

Herb Bush.

Matilda



MARCH, 1939.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office.

2nd February, 1939—

Present: Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Ebeling, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Littlejohn, Mrs. Tate, Misses Moran, Russell, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Agreed: That the formation, within the Guide Association, of companies of Red Cross Aids should be encouraged.

That enrolled members of Local Associations should be eligible for registration for National Emergency.

That all Commissioners be invited to a meeting on 6th March to discuss the Register for National Emergency.

That all Commissioners and one Guider from each district be invited to a meeting on 6th March to discuss the Victorian Walkabout.

That the resignations of Mrs. Peter Manifold, from the Executive Committee and Mrs. Norman Harris from the State Council, be accepted with regret.

That Miss A. McA. Campbell be granted leave of absence for six months, and that Miss S. Foott be asked to carry on the work of the Extension Branch during Miss Campbell's absence on leave.

Reported: That letters, with forms for registration for National Emergency, had been sent to all Commissioners, Brown Owls and Captains.

That Mrs. Guy Bakewell had agreed to be Commissioner for Guiding in Schools and Colleges vice Mrs. Cherry, resigned.

That the opening of the Guide House had been postponed to a date to be arranged.

That 27 Guiders attended the Campcraft week, and 27 attended the Training Week.

That owing to the possible danger from bush fires, three Combined Camps were evacuated after five days of camp and the Extension Guide Camp after three days of camp, all the Guides behaved splendidly.

That from 26th December to 10th January, 271 Guides, Guiders and Rangers were under canvas at the Guide House while camps were also held at Warrnambool, Ocean Grove, Eltham and Drouin.

That four camps were cancelled.

That 25 Guides with four Guiders visited Sydney for the Jamboree.

Lady Chauvel expressed the Committee's appreciation of the way in which Miss Moran and all Guiders concerned had coped with the emergency.

15th February—

Present: Lady Chauvel, Miss Boyes, Miss Cameron, Miss Lascelles, Mrs. Littlejohn, Miss Moran, Miss Russell, Miss Ritchie, Miss Swinburne, Mrs. Tate and the Secretary.

Agreed: That Miss Boyes should be nominated to represent the Association on the State Council for Physical Fitness.

That the following Victorian Guiders be nominated to the Australian Party attending the Pax-Ting in Hungary. Mrs. F. W. Faulkner, Miss E. Lardner, Miss E. Smart.

That the nomination of Mrs. Ebeling as Guiders' representative on the Executive Committee be accepted.

Reported: That Miss Foott had agreed to carry on the work of the Extension Branch during Miss Campbell's absence on leave.

That an invitation had been received from the New Zealand Guide Association to send two representatives, one Guide or Ranger and one Guider, from Australia to the Centennial Camp to be held near Wellington from 16-26 January, 1940.

Routine and financial business was discussed.

—S. H. IRVING,
State Secretary.

DID YOU KNOW!

That the first railway was opened for traffic on 13th September, 1854. It was a line of 2 miles from Flinders Street, Melbourne, to Port Melbourne (then called Sandridge).

This and other short railways constructed soon afterwards were owned and operated by private enterprise. The Government was, however, authorised in 1857 to undertake the construction and operation of railway lines, and on 1st July, 1878, practically the last of the private lines was merged into the State system.

* * *

That a Thermos Flask will cook your Meal? This method saves fuel and time and there are no burnt or sticky saucepans to clean.

“Matilda”

An Official Treasure Bag of Guiders' Information for Guiders of Victoria, Australia.

Price: 3/- Per Year; 4/- Posted. Single Copies, 6d. each.

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

VOL. XV.

MARCH, 1939.

No. 9.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Already several exciting things have happened this year. Our State Secretary (Miss Irving) has been honoured by the King and I am sure that all of the readers of 'Matilda' join me in congratulating her.

Then the dreadful bush fires, when our own Guide House and grounds were spared. What did you do, Guiders, as a whole, towards helping those who were burnt out?

Now, this week, we have that wonderful Thinking Day display at Headquarters. Have you all seen it and taken your Guides to see it?

The article on Moral Re-armament interested me because, as I travel around Victoria, I often hear of misunderstandings between Commissioners and Guiders.

Don't you think, now more than ever before, instead of resigning because of hurt feelings or because we have too many nights out, we should be redoubling our efforts to be useful and sacrificing some other pleasure in our lives rather than the time we give to training the Guides?

I am sorry to prove illusive to some people but all correspondence sent to the Editor at H.Q. will receive prompt attention.

DEPUTY STATE COMMISSIONER.

Mrs. Faulkner leaves on 28th February to journey abroad and will be away until the end of the year. She has been chosen as Leader of the Australian Party to the Pax-Ting in Hungary and hopes to see something of Guiding while she is in Great Britain and travelling in Europe. She takes with her greetings from Victorian Guides to any Guides she may meet and our best wishes for a very happy journeying.

—S.H.I.

GUIDERS' COMMITTEE.

The Guiders' Committee met on Friday, February 3rd. Present: Miss Watson, Mrs. Ebeling, Misses Potter, Owen, Costain, Mitchell, Hayward, Davies and Newell. It was decided to again hold the Guiders' Dinner on Empire Day, May 24th, a sub-committee, consisting of Miss Alfred (in the chair), Misses Hayward and Black, was elected to complete the arrangements.

The committee will hold a Picture Night at the Regent during the last week in April. See April "Matilda" for details.

Croydon, Eastern Suburbs and Outer Eastern Suburbs, also Rangers and Extensions, are still unrepresented on the committee.

Next meeting will be held on Friday, March 3rd, at 8 p.m.

1938. BALANCE SHEET. VICTORIAN GUIDERS' COMMITTEE.

Receipts.

Balance brought forward	£6 19 5
Interest at bank	0 2 4
Picture Night proceeds	2 11 0
Guiders' Own	1 4 0
Overdrawal	0 14 9
Bank interest	0 1 2

Total £11 7 8

Expenditure.

Caretaker University	£1 0 0
Overdrawal	0 14 9
Postage	1 6 9
Duplicating	0 12 8
Fares	0 8 10
Poster	0 4 0
Camp House Donation	5 0 0
Balance	2 0 8

Total £11 7 8

MARY NEWELL, Secretary.

414 St. Kilda Road, Melb., S.C.2,
2nd February, 1939.

Dear Matilda,—May I put in a plea for this year's Conference? I enjoyed last year's Conference very much from a social aspect—I met Guiders whom I hadn't seen for 12 months, and I met new Guiders who, I discovered, were also enjoying themselves.

But just how much inspiration did we derive from the Conference—as a Conference? I feel that the ultimate idea behind such a gathering is that we should return to our Companies and Packs renewed with vigour for our various jobs—inspired by some message which we can pass on to our Guides and Brownies, that they may get the same thrill out of Guiding which we got 10 or 12 years ago.

MUST we go on discussing the time-worn subjects of uniform and Matilda? Is it necessary that there should even be reports made on these subjects? Could not this be done through the pages of Matilda? Our time is so limited at our Conferences, and at this critical period there is so much of vital importance which affects the youth of our country. What did we do for the youth of Australia at our last Conference? Granted that we had a most interesting talk on Physical Education at the evening session—but in many cases Guiders were too tired to concentrate on it, and unfortunately, in many cases, Guiders saw fit to while away the time knitting and even chatting among themselves. What compliment is this to a prominent University lecturer? It seems deplorable that we should have to call the attention of our Guiders to the law of courtesy!

What are we going to do to make our Conference a source of inspiration to us all? It is our own fault that it is not as we would have it, because the Committee cannot give us what we want if we do not ask for it! Therefore, it is for our own benefit that we should give this important subject some considerable thought, and send the results of that thought to the Guider's Committee. We must begin thinking now, for the Committee, I understand, spends several months planning for the Conference, and trying to find suitable speakers.

Do let us back up our committee, Guiders, and let there be an absolute flood of correspondence to it, with our ideas of an inspiring Conference for 1939.

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH ALFRED.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY SERVICE.

The Annual Service for Anglican Guides and Scouts will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, 22nd April, at 3.15 p.m.

Further details will be published in next month's "Matilda."

—S.H.I.

THINKING DAY—1939.

The Two Guiders would like to say a very sincere Thank You to everyone who helped make the Thinking Day Display the friendly affair that they feel it was. Up to to-day, Thursday, 23rd February, 488 people have seen the Display and everyone of them, and the Two Guiders, are immensely grateful to the Guide Headquarters in the countries which sent delightful magazines and cards and interesting badges, etc.; to the Guiders and Guides who brought in valued possessions which they had collected in foreign lands; to the Consulates in Melbourne who lent or gave posters; in fact Thank You everybody.

THINKING DAY.

So great were the numbers at the opening night of the International Exhibition that a Chalet film had to be shown twice. Entire companies thronged the meeting pool and club room which was gay with posters and where many interesting exhibits were displayed.

Outstanding in this display was a fascinating almanac which held the interest of many at the Swedish group, also clever little figures of straw, including a bridal group.

From Switzerland came pictures of our Chalet, wild flowers and pottery. A doll in complete Guide uniform with sari represented India, and beautifully worked beaded belts were the centre of attraction at the African section. Amongst the Chinese exhibits was a miniature tomb complete with coffin. From the Grenfell Mission, Canada, came neat handicrafts of birch bark and porcupine quills.

Several countries sent badges and magazines, and the stamps on display were the actual stamps received on the parcels received from abroad.

The exhibition was an entirely new idea and quite a successful one, giving as it did a tangible link between us and our sisters across the world.

Thanks are due to the people who so kindly sent posters and articles to help make the exhibition a success.

BUILDING HUMAN BEINGS.

The Health and Safety Programme and How to Present It.

(From The Girl Scout Leader, U.S.A.)

"We have not to build up a body or a soul but a human being, and we cannot divide him."

—Montaigne.

The Greeks thought of health as a fine unity of body, mind, and spirit that prepared one for life. Their definition is not so far from what we think to-day, but the difference is that to-day we realise that we must live even as we prepare to live.

Dr. Jesse F. Williams, of Teachers' College, Columbia University, has defined health as "the quality of life that renders the individual fit to live most and to serve best."

Then what is the state called health, and what does it have to do with our way of life? It is a positive health with which we are concerned, a state which may be negatively described as "nothing at all the matter with the body." A pain in the head, a decayed tooth, a suspicious mind, or overwrought nerves do not mean positive health for anyone. A body with all its parts functioning in perfect harmony, a mind well balanced and alert, together with well integrated emotions—these contribute to that quality called positive health.

This health we covet for every Girl Scout. The accomplishment of such a state lies chiefly in the hands of each individual girl. It is her way of living, her way of thinking, her way of feeling that attain the result. First, let her sit down and take stock of that which she has on hand. A self-inventory taken by a girl may be done on score-card forms. She should include all aspects of her life, such as personal health (for instance, "Do I have one warm bath a day?"); mental health (for instance, "Am I cheerful in accepting disappointments?"); freedom from disease (for instance, "Do I take cold easily?"); emotional and social habits (for instance, "Do I cover every cough and sneeze with my handkerchief?"). This inventory should be done with the positive attitude of "How healthy am I?" and not with the negative approach of considering ailments.

The second step is most important, for it is the best health assurance one can obtain. Let a girl plan to visit her physician for a complete examination on the day before or the day after her birthday. Each birthday marks

a milestone; so should a medical examination once a year by a competent physician. Remember, a doctor is much more interested in health than in illness.

The third procedure takes only a little time, a small amount of money, and practically no discomfort if carried out periodically. Everyone should consult a dentist twice a year. A visit every six months is most necessary as a preventive measure. Dental caries and gum disorders can come quickly. A healthy, attractive mouth is one of the greatest aids to a pleasing personality.

With these precautionary measures completed, a girl now has the license to explore further the meaning of health. For instance, health plays an important role in a girl's personality. One who is immaculate in dress, attractive in personal cleanliness, interesting in manner of address, sweet in her attitude of understanding, mentally alert to the possibilities within her associates, careful in judgments, courteous, loyal and reverent toward the highest in life, is the sort of girl other persons would like to be with or work with every day.

Safety means healthful behaviour—a positive way of accepting and reacting to situations. Safe behaviour applied by any one person definitely affects every other person. We cannot get away from this interdependence of action. There are countless hazards in life, and indeed life would be very monotonous without them. They colour the whole of life, depending on how we meet them. What is there for the Girl Scout to do to help further education for safety? Two things she must realise: first, the responsibility for her own safety and for the safety of others; second, how to meet the hazards of life courageously. Safe behaviour can become a habit, not one ingrained with fear, but one founded in positive, intelligent reactions.

There is much that can be done in the name of safety within the Troop or Pack. What about your Troop meeting place? Is it free from unnecessary hazards? Is it easily ventilated, heated, lighted, cleaned? Is it kept in good repair? Are there corners to be rounded, nails to be driven in, rough places to be sand-papered away, window cords to be replaced, shades to be regulated, or dark corners to be cleared? Should some of the activities be saved for nice days out-of-doors where there is more space, fresh air, and fun to be had because of greater physical freedom? How

about that atmosphere of orderliness? Is there a general attitude of thoughtfulness, kindness, and courtesy? All these may be called the essence of safety.

As leaders we have the responsibility of seizing every opportunity to present the Health and Safety programme as a vital part of every Girl Scout activity.

BIRDS AND BUSH FIRES.

At the present moment there is a great opportunity for all nature-loving members of the Movement to demonstrate in a practical way the Sixth Law—a Guide is a friend to animals. We in Australia are still a little inclined to think of kindness to animals as referring only to domestic animals. But, gradually, a love for our native fauna is creeping in. The present bush fire tragedy has awakened, as perhaps never before, a sense of pity, and a desire to show practical sympathy for our bush friends, both little and big, furred and feathered, all of whom are so utterly helpless in the face of raging forest fires.

So many of our most unique birds and animals have been threatened with extinction, and it is, up to every one of us to do whatever we can to help these suffering creatures, and if possible prevent further unnecessary loss.

Guides and Rangers—be unofficial wardens of your own localities.

The Animal Welfare League has already done noble work in sending food to burnt-out areas for the hungry animals, most of whom would feed at night under cover of darkness. Maybe there are people who would still help in this way if they but knew the need. Discover what animals frequent your area.

Birds are especially needing care. Many reports have appeared in the press telling of birds forgetting their natural wildness in their frantic efforts to get food or water. Some fire fighters recounted the strange sight of birds perching on their shoulders or arms in an endeavour to obtain water from tins in their hands.

There is no one, either in town or country, who cannot do her little bit towards helping in this national emergency. Keep a dish of water in your yard or garden (protected from cats) and you will be delighted with the thirsty birds who will take advantage of your thoughtfulness. Even our town birds are feeling the drought, especially as watering is restricted. Remember the blackbird and song

thrush come from the cool gardens and hedge rows of England.

Quite recently in the hills near Melbourne, I noticed large flocks of blackbirds gathered under the shelter of shady trees in the garden, as though trying to escape from the heat and dryness. Parrots, too, cried all day in a plaintive way. Perhaps they were suffering discomfort or hunger, though fruit was still on the orchard trees. A dish of water in a wild part of the garden was never without its one, two, or even three occupants—shy, but appreciative refugees.

Food will be very scarce this autumn until the rains come. Let us remember a good turn every day until normal conditions are established. —J.H.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE EXTENSION BOARD.

In Co-operation with the WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA.

NATURE STUDY.

Class to be held at the R.A.O.U. Rooms, Forresters Hall, 170 Latrobe Street, C.1, starting 22nd March.

This year being the centenary of the work in Australia of John Gould, naturalist and author, opportunity will be taken of following his explorations in early colonial days. The Class is co-operative. Members are cordially invited to bring natural history notes, photographs, or exhibits of interest. Field work is desirable, and outings may be arranged upon sufficient promise of attendance. Lectures will be illustrated with the lantern.

1. Australian Birds: A Theme.
2. Jungle Life.
3. Colour and Form.
4. Mound-building Birds.
5. Werribee Plains.
6. Interior Birds.
7. Gum Nuts and Fern Fronds.
8. Song of Birds.
9. Stones of the City.
10. Sea Life.
11. The Picture Sense.
12. Australian Animals.

TEXT BOOKS:

- J. A. Leach: "An Australian Bird Book."
League of Youth Handbook.

REFERENCE BOOKS:

- Pratt: "The Call of the Koala" (Mullens).
 Pratt: "Lore of the Lyre Bird" (4th Edition, Mullens).
 "Report on Erosion" (Victorian Government Printer).
 "Conserve the Soil" (Bank of New South Wales, Sydney).

The class meets on Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock at The R.A.O.U. Rooms, Forrester's Hall, 170 Latrobe Street, C.1. The Fee for the Course is 7/6, plus 1/- Library Fee to be paid with subscription on enrolment.

If any Guider or Ranger would like to know more about these classes I would suggest that she get in touch with Miss Joan Harper, U.4150. Miss Harper has attended this course for several years. —S.H.I.

GUIDE SHOP.

It may interest Guiders to know that Guide Headquarters has acquired quite a good range of Guide films, which can be hired by individuals as a Guide display or for propaganda. Many of you will have seen the film of our Chalet and will realise the value of this film for display purposes. Below is given a list of the films with a description:

Swedish Film, taking about forty minutes to show, was taken during the World Conference held in Sweden in 1936. The film shows quite a number of Swedish Guiders who came to an indoor camp during the Conference at Stockholm, and later in delightful surroundings it shows a Patrol Leaders camp at Rattvik, one of the delightful places in Sweden. The rest of the film shows the meeting of the World Conference and many famous people in Guiding will be seen. This film is typically Swedish if you wish to get more information of that country.

Baltic Cruise.—Many of you have heard of the combined efforts of Scouters and Guiders in chartering a ship to cruise around various countries that have Scouts and Guides. One year the ship cruised round the Mediterranean countries there. This film was a cruise around the Baltic Sea starting at Holland and working up through Poland to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia around to Sweden and Norway and home round North of Scotland. This film shows the Scouts and Guiders in all these countries and the reception given by them to the visiting English Scouters and Guiders. It is quite a long film taking about

one and a half hours to show and providing a good evening's entertainment with another short film to support it.

Our Chalet Film.—Many of you will have seen Our Chalet film and will have appreciated its loveliness. It is interesting that so few Guiders have heard about Our Chalet, but once they see the film they are thrilled to think that the Guiders of the World own such a lovely home in Switzerland. This film is quite short, only taking about a quarter of an hour to show, but it is lovely all the way through showing the scenery and the life around the Chalet. This is a good supporting film to the other long ones.

A Day at Sea.—This should appeal to all Sea Rangers as it shows the life at sea for one day lived by Sea Rangers in England in the H.M.S. "Implacable." This ship has been given to the nation and various organisations use it, and on this occasion 270 Sea Rangers and Guiders spent their time there doing training in Sea Ranger work. The film is beautifully taken and provides very good entertainment. This H.M.S. "Implacable" is a very old ship and fought under the French flag against the English several times and took part in the Battle of Trafalgar. It was then captured by the English and served under the British flag for nearly 50 years and was then turned into a training ship. This film has just arrived. It will take about half an hour to show.

The Princesses at Windsor Castle.—This film is due here shortly and we are looking forward to it very much as it shows our two Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose in their uniforms as a Guide and a Brownie taking the salute at a march past of Guiders at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle last year. It is a short film only taking about a quarter of an hour to show.

The hiring of these films is as follows:—

Swedish and Baltic Cruise, 12/6 per night.

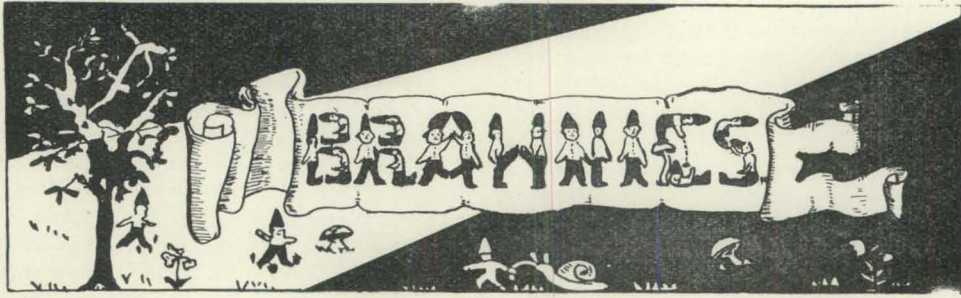
A Day at Sea, 10/- per night.

Our Chalet and the Princesses at Windsor Castle, 7/6.

Headquarters owns a film projector which can be hired with an operator for 10/- per night.

Headquarters would be interested to know if Guiders and Guides would support a series of film nights which would be held weekly or fortnightly at Headquarters showing these different films with the support of other films which could be acquired of our own country, such as the Timber Industry in Victoria, Baby Health Centre work, etc., etc. If this idea receives any support a series of programmes will be arranged and advertised in "Matilda" in the next month or two.

—C. BROADHURST.



If a little knowledge is dangerous,
Where is the man who has so much to be out
of danger?

—Huxley.

Brevities.

Would not this be an opportune time to show the Pack the care they should take when lighting fires at picnics?

How about taking the Pack down to the beach before the end of the summer?

Lay and Light a Fire.

"I'm making a playground for a baby, just like Mary in Brown Owl's story did," said Judy. It's not an ordinary playground like Mummy puts Brian in, because it isn't for an ordinary baby."

Old Tess, the dog, was the only one listening, and she just blinked and looked wise, or perhaps bored, because she heard this story every time Judy laid a fire.

"Now, it's swept clean here; here are two pieces of wood to make the walls," she said, as she placed them parallel, one at each side of the fireplace. "And now something soft and light for him to play with while he's very little," and a crumpled sheet of paper went in between the "walls." "Then little sticks for when he gets a bit bigger; but they mustn't press on the paper, or he'll be crushed when he's tiny; then thicker sticks this way, and thicker still across the top, and when he climbs up on those he's ready for little bits of hard wood, and after that he's strong enough to like the big pieces—and now it's all ready."

The first time Judy's father had seen her lay a "Brownie" fire, he'd said it was like a little pig-sty. It did look rather like a little house with about six thin pieces of kindling carefully paced over the paper, with their ends resting on the first pieces of wood, and thicker pieces just as carefully laid at right angles on top of them; another row of still thicker pieces

across them, and hard wood on top of that. But Judy had noticed that Daddy always did it that way himself, when he made a fire now, and he said it was better than a heap of wood and paper that collapsed when the paper burnt away and got black and smoky; and it was safe, too, because it was so firm and steady—the wood didn't roll about." Brown Owl says if you burn briquettes you can use two of them for the walls, and put some broken ones on top of the kindling," Judy had told him. "And when I go to Guides, I'll learn to light a fire outside, and cook chops on it, too."

Judy's mother laid the fire in the stove just the same way, and under the copper, too, on washing day.

When it was time to light the fire, Judy knelt down, carefully struck a match, and held it to the paper. "Little baby flame, there's your playground. I hope you like it," she said. At first the little flame seemed uncertain, then he caught at a torn edge of paper, and ran all over the paper and up into the kindling—here was small dry wood and plenty of air, just what a little flame needed, so with happy crackles he jumped in and out among the layers of wood, growing so quickly that when Mummy came in with baby Brian, Judy had put the fireguard in place, and the baby flame had grown up into a cheerful "Brownie" fire. "He did like his playground, Tess," said Judy, and Tess blinked and looked wise, or perhaps bored.

H.G.

Pow Wow Ceremony.

-Pack stand in circle each behind their own cushion; they hold hands and walk half-way round, saying "Pow-wow-wow-wow," turn and repeat until back to own cushion. Stamp feet three times, step over cushion, cross arms and sit down. Then they all repeat the following:

Speech is silver,

Silence is gold,

Secrets made here

Must never be told.

To speak in Pow Wow, a Brownie crosses two first fingers in front of face and waits till Brown Owl tells her to speak.

Inspection and Fairy Ring Ceremony.

Brownies in their six homes. Brown Owl and T.O. walk towards first home, singing to the tune of "Nuts and May":

"Now we are going to Brownie Land
On a Saturday morning."

First six (e.g. Elves) when B.O. reaches them sings:

"This is the way the Elves will wait
To go to Brownie Land with you."

While they sing, B.O. inspects them to see how they wait while T.O. collects their fare. They join on behind B.O. and skip to next six, who in turn sing. When all sixes have been collected, all form into Fair Ring, singing, "Now we are going, etc.," and then "We are the Brownies, etc." L.N.

Brownie Howlers.

Brownie Guiders, we are still waiting for some of your Pack howlers. Please send them in and give others a laugh. Here are a few more gems:—

Brownie Mother: "What is the Guide motto, June?"

June: "'Be Repaired,' Mummy."

Brown Owl: "What is the difference between a Brownie smile and an ordinary one?"

Recruit: "A Brownie smile has dimples."

A new recruit (first day): I'm going to be a Sixer and go right up to Rangers and be a District Commissioner! ! !

Opportunity beckons to a Brownie Guider or prospective Brownie Guider! Port Melbourne Pack and Pack Leader ask for a Brown Owl, and South Melbourne are equally anxious for news of a Guider.

—V.A.T.

The Brownie Guiders' Committee is arranging an outing to the Healesville Sanctuary on Saturday, 4th March, leaving town by car at 2.30 p.m. It is hoped to swell the Brownie Guiders' Fund for the Guide House by this means, as those who take part in this interesting outing are asked to give 3/- towards this Fund. Those wishing to take part are asked to communicate not later than Monday, February 27th, with Miss Dorothea Holtz, 25 Grange Road, Kew, E.4. (Telephone Hawthorn 6446).

414 St. Kilda Road,
Melbourne.
20th February, 1939.

Dear Matilda,—

May I put in a plea for this year's Guiders' Conference? I enjoyed last year's conference very much from a social aspect. I met Guiders whom I had not seen for 12 months, and I met new Guiders, who seemed to be enjoying themselves too.

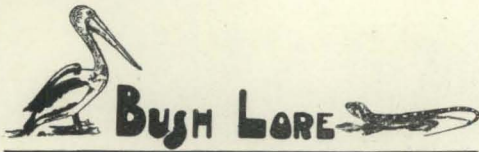
But what did we get from that conference to inspire us for the next twelve months, until we meet together again for further inspiration? Is not the idea behind such a gathering that we should return to our Companies and Packs renewed with vigour, and that we should pass this renewed spirit on to our Guides and Brownies? Yet we go on, year after year, discussing such time-worn subjects as uniform and Matilda—and perhaps not even discussing them, but listening to reports and then registering our approval or otherwise. Our time for discussion is so short at our conferences, and at this critical time of our nation's history, we should be using the limited time at our disposal in planning and working for the youth of our country. What did we do for the youth of Australia at our last Conference? Granted that we were given a most interesting lecture on Physical Education at the evening session, but by that time many Guiders were too tired to concentrate, and unfortunately some Guiders saw fit to while away the time knitting and even chatting among themselves. This is not a very great compliment to a University lecturer, who has given up his time to talk to us, and it seems regrettable that the attention of our Guiders should be called to the Law of Courtesy.

What are we going to do to remedy this? It is the privilege of Victorian Guiders to make their Conference the inspiring occasion it ought to be, yet what have they done in the past? What are they going to do in the future? Surely they must realise that the future of Australia lies to a certain extent in their hands, for here in Victoria we have over 9,000 Guides, who will be the women of the future.

Guiders! Our committee needs our backing in this thing, by our helpful suggestions and requests for the conference. Let us all support our committee by inundating it with correspondence, filled with our ideas for an inspiring and invigorating conference for 1939.

Yours sincerely,

ELIZABETH ALFRED.



Editor: ELSIE SYDES.

"Afoot and light-hearted, I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me, leading
wherever I choose."

How is YOUR Company on Nature?

Here are some ideas put into practice by a Guider, and with good results? Perhaps you would like to try them.

Try These.

- 1.—Four or five nature questions pinned on Notice Board about every alternate meeting, throughout practically whole year.
- 2.—On Hikes, three or four set questions to be answered by observation there and then.
- 3.—Inter-patrol chart competition.
- 4.—Company discussions.
- 5.—Games.

How to go About It.

1.—Questions on Notice Board.

Questions—essential point is that these can be answered by Guides by observation around their own homes—special trips not necessary.

Aim—to show Guides that there are all sorts of interesting little things round about them, if they only use their eyes.

Following Up—ideally, at the next meeting there should be time to discuss who looked and what they found. Practically, I found this impossible, except now and again.

Results—heated discussion on colour of magpie's back, followed by individual observation and mass observation at next hike. Every now and again evidence that the questions had been helpful.

2.—Hikes and questions.—From experience I found that nothing much was achieved by sending the Guides out to see how many birds they could find, or compile an alphabet, etc. **Something much more definite was required.**

Method—so one day I tried this.

Find how to distinguish between a willie-wagtail, mudlark and magpie. Observe anything else you can about them. (Sample question).

Result—many didn't know a willie-wagtail, but soon did. The results were really surprising and I passed some of them for part of their Second Class Nature.

Guides can work singly or in pairs.

3.—Chart Competition.

This originated at a Company pow-wow, details being worked out at C. of H.

Method—chart to be kept for four weeks, each Guide contributing one item to the chart each week, to be pasted on the chart when due. Dates were from July 27 to August 17.

N.B. Each Guide had to contribute, and if she missed this week, could not make up by pasting two next week.

Result.—Charts were all much the same in arrangement, but the "get-up" was very different. Each Guide wrote her observation (often with actual specimen) on correct sized piece of paper, then pasted it on. Observations sent in were good, five or six being excellent. They kept it up too—the winners had no blanks, though one patrol got tired and had but two items the last week. A great deal of enthusiasm was aroused both from a nature point of view and special inter-patrol competitions.

4.—Company Discussions.

The Company is small (16 to 18). I may start the ball rolling by telling them something interesting I have seen or very often the questions on the Notice Board will be the starting point. This is certainly enthusing to the person relating the incident and I feel it urges the others to have something to tell next time. This may lead to romancing so we must be on the look out for this.

5.—Games.—In the strict sense of the word I have made very little use of games, so I still have a strong line of attack there.

The following game has been most fruitful.

NEAR AND FAR—TO BE PLAYED ON THE TRAMP.

On a certain hike the walk to our destination was rather long and dull, so the idea of a game on the way was greeted with great approval.

Make a list of things to be spotted by the Guides. These may include things other than nature objects. Points are given for each one "spotted."

On this particular hike a trigger-plant, magpie, etc., were on the list. I said I was afraid there might not be a trigger-plant

along the route, but this did not deter them. Every flower we passed "Is that a trigger-plant?" As a result they were using their eyes the whole way. Half a dozen stopped to watch a pair of willie-wagtails, and on the way home they found a young one on the ground. Much excitement, especially when a magpie attacked the youngster, and the parent willie came to the rescue and shooed it away.

This was related loudly at next Company meeting.

—M. Lester.

About Those Questions on the Notice Board.

Has anybody used this idea? If so would you send Matilda, c/o Nature Editor, 18 Junction Street, Ballarat, the following:—

- 1.—List of questions.
- 2.—Whether you followed them up at the next meeting or not, i.e., checking observations from the youngsters.
- 3.—Results, especially interesting observations or episodes.
Further, what do you think about the checking up at the next meeting? Is it essential or not? Have you used any other of the above methods?
- 4.—Have you a game you could let us have?

Talking of Bugs !

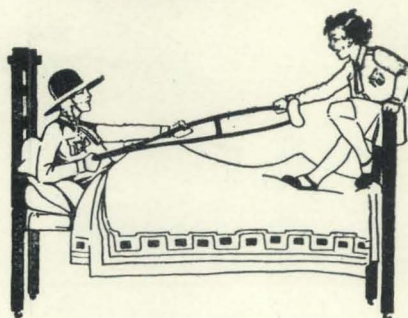
What is a bug? Well in America it seems to mean any sort of an insect, but here is the class of insect whose mouth instead of being in several pieces, for biting and sucking, is in **one** piece. All the pieces are solidified into the beak or rostrum. They use this to suck their food with.

Soldier and Harlequin Bugs.—Both these are very common in the garden this year, owing to the dryness I imagine, because they seem to dislike water and are decidedly fewer since the recent rain.

The two kinds in our garden are **both** black and red, one brighter than the other and more rounded in shape. The young of this later are entirely red in the fat part of the body and black at the head. They are tiny replicas of the parents and swarm in small colonies.

Note their beak, also their method of escaping you, most clever

EXTENSION COLUMN.



Editor: Joan Alston.

EXTENSION GUIDERS' TRAINING WEEK-END.

There will be an Extension Guiders' Training Week-end from March 17th to March 20th, 1939.

It will be held at the Big House at the Camp House. Those who wish to go are asked to apply early as the space will be limited.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The Executive Committee has granted Miss Campbell, Commissioner for Extensions, leave of absence for six months.

Miss Sydney Foott will be Acting Commissioner for Extensions in Miss Campbell's absence.

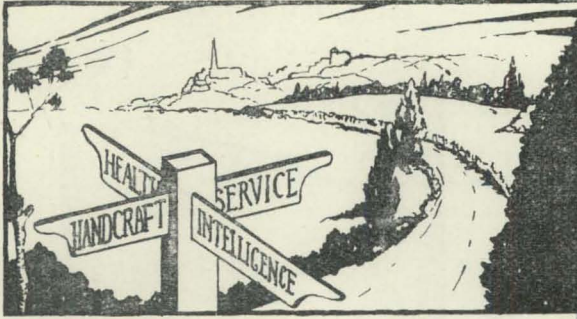
Her address is: 24 Murphy Street, South Yarra, S.E.1.

The Post Brown Owl, Miss Joan Alston, is going on leave of absence.

The Acting Post Brown Owl will be Mrs. R. D. Bakewell, "Farnley," Benalla, Victoria.

The Post Brownie Secretary will be Miss R. Lucas, 12a Highfield Road, Canterbury, E.7. All correspondence dealing with tests and visiting Post Brownies will be looked after by Miss Lucas. —J.A.

Have you any recent interesting photos which could be used for publicity purposes? If so, would you send a clear print to Miss M. Young, c/o The Guide Office, 60 Market Street, Melbourne. No prints can be returned. It is hoped that arrangements can be made for the best photos to appear in the press, but no guarantee can be given to this effect.



THE SIGN POST

Editor: Elizabeth Alfred.

What is There More to Say . . . and What to Do?

All there is to say on the Patrol System has surely been said—the GUIDER, MATILDA, Conferences, GIRL GUIDING itself, have all dealt fully and conclusively with the subject from the Guider's point of view.

Now let us look at the Patrol System from the Children's point of view—what does it look and feel like to the Guides who are “being run” on the P.S.? Patrol Leaders' Conferences give some interesting sidelights.

The majority of questions sent in by the Guides beforehand, or brought up at the Conferences by the Leaders, concern methods of teaching, e.g., ‘How do you teach First Aid interestingly?—or morse, knots, or nature.’ (Do we know ourselves?)

Another type of question fairly generally sent in is: “What should we do at Patrol Hikes? What do you do in Corners? How long should Patrol Time be and what do you do in it?” How do Leaders have enough time for proficiency badges and First Class when they are busy teaching their patrols all the time?

A third type of question is: “Has a P.L. any responsibilities apart from Company meetings? Should the Court of Honour choose the P.L.'s or the Company? What does the Second do in the Patrol?”

And the final group, wrung from the very heart of the P.L., is: “What do you do with a Guide who is unreliable and is always losing points for her Patrol? Or “What do you do if the Patrol won't do what you tell them in Patrol time?”

The above seem to show some of the inner working of the P.S., and perhaps indicate that the works need occasional oiling. Obviously the Leaders sometimes feel the need for help, and normally they turn for this help to their Guiders. The first group of questions show

that they need hints on how to plan a “lesson”—how to attack the subject so that they rivet the attention and interest, and how to sustain the interest, e.g., by means of self-activity on the part of the “class.” When do we give this training?

The second group of questions deals mainly with programmes. These should be the concern of the Court of Honour, at which the Leaders would decide at least the first three problems. As for the remaining question in that group, is not that the main problem of every Guider?

The third group, also, concerns company management; and the answers depend on the Guiders' understanding of the Patrol System as a training in character.

And what of the final group of questions? If character-training is our underlying purpose in playing this Game with the children, how much do we ourselves know of the “individual-personality-management” that is the Guider's greatest and most lasting contribution to the community into which she sends out her Guides from the Company? And how much of this knowledge must we share with the P.L.'s, who, after all, are a kind of junior Guider as far as their Patrols are concerned?

There is probably no final answer to any of these queries; I could not write them down completely—could you? But they are an additional challenge to us, that the Patrol System may, in our Companies, be not merely an easy way of getting teams for games, but a real means of developing latent potentialities of leadership and willing obedience to authority, and a means of helping individual little girls.

—F.V.B.

Saint David (Dewi Saint).

St. David was born in 462, his birth having been foretold by St. Patrick 30 years before. He was the son of Sant one of the Princes of

Cardigan and of Non, a descendant of one of the Kings of South Britain. He was christened at his home in Pembrokeshire when the legend tells us "a spring gushed forth from a hollow." This spring is known as Ffynon Dewi and is reputed to possess healing properties.

While he was still quite a child his parents decided that his life should be consecrated to the service of the Church. He was educated for this at a place called Ty-Gwyn, in Carmarthanshire. There is a legend that when he first entered the church a white dove with a golden beak hovered about his head. His education lasted for twelve years after which he started on his ministry.

The first years of his ministry were spent in the hills of Wales helping the poor and teaching them to lead better and kinder lives. He was greatly loved by the simple, ignorant people among whom he worked and to whom many of his deeds must have seemed like miracles. After a time the strain of his work began to tell on him and he retired with a few companions to the Valley of Rhos where he founded his first monastery, later he founded many other churches and monasteries in South Wales. About this time many false doctrines had crept into the Church, and a great meeting was held to correct them. So great was the crowd that gathered at this meeting, that the Bishops were quite unable to make themselves heard by more than a handful of those present. David was at this meeting and at last was persuaded to get up and address the meeting. The story goes that when he reached the centre of the crowd, the ground on which he stood rose up and provided him with a natural pulpit, and his words were heard by everyone in that vast assembly. After this everywhere he went he preached to great crowds, and soon after this he was made Bishop of Caerleon, at that time one of the most important places of the kingdom. It was here that the great King Arthur (of Round Table fame) held his court. He was a nephew of David who found the gay city of Caerleon ill-suited to his work in the church. He therefore obtained permission to remove the Bishopric to Menevia a place near his old home. From here he continued his work of teaching and preaching and also made many journeys about the country founding churches and monasteries. There is a story saying that he had a vision telling him to go on a Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, which he did accompanied by St. Teilo and St. Padern. They travelled through Gaul

preaching as they went and "being miraculously endowed with the gift of tongues."

Just before his death, he is said to have received warning of it in a dream, and when he told his companions they gathered his people together and he preached his last sermon at the end of which his strength failed and he had to be carried to his cell where he died on March 1st, 601. The chronicle says "that about the time of cock-crowing Lo, a host of angels filled the city . . . and the Lord took the soul of St. David with great victory, and joy, and humour."

To-day Menevia is known as St. Davids and his bones are preserved in a casket under the altar of the cathedral which bears his name.

St. David was canonized in the 12th Century and became the Patron Saint of Wales.

—Gwyneth Parry Morgan, Cardiff, Wales.

St. Patrick's Day—March 17th.

Guiders! Have you re-read the legend of St. Patrick to tell to your Guides on his festival day, which this year falls on a Friday.

Having told them the story, why not suggest Patrol Corners for the next meeting, featuring St. Patrick, or perhaps Patrol one-act playlets. Another patrol competition which the Guides will enjoy is modelling of scenes from the legend, using different coloured plasticines.

(These suggestions could also be carried out on St. George's Day and St. Andrew's Day.)

—B.M.

GAMES.

General Knowledge.

Guides in two teams, on opposite sides of room, each child with a number. Have a chair at each end of room, Guider makes statements, either true or false, and calls out a number. Guides owning that number run to the chair at the top of room if they consider the statement is true, or the other end if vice-versa. A point is scored by the child who first sits on the appropriate chair. Care must be taken to correct all wrong statements before going on to the next one, or the children will be left with the wrong impression. Examples. King George V is the present King of England. The Guide Chalet is in Switzerland. The door of this clubroom faces North, etc. etc.

This is almost more amusing for the specta-

tors than the players. A few Guides sit round a table, eight is a good number. Before them is a plate, a knife and a fork, a table napkin and a cake of hard chocolate, such as Cadbury's Energy. The Guider asks various questions, which are on a subject previously decided upon, such as International Guiding, First Aid, or General Knowledge, etc. If the Guide gives the correct answer she tucks the table, napkin in her tie, and tries to cut up the chocolate with the knife and fork. She can go on eating it until another Guide gets the right answer to a question. The chocolate **must not** be touched with the fingers, though there is a great temptation to do this.

Ball Game.

Patrols divided into two, kneeling on the floor, with a space of two or three yards in between them. Stand a whistle up in the middle, which is to be knocked over by rolling a ball from one girl to another. One member of each patrol is the scorer and counts the number of times the whistle is knocked over in the space of one minute.

Animal Rounders.

Each patrol takes the call of an animal or bird. One patrol stands in file in the centre or room, others scattered round about. The patrol batting tries to hit the ball—tennis ball preferably—as far as possible. While it is being fielded, the batsman runs round and round her patrol counting the number of times. The Guide catching the ball shouts her patrol cry till all her patrol are standing behind her, when they sit down on the floor, and the batsman must stop running, and count her runs up to that time. A new batsman takes over, and this continues until every member of that patrol has had a turn at batting, when another patrol takes over. The patrol wins which has scored the greatest number of runs.

The Sea Ranger Fleet sails on a cruise to Treasure Island, at Albert Park Lake on Saturday, April 1st, at 2.15 p.m.

Land lubbers are welcome at 1/-. Children 6d. Proceeds for Endowment Fund.

WHY NOT BUY A SECOND-HAND UNIFORM?

For lack of cupboard space we would like to dispose of a number of Guiders' uniforms

which we have in stock for sale either on behalf of the owners or for the benefit of the Guide House Fund.

Below is a rough list of the stock; most of the uniforms are in excellent condition, only slightly worn, and it does a good turn to yourself as well as the owner (or the Guide House) if you can find one among them to fit you. May we suggest that you call in and try some on?

Country Guiders might write their wishes and give their measurements, and we can send a parcel of several uniforms on approval, if the freight is paid both ways.

—F. V. BARFUS.

Light Weight Coat Frocks—7/6 to 15/-,

or offers:

- 1 delysia, buttons to waist line.
- 1 navy drill, buttons all way down.
- 1 SW strong cesarine, buttons all way down, offer.
- 1 cesarine, buttons all way down; offer.
- 1 cesarine, buttons all way down.
- 1 alpaca, 42in. long, buttons all way down, good order; offer.

Serge Coat Frocks:

- Early model, good serge, buttons all way down; 10/-.
- 1 very light weight woollen material, buttons to waist; 10/-.
- 1 very good order, buttons all way down; £1.
- 1 early model, side pleats, buttons all way down; 15/-.
- 1 small size, buttons all way down; 15/-.
- 1 almost new, buttons all way down, suit tall person normal size; 30/- or offer.

Coats and Skirts:

- 1 small women's, tailored, good order, 30/-.
- 1 small size, good order, £1.
- 1 almost new, W. tailored, £2.
- 1 tailored, W., good order, £2.
- 1 medium, very good order, £2 or offer.
- 1 S.W. tailored, excellent order, offer.
- 1 large, £1.
- 1 small size, good order £2 or offer (could reduce).
- 1 S.W. tailored, offer.
- 1 tailored, 35in. bust, offer.
- 1 medium size, fair order, offer.
- 1 coat and skirt, 10/-.
- 1 S.W. navy drill, offer.
- One or two odd skirts, 5/-, or offer.

THE RANGERS' PAGE

—:O:—

Kneel always when you light a fire!
Kneel reverently and thankful be
For God's unfailing charity.
And on the ascending flame inspire
A little prayer, that shall upbear
The incense of your thankfulness
For this sweet grace of warmth and light!
For here again is sacrifice
For your delight.

—JOHN OXENHAM.

AN APPRECIATION.

Knowing how busy she is, it was with some diffidence that in December, 1937, I approached Miss Stamp to ask if she would act as Commissioner for Rangers while I was away "for a few months." But it is always the busy person who is ready to do more and she willingly agreed.

Now that I have at last returned I feel the Ranger Branch as a whole would like to join me in saying "Thank You" to Miss Stamp for all the time and thought she has given in spite of her many other activities.

JESS N. BOYES,
Commissioner for Rangers.

A VISIT TO THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

(From the St. Kilda District Rangers Log Book.)

As part of the Ranger Test requires a more or less intelligent knowledge of telephone communication, fifteen members of the company visited the Telephone Exchange in Lonsdale Street on the night of the 24th August.

This is called the City West Exchange and is the largest Exchange in Victoria. Throughout our visit we were guided by one of the engineers of the P.M.G.'s Department.

The first part to be inspected was the large room covering almost a whole floor which contains all the switchboards operated by telephonists. Each switchboard is eighteen inches long and during normal periods there is a girl to each board but at night time there is generally only one girl to four boards. To each board is attached a bewildering number of cards and tele-

phone numbers to be attended to and nearly all of us agreed that we would not like to be a telephonist however high the salary. After looking at the front of the board we were taken behind and shown the sixty thousand wires attached to each section. To our minds it would be worse looking for a fault amongst these wires than for the proverbial needle in the haystack.

Our next step was to be shown the Trunk Exchange. It was rather inspiring to feel that from this room it was possible to get in touch with almost any part of the world. While we were watching we noticed that a telephonist was trying to put through a call from Warrnambool to Launceston and the line went dead. Although we were excited she quietly arranged with the person in charge to have another line made available.

There are really two Exchanges in Lonsdale Street, the old building containing the manual and trunk exchanges and the new Automatic which has recently been built directly behind. The new Exchange is really a wonderful building—it is completely air-conditioned throughout and as a result the most delicate machinery can be left exposed.

In the old exchange we had been shown some of the automatic switches where each switch was covered with an aluminium cover to protect it from any grit which might be in the atmosphere. Incidentally while we were being shown this part of the exchange we overheard the cricket scores which were being relayed all over Victoria and part of New South Wales from the broadcasting room nearby. Tacked to each door of the new building is a notice requesting everyone to wipe their feet before entering and so minimise the risk of any grit escaping into the air. In this building are several floors containing automatic switches which are all uncovered. It was very strange to hear little clicks and rattles coming from all directions and to see little flashes of red and green lights. In the basement are kept the huge engines and turbines which provide all the electrical power.

And then last of all came the thrill of the night—we were going down to the tunnels. Firstly we had to descend a long perpendicular ladder, the first tunnel we went along was under Little Bourke Street, and then we turned right and went underneath Queen Street. It was most

amusing to see the names of the streets under which we were walking, on signposts, it was a new experience for us all to be walking under Melbourne and to hear the rumble of traffic overhead and we were able to bear witness to the truth of the statement that here was once a creek running where Elizabeth Street now is. We had all been warned not to wear good clothes as the walls are rather damp and not very wide apart, also there is rather a lot of water lying on the floor of the tunnels. As there are several cables each containing more than two thousand wires, running parallel to the walls, walking space was rather restricted. We all walked along Little Collins Street to Swanston Street toward St. Paul's Cathedral. It really is a long way from the Exchange to Swanston Street and back again and if it hadn't been for the novelty of walking underground we wouldn't have been so enthusiastic, and it was a very tired company that finally climbed up the ladder to street level and left the Exchange after two and a half hours of most instructive enjoyment.

GUIDE HOUSE NOTES.

On the 18th February, Lord Hampton, Chief Scout Commissioner, and Mr. G. W. S. Anderson, Chief Commissioner Boy Scouts' Association, Victoria, visited the Guide House as the guests of Lady Chauvel and the Executive Committee. After luncheon in the Camberwell Room they spent some time seeing through the house, cottage and grounds.

Miss Andrews reports that wonderful progress has been made by the working bees at the House. The painting of the following rooms has been completed: Guider in Charge's bed-sitting room, two large bedrooms, the Quartermaster's room, the kitchen and the pantry. Also a number of bedsteads and chest of drawers have been painted.

The Camberwell Room which was decorated by the contractors looks very attractive with off-white walls and venetian blinds and stained floors. It is an "L" shaped room with an open fireplace at each end.

A sun window faces the north, at which end is a lounge suite covered with fascinating linen stamped with empire emblems, roses, thistles, kangaroos, kiwis, etc. In the main part of the "L" are the tables and chairs, both attractive and useful in design, which can be folded and packed away if more space is required. The chairs have green canvas seats and backs and the tables green tops.

A magnificent cedar chest which is a beautiful addition to the lounge, and hardly to be recognised as the sadly neglected chest with doors mended with bits of kerosene tin, which the committee found in the house, is now in use as a linen cupboard. Its deep sliding tray-drawers being very useful for blankets. It was sent to an expert and has been carefully and well restored. The combined book-case-writing desk was also part of the original furnishings and has been renovated to match the cedar chest. By the fireplace is a waste paper basket, adorned with Brownie Emblems which was made by Brownie Guiders at the first training week held in the house.

Other rooms in the house will be described in next "Matilda" for the benefit of those who have not been able to see it since the painting and furnishing began.

Hartwell and Burwood L.A. gave the desk and Miss Hoffmeyer the bed of Australian oak for the G.I.C.'s room which the committee asked for in last "Matilda," you will remember. A wardrobe to match these to complete the room is still required.

Eight of the twelve bedside tables have also been donated since last Matilda. These are very attractive indeed, having two drawers for personal belongings, a towel rail on either side, and a shelf for shoes. They have been made by hand and cost 25/- each.

The furnishing committee also ask for large pieces of towelling for the bathrooms. It is suggested that they should be approx. 12 x 18 inches in size, be provided with a tape so that they can be hung on hooks and have a large B worked in the corner, so that they will be easily recognised. Possibly companies may like to give one or two of these towels. The needlewoman's badge should be an asset when it comes to working the blue "B" in the corner!!

The Ranger camp will now be held at Easter, the cottage has been booked for a Pack Holiday, but the house is still vacant, so Guiders who may wish to take a company to an indoor camp there are advised to apply quickly.

Snatches of the familiar Guide songs and gurgles of laughter issue from the various rooms at the Guide House these week-ends coupled with the steady swish-swish of paint brushes, as working parties of Guides proceed with interior decorations. The brave, perched on ladders, with steady hands attack

the walls, those who do not like heights can do skirtings, ledges, etc. Everyone is catered for, in fact. If you are not an expert with a paint brush there are numerous other jobs you can do to help on with the great work, so everyone is happy and busy, and the work is proceeding satisfactorily.

Volunteers for working bees, however, exceed the transport available, so any car owner who would be willing to take a party to the Guide House at week-ends is asked to get in touch with Miss Andrews, c/o The Guide Office.

CAMPING AT OCEAN GROVE.

The 2nd East Malvern Company held its first camp at "Bungarra," Ocean Grove, from 9th to 16th January. Not one of the nineteen Guides in camp had ever camped before, and it was a thrilling adventure which had been talked about and planned for during the last six months of last year.

We had very good swimming weather all the week—it was the bush fire week—and bathing parades were very popular every day. On the Tuesday, it was as though a very thick fog had come up, and we could hear the fog horn from Point Lonsdale blowing all day, but we discovered the next day that the "fog" had been the smoke from the fires.

One of the features of the camp was a series of tests whereby the Guides could earn aboriginal totem names. The tests included the drawing of a sketch map from the camp to the local post office; cooking one dish for a meal, such as scrambled eggs, or stewed fruit and custard, etc.; drawing a seagull's imprint on the sand, and finding a seagull's feather; but the acid test of the whole series was the three-hours silence. Very few Guides passed this test at their first attempt, and at one meal, I remember, only the members of the staff were speaking! That was one of the few peaceful meals we had.

We also had patrol nature museums, and after one excursion a proud patrol brought home a dead snake (very dead!)

An interesting experience we had that week was a visit to the Northcote Children's Farm Camp, which was just nearby. There were 110 children in camp, 24 girls and 86 boys, their ages ranging from 5 to about 14. These children have been drawn from the industrial cities of Great Britain, during the last twelve months, and are living at the Lady Northcote Farm at Bacchus Marsh. Some of the children we met had been in Victoria only ten days, having just arrived

from England. Each Guide soon acquired a little "sister," and we played some of our Brownie and Guide games with the girls, while all the boys stood round, wanting to join in! A boy and a girl from Wales, each aged about 10, sang the Welsh National Anthem to us—the Guides were very intrigued to hear this strange tongue. We had a return visit from the girls of the Farm Camp, who had morning tea with us, and were very interested in the layout of a Guide camp. They are all very keen to be Guides, but most of them will be Brownies as they are so very young. I heard the other day that they are all pretending to be Guides now!

The various "mod. cons." at Bungarra were very much appreciated during that hot week, the showers being particularly popular on the Friday, when we had to hire a truck to take us down to the beach, it being quite impossible to walk the half mile or so.

Altogether it was a very happy week, with many sighs on the last day ("but it'll be nice to see Mum again"), and one very small Guide of 11 came up to me and said she was going to "start saving up again straight away for camp next year!"

—E.A.

NORTHERN DIVISION GUIDE CAMP.

Forty Guides and Guiders from the Northern Division deposited their luggage in the drive of Rosbercon Girls' Grammar School, North Brighton, where camp was to be held instead of at the Guide House, owing to danger from bushfires. They were greeted by Miss Hoffmeyer and her Lieutenant, Miss MacLeod.

We trooped upstairs and inspected the rooms where we were to sleep during the camp. We were wedged into seven rooms, the three Guiders' rooms included—in the following manner. Bendigo occupied one room, Murchison another, Numurkah, Echuca and Korong Vale were together, and Tongala and Tatura filled another room. Woorinen, Nyah and Kerang fitted into a room, two lots of Guiders were in two rooms and Miss Hoffmeyer and Miss MacLeod occupied a room downstairs—thus we were fitted in nicely.

After the inspection of rooms, at the request of Miss Hoffmeyer we brought down our eating apparatus and tucked into a jolly good afternoon tea!

We were divided into Patrols—Seagulls, Starfish, Minahs, Thrushes and Limpets—and went upstairs to get palliasses. Oh, no! We

weren't sleeping on feather mattresses, even if we were in bedrooms—straw and hessian for us, thank you!

That night, many of us attended our first camp fire. We had it on the lawn, but other nights we had it in the schoolrooms because of the stunts, some of which were perfectly gorgeous. For instance, one night we were entertained by a band of nigger minstrels, who finished up their items with Alexander's Ragtime Band. Another Patrol acted "Three Pirates Came to London Town," complete even to the daughter and the King's Crown. Another Patrol gave us a social evening. However, to go back to the first night, after some songs and a story, we were each given a stick, which we were told were our totem poles—I think most of us managed to win two badges—some even won three, but I think that was our limit!

The next day we went to Melbourne, traveling by train from Gardenvale station. We were in our Patrols, each Patrol in charge of its Guider, and were free to go to any particular place we wished to visit—The Shrine, St. Paul's Cathedral, Botanical Gardens, Museum—all these we visited, and then to Guide Headquarters, where we were shown over the rooms and afterwards departed with the canteen.

The day after, which, I think, happened to be a Wednesday, we went to the Brighton Baths, and swam in squads, under the supervision of Miss Hunter, Lieutenant in a Bendigo Company. And that night we went to Luna Park!

On Thursday we cooled down a trifle after our hilarious evening and went to the beach again.

The next day we went to the Guide House, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Littlejohn, who provided the bus for us. We travelled to Spencer Street by train, and then all fitted into one big bus. I think, by the time we got there, even the driver must have known every Guide song ever published, off by heart, we sang so many, and so often. We also enjoyed ourselves by laughing at one Guide who didn't like the tail swing on the bus, and seemed unable to get used to the swing around bends. It was real fun watching, or rather, hearing her!!

We saw the remains of several bushfires, but the only actual fire we saw was miles away. After dinner on the lawn, we went swimming—not straight after, of course!—undressing in the Brownies' Cottage—a ducky little place, quite close to the Guide House. You would

have had the shudders as the Guides made use of the showers before their swim.

After the bathing operations were brought to a conclusion we went over the house and inspected it thoroughly. In it we found a delightful doll, dressed as a Guide in full uniform, marked "Mary Belgrave" and belonging to the Belgrave Company.

The next morning we were violently awakened by the alarm whistle. We all bounded into coats, grabbing rugs or anything that happened to be handy, falling over each other on our way downstairs to the flagpole. We had had a previous alarm whistle, but as we had answered it very badly—we were never a model company for falling in; in fact, one passer-by outside Spencer Street Station was heard to say, "They fall in like a lot of wet ducks," a remark that did not escape our indignant ears!—we were to have another. However, Miss Hoffmeyer gave us credit for this one, which I think we deserved, seeing most of us were sound asleep when it went! That day was Visitors' Day, and hot water was provided—I think one whole family took advantage of the offer.

The Brighton Guides had challenged us to a Basket Ball match, to be played on this day. We had two teams, both of which played the Brighton team. Brighton beat one and lost to the other. That took up nearly all the afternoon and entertained the visitors.

The next day was Sunday and each Guide and Guider attended her own church in the morning, while in the afternoon we visited the Commissioner's home, which is very near the beach. We swam and had tea on the lawn, and afterwards hiked home, not arriving till nearly dusk. That night we had Guides' Own, which Miss Hoffmeyer conducted, assisted by the Patrol Leaders. The theme of our Powwow was St. Andrew.

On our last day, Monday, we were divided into two groups, some playing a Wide Game, others visiting the Zoo. I don't know what happened during the Wide Game, as I went to the Zoo. Those who stayed at home included Q.M. and Ass. Q.M., as well as a whole Patrol. The Patrol would let none into the dining-room, and when we went for our tea, we beheld figures made of potatoes and matches and other decorations. We had visitors that night—the District and Divisional Commissioners for Brighton—so the Mess Patrol were quite happy. Miss Irving, the State Secretary, had also paid us a visit.

I think—in fact I'm quite certain—that

every one was very sorry when it was time to go home, even if Q.M. did object to the small number of dixies we possessed and the garbage tin did squeak, rattle and bang in the middle of the night, with Miss Hoffmeyer and

Miss MacLeod trying to stifle their laughter, and if the photographer did only put half of our photos in the paper!

SHIRLEY ABBOTT,
1st Tongala Guide Company.

CAMPING and TRAINING

Miss Martin's Visit.

The following is the tentative programme for Miss Martin's visit to Victoria. Miss Martin is a trainer from Imperial Headquarters and will be in this State for six weeks from 19th June. It is felt that a great number of guiders will want to avail themselves of this splendid opportunity to meet a trainer from Overseas. The programme as far as it can be arranged so far ahead is being announced now so that as many commissioners and guiders as possible may keep the dates free.

22nd to 26th June.—Commissioners' Conference at Guide House.

26th to 30th June.—Interstate Diploma'd Guiders' Conference.

30th June to 3rd July—Ranger Guiders' Training at Guide House.

7th to 14th July.—Guide and Brownie Training Week at Guide House.

Saturday, 15th July.—Guiders' Outdoor Training Day.

Saturday, 15th July.—Ranger Dinner and Campfire.

21st to 24th July.—Country Training Week-end

Saturday, 29th July.—Guiders' Outdoor Training Day.

In addition to the above arrangements, evening classes will be held, and an afternoon with Local Association Members; these and other dates will be announced in due course.

Training Classes.

Brownie Training: The FIRST COURSE for 1939 will begin on Monday, 13th March, 1939, at 8 p.m., at the Guide Office. Miss V. Hill will be the Guider-in-charge.

Guide Training: The FIRST COURSE for 1939 of elementary Guide Training will begin on Wednesday, 15th March, at 8 p.m., and will continue weekly for ten or twelve classes. Miss Sheila MacLeod will be the Guider-in-charge.

Guiders who have not previously attended a course must bring a signed nomination form from the District Commissioner.

Campcraft Badge.

It has been decided to extend the application date for the Campcraft Badge Course because a number of Ranger Companies had not resumed for the year in time to apply last month.

This course will be held if there are sufficient applications to make it possible. So far there are only six applications.

The Course will consist of three week-ends at Gipton and three weekly classes. Dates: Classes at 8 p.m., at Headquarters: March 28th, April 4th and May 9th. Week-ends, 29th-30th April, 13th-14th May and 20th-21st May. Fee, 3d. per class and 17/6, which covers the three week-ends and includes fares to Frankston. Guider-in-charge, Miss C. Broadhurst. Applications close definitely on 15th March, and must be sent to the Camping Secretary at the Guide Office, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.1. Guiders and Rangers may attend and Rangers must send a signed nomination from their captains with applications.

Pioneer Badge.

This course for Guides, Rangers and Guiders if they wish, will commence in April and will consist of two evening classes at Headquarters, three Saturday afternoon field days and one week-end which will be 27-28th May. The dates of the classes and field days will be announced in April Matilda. The cost will be 3d. for each class and Field Day and 7/6 including fare for the week-end for Guides of sixteen and over, and 6/- for Guides under sixteen. Guides and Rangers must send written nomination from their captains. Further applications will be received until 15th March by the Camping Secretary, at the Guide Office, 60 Market Street, Melbourne.

Easter Ranger Camp.

It seems fairly definite that we shall be able

to have this camp, but any Rangers applying must understand that should any further trouble or possibility of trouble from bush-fires arise, arrangements will be cancelled. The Camp will be held at the Guide House.

Please send in applications **not later than 15th March**, to the Camping Secretary, at the Guide Office. Rangers who are able, will travel to camp on the evening of Thursday, 6th April, and return to Melbourne on the evening of Tuesday, 11th April. The fee will depend entirely on the number of Rangers attending and will probably be 17/6 or £1, not including fare, which is 5/9 return rail and 1/3 return bus. Kit lists, health forms and travelling arrangements will be sent to applicants. Miss F. V. Barfus will be the Guider-in-charge.

—ELAINE E. MORAN.

AFTER THE GUIDE CAMPS.

WE ARE ANXIOUS TO CLEAR THE OFFICE OF UNCLAIMED ARTICLES.

Will the owners of the following goods, salvaged from the GUIDE HOUSE CAMPS in the final clearing-up, please claim them at the Guide Office, or send postage to cover the sending of the parcel:—

- 1 black bathing suit and cap.
- 1 groundsheet marked K. Powell.
- 1 pair white sandshoes.
- 1 brown socklet.
- 1 blue flynet, 1 brown flynet.
- 1 green felt hat.
- 1 navy mackintosh.
- 1 coloured towel.
- 1 navy stockinette shirt.
- 1 sheet.
- 1 cardigan (beige with coloured flecks, red buttons).
- 1 coathanger.
- 3 aprons.
- 1 book and bookmark.

Campers at the WARRNAMBOOL GUIDE CAMP are asked to claim the following goods from Miss M. E. Morris, Bryn Coed, Hamilton, sending stamps to defray postage:—

- 1 torch.
- 1 navy cardigan.
- 1 navy blazer.
- 1 pocket-knife with 2 blades and brown handle.

Evan Evans

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