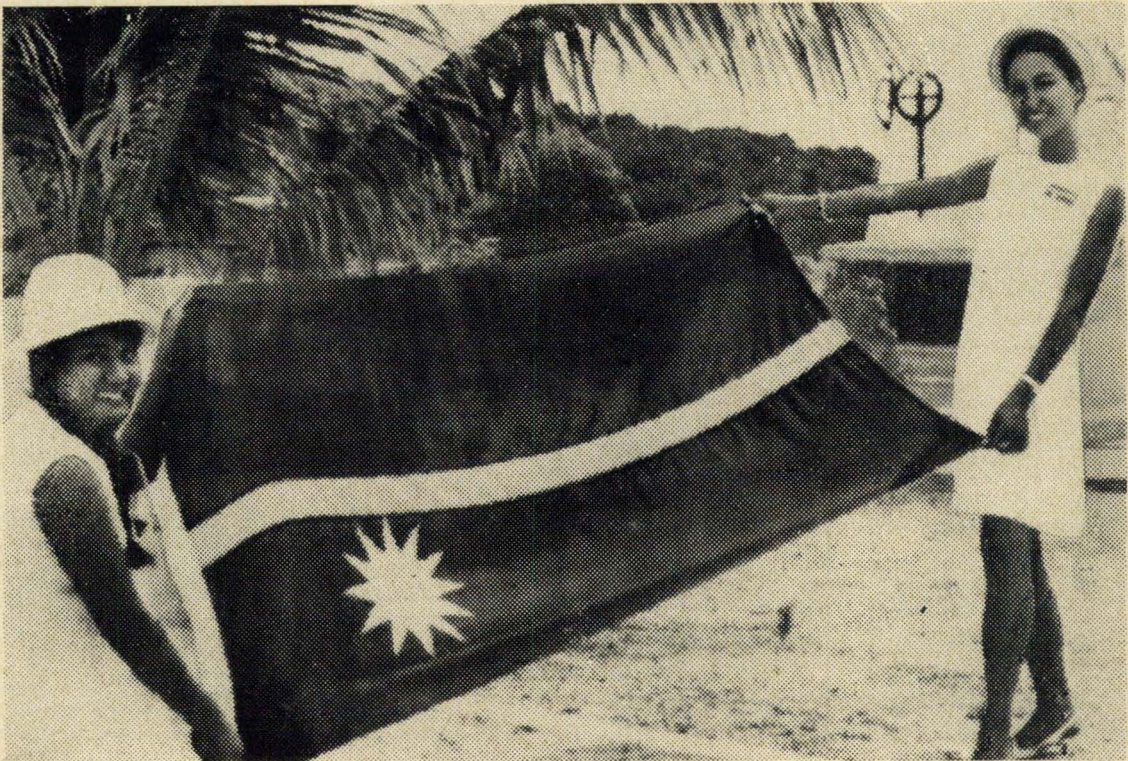


MATILDA



—Block by courtesy of the "Sun"

FLAG OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU

Nauruan hostesses, Margaret Jacob, 18, and Margaret Jose, 21, displayed the flag of the new independent Republic of Nauru during independence celebrations recently. The flag has a royal blue background, gold horizontal bar and white 12-pointed star. The tiny island of Nauru, the smallest new nation, was formerly an Australian Trust Territory in the Pacific. The mini republic depends on phosphate for its wealth.

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FROM THE STATE COMMISSIONER

How lucky I am to be following in the steps of such a wonderful organiser as Mrs. Price. So many aspects of my new "job" with you are signposted along well-planned paths. Of course, I'm hoping to open up some trails of my own — Mrs. Price would be disappointed in me if I did not — but the strong, clearly defined roads are there to tread at the start.

Naturally, I am looking forward to knowing more about you all, both from your reports and from my meetings with you. I have been asked to tell you something of myself — and, as I continue to write in "Matilda" of each month's happenings, as Mrs. Price did, I am sure you will soon get to know me well.

This use of my diary has always been invaluable in filling my weekly letter to my mother in England — the aerogramme usually becomes so full that I have to return to put my final greeting and signature at the beginning!

Dr. and Mrs. Price have been at Red Hill during January, but with a few necessary journeys back to town. My husband and I enjoyed a day with them and, after a meal of chops, well-barbecued by our hostess, we admired the great variety of native shrubs planted by Dr. Price. They have had a busy time, family-wise, with Margaret and Donald announcing their engagements, and Elizabeth now recovering nicely from a nasty car accident.

Our domestic scene has been centred around changing house and, although we are unfortunately unable to make the move until the middle of March, we have our plans all made.

I hope you will understand if I am less active in Guiding during that week!

The All-Australia Training Conference was held in Perth from 9th to 18th January, and our members obviously found it most stimulating and are now eager to share its findings.

During January, Mrs. Price kindly invited Mr. Gregory and me to meet at luncheon a delightful visitor from England in the person of Mrs. Chadwick. A close friend of

the Chief Guide, she was once World Bureau Treasurer, but for some years has been living in a beautiful part of Cornwall.

The Movement was represented at the Annual Flag Raising Ceremony at the Melbourne Town Hall by Mrs. Price, Miss Macartney, Miss Barr, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Richards, and Mrs. N. Davidson.

Mrs. Price and Miss Macartney went along later, as did my husband and I, to the Australia National Day luncheon, at which "The Seekers" were presented with the "Australian of the Year" award. I think everyone present was impressed by their manner. As the speakers included Sir Rohan Delacombe, Mr. Gorton and Sir Robert Menzies, it was a most interesting occasion.

I could not think of a nicer way to start upon my term of office than to be at Britannia Park. We were fortunate that the weather was a little cooler than the previous day, but, even so, the hard work of the willing helpers who provided refreshing cups of tea was much appreciated. The children certainly enjoyed the day, and I am glad that so many of you managed to be present when Mrs. Price, Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Osbourn Shave received your wonderful gift. Mrs. Hartley Watson, Region Commissioner for the Mornington Peninsula Region, presented on your behalf a sum of over \$1000, which "the team" wishes to be used in the building of our new Headquarters. It has been decided that your gift be used to provide bookshelves in the members' lounge, which I hope you will all regard as your own and use often.

So that they each have a tangible reminder of their term of office, Mrs. Price received a small dressing case and Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Osbourn Shave, silver salvers — tokens of our love and gratitude. The illuminated addresses presented by Mrs. Hartley Watson to three "extinguished" guests caused much laughter.

Now, as the routine begins in earnest, I send you best wishes for a year of happiness and great achievements in Guiding.

Margaret Osbourn Shave.

MATILDA

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(Temporary address — during rebuilding — Ball & Welch Building, 180 Flinders St., Melbourne, 3000)

State Commissioner: MRS. R. RENSHAW JONES • State Secretary: MISS B. MACARTNEY

Assistant State Commissioner: MISS MARGARET SHAW (Editor, "MATILDA")

ASIAN TRAINERS' CONFERENCE

(Attended, from Australia, by Toni Miller and Marjorie Wood).

We left Australia by Air India for Madras, travelled via Perth and Singapore, and arrived in Madras at 12.30 a.m. Spent a day sight-seeing when two very white, tall women caused interest and amazement, particularly when they elected to walk.

We left for Colombo by Air Ceylon, arriving at 12.15 p.m., where we were met by the International Commissioner and a Guide, with the traditional Beetle leaves, for friendship, a Jubilee Badge and our Conference papers. Later we joined other delegates from India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of China, Singapore and Ceylon for the opening ceremony.

The President of Ceylon Girl Guides Association, Her Excellency Mrs. W. Gopallawa, and the Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs arrived, were welcomed by children dancing at the gate, then proceeded through a guard of honour of Guides to the Little Friends who gave them a "grand salute". The delegates moved forward, saluted the President, and took their places in the hall. The National Anthem was played, followed by the Chairman's opening remarks, the Jubilee Song, and then one member of each delegation lit a wick of a traditional oil lamp and gave a message of greeting from her country. Afterwards delegates and guests met one another at a garden party. We found many people interested in Australia, and we were kept busy answering innumerable questions about the climate, immigration policy and size of Australia. All foreign delegates were invited to be

guests of the Governor-General and Mrs. Gopallawa at dinner at Queen's House in national dress — we wore light dresses and felt a little out of place amongst all the glittering saris.

The first training session was taken by Miss R. Canagaratne on "Fundamental Principles Based on the Promise and Law": "The Promise and Law binds us and is common to all youth in any country. Adaptations are sometimes necessary to make the Promise and Law more meaningful and to be in keeping with the cultural and religious background of the country, but there should be no change in the fundamental principles. The Promise and Law is the basic foundation of character building — it is a preparation for life. The caste system still exists in some countries, but this barrier can be overcome as the Guides grow into a deeper understanding. Our Movement has a wonderful opportunity here when a deeper meaning of the Fourth Law is put into practice."

The Conference then divided into groups and discussed the following:—

"How can we adapt the Promise and Law to suit our different cultures, to make it real to our Guides and Girl Scouts?"

"How do we as Trainers make sure that the Fundamental Principles are being implemented in our different environments, in order to provide a Movement that is open to all girls without distinction of creed, race, class or nationality?"

"How can we relate the Fundamental Principles of the Promise and Law to service projects in keeping with the national needs of the country?"

"How do we belong to the world-wide sisterhood of Guides in spite of the various adaptations in different countries?"

"To what extent and how far will you implement adaptations to suit your culture and country? What are the possible dangers of overdoing this?"

"In what ways and guise can false nationalism draw us away from the fundamental principles of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting?"

The findings of this discussion included: "In Japan the word 'God' has been retained in the Promise, but the Buddhists take it to mean anything they believe to be good and therefore they 'mentally' substitute the word 'religion'. Ceylon and India have altered the Promise to read 'Duty to my religion' and the word 'country' has been substituted for 'Queen'."

"The problem of caste is being dealt with by Guides learning to live together in camp and by educating the parents and adults as well as the Guides. Where there are different nationalities in a country, the Guides are encouraged to be friendly and where possible mixed activities are held."

"In some countries service projects are held in conjunction with the Education Department and the Government, such as keeping the city and Government offices clean and entering in Home Garden Competitions sponsored by the Minister of Education. Guides also man First Aid posts and act as Tourist Guides on special festivals. During national emergencies they have been called on to donate blood and have participated in the 'Grow More Food Campaign'. In other countries the service given is initiated by the Guide Movement or by individual Companies and not the Government."

"The present camp uniform in Ceylon is green, which is also the colour of the ruling political party. They wondered what might be the repercussions should a change of Government demand a change of colour, particularly if that Government gave them a grant."

It was decided that although the Movement benefited from financial grants from the Government, this had its problems, par-

ticularly where Guiding was connected with the schools and the education system.

Miss S. Rodrigo, the "Little Friends" Adviser, introduced the session dealing with the Junior Branch. Ceylon and Singapore are having difficulty in gaining sufficient Guiders for this Branch, it being the smallest in their countries. The Trainers felt that, as the Guiders were all school teachers, they preferred to tackle the older age group, as this gave them further scope for their talents. Here again adaptations were discussed at length, and each country was asked to give details of the changes made in story, imagery and programme. Most of the countries represented had either their own Brownie story, or, in the case of the Philippines, they were holding a nation-wide competition for a story. It was universally felt that the reason for change was more to fit in with the culture and ideas of the country, than because the children had outgrown imaginative things. For instance, in several countries the owl is an ill-omen and toadstools are unknown. They have therefore taken something from the culture or tradition of the country. In Ceylon the children are called "Little Friends" and their Guiders are "Sylvanna" and "Sylvette", the Queen and Princess of the Woods. They are also considering having a tree as their totem; while in India the Brownies were "Bluebirds" and changed to "Bulbuls" after independence, with a "Flock Leader" and "Assistant Flock Leader". The Republic of China, Singapore and Malaysia are considering changes — the first has now its own story, which has a frog and a lotus leaf as its totem, and the Philippines feel when they have their story they will probably change the names of the badges to fit in, such as "Brownie Wings" becoming "Bamboo Bridge", etc.

Trainers discussed means for keeping the interest of the older children alive. It was interesting to note that Ceylon's top age for a Brownie was 10 years, but the Philippines were suggesting a floating age group, i.e., seven to 12, with the next age group 10 to 14. It was decided that a Brownie Guider should be energetic, have an interesting programme instead of a serious plan of work, introduce the idea of service, encourage more outings, have Pack Holidays and Revels, allow modern themes, but encourage the

children to make up their own ceremonies, which could therefore never be too young for them. We should develop sense of responsibility by giving the Brownies leadership, invite parents for special ceremonies, make, and always have, varied programmes.

Mrs. Jilla, the Training Adviser, took a session on Training and Leadership. She suggested that we need a wide outlook and should draw in people from the outside, such as educationalists, parents, social workers, etc. She felt that the commitments of a Training Sub-Committee were to develop training programmes, to co-ordinate the work of the different branches, to evaluate programmes periodically, and to provide adult leadership in the country. The leader of each delegation was then asked to report on the decentralisation of training in her country, financial implications and sources of recruitment of leaders.

It was interesting to note that in all the Asian countries represented, the leaders are mostly recruited from schools, but more leaders are required in every country. Australia was the only country where most Companies are open. The reasons for school units are many, some being the high regard in which a teacher is held, the lack of transport and the unsuitability of children meeting outside school hours, the lack of meeting places. Unfortunately, the parents are inclined to think of Guiding as an extra school subject, and they talk of Guide classes and Brownie classes, and if a headmaster wishes to have Guiding in his school he can just appoint a teacher to take it, and she may not be suitable, or willing. India, Ceylon and Australia have decentralised training, but the other Asian countries have it organised and taken on a national level. India combines with the Scout organisation for its National Training Sub-Committee, and therefore the training programme is organised on Scout lines, all trainings being held at camps, and they have a set training programme. This method of training is also carried out in the Philippines, whilst in Singapore and Malaysia training seems to be given mainly in the technical subjects, with the trainers testing Guiders for all sections of Tenderfoot, Second and First Class. Most units in the Philippines have three or four leaders, though only some are trained, and

to gain leaders they use every means of publicity available, even door-to-door visits.

We were then asked to consider how successful we had found the Patrol System as a means of training the leader. If we, as Trainers, do not carry out the Patrol System in our trainings we cannot expect it to be passed on to the units. The breaking up into small Patrols was used by all, but in discussion there were times when Guiders were encouraged to speak individually, rather than through their P.L. Australia seemed to be the only country where training is sometimes given to an individual or to two or three Guiders. All other trainings seemed to be held with large numbers, where the Patrol System would have more scope.

The Guide Branch session was taken by Mrs. Parmar, Guide Adviser. The questions considered were the aspects of the Guide Branch which would create a lasting interest in the Movement, even after the Guide leaves the Company. It was felt that the aspect of service may help to keep the Promise alive after the Guide has left, and she may at a later date give extra service to the community or to Guiding; the specialisation in badge work could help her retain her interest as a Tester later on or in the Trefoil Guild; the International aspect could keep her in touch with various countries and leadership may bring her back as a Guider, Trainer or Commissioner. The service which could be given by Guides was discussed at length and the detrimental effects to the individual and the Company which may result if over-age Guides are kept. Suggestions were given regarding this, and it was interesting to note that ages in the countries varied from 14 to 16 years as a leaving age with a "lap over" in most countries.

The Ranger Branch session was taken by Mrs. Pereira, and it was found that here again age groupings varied. The Philippines have Rangers from 14 to 18 years, with Cadets from 18 to 21 years. Republic of China ages go from 16 to 20 years. In most countries this is the smallest branch of Guiding, due to lack of leaders, and in Ceylon and India some parents object to their girls going out into the community. It was felt that traditions and home background in these countries could make it difficult for girls of this age to go out and be independent,

and it was felt that the programmes require specialised leadership and understanding. In the Philippines the Ranger Branch of the Movement has much prestige. At other youth gatherings, the Rangers invariably occupy key positions in the Planning Committees, and they have a Ranger Speakers' Bureau from which they draw speakers for public functions and to represent the country. At this age group in some countries there are a large variety of organisations and sports clubs from which to choose, hence there is much competition, and then some girls marry at an early age. In India the older girls in College join the National Cadet corps, which is compulsory.

Mrs. Rajasuriya, Chief Commissioner and member of the World Committee, took a two-hour session on the Promotion of Guiding. After a look at the continents of the world showing Guiding and its growth, it was agreed that the promotion of Guiding in the Asian area is a great need. There are 19 countries — only 12 have Guiding, two have made enquiries and four are completely outside. Of the 12 countries belonging, only nine are full members of the World Association, the other three being Associate members. We discussed our needs, our resources and what possible achievement we could expect, as under:—

Weaknesses and Needs:

- Common language.
- Appreciation and understanding of the Movement.
- Personnel.
- Need for National Identity.
- Economic problems.
- Social problems.
- Exchange of publications.

Resources:

- World Association.
- Publications.
- World Committee Personnel.
- Sangam.
- Thinking Day Fund.
- Mutual Aid.

Achievement:

- Knowledge.
- Understanding.

- Proper attitudes.
- World citizenship.
- Enriched programmes.

Knowledge and understanding of the Movement as a whole will lead to right attitudes, and an insight into other programmes will enrich our own. The greatest resources are person-to-person contacts. We were asked to remember three things—

“You were dependent in the past,
You are developing in the present,
And what is most important is your dedication to the future.”

(To be continued)



DEAR “MATILDA”,

While working in oldest jeans clearing a bush block six miles out of a country town, the Commissioner met new neighbours two blocks away. During conversation she learned that the new neighbour had given up his city job after 30 years to live near friends and find a new job in the country town. He **BLAMES** the Girl Guides!

The daughters of both families are good friends because of their first Link Up experience in Guiding. The two families met and the other children became firm friends, too. The country brother was best man at the wedding of the city elder brother, and now the parents want to live nearby. The country farmer made land available for the city family to build, and everyone is very happy.

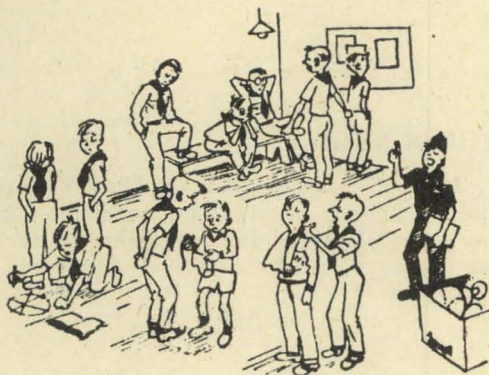
Did the original planners of Link Up envisage such development would ensue, or such friendship ripen over so many years?

—Country Commissioner.

WORK PARTY



"This is what he expected."



"This is what he got."

—Source unknown, but appreciated.

THANK YOU

May we in this way say "thank you" to each one of you involved in the magnificent gift presented to us by Mrs. Hartley Watson on your behalf. We were absolutely delighted with the carefully chosen personal gifts — the lovely silver salvers for Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Shave and the exquisite vanity case that will accompany me who-knows-where in the future. They will always remind us, as if reminders were necessary, of you all and of the happy years in which we have been associated in this way.

The remainder of your most generous gift we wished to share with all of you and have decided to ask that it be used to furnish the members' lounge and library of our new Headquarters Buildings. We hope you will all like this idea and will help us to thank you by enjoying your gift to us.

Thank you, too, for the happy day at Britannia Park on 1st February — thank you to all those who came from near and far — thank you to all who couldn't come for wanting to do so, for sending your apologies and for the generous letters of appreciation. In fact, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!

Joyce E. Price



A LETTER FROM BUCKINGHAM PALACE . . .

"Dear Mrs. Price,

I am commanded by The Queen to ask you to thank the Queen's Guides of Victoria for their kind message of loyalty, and to convey an expression of Her Majesty's sincere thanks and warm appreciation for the terms of their message.

STANDARDS — IN MEMORIAM

You will have noticed in stories of our Movement's Standards and in the stories of our Australian State Badges recently published in "Matilda" that the name of the Hon. Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth often appeared.

The "Guider" recently published an In Memoriam notice of the Hon. Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth, 1886-1967, and this extract is reprinted for your interest:

"In the death of the Hon. Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth, the Guide Movement has lost one of its pioneers. Together with Miss Behrens, Mrs. Percy Birley and Miss Christine Pilkington, she laid the foundations of Lancashire Guiding and their names have become something of a legend in the North of England. They came into Guiding over 50 years ago because they had faith in B.P.'s game and they all kept their interest in it and their love for it to the end. Each gave unstintingly of her own talents and Miss Kay-Shuttleworth's great gift for needlework raised the standard of handcrafts throughout the whole Movement.

"In the wider sphere of the Guide Movement her memorial will be the County Standards which she helped to design and on which she gave untiring help and advice during her time as Imperial Heraldry Adviser from 1925 to 1947. The two Standards which have been, and are still being seen and admired by almost every Guide in England, are the one embroidered by the County Commissioners as a wedding present for the late Princess Royal and the one made for the Chief Commissioner for England. The latter was begun in the late 1930's for Mrs. Percy Birley, but the work was interrupted by war and was completed in 1949 when it was presented on the steps of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, to Mrs. Birley, who, in turn, presented it to the Hon. Lady Cochrane, by then Chief Commissioner for England. This Standard, one of the most beautiful in existence, took 6000 hours to complete and Miss Kay-Shuttleworth herself embroidered the face of St. George.

"Miss Kay-Shuttleworth became a member of the Council in 1915 and in 1950 was made a Vice-President of the Girl Guides Association."

CEYLON INTERNATIONAL JUBILEE CAMP

On Sunday, 4th February, at 12 noon, three Guiders left Sydney by Qantas to attend the Ceylon International Jubilee Camp and were joined in Adelaide by a Cadet from Nara-coorte.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Guiding in Ceylon, for the first time Ceylon girls camped in their own country with their sister Guides from other lands.

In a Service Project organised in conjunction with the Jubilee International Camp was the development of a village; the girls co-operated with a local national service organisation (the Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya), and it was hoped that the Rangers and Cadets would undertake the following projects:—

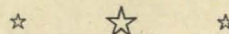
- Conducting a socio-economic family survey.
- Conducting sewing classes for the girls of the village.
- Conducting a health survey of the village.
- Training a team of girls from the village in First Aid.
- Learning from the villagers one of their crafts.

—M.C.O.



THANK YOU!

"Matilda" is sorry that Mrs. Price's name did not appear, as scheduled, under the item on page 202 of the January/February issue.



DO YOU KNOW . . . ?

Of the flag of any country or State **outside the British Commonwealth** which carries a Union Jack in its design?

For the answer, refer to page 244.



THE WARATAH — STATE EMBLEM FOR N.S.W.

The N.S.W. State Badge, the Waratah, was adopted in 1926, and in the same year our magazine changed its name from the original "The Supplement" to "The Waratah."

It was probably the first State emblem in Australia, and the idea was conceived after a visitor from England had displayed her County emblem.

The Waratah was given its scientific name, "Telopea," which means "far-seen," because the brilliant crimson flower on its long straight stem can be seen for such a long way in the scattered bush among which it grows. Some of the plants grow to more than ten feet in height, and may have from four or five to forty or fifty flower heads. Around the group of stiff flowers with their inward-curving petals are crimson bracts, commonly called petals but really modified leaves. Around these again are stiff, saw-toothed leaves of dark green. The Waratah flowers in the sandstone country of N.S.W. from the end of the Winter onwards, and has been chosen as the official emblem of N.S.W. by the State as well as by the Girl Guides Association.

The following is a charming Aboriginal legend about the Waratah:—

The Story of Krubi

One day the members of an Aboriginal tribe were busy making camp in a valley. It was the custom of each family to erect a shelter (tent) and suitable gadgets for their few but valued possessions. The women of the tribe were responsible for the storage, preparation and cooking of meals. The spirit was strong in the tribe. Each member was expected to help one another, thus creating a happy atmosphere in the camp.

After the evening meal it was the custom to gather at the campfire. The Old Man of the tribe would don his head-dress and pass the message stick, telling a story of his early hunting days.

Krubi was a beautiful young lubra of the tribe. During the day she would wander through the valley with her tribe, and her warrior lover, collecting leaves, feathers, stones, etc., in order to add colour to the setting of the evening meal. As she sat making the table decoration her lover would make a mascot for her family. One day he was killed in a Tribal battle. Heartbroken Krubi climbed the highest peak in the valley and died. Where she fell, the first Waratah grew, taking its colour from her robe, made of the skin of a red rock wallaby, and its long leaves from the brilliant Gang Gang parrot feathers she wore in her head-dress.

Stunned, the tribal leaders hurriedly gathered their families and belongings and moved on to tell their story to other tribes. If you should pass through this valley to-day you would find no trace of their Tribal Camp—only the Waratahs in bloom.



FRIENDSHIP BADGE

N.S.W. have also used their Waratah State Emblem for their Friendship Badge, which shows the flower superimposed on a Guide Badge. The oval Friendship Badge is mainly white, with a bold border, a gold outline to the Guide Badge, and a red Waratah.



PUBLICATIONS '68

"The Guiders' Handbook"

Have you seen the leaflets for the new Guiders' Handbook? These were published from November, 1967, as a joint effort of the Training Department and the Publications Sub-committee. The leaflets are written by Trainers and Guiders, and can be purchased separately. Nine have been published and others are on the way.

The leaflets are for Brownie, Guide and Ranger Guiders — some especially for the Branch, others more general. Camping, Pack Holiday, International and Keeping Records are included.

The idea for the Handbook was approved at the 1966 Victorian Trainers' Annual Weekend Conference at Britannia Park. It was felt that a booklet of this type for Victorian Guiders to refer to after attending a training, was needed NOW.

It was also felt that articles should be published as they came to hand, instead of waiting until the whole series was completed.

The project was then referred to the Publications Sub-committee, who were very pleased with the idea and willing to get the leaflets printed as soon as they came to hand.

The next move was to draw up a list of subjects and ask the various Trainers and Guiders if they would be willing to write these leaflets. It was decided that unless some very controversial material or contradiction to P.O. and R. was written, the articles should be used unchanged (except for correction of spelling, etc.!) and be published under the author's name.

Separate printing means that the leaflets can be substituted or altered without the whole book becoming obsolete.

Articles Printed to Date:

- No. 1—The Management of a Ranger Unit, 5c.
- No. 2—Patrol System in the Guide Company—15c.
- No. 3—Programme for the Guide Company—10c.
- No. 5—Camp—the Great Opportunity—10c.
- No. 6—For the New Guider — A General Introduction to the Movement—5c.
- No. 7—What's in Your Cupboard?—5c.
- No. 8—Games—their Value—Hints on Leadership—5c.
- No. 9—Brownie Handcrafts—10c.
- No. 10—Keeping Track—The Why and How of Company and Pack Records and Accounts—20c.

A review of these articles will be published in later "Matildas."

—L. G.

These leaflets and a special cover are now available from the Guide Shop.



COMMITTXX MXXTINGS

Xvxn though my typxwritr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxxcpt for onx of thx kxys. I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd prxfxtly, for it is trux that thxr arx 44 kxys that function wxll nough, but just onx kxy not working makxs all thx diffxrncx. Somxtimxs it sxms to mx that our Committxx atxndancxs arx somxwhat likx my typxwritr — not all thx kxy pxopl arx working proprly. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrson, it won't makx any diffxrnce if I'm not prxsnt." But it doxs makx a diffxrnce, bcausx a Committxx mxxting to bx xffctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xvry mxmbxr. So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson and that your xfforts arx not nxxdxd, rxmxmbxr my typxwritr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson at our Committxx Mxxtings, and I must bx thxr."

—Perth Rotary News and the "Victorian Scout".



COMMONWEALTH NEWSLETTER

Canada

"The Canadian Centennial year is drawing to a close as this is being written. It has amazed even the most optimistic people to see the way Canadians have responded to these celebrations. All organisations have taken part in some way, and many individuals have planned their own projects. The Girl Guides have received a good deal of commendation for their activities. The National Heritage Camp, held near Morrisburg, was a tremendous success. Expo '67 involved many members from Quebec in active participation both on the Exposition site and on the Dormitory Campsite which operated from June until September. Many Girl Scouts and Guide groups took advantage of this supervised camp arrangement for their visit to Expo. Then Lady Baden-Powell visited both camps and the Boy Scout/Girl Guide special ceremonies at the "Fair". 14th October was a special day during which Guides and Guiders were out in uniform serving Canada in many ways. It was their way of saying 'thank you and a happy birthday' to our wonderful country."

Gilbert and Ellice Islands

There is a tremendous interest and growth in the Brownie Branch which has recently been re-named the Sunbeam Branch. Training newsletters are being sent to the outlying islands and a Travelling Guider has recently been appointed, and has just returned from a successful first tour. In an area where transport between islands is very limited, Guiders are being encouraged to go into Tarawa, the capital, for training whenever shipping is available.

Montserrat

The Government has given the Scouts and Guides half an acre of land in the Community Centre. The Associations are now making plans for fund raising in order to build in two phases a joint Headquarters.

New Zealand

Our new Senior Guide Branch (ages 14 to 16 years) is proving most popular, and has brought in a number of girls who have not previously been members of the Movement, as well as some who have progressed from Brownies and Guides.

The United Kingdom

The recent change in the Brownie Guide uniform, which consists of patch pockets at hip level only and cross over golden tabs in place of the tie, is proving extremely popular, and sales have exceeded all expectations.

Uganda

An optional dress uniform for Guiders has been approved. It consists of a short-sleeved fitted jacket with five panelled skirt in blue sailcloth, the tie is replaced by a ribbon on which the badge is worn.

Uganda also now has her own Enrolment Badge. It is the same shape as the British one, with the addition of a DRUM in the centre below the star. The drum symbolises the traditions and customs of the various tribes and the FUN had through Guiding.



STRINE?

Extract from the Court of Honour Minute Book: "As the Company is planning a visit to Otimai we discussed menus and Guides' Zone." —From "Te Rama", New Zealand.



STAMPS

The Stamps Section is 21 years old, this month. On 24th March, 1948, the grand (for then) sum of £3 (\$6) was handed to Guide Headquarters for general funds; this represented over a year of collecting and selling used stamps.

We have helped in purchasing many things, both for the Guide House and for Headquarters. It seems likely that the money now being raised will completely pay for the electric clocks to be installed in our new building.

Do keep sending in good quality used stamps for sale. Post all donations of stamps to the undersigned at 12 Cowderoy Street, St. Kilda, 3182, NOT to Guide Headquarters.

—Lorna E. Cuzens,
Hon. Organiser for Stamps.

PRAYER AT A P.L.'S TRAINING WEEKEND

Dear God, we thank you for all happy things that came to us yesterday — for lovely things we saw, for wise things we heard, and for any good things we were able to do.

Help us to try to do our jobs better every day, and so act that we will bring nothing but happiness to those whose love is our privilege and whose friendship is our joy. Amen.

* * *

Life is like a game of tennis. The one who serves well seldom loses.

THE ROYAL MAIL

An Historical Account

We all "post" our letters in "post" boxes, and put postage stamps on them, but do we know how this word "post" came to be used in relation to mailing letters and parcels?

Post or posting, as applied to sending letters, is said to have originated as far back as 1482 in England, when King Edward IV was on the throne. The King's despatches were carried by relays of horsemen — one every 20 miles — to "travel with utmost speed" to enable a letter to be carried, hand to hand, 200 miles in two days. An officer of the King's household controlled the service under the title, "Master of the Posts". There were no settled Posts on any highways, except between London and Dover, the highway to the Continent. On other roads, Posts were set up as required, often at short notice, and this meant that local constables would take horses out of carts or ploughs for the conveyance of the mail.

The first State postal service for conveying private letters began in England and Scotland on 31st July, 1635, when Charles I issued a proclamation and appointed Thomas Witherings to organise and manage the service. Permanent Posts were established on six main roads leading from London to Edinburgh, Holyhead, Plymouth, Bristol, Norwich and Dover, from London. The Post, out and home, was scheduled to take six days.

(A further instalment of the Royal Mail's history will appear next month.)

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

Question on page 240

The flag of Hawaii carries a Union Jack in its design. The Hawaiian flag, although not adopted as its Territorial flag until the annexation (by the U.S.A.) in 1898, was originally designed for King Kamehameha I in 1816. The stripes (white, red, blue, alternately) stand for the eight major islands, while the British Union Jack is included as a reminder of Captain Vancouver, who, on his voyage around the world in 1794, gave Kamehameha a British flag.—(From "The Glorious 50"—the stories behind the U.S.A. State flags, published by the State Mutual Life Assurance Company of America).



Don't the months go quickly? Here I am again — writing this March "Matilda" and finding it so hard to get my feet into my shoes after the long holidays. Hot weather, beach and sandals — it's been terrific! I hope you have enjoyed your holidays.

Now for the rest of the year its SHOES! For my Guide activities I always wear the Bedggood "Guide" shoe — a plain court with stacked heel. I find them very comfortable and good wearing quality.

Flat heels are very comfortable for Guiders. Geraldine was telling me she always wears a leather walking shoe with a medium stacked heel, which she finds very acceptable, easy to wear, and suitable for unit meetings.

P.O.&R. does say, "Brown lace-up, flat or sports heel, court for official occasions. COLOUR of shoes, shoulder bag and gloves SHOULD match belt as nearly as possible".

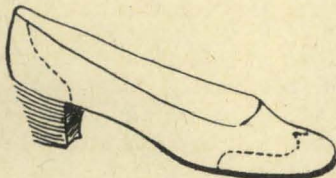
This applies to all adults. Brownies may wear sandals.

Have YOU seen what I have seen? Spike heels, suede hush puppies, bone casuals, wrinkle pickers — and I could go on, but . . .

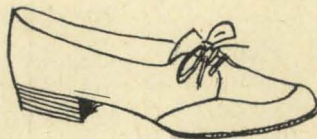
I know shoes are expensive, but would you keep in mind what P.O.&R. asks when you are buying your next every-day shoes?

It really is very important that we are well dressed in uniform. You do agree with me, don't you?

Good walking!



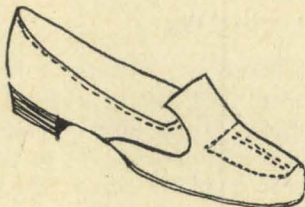
COMMISSIONER



GUIDER



GUIDE



RANGER



BROWNIE

TINTOOKIE LENDS A HAND

So this was the bush! To Maria it was strange and frightening. Even the sounds and smells were quite unfamiliar to someone used to the hot, dusty Italian countryside. And these new friends — Debbie, Anne, Kaye and the other Brownies of the Pack — were certainly different to her friends at home.

The Brownies had all come to the bush from the city, for their annual Pack treat. They were going to have games, then a picnic, and Brown Owl had offered a prize to the Six who found the best nature specimen. In their excitement the Brownies quite forgot their new Tweeny. Anyway, she could not speak much English, which made it difficult to include her in their happy talk. Nobody noticed Maria slowly walk away by herself.

She wandered on, far away in thought, back in her beloved Italy. If only she could go back and play again with Beppo and Gina on the rocky hillside among the vineyards.

"Stop! Stop at once!" ordered a tiny voice at her foot. Maria looked down in surprise. There stood a small man, about 10 inches high. He looked very annoyed, and was shaking his tiny fist at Maria.

"Don't you know better than to wander off by yourself, here?" he demanded.

"I do not understand," stammered Maria.

The little man's face softened. "Oh, I see. You are a newcomer to the bush. Well, you must be careful here. It is so easy to get lost and very difficult to be found. That is why no one must ever go off by themselves in the bush. By the way, my name is Tintookie. I'm a real Australian elf."

"Tintookie! Yes, that is the name of my Six," exclaimed Maria, glad to be able to say something sensible at last.

Tintookie nodded wisely. "Now, why are you alone?" he asked.

Maria looked sad. "Nobody understands me, so they all run off and play without me. I hate Australia, and I want to go home." She burst into tears.

Tintookie looked stern. "Now stop your complaining. It is not because you cannot

speaking much English that people will not play with you. Perhaps if you smiled at the others you might get a pleasant surprise. Remember, a Brownie should always try to have a happy smile. Now, dry your tears, and try that smile on me."

Maria gulped, and gave him a watery smile.

"That is better. Come, I'll show you the way back."

The two of them set out through the bush, talking all the way, and it was not long before they were back at the clearing. Tintookie gave Maria a cheery wave and disappeared.

The Brownies rushed up to Maria. They had just missed her and, guessing she was lonely, were feeling rather guilty. They decided to really try from now on to make Maria welcome.

Remembering Tintookie's advice, Maria smiled shyly at them. To her amazement, Debbie immediately tucked her hand into Maria's and said, "Come on. I just heard Brown Owl call us for tea." They ran off together.

Tintookie popped from behind a tall gum tree and smiled to himself. He was feeling very pleased, for it is not every day that a small Australian elf is able to help a lonely new chum.

—Sheila M. Hatherley,

☆ ☆ ☆

SPACE RACE

Most crowded continent? That, we're told, is Europe: 233 of us per square mile. Asia has 177.

For wide, open spaces, go to Africa, America or U.S.S.R.: THEIR square mile average is only around 30.

☆ ☆ ☆

A TRIBUTE

Louisiana's State Employment Service advertised in the Lake Charles "American Press" for a public relations man with a college diploma. If an applicant did not have a college degree, the ad. said, he "must be an Eagle Scout".

—Braxton D. Routh, New Orleans, La.
From "Scouting", U.S.A.

TRAINING PAGES



BROWNIE BRANCH

Diagonal Red Shamrocks!

If your Brownies have trouble remembering the stories of the Patron Saints of the British Isles, and the crosses making up the Union Jack, they may enjoy this activity.

Ten Brownies are needed, and they are divided into three groups of three with one over.

One group of three represents England, one Scotland and the other Ireland. Within each group, one Brownie represents the floral emblem (either by carrying a cardboard cut-out or dressing up), one carries the flag, and the third dresses up as the Patron Saint.

The Brownies, in their groups, step forward and recite the appropriate verses of the poem.

For the last verse, the last Brownie comes out carrying a Union Jack, to say her few lines.

St. George for merry England,
His emblem is a rose;
His red cross broad and straight
On a white background blows.

A loyal Roman soldier,
He fought bravely with his sword,
But deny Jesus he would not
And suffered for his Lord.

* * *

St. Andrew is for Scotland,
His emblem . . . thistle high;
Diagonal white cross
On a dark blue sky.

He fished for men for Jesus
And died upon a cross;
His bones were brought to Scotland,
He saved a battle loss.

* * *

St. Patrick is for Ireland,
His emblem shamrock green;
A diagonal red cross
On a white ground is seen.

As a boy, a slave in Ireland,
Who fled, as a man he came
Back to teach the heathen,
To love Lord Jesus' name.

* * *

The Union Jack of Britain
Is made from all these three,
A symbol of these Patron Saints
Flying for all to see.

* * *

This activity, perhaps performed for a Parents' Night or L.A. Annual Meeting, will help the Brownies to remember their flags.

Perhaps your Brownies could compose a similar poem about the Australian flag!



Old age is like everything else. To make
a success of it you have to start young.

—Felix Marten.

* * *

What is the point of having a tiger in the
tank if there is an ass at the wheel?

* * *

Luck is a very good word — when you put
a P in front of it.

* * *

Never mind a change of scene — try a
change of thinking.

* * *

Many a false step is made by standing
still.

* * *

Gossip! The devil's radio! Don't be an
announcer!

* * *

WHY ARE THE CHURCHES DIVIDED?

Some young people, like their elders, take the divisions of the Church for granted. It is as natural to see Methodist, Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and other Churches in the same neighbourhood as it is to see Woolworth's and Coles close to one another.

Some boys and girls see this for the scandal it is. They know that the Church is not intended to be like a group of competing chain stores. They know that it was the intention of the Founder that there should be only one Church.

How have these divisions come about?

Already in New Testament times there were tensions which divided the Church into parties and cliques. This scandalised St. Paul, and he had some very harsh things to say about it to the Christians in Corinth, but although in these early centuries the Church was strained almost to breaking point, it remained undivided for a thousand years. In the eleventh century the Great Schism (as it was called) split the Church right down the middle. The two halves were the Western Catholic Church, which continued to look to Rome as its centre, and the Eastern Orthodox Church, which had its headquarters in Constantinople.

In subsequent centuries further splits occurred in each half. In the west the Reformation, led by such formidable characters as Martin Luther and John Calvin, resulted in the formation of Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches. Later the Baptists and Congregationalists came into being, taking a more independent line. The Church of England broke from Rome and underwent its own peculiar Reformation. Three centuries later the Methodists broke away from the Church of England.

All these divisions were to have world-wide impact, for when the missionaries went from Europe and America to take the Gospel to Africa and Asia they exported these divisions as well. So the European pattern of disunity was repeated all over the world.

What caused these divisions?

It was a mixture of many elements. Often men were compelled to create a rift within the Church of their upbringing simply because they believed that this was the only

way in which they could be loyal to the truth as they saw it. Some of them, like John Wesley, were reluctant to create division, but it became the inevitable consequence of their convictions.

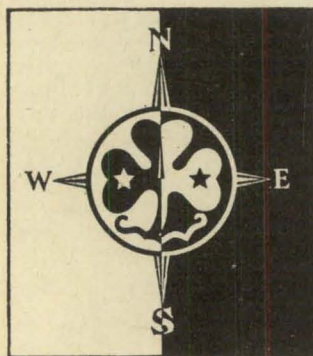
Often political and national factors got mixed up with religious conviction. The Great Schism came about because theologians could not agree about a clause in the Nicene Creed, but an equally strong factor was undoubtedly civic pride and national rivalry between Rome and Constantinople.

In fact, it is coming to be recognised more and more that things like race, language, temperament, culture and personal prejudices have played almost as big a part in Church division as matters of religious conviction and truth.

Because division is complex and deep-rooted there is no quick solution to the problem of disunity. Progress towards unity often appears to be painfully slow, but things are beginning to happen which half a century ago would have seemed impossible. The creation of the World Council of Churches, and the initiative of the Pope and the Vatican Council have helped to break down the barriers between Christians not only in high places, but in towns and villages up and down the land.

There is no easy road to unity, but now, as never before, there are grounds for hope.

—By Edward Patey, Dean of Liverpool, England; printed by permission.



* * *

Are you a lifter? Or a leaner?

* * *

Many are willing to serve the Lord — as long as it's in an advisory capacity.

GUIDE GUIDERS . . .

The Tenderfoot and Second Class Tests printed in this "Matilda" become, as from now, the tests for all Guides in all Companies in Victoria, as in all other States of Australia. What is printed here replaces the tests printed in the current (1966) edition of P.O.&R.

The requirements of these tests are familiar to many of you, who used them, in whole or in part, during the "experimental stage"; those who worked to the end of 1967 on the P.O.&R. syllabus will have some changes to make.

There should be no difficulty in adopting the new Tenderfoot Tests with our recruits just starting in the Companies. We'll need to make our Patrol Leaders familiar with the new wording and slightly new requirements.

You are sure to have queries about Guides part way through their Second Class tests — we will all have somebody in that position. Note the numbering, Clauses 1 to 14, and then the final Court of Honour approval that she is trying to keep the Promise.

Every Guide must now pass Clauses 14 (Country of the W.A.G.G.S.) and 12 (Prevention of Accidents).

Many may have to add something to clauses already passed. For example, if her card is signed for Scouts Pace, but the Guide did not carry a message in her head (though many of us already test it this way), then she does not have to repeat the Scouts Pace, but she does have to pass some memory message test.

Similarly with Clause 11 (Public telephone): if a Guide already has this signed on her card, please check that she also knows how to report emergencies.

Any clause already passed does not have to be done again. For example, a Guide may have passed Nature (Clause 3) or Health (Clause 9) on the old syllabus. These can stand.

These additions make the Second Class test longer — and many of you had indicated earlier that you thought it already long.

To balance this there is now a recommendation that, after passing eight clauses (excluding the Promise clause), a Guide may do up to three Proficiency Badges before she completes Second Class.

Guiders as a group are sure to want to discuss some of these new requirements amongst themselves and Branch time at Regional/Divisional Guiders' Rallies; and the April Conference in Melbourne will provide the opportunity.

"Matilda" would welcome details of games, activities or challenges which cover the new sections of the syllabus, as in this way bright ideas are circulated for the benefit of others.

If you still have queries after reading this letter I'll try to answer them for you.

There will be a period when we will have to "make do" with the old Test Cards until new ones with the 14 clauses become available; and similarly it will take time to make alterations and reprints to our Tenderfoot and Second Class booklets.

Therefore treasure this detachable centre page — additional copies of which will be available in H.Q. Shop.

—Enid Bunning,
GUIDE ADVISER.

GUIDE BRANCH a new slant on Tenderfoot and Second Class

The Tenderfoot Test

1. Attend Guide meetings regularly at least once a month.
2. Know and understand the threefold Promise, the Guide Law and the Motto.
3. Understand the meaning of the Good Turn, the Guide Salute, Sign and Handshake.



4. Know the whistle and hand signals.
5. Explore a small area of bush, park or large garden for 10 minutes, report on signs, sights or sounds of creatures found there, or follow a trail of tracking signs.
6. Understand the composition of the Australian Flag (i.e., the adoption of the British Ensign, the composition of the Union Flag, the Commonwealth Star, the number of points and the reason for the Southern Cross, the meaning of the word Commonwealth, and when the Australian Flag was accepted.) Have been told some of the stories of the exploration and settling of Australia and the establishment of the Commonwealth. Have been helped through stories to understand the heritage of ideals from the Patron Saints of Scotland, England and Ireland.
7. Whip the end of a rope; use a reef knot, double overhand, fisherman's knot and a round turn and two half hitches. Fold and tie a Guide tie.

Before being enrolled the recruit should be told something of the origin of the Guide Movement, of Guiding in the world, and the meaning of the Guide and World Badges.

The Second Class Test

The Guide must show that she is trying to keep her Promise at all times. This will be considered throughout the Test.

1. Have passed the Tenderfoot Test.
2. Light a fire out of doors using not more than two matches; cook on it.



3. (a) Know the reasons why certain flora and fauna in her area are protected. Understand her responsibilities in the countryside with regard to fire lighting, litter, gates, trespassing, etc.
 - (b) Make a visit or visits to an area of bush, plain, open forest or seashore, etc. Describe generally the type of area and any trees, flowers, birds, animals, insects, rocks, soil, clouds or seasonable activities she has seen. Choose at least eight objects, natural to that area, to identify and from her own observation tell something interesting about each.
4. Stalk a person for 15 minutes, or play a stalking game in a suitable bush area; OR stalk and observe an animal or bird in its natural state.

5. Erect a flagpole and hoist colours with ceremony.
6. Make a camp bed. Use a Packer's knot or some other slipknot to rope a camp bedding roll. Demonstrate square lashing for some practical purpose.

OR

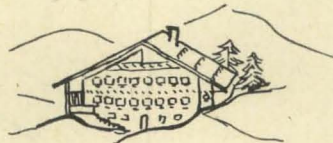
Hold the Camp Tenderfoot Badge.



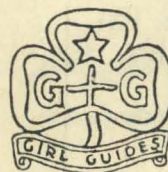
7. Play Kim's Game. (Describe accurately at least 25 out of 30 objects. This should be done orally.)
8. Cover a mile at Scout's pace carrying a message in her head. Arrive in good condition and deliver the message correctly.
9. Show that she understands the importance of making the best of—
 - (a) Her appearance by trying to achieve a good posture. Be able to sit, stand, walk and run gracefully. Keep her hair neat and well brushed in a suitable style and take care of teeth and nails. Wear her uniform neatly and correctly, maintaining it herself. In a discussion with her Guider show that she understands the Rules of Health.
 - (b) Pass one of the following: —
 - (i) Swim 25 yards.
 - (ii) Run 100 yards in 15 seconds.
 - (iii) Walk three miles.
 - (iv) Skip 100 times turning the rope backwards.

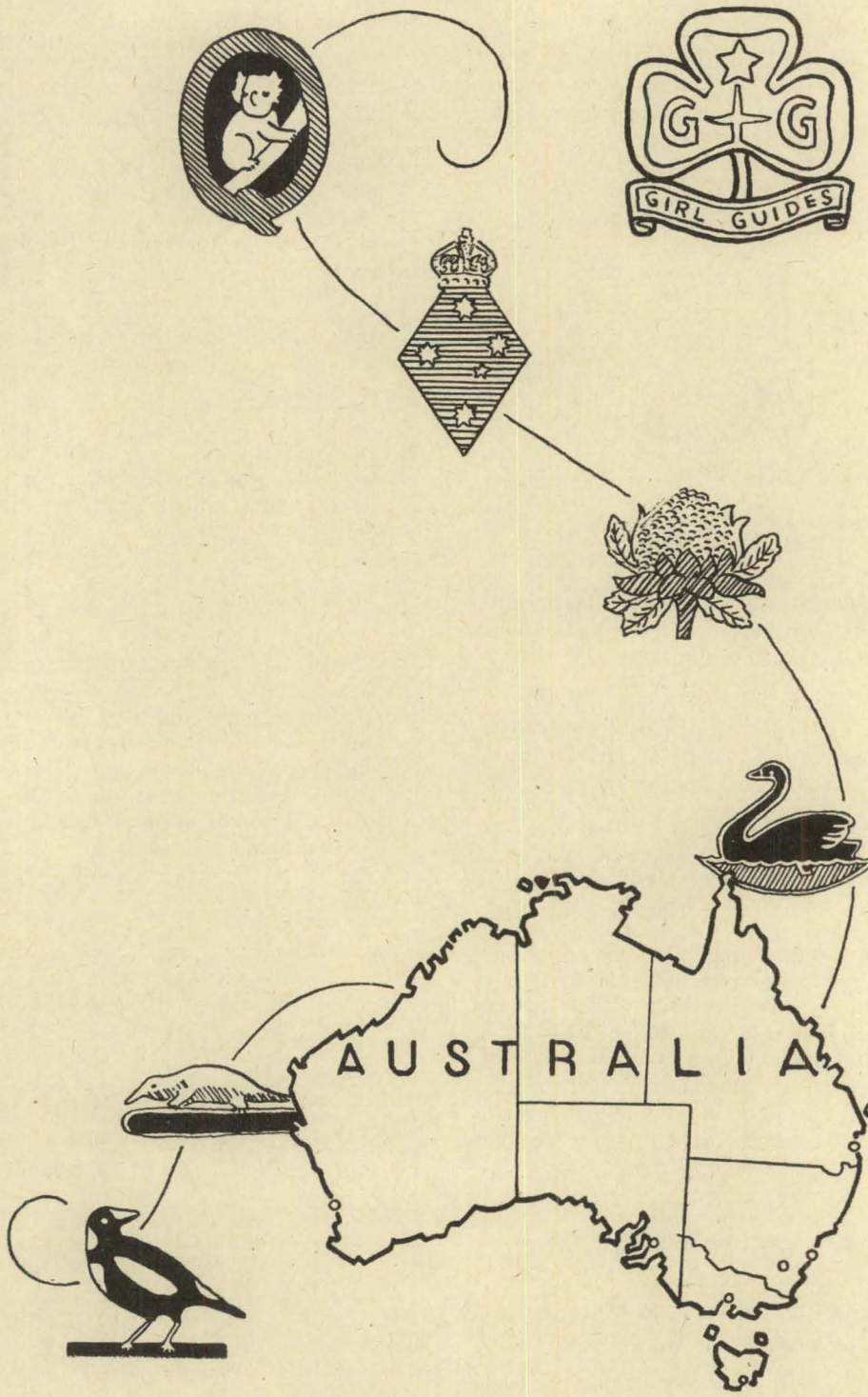
- (v) Play in a team and show she understands the rules of a game.
- (vi) Demonstrate her agility through completing some equivalent challenge.

10. Show how to treat cuts, burns, shock and fainting. Apply a large arm sling. Bandage a sprained ankle. Know the prevention and show the treatment of snakebite.
11. Deliver a message by public telephone. Know how to report emergencies in her own area.
12. Demonstrate or report five ways in which she has tried to prevent accidents in the home, school, camp, on the road, etc.
13. Strip and make a bed.
14. Choose one country (not her own) that is a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Find out something about the traditions and customs of the people and about Guiding there. Learn a song, dance, handcraft or a few words of the language or read a book about the country.



The award of the Second Class Badge must be approved by the Court of Honour.





ON BUILDING CHARACTER

The term "character" applies in common usage to the distinctive array of qualities setting off one individual from all others. The word comes from the Greek, meaning "a distinguishing mark, impression, engraving". It signifies what nature and our training and our habits and our thoughts have made us. When we say that a person has "character" we pay him a compliment.

Some people say that knowledge is power. It is more correct in this vigorous and complex age to say that character is power. Mind without heart, intelligence without conduct, cleverness without goodness: all these have dangerous flaws.

The development of character has not kept pace with the advancement of science and technology — human impulses have remained becalmed and almost changeless while the physical surroundings of human beings have been transformed.

Some people have a false idea of character. They think of it as being like angels and cherubs portraying goodness without personality. But the person of noble character has validity and actuality; he knows that he is filling a vital need and meeting his obligations to himself and to society.

We see people of character in our everyday lives, among teachers and students, among foremen and workmen, among neighbours, friends and family. They give an impression of completeness, poise and sincerity.

The person of character endeavours to be really what he wishes to appear. Character deals with substance, not show. It is complex, not cosmetic.

The person of weak character is like a chameleon; he takes on the colour of his surroundings. He may not offend profoundly against social laws, but drift serenely because he is making for nowhere.

The person of sturdy character has a good sense of proportion.

Such a character cannot be manufactured overnight. It is built over a period out of material of two sorts: the solid kind, supplied by observation, reasoning and study; and the lively and livening kind brought by the imagination.

Character, as Goethe put it, grows only in the stream of the world. Everyone has a basic and urgent need for self-realisation and satisfaction, but he cannot attain these in a vacuum. We are not only individuals, but units in society.

A person of good character does not try to evade his duties to society, nor does he allow himself to become negligent of them.

The more complex, the more highly organised our society becomes, the more it requires competent, self-respecting, well-rounded individuals to make it work.

What are some of the features that mark a person of first-rate character? Possibly most important is that he has learned the facts of life philosophically. The habit of his mind is to refer to standards. He discriminates between the good and the shoddy.

Part of character is to recognise the imperative nature of duty. Complete freedom to follow every impulse would dissolve character, but inner discipline builds it.

The person of good character is broad-minded and tolerant. Great-mindedness is the ornament of all the other virtues. Through it a man reflects the sensitive spirit that is death to the immaturity of prejudice.

What is broadmindedness? It is looking at ideas and facts from all sides, comparing statements, reports and beliefs honestly and eagerly. When Charles Darwin came upon data unfavourable to a theory he was considering, he hastily made a note of them, because he knew they had a way of slipping out of memory a little more readily than welcome facts.

As to tolerance, a writer tells about attending a dance in a country where there had been a revolution. The lights were turned out during the playing of the new republican anthem. because, as one leader said, "This is a social affair — we don't want to see who won't stand up."

We cannot make up our minds intelligently if we judge by single facts wrenched from their context in a man's or a nation's life. Whence came the facts? Have they undoubted validity? Have you tested them against the common sense of your own experience and your knowledge of things in general? Have you considered in a kindly

way, as Alan said in Robert Louis Stevenson's "Kidnapped": "Them that have nae dipped their hands in any little difficulty should be very mindful of the case of them that have."

If we analyse what we know of the person who has an admirable character, we shall find one of the ingredients to be self-forgetfulness. He is thoughtful of others. He respects other people as persons. He considers not only wherein a friend or an employee has fallen short, but also what that person has positively achieved or endeavoured.

Gentleness is combined with strength and authority in the person of excellent character. Great-minded men are not high and mighty toward people of humble stations. There are many tests by which a gentleman may be known, but there is one that never fails: how does he exercise power over those who are subordinate to him?

This gentleness is in the vast field of conduct quite outside legal commandments and regulations. It is an area well known to the person of good character, but largely unexplored by others.

The person of sound character has not only talent, but the power to make his talent trusted.

Trustworthiness is a vital factor in character. The man of character is not constantly reflecting whether he shall be honest or not; he is honest by habit and as a matter of course.

An integral part of dependability is modesty. The man of good character does not allow his head to be turned by the flourish of trumpets sounding his praise. He does not try to give all the answers or to speak as an authority on every topic. He knows that there is truth in Solomon's words: "There is more hope for a fool than for a man wise in his own conceit".

But the man of character is not so humble as to be afraid to show his abilities. There is no worse crime against our human heritage than to waste our talents.

How are the principles and virtues coordinated to form character? It is motive that gives form and intensity to our efforts, and motive is the thought of a desirable end. It runs through our mixing with people and our solitary meditation, our dominance and our shyness, our conformity to conventions and our idiosyncrasies, our affection for

things that are good and our ruthlessness against things that are bad.

The habit that results from following our motives is not mere custom, but a way of willing, of deliberate choice. Self-respect, application, integrity — these are not beliefs, but habits. "Could the young," as William James wrote, "but realise how soon they will become mere walking bundles of habits, they would give more heed to their conduct while in the plastic state. We are spinning our own fates, good or evil, and never to be undone."

Character includes a kind of harmony, a sort of Golden Mean by practising which we keep our balance. The most profound need of personality is that the individual should realise himself as a harmonious whole, balancing his qualities and abilities so as to constitute, in the common phrase, "an all-round man".

Harmony should not be mistaken for a soothing, placid condition. Quite the contrary. It is the source of great energy, of active and meaningful participation in the world of reality. It is an attribute of maturity.

Some people are fatalists, and will seriously question the ability of a person to change his character in any way as a result of conscious effort. That is a doctrine of pessimism. Traits of character are not inherited solely, but are built within our environment.

Some people fear to venture out into the broad life of maturity because they cannot tell, never having tried, whether they are sure-footed.

Intelligent people do not fancy themselves to be perfect, but they are not unduly troubled by the fact that they are not. Perfection is a completion, without growth or expansion, whereas excellent character is the result of many re-commencements.

To know where to start is an important part of learning, so it is worthwhile to take an inventory showing where we stand today. It is refreshing to step a little aside, out of the crowd, and calmly take a prospect of things: to give, as Edgar Guest said, "the man you'd like to be a look at the man you are."

The way to build character is not to loiter about old things, but to seek and do new things. Good character is not a dwelling

upon past excellencies nor a yearning after things as we wish them to be, but an acceptance of things as they really are with a view to influencing them.

What is it that prevents a person of undoubted constructive and intellectual ability from attaining a life of character and accomplishment? One of the most common causes of failure is this: he contents himself with being a Don Quixote in imagination, seeing visions and great causes, but he remains a Hamlet in achievement by debating and postponing.

Excellence of any sort is beyond the reach of indolence. A man must have the spunk and spine to put across his ideas. He needs, as General De Gaulle put it: "That sense of reality which guides audacity." The consciousness of power develops out of effort and the encountering of difficulty.

Character is not built by storing up abilities and virtues as we might store bonds and stock certificates in a safety deposit box. We must reach outward.

Persistence in trying is more likely to win out than sitting around waiting for the lightning of inspiration to strike.

We need zest in living. The man of sound character finds his days far from tedious. He approaches new phases of life eagerly, welcomes experience, tempts life to give him as much as he can bear. He has no time for gloom.

To build character requires courage and endurance.

There are various types of courage, and all are part and parcel of character. The wrestler who wipes the dust from his shoulders and grapples again with his adversary; the man who has the courage to live his beliefs; the man who holds in face of every danger the post he has taken up because he is convinced that it is right to do so: these typify the courage of the man of noble character.

What does the search for distinctive character hold out as a reward? To have a mind that rises above fortune's threats and promises; to be neither open-armed nor run away in the face of danger; to be shaping your fortune instead of waiting for it; to pursue life with clean hands, spurning every opportunity to take advantage of someone else's sacrifice or loss.

—From the Royal Bank of Canada
Monthly Letter.

THE SHEILA CAMERON CAMPSITE AT ROWALLAN

The Rowallan buildings were completed in December, 1966, and one week after its completion 5th Pascoe Vale Brownie Pack held their first pack holiday there.

Since that time over 700 Guides and Brownies have used the camp—more than half of them from the North Metropolitan Region in which the camp site is situated. It is gratifying too that the Guiders are showing enthusiasm in obtaining the necessary qualifications to take the children camping.

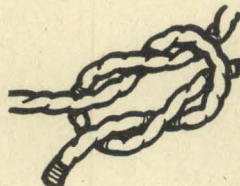
With the indoor camp project so near completion, it is the committee's intention to now further develop the outdoor camping facilities, and they are hopeful of acquiring a further thirty acres at the south-west corner of the site.

A very enjoyable opening ceremony was held at Rowallan in May, 1967, with some 500 people present. The opening address was given by Mr. I. Muir, then President of the Rotary Club of Essendon, and our State Commissioner presented a Thanks Badge and a Supporters Badge for jobs splendidly done in helping the building project.

We have received great support from Districts throughout the North Metropolitan Region, and a special word of thanks should be said to the Quota Club of Essendon, who adopted the project as their main community service effort for the year. In addition the Division opened an Opportunity Shop in Essendon to provide the camp site project with a constant income.

We hope that Rowallan will continue to develop and give much pleasure and enjoyment to the children of this area and to those throughout the Guide Movement.

(From the report by B. Curwen-Walker.)



TO ALL STATES . . .

Replacement of Tasmanian Training Centre

"Tasmania is delighted to have found a suitable site at Roches Beach, approximately 10 miles south-east of Hobart for a State Training Centre. Property comprising 30 acres of land with beach frontage and two good dwellings and three cottages has been purchased for this purpose, and Guides moved in for the first camp in January.

"This Training Centre will incorporate, and will be an extension and development of, the "Orana" Guide House at Oyster Cove which was destroyed in the February fires.

"It is through your wonderful financial help that it has been possible to take this step, and we hope to be able to develop the site as a first class Training Centre for the future.

"Please again accept our deep appreciation for all your help."

—Marie Breaden, State Secretary.



TASMANIA'S STATE BADGE

Far from the trouble and toils of town,
Where the reed-beds sweep and shiver,
Look for a fragment of velvet brown—
Old man platypus drifting down,
Drifting along the river.
And he plays and dives in the river bends
In a style that is most elusive:
With few relations and fewer friends,
For old man platypus descends
From a family most exclusive!

—A. B. ("Banjo") Paterson.

DONATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge with thanks:—
Geelong West Local Association; Mrs. J. M. Coutts; Whittlesea Local Association; The Australasian Rope Cordage and Twine Association; Elsternwick Local Association.

WOULD THIS BE YOU?

DEAR "MATILDA",

As a business woman yourself, do you think you could manage to get across to Guiders and Commissioners the idea that cheques should be paid into a bank as soon as possible after they are received?

I have a business of my own, and if you could hear some of the things my accountant says about the Girl Guides, your maidenly ears would be shocked — come to that, I say some pretty strong things myself every time I try to balance my bank statement and have to track back through old cheque stubs to find why cheque number 712 has never been cleared . . . then I find 640 does not appear, either . . . and even as far back as 582, written perhaps four months ago or even longer. Such a thing would normally mean that the cheques had been lost in the post and should be stopped at the bank, but, of course, my accountant and I have learned better — WE know that all three cheques will have been made out to one department or another of the Guide Movement!

The Thinking Day money from my Company is presumably held by either my D.C. or my Div. until the last little absent-minded Brownie in one of the Packs decides to trot out her 3c or whatever it is, though actually (and I wouldn't mention this to anyone but you, "Matilda" dear) I have reason to believe that even when my poor little cheque does reach H.Q. it gets put in a pigeonhole for some time! The only answer I can see is that instead of being prompt and businesslike I should hold up MY cheque until several months have passed — then maybe it would be promptly cleared. The census (quota) returns are even worse . . . Camping Department . . . Ranger Christmas cards . . . every department except (bless them!) the Shop seems to regard the ordinary courtesies of business procedure as belonging to another world and nothing to do with Guiding. I'm as fond of Toadstools and Fairy Rings as anyone, but NOT when their "dream-like" atmosphere extends into financial transactions!

Sincerely,

"PROMPT FINANCE".



THIS IS THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION'S PAGE

Owing to the long Christmas holidays there has not been time for us to receive any suggestions from you for this page, so we asked Mrs. Sharp to tell us something about the L.A.'s she met when she spent four months last year training Guiders in South Africa. It is interesting to hear of L.A.'s in other parts of the world. If any of your members have had experience with a similar group in another part of the world, we would all be interested to hear about it.

The Britannia Park Committee is wondering if the L.A.'s would like to have an open day at Britannia Park again this year, in the spring. They would be grateful to have some indication of your wishes in this matter.

After spending four months as a Trainer in South Africa covering visits to all the Provinces and South-West Africa, I have considerable sympathy and a far better understanding of its complicated problems. Some measure of respect must be given to the many members of Local Associations throughout the country for the splendid support they give to Guiding there.

During my visit I was given many opportunities to meet Local Associations. Some of these were quite informal meetings, usually over "the refreshments" generously provided so that the Guiders could take advantage of attending training sessions. One of my first meetings with "L.A.'s" was when some 120 representatives from Johannesburg and near areas gathered for morning coffee. My fit of nerves quickly subsided, as I was made most welcome and really "at home"! I visited the L.A. in Pretoria at a general meeting for members and interested friends. I discovered that the latter were men and women interested in our Movement who gave their time to the Guides and Brownies in preparation for Badge Tests and/or were Testers for Proficiency Badges — a very valuable contribution from people otherwise too busy to attend regular L.A. meetings or to be Guiders. At both of these meetings I was able to give greetings from our Annual Victorian L.A. Conference which was taking place at the same time.

(At the meeting in Pretoria, Mrs. Sharp presented a gift from Coleraine L.A., who subsequently received a very warm letter of thanks.) I know it sounds odd to say our Conference took place on two days — but with a little stretch of the imagination — plus the fact that I was not too sure what day it was in Australia, I felt this could be forgiven!

Later, I was a guest at the Annual Meeting of the Grahamstown L.A., and on this occasion I presented a gift of hand-painted Australian wildflowers on behalf of a Waverley (Victoria) L.A. This was a very "special" gift as the Division Commissioner is a Lecturer in Botany at the Rhodes University.

Grahamstown is the academic centre of the Eastern Province and one of the principal educational places of South Africa. Students come to its famous schools from all over the Republic, South-West Africa and Rhodesia. It was interesting to hear the reports of this L.A., where there is such a moving academic population.

In complete contrast was a general meeting in Oranjemund — here the people leave only for the usual annual leave, and as there is such a security scrutiny both for entering and leaving, I am not surprised! Oranjemund is the headquarters of Consolidated Diamond Mines, a delightful town which has sprung up oasis-like not far from where the 1115-mile long Orange River empties its muddy waters into the Atlantic Ocean in the southern reaches of the Namib Desert of South-West Africa. The town has all the amenities a civilised community could want and the people show great enterprise in coping with their isolation. No wonder that the meeting of the L.A., held after the day's work, was most efficient with its almost board-of-directors office-bearers followed by a well-earned "sundowner" and everyone able to arrive home in time for dinner! This energetic and enthusiastic L.A. could only bring wonderful response from the Guiders, and the Guides and Brownies!

The Brownies, Guides (and I hope by now, the Rangers) of Walvis Bay similarly enjoyed their Guiding through the enthusiastic backing of their L.A. With the Provincial Commissioner and President I travelled about 120 miles to the Annual General Meeting from Windhoek, the principal city of South-West Africa. This journey was most fascinating — through wonderful veldt, the Roessing Mountains and desert. The Namib desert consists of a strip of sand dunes, 90 miles wide. These, the highest in the world, form a well-nigh impassable barrier between the coast and the interior. Walvis Bay is South-West Africa's only harbour and the centre of the fishing and fish processing industry, and a man-made bird island provides guano. In a little bay sheltered by a spit of land I saw a host of sea birds — sea-gulls, pelicans and beautiful flamingoes.

As it is with us in Victoria, no two L.A.'s in South Africa are exactly the same! And yet it was fascinating to see so many of their activities that are familiar! Perhaps some South African L.A.'s have a slight edge with membership of their leaders in the community — both men and women.

—Laurie Sharp.

IT CAN'T BE DONE

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied,
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one,
That wouldn't say so till he tried.
So he buckled right in, with the trace of a
grin,
On his face; if he worried, he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done and — **he did it.**

Somebody scoffed, "Oh, you'll never do that.
At least no one has ever done it."
But he took off his coat, and he took off his
hat,
And the first thing we knew — he'd begun
it.
With a lift of his chin, and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quitting,
He started to sing, as he tackled the thing,
That couldn't be done and — **he did it.**

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be
done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you one
by one,
The dangers that are sure to assail you.
But just buckle in with that bit of a grin,
Then take off your coat and go — **do it.**
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing,
That cannot be done, and— **you'll do it.**

—From Steven Memorial Church,
Glasgow.

* * *

SITTING TARGET!

A Committee, says a cynic, is a group of
people who individually can do nothing —
and together can decide that nothing can
be done.

RANGER CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN SAFARI

—Continued from January/February.

Next morning saw us shopping and then off to see the original site of Alice Springs and the Telegraph Station where the National Trust is doing a lot of repair work and general improvements. Up Anzac Hill to look at Alice Springs from one of the highest points, then to "Henley on Todd." This is a unique "aquatic" festival held in the dry bed of the Todd River. Part of the river bed is fenced off and the course marked by painted kerosene tins. Eight people climb inside a wooden boat frame covered in hessian and run the course. They also had sand shovelling contests. After each competition the sand was replaced and the course smoothed out again. King Neptune came to the festivities preceded by a young elephant from a visiting circus. There was also a wildflower show, cool drink stands and the usual money-raising side shows. The whole afternoon is sponsored by Rotary. We entered two teams (one the International, the other the Australian team), but, as we had no challengers, we had to race against each other. We were given ten coupons for chickens from a local store, and these we gave to the Australian Inland Mission Elderly People's Home.

The Sunday was terribly hot and humid. We left about 8.30 a.m. to go to Standley Chasm. We had about 2½ hours to look around, attend a Rangers Own in the entrance to the Chasm, and finally see the colour change as the sun came overhead. After lunch we went to Simpson's Gap—another National Park.

Back to camp, a rush for showers and into full uniform for dinner at the local Guide Hall. They had prepared all sorts of lovely casseroles, fresh bread and finally ice-cream and chocolate sauce. This was the only meal where we had ice-cream, so you can imagine how popular it was. After dinner a campfire where each International Group did an item in National Costume—slides of Korea and the Northern Territory—and a brisk walk back to camp.

We set out for Hermannsburg Mission, stopping en route to photograph John Flynn's grave and the twin ghost gums made famous by Albert Namatjira and many other artists. On top of the last rise, before dropping to the bed of the Finke River and the Mission, was a memorial to Albert

Namatjira overlooking some of his favourite painting grounds. At the Mission the Village Councillors showed us around. Aboriginals of the Mission have recently built a new Lutheran Church, the original chapel having been built approximately 100 years ago.

We returned to camp where a dust storm had been blowing all day, and continued to blow all night and most of the next day. It is a horrid feeling to be nicely tucked up in a sleeping bag and suddenly have what feels like a handful of dry rain thrown in your face. When you wake next morning half the Northern Territory is inside your sleeping bag, mouth, ears, nose and eyes. The other half has covered everything else in a thick coating of grit and dust!

To Pitchi Ritchi, a man-made reserve, with a lot of sculpture by William Ricketts, and then into town to a special service at the John Flynn Memorial Church. This is an inter-denominational church, and after the service the building was explained to us. Its shape and fittings all play a part in showing a permanent Memorial Record of Flynn and the Flying Doctor Service.

Sadly we left next morning to start our journey south—a four days' trip. When we reached the Finke River we found a caravan selling tea and coffee with biscuits or sandwiches, cool drinks, and bags of sweets. It was a most unexpected sight! After refuelling at Kulgera, we crossed the South Australian border and continued to our night's stop at Marla Bore. There is nothing here except the bore, a stock yard, and a gibber plain. It is about half a mile to the nearest bush! Here, at Wirrappa, and at Ingomar were the only places we had to dig lats.—all the rest of the way we had septic toilets, or deep sinkers.

We headed south at a pretty steady pace till we reached Coober Pedy once again. We spent an hour looking at opals, seeing over the new Roman Catholic Church built underground, and trying to find rough opal on old mullock dumps and then on to Ingomar, about 50 miles further south.

Our second last day, and still travelling steadily south. We picked up the Woomera Rocket Range boundary again and followed it to Pimba, stopping in Kingoonya for the usual refreshments for both buses and passengers. When we reached our last camping spot for the trip, Wirrappa, we did not put up tents, as we were determined to spend at least one night under the stars.

What a shambles our camp looked at day-break, with no tents to hide the mess! But by 8.00 a.m. all was shipshape, our cases packed for their final bus ride—our last day "On Safari."

The first 90 miles was on the dirt road into Port Augusta, where there was a mad rush to buy fish and chips. It appeared that the Americans and Canadians cannot get fish and chips in paper as we do.

We turned off at Port Augusta and headed over Horrock's Pass in the Lower Flinders Ranges for the beautiful valley of Willmington. After crossing the Ranges it was lovely to see decent-sized gums, green grass and healthy crops after the dry salt bush and mulga country of the Centre.

At our lunchtime stop cameras were hard at work to capture all the contingents in their own groups—we were all in Official Uniform too!

The Victorian Contingent went to Headquarters prior to a trip to the Barossa Valley next day and a trip home on the Sunday night train.

The International girls all flew to Sydney on the Sunday morning to spend a few days there before going home.

It was a most memorable trip and I think every girl took something in the way of friendship and community spirit home with her. A very big thank you to everyone who had anything to do with the organisation and succesful running of this wonderful Safari to Central Australia.

H. TAYLOR,
Capt. 1st Croydon Land Rangers.

MINIS HA-HA

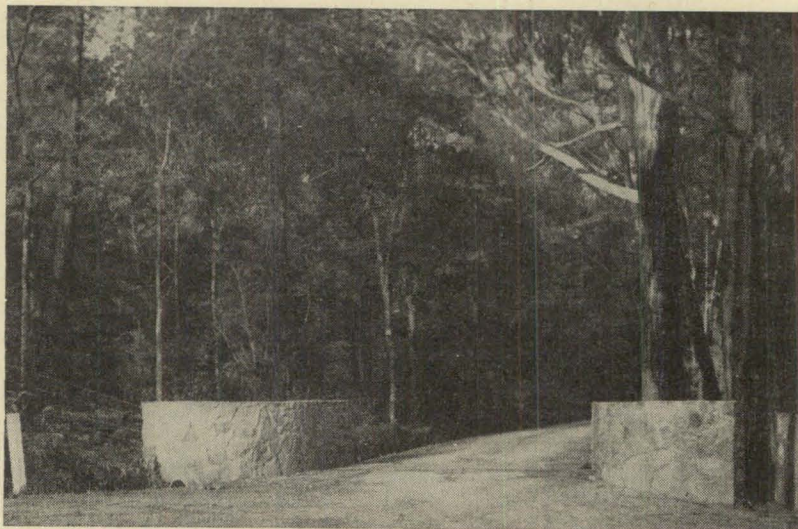
In the Great Park called Britannia
Stood the Houses, Guide and Brownie,
Here the white majestic flag-pole
Waited for the Colour Party.

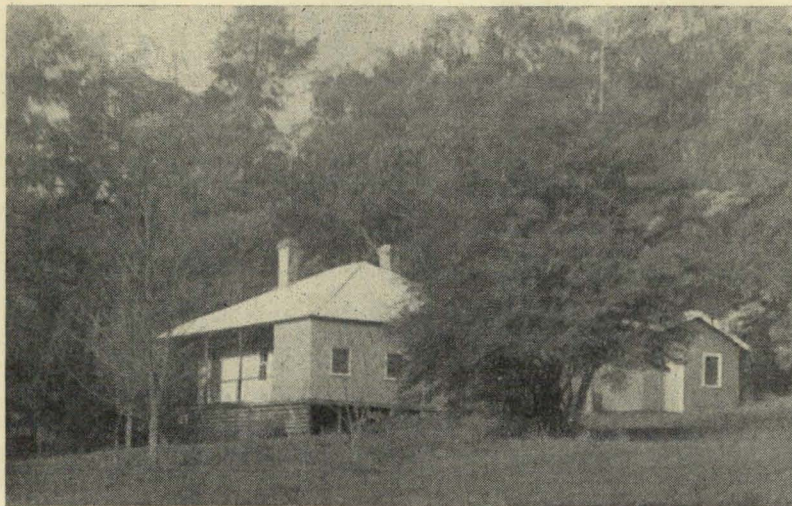
Came the Guiders' summer training,
Came the all-wise Guider Trainers,
Told us all their hard-earned secrets,
Showed us snakes' heads, we practised treat-
ments,

Hiked up mountains, compass reading,
Learned of knotting, flags and cooking,
Learned of every drill formation.

Inspired by Guides' Own Candle Service,
By the Guide House through the tall trees
Where the possums play at night time
In the new hut known as B.P.
In the evening entertaining
Campfires, plays and music making.
Came the last night-international
Told of customs, food and singing.

Came the Trainers, Minis Ha-Ha,
Bravely marching up pathway singing
Songs of Guides in days long bygone,
Words compare with aged clothing
Sang with gusto—steps unflinching
Note the faces concentrating—
Inspired by idealistic words??
More than likely Minis Ha-Ha
Thinking deeply lines unlearned.





BRITANNIA PARK

The drought has hit Britannia Park, too. Our new trees and shrubs are having a great struggle and so are the four or five ladies who go up each week to look after them. After putting buckets of water around their own gardens they have to set to work with the same routine when they reach Britannia Park. Our thanks to those Guiders who did water some of the plants whilst they were staying on the property.

We have been fortunate in being permitted to pump water from the creek for our swimming pool. This has, of course, been a VERY popular place during the holidays.

In spite of the drought, Britannia Park provided a very pleasant setting for the "at home" day on 1st February when over 200 people — some from distant parts of Victoria — attended to say goodbye to Mrs. Price, Mrs. Osbourn Shave and Mrs. Gray. In a simple but very moving ceremony, Mrs. Price handed to Mrs. Renshaw Jones the Warrant Badge which she has worn for the past five years and which has been worn by all our State Commissioners for many years.

Now to Work

Please, all of you, will you make a resolution here and now that you will this year help YOUR property, Britannia Park, in some way, either by maintaining it for a day (\$6) or by going up to help on one of the set working days (or any other day if you prefer it).

Weekend Days:

EASTER SATURDAY.
SUNDAY, 5th MAY.
SATURDAY, 1st JUNE.
SUNDAY, 7th JULY.
SATURDAY, 3rd AUGUST.
SUNDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER.
SATURDAY, 5th OCTOBER.
SUNDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER
SATURDAY, 7th DECEMBER.

Weekdays:

MARCH—
FRIDAY, 1st.
THURSDAY, 7th.
THURSDAY, 14th.
THURSDAY, 21st.
TUESDAY, 26th.

APRIL—
THURSDAY, 4th.
TUESDAY, 9th.
THURSDAY, 18th.
TUESDAY, 23rd.

In January, 1970 — just two years hence — a big camp will be held at Britannia Park, when hundreds of Guides will come from all States in Australia and many from other parts of the world. We want this, our beautiful State camping property, to look its best,

Continued on page 263



CAMPFIRE SONGS

Fare well the Night

Fare-well the sun, with no trace of sor-row I stand to

welcome the peace of the night. And as I sleep and wait for the

mor-row. Grant thru' the Even'tide, Peace of the Night! Under a

starry sky, watching over me. This is my lullaby, ever to be.

Sweet dreams will come, their fragrance I'll borrow. Till I shall

wake to find, Gone is the night.

BRITANNIA PARK—

—Continued from page 261

but we'll all have to work hard. So please HELP — H E L P ! If you can help, just ring Mrs. Gray, 83 9207.

* * *

In future we would like to mention in "Matilda" the Brownies who have sent us money collected at their Revels. This is sent to us to help upkeep Brownie Cottage. From time to time we will say how we are using this valuable adjunct to our finances. Since we last wrote to "Matilda" the following Brownies have sent us money:—Diamond Valley Division, McKay Division, North-East Division, North Balwyn District, Bendigo Division, Promontory Division, 1st and 2nd Kerrimuir Packs, Sunraysia East Division, 1st Northcote East, Phillip Island-Bass Division. Thank you, Brownies.

By the way, a good fairy flew into Brownie Cottage recently and left us four lovely little fairy pictures. We will enjoy them and take great care of them because one day she may come back to look at them herself.

The pile of clothing left behind at Guide House and Brownie Cottage is growing to a rather alarming size. A detailed list is to be sent out with the March Commissioners' Newsletter. Articles may be claimed from Mrs. Gray, 83 9207.

* * *

The Maintenance Fund . . . Please continue to support this fund. You have all been so marvellous and it's mainly because of this support that we have been able to do so many things to improve the property for the children, so if you can possibly find \$6 please use it to maintain the property for a day. We thank the following for maintaining it during December:—

- 1st—Footscray L.A.
- 2nd—1st Rye Coy.
- 3rd—2nd Malvern Coy.
- 4th—1st East Brighton Coy.
- 6th—1st Upwey Coy.
- 7th—Maryville L.A.
- 8th—Charlton L.A.
- 9th—Brighton Division.
- 10th—Collingwood L.A.
- 11th—Yarragon District.
- 12th—4th Glen Waverley Pack.
- 12th—Miss Thorrogood.
- 13th—Narre Warren North L.A.
- 16th—Miss Margaret Shaw.
- 17th—Mrs. S. Dewar.
- 17th—Healesville L.A.
- 19th—Maidstone L.A.
- 24th—Whittlesea L.A.
- 25th—4th Caulfield Pack.
- 28th—3rd Moorleigh Coy.
- 29th—Tambo Valley and East Gippsland Division.
- 30th—Tambo Valley and East Gippsland Division.
- 31st—4th Glen Waverley Pack.

JANUARY:

- 1st—1st Brighton Beach Pack.
- 2nd—Templestowe Guides and Brownies.
- 7th—Hawthorn L.A.
- 9th—Hawthorn L.A.
- 15th—Kew L.A.
- 16th—2nd Ballarat Trefoil.
- 18th—Lake Boga L.A.
- 27th—Benalla Guides and Brownies.
- 31st—Guides of Nauru.

"FAREWELL THE NIGHT"

Familiar to those who attended the Scout/Guide Pageant this song is printed by permission of the Boy Scouts Association of the United Kingdom and of Victoria. It was composed by Ralph Reader.

NOTICES

ANNUAL ST. GEORGE'S DAY SERVICE FOR SCOUTS AND GUIDES

To be held in the presence of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Delacombe.

WHERE: St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne.

DATE: Friday, 26th April, 1968.

TIME: 7.45 p.m. to 9 p.m. (approximately).

The address will be given by the Rev. C. J. Winter, Chaplain, Mentone Grammar School.

Colours: Each Company is asked to select a well-trained Colour-Bearer (no escorts, please), who will carry her flag in the Procession of Colours. Colour-Bearers are asked to report by 7.15 p.m. in the Cathedral Close. Will you remind your Guiders, please, that it is essential that the Bearers selected know how to handle Colours and that they are in correct uniform (no white petticoats, please). Holsters MUST be brought, other Bearers will not be permitted to participate.

Note: It is the responsibility of Commissioners and Guiders present to impress upon the Guides the necessity for SILENCE before and during the Service. Will you help please in this regard?

FURTHER DETAILS OF THIS SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN IN THE MARCH COMMISSIONERS' NEWSLETTER. MAKE SURE YOU ASK YOUR COMMISSIONER FOR THESE, PLEASE.

ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF A GUIDERS' CAMPFIRE CLUB

As an extension of our "Singing Group" which was re-established last year for Guiders who enjoyed campfire singing and wanted to increase their repertoire of songs and activities, a Campfire Club is now being formed, and any adult members of the Movement who are interested in this aspect of Guiding are invited to join.

Meetings will be held monthly, commencing on Thursday, 4th April — thereafter the second Thursday of each month.

Programme — new songs, old songs, campfire games and activities.

Times: 8 to 9.30 p.m.

Location — at home of Miss P. Barr, 101 Yarrbat Avenue, Balwyn, until opening of our new Headquarters at 20 Russell Street.

Fee: 50 cents per year (to cover song sheets, postage, etc.).

Applications to Training Department giving name, address and unit.

WORLD BUREAU

Would you note that the correct title for Miss Dreijer (whose picture appeared on page 205 of the January/February "Matilda") is DIRECTOR, World Bureau.

MINI PLANET APPROACHES EARTH

A small planet, Icarus, will approach close to the earth during 1968, and is likely to miss it by only six million kilometres, according to the latest calculations of the international centre for calculating the orbits of celestial bodies in Leningrad.

Icarus, whose orbit crosses that of the earth once every 19 years, will come closest to our planet in mid-June, according to a handbook, "Ephemerides of Small Planets for 1968", which the Leningrad centre has sent to all the world's observatories. It is likely to be first spotted on 9th April and

remain visible until 27th August. Another small planet, the recently discovered asteroid Geographer will pass close to the earth in 1969.

The possibility of one of the thousands of known small planets colliding with the earth does exist in theory, but in fact a collision is highly improbable. In any case, the Soviet astronomer, Gleb Chebotaryov, believes that "the successes of rocketry and nuclear physics give us grounds for hoping that mankind will be able to avert this threat" should it ever arise.

—Unesco Features.

THE CHAPEL THAT INTER-FAITH BUILT

Some years ago, a ministerial student from Golden City, Mo., home from his studies, remarked how privileged he felt to be entrusted with a key to his church. The young man, John R. Bushnell, often went into the church to meditate and pray.

In Troop 83, where John was Chaplain, this started the Scouts thinking. Were facilities for worship readily available around the clock in their community? A survey showed they weren't.

At their next Troop meeting, the Scouts agreed they would do something about it. They believed that everybody, of any religious faith, should have a place to go for meditation and prayer at any time he cared to. They decided to build an inter-faith chapel.

The Park Board granted permission to build the chapel on a community-owned plot just off the highway, provided they would maintain the chapel and the area around it. The way was clear for the building of the Wayside Inter-Faith Chapel, the name they chose.

The Troop had all kinds of money-earning projects to help finance the building — everything from turkey shoots to washing cars.

Many people learned of the chapel and the need it would fill and donated building material. The Carthage Marble Company donated rock from their scrap pile that the boys cut to needed sizes. A woman gave a valuable stained-glass window. Others helped in many ways. But the Scouts themselves earned much of the money needed in construction, except for the cost of the roof that was donated.

Music in the chapel is furnished by a record player bought with money the Scouts earned by holding a turkey shoot.

The chapel was dedicated during the Thanksgiving season of 1954. Every religious faith in the community was represented at the Service. Since then, nearly 30,000 people from every State and eight foreign countries have registered at the chapel. It seats eight.

The chapel walls are made of unpolished marble. The roof is tile and the floor is polished marble, some imported.

True to the ideals that led to the construction of this tiny chapel, it has remained open to worshippers at all times. The Scouts of Troop 83 have kept their promise all these years.

—By Lorel Watts, Joplin, Mo.,
from "Scouting", U.S.A.



AN EVENING PRAYER

—Rita Snowden.

Gracious Father, grant me Thy blessing at the day's close. I have been busy with my own small concerns, and have spared too little thought for the things which are eternal. Forgive me.

I have seen Thy glory in the morning sun and the arching skies; I have marked Thy majesty in the mountains and in the mind of man; I have beheld Thy tenderness in little children and in the wildflowers beside the way. The birds have shown me Thy joy, and the streams Thy generosity. And still I have been slow to worship Thee. Forgive me.

I have been free to read the Scriptures, and to see there the love and strength and grace of Jesus. I have talked with men and women, and seen in their lives Thine eternal goodness. And still I have been slow to speak Thy Name and to do Thy service. Forgive me.

Deliver me from self-importance and self-absorption. Lead me out of my littleness into Thy great and holy purpose where is perfect freedom. Let me delight to do Thy will. Give me a humble spirit, and lead me into life everlasting. Amen.

* * *

Life is like a grindstone—whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends on what you're made of.



YOUR GUIDE SHOP



NEW

Brownie Singing Games Record (Sung by Victorian Girl Guide Choir)	\$1.65
Brownie Stories of the World, Book 5	15c
(includes Brazil, China, Iran, Italy, Uganda)	
United Nations Coloured Leaflet (showing how donations are used to help needy coun- tries)	5c
International Guiding (Leaflet No. 4)— For the Guiders' Handbook	10c
Naturecraft in Australia, by Thistle Harris	\$6.50
Victorian Wildflowers, by Jean Galbraith	\$4.75

★ ★

Guiders' and Commissioners' 1968 Diary and Cover	\$2.25
Guide Dairy	48c
Guide Diary (with red or blue plastic cover)	68c

Assistant State Commissioner —
A Slip of the Pen!

In the report of the meeting of
the State Council which appear-
ed in the January/February
issue, Mrs. G. Richardson be-
came Mrs. C. E. Richardson.
Our apologies to Flora Richard-
son . . .

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Page		Alter to
3	Brownie Badges—	
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CONGRATULATIONS to the recipients of the following Awards:—

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Uniformed Personnel—

Silver Ribbon—

Mrs. I. R. Oatley, Nunawading.

THANKS BADGE:

Mr. R. J. T. Daley, Mornington.



APPOINTMENTS

Region Commissioners:

Mrs. H. G. Hilton, Wimmera; Mrs. J. W. Paine, Western Border; Mrs. A. G. Burnett, Baw Baw.

District Commissioners:

Mrs. R. L. Hogarth, Flinders; Mrs. D. R. Coates, Hastings; Mrs. M. B. Brereton, Tullamarine-Airport West; Mrs. R. V. Sellwood, Elliminyt.

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Resignations:

Thanks are due for the service given by the following Commissioners who have had to resign:—

Region Commissioner:

Mrs. C. H. G. Pavey, Wimmera.

District Commissioners:

Mrs. L. H. Carey, Reservoir West; Mrs. N. R. McConchie, Horsham; Mrs. A. R. McAlinden, Maidstone; Mrs. B. J. Anderson, Daylesford.

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It's a great source of joy to a poet
That the beauties of nature are free.
There's no charge to gaze at a sunset,
All mankind can bathe in the sea!
We don't pay to hear nightingales singing,
Or watch the sun play games with a rose.
All this beauty is here for enjoying
But, I wonder if everyone knows—
That paper and ink are expensive
And it's law to use stamps for the post?
All these facts seem to me elementary
And I think they are known to most,
But there ARE some of you who've forgotten
And here comes my point—and the rub!
If you like it, and want to continue
Dear Reader, you MUST pay your sub.!

—J. Passant, from "Look Wide",
South Africa, and "Coo-ee", Qld.