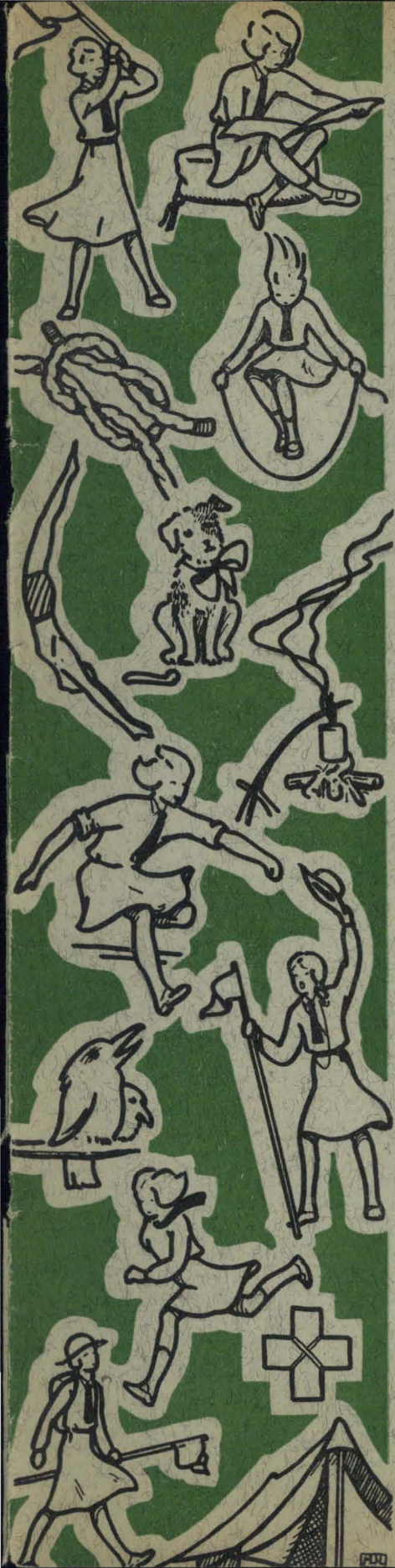


Merle Bush

# Matilda



JANUARY, 1938.

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JANUARY, 1938.

No. 7.

## MESSAGE FROM LADY CHAUVEL.

"Matilda's" appearance at the New Year gives me an opportunity which I am very glad to take of sending my best wishes for 1938 to all Commissioners and Guiders in Victoria, and through them to the Guides. I hope it will be a happy year, and a good year, for all of us.

I have just received a delightful card addressed to me "For the Girl Guides of Victoria" from the Chief Scout and the Chief Guide, an acknowledgment of our good wishes to them on their silver wedding day. It has a very nice photograph of each of them, and across a silver ground the words: "We both thank you very warmly for your most kind thoughts of us." They both look so well in their photographs, just as they did when I saw them in England and stayed with them at Pax Hill a few months ago.

—SIBYL CHAUVEL.

## EDITORIAL.

We wish all Guiders a very happy and successful year, during 1938.

There are several things we would remind you of: Firstly, Thinking Day, which falls on the 22nd February. If you watch the papers you will notice dates for the closing of overseas mail. Secondly, help us by paying your subscription when the "yellow sticker" arrives to tell you it is due. Thirdly, contributions are asked for by the Editors of various pages and the Librarian wants her books returned. All these things have been mentioned in "Matilda" at various times, but the beginning of the year seems an ideal time to remind you again.

## WHAT WE WILL DO IN 1938.

A New Year! An unprinted page before us! What an Adventure! The Pessimist said the other day we were starting off with a handicap—Infantile Paralysis! Closed Companies! Numbers affected! But who listens to the Pessimist? And is it a handicap? Some Captains have been delighted with the response and co-operation of their Guides, and have felt they have begun to know them in quite another way through their letters. Also, we have learnt a lot of new and useful ways to tackle tests and badges in the way the Posts and Lones do.

It's a challenge, certainly, but, like Spring Cleaning in a house, it may put us out of our

stride a little (a good thing if it jolts us out of the ruts, too), but is very satisfactory in the long run. Think of all the forgotten useful things we discover at the back of cupboards, or on the top shelves. Pope Gregory the Great thought that, if a thing which has got to be done does not advance through assiduous effort, even that which has already been done well, falls back, for the human soul in this world is like a ship ascending against the stream of a river; it cannot be suffered to stay in one place, for it will float back to the lower parts unless it strives for a higher.

A New Year "with an unprinted page"—what an "Opportunity!" Guiding is for the Brownie. Nimble feet, nimble fingers, happy heart. Let us keep Guiding a Game! Guiding is for the Guide. Eager to meet Life, to prepare, to help, to seek adventure. Let us keep Guiding alive! Guiding is for the Ranger and everyone up to 81 (and over). Out in the midst of things, living, working, thinking, sharing, serving and loving. Let us keep Guiding happy.

I asked the Hermit in his cell  
The secret of the wise, to tell,  
He asked me then if I could guess  
The "Sesame" of happiness.  
Then I replied, "It comes by stealth  
In royal gifts of health and wealth,"  
"Nay," he made answer, know this spell,  
"Tis love, and live, and labour well."  
—Enid Faulkner.

## THINKING DAY.

22nd February, 1938.

Coming as it does, just after the Companies and Packs resume meetings after the summer recess, this very important Guide date sometimes catches us unawares, and we wish we had remembered sooner, and prepared with the Guides a more worthy celebration of the joint birthday of our Chiefs.

This year, with some Companies and Packs still in recess owing to the epidemic, it may call for a little extra ingenuity to plan some way of marking the date as a memorable one. We hope to have some special Thinking Day Cards available by the middle of January, in time to post to other parts of the Guide world to reach there by Thinking Day. Closing dates for mails will be approximately as follows:—

Great Britain .. ..	20th January
Europe .. ..	20th January
India .. ..	3rd February
America .. ..	19th January

## GUIDE CAMP HOUSE.

Brownie Guiders, what have you done towards adopting the cottage on the proposed Camp House property for the use of Brownies?

The car outing to Healesville was a huge success. Miss Lardner and Committee would like to thank all the people who so kindly lent cars. The next effort will be a picture night to be held at the Regent Theatre, Collins Street, City, on 14th December. This function promises to be a success.

Please let the Hon. Secretary, Miss Betty Casper, "Donego," Bundalohn Court, St. Kilda, know what you are doing to help to swell the funds. We hope to have £20 in hand before the New Year. Funds raised to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Mullin, 6 Allison Avenue, Glen Iris, S.E.6.

—BETTY CASPER, Hon. Sec.

## GUIDERS' WEEK-END.

### NOTICE.

#### A REMINDER—

To Guiders of Eastern Suburbs Division who intend going to the Week-end being held at Victoria Cottage, Frankston, from 12th to 14th March, that your name should be sent in by 7th February to Miss I. Watson, 1 Charles St., Jclimont.

## GIRL SCOUTING IN AMERICA.

(CONTINUED FROM NOVEMBER ISSUE.)

We next drove past the beautiful old Mission Church of Sta Barbara to the Day Camp, in the lovely grounds of one of the City Parks Camp is open three days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Girl Scouts and two days a week for Brownies. We drove the car along a natural earth road over a few roots and stones well into the park and parked under a Shady Life Oak; there were Grey oak and Scrub oaks, and an oak which is nearly a chestnut, native lilac which we call ceanothus and red leafed blackberry which is poison if touched, and quantities of other shrubs and shady trees, creepers, rocks, mosses. Lots of birds; interesting wood peckers with red crests, minute humming birds, insects, nests, and paths about a natural woodland, quite natural and scrubby enough to be really interesting and attractive.

We ran into a group of Guides and grown-ups and met a fair happy faced girl, Miss Hansen, paid field Captain, and a Diploma'd nurse who is always in attendance. Miss Hansen took us over a little rise to the rocky banks of a dry stream bed where a group of children, including a Japanese girl, in green play suits of shorts and shirt, socklets with G. Scout badge on them, were busy fire-lighting.

Then we found Mrs. Travis, a member of the Council and wood craft director, in a nice shady spot surrounded by a large group of

Scouts making wooden books covers from 5/8 inch 3-ply wood cut to size and covered with Dextarine glue, then covered thick with Poster paint and laid to dry in the bright sun for about 20 minutes. Next a design was drawn with a black brush and painted in colours. When dry this was smeared over with a rag dipped in burnt sienna or umber to make it look old; a back made to fit, and a narrow extra piece of wood thronged on with leather laces to the back, and little hinges to the front to allow the book to open and fill.

Other children were up in the forks of trees or propped against logs reading. Others with a saw and vice cutting black walnuts into buttons. The black walnut is a native to the Eastern States but someone has a tree in Sta Barbara.

Another group and another leader were making nature designs, pinning a spray or flower or leaf firmly to Ozalic paper, and holding it in a frame of cellophane and cardboard, or in an old photo developing frame in the sun till the paper which is first blue, red or green, turns white. The paper is then taken out of the frame and put into a large tin with a little open jar or bottle of amonia the lid fitted tightly back on the tin and left on 6 to 10 minutes till the design is printed.

Another group were doing splatter designs. Pin the spray or flower firmly on nice paper. Splatter on calomine or similar paint with a tooth brush through fine wire gauze, an old gravy strainer does. Very attractive words and letters can be pinned on too.

A couple of children had drawn a most attractive map of the Day Camp, the paper burnt off at the edges to look 16th century. Others had just returned from the little museum about five minutes walk along a shaded lane from the park where they had gone to identify birds and flowers. There were beautifully mounted groups of birds, animals, and plants in the museum also mineral specimens and a collection of Aboriginal Indian things.

Lastly we went to the Archery oval where Mrs. Hitchcock's 12-year-old and some others were shooting arrows at a target in a very graceful sport. When we returned to get the car the children were settling down in little groups, of two and threes, and even ones to eat the lunch each had brought to the park, for drinks the girls order and buy milk delivered at the park in sealed bottles. There was no saluting, few uniforms or badges and very little formality, the whole thing had a happy friendly and thoroughly Guide spirit and atmosphere.

The following week, Mrs. Hitchcock took Mrs. Stetson and I, another Commissioner to visit the Paradise Valley Camp, 48 miles inland from St. Barbara. We left on a lovely bright cool morning about 7 o'clock, climbed the winding San Marcos pass over the coast range and went down into the valley where the camp is, through attractive park like country, long white grass and shady oaks and glorious lights on a wild jumble of hills and mountains on the far horizon. The last half mile is steep and is fit only for one way traffic so on visiting days some of the Guides do traffic-cop work giving

a red flag to the last car going to deliver to the last car in the procession back. The camp is on a gently sloping hillside nicely covered with shady trees, and groups of rocks and little hillocks; the dry grass had been cut for meadow hay so was in a nice condition for the camp. Over 60 girls were in camp with a very keen and jolly Miss Peckham in charge, a nurse, a paid cook who has one Girl Scout as assistant, and a grown up with each group. The groups are made up of about 5 girls as much the same age as possible.

The girls looked attractive in fresh green Indian-head play suits, each group has a tent pitched a good way from the next group but the iron cot in which each Scout sleeps is under the stars and blankets were gaily airing. There was a sleeping bag on each bed and straw between the beds. They had a few stick gadgets for holding things.

There was a large artificial swimming pool with water running in and out and the water in the pool is chemically treated and tested before each swim period. The girls must have a shower before entering the pool. It was a pretty sight to see a neat little figure and tiny humming-bird use the shower at the same time. There was a check board and keys to check groups and girls entering the pool. Girls wearing red caps may swim in the deep end beyond the rope, blue caps in the shallow beginners' end. There were showers and lats for each group not far from their tents. Hospital tent beneath an extra shady tree and supply tent.

Lunch was served in a large permanent hut with a kitchen at one end and a huge ice room behind it. Big macaroni cheese and tomato sauce pies were brought in to each table where 12 were seated. There was singing of grace before and after the meal and round songs afterwards. Juniors gave a comical verse of a song about a "Pooch" (common dog) and a flea that they were to produce at camp fire that evening. The rest of the meal was tomato, lettuce and cottage cheese salad, fruit salad, and bottles of milk to drink, served on plates with cup, knives, forks, etc., the washing and clearing up done in patrols. I saw the kitchen, ice room, and supply tent, "Trading Post" they call it. Spent the rest hour talking to Miss Peckham in the theatre circle under a shady tree; camp fire in middle, out of course, lazy heat about 90 degrees. Plenty of birds about, quail, wood peckers very busy digging holes and finding nuts in them to eat the grubs that hatch in the nuts later on, and lively ground squirrels scooting about. Then to the pool to watch bathing and life saving instruction and a lovely drive back to Sta Barbara.

The camp etiquette was friendly and informal; girls were quiet happy and busy, no screams though one group was excited and interested in having met and killed a rattle snake on their morning hike. Bell was rung to mark hour of work—no whistles blown.

—Mrs. Harry Officer.



BUSH LORE—

JE

### Moths.

It is only during the last few months that I have looked upon moths, as anything more than pests, that will persist in coming into the house and lying about the floor in a lifeless state whereby demanding the immediate attention of dust-pan and brush. However, Miss Mullin being so keen on Wogs, I felt the N.E.—you ought to know what that stands for—ought to do something about it. So, rather reluctantly, I began to take an interest in the most dull and uninteresting moths. But were they dull and uninteresting?

To begin with, I told you some weeks ago about the beauty of the Geometer Moth, and how I had a family of young ones. How big were they then? Oh, yes, so small that you could just see them. Now I have six of them—four of the original batch (or hatch, if you like that better) and three added since, one of these having escaped. These additions I found in the garden—a certain plant looked very badly eaten, as I was out watering about 6.30 one morning, and I discovered dozens of loopers having breakfast. I think they must do their feeding at night and early morning. The two morals to this tale are: Get up early and Nature Study is a definite help to the gardener.

One of my pets is much bigger than his brothers and sisters—he must eat more. He is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long—I just measured him—and 1-8th inch across his back. His colour—very pretty—pale grey down the back, shade darker grey next to that, whitish sides and brown underneath, the whole having hair lines in black running the length of the body. In addition to this, he has tiny red spots at intervals along these lines.

The magpie will not eat these loopers. I wonder if other birds do? There are two things characteristic of the looper—the way he loops his body up as he walks, i.e., he brings his back feet up to his front feet, before he takes the next step. These back feet are really a set of claspers—one pair at the tail and another pair a little further up. This brings us to the second characteristic, that of remaining motionless like a twig, holding on to a support with these claspers. The body appears at first to have no other means of support, but if you look closely you will see a silken thread from the mouth to the nearest twig.

Well, I have got from moths to caterpillars, and still have to tell you of the wrigley green one which fed on rose leaves and finally spun a cocoon in a leaf, pupated, hatched to a fawn moth of two shades, laid millions of eggs, which hatched, and then was

eaten by our pet magpie. And there is the beautiful tiger moth with red on him; plain brown ones with sometimes a black distinguishing spot, sometimes a white one; some have exquisite markings; and a white one with various markings, sent me by Miss Mullin was the most wonderful thing I have ever seen.

So next time you see a lot of moths round a lamp, don't be content with, "Oh, look at all the insects!" If you feel a bit bored or something at first, just stick to it, and you'll soon find your room developing into an "insectary."

### The Ringtail Opossum.

The Eastern species of ringtail opossum, most common to Victoria, has a thick woolly fur of a dark greyish-brown above, while the underneath is creamy-white. The paws and portion of the legs are reddish-brown, but its long prehensile tail is covered with dark grey fur for about two-thirds of its length and the rest is white, the underneath being naked of fur. The tail is very tapering and used when travelling. Thus the possum swings by its tail until it can reach another branch with its forepaws, and not until it is sure of a safe grip does it release the tail hold. Opossums are very numerous in the ti-tree scrub of the coastal districts, but the silver-grey variety is more common here (Lubeck).

The ringtail makes an entertaining pet, and is very fond of sweet things to eat; cake, raisins and chocolate being favourite delicacies. It takes a piece of cake in its little forepaws, while remaining upright on its hind feet, munching daintily, and wrinkling its nose all the while. After eating, both "hands" are held up and licked with its tongue, then brushed over the nose and mouth, a washing process similar to that employed by a cat. When asleep, he curls up with his nose hidden by the coiled-up tail. This, of course, is during the day-time. At night he is wide awake, and if taken into a lighted room, the brown eyes dilate and seem to gradually protrude, until they resemble bright black shoe-buttons.

A characteristic of the ringtail is nest-building, which is done with almost any material—twigs, leaves or bark. It has a curious method of carrying the material curled up in its tail. The twigs, etc., are first picked up with the forepaws, passed under the body and with the hind feet pushed so that the tail can curl round them.

—M.K.



A smile is just as easy an athletic exercise as a frown, but it is a whole lot more becoming.

### BREVITIES.

Resolutions for 1938.  
More out-of-door Pack meetings.  
More Pack good turns.  
More contributions to "Matilda."

In all phases of life, certain questions and problems have a way of coming up again and again, and of never being finally answered. So the old question, "Does the Brownie Movement meet the needs of the child of to-day?" was raised again. This is an attempt to answer it, by a person who would reply in the affirmative.

There are times when everyone of us feels despondent, when we are inclined to think that in our Brownie work we are doing little good.

After leave of absence or an enforced holiday, such as many of us have had owing to the recent epidemic, we come back to our work with renewed zest and a changed point of view.

Certainly, it is true, as criticism in the past has had it, the present school life and curriculum cover most of the things to cater for which the Brownie Branch was invented.

But the small girl comes to Brownies for the same reason that you and I go to the theatre, to a symphony orchestra concert, to church, or to play golf. We want to get away from our every-day life and work. School work and home tasks, many of them drudgery, fall to the lot of the small girl. She comes to Brownies—to an atmosphere of magic, where anything may happen.

Even if at Brownies she has to do something ordinary, like washing dishes or running a message—just routine home tasks—these same things are here invested with a spirit of fun and adventure. You and I know that we do dozens of things at our Pack meetings, that are only every-day things furnished up to make them more exciting. Interwoven and round about all we are trying to teach, we have our games that are just for fun. So the Brownie comes, gets what she came for, and is satisfied.

By these remarks, I do not mean to imply that our interpretation of Brownies is perfect; that we have lived up to the Chief's standard. But one has thought round and through the subject again and again, and cannot find any new avenue to open up to the child from seven to eleven years of age.

Surely we can take comfort from V. H. Friedlaender, when he says: "We are here to travel, not in order to arrive."

Surely from the fact that, on the whole, the Brownie comes regularly, willingly, enthusiastically, over a period of years, we may judge that we are giving her at least a glimmering of what she hopes to find.

—D. M. McDonald.

### FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR.

Time, 10 minutes. Brownies to draw, with coloured chalks, something they saw during the holidays, and give the drawings to B.O.

### INSPECTION.

Time, 15 minutes. Houses round the village green. Brown Owl is a lady, wanting to buy a house. T.O. is house agent. P.L. is B.O.'s little daughter. When the houses have all been looked at, Brown Owl says that the lady bought

one (she need not say which) and that one night her little daughter woke up and heard singing, so she tip-toed to her window and looked out and she saw a toadstool on the green and fairies, etc., and this is what they sang:

(Tune: "Three Blind Mice").

Here's Brown Owl,  
Here's Tawny Owl,  
Packleader, too.  
Tu-whit, tu-whit, ta-woo.  
Elves and Gnomes come dance and sing;  
Fairies come upon the wing;  
Come and join the Fairy Ring.  
With Brown Owl.

**Fairy Ring** ending with "The Magic spell is breaking, and the Fairy Ring will vanish in the twinkling of an eye."

#### GAME—NATIVE GAME FOR SIXES.

Time, 15 minutes.

B.O., T.O., and P.L. at one end of room, or garden, sixes lined up at other. At signal, "Go," first Brownie of each six runs up to whoever is opposite her six, B.O., T.O., or P.L. She is then asked the name of "a flower beginning with D," and when she has answered runs back behind her six. The second Brownie runs up and gives "the name of a fish beginning with F," and so on, and the six finishing first has won.

#### POW-WOW.

Time, 10 minutes.

Hand round holiday pictures and talk about them.

#### TEST WORK.

Time, 20 minutes.

Second class Brownies lay fires with P.L.  
Brownies, knots with T.O.  
Tweenies, ties and plaiting with B.O.

#### GAME—"I WALKED IN THE WOOD."

Time, 15 minutes.

**Method.**—Chalk on ground one less circle than there are Brownies.

Each Brownie stands in a circle—except the one who is out.

Down Owl says, "I walked in the wood." Brownies answer, "What did you see?" B.O.: "Birds flying." All Brownies come into the danger zone, i.e., the "wood," flapping their wings until B.O. blows her whistle, when they all try to get a circle, and one gets left. Vary the remarks, of course, for instance: "I walked by the sea," and saw "fish swimming" or "crabs running sideways."

#### CLOSING.

Time, 5 minutes.

Go back to the story of the little girl looking out of her window. "Presently she fell asleep, and when she woke up again, she ran to look out of her window, but the toadstool had gone, and the Brownies had gone and there wasn't a scrap of anything to show where they had been."

Time: Approx. 1 hour 30 minutes.

## BROWNIE LIBRARY.

We now come to the Nature Section of the Brownie Library; and next month we will start on the Story Section:—

W1 Australian Nature, No. 1, Birds and Blossoms; and W2 Australian Nature, No. 2, Animals. These are by Charles Barnett, and are a marvellous and interesting description of Australian birds, animals and wildflowers.

W3 Stories for the Nature Hour; these are stories about animals, birds, flowers, etc.

W5 Nature Stories to Tell; these are not so much stories, but how things happened, etc.

W6 The Crystal Bowl; a delightful book of Australian Nature Stories, such as How the Emperor Gum Caterpillar got its lovely colouring.

W7 A Book of Nature Myths; legends as to why things are.

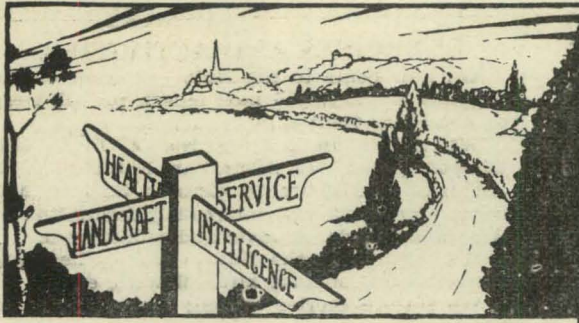
## EXTRACTS FROM TOURING RANGER'S LOG.

7th September. The scene, Victoria Station; the time, 10 a.m.; the cast, seven touring Rangers; the atmosphere, one of noise and bustle. Toot! toot! puff! puff! Off we go for Dover. A hasty showing of passports and an excited hunt for a lost suit case and we're on board the Channel steamer with the far-famed white cliffs receding into the distance. The motley crowd of passengers showed a great deal of interest in a circle of deck chairs drawn closely together whose occupants were busily devouring sandwiches and cream cakes—the latter a very special treat in honour of two birthdays, and a remarkable tribute must be paid to the smoothness of the sea when it is realised that the feast was not followed by disastrous results.

An obliging Customs official at Ostend carefully marked all our belongings, and the wonder was that he refrained from chalking us when we turned our ruc-sac-laden backs towards him. After half an hour's train journey, we arrived at Bruges, to be greeted by two Belgian Guides, and together we clattered over the cobble stones to the Convent in the wake of our luggage which was to have the ride of its young life in a hand cart. Here we were warmly welcomed by Mere Marie Ancilla, and throughout our stay of five days her unflinching care and helpfulness did so much towards our comfort.

While in Bruges we were able to visit the Battlefields, going by charabanc to Ypres, St. Omer, Mount Cassell and Hill Sixty. We also went for a whole day trip into Holland and visited Middelburg, the capital of the Province of Zeeland. Another day was spent in seeing Bruges itself, and it was most interesting to ride in a motor boat all round the canals with many a glimpse of picturesque old bridges and buildings. On the day before we left Bruges we went down the canal to Zeebrugge, where we walked in the wind and the rain along the sea front, and felt this to be

(Continued on Page 11.)



# The Sign Post

Editor: RUTH DENNY.

## BOOK-LOVERS'S BADGE.

Over a period of some seven years of testing for Book-lover's Badge, only about three of the Guides who came to me to be tested ever had any authentic love of books for their own sake, and to whom the Book-lover's Badge was a seal on their love for and knowledge of reading.

And I think it is largely the Guider's fault!

For one thing, she isn't always a lover of books herself—why should she be if her interests lie in other directions?—and for another most Guiders have rooted objections to using the child's natural curiosity about life (which includes stars and cabbages and grilling chops and boy friends and reading) to open the door to the world of tale-telling.

But I have strong views about the right way to tackle Book-lover's Badge, and if I can clarify these in the half hour before I have to go and pod the peas for dinner, they might help the hard-worked Guider to pass on to her children something of the magic and something of the reality of the world of books.

The first essential is to prevent the pot-hunting Guide from adding the Book-lover's Badge to her already crowded sleeve. The pot-hunters in the Company have the horrid habit of reading carefully through the list of badges in P.R. and O., with a pencil in one hand and a look of determination in their eyes, and carefully noting down the badges that look easy money. Unfortunately, the mere reading through of half a dozen books does look like easy money to them, and so often the harrassed Captain lets them go ahead on their own account without any indication of how to tackle this badge. What I found very general among average children, too, was a conviction that if a book had been "done" at school, then one needn't worry; one could just add that to one's list without ever bothering again. This applies specially to the verse-reading clause. One Guide out of fifty read poems specially for the badge, and all the others trusted to their knowledge of verse painfully acquired at school.

There is one other thing the Guider should remember regarding this badge, and that is, she should become an inveterate buyer of the current editions of that invaluable publication, Policy, Rules and Organisation. It is extraordinary to find that the majority of Guiders

are working on out-of-date editions of this essential book of words—the worst offender I found using a 1928 edition in 1935! It wasn't that she couldn't afford it, for a copy could always be borrowed from her Commissioner. The result was that the frantic tester would receive a little party of Guiders one evening for testing purposes, and to her horror find that they had all been given lists of books to read from different editions (never the current one) of P.R. and O.—which resulted in panic all round.

The working for badges in Company programmes is so difficult to fit in, that it is very easy to give second-class Guiders a list of badge requirements and tell them to go ahead in their own time, or to let the Patrol Leader cope with them. But if the children are to be given an idea of the fairyland that lies between the pages of books, and of the magic of "little black and white words," the Guider should endeavour to run at least once a year a Book-lover's Badge Night.

The week before the Company should be told that next week will be Book-lover's Night, and that each Guide is to bring with her one paragraph (preferably with conversations between characters) from any of the books mentioned in the list to be read for the badge. The list should be typed and given to each Patrol Leader, who, in Patrol Time, will arrange what each Guide in her Patrol is to bring. This will entail probably a little research work either at home, at school, or in the library at her job, for each Guide. Teachers at school are certain to be a profitable source of knowledge, if parents are not the reading sort, and as a last resort the Guide who has any sort of collection of books in her home could invite her Patrol along one afternoon after school to do a little delving (subject always to the parents' consent!)

When each child has decided what she will bring, she is told that she is to bring with her next meeting enough equipment (which must only be borrowed from home or friends) to dress as any character she likes in any of the books in the list for the badge. On arrival, the Guides assume their fancy-dress (make sure they haven't bought any of it), and are each given a number pinned on them. They have to parade round the room, and everyone has to guess what everyone else represents, and puts down the names opposite the appropriate numbers. The Patrol totalling the most correct guesses gets 10 points.

Next on the programme comes a sit-down game. The Company forms a circle on the floor, while each Guide reads out her very short paragraph, the result of much research and bothering of teachers and brothers and sisters at home. Each Guide writes down where she thinks it comes from, and the most correct lists are totalled on a Patrol basis. Another 10 points is awarded for this game.

Incidentally, the above game is somewhat unfair to those children who have read little. On the other hand, it might make them decide to read more!

Then comes the piece de resistance of the evening. Fancy dress is cast off, and each Patrol is given 15 minutes to work out and then act an incident from one of the books by one of the authors on the list. This should, I think, be announced the week before, so that P.L.'s could come armed with ideas. No dressing up is allowed for this, as no equipment is available, but the audience should be allowed to guess from what book it comes. This idea could be enlarged upon to a very great extent—Guides could read their parts, already prepared by the P.L.'s, or just act in dumb show, and so on.

The Patrol putting on the best version, according to vote by the Captain and Lieuts., should gain 10 more points. Or there could be an outside judge, the Commissioner or local Book-lover's Badge tester.

The evening should end with a camp-fire circle, while Captain tells a tale from any of the books by an author on the list. If Captain isn't good at spinning tales, then the Commissioner could be asked to do it, or the outside visitor. The yarn should be taken from one of the lesser read authors on the list—Stevenson or Kingsley or Dickens. At a pinch, it could be read, although reading is never so successful as actually telling a story. "The Pickwick Papers" offers itself admirably to reading aloud, if the conversational bits are chosen, or Kipling's "Just So Stories" or Jungle Book tales.

A. A. Milne is so overdone nowadays, and so much more suited to grown-ups than to children that Guiders should resist the often overwhelming temptation to do him to death. Kenneth Grahame, too, is well known, so that emphasis could be with value laid on Hans Anderson and Thompson Seton and Stevenson and Kipling and so on.

Guiders should never forget that the purpose of passing badge tests is not to pass badge tests, but to enable the child to gain a little and an enticing knowledge of various subjects, so that later on the child will be led to find out more on these matters for herself. This is especially the case in the Book-lover's Badge. If the Guider can arouse the child's interest in books as a world which will bring them into touch with beautiful things and true things and real things, then she will have done much for to-day's children.—R.V.S.

## EXERCISES AND ACTIVITIES.

This is the Second of this Series, the First of which appeared in the November Number.

### ACTIVITY.

1. Run behind Leader, when she turns round, all crowd down.
2. Make a circle—hold hands and walk on toes to the left, drop hands and skip 4, into centre, 4 skips out to circle again—repeat.
3. Walk with stiff legs and arms, pretend to be wooden man, and then, on signal, a loose rag doll.

### TRUNK.

Lying position, with legs straight and hands by sides.

1. Try to describes a circle in the air with one leg.
- N.B.—ALL backs should be on the floor; should not be able to push hand underneath at any part of back.
2. Lift hands over head and pretend to pull down a heavy weight—all backs on floor.
3. Lie in crooked-lying position (knees bent, feet flat on floor)—left hips off ground, but try and keep most of back on the floor.
4. Kneel on two knees; touch ground at side; try not to lean forward. Repeat to opposite side.
5. Kneel; arms stretched sideways at shoulder height. Try and touch right toe with right hand (don't allow arms to drop).

6. STAND, feet astride, drop in relaxed position, keep knees straight, and try and touch knuckles of hand on to floor. This is easier if a bouncing movement is made continuously, slightly raising body upward, and dropping a little further down each time.

7. Stand, feet astride, pat yourself with small pats from head, down to legs and toes.

### GAME MOVEMENTS.

(a) Pulling Contest.—Stand with feet apart in two long lines, grasp hands and pull.

(b) Rocking Horse.—Take a partner; sit, with feet touching, knees bent, hold hands. A lies down while B stands; B lies down while A stands. Hands joined during whole exercise; head and back must touch floor when lying.

—B.B.

## GOOD TURNS FOR THE COMPANY IN RECESS.

Is your Company in recess owing to the epidemic? Then you may be glad of these ideas.

A District "Bottle Drive" for the Children's Hospital should result in many dozen bottles being collected. The hospital needs and uses every description of bottle and jar. Tomato sauce bottles for babies' feeding bottles, marmite jars with their screw tops for ointments, and all other kinds of types of bottles for mixtures will be gratefully received by the Secretary.

Soft toys for a poor district. The making of soft toys is great fun, and will interest the Guides in handicraft. Odd scraps of wool can be collected and exchanged to save expense. The average cost of wool for a soft toy is 6d.

The New Idea Soft Toy Book, No. 1, gives knitting directions for 14 soft toys.

Why not a party for mothers? Instructions could be given in the "letter" to the Guides for making some gift, such as a book-mark. The Guides could give a mysterious parcel to mother to take to the party, to be opened only when the word is given.

—E.B.

## GUIDE SHOP.

New books have just come to hand. They are as follows:—

### PLAYS.

**Three Sketches for Guides and Brownies.**—They are: Blind Mice—Camping Sketch; First Aid and Then—General Guiding; The King of Hearts—Showing part of a Pack meeting and the play bears on the story told by the Brown Owl.

**Pollyanna.**—A play with three scenes showing General Guiding.

**Lost a Brownie Smile.**—Three short scenes.

**Inasmuch.**—Four short scenes of a Christmas party, consisting of Guides Hiking, a Christmas Tree and a Nativity Scene.

### MIME FOR GUIDES AND BROWNIES.

This gives useful information for all those who wish to do miming. The author says: "Before we begin training our children for straight drama, a small branch of it—mime—is worth our consideration."

### SINGING AND SINGING GAMES.

**Singing Games for Recreation.**—Price 1/3, plus 1d. postage. These are games for all ages and Ranger Companies will find them just as useful as Guides and Brownies. They are from all countries—America, England, Netherlands, Germany and Sweden—and include the following games: Shoo Fly, The Jolly Miller, Cap'n Jenks, Dutch Shoe Game, Come, Let Us Be Joyful, Four in a Boat, Gustaf's Toast, Turn the Glasses Over, Brown-eyed Mary, and Here We Go Round the Mountain.

**Traditional Singing Games for Brownies.**—Price 1/3, plus 1d. postage. These come mostly from Scotland, and include: The Soldier's Joy, King William, The Big Ship, The Dusky Bluebell, Little Sandy Girl, Jock McCuddy, King of Barney Castle, 'A' the Birdies I' the Air.

**The Coronation Country Dance Book.**—Price 2/6, plus 2d. postage. This includes the music and notations of a new lot of Country Dances. They are simple to learn, and some of them are done in the Polka Step which is quite fascinating to do. The dances are: Galopede, Speed the Plough, The Long-Eight, Morpeth Rant, The Norfolk Long Dance, The Circassian Circle, The Square Eight.

**The Anglo-German Ruck Sack Song Book.**—Price 1/9, plus 2d. postage. "The songs here published are those which groups of English, German and Austrian students, walking, climbing, or canoeing together, have taught each other, and which have become as much part of these tours as their ropes and ruck-sack."

### GENERAL.

**The Nature Discoverer's Notebook.**—Price 6d., plus 2d. postage. This is invaluable for Guides who are doing their second class test and under different headings such as Spiders, Dogs and Cats, Flowers, Birds, etc., it gives a number of questions which give an idea to the Guide in her observations. This is to be recommended.

**Yarns on Scout Promise and Law.**—Price 10d., plus 1d. postage. This is a Gilcraft publication, and gives a short talk on each Guide Law. It should be made available to the Guides, and should give a lead to the Guider for talks on the Guide Law.

**Painting Book.**—Price 1/6, plus 3d. postage. This has been in stock for some time, but it is playing an important part in Guiding at the present time. During the infantile paralysis epidemic, it is an invaluable book to be at the disposal of Brownies and Guides who can occupy their time with paint brush and paints painting Guide figures, Badges and flags of the Guiding countries of the world. At the same time they are gaining a knowledge of these countries which will be a great help to them in the future Guide work.

## RANGERS.

It is proposed to hold a Combined Ranger Snow Week at Mt. Feathertop, next August. Most of the metropolitan Rangers know this already, but, of course, it is open to country and Lone Rangers, too. Anyone anxious to come should apply to Miss Debbie Bradshaw, c/o Girl Guides' Association, 60 Market Street, Melbourne.

The whole cost will be not more than £7. This covers all fares from and to Melbourne (concessions will be arranged for country Rangers). Accommodation at Feathertop and Harrierville, pack horses to and from the Bungalow, and hire and insurance of ski and boots.

Send in your name early, and send £1 deposit before March 1. Names are taken in order of application, with a waiting list in case any of the applicants are unable to go.

The Bungalow at Mt. Feathertop holds 20 with quite a lot of comfort. There is a big dining living-room bedrooms rather like the cabins on a ship, with two bunks above and two below, one bath and one shower-room, with hot water, and a furnace room where clothes can be dried.

A man and his wife manage the place and do the cooking, and, in addition, there is another woman who helps in the kitchen, and the ski instructor.

The journey up is by train to Wangaratta, and service bus to Harrierville, where we spend the night. Next morning our packs and rucksacks are slung on pack horses and we walk the five (or is it six?) miles to the Bungalow, to arrive slightly late for lunch and absolutely famished. It is a good track all the way, and not really steep. The last mile may be through snow. That makes the going

heavy, but the thought that all those very hard rocks and treacherous stumps will be well covered, more than compensates for the difficulties in walking.

Five and a-half glorious days—we come down the following Saturday—with luck, hot sun, so hot that we ski in just our trousers and cotton shirts, or if grey and cold, woolies and windproof jackets.

By the second morning, we have begun to learn the language and speak of "herring-boning" (NOT feather-stitching remember!), "traversing," "linked stem turns," and "coming down under control." The week flies all too quickly, the busy days and cold quiet starlit nights, never-to-be-forgotten experiences that store up health and energy and a firm determination to go again next year.

J. U. BOYES,

Commissioner for Rangers.

oOo

### CAMPING.

A course of lectures on Indoor Camping and Pack Holidays was held at Headquarters in October. The test was held on 8th November. As a result, the following certificates have been awarded:—

**Pack Holiday Permit.**—Miss H. Gross, 1st Richmond Pack; Miss L. Niquet, 1st West Melbourne Pack.

**Indoor Camp Certificate.**—Miss M. Nicholson, 1st Sandringham Company; Miss L. For-dyce, 1st Black Rock Company; Miss B. Alfred, 2nd East Malvern Company; Miss L. Harris, 1st Dandenong Company.

—E. E. MORAN,

Commissioner for Camping.

(Continued from Page 7).

the proper setting for a visit to a place of such dramatic connection with the Great War.

That afternoon we were invited to attend a Belgian Guide meeting, and in the evening a large camp fire held at the Convent, and we were glad to have the opportunity of meeting the Belgian Guide folk in such a happy and friendly way.

On Sunday, 12th September, we left for Brussels, where we were met by two Guiders who were very helpful, and devoted the whole of their time to taking us about during our stay in the Belgian capital. We managed to see quite a lot of the city and to go to one French opera, sitting in state in a box.

We spent Thursday night in the train, attired rather tastefully in our rugs and little coloured caps, and were able to steal a few hours' sleep, despite the hardness of the seats. In the early dawn, we arrived at Basle, where the curiosity of the Swiss Customs officials was aroused only by our bag of buns.

After changing trains, we found ourselves among the mountains, and the unbelievable beauty of the countryside flying past us took our breath away. Almost before we knew it, we were at Frutigen and were soon on the bus bound for Adelboden. Climbing steadily for 20 minutes towards the snow-capped peaks,

we came to the end of our bus ride and hiked the last half mile or so, ever upwards, arriving thankfully at last at Our Chalet.

We passed a very happy 10 days at the Chalet where there were Guides from Switzerland, Belgium, China, America, Roumania, Holland and England. Excursions were made to Kandersteg, where we saw the International Scout Chalet, to the Blue Lake, to the Trumelbach Falls, the Grindelwald Glacier, and Interlaken. We made many a trip to Adelboden Village and accompanied by our trusty walking sticks did quite a lot of climbing about the mountain sides in all kinds of weather.

Very early on the morning of Friday, 24th September, we bade a regretful farewell to Our Chalet, and set off southwards to Geneva. Here we stayed one night and one day, during which time we saw many interesting things, including the League of Nations Buildings, the International Labour Office, the Monument of the Reformation, St. George's Cathedral and the Russian Church, also many a lovely view of the Lake of Geneva.

We went shopping on our last day in Paris and poked among the old bookstalls along the Seine embankment, finishing up with a final visit to the Exhibition, and five members of the party braved the perils of the lift and enjoyed a splendid view of the floodlit scene from high up on the Eiffel Tower.

Next morning we crossed from Dieppe to Newhaven, and arrived in London that evening with a strange feeling of having come home. Here we are spending a week or so before setting out on our great caravan adventure.



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## ADDITION TO CONSTITUTION.

Addition to the Constitution of the Girl Guides' Association, Victoria:—

At a special meeting of the State Council of the Girl Guides' Association, Victoria, held on 19th November, 1937, it was agreed that:

To clause iv, paragraph 11, after "Conference," add "a Guider nominated by the Guiders' Committee."

To clause v, add as (c) "One Guider to be nominated yearly by the Guiders' Committee."

In clause v, the present (c) will become (d), and (d) will become (e).

—S. H. IRVINE.

## WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS.

### REGISTRATIONS.

Local Associations.—Minyip, Nhill, and Rупanyup.

Pack.—1st Morwell.

Company.—1st Cockatoo.

### APPOINTMENTS.

#### Division Commissioners.

North-Eastern Suburbs.—Mrs. R. T. Robinson, 2 Rockley Road, South Yarra.

Birchip.—Mrs. Spittle, Birchip.

Myrtleford.—Mrs. T. Snowball, Canowindra, Myrtleford.

Richmond and East Melbourne.—Miss D. Coles, 24 Hillcrest Ave., Kew, E.4.

### WARRANTS.

#### Division Secretary.

Eastern Suburbs Division.—Miss I. Watson, 1 Charles Street, Jolimont, C.2.

Wimmera Division.—Mrs. W. H. Huftam, Rich Avon Donald.

#### Ranger Captains.

1st Box Hill Rangers.—Miss E. Bishop.

1st Brighton District.—Miss I. Stamp.

1st Lorne Rangers.—Mrs. Hughes.

#### Guide Captains.

1st Box Hill.—Miss Meg Lester.

2nd Coburg.—Miss A. Paton.

1st Dunkeld.—Miss M. Woodburn.

2nd Hamilton.—Miss N. Pedrina.

1st Nyah District.—Miss E. Caldwell.

1st Somerville.—Miss H. Harmer.

#### Lieutenants.

1st Fairfield.—Miss M. Harding.

2nd Footscray.—Miss Jean Miller.

1st Gardiner.—Miss M. M. Fairlie.

1st Marnoo.—Miss Lorraine Newall.

1st Nhill.—Miss Marie Facey.

1st Nhill.—Miss Connie Fischer.

1st Nyah District.—Miss Esther McKay.

1st Pomborneit North.—Miss N. Boyd.

#### Brown Owls.

1st Hamilton Pack.—Miss M. E. Whelan.

1st West Melbourne.—Miss L. Niquet.

1st Ivanhoe.—Miss D. Woods.

5th Brighton.—Miss J. Warmbrunn.

#### Tawny Owl.

1st Murtoa Pack.—Miss Myrtle Eardley.

## CANCELLATIONS AND RESIGNATIONS.

#### Company Registrations.

1st Mt. Evelyn.

6th Ballarat.

## WARRANTS.

#### District Commissioner.

Cheltenham and Mentone.—Mrs. C. G. Downe.

#### Ranger Captain.

2nd Hawthorn (S.R.S. Lady Nelson).—Miss M. D. Sweeting.

#### Guide Captains.

1st Ascot Vale.—Miss M. Williams.

1st Brighton Beach.—Miss I. Stamp.

1st Hampton.—Miss A. D. Mitchell.

1st Mt. Evelyn.—Mrs. McMillen.

1st Preston.—Miss E. Jackson.

#### Lieutenants.

2nd Hamilton.—Miss Nita Pedrina.

1st Moe.—Miss E. Sullivan.

1st Port Campbell.—Miss J. Gardiner.

#### Brown Owl.

1st Surrey Hills.—Miss M. Butt.

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