

Mrs. M. E. Bush.

Matilda



MARCH, 1942.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides' Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office on February 5, 1942.

Present.—Lady Chauvel, Mesdames Faulkner, Blackwood, Edmondson, Littlejohn, Pearson, Robinson, Misses McKellar, Moran, and the Secretary.

Reported:—That the Caretaker's Cottage had been completed; £70 had been advanced from general association funds to complete payment.

That Mrs. Faulkner had resigned as Convener of the Guide House Committee.

That the final statement for the Christmas Tree Appeal showed: Receipts, £2082/1/3; expenses, £45; balance, £2036/1/3.

That Woori Yallock, Dandenong, and East Malvern Camps had been held; also Richmond Pack Holiday.

That the Land Workers' Camp at Geelong had been successful.

That the Cycle Corps was being organised in a number of Districts.

That a donation of £2 had been received from Mrs. Templeton.

That Mrs. Blair had resigned as Area Commissioner for the 5th Country Area.

Agreed:—That £50 worth of wool for spinning should be bought.

That we should offer to run a camp under the auspices of the National Fitness Council for schoolgirls picking fruit in the Swan Hill-Nyah District.

That in response to a request from the Australian Comforts Fund for assistance in collecting cleaning rags for Defence purposes, we should print the appeal in "Matilda."

That Districts should be asked to cooperate with the civil authorities in organising Youth Power Week, as suggested by the Associated Youth Committee of the National Fitness Council.

That the Federal Council Report be received.

That the Secretary should convene a sub-committee to consider the formation of a Guide Garden Corps.

Routine business was transacted.

—M. E. BUSH.

WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS

Brown Owl: 4th St. Kilda, Miss E. Joseph.
Captain: 3a Ballarat, Miss M. Blake; 1st Minyip, Mrs. D. Robertson. **Lieutenant:** 1st Bently, Miss I. M. Morton; 1st Sandringham, Miss N. Horne. **Company:** 4a Lone Guide.

Cancellations.

Lieutenant: 2nd Cheltenham, Miss A. Hunt.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

"Adventuring," South Australia.
"Girl Guide Courier," Western Australia.
"Girl Guide Magazine," South Africa.

"Le Trefle Rouge et Blanc," Switzerland.
"Te Rama," New Zealand.
"The Council Fire," London.
"The Girl Scout Leader," U.S.A.
"The Waratah," N.S.W.
"Victorian Scout."

"MATILDA" SUBSCRIPTIONS

The following subscriptions have been paid, and the receipts held at the Guide Office to save postage:—

January.—Miss Sanger; 13th Geelong Co.; Mrs. Stevenson; Mrs. K. C. Jones; Miss S. H. Irving.

February.—Mrs. F. Tate; 2nd Hamilton Co.; Miss D. Paton.

GUIDE SHOP

Two new books have just arrived from England:—

3rd BOOK OF IDEAS.—This is a welcome addition to the other books written by E. M. R. Burgess. It has new ideas for everybody—Lone Guides, Post Guides. It has Thinking Day ceremonies, camp fires, new ideas on how to tackle the Nature part of Guide Second Class, etc. And many new games and competitions. Price 4/6, plus postage 4d.

LONE WOLF TRAIL.—Many people will remember this appearing each month in The Guider, and will immediately wish to possess it in its book form. It is a special boon in these times when Captain is not always able to attend Company meeting. It is a special book for Patrol Leaders, and each Leader should possess one. The price is 1/4, plus postage 2d.

The following Badges have arrived:—LITTLE HOUSE EMBLEM, price 1/3; this is so attractive that, once seen, many Guides will immediately want to work for it. HOME DEFENCE BADGE, 6d.

CYCLE CORPS ARMLETS will be available early in March; price 1/6.

GUIDE BELTS.—In future Guide belts will only be supplied to clients by written order of the Captain of the Company or the Badge Secretary of the Local Association.

NEW LEATHER FOR OLD STYLE BELTS.—These can be bought at the Guide Shop; price 1/9, plus postage. They can be bought in sizes from 26 to 36. Rivets are no longer obtainable, so it will be necessary to either sew them yourselves or obtain the services of the local bootmaker.

PROPELLING PENCIL REFILLS.—Price 9d., plus postage. These are the special size for the Girl Guide Propelling.

BROWNIE OVERALLS.—It will not be possible to stock ready-made Brownie Overalls in the future. Material is still available at 2/6 per yard, plus postage.

INCREASE IN PRICES.—Shoulder Knots, 3d.; Pouches, 1/9; Propelling Pencils, 3/3; Australian Flag, 37/6; Union Jack, 31/6; World Flag, 25/-; Flag Carriers, 4/-.

—Clara Broadhurst.

"Matilda"

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

Price, 3/- per year. 4/- Posted. Single Copies 6d. each.

Editor: Mrs. GUY BAKEWELL, 4 Stoke Ave., Kew, E.4.

Contributions should reach the Editor not later than the 18th of each month.

VOL. XVIII.

MARCH, 1942.

No. 9.

GUIDE HOUSE

Mrs. Faulkner, who agreed last year to carry on temporarily as Convener of the Guide House Committee, is unable to continue any longer. We are most grateful to her for all she has done and thank her very much.

We are very glad indeed that Mrs. Littlejohn has consented to be Convener now. We remember with gratitude how much the Guide House owes to Mrs. Littlejohn as its first Convener, and it is with the very greatest pleasure that we welcome her to this position again.

—SIBYL CHAUVEL.

GUIDE WAR WORK

Here are some interesting items about Guide War Work sent in from various parts of Victoria.

Daylesford Guides held a fair to make their quota for the Prisoners of War Fund. They cleared £46, and donated £5 to the local Comforts Fund and £5 to the local Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund.

Kerang Company also had a fete—an annual affair—and made over £18. Then at the local show they had a display of finished garments made for the Guide War Appeal. This display proved very interesting to people who wonder what Guides do as their war work. During the past year Kerang has sent in over 300 garments and £61 in cash. It is possible that some Companies may be interested in the way in which Kerang fete was run. Each Patrol had a stall—Produce, Sweets, Jumble and Small Cakes and one penny drinks. They draw each year to see "which Patrol has which." The Guides work up the stalls themselves, and do all the decorating in Patrol colours. The Brownies also have a stall, and amongst other things sell buttonholes of flowers. The L.A. Committee stocks and runs a Cake Stall and the afternoon tea, for which they charge 1/-. They always have some form of entertainment, by the Guides and Brownies—last year a specially good physical culture display, and this year just individual items.

We have seen pictures in the local papers of Bendigo Guides standing beside piles of aluminium that they have collected, part of the total of eight cwt.

Their Guide Shop is still going strong. It has made £640 in 15 months. They have regular customers who come every week for fruit and flowers and cake. Dolls' clothes are still in great demand, also black Aunt Sally dolls, made of old Guide stockings. Miss

Hoffmeyer would be very glad of old Guide stockings—no matter how old and darned—and also of white pearl buttons—lots of them for the dolls' clothes and dolls she makes. Could you collect a few, and send them to her at "Bowden," Barnard st., Bendigo?

In Clunes the Guides met with a splendid response to their appeal for old aluminium. They also have something different I should think from any other Companies—a men's auxillary! The men make all sorts of wooden things, such as bandage winders, bed rests, etc., for the Red Cross. At the Clunes Guides' Waste Depot on one afternoon the takings were 11/-—N.M.

GEELONG NEWS

For some time now Geelong has been divided into areas for the purpose of collecting waste products. This has been done by a voluntary band of women, who drive a truck and collect once a month from each area.

This year the Guides decided that they would offer their services to help these women to save petrol and time, by establishing depots in certain streets in a given area. Each Company is responsible for part of one area only at present, but as time goes on they hope to do more.

The Guides, in uniform, collect the waste either after school or on Saturdays, using small carts or barrows. Already they have proved that they can be of great help in this work of national importance.

RAG COLLECTING

We have all got a tremendous urge to do something really practical and useful to help the war effort.

Well, here comes a great chance. Rag collecting!

The aluminium collection was a big success in many places, and now that we know how to set about it the collection of cotton and linen rags for cleaning purposes for the Army and Air Force should go with an even "greater bang."

The Guides in New Zealand have been very busy at it for months. They have set aside special Saturdays, zoned their towns and districts, and made house to house collections.

In the end they have gathered in and sorted this staggering total:—51,782lb., or 23 tons 2 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb. weight of rags.

Well, Victorian Guides, what about it?—N.M.

ALUMINIUM

"Aluminium," said the King. "Here we are, sir," said the Guides, and that was how it all started.

It was arranged that we should meet down at the Lake—the Lake hasn't any water in it, but that doesn't matter! When Captain arrived there they all were under the shade of a pleasant tree—the day was pretty hot—haversacks and sugar bags in their hands, bicycles ready with boxes and bags strapped on them. In summer uniform the Guides looked ready for anything.

The Guides were divided into three groups, each having members of the Cycle Corps attached to them, and off they went—Captain taking one group in "Horace" to the far end of the district whence they worked back. "Horace" then went in search of another group of older Guides who had gone to a remote part of the map. After toiling over some very rough road, blue figures were seen waving frantically and "Horace" took a load of aluminium on board and made back for the Toddlers' Home, which was the temporary dump, through the co-operation of the Matron. Very entertained were the Toddlers as the battered saucepans and frying pans came in.

"Horace" and his driver then waited out on the road and it was interesting to see the figures come pedalling along with the load collected by those on foot, empty it out and away they would go for more, sometimes stopping to get a cooling ice block at a convenient little shop nearby. By 5 o'clock the district had been covered and the Guides, rather hot and dusty, made for the Gardens, where were the blessings of green grass and shady trees. In the cool of the evening everyone meandered home, rather tired, but happy that the King had his aluminium.—M.H.

THIS CONCERNS YOU VERY MUCH

Please Read It

Guiders! Have you read Kipling's "The Glory of the Garden"? Read it now—you will find it printed in this copy of "Matilda." Now that you have read it, change the title of this lovely poem, substitute words and names that take away the lovely poetry, but leave there the same meanings; and you will begin to understand. Our new title could be:

THE NECESSITY FOR THE VEGETABLE GARDEN; or even THE GLORY OF THE VEGETABLE GARDEN,

because, in the days, what more useful, thrilling and healthy occupation could there be than Companies or Patrols of Guides working together to grow and produce food for the well-being of the nation. You see we have come to the point! Why not form in our Guide Movement a VEGETABLE GROWERS' CORPS? You have heard of the Guide Cycle Corps, and the useful work it is preparing itself to do; but we can't all belong to the

Cycle Corps, and there is so much other work to be done, such as growing vegetables and collecting waste products, etc., that we have need for many helping hands. Members of the Cycle Corps and Waste Products Squads could be members of the Vegetable Growers' Corps, too, if they are prepared to be working partners in the Glory of the Vegetable Garden!

Now let us be practical and make practical suggestions.

Why not form a Company Vegetable Growers' Corps or a Patrol Corps?

It may be possible to obtain the use of one big plot of land centrally situated for the whole Company or Patrol. If not that, it may be possible to obtain the use of several back gardens from sympathetic parents who would be willing to co-operate. One garden might produce beans, another carrots and parsnips, another potatoes and another cabbage—something like that! Once or twice a week the products of these gardens could be pooled and sold or allotted as arranged.

Some municipalities have already made available large plots of land in central positions, for the cultivation of vegetables; and it is hoped that different people will take turns in helping there each day. Your Company or a Patrol might work in with this scheme, if nothing else could be arranged.

It should be possible in every Company to obtain the help of some keen, enthusiastic parent who has always grown his own vegetables in a very efficient manner; and who would be willing to start you on the right path. Also, the daily and weekly papers print special notes for the cultivation of vegetables. They are most helpful—make a point of reading them and carry out their suggestions!

And now let us have a note of warning!

There is a very definite "right path" to take when growing vegetables; so be sure you start there at the very beginning. You may be offered some waste land on which to start your activities; sometimes waste land IS waste land because it is so poor that nothing can be done with it. So choose your site carefully, otherwise you will have disillusionment and failure. Here are a few hints to set you on the "right path" when you go to look for your site; and then prepare it for growing:—

Have plenty of sunlight.

An easterly or south-westerly aspect is the best, protected from the south, west and north-west winds.

A friable, loamy soil is the best—it is easy to work and gives the best results. A heavy soil is too difficult to work, it is too expensive because it may need draining, and it is too cold in the winter. A sandy soil needs more water. But should you have no choice, don't be put off—plenty of lime and plenty of manure does wonders to a poor soil and a heavy soil; but be sure that your lime is always put in the soil fully three weeks before the manure. There is a very special reason for this; and perhaps you could

find that out for yourselves, because space will not permit it here.

Dig deep—not less than 12 inches.

Lime, manure and water are essential, no matter what kind of soil you may have.

Constant cultivation is necessary—this allows the warmth of the sun and the air to penetrate into the soil and so encourages growth. Bring the soil to a fine tilth and you will have good results. Cultivation also keeps down weeds—weeds and vegetables will not grow together.

You have been given the practical suggestions, the notes of warning, and what to do—and now, will you do it? Have another look at your poem:

"There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,

There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick,

But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done. . . ."

And this:

"And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden

You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden."

It will be your thrill when you produce your first fine efforts.

"Matilda" will be glad to receive reports from any Companies or Patrols undertaking this effort, and each month these reports will be printed as well as any hints and advice that may be necessary.

Here's to the glory of YOUR vegetable garden!

STOP PRESS.

Since the above article was written, the Garden Army scheme has been launched under the auspices of the Y.W.C.A. It is hoped that where possible, Guides will link up and co-operate with the Garden Army in their various Districts.

FUN WITH FRUIT PICKING, OR HARVESTING IN THE HEAT

New Year's Day found us pushing our bicycles up the long, long hill from Geelong to Ceres. When we arrived, eight very hot and very dusty bodies, we were met by a smiling Q.M., who took us into her aunt's cool house, and gave us lemon syrup in unlimited quantities.

When we had recovered we went over to the farm where we were to work. Here we planned the system of working for the next day. Two were to stay in camp to cook and go messages, four were to help to bring in the harvest, and the other two were to help stook barley on a neighbouring farm. Stooking consists of bending down to pick up sheaves and place them in small piles, so it was suggested that one stooker might be a Ranger who had brought an old pair of gloves with her, and the other a stout Guide, as bending would be beneficial to her figure. We collected some of the Geelong District camping equipment and returned to inspect

our camp site. When we had finished pitching, the store tent and the stove formed the centre of a circle of hike tents which backed on to the cookhouse. The wash cubicle screening was draped around the base of a large tank, forming a rather airy bathroom.

The first morning we were up fairly early, tidied up the camp, and cut our lunch. The stookers cycled down the road, the harvesters set off across the yellow paddocks, and the two cooks remained behind, feeling perhaps just a little envious of the workers. The stookers, finding that their services were not required yet, rode over to join the others and found two Guides busily pumping water while they waited for the next load of hay to come up. Two were down in the paddocks pitching the sheaves from the ground into the small lorry. Each load had to be carefully stacked. This stacking proved rather unpopular, as the butts of the sheaves scratched our sunburnt arms and legs.

One day we provided a neighbour with four stookers in two relays; the first pair had a hot sun beating down on them, and the second had a wind to battle with. (Great discussions followed as to whether the stooking was harder in the morning or in the afternoon).

The next day was Sunday, a free day, which was spent in attending to neglected laundry and correspondence. Some of us went to the Methodist Church at Ceres in the morning and others to the Anglican Church at Barrabool in the afternoon.

Although we originally intended to be fruit pickers, we had not, as yet, done any picking. The stack was now finished, but the fruit was still not ripe, so we spent three days harvesting on an adjacent farm.

Wednesday brought a terrific dust storm which began about 4 o'clock away out over the bay and spread a red haze over the whole of the country. We were very sad at the thought of sleeping in our tents again, as we had not slept in them after the first two nights, but the owner of the campsite, Q.M.'s uncle, came over to invite us to sleep in his conservatory. We gratefully accepted this offer, and spent a very comfortable night.

On the next Saturday we struck camp, and having said "Good-bye" to all the people and a very nice little poddy calf we had met, we departed for Highton, and simply whizzed down the hill which we had toiled up a little more than a week before. We lunched in Q.M.'s garden, and then went straight through to Bannockburn on the back of a truck belonging to our new employer, leaving behind us a batch of new arrivals to pick the Highton fruit.

Our next job was in an orchard about a mile off the main road, in an alluvial river flat, with row upon row of cool green trees, a welcome relief from the dryness of Ceres. We had a perfect camping spot on a bank of the Moorabool River. The site was very English—elm trees met overhead, and kept the hot sun out, and around us were ashes, oaks,

poplars, honey locust, gums and even a lime tree. We could cross the river by a foot-bridge whose stays had been washed away in a flood and which was consequently rather bouncy. Just around a bend was a natural swimming pool which was very popular even on cold days.

The path between the tents was christened "Haytriccott Lane," as we had been pitching hay, we were surrounded by trees, and were to pick apricots. The banks of the Moora-bool were steep and slippery, so we rigged up a simple pulley consisting of a bucket on the end of a piece of rope. This method of drawing water was only moderately successful, as we had to duck-dive for one bucket, one wash-basin, and one dixie lid.

The apricots being already over-ripe, we began picking on Sunday morning and worked hard for the next few days, until we were reinforced by the Highton workers.

The picking was not hard—we had only to take the fruit from the lower branches—there were boys with step-ladders for the higher fruit. We picked the apricots into kerosene tins, and then poured them into boxes arranged together on the back of the truck which was driven through the orchard. Some of the trees had large juicy apricots, some of which were as big as oranges. But other apricots had big stones, which showed that they were meant to be big, but there had been too much sun and too little rain, and they had scorched and shrivelled, so that we could only pick an odd one here and there.

We had fresh milk every morning and very often cream: one of the Guides would not drink cow's milk, she wanted "town milk."

Drinking water was brought in a milk can from the house, and we washed in water from the river; we certainly needed plenty of soap and water after the dust of the orchard.

One day we borrowed two rods and set off down the river. One of the party dug worms for bait. We did not have a single bite during the afternoon, and so we gave up.

Our mail was either brought out from Bannockburn by the baker or by a neighbour or we cycled into Bannockburn for provisions and collected it. The people in the township were most interested in us.

The next Saturday was a holiday, and, looking forward to a free week-end, we planned an exciting hike for the following day. But later we learned that to co-operate with the carrier, we had to pick on Sunday. On Sunday night we had a Rangers' Own Service.

Monday morning at 5 a.m. found sleepy Guides wandering around with mallets, knocking in pegs and tightening guys. A dusty north wind had sprung up. The whole day was hot and stormy, but a change in the afternoon brought the much-needed rain. Much to our sorrow we had to sleep inside our tents. We borrowed a huge tarpaulin which we rigged up over the cookhouse as a marquee.

The staff and four Guides remained until Tuesday to finish the fruit. Of the others who were not lucky enough to be able to stay, three departed on Friday and three more left on Saturday.

We had to work hard the last two days to make up for the departed hands. On Monday night after Taps we did some unofficial tent-striking in the moonlight. Q.M., thinking she heard possums in the store tent, made an undesired appearance. However, both she and the commandant enjoyed the joke.

Next day we struck camp. We felt that our camp was a real test of pioneering, as it had lasted nearly four weeks and had included two very bad camping nights. It had not been altogether an easy "camp in sunny weather," but we wouldn't have missed it for worlds, and are eagerly waiting for the next Fruit Picking Camp.—E.P. and P.B.

WHEN HAMILTON RANGERS WENT RUSTIC

If you did anything interesting on last King's Birthday week-end, you will remember how cool and pleasant the weather was, in fact, ideal for camping. We camped at Monivae. There were seven Rangers in the party, though only four of us were able to get away on Friday night, and it was quite dark by the time we pitched two tents. Next morning we were up almost as early as the magpies, and the camp was all ready for the others when they arrived soon after dinner. Some time later we were summoned to the orchard, where it had been decided to plant peas. With the customary generous co-operation of the owner of land, and after several vigorous protests on the part of the tractor, whose behaviour, be it said, was not what it might have been, we got things going. Two of the girls drove the tractor in turns while the "director of operations" steered the plough. We rode as passengers in the tractor. The lack of knee-action was a noticeable feature, especially when we went over stones. But you should have seen us ploughing. There were three of us behind the plough; that is, we were there some of the time. For the rest we were picking ourselves up out of the furrows. And when we finished the ploughing, we put harrows on. It was altogether a lovely day, and we were quite tired enough to go to bed straight after camp-fire that night.

Next day, being Sunday, was a quiet day for us. After dinner our District Commissioner enrolled one of our Rangers, and we had Rangers' Own. In the evening, for our sing-song, we had a real Hunters' Camp-fire, using the bath-tent for a hut.

Monday was spent mostly in testing Pioneer work, but before we went home we planted the peas, and had a lovely little tree-planting ceremony, which we concluded with the "Tree

Song." Then, the camp being struck, and everything put away, we had tea, and departed for home, hoping . . .

Two very busy weeding trips were held during the weeks that followed, till at last came harvest time. We decided on week-end camps to do this, and as many Guiders as were available agreed to go out. On these occasions we used our big 14 x 14 tent, fondly known as "Sametta," as sleeping quarters. We managed to sling her, after violent effort, on a rope between two sturdy pines. We slept without palliasses. We will refrain from comment on that point. Our cooking was done, through the courtesy of the household, in the wash-house fireplace, as by this time fire-lighting in the open was forbidden. We were awake very early next morning; breakfast was served at 6.30 a.m. During the afternoon we went for a ramble around the creek to improve our picking form. On return we went forth with as many receptacles as we could muster, and by the time these were full it was dusk, and time to go home.

We went back to finish the job two weeks later, and despite an attack by ambitious members of a bee-hive, who were, I regret to report, successful in many instances, we were able to complete our harvesting. Altogether we gathered 130 pound of peas, and these we sold among our friends, the money thus raised being sent to the Guide War Appeal.—H.M.P.

CAMOUFLAGE NETS

The Guide Association has now sent just over 100 nets to the Country Women's Association. Whether you consider this is a good contribution from such a large organisation or not, I do not know; but I feel that a very much bigger effort could be made. Seeing that it is a handcraft that requires no age limit, it is admirably suited to our membership, which ranges from girls of Guide age to grandmothers of our L.A.'s.

Those of us who have reached the "venerable age" when we would apparently be of no use in war industries can herein find our niche of usefulness towards our country's defence. To those younger ones whose days are full of service the making of nets can be a quiet and restful occupation. It could be enlarged considerably if every district opened a depot.

With the war so near our shores the need for nets is more urgent than ever before, and this is a very definite war effort. There is no expense. The Defence Department issues the twine through the C.W.A. The needles and meshing sticks can be made by any amateur carpenter. The only other equipment needed is a small rod and two cup hooks. One can learn in two lessons. A net can be made quite easily in a fortnight.

Beginners can learn at Guide H.Q. any

Wednesday afternoon, or can join in with the nearest depot to their home address. The following are the names of those running depots in the suburbs:—

Mrs. Potter, Nerrim Road, Murrumbeena.
Mrs. Hughes, 3 Beaver St., Malvern.
Mrs. G. Swinburne, Kinkora Road, Hawthorn.
Miss Russell, 12 Springfield Ave., Toorak.
Mrs. Tremlett, c/o Mrs. Forster, Cochrane Street, Brighton.
Miss Cooper, Pt. Nepean Road, Aspendale.
Miss Maling, Waldemar Road, Heidelberg.
Mrs. Higgs, Plenty Road, Preston.

There are several things we would like the instructors in charge of these depots to note.

1. Nets should be sent to Guide H.Q. depot when finished, so that they can be measured and checked before taking them to the C.W.A. As a depot becomes experienced and H.Q. is confident that the nets are correct in every requirement, the nets can be taken straight to C.W.A., but in this case will those responsible please ring Mrs. M. R. Fairbairn (U.7173) telling me the number, so they may be entered in the book.

2. It is essential that the nets measure 14 feet easily. The C.W.A. prefer them to be 4 inches over, as this makes the roping easier. Nets should be measured when the first half is finished, and if they are not long enough a couple more rows can be added to the beginning before commencing the second half. Advice about this can be given at H.Q. depot.

3. All nets should be the new square shape—that is, decreasing one stitch at the end of every row—unless the makers intend roping them themselves.

4. The nets should be checked carefully every few rows, so that if a mistake is made it can be rectified more easily. Every knot should be tightened before commencing another row, so that they do not develop into slip knots. H.Q. depot would be very grateful if instructors would see that the nets are correct in every detail before sending them in. We cannot send them away until they are perfect, and it takes much longer to rectify mistakes than to make a new net.

5. There is a new meshing stick issued by the Defence. As it is larger it requires less stitches and therefore economises in both time and twine. Will depots please acquire the new ones as soon as they have finished the nets already started?

6. The C.W.A. is very grateful to any depot who ropes their own nets. Roping is quick and interesting work, and can be very quickly learnt. Lessons in this can be given at the C.W.A. netting room, 316 Flinders Lane. This, of course, can only be undertaken when the nets in question are quite correct.

We thank those steady workers who have been sending in their nets ever since we started last June, and we welcome any newcomers who may be interested in this very definite war work.—M.R.F. and H.Q. depot.

PROFICIENCY BADGE REMINDERS

Since 1939 there has been no new issue of P.O. and R., so any alterations are published in "The Guider." As all Guiders do not see "The Guider," alterations are printed in "Matilda" for the official notification of all Guide people in Victoria. Despite this, inquiries for Badges now obsolete are still made at Headquarters. Guiders are urged to note and mark alterations in "Matilda," and to be sure their information is up to date when entering Guides for Badges. Commissioners and Badge Secretaries also are asked to note this.

The following is a reminder of alterations during 1941. The grouping of Badges for the Little House Emblem, and deletion of Domestic Service Badge for an amended Home Maker Badge. The Hostess Badge is now an individual Badge, as well as a Patrol one.—March, 1941, "The Guider."

It has been suggested that where domestic subjects are taught at school and certificates awarded, such certificates might exempt Guides from taking tests for their Domestic Badges. It was decided, however, that Domestic Tests must be taken as laid down in P.O. and R.

In January "Matilda" an important article on "All Round Cords and Gold Cord Award" appeared. Guiders are asked to note this, and refer to it now when Guides will be thinking of what Badges they will be taking this year. There is no alternative to the new test after April 30, 1942.

A revised syllabus for the Aircraft Badge appears in the December "Guider." It may need some alterations for Australian conditions. Anyone interested can obtain the syllabus from Guide H.Q.

In regard to the First Class Test, Guiders are asked to note the time taken for their Guides to complete this test. If the time taken is more than 2½ years, there should be revision of the earlier sections to make sure that the Guide is up to date in all the work. It is not a question of a re-test, merely to make sure that she is capable of doing any part of the test if required. This is probably done in many cases, but is sometimes neglected.

N.B.—Leaflets showing alterations and additions to P.O. and R., and on the Domestic Badges, are obtained with Victorian Supplement.—M.M.

GIPTON WORKING BEE

March 14-16, 1942

Have you ever been to a working bee? If not, this is your chance to find out why those who have been to one never miss an opportunity to go to another!

The sub-committee has a number of nice little jobs for you, if you can come to Gipton, Frankston, for the Labour Day week-end, March 14-16. If not for the whole week-end, come for one whole day, and bring your

Guides, too. The fare is 3/- (second return) for the week-end, and 2/5 for day return (full fare). The cost of catering for those staying over the week-end will depend on the number, but should be between 3/6 and 5/6.

Jobs on the list to be done are: Painting of house, shed, tanks; mowing grass; clearing over-grown parts of grounds; finishing oiling of fence; refilling of palliasses with straw; and sundry other equally attractive activities. Do come! And if you can bring hedge clippers, seccateurs or a paint brush or two, and perhaps a pair of gardening gloves, you will be still more useful.

Names of those who can go for the week-end, as well as those able to go for a day, should be sent at once to: F. V. Barfus, Hon. Secretary.

BRITANNIA CREEK CAMP.

Eight days of thrilling camp life were spent at Britannia Creek by the Dandenong, Lilydale, Woori Yallock and Warburton Guides during January.

Among the thrills were: A wind storm which threatened to blow every tent on the site, up or down; a swimming carnival with novelty events, won by the Dandelions (Dandenong Guides), the Gum Nuts (Lilydale and Woori Yallock) and Hill-Billys (Warburton) coming second and third; a visit by Brownies, all interested in seeing everything possible on their first visit to a Guide camp.

Hikes, stunt nights, and stalking games in the dark were amongst the other thrills. The week culminated with the exciting event of a snake in the store tent. The snake was killed, the store tent being nearly wrecked in the attempt.

A most interested talk on copperhead snakes was given by Commandant, with the previously slaughtered specimen as an illustration. Kookaburras finally disposed of what was left of our specimen.

The week came to a close far too soon for everyone, and all voted it the best camp ever. Each Guide returned home with hopes for future camping.—Q.M.

COHUNA NEWS

Cohuna Guides and Brownies have reason to be proud of two of their members, who have shown outstanding courage in emergencies.

Late last year, a Brownie, Joan Ronald, aged 10 years, saved her baby brother from being severely burnt, and perhaps even worse. The child was standing in front of the fire when his dressing gown caught fire. He attempted to run from the room, but Joan threw him on the floor, and rolled and stamped the flames out. The child was slightly burnt, and suffered mostly from shock. This was indeed an example of resource and bravery on the part of such a young girl.

Then early in the present year, Patrol Leader Beryl Harrower dived, fully clothed,

into the Cohuna Swimming Pool to save a Melbourne visitor from drowning. This is the second time that Beryl has been the means of saving life.

Congratulations to Cohuna on these two gallant actions, the whole movement will be proud to hear of them!

When I was in the Rangoon Cathedral, I found in the Children's Corner the following poem which I feel is a Pow Wow in itself:—

If Jesus built a ship,
She would travel trim;
If Jesus roofed a barn,
No leaks would be left by Him;
If Jesus planted a garden
He would make it like Paradise;
If Jesus did a day's work,
It would delight His Father's eyes.
—EDITH H. PURNELL.

BROWNIES.

WEATHER INDICATORS for the Brownie Pack. A piece of seaweed, because of the salt in it, will tell us the state of the atmosphere. Hang it on the wall, and when rain is coming it will be soft and limp, whilst if it is going to be fine the seaweed will be quite crisp and dry.

In case you have not a piece of seaweed, here is another simple weather indicator which, when made, looks like a flower. Dissolve salt in water in a cup until no more salt can be dissolved. Cut out from bright pink blotting paper five or six round pieces of varying size, then shape the outer edge of each piece to simulate eight petals. For the stalk twist three pieces of wire and fasten the pieces of paper one above the other on the wire and bend the wire to form the centre of the flower and keep the petals in place. Now soak the flower in the salt solution. When dry add a few green paper leaves to make the flower look more real.

When the weather is likely to be fine your flower will be white (covered with dry white salt crystals) but if the air is damp and rain is coming the flower will turn a deep pink.

An interesting weather telling bird can be made if you can find a fir cone. Put it in a rather warm oven until it is so dry that the scales will open widely. The cone will then be sensitive to variations in the moisture of the atmosphere. When the air is dry and the weather likely to be fine, the scales will be wide open. If the conditions are unsettled, the scales will close partly, whilst when rain is at hand they will be partly closed.

The cone forms the body of the bird. The legs are made from wire, each leg consisting of three pieces twisted together. Open out the wires to form the feet. The neck and head of the bird are cut from stout card which is pushed into a slit made in the end of the cone. Mark in the eyes of the bird with ink. This makes a good present to take home.

Real Birds and Animals as Weather Prophets.

The author of an old work, "Nature's Secrets," tells us as a proven fact that when crows cry much towards evening, it is a sign of rain. Brownies in the country could verify that by observation. Another country saying is that cows may become unusually frisky before a storm.

Sheep also will gamble. They say that rabbits come out extra early in the afternoon to feed when they feel that rain is near.

Brownies near the sea may have noticed that when the shore haunting birds cling to the land, or fly inland, it is a sign of strong wind and stormy weather. The common seagull is the first of the gulls to fly inland before foul weather. One of the most certain prophets of fine weather is the gossamer spider. The young ones take to the air supported by silken threads, and the morning chosen by the little spiders will be followed by a fine day. The spiders never make a mistake about the weather.

A Simple Handcraft.

To make a little wooden man that can be completed in a few moments, take a peg and seccotine a match with the head downwards, for each arm. Then colour him a belt and buttons, and mark in his face. A circular piece of balsa wood makes a good base for the prongs of the peg to fit in. A tiny paper hat can be glued to his head by the more nimble fingered.

"IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY, GIVE SOMETHING AWAY,"

Said Grandfather Gay, just before Christmas Day.

"If you want to be happy, give something away."

So he sent a fat turkey to shoemaker Price. And the shoemaker said, "What a big bird; how nice!

With such a good dinner I'm sure that I ought

To give Widow Lee that chicken I bought."

"A chicken, oh, see!" said the pleased Mrs. Lee.

"And the kindness that sent it is welcome to me.

I should like to make someone as happy as I, So I'll give Mrs. Murphy my big pumpkin pie."

Mrs. Murphy said, "Sure, 'tis the queen of all pies,

Just to look at its yellow face gladdens the eyes;

Now it's my turn I think, so a sweet ginger cake

For the motherless Finigan children I'll bake."

Said the Finigan children, Rose, Danny and Hugh,

"It smells sweet of spice, and we'll carry a slice

To little lame Jack, for he has nothing nice."

"Oh, thank you, and thank you," said little lame Jack,

"What a beautiful, beautiful ginger cake, And such a big slice, I'll save all the crumbs And give them to each little sparrow that comes."

And the sparrows they twittered as though they would say, Like Grandfather Gay, "When comes Christmas Day, If you want to be happy, give something away."

The Sign Post

Editor: MARJORIE NICHOLSON.

"To work together for the purpose of bettering ourselves both in mind and body, and to do it for the benefit of others, is the finest thing we Guides can do, for in so training ourselves we are helping to build up an Empire of noble men and women."

:: :: ::

"Captain, what are we going to do to-night?" cried a bunch of enthusiastic Guides greeting their Guider at the local park. "Isn't it grand having our meetings out of doors, now that we have daylight saving!"

"Yes," replied Captain. "This is the way B.P. meant us to play the game of Guiding."

"Oh, here comes Lieutenant. I wonder if she has any surprises to-night?" called the P.L. of the Robin Patrol.

"Yes, I have," said Lieutenant, "and it's something we have never done in this Company before."

Each Patrol gathered around Lieutenant, and all eyes were attentive.

"I smell something mysterious," said one of the Wrens.

"I agree," said another Guide. "Lieut. has that look about her to-night."

"Well, you are all quite right," proceeded Lieut. "Do you know, there has been a thief in the district? He has escaped to a nearby town, and was last seen leaving the nearest station. Probably he has escaped into the country."

"Can we start and chase him now?" asked Helen, a keen recruit in the Robin Patrol.

"Oh, no!" said Lieut.; "just have a little patience, and I'll give you some clues. His footprints show that he has been in the local claypits, he was carrying a navy blue scarf, and is known to be a great smoker. He was seen to enter a grocery store before leaving the town, and has been identified as buying a pound of dried peas. It is possible that he will have hidden notes for his accomplices. The police require details of every sign left behind by which they will be able to complete their evidence against a suspected character whom they have arrested."

(Note.—If the track has been well laid with the aid of navy blue wool, matches, and peas the players can make loads of deductions and have a wonderful time. It adds to the

excitement if the messages are written in code.)

"Now, go to it, Guides! Each Patrol working as an agency, and see which Patrol can help the police get that thief before dark to-night."

"What a marvellous idea, Lieut.," shouted one Guide, and the shrill voice of a recruit shrieked, "Is it a real thief we are after, 'cos if so I don't think mummy would let me go?"

"Oh, no," called Captain; "be off with you. It's only a game."

"Goody! We're off, and I guess we will be first back, plus the thief. Cheerio."

(Game from Girl Scout Game Book).

RANGERS.

Minutes of the Victorian Ranger Committee meeting held at Headquarters on Friday, January 30, 1942.

Present.—Rangers Elsie Kemp, Greta Richardson, Ethel Preston, Beryl McNee, Grace Harris, Joan Drowley, Lillian Elliott, Margaret Shaw and Greta Roach.

Ethel Preston was elected to the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Business Arising.—Swimming Sports: The Convener, Beryl McNee, reported that this fixture would be held at the Hawthorn Baths on Thursday evening, February 26, at 7.30 p.m. The Committee decided that Ranger Guiders would be eligible to enter in the above sports.

Prisoner of War.—Beryl McNee reported that circulars had been sent out to all Victorian Ranger Companies regarding this matter. It was decided that the committee would pay for the postage on these circulars.

Ranger Registration Cards.—A suitable design has not yet been found.

Finance.—The Treasurer reported that the bank balance was £7/9/10. An amount of £2/2/- was passed for payment as an advance to the Convener of the swimming sports. The sum of 10/- was passed for secretarial expenses—these amounts to be paid immediately the necessary papers are signed.

As the Ranger year has been changed to 1st July-30th June, it was decided to ask Companies for a subscription of 3/6 instead of the usual annual subscription of 2/6—this would cover circulars, etc., until the end of June, 1943.

"Matilda" Sub-committee.—It was decided to appoint a sub-committee to provide material for "Matilda," the sub-committee to consist of three members.

Gipton Sub-committee.—Margaret Shaw was elected from the Ranger Committee, and another nomination is to be asked for on the first circular.

Date of Next Meeting.—Thursday, March 5, 1942, at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting then closed.

—Greta Roach, Secretary.

SEA NEWS

S.R.S. "Akuna" held its annual carol night at Albert Park Lake on the evening of December 17, 1941.

Representatives from many Guide and Ranger Companies were present, and many of the old carols were sung.

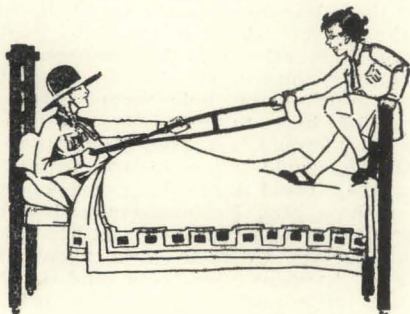
This is the first time our carol night has been held in the black-out, but this did not affect the singing at all, and quite an enjoyable evening was held.

Miss Sybil Irving, former Skipper of "Akuna," was present, having snatched a few hours from her Army duties to attend.

The carol night closed with the Sea Ranger Prayer, which is appropriate for all Rangers:—

Lord, temper with tranquility
Our manifold activity,
That we may do our work for Thee
With very great simplicity.

—L.E.



Editor: SYDNEY FOOTT.

NEWS FROM COMPANIES

First of all, some Brownie news. The 1st Mt. Eliza Pack (Orthopaedic Hospital) had a very thrilling Brownie enrolment, and here is an account of the Brownie play from Brown Owl.

"It was great fun when we had a play, all about Tommy and Betty and how they came to be Brownies. Alice and Joyce were the children, Pal (Pack Leader) and Norma father and mother, and Brown Owl was Brown Owl. We had it in the hall—this was really a thrill, and I wish you could have seen them and heard them say "Grace," just as if they were really saying it at a truly meal. It was all impromptu, which was interesting. Thank Heaven, Brownies are still imaginative in this very practical age.

"The audience was charmed! Matron and some visitors arrived in the middle, and I am quite sure thought me quite mad—sitting on the back of a chair, with a coat over my head, murmuring in sepulchral tones, 'Twist ye and turn ye' . . ."

2nd HEIDELBERG

On February 17, 3rd Melbourne Rangers went out to visit 2nd Heidelberg (Austin Hospital) Guides. First of all, we visited Ward 13, where we had the Thinking Day ceremony which was published in the February "Matilda." We adapted to people in

bed, and instead of a fire had tapers which we lit one from the other, and passed on as the flame of Guiding passed from country to country in its early beginnings. Each of the P.L.'s took part, and the whole Company was able to say they wore their uniform in honour of the Guides whose uniforms are at present put away.

It was a very impressive ceremony, and the whole Company looked very Guidey, with neat uniforms (in some cases just ties and hats) and the Union Jack lashed to the foot of one bed.

Then, after we had blown out the tapers, we talked for a time about badges and war work—the Guides are very keen to help with the Rangers' Prisoner of War Fund, and are each eager to contribute a penny a week. As well as this, some of the older ones are working for their Sick Nurse Badge.

After Taps, the Assistant Commissioner went downstairs to the Respirator Ward, where she met various old friends and made some new ones. Everyone of Guide age in this ward is now enrolled as a Guide, which is a great thrill. There are also two Brownies here, both of whom had the most beautiful Brownie smiles firmly tied behind!

Then (though it was really almost past visiting hours!) we went on to the older ward where there are other Guides and Rangers, and here we stayed and talked and talked until we feared we would be forcibly ejected.

And so home, and then to bed—our first Guide Week activity an enormous success, with the Rangers demanding when we were going again!

FURTHER NEWS OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR EXTENSIONS

On Christmas morning, Miss Campbell went with one of the other sisters to early service in the Hospital Chapel, half a mile away from their tent. There was a fury of wind and rain, and Miss Campbell, like Roger in "Swallows and Amazons," wore "two of everything," surmounted by a green and white parasol!

Christmas dinner was marvellous—outside, the rain (seven inches in four days), floods, water supply out of action where most needed—inside, turkey and everyone had a plum pudding! The mess was decorated with paper poinsettias and a marvellous reproduction of the Southern Cross (as drawn for Second Class) in silver stars on a green mosquito net background.

Incidentally, for those writing to Miss Campbell, her number is still VX17193, but she is now c/o 6th A.G.H., A.I.F. Abroad.

CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE?

Is there any Guider, Ranger, or Senior Guide, living in Kensington, who could visit two Post Brownies—one in Hardeman St. and one in Darby St.?

If so, please write to Miss Alston, 5 Struan Street, Toorak, who will be most grateful.

LONES

Minutes of Lone Guiders' Meeting

Held at Guide Headquarters on Tuesday, February 10, at 6.30 p.m.

Present.—Mrs Fairbairn (in the chair), Misses Thomson, Monger and Harvey.

Apologies.—Apologies were received from Mrs. Field, Misses Ogden, Coultas, Fowler and Sears.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Business Arising

Lone Standard.—Mrs Fairbairn reported not having received many opinions about the suggestion of a Lone Standard. From those received it seemed the Companies would not need it enough to justify the expense of buying one, and of posting it to those requiring it. Mrs. Fairbairn felt that this was not the time to launch out into any unnecessary expense. Miss Monger wondered if some emblem done on paper to represent one could take the place of it, or something the child could keep. It was felt, however, that this latter could not take the place of the flag which is unfurled for active enrolments. Mrs. Fairbairn said she had read of some Company which sent a miniature flag which the Lone erected or pinned up while she was doing her enrolment paper and repeating her Promise. In the meantime it was suggested that Mrs. Fairbairn make enquiries as to the cost of a Standard. It was hoped also that Guiders who had not already sent in their opinions would do so on reading these minutes.

Library.—Mrs. Fairbairn reported having asked Miss Moran to give her advice about this, and she said that it had not been used much by the Guides, who felt the expense of postage even one way was too much. Miss Moran had said that Guiders often asked her for the loan of test books from her own Guide library. Mrs. Fairbairn was also willing to lend anything Guiders might ask for, but carriage was certainly expensive. Recently she had sent some Nature books to a Guider in the country. The parcel had cost 1/8 to send, and 2/3 to return. It was felt that this also would be an unnecessary expense at the present time.

Exchange Bureau.—Miss Sears had kindly offered to sort this, and make it up to date so that any Guider in need of ideas on teaching or testing could obtain them by applying to Mrs. Fairbairn. It is important that Guiders must also contribute ideas to it in exchange, otherwise it will again become obsolete.

Correspondence Course.—Mrs. Fairbairn reported that she had completed the course compiled to give Lone Guiders suggestions of how to teach and test by correspondence. There are 12 Guiders now doing it. There are six papers and as it can be done in the Guiders own time, it should not be very arduous. Mrs. Fairbairn thought that Guiders who had been running their Companies for some years might like to do it as a refresher

course, as it may contain some new ideas to them.

Christmas Tree.—Mrs. Fairbairn reported that the Lone response to the Christmas tree was very good, the sum of about £9 having been sent in. Grace McKechnie of the 12th Lones brought the contributions to the tree at Myers, and as the sum brought the amount up to £1200 the lights were able to be changed.

Lones L.A. Meeting.—Mrs. Field was the only country Guider able to attend this meeting at Mrs. Fairbairn's home on January 13. At the meeting the L.A. suggested that Lones be urged to work for three Badges which would fit them to be of most help to the community in this present state of emergency. They are Child Nurse, Ambulance, and Home Nursing. Mrs. Fairbairn had written to Miss Moore asking if there were any possible way in which any of these could be taught by correspondence. Miss Moore's reply was read to the meeting. In it she said that as these Badges were almost wholly practical she did not think it would be possible to teach them effectively by correspondence. Miss Monger pointed out that as Lones take so long to complete their Second Class the problem of how to help them attain to Badge work would not arise very often. It seemed we would have to concentrate on Badges they could learn by correspondence, such as those Mrs. McNaughton had worked out for us. It was felt, however, that Guiders should talk to their girls about these Badges of national usefulness, and if there were any girls near enough to a town to attend local lectures they should be urged to do so. They could be working for them while completing their Second Class.

New Guiders.—Mrs. Fairbairn welcomed Miss Joan Harvey, who has joined Lones as Lieutenant of the 3rds., and announced that we have a new Captain, Miss A. Guy, a new Company—the 4ths—and four new Lieutenants. Also another girl, who though too young to be a Lieutenant is helping to compile the Budgets in a Company. Miss Harvey gave the name of another girl who had expressed willingness to help. These new members of the Lone Branch would be of tremendous assistance. It was felt that the general Guide world did not know enough about Lones to appreciate how interesting the work was. Mrs. Fairbairn said she had done her best to put Lones "on the map."

Future Meetings.—As the days would be shorter by the time of the next meeting, and the decision of the Executive about holding meetings after dark at Headquarters had not yet been determined, Mrs. Fairbairn said we could not decide on the date just at present. One member suggested lunch hour, but this was felt to be too short and too interrupted. Mrs. Fairbairn then suggested Saturday afternoon. It was left in Mrs. Fairbairn's hands to arrange something suitable to the majority of Guiders, and to notify everyone some time beforehand.

The meeting then closed.

GUARDS OF HONOUR

I have tried very hard to find the origin of Guards of Honour for you, but I have failed, even the Melbourne Public Library refusing to divulge any secrets on the subject. All I can do, then, is to try to help you because of Guards of Honour I have known!

There are two things I would say straight away about a Guide Guard of Honour—firstly, to the visitor, be prepared for anything; secondly, to the Guides and Guider, be cheerful. Welcoming smiles can make up for any hitch that might occur in the ceremony itself.

The correct formation of a Guard of Honour is two lines of Guides, facing each other, at one end of which the visitor enters, walks down the centre and at the other end usually finds herself in the hall where the meeting is to be held, or in some specially prepared place where the revels are to take place. How the Guides get into this formation is largely a matter of locality and conditions—they might just appear there, or they might have been formed up in Company formation and marched into position. Perhaps they have been inside the hall, being formed up, when news of the approach of the visitor was brought. I have seen this very well done and when the visitor reached the end of the Guard she turned round and there it was in the shape of a horseshoe—a very attractive manoeuvre. When the visitor reaches the Guard, she should find the Captain there, waiting to accompany her—it is a very devastating experience to have to walk down the two lines all by oneself, especially if one has already been presented with a large and beautiful bouquet—never give a Guide visitor flowers—it just doesn't fit in with the uniform. The Captain would greet her with a smile and a handshake and perhaps a salute, and then each Guide, standing very straight and looking very smart, will smile her hardest in welcome. The visitor will look from side to side as she walks, and at the end she will find the Lieutenant, whom she will greet, or to whom the Captain will introduce her.

After the visitor has disappeared, or is otherwise occupied by the wily Captain, the Lieutenant will dismiss the Guard of Honour. She will step out from it, order the rank nearest her to about-turn, when they will be in two ranks facing her. On the order, "Company, dismiss," the Guides will turn to the right, salute and disperse. The Lieutenant will also salute.

A Brownie way of honouring a visitor may be the Grand Howl—and very honoured you

should feel. I shall not presume to tell Brown Owls how to stage a Grand Howl—your Brownie books will tell you that if you are uncertain—but if you get the chance, warn your visitor about it. A new Guider may find it a little alarming.

From the visitor's point of view, may I say that you are not usually expected to DO anything—only stand in a ring with the Brownies and be honoured, and afterwards perhaps you might thank them very nicely.

To both Captains and Brown Owls I would like to give a reminder about meeting your visitor. Have two children outside the hall and when the visitor appears in sight, let one come in to tell you, while the other waits to greet her and bring her in—this saves much embarrassment and uncertainty to your visitor, especially if she has not been to you before—and is also a nice point of courtesy.—M.H.

PAST HISTORY

Have you ever heard of the P.U.G.P.U.P.S.? I was one in 1931, and the register goes on till 1933, and contains 43 names. Among those we find Elsie Furlonger, E. Batten, M. Russell, J. Thewlis, C. Broadhurst, Dell Hayman, L. Clayton, M. Patience, a collection of Guides from 2nd East Malvern, M. Bush, F. Gross (who seems inadvertently to have joined twice!), and odd Guides from various Companies.

The Society was formed by the Chelford, Cheshire Women's Institute in 1927, and we were sent a large bundle of cards and badges to disseminate.

I don't think you had to pay anything—or was it 3d.?—but the rules were:

1. Members are in honour bound not to leave glass, paper, tins, cigarette and sweet packets, orange peel, banana skins, or ANY other litter lying about.
2. Members should endeavour to get others to join the Society; it is not suggested that members pick up other people's litter, but everyone to be responsible for their own.

As you will have guessed, OUR AIM was "to arouse public opinion for tidy roads and uncluttered landscapes."

Members were given a little round medal, with the face of a PUG PUP (a real one!) in relief, and one wore it proudly on the chest. I know I used to be the recorder, but I don't know why it all petered out—we still find boxes of the medals, of which we must have imported thousands.—F.V.B.

TRAINING AND CAMPING

Elaine Moran

"The important unit in the Guide Movement is the Patrol, and then Patrol Leader is the person responsible for leading her Patrol."

That is what the Chief Scout told us as long ago as 1916, and that is one of the foundations on which we have been building ever since. But I wonder if my last sentence is strictly true? Have we been building on that, or have we been inclined to take what at first seems the easier way and run the Companies ourselves instead of delegating the responsibility to our Leaders? Anyway, whatever we have been inclined to do in the past, it is now becoming necessary for us to return to the Chief Scout's method. Perhaps that is one good thing which we gain from the present war situation.

Company meetings are even now a difficulty, and are going to become increasingly so as time goes on; darker evenings, black-out, and shortage of Guiders, all tend towards this. England has had to contend with it for two and a-half years, and yet during that time has not only kept going, but also opened many new Companies. That proves it is possible to continue with Guiding under such conditions if Guides and Guiders consider it worth while. Can we? And do we?

Just at present, thanks to the daylight saving, we find that the evenings are light until after 8 o'clock. Wouldn't it be possible to take tea to the Company meetings—Guiders and the older Guides coming straight from work—and to start the meeting by having a meal during Patrols in Council?

In peace time many Guiders spent Saturday afternoons playing tennis, hiking and swimming. Are we justified in doing that now? Do we need such recreation, or can we get recreation and the necessary change of atmosphere by holding our Company meetings at that time? Is it too much to expect a Guider to give up two or three Saturdays a month to a Company instead of the usual evening meeting once a week? The Guides would be able to meet in Patrols at the homes or in the gardens of various members in the intervening weeks.

Next we come to cases where the Guiders are unavailable; they may have enlisted in the W.A.A.A.F. or A.W.A.S., or be doing some other full-time job. Does that mean that those Companies must lapse entirely? Why can't the P.L. carry on? Not with the whole Company: she is not a junior Lieutenant and is not expected to be able to manage that, but she IS trained to be able to lead her own Patrol and she is responsible for that job. That is where our Leaders' Training is going to bear fruit; those Companies who have always had it regularly will enjoy a great advantage. Their Leaders will have both the knowledge and confidence to carry on.

In Companies where such training has been lacking, I would say, "Start now, train your Leaders at once; help them in every way you can, so that they in their turn will be able to help their Guides." The ideal method is, of course, for each Guider to train her own Leaders—she knows the girls and their needs as no one else can, but as an emergency measure other methods may be necessary. When the Guider is not there—by that, I mean that she has left the District or is in a full-time job which includes week-ends. What about District Courts of Honour and Leaders' Trainings? Perhaps the District Captain would be able to take charge of these, or maybe the Commissioner will run the Court of Honour and get in outside help where necessary for the Leaders' Training. Work out in your Districts ways and means to suit your own conditions. At present you may have Guiders available, but who knows when they may be called on for full-time jobs or move to other areas. So use your Leaders, give them responsibility, but TRAIN them so that they can take that responsibility.

Some country Guiders reading this may say, "This does not concern me; we have no black-out; my job will definitely keep me here, and I can still hold the Company meetings as usual." But what of the future? Evacuation may take place at any time, and what of the thousands of children uprooted from their homes and placed in unfamiliar surroundings. Among them will be many Guides, and a Guide Company will be something normal and known to them in the midst of strangers. Are you ready to cope with that? A full Guide Company needs fully trained Guiders and trained Leaders. Now is the time for you to set to work to prepare yourselves and your Leaders for such an eventuality.

How are we all, town and country Guiders, going to set about helping our Leaders? First, we must make sure that we have the right people as Leaders, the 13, 14 and 15-year-olds from whom the Leaders of a Guide Company were meant to be drawn. It may be a temptation to keep on the 16's and 17's to help, but if we do this we will find that we are hindering instead of helping the development of the Company. The Patrols will consist of these older girls and the younger ones who have just come up from the Pack; the middle ages, just the ones we want, will find that they are getting no responsibility and will drop out altogether.

Since the outbreak of war "The Guider" has been full of articles which will help in the training of your Leaders. Look through your old copies now for help and advice. Just recently a collection of articles from "The Guider" and "The Guide" have been collected into book form under the title of "Lone Wolf's Letters." These letters are written to help the Leader to carry on with her Patrol. It is an excellent little book, and just the thing for your Leaders. It can be

obtained for 1/4 at the Girl Guide Shop. Encourage your Guides, too, to go on with their Second and First Class. These tests have been very carefully thought out, and knowledge such as is obtained through working for the Home Defence, Cyclist or Signalers' Badges is useless unless based on a foundation of general usefulness, reliability and intelligence such as is gained by holders of Second and First Class Badges.

These are just a few suggestions of ways of carrying on your Companies. Have Districts evolved any other methods? If so we would be interested to hear of them. There are difficulties in carrying on, but difficulties that are worth any effort on our part to surmount. Guiding gives the children an anchor—something normal in a very un-normal world—something that strengthens their characters and trains them to be of use at the present time, and something, too, that will be of tremendous value in the world after the war—the world in which they as the women of the future will have to play their part. Don't you think that it is worth any effort on our part to see that Guiding does continue at the present time? Will you do your bit towards this?—Sheila M. MacLeod.

TRAINING AND CAMPING

Training Plans for 1942

It is expected that the usual classes at Headquarters may have to be discontinued owing to the black-out and A.R.P. regulations

in the building. However, we are ready to take classes if they can possibly be arranged wherever they may be required, for new Guiders and refresher training. If you have only a small number, do not worry; we do not mind as long as we know beforehand. We shall do our best to arrange any training that is asked for, in suburbs or country, so Commissioners and Guiders who have no Commissioners, please write to me, and we shall see what can be done.

We will do our best to provide some training through "Matilda," so please watch out for it, and encourage those who have not met "Matilda" to send in their subscriptions.

Correspondence Training will continue as usual.

CAMPING PLANS, 1942

Tents.

The Department of the Army wishes to buy all our tents, so that means the end of camping in the "usual style" for the time being. This is very disappointing, of course, but it also amounts to a challenge. Are we going to let camping go altogether? Not if we can help it, we say! There is now all the field of "light-weight" camping to explore, with all sorts of possibilities for Patrol camps and small Ranger and Guider camps.

From next month "Matilda" will publish articles about "light-weight." We will begin with hike tents, how to make them, what materials to use out of those now available, and methods of proofing.



*"Quality you
can TASTE!"*

BROCKHOFF'S

"Oven-crisp" **BISCUITS**

B. 326

Camps and Week-ends.

Naturally, all our plans for camps at Gip-ton, published in "Matilda" supplement last month, have had to be cancelled. But it will not be long before we have made some other plans. In future any Guides camping at Gip-ton or anywhere else will have to bring their own hike tents.

Fruit Picking Camp.

This camp at Easter, for Rangers and older Guides, is still a possibility, though there is still no definite answer from the growers. Anyone attending must be a good camper and be able to provide a hike tent. Any Rangers and older Guides with the necessary qualifications are asked to write to Miss Harrison, though at this stage we cannot say whether the camp will be held or not.

Tent Owners, Attention!

Any tent owners, whether individuals, Companies or Districts are asked to sell their tents, flies, poles and pegs to the Army.

Will they please furnish Miss Harrison with a list of equipment available, and state whether it is good, medium or poor. The address where it is stored should be stated and the name of the Guider responsible. These details will be sent on to the Army.

SHELTER

It is easy enough to take cover when it rains—if you happen to be near cover.

The best "cover" from life's rainy days is a bank account.
BE INDEPENDENT! Build yours up in the—

STATE
SAVINGS BANK
OF VICTORIA

221 BRANCHES — 387 AGENCIES
Head Office, Elizabeth Street, Melb.
N. R. WILLIAMS, General Manager.

**YOUR CREDIT
IS GOOD—
USE IT AT**

Christies Pty.
Ltd.

- ★ FURNITURE ★ CARPETS
- ★ LINOLEUM ★ RADIO
- ★ PLAYERS ★ PIANOS
- ★ SPORTS GOODS

TRADE IN ■

Your old furniture, player piano or radio will be accepted at its full present day value as part payment on any new requirements. Trade in and save at Christies.

Christies Pty.
Ltd.

96 ELIZABETH STREET
Central 4526.

214-218 BOURKE STREET
Central 8022 (3 lines)