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Herb Bush

Matilda



DECEMBER, 1937..

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VOL. XIV.

DECEMBER, 1937.

No. 6.

MESSAGE FROM LADY HUNTINGFIELD.

Government House,
Melbourne.

To-day when we read in the papers and hear over the air about quarrelling and fighting in many parts of the world outside our Empire, we feel thankful that Guides and Brownies are putting into practice the principles of fair play and friendliness for which they stand. If only all the women in the world had been Brownies and Guides and Rangers, and all the men had been Cubs and Scouts and Rovers, there could be no fighting.

Let us do as much as we can to encourage Guiding for the good of our country and other countries, too. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ELEANOR HUNTINGFIELD,
President.

EDITORIAL.

The Committee and Editor wish all readers of "Matilda" a very Happy Christmas.

Despite our requests for an effort on your part, "Matilda" did not pay her way during 1937.

For October, there were 76 subscriptions due, which, by the end of December, will have mounted to over 100.

Would you grant us, the Committee and myself, a Happy Christmas by paying your subscription? Thank you.

News came to cheer us, however, because we have had the honour of having one of our articles reprinted in the Council "Fire." So we prepare for 1938 with great faith in the future.

LET US LOOK WIDER.

What a very interesting number is the October, Council "Fire." I advise everyone to read it who has not done so already.

Of particular interest is the review by Dame Katherine Furse, of the study of their programme by the Girl Scouts of America; and an article on the "Fundamental Objectives of Girl Scouting," by Charles H. Young, Director of the National Programme Study.

In Guiding, naturally each country has its own particular problems—what is a safe cure for some ill in Sweden or Switzerland is not necessarily the correct one for Australia or America. But it is extremely interesting, often astonishingly so, to find so many problems so

alike in lands quite far apart and seemingly quite different. With modern transport, instantaneous communication, wider education, is the Youth of this generation making the whole world more akin? Let us hope so.

In 1934 in America "an Advisory Committee was appointed, of an impartial group of scientists and educators in no way related to Girl Scouting, and, in addition, lay and professional representatives of the Movement," under the direction of Charles H. Young, a graduate of McGill and experienced in social research, and a study of the programme was made for two years in all fields of Girl Scout work, in order to evaluate its benefits to the girls. The basic method underlying the study included three phases of development—philosophical, scientific and political.

I cannot attempt to tell you much about it in this small space. I can only briefly set down some of the problems found during the Study and quoted by Dame Katherine Furse as being of especial interest in the study of our Movement in all countries; and what Mr. Young found as the Fundamental Objectives of Girl Scouting in America.

PROBLEMS.

1. The rather general tendency to neglect the original philosophy of Girl Scouting at the present time.

2. The Movement's delay in appraising its philosophy in the light of contemporary educational theory.

3. Its need to relate its several programmes to its general objectives.

4. The undue attention paid to the instrumental aspects of the programme to the neglect of the ends for which the programmes exist.

ANOTHER SET OF PROBLEMS.

1. The rather frequent lack of information on the cultural backgrounds of the Movement on the part of its adult members.

2. The limited attitudes of many adults in the Movement with reference to kindred organisations doing similar work.

3. More important than either, the tendency for the adults in the Movement to think of as apart from and without reference to significant contemporary economic and social changes.

Mr. Young finds the "Big Four" Fundamental Objectives of Girl Scouting are:—

- 1.—The recreational function of Girl Scouting.
- 2.—The socialisation of the individual.
- 3.—Character building, and the moral function of the Girl Scout Organisation.

4.—Good citizenship.

Oh, dear—these are only headings, and do not explain themselves. Do read the October Council "Fire" if you can.

ENID FAULKNER,
Deputy State Commissioner.
—o0o—

FAY COLECHIN MEMORIAL DAYS.

The total sum subscribed to the date of writing (11th November) is £12/1/-; two days have been endowed, and we feel we would like to go on collecting so that we may at least reach £12/10/-, providing enough to endow another half-day.

Since my note in the September issue of "Matilda," several country Guiders have sent a shilling to help towards the Endowment Days for Fay on the Guide House Calendar, and if others who missed that notice or who forgot to act on it would send me their contribution, I shall be glad to receive it. This is not a general appeal, but just an invitation to Fay's friends to join in providing this memorial to her.

F. V. BARFUS.
—o0o—

LIBRARY NOTES.

Librarian: Isa Pearson.

"Matilda," your readers will be interested to know that the Victorian Guiders' Committee adopted the Library, and we are also hoping to form a Library Sub-committee to deal with the buying of new books and all things concerning its advancement.

Sorry to say, though, there is generally something to cloud one's hopes—though, in this case, I trust, but a "passing cloud." If your readers would kindly look over their bookshelves before the coming year, and see if they are guilty of any of these (for these are but a few of the offenders).

Out since

- 7/4/37—No. 44, Australian Bird Book.
- 12/8/35—No. 300, All Our Yesterdays.
- 23/7/36—No. 210, 14th Annual Report.
- 8/6/34—No. 277.
- 2/10/33—No. 33, Aims and Methods of Nature Study.
- 5/5/33—No. 96, Boys' Book of Swimming.
- 24/2/34—No. 29, Boy Scout Camp Book.
- 3//535—No. 6, A Book of Rangers.
- 11/10/33—No. 46, Basket Making at Home.
No. 257, 21 Years of Scouting.
No. 184, The Story of the Girl Guide.
No. 110, The Transmission of Life.
- 5/11/36—No. 307, Study of Plant Life in Australia.
- 14/3/35—No. 358, Fairy Ring.
- 23/8/33—No. 27, Campercrafts.
- 30/7/31—No. 196, The Cookhouse Door.
- 9/5/34—No. 12a, G.G. Badges.
- 9/4/34—No. 24b, Gilcraft Games.

Our list could be much longer, and we could

publish names, but we are too nice to do that, moreover we are confident that there would be no need for such a move. A GENTLE REMINDER is enough for Guiders.

—o0o—

GUIDE CAMP HOUSE.

Brownie Guiders' Effort.

What are you doing, Brownie Guiders, for our effort? We have had the sum of £5 sent in by one Brown Owl, and we expect to get more from you soon. So, lend a hand, ALL of you.

We want to endow a week in January as the Brownie Guiders' Week, besides a large sum!

The Committee is working most enthusiastically and their first effort, the car outing, bids fair to being a great success. So, take heart, the New Year will soon be with us.

Make a resolution to help us adopt the cottage on the proposed Camp House property. The parents of your Brownies will help you.

E. L. LARDNER, Convener.

The next effort for the Camp House Fund is to be a Picture Night to be held at the Regent Theatre, Collins Street, City, sometime early in December. Please watch daily papers for the date. Tickets, 2/-, plus tax, 2/2, may be obtained from any member of the Committee, or from the Hon. Secretary, Miss BETTY COUPER, Donego, Bundalohu Court, St. Kilda, S.2 (Windsor 1716).

Funds raised for the effort to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss T. Mullin, 6 Allison Ave., Glen Iris, S.E.6.

—o0o—

FROM THE SEVEN TOURING RANGERS.

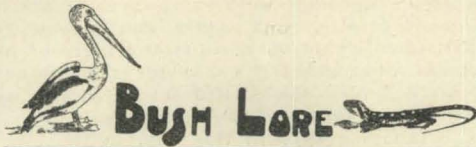
Very late on the night of Thursday, 5th August (or should we say, very early on the morning of Friday, 6th), seven figures might have been seen on the upper deck of the "Tricolor" as that worthy vessel moved slowly into Antwerp. Actually it was 2 a.m. before we passed through the Lock, by which time most of us were adorning our little cots.

Friday morning found us ready to go ashore and see what we could in the short time at our disposal. What impressed us most was the lovely Cathedral.

After lunch we said farewell to the "Tricolor" and those that dwelt thereon, and boarded the channel steamer. That night we slept soundly, though arrayed in somewhat unorthodox attire. Arriving next morning at Harwich, we passed through the customs and sought the 8 a.m. train to London, getting our first glimpse of English countryside on the way.

At Liverpool Station we were met by Miss Hill, Commissioner for Overseas Department, and then a bus took us and our baggage to the G.F.S. Lodge in Francis Street, Westminster.

(Continued on Page 11)



(Editor: ELSIE E. SYDES)

Birds, Beetles, Bulrushes.

Now then, you campers, what is your Nature like? Good!!! Well, then, get hold of the Company artist, the botanist, if you possess one, the budding naturalists, and the un-budding naturalists; in fact, ropé 'em in and enter for the 1937-38 Camping Season Nature Camp.

Nature Diary.

What you have to do is keep a Nature Diary during your week in camp. It must be a Patrol effort.

Send the results in to Miss E. Sydes, 18 Junction Street, Ballarat.

If there are no Guide camps, the period over which the Nature Diary can be kept will be from 1st January to 15th January inclusive, and it will be an individual effort in this case, any Guide being able to send in a diary.

Answers to Questions.

1. A single ball of wattle consists of many small but perfect flowers, as many as a hundred.

2. Starling's egg—bluish green all over, no spots or splotches.

3.—Male blackbird is much blacker than his mate, and has a bright orange bill. Female is a brownish colour, and has a brown bill. When foraging they dig the earth out very energetically with their beaks—throwing it backwards and sideways, and making quite large holes in the garden, often digging out plants if they happen to be in the way. People often say they dig plants up for mischief, but really this happens when they are doing this "digging" for food.

4.—The pistil of the daffodil is placed outside the flower. As the stems comes to the flower, it swells out—this is the pistil. Compare with other flowers.

5.—In Northern Victoria, the magpie has a black back, with a white patch at the neck, while in Southern Victoria he has a white back. The dividing line comes at Bendigo, for there you see both varieties. Colouring varies with male and female, and with young birds.

6.—The rabbit thumps on the ground with his hind leg. If you go for an early morning ramble, you will hear this thump or thud quite distinctly. Then as he scoots away, his tail is an additional warning—the little white bob.

7.—Birds' wings vary in their flapping. The heron gives very slow flaps, the mudlark slow and clumsy, the magpie quick and strong, the swallow does a lot of fluttering, the spine-bill when he hovers at a flower flaps his wings at great speed, many birds do a lot of gliding. The albatross is the king of gliders, there ap-

parently being no flapping movement of his wings for hours on end.

8.—The wattle-goat moth works his way down the trunk of a tree, often taking three years, generally two. Sometimes he works his way right down to the root, and then when ready to pupate, forms a cocoon with which to line his burrow. This burrow is continued from the roots (a hole in the wood being made) upwards, to within a few inches of the surface of the ground. Hence the cases you will find protruding from holes, that are quite a distance away from a tree.

9.—The only birds that eat grape-vine caterpillars are the bronze and the pallid cuckoos. I have seen the former tucking in to them quite often.

10.—The apple was the one I had in mind, but there are others.

11.—The codlin-moth lays her egg in the centre of the apple flower, so that the young grub gets an early start on the apple.

12.—The blackbird uses fibrous materials usually, little rootlets and things like that, binding them together with mud, thus forming a neat, strong, cup-shaped nest.

Guide's Answers to the Questions.

One Captain tried the questions with her Guides, and here is a typical set of answers, and very good, too, though not all correct.

1.—Each ball of wattle is on the end of a small stalk, about 3-8in. long. All the small stems are joined together on a small stem which is joined to the tree branch.

2.—A starling's egg is pale blue with black specks.

3.—Female blackbird has a grey breast and is smaller in build. The male blackbird forages for worms, and when he does this he stores them one by one in his mouth until he has many hanging out of his mouth.

4.—The daffodil pistil is unusual because it does come out of the daffodil cup, like other flowers, for it is too short to overhang.

5.—The magpies' back is black with long white patches.

6.—Rabbits usually live on a hill, but not always, and underneath his tail is white. When he sees a stranger he runs up the hill with his tail up. The rabbits see the white and scuffle to their homes.

7.—Not all birds flap their wings at the same rate, the smaller birds usually have small quick flaps, whilst the larger have long slow flaps—e.g., blue wren and robin have small short flaps, and magpies and kookaburras have long slow flaps.

9.—No birds will eat caterpillars off the grape-vine.

10.—Lemon and orange trees have leaves all the year round, and so when they blossom they have both together.

11.—The apple is the favourite place for the codlin-moth to lay her eggs.

12.—The blackbird builds a large, untidy nest of dry grass with a little horse-hair and twigs.

Nature Observations from Rupanyup District.

The smaller species of tarantula (or common house spider) appears to have luminous or phosphorescent eyes. I flashed a torch on one accidentally, and shining from it appeared what looked like a living jewel, which moved, as though the spider moved its head.

The grass parrot, often seen in flocks around these parts, would seem to be short-sighted, because one may approach almost up to it when it is feeding on the ground, before it takes fright and flies away.

Cockatoos and galahs are the only enemies of onion grass, the most serious weed in the grazing country. They are very fond of the bulb.

Blue-tongued or sleepy lizard surprised me one day by crawling under the vine which caterpillars were eating, and, in turn, eating the caterpillars which had dropped to the ground.

—o0o—



Let gratitude for the past inspire us with trust for the future.—Fenelon.

The Brownie Page Committee sends brightest Brownie, Beams and Christmas Greetings to all readers of the page. We thank those Guiders who have helped us by sending contributions during the past year, and look forward with pleasure to more exchanging of ideas in the future.

✱

"Oh dear! It's nearly Christmas!" The chance-heard remark brought me up with a jolt.

Is that the spirit in which we are approaching the anniversary of our Lord's Birthday? What does Christmas conjure up in your mind?

Many a rushed expedition in hot, busy crowds?

A purse that will not stretch?

Fear of overlooking or offending someone?

OR, a time of untrammelled planning, happy giving and rejoicing in memory of the most important event in the history of the world?

Of course, the increased and increasing commercialisation of the world is to blame. Everywhere we turn there is some form of advertisement to press home where we shall go, or what we shall do, wear, say and give, especially give, at Christmas. Every avenue of originality and ingenuity has been closed. Christmas is a commercial affair—a harvest time for the shops. The merchants of the world have made us Christmas-conscious—but in the wrong way.

In the bustle of the world we have somehow lost the idea of Christmas connected with worship, with thanksgiving.

I was reading recently about the wedding in Cana of Galilee and the commentator suggested that the wedding day of modern times would lose nothing of its brightness and joy

if Jesus be called as in Cana to the marriage. I want to stretch that idea and suggest that Christmas would gain something more of happiness (and give no cause for that bothered remark, quoted above) if Jesus, as of old, were the central theme of the rejoicings.

"Unto you is born, this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord."

M. McD.

—o0o—

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS PACK MEETINGS.

Brownies could have an outdoor meeting in the local Gardens and bring their small sisters with them. Games: Treasure Hunt—following streamers, pieces of cotton here and there, beans or any other trail. Nature Competition: Leaves, sticks, grass, etc. Stalking Games.

An Outdoor Meeting.

Arrive at Gardens. Each six then follows trails with B.O. and P.L. or T.O. Several letters are hidden and instructions must be carried out. On arrival at their "homes," presents for mothers are wrapped up. These are labelled and are collected by a Guide.

Brownies then come together, and play a Singing Game.

Then a Nature Competition.

Brownies then turn into Indians and go back to their homes, where they creep back along the trail (picking it up as they go) to where their coats and hats are, and there also is tea, spread out on the lawn.

After tea a story and a good-bye ceremony, and so holidays until next year.

For this meeting, it would be a good idea to have several Guides helping—to help set tea and to collect parcels and set trails, etc.

An Indoor Meeting.

Each Brownie brings her doll or other toy. These are taken from them on arrival and are arranged around the room. Also have a "cut out" of Father Christmas.

Brownies are dolls in a toy shop, and are having one final party before going out into the world as children's Christmas presents.

The dolls are inspected as they leave the shelves to see that they are in good order.

They then frolic together (fairy ring).

The dolls decide to take a present with them for the mother of the little girl who is to own them. Wrap up parcels for mothers.

Then play a Singing Game.

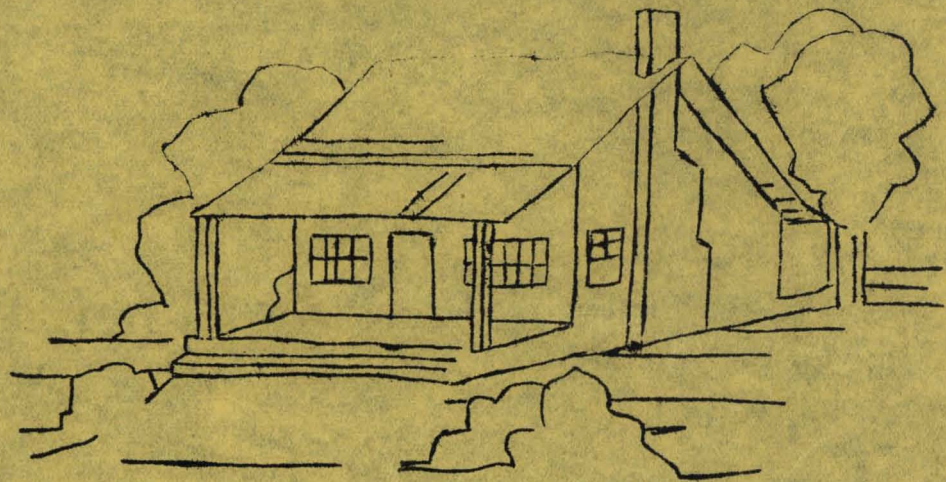
The toys then play a Creeping Game. They try to steal Mary's lamb. Suddenly they decide they are hungry so they go out and bring in a party supper as a farewell treat.

Then they are told a story by the Sandman and then go past Father Christmas and whisper a good turn to him and into his sack which is the door. B.O. and T.O. say Good-bye at the door.

R.S.

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Do you know of the Wiseacre Gnome? Write



THE HOUSE THE GUIDES BUILT

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WILL YOU GIVE US A POT OF JAM
of each variety you make

to help

THE HOUSE THE GUIDES ARE BUILDING ?

Our JAM CUPBOARD is at
Guide Headquarters, 60 Market St., Melbourne C.1,
and we will gladly put your jam in the Cupboard for sale if you will
tell us when and where to collect it.

Buy your JAM SUPPLIES for 1938
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7th, 8th and 9th March, 1938

to help

the HOUSE THE GUIDES ARE BUILDING.

(Orders taken, and delivered at small extra charge).

METROPOLITAN AREA:

Mrs. R.F.M. Clark,
42 Murphy St., Sth. Yarra S.E.1.
Tel. Windsor 7985.

COUNTRY DISTRICTS:

Miss G. Black,
Mt. Noorat, via Terang.

GIRL GUIDE CAMPS.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS to be adopted because of the infantile paralysis epidemic until further notice. November 22nd. 1937.

When arranging a Camp the Guider-in-charge should get in touch with the local health authorities and the health authorities of the district in which the camp is to be held, and discuss these precautions, in case they have any special precautions they would like observed.

1. No Guide under the age of twelve years to attend Camps.
2. No Camps to be held with Guides from various districts mixing together.
3. No Guides from infected areas to camp.
4. No country and town Guides to camp together.
5. No country Guides to be brought to camp through the city, unless by van and not breaking the journey in the city.
6. No Guide Camps to be held in an infected area.
7. Camps of Guides from one or perhaps two areas to be held as usual, provided both districts are uninfected for at least four weeks before the beginning of Camp.
8. In addition to the usual Health declaration, parents of Guides attending camps to sign a form stating that their children have (a) not visited an infected area or (b) attended a picture show for at least three weeks before the beginning of camp.
9. Every Guide under 16 years who is to attend camp will have medical inspection not more than three days before the beginning of camp.
10. Local camps of country Guides as usual in uninfected areas (re section 8b:- In the case of uninfected country districts the local health authorities might think it would be safe delete this; it would depend on whether there were many visitors from the city staying ~~the~~ the district and likely to attend the picture show). From section 9 "not more than 3 days" might also be deleted in the same circumstance.
11. Adult camps (over 16 years) as usual.
12. Guiders holding camps to be very careful of Guides coming in contact with other children, and isolate the Guides in Camp if necessary. (Dr. Featonby says in his letter: "Provided there had been no contact with a case arising in district in which the ~~the~~ camp is held, I see no reason why the camp should not continue." The local health authorities would, of course, be consulted.
13. It is strongly recommended that special attention should be paid to the choice of the First Aider. A trained nurse with much experience of children is recommended. If camp Nurse took temperatures every night, it would enable her to isolate any child showing signs of illness from any cause and would enable prompt isolation.

These are SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS and they sound very alarming, but they are meant to help the Guider and safeguard the Guides. I hope that when they have been observed they will be forgotten, and that no feeling of worry or "nervyness" will spoil the camp for the Guiders or the Guides:

Elaine E. Moran,
Commissioner for Camping.

A NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

Dr. Jean Macnamara is appealing for helpers.

With a thousand victims of the polio epidemic, all normal service for the after-care of the children are more than overwhelmed.

There are many ways in which help can be given:-

1. People with the necessary free time and enthusiasm could do some training and so be able to help masseuses in the crowded institutions.
2. Older Guiders might act as Polio Aunts and go occasionally to let the harassed mothers have a few hours off while the P.A. amuses and looks after the patient.
3. Life Savers could teach some of the milder cases to swim and take them swimming regularly.
4. Reliable Guides and Rangers could take their local cases out for walks in prams.
5. People with cars could help intermittently or regularly with transport.

Offers for help (with address, name of Company or Pack and age, if under 21) should be sent to the Secretary, Guide Headquarters who will sort them out and send them on to the proper authorities.

S.H.Irving.

to her about your Pack problems, and she will answer them for you.

Write—

"The Wiseacre Gnome,"
63 Ardmillan Road,
Moonee Ponds, W.4.

✱

Brevities.

How do your Brownies know which day to come back after the holidays? Do you give them a calendar with the date marked, or do you visit their mothers?

Do you think of others at Christmas? It is a very good time to do a Pack good turn. They are very easy to find at this time of the year. Try one and see what a thrill you get out of it.

Christmas Handicraft.

The trouble with so many handicrafts is, that they either take a long time, cost a lot for materials, or are no use to anyone when they are finished.

Here is one which is simple, inexpensive, and must surely be of some use to anybody!

You will need some small coloured pictures, a number of boxes of matches, some gold paint, some clag and a little clear varnish.

The pictures can be found among last year's Christmas cards, cigarette cards, postcards, magazines, etc.

As regards the matches, while the ordinary safety match boxes will do perfectly well, the non-safety kind, such as "Woodies," which have blue heads, or the very exciting but more expensive mixed coloured ones, have two advantages—firstly, that if the Brownies cover the striking surfaces with glue, and varnish, all is not lost, because they can be replaced by strips of fine glass paper; and, secondly, the box can be re-filled, and the striking surfaces replaced, which makes a more durable gift.

The method is simple, remove the matches, stick the picture on the top (or one on the top and bottom if you prefer to), then paint the box and ends of the tray with gold paint, and leave to dry. Next Pack meeting, if you want to make the job look very "shoppy," brush the pictures over with a little clear varnish—this is not necessary, but it does give a finish.

P.M.N.

Toothbrush Holder.

A piece of cardboard, 7in. long by 3in. wide, is covered with waterproof material such as table baize. Cut both bottom and top to a point. At the top, fasten a small brass ring with a paper clip, or else just punch a hole to hang it up by. Half-way down the cardboard and in the centre fasten another brass ring with a paper clip, and into this the tooth brush is slipped, handle first.

V.H.

Wool Mats.

Cut into seven circles of cardboard about 2½ inches in diameter, make a hole in the centre of each. Wind coloured wool around each until each circle is covered flat with the wool and not any cardboard showing through. Then stitch circles together (one in the centre) and

the others around it. Line with silk, hemming material to the wool of the circles.

R.S.

Pin Cushions.

Obtain some empty potted-meat tins, paint any attractive colour. Next obtain some velvet same shade as the paint, and cut into a circle about 4in. in diameter. Stuff with bran or cotton wool, and draw up into a tight ball and fasten it into the tin by means of glue or gum. Then stick a few pins into the pad and your pin cushion is finished.

M.E.H.

—o o—

HANDICRAFT FOR BROWNIES IN IN RECESS.

Picture Building.

Send each Brownie, or tell her to collect pieces of coloured paper (blue lined envelopes, jam labels, magazine covers, etc.), and tell her how to make paste.

Very effective pictures can be made by cutting out ships, houses, lighthouses, trees, smooth green hills and jagged mountains (tearing apart the pieces of the back of an envelope provides snow-capped ones) and sticking them on a rectangle of paper.

If it is impossible to send each child a picture to give her the idea, she might be sent a list of things to cut out and make into a picture—green hills, mountain, ship, sea, sky, sea-gulls, or house, grass, path, flowers, trees, sky.

Completed pictures may be varnished and used for calendars, shopping lists to cover the top of small boxes, the sides of which have been painted, or on the front of small canisters.

H.G.

Brownie Library.

We have had no response to our request for suggestions for new books for the Library. What do you want most, Country Guiders? Please, someone, give us some help. We can't know every Pack's wants.

Now to continue our report of the books we have.

SECTION H.—HANDICRAFTS.

H.1 **The Jolly Book of Boxcraft.** Clearly explained and well illustrated instructions for making toys and models from cardboard boxes.

H.2 **Home-made Toys.** Simple toys some of which are quite suitable for Brownies.

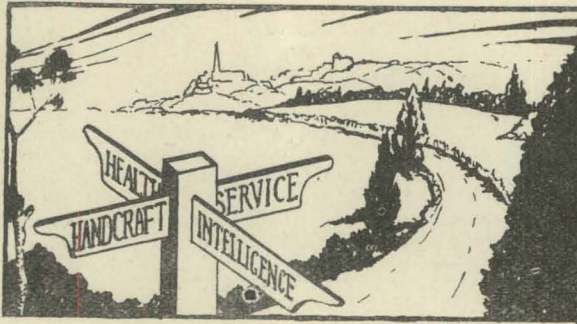
H.3 **Toymaking from Odds and Ends.** Small toys, the materials for which are to be found in any lumber room or rag bag.

H.4 **Handwork.** Very clear directions and diagrams for making useful and attractive cardboard models.

H.5 **Soft Toy Making.** A bit beyond Brownies, but very helpful for Rangers or Guiders.

H.6 **Raffia Work and Basketry.** This is also beyond Brownies, but gives useful hints on this sort of work. Again useful for Guiders.

A copy of the Brownie Handbook B.16 has been added to the Country Section of the Library.



The Sign Post

Editor: RUTH DENNY.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL SIGNPOST PAGE READERS.

My Christmas Present to You.

May I present the newly-formed Signpost Page Sub-committee? Ethel Batten, Joan Harper, and Elizabeth Alfred have come to my aid, so you may expect really good pages in 1938. We promise you a series of snappy, sensible articles on Proficiency Badge Tests.

Knotting As An Art.

Take a walk to the Museum, Swanston Street, and go upstairs to the Technological Museum. Almost opposite the door, you will find a fascinating display of over 200 knots, ties, splices, sea-chest handles, plaits, whipping and even a sailmaker's darn. These are all the work of, and were presented by, Petty Officer L. M. Boxsell, R.A.N., who is to be congratulated on his ability as an artist in cord.

Humble Carbon Paper.

During the last few months, with the aid of humble carbon paper and a pencil, or the superior typewriter, many of us, owing to the infantile paralysis epidemic, have tackled a new variety of Guide meeting. The Commissioner for Lones would be delighted to hear from anyone who is charmed with Guiding by post and wishes to help with a Lone Guide Company.

R.D.

PROGRAMME FOR "ABORIGINAL" PARTY.

An Australian Christmas.

7.45 p.m., guests arrive, are given card with gum leaf or boomerang drawn in corner and name thereon. This is worn and progressive points, as stars, stuck thereto. One dozen small gum nuts are given to each, and throughout evening anyone who answers "Yes" to a question gives one nut to the questioner. Aborigines never say "Yes."

7.50 p.m., Aboriginal Tucker Hunt. Divide into equal groups of about 10 each. To leader of each group, give list of tracks to be drawn

that are left by the following tucker (?):—Kangaroo, lizard, emu, coot, eastern swamp hen, snake, crocodile, dingo, rabbit, frog. Small sheets of paper—one for each track—are put about five yards down room—in a pile. Leader runs up—draws first track, and turns paper over—runs back and gives list to No. 2, who draws next track or the second piece of paper, and so on. First group finished wins a green star for first—each; and second group a red star, each, to stick on name card. The group's papers are then exhibited and judged for accuracy—winning group being presented with another star each. Judging can be carried out whilst next game is in progress, if time is lacking.

8.10 p.m. The "Medicine Man" asks a few questions. Whoever is in charge could wear a white "headache" band around the forehead. All sit in Council circle on floor—with paper and pencil. "Medicine Man" proceeds:

1. Draw a boomerang.
2. What is a gunyah? (abo. shelter).
3. About what number of aborigines are in Australia? (Approx. 70,000).
4. What colour skin has an aboriginal? (Nigger-brown or chocolate colour).
5. Draw a tree trunk from which a bark canoe has been cut.
6. What is a dilly bag? (Lubra's "treasure" bag).
7. What is a midden? (Thick layers of shell or other cooking refuse from an old abo. kitchen).
8. Draw a stone axe.
9. What is a didgeridoo? (A long flute-like musical instrument).
10. What does Canberra mean? (Kan, snake; bu, bent; burra, greatly bent; i.e., very crooked, like a snake's track—applies to the river).

Award stars for first and second.

8.30 p.m. The Legend of Bralgah, the Native Companion. (P. 10 "Woggheeguy—by Catherine Stow.) This can be read and dumb acted by two or three members of the Company—who have had one rehearsal. Requires no learning. Any other legend could be inserted here.

8.45 p.m. The aboriginal has left his spoken word to posterity. Tumbled towns are placed round the room and the lubras wander solving the jumbles: e.g., Alratalb is—

1. Ballarat (camping place), and so on.
2. Benalla (musk duck).

3. Echuca (meeting of waters).
4. Jerilderie (a reedy place).
5. Mooroolbark (red earth).
6. Yackatooon (joyful).
7. Bungoonna (good).
8. Yan Yean (run away).

Correct, and give stars for first and second.
9 p.m. Tucker Bag. All line up and collect glass of orange or lemonade and a bun each.

9.10 p.m. Lubra with most points for stars, counting 4 for first and 2 for second wins a mulga wood prize, as does the lubra with most gum nuts—for the "Yes" game.

9.15 p.m. National Anthem.

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OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN SETTING.

2.30 p.m. Arrive Field Day site. Gum trees for shelter and a lovely view of distant hills—fire-lighting sites available. Settle into groups of equal numbers, about eight to group. Eat fruit for afternoon tea.

2.45 p.m. The lost explorers. From group positions two readers read a morse code message. (The two readers assure message being read correctly—half group writes from each reader—no repeats to message). Message states: "You are lost in scrub—aeroplanes searching. Do in miniature what you would do to attract them. Ten minutes only." Points given for correct reading and ingenuity of ideas. Reading, 10 minutes; carrying out, 15 minutes; testing 5 minutes per group.

3.30 p.m. Message Stick Relay. Guides posted about 10 yards apart—each group against the other—in a circle around site. Use sticks—as aboriginals do.

3.45 p.m. This reminds you of Australia. Rally to circle. Sit. One in charge with pencil and paper writes down every word said, in order. Everything mentioned must be Australian. In succession, starting at the right, one says: "I am thinking of Australia—what does that remind you of?" Neighbour says what she thinks of as being Australian, such as gum trees! Next thinks of something connected with gum trees, say, "birds"—and so on—each word being connected in some way with the one just said, e.g., "kookaburras," "snakes," "grass," "bush fires," etc., without pause. When each have had two words, stop. Start at different point, and from the last word said, in strict order, reverse the words until "Australia" is reached. This is a very good memory game—but the scribe must be in strict charge and no interrupting allowed.

4 p.m. Free Time.

4.10 p.m. Billy boiling competition. Four from each group—1 collects wood, 1 sets, lights and tends fire, 1 makes tripod and prepares tea-leaves to give to the fourth, who is in charge of billy, into which is placed 4 cups of water per Guide in her Group. (All Groups being of same number, all have equal amount of water). At a given signal, these four Guides set off about their various jobs. Group wins who can first present a cup of tea to tester. Water must be really bubbling and boiling.

4.45 p.m. Tea, either in groups on one large circle. No cooking to be done. Tidy up.

5.15 p.m. Camp fire. Round, "Kookaburra." Song, "The Bell Bird." Song, "Once a Jolly Girl Guide." Talk, "Guiding in Australia—How It Has Grown and Our Connection with Imperial H.Q." Song, "International." Song, "The Grey Kangaroo." Carol, "Any One Liked." Song, "Now Our Camp Fire Fadeth."

5.55 p.m. Tidy up and be ready to go.

6 p.m. Depart for home.

G.O.

THE GOLDEN COBWEBS.

Adapted from an Old German Tale.

It was before Christmas and the tree stood safely out of sight in a room where the doors were locked, so that the children should not see it before the proper time. But ever so many little house people had seen it. The big black pussy saw it with her great green eyes; the little grey kitty saw it with her little blue eyes; the kind house dog saw it with his steady brown eyes. Even the wee mice that were so afraid of the cat had peeped one peep when no one was by.

But there was someone who hadn't seen the tree. It was the little grey spider. You see, the spiders lived in the corners. But they were expecting to see the Christmas tree as much as anybody. The house-mother came sweeping and dusting, and wiping and scrubbing, to make everything grand and clean for the Christ-child's birthday. Her broom went into all the corners, how the spiders had to run! So, you see, they couldn't see the tree.

At last they went to the Christ-child and told him all about it. "All the others see the tree, dear Christ-child," they said, "but we, who are so domestic and so fond of beautiful things, are cleaned up! We cannot see it at all."

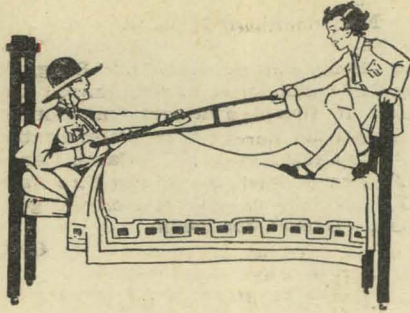
The day before Christmas, when nobody was noticing, he let them all go in, to look as long as ever they liked.

They came, creepy, creepy down the attic stairs, up the cellar stairs, along the halls—and into the beautiful room. And then they looked! Round and round the tree they crawled, and looked and looked. What a time they had! When they had looked at everything they could see from the floor, they started up the tree to see more. Up and down, in and out, over every branch and twig, the little spiders ran, and saw every one of the pretty things up close. They went away at last quite happy.

Then, in the still, dark night before Christmas Day, the dear Christ-child came to bless the tree for the children. When he looked at it—what do you suppose? It was covered with cob-webs!

What could the Christ-child do? He knew that house-mothers do not like cob-webs. No, indeed.

So the dear Christ-child touched the spiders' webs, and turned them all to gold! They shone all over the beautiful tree, and that is the way the Christmas tree came to have golden cob-webs on it.



Editor: Joan Alston.

ENTHUSIASM.

By the time this month's "Matilda" comes out, the 6th Post Guide Company's enrolment party will be a thing of the past. Because of the epidemic, it has been put off from month to month. However, at last it is to take place on Saturday, 20th November.

Several recruits are to be enrolled. One of them, Betty, who is always in bed, has been ready for enrolment since last July. She has had a very long wait—long enough to discourage many people—but not Betty. She is so enthusiastic and keen that she has gone on and is ready to pass practically the whole of her 2nd Class. As well as that, her keenness and love of Guiding has infected her twin sister and several of her friends, and now, they, too, are doing as much as they can alone and are eagerly waiting for the local Guide Company to re-open.

As many of the 6th Post Company as possible will be at the party, and one Guide is coming all the way from Ballarat. She is able to travel, regardless of the epidemic, because she has had infantile paralysis. Extensions sometimes have an advantage over active Guides!

Wouldn't it be grand if all Guides everywhere were as keen as this! J.A.

GUIDE SHOP.

Here is a list of attractive articles which may be given to Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Guiders and Commissioners for Christmas:—

CHRISTMAS CARDS.

A good range of Christmas cards at 2d. and 4d. It is necessary to order early as the stock is limited.

CALENDARS.

These are 6d. and the stock covers six different designs. These are very good value, so put in your order early.

BLOTTERS.

This has 4 sheets of blotting paper in attractive colours and on the cover an Australian camping design. Price 6d.

PENCILS.

Very attractive propelling pencils in two

shades of blue with a small Guide Badge engraved on them and the words, "Girl Guides." These make very good Christmas presents; price 2/6.

COMPASSES.

Every Guide will be thrilled to have a compass. We have them at 1/6, 2/- and 3/6.

SHEATH KNIVES.

These are very good blades in English and Swedish steel. They are enclosed in attractive leather cases. It would be a good thing if every Guide and Ranger learnt the art of whittling, and our knives are ideal for this type of work. These knives are arranged to fit on the Guide belt and may be worn with uniform. Price 5/-, 6/6 and 9/6.

GILWELL PAPER WEIGHTS.

These are very attractive little logs of wood in which a steel axe is embedded. They are quite heavy and a nice little ornament. Price 1/9, plus 3d. postage.

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BOOKS.

Stories for Brownies.

All About a Brownie; What the Brownies Did; A Brownie from the Caravans; Ten Little Brownie Girls; Peg Junior.—Mrs. Osborne Hann; Price 3/-, postage 4d.

A Round the Year Brownie Book; Short Stories for Brownies.—Price 3/6, postage 5d.

Stories for Guides and Rangers.

Peg and Her Company, What Happened to Peg, Peg Lieutenant, Lieutenant, Captain, Peg the Ranger.—Mrs. Osborne Hann, Price 3/-, postage 4d.

How Judy Passed Her Tests.—H. B. Davidson, Price 3/-, postage 4d.

Guide Links, Travelogues.—Lady Baden Powell, Price 7/6, postage 4d.

The Big Book for Guides (an attractive annual containing short stories for Guides and Rangers).—Price 3/6, postage 4d.

What Bird Is That? (one of the best books on birds in Australia).—Cayley, Price 12/6, postage 5d.

An Australian Bird Book (this is well known).—Leach, Price 7/6, postage 3d.

All About Birds (their habits and history).—Price 7/6, postage 3d.

Australian Nature Studies (this is an ideal Company Gift Book).—Leach, Price 12/6, postage 3d.

CLARA BROADHURST,
Commissioner for Equipment.

CAMPING.

Owing to the infantile paralysis outbreak, there have not been sufficient applications to make it possible to hold the PATROL LEADERS' CAMP or the COMBINED GUIDE CAMP which were to have taken place at

Mornington in January. Arrangements for these two Camps have been therefore CANCELLED.

The COMBINED RANGER CAMP, as announced in "Matilda" in October and November, will take place at Warburton from 27th December to 3rd January. The site used will be on the property which we hope to acquire for our Camp House. The Guider-in-Charge will be Miss Frieda Barfus. The fee 22/6. Late applications (with 5/- deposit) should be made at once to Miss E. E. Moran at Headquarters, and vacancies will be filled in order of application; should there be more applications than vacancies a waiting list will be started.

A GUIDERS' CAMPCRAFT WEEK on the same site at the Ranger Camp will be held from 5th to 12th January. Fee 35/-. The Guider-in-Charge will be Miss E. E. Moran. Guiders recommended by their Commissioner will be tested for the Camper's Licence, and there will be general Campcraft and Refresher Training for old and new Guiders. There will be very few Guide Camps held this year unfortunately, owing to the infantile paralysis outbreak. However, this will leave Guiders free to camp without the Guides and brush up their own Campcraft, and we hope that a number will take this opportunity and that we will have a long application list for this camp. Late applications should be sent (with 5/- deposit) to Miss E. Moran, at Headquarters, at once.

A GUIDERS' CAMP.

For many years we have talked about having a Camp for Guiders holding the Camper's Licence, and this year we were able to find a date when a sufficient number of us would be free, and we held the camp at last. There were 12 present most of the time, and others came in for odd days, and the site we used was Gipton, Frankston. We had an easy programme with lots of free time, which was spent energetically mowing the lawn or cutting blackberries or clearing patches of long grass. There were some good practical sessions on tenting when we played with hike tents, and did all sorts of odd things not usually seen in a normal camp! We were most fortunate in having Mr. C. Fraser, from Boy Scout Headquarters, to give us an excellent practical session on gadget making, and meals and camp fires were considerably enlivened with discussions on various subjects dear to the heart of Camp Commandants, such as grease pits. We camped over Cup week-end from Saturday morning to Tuesday evening, had perfect weather, and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly with no more responsibility than providing meals for ourselves at intervals. It was grand!

E. E. MORAN.

(Continued From Page 4)

That afternoon, refreshed both inwardly and outwardly, we sallied forth to see what we could from the tops of buses with Miss Meek as information bureau; we beheld for the first time an outside view of Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, Whitehall, Scotland Yard, Trafalgar Square, Regent Street, Piccadilly, Marble Arch and Hyde Park. Evening found us back at the Hostel much too exhausted to do anything but sleep.

On Sunday we attended services at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and St. Paul's. During the week that followed we covered much ground. We visited Headquarters; saw the Changing of the Guard, visited the Inns of Court and several Wren Churches, went to the Kew Gardens, returning via the river, and made several shopping expeditions.

At this stage we moved our headquarters to the Helena Club at Lancaster Gate. Then followed another interesting week, during which we visited the Royal Mews, the Guards Chapel, Hampton Court, the British Museum, Windsor Castle and Eton, and the Mount Pleasant Post Office at Farrington Road. We also managed to see two plays, "The First Legion" and "Anthony and Anna."

Now had come the time when members of our party started off on their promised visits to relations and friends. We are looking forward to the end of the week when again we unite to cross the Channel on our Continental roving.

5th September, 1937.



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TRAINING.

TRAINING WEEK.

The closing date for applications for the Training Week planned to be held from 28th December, 1937, till 5th January, 1938, being 16th November—after this notices goes to press—Guiders are referred to the daily press for further information, as to whether applications justify its being held or not.

MERLE BUSH,
Commissioner for Training.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides' Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office on 20th October and 4th November, 1937.

Present, 20th October.—Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Ebeling, Mrs. Edmondson, Misses Broadhurst, Bush, Cameron, Moran, Purnell, Ritchie, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Present, 4th November.—Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Ebeling, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Tate, Misses Boyes, Broadhurst, Swinburne and the Secretary.

The following was reported:—

That Miss Beverley Lansell (now Mrs. Robin Orr) had agreed to be Commissioner for Hospitality.

That further broadcasts from 3DB had been arranged and would be on Camping, Rangers and Extensions.

That Mr. Leslie Moran had agreed to act, with Mr. Rawdon Chomley, as Trustee for the Girl Guides' Association.

That a successful week-end for Campers, Licensed Guiders, had been held at Gipton, Frankston, from 30th October to 3rd November, and that the site was booked for every week-end until the end of 1937.



The following were agreed with:—

That each Guide district should consult its own health authority before re-opening Companies and Packs, and that the Sub-committee should continue to publish programmes in the daily papers.

That a one-day Conference for Commissioners be held at the Guide Office on 18th November.

That a Jam Market for Guide House funds be held at Guide Headquarters in March, 1938, that Mrs. R. Clarke and Miss Black be responsible for arrangements and that members of Local Association Commissioners, parents and friends of Guiding be asked to contribute one pot of jam from each boiling made this season.

That a competition be held amongst Victorian Guides for a design for a badge to be worn by Australian Guides at foreign camps, the successful design to be submitted to the Federal Council, which will be responsible for the final choice.

That the scheme for enlarging the Equipment Depot be approved.

That Miss J. U. Boyes be granted six months' leave of absence from January, 1938.

Routine and financial business was discussed.
S. H. IRVING, Secretary.

COMPETITION WITH A PRIZE.

Australian Guides and Guiders are frequently invited to foreign Guide Camps. They go gladly, but have nothing to wear which indicates clearly to which country they belong. They (or we, for the rest of us might go abroad some day) need a badge to wear—something Australian.

The Federal Council has asked Guides all over Australia to send designs for a badge; we thought it would be a good idea to have a competition among Victorian Guides. Do enter, all of you, and let us see how many clever design-makers we have; there is no age-limit! The prize is a copy of "The Story of 1,000,000 Girls."


Entry form:—

Design-for-Australian-Badge-to-be Worn-at Foreign-Camps Competition.

Name
Company or Pack
Address
.....

Designs, accompanied by entry fee (3d.) and form to reach Guide Headquarters, Melbourne, by 1st February, 1938.

S. H. IRVING, Secretary.



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