

Merle Bush

# Matilda



FEBRUARY, 1938.

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# "Matilda"

An Official Treasure Bag for Guiders' Information for Victoria, Australia.  
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Price: 3/- Per Year; 4/- Posted. Single Copies, 6d. each.

Editor: MARGOT ANDERSON, Guide Headquarters, 60 Market Street, C.I.

VOL. XIV.

FEBRUARY, 1938.

No. 7.

## EDITORIAL.

Our Editor, being away for January, it is my pleasure to edit the February "Matilda" and to pass on this message from the Chief Guide "to the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the World"; "The Chief Scout and I want to offer our very warmest thanks for the wonderful kindness that has been shown to us on the occasion of our Silver Wedding. Whilst celebrating our twenty-fifth anniversary of our married life, I personally am celebrating my twenty-first anniversary of becoming a Guide, and in commemoration of this I am venturing to send to the 'Thinking Day Fund' 7665 pennies—one penny for each day of these many busy, happy years in which I have had the joy of Guiding with you all. I can never show my gratitude enough to our Guide sisterhood for what it has brought to me in mental interest, in absorbing endeavour, in delightful contacts with many phases of life, in the joyous gaiety of comradeship, and in progressive and hard work shared in loving enthusiasm with the kindest and best of friends the world over. In gratitude for all this I give this small offering, and hope that even this little sum that I can supply may help the grand new project of establishing our World Bureau in an International Hostel for Guides."

(Signed) OLAVE BADEN-POWELL,

World Chief Guide.

Now, more about the International Hostel for Guides. The World Bureau hopes to have "a simple hostel within easy reach of British Headquarters and of Victoria Station, which could provide accommodation for Guides and Girl Scouts coming to London, and which would be run on Guide lines and be open to girls of all races."

It seems the World Bureau has outgrown its present office in British Headquarters and would use part of the Hostel as its new home. Would it not be grand to have a Guide Home in which any Guide or Girl Scout could stay in London?

The World Bureau tells us that if each Brownie, Guide, Ranger, Old Guide, Leader and Commissioner would send one penny on Thinking Day they would receive £5,500.

Could we not each send, via Victorian Headquarters, one penny for each day of Guiding we have had, or one penny for each week, month, or even each year?

What better way of celebrating Thinking Day than by making some of the light from the stars in our State badge to shine in the Guide Hostel in London, where girls from all over the world may stay?

—R. D.

## WHAT WE ARE DOING.

January, usually the big camping month, has passed, and because of the epidemic has been a very quiet one this year. No H.Q. Guide Camps, even the Camcraft Week had to be put off because of lack of numbers. Bad luck, but we hope we will have double the numbers next year, and a camping place of our own. However, there was a District Ranger Camp and a large Combined Ranger Camp at Britannia Creek. We were particularly glad to welcome some inter-State Rangers at the latter, particularly Rozilie MacDonald, who recently represented Australia at the Silver Jubilee Camp of the Girl Guides of U.S.A.

As well as the two camps, there was a Training Week at Somers House, Black Rock, the seaside house of the Country Women's Association, where they were able to take us, as they were not able to have children there this summer.

This month we have had some visitors, too, and a very happy party for them at 60 Market Street. About 40 Commissioners and Guiders were present, and everyone was very interested to meet our Guide sisters from the other side of the world.

Mrs. Blyth, who is a member of the Guide Council in England, the proud possessor of a Silver Fish, and one of the earliest enthusiasts of Guiding, brought us a message of good cheer from the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell. She also told us many very interesting things about Guiding in England before the war, during the war, and recently. Naturally, we were particularly interested to hear about the early days. We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mrs. Blyth for two things—First, for having sympathy for and understanding of the endeavours of the young girls on Hampstead Heath, whom she saw trying to be Scouts like their brothers, at a time when their efforts were decidedly not popular with their parents or the general public. And, secondly, for doing something active about it. Mrs. Blyth had camps for them in her garden during the weekends: she then felt something ought to be done about training for their leaders, and went on with the idea.

We were very interested to hear at first hand more details of the "brown paper drill" that most of us have read about, also how from the very beginning the Patrol System was the most important plank of Guide training: it is rather wonderful to think that this, the kernel still of our training, has stood the test of years and changing youth as the best method for developing the character and satisfying the needs of young people. To go back to the early days. What bright ideas they had then.

I think what intrigued us most in Mrs. Blyth's talk was her description of "Pilgrimages." These were really walking camps. Small groups set off with their belongings in their rucksacs for a week's tour. Each night they slept in a new village as guests of the Guides there, and in return for the night's hospitality they had to do whatever good turn was required of them. For example, in one place they had to whitewash the schoolroom; in another, stage a concert or display; in another, teach the Fireman's Badge; and they were billeted in many different ways, sometimes in halls or schoolrooms, sometimes privately, once in a mansion with 18 bathrooms. What fun, and how "prepared" they must have been! Somebody, even managed the Fireman's Badge.

We were very fortunate also in having Mrs. Gordon, a County Commissioner from Northern Ireland, at the meeting. She told us of their recent rally, at which Their Majesties the King and Queen were present. They had an original idea for their rally. They formed large hollow squares in which individual displays were performed, then they right-about turned, thus seeing Their Majesties twice. We also had Mrs. Lyons, a Commissioner from Portsmouth; and Miss Cobb, the head of Extensions in New Zealand.

The more we meet Guiders and Commissioners from other parts of the world and find how much we have in common, and how much we think alike, the smaller distances seem, and we realise again—very forcibly—that a Guide is not only a friend to all, but indeed a sister to every other Guide.

—Enid Faulkner.

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## TO ALL WHO READ "MATILDA"

By the time you receive "Matilda," I expect to be well on the high seas, but there are a few messages I want to leave with you.

First, to welcome Miss Hayman, and thank her very much for taking on Tests and Badges this year. You must make her feel she is needed, and ask her plenty of questions, and I am sure she will give you all the help possible.

Secondly, some early information about changes in Test and Badge work. You will have seen quite a number of alterations appearing in "The Guider" for August, September and November. In some cases, new Badges have been invented, and in others the old syllabus has been quite changed, and this new syllabus will need definite preparation.

These alterations do not actually come into force in Victoria until 1st July; from that date, all Tests should be done according to P.O. and R., 1938.

But, it seems to me, it might be a great saving of time and more interesting, if the Guide or Ranger wishing to do these particular Badges, did her preparation from the new scheme. She would then be equipped for the change over in July.

The Badges to which this could apply are:  
**GUIDE.**

Gymnast; two new Badges, Keep Fit Badge and Woodman's Badge; Thrift Badge, which has two new practical sections added to it, and

the Homemaker's Badge, which has returned to us, slightly altered.

### RANGER.

Dairymaid, Farmer and Nurse. The Nurse Badge has been entirely re-arranged, is very practical and thorough, and will need a good deal of preparation, but is a really worth-while Badge for Rangers to hold.

Those who take "The Guider," need only refer to that, but the Ranger or Guide Captain, who cannot easily see "The Guider" in her District will find one copy in the library, and another for reference only at Guide Headquarters.

For help in Ranger Badges, Rangers can also apply to Miss Stamp, Acting Commissioner for Rangers.

Although last year there was only a small increase in the number of First Class Badges gained, I felt that there had been a definite increase of interest, and more general work had been done, and I hope to hear, when I return, that there has been this year a real increase in the number of First Class Badges gained by both Guides and Guiders. Miss Hayman has a special interest for this section, and many ideas about it, so I will expect to hear great things.

Happy Guiding to you all for 1938.

—Margaret Moore.

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## DIVISIONAL NEWS.

### OUTER-EASTERN SUBURBS.

It is an honour to be among the first to inaugurate the new scheme of Divisional reports, but, at the moment, there can be very little to report.

All the Companies have been closed down for longer or shorter periods. This gave the Guiders a chance to show their originality in running a Company by correspondence. Some started at once on their own initiative, and all have tried with varying degrees of success. Some Companies have been able to arrange more than the usual number of hikes, but none has been able to enjoy their usual Christmas party.

Box Hill Guides, in the middle of November, gave a party to the Local Association, which was a great success. There were original Parades made up by the Guides, and games in which all joined. The evening closed by the presentation of sprays and posies, by the District Commissioner, to members of the Executive. These had all been made by Tawny Owl.

### Eastern Suburbs Division.

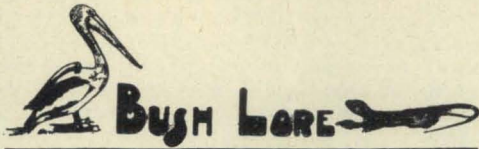
#### CHANGE OF DATE.

The Guiders' Week-end Conference, which had been arranged for March 12-14, will now take place from March 26-28 owing to change of the public holiday.

We hope that Victoria Cottage, Frankston, may be available for the later date.

Guiders should watch the papers for further information.

The closing date of entry is February 14, and names should be sent to Miss I. Watson, 1 Charles Street, Jolimont, C.2.



EDITOR: ELSIE E. SYDES.

## OBSERVATIONS.

### GRASS-PARROTS.

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

### SEAGULLS.

When at the beach, I have often fed the seagulls, and I think their eyes must change as they get older. Some, possibly the young ones, have light-coloured eyes with a black ring round them, and the others have plain greyish eyes.

### CROWS.

The crow is really a very intelligent, wily bird, with a marked liking for eggs. When crows have found something to eat, they post a sentry somewhere not too far away on a high tree. This crow, the instant danger approaches, warns the others with loud caws. Whenever we see or hear the sentry, we may be sure his mates are up to some mischief not far away.

### TI-TREE.

I have always been struck with the difference between the ti-tree on the eastern and western sides of the bay. That along the western beaches is healthy and beautiful in appearance, and has thick foliage; while that along the eastern is thin, stringy and sparse.

### WEB-BUILDING.

I have watched a spider spinning its web, and it always spins the strands from the centre to twigs or supports all round first; then it crosses these, round and round until it has a perfect web.

### AN ANT TRAGEDY.

The other day I was watching some ants on the garden path. A few poor old sugar-ants crossed the path of a swarm of tiny black-ants. In a trice each sugar-ant found himself in the clutches of dozens of small demons, who gripped any part of his anatomy and hung on, calling for more to dig their fangs in. The sugar-ants hadn't a hope! They soon went down, bitten to death, and what a terrible death!

### EARTHWORMS.

The earthworm is beneficial to the soil, as its burrows help to aerate the ground and keep it porous. It lives mostly in damp ground and it can be traced by little excretions of earth upon which it has fed. Its body appears to be segmented into many parts, and by means of these it travels along, alternately stretching and contracting them. It has no legs, only

five bristles along its sides.

I have accidentally, when digging, cut a worm in half, and each part apparently goes on living. I have found earthworms ranging in length from an inch to nearly 8 inches.

### THE WILLY-WAGTAIL.

I have watched this charming bird quite a lot. He takes a great delight in perching on the sheep's backs, and also near feeding animals, in order to pick up insects. He has a cheery call, and is quite tame and unafraid of humans.

At nesting time, if you approach anywhere near the nest, the little fantail makes frantic efforts to divert your attention. I have found that very often the wagtail builds her nest on branches of trees overhanging water. This would seem a very sensible precautionary measure on the part of the bird.

In the poplar trees bordering our creek, I found a little cup-shaped nest made of bark and soft webby material, built on a bough right over the stream. I watched it until at last the 3 or 4 yellowish eggs were hatched and the young ones appeared.

Every day the mother would patiently encourage the babies to use their wings, and after they became strong and able to fend for themselves they left the old nest, and went forth on adventure of their own.

### LICHEN.

I have always been interested in lichen. The particular type I have been studying is partly a fungus and forms patches or encrustations wherever it grows. It is greyish-green in colour, and seems to thrive in damp weather. I should think this is the reason for its so often being found on old decaying posts, for these, being porous, would hold considerable moisture. The lichen germinates from spores and actually consists of numerous cells held together in a sort of framework, the fungus itself. In dry weather, it becomes very withered and crumbly, but it will continue to live through the most extreme of weather conditions.

—G. K., Lubeck.

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## WORLD BIRD DAY.

Below you will find two interesting letters in connection with World Bird Day, and maybe they will inspire you to go a step further, too:—

The Secretary,

The Society of World Bird Watchers,

Glanton, Northumberland.

Dear Sir,—

It was very interesting to see in the "Argus" that Sunday, 11th July, was to be World Bird Day. I hope that you have many replies. Unfortunately, I was not able to do anything special on that day, but the previous Sunday I was out with the Leach Memorial Club at Sherbrooke, where we had a good day with the lyre bird. July is the best time to observe

the lyre bird, so from this point of view your choice of 11th July as Bird Day is a good one. Otherwise, I think a date in September would be better as far as we are concerned. You may be interested to hear that my Girl Guide Company held a Bird Day Competition. Each Patrol made a note of all species seen by its members and the one with the longest list (22) won a prize. This helped to stimulate their interest in birds. Hoping to hear more of World Bird Day.—Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Ruth Denny.



Manitoba, Canada.

Dear Miss Denny,—

I was most interested to receive your letter, which was forwarded on to me from England. (I have come out here to watch birds on the Canadian Tundra). The basis of your Guide Company's competition seems sound, and I was glad to know of it, as well as to have your suggestion of September as a suitable date. The date for next year has not yet been fixed, but I will let you know when it is.

I am in touch with Mr. A. G. Campbell, of Kilsyth (Vic.), who hopes to make a focus of the Gould League's activity, through schools, on World Bird Day, 1938 (in connection with the centenary of Gould's visit). I hope your Guide Company will also take part, and possibly you might suggest that some other Guide Companies also co-operate.

In regard to this year's Day, reports are now in from different parts of the world showing that people took part in your own country and New Zealand, in India, South Africa, British Isles and across Canada. With best wishes for your bird watching and that of your Company, and congratulations to the winning Patrol—Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Noble Rollin.

11th October, 1937.

## BROWNIES.

### THINKING DAY, 1938.

"The years have slipped by so quickly, and each one has been filled to overflowing with unclouded love between us and surrounded too, with the glory of work that we have been privileged to do together." Thus spoke our Chief on the occasion of their Silver Wedding. Do we Guiders realise what a tremendous work that has been, and are we able to pass on to our Guides and Brownies even a small idea of the glory of it? Do we make them feel that they are a part of a wonderful Movement, working for the best ideals in life? A Movement, consisting of thousands of Guides and Scouts of all nations—

"Man lives not for himself alone,  
In others good he finds his own,  
Life's worth in fellowship is known."

Could we not make a special effort on Think-

ing Day and tell our Guides and Brownies of the wonderful life and example shared by our Chiefs? Tell of their happy family life, their delight in simple things, their comradeship with Scouts and Guides in every corner of the world and their cheerfulness, courage and enthusiasm.

Surely theirs is a story which should imbue anyone with the desire to live up to the Guide Law in the highest sense. Let us help the children to realise that, by living their lives according to the highest ideals, they are helping to make the vision of Lord Baden Powell come true.

### THE TRADITIONAL TALE OF THE "LITTLE FLAMES" OF LATVIA.

Once upon a time as well as men there lived small human-like beings. They were no larger than a thumb, but otherwise they looked quite like men. At first they lived on the earth and called themselves "The small brothers of men," but as they were so very small it often happened that they were hurt and even killed by the paw of some dog, or the wheel of a car. So these little beings went to live under the earth, far, far into the darkness. Here they found that it was quite dark and cold, so they put a little flame-shaped lantern on their caps to light the way and to warm the innermost earth.

But the small people admired men very much, and, whenever they could, came out to look at those strong big brothers of theirs. Usually this happened in the night, when towns and streets are quietest. And wherever the little ones saw some poor man or woman working till late in the night, their hearts melted with pity and they watched until the worker sank asleep from weariness. They then crowded into the room and in a short time the work was done by hundreds of their skilful little hands. There was no work they did not understand, and no tired worker on the earth who did not get help when it was needed bitterly, as a widow, whose daughter lay desperately ill. During the crisis, just when the strength of her mother was going, medicine was poured between the lips of the tossing child and had already worked wonders when the widow awakened from a few moments' sleep. So it was with the poor shoemaker, who had to deliver a pair of brocade shoes for the wife of the landlord for a dance party the next day. He fell asleep, as he had begun the second shoe late in the night, but all the same it was finished when he awoke.

Nobody ever saw the little beings, only when the people whom they had helped returned to their work, they found that the room was warmer than usual and that it was lighter although apparently no lamp was burning. Unaccustomed to perceive small things, nobody ever noticed the tiny flame, which was left burning in a corner by the small people in remembrance of a friendly thought. People thought it was their own joy at finding that

someone had helped them, that made the room seem so light.

Then it happened that men began to search in the depth of the earth for gold and silver and precious stones. They did not think that these belonged to the small people, living underneath the earth's surface, and forgot to ask their permission to take it, so that the small beings became angry with their big brothers. They resolved that they never again would help them, never look after them and changed their name into "Brownies."

And now nobody was ready to help; no one was at hand if somebody was really in need, nor if a child tumbled into a pond. No one, when they worked beyond their strength, ever again thought that the rooms were bright with unknown light or warm with the kind thoughts of help and pity. Men began to quarrel and the days went by grey and without joy.

Then the Brownies realised that there was no singing on earth and again they felt pity for man, but they were bound by their oath never more to help and never to show themselves to man. At last they found a way. The oldest of them crept out in a night, and, avoiding the grown-up people, he entered a room where a little girl slept. Something he whispered into her ears between her dreams, something he put into her hand, and then off he went.

No one ever knew what he told the little girl, but, strangely enough, there are small girls in the world who wear green dresses and a yellow neckerchief, and when they leave the room of sick or of poor people, brightness remains behind them. Brightness comes also into the rooms of their homes, when mother finds that someone has dusted, although she had forgotten to do it, and when the dishes in the kitchen are already clean when she comes in to wash them. Therefore people call these little girls "Little Flames" (guntinas), it may be because the old Brownie had really left his flame in the children and—who knows?—has perhaps told them the secret of how to help unseen, unknown, and without asking for thanks.—(Re-printed from "Guider").

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### WISEACRE GNOME ANSWERS.

#### QUESTION.

Is it permissible for a Brown Owl out of uniform to enrol a Brownie?

#### ANSWER.

It is very difficult to make a hard-and-fast rule about this, as the circumstances concerning each case would need to be taken into consideration. However, it is a thing a Brown Owl would avoid doing if it were at all possible, as for her to be out of uniform would spoil the atmosphere of the enrolment and take away from its importance.

#### QUESTION.

When a Brownie goes up to Guides, does she continue to receive service stars on the anniversary of her Brownie enrolment, or does she

receive Brownie stars to the nearest year of her services in the Pack, and start afresh from her enrolment as a Guide?

#### ANSWER.

If when a Brownie goes to the Coy. she has completed the greater part of the year towards her next service star she will receive a Brownie one; but if the greater part is spent in the Guide Company she receives a Guide one, continuing to do so on the anniversary of her Brownie enrolment.—Wiseacre GNOME.

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### BROWNIE LIBRARY.

The Brownie Library Committee wishes to thank Miss E. Moran for her gift of books to the Library. They will be most helpful and we appreciate her gift very much.

We have a very large selection of books of stories suitable for telling and reading to Brownies. As there are so many, we will just give a brief description of a few below, and continue in next month's "Matilda":—

S1. "Buzziwig," by Mrs. Swinburne.

S2. "Dr. Dolittle," by Hugh Lofting. A delightful story of a very quaint old man and his family of animals and the adventures they had. There are a series of these books.

S3. "The Water Babies," by Charles Kingsley. A classic which everybody knows. The little chimney sweep who turned into a water baby.

S4. "The Little Black Princess," by Mrs. Aeneas Gunn. The history of a little Australian Aboriginal girl.

S5. "The Wind in the Willows," by K. Graham. A charming book about Toad and Badger and the other "under the water" folk.

S6. "The King of the Golden River," by John Ruskin. This is a long story which perhaps would be suitable on a Brownie holiday for Brownies to read for themselves or Brown Owl to read to them.

S7. "Milly Molly Mandy; S8 "More of Milly Molly Mandy; S9 "Further Doings of Milly Molly Mandy." These books are very popular with Brownies, being the every-day adventures of a little girl who could quite easily be a Brownie. Thoroughly recommended for a Brownie holiday.

S10. "Winnie the Pooh." Needs no description.

S11. "The House at Pooh Corner," being the further adventures of Pooh and Piglet and their friends in the forest.

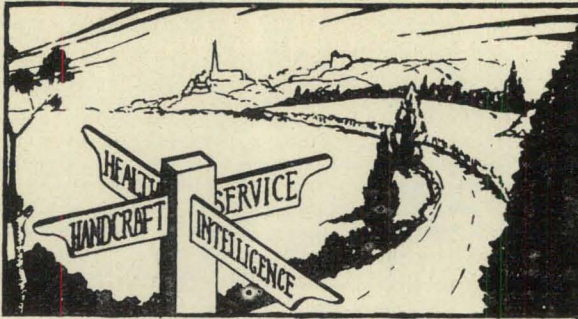
S12. "The Happy Prince," by Oscar Wilde. A book of stories perhaps a bit old for Brownies; more appropriate perhaps for Rangers.

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### BREVITIES.

Do your Brownies ever clean their Service Stars?

Have you ever invited Captain to visit the Pack? She would probably love to come, but is too shy to ask.



## THE SIGN POST

EDITOR: RUTH DENNY.

### TO OUR CHIEFS.

Always for you the joy of what you've made us,  
 Always our love, and thanks for what we are—  
 The things we've learned through trying to be like you,  
 The steady brilliance of our striving star.  
 Ever for you the ring of youthful voices  
 Round friendly camp fires. Yours the things we do,  
 The truth we challenge, and the dreams we're dreaming—  
 Through all our lives we offer this to you.  
 And other years will come, and other children  
 Their Promise take, yet never speak your name  
 Glad with the thought of having really known you  
 As we who hear your voice shall ever claim.  
 Days will march on, and happy childhood sing,  
 And we shall smile again, remembering.

—Dorothy Eileen Sangster, 24th Ottawa Co.; from "The Guidier."

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### SCOTS GO A-CAMPING.

Forty-six city girls (some very young and some not so young!) turned their backs on the noise, smoke and rush of Scotland's second city and hid themselves off to the peace, freshness and restfulness of one of our famous beauty spots—The Kyles of Bute—where we were surrounded by rugged, heather and bracken-covered mountains, the waters of Loch Ridden and The Kyles, and wooded lands in plenty.

Though very few had camped before, the canvas village of 10 large bell tents, one ridge, a marquee and various shelters sprung up like mushrooms in a remarkably short time, the experienced campers having scattered themselves amidst the tenderfoot campers, the latter proving to be very keen and willing learners. This process of "all hands on deck," to provide homes for ourselves, broke the ice of "unknown-ness" which was but natural since the campers had come from various Companies in the District and had seen little, if anything, of each other before.

Except for the Ranger tent, the ages were mostly 11, 12 and 13; they took to camping

like ducks to water, and before long proved themselves to be most enthusiastic and capable campers. The Guides slept six in a tent (sometimes an odd week-ender or visitor extra!), a coloured flag at each tent door, and a ribbon tag to match, worn by each Guide in the tent, designated them a Patrol, whose duties were—Cook, Mess, Sanitary, Wood, Water and Orderly—the daily change of Patrols meant that no duty recurred more than twice during camp. Officers in charge were—Commandant and Assistant Commandant, Medical Officer and Assistant M.O., Quartermaster and Assistant Q.M., Swimming Officer, Recreation Officer and last, but not least, Cook.

Our camp day started with rising whistle at 8 a.m. (Cooks turned out at 7.30 a.m. to light the fire and collect milk and potatoes from the farm). Prayers and Colours at 8.45, Breakfast at 9, Patrol Duties and Tent Tidying until 10.45 (Court of Honour, 10.30), Inspection at 10.45, Bathing or Games at 11 a.m., Dinner at 12.30, Canteen at 1.30, Rest Hour 2 to 3 p.m., Free Time, 3 to 4.30, Tea 4.30, Picnics, Hikes, Games, etc., 5 p.m., Supper 8.30, Camp Fire and Prayers 9 p.m., Bed 10, and Silence 10.30. This was altered through Court of Honour to suit circumstances, such as Patrol half-day hikes, and an All Camp sail or outing, or thrown sadly out of gear when our fickle weather clerk sends torrents of rain and gales of wind all night such as we had the night and morning before Visitors' Day! Commandant, of necessity, joined "The Patrollers of the Night" to see that "all was well," and reported "all dry" at 7.30 a.m.; but in less than half an hour two Guide tents, one officer's and the fire-shelter were swamped, the outcome of a gathering of water up the hill overflowing. So it was all Guiders to the rescue to rouse sleeping Guides, remove wet blankets to the marquee, dig drains to divert streams of water from attacking other tents, boil an urn for hot cocoa and make sandwiches as an emergency breakfast, which was served in the tents, since it was still pouring and the marquee looking like a Jumble Sale with bedding! Fortunately, it cleared by 10, and camp became a beehive of industry—re-pitching tents, hanging out clothes to dry, and generally remedying the havoc of the storm. Cooks had a hectic time getting dinner ready for over 60, as there was no time to waste on re-pitching the fire-shelter, and the fireplace wouldn't drain, so the fire just had to be lit on top of the lake by means

of bricks and irons! The dinner was voted a great success.

Quite early, our Q.M. had discovered that the butter supply, an enamel pail and milk jug had vanished down the burn overnight, so once life became more normal, Guides, who had been asking for a Treasure Hunt, were sent off to look for the missing goods, and after exciting adventures returned triumphant with most of the lost property! Such are the joys of camping here! However, except for occasional midge invasions we really had a marvellous time. Nature study, too, was made easier and a joy with such a variety around us. Guides even asked permission to creep out of tents after dark to see the glow worms—a marvel of marvels to most of them.

Church Parade was hardly possible with one church four miles away, another six miles, no suitable conveyance and a camp of five different denominations—so we had the ministers Sunday about at our "Guides' Own" held in "God's Own Cathedral" on a hillside 'midst wonderful scenery and round a blazing camp fire. On our last Sunday we were reminded that after being refreshed by such experiences as camp can give, we were to go back to our every-day lives with fresh zeal for service and friendship.—Isa Tervit, District Commissioner, E.N.E., Glasgow.

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## EXERCISES AND ACTIVITIES.

### The Third of the Series.

#### AGILITY.

(1) Hopping in one direction—on signal, change to skipping, etc., in opposite direction.

(2) Walk eight steps forward with high knee raising (walking upstairs), turn and run down stairs, landing with a spring and deep knee bend.

(3) Skipping rope: Swing from side to side; run and try to jump over rope.

#### TRUNK.

(1) Lie on back (knees bent, feet on ground); stretch right leg over head, knee straight; repeat with left leg.

(2) Sit with legs straight out in front; raise two legs and try and touch feet with hands.

(3) Stand with feet apart; pretend to chop wood. This movement must have a strong swing.

(4) Knees full bend; slightly stretch knees, and then go down to full bend again. Repeat continuously.

(5) Drop forward with relaxed movements, and with pressing movements touch toes four times. Stand up and clap over head (look at hands), and then clap sides.

#### GAME-LIKE MOVEMENTS.

(1) Aeroplanes. Arms held sideways at shoulder height, run or skip about, turning and twisting.

(2) Sit back to back. Link arms and stand up; press well on to partner's back.

(3) Wheelbarrow Race. (a) Kneeling on hands and knees; (b) standing behind, on signal lifts legs of (a). Both move forward short distance.—B.B.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR A LOCAL KNOWLEDGE COMPETITION.

- 1.—Who are the present Mayor and Mayoress, and when do they go out of office?
- 2.—What are the local industries (if any)?
- 3.—In what year did Guiding begin in this suburb?
- 4.—What is the name and address of the District Commissioner?
- 5.—How many public parks and reserves are there, where are they situated, and after whom are they named?
- 6.—What is the population of the district?
- 7.—What is the name of the Town Clerk?
- 8.—What is the name of the main road and what is its terminus?
- 9.—From what source did the suburb derive its name?
- 10.—In what year was the railway extended to this suburb?
- 11.—What streets mark its boundaries?

—E.B.

## TWO BUSHCRAFT GAMES.

### 1.—BUSH ALPHABET.

An elementary game to stimulate interest in Nature lore among Guides.

Assemble Guides in Patrols and number them. Place leaders opposite their Patrols at other end of room. Acquaint them with the correct answers. Captain calls, "A bird with red on it, beginning with R, No. 3." Whereupon No. 3 from each Patrol runs to leader and gives her answer. First Patrol at attention, with correct answer, scores one point. This game can well be played out of doors and can be adapted for hot weather by sitting the Guides in a circle, pointing at one, asking the question and counting 10. It could also be used for Post Guides.

### 2.—LEAVES BY SMELL OR TOUCH.

Do we give our senses of smell and touch enough practice in woodcraft? When next in the country, collect the leaves of a dozen native trees or shrubs and bring them back to your Company. Let the Guides become acquainted with their smell and texture. Then assemble girls in Patrols, and blindfold the leaders. At the word "Go," No. 2 in each Patrol runs up to Captain, takes a leaf back to the leader who must name it by touch or smell. First one back to Captain scores a point. So on till everyone has had a turn.

Leaves to include musk, sassafras, sweet bur-saria, eucalypts, wattles, blackwood, blanket leaf, hazel, myrtle or beech, tea tree, banksia, casuarina, etc.

Country Guides could exchange leaves with city Guides, and vice versa. Also different localities, ex. beach, hills, could exchange specimens.

—J.H.

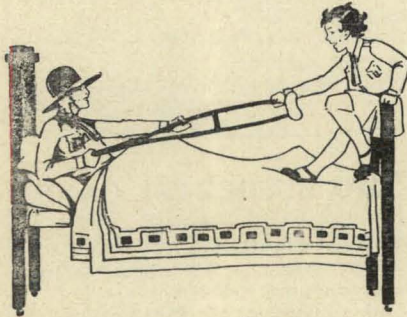
### OBSTACLE TEAM RACE.

Patrols equally numbered stand in files at one end of the room. Down the room in front of each patrol the following obstacles are

placed at varying intervals:—

A chair, two large and heavy books, leaving a 6in. space between them, a circle made of thick string or cord, with a narrow opening at one side. Each team must be provided with a signalling stick and old tennis ball.

At the whistle, No. 1 dribbles the ball with the stick between the legs of the chair, through the "canal" formed by the books, back round the books in a circle and on into the cord "labyrinth." The ball must enter through the opening. As soon as the ball is safely inside, she picks it up and runs back with it, hands it and the stick to the next Guide, and gets to the rear of the patrol. Each Guide does the same, the patrol winning who finishes first and sits on the floor. E.A.



Editor: Joan Alston.

## A VISIT TO BRITANNIA CREEK.

Miss Aileen McClinchie, a Post Ranger from Auckland, New Zealand, was visiting Melbourne in December and January. She was able to visit 2nd Prahran (Blind) Ranger Co. twice, and on New Year's Day she and the Commissioner for Extensions and the Post Brown Owl went to the combined Ranger camp at Britannia Creek.

There were several members of 2nd Prahran in camp, and everyone was thrilled to find what an ideal camping place it was for Extensions, the camp sites being level and the swimming pool easily accessible.

Later, it is hoped an Extension Guiders' Training Week-end will be held at the cottage at Britannia Creek. It is a perfect spot for a camp of any sort, because of the forest surroundings, full of birds and flowers and plants of every description.

While at the Ranger camp, Miss McClinchie heard her first kookaburra laugh, and as he elected to do so during camp fire, he was a much appreciated extra item.—J.A.

## GUIDE CAMP HOUSE.

### Brownie Guiders' Effort.

Brownie Guiders, you have not forgotten, I hope, your effort for the Camp House.

The Picture Night held at the Regent

Theatre on the 14th December was such a success that the Committee ran short of tickets, and, as we could not get any more, many people were disappointed—so we are holding another Picture Night at the Regent Theatre on 22nd February. So get your tickets early—the price is only 2/-, plus tax. Tickets may be had from any member of the Committee; or from Miss Langley, 3 Martin Street, Elwood (phone X.2036).

Watch "Matilda" and daily papers for further efforts of the Committee.

Money already received by the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Mullin:—

Car Drive .. .. .	£10 9 0
Miss Searle, Korowa .. .. .	5 0 0
Individual Effort (Miss Lardner)	1 6 0
Malvern District Brownie Guiders' Effort .. .. .	1 5 0
Picture Night .. .. .	1 14 4
1st Richmond Pack (per Miss H. Gross) .. .. .	1 0 0
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£20 14 4</b>

All donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Mullin, 6 Allison Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6.

—Betty Casper, Hon. Sec.

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## JAM MARKET.

A Jam Market in aid of the Guide House Fund is to be held at Headquarters, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, on March 7, 8, and 9. The Fund is nearing its objective, and we do want the Jam Market to help considerably in attaining the balance of the amount required for the purchase of the Guide Camp House. The Committee hope that you will be able to help us by collecting as much jam as possible, and would be most grateful if country Commissioners and L.A. Presidents would assist by arranging for the jam collected to be sent to Spencer Street Railway Station, addressed to the Girl Guides' Association.

## AN EXHIBITION OF GIRLS' WORK.

### UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

These competitions are to be held in May, 1938, and will be open to Associates, Members and Candidates of G.F.S. and to other girls who are members of the Church of England. Subjects include needlework, knitting, arts and crafts, cookery, written work and floral work.

Copies of the rules and syllabus obtainable at G.F.S. office, 37 Spring Street, Melbourne.

## EXTRACTS FROM TOURING RANGERS' LOG.

The night of 12th October found seven Australians at Chigwell, the combined Guide and Girls' Club camping field. All were glad to be on the way after a busy week planning menus and ordering supplies, and the fact that our first night found us a mere nine miles from London is not so extraordinary when it is remembered that the caravan had been picked up at Elstree, a visit had been made to Gilwell Park where the Chief Guide's camping equipment was obtained and where a hasty look over the Scouters' Training Ground and Gilwell Hall had left us greatly impressed, and last, but not least, having to deal severely with a fractious car which behaved so badly that it had to be spanked and towed in for the night on the end of a chain. And so the great adventure commenced!

We travelled via Oxford and Cambridge to the north, and spent some days in both these cities, wandering spellbound down quaint old streets and meeting history at every corner. We were like so many bees flitting in and out of numerous colleges at Oxford, each with its own beautiful chapel and hall and spacious quadrangles. Necks had to be craned to enable us to see the top of Magdalen tower, and an obliging Guider who was showing us round told us how the choristers ascend the tower every May Day at 5 a.m. and sing a traditional old Latin hymn, and how to the listeners below in the early dawn the whole tower seems to burst into song.

A morning seemed all too short for the wonders of the Bodleian Library which contains a copy of every book printed in the world—the actual figures running into something like 13 million. In the afternoon we wandered down Broad Walk to the river and looked towards Folly Bridge—the finishing point of the Oxford boat race, and we were amazed to learn that the race is not a race at all as we know it, but a system by which each crew works its way towards the head of the river by bumping the boat in front.

Christ Church College, with its famous Tom Tower, built by Wren, intrigued us, and we were told that every evening at 9 p.m. the bell sounds 101 times because that was the original number of students when the college was founded by Wolsey. As this takes at least 10 minutes, and is so noisy, concerts in the Town Hall have to be carefully timed to have an interval at the critical moment to avoid interference! We climbed the stairs to the top of the Sheldonian Theatre, the building where all the degrees are conferred, and Oxford with its spires and towers stretched before us.

Cambridge, though not so large, was even more beautiful, and we loved the perfectly-kept gardens and lawns sloping down to the river, each college having its own little bridge across to the "backs" or playing fields. Perhaps the most interesting college from our point of view was Peterhouse, because it has General Birdwood for its head, and also because of the unique Austrian glass in the side windows of the Chapel—this being so clear

that the light shining through gave the figures a remarkably human appearance, and caused the candles depicted to glow as though burning.

Seeing through the Cambridge School of Weaving was very interesting, but kept us late, and to our dismay we had to drive home through a dense fog, crawling along at eight or nine miles per hour, and arriving back at our camp in an orchard at Bletsoe somewhere near midnight.

Our way lay through Huntingdon, where Cromwell was born, and near St. Ives we saw an old farm house in which he lived for some years. He certainly left an impression on the neighbourhood, for in Ely Cathedral hundreds of little statues had been decapitated by him and his Roundheads, and the bodies are still there looking lonely and forlorn. And so, we left the Fen Country and although the mornings were cold and the cars sometimes hard to start, the small one requiring seven Ranger power behind it as well as its own 10 horsepower, the scenery more than made up for these small hardships. The hedges were bright with red berries and the beauty of the trees beyond description—yellow and brown and golden with a few evergreens for contrast, and when the wind blew the leaves came down in showers and carpeted the ground below.

It is impossible in such a short space to describe the wonders of the Cathedrals visited—Peterborough, York and Durham—they were so immense and so impressive that each deserves a book to itself, and it was with feelings of awe and reverence that we wandered



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amongst their stately columns and admired the beautiful old carvings in oak and stone work and learnt their historical associations.

Mention must be made of our visit to the well-known sweet factory of Rountrees at York, and it is a noteworthy fact that even this has not caused a decline in the rate of the party's chocolate consumption.

(To be continued.)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

#### 12th NOVEMBER, 1937.

At a special meeting of the Committee, the balance sheet as presented on behalf of the Honorary Treasurer was accepted.

It was agreed that the Patrol Leaders' and the Combined Guide Camps be cancelled, insufficient applications having been received owing to the epidemic.

The Executive Committee expressed appreciation of the satisfactory result of the trading account, achieved by the Equipment Depot.

#### 17th NOVEMBER.

Present.—Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Eadie, Mrs. Ebeling, Mrs. Edmondson, Misses Broadhurst, Boyes, Cameron, Moran, Ritchie, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Further sessions of broadcasting from 3DB were discussed, and talks by Mrs. Eric Roberts (on Lones) and Mrs. Faulkner (on Guiding and the need for Guiders) were arranged.

Arrangements were made for valuation of the Britannia Creek property, following the report of the architect.

It was reported that Mrs. Littlejohn would take over the Guide House Sub-committee from Miss Boyes.

The personnel of a sub-committee to arrange the Jam Market in March was reported. Alterations to the Equipment Depot were reported on.

Miss Moran reported her correspondence with the Health authorities re precautions regarding Guide Camps.

Recommendations from the General Purposes Sub-committees were considered

#### 2nd DECEMBER.

Present.—Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Eadie, Mrs. Ebeling, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Tate, Misses Boyes, Broadhurst, Cameron, Moran, Russell, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Two further broadcasts were arranged.

It was reported that Miss Isla Stamp had agreed to be Acting Commissioner for Rangers.

Miss Boyes reported the sum of £4219/17/8 in hand for the Guide House Fund.

Further alterations to the Equipment Depot were approved.

It was agreed that the shop re-open on 4th January after the Christmas holidays.

Leave of absence was granted to Miss M. Moore for one year, and Miss P. M. Russell for 10 months.

It was reported that the Ranger Conference had invited Rozilie Macdonald (the Australian representative at the U.S.A. Anniversary

Camp) and two Rangers from each State, to the Combined Ranger Camp.

A letter from Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan was read, reporting the resignation of Lady Read and the appointment in her stead of Lady Anderson as Deputy Commissioner for the Dominions and Indian Empire.

It was agreed that £1000 of the Guide House Endowment Fund be invested in the present loan.

Routine and financial business was discussed.  
S. H. IRVINE.

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### WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS.

#### WARRANTS.

1st Sale Town Co.—Mrs. Luff.

#### REGISTRATIONS.

Guide Co.—1st Dareton.

Ranger Co.—S.R.S. Endeavour.

#### CANCELLATIONS AND RESIGNATIONS.

#### DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS.

Burwood.—Mrs. C. S. Buckley.

#### CAPTAINS.

1st Morwell.—Miss A. Stammers.

2nd Queenscliff.—Miss Z. Jermyn.

#### BROWN OWL

3rd Kew Park.—Miss D. Coles.

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