

Bush.

Matilda



MARCH, 1938.

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MARCH, 1938.

No. 8.

EDITORIAL.

As space is very limited this month, I would like to say how sorry I am that all of the district news from Warragul cannot be printed.

I know how keen the Drouin Guides and Guiders are, so next month I shall try very hard to fit in their bit for the benefit of other districts.

May I add that the financial secretary of "Matilda" is perturbed about the unpaid subscriptions for this year! Have you noticed the yellow sticker?

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The month of February is past, the month of the Guide year when Companies and Packs begin to meet again with their regular weekly meetings. At present some of them are still in recess, but happily the prospect looks much brighter now and soon I expect we all will be having active meetings again.

Looking back at the month I know we all feel the most important thing that has happened in it is Thinking Day. The birthday of our Chiefs, February 22nd, when their great world family of Guides and Scouts think of them with love and gratitude and wish them happiness and health for the year to come. And as we are talking about Thinking Day let us see what has happened during the year among that great family.

I always find it difficult to remember about numbers and the year to which they allude, but I think I am right in saying that the numbers of the world family has definitely risen during the year. And what about the numbers of those who have passed on from the companies and are out in the world? There must be thousands of Grown-ups now who have been active Guides and Scouts in their youth—we hope of course that they always keep on being Guides and Scouts, even if they are not wearing uniform. Perhaps as the Old Guide Branch becomes more established we may know more about these Grown-ups, and that will be interesting and encouraging to Guiders and Commissioners who are still carrying on with the Game of Guiding knowing it to be the happiest way of developing healthy, tolerant, and sane workers in the world.

There have been several international Camps during the year, in Norway, Czechoslovakia, Scotland and Switzerland, a World Committee Meeting in Scotland, a Coronation Camp at Chigwell Row, near London, a Quo Vadis

Meeting of Trainers at Adelboden, also a Round Table for Brown Owls there. A.U.S.A. Camp, where you remember we had a representative from Australia, Rozilie MacDonald, and near at home, a Centenary Camp in South Australia. A Coronation Display and Rally in N.S.W., and a Coronation Rally in Melbourne, apart from many Conferences in many countries. Of course you have seen all of these in the annual report, but I have written them down again, as we are rather far away from many of our sisters, and there is always so much to be done right on the spot that we are apt to forget what is happening to them in their countries. So it is a good thing to be reminded every now and then to look wider, to find out what they are doing on the other side of the world, then as a natural sequence to think quietly and seriously about their lives, their joys, their difficulties, try to understand and sympathise with their problems, and so strengthen the ties of the great World Family of Guides and Scouts, who are all thinking, particularly on February 22nd, of their Chiefs, who have given them something of great value, which they in their turn must use rightly and pass on joyously with great strength.

—ENID FAULKNER.

WARRAGUL DISTRICT NEWS.

Drouin: 1, Rangers; 2, Guides; 3, Brownies.

Trafalgar: 1, Guides; 2, Brownies.

Warragul: 1, Rangers; 2, Guides; 3, Brownies.

Since November our Companies have been in recess. We trust that the prevailing scourge will have abated sufficiently to allow of the Guides and Brownies resuming perhaps in April.

In November (27th) we had the pleasure of a visit by Miss Barfus. She dedicated the Flag of the 1st Warragul Girl Guides, the Union Jack, and the World Flag, which had been worked for by the 1st Warragul Rangers.

A charming setting had been secured for the ceremony; through the courtesy of Mr. Harvey, Guides, Brownies, Rangers, members of the L.A., parents, and friends, gathered in the grounds of his delightful garden.

To the delightful and natural twittering of the birds, Miss Barfus gave a very earnest talk on the Guide Law. Suitable hymns were sung, after which our visitor interested us very much in "Standards." Colour parties brought up their respective Flags, and laid them on the table; then P.L.'s, placing their hands upon the Flags, recited a verse of poetry.

We agreed that the dedication of the flags as conducted by Miss Barfus was a most impressive service.

Guiders from Drouin were present, and, along with the Warragul Guiders, were entertained by

the Commissioner at afternoon tea. In the evening Guiders assembled at the home of Mrs. Adamson for a sing-song (Camp-fire? it was a blazing day) out of doors. Miss Barfus introduced the new Guiders to a Country Dance.

On the Sunday an evening Church Parade was held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Scripture Lessons were read by Miss Mavis Dyer and Miss Barfus, who stepped into the breach at the last moment.

Miss Barfus was present at the Ranger meeting on the Monday night.

Members of the Warragul Guiding Fraternity were thrilled with the visit of Miss Barfus, and are hoping that this may be the forerunner of many to our district.

GUIDE CAMP HOUSE.

Brownie Guiders' Effort.

A novelty night is to be held at Guide Headquarters on Thursday, 24th March, at 7.45 p.m.; the programme will include pictures of the Coronation Rally to be shown by Miss D. Coles; a stall for the sale of White Elephants—you surely have something you would like to bring, and there will be something you would like to buy.

Please come and bring your friends—1/- admission, including supper.

We are having a Jumble Sale early in May. Please keep any odds for us.

Watch "Matilda" for further notice.

—B.C.

—000—

On Saturday, March 19th, the Brownie Guiders will visit Gipton, Frankston, for the afternoon and evening.

A big bus will leave Batman Avenue at 2 o'clock, and making one stop at Malvern Town Hall at 2.30, will proceed to Seaford and pause long enough for all to bathe. On arrival at Gipton the energetic ones will take part in a scavenging hunt, followed by the evening meal. Tea, milk and sugar will be provided, each Guider bringing her own eatables and mug. After games and a camp fire the bus will leave for home at 8.30. Overalls will be worn; if the weather is wet an alternative programme is arranged. Come if you can, and bring your Guider friend, whether Brown Owl or not. The return fare is 2/6. Send names to Mrs. Tate, Girl Guides' Association, 60 Market Street, by March 7th.

GUIDERS' COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Guiders' Committee will be held at Headquarters on 4th March, at 7.30 p.m.

B. POTTER,

Chairman.

Rangers.

The Ranger Snow Week will be from 29th July to 5th August. The cost will be approximately £8.

—ISLA STAMP.

A SONG COMPETITION.

The Extension Branch wants to hear of Guide songs that go to well-known tunes. Post Guides like singing, but, as they very rarely meet together, they find it difficult to learn new tunes. If a Guide song has a popular tune, then it can be put in the Company meeting letter and it can soon be learnt.

A prize will be given for the best collection sent in. Individual Guides or Rangers can enter or a whole Company. Entries must be in by March 31st. Please send them to Miss Joan Alston, 5 Struan street, Toorak, S.E.2.

Don't forget to tell your Companies about this!!

EXTRACTS FROM TOURING RANGER'S LOG.

One memorable day we visited Harewood, and saw the church and a view of the estates of the Earl of Harewood, afterwards arriving at Knaresboro for lunch. Nothing daunted by the continuous downpour of rain, we donned gum boots, rain capes and sou'-westers and trailed down into the valley along the river crunching through dead leaves piled inches thick on the pathway, and so came to the cave in which Mother Shipton of prophetic fame is reputed to have been born, and, of course, we had to wish at the wishing well. Here also is the remarkable dropping well where all sorts of things have been petrified by the chemicals contained in the water.

Soon the scenery changed and instead of hedges the road was lined with stone fences, rather marvellously built to stand solidly without any assistance in the way of cement, and so we crossed the border into the land of heath and haggis. Some days were spent in Edinburgh, where the castle standing defiantly on its rocky hill was visited, and we found the National Shrine of Remembrance as interesting as the castle itself.

The Scottish people received us very hospitably, and although they often found it impossible to hide their astonishment at anyone being so foolhardy as to camp out in October—our greeting on one occasion being "but ye'll no be wanting to camp the nicht?"—invariably rose to the occasion.

One morning early, we were admitted to Glamis Castle, the home where the Queen lived until her marriage. Coming up the drive a beautiful view was had of the castle, a slight haze giving the massive old building the appearance of belonging to another world, and we were all grateful for permission to see the rooms, including the secret passage.

Through Aberdeen with its buildings of grey granite, we came to Crathie. Here accommodation had been arranged for us at Abergeldie Castle, one of the late King George's Scottish residences. During our stay at Crathie, it was our pleasure to be escorted by Captain and Mrs. Ross over the estates of Balmoral Castle, seeing in our tour many glorious trees planted by visiting Royalties. After the death of the

(Continued on Page 6.)

EXTRACTS FROM TOURING RANGER'S LOG.

Early November, 1937.

Back in England once more, the party spent two days at Brampton, during which time a visit was made to the remains of an old Roman Camp at Vorovicus. Standing on the hill amongst the ancient stones, we had a beautiful view of the surrounding country, and our sympathies were all with the Roman soldiers who in those far-off days guarded the walls. A bitterly cold wind and frequent icy showers of rain threatened to drive us off our hard-won eminence, and the final touch was the discovery by "Nursie" of an inch-thick slab of ice on a hollowed stone which had been used for a wash-basin.

Naworth Castle proved very interesting because of its associations with border warfare, and our guide drew a vivid picture of the cattle on nearby farms being hastily driven within its solid walls when lights and shouts announced the approach of the raiders.

Passing through "Merrie Carlisle," we travelled via the Lake District, and, driving along the shores of the lakes with Skiddaw rising on the other side of our road, we felt that this part of England had a beauty of its own. A halt was made to see Wordsworth's grave at Grasmere, and later in the afternoon another pause on top of a hill to admire the striking view—the beauty of the scene below being rivalled by the glory of the setting sun as it slipped away behind a mass of rosy clouds.

That night the inhabitants of Clitheroe stood aghast to see a caravan dash through its streets ("imagine camping out in November, my dear!"). And so we came to Waddow. While the caravan enjoyed a well-earned rest for two weeks, the kitchen of the farm was the scene of much hard work as busy pens covered reams of writing paper and hands grew tired and eyes grew weary with the labour of addressing Christmas cards; and when night came there were warm baths for all, and then a trek over the hill to the camp site, where the Rangers were sleeping with a roof and a wall for shelter and the frost for an early morning visitor.

One morning the river was frozen over, and someone hopefully suggested the possibilities of ice-skating, but this was nothing to the thrill "Lillemor" received one day when she discovered it was snowing, and, running out to see whether the feathery flakes were real, slipped and sat down with more speed than grace.

Time was found for excursions in between Training week-ends, and these included a trip to Blackpool, the most popular seaside resort in the North, boasting a promenade seven miles in length and numerous other attractions. We drove to the ruins of Bolton Abbey, set picturesquely in a bend of the river, and had to try our luck at the stepping stones. Skipton Castle was most fascinating, and we agreed with our guide that the old irregular shaped courtyard, with an ancient yew tree in the centre, and the pinks and greens of the Yorkshire sandstone, made a unique picture. The name of the town, Skipton, was originally Sheep-town, and was recorded in Domesday Book as such, and to this

day there is a little narrow street known as Sheep Street.

An invitation to inspect cotton weaving mills in a village quite close to where Gracie Fields once worked was gladly accepted, and after we had got used to the deafening clatter of the machinery we found the looms and spinning machines very interesting. So loud is the noise that the girls working at the looms don't attempt to hear their companions speak—they have become expert lip-readers, and we felt sure very choice bits of gossip were being exchanged, yet we couldn't hear a word. One of the mills visited specialised in surgical materials, and we found it hard to believe that the product of one loom was really elastic bandage until a sample was soaked in hot water before our eyes and we saw it shrink to less than half its original length and become elastic.

Another day the party made a trip to Liverpool, and had a look over the partly finished Cathedral, which is only the third to be constructed since the Reformation. Then we went on through the Mersey Tunnel to Port Sunlight. The tunnel was most attractive and exciting; it passes right under the river, and has four lanes of motor traffic—a fast and a slow each way. There is no overtaking allowed in the tunnel, and if you stop or run out of petrol you are charged double toll. We had a bad moment when we discovered half-way through how low our supply was, but managed to get to the other end and pull in at a timely garage.

Port Sunlight is Lever Bros.' huge factory, and the village where the employees live was most attractive with its old-style houses and picturesque planning. At the office we were welcomed by two Guiders we had met at Widdow during a Training week-end, and after lunch, as the guests of the firm, we went on a most interesting tour of the factory. It was great fun to see the huge boiling vats of Lifebuoy.

Chester Guiders and Commissioners gave us a warm welcome and entertained us throughout our stay. Among many delights Chester had in store for us was a walk round the old city walls—about 1½ miles in length. We saw the old gates and towers, including the famous tower where King Charles I. is said to have watched the defeat of his army on Rowton Moor. Plans to build a main road to relieve traffic congestion in the city have disclosed the foundations of an old Roman amphitheatre, and now a controversy is raging as to whether the road should be continued or the Roman remains preserved. In the afternoon the Cathedral was visited, and here we saw small chapels set aside for the use of Guides and Scouts.

Although Denbigh Rangers were not sure just when we would arrive, they were waiting for us with a hot meal prepared, and we spent a very comfortable night, the Rangers having the use of their club-room to sleep in. Two Guiders who were mistresses at the Howell School for Girls invited us to see the building, and we were very impressed by the spacious room and splendid equipment, including weaving looms and spinning wheels for handicrafts. An interesting fact about the school is that in bygone days it was endowed by the Drapers' Guild, who still support it.

Prince Consort, Queen Victoria planted many cypress trees and erected monuments to his memory and that of departed loved ones, and these may be seen in countless numbers on the surrounding hillsides.

In the sunshine of a perfect autumn afternoon, we wandered amongst the gardens which had been specially planted for the Coronation, and admired the stately outline of the castle.

The little church at Crathie with a regular congregation of 25 swelled to 200 when the King is in residence at Balmoral—contains a pulpit made of the 15 different types of granite quarried at Aberdeen, and is set with stones from the shores of Iona.

Across moorlands looking purple and brown with dead heather and bracken, the little procession moved to Inverness and thence through the most glorious scenery of lochs and mountains and mists, along the shores of Loch Ness and Loch Linnhe, to Onich and via Glencoe to Oban. Loch Katrine was very lovely in the morning light with the mists rising from the hills and so still and peaceful was the world that the most perfect reflections were cast in the water, the colours below being deeper and more beautiful than the originals. Past the romantic Trossachs Hotel, we travelled to Stirling and camped that night on the "bonnie, bonnie banks of Loch Lomond." Not that they seemed so bonnie to us when we awoke to a cold frosty morning and had to leave our cosy beds for the bleak world.

Glasgow is for us a memory of a smoky haze hanging over numerous shipbuilding cranes, a call at the Post Office for eagerly-awaited mail while an irate policeman kept an angry eye on our innocent caravan, and then once more on the road. Gretna Green was a fitting climax to our Scottish tour and the famous blacksmith proved most amiable when he learnt whence we had come, despite the fact that he had to leave a warm fireside to show us the ancient anvil by candlelight, over which marriages are being contracted to this day.



"He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has looked for the best in others and given the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory is a benediction."

A Pack meeting inside the grounds of your Sunday School or Hall. Each six is a family who have taken a house from an estate agent. They arrive with their luggage (provided by R.O.). On arrival at given spot, each family settles in and decide which piece of ground is to be the kitchen, dining-room, etc. Several things must be done, and these are set down in a letter from the estate agent:

- 1.—Occupants must be kept clean and tidy (shoes, belts and badges cleaned).
- 2.—Garden must be planted out (either drawn on ground or on paper provided; flowers must be named).
- 3.—Rent must be paid by a special messenger to estate agent.

Calls must be paid to neighbours, so two go to each six and two stay home and entertain (biscuits and something to drink). This must be set out first and cleared away and washed up. When visits are over and the work is finished, houses are locked up, and families meet at local gardens. A meeting has been called by the Mayor.

R.O. then plays one or two games, and the homes are discussed.

Families then say good-bye and go home for the night. Luggage is collected and taken into the Hall before saying "Good-bye."—R.L.S.

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FAIRY RING CEREMONY.

The Brownies could decide whether, as they sing the song, they should all do actions, each six in turn imitate a creature, or all sing softly and watch imaginary baby bears and lyre birds until the rhyme tells them to run and form a ring, with Brown Owl, who was waiting near the roadstool.

Tune: John Peel.

The baby bears/climb gum trees high,
The wallabies all go hopping by,
The lyre bird dances upon his mound,
And wombats burrow beneath the ground.
The Brown Owl calls, "Tu-whit, tu-whoot!"
And what do you think the Brownies do?
The all run into a Fairy Ring,
And this is the song that the Brownies sing:
We're the Brownies, etc.

—H.G.

OUT-DOOR PACK MEETINGS.

Owing to the epidemic, Pack meetings are to be held outside as much as possible. This is a good thing, because Brown Owls, from force of habit, hold meetings indoors too frequently, partly because the Pack is easier to manage inside, perhaps. Some Packs have very limited outdoor space around their halls, or else it is very public and the rest of the neighbourhood comes to watch, which rather distracts the attention of the Brownies.

Would Brown Owls who are working under

similar conditions please write to Matilda and tell us how they overcome their difficulties?

—M.K.B.

BREVITIES.

If your Pack is in recess, do you write to one six each week, or the whole Pack once a month?

Are you helping with the Brownie Guiders' effort for the Camp House?

Draw a Brownie emblem on one end of a strip of coloured paper, fold—cut out carefully—a good decoration for charts, etc.

CAMPING PLANS FOR THIS YEAR.

" . . . I have a sudden passion for the wild wood. We should be as free as air in the wild wood. What say you? Shall we go?"—Robin Hood.

Campcraft Badge.

The course of training for the Campcraft Badge held by Miss Barfus towards the end of last year was so successful that we have decided to hold another course almost at once. Miss Moran will be in charge, and the course is open to Rangers and Guiders, but this time the preference will be given to Guiders should there be more applications than there are vacancies. The fee, including fares, will be 17/6; 5/- deposit to be paid at the first class. The course will consist of three classes and three Gipton week-ends as before, and the dates are: Classes at 8 p.m., at Headquarters, March 29th, April 5th, and 26th; Week-ends at Gipton, 9-10th April, 30th April-1st May, 14th-5th May.

Pioneer Badge.

Inspired no doubt by the results of the Campcraft Badge course, Miss Barfus has gladly consented to take a course for the Pioneer Badge. This is the Guide equivalent to the Ranger Campcraft Badge, and leads naturally on to that badge, so, Guiders, please tell your enthusiastic P.L.'s and camping Guides of this opportunity to continue what they learnt in camp, and so earn the badge! And Rangers! if you aspire to earn the Campcraft Badge one day, what about starting with the Pioneer Badge now? This is particularly addressed to the Rangers at the Combined Camp at "Britannia" who began the badge tests there. HO! (or should it be Hough?).

This course will consist of three evening classes at Headquarters, three Saturday afternoon Field Days, and one Gipton week-end. The fee will be 7/6 for the week-end, which includes the fare.

The dates: Field Days, 2nd, 9th, 30th April. Classes at 8 p.m. at Headquarters, 26th April, 10th, 17th May. Week-end at Gipton, 21st-22nd May.

Applications for either of these courses should reach Miss E. E. Moran at the Guide Office, 60 Market street, Melbourne, C.1, not later than 19th March. Applicants should state whether Guide, Ranger, or Guider, and give name of com-

pany and details of camping experience. Applications from Guides and Rangers should be countersigned by the Captain.

Ocean Grove Camp Site.

A special Test for a Camping Permit which will entitle Guiders to take Guides camping at the Ocean Grove site is being considered. The Ocean Grove site is owned by the two Geelong Guide Districts, and they are very pleased if Guides from other districts use the site. It is thought that Guides from the Western District would enjoy camping here. Will Guiders who would like to have training and do this test (which would consist of some sections of the Camper's Licence, other sections of which would not be necessary for this particular site) please write to me at the Guide Office by 19th March if possible? If applications warrant it, a course consisting of a series of week-ends at Ocean Grove will be arranged later in the year.

A similar special test will probably be arranged in connection with the camp sites at the Guide Camp House.

Indoor Camp Test and Pack Holiday Permit.

A large number of candidates is expected for these tests this year, in view of the rapidly approaching acquisition of our own Camp House. The dates for this course have not been settled yet, and it would help if intending candidates would write to me by the 19th March, if possible, giving the night and month which would suit them best. The course usually covers six weekly classes. Full details of the requirements of these tests are to be found in the Victorian Supplement to P.O.R.

Quartermaster Test.

It is hoped to hold some training for this test later in the year. Will those who would like to attend, please write to me by 19th March?

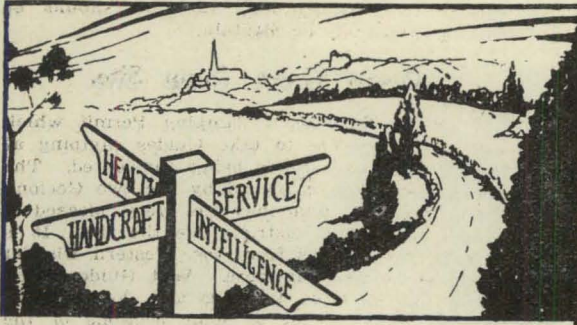
Guiders' Campcraft Week.

The Camp that was to have been held in January had to be cancelled because there were so few applications and one or two late withdrawals. It seems that Guiders find it hard to get away at this time, and it has been suggested that the annual Campcraft Week for Guiders should be held over the New Year next time. I would greatly welcome any comments or further suggestions.

It seems to me, also, that, apart from lack of time and inconvenient dates, there is a falling off in the number of Guiders who are "taking up" Camping. The interest does not seem to be there, and I want to find out why. It is also apparent that Guiders, once having had a taste of Camping, usually go on with it with enthusiasm. "Why don't more Guiders camp?" seems to be the question, and I would welcome letters from all Guiders telling me frankly why they do not camp, or giving any suggestions at all for the good of Camping in this State. So write NOW! This is serious.

ELAINE E. MORAN,

Commissioner for Camping.



THE SIGN POST

THE HIKER BADGE.

Guiding being an outdoor movement, one would naturally expect that the Hiker badge would be one of those which practically every Guide "went for." Actually, not a single Hiker badge has been issued from the Guide Shop in the last five years!

Certainly, we Guiders must do something about it. Let us look at the syllabus:

The first thing to tackle is the clause that requires the candidate to "bring to examination a record of previous hikes taken, giving (a) season of the year; (b) place, and method of getting there; (c) object of the hike (i.e., exploring, visiting place of interest, nature study, or cooking, etc).

Every Captain wants to take her Guides hiking, and some seem to manage it! Let each future hike be a preparation for the Hiker badge; even the littlest recruit can do it too. Of course, it means keeping a log of hikes; but you have some of the headings already as a clue to what is required. Season of the year—need autumn hikes be dull? How different are things in winter from what they were when you hiked in the same place in summer?

(b) Place and method of getting there; the Hiker log-keeper will want variety in her reports, so she will help you to think out new ways and means.

And of course (c) is the clue to good hiking; have you ever noticed that the hike without an object is the one that falls flat, and somehow is not what you expected and hoped? Cooking hikes are marvellous fun; and what about a hike where you just play stalking games? or watch the sky and the ground particularly, rather than live things? (You can think of other "objects," but the Guides will have some to suggest).

As you see, there is nothing in that clause that is beyond the merest Tenderfoot. We take next the bit that says: "Show proficiency in cooking in the open, with and without utensils, and draw up two hike menus." Surely there would not be many hikes where none of this would be included? But of course you will have to help from your own experience and books and friends' suggestions about "good dodges" for recipes and methods of cooking.

"Bring to the examination a pocket first aid case, fitted up by herself for a hiking expedi-

tion, and be able to give reasons for the choice of its contents."

Perhaps the first step to this is that Captain should herself do it? Or does she just snatch up an iodine pencil and a snakebite outfit and hope for the best?

"Build, and give her reasons for so building, three different types of hike fires, and be able to distinguish between various kinds of woods, explaining their relative value as fire woods;" and "know what precautions to take when lighting fires in the open, and how to remove turf, and the responsibilities involved in regard to trespassing, gates, crops, game preserves, and wooding for fires."

The building of fires, and precautions while they are alight, come into the ordinary second class test; different types of fires are pictured and described in practically every woodcraft or camping book—take them out of the book into the bush!

The study of the various kinds of wood scares you, probably (it did me!) but if you tackle it, local friends and fuel suppliers and gardeners can help a lot, and of course there is your own practical experimenting which is best of all—do it with the Guides. And I think the local police officer will help you with the laws of trespass, etc.—ask him!

Finally, there is a note at the end saying that the Examiner for this badge is to be nominated by the C.C.A.; here, that means Miss Moran, Commissioner for Camping. At present all Camp Advisers (see list in new Victorian Supplement to P.O.R.—3d.) are authorised Examiners, and further appointments will be made when the number of candidates is more than the C.A.'s can cope with. Will you do your best to see that this necessity arises very soon?

Keep Guiding Out-of-Doors!

—F. V. BARFUS.

THE GREEN SPY.

The Guides arrive at the company meeting—the first after a few months of correspondence due to the I.P.—to find the programme written up on a sheet of green paper with the head of a masked spy down at the bottom. (In their last letter they had been told to come and meet the Green Spy). "At this moment (8 o'clock) a spy is walking on the north side of Main Street between Black and Grey Streets. She is dressed all in green.

You are to approach her, by means of an act of courtesy, and during the conversation are to use the password (Be Prepared), when the spy will give you sealed instructions." Off go the patrols, one after the other, to seek the spy.

The first patrol to leave pass the spy apparently without noticing, but they explain later that it was a very dark patch of street and they thought she was wearing black. The second patrol soon spot her, but they seem to be overcome with shyness and giggles. They follow a few yards behind for about half a block and then one plucked up her courage. "Excuse me, but are you a spy?" "A spy! What are you talking about?" and the spy stalks on. But she is feeling that her suitcase is getting heavy and gives it a hitch up. The guides are inspired. Another runs up and offers to take the suitcase. "Oh, thank you, but it's rather heavy, I think two had better carry it." So the three walk off together, the remainder of the patrol following on behind.

The Spy: It's quite dark to-night, isn't it?

The Guide: Yes.

The Spy: You are the Girl Guides, aren't you?

The Guide: Yes.

And so the conversation continued for the length of a block.

The Guide (to others behind): Some of you people come and help with the suitcase. It's getting heavy.

Then follows a few moments of stiff silence.

The Spy: This is Black Street, I believe. I have to meet someone here, so you might put down the suitcase.

Thank you very much for your help.

So the Guides set down the suitcase and moved away some yards. A puzzled silence is followed by a burst of whispering amongst which the word "password" can be heard frequently. Finally two approach the spy again. "We were very glad to be able to help you with your case, and we're always prepared to help people like that." At last here is something like Be Prepared so they receive their envelope. They immediately rush off to obey their instructions, which are:—

- 1.—Bring three elm leaves.
- 2.—Go to the nearest telephone box and take a copy of the first three emergency calls listed there.
- 3.—Go to the nearest chemist and note his hours.
- 4.—Estimate the width of George Street, from fence to fence.
- 5.—All must be back by 8.30 or 5 points lost.

The spy turns back towards Grey Street. Within a couple of blocks she passes the first patrol. After a few moments' discussion up runs the leader. "May I help you with your suitcase?" "Yes, thank you. It is not very heavy and I think you can manage it." Then follows an interesting conversation, mainly carried on by the Guide this time—(apparently all thought out beforehand). After a few minutes out comes "Be Prepared" very neatly placed in a sentence and the spy hands over the envelope. Down goes the suitcase

and the Guides set to work immediately. Their orders take them in the opposite direction from the other patrol and are as follows:—

- 1.—Bring three elm leaves.
- 2.—Find the telephone number of the nearest doctor. (You must not ask anyone.)
- 3.—Go to any chemist and note his hours.
- 4.—Estimate the width of Thomas Street, from fence to fence.
- 5.—All must be back by 8.30 or 5 points lost.

They are all back at the hall by 8.30. Then Captain corrects their work—or tries to—while they excitedly discuss their meeting with the spy. "We asked if she were a spy and she just walked on, but we were sure we were right, as she was wearing sun-glasses." "We had to run almost to keep up with her, she was going so fast." "Then we thought of the suitcase. She said it was rather heavy and two had better carry it. But, Captain, there was only one little thing rattling inside it. We walked for a whole block and talked about all sorts of things, but I forgot about the password."

The noisy discussions continue on the way home. And didn't the Spy and Captain have a good laugh over it afterwards!

—"THE SPY."

A Fresh Start.

This Page committee feels that some Guiders, especially those who could not manage to keep in touch with their Guides by correspondence, may have difficulty in getting the Guides together after being in recess on account of the epidemic. Would anyone using a good method, visiting, sending a specially attractive notice or whatever else, please send in her experiences for the benefit of others?

Local Knowledge.

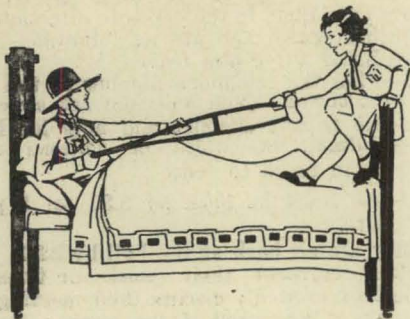
We would draw your attention to the excellent service, "Names of Our Suburbs," by Mr. A. S. Kenyon, appearing in "The Argus Week-end Magazine" on Saturdays. This will give you much help in planning a Local Knowledge Competition such as appeared on this page last month.

International Code of Signals

A recent circular from the Federal Secretary contains the following:—"The World Bureau has sent out a notice stating that during the sessions of the World Committee held in Scotland it was reported in several countries that the Guides were being taught an out of date Code. The World Bureau notified all countries of the fact that the Code has been changed.

If there is any doubt whether the old or the new Code is being used in your area it would be as well to check your flags from the charts which are obtainable from the Naval Depot or from the Boy Scouts Association."

—R.D.



INFANTILE PARALYSIS AFTER-CARE.

At least four or five hundred of the 1800 odd cases of infantile paralysis, or "polios," as they are called, will be in their splints for from six months to two years, and some will be longer.

Already some of these children are finding their way into the Post Guide Companies and Post Brownie Packs, and a Post Cub Pack has recently been started by Miss Dorothy Moore.

The medical profession gives its entire support to Guiding and Scouting because it brings to the children healthy interests to fill the long days and puts the child, who might tend to be left out of things, on a level with its playmates in at least one direction.

One small bedridden Cub (or should we say "a tethered Cub"!) has already knitted a tea-cosy for his mother, which is a thing that his brother could not do! He is now learning to do a ten-stranded plait with leather boot laces which fills all the neighbours with admiration!

We also heard of a Brownie who was very upset when she was ill because she "couldn't go to Brownies any more." When she heard she could be a Post Brownie she was thrilled. She was also very pleased that it was her right hand that was paralysed, because it meant that she could still give the Brownie handshake!

GUIDERS—what are we going to do about all these new "polios" who want to be Guides and Brownies?

We want more helpers before we can do anything!

In some instances a Captain will have a big Company of 40 or so. The whole Company will get the same Company meeting letter each month, but each Patrol has a Lieutenant, who gives every member of her Patrol individual care, visiting and writing and making Guiding real to them.

In the institutions, such as the Austin Hospital, Royal Park, and Stonnington, there are small groups of girls who would love to be Guides or Brownies. Miss Campbell (Commissioner for Extensions) thinks it is best for them to be Posts, so that there will be continuity in their Guiding when they go home or are moved elsewhere. **BUT, Companies CAN NOT** be started including these girls unless we can get Captains or experienced Lieutenants who would be willing to visit these groups regularly once a week, once a fortnight, or even once a month—**IT IS THE REGULARITY THAT IS IMPORTANT.**

NO new Companies can be started anywhere unless we are sure of having Guiders who can visit institutions; Guiders who can be Lieutenants in charge of Patrols; Guiders who can be Captains of Companies; or Guiders who can contribute, even one page, to a Company meeting letter **REGULARLY** once a month.

Can You Help?

If you can, please write (do NOT telephone) Miss Campbell, 41 Spring street, Melbourne, C.1.
—J.A.

SCULPTURES IN SOAP.

Have you ever heard the story of how the genius of Michael Angelo, the greatest sculptor who ever lived, was discovered? Angelo lived in the Middle Ages, and one night his father, who was a Florentine nobleman, gave a dinner to his friends. Angelo was too young to attend, so to while away his time he went into the kitchen and carved a lion out of a large piece of butter.

The butter was for his father's banquet, and when it was carried into the dining room the guests were amazed at the artistry which had been revealed in the carving. Their amazement increased when it was found that it was Angelo who had fashioned the lion. "He is a genius," they said, and they spoke truly.

Perhaps you might be a sculptor of rare talent, too. You never know until you test yourself. Try this new and fascinating hobby. At least you will have one advantage over Angelo—soap should carve more easily than butter. Don't lick your fingers, whatever you do!

A cake of soap, a pocket knife, and some good ideas are the only essential requirements for soap carving. Beautiful little ornaments resembling ivory or marble carvings can be completed after only two or three hours' work; perhaps in your leisure time.

Following the method used by many sculptors, you will have to decide on the subject you wish to reproduce, and then draw out the design on paper—maybe a side view will be sufficient. There are all sorts of subjects you could attempt, such as birds, animals, trees, buildings, monuments, castles, and lighthouses. For the first attempt, choose a simple object. After practice at that, you will be in a position to execute more elaborate designs. Any kind of soap may be used, but a good, plain, white soap that will not flake or crack is the best.

For some simple subjects you will be able to draw a side view on paper, then place the paper on the soap, and go over the drawing with a pencil. This will transfer your drawing on to the soap. Then you can begin to carve away, at right angles to the surface, the unwanted parts with an old table knife. You will be able to cut straight edges with the long blade when producing the first simple block shapes, and you will have better control with a small pocket-knife.

After forming the main shapes, you can sculpture the details with a pocket-knife, and, if necessary, gradually scrape away the soap until you have the desired result. A simple type of scraper

can be made with a bent hairpin, a wooden pen handle, and thread. To scoop out semi-circular channels in the soap a gouge is handy. Any slight markings or lines can be produced with a pointed pencil.

Try to keep the forms simple, and, if possible, angular in shape, rather than naturalistic, so that the completed ornament will be decorative in appearance.

—From "The Junior Argus."

COMPETITION.

A series of competitions is to be held which will be open to Brownies, Guides, Rangers, and Guiders. There will be two classes: (a) Under 14; (b) over 14.

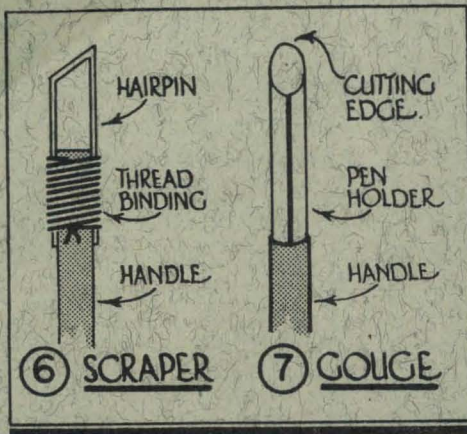
The entrance fee will be threepence, and the prize in each class will be an order for 5/- to be spent in the Guide Shop.

The first competition will be "Carving In Soap," instructions being given in March "Matilda."

The rules are as follow:—

1. All entries must be in by March 31st.
2. No article must be larger than 5in. x 4in. x 2½in.
3. All exhibits will be shown for one month in the Guide Shop.
4. All exhibits will become the property of the Girl Guides' Association, and will be suitably distributed.

—Block by courtesy of "Junior Argus."



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

15th December, 1937.

Present: Lady Huntingfield, Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Eadie, Mrs. Ebeling, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Littlejohn, Mrs. Manifold, Mrs. Tate, Misses Broadhurst, Boyes, Cameron, Moran, Purnell, Russell, Swinburne, and the Secretary.

THE FOLLOWING WERE AGREED WITH—

- (1) That a typiste be advertised for, preferably a Guide or a Ranger.
- (2) That, at the suggestion of N.S.W., Imperial

Headquarters be asked if Miss Shanks might visit Australia after her visit to Africa in January and February.

- (3) That diplomas for the following be endorsed:—

Eagle Owl: Miss A. Paling.
 Red Cord: Miss M. E. Bush.
 Blue Cord: Misses Dell Hayman, M. Hoffmeyer, E. H. Purnell, G. Swinburne.

- (4) That the following Commissioners be re-appointed:—

Mrs. Frank Tate: Commissioner for Brownies.

Miss E. E. Moran: Commissioner for Camping.

Miss C. Broadhurst: Commissioner for Equipment.

Miss A. Campbell: Commissioner for Extensions.

Mrs. T. M. Cherry: Commissioner for Guiding in Schools and Colleges.

Mrs. Eric Roberts: Commissioner for Lones.

Miss J. U. Boyes: Commissioner for Rangers.

Miss Lyell Kelly: Commissioner for Post Box.

Miss M. Anderson: Editor of "Matilda."

That Miss Dell Hayman be asked to act as Commissioner for Tests and Badges during Miss Moore's absence abroad. It was reported that Miss Broadhurst and Miss Moran had represented the Guide Association at a meeting of representatives of physical organisations called to discuss the question of Youth Hostels.

Routine and financial business was discussed.



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21/-

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20in. to 27in., 7/11; 30in. to 33in., 8/6; 36in. to 39in., 8/11; 42in. to 45in., 9/11.

THE MUTUAL STORE
 Flinders Street Melbourne
 LIMITED

2nd February, 1938.

Present: Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Ebeling, Mrs. Littlejohn, Mrs. Eadie, Mrs. Tate, Misses Broadhurst, Ritchie, Stamp, and the Secretary.

Lady Gardiner, County President, Glasgow, was present for part of the meeting.

THE FOLLOWING WERE AGREED WITH—

That the next meeting of the Federal Council be held in Queensland in August.

That the design submitted by Miss M. Lester should be the winner of the Victorian competition for an Australian badge.

That the Thinking Day special appeal be circulated amongst Division Commissioners, Ranger Companies, and the Press.

THE FOLLOWING WERE REPORTED—

That Marjorie King has been engaged as typiste-stenographer.

That a number of Guides and Rangers were helping as Polio Aunts.

That Mr. W. A. Angliss had given £500 to the Guide House Fund.

That the Orient S.N. Co. had granted a free passage for a trainer to visit Australia in 1939.

That Mrs. Ebeling had been nominated as the representative of the Guiders' Committee on the Executive Committee.

THE FOLLOWING WERE NOTED—

That the International Code in use by some Companies was out of date.

That a World Gathering of Rangers would be held in Great Britain in 1939.

Routine business was discussed.

16th FEBRUARY, 1938.

Present: Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Eadie, Mrs. Ebeling, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Manifold, Mrs. Tate, Misses Broadhurst, Cameron, Moran, Purnell, Ritchie, Swinburne, and the Secretary.

THE FOLLOWING WAS REPORTED—

That Imperial Headquarters had awarded: To Miss F. V. Barfus, the Special Service Badge; to Miss S. M. Cameron and Miss E. H. Purnell, the Medal of Merit.

THE FOLLOWING WERE AGREED WITH—

That Mrs. Eadie and Miss Moore should be nominated as delegates to the World Conference, 1938; and Mrs. T. O. Guthrie nominated as visitor.

That Miss Ruth Scott and Miss Elizabeth Jackson should represent Victoria at the Lithuanian Camp.

The answer to the World Bureau questionnaire was accepted, with certain alterations.

Routine and financial business was discussed.

March, 1938.

APPOINTMENTS.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

Ferntree Gully, etc.: Miss M. L. Drury, Kinkell, Kallista.

South Yarra: Miss Joan Ritchie, 21 Avoca st., South Yarra.

Warrants.

BROWN OWL.

1st Brighton: Miss M. Langley.

CAPTAIN.

3rd St. Kilda: Miss E. Mrosk.

LIEUTENANT.

4th Brighton: Miss E. Medcalf.

REGISTRATIONS.

Company: 1st Lang Lang.

TRAINING.

Guiders should bring to the first class of any Course a Nomination Form signed by their own Commissioner.

Brownie Training: The first Course of General Brownie Training will begin on MONDAY, 14th MARCH, 1938, at 8 p.m. Classes will be held at the Guide Office, and will be in charge of Miss Violet Hill.

Guide Training: The first Course of General Training began on FRIDAY, 18th FEBRUARY, 1938, in charge of Miss Dell Hayman.

Ranger Training: Guiders wishing to attend a Course should communicate with Miss Stamp, Commissioner for Rangers.

MERLE BUSH,

Commissioner for Training.

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Ribbon-bound Blazers in
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