.A. Birthday.—It was reported that 11 Commissioners and Guiders were going to Perth for the Birthday Celebrations.

Field Naturalists Club.—It was reported that Miss Harper and Miss Jolly had agreed to represent the Association at the Meeting arranged by the Field Naturalists Club.

Training Week.—Owing to the small number of applications it was agreed that the Training Week should be held at Somers House instead of at Healesville.

Routine and financial business was discussed.

S. H. IRVING.

Training Week.—If applications warrant it, the 32nd Training Week for Guiders and prospective Guiders (over 18 years of age) will be held from Friday, 28th August, to Saturday, 5th September, 1936, inclusive, at "Bethany," Healesville. The fee will be 30/-. M. E. BUSH.



Editor: Miss Sydes, P.O., Kennington,
via Bendigo.

"People who have a reasonable amount of leisure should have a habit of spending that leisure, and a capacity for spending it in a way that brings interest and pleasure, and this is a great factor in making life contented. . . .

"Books I would put first. By books I mean the power of taking pleasure in the best literature. But next to books I would put the capacity for finding pleasure in **Outdoor Nature**. There are two great advantages in it; two great qualities that belong to it.

"One is that it means a capacity for taking pleasure in **common things**. The beauty of the world and the interesting things in wild Nature are there for everybody to enjoy. . . .

"The other quality is that the best kind of pleasure in **Outdoor Nature** does not depend on novelty, but upon enjoying things which recur in the seasons of the year."

Viscount Grey.

GARDENS AND PLANTS.

"Give fools their gold, and knaves their power;
Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall;
Who sows a seed or trains a flower
Or plants a tree, is more than all."—Whittier

When discussing gardening before, we had to leave out the most important part—the plants—and after all, can a garden be a garden without plants?

Plants, like us, breathe, eat, digest their food, using leaves, stems and roots. Explain this to your Guides, and encourage them to make a garden of their own—not the sort the gardener looks after, but one they plant, dig, water and look after themselves.

Perhaps we grown-ups don't realise how a child loves to have its own garden to potter in; a garden, where no other person comes planting things or digging things up. Often the child treasures a plant that we might think would be better out of the way. Teach, but never interfere.

Plants won't run away like animals or birds. The child can see them grow from seed to seedtime again in the short compass of a few months. During that time she learns what the plants live on; what situation suits them best—sunny or shady, heavy or light soil; whether they are annual, perennial, creeper or non-creeper. If she grows sweet peas, she will watch with wonder the growth of the tendrils as they curl round any available supports. If she grows stocks, she will discover that the beautiful double flowers have no seeds. If she grows poppies, she will be fascinated when they push the coverings off their flowers. Then, again, she will hear and see her sweet-pea pods burst and curl, flinging the seeds far and wide.

And what of our wild flowers and plants?

What a thrill it is to come on some beautiful orchid growing in a damp, quiet spot; to see the soft masses of fluffy golden balls of the wattles; to admire the blue of many of our wild flowers, as blue as the sky itself; to see the unfolding fern fronds; a paddock yellow with cape-weed! Have you ever collected grasses? Have you ever watched the plants taking possession of a disused tennis court, an old garden, or a dried-up dam?

PLANT STUDY OUTLINE.

Where did you find the plant growing?

What is the plant's name?

Does it grow tall or close to the ground?

Does it climb or is it sturdy enough to hold itself up?

Are there many flowers growing together in clusters on the plant, or do they grow singly?

How is the flower bud protected before it opens?

How many petals has the flower? What colour are they?

Can you find the stamens and pistil?

Is the flower fragrant?

Can you find the nectar?

How does the flower make it easy for the insect to find the nectar?

What do bees do with the pollen and the nectar?

Why does the flower need the insects to visit it?

Do the flowers look the same both night and day? On cloudy and sunshiny days?

Describe the seeds.

Do you know what is inside a seed?

How are the ripe seeds scattered about?

Is any part of the plant useful to us or to the birds or animals?

Does the plant have any enemies? Can it be protected or protect itself from these enemies?

How? (From Girl Scout Handbook)

A REMINDER.

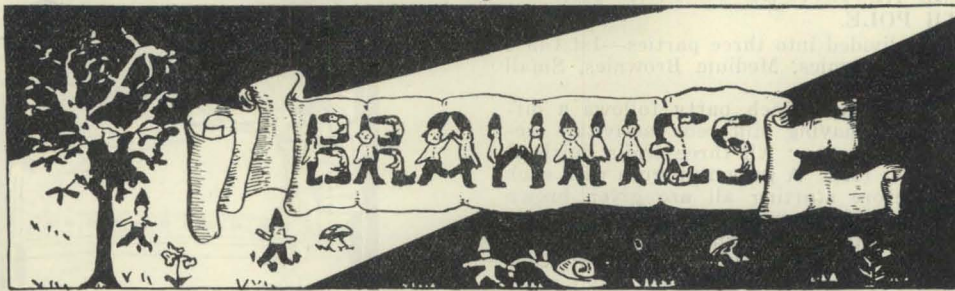
As the wild-flower season approaches it would be as well to remind the Guides of the list of protected flowers. Best of all, teach them the love of Nature, especially the flowers, that will lead to a natural respect for them, and a consequent absence of wasteful picking and wanton destruction.

OBSERVATIONS.

Swan Hill—Derwent Jackass.

While having lunch on a recent hike, a bird came darting here and there, gathering scraps of bread, etc. It would dart from a fence or tree, pick up a morsel, flick it in the air, catching it again as it fell. We recognised the bird as a Derwent Jackass, but thought its beak looked peculiar. Suddenly one of the Guides discovered that the top part was broken completely off, leaving only the under portion—hence the flicking of the morsel in the air, as of course it was unable to pick it up in the usual way.

Somewhat similar to the Laughing Jackass, with the same flat sort of head, and large beak, this one was a dirty white colour with a few grey markings on the wings, and was only about half the size.



"The man who goes through life hunting for a soft thing can generally find it under his hat."

NEW BLOCK FOR BROWNIE PAGE.

At the last meeting of the Brownie Page Committee it was decided that a new block was needed for the Page. There are three blocks in use at present. These are used in turn, but everyone is tired of them. The Committee having enough money in hand for a new block, thought that a new attractive design somewhere on the page might supply that extra interest so much needed at present.

It was decided to hold a competition and to give a prize for the most suitable design. Entry is free, and the prize is to be a year's subscription to "Matilda" or its equivalent.

The block may be for the head of the page, the end of the page, the middle, or a design to head an article. Something is wanted to make people "sit up and take notice" of the Brownie Page! A block for beginning or end of page should not be more than four inches long and two inches deep. Anything definitely Brownie-ish will be suitable as a design, and the competition is open to all Guiders—not only Brownie ones! The closing date is October 31st, and the results will be published in December's issue of "Matilda." N.T.

TWO "OUT OF THE ORDINARY" MEETINGS.

A PACK MEETING.

For a very hot day, temperature 100 deg.

There was once a very small village that had only three houses. Seven people—six small, and one large—lived in each house, so that, although there were only three houses in that little village, there were quite a number of people living there.

They were very busy little people too. They sewed, and they cooked, and sent messages from one house to another, and gardened, and played all the games you could think about in their spare time.

One day they all decided to go for a picnic to a pine forest, so they packed up some games to play, and a basket of lunch—chops to cook, potatoes in a saucepan, and a large loaf of bread, jam and fruit, and last of all a billy for the tea, and off they set to spend a most exciting day.

The pine forest was quite a long way from the village, so a char-a-banc from a neighbouring town driven by a chauffeur dressed up in a uniform with buttons drove them to the spot.

My word! What excitement gathering pine cones for the fire, and then the cooking of the chops and potatoes, and the tea.

The little people simply loved their meal out in the open, and after finishing their chops—some singed and some a little raw—they ran about to play their games until it was time to start off for home in the char-a-banc.

On the way home the chauffeur drove them through his town, and showed them where he lived, and where the char-a-banc was kept; and then down the main road leading to their own little village.

When they reached the top of the last hill the chauffeur stopped the char-a-banc in absolute amazement, for what do you think had happened? There were no houses there, all three had vanished. "Dear me," said everybody together, "what ever has happened to them? What ever shall we do?"

When they reached the first garden they found a note on the gatepost:

"All these houses I have stolen,
For you left them quite alone.
You can never, never claim them,
So you'd better build three more."

"(Signed) House Agent Goblin."

After having read that note everybody began talking at once, and some of the littlest ones looked very miserable, but suddenly a suggestion was made: "Let's start and build three new houses and see who can finish their's first, but they must be done very neatly."

So the chauffeur drove the other people to their gardens, and when everybody was ready he blew the horn, and they all started work; and very soon three beautiful houses were built. In one room the table was set for tea; in another the picnic dishes were washed up, and in a third room six little beds were made ready for six very tired little people.

After tea they washed up again and then went to bed, and to sleep very quickly, for tomorrow they had to get up very early to see the other two houses in their little village.

Method.—Divide Brownies into Sixes, giving them several sticks of chalk. B.O., T.O. and P.L. can each help a Six if necessary. Each Six retires to its home and draws a house. In the rooms they can put the furniture (table set for a meal, dishes ready for washing up, pots on stove, etc.). A garden can be drawn with paths, lawns and flower beds, and perhaps a Brownie sitting down darning or sewing.

After a given time B.O. and T.O. inspect houses, and then each Six in turn pays a visit to the other houses.

Caution—Don't forget to rub drawings out before going home. R.L.S.

ESKIMO ADVENTURE TO FIND THE NORTH POLE.

Pack is divided into three parties—1st Class and older Brownies, Medium Brownies, Small Brownies.

Rough Outline.—Each party follows a different trail, having different activities according to age, etc. All three trails finish at a given spot (A). A grown-up goes with each party. Before starting all are given brown crepe paper, etc., to make Eskimo head-dresses and wood, string, sacking, etc., to make sledges. Allow about 10 minutes for this. Each party is given a tin, the 1st Class party's containing a compass and a bandage. Other parties use their's for collecting things during the adventure.

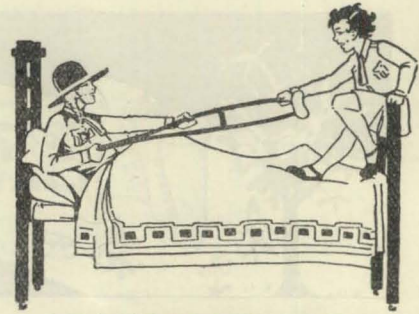
Trails. 1st Class follow trail of icicles (bits of cellophane paper stuck on trees, etc.) for about 50 yards, from where can be seen someone signalling "follow trail of wounded man." This trail consists of bits of cotton wool dyed red. It is the longest part of the trail, and games, etc., could be played en route according to time. Trail ends in a shed, where wounded man is found with cut knee, which is bound up. He soon recovers, and joins the party, having first delivered a message, telling them to find a certain spot (A) by compass directions.

Mediums collect magic balls (small potatoes used later as ammunition). A certain number have been hidden close to the starting place. Having found correct number, follow trail of ice blocks (stones covered with cellophane paper) to given spot where games can be played. Trail can then be continued to A.

Small Brownies follow trail of Stormy Petrel's feathers which they collect as they go. They meet a glacier which can be crossed by a hopping game. Other games can be played here if wanted. Follow rest of trail to A.

At A games can be played till all three parties have arrived. Then B.O. tells a story of a magic bear who lives nearby. If seen and hit in the right place by magic balls (collected by mediums) he will show where the North Pole is. During the story T.O. has slipped away and become the bear, covering herself with an old sheet. Bear growls and prances about in full view. Eskimos fire ammunition at him from about six yards' distance (a wall or gate is convenient to throw over) and at his own discretion he dashes away, leading the Eskimos to the North Pole, which is due north from A., and previously decided on. Having arrived there, Eskimos search for British flag, and hoist it. Finish by Pow-wow and inventing Eskimo dance or ceremony.

The whole adventure must be adapted and used to suit circumstances of time and place.



OOT-TOOT-TOO-HOO!!
OOT-TOOT-TOO-HOO!!

What a fluttering and a rustling there was in Post Brownie Land in July when Brown Owl's cry went out to the farthest limits of Melbourne! A party! A chance to meet people that had often been heard of but never seen! It seemed too good to be true, but—and a very big "but", too—how is it possible to get all the way to Hawthorn to a lovely big room belonging to Miss Swinburne when one's legs don't work too well? Oh, wait a moment, it's all right, even that problem isn't a problem, because a letter says a car will come. What a relief! Sure enough, cars did come and go all over Melbourne—out to North Essendon; right away down the line to Highett; right away to Thornbury and down to Port Melbourne and Newport. The drive was a lovely start to the Party. One Brownie announced to Brown Owl afterwards that she had seen the Racecourse and her Doctor's house!

At last, when everyone had arrived, 19 Brownies made a huge Fairy Ring, helped by Miss Swinburne, Miss Goldie and their Guides, to say nothing of the Post Tawny Owls as well. Have you ever played "Little Ball Pass Along?" Because it is the greatest fun, and everyone loved it.

Then came the moment of the afternoon, when five recruits were enrolled as really truly Brownies, complete with Badge and uniform!

After a story from Brown Owl, there was another game and tea; then another game, and finally a Service Star ceremony, when three Brownies received Stars.

Cars were beginning to arrive by this time, so a Brownie Grand Howl was given to Miss Swinburne and one to the Guides, and then it was time to go home again.

Another lovely drive and then—there was the familiar gate again, and Mother and Bed, much needed by many pleasantly weary people!

A.C.

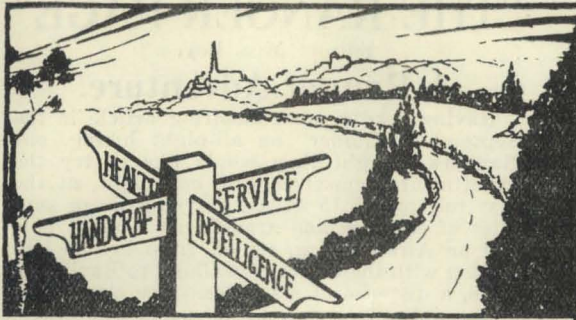
Some Games to Play.

Noah's Ark.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah stand at door of Ark. The Pack form two lines of animals, one line being the Misters, and the other line the Mrs. animals. Each couple in turn go to the Ark, Mr. acting what he is, and Mrs. (who does not know) copying him as closely as possible. Mr. Noah says: "Who comes seeking refuge in the Ark?" Mrs. Animal has to answer. If she is right they enter, if wrong they are drowned in the flood.

Treasure Lists.

Each Six has the same list of things to find, e.g., feather, smoothest thing, smallest yellow thing, queerest shaped thing, etc. Collections must be arranged in order, and then one of the Six signals "Ready" to B.O. Points should be given for quickness, neatness, best example of each treasure, and signalling. Treasures often need a lot of comparing to see which Six has the best of its kind.



The Sign Post

Editor: Miss Phyllis Salmon.

"That which is not given is lost."—Tagore.

Mademoiselle Maria Gloria.

(Continued).

(By Margery Bowen).

De Courcillon heard the Spaniards go. There was a window on the landing, and it stood open; he rested his arm on the sill, and looked out over the dim fair fields of Brabant.

Straight ahead was a flare of red, and De Courcillon knew this for one of the burning villages in Marlborough's track.

Turning from the window he drew nearer Maria's door, bending his head to the crack.

"Mademoiselle," he said.

There was a sound like rustling garments, but no answer.

"Mademoiselle Maria Gloria," he said, "do you not hear me?"

Her answer was very low, as if she was frightened: "Who are you? I saw them ride away."

"My name is Louis Anne de Courcillon," he said, "and for the sake of that name I am here."

"Monsieur de Courcillon!" came very contemptuously.

"The coward who fled from Ramillies—the leader of the party of fugitives!"

"Mademoiselle Maria Gloria, I am here to die for you!"

He could hear her laugh in her throat. "To persuade me to fly!" she said scornfully. "My cousin has left you to bring me. I will not come."

"Mademoiselle, I do not ask you."

"Then, Monsieur, depart. I desire not your company."

This time it was he who laughed.

"And I do not choose to fly the English, when a woman stays to face them."

"Ramillies was the place to stand at bay," she answered fiercely, "not my chamber door."

"You do not understand," said de Courcillon, "and yet I thought you would."

"I called you a coward!"

"It did not hurt me, Mademoiselle." De Courcillon waited patiently.

The warm air blew in through the open window; he saw the fire on the horizon glow more brightly as night fell. Marlborough must be drawing near.

"Mademoiselle, will you not unlock the door?"

There was a rustle of silk; then her voice came pleasantly through the dark: "Monsieur, what will you do when they come?"

"These stairs are a fine vantage ground, Mademoiselle. I have a pistol."

"They will burn the château!"

"Of a certainty, yes. Firstly, they will try to take me prisoner. I am de Courcillon!"

"Mademoiselle, come out, and I will show you the star of Bourbon shining upon my breast."

"It does not shine, Monsieur le Duc, for you are in the dark." Her voice ended in a half sigh, half laugh.

"Mademoiselle," said de Courcillon, "it will shine when the English mount the stairs with their torches, and in that light my sword will glitter, too. Will you not unlock the door?"

"No!" she said very resolutely.

"Will you when the English come?"

"Monsieur, I hope you will not stay till then."

"Mademoiselle, your hope is vain."

She was silent a space, but his straining ears caught the sound of her moving. He recollected with a start that he had not seen her.

"Mademoiselle," he said impulsively, "what colour is your hair?"

An angry laugh answered him. "A Frenchman never did a woman a service unless she were fair; I am ill-favoured. Will you go, Monsieur?"

"Why do you wish me to go?" he asked curiously.

"I think it is for me, not for France, you stay. I do not want you to die for me. I am happier alone."

"A de Courcillon has no need to defend his motives, Mademoiselle. I stay because I choose. I shall revenge Ramillies on some English before the episode is closed. I pray one Englishman may mount these stairs to meet the welcome of my pistol."

She asked slowly. "Who is the man who cost us Ramillies? Is it Marlborough?"

"The spy, Mademoiselle; the man who feigned to be a deserter and joined us at Bruges. The man who stole our plans, our despatches, who listened at our councils—it would please me to shoot him."

(To be continued)

GAMES ON THE HEALTH RULES. PICTURE GALLERY.

Make a collection of pictures from magazines; number these and place round the room. Each patrol makes a list showing which Health Rule each picture illustrates, and whether the rule is kept or not.

GENERAL POST.

Guides stand in circle with mark on floor in front of all but one. Divide Company into six parts, each representing one Health Rule. Captain tells story of "Jemima," one or two sentences at a time. When Jemima does something right the Guides representing the Health Rule illustrated step forward, turn round and return to places. When Jemima does something wrong there is a general post, when all change places, and the Guide left without a mark on the floor is out.

HEALTH CLOCK.

Each patrol is given a set of cards on which is written "Rest," "Exercise," "Sleep," "Meal," "School," etc. They go in patrols, and each one draws a large circle with chalk and marks in the twenty-four hours. They then place the cards according to what they think they should be doing at each hour. Each patrol visits the others and discusses the clocks and decides which is the best. R.D.

Phenology.

493 St. Kilda Road, S.C.2, 2/5/36.

The word "Phenology" comes from the same Greek word as "phenomenon," and means the study of happenings we can see in Nature, especially in relation with the changes of seasons. If Guides are encouraged to record the dates of such happenings as the migration of birds, the appearance of insects, the opening of buds, the bursting of seed cases, the fall of the leaf, we would soon have them all young phenologists. Apart from personal gain for the children, this has the possibilities of proving helpful to science and beneficial to the whole State. For it is now certain that the observation of a single species may indicate the whole range of seasonal changes. It would be excellent for us to co-operate with the League of Youth in their effort to begin State-wide phenological observations. Great importance is attached to the information gained, for by analysing and comparing reports, such things, par exemple, as the controlling of pests may be greatly assisted. In a Guide Company, to begin with, at any rate, it should be wisest and more inducive to ultimate gain, to have a list of things to watch for. An enthusiastic Company might have its members concentrating on all the things on the list, while for a Guide whose interest in Nature lies dormant, it might be found more satisfactory for her to watch for one at a time. This should help to develop the faculty of observation and lead to a closer study of Nature, and, we hope, ultimately a greater love of Nature.

Left to their own initiative, many of our Guides would not delve very deeply into the store of wonders Nature is waiting to show them. A definite objective, and the knowledge of ultimate service they may possibly render, might supply the necessary incentive, however. And they are certain to discover far more than they set out to look for.

Next month we hope to give some suggestions for lists.

M. H. JOLLY.

"THE RANGER PAGE"

Editor: Miss Boyes.

A Ranger Adventure.

Having read a most inspiring article in the September "Guider" on all-night hiking, our Rangers thought they would like to try the experiment themselves. So one night, at the last full moon, 15 of us, carrying large supplies of eatables and armed with a stout pole and an Airedale dog, set off from Pendle Hill station with the object of walking to Baukham Hills, a distance of six miles. The clouds had disappointingly covered the moon, but otherwise it was an excellent night for our purpose—cold enough to make walking pleasant, but not too cold.

At about 12.30 we stopped at a very delightful spot among tall trees, lit fires and cooked a regular dinner in three patrols. There was such satisfying fare as soup, chops and chips, and steak and onions, and somebody had even brought some chestnuts to roast. The dog showed a marked preference for the Patrol which had the chops. I have rarely seen a more picturesque sight than that of the different patrols grouped round their fires. In some mysterious way the lateness of the hour and the stillness of the bush seemed to lend an atmosphere of its own to the scene. We agreed that it was one of the nicest meals we'd ever eaten, taken in the best possible setting.

We camped in this spot until nearly 2 o'clock, and then cleaned up, with the aid of torches and lanterns, and set out on our travels again.

We did the rest of the journey in one piece, except for a few very short rests on the tops of the numerous hills we had to climb. At about 2.30 the moon shone for us, and made the rest of our walk very beautiful indeed, especially where the way led us through the trees, and the road was patterned with lacy shadows. We arrived at our destination somewhere about 4 p.m., and had a couple of hours' sleep before it was late enough to get buses and trains home.

We all enjoyed the hike immensely, but we haven't quite made up our minds whether it was simply because of the novelty of the venture, or because there definitely is something different about walking through the night and feeling that you're almost alone in the world (though there was a wireless going full blast in one cottage we passed at 3 a.m.). Anyway, we're quite determined to do it all over again in the near future.

For the benefit of any who feel like following our example, the Commissioner for Rangers has asked me to add a few words of advice, culled from our own experience.

First of all, it is as well to remember that permission has to be sought from both the Commissioner for Camping and the Commissioner of your own District, and the route approved by them before the plans can be undertaken. The route, which should not cover more than 5 or 6 miles, should definitely be one you know well, and the stopping places chosen beforehand. These should be a reasonable distance from habitations, as sound car-

ries so easily at night. A stop should not be made for more than five minutes unless a campfire is lit, as it is so easy to get cold before you realise it. I think perhaps two fairly long stops with campfires would be better than one. Stout shoes with low heels are, of course, always desirable for hiking, but positively necessary at night, as it is not easy to see where you are putting your feet, and a sprained ankle would be very easy to achieve. It is as well to carry plenty of light—torches and lanterns as well, if possible; also on a night when there is likely to be a heavy dew, kindling wood would be very useful. I don't think the dog and the stick should be considered unnecessary encumbrances, as they would give one a more secure feeling in case of any unpleasant encounters, and I certainly don't think such a hike should be undertaken unless there are about ten going.

In conclusion, we can honestly say that we found the experiment definitely worth the loss of the beauty sleep it entailed, and we hope that anybody else who tries it will, too.

A RANGER GUIDER.

(From "The Waratah," N.S.W.)

NOTICES.

CONFERENCE NOTICES.

The Guiders' Committee requires the following information from Guiders:

- 1.—Do you want to order—

(a) Afternoon Tea	3d.
(b) Tea (hot)	1/6
(c) Bus Trip to St. Helena	2/6
Total, 4/3.	

2.—Cross out Items not required.

3.—Forward a Postal Note to the Secretary, Guiders' Committee, c/o. Girl Guide Association, for the required amount not later than Tuesday, 8th September.

The Secretary thanks all Guiders who forwarded stamped envelopes, and also Guiders who offered billeting.

Guiders' Own Service.

Will Guiders attending the service on Sunday, 20th September, who are willing to form a choir to help with the singing send their names and addresses to Miss F. V. Barfus, at Headquarters. There will be two practices!

Conference Programme.

Friday, P.M.—Country Guiders arrive.

Saturday, 10.30—Training Class Sessions at University. (Guiders will be on duty at Melba Hall and Swanston Street entrances to direct you.)

Brownie Training.—Particulars not yet available.

Guide Training.—Subjects to be dealt with are Nature, First Class, Signalling, Ceremonial and Drill.

Trainers in Charge of Groups.—Miss D. Hayman, Miss S. MacLeod, Miss Bush.

Ranger Training.—Subjects to be dealt with are Mapping, Hike Cookery, World Flag, Emergencies, Guide Law from Ranger point of view.

Trainers in Charge.—Miss T. U. Boves (Commissioner for Rangers) Miss F. V. Barfus and Miss E. Masterman.

2 p.m.—Assembly.

2.15—Opening.

2.45—Conference Session in Groups.

4.15—Afternoon Tea.

4.45—Separate Sessions.

Brownie. Guide. Ranger.

6 p.m.—Tea.

7 p.m.—Stradbroke Cup Finalists.

8.15—Speaker.

Sunday, a.m.—Free Time.

2.30 p.m.—Guiders' Own Service (St. Helena),
In Charge Miss F. V. Barfus.

Important Notice!

From now on individual circulars will not be sent to Guiders. All notices will be in "Matilda" each month.

D. McKINNON, Hon. Sec.

GUIDE AND SCOUT BALL.

Are you coming to the Guide and Scout Ball at the Palais, St. Kilda, on the 18th September? On this date the two associations are combining, for the first time, in an effort to augment their funds.

His Excellency the Governor General, Lord Gowrie, His Excellency the Governor and Lady Huntingfield, will be present at the Ball, and debutantes will be presented to them.

A committee has been formed to make arrangements for the Ball. Lady Chauvel is President, Lady Fairbairn is Chairman, and the Hon. Ticket Secretaries are Mrs. Euan Littlejohn, Lady Best and Mrs. Norman Barrett. Mrs. G. J. Coles is in charge of the decorations, and would like the loan of about 30 World Flags. Would Companies owning World Flags lend them for the Ball? It would be most helpful if flags were left at the Guide Office by the 11th September.

Tickets are 12/6, and are obtainable from Mrs. Euan Littlejohn, 396 Glenferrie Road, E.2. S.H.I.

Training.

Guiders who have not previously attended a Training Course at Headquarters must bring to the first class of any Course a nomination form, signed by their Commissioner.

Unless otherwise stated, all training classes are held at the Guide Office, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, at 8 p.m.

Guide Training. The third (and last) Course of General Training will begin on Friday, 2nd October, 1936. Guider in Charge: Miss G. H. Swinburne.

For prospective Guiders who have not yet been enrolled there will be a short preliminary Course of three Classes to cover the Tenderfoot Test work. These will be held on 11th, 18th and 25th September, and will be in charge of Miss Mary Jolly.

Brownie Training.—The last Course for the year will begin on Monday, 5th October. Guider in Charge: Miss V. Hill.

Ranger Training.—A Course of Classes for Ranger Guiders will begin on Monday, 7th September, and will consist of six Classes. Guider in Charge: Miss F. V. Barfus; Assistant, Miss F. Piesse.

Refresher Course.—This Course has been completed. Any Guider who was not able to attend, but would like the full notes, may have these on application to the Training Secretary. The charge for the set will be 1/3, to cover stationery, expenses and postage.

M. F. BUSH, Commissioner for Training.

Camping.

Summer Camps, 1936-7.—It is proposed to hold the following Camps:

Combined Ranger Camp from 26th December, 1936, to 2nd January, 1937, inclusive.

Combined Guide Camp from 4th to 11th January, inclusive, in charge of Miss O. V. Wright. Applications will be received from four Guides from any Company whose Guider has not herself a Camper's Licence.

Patrol Leader's Camp from 12th to 19th January, inclusive, in charge of Miss D. Hayman. Applicants must be Patrol Leaders, and must have passed the Second Class Test before coming to Camp.

The fee for each Camp will be 22/6, of which 5/- must be sent as deposit with application.

Further details re sites, date for applications, etc., will be published later.

Indoor Camp Test Certificate and Pack Holiday Permit.

A Course of Classes for training for these Certificates will begin on Monday, 5th October. There will be five classes, and at the end of the Course the Test will be held.

The class dealing with the Quartermastering section of the test will probably be held on 12th October, and Guiders interested in this may attend, even if they are not at the rest of the Course.

To be eligible for either of these Certificates, a Guider must—

- be a warranted Captain or Brown Owl;
- be recommended by her Commissioner;
- have attended Victorian Training Week or approved Camp. (Brown Owls attend a Pack Holiday);
- have attended a complete training course in Indoor Camping.

Gipton Camp Site.

The Gipton Camp Site, Frankston, is available for parties of Guides or Rangers in charge of a Guider holding a Camper's Licence. This qualification is necessary, as the sleeping accommodation is tents, which are pitched on the buffalo lawns. There is solid shelter, and the cooking is done in an open fireplace indoors. Cooking equipment, eating utensils (including cutlery) are provided for twelve people, also ground-sheets and palliasses (filled with straw), and tents for twelve (4 in each).

Gipton Site is in a secluded part of Frankston, about 1½ miles from the sea; but there are interesting walks to be taken through the scrub and heath lands round about, and ample opportunities for bird study.

The charges for the use of the site are 1/- per head, plus 1d. each for palliasses, and 1/- per day for each party for fuel, which is also provided.

Plans are being made for a Working Bee and Arbour Day, which will probably take place at the beginning of October.

Gifts of native trees or shrubs for planting would be welcome.

For further details about Gipton apply to Miss Barfus at the Guide Office.

E. H. PURNELL, Commissioner for Camping.

The Camp Equipment of a country district is available for sale. Tents, screening, kitchen equipment, etc. For details and prices apply to F. V. BARFUS.

APPOINTMENT.

District Commissioner, Frankston.

Mrs. J. A. P. Ham, Davey St., Frankston.

WARRANTS.

Brown Owls.

5th Malvern Miss E. Lankaster
1st Orbost Miss E. Warren

Tawny Owls.

2nd Brighton Beach Miss O. Warmbrum
1st Sandringham Miss E. Salmon
1st Warracknabeal Miss E. King

Captains.

3rd Ballarat Miss M. Griffith
1st Camperdown Miss M. Wade
1st Hawksburn Miss J. Kerr
5th Malvern Miss C. Wettenhall
2nd Northern Div. Lones Miss M. Welch

Lieutenants.

1st Black Rock Miss P. Dannatt
2nd Brighton Beach Miss N. Thewlis
1st Lilydale Mrs. Hudson
1st Moe Miss E. Sullivan
1st Port Campbell Miss J. Gardner
1st Sandringham Miss H. Bell

Ranger Lieutenant.

1st Colac District Miss N. Sharrow

CANCELLATION.

1st Warracknabeal Pack Brown Owl—

Miss N. Sudholz

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Miss Jean Macneil to 22 Adeney Av., E4.

Miss D. Holtz to 25 Grange Road, E4.

Miss O. Holtz to 25 Grange Road, E4.

CHANGE OF GUIDERS.

2nd Ivanhoe Captain is now Miss D. Sedgfield.

1st Coleraine Pack—Miss Grace Hutchins and Miss Lois Tippet, Acting T.O.'s

1st Coleraine Company—Miss Joan Trangmar Captain, Miss Gretta Trangmar, Lieutenant.

REGISTRATIONS.

Local Associations: Mount Best, Morwell.

Companies: 2nd Albert Park (M.H.S.); 1st Mount Best.

1st Sandringham Rangers re-registered as 1st Sandringham District Rangers.

SCHOOL BLAZERS

Ribbon-bound Blazers in high-grade flannel, . . from 18/11

Blazers Tailored to Measure

in the best quality Velour Flannel from 45/-

SNOWS

John Snow & Co. Pty. Ltd., Melb.C1