

M. E. Bush.

# Matilda



JUNE, 1943



# "Matilda"

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

Price, 3/- per year. 4/6 posted.

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Correspondence should reach the Editor not later than the 26th of each month

VOL. XIX.

JUNE, 1943.

No. 11.

## GIRL GUIDE WAR APPEAL

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, 19th June, in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, £2000 will be handed to the Royal Australian Naval Patriotic Committee for the children of sailors. It is to be invested, and the income is to provide holidays in camp for sailors' children.

Now that material can no longer be bought, this is the use to which the War appeal money is to be put, and it will give the children the sort of holidays the Guides themselves enjoy.

## BADEN-POWELL MEMORIAL FUND July 31st, 1943.

Here is an extract from the diary of Miss Gwen Swinburne, who was Australia's representative at the opening of the Chalet in 1932. You will find plenty of material for plays and charades in her words, and can think of a lovely ceremony for the giving of the money which you have been getting together. Make a Baby Chalet Money Box and see how full it is by July 31st.

### OUR CHALET — JULY 31st, 1932.

"Victoria's present for our Chalet is here—will you take it out with you? I think it is a rug." (Message from Imperial Headquarters, July, 1932).

July 30—A glorious day of brilliant sunshine, as we wended the way to the Chalet. Parties of Swiss Guides were about in all directions, coming to Adelboden for the ceremony to-morrow. We met Mrs. Storrow, who had given the Chalet (did you know that she had built a Baby Chalet in the grounds so that she can watch and help?) and the World Committee people from Holland and Switzerland. The Chiefs are here with all their family, and everyone as busy and excited as can be. I opened the large bundle I had col-

lected at H.Q. and "The Rug" proved to be twelve dressed sheepskins. They look just beautiful—I hope they will be put beside the beds in the two bigger dormitories — they would suit beautifully the plain wood and the simple fittings, with the windows opening right on to the mountain side.

The Head of the Chalet showed us all over, and then helped us to hang the skins to air. They are planning an international Rencontre for to-night, and she asked me not to mind if the stars on the Australian Flag were not quite right, as they had no one to help them. We suggested that a few sheepskins coming in beside the flag would add to the local colour, and Miss Briggs, from England, promptly dressed up in the skins to show it could be done!!

July 31st. We set out for the great day—to see the new chalet standing on the shoulder of a hill—the blue of the World Flag, with the red strip of the Swiss pennon above it, could be seen from far away. As we crossed the fields the people, who were dressing and making ready in every little home, greeted us with smiles—Adelboden feels that the chalet belongs to the town, and they are proud to have it . . . . Below the wall seats were arranged, and Swiss Eclaireuses were assembling from every direction, their bright blue tunics making a delightful patch of colour on the green.

At last all was ready and all were there—the Chiefs, Mrs. Storrow, the members of the World Bureau, the delegates, the Foreign Minister of Switzerland representing the President, the Burgomaster of Adelboden.

A beautiful little girl in traditional Swiss dress stood ready with the scissors on a silver tray, and a bunch of edelweiss for Mrs. Storrow. The Secretary thanked all who had helped to create the chalet, and welcomed visitors. Swiss Guides spoke the International Ceremony, and all sang the Chalet Song.

The Chief Scout spoke; he bade us look even beyond the friendship of the nations to the Kingdom of God as our aim, for we should realise our ideal of the first as the way to an ideal even higher.

The Foreign Minister spoke of the Chalet as the symbol of Switzerland, and the love of the Swiss for their mountains.



The Burgomaster said "We love our valley and we hope you will love it, too, and soon think of it as your valley."

The architect said "The work has been done for the love of the work and we have been happy with the people of the Guides."

Everyone spoke of Mrs. Storrow, and there was tremendous enthusiasm. The Swiss have a shout that is between a cheer and a war-cry, and at every interval the cry resounded among the hills. Then Mrs. Storrow asked the Chief Guide to accept the key.

The Chief said that "Thank you" seemed a little thing to say but when it was said a million times by every one of a million Guides across the world it became a very big thing; that Mrs. Storrow had given not only her money but herself, to every cause in her great heart. The Chief Guide then mounted the steps and cut the blue and golden ribbon that had been tied across the entrance. All streamed behind her and "The Chalet" became "Our Chalet." —G. H. Swinburne.

### BRIGHT IDEAS SYNDICATE.

Captains and Brown Owls, round up your old Rangers, Guides and Brownies. It is such fun looking up the old record books and tracking them all down. You will find an excellent reponse and much interest in the letters you will receive. Get your "Guides of yesterday" circulars from the Fund Secretary at H.Q.

The largest gift received from one Company so far is £13/2/-. Who can do better than that?

Two Post Rangers saved pennies and half-pennies . . . result 5/-. One Post Guide Co. collected gift coupons, then sold the "gifts" and bought W.S. stamps with the money.

Congratulations to 3rd Malvern Guide Company on attaining its majority. What better way to celebrate this event than to hold a "Coming of Age" Party and hand £6/13/- to the B.-P. Fund as a result!

### CARRY-ON RALLY IN MEMORY OF FOUNDER.

Hawthorn District held a Carry-on Rally on May 11th at Hawthorn Town Hall. After the arrival of the Mayoral party, the six colour parties entered, and the National Anthem was sung. The business of the annual meeting then was transacted, the Mayor, Cr. Porteous, being in the chair. The Mayor asked the Guides to repeat their Promise which they did, and the Mayor was amused when, in answer to a question of his, he got the reply: "The age limit in the Guides is 81."

Miss Barfus led the Guides in the singing of camp songs, and then encouraged the L.A.

members and "the mothers, aunts and uncles" to join in "Waltzing Matilda."

Among the ex-Guides present were a W.R.A.N., and an A.A.M.W.S., and one of the apologies was from a W.A.A.A.F.

After the singing there was an interval when those present were able to buy War Savings stamps for the B.-P. Memorial Fund at tables set round the hall and attended by L.A. members. The equipment on loan from the services was shown at the rear of the hall and information given about the amounts of money which, if given to the Fund, would enable these things to be provided for the services.

Miss Dell Hayman, who has been in India as All India Trainer for three years, then gave a most interesting and enlightening talk on Guiding in India. Hearing of the 30 official Guide uniforms, the 222 languages, the innumerable babies and the difficulties brought about by the purdah system, the Guides were fascinated. And great was the thrill when Miss Hayman dressed a Guide in a lovely blue sari.

Miss Hayman told, too, of the B.-P. Fund in India, and said that they had hoped for enough money to provide four canteens, each costing £600. Imagine their joy when enough money for eleven Canteens was given! Miss Hayman told of one group of Guides which had given 5 rupees (about 8/6) to the Fund, and explained that this was a magnificent gift, as those girls had gone without their lunch (which would have cost about 1/12th of a penny) for some time, so that they had had only one meal a day, to be able to give in memory of "the beloved Father," as they called the Chief.

Altogether, the District Commissioner, Miss Swinburne, and the L.A. Hon. Secretary, Miss Keiller, had arranged a most interesting "Carry On" Rally. —R. Denny.

### RINGS OF COLOUR.

The frame to the Chief's portrait on the Rings of Colour Chart at H.Q. is growing, and glowing! £400 was reached on April 28th, and so the Green Ring was coloured in. Now, May 20th, the wonderful amount of over £500 has been received, and so the Orange Ring adds its glow. By the time you read this, maybe £600 will have been reached, and the Chart-Painter will be searching her palette again. What colour would you like?

### LIST OF GIFTS TO MAY 20th, 1943.

Previously acknowledged . . . . .	£391 12 6
1st Swan Hill Guide Co. . . . .	1 1 0
1st Kingsville Guide Co. . . . .	1 7 6
Brighton L.A. . . . .	5 0 0
Mrs. J. K. Pearson . . . . .	2 0 0



1st Minyip Guide Co. . . . .	0	2	6
1st Castlemaine Guide Co. . . . .	0	10	0
Oakleigh, Murrumbidgee and Carnegie EX. . . . .	1	0	0
10th Geelong Guide Co. . . . .	2	0	0
1st Monivae Ranger Co. . . . .	0	10	0
1st Portland Ranger Co. . . . .	1	0	0
Miss F. V. Barfus . . . . .	35	0	0
1st Metropolitan Cadet Co. (certs.)	3	0	0
4th Caulfield Pack . . . . .	1	0	0
Trafalgar L.A. . . . .	5	0	0
Kew Guides, Brownies and L.A. . .	19	0	0
Miss R. Denny . . . . .	16	0	0
Miss W. Williams . . . . .	2	0	0
4th Kew Guide Co. (certs.) . . . .	5	0	0
1st Vict. Post Ranger Co. . . . .	0	8	0
Old Post Guide Group . . . . .	0	8	0
3rd Vict. Post Ranger Co. (certs.)	2	0	0
3rd Vict. Post Guide Co. (certs.)	3	0	0
"An Extension" . . . . .	5	0	0
3rd Malvern Guide Co. . . . .	6	13	0
3rd Kew Guide Co. . . . .	13	2	0
Miss M. Hoffmeyer . . . . .	1	0	0
2nd East Malvern Guide Co. . . . .	1	8	0
2nd East Malvern Guide Co. . . . .	0	5	0
Burwood and Hartwell . . . . .	1	0	0
Grand Total at May 20th, 1943 . .	£526	15	6

### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

RECEIPTS. Please read CAREFULLY.

To save postage, receipts may be obtained at headquarters on application. They will be posted only if stamped and addressed envelope is forwarded.

Contributions and progress totals will be acknowledged in "Matilda" each month.

You will receive a Give-Lend Voucher when your final amount comes in.

1. Make out cheques, postal notes or money orders to Girl Guide Association.

2. Address letters to Secretary, B.-P. Memorial Fund, Girl Guide Association, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.1.

3. Please send money in round sums of pounds and shillings (not pence).

M. Hoffmeyer, Convener.

## DISTRICT NEWS

### 3rd MALVERN'S 21st BIRTHDAY.

The 3rd Malvern Guide Company held a concert to celebrate their 21st birthday on 14th May. Among those present were the Commissioner and the first Guide to be enrolled in the Company on 11th May, 1922, and also a former Captain, who is still very interested in the progress of our Company.

The items included a First Aid sketch, Crazy drill, which got many laughs, a dumb play, and also two solo items, and the pro-

gramme finished up with Camp Fire and a play in which all the Guides took part.

The mothers looked after the sweets stall, and one of the fathers undertook the unenviable job of collecting the entrance fees, and an old Guide sold the programmes for us, and to all these people we offer most sincere thanks.

As a result of this concert we are able to send £6/13/- to the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund so we think that all the hard work put into it was well worth while.

### FIELD DAY.

#### Guides Have Enjoyable Outing.

The Trafalgar Guide Company held a successful Field Day at the recreation reserve on Easter Monday.

A miniature camp, including flag pole, hospital tent and kitchen was erected by the four patrols, all the necessary equipment being taken to the ground by the Guides themselves in trek carts.

The Cook Patrol—Kookaburras—under the able direction of Brown Owl (Mrs. R. Farmer), as Quartermaster and Mrs. Heavyside, as assistant Quartermaster produced an appetising lunch of cold meat, hot vegetables and apple pie, as well as afternoon tea later on for Guides and their visitors. The Kookaburras won the blue ribbon for orderly work.

A short sports programme was held during the afternoon, and was won by the Swallow Patrol, with the other Patrols all running them closely.

At an official ceremony the camp colours were hoisted and the National Anthem sung. Three recruits in the Swallow Patrol—Misses Betty Ward, Dorothy Hore and June Slater—were presented by P.S. Pearl Ligertwood and enrolled as Guides.

The inter-Patrol competition cup presented many years ago by Miss C. Warren, Gippsland's first Commissioner, was presented to the Blue Wren Patrol, who won it for their work during the past three months.

The Brownie Pack also took part in the Field Day. They danced their Fairy Ring for the Company and gave an exhibition of Brownie singing games.

Mrs. T. Williams kindly attended the full day in charge of the first aid post and hospital tent, but fortunately she had no casualties or patients to attend to.

The Blue Wren, as Mess Patrol, set the tables and waited at the meals, while Swallows, as Pantry Patrol, had the arduous duty of washing up. Magpies as Wood and Water Patrol, kept the camp well supplied with both these necessary commodities.

The Field Day closed with singing around the camp fire (built by the Magpies) under the direction of Mrs. Jones, who instructs the Company in singing.



The Guiders in charge, Miss E. M. West, Mrs. R. Farmer, Mrs. S. T. Ball, Miss E. Mayze and Miss M. Stuart, wish to thank the recreation reserve committee for the use of the ground, and parents and friends who helped to provide refreshments.

### ONE EQUALS WON.

One extra plane or extra tank or extra gun or extra ship completed to-morrow may in a few months turn the tide on some distant battlefield; it may make the difference between life and death for some of our fighting men.—President Roosevelt.

Because of a housewife  
Some electric current was saved.  
Because of some electric current saved  
A pound of aluminium was reprocessed.  
Because of a pound of aluminium reprocessed  
An airplane was repaired.  
Because of an airplane repaired  
An ally's arms factory was saved.  
Because of an arms factory saved  
A nation was saved.  
Because of a nation saved  
A war was won.  
Because of a workman  
An extra rivet was made.  
Because of an extra rivet made  
An extra ship was launched.  
Because of an extra ship launched  
An extra cargo of supplies was shipped.  
Because of an extra cargo of supplies  
An extra division was maintained.  
Because of an extra division maintained  
A strategic position was taken.  
Because of a strategic position taken  
A battle was won.  
Because of a battle won  
A war was won.

One man, one woman, or perhaps even one child, may be the key to it all. That man, that woman, that child is—you.

Editorial in "Christian Science Monitor"

### MISS F. V. BARFUS.

"Friendship, goodwill and stimulating, intelligent conversation are still available to all who want them . . . They were very plentiful at Headquarters on. . ."

These words, though they describe a party in England, might well have been written of the party on April 30th, for Miss Barfus, who has retired from the Guide office staff, held from 5 to 7 p.m., more than 80 people were able to come and see the friend and ever-helpful one, whom we know affectionately as "Barf."

Barf herself has described the party as a "veritable reunion of all the generations of Guide people since Victoria started guiding."

Even so, there must be many who were left out, but the committee of Commissioners, Guiders and Rangers did a good job by getting in touch with so many of Barf's friends.

Our ex-State secretary and companion of Miss Barfus at H.Q. for so many years, Colonel S. H. Irving, A.W.A.S., was present, and many others in uniform. Among these were Alison Campbell, returned from overseas; Dr. Meredith Ross, Gladys Onians, Ena Allen, Betty Hosley and two Land Army girls, Elsie Henderson and Margaret Mellor. There were even one or two in Guide uniform.

Lady Chauvel welcomed the guest of honour and gave her the good wishes of all her Guide friends, after which Mrs. Edmondson, chairman of the committee, told how it had been decided to give Miss Barfus a cheque, which she could use, if she wished, to make her cottage, Venta, in the country, more like the Venta of her dreams. And also, with the ready consent of the Guide House committee, to name the far camp site at Guide House, the Freida Barfus Camp Site.

Barf then told how she had been invited to dinner by the chairman of the Committee, and when well-fed (!) presented with a small parcel which, being an obedient Guide, she had opened. Inside she found a small book and in its pages she read about the committee and its decisions, then she found many quotations from letters written by "sentimental" people! and lastly, under a rubber band, she found a cheque!

Miss Barfus thanked all the givers, and then said that she, knowing that the cheque was a gift to her, to do what she liked with, wished to give a third (£35) of it to the B.-P. Memorial Fund, and said what a joy it would be to give such a large amount. Barf said: "When I start 'figuring' I find that £35 represents a penny for every day I have been a Guide—from 11th November, 1920, until the same date this year—so that is a small sum to give—a penny a day for all that fun and all those opportunities." After this the buzz of conversation and the gentle rattle of tea-cups was renewed, and many took the opportunity of signing their names in the small book which came out of the parcel, reading, too, the "sentimental" sentences from some of the many letters which were written about Barf's retirement. Perhaps their words, though so inadequately, as words do will give Barf some idea of the warm affection in which she is held, and of the deep gratitude which is felt for her long years of more than faithful service at the Guide office. —R.D.

### TO SAY THANK YOU—BUT HOW?

How CAN I thank you all for your graciousness and your gifts?

I think perhaps the Party was the nicest, because this gift of your leisure gave me the



chance to see so many generations of Guide folk, all at the one time—there never was such a gathering since the Pioneer Party some years ago, and such “rememberings” as there were!

And next in thrill is the naming of the camp site; what a lovely idea! In America the Girl Scouts have sites named after Girl Scouts who have passed on, but I have the fun of having it happen during my lifetime.

And last, but hardly least in thrill, comes the overwhelming cheque—I know you all gave happily, and this I appreciate very deeply—but far too many of you must have contributed far too much, to make up such a huge sum. Mrs. Edmondson can tell you how my breath failed me when I opened the cheque, after enjoying so much the charming little book of messages. (By the way, some of them were far too sentimental—were the writers “licking the hand that smote” them?) The idea you suggest of using the money to improve “Venta” is excellent; my friend Miss Marshall, who bequeathed the house to me, always said that the Guides and I would be able to make the best use of it and I know she would be glad of the use Guides have already made of “Venta.” If only I can stay alive till the good days after the war, and help to carry out the exciting plans we made a year or two ago, when we had no prospect of any money being available.

I should like all those who contributed to my gift to know that I have given £35—a third of the cheque—to the B.-P. Memorial Fund, “from Victorian Guides per F.V.B.” It is interesting that this sum also represents a penny for every day I have been a Guide—since 11th November, 1920, to the same date this year. What a tiny payment it is for all that fun and all those opportunities! But it is an acknowledgment that anything I have been able to do to help Guiding has been through the inspiration of the Old Chief.

I am still in the Movement as Captain of 1st Melbourne Rangers but when I am gone altogether there must be others who are just as keen to advance Guiding among the children of the present, for the sake of the community of the future. You can be one of those—if you know enough of the inner spirit of Guiding—if you understand enough of how it can work through the Guides, and if you care sincerely enough to put your best effort and thought into the job of a Guider. (Do read all you can of B.P.’s writings; treasure them and re-read them, and play the game, the way he did.)

Here I am, giving another lecture! Some of my first Rangers, who were at the party, said my “speech” at the Party was really a “lecture”—but, you see, I was a school-marm before I was a Guider, so it’s in the blood. . . . forgive me.

Thank you, everybody! And I hope you will camp on the “Frieda Barfus Camp Site” and also at “Venta,” before YOU are fifty!

—Frieda Victoria Barfus.



### SEEING THINGS.

“A prince came riding by, saw the high thorny hedges, cut a way through, found the princess and kissed her hand and she awoke.”

You’ve heard that story before, and do you know this one? “The little rabbit looked out from his burrow one moonlight night and he couldn’t see Mr. Fox, hear Mr. Fox or smell Mr. Fox; but he noticed that a bush threw a shadow with a head and ears like Mr. Fox’s, so he went out the back way.”

Have you ever thought that if the prince hadn’t noticed the hedges the princess might still be asleep; and if the rabbit hadn’t seen the shadow—well!

To get down to facts: do you doubt that by really using our eyes, ears and noses, we can save ourselves and other people a lot of trouble?

Then have you ever wondered why some beauty spots have been preserved, why some birds, animals and plants are protected, why lovely gardens have been made, beautiful pictures painted, and wonderful music composed— isn’t it because someone appreciated that beauty, and wanted others to share it?

Well, the children who come into our Packs have eyes to see with, ears to hear with, noses to smell with, and to a greater or lesser extent ability to appreciate beauty; and as we believe that it will benefit both themselves and other people, isn’t it our job to train them to use these senses?

How? Firstly, by our own interest in things about us, by observation and sense games, and stories. Then there’s our attitude to tests—the “outside world” section of Golden Bar and the plant growing in Golden Hand can be just something you have to do to get a badge, or they can be like the magic ointment, which, when it touched the princess’s eyes, made her see that the ugly bullfrog was really a fairy prince.

H.G.

### IDEAS.

Outer Eastern Division has sent in the following:—

#### Game.

On a large sheet of brown or white paper Brown Owl can draw or perhaps paste suitable pictures, a house, trees, road, fence, bath, cows, children, etc. The Brownies study the picture for a given time, then go to their Six homes and make up a story about the objects in the picture. When finished they return to the Pow-wow circle and the Sixer tells the story her six has invented. Brown Owl and Tawny can choose the best story or the Pack can vote.

J.S.

#### Game.

Brownies pair off and all stand in two lines. On word “go!” each Brownie runs away and



finds some natural object—a leaf, twig, stone or berry, etc., returning to her original place beside her partner. When all are back, partners change objects and all run off again to find a similar object to the one given them by their partner. First back gets an extra point, and one point is given to each Brownie who completes the pair. Repeat several times. It is advisable to make a rule that objects are to be picked off the ground, or that not more than one leaf may be picked off a tree.—D.H.

#### Closing Ceremony.

Brownies in a circle with hats and coats on. Say:—

"Our shadows must live in our pockets,  
For they only come out in the sun;  
What would we do if our Smile's did that?  
Whenever it rained, we'd have none!  
But they don't. So we'll go home and show  
that they don't. P.M.K."

#### AGE OF BROWNIES.

There seems to be a misunderstanding in some Districts about the age of Brownies. Some Packs admit recruits of 6 and even 5½ years, and some Packs take recruits of 12 years.

Let us look at the Brownie Rule in P.O. & R. and see what it has to say on this subject:—

"Brownies are girls under 11 who are preparing to be Guides."

A Brownie may be admitted to a Pack at the age of 7. She may be enrolled before she is 8 if she has passed the Recruit Test and Brown Owl considers she is ready for enrolment."

Why shouldn't recruits be taken into the Pack before they are 7?

1. They are too young to understand the meaning and responsibility of making the Promise.
2. They are too small to play the games that the older Brownies should play.
3. They will probably be petted and spoilt by the older Brownies.
4. They can't go on to Guides until they are 10, and will probably tire of Brownies before that time.
5. It is against the rules of the movement, and all Guiders should endeavour to keep the rules which are laid down for our guidance.

Why shouldn't the girls of 10 and over be admitted to the Pack?

1. Because they are old enough to go to the Guide Company, and too old for the Pack. The Pack is a preparation for the Company, not a substitution.
2. It is not fair to the children to have them doing Brownie things when they should be taking part with girls of their own age, in the more adventurous doings of the Guide Company.
3. It spoils the Pack for the younger Brownies.
4. It is not worth them buying a uniform for such a short time.

Brownie activities are planned to interest children for three years, so if you decide to take recruits at 7 years they should be ready for Guides when they are 10. In this case it isn't worth admitting any child of 9, if she is to go on to the Company at 10, it would be better for her to be put on the waiting list of the Company. If, however, there are local reasons why Brownies should not go on to Guides until 10½, then Brown Owl should not take recruits under 7½, and any children under that age should be put on the Pack waiting list, even if there are vacancies in the Pack when they apply.

Brownies should be between the ages of 7 and 11, neither younger nor older, and should not spend more than 3½ years in the Pack. It is for Districts to work out the most suitable age at which to admit recruits to the Pack, according to local conditions.

To have under age or over age Brownies in a Pack is turning the Pack into a creche or a girls' club, which is not what our Founder intended. Brownie activities have been carefully thought out to suit children of 7 to 11, and when children outside these ages are taken into a Brownie Pack they are being given activities for which they are psychologically unsuited, and so we are hindering rather than helping the development of their character, which is the aim of Guiding.

D. HOLTZ,  
Commissioner for Brownies.

## LONES

Do you find your Lones are interested in the "Australian Flag" part of the Tenderfoot Test? Personally I think it is the hardest fence to climb from the child's point of view. From the Guiders', too, it needs so much explanation to teach it effectively, and so much perception to make it interesting. There is a danger of her making it a series of dates and historical facts—always abhorrent to the normal child—and a series of ruled lines and measured spaces difficult to master except to a mathematical mind.

The three flags from which the Union Jack was formed are complicated enough, but the added positions of the stars which form the Australian Flag makes it still more difficult both to teach and grasp. Added to this is the task of the Lone Guider to present all this on paper in a way that will make the Lone Guide eager to master it.

Of course we Guiders have to do no more than touch on such facts and dates as mark the definite progress of the formation of both the Union Jack and the Australian Flags, and if these facts are told in an interesting way they should be effective.

I can never over-emphasise the importance stories play in the teaching of all sections



of Guide training, and in this particular case we are lucky, as we have the legends of the Saints to come to our aid by supplying the human element.

I have said before that history is abhorrent to the normal child. Why is it we have to reach the stage in life when it is difficult to learn before we realise the fascination and romance of this subject?

In presenting our dates and facts then, let us weave them into little human stories which will make the learning of them easy and pleasant.

Games are another way in which facts can be learnt in a pleasant way, and there are several which can be adapted to suit Lone conditions. We could devise a patrol game in which each member draws in turn a portion of the Flag in answer to a question, until it is completed. A game run on the same lines as Consequences could be effective also as a patrol competition. A jig-saw puzzle in which each part must be fitted into its correct position within a certain space of time is a good way in which to impress it upon the child.

Here is an original story which was sent by one of my Lone Guiders which I am sure you will be pleased to use for imprinting those annoying little stars that form the Southern Cross on the minds of your Guides.

"Long ago when Australia was very young and inhabited only by aborigines, there lived a great chief. He had five lovely daughters, whose love for each other was beautiful to behold. Where one was there would the others be, even the youngest, who was only six years old.

"But the time came when the chief began to think of marrying the four elder ones to suitable young sons of neighbouring tribes. At the end of six months the marriage settlements had been completed. The eldest daughter was to marry the son of a very powerful chief who lived so far away to the North that it would take many moons to make the journey. The next was to become a princess of a tribe living many moons to the South, while the next two sisters were to be sent to the East and West when their husbands sent for them. The youngest daughter was to remain at home for another six years.

"On hearing these marriage plans, the five princesses were overcome with grief, and were inconsolable at the prospect of such a separation.

"Eventually came the very last night before they were to set out with their husbands for their new homes. It was a beautiful summer night, the sky and earth silvery with the light of the big round full moon. The five sisters sat huddled together in a little clearing some distance from the camp, weeping and embracing one another, speechless with grief, for each knew that once separated they would never meet again.

"The Moon Spirit looked down on them and pitied them. Never had he seen such devo-

tion or grief. Down he came along the silvery moon path and appeared before the grieving sisters in all his splendour.

Struck dumb with fear and reverence, the sisters listened while he told them that their devotion had so touched him that he had left his heavenly mia-mia to help them. Bidding them look up into the sky, he took each sister in turn and threw her up, up into the sky; one to the north, one to the south, the other two to the east and west. The youngest one, because she was so small, he threw into a position where she was nearest to all four. And there you will see them to this very day. We call them the 'Southern Cross'."

—M. R. Fairbairn.

## THE SIGN POST

### THE GUIDE LAW.

"Every" Guider and the Law.

A great preacher said: "There is but one thing for us to do with the teaching of Jesus Christ—not that we discuss it, nor that we admire it, but that we proceed upon it."

This could surely be written with the Guide Law as the theme.

Yet suppose we feel that a company is not "proceeding upon" the Law?

First: We could re-state our own faith; to try to answer questions such as these may help to set us firmly again on the foundations.

1. Do I truly admire above all others the person described by the Law? Do I wish to become like that?

2. Do I believe it possible?

3. Do I believe that I can control my character, and accept as an adventure of life, though not in my strength alone, the challenge to BE-come and to OVER-come?

4. Have I used the Law to realise mistakes, so that I may resolve more bravely for the future?

5. Has my experience with the Law brought gladness, interest and strength into my life?

6. Do I long to share with each Guide, as a comrade, the opportunity of the Law, and plan for her sake, to open the great highway before her, as the most wonderful life that she can know?

Second: We must work at special perplexities of war time.

There is a pile of letters upon my desk. Why do I constantly persuade myself that I have something more important to do than answering them? Because there is one to which I do not know the answer. If I can get that one done, all others will be written off in a few minutes.

We must face the Fourth Law. A Guide is a Friend to All.

Friendship need not involve personal liking at the moment. It means willingness to "like," readiness to help any need of anyone



whom we meet through the day, without pausing to think of likes and dislikes. But what of those who attack and show active hate? Not only to ourselves, but to others weaker, and dependent on us?

How does "Love your enemies," "Be a friend to ALL," work out when the injury is to some one other than ourselves?

Jesus spoke of "Loving enemies" to the disciples who had left their former lives behind them, and were willing to enter upon life on a spiritual level? The words were not only a command, they were a statement and a promise. Jesus told them they would be able to love their enemies because they were willing to learn how to cure their enmity; they would be able to cure it if they could see it as a disaster for the enemy, and longed for his own sake to cure him of it.

Hitler wrote "My Struggle" twenty years before this war; we were amazed, morbidly interested, could scarcely believe it; but we were not deeply concerned for Hitler, because cruelty and hate were separating him from the presence of God. But that, I believe, is the way Christ is concerned; and those true disciples who follow Him can overcome spiritual evil with spiritual good. Until we can attain this we must fight aggression with the same weapons with which we are attacked. We must fight back with material weapons; with every bit of strength, to bring evil under control, and to keep the things that are good and right; but it is our own failure to live on a spiritual level that makes it necessary.

This is the only solution I have found. I urge others to send their thoughts upon it, too; it could be discussed further in the evening of June 29th.

### Third. Keep the Law before the Guides.

Constantly, one bit at a time, as occasion comes, speaking and thinking of it as an opportunity—as happy, and fine, and challenging. Guides can understand simply the idea I have tried to express on the fourth law, but often they are not bothered about it. We HAVE to fight this war, we wanted to be friends, and we wish our enemies well as soon as it is over, and will do our best for them; but as the Guides grow older, we must beware of letting them think it will be easy, and we can help them to see that cruelty, dishonesty, race prejudice, can happen in a very small area—a class, a street, even a patrol. We must make sure, too, that in finding a realistic solution they are not satisfied to make their own limits to the law.

### Fourth: This is dependent on the Third.

Know what is in the minds of the Guides; the time a Guider spends with her Guides has on the whole been reduced considerably over the last few years: numbers should be limited to those the Guider can know personally.

The Law should be discussed by a Guider with each patrol, rather than with the whole

company; Guides sometimes are on the defensive. They claim the right to their own judgment more than they used to do. This claim is not so strong as it sometimes seems to be, the Guide wants to put her point of view, but when she has been allowed to do so will often adjust it willingly to a wider or better one.

If the whole Company is at the "talk," so many want to express their views that there is not much time for the Guider, or one dominant "rebel," may spoil the whole atmosphere; sometimes leave the question undecided, but be sure to come back to it. It will simmer during the week, and they will be more ready to listen. NEVER try to put a Guide right when she makes a statement before others in the course of general conversation, or in an attitude of bravado. Store it up, and bring the item in again. Guides are often surprised at the ideas put before them (I suggested once that some children who were not very good at school should thank their teacher at the end of the year), and need time to adjust themselves, their first reaction is defensive, but once that is over, they may be interested. Remember, too, there may be quotation from what has been said at home. **We must know what the Guides are thinking,** and must consider how to direct their thoughts.

Special instance: Trust. "It is no good giving the Guides a message, they only forget." Thus a Lieutenant to her Captain.

That, then, is the next job. Captain could ask one patrol about it, why they forget? Hints on how to remember, invent a test. Each bring something to the next meeting. Each make a mark in notebook at 8 a.m. next morning and get mother to sign it, but keep it secret. If this patrol succeeds, suggest they make a challenge for another patrol, take it over by secret code, or hide it along a track; test to include those who are not at this meeting (message must be given to them) and those who are not at the next (result must be sent).

Get each patrol to write down how many of the ten laws are touched.

Captain can note response of Guides for part of second class test and can discuss with patrol whether certain ones showed understanding and ability. G.H.S.

### VISITORS AT COMPANY MEETINGS

Does anybody enjoy the visit, or is it a kind of penance through which all pass, with a sigh of relief at the end?

Of course there are two sides to the question—that of the Company (and of the Guider) and that of the Commissioner.

Rule 17 in P.O.&R. states that one of the duties of Commissioners is "to visit companies, packs and patrols and advise how to conduct them on the lines laid down....; these periodical visits are to be made with a view to encouraging efficiency and ensuring that all tests are passed on a proper standard."

Whenever we have any "duty" to perform,



isn't it cheering when the other person comes half-way to meet us and makes it easy? That is Courtesy, and the Visit of the Commissioner is a special opportunity to carry out the spirit of the Fifth Guide Law.

She will come sometimes on a very official visit—perhaps for a special Enrolment, with all the ceremony desirable on such an occasion. For such times the Guides will love to plan the details of receiving her on arrival, conducting her to the place of honour, and seeing that she knows details of the programme and times when she is to do her part; not forgetting her at the moments when there is nothing special doing—she must not be left standing forlorn in a corner!

At other times, Commissioner comes "just to watch"—she may want to see how things are going (see Rule 17!) and decide whether the Guider is ready for her Warrant. She may want to observe the way a certain child is fitting into the company—perhaps Captain has had a bit of bother, and has discussed the matter with Commissioner at the last Guiders' meeting. Commissioner will, of course, be welcomed as soon as she appears, but less formally than on the previous occasion. Courtesy demands that she be conducted to a seat in a convenient spot, be shown anything she wishes to see (e.g., the roll book, or log book, or Court of Honour Minute Book) and that she does not at any time feel in the way.

Then there are those quite informal moments when she may happen to have a quarter of an hour to spare, and pops in, to be "a fly on the wall," and asks you and the Guides just to take no notice of her at all, so you just carry on—perhaps you all wave when she slips out.

The Commissioner who is newly appointed is often very nervous about visiting the Company. She feels there is so much the Guides know which she does not know, and she is anxious not to do anything "wrong." This makes her shy and hesitant. The Guider who is not used to regular visits from the Commissioner is also anxious—she wants the Company and her work with it to appear in the best light, and this makes her nervous, and the Guides probably notice that she is not herself! The Guides themselves have, I am sure, no preconceived notions for or against such visits, unless these have been instilled by the Guider—why should they?

Sometimes a Guider is visited by some other person—another Commissioner, a Guider from another part of the State, a member of the Local Association, the minister of the church at which the Company meets, or simply some grown-up who has called in with a message, and stays a while to watch.

Nothing will go wrong at any of these visits if the Guides understand that they are special chances of showing courtesy. Courtesy is seeing things from another's point of view. If you were the visitor, you would want to feel, on leaving, that you were glad you had come, and that everyone had been glad to have you there. Make this the keynote in

planning welcomes and farewells, and in fitting visitors into the programme (sometimes they would like an opportunity to speak to the Guides). At Court of Honour the visit can be discussed, and in Patrols in Council plans can be made to make the occasion happy for all concerned. Some Companies have a Hospitality Orderly appointed periodically to deal with unexpected visitors, and to make sure arrangements are made for expected guests. Brownies are trained to make up their own ceremonies and welcoming plans, so why shouldn't Guides do so? There is something wrong with the Guide Spirit of the Company which dreads the Commissioner's (or any other person's) visit, and it is the Guider who can set the tone in this, as in everything else touching the carrying out of the Guide Law. F.V.B.

## EXTENSIONS

Editor, Sydney Foott.

### First-Class Brownies.

The Brownie First Class is an achievement which any Brownie can be proud to attain, and means that a person is really keen and persevering—but just picture to yourself how much harder it would be if you had to do it in spite of physical handicaps.

Two of the Brownies at the Austin Hospital (in the Respirator Ward) have just passed their first class, and the Commissioner for Extensions went out to present them with their Golden Hands. They were very thrilled to see her, and demonstrated various things they can do without the use of their hands. Elsa showed how she can tie up a parcel (including the reef knot) and signal in semaphore with her toes, which are a lot more nimble than many people's hands—and June demonstrated signalling with the fingers of one hand.

They have been working for this test for some time, and it was a very proud day for Downy Owl and their Pack Leader. Post Brown Owl came, too, and so did the District Commissioner.

As well as the excitement of the Brownies being Golden Hands, there was an added excitement in that their gloriously gay felt dogs (who had been given to them by an airman in the Heidelberg Hospital to whom they had written "because he had been in hospital for such a long time") were enrolled as Brownies, complete with Brownie ties and tiny miniature badges. It really was a great day, and the Brownies felt themselves justly thrilled and they really earned the Grand Howl their visitors produced before they left. B.P. Fund.

The Extensions contribution to this continue to come in—one very handicapped Post Ranger contributed a whole War Savings Certificate, entirely saved by herself.



## RANGERS

### RANGER CONFERENCE, 1943.

This year's conference will be held at Guide Headquarters, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, on Saturday, 17th July, 1943, from 2.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

All subjects discussed this year will take the form of debates.

A conference fee of 3d. per Ranger will be charged to cover expenses.

#### Programme.

- 2.15—Opening and Minutes of previous conference.
- 2.30—H.E.S. and its advantages?
- 3.00—Speaker of general interest.
- 3.45—10-minute break for Afternoon Tea (each Ranger to provide her own).
- 3.55—The Future of the Victorian Ranger Committee?
- 4.15—Suggestions on how you may help Extensions.
- 4.20—Business Meeting. Voting for Fixtures. Election of the 1943-44 Committee.
- 5.30—Closing.

The following fixtures have been suggested (4 to be selected) for the twelve months ending June, 1944.—Ranger Conference, Rangers' Own Service, Swimming Sports, Combined Hike, Country Dance Party, Week-end Camps.

The following nominations have been received for the 1943-44 Victorian Ranger Committee (7 to be elected) — Greta Richardson (secretary) (Toorak and Armadale); Joan Smith (Essendon); Daphne Smith (Essendon); Vivienne Lowe (Kew District); Anne Carson (2nd Caulfield); Patricia Williams (2nd Caulfield); Lorna Ballenger (1st Melbourne); Joan Shillington (3rd East Malvern); Valma Bell (Yarraville); Margaret Williams (S.R.S. "Invincible"); Kathleen Mullins (Toorak and Armadale); Madie Hoare (Toorak and Armadale).  
Flora Craven, Elsie Kemp, Conveners.

### RANGER PRISONER OF WAR FUND.

Total amount collected to 27/5/43, £49/2/1.

The following subscriptions have been paid and the receipts are being held by B. McNee, 481 George Street, Fitzroy, to save postage:—3rd East Malvern, Yarraville, 4th Preston, 3rd Geelong, 8th Victorian Lones, Hamilton, Essendon.

If the above are required they will be forwarded on receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope. G.R.

## BUSH LORE

What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

.... W. H. Davies.

And so I took a little time "to stand and

stare." It was one of those mornings when the atmosphere is such as to bring out every gradation of tone and colour. The clouds were great grey lumps of soft-looking wool, harmless, rainless, drifting slowly along the tops of the hills. In the distance the Mount was a beautiful dark blue, the nearer ranges were dark green, while nearer still the grass-covered hills were shyly turning green and throwing off the white of summer. Along the creek was the greatest variety—blue-green of wattles beside dull green of gums; a background of sombre pines standing clear-cut against the skyline; autumn leaves of gold and red; and finely etched twigs and branches of poplars and willows which, having already lost their leaves, showed the promise of next year's life in their ever-swelling reddish buds. The clouds trailed their mists in patches across the hills and valleys and in the distance a bright patch of sunshine lit up the landscape.

### Birds That Flock.

Do all birds flock? In other words, are all birds gregarious? Here is a nice little bit of research for your Guides to do—let them find out by observation which do and which don't. Never in my life have I seen thrushes, robins (no, never, they like their own territory) or willie wagtails flocking together, but then seeing is believing. All the same, if Janie or Mollie come to you and say they have seen a flock of robins, you try and get a witness or see for yourself before believing it. But here is my story. Three times of late I have seen a large congregation or flock of mudlarks. Now quite often they seem to get around in small numbers, say 4 or 5 or 6. Perhaps they are all of the one family then. My flock on a rapid count, for mudlarks are slow, clumsy fliers, numbered 28 to 30. They seemed to fill the sky for the moment, but quickly melted away. The second time the number was about the same but the third time, about a week ago in the evening, there were only 15. So seeing is believing!

Has anyone else noticed the mudlarks in their district flocking together like this during April and May?

### More Flocks.

Starlings gather in small and large flocks and wheel about the sky and even feed on the ground in flocks, and in the Bendigo district they used to sleep in a large congregation in the reed beds. This used to happen in the hot weather and, of course, all flocking usually occurs after the nesting is finished.

Finches go about in flocks all the time, the little zebras even sticking together at nesting time. I have seen enormous flocks of goldfinches rise up from the ground where most likely they are feeding on thistle seeds.

In the Mallee you see large flocks of galahs, or in irrigated parts ibises.

And we must not forget the gathering of swallows and woodswallows before migrating. The rest I leave to you and your Guides.



### Galahs.

And that reminds me that last month we were talking about flocks of galahs, and whether you had seen any in your district. I had seen a flock of about five outside Castlemaine, quite close to the town really. The other morning I saw and heard them again, and there were about 20 or 30 of them. When I went through Taradale in the train about the end of April I saw what was probably the same flock. This seemed to me to be very far south for them.

### Starlings.

This is a very birdy number this time—a change from insects. To-day I saw eight starlings all in together, happily splashing and scolding each other, the bath being a pool of water that remains in the road for many days after rain. Usually these birds visit an old bedroom basin that we keep filled with water for our magpie, who loves a bath therein. But when rain fills the pool they go there. Every morning in late autumn soon after dawn they begin to visit the basin, and the morning echoes to their merry splashings. They bath during the day, too. The loud noise of splashing seems to be due to the rapid motion of the wings which beat the water. We think this has a twofold purpose perhaps—to throw the water over the bird, but also to prevent the wings from becoming too wet and so hampering the birds' flight.

Have you ever watched a starling foraging? They go every inch of ground most thoroughly and systematically, thrusting their beaks into the ground, turning over each piece of manure, or other small obstacle, and hunting beneath leaves of plants. And they trundle along in such an old-fashioned way whilst doing this that you can't help but laugh. You will find the lawn or grassy places a mass of small holes from their beak thrusts. I saw one, a young one, poking in the leeks, and presently he brought something out which he proceeded to rub vigorously on the ground before eating. It looked very much like a slug.

Another trick the starling has is to imitate the wood swallow. In the evening, when the air is full of insects, you will see them dart about straight up into the air, down with a not so graceful glide, in fact, they cut all sorts of capers.

### Now the Humble Sparrow.

At present you will see these busy little birds carrying off downy white feathers from the chicken house. With these they will line their nests, thus making them warm and snug for the winter. And if you watch sparrows at all you will also see them remove the night's droppings from the nest, just as they do when the young are there.

### Robins.

Did you notice that they weren't here one day and then they were the next? They returned to us here the last week in March, and

now they seem to be everywhere. I have already mentioned how they like their own bit of territory. Two scarlet robins had a great battle in our garden the other morning, but perhaps it was over the one little lady robin, and not over the territory at all. They meant it, for you could hear their little beaks snapping. The flame robin appears on the fence and various points of vantage, too. When I see him I say to myself, "Yes, you are my favourite, you are the prettiest." Then a little later on comes the scarlet robin, all alertness, and fidgets like his mate the flame robin, and I say to myself, "Ah, no, you are my favourite, you are the prettiest."

And he, too, drops swiftly to the ground, and you hear his tiny beak snap on a fly or he picks something from a plant. Then he sings his sweet, sad little song and I say all over again, "Yes, you are my favourite," until the flame robin appears again.

Do your Guides know the difference between these two? The scarlet has a velvety black back, head and throat, thus his red breast does not extend up as far as the flame robin's. The flame robin's red is a different shade, as his name indicates, but it goes right up to his throat. This is why some people call him the brighter of the two. The scarlet also has a good distinguishing mark in the white spot on his forehead, or his white cap, as it is called. The flame has a lovely grey back. If you are very lucky you will see one with a red cap. This is a red-capped robin, and I'm sure you will get a tremendous thrill if you do see him.

### Two More Visitors.

Two other regulars are the spinebill and the willie wagtail. The former does his daily rounds, starting on the honeysuckle or cape figwort, which is his first favourite, then going thoroughly over the penstemons, fuchsia and soon the japonica. In the summer he visits the tecoma.

Willie wagtail flies under the verandah as I lie spellbound in bed, and pecks flies from the ceiling. Then he sings a loud "Sweet pretty creature" in thanks, before he flies off.

### Sad Ending.

My spider friends have both disappeared. The wolf spider must have come to a bad end because one day the lid was lying beside the open hole, and it never ever went on again. And the bird-dropping lady has disappeared, too. Her web is beginning to suffer from the ravages of the wind and the cocoons dangle rather precariously. But what matter!! Each has a tiny hole pierced in it, so the young ones have gone forth into the hard, hard world.

To-night as I started on these notes I found a small green spider which had to be transported back to the garden. He was extremely active for his size and raced about on my hand, sometimes falling over the edge, to dangle on his silken cord,



### RELICS.

In turning out the "treasures" accumulated in twenty-three years, there are some I can not find it in my heart to destroy without some record being made of their having once existed. Perhaps "Matilda's" readers will be interested in these notes.

To-day I have come across the "points chart" used at 4th Macedon Training Week: you can imagine the extra strain it was to be getting (or losing) points as well as absorbing the training!

Marion Sinclair, Lieutenant and later Captain of the Toorak College (1st and 2nd Malvern) Companies, designed the chart I have before me. There is a picture of a Guide and a Brownie beside a merrily burning fire, apparently warming their hands at the glow. Beside the picture are these verses, taken from the Girl Guide Gazette (later called The Guider):

"As you our fire have kindled, may its flame  
Be fed by fuel that you have taught our hands  
To gather in the woods and open lands;  
The back log Courage for the lofty aim,  
And in the heart of embers, burning deep,  
The love of home and hearth-side will we  
keep  
To glow more brightly, tho' the flame' light  
fails.

You will go on along your forest way;  
The trail you follow may be traced by fires  
That you have kindled by your high desires  
And golden dreams you dream of, every day.  
Oh, may the fires you build in passing by  
Burn clear and true against your evening  
sky!"

Beneath are the four ladders, each with a Guide in uniform climbing rung by rung, up towards the little pyramid fire burning at the top of the ladder. At set intervals between the ladders are drawings of "the foundation of Enthusiasm," the "Pyramid of Honest Endeavour" the "Woodpile of Resource and Cheerfulness," and the "Spark of the Guide Spirit."

I notice that the Holly Patrol won—Miss Irving, just newly appointed as State Secretary, was the Patrol Leader; the Robins came second, then the Fuchsias, and lastly the Kookaburras. Which Patrol were YOU in? The date of the Training Week was May, 1924.

Here is another Chart, which appears to have been one of the entries in a Chart competition at a Training Class. It is very comprehensive, and has points of humour as well as a high aspiration.

The heading is the Tree of Cheerfulness, and the kookaburra's life is the theme. The centre of the chart is a tree, with branches coming out at intervals on each side, and each has an illustration of a stage in the kookaburra's development. "The Start" shows an egg. The Tenderfoot shows the ridiculous baby bird, complete with bonnet cradled in the nest. Stage 3 is marked First Steps, with a sprightly birdlet wearing a gay hair-ribbon as a topknot. Next comes

Friendship, with two very coy birds cuddled together on a branch! The friendship seems to have ripened fast, for the next branch is labelled Homecraft, and shows their new nest with three eggs! The next branch is labelled "Lesson No. 1—Cheerfulness," and shows a baby bird being lectured (obviously!) by its parent. You will be interested to hear that "Lesson No. 2—Handcraft" shows the baby being taught to catch worms! You should see its expression on seeing a writhing mass of worms between itself and papa. "Lesson No. 3—Service for others," shows papa kookaburra with a dead snake (very like a hooded cobra) and baby looking almost grown-up enough to catch one himself. The last branches are The Top of the Tree, showing the young bird flying away on an independent flight.

There is a kind of thermometer up the centre of the tree (is it sap?) showing 10 degrees to each branch, and one gathers that the bird emblems of the Patrols perched on the branches according to their progress.

With the elimination of the competitive spirit from Company Programmes, the use of such charts is now limited to recording badges gained, but the pictorial chart, lifting the thoughts to an ideal, is more in line with Guide methods than a prosaic list with ruled columns to fill in. F.V.B.

### THE PIONEER CAMP.

Six-thirty and a grey light—and frost crackly underfoot as we crawled from our blanket cocoons. It was even more uncanny towards the end of the week, for the moon was shining brightly when the rising whistle blew (not that anyone HEARD the whistle, of course). But by the time the breakfast rations had been collected from Q.M. and the patrol fires lit, the light was strong, the kookaburras were heralding the sun, and the Pioneers were, roughly speaking, up (you know what it is on a frosty morning in camp?)

The three Patrols (Whipbirds, Galahs and Minnehahas) pitched their tents slightly apart from the others, with their own camp flagpole, larder, fireplace and woodpile. For the first three days we lived as a community, with community cooking and meals, but after that, Patrols were independent for breakfast and the midday meal and as the staff were invited out for these meals, there was great rivalry as to whose hostesses would blow the cookhouse whistle first!

Owing to the requirements of the tests, certain foods recurred rather frequently, namely porridge, bacon, stew and dumplings—but the staff survived the continuous tasting required. If you want a really fluffy dumpling, just order one from a Pioneer, and it doesn't matter to her whether you have suet or not—it'll still be fluffy!

And do you want any wood chopped? You should see the "swing" of the tomahawk when wielded by a Pioneer! Of course, she has had



practice in choosing her log, balancing it on a suitable "block," and cutting out, with alternate strokes to right and left, those wedge shaped bits that are so nice for a grilling fire. She has also gone with her Patrol into the trackless bush, chosen a suitable sapling, felled and trimmed it, and erected it as a flag-pole.

On account of the intense cold, we took some special precautions to ensure our comfort. Palliasses were not on the kit list, but we gathered our own green bracken and found that 101 fronds make an almost bouncy mattress under the groundsheet. Pine needles were favoured by some tents, and by the second night everyone was comfortable, and no one was cold in bed—surely a tribute to the campers' bushcraft.

As the sun did not peep over the treetops until we were having breakfast, and was well down by our tea-time, we had a fire for both these meals—just beyond the guy lines in front of the dining tent. It was a reflector fire, with a sloping backrest for the logs, in front of which the Ceremonial Patrol built different kinds of fires. At the evening campfires, where the singing was particularly good, we used to count the logs we were burning, and think sympathetically of our folks at home crouching before a handful of deal and smoky green wood!

If you are interested to know what else we did at this camp, read the syllabus for Pioneer Badge in P.O.&R.

Although the complete test was not finished in this Camp, we hope that, by about October, there will be seventeen Pioneer Badges to present; and then there will surely be a rush from Camping Guiders, who will count themselves fortunate if they can snare a couple of Pioneers for the camp staff, to pitch tents, cook, supervise woodpiles, and sing. Of course, these Pioneers are not adults—their ages varied from 13 to 17—but youth is no bar to enthusiasm or to efficiency, and there is excellent material here of which to make the future Camper's Licence holders.

The camp staff, in the course of the testing, felt that it would help camping Guides to prepare for these outdoor tests if the Guiders were more conscious of the details of the syllabus, and worked in some training for the badges into the Company hikes. I do not think any of these Guides have the Hiker badge—why not? It seems such a natural first step towards the camping badges. And what about the Scouting Game which a Pioneer candidate has to organise for the test? Only four of the 17 were tested for this section, because they were the only ones who had previously run such games; one or two who described games they proposed to run for the test proved that they had no notion of what constitutes a scouting game. What has happened to the Scouting Games in your Company programmes, Guiders? Do you and can you really cut wide games out and still run on B-P.'s plan for

Guiding? If you have no copy of "Scouting Games" by the Founder, you surely have "The Lone Wolf Trail," or "The Guider," from which you can get masses of ideas. If you are still puzzled about this section of Guiding, do write to the Signpost Page editor and ask her to produce something helpful—and quickly, because you have either an almost-Pioneer to help to finish the test, or you have dozens of Guides who would adore to win this Badge at the next Pioneer Camp, so don't forget, will you? —Yabinga.

R.S.—Nearly forgot to tell you that, on the last morning, there was ICE on the water-buckets . . . ! A fitting climax to a camp of Pioneers.

## TRAINING AND CAMPING

Elaine Moran.

### GUIDERS' TRAINING CLASSES.

#### Guide Elementary Training.

If applications warrant it, the next course will commence at the Guide Office in September. Dates and times will be announced in "Matilda" and on the headquarters notice board later.

#### brownie Elementary Training.

If applications warrant it, a course will commence at the Guide Office in JULY. Application forms are obtainable at the Guide Office or by post from Miss B. Macartney, Hon. Training Secretary (please send a stamped addressed envelope). Forms should be completed and returned by 20th June.

#### Guide Refresher Training.

- 22nd June—Knots (Miss Barfus).
- 29th June—The Guide Law. Guides' Own. (Miss Swinburne).
- 6th July—Signalling, latest methods (Miss H. Gross).
- 13th July—Nature Observation from the Guides' Outlook.
- 20th July—Drill and Ceremonial (Miss Hoffmeyer).
- 27th July—Brightening up the Company Programme (Miss Moran).
- 3rd August—Patrol Leaders and Patrol Time (Miss MacLeod).

Guiders may attend the full course, or separate classes. The fee is 3d. per class. Applications were due on 8th June; however, late applications will be considered for the later classes. Please apply to Miss B. Macartney, Hon. Secretary, at the Guide Office, stating which classes you expect to attend.

#### Guide First-Class Training.

If applications warrant it, a course will commence on 13th August at 7.45 p.m. at the Guide Office. The course will include 3 outdoor days. Application should reach Miss Macartney before 30th July.

#### Easter Camps.

The following Companies held camps at Easter:—

- 1st Melbourne Rangers—Trek Cart trip,



camping out, from Heidelberg, through Eltham, Panton Hill to Wattle Glen.

Hamilton Guides under canvas, at "Bryn Coed," Hamilton.

1st Benalla Guides, under canvas at "Farnley," Benalla.

3rd Geelong Rangers—Guide House, in the Cowsheds!

Cauneid District Rangers—Guide House.

2nd Richmond Guides—Browne Cottage.

6th Kew Guides—indoors at Mornington.

Poorak and Armadale District Rangers—A. "Gipton," under canvas.

#### May Holidays.

Pioneer Guides, under canvas, at the Guide House. Guides represented the following companies—1st Burwood, 2nd Surrey Hills, 1st Kew, 4th Kew, 1st Albert Park, 1st Benalla, 1st Dandenong, 11th Geelong, 4th Malvern. And it is expected that 17 Guides will gain the Pioneer Badge as a result.

3rd Bendigo Guides at Somers Hill, Bendigo, under canvas.

### MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Held at the Guide Office on  
15th April and 6th May, 1943.

Present, 15th April—Miss Cameron (chair), Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Springthorpe, Misses MacLeod, Ritchie, Swinburne and the Secretary.  
6th May—Lady Chauvel (chair), Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Littlejohn, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Springthorpe, Misses Holtz, Maling, Ritchie and the Secretary.

Reported that the Trustees of the Walter and Eliza Hall Fund had allocated £34 to the Association for the current year. Appreciation was expressed for this grant.

A letter of thanks for good wishes on her marriage was received from Mrs. Heywood (Miss Gillett).

That Mrs. J. Eddy had agreed to act as our representative on the Victorian Baby Health Centres Association.

Agreed that a £10 Bond should be bought with Lady Stradbroke's gift and should be added to the £20 already held in Bonds and called the Headquarters Fund.

That the Appeal from the Y.W.C.A. for contributions to their war-time services should be received and put on the notice board.

That a letter from Act.-Director of Rationing, appealing for support for the "hand back coupons campaign" should be received, and should be put on notice board and in "Matilda."

That leaflets and information in connection with the Australian broadcasting groups be received and notice put in "Matilda."

That the report of the Commissioners' meeting be received.

That we should renew our subscription to the National Fitness movement.

That the cheque of £2000 from the War

Appeal should be handed to the Royal Naval Patriotic Relief Committee on 19th June at 11 a.m. in the Lower Town Hall.

That we should ask Miss Moore to be our representative on the League of Nations Union Postwar Reconstruction Commission.

That we should support the proposal that a meeting of the Federal Council be held this year.

—M. E. Bush.

### ANGLICAN GUIDERS.

A meeting for Anglican Guiders is being arranged by the Anglican Youth Council on Saturday, 31st July, from 2.30 to 6.30 p.m., at the Church of England Home for Children, Wilson Street, Brighton.

Subjects for discussion: How to take a Pledge on the Guide Law and Promise; The Practice of Prayer — Some difficulties and suggestions.

Guiders are asked to bring something to eat for tea. Further particulars from Sister Julian, C.H.N., 265 Spring Street, C.1.

### ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

We have received the following names:—  
A.W.A.S.—Patricia Tate, Joan Tate, Joan Travers (Croydon District), Olive Smith, P. Jones, Marjorie Lawrence (Northcote District Rangers).

W.A.A.A.F. — Gwen Mahoney (Northcote District Rangers), Joyce Brochie.

A.A.M.W.S.—Beatrice Wilson.

Land Army — Betty McKinnon (Croydon District).

## PATROL LEADERS' PAGE

### GET READY NOW FOR CAMP.

How many Leaders went to camp last year, and how many of you, plus your Patrols, are hoping to go this year? If you are, and all Guides will want to camp, now is the time to start preparing and collecting your equipment. Quite a lot you can make yourself, so you don't want to leave everything until the last few weeks, but the long winter evenings and a wet Saturday will give you just the opportunities for which you are waiting.

First of all you will need a ruc-sac in which to convey your belongings to camp. This is carried on your back, leaving your hands free to deal with other things. Ruc-sacs can be bought ready-made, but it is much more fun, and much cheaper, to make your own. Here are instructions for one variety, but you can alter and adapt them to suit your own needs. First you need a piece of strong material which will stand up to hard wear; drill or a light canvas are both good. Material used for blinds or deck chairs is quite suitable and still obtainable, although it may be a trifle gaudy! You will need enough to make a bag about twenty inches square. Allow sufficient material to include a hem round the top. Take another piece of the material, about nine or ten inches square, hem



or bind the edges, and stitch one end to the top of the centre back of the bag. Fasten the other end by means of a strap or button and button-hole to the front. This forms the cover or lid for your pack. The straps by which you carry the ruc-sac can be made of canvas, leather or webbing. They are approximately two feet long, but that length will vary according to your own size. You will each have to experiment and find out what is most comfortable for yourself. Sew one end of a strap to the back of each bottom corner of the ruc-sac, and the other ends, side by side, to the middle of the top, also at the back. A rubber pad sewn to the straps stops the ruc-sac from hurting your shoulders when it is full, but, with rubber unobtainable, two little bags with a stocking in each make a good substitute and will add greatly to your comfort. Get a cobbler or a tentmaker to put about eight or ten eyelets round the hem for you, run a leather bootlace or cord through these eyelets so as to be able to gather up the top of your ruc-sac, and there you are, completed! Not really as difficult as you thought, was it? Things very seldom are when you really get down to them.

Having completed the ruc-sac, the next thing is its contents. Think of the horrible muddle there will be if you cram everything in together, and what a time you will have sorting through stockings pyjamas, shoes, etc., every time you want a clean hanky or a pair of socks! A good camper always has a system about her packing, and knows at once where she can find each article. How you achieve this is by having a number of small different coloured bags with strings round the top into which you put your various belongings. Hankies in the blue bag, pyjamas in the green, socks in the red, and so on. Do you see what I mean? In pre-war days Jap silk was the best material to use, it still is, for that matter, but is of course unobtainable now. Instead you can use any small pieces of silk or cotton, have as light a material as possible. You do not want to give yourself any unnecessary weight to carry. Patchwork bags out of any scraps you have would be quite suitable, distinctive, and very thrifty. It is a good idea to proof the bags and so be sure that all your belongings are kept quite dry.

All you want for this is a small quantity of boiled linseed oil from your grocer. Pour the oil into a dish and soak the bags in it. Then, having made certain that every part has been in contact with the oil, remove all the surplus with a cloth, and hang the bags up to dry. Be very sure that you do rub off all the surplus oil, as otherwise the bags will always remain sticky. You will find that they take a week or more to dry, so hang them up where they will not be in the way, either out or inside, it does not matter which. I have seen bags which have been treated like this left on a gadget outside a tent in heavy rain, and everything inside them has been perfectly dry.

Then there are your washing things. You don't want to keep them shut up in a rubber sponge bag (even if you do possess such a thing these days!) but you want them kept together so that they will not get lost. This is what the English magazine "The Guide" has to say about it:—"For your washing things a string bag is best, and if you can net it is a simple matter to make one, and if you have not got the necessary implement for netting, a string bag can be made by crocheting with a large crochet hook, or by using overhand knots. To make one by knotting measure off a length of string sufficiently long to make the top of your bag about 18 inches, then cut off fourteen lengths of one yard. Fix the 18-inch length between two chairs so that it is taut and to it attach the fourteen strings double." (To do this double each string, put the loop over the 18-inch string, pass the two ends through the loop, and pull up tight. Call one end of each string A and the other B. You will then have fourteen As and fourteen Bs arranged alternately.) "Starting at one end, take the first B and second A string, and about one inch from the top, tie them together with an overhand knot. Continue doing this all the way along until only the first A and the last B are left, and for the moment leave these. Starting again at the same end, work along in the same way, being careful to keep the spacing even." (N.B.—This time the second A string is joined to the second B, the third row will be like the first, the fourth like the second, and so on). "When you have completed two or three rows, untie the top string and join the two ends together. Now start joining the two sides by taking the first A string and the last B string, and tying them together with an overhand knot as already described. Having got this far, it will be obvious how to complete the bag, using the strings which have been left at the sides. The bottom can be made secure either by tying a string very tightly round all the ends, or by tying them all together again with an overhand knot. Crochet or loop a chain string to run through the first row of mesh to pull the bag up. Smooth white string of an ordinary thickness is the most suitable to use, or coloured macrame string if available, but it is more expensive."

"Sewing and mending outfit is best contained in a hussif, while badge, shoe and belt cleaning materials should all be fitted in to a case. This can also be made of scraps of material"

Have a talk with your Patrol at your next Patrol-in-Council, read over this article together, and see what bits and pieces you can all provide. Then arrange a Saturday meeting, come complete with your materials, and set to work on your kit. The camping season may seem to be a long way off, but the months soon pass, and later on you will all be busy with exams and end of the year activities. So begin at once and so make sure that you really will "be prepared."

"Tul-Kara."