

MATILDA



"CENTS FOR SERVICE"

SUSAN MARSH AND BRONWYN OLDFIELD
4th Pack, Malvern — April, 1967

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FROM THE STATE COMMISSIONER

February has been a busy month, with Guiding events and meeting people of the Movement every day. I expect that you, too, have found this a time of preparation and planning for the year ahead.

On 2nd February, my husband and I attended a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nichols to meet Sir Charles MacLean, Chief Scout of the Commonwealth, who, as no doubt you know, was paying a visit to Australia, accompanied by his daughter, Janet. It was especially enjoyable to be invited to join in this event with our brothers in Scouting.

The following Tuesday brought the first of my State Commissioner's weekly meetings at Headquarters and my first batch of letter-writing! Another meeting in the same week was that of New Commissioners and Boundaries Sub-Committee, where the important aspects of the Movement and placing of personnel, together with the overall picture are kept under constant review.

The Public Relations Sub-Committee held its monthly meeting on the 12th, and one of the matters discussed was the visit of the Public Relations Adviser for Wales. Miss Patricia Ward will be with us in Victoria during parts of April and May, when our P.R. people are planning to show her how we tackle this side of the Movement.

Following the All-Australia Training Conference in Perth, the members of the Training Department had much to relate — and to hear — and I accepted their kind invitation to join with them at the home of Mrs. Gregory on Monday evening.

On the 13th, Lady Delacombe had arranged a luncheon party in honour of Mrs. Price, Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Osbourn Shave. Miss Macartney and I were invited to be present;

CORRECTION

On reading the inside front cover of the March issue of "Matilda", you may think that Mrs. C. Osbourn Shave has suddenly received a "new appointment"!

The printers of "Matilda" express their regret that the wrong signature block was picked up when the page was being finalised for printing, and we will continue to see the signature of Mrs. Renshaw Jones at the foot of our State Commissioner's reports in the future.

Lady Bolte and Miss Fisher made up the small party at Government House. I know that we all enjoyed the happy, informal occasion when we were so graciously entertained by our State President.

As this month's Executive Committee meeting was the first of the year, and the first of my term, the stack of papers was alarming. It transpired that the meeting had to be curtailed because of the electricity strike, and a number of items were, of necessity, left to carry over to next month. However, members took away much "homework" to prepare for the coming meeting.

I was unfortunately not able to attend the Y.W.C.A. weekend at Sorrento. Our ties with the "Y" are stronger than ever since we became temporarily homeless, and I regretted being unable to see more of their activities.

The Guiders of the Extension Section were at Britannia Park for the very hot weekend of the 16th to 18th, and I was privileged to join them for lunch, a session and the Guides' Own. All who attended agreed that it was a period of happiness, enthusiasm and inspiration.

Thursday, 22nd, was, of course, Thinking Day, and Miss Margaret Shaw and I went along to the celebrations of the Ranger Branch that evening. It was a very great pleasure to share the pride of Mrs. Chamberlain in her girls.

My first official duty outside the Melbourne area came by way of an invitation to open the Burnet Park campsite in the Strzelecki Division, and I had the good fortune to have my husband as chauffeur. It was a most enjoyable day, and I was able to meet so many of the Guiders both in the Division and the Region. In spite of the heat the children looked very smart, behaved well, and obviously enjoyed themselves. They had spent much time and effort in their presentation of the Thinking Day theme. The land for the campsite was the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Burnet; subsequently the assistance of the Campsite Committee, in the form of donations, manual work and help in every way, has enabled the Division to develop this very fine property, in a lovely setting, to provide a splendid building and many other amenities. I was assured that there is normally a full creek, where there is now merely a dry ditch — a swimming

Continued on page 287

MATILDA

Editor: MISS MARGARET SHAW.

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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 Commissioners: MISS MARGARET SHAW, MRS. J. M. KIRKMAN

ASSISTANT STATE COMMISSIONER

I know that you will share my pleasure in the announcement that Mrs. J. M. Kirkman has agreed to accept appointment as Assistant State Commissioner from 22nd March, 1968.

Yvonne Kirkman will be well known to you as Region Commissioner for the South Metropolitan Region. Having been a Guide, she has also served the Movement as District and Division Commissioner in her Region and, after being a member of the 1967 Commissioners' Conference Committee, was this year convening the Conference.

It will be of interest to members of Local Associations to know that her three daughters have all been members of the Movement.

During the next five years, Mrs. Kirkman, Miss Shaw and I hope to be able to meet you all. Until that opportunity occurs, we of the new "team" send our greetings and good wishes.

Charlotte Renshaw Jones.

DEAR MRS. RENSHAW JONES,

How very kind of you and the Girl Guides Association to send Frances your good wishes on her engagement.

It is most exciting for us all and we are longing to meet Hamish, but that will have to wait till June!

I will most certainly convey to her your own good wishes and those of the Girl Guides Association.

Yours sincerely,

JOYCE DELACOMBE.

* * *

For health of body and strength of limb,
We thank Thee, O Lord.

For the beauty of sky and earth, for sunshine
and breeze, for hill and valley, for tree and
flower, for food and running water, for toil
and rest,

We praise Thee, O Lord.

Give unto us the seeing eye, the hearing ear,
the understanding heart,
We beseech Thee.



"SISTER, I want to be Friendship"

Saluting smartly, smiling hopefully, and at the same time thrusting a diary at us, Scout after Scout greeted us at the 5th All-India Jamboree held at Kalyani, near Calcutta, West Bengal, from 27th December, 1967, until 1st January, 1968.

This, however, was not our introduction to India, for we had arrived in Bombay on 16th December.

The Australian Contingent to the Jamboree was 21 Rangers and seven Guiders from Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. We spent 17 days in India — a short time packed with excitement, adventures and memories that will stay with us forever. We will always remember the warmth and friendship that surrounded us wherever we went, and the strong sense of "sisterhood" that we felt at the Jamboree and visiting the cities of India, for everywhere we went we were met, entertained and fondly farewelled by Guides.

Our Indian adventures really began before we even arrived, for our flight was delayed and we arrived in Bombay six hours later than we expected. We were surprised to find a welcoming party still waiting there for us. With the assistance of Mr. John Melhuish, the Deputy High Commissioner for Australia, we completed Customs formalities and were whisked off through the blackness of the early morning to the Red Shield Hostel in the city. After having a very short rest we were ready to do our first sightseeing in India, in the company of six Indian Guides and in a bus thoughtfully provided by Mr. Melhuish.

We used every minute of that day! Until we met our host for lunch we drove through the city, made the first of many calls at the airways office, visited the Prince of Wales Museum, travelled along the lovely and fascinating Marine Drive and walked through the gardens on the top of Malabar Hill, overlooking Bombay. We were able to swim in the pool at the Willingdon Country Club, where we were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Melhuish. Those who did not wish to swim were able to relax in basket chairs by the

side of the pool and sip icy drinks until the swimmers rejoined them. Lunch itself gave us our first experience of a buffet meal that provided for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians. We sampled every dish!

Later that afternoon we found ourselves under the wing of Miss Asha, who was a wonderfully wise and loving friend to us, being driven towards the Railway Station. There we boarded the luxurious train, the "Deccan Queen", bound for Poona. We sped through the evening darkness to Poona, and, for us, to Sangam. We had been travelling, by then, for two days and a night without any sleep, but we had no regrets, for we were surrounded by new and interesting sights, smells and sounds, and we didn't want to miss any of them!



Miss Karkare by the foundation stone of Sangam.

Waiting for us at the main gate of the Poona Station was Miss Karkare, who had come, in the rain, to welcome us, for we were the first group of Australians to visit our newest world home. We were very tired and hungry, damp and jolted about from our ride in the rickety, springless Poona local bus, but when we walked through the front



door of Sangam each one of us felt that we were indeed home.

Our stay there passed far too rapidly for us. We spent two nights in the bright, airy dormitories, and one day exploring every corner of Sangam (pronounced "sun"- "gum") — taking photographs, washing, listening to Miss Karkare as she took us on a tour of the buildings and the grounds, and being entertained to a luncheon by the "Friends of Sangam" in Poona. The luncheon was held in a large, exquisitely furnished home that, to our delight, had its own dairy and vineyard.

When the time for our departure arrived we were very reluctant to leave, but we knew that there would be more adventures in store for us. The train journey to Bombay seemed to take no time at all as we flashed through villages, past rice fields, through tunnels and hill stations that cling to the sides of the beautiful mountains. Miss Asha was at the station in Bombay to guide us through our activities for the rest of the day. Our first appointment was at the Indian Tea Centre, where we were given cups of fragrant tea, a demonstration of tea-making and a special screening of films on the growing of tea. A shopping expedition was, for most of us, the first encounter with markets and stallkeepers, and, for some, of the excitability of Indian crowds, for they were caught up in a chase for a pickpocket.

Rising the next morning at 3.15 we were off for Udaipur. From Bombay we flew north-east, touching down at Ahmedabad for breakfast. During the flight we were invited into the cockpit, even during take-offs and landings — only one instance of the interest

and friendliness that was shown to us so many times during our days in India. Due to the fact that the airlines had changed all our schedules, our tour arrangements were disorganised, but that did not cause us to miss anything out; rather, it led to more adventures.

At Udaipur we were met by Miss Lal, a Guider and the Principal of a girls' school who, with a tourist guide, took us through the market place to visit the huge and ancient City Palace, crowded into a small boat to get across a lake to visit the white and lovely Lake Palace, attended a reception given for us by the Local Association of Udaipur, and were taken to see some of the many lakes, islands and gardens of the beautiful "Lake City of India". That night we stayed at the Ajanta Hotel, where we danced to the music of the only hotel dance band in the State of Rajasthan, and finally fell asleep on the one sheet provided on the beds.

"There's a fire in the cabin," said one of the girls very calmly, as, the next morning, the plane on which we were travelling to Jaipur filled with blue smoke. We had no worries, as the aircraft circled and returned to the airfield at Udaipur. The day was still and glorious. We spent hours sitting in the sun, dozing, and writing letters, for we were enjoying a day of enforced rest. The plane had developed an electrical fault, and a mechanic and spare parts had to be flown in from Delhi. Late in the afternoon we re-boarded VT-DOH and resumed the flight to Jaipur. But again all did not go smoothly, and before long we were being tossed about in the air; our exhaust was drawn back into the cabin, causing heavy fumes, and the plane was again filled with swirling blue smoke. Up and down we flew, circled around, dived groundwards and climbed again as the pilot struggled to take us to safety. Eventually we landed at Udaipur, where we thankfully staggered from our sick plane and tottered towards the all-too-familiar airport buildings. Some time still had to be spent there, so we used it to begin to learn the songs and dances that we would present at the Jamboree.

After no further mishaps we reached Jaipur the next day and were taken on an

extensive tour of the "Pink City". We visited the City Palace, a museum, a bazaar where we were able to buy brassware, ivory and sandalwood, a shop that specialised in precious stones, and the Amber Palace. This palace was built as a fort at the very top of a mountain, and to reach it we had to travel on elephants. We hired seven elephants and, strapped securely on to the backs of the enormous beasts, we slowly, jerkily, and in great state ascended the mountain. The tour of the palace over, we again climbed aboard our great mounts and returned down the steep, cobbled Elephant Walk to our bus. Our descent was sweetened by the efforts of a minstrel, who serenaded us all the way back despite the rain that began to fall. Unable to stay longer in Jaipur, we flew on through a storm to Delhi.

It was very late and cold when we arrived at the National Headquarters of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, where we were to stay for the next four nights, but there was a hot meal ready for us. We were very comfortable at N.H.Q. in the clean dormitories with rubber mattresses on the beds, and bathrooms with showers and hot water. The two full days that we had in Delhi soon passed with shopping, visiting places of historical interest, driving through both Old and New Delhi, and being taken to the Shri Lakshmi Narain Temple, where the two President's Guides, who accompanied us during our stay in Delhi, worship. During the evening we were the guests at a Jubilee Campfire given by Northern Railways. Owing to the cold, wet night the campfire was held inside a huge auditorium. Unlike our campfires there was no communal singing, but instead each group presented song, dance or comedy items. We were asked to give two items.

As the next day was Christmas Eve we all did some shopping and then, with our sight-seeing for the day completed, we gathered together to sing Christmas Carols and to hand in the gifts that we had brought. Then we held a Rangers' Own Christmas Service. Afterwards two Christmas cakes, all the way from Australia, were produced, and each one cut into exactly 28 pieces.

At 5.30 on Christmas morning the alarms rang and we tumbled out of bed to find that

Father Christmas had visited us during the night and had left a gift for each of us in the stockings that we had hopefully hung at the ends of our beds. A hurried breakfast of boiled eggs, bananas and bread and jam was eaten, and we left for the airport. The canteen manager had risen early to wave us away because he knew that it was a special day for us. Our wait at the airport was long and cold, but we were warm inside because Christmas mail from home was distributed, and we read the letters from our families and friends until we were called to our plane. However, when we reached the tarmac we found that we weren't to go on that flight at all, but shortly afterwards we were called again and soon took off for Agra, where we were to spend Christmas Day. The hour-long flight to the city of Taj was smooth and comfortable, and we enjoyed spending a White Christmas among the clouds. When we landed at Agra we were met by the tour director, who had a bus, and a chauffeur-driven Chevrolet, waiting to transport us to the Clarks-Shiraz Hotel.

The ride to the hotel was wild and hair-raising, and we were rather surprised to arrive alive! We were even more surprised to see the hotel! It was huge, exclusive and elegant. Awe-struck, we were escorted to a lounge, where we waited until our breakfast was prepared. Breakfast? We had already eaten twice! But very soon we were seated in the dining-room, giving our orders to the efficient waiters hovering near, and trying not to stare too hard at our sumptuous surroundings. Then, with our third breakfast over, we climbed into cars and drove to the Taj Mahal.

We left the cars outside the great red and white gateway in the wall that surrounds the Taj, and together we walked up the steps and into the shadows under the gate. The beauty that lay before us cast a spell of silence over us as we gazed at the dazzling white perfection of the Taj Mahal. It was a dream come true; and on Christmas Day! The tourist guide led us to an archway in the wall, and there he told us, with a great deal of feeling and sympathy, the touching and romantic story of the Taj and of Shah Jahan who built it as a memorial to his wise and well-beloved wife. With the story warm in our hearts we approached the Taj

itself and marvelled at its purity and exquisite loveliness, reflected so clearly in the garden-bordered Pool of Reflection.

Before we were able to enter the Taj we had to have big floppy canvas overshoes tied on. Then, suitably shod, we went through the high, arched door and into the dim interior of the building. Inside, a finely carved alabaster screen stands around two tombs—one for the Shah and the other for his queen. Each is covered with designs executed in incredibly fine inlay work of semi-precious stones in marble. Downstairs then into the crypt where we saw the actual tombs of the Shah and his wife. We wandered around the Taj, and walked back through the green and well-kept gardens to the waiting cars. On the way back we had to stop many times to look again at the simple splendour of the Taj.

(To be continued)



BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and my palsied hand.
Blessed are they who know my ears today
Must strain to hear the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know
My eyes are dim and my wits are slow.
Blessed are they who looked away
When coffee was spilled on the table today.
Blessed are they with cheery smile,
Who stop and chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say,
"You've told me that story twice today."
Blessed are they who know the ways
To bring back memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are they who make it known
I'm loved, respected and not alone.
Blessed are they who ease the days
On my journey home in loving ways.

—Author Unknown.

EXECUTIVE NOTES FOR FEBRUARY, 1968

It is usually hoped that Executive Meetings will throw some light on many subjects, but the February meeting suffered from a blackout (artificially imposed by a power strike), and so much we had hoped to achieve had to be cut short.

However, we were able to welcome our new State Commissioner to her first meeting as Chairman of the Executive — and what an agenda she had to cope with!

All sorts of finance matters as regards signatures for bank accounts, sealing of documents, etc.

Thoughts regarding positions of some of our Advisers who soon finish their busy terms of office.

Future thinking on the Work Party and its activities, and on "Matilda".

Further forward thinking for the World Conference in Finland in 1969 — for the agenda items, for World Committee nominations, and for our own Australian delegation.

Thinking, too, of our own Australian activities — our three-year plan for activities for Brownies Guides and Rangers as well as thoughts of the next Australian Council Meeting to be held in 1969.

Varied and interesting were the reports from Advisers and Sub-Committees — international opportunities, property dealings in many parts of Victoria, appointments of new Commissioners, recommendations from the Australian Training Conference recently held in Perth, further news of the Guide display to be held at the Showgrounds during the 1968 Royal Show and news that Miss Margaret Tharle would organise this for us.

And so a lot of ground was covered whilst we had light — but there is still quite a lot of homework to be done for the March meeting.





THIS IS THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION'S PAGE

The Nauru Girl Guides Association have a Local Association who are always ready to help them when called upon. They raise their funds by holding a bazaar every year. These members are all busy people who work on Committees for their churches, schools and hospitals.



Nauru Local Association members and Guiders at 4.30 a.m., Barbecue Breakfast at Anabare Bay.

Nauru Local Association

During the three weeks that I was on Nauru, the Local Association and Guiders found it difficult to arrange a night when all were free to have an evening together. It was then decided that we should have a barbecue breakfast at 4.30 a.m. on the beach at Anabare Bay, where this photo was taken at daybreak. It was lovely to watch the sun rise. Nauru is on the Equator, so it is never cold. This was a new experience for me, which I really enjoyed.

(Signed) IDA PROUDFOOT,
Liaison, Nauru.

QUESTION BOX

Question: Do you remember that wonderful day when we all met Lady Baden-Powell at Ormond Hall? Seven hundred and fifty were expected and 1000 came! A day to remember for the lucky ones able to be present. May we ask what happened to the surplus money raised from the sale of biscuits?

Answer: This was a \$128 question. Just this sum remained owing to the generosity of those who brought so many beautiful biscuits, the surplus of which was sold and the money was handed into Headquarters to be held until the new building is finished. It will be used for some definite article of furniture in the foyer.

Question: How can we stimulate the interest of parents in L.A.'s our part of Guiding?

Answer (from North Balwyn L.A.): To arouse interest in the Balwyn Girl Guides Local Association, members have decided to send out a District Newsletter which will include various Guiding activities, together with coming social functions to be held by the L.A. for mothers and their friends.

Some L.A. members have expressed interest in the new Headquarters building. Could we combine to have a part in the furnishings? Could we combine to furnish the kitchen near the members' lounge? This lounge is for the use of all members of the Movement, which includes US.

Suggestions: Small Refrigerator
Hotplate
Electric Toaster
Electric Kettle.

There is also to be badged crockery, although this will be used only for official functions. What do YOU think? What are YOUR ideas?

Send them to Mrs. R. E. Gray, 56 Balwyn Road, Balwyn.

STAMPS

After collecting and soaking off stamps (which must be free of old gum), select only good ones for sending towards our funds and discard all the bent, crumpled, dirty, torn or unsaleable ones.

The January/February issue of "Matilda", page 210, gave postage rates, so watch that every ounce paid for is used. Address parcels to the undersigned at 12 Cowderoy St., St. Kilda, 3182; NOT to Guide Headquarters.

—LORNA E. CUZENS,
Hon. Organiser for Stamps.

The Royal Mail (Continued)

Last month, the first of a series of articles on the history of the Royal Mail was published.

The appointment of Thomas Witherings in 1635 by Charles I led to a profitable monopoly, which was supported by the Council of State, in putting down attempts to organise private Posts in competition. Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector, gave his consent to a Bill "for settling the postage of England, Scotland and Ireland" on 6th June, 1657 — the Bill provided for the appointment of a Postmaster-General and Comptroller of the Post Office.

For many years the rates of postage were calculated on the principle of distance, as originally laid down by Thomas Witherings, with a minimum rate of 3d. up to 80 miles.

Posts along the main roads were satisfactory in the beginning, but a demand arose for cross Posts. Ralph Allen, of Bath, took this matter up and Posts were set up on by-roads and cross-roads. When Allen died in 1764 he had revolutionised the postal service, because his system was nation-wide. Postboys, riding in old tumble-down carts or on horseback, carried the mail from place to place. They were not satisfactory, and complaints were made about their services. A contemporary described the postboy as "an idle boy, without character, mounted on a worn-out hack, who, so far from being able to defend himself against a robber, was more likely to be in league with him". It was understandable that postal users asked for something better.

(Watch for further instalments of the Royal Mail's history in the next few months.)





PUBLICATIONS, '68

The leaflets of this handbook are published as they come to hand, each leaflet being complete in itself.

Leaflet, No. 1

The Management of a Ranger Unit — was written by Miss Margery Owen, a very experienced Ranger Skipper who holds a Ranger Training Certificate. This leaflet deals with the means of self-government in the Unit and would help Guiders with the understanding of the Ranger age girl.

Leaflet, No. 2

The Patrol System in the Guide Company — by Miss Yvonne James. Miss James is one of our Diploma'd Guiders and a very talented Guide Captain. Paragraph 3 on page 1 makes one want to learn more of Baden-Powell and how his wisdom and understanding apply to the present day just as they did 50 and more years ago.

Government in a Brownie Pack, or Pow-Wow, will be published later. Guiders will find it interesting to compare these various methods of government and the progression through the age groups.

Leaflet, No. 3

Guide Guiders are sure to find food for thought in "Programme for the Guide Company", written by Miss Y. James. No Guide meeting could be dull with the wealth of "ingredients" which can be used. Hints on "where Guiders might find the seeds from which ideas are developed" are useful. This leaflet would supplement any practical training session attended.

Leaflet, No. 4

Leaflet No. 4 — International — will be reviewed later.

Leaflet, No. 5

"Camp — the Great Opportunity", B.P. The thought of camping was probably the reason a girl wished to join Guides. It would be a pity if this wish was not fulfilled. The fear of the unknown may be the reason why some Guiders do not camp. As one Guider expressed it — "I went to my first camp in fear and trembling, terrified at the thought of snakes, flies, no shower, etc. At the end of the week all my fears had been dispelled, and camp, the way Guides do it, was voted the best holiday ever. It was the gaining in awareness of the world about, making do with nothing — relying on oneself and one's own resourcefulness — the companionship — and the wonderful nights under the stars."

The information in this leaflet by Mrs. de Marchi will enable Guiders to gain the experience necessary to give the Guides in their Company the thrill of camping.

—L.G.



ABORIGINAL CAMP

Fourteen Maidstone Brownies and a Pack Leader from each of the three Packs spent an enjoyable five-day holiday at Rowallen during the Christmas vacation.

The cooks were named after the house, "Minda" and "Killara".

As we were an Aboriginal Camp the Sixes were called Boomerang, Corroboree and Didgeridoo.

Short hikes were arranged every day and koalas and kookaburras were seen on the campsite.

In free time the Brownies made boomerangs, spears, etc., for the Corroboree held on the last day of the camp.

—Jennifer Agius,
Pack Leader, 3rd Maidstone Pack.



INTERNATIONAL JOTTINGS

Summer holidays have come and gone — and one of the exciting things to happen during the holidays was a trip to India for 28 Rangers and Guiders from N.S.W., S.A. and Victoria. There were 18 Victorians in the group, which visited Sangam, our newest World Centre, and, of course, the 5th All-India Jamboree — but I will let the girls themselves tell you of their travels (see this issue of "Matilda", page 272).

Everyone of the 18 girls from our State was helped in some way by their own area — in one case the Region paid the whole cost of the trip for their representative. The total amount subscribed towards the cost of this trip by Victorian Guides, Brownies and Rangers and L.A.'s was nearly \$3000.

Now This All Set Me Thinking!

We are, as you know, to have an International Camp here at Britannia Park in January, 1970, and we hope to welcome members of our world-wide Movement from many parts of the globe. There will be some countries who would love to send a Guide to this camp, but for various reasons will be unable to pay her fare. And this is where I think we come in.

Do you think YOUR Region or Division would like to help bring a girl to this wonderful camp from an overseas country?

The enthusiasm and interest aroused by helping some of our girls to go to India this summer made me feel that the Movement in Victoria (and, we hope, all over Australia) would be interested in this scheme whereby we can ALL share in the fun and friendship of having visitors from overseas here with us.

So, DO think about it, and start planning! I would very much like to hear your views on this. Please send them to Mrs. G. Farrow, 3 Merrion Grove, Kew, 3101.

* * *

The Planning Committee for this camp is very busy, and from time to time will let you know through "Matilda" of further details as they come to hand. What a wonderful opportunity we will have of putting into practice our 4th Law on a really international level!

* * *

VISITING OVERSEAS TRAINEES

From 10th to 20th April we will have with us in Victoria, Miss Kala Phadnis, of India, who will be here on a UNESCO grant, and Miss Shizieko Hosoya, of Japan. They will be in Victoria to see Guiding in action and to attend the Bushcraft Training at Britannia Park over the Easter period. They will visit Company and Pack meetings and will each go to the country for a day. On Wednesday, 17th April, we are inviting some Guiders to meet them at a social evening. Unfortunately, numbers will be very limited, but things will be different when we have our new "home" at 20 Russell Street.

* * *

OUR CABANA OLYMPIC SESSION, OCTOBER, 1968

We are very pleased that the two Australian representatives at this gathering will be Miss Faye Grove, of Ballarat, and Miss Patricia Robinson, of N.S.W.

Faye is a Brownie Guider, and was chosen first as Victorian representative from representatives from almost every Region in the State. Her travelling costs will be met by the Allocation for Overseas Travel, a fund built up from year to year by Victorian H.Q. for such purposes as this. So we can all feel we have a part in Faye's trip! We will certainly all benefit from her experience, as it is planned that she will spend some time in the U.S.A. and Canada to observe the training methods in these countries, and we hope she will come home brimming over with ideas.

Our congratulations to Faye and Patricia.

World Bureau News

"THE CIVIC AND POLITICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN"

In an effort to help women to attain their right to a fuller place in the life of the nation, the United Nations organised a Seminar on "The Civic and Political Education of Women" in Helsinki.

The World Association was represented by Mme. Bugnion-Secretan, Member of the World Committee, and by Miss Ritva Jusila, Deputy Chief Commissioner, and Mrs. Anja Vihma, International Commissioner, both of the Girl Guides of Finland.

The realisation that women cannot participate effectively in the affairs of their country without adequate education brought home to the delegates the need for closer co-operation between non-governmental organisations and governments to ensure that women were not denied their right to education. It was hoped that national bureaux might be set up or, where they already exist, strengthened to do this work.

The Guide Movement was recognised as one which has always given encouragement to its members to play a responsible part in community life, and the fact that the Chairman of the Seminar, Mrs. Helvi Sipila, of Finland (previously a member of the World Committee) and several other delegates had been active in the Guide Movement was a splendid witness to this training.

A VISIT TO NEW YORK AND TORONTO

Mrs. Raymond-Cox, the Executive Secretary for Public Relations, recently returned from a visit to New York and Toronto, where she was attending the F.A.O. Young World Food and Development Conference.

In addition, the World Association was represented by two International Commissioners — Miss Margaret Bell, of New Zealand, and Mrs. T. O. A. Sodeinde, of Nigeria—by a trainer from Brazil, Miss Vera de Sanson, and by three young people specially requested by the F.A.O. — Miss Dawn Hutchins, a Girl Scout leader from New York; Miss Dianne Deeks and Miss A. Ayoma, both Girl Guide leaders from Ontario, Canada.

This very important meeting, at which 95 countries were present, passed about 40

resolutions, the most outstanding of which were: that non-governmental organisations should give increasing attention in their own programmes to problems of rural development; that national bureaux for international development should be established to co-ordinate the efforts being made by governments, non-governmental organisations and business firms; and that, wherever it is feasible and practical, non-governmental organisations should take greater initiative to move into the political plane in an attempt to secure major changes in the priorities of government expenditure and engage government leaders in dialogue about the urgencies of world development.

Outstanding speakers at the Conference were: H.E. Mr. Tom Mboya, Minister of Economic Planning and Development, Kenya; Mr. Paul Hoffman, Administrator of the U.N., Development Programme; and the Hon. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Government of Canada.

OUTING TO FRANKSTON

For our outing we went by train to Frankston after going down to the Richmond Station by tram. We were met at the station by the Brown Owl of 4th Mt. Eliza Pack and went by taxis to Toorak College, and met her Pack there. Miss Cerutti, the head teacher, gave us all morning tea, and the Third Form boarders and the Brownies showed us round. I would have liked to have been a boarder — Brown Owl was lucky.

The boarders gave us lunch, and we ate it sitting on the lawn outside the head teacher's house. After lunch we went down to the Brownie hut, joined the other Brownies and off to the beach we went on foot.

It was too soon to go in after our really good lunch, but we could change into our bathers and paddle. Then we had a sandcastle building competition, and one of our Brownies won. Then it was time to go in, and we loved it. When we came out we went back to the Brownie Hut by car, and had our tea. We played some games and said our goodbyes, and then went in cars to the station to catch our train back to Richmond.

We had a really good day, and I hope we can do it all over again one day.

—From 1st Richmond Pack.



Good morning to you all.

On Saturday I opened our Division Guiders' Training weekend. I do enjoy meeting all our Guiders; it also gives me an opportunity to have a wide look at the people who are doing so much work for the children in my area.

It really is a pity we are not all "models" and have the ability to wear our uniforms with such ease and grace.

Berets — oh dear! Fashions change — don't they? A few years ago hats were right on the back of our heads. This last few years they have been right forward. What are we going to do? Lots of hair showing, beret at the back? No hair, beret on fore-

head? Little hair, neat and tidy, beret half-way? What do you think?

Here's a picture of myself, Geraldine, Gertie, Rosie and Biddy.

Do you think we set good examples?

It is so much easier if we don't have to clutch our headgear if we are rushing here and there, and, oh so important! — the image we create for those not fortunate enough to be in our Movement.

Will you all wear your berets forward, a LITTLE hair showing if you like, but, please, oh please, not on the back of your head!

And don't forget to give your beret a quick brush!





THINKING DAY AND FOUNDER'S COMMEMORATION CELEBRATIONS, 1968

Warmth was well to the fore at the Belgrave Heights Church Missionary Society Centre that weekend, near the end of the long period of fire restrictions; many former Scouts and Guides met there to remember our Founder and Lady B.-P.; but the warmth radiated even more with friendships — old and new.

Mrs. Dynon told us about the Milk for India Campaign and progress in India's years of independence despite drought and rising population. This talk gave us much food for thought when we were gathered to — in a practical way — remember Thinking Day. A report from the Durham Conference made us think internationally, too.

Scouters led the campfire beneath the stars and eucalypts, so we "old" Guides were able to join in some new songs with gusto. Then we laughed and played at various games in a Salmagundi programme.

Guides' Own was led by a well-known Scouter, Mr. E. Derrick, who named Lord and Lady B.-P. as great examples for us to follow; to help pass on the qualities we promised to live by at our enrolments, so that, by our example, youth will also wish to pass them on this way.

Dr. L. H. Smith gave us a very interesting and beautifully illustrated talk with recordings on the Wildlife of Sherbrooke Forest — mainly about his friends, the lyrebirds. Owing to the fire risk we did not visit the forest, but we have been introduced to many inhabitants — trees, fungi and birds.

After yet another cup of tea, and many thanks to our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Trimble, and our organisers we departed with au revoirs and hopes of further similar gatherings.

—S.H.L.

THINKING DAY LINKS OVER THE MILES . . .

Extracts from messages received from
overseas:—

Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset (Miss Thorpe Tracy): This is situated 15 miles from Camelot (the isle of Avalon), creating great interest for artists, naturalists, archaeologists and historians in Somerset. There are 22 members in the Guild, and Mrs. Betty Clay, the Chief Guide's daughter, is Commissioner. Trefoil Guild and friends wished all in Victoria a happy Thinking Day. (Montmorency Guild is to correspond with Somerset.)

County of the City of Edinburgh: The message resulted from a meeting of Miss Elspeth Burns, Trefoil Guild Adviser of the City of Edinburgh, with Mrs. Chasser, who was in Australia last year. There are 10 Guilds in Edinburgh County, and the biggest Guild in Scotland has 68 members. Miss Burns has a very interesting part-time job at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary as Research Secretary in the Poison Treatment Centre.

New Delhi, India: Birgitt Muller, from Germany, sends greetings. She returned home regretfully after six months in Australia, and is now doing voluntary work for developing countries in India. Miss Muller works at the head office of the German Volunteer Service in India, caring for the 100 volunteers who are doing their jobs all over the country. Her work takes her to far-away villages or to lively centres like Lucknow, Agra, Jaipur, etc., and these expeditions are quite an experience.

Anyone interested in sending a Trefoil Guild message to other places in the world could contact Mrs. J. H. May, State Recorder, 8 Alister Street, North Fitzroy.



THE TASMANIAN FLORAL EMBLEM

A Proclamation issued by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania on 5th December, 1962, declared that the Tasmanian Blue Gum, *Eucalyptus Globulus Labill*, be adopted as the Floral Emblem of the State. It is described hereunder:—

The Tasmanian Blue Gum, *Eucalyptus Globulus Labill*, was collected from the south-east coast of Tasmania in 1792-93 by the French naturalist, J. J. H. de Labillardiere, and was described and illustrated by him in 1799. Labillardiere was a member of the expedition which, under the command of Bruny D'Entrecasteaux, sailed to the southern hemisphere in search of the missing explorer, J. F. G. de La Perouse.

In favourable situations the Tasmanian Blue Gum grows into a tall tree of height up to about 200 feet. The trunk is smooth and greyish-white in the upper part where the bark peels in long reddish-brown ribbons; at the base the bark is often persistent, rough and deeply furrowed. The name, "Blue Gum," refers to the appearance of the juvenile leaves which are borne in opposite pairs on square stems. These leaves are glaucous (bluish-grey and covered with a waxy bloom), 2½ to 6 inches long, almost oblong but bluntly pointed at the tip and rounded at the base; they are more strongly scented than those of the mature tree and contain large quantities of the essential oils, cineole and phellandrene. The leaves of the mature tree are borne alternately on rounded stems; they are green and glossy, shortly-stalked, 6 to 14 inches long and usually sickle-shaped.

The flowers, which are larger than those of other Tasmanian eucalyptus, usually occur singly in the axils of the leaves. The flower-buds may be up to three-quarters of an inch in diameter; they are coarsely ribbed, warty, and are, as in all eucalypts, closed by an operculum or cap representing the sepals and petals. This cap is finally shed, exposing a very large number of white

stamens arranged in several rows near the outside. Within the stamens a thick nectar-secreting disc extends partly over the top of the ovary. Flowering occurs fairly regularly each year in early Summer; bees collect both pollen and nectar, and a characteristic amber-coloured honey is produced. The large woody fruit is almost flat-topped and opens by four to five valves through which numerous small seeds are shed.

The Tasmanian Blue Gum is widespread and locally abundant in southern and eastern Tasmania and in the middle reaches of the River Derwent; it attains its maximum size in well-drained soils and sheltered valleys. The tree occurs, although in restricted areas, near the west and south coasts and also in King and Flinders Islands and in Victoria at Wilson's Promontory and at Cape Otway.

Of all the Australian eucalypts, *E. globulus* is the species which has been most widely introduced overseas. The tree has been established throughout the Mediterranean region and in highlands of the tropics in many parts of Africa and in India; it is widespread in California and in parts of Chile, Argentina and New Zealand. In addition to its ornamental value, the Tasmanian Blue Gum is of considerable economic importance in many of these regions and is extensively used for pit props and as a source of fuel and for paper-pulp; oil is also extracted. The seasoned timber is especially valuable for heavy construction work such as wharves, bridges and railway sleepers, being very durable both in the ground and in water.

* * *

The world is full of too much leadership—
and too little fellowship.

* * *

You may be on the right track, but if you
just sit there you'll be run over.

RANGER BRANCH THINKING DAY EVENT

This year Thinking Day was organised by the 3rd East Malvern Rangers and was held at the Methodist Church Centre in the city. We were very pleased to welcome Mrs. Renshaw Jones (our new State Commissioner) and Miss Shaw (Assistant State Commissioner), Mrs. Farrow (State International Representative), and Mrs. Chamberlain (Ranger Adviser).

The evening started with the National Anthem and Mrs. Chamberlain welcoming our guests, then Margaret Callister and Jill Douglas, who had been on the trip to India, gave us a wonderfully interesting talk and showed us slides they had taken at Sangam, the Jamboree and other interesting places. We were entertained by S.R.S. "Akuna", Camberwell Lands and A.R.F. "Skylark", who each displayed their skills by giving us their impressions of another country. A representative from each Unit then put their contribution in the special Thinking Day box and everyone sang the World Song. After supper we sang a few campfire songs and finished the evening with Taps.

It was a wonderful evening, and we hope everybody enjoyed it.

—Rosalie Bentleigh,
3rd East Malvern Land Rangers.

AUSTRALIAN INLAND SEA PROJECT

A scheme to re-fill Lake Eyre in Central Australia (at present it is a marshy land depression covering 3700 square miles) with sea water to create a permanent inland sea is being investigated by the South Australian Government.

Engineers who have surveyed the area claim that water could be brought by canal from Spencer Gulf, 200 miles to the south, though at one stage it would have to be pumped up 120 feet. One of the major benefits of the scheme could be irrigation, as the salt water could be desalinated very cheaply by solar distillation.

Some experts believe that a filled Lake Eyre would lower the air temperature inland and increase precipitation in areas round the lake — and perhaps even as far away as the Australian Alps near Melbourne, some 800 miles to the south-east.

—Unesco Features.

PORT FAIRY — A ROWING "CHALLENGE"

Warrnambool, Koroit, Port Fairy—Hooray! Out of the train fell eight weary Rangers — hot, tired, hungry and dusty.

Gathering our belongings together we walked over to Glaxo-Allenbury's Social Club Hall, where we proceeded to turn the Hall into a home for a week.

In the following days we went rowing — getting into practice — exploring, and a trip to Portland, where the weather — ugh!

On the Saturday night Port Fairy had their annual "Moyneyana" Festival, with a street procession. Sunday brought New Year's Eve, pictures and a small party to herald in 1968 with, traditionally, a run down the main street at midnight.

New Year's Day — THE RACE! Excitement was high as out we rowed, a mixed team of Seas and Lands, against Senior Sea Scouts. Bang — and off we went! "Dip, dip," our cox yelled. (He was our favourite Sea Scouter!) To our dismay we lost by only half a boat, and to the onlookers' delight in went our stroke to enjoy a lovely swim in a muddy river. The winning cox had to go in for a second time that day — helped by the Senior Sea Scouts. In the paper the next day it was written — "and a group of Sea Rangers gave a rowing exhibition"!

A trip to Warrnambool and a look over Fletcher Jones Gardens, which are truly beautiful. The Sea Scouts were competing for the Fletcher Jones Shield.

So to the last day and night, which we celebrated with a big party, everyone enjoying themselves and joining in merrily, but sorry that it was all coming to an end.

—J. Hobson,
Mitcham Land Rangers.

* * *
The secret of success — never let up, and never let down.

* * *
Anyone who stops to think stands to reason.

TRAINING PAGES



TESTING

When a Guide or Brownie has learnt a piece of test-work she is most anxious to be tested straight away. She wants the Guider to give her full attention, not just to listen with one ear while one eye is on the Company playing a game at the other end of the meeting place. She also wants to feel she has been thoroughly tested and that her learning has not been half in vain. Sometimes it is very difficult to find the time or opportunity to test the individual or group within the normal pattern of Pack or Company meetings, but with a little thought and planning a lot can be done. The following ways have all been tried, and have worked. They are all suitable for adaptation and amplification.

Helping Other People

In Nigeria, a Brownie Pack were doing a Pack Good Turn for blind women living in a compound in the town. All Brownies mended an old head-tie, washed, and ironed it; or else hemmed a piece of cloth to make a new one (Golden Bar and Golden Hand tests). When they arrived at the compound they presented the head-ties and showed the recipients the neat way Brownies tied them with a reef knot. In the compound they renewed the ropes on the calabashes (round turn and two half-hitches), dusted, swept, prepared soup and rice for the evening meal, and prepared the bowls for the food. Before they left they sang some songs and the first verse of the new Nigerian National Anthem. On their way home some passed their test on rules of the road. The evening was a great success, the blind people were most enthusiastic about the Brownies, the Brownies had loved being of use, and Brown Owl had gone quietly round noting tests passed.

A Day in the Country

In England, a town Guide Company were spending a day in the country. They were going to an unknown destination, and each Patrol had been told to muster at a different

point with one shilling bus fare. As soon as they had assembled a non-Second Class Guide telephoned Captain for instructions. When they arrived at their destination each Patrol chose a Patrol den, made a flagstaff, hoisted a Patrol flag, and then wandered around looking for nature specimens (those already Second Class were working towards Woodman and Stalker Badges, and already had sufficient knowledge and interest to keep them occupied by themselves for a long time). Before lunch they played a number of stalking games and some passed the stalking test for Second Class. Lunch came with a fire-lighting test. After lunch there was a Kim test with objects hung on a tree, and there were unexpected First Aid emergencies to be dealt with. Finally all the Company did Scout's Pace to the bus stop. No Tenderfoot work had been included, because the object had been to test as much of Second Class as possible, but tracking and knotting could have been worked in, just as parts of First Class such as life-line throwing could also have been included.

A Service Camp

In Nigeria, Rangers were at a Service Camp. Besides rendering service in the local village, their aim was to complete their Investiture Test and do some parts of Ranger Star. They showed and used their personal equipment, went on a six-hour expedition, cooked a two-course meal, followed a map, used a compass, bathed babies in the village, and showed throughout the camp that they were trying to keep their Promise — be helpful, thrifty, etc.

Trails

In England, a Brownie Pack hold their weekly meeting in the Vicarage garden. One day each Six had a trail to follow of different coloured wool: red wool from Red Riding Hood's cloak, blue from Little Boy Blue, and so on. As they went around the garden they met various hazards: goats to be tied up, a fitness test on skipping and ball-throwing, flags to identify, etc. The Guiders saw each Brownie try each test and

noted those who were successful; the activity, and not the test, was foremost in the minds of all the Brownies.

A similar evening can be spent by Guides, either following clues as for a treasure hunt, or following a trail with many messages hidden giving instructions for challenges. The Patrol Leaders will need training if this form of testing is to be successful, as they must realise that the newer Guides must be given the opportunity to do the challenges, and that the object is to show the whole Patrol is Second Class.

The Value of Testing Through Activities

When the whole Company or Pack take part in these Testing activities, the whole standard of the group will be raised, and those who have once passed the test will not be allowed to forget it.

—By Tavia Maclean,
from the "Guider".

* * *

HOW CAN WE BE CERTAIN?

Behind many of the questions which boys and girls ask about religion to-day is the search for some kind of certainty. Physics and chemistry lessons at school teach them not to accept facts as true unless they can be proved. Television advertisements commend their products because they survive "scientific tests," but questions about belief in God, in the divinity of Christ, or the efficacy of prayer, seem to belong to a different category. Can these things be proved, or are they a matter of guess-work?

Such questions are the more difficult today because the old foundations are seen to be shaking. Most young people know that Genesis does not give a "scientific" account of the origins of man and his world. They are quick to see that this may cast doubts on the trustworthiness of other parts of the Bible.

The Churches are seen not only to be divided in their organization, but also on many aspects of belief such as the status of the Virgin Mary and the morality of divorce. If they are so much at sixes and sevens among themselves, can they speak to the honest enquirer with any authority?

If neither the Bible nor the Church provide a reliable basis for a religious faith, where else can we look? The human reason

might be a better tutor. Or perhaps conscience? Yet neither of these faculties seem to be infallible, and history suggests that neither should be accepted without question.

Perhaps not many teen-age girls would put their problems into quite such sophisticated language as this. They may not even be aware of the atmosphere of declining authority in which they are growing up, but they know that their question, "How can we be certain?" can no longer be met with ex-cathedra statements such as "Because the Bible (or the Church) says so." They will insist on taking the question a stage further. "How can I be certain that either the Bible or the Church can be relied on to provide the answers I need?"

This means that we adults cannot dodge the question by hiding behind some absolute authority. We have to be absolutely honest, sharing our own doubts and perplexities. The best service we can render to our young people is to step down from our pedestals and to declare ourselves as fellow pilgrims, sharing with them the adventurous quest for a faith.

First and foremost we must show them that the search for a religious faith is not so much like trying to prove a geometrical proposition as undertaking an adventurous journey. If you are to make a voyage of exploration you do not set out in complete ignorance, however unknown the territory to be explored. You find out all you can about the country. You study the evidence left behind by those who have attempted the same expedition before you. You equip yourself thoroughly with maps, compass and all the gear a traveller needs. Yet, in the end, you have to make the journey yourself. You only reach your goal by putting all the knowledge you have gathered to the test of action.

So in the Christian quest. The Bible and the Church give us much essential information culled from the experience of others. Conscience and reason are as essential as compass and map, but in the end we must put our convictions to the test. Only then shall we be able to build up a working philosophy of life on which we can with certainty rely.

—By Edward Patey, Dean of Liverpool,
from "The Guider"—reprinted by permission.

FROM THE STATE COMMISSIONER

—Continued from page 270

pool is planned at a future date. A really splendid co-operative effort.

At the invitation of the Catholic Guiders of Victoria, I took the salute, along with the Scout Chief Commissioners, at the March Past which preceded the Combined Mass for Scouts and Guides at St. Patrick's Cathedral on the 25th. Mass was celebrated by His Lordship Bishop Cullinan. The number of those attending was smaller than was expected because of the excessively hot weather.

The Trefoil Guild, with the B.P. Scout Guild, enjoyed a successful weekend at Belgrave C.M.S. Conference Site, I hear, and Miss Margaret Shaw kindly represented me this time. No doubt she will be reporting this to you.

Owing to a change of date the Finance Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, sandwiched between the two halves of the weekly Headquarters' meeting. Under the capable chairmanship of Mr. Gregory, the intricacies of finance were smoothly presented.

A different kind of meeting on Thursday, when Mrs. Carlyon called together her small Committee and reported upon the considerable effort she has made and the future plans for the Lady Delacombe Cup Golf Day on Monday, 8th April. With her able leadership and the help of her kind friends, we can look forward to a most successful day, and we are all very grateful for this wonderful help.

Mrs. Farrow invited me to join her at morning tea to meet Miss Allan, an enchanting visitor who has been in Australia for a few weeks. Miss Allan is an Assistant County Commissioner in Scotland and told us many things of great interest about her sphere of Guiding, whilst learning from us about our organisation.

To round off the month, I went with Miss Barr, leaning upon her knowledge and experience, to a meeting at Government House to hear plans and discussions about the Commonwealth Youth Sunday meeting.

Best wishes to you all.

Charlotte Renshaw Jones.

DON'T FORGET YOUR



COMPACTOID First Aid Kit
small — medium — large

As supplied to, and recommended by, your Association

AT YOUR GUIDE SHOP

AMBROSE THE SNOWFLAKE

(Two identical paper snowflakes are helpful in telling this story, one white and the other grey. Put sparkle on one side of the grey one, a small amount on one side of the white one, and a considerable amount on the other side of it. After cutting, I flattened my snowflakes out by ironing them with a warm iron.)

Did you know that snowflakes are nature's jewels? Millions of them make a snowdrift. One little snowflake isn't much when it comes to size. It is just a tiny jewel of ice that frolics to earth, but put millions of them together and you have the great snowdrifts we have in the winter time. Snowflakes are always six-sided — no two are **ever** alike. The next time there is a snowfall, see how many different patterns of snowflakes you can capture on your coat sleeve or mitt. They are always more perfect when caught before they land on earth.

* * *

Once upon a time there was a little snowflake named Ambrose. One dark night Ambrose was floating along high up on a cloud over your city, and although that would seem a dreamy sort of thing for Brownies to be able to do, Ambrose didn't like it at **all**! In fact, he was feeling very sad and lonely. Imagine! He was tired of lying on his back looking at the stars, so he pulled part of the cloud up over himself and "Humphed". He certainly didn't like being a snowflake.

He was sad because he had nothing to do, and he was lonely because the other snowflakes on the cloud were having such a good time and he didn't **feel like** joining them. The other snowflakes were jumping up and down on the soft cloud and then jumping over the edge and turning over and over as they fell down towards the dark earth. "What could I do down on earth, anyway?" thought Ambrose. He certainly wasn't sparkling very much, was he? He got duller and duller until he hardly sparkled at all — in fact he was almost **grey**. (Show the plain side of the grey snowflake.)

And then he thought, "I might as well **try** jumping up and down — over here on the corner where no one can see me." After one or two jumps, Ambrose felt a little

better, and suddenly another snowflake grabbed his hand and they both jumped together. **Ooops!** Over the edge they fell and Ambrose was alone as he tumbled, half floating, down, **down**, through the night darkness.

By this time, after the jumping, Ambrose had **begun** to sparkle again (show the sparkle side of the grey snowflake), and he tried different tricks in the air, like touching his toes with his nose, doing two somersaults together, and then spreading himself out as widely as he could and just hovering in the air like a flying saucer!

Ooooooh, Ambrose landed! — in a pile of other snowflakes, all fluffy from their trip through the night air. This was fun after all and Ambrose was really sparkling (show the white snowflake with the small amount of sparkle). He looked down at himself and helped the sparkle by polishing a bit here and there with his hands. He looked up and saw that the stars had gone. It was almost morning, for the daylight was peeping under the edge of the dark night sky.

"Snow! It snowed last night. Come and see!" — some children in a home nearby were calling to each other, peering out their windows and admiring the fresh, white snow. Soon they tumbled out of the house, laughing and shouting and picking up mittfuls of the snowflakes and throwing them up in the air.

"I do like being a snowflake," said Ambrose to himself, "Better than anything else." He was sparkling so much (show the sparkly side of the white snowflake) he had to close his **own eyes**; he was that bright in the morning sunshine!

* * *

Brownies are something like that little snowflake, they get lonely sometimes, and sad, too, and don't know what to do. But if you make just a l-i-t-t-l-e effort on your own, some one will come along and grab your hand, and first thing you know you will forget about yourself and you will be having fun and sparkling, too, like Ambrose. Brownies can be like that other snowflake as well. They can see someone all alone and looking lonely, and can grab their hand, and say, "Come on, join us — it's fun!"

—By Mrs. R. M. Bremner, Saskatoon
(from the "Canadian Guider").

NAURU INDEPENDENCE

My husband and I were very thrilled, and we took it as a great honour when we received an invitation from the Nauru Local Government Council and people to attend their independence celebrations on the 31st January, 1968. We were their guests from the time we left Melbourne at 2.45 p.m. on Monday, 29th January, 1968, until we arrived back at 1.45 a.m. the following Saturday.

Our plane was a D.C.E. (Nauru have a small airstrip which was built by the Japanese during their occupation of Nauru during World War II. We arrived at 1.30 p.m. on the 30th, having stopped at Honiara in the Solomon Islands for an hour to re-fuel.

Among the 30 passengers was Mr. H. Hurst, Scout Commissioner from Geelong, who is 80 years of age. Mr. Hurst has been looking after Nauruan Scouts and Students for the past 40 years. We also had with us a number of representatives of the Press and T.V., including photographers.

Our plane circled the island (it is only 12 miles in circumference) several times before landing to enable those on board to take photographs.

Nauru looked a picture. The flame tree, hibiscus, bouganvillia, and pink and white frangipani were all in full bloom. Streets and houses were decorated. They were a lovely sight at night with all their coloured lights. There was a great crowd at the airstrip to meet the planes coming in, ours being the first of three. Sixteen hostesses, in white frocks and hats, greeted us with leis of frangipani. Two little Brownies gave my husband and I a lei and placed garlands of flowers on our heads.

Late in the afternoon we attended a reception at Government House. Here I was delighted to meet some of our Guiders and Guides in uniform, helping to look after the guests. Mrs. King, President of the Nauru Girl Guides Association, and wife of the Administrator of Nauru, has shown great interest in Guiding and she has helped the Movement in every way. Sqn/Ldr. Hicks, with the Royal Australian Air Force Concert Band, provided the music. There was a very touching ceremony when the Union Jack,

with the New Zealand and the Australian Flags, were lowered for the last time.

We left Government House at 7.30 p.m. to be guests of the Chinese community (there are 1100 Chinese on Nauru) for their own official New Year celebrations. We attended an opera and later had supper with them.

At 11 p.m. we attended a combined Church Service at the Nauru open air theatre. The Service was most impressive, with all resident and visiting Roman Catholic and Protestant clergymen taking part. The singing was a joy to listen to.

At midnight there was a terrific fireworks display, ending with "Republic of Nauru" written in fireworks.

Next morning we attended the official Declaration of Independence which included a ceremony for the first raising of the Nauruan Flag. The flag is royal blue (for the blue Pacific Ocean), with a gold stripe across the centre to represent the Equator. The 12-pointed star, symbolising the original 12 tribes of Nauru, is situated below the gold line to indicate Nauru's position in relation to the Equator. The star is white. (The flag was shown on the cover of last month's "Matilda".)

There was a 21-gun salute. Nauru has thousands of grey and white tern birds called Noddys. I am sure every bird on the island left its perch after the first blast! But it was a wonderful sight to see all these lovely birds filling the sky.

The Republic of Nauru Flag was raised by the Chairman of the Constitutional Convention, Mr. Hammer De Roburt, O.B.E.

At 10.30 a.m. we attended the meeting of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, which is tastefully decorated in light coloured wood and dark green drapes. It was a most impressive meeting. The Hon. C. E. Barnes, M.P., Minister of State for Territories, presented the Speaker, Rev. I. Amram, with a mace from Australia. Then representatives of Britain, New Zealand, Japan, Germany, France, U.S.A., Canada, the United Nations and the Prime Minister of Western Samoa spoke on behalf of their various countries bringing messages of goodwill from their people to the people of Nauru. Mr. Hammer

De Roburt responded on behalf of his people.

At 1 p.m. we were, guests at "Cliff Lodge", residence of the Manager for the British Phosphate Commissioners in Nauru, Mr. W. Marston. This was very pleasant and informal. The R.A.A.F. Central Band played during the luncheon.

At 3.30 p.m. we attended the opening of an Art Exhibition. This was organised by the Nauru Apex Club, and opened by Miss A. Brooks, Chairman of United Nations Trusteeship Council. Later I had the pleasure of going for a drive with the wife of the Prime Minister of Western Samoa, Mrs. Mata'afa, and their Secretary, Mr. Collins. Mrs. Mata'afa is President of the Western Samoa Girls Brigade. Victory Japhet, a Nauruan boy who had lived with us in Australia, drove us in his car. Later

Mrs. Proudfoot holds up the silver medallion presented to her at the Nauruan independence ceremonies. These other items are also from Nauru — a model outrigger made from wild hibiscus wood; a lei of hibiscus bark; a potted plant of shells and branches; a garland of shells and a coconut painted with a Nauruan scene.

—Block by courtesy of "Box Hill Gazette".



I went to see new and ancient ball games. At 7 p.m. there was a huge barbecue which everyone on the island attended — the population is 6000 — chops, steak, sausages and fish, and plenty for all.

Celebrations

8.30 p.m. — a concert at the open-air theatre where the Chinese, Gilbert and Ellice Islanders and Nauruans gave items. The R.A.A.F. Central Band gave a recital and then played the Nauruan Anthem for the first time in public. It was a wonderful evening.

At 9 a.m. next morning the Guides invited me to join with them in the guard of honour to say farewell to the Administrator and Mrs. King at the airstrip. This was a sad occasion, especially for the members of the Girl Guide Movement. There were many tears as the people said goodbye to Mrs. King, and waved to her as the plane took off.

I then presented, on behalf of the Girl Guides Association of Australia, a plaque and a tape — recording of Lord Baden-Powell's talk to Scouts and Guides at the 1937 Jamboree, and Lady Baden-Powell's in 1967 — to Mrs. Aingimea, Guide Commissioner for Nauru.

After the V.I.P. plane had left, Victory gave me the keys of his car and said I could have the use of it until we left the next day. This was wonderful, as we were able to spend the rest of the day visiting our friends. At night we attended the men's basketball game.

We felt sad saying goodbye to all our friends at the airstrip at 7 a.m. next morning. Our passenger list had grown to 60, including 30 students returning to school in Australia. There was plenty of singing, ukelele and guitar playing on the way home. We enjoyed every moment of it.

I shall never forget this trip. It was wonderful from beginning to end. Thanks once again to the Guide Movement. If it had not been for our Association I might never have had the opportunity of getting to know the Nauruan people as I do.

—I. L. Proudfoot,
Liaison, Nauru.

NAURU ANTHEM

Nauru, our homeland,
Pacific isle so small,
We sing to her glory
And rally to her call.
With our heads held high
And our hearts so strong,
Let's onward ever toil
With courage to achieve our aims
From duty ne'er recoil.
Nauru, our coral isle so dear,
With oceans at our door,
For this isle we'll fight for
We've naught to fear,
Nauru for ever-more.

—Written by Mrs. Michael Hendrie,
Sandringham, Victoria; and music
by Squadron-Leader I. Hicks,
Director of Music for the Royal
Australian Air Force.



ASIAN TRAINERS' CONFERENCE

(Continued from March)

Camp Techniques in our Regions was introduced by Mrs. P. A. Samuel. "Through camping all the rules come naturally." All agreed that camping must be fun and enjoyment. In some countries camping is frowned upon by the parents. Perhaps public relations could be strengthened and more publicity given to the techniques used in camping, so that parents feel secure that their children are in capable hands. We found that in other Asian countries natural resources were used to the full. In most cases canvas tents are too hot and expensive, therefore leaves, bark, straw, grass, etc., are used, and permanent and moveable shelters are made.

We were asked to consider the dangers of "modernising" camping techniques, and most Guiders felt that if camping becomes a replica of what the girls have at home they will not be interested.

Problems of climate were discussed, these being bushfire danger when fires are forbidden, floods when all cooking must be done on altar-type fires and beds raised from the ground. Snakes are a problem in most countries; carbolic acid is sprayed on some sites, sulphur powder is used to surround tents, as also is a large, hairy rope. Storage of food and flies present other problems, as does monsoonal rain and the leeches and insects it brings. Other general worries are the variety of food needed where children of mixed religions are in camp and the safety of the campers.

A session on "How we may maintain the dignity of the handicapped girl" was taken by Miss Wood, during which the following questions were discussed:—

1. How do you in your country cater for handicapped children, (a) generally, and (b) Guiding and Scouting? India has a number of Extension units and there are a few physically handicapped Companies in Ceylon, Singapore and one in Japan. All these are held in schools, and there are apparently no mentally handicapped girls in the Companies — blind, deaf and spastic being the most common handicaps.

2. "Do you think the Guide/Girl Scout Movement can help an Autistic child?" No one had consciously come across such a child, but it was felt that the Movement is concerned with each individual person and treats her as a person who matters, and it would be possible to help such a child to a sense of security and bring out her talents.
3. "What benefit is gained by the individual and the community when a handicapped girl is a member of the Movement?" The feeling of belonging gives a sense of confidence — she learns skills and becomes a member of the community, and is therefore no more a liability; she acquires a courage to bear her disability, it helps to alleviate her mental depression by giving her an interest and acts as therapy. For one who has been at the receiving end of community service she now gets a satisfaction of doing good turns and serving others.

In summing up the Conference, Miss Jilla said: "For us in Ceylon it has been a very enjoyable experience to meet so many of our sister trainers from different Asian countries. For our part, we feel we have been enriched with the contributions you have made.

"We have agreed that though differences of caste, creed and race exist in most Asian countries, the fundamental principles underlying Guiding have helped us, in our Movement, to overcome most barriers. It has been very interesting to hear of the methods used in the different countries to do so. It has also been interesting to find that all countries are laying so much stress on the implementation of the 'Good Turn' through specific community service projects.

"The Training Systems in the different countries, the financial implications thus involved and the problem of finding sufficient adult leaders has been discussed in great detail, and I am sure that we shall go back to our countries, our minds teeming with new ideas."

A Guides' Own Service was held on the lawn. Each Guider placed a jasmine bud in a chain of friendship and formed the shape of the Jubilee Badge. Readings were

made from five religious books, a choir sang "Dona Nobis", and after a poem and some thoughts all filed out, singing "No Man is an Island".

The closing ceremony consisted of each Trainer taking a lighted lamp from the hall, following her flag. The leader of each delegation then left a message of goodwill with the Guides of Ceylon, and the flags were furled.

In the evening all dressed in their gayest costumes, and many and varied were the saris. We were presented with orchids to wear, and we were all entertained to dinner by the Planning Committee. A very bright night, with games, songs and dancing brought the Conference to a close.

Later, in Bombay, we were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Syer and a photographer. Our hostess was a Friend of Sangam, an Australian, who had had no previous contact with Guiding, but had been asked to join the Committee. The following day we had lunch with Miss Asha, Secretary for Sangam, and she had organised for us to visit Sangam. Train travel is half fare in India if you are travelling on official Guide business. We left Bombay for Poona by train, which climbed higher and higher over some lovely countryside, with hills very green and waterfalls. There was moss growing on the walls and roofs of buildings, as it was the end of the monsoon period, which is very damp. Arrived at Poona, and after a short time arrived at Sangam. We were met by Ana Karkare, who is overseeing the building operations and lives in a cottage with her two sisters. Although the main section of Sangam is complete, work is still progressing on the water tower and swimming pool, and there is no glass in the walls of the chapel. Everything else is very pleasant. There are lots of mosquitoes, and unfortunately we didn't recognise the nets, which were in the cupboard!

At Sangam there are rooms with one and two beds and dormitories with eight beds, accommodation being for 67. They were thrilled with the gift of blankets from Australia. The towels and linen are very nice, and each dormitory is equipped with electric fans, mosquito nets and toilets. There are two different tariffs — one for vege-

tarians and one for non-vegetarians, the latter being a little more expensive, as special arrangements need to be made for cooking. Cutlery, tables and kitchen utensils are all gifts from "The Friends of Sangam".

Came home via Thailand, Malaysia, Djakarta and Perth, arriving in Sydney at 10 p.m. Very few formalities — the uniform was our best passport.

TODAY IS THE STEPPING STONE TO TOMORROW

This was the theme of the training weekend held for Guiders of the Extension Section. The venue was Britannia Park, and in spite of the dry season the lovely surroundings enchanted all who attended.

Guest speakers were Miss Joan Tuxen, Director of the Victorian Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and Miss Mary Lambe, Australian Extension Adviser, who gave most interesting comments on camps she had seen in Scandinavia. Our third visitor was our State Commissioner, Mrs. R. Renshaw Jones, who gave a most inspiring address at our Guides' Own Service.

Plenty of time was allowed for Guiders to cement old friendships and make new ones, and sessions enabled all to take part, and give and get inspiration and help.

Extracts from "Tomorrow's Guide" were discussed, teaching aids were demonstrated, games were explained and exchanged. Discussion took place on exciting and interesting activities which units had had, and, of course, campfire singing and Guides' Own were an enjoyable part of the whole.

The swimming pool was a most popular place, and some people seemed to be changing so often that one was never sure whether they were coming or going! For those who forgot their swimsuits — well, a Guide is resourceful and all that!

—N.Y.

* * *

People who wonder where the younger generation is heading would do well to consider where it came from.



—Blocks by courtesy of Boy Scouts Association.

GANG SHOW, 1968

If you haven't seen a Gang Show before you'll be wondering just what sort of show it is.

It can perhaps be described as a full-scale theatrical revue, presented each year by the Boy Scouts Association. It provides fun-filled entertainment suitable for children and adults alike. Don't expect to see Scouts (or Rangers) tying knots on stage. Gang Show is packed with sketches, songs, dance routines and mime — it is witty, topical and tuneful.

Gang Show provides a "shop window" on Scouting (and now Guiding) for our community leaders and the general public, who otherwise might have little contact with our Movements.

Many of our professional entertainers and civic leaders have expressed their amazement at the wealth of talent they see in Gang Show. Some of the comments after last year's show were: "... fast moving and very entertaining ...", "... talent and tremendous enthusiasm ...", "... look forward to it each year ...", "... excellent evening's entertainment ...".

The dates for this year's Show (all in May school holidays) should suit your programme down to the ground. Country Guiders should find the innovation of two weekends helpful. Brownie leaders, too, will find the two matinees, with lower prices, convenient. If you avail yourself of the popular block booking system and purchase seats at a

special low price for re-sale, you can make your Gang Show visit quite a profitable function as well as a most enjoyable night out.

Plan your visit to Gang Show now, for one of these performances: Friday, 10th May; Saturday, 11th May (matinee and evening); Thursday, 16th May; Friday, 17th May; Saturday, 18th May. Rehearsals for the Show are under way now.

A booking form with full details is inserted in "Matilda" this month. Be sure to get in early when bookings open at Allans for individual seats and Scout Shop or the Guide Office for blocks.



RANGER GUIDERS' WEEKEND

Australia Day weekend found a group of Ranger Guiders at the Mayfield Centre enjoying fun, good food, fellowship and gathering new ideas while making new friendships as well as renewing old.

Friday evening was an opportunity to meet Mrs. Chamberlain, the Ranger Adviser, and then to hear about "what's new with First Aid". Keeping up with the latest, we were intrigued to find how easy it is to put on a complicated bandage when there is a ready-made substitute available from the chemist!

Before retiring to our comfortable beds — what fun to steal time to watch James Mason on the little square box! (Never have time at home!)

Saturday was rather hot, so after a day of work, including interesting discussions on the future of Guiding and punctuated by very enjoyable meals, we spent the evening star gazing. Who found the first star? Can YOU find the South Celestial Pole from the Southern Cross? Or by using the Cross and Achernar or Sirius and Canopus? We can! With the co-operation of our brother Movement and Mr. Morcom, who also instructed us in mapping and compass. Sunday morning we attended local churches and then inspected a display of teaching aids. In the afternoon we planned and held a simple but impressive Rangers' Own, and in the evening saw 3½ minutes of "Branching Out". Who would have thought that projector would seize the motor through lack of oil — at least the hirer refunded the money! The evening concluded with a most happy campfire — learning new songs and enjoying old favourites.

Monday — another busy day of training, discussions and questions and then home-ward bound — all pleased we had been able to attend and sorry that all Victorian Ranger Guiders had not been able to share this profitable and happy weekend with us.

—J.M.P.

* * *

If you can't do all you wish, at least do all you can.

HOW SMART ARE YOU?

The following questions were set as part of the entrance examinations to a Sydney Public School. The age of the boys was from nine to 12 years, and the average pass mark was 80%. Would you have qualified?

1. How many birthdays does the average man have?
2. If you had only one match and entered a room in which there were a kerosene lamp, a gas ring and a fuel stove, what would you light first?
3. Some months have 30 days and some have 31. How many have 28 days?
4. If you were given three pills and told to take one every half hour, how long would they last?
5. How far can a dog run into a forest?
6. I have in my hand two Australian coins worth a total of 1/3. One is not a three-pence. What are the two coins?
7. A farmer has 17 sheep and all but nine die. How many has he left?
8. Take two apples from three apples and what do you have?
9. An archaeologist claims to have found a coin dated 46 B.C.? Could it be genuine?
10. A woman gives a beggar 2/- The woman is the beggar's sister, but the beggar is not the woman's brother. How could this be?
11. How many animals of different species did Moses take aboard the Ark with him?
12. Is it legal in Australia for a man to marry his widow's sister?
13. What word is misspelt in this test?
14. Why can't a man living in Port Augusta be buried west of Spencer's Gulf?

(Answers on page 296)



DEAR COMMISSIONER,

I am now in the 9th Kuala Lumpur Pack, which is sponsored by our school. Most Packs belong to schools. Garden School is an English school and most of the children's fathers are sent here by firms for about three-year terms. I did not feel "strange" entering this Pack, as most of the girls come from Australia, New Zealand, France, England, and America, and we have two Ceylonese girls, too. Our Brown Owl is South African.

Our uniform is the same brown frock, but with a cloth belt and short sleeves, but no hat. Most of the girls have brought their uniforms from other countries, and I have never seen so many shades of brown. Because it is an English school all our meetings are in English and our tests are much the same, except that we do sewing instead of knitting for Golden Hand. I made an apron. Bulbs do not grow up here, so we planted marigolds (African). We have to learn the National Anthem of Malaysia — in Malay and the English translation. It is called *Negara Ku*. In our Brownie Promise we say, "I promise to do my best, to do my duty to God and **country**."

Today I went to National Headquarters with Mum to get some badges for you and books for my World Brownie Badge. The Indian lady who served us wore a lovely floral sari. The International Commissioner is also Indian and wears a sari, and in the office were a Chinese lady and a Malay boy. It is an old building, but they are shifting to a new one. Next door is the State Guide Headquarters, and that is a fairly new, big building with lovely big rooms for meetings.

Last month our Pack visited the Pack at Alice Smith School — the 8th Kuala Lumpur Pack. That is an English school, too. We did a play about Boggarts which Brown Owl made up.

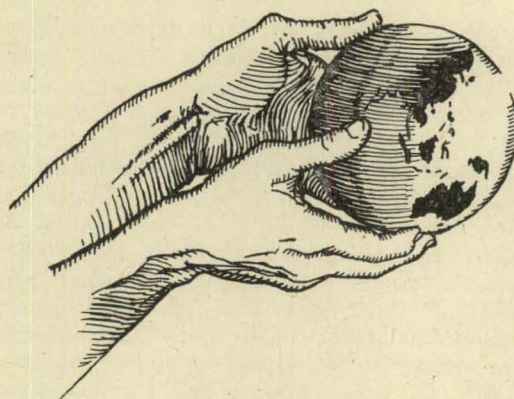
I'm a Sixer now and still a Fairy. I made some little cakes for our Christmas Party and wrote an invitation to my Head Mistress. I also wrote a thank you note and an acceptance letter — and got my Hostess Badge. I help Brown Owl with the new Brownies because she has no Tawny or Pack Leaders.

My brother, Michael, is in the Cubs attached to our school, and Peter is in the

only Pack in Selangor — our State. He is the only white boy in his Troop, although they can all speak English. There are Chinese, Indians and Malays. He has been to camp with them, and it was very different to camping in Australia — they slept on sheets of plastic, and Peter came home covered in mosquito bites!

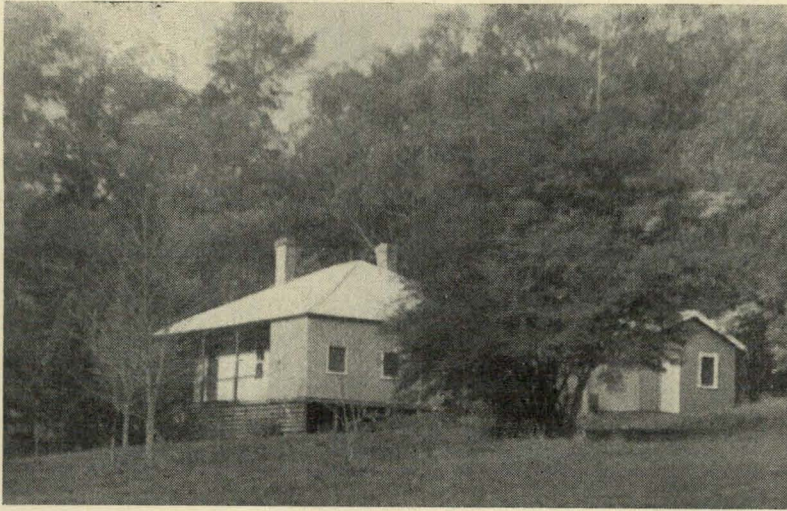
Please send my greetings to all of the 3rd Bentleigh Pack.

Your "old" Brownie,
Karen Muirhead.



ANSWERS to Questions on page 295

1. One. The others so called are anniversaries of it.
2. The match.
3. All of them.
4. One hour.
5. Half-way; then he starts running out of it.
6. A shilling and a threepence. (One is not a threepence, but the other is.)
7. Nine.
8. The two apples you took.
9. No. The term B.C. could not have existed until after Christ was born.
10. The beggar is a woman, the donor's sister.
11. None. Noah went into the Ark.
12. If the man has a widow he cannot marry anyone. He's dead.
13. Mis-spelt.
14. It is illegal in Australia to bury anybody who is LIVING anywhere.



BRITANNIA PARK

All you good people who gave us rhododendrons and azaleas last year, and those who gave us native trees the year before, will be wondering whether they have managed to survive this terrible drought. I can assure you that, at the time of writing this — the beginning of March — Britannia Park has received no more rain than we have had in Melbourne. The report of the flowering gums is a sad one — not many of them have survived — but most of the little wattles have. In fact, some of them are 6ft. tall or more. It has been impossible to water the trees around the fence line. Our weekly work force—three or four people—only had time and strength to water the plants in the gullies and near the houses. Every week all through the summer we have spent a day up there watering — and when I say watering, I mean that awful back-breaking, soul-destroying “bucketing”. I know you will all want me to thank Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. C. Gray, Mrs. Barclay and, of course, the irreplaceable “Bill”, for the magnificent job they have done in saving our precious plants. Bravo to all of them! So far, with the exception of one or two, the azaleas and rhododendrons have come through very well. Strangely enough, the little maples given us by Mrs. Blackburn, of Macedon, have come through remarkably well with practically no attention.

* * *

Many Guiders who have stayed on the property during the last two years will be

sorry to hear that our Warden, Mr. Mills, will be leaving on 1st May. He and Mrs. Mills are going to live at Castlemaine, where they have bought a farm. We would all wish them well and thank them for all they have done over the last two years. We have every confidence in being able to find someone to replace Mr. Mills by the end of April.

* * *

Our grateful thanks to those who have maintained Britannia Park on the following days in February:—

7th—Ranger Branch.
9th—1st Caulfield Coy.
10th—2nd Caulfield Coy.
11th—3rd Caulfield Coy.
12th—4th Caulfield Coy.
17th—Donald District.
17th—Beaumaris L.A.
22nd—3rd Surrey Hills Coy.
27th—1st and 2nd Caulfield Packs.
28th—2nd Caulfield Extension Rangers and
Caulfield Rangers.

On looking at that list, I say, “Thank goodness for Caulfield.” Donald, too, deserves a mention. For the fourth consecutive year that tiny district, 175 miles from Melbourne, has maintained the property for seven days. We would be interested to know how many Donald children have ever been able to stay there.

Please keep up the good work in supporting this fund. It really is of the very greatest value to us.

CAMPFIRE SONGS

THE VILLAGE DANCE

CORDELIA BROOKS FENNO,
Adapted by AUDREY PAGE.

Hungarian Dance Tune

Allegro

1. The lan-terns gleam, the yel-low flames leap and play,
2. Up-on the fields and snow - clad coun-try-side,

1. Lan - terns gleam, the bright flames leap and play,
2. Here up - on the snow - clad coun-try-side, The

From vi - brant strings wild mu-sic pours out;
The moon-light falls in ra - di - ant sheen;

Wild and vi - brant mu-sic pours out; And the
moon - light falls in ra - - diant sheen; And the

The raft-ers ring as for-ward come danc-ers gay,
The danc-ers tire, so o - pen fling case-mentwide,

raft - ers ring as throng the danc-ers gay, In
danc - ers, wea - ry, fling the case-ment wide To

In move-ment swift they cir-cle a - bout.
To see the night in beau-ty se - rene.

move - ment swift they cir-cle a - bout.
see the night in beau-ty se - rene.

From "MORE THAN TWICE 55 COMMUNITY SONGS" Copyright 1924 by Summy-Birchard Company, Evanston, Illinois. Copyright renewed. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

A TRIP TO FIJI

A little over two years ago the Captain of 1st Marnoo Company won a H.Q. Building Appeal prize of a trip to Fiji, and with her she took her District Commissioner. With Guiding contacts over there they had a wonderful time, so, when at the end of last year, the chance came to entertain two Fijian visitors everybody was full of enthusiasm.

The two Fijians were U.N.E.S.C.O. grantees visiting Australia for the Seminar of Pacific Island Women held in Sydney, followed by the Regional Conference of Associated Countrywomen of the World, held in Adelaide.

Mrs. Kalisi George and Mrs. Venaisi Vaniqi were the most charming visitors imaginable, displaying all the cheery, good humour characteristics of their people. How happily they smiled when greeted by us with "Bula" and (much later) farewelled with "Samworthy". (Cap. and Commissioner hadn't forgotten everything they learned in Fiji!)

They answered all questions fired at them by Brownies and Guides, ranging from "What do you learn at school?" through "What do you eat?" to "Do you wear mini skirts?" And they do wear minis — at least in Suva, where the young girls copy tourists coming to the capital.

Mrs. George is a nutrition expert at a hospital in Suva, while Mrs. Vaniqi is a teacher also in Suva, and they were equal to all our questions.

Our visitors sang to us, harmonising most beautifully, and when we said "Vanaka, Vanaka" (thank you), they taught us action songs — one in English, one in Fijian. In no time at all everybody was winding round the Hall, planting dalo (Fiji's staple food, akin to a sweet potato), then rowing a boat and casting nets to catch fish (Fijian fashion).

We were thrilled to find that Mrs. George had been both a Guide and a Guide Captain, and had just taken on a job at Guide Headquarters in Suva. She told us that the main objective at the moment is raising funds to build a new H.Q. Just like us, we told her! Captain and Commissioner could vouch for the fact that Fiji's present H.Q. is very cramped, and, with the Movement growing, they feel they should own much roomier premises. We wish them every success.

Mrs. Vaniqi has never been a Guide, but she assured us that she had been impressed by Guiding as seen in Australia, and that she certainly would join the Movement.

The Pack gave the visitors scrapbooks and the Company gave them a Log Book to take back to our sister Guides and Brownies in Fiji.

"Vanaka! Vanaka!" to our Fijian friends for a most enjoyable and instructive visit.

—E.M.

★ ★

CLICK GO THE PEGS

(With apologies to the original author or composer.)

Out on the campsite the Girl Guide stands,
Grasping a mallet in her thin, cold hands,
Fixing her gaze on the black, cloudy sky,
"Glory! will I get this up? at least I'll have a try!"

Chorus:

Click go the pegs, girls, click, click, click,
Wide is her blow but her hand moves quick,
Captain looks around and is beaten by the blow,
Down falls the rain, but at least we've made a show.

Q.M. she is there, awaiting the demand,
With her blackened stew-pot in her sooty hand,
Giving a whistle blast so we'll all file past,
Boy! it's good to hear that sound, we're eating now at last.

—From 1st Red Hill Coy.



It's not your standing that brings prosperity — it's your kneeling.

* * *

Patience — the ability to count down before blasting off.

* * *

Seven prayerless days make one weak.

NOTICES

VICTORIAN GUIDERS' CONFERENCE, 1968

Saturday, 20th April, at the Melbourne University, Parkville, 10.15 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sunday, 21st April at the Nurses' Memorial Centre, 431 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Programme:

Theme: "Look Forward, Look Round, Look Back . . ."

10.15 a.m.: †Preparing for Muster.

10.30 a.m.: Opening of Conference by Victorian State Commissioner, Mrs. R. Renshaw Jones.

10.45 a.m.: Guest Speaker: Chief Commissioner for Australia, Mrs. M. A. Buntine, M.B.E.

11.30 a.m.: **Beginning the Search** — Group Discussion:

1. Thinking for Yourself.
2. Keeping Fit.
3. Keeping the Guide Law.
4. Exploring the Arts.
5. Understanding Others.
6. Serving Others.
7. Becoming a Homemaker.
8. Enjoying the Out of Doors.

1.00 p.m.: **While the Billy Boils** (Luncheon).

2.30 p.m.: **On the Stockyard Fence!**
(Branch time and afternoon tea).

4.30 p.m.: **General Muster** (including summing up of group discussion).

5.30 p.m.: **Sundowner** (evening meal).

7.00 p.m.: **Around the Campfire:**
"People".

Uniform Mannequin Parade.
Campfire.

9.00 p.m.: Closure of Conference — Taps.

SUNDAY

Guiders' Own Service.

Theme: Look Up!

Speaker: Miss Joan England.

Afternoon Tea.

*These words were taken from the World Chief Guide's opening address at the 1966 World Conference.

†Programme headings were contributed by the Guiders of the Barree Region in North-Eastern Victoria.

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Headquarters Courses

Ranger — Evening.

Dates: Thursdays, 2nd May, 4th July (plus one outdoor day).

Times: 7.30 to 10 p.m.

Location: National Fitness Rooms, 161 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

Trainer: Miss D. Hargreaves.

Fee: 75c.

Nominations close Thursday, 18th April.

Decentralised Courses

Guide Guider Training — Weekend.

Dates: 13th to 14th July, 10th to 11th August, 14th to 15th September.

Location: Two weekends at Mayfield Centre, Malvern; one weekend at Guide House, Yarra Junction.

Country Training Courses — Goulburn

Guide First Class — Two Weekends.

Dates: 4th to 5th May; 15th to 16th June.
Times and Location: To be arranged.

Trainer: Mrs. B. McNally.

Fee: 75c.

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 10.30 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.

NOTICES

CAMPING DEPARTMENT Lingbogei

Please note that the Convener for Lingbogei is now — Mrs. N. McBain, c/o P.B., Gong Gong, via Ballarat.

Book of Camp Gadgets

A little yellow book of Camp Gadgets was lent by Miss Martin to a Guide attending one of the special camps at Christmas. Would Guiders please ask their Guides about this, as Miss Martin would like it returned.



INTERNATIONAL BROWNIE UNIFORM COLLECTION

There are now 21 uniforms for hire at 5 cents per uniform plus freight. Enquiries to Miss P. Stamp, 67 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, 3122. Phone: 81 4342.

OUR CABANA — MEXICO

Advice has been received that the information quoted regarding lodging at Our Cabana in 1968 and 1969 was incorrect — the offer has actually come from the Guides of Mexico for their new Headquarters building with accommodation, "Ticalli".

Would anyone interested, please note this and contact Mrs. G. Farrow, State International Representative, for further information.

SERVICE WITH ADVENTURE IN PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Here is an opportunity for a Guide Trainer, or experienced Guide Guider, who would be prepared to work towards her Training Certificate, to give service in the truest spirit of Guiding and at the same time experience the satisfaction of accepting a real challenge.

It is intended that the successful applicant should have a period of acclimatisation of a few months in Port Moresby to enable her to become accustomed to Territory conditions, after which it will be necessary for her to travel around the Territory giving Guide and Brownie training wherever it is needed.

To maintain a good standard of Guiding in the Territory it is essential we train more Papuan and New Guinean Assistant Trainers and to do this we need your help to extend our present training scheme which is creating a new career for the women of this country.

Applications may be forwarded to the State Training Adviser at Guide Headquarters, Victoria.

—Adrienne Dawe,
Territory Training Adviser.





YOUR GUIDE SHOP



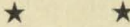
GUIDERS' HANDBOOK
 Blue or Brown Cover—with Tre-foil \$1.50
 Leaflets 1 to 10 now available.
 (for prices see December "Matilda").
 New Leaflets available shortly.



"GINA" RANCH PANTS
 (Guaranteed)
 One-way stretch jeans for hik-
 ing, camping and casual
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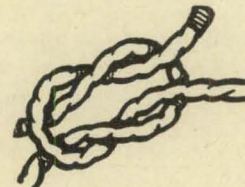
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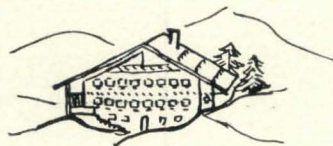
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