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Matilda



BIRTHDAY ISSUE

July, 1923 --- July, 1950

FORTY AND OVER

This year we are celebrating our 40th birthday of Guiding. A notice from Imperial Headquarters says:—

"1950 marks the fortieth birthday of the Guide Movement, and on 16th July Guide Sunday will be observed throughout the country, when it is hoped that in places of worship of all denominations there will be a thanksgiving for the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement, and prayers for the World Conference and the future of Guiding."

Guides in Victoria will welcome the opportunity to share with their sister Guides in other lands in this act of thanksgiving for our great Movement.

It is entirely up to the District to choose whether they have a Church Parade or if they prefer a Guides' Own, but I think that, if they approach the local churches, Guides will find that all denominations will be very willing to co-operate by having special prayers for God's guidance.

A suitable prayer is the Guide prayer of thanksgiving, which will be found on the Guide page of this issue, but Guiders are, of course, free to use any that they like.

When we look back on the last 40 years, and realise that Guiding has spread through all civilised countries, we should indeed be grateful that so many children have had the fun and the character building that Guiding gives.

My very good wishes to you all on this, our 40th birthday.

BEVERLEY E. ORR,
State Commissioner.

THE SQUARE CENTRE REPORTS:

Since we first came into the picture, things have been really ticking. With the generosity and help of the Brotherhood of St. Lawrence, club-rooms have been opened for activities on 11th April at 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Miss Betty Rowntree has been appointed leader, and proved very keen and capable.

Undoubtedly, the available rooms have been made liveable, including gay curtains and suitable murals, yet much more reconditioning is planned. Afternoon or evening sessions have been mapped out by the leader for each day of the week. Attendance varies from four to eighteen youngsters at a time. Age groups comprise 6-10, 10-14, 14-18. All members are enthusiastic and also take part in keeping club-rooms clean. Activities are varied so far, including reading, drawing, painting and clay modelling. A basketball team has been formed and an extensive library is accessible, although some books still need repairing.

So, you see, we're progressing. Some voluntary leaders help us, but there is room for more. Any Guides who are interested in inspecting the new Square Centre, please contact Miss Betty Rowntree (telephone, JA 3335).

THE CHIEF GUIDE'S VISIT

A letter from a Bristol Guider tells of a most interesting visit to that city by the Chief Guide, and don't we remember similar incidents in her visit to Melbourne?

The letter says:—I arrived a little late, and was standing in the gangway, looking for a friend, when my left hand was grabbed from behind and given a hearty shake. Startled, I turned round to remonstrate, and the first thing which met my eyes was the Gold Cockade of the Chief! She it was who had shaken hands—how she got there with the hall so packed I just don't know, but it was grand. She spoke for nearly an hour to the gathering—and was so inspiring—our work and overwork in the Companies and depression at no results vanished into thin air. She told us how Holland has rebuilt, and Guiding has won through and is going ahead with increasing numbers; how in Germany there are English companies, with English Captains, and German Companies getting on their feet again.

The next evening was the social for Guiders and Scouters—and I had never realised that there were so many Guiders in Bristol. Instead of the Chief going to the table which had been reserved for her, she wandered to another table, with Guides, and was soon deep in conversation. I felt I would have loved to have been one of the group, but soon a Commissioner took our little group over, and there I was, sitting side by side, talking of the Brownies and Guides which I am carrying on at present. The social finished with a mass camp fire, and Lady Baden-Powell gave a talk on "Rush to Wait, Then Wait to Rush"—her experiences in travelling all over the countryside, waiting to rush off in planes and cars and then rushing off for further connections, which always seemed to have punctures or some such adventure.

At the end of the social I was again in front of the Chief, and received another handshake—the more appreciated because, no matter how it sounds, I hadn't worked it so that I would be near her just at the right moments! At 10.30, outside the hall, I saw a small Guide who had hovered round to get a glimpse of the Chief. She looked so wistful I told her to go up and speak. Finally she went, and was so thrilled, for the Chief talked with her for quite some time, and shook hands with her just before the Chief's car left.

By now it's all a happy memory, but the inspiration will live with us in the days to come, for in the part of England in which we are we do not see the Chief very often, and it is a red letter day when she comes. There were some Extensions there, and all of them thoroughly enjoyed themselves—the whole visit was an inspiration to us all.

—From 49th Bristol Co.

"It is the STICKABILITY of a man that really counts."—B.P.

1st FRANKSTON DISTRICT RANGER COMPANY ENROLMENT CEREMONY

Can you imagine anything more impressive than an enrolment by candle light in the Australian bush? The following is a description of the first Enrolment Ceremony of the above Company:—

"We went up into the old Jamboree grounds, and placed quite a lot of lanterns about on trees and logs. Instead of a horse-shoe, we stood in a spearhead, with a fire at the point, the Guiders and Colour Party being at the far end. The ceremony differed somewhat from the usual enrolment, as each Ranger had been given a Vigil paper, which she had studied and thought about at home, making quite sure in her own mind that she understood the full meaning of rendering "service by taking the Promise into a wider world." Before making her Promise, each Ranger was asked if she had studied the Vigil and was prepared to do her best; then each one in turn went forward to make the Promise. Having made her Promise, she lit a candle from Captain's, so that, when finished, it was truly a grand scene—lovely moonlight, the glow from the lanterns, and the flicker of at least twelve candles and the fire.

The lighting of the candles from Captain's was a symbol of carrying on the "Flame of the Love of Mankind" and the spearhead pointing the right course or way in Guiding.

At the conclusion of the ceremony we cooked our supper, and I think we will long remember our Enrolment as Rangers."



SHIP AHOY !

Many Rangers to-day are taking holidays further afield—in Tasmania, in Sydney, and some are even wandering about Central Australia.

The "Roylen" cruise is a holiday and an experience, which should appeal especially to Sea Rangers, but also to Land Rangers and to Guiders. This ship is a Fairmile cruiser, which has been converted to a passenger launch cruising through the beautiful Whit-sunday passage off the coast of Queensland. There is room for 14-20 passengers aboard, and for five days you live on the launch, with several excursions daily per "dory" or "dinghy" to lovely uninhabited tropical islands, coral reefs, oyster beds, or at night to the popular resorts of Linedman Island, Day-

dream Island, Brampton's. You may swim beneath a hot sun in tepid waters, or haul in big Red Emperor fish as the ship lies at anchor in some cove, and Sea Rangers particularly would be interested in the everyday life at sea. As the ship is owned by the Captain, there would be opportunities for them to join in the routine jobs if they so wished.

The cost? £15 (all inclusive) for five days; but first you must get yourself to Mackay, Queensland, by air, train or sea. I think it would be possible for a party of Guide people to hire the whole passenger space if they wished. Don't try to do the cruise later than the very beginning of January. Queensland weather breaks then till about April. If you want more details, get in touch with Captain McLean, 3 Marsh Street, Mackay, Queensland, or with the Editor of "Matilda," who has herself done the trip.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND

The 13th World Conference is to be held in July in Oxford. It will be under the direct patronage of H.M. The Queen, H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, and H.R.H. The Princess Royal, and the entertainments planned for the visiting delegates will culminate on 29th July in a huge outdoor campfire in the presence of H.R.H. The Princess Margaret, Sea Ranger Commodore.

Rangers are likely to take an adventurous part in the carrying of the "Message of Goodwill" to be presented to each delegate at the World Conference to take back to the Guides of her own country. From the furthest corners of England, Scotland, Wales and Ulster the messages will be carried by relays of Brownies, Guides and Rangers, through almost every county in Great Britain, bearing good wishes of the 400,000 British Guides to their sisters in other countries. Messages will follow 15 different routes to Oxford, travelling by Roman roads, the Pilgrim's Way, by canals, by air and along old coach roads, using every known means of transport. The presentation of the messages will take place at the great campfire.

On 21st October there will be a great Rally for all Rangers in England at the Royal Albert Hall—a grand Pageant performance. On the following day there will be a Drum Head Service at White City—a March Past and a Rangers' Own Service.

Hampshire Rangers have themselves provided the equipment, and done much of the cleaning and painting in the ex-Admiralty hospital cutter which they have acquired as a depot ship. This was named the "Hampshire" by the Hon. Lady Cochrane, Chief Commissioner for England, at the launching ceremony on 25th March, at Mitchell's Boat Yard, Dorset. The "Hampshire" is moored in Poole Harbour, and accommodates ten Rangers and two Guiders. She will appeal particularly to the Sea Rangers who can get boating, swimming and sailing near by.

Sign Post Page

THE ASTRONOMER BADGE

(Continued from May "Matilda")

Planets.

Planets are a difficulty for beginners, because they wander about. They may turn up in the constellation of Leo this week, and somewhere else next month, or an even entirely different part of the sky next year. Most of them are large enough, however, to distinguish readily from a star. Venus, to start with, never rises very high in the sky. It is in the western sky in winter, and is called the "evening" star, usually visible just after sunset, and in the eastern sky as the "morning" star before sunrise in summer. It is a great gold lamp, and a blaze of glory. The "Age" gives every day the rising and setting times of the sun, moon and visible planets, so, if you look it up, and find "Jupiter" 8 a.m., you will know that by 8 p.m. it has done half of its journey round the world, and will be well down in the western sky, so you look for a very bright golden object, and, as you know from your constellations and "Wild Life's" map, that nothing as large as that could possibly be there, you have Jupiter. If it says Jupiter rises 8 p.m., look in the East after 9 p.m., and you should find it. Always give a planet an hour to get up out of the smoke haze, because it won't be far up in an hour. Think of the sky as a clock; remember it takes 12 hours for a planet to get across it, and work out roughly where it will be, and look for it round that spot. "Wild Life" will show you what constellation the planets are travelling with for that particular month. It may say "the new moon and Saturn will be in conjunction," or "Regulus and Jupiter will be in conjunction" on a certain date, so you look for the new moon, and find the white object which is not much larger than a star, but has a steady light instead of a twinkle, and you will know it is Saturn. Jupiter is like Venus—a big golden lamp—and dominates the sky when visible, so you will not have any difficulty in picking it out, but it may conversely help you to find a constellation. Mars is smaller, but a vivid red, and there are very few red stars in the sky, so it also should be easy for you to find.

Sir James Jeans' lovely book, "The Stars in Their Courses," tells you all you want to know about planets, their size, how far away they are from the earth, what they are made of, why they wander round by themselves, what prospects there are of life on them, and has some good photographs. If it is not in your school library, come into the Public Library one wet Saturday and look it up.

Direction Finding.

Direction finding—for us, the South, at night. First of all, you must know the Southern Cross (you won't mistake it for the false cross, because the Southern Cross has

two beautiful bright pointers, pointing straight at it), and Achenar, the blue-white star, at the mouth of River Eridanus. You draw an imaginary line from the top of the cross to the bottom, through the little lopsided square of Musca, across the sky—it is supposed to be about seven and a half times the length of the cross, and you arrive at Achenar. Run your eye back and forth a bit, and get your imaginary line right. Now find the centre of it—there are no stars here, but it is the south celestial pole. Draw another imaginary line from S.C.P. to the ground, and that line should be due south. Practise it hard, and check your finding with a compass, but mark the spot you work out first. It takes practice, because finding half-way along a line you can't see leads to odd results at first.

During the day find the north. The best fun, especially in camp, or even on a field day, if you have several hours in one place, is to erect a shadow stick, and mark the shadow—you know that you join the line from the morning shadow in a semi-circle to the afternoon one, and the line which bisects the semi-circle will be due north.

With the aid of a watch, holding the face flat, you point the figure 12 to the sun, and half-way between it and the hour hand (going the shortest way round) will point north.

If you have watched your constellations for some time, always when you are in a strange place pop out the first night and have a look and see where everything is. Then, if you are out walking, you know that, because the constellations are in various parts of the sky, even though the Southern Cross may be blocked by hills or trees, or even cloud, roughly where you are and what direction you are going in. At least you can always keep your direction.

Books and Practical Aids.

"Wild Life," every month for star map, etc. Daily newspaper for time-tables and tide-tables.

"The Stars in Their Courses," by Sir James Jeans.

"Astronomy" (Arthur S. Hinks)—Home University Library.

Philips' Chart of the Stars, edited by E. O. Tancock.

Philips' Planisphere.

Norton's Star Atlas (for experts).

I should be pleased to help any Company within reasonable distance of Melbourne to learn their first constellations, if they want help.

M. B. FOWLER.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

All Interstate Magazines, "The Scouter," "L'elaireur et l'elaireuse" (France), "Bandeirantes" (Brazil).



FINGER PAINTING FOR BROWNIES.

As many enquiries have been received regarding the purchase of finger-paint dyes, it has been decided to print the following details to enable Brownie Guiders to introduce this fascinating handcraft to their Brownies.

Three colours—Red, Yellow and Blue—are obtainable in small packets from the Kindergarten Training College, 4 Madden Grove, Kew, E.4, at a cost of 2/6 for the three colours. A 2½d. stamp must be enclosed for postage.

Larger quantities may be obtained from the Imperial Chemical Industries, 408 Latrobe Street, Melbourne, C.1.

—G. M. ROACH.

RECIPE FOR NON-POISONOUS FINGER-PAINT.

(By courtesy of the Kindergarten Training College, Kew.)

Base: Blend 6 tablespoonfuls cornflour with 4 tablespoonfuls water, and add sufficient boiling water to bring the whole to 1 pint.

Colours: Dissolve 1 teaspoonful of the following dyes in 1 tablespoon boiling water, and add to the hot mixture—Red, Yellow or Blue. Other colours that may safely be used are red and yellow ochre, obtainable in powder form from any ironmonger or painter. To use them, blend 2 tablespoonfuls with the dry cornflour, and proceed as before.

Care must be taken when using any paint that it contains no white lead, as this is poisonous by absorption through the skin.

(N.B.—“Spoonful” means a spoonful pressed level with a knife.)

Method: To use the paint, a sheet of firm white paper, about 18 in. x 24 in. is best. Wet the table to be used (it may have oil-cloth or linoleum covering), and dip the paper quickly into water before spreading flat on the table. Place a spoonful of paint, about the size of a walnut, in the middle of the paper, and spread it smoothly with both hands.

It is then ready for “painting,” using both hands and all fingers.

If the upper side of the paper is varnished, it can be cleaned and used many times.

DO YOU KNOW?

That Brownie ties should end at the width of three Brownie fingers above the Brownie's belt? Ties should be 2¼ to 2½ inches wide.

UNIFORM FOR BROWNIES

Guiders are asked to note that the following details regarding uniform for Brownies are now official, and will appear as such in the next Annual Report (Alterations and Additions, Victoria).

Dress—H.Q. Brown, official pattern.

Caps (Winter)—Gold or Brown.

(In cases where berets are still worn, these should be fawn, and the whole Pack should wear the same. In future, fawn berets for Brownies will not be stocked by the Guide Shop.)

Hats (Summer)—Brown cotton (official pattern).

Socks—Fawn or white.

(Stockings are not official uniform for Brownies in Victoria.)

Rest of Uniform: As P. O. & R. (Rule 84, 14).

—Greta M. Roach.

BROWNIES IN BED

There was great excitement in the Children's Ward, Austin Hospital. In this ward there were two small girls who wished to become Brownies, and, after working hard on their Tweenie Tests, the great day had started. They were to become real Brownies and wear uniform for the first time—and this suited them so much that one of them was ready at 7.30 a.m.

Silver Owl was unable to make such a long flight to-day, but Grey Owl and Wontolla (Cubmaster of Austin Hospital) were able to come with us to our meeting.

We had our Fairy Ring and enrolment, then played such an exciting game. Handcraft came next, a lovely story—but time was getting away from us, so we must away—with the Brownies coming as far as the railing to wave us good-bye, Post Brown Owl!

GUIDERS, MEET THE FAMILY!

How do you get to know the families of your Guides? Do you find visiting difficult? Then why not adopt the American idea of inviting the brothers to an afternoon hike, and the rest of the family to an occasional family fun night, with games and the type of recreation which families used to enjoy together before the days of easy transport and the cinema.

COUNTRY NEWS

NYAH NEWS

Guide Hut.

We have at long last been able to purchase a hut for the Guides and Brownies here, and are all very thrilled about it. It is to be known as the "Campbell Hut," named after our District Commissioner (Mrs. C. Campbell), who has done so much for the Nyah Guides and Brownies.

Farewell to Mrs. Forbes.

At a Guide Concert recently we farewelled Mrs. Forbes, who has been our Guide Captain for the past three years. She was thanked by our Commissioner for her splendid work during that period. She also said how much Guiding had progressed during Mrs. Forbes' term as Captain. Mrs. Forbes was presented with a travelling case and a silver egg-cup for baby.

Thank You Badge.

After the presentation, Mrs. Good, President of our Local Association, was called upon by the District Commissioner to receive a "Thank You" Badge. Mrs. Campbell spoke of the faithful service to local Guiding rendered by Mrs. Good, who has been since 1932 either a member of committee or in office all of that time. Mrs. Good, who was taken completely by surprise, thanked all for the honour they had bestowed upon her in thinking her worthy of the badge.

Miss Lorraine Lenon.

Our Guide Lieutenant, Miss Lorraine Lenon, was guest of honour at a kitchen tea recently, which was sponsored by members of L.A. The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and she and her fiance, Mr. Ron Bell, were met at the door by a guard of honour of Brownies and Guides. Our District Commissioner spoke of the excellent work done by Miss Lenon, who started as a Brownie, got her wings, and became a Girl Guide, graduated to Brown Owl, and from there to a Lieutenantcy. The lovely gifts displayed were indeed an outward symbol of the love and respect in which the guest of the evening is held here.

How nice it was to read in a previous issue of "Matilda" that three of our Guides, Beth Newnham, Pam Pape and Gloria Allen, had each been awarded the Little House Badge.

BROWNIE REVELS

Saturday, the 29th April, was another lovely autumn day, and the Botanic Gardens were more than usually beautiful when the 1st Horsham Brownie Pack gathered on one of its lawns, covered with a carpet of russet and gold leaves, to say farewell to their Commissioner, who was leaving the district for other parts.

When Brown Owl returned from the gate after having welcomed the Commissioner, there were no Brownies to be seen. They had "disappeared" down rabbit burrows, behind trees and otherwise gone to earth. Brown

Owl gave the "Tu-Whitt-Tu-Whoo," and they came running from all directions. The Sixer of the Elves presented Commissioner with a box of flowers, and then they all did their Brownie and Six Rhymes round the toadstool (brought from the hall by Pack Leader, precariously perched on a bicycle).

Then we played "Weeding the Garden" and "Washing-up" alias "Oranges and Lemons." After that a beauty quest. Brownies went all round the gardens, and came back to say which each thought the prettiest thing they had seen. One saw a water-lily, some different flowers, most of them beautifully-coloured leaves.

Then the "eats." We all sat in a circle, and "fell to," and the bottle-openers were applied to the bottles of soft drink. There was not much cleaning up to do, so, when all was tidy, we had another game—this time a ball relay race.

After that, Commissioner called the Sixers and gave each one a half-pound block of chocolate to be divided up between each Six. It was a sight worth seeing—each Six, in a little circle of its own, apart from the others, with heads bent, busily apportioning same. (Brown Owl and Pack Leader had one too.)

Then the sad part—saying good-bye. We had our Pow-wow Circle, and, after Brown Owl had thanked the Commissioner for her friendly help over the last two years, the newest Brownie gave her two little Robin Hood vases as a memento of the Pack, and we all gave her a big "Grand Howl." After some songs, we said good-bye, Brownies saluted and then vanished, leaving Brown Owl to take Commissioner to the gate.

There was a football match across the road; a flock of sheep went baa-ing between us and it; but we were quite untroubled by the outside world, and realised that the "out-of-doors" was the real place for a Pack meeting.

GEELONG DISTRICT NEWS

Two Geelong Companies have been fortunate in having week-end camps at Bungarra during the last month. First Chilwell camped shortly before Easter, and during the week-end they accomplished much 1st class testing.

A Rummage Sale was held on 2nd May, and was organised by the Camp Committee. Proceeds will be used on improvement and equipment for Bungarra.

The District extends a warm welcome to Mrs. Harrison, Miss Harrison and Mrs. Kew, three Guiders who have recently arrived from England. We hope that they will be doing active Guiding in Geelong very shortly, and that they will enjoy being with us.

"If you are in the right, there is no need to lose your temper. If you are in the wrong you can't afford to."—Quoted by B.P.

SUNRAYSIA GROUP CAMP



A MEDLEY OF IMPRESSIONS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

The peaceful Murray seemed happy to have the Guides by its side once more, and Sunraysia weather smiled pleasantly. Only the bindi-eyes seemed rather antagonistic, especially in some directions.

As the days went by, messages and news went flying up and down. Mildura would like to have a game with Curlwaa; First Aider invites P.L.'s. to come out for instruction in axemanship; a telegram of good wishes from Yunki and Guraki; Wentworth would like Robinvale to come to tea; Group Q.M.'s, enjoyed their meeting with Miss Higgins; Sturt and Robinvale had a glorious game together; Miss Broadhurst is always ready to smooth Guiders' difficulties and issue wise advice; Sealake and Berriwillock are seasoned campers after their experiences at Green Lake last year; Betty Neville will be out for the week-end, and we must let her know how we appreciate her untiring work as Camp Secretary; the Guiders would love Miss Pedrina to hike to the crossroads and put up a sign (paint to be supplied, of course!).

The tramp from Sturt, past Birdwoodtown, Dareton, Merbein, H/Q., Curlwaa, 2nd Mildura, Wentworth, 1st Mildura and Robinvale, was a long one, but became an exciting journey each evening as the stream of torches marked the way to the camp fire. The fine conductor and her faithful henchmen helped to make these evenings very enjoyable, and, if an occasional "Hee-haw" or "Goose" went amiss, every Guide was truly trying to do her very best.

Courtesy "Sunraysia Daily."

Wentworth Guides Sing Grace in Camp.

Visitors' Day.

Visitors' Day, and little Eva, a new Australian from Hungary, expressed the opinion of all: "It is good. Yes, it is very good."

Guides' Own.

After faithful work by the Committee of Guides, the Guides' Own Service of Praise and Thanksgiving was beautifully conducted, and was based on the theme of International Guiding. Miss Broadhurst's interpretation of the subject was a challenge and a fitting conclusion to a splendid camp.

GEELONG WELCOMES MISS M. TAYLOR

Geelong Guiders, members of the Local Association, and the Trefoil Guild, met at the Geelong Municipal Library to greet Miss Margery Taylor on her return from serving overseas with the G.I.S.

Miss Taylor, who was accompanied by her mother, was welcomed by Miss E. Leigh for the Guiders; Mrs. M. A. Buntine, President of the Local Association; and Mrs. R. M. Romney, Trefoil Guild, and was presented with flowers by Miss P. Stringer.

A most interesting account of some of her experiences was given by Miss Taylor, after which she had an opportunity of meeting all her friends.

Supper was served, and a most enjoyable evening concluded with the singing of "Taps."

Guide International Service

Miss Jean Gardner, G.I.S. volunteer working in Germany, sends her thanks to us for the box of wool and embroidery threads just received. A Ukrainian woman in her camp, who did beautiful embroidery work, had just started a course for learners, and it was good, she said, to have some threads to give her, so that they could make a good start.

In her letter (10/4/50) Miss Gardner writes:

Berlin.

"Three of us are spending our Easter leave in Berlin." It is still a grim city, and somehow dead, after Hamburg, where money seems to be much more plentiful and reconstruction is going on at lightning speed.

"A friend took us on a tour of all sectors in his car. We went through the Brandenburg Gate into the American, and then the Russian sectors, and saw the war memorial erected by the German people in memory of the Russian soldiers who died capturing Berlin.

"It's a most impressive erection, built of marble taken from Hitler's Chancellory, representing two flags dipped in honour of two Russian soldiers. Thousands of Russians are buried beside it, and here lawns and shrubs alternate with large tablets inscribed with a message from Stalin written in German and in Russian.

Reconstruction in the Russian Sector.

"There is even less reconstruction in the Russian sector, and in many places only the road has been cleared for traffic, and the buildings remain as they fell five or six years ago.

"This morning I went to see the sister-in-law of a Polish friend in Lubeck. I wasn't sure of the number of the house, but found when we got there that it is the only house in the street still standing, and even it was damaged. It was quite a wilderness of bricks and empty walls, looking as though they would topple at any moment—a most depressing outlook.

"Our poor D.P.'s. are being moved around at the moment, as assimilation with 'hard-core' camps begins in earnest. They even moved them in Holy Week.

"There are approximately 5000 'hard-core' in Lubeck, and 11,000 altogether in Schleswig-Holstein, and most of them have problems of some kind."

Miss Sullivan.

Miss Sullivan, who attended the International Law and Promise Conference in Holland, which she enjoyed immensely, writes:—

"The French girls were grand—such fun and so full of life—and I have never met anyone so hospitable as the Dutch. . . . Life is just as busy here as ever, and we concentrate more and more on trying to find people who can emigrate. Of course, all the ordinary routine goes on, too, seeing that people are fairly treated, that rations are good, and trying to iron out domestic and health problems."

WORLD CONFERENCE OF GIRL GUIDE AND GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

13th Meeting of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Delegates from 28 countries will be attending the Biennial Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, from 21st-31st July, 1950. The Conference has not been held in England since 1930.

Among those taking part in the Conference will be Lady Baden Powell, the World Chief Guide; Mrs. Swift-Newton, Chairman of the World Committee; Mrs. Davies-Cooke, Chairman of the Executive Committee at Guide Headquarters, London; and Lady Stratheden, Chief Commissioner, who will lead the British Delegation.

The Australian Delegates will be Mrs. C. A. Osborne, New South Wales, and Miss Gwen Hesketh, Tasmania, and the G.I.S.

D. HAYMAN,
International Commissioner, Australia.

COUNTRY GUIDERS, PLEASE NOTE AND METROPOLITAN GUIDERS, THIS ALSO APPLIES TO YOU!

Many Guiders are most thoughtful, and send their orders in to the Headquarters Shop some days before they actually need the goods. But there are some who appear to wait until the day before their Brownies or Guides are to be enrolled, and then send an urgent telegram.

Now, it is just not possible that so many Companies and Packs are enrolled at the last moment. I know that there are times when a Commissioner visits the Company at short notice, and the Guider seizes the opportunity to have a mass enrolment—but not as often as this.

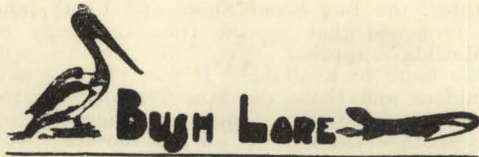
Orders at Headquarters for equipment are filled in rotation, and it is not fair that a Guider who has sent in her order early should have to wait while urgent telegrams are attended to.

Small recruits come into the Headquarters Shop thrilled at the thought of being enrolled next day. It is terribly disappointing for them to find that the right-sized uniform will not be available for some days. We have six dressmakers working their hardest to supply uniforms, and we cannot keep up the supply of all sizes at a moment's notice.

In future, frantic telephone calls late on Friday afternoon, and urgent telegrams from the country will be treated in the same way as any other order, UNLESS the reason for this great haste is clearly stated.

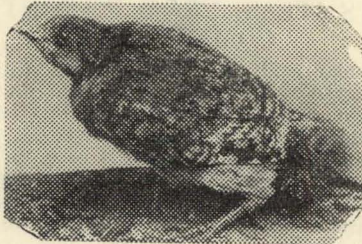
A Guide is helpful to others. No Guider really wants another Company to suffer just because she has not thought about the Guides' uniforms until the day before enrolment.

D. HAYMAN, State Secretary.



THE MALLEE HEN

One of Australia's unique birds is the Mallee Hen, sometimes called the Lowan. Unfortunately, it is amongst those of our native birds which are decreasing. This is mainly due to the fact that its home is in the Mallee, where extensive clearing has taken place. Cats and foxes have also done much harm. This quiet, shy bird is, perhaps, the best-known ground bird in the Mallee. The bottled grey and brown colours harmonise with the surrounding countryside. At nightfall the Lowan ascends into the trees to roost, as does our lyrebird. Both the male and female are very alike. The Mallee Hen is both seed and insect eater. Therefore, it does a valuable work, feeding over the ground. In this the feet are used a great deal, and thus the bird is classed amongst the "scratchers."



Courtesy "Herald."

By far the most interesting thing about the Mallee Hen is its nesting arrangement. It does not build a nest as other birds do, but rakes a big mound of sand and dry leaves together. In this natural incubator, sometimes twelve feet in diameter, the pink coloured eggs are placed. They may number up to a dozen, and are put in three layers. So the mother bird has nothing much to do with the hatching of the young. The heat of the decaying vegetation brings out the chicks after about five weeks. From the first day they can run swiftly about, and when in danger they hide themselves.

What can we do to save these most interesting native birds from extinction? We have also two other kinds of mound builders. Can you name them?
—J.H.

BETSY

A young magpie, falling from the nest, broke a leg and lay helpless on the path. Fortunately, a kind lass found the bird and carried it carefully home, and, having procured assistance, the little leg was set. After some time in a cage, the magpie (christened Betsy) found she could get about, so she demanded to be allowed out into the garden. From then on she improved mightily each day,

and would not let her human friends out of sight. She followed them everywhere, even to far-distant paddocks. If she met other magpies, she just flew by, and would have nothing to do with them.

She was friendly with all the people of the house, and each one tried to teach Betsy a new tune. So many tunes were whistled for her that I'm sure she was very worried. But she picked up one very easily, and then tried "The Chocolate Soldier," but after a few bars she squeaked and then shook her head and got quite cross with herself; then she would start all over again.

She so trusted her friends that she went with them to feed the hens, and, quite naturally, decided to taste some of their breakfast; but the hens were furious and rushed her, rolling her over, and, alas! the poor weak leg was again broken. This time expert fingers set the splits and put on the bandage, while Betsy quite happily lay and chortled while the work was being done.

After another period of inactivity, Betsy regained the garden, and there she reigns supreme, the dogs and cats all treating her with great respect, and no wild magpie dare parade on Betsy's lawn.

The painters arrived to paint the roof, and Betsy, in her friendly way, joined them at work, and, after a few days, she was no longer black and white, but had gathered patches of red and green on her feathers, and had even tried to drink the paint.

If Betsy assists at feeding the hens nowadays, she keeps well out of the way, and looks on from some high tree branch, then sings congratulations when she sees the basket of eggs.

Alas! Betsy gives the gardener a headache, as her favourite pastime is to follow up when bulbs or seedlings are being planted, and, as the gardener moves up the row, Betsy comes along and pulls up each wee plant in turn. Such behaviour merits banishment to her cage while the gardener is at work, and there Betsy perches and makes dreadful noises!

—M.D.

EMPIRE DAY STALL

A fine, windless day dawned on the 19th May for our stall in the city. All proceeds from this stall were to go to Guide Headquarters, so we worked hard to make the stall a success. The result was gratifying to me and all Guide people who helped. £80 will be the final total, and we also sold 825 buttons on our allotted space.

I would like to thank all those who helped very, very much. You were wonderful! Such lovely jam, cakes and fancy goods! All sold out by 4.30 p.m. except a few odds and ends, and all done so cheerfully and with much laughing and chatter. I really feel we can vote the day a great success financially, and a strengthening of good feeling between the districts who helped.

JEANETTE MCKAY, Convener of Stall.

TRAINING

Refresher Training for Guide Guiders.

If applications warrant it, a short Refresher Course will be held in August for warranted Captains and Lieutenants. Applications, giving date of warrant, rank, and details of any other experience as a Guider, should reach the Hon. Training Secretary at the Girl Guide Office by 28th July.

Time and place: 7.30 p.m., at Girl Guide Office, on Friday, 4th August. Course to continue for four weeks. Nomination forms will not be required.

Guider-in-charge: Miss Dell Hayman.
Fee: 2/-, to be paid at first class.

LANYARDS FOR LEADERS.

At several recent rallies and district or division gatherings, there has been a difference of opinion as to how P.L.'s and Second's lanyards should be worn—"to twist or not to twist" being the vital question. The confusion has probably arisen owing to the fact that Sea Rangers twist their lanyards round their ties. Guides do not. A P.L.'s or Second's lanyard should be worn, untwisted, over the top of the tie, with the ring of the whistle, not the lanyard itself, attached to the right hand swivel.

Will Captains please note this and pass the information on to their Guides? Incidentally, P.L.'s may wear the whistle and lanyard as soon as they are appointed Acting Leaders, but do not have the stripes and special hat badge until they are Second Class, have proved themselves capable of the job (see P.O. & R., rule 48) and been invested. Similarly, a Second has her whistle and lanyard at once—in both cases they are for use as well as ornament—but has to earn her stripe. In Victoria a white lanyard is not part of the Guiders' uniform, though it may be worn at Company meetings and hikes only if desired; on these occasions it is worn in the same way as a Guide lanyard—that is to say, untwisted.

"SCOUTING FOR BOYS"

One of the qualifications for a Guide Guiders' warrant is to read "Scouting for Boys." It is also one of the books that is absolutely essential for Guiders doing the Correspondence Training Course. In the latest shipments of books from I.H.Q. only the boys' edition of "Scouting for Boys" has been included. This is an excellent little book for the Patrol or Company library (and should be in every one of them), and it is also what is required by the Guide doing her First Class test—but it is not sufficient for a Guider. Naturally, in a child's edition all the hints and advice for adult leaders have been omitted, and some particularly valuable woodcraft sections are missing.

At the time of going to press, the full edition is not in stock in our Guide Shop, but enquiries are being made from other

States, the Boy Scout Shop, and I.H.Q., and it is hoped that by the time this copy of "Matilda" appears that full supplies will once more be available. If not, perhaps new Guiders and those doing a Training Course could borrow from a Company, a Scout Troop or another Guider. (And, by the way, you warranted Guiders, how long is it since YOU last read "Scouting for Boys"? Is your Company getting stale? Are you drifting away from the Founder's methods? Do you want fresh ideas and inspiration? "Scouting for Boys" is the answer, and is well worth dipping into at frequent intervals.) If anyone does have difficulty in obtaining a copy, consult your Commissioner. There are dozens and dozens of copies among the Guiding and Scouting community, and she will get you a copy from somewhere. But, at the first opportunity, get a copy of your own. This is the handbook of Scouting, written by the Founder himself, and should be owned by every Guider.

SHEILA M. MacLEOD,
Commissioner for Training.

Headquarters

NEWS ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meetings held on Thursday, 3rd May, and Thursday, 18th May.

Present: Miss Russell (chair), 1; Miss Mitchell (chair), 1; Mrs. Littlejohn, 2; Mrs. Hall, 2; Mrs. Paterson, 2; Miss Gross, 2; Miss Swinburne, 1; Miss Andrews, 2; Mrs. Rylah, 2.

Statements of financial resources as at 19th April and 17th May were read and received. Financial position showed improvement, although there is still £332 owing by sundry debtors. It was decided to ask Companies and Local Associations to open a credit account with Headquarters; if this was done, it would relieve the position.

It was reported that Companies were cooperating well with the penny-a-week scheme.

Reported that Mrs. Shave, of Loch, would represent the Girl Guides Association at the C.W.A. Annual Meeting, and that Miss G. Corrie will be the Guide delegate to the National Fitness Association camp at Seaford.

Reported that we have been given £200 to instal a new electric light plant at the Guide House.

Reported that the Empire Day stall would be held in Collins Street, and that Mrs. McKay hoped to have a good response.

A letter from I.H.Q. received, saying that the 40th birthday of Guiding is on 16th July, and that this would be known as Guide Sunday. It was agreed to let the churches know about this.

A letter from I.H.Q., giving news of a pilgrimage to Rome for Holy Year. There will be 500 members of the Guide Association going.

A letter from Dr. Barnado's Homes saying that a party of 25 children would be arriving from England on 30th June. It was decided

to co-operate with the Scouts in entertaining the children.

It was reported that Dr. Meredith Ross, the first G.I.S. volunteer to go from Australia, had been in Melbourne for a few weeks, and had now flown back to England.

Reported that the Twigs would finish painting the Training Room at Headquarters, and would do so on the following week-end.

The Executive Committee received the resignations of Miss C. Rogers, Commissioner for Lones, and Miss D. Hayman, Commissioner for Guides, with regret.

Applications for Thanks Badges for Mrs. Fyfe, Caulfield, and Mrs. Guyett, Port Fairy, were approved.

NEW COMMISSIONERS.

Mrs. Mayberry, District Commissioner for Sale.

Miss M. Stott, District Commissioner for Mornington.

D. HAYMAN, State Secretary.

WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS

REGISTRATIONS

1st Fiery Creek Pack.

1st Woodend Pack.

1st Werribee Pack.

Sale Local Association.

Morwell Local Association.

WARRANTS

Commissioners:

Mrs. Pern, Division Commissioner, Hamilton.

Mrs. C. Pollard, District Commissioner, Cohuna.

Brown Owls:

Miss K. M. Cregan, 2nd Hawthorn Pack.

Miss L. J. Willcocks, 1st Northcote Pack.

Miss A. L. Plane, 4th East Malvern Pack.

Captains:

Miss E. Reed, 1st East Malvern Co. (Korowa).

Mrs. E. R. Maxwell, 1st Maffra Co.

Miss J. England, 2nd Oakleigh Co.

Miss N. Young, 1st Eaglehawk Co.

Miss B. Sanderson, 1st Inglewood Co.

Mrs. M. Morgan, 1st Fish Creek Co.

Lieutenants:

Miss O. Luke, 6th Bendigo Co.

Miss B. Young, 4th Bendigo Co.

Miss J. Heavyside, 4th Bendigo Co.

Miss L. Jacobson, 1st Croydon Co.

Miss D. Howard, 1st Inglewood Co.

Cancellations:

Mrs. O. Stevenson, District Commissioner, Kerang.

Miss J. Nichols, Brown Owl, 1st Benalla Pack.

Miss N. Bryant, Brown Owl, 1st Fairfield Pack.

Miss B. Reynolds, Brown Owl, 1st Glen Iris Pack.

Mrs. B. H. Mitchell, Captain, 1st Birdwood-ton Co.

Miss C. E. Johnston, Lieutenant, 15th Geelong Co.

Miss J. MacAllister, Lieutenant, 1st Ivanhoe Co.

Miss E. Reed, Lieutenant, 1st East Malvern Co.

HEADQUARTERS CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH, 1950.

From Packs—3rd Colac, £2; 2nd Leongatha, £1; 1st Montmorency, £1/10/3; 1st Wangaratta, £1/6/4.

From Companies—1st Croydon, 15/2; 2nd East Malvern, £1/0/3; 1st Echuca, £1/2/6; 2nd Frankston, £2/11/5; 7th Geelong, £1/12/7; 17th Geelong, £1/8/-; 2nd Hamilton, 7/6; 3rd Hawthorn, £1; 4th Malvern, £1/2/6; 1st Naggambie, 7/9; 1st Warragul, £1/10/-; 1st Yarram, £1/10/-.

From Local Associations—Sandringham, £1/1/-; East Malvern and Glen Iris, £5.

Other Donations—Imperial Chemical Industries, Mrs. J. K. Pearson, Miss Moore, £22/2/-.

HEADQUARTERS CONTRIBUTIONS FOR APRIL, 1950.

From Packs: 7th Ballarat, £2/5/-; 1st Maryborough, 9/8; 1st Mornington, £1.

From Companies: 1st Bentleigh, 9/1; 4th Brighton, £1; 1st Carisbrook, £1/13/4; 1st Cheltenham, £3/11/4; 1st Elsternwick, £2/7/8; 2nd Footscray, 15/6; 1st Newport, £3/4/4; 1st Mornington, £1/6/4; 3rd Northcote, £2; 2nd Mitcham, 3/-; 1st Robinvale, 18/-; 4th St. Kilda, £1/6/-.

From Local Associations: Burwood and Hartwell, £2/1/6; Caulfield, £2/2/-; Geelong, £2/1/6; Murrumbena and Oakleigh, £1/1/-.

Other Donations: Walter and Eliza Hall Trust, Standard Cars, Mrs. I. Levy, Miss G. Black, Miss M. Drury, Mrs. M. R. Fairbairn, Mrs. S. McKay, £49/7/-.

REPORT OF RANGER COMMITTEE MEETING, 18th April, 1950

Present: Norma Lee (in the chair), Miss Macartney, Joyce Knight, Peggy Armstrong, Bonnie Wright, Muriel Haigh, Jessie Mims and Leonie Sherriff.

Apologies: Shirley Harris.

Finance: Balance at bank, 18/4/50, £4/14/9, comprising General Fund, £4/14/9. Cash in hand, 2/6.

Labour Day Camp.—It was reported that a financial statement and report were unable to be submitted owing to their being incomplete.

Wilson's Promontory.—It was reported that a financial statement and report were unable to be submitted, as these were incomplete, but a verbal report was submitted by the Convener.

Ranger-Rover Hike.—It was decided that the proposed date for this fixture would be the 27th May, and suggestions were submitted for the route of this hike. Also enquiries were being made with regard to transport.

Conference.—It was decided that the week-end for this fixture would be the 22nd-23rd July at Point Lonsdale (residential).

It was decided that deposits should be put on 3-4 buses for this week-end. Applications are to be submitted by the 10th June, with £1 fee, this to include travelling expenses.

LEONIE SHERRIFF, Hon. Secretary.

GUIDE PAGE

PATROL TIME

Hunt the Thimble.—The Patrol sits in a circle, and one member goes out of the room or away out of ear-shot and vision. In the circle one Guide changes something (not too hard to observe), such as—puts knife on other side, turns down socks, takes off badge. The Guide returns and plays the game like "Hunt the Thimble." It is a good idea to fix a time limit, so that all the Patrol may have a turn before the game becomes boring.

Bean Hunt.—Material required: 5 beans. One from Patrol hides four or five beans (each bean in a different place), the others covering their eyes. She then returns and describes where all the beans are hidden, without telling exactly the hiding place. For example: Five paces south, near fourth rung on seat with three coats on it. Whoever finds the most beans wins.

Designs.—Material required: 10 matches for each member of the Patrol. The leader makes a design with eight or ten matches. The Patrol look at it for 30 seconds, then take the same number of matches and copy the design exactly.

Alphabetical Fun.—Write the twenty-six letters of the alphabet on slips of paper and put them in a box or beret. Choose someone to take them out one by one—about twelve at a time would be enough. As the letter is read out, each member of the Patrol must write down an article someone is wearing which can be seen, beginning with that letter.

Knotty Problems.—Each Guide keeps her eyes open during the week, to find how many knots she sees indoors and outdoors, and notes their uses. Compare notes at next meeting.

Exhibitions.—Divide your Patrol in pairs. Each couple chooses a knot, and is given ten minutes to show how many uses it can be put to, each pair trying to prove that their knot is the most useful.

GAMES

Long Distance Kim's Game.

For this game a number of articles should be arranged against a background 50 or 60 yards away. For example, a stuffed bird, perched on a branch; a beret hanging on a bush; a hatchet masked in a log; a coil of rope wound round a tree trunk. The degree of difficulty can be made progressively greater. In the early stages of the game the articles should be of contrasting colour to that of the background. As the players become more proficient, they cannot only learn to pick out something from a similar background, but will be learning at the same time the use of camouflage.

—“The Scouter,”



Roses

“It will never rain roses. If you want more roses you must plant more trees.”

So wrote George Eliot (Marian Evans), one of the most eloquent of woman authors.

Thus it is with money. Wishful thinking will not add to any bank balance—if you would accumulate money, you must save with regularity and develop the habit of thrift.

When you systematically save, you plant standards of conduct which will sturdily grow and produce flowers of contentment, happiness and enjoyment.

PAY IN EVERY WEEK

**THE
STATE SAVINGS
BANK
OF VICTORIA**

“YOUR BANK”