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MATILDA

"MATILDA" HERSELF MAKING EXPERIMENTS

In the interval between editors, Guiders have rallied to "Matilda" with eagerness and new ideas that show how much she means to us and how truly she belongs to us all.

So the "Caretaker Team" has made some experiments. If they are good, future plans can be based on them; but we DO WANT TO KNOW. We need fresh energy coming from readers everywhere, and fresh readers everywhere, too. We hope so much that Guiders will think over the new arrangements and send in their opinions.

Experiments in hand are—

1. Notices:

ALL NOTICES, BOTH FROM HEAD-QUARTERS AND BRANCHES, will appear on pages 4 and 5. This collects in one place items to be covered at GUIDERS' MEETINGS and L.A. COMMITTEE MEETINGS. References will be given to articles that could be discussed.

Could you use this plan to bring branches into closer relations? Guiders of a District, you are ALL keenly interested that YOUR BROWNIE GUIDERS are going to training or conference, and that they bring back ideas to make YOUR PACKS the best possible. Do take time to hear about it. And similarly with the affairs of other branches.

2. Congratulations Column:

Congratulations column will be discontinued.

3. Patrol Leaders' Pages:

Patrol Leaders' pages will be placed so that they can be easily removed—usually in the centre, pages 8 and 9. But, if special issues prevent this, on 7 and 10. If 8 and 9 are used, special thought must be given to 7 and 10. We will try using 7 for Ranger page, as Ranger Guiders will not want to remove 8 and 9, and Guide Guiders will not usually wish to keep 7. Also, Ranger Page could gradually stir interest of P.L.'s and older Guides. Could writers for it keep 15-16-agers in mind sometimes?

Page 10 will be something that P.L.'s could bring to Court of Honour on their own initiative, or a new interest for their Patrols, or it may be an experiment.

4. Guides of Australia Page:

This will be news from other States, news from Chief Commissioner, or of Guide people abroad who are representing Australia.

Postscript.—Did anyone ask: How can four P.L.'s share one copy of these pages?

Extra copies would work out at about 2½d. a week.

LETTER TO EDITOR.

Dear Editor,

May I suggest that you re-commence your open letter section? Some time ago this feature proved most enjoyable and informative, and I feel sure Guiders would welcome its reappearance.

Wishing "Matilda" continued success.

A GUIDER.

[Editor's Note. — Congratulations, "A Guider"! Certainly and with pleasure. Correspondents should give name and address, and note whether or not this is for publication; note that one letter, one point, stimulates an answer and brings discussion to a conclusion. And so, over to you.]

CIRCULATION SUPPLY

We regret (or do we not?) that in some months recently the demand for "Matilda" has been greater than the supply. Extra copies have been ordered this month, so PLEASE DEMAND; and, if you do not like her, SAY SO.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

From Packs.—2nd Heyfield, 7/7; 4th Malvern, 10/-.

From Local Associations.—Heidelberg £10; Daylesford, £1/1/-; Coburg District Guiders, £2/2/-; Kyneton, £5/5/-; Corryong, £5/5/-; Curlwaa, 10/-; Timboon, £2; Streatham, £5.

From Divisions.—Inner Southern, £10.

From Individuals.—Anonymous, £500; Anonymous, £50; Miss A. Danks, £5; S. Irving, £1/1/-; Broken Hill South Limited, £10/10/-.

HONOURED BY THE QUEEN (from page 3)

Mr. Bryant Smith has been installed as the new Warden, and we ask you all to co-operate as much as possible with him until he is more familiar with the running of the property.

J. McKAY, Convener.

HONOURED BY THE QUEEN

With deep affection, admiration and respect, the Guides of Victoria offer delighted congratulations to Miss Muriel Evelyn (Merle) Bush, M.B.E., and to our State Commissioner, Mrs. D. Curtis-Otter, O.B.E., on the occasion of receiving awards of honour from the Queen at New Year, 1956.

Miss Bush became a Guide soon after the State organisation was established towards the end of 1921, and at once became a leader. Nominated as a Trainer at the first "Week" held in Victoria, she earned Blue Cord, Red Cord and Chief's Diploma for service in many States of Australia. In succession she pioneered and set the ground plan for many of the departments of Guiding in Victoria, and constantly assisted the Division Commissioner for Northern Victoria to develop and administer one-fifth of the State. Actively interested in establishing the Federal Council, she took a leading part in placing Training on an all-Australian basis. Miss Bush was State Secretary for Victoria for several years, during and after the war, and is a Life Member of the State Executive Committee, but no list of appointments can begin to express her personal influence on Guiding in Australia, the sincerity with which all is founded on the Promise and the Law, the fellowship in meet-

ing everyone who needs her help, the sense of gaiety through the hardest work. Through all the years of her devotion to Guiding Miss Bush has kept wide interests in her life and served the community in many ways. She is now Assistant Warden to Miss Barfus (of Victoria) at Our Ark, International Hostel of the Guides in London.

Our love to "Bushie."

The citation of our State Commissioner may be shorter, but is intense. She is known to all of us—she is here among us. Coming into Guiding from a "wider world," Mrs. Curtis-Otter has packed intense work and experience into a few short years. With unremitting work, true friendship and enthusiastic energy she has become a well-known and well-loved leader to every "Guide" in every corner of the State, and has taken a leading part in Federal Council affairs.

Miss MacLeod spoke for all of us in the best possible way at the Annual Meeting, as reported in "Matilda" for December.

Our loyalty to our State Commissioner.

Our loyal gratitude and appreciation to our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, for being pleased to confer such honours upon her sister Guides.

GUIDE HOUSE NEWS

All G.I.C.'s using the Brownie Cottage should know that the accommodation is now only for 21. Two bunks have been removed from the big bunk room to provide more hanging space.

The Executive has agreed to the committee's suggestion that the rent for the Brownie Cottage be the same as the House—1/6 per person for 24 hours or part thereof. The Cottage now has the same amenities as the House—refrigerator, hot water service and inner-spring mattresses. A cover charge of 3d. per person per day is to be added to cover the cost of S.E.C. power, which is now connected to the property. The price of electricity is 50% higher than in the city, so Guiders will realise that it will have to be carefully used. We appeal to all to help us in this matter.

The increase in the Cottage rent and the 3d. cover charge will operate from 1st March,

but the committee would appreciate it if any party using the property until then would give a small donation with the rent to cover the S.E.C. account; this applies especially to those using the electric stoves to any great extent.

Do try to bring as many Guides and Brownies as possible to the property in the autumn, when it is at its best. So many Guides do not get the chance to visit their own property. It is better than ever now, and all should use it.

During October, Lady Brooks visited the Guide House and lunched with the members of State Executive Committee and Guide House Committee. She was very interested in the whole property and made a very thorough inspection. The Open Week-end was also held in October, and was enjoyed by all who attended. The weather was perfect.

(Continued on previous page)

THE GUIDERS' MEETING THINKING DAY CEREMONY

All Rangers, ex-Rangers and other members of the Movement are invited to attend a Thinking Day Colour Ceremonial outside Guide Headquarters on 22nd February, at 6.30 a.m.

After the Colours are broken, Rangers will gather informally together in the Training Room.

You may bring your breakfast with you, and tea will be provided. Donation, 1d.

A CAMP FOR PATROL LEADERS AND THEIR PATROLS

Patrol Leaders . . . have you your P.L. Camp Permit or Pioneer Badge? If so, you are invited to bring your Patrols to the Guide House at Easter, 1956, and to make your own Patrol camp side by side with other Patrols from different parts of Victoria.

There will also be a camp for P.L.'s who have not yet got their Pioneer Badge, but would like to be tested or trained for it.

Applications for these camps, which will be on our own Guide House property at Britannia Creek, close on 24th February. Your Captain can get full information and application forms from Miss Hurst at Headquarters.

TRAINING NOTES

Commissioners and Guiders, Please Note.

When sending in nominations for courses, please state which course the trainee wishes to attend—i.e., daytime or evening, Brownie or Guide. This will save time and confusion.

Guide Daytime Training Course for Guiders.

A Guide Guiders' Training Course will commence at 457 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, on Wednesday, 7th March, 1956, at 10 a.m. This will consist of 12 morning classes, the Guider-in-charge being Miss S. MacLeod, and it is hoped that it will cater for Guiders who find it difficult to attend evening classes.

Fee, 7/6, to be paid at class.

Applications to be sent to the Training Secretary at 20 Russell Street, by the end of February.

Brownie Daytime Training Course for Guiders.

A Brownie Guiders' Daytime Training Course will commence at Headquarters, 20 Russell Street, City, on Wednesday, 7th March,

at 10 a.m. This will consist of eight morning classes, the Guider-in-charge being Miss D. Holtz, and it is hoped that it will cater for Guiders who find it difficult to attend evening classes.

Fee, 4/6, to be paid at the class.

Applications to be sent to the Training Secretary at 20 Russell Street, by the end of February.

Guide Guiders' Evening Training Course.

An Evening Training Course will commence for Guide Guiders on Friday, 10th February, 1956, at 7.45 p.m. This will consist of twelve evening classes, to be held at Guide Headquarters. Guider-in-charge, Miss E. Bunning.

Fee, 7/6, to be paid at class.

Applications to be sent to the Training Secretary at Headquarters.

Brownie Guiders' Evening Training Course.

An Evening Training Course will commence for Brownie Guiders on Tuesday, 21st February at 7.45 p.m. This will consist of eight evening classes, to be held at Guide Headquarters, City. Guider-in-charge, Mrs. J. Barratt.

Fee, 4/6, to be paid at the class.

Applications to be sent to the Training Secretary at Headquarters.

Country Training Week-ends.

The following Country Training Week-ends are to be held within the next few months:—

Camperdown: 17th, 18th March; 21st, 22nd April; 19th, 20th May.

Echuca: 17th, 18th March; 21st, 22nd April; 26th, 27th May.

Stawell: 17th, 18th March; 21st, 22nd April; 19th, 20th May.

Applications to be sent to the Training Secretary at least one week before the training week-end.

INTERPRETER BADGE

The following amendment to Clause 5 of this Guide Badge has been approved:—

"Know the uniform and badges of at least six member countries of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts which have different uniforms from their own, and recognise the national flags of the countries. English should not be principal language of the countries chosen."

OF INTEREST TO L.A.'s

EMPIRE DAY STALL

"Handkies" from you.

"Handkies" for you.

With the help of Association members and friends, we hope to make a big success of this year's Empire Day stall in Collins Street on 24th May.

We are arranging a hand-made handkerchief competition, open to the public and divided into two sections—

No. 1—Prize of £3/3/- for the best-made handkerchief in any material or colour.

No. 2—Prize of £3/3/- for the most original hand-made handkerchief in any material or colour.

All entries will become the property of the Association. A judging day will be held at Guide Headquarters prior to Empire Day, and the entries will be on display when the winners are announced.

The handkerchiefs then will be sold at the stall for Guide funds. Closing date for entries and the names of the competition judges will be announced in "Matilda" and the Melbourne daily press in March and April.

We suggest that competitors enclose their entries in cellophane and attach a price sales ticket.

Also we appeal for gifts of home-made jam, cakes and scones.

Watch for our next announcement regarding EMPIRE DAY STALL.

Mrs. J. M. EDDY
Mrs. M. COLMAN BURKE } Conveners.

A DATE TO REMEMBER FOR 1956

ANNUAL LOCAL ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE,

TUESDAY, 12th JUNE.

GUIDES OF AUSTRALIA PICTURES

Plans are in progress for pages of pictures illustrating the History of Guiding in Australia. We hope these will be on sale in the Equipment Department early in 1956. Watch for further news.

Thanks Badges were awarded to Mr. G. E. Foley and Mr. H. H. Kline, of Wentworth; Mrs. Crick, of Sunshine; Mr. Noble, Mr. Bond, and the Apex Club, Colac.

WARRANTS.

Commissioners—Mrs. A. J. H. Gray, Div. Comm., Stawell; Mrs. G. Morton, D.C., Brighton; Mrs. N. Dawson, D.C., Footscray; Mrs. J. Powling, D.C., Port Fairy; Mrs. F. R. Veitch, D.C., Camberwell-Burwood.

Captains—Mrs. A. H. Leitch, 1st Coleraine; Miss B. Bottomley, 1st Moorooduc; Miss W. M. Hall, 1st Pleasant Creek (Extension); Mrs. J. E. Fielding, 1st Chadstone; Mrs. B. James, 1st Bentleigh; Miss M. Thorrowgood, 2nd Box Hill; Miss M. Smith, 1st Korumburra.

Lieutenants—Miss M. Pyle, 1st Morwell; Miss J. D. Anderson, 1st Newborough; Miss G. Davis, 1st Wentworth; Miss L. M. Beard, Mate, S.R.S. Melbourne; Mrs. K. G. Woolcott, 4th Malvern; Mrs. P. M. Swanson, 6th Kew.

Brown Owls—Miss G. Bethune, 1st Lake Boga; Mrs. M. Murphy, 1st Yarroweyah; Mrs. O. Webb, 11th Ballarat; Mrs. A. M. Franzl, 1st Yallourn.

Tawny Owls—Mrs. N. T. Power, 7th Malvern; Miss B. Stephens, 5th Colac; Mrs. M. Kelly, 1st Yarroweyah; Mrs. V. J. Horsfall, 3rd Merbein.

Cancellations—Miss B. Stephens, T.O., 3rd Colac (St. Andrew's); Mrs. E. Ennor, B.O., 2nd Elsternwick; Mrs. T. M. Callister, D.C., Woodend; Miss D. M. Akers, Lieut., 1st Morwell; Mrs. M. Gorman, B.O., 2nd Seymour; Miss B. Lowe, Capt., 2nd Bentleigh; Mrs. E. M. Chapman, B.O., 1st Port Fairy Pack.

REGISTRATIONS.

2nd Healvesville Pack; 3rd Yarraville Pack, 2nd Newborough Pack, 1st Glenorchy Pack, 1st Highett Pack, 4th Balwyn Coy., 1st Corio Coy., 2nd Dimboola Coy., Rainbow Local Association, Swift's Creek L.A., Highett L.A., Bentleigh L.A.

Resignation—Miss M. Crang, D.C., Wentworth.

New Commissioners—Mrs. C. Bailey, D.C., Warragul; Mrs. K. Dodgshun, D.C., Hopetoun; Mrs. S. Scott, D.C., Ferntree Gully; Mrs. L. G. Muir, D.C., Preston; Mrs. D. McRae, Div. Comm., Croydon (as from 1956); Mrs. F. Tuckfield, Div. Comm., Gippsland Western Port; Miss A. V. Palmer, Div. Comm., Hobson's Bay; Mrs. C. E. Richardson, Div. Comm., Ballarat (extension of term for two years).

(Continued on page 6)

FROM LADY STRATHEDEN,
Chief Commissioner of the British
Commonwealth.

God bless your year, giving you
Time for the task;
Peace for the pathway;
Wisdom for the way;
Friends for the fireside,
Love to the last.

CALLING ALL GUIDE GUIDERS !

Do your Guides read the "Australian Juniors' Journal"? If not, why not, because it is a very interesting magazine for young people, containing articles on books, careers, competitions, pen friends, music, films, etc.

As you will have noticed there have been no pages of Girl Guides over the last few months, because Guides have not been sending in articles about their doings in the Company, such as hikes, outings to various places, camps, sport days, fetes, concerts, or anything they might think suitable to tell others. Guide activity is very interesting for others to read. This magazine is printed monthly.

PLEASE GET YOUR GUIDES TO SEND ARTICLES AND PHOTOS TO ME—

(Miss) M. Bramley,

22 Portland Street, Dover Heights, N.S.W.

Victorian Guides send contributions and photos to State Secretary, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne.

REGISTRATIONS (continued from page 5)

New Commissioners:

- Mrs. J. R. Morris, D.C., Wentworth and Curlwaa.
- Mrs. S. F. Wood, D.C., Numurkah.
- Mrs. S. Vogel, D.C., Cudgewa.
- Mrs. E. Huntley, D.C., Creswick.
- Mrs. F. Dawson, D.C., Rainbow.
- Mrs. A. Godfrey, D.C., East Brighton.
- Mrs. T. Francis, D.C., Highett.
- Mrs. P. Fox, D.C., Timboon.
- Mrs. J. R. Price, D.C., Caulfield.
- Mrs. E. Mitchell, Div. Comm., East Gippsland (new Division).

Resignations:

- Mrs. W. A. Luke, D.C., Cobram.
- Mrs. J. W. Nash, D.C., Coleraine.
- Mrs. G. Westcott, D.C., East Brighton.
- Mrs. T. M. Callister, D.C., Woodend.

STAMP NOTES

Competition:

November winners were 10th Geelong (St. Matthew's) Brownies, 965 stamps. Entries were also received from 2nd Red Cliffs Coy., 122 stamps, and 1st Seymour Pack, 91 stamps.

A "thank you" for parcels of mixed stamps is sent to Mrs. J. L. Barnes, Mansfield; Mrs. O. Brewster, Merrena via Leongatha; and Miss D. Withington, Balwyn.

1956 PLANS: I HAVEN'T ANY !!

HOW ABOUT SOME FRESH, YOUNG AND ENTHUSIASTIC GUIDE FOLK GIVING THE STAMP DEPARTMENT A FEW NEW IDEAS; in other words, "A NEW LOOK"?

Whilst awaiting the response to the above, will all Brownie Packs, Guide and Ranger Companies, Commissioners and Local Associations please note that **THERE WILL NOT BE ANY COMPETITIONS UNTIL AFTER JUNE, 1956.** Watch each "Matilda" for details of recommencement, and continue to save stamps.

In future, Commemorative issues will not be included in the competitions, so please send these in (soaked off, of course) as soon as you have 100 or more.

Competitions.

September—2nd Caulfield Coy. sent in 450 stamps; 10th Geelong (St. Matthew's) Pack, 179; and 2nd Red Cliffs Coy., 137.

October—2nd Caulfield Coy., 510 stamps; and 2nd Red Cliffs Coy., 73.

Parcels of mixed stamps have been received from 1st Bairnsdale Coy., 2nd Caulfield Coy., 1st Fiery Creek Coy., Ballarat Senior Trefoil Guild, 1st Victorian Ranger Coy., Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. J. Callister (Woodend), Miss D. Withington, Miss V. Harrison and helpers, Miss G. Thurgood, Mrs. Tonkin, and Guide Headquarters staff.

Proceeds for 1955.

All friends and helpers to this section will be interested to hear that at least £22 will be handed to our Headquarters Fund for 1955. I hope the amount will be even greater, but this will depend upon the quality of the stamps yet to be counted.

Thanks are extended to all who sent stamps during the year.

LORNA E. CUZENS,
Hon. Organiser for Stamps.

RANGER PAGE

PROTECTION OF A HOUSE FROM GRASS FIRE

By A. W. LARKINS, Deputy Chief Officer, Country Fire Authority.

Every year many houses in the Victorian countryside are threatened or destroyed by grass fires. Grass fires are bigger and more fierce than a few years ago, because farmers are using superphosphate and trace elements to encourage a greater growth of pasture, and this has doubled and trebled the amount of fuel. The wise householder will take added precautions.

Firstly, every care must be taken to prevent a fire from starting. Quite often, careless people start fires by such simple acts as throwing hot coals from the stove into dry grass, lighting a heap of rubbish on a windy day, neglecting a camp-fire or failing to put it out thoroughly, and throwing down lighted cigarette stubs or matches. Sometimes, fires are started by children with matches. As well as being careful yourself, you must be alert for the careless acts of other people.

Secondly, much thought and preparation must be given to the ways of protecting your home during the fire season or if a fire should occur nearby. Following are the precautions you must take. Experience proves that neglect of these preparations has been the main cause of buildings being destroyed by grass and bush fires.

1. Never leave a house unoccupied on days when fires are likely to occur. When the house catches, it will have only a small beginning; if there is nobody at home, the fire is allowed to gain hold unchecked, and the owner will return to a heap of ashes. This happened last summer when people went away on holidays during a bad fire period.

2. Remove all dry vegetation and other inflammable material from the vicinity of buildings. Quite often dry grass is allowed to remain right up to the walls, giving fire-fighters very little chance to check the blaze. Make sure all dry grass is removed for at least 100 feet from the house. As an added precaution, chip round the walls for a width of five feet—or maintain a gravel path there. Remove any trees or shrubs which are growing against the walls, and take away any outside hessian or canvas blinds from windows, etc.

In farming areas, a splendid method of fire protection is to plant a green crop on the north and west side of the house, as this will impede the ferocity of the fire.

3. Be careful to protect all entrances to the house. More homes are burnt by flying embers entering the house than by flames sweeping to the walls. (Remember that, in grass and bush fires, brick and fibro-cement houses will burn just as readily as timber ones.) Under no circumstances should doors and windows be left open if a fire is nearby. In addition, flywire doors and window screens have often saved houses by arresting flying sparks. Houses have caught fire when sparks entered in or under the house through ventilators, vermin boards, etc., and the value of flywire to protect all such openings cannot be overestimated.

4. Keep the roof free of debris. Most houses destroyed by grass or bush fires catch alight in the roof, and this is mainly caused by an accumulation of leaves and other debris in the spoutings. Flying embers land on the roof and roll into the waiting fuel. Clean out spoutings and downpipe and pay particular attention to any birds' nests in the roof, as these will ignite very quickly. On days when fires are likely to occur, it is a good idea to block the downpipe and fill the spouting with water. Any flying embers which reach the spouting will then be quickly extinguished.

5. Always have a supply of water readily available. A garden hose, with fittings, is one of the best preparations; but, failing this, place several 44-gallon drums of water about the house, and with each one have one or two buckets ready for bailing it out. If a fire is in the neighbourhood, and there is plenty of water, it is a good idea to hose the walls and eaves of the house and keep them constantly damp.

If you carry out the above precautions, you will do a great deal to protect your home from grass fires. In addition, much can be done by common sense according to your type of house and its locality.

PATROL LEADERS' PAGE

NATURE LOG BOOK (4)

SUNBURN, SEALS AND SEASHELLS

(The ideas for these articles came from Mrs. J. Gorvett and "The Guide," by whose courtesy we have been able to adapt them to our own needs.)

Is your Patrol a gang? Or is it just a bunch of Guides who all wear the same emblem? Some Patrols seem to have no existence other than at Company meetings, and even there they do not give the impression of having any Patrol spirit. No one but their Patrol Leader seems to have any ideas for discussion at Patrols in Council, and Patrol Time is a very dull period to be struggled through as best they can. What do you think is the reason for this state of things?

While you are meditating on the problem, let's visit the Thrush Patrol in their corner; they are evidently deep in discussion on where to go for their Patrol hike next Saturday, and each Guide has a different idea of the ideal spot! Mary, the P.L., wisely lets them make their own decision, only giving a few helping suggestions that are designed to eliminate any unsuitable places. Now the menu comes under review, and the respective merits of eggs cooked in orange skins, roast meat and vegetables in cigarette tins, and chops wrapped in wet newspaper are debated, the new recruit listening with eyes popping! Requests for games and activities for the hike programme are being showered on Mary, who hastily jots them down, while Ruth, her Second, is quietly giving the recruit a list of the things she will need to bring on the hike.

Mary has a stalking game planned, which she thinks the Patrol will enjoy—half of them will become bushrangers, who have hidden in their den three or four nuggets of gold, stolen from a nearby prospector's camp. Leaving a guard on duty, they will set out to steal more nuggets from the prospectors, who have left their camp also guarded by one member, while they set out to find their stolen property in the bushrangers' den! Each guard will be able to "kill" on seeing a movement, or hearing a sound from any enemy, so that best stalkers are likely to "live" the longest and carry off the most gold. All plans for the hike now being completed, Mary makes a note to advise Captain of their destination, and times of arrival and departure.

Gazing around the Thrush corner, you will notice charts of varying shapes and sizes, and their Log Book, with its anecdotes, sketches and photos of Patrol doings. Quite obviously everyone in the Patrol has had a

hand in making the charts and the entries in the log; but, while the standard of work varies, each Guide appears to have taken great care to do her best.

While our attention has been wandering around the Patrol corner, Mary has been asking for ideas on the stunt the Thrushes are to produce for the Company birthday; a charade has been the unanimous choice, with requests for a Patrol meeting at which to rehearse the scenes. The meeting is arranged for an afternoon in the school holidays, to be held on the lawn at Mary's home, weather permitting—with the side verandah as an alternative if necessary! Everyone looks forward to a Patrol meeting, evidently, as reminiscences of previous occasions are being exchanged with great gusto.

On the way home from Company meeting, Mary and her Second usually plan their programme for next week's Patrol time; to-night Mary is explaining to Ruth the semaphore game she is preparing, consisting of armless "stick" figures drawn on cardboard, four to each Guide, with toothpicks to be used as arms. Mary will call a four-letter word, and the race will be to see which Guide can spell the word in semaphore first, by placing the "arms" to make a letter on each figure. Ruth is making a set of pictures showing the development of the Movement, and plans to use them in telling the story to the recruit. They decide that the second half of Patrol time will be spent in practising gadgetting, in preparation for camp next Christmas.

Don't you feel it must be fun to be in that Patrol? They have a Patrol spirit, which is due to the fact that their P.L. is doing her best to lead and to give them opportunities of working and playing together as a Patrol.

A P.L. must help her Guides to think for themselves—to give each of them some responsibility, so that they feel a necessary part of the Patrol, and therefore take a pride in doing their best at all times. Patrol activities will help to build your Patrol into a happy gang, encourage them to plan a hike, or a Patrol meeting, and then be prepared for requests for more! Make sure it is "their" Patrol, not just "your" Patrol, for "on the strength of each link in the cable dependeth the might of the chain."

Jill had mustered the Robins at her home on one of the last afternoons of the summer holidays.

"Who's got the best suntan?" she asked, depositing a tray of neatly arranged shells on the edge of the verandah. After a careful comparison of legs and arms, Susan's near-mahogany shade easily won this competition. "After all," Sue explained to the others, "if you go out fishing almost every day you just can't help a bit of sunburn."

"Right," Jill came in quickly; "I'm going to put you down for a 'fishy' page in the log! I know you told me you didn't have time to keep up a nature diary, but you could do us some notes about the different kinds of fish you saw. Did you use lines or nets, by the way?"

"Lines mostly," said Susan, "but we went around the cray-pots too, and you've no idea the queer things that sometimes came up in them."

"There you are!" said Jill. "Now you think back and remember which days you had your most exciting hauls, and then write about them in diary form for the log. Here's a calendar to help you get the dates right."

"Did anyone besides me see any seals?" asked Elizabeth. "This is the sketch-map I made to show where we saw them, and the drawing is the best I could manage of a seal's head sticking up out of the water. The eyes don't look right, though. I've made them big enough, but I couldn't get that sort of wide-awake look that seals have."

"Never mind," put in Jane; "the map and the drawing will be beautiful for the log. Perhaps you could write a bit of a note too explaining about the eyes and anything else you found out from watching your seals."

Sheilah had been examining Jill's tray of shells.

"Aren't these lovely?" she said, picking up one of a row of earshells arranged to show their iridescent inside lining. They ranged

saucer size down to a delicate baby's ear, not quite an inch across.

"I wonder what the row of little 'portholes' is for?" she asked, fingering the rough, reddish exterior of the shell.

"Our nature book calls them breathing holes," said Jill, "but, of course, it's water that passes in and out of them, not air. As the shellfish grows, it closes up the holes that aren't any longer opposite its gills; and, by the way, we should call the animal a mollusc because it really isn't a fish at all. When my mother was a girl," Jill went on, "she used to collect shells too, and she told me they always called this one the Venus Ear shell."

"How lovely!" exclaimed Caroline. "I do like names that really belong, because that one I'd call a 'jam roll'm," she remarked, selecting another shell from the tray; "but I suppose it has a perfectly good name already."

"Yes, it's one of the coneshells," Jill answered. "There are lots of different kinds of cones, but they're all pretty much this shape, and they all have that long, narrow opening up the side. Here's a shell with an easy name for you to remember, Caroline. Do you see this one with its breathing hole right on the top of the shell? It's the keyhole limpet."

As part of her contribution to the log book Jill had thought of making a list of the different shells she had found. She would make two columns, she explained to the others, and put all the univalves—such as the limpet, cone and painted lady—in one, and all the bivalves—the two-sided shells like scallops and mussels—in the other.

"Anyone else who had made a shell collection can do the same," Jill suggested, "and you could use our nature study book if you want to look up any names. Then our log will show how people find different shells washed up on different parts of the coast. Last summer, when we went to Portland, I
(Continued overleaf)

(Continued from previous page)

didn't find a single cowrie, but this year, at Flinders, I was lucky. I found those four on the tray and these two tiny ridged ones that are in a special box in case they get lost."

Before the Robins had nearly finished comparing notes and discoveries, it was time to go home. Someone suggested handing over the holiday nature logs to Sheilah, as she had looked after the Patrol log book while the others were away.

"You can have the job of putting all the holiday bits together," said Jane; "and at Guides next week we can all have a look at it in Patrol time and see if we approve."

"It's just as well we're using a loose-leaf notebook," laughed Sheilah, "if you're all going to want it altered after I've got it nicely arranged for you!" Sheilah skimmed off on her bicycle, and the others dispersed to their homes. Jill made a mental note that she must check the Patrol box for scissors, sellotape and anything else they might need for mounting drawings and pressed specimens in the log book.

NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS

A selection of natural history books is now stocked by the Equipment Department. They are suitable for Company libraries, and will help you and your Guides to identify the birds and beasts and flowers and insects of our bush, and to learn more about them. The books are also available from the Guiders' reference library.

"MATILDA"

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

Published by the
GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION, VICTORIA,
20 Russell Street, Melbourne, C.I.
Telegrams: "Girguidus," Melbourne.

Price, 10/- per year. Post free.

Contributions should reach Editor not later than
first Friday in each month, and should be sent
to Headquarters.

Subscription should be sent to Headquarters.

NATURE LOG BOOK COMPETITION

ALL PATROLS NOTE:—

You have now been following the Nature articles for some time, and most of you, we trust, have commenced on the Patrol Nature Log Book.

The following Nature Books are in the Guiders' Library at Headquarters:—

What Bird is That?
Australian Bird Book
Honey Flora
Mammals of Victoria
Wild Life in Australia
Mushrooms
Victorian Orchids
Australian Spiders
Furred Animals
Australian Sea Shores
Dangerous Snakes
Australian Nature Studies

Your Captain may borrow one of the books for a fortnightly period at the cost of 6d. per book per fortnight, plus postage if to be sent.

If your Patrol is interested, ask Captain to obtain the book required by contacting the Training Secretary at Headquarters.

—"Australian Nature Studies," by J. A. Leach—is an excellent all-round book of reference for Guiders and P.L.'s.

SPECIALLY FOR EXTENSION PATROLS.

We are delighted to be able to tell you that Miss J. Harper has offered a special prize for the best Nature Log Book entered by an Extension Patrol. We thank her on your behalf, and hope that many Patrols will be entering log books so that this prize can be worthily given.

DO YOU KNOW to what countries the following Guide movements belong?

1. G.G.B.
2. Het Nederlandsche Padvinstergilde.
3. Girl Scouts Incorporated.
4. Skatefelag K.F.U.K.
5. Federacao das Bandeirantes de Brasil.
6. F.F.E.

(Answers on page 15)

GOD MATTERS

I have come to believe that, if we could realise the urgent need for this one simple conviction and begin from there, our uneasiness about "Duty to God" would be dissolved, for we would have a definite purpose and a faith that all we were doing to carry it out was filling a great need for the girls entrusted to us.

Guiders who have thought earnestly what they are to say about the first part of the first Promise, often meet from a proportion of the Company, with routine answers, veiled restlessness or polite blankness.

We take this to mean personal failure, or that we have met with differences in religious opinion, and we may with some misgiving fall back on moral generalities or encouragement to attend Church and Sunday School.

Actually we have been trying to push through a great obstacle—Emotional Resistance. It rises at once from a difference in feeling about the fundamental question: Does God really matter, NOW, in our lives? Is God important at all? It is a difference, one might say, of emotional temperature, and if we take for granted that a Guide is at a level that she has not experienced, we fail to make contact and we meet this resistance.

It can be so "freezing," so devastatingly frustrating, that we turn with happy relief to "Duty to the Queen."

There all are united. Guides listen with active interest; Court of Honour gives ample time, equipment is bought or presented with significant ceremony, Colour Party, and the whole Company answer gladly to discipline because to take part enhances everyone. It all flows so easily, because everyone is united by the same emotional temperature. **THE QUEEN MATTERS.**

The difference described is actually the distinctive problem of our generation; God has been pushed far away; He was at the Beginning, we may meet Him at the End, but the middles we can manage for ourselves. Books are written about this attitude and sermons preached. That may sound imposing, but it is also a beam of light that carries a challenge to all of us to tackle a definite work in which ALL can take part. "Duty to God" has little reality if God Himself is vague and far away;

but, if a girl sees at once that in the life of Company or Pack GOD is of central importance, she will see that here is a difference; her duty can become an inspiration and her Promise firmly founded.

We can build up this "Difference" by many details if we ourselves believe it matters.

Can we remember times when the enrolment prayer has been chosen in the last few minutes?—when we had thought about an enrolment talk, but there has been no time for it?

Could we say more clearly than by this: "That last game was of far greater importance"?

Let us think again from the beginning in terms of Equipment, Time, Interest; a comparison with "The Queen" might be startling; but, once we are SURE this is the way, it would all work out joyfully. If one person thinks a subject is important and another does not, they cannot make contact; but two who have different opinions can speak together in comradeship if both hold the subject to be of great importance.

The leaders of 120 branches of the Christian Church met near Chicago in 1954 for the World Council of Churches.

The differences of opinion were great and went deeply into their thoughts, yet all found unity of spirit in their faith because, to all, God matters supremely; they felt united in their urgent mission to bring that faith to the world.

Each in our opportunity, without much speaking, without being trained for definite teaching, can join with them in our work to bring to every Pack and Company true unity of spirit founded on this conviction that God matters to each one NOW.

IDEAS.

Gift of Time, Discussion, Preparation.

Would Patrol Prayers be more real than Company Prayers?

Equipment.—Books and Pictures?

The Bible for To-day, and a simple ceremony to receive it into the Company?

Gospels in Current English in Patrol boxes?

Pictures for some meetings or for some time at most meetings? One picture at a time?

—G.S.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKING DAY

At the beginning of our "Pack" year our thoughts turn to World Friendship. Many Packs are already rich in "Thinking Day" tradition, while to others Thinking Day has as yet very little real meaning.

From World Association publications we can find out in which countries there are Brownies, and how their uniforms differ from ours. Fundamentally, they all make the same Promise, and all Brownies have fun at the Pack meetings. An imaginative visit on Thinking Day to one or two countries will help the Pack to learn more if they have a hand in the planning: How will we travel? What type of clothing would be best to wear? What type of money will be needed? What food we will be able to buy?



Poulakia.

Brownie Scout.



Sunbeam.

Australian Brownie.

The Brownies will be quick to see how people in other countries are "different"—many girls of Brownie age think that the "proper" way to eat, talk, dress and behave is the way their families and playmates do, and that different language and manners are "funny." In Pow-wow a talk about these "differences" will help them to understand—bring out their ideas about how different

everybody is—even in the same family—some have blue eyes, some have brown, some have curly hair, and some have straight; some like rice pudding and others do not. Talk about why they "don't like" someone—the new teacher they will be having at school usually falls into this category—and point out how they don't really know that person. Children of this age enjoy such conversations and quickly catch on to the point that it is stupid and untrue to say one thing about all members of any group. They can realise that it is foolish to talk about all Italians, or all Chinese, or all the people of a particular faith, or all the girls who go to another school. They are usually thrilled with the idea that they can be friends with Brownies all over the world, and that girls of their own age are all very much alike no matter where they live.

Let us also talk about bringing the true meaning of "friendship" a little closer to home! Many children from other lands are coming to the same schools as our Brownies—and very often there is a complete lack of friendly atmosphere. Talk to your Brownies

(Continued on page 13)

A HALL AT PATCHEWOLLOCK!

Patchewollock is a small town 280 miles north-west of Melbourne. It is the end of a railway, a one-train-per-week town, right on the edge of a large empty space on the map. Nevertheless, it is a community of stout-hearted people.

They have there a Guide Company, a Brownie Pack and a Scout Group. Now, after eleven months of enthusiastic effort, they have a Scout and Guide Hall, built on a large block of land and opened entirely free of debt.

Saturday, 22nd October, was a day of brilliant sunshine; anyone passing through Patchewollock must surely have wondered whatever was happening. Crowds of cars, crowds

(Continued from page 12)

about how they themselves do not like to be left out of playground games, or how lonely they might feel in a similar situation in a strange land where they could not speak the language. They will readily see the newcomer's points of view, and they will be quick to respond.

Poulakia (Poo-laa'kia) means Little Birds, from Greece.

Brownie Scouts, U.S.A.

Sunbeams, South African.

Kabouter (Kah-bow'ter), Little Elves from the Netherlands.

Meiser (May'ser), Titmice from Norway.



Meiser.

Kabouter.

of people, crowds of Scouts and Guides are gathered round a neat cream and brown building; flags are fluttering, a banner of welcome is over the gate, and Scouts, one after the other, are swinging through the air!

For this is the opening day; Scouts and Guides are giving a display such as has never been seen here before. The Scouts have built high trestles of lashed spars, are climbing up to the top and crossing an imaginary river; this is the reason for their aerial flight. Guides are coping very efficiently with a road accident and giving first aid. The Divisional Commissioner was puzzled by one part of the treatment till she found that they had made the wounds as realistic as possible. (Note: Had they read the first-aid articles in "Matilda"?—Ed.)

Later the scene changed. All were drawn up in orderly ranks for the opening ceremony. Three hundred at least were present, and official guests and Scouts and Guides had come from Ouyen, Hopetoun and other places. The chairman, Mr. Gangell, welcomed the official guests, and Mrs. Maloney, President of the L.A., presented beautiful flowers to the ladies.

The Shire Presidents from Walpeup and Karkaroc congratulated the people of Patchewollock on achieving their own Scout-Guide Hall and being able to open it free of debt, and especially the District Commissioner, Mrs. Gangell, who has been the inspiration of all that has taken place.

Amid loud applause, Mrs. Gangell cut a red, white and blue ribbon that had been stretched across the door, and handed the key to the Divisional Commissioner for Eastern Wimmera, Mrs. H. G. Hilton. Mrs. Hilton conveyed congratulations from the State Commissioner and Executive of the Girl Guides Association, and from the Boy Scouts Association, and at last opened the door.

A truly Guide-Scout atmosphere prevails within. A large photograph of the Queen is on the south wall, and the other walls are decorated with coloured and interesting charts. There is even a piano. On 22nd October great branches of scarlet banksia dominated huge bowls of flowers.

Surely Patchewollock folk are hospitable; they provided three hundred people with a wonderful meal! Bravo, Patchewollock!

GUIDES OF AUSTRALIA

BERTHA OF TORRES STRAITS



Back in the twenties two Guide Companies were formed on the islands of Torres Straits. One was among the girls of a settlement connected with Christian Missions, where the people were taught industries suitable to their traditional skill and to their homes. Boat-building was among the most important crafts.

Their Captain, Mrs. C. Harman, is now living at Coloundra Headland, 60 miles north of Brisbane; she lent me her photographs and told me some stories.

Bertha was a keen Patrol Leader. One night she saw a signal light flashing from another island. With her own torch, using the morse code, she received the message and answered it. A child was very ill, and, because Bertha was able to do this, a doctor was notified, a boat made ready, and with the first light of morning the child was brought to hospital and her life was saved.

Once, when a Company was in camp on an island some distance from their home, a hur-

ricane suddenly blew up. The only shelter was a mission station on the other side of the island, and the only way to it was along the beach. The Guides put everything they could in packs to carry on their heads and set off in the terrific rain.

Driven by the wind, the water was rising fast on the point, and as they waded through it was waist deep, and even higher for the little ones, but they arrived and saved their tents.

With danger of Japanese invasion, 1942, Captain and her husband were ordered away. The Guides formed a fine guard of honour at the landing stage, but when Captain had stepped aboard and turned to wave good-bye some had turned their heads upon their arms and were weeping sorrowfully.

I asked Captain if the girls continued to grow in Christian life, and she said sadly, "Very often they go back to the older ways of their tribe."

Could our thoughts on Thinking Day encircle Bertha and her friends, in the faith that by the grace of God the seeds of Christian teaching and of Guiding shall live and grow?

—G.H.S.

**DON'T FORGET
YOUR...**



COMPACTOID
first aid kit

Small, Medium, Large — at THE GUIDE SHOP

EQUIPMENT DEPARTMENT

HOURS—9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Week Days.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon (Holidays & Week-ends excepted)

Please Note!

A LIST OF DON'TS

Please Don't . . .

Forget to state which Emblem you want; there are over thirty.

Send in Registration Slips without Guider's name and address.

Order Hats when you want Berets. We stock both.

Forget to state Colour of Ties.

Fail to state whether your requirements are for Guiders, Guides or Brownies.

Send for Proficiency Badges without the Certificates and the name and address of the Guider.

Forget to state to whom the goods are to be charged.

Forget when ordering Guider, Guide or Ranger Uniform, to state Bust and Length measurements. For Brownie Uniform give length.

Send country cheques without adding exchange.

Forget we stock Guide and Brownie Pantees, all sizes.

By noting these DON'TS you will help Headquarters staff to help you, by sending out your country orders without the delay of writing to you for further particulars.

JUST ARRIVED—New Shoulder Bags, £2/2/6 and £1/12/6. Guider, Ranger and Guide Navy Blue, good quality Pullovers, 37/6.

A SUGGESTION.—Start a Reading Library for your Company or Pack. Send for a list of suitable Books at cut prices.

B. J. RAWSON, Manageress.

ANSWERS (from page 10).

1. Belgium (Girl Guides de Belgique).
2. Holland (the Dutch people call their country Netherlands. Padvinster is the same word as our "pathfinder").

3. U.S.A.
4. Iceland (K.F.U.K. stands for Y.W.C.A.).
5. Brazil.
6. France (Federation Francaise des Ec-laireuses).

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
REPORT OF BUSINESS DEALT WITH
DURING NOVEMBER**

General Business:

Report was given on details regarding the early history of the 1st Hawthorn Guide Company.

Commemorative plaque.

"Matilda."—Agreed that Miss Swinburne's offer to continue for a short time as temporary Editor be accepted.

B.-P. Centenary Contingent.—Qualifications discussed and approved.

Uniform.—Shop Manageress to be asked to submit sample of jacket to be worn over blouse and skirt.

Meetings.—Reduction of meetings approved as an experiment.

House Committee.—Resignation of Mrs. Wallace as Convener received with regret.

Hitch-hiking.—Report on letter concerning hitch-hiking from a Victorian Guider at present in England received, and agreed to circularise its contents to all States.

Olympic Games.—Agreed that the Association should assist at Information Centre, near St. Paul's Cathedral corner, to the extent of offers received from the Movement.

Fairbairn Trust Fund.—Victorian nominations discussed.

Guide House.—Recommendations from Guide House Sub-Committee regarding rental of Brownie Cottage and electricity charge approved.

Speaker, Annual Meeting.—Miss Swinburne to attend Ferny Creek's meeting on Tuesday, 21st February, 1956.

Federal:

Federal Council Meeting.—Decision reached on items to be submitted for 1956 meeting.

Federal Council, 1957.—Agreed that Victoria should extend invitations for this meeting to be held in this State.

Federal Constitution.—Report on recent correspondence received.

Finance.

Budget for 1955/56 approved as presented.

Willing Shilling Drive.—Reported that the majority of Divisions were in favour.

Property:

Queries answered in relation to Mitcham, Swan Hill, Blackburn, Sandringham.

Tests:

Recommendations from Ranger Branch and Guide Branch received and approved.

*There is no IF
about it!*

There are people who say: "I could save money IF" But there is no IF about it when you plan to save by the budget method.

Budget your income . . . deposit part of your earnings to your savings account BEFORE you start to spend the remainder. Pay yourself first — that's the secret of saving.

When you have acquired the habit of paying in regularly, your progress towards financial happiness is helped considerably.

Save Something Every Pay-Day.

**THE
STATE SAVINGS
BANK
OF VICTORIA**