



Matilda

NOVEMBER, 1936.

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NOVEMBER, 1936.

Number Five

Editorial

Good news for every one, but especially for "Matilda" Committee.

There were seventy-eight new contributors to "Matilda" for the September-October period, and the demand for September issue could not be supplied, and October issue looked even worse when I was at H.Q.'s.

The nicest thing I've had to do for a while was to order fifty more for future publications. At this rate we'll have that extra double page and some illustrations next year, and most pleasing of all, "Matilda" will be paying her way.

The League of Youth of Australia.

The co-operation of Guiders with League of Youth activities has several times been solicited in "Matilda." And now that glad tidings come to us from the founder of the League, Mr. Ambrose Pratt, you will, I am sure, desire to congratulate the League on its wonderful achievements; just how wonderful only those who have fully studied the subject realise.

As a consequence of the last three years' labours the League, with the help of affiliated societies, has succeeded in convincing a vast body of public opinion, including the Victorian Teachers' Union, consisting of ten thousand State School teachers of Victoria, and the staff of the Education Department, of the necessity to insure that definite instruction on dangers and evils of deforestation shall be provided for every Australian boy and girl. The means selected for this end is to be included in every school curriculum. The Department of Education is very sympathetic, and in the near future a deputation will wait on the Premier. This deputation will consist of the League of Youth and all affiliated societies; and the Victorian Teachers' Union has signified its intention of full co-operation. Thus the main object of the League's existence will be achieved, and there remains for the Girl Guides to supplement this teaching by taking an active interest in propagating these ideals. Guides might also undertake the task of teaching their parents."

The care and love, the protection and understanding of our trees, our birds, our animals and our flowers will now have a vital and definite place in the education of our nation, and gives promise of such far-reaching possibilities for betterment. It is by the disregard of nature and all she has to teach us, that our native birds and flowers get fewer, our trees become denuded, and our climatic conditions detrimentally altered. In time, too, floods such as China and America now experience might be our lot, and our pleasant fer-

tile lands turned to deserts. America's reforestation scheme, with all its calling forth of labor and money is, or should be, a veritable lesson, though alas we see few enough signs of its restraining influence. Therefore this great achievement of the League, with all its promise for the future, will receive our heartfelt gratification and gratitude.

M. H. JOLLY.

(Representative G.G.A. on Governing Council of the League)

Preliminary Phenological Record.

Owing to the unavoidable delay in publication this year is too far advanced to notice and report on some of the things given in the list below. However, I will offer you the League of Youth of Australia list, in its entirety; for it will show the type of thing its compilers deemed of special interest or importance, and will offer a precedent, should you desire one, when making up lists of your own.

The Observer's card could be divided into four columns under the headings: Plant or Animal; Feature; Date; Remarks. Will give you instances of what is meant by "Feature" in the little remarks following each item. These, of course, should be filled in on your list.

- 1.—Subterranean Clover. (a) First 3-partite leaf fully extended; (b) In flower (*Trifolium subterraneum*).
- 2.—Early Nancy. First flower to open (*Anguilaria dioica*).
- 3.—Yellow "Jonquil" or Cluster Narcissus; Cluster bursts from sheath.
- 4.—Wheat. (Variety. . . Take one most favored locally and observe one field). (a) Date of sowing; (b) Four green leaves fully expanded on half plants in a selected patch; (c) Days from (a) to (b); (d) Jointing (stems running up), 50 per cent.
- 5.—Lily of the Nile (*Richardia Aethiopica*).—First yellow centre showing.
- 6.—Hedge Acacia (*Acacia Armata*).—(a) Flower buds become round; (b) In full bloom; (c) Pods bursting.
- 7.—Cape Weed (*Cryptostemma Calendulceum*)—First flower open in field.
- 8.—Blushing Bindweed (*Convolvulus erubescens*)—First Flower.
- 9.—Dwarf Mallow, or Marsh Mallow (*Malva rotundifolia*)—(a) First flower on seedling; (b) Fruits breaking.
- 10.—Shivery Grass (*Briza minor*)—Flowering shoot appears from leaf-sheath.
- 11.—Storks-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*).—Curling of seeds begins.

(Continued on Page 5).

The Victorian Guiders' Conference.

(Continued).

At night the Guiders re-assembled in the main hall, where various speakers addressed the meeting. First Miss Irving told us something of the recent celebrations in Adelaide, in which the Guides took a prominent part, and at which Victoria was represented by 51 Commissioners, Guiders, Rangers and Guides. The contingent was truly representative, as members came from Nyah, Swan Hill, Tatura, Ballarat, Colac and Melbourne.

The International Demonstration and Folk Dance Festival arranged by the Rangers was most fascinating. When one entered the hall, one found New Zealand on one's left and North American Indians on one's right. There were twenty-three different countries represented by the Rangers, who had taken immense pains to discover the customs, dresses and typical handicrafts of the country which they depicted. In each case the Ranger company had corresponded with Guides (or Girl Scouts) in the country which they represented, and in many cases the Guides overseas presented them with gifts, such as examples of handicraft, badges, and so on, as well as supplying all the necessary information. The Ranger Company representing Finland had been unable to find any examples of Finnish folk dancing, so they had visited a Finnish ship in port, and had learned both music and dances from the skipper. Among the gifts were two navy blue saris from India, with the trefoil embroidered around the edge.

The Brownies and Brown Owls had depicted nurseries through the ages—from prehistoric times to a startling nursery of the future, where, among other things, a baby to be bathed is put into an opening in a box marked "Dirty" and comes out, at the other end, from one marked "Clean."

The Brownies had also formed twenty-four fairy rings—about which the Chief State Commissioner asked one of the Brownies a question. The Brownie answered it, and then said "Are you a Judge?" "No," answered the Commissioner. "Just as well," said the Brownie, "because you don't know much about it."

The Guides had concentrated on Patrol corners—fifty-four entries—for which Miss Irving was one of the judges. The judges were afterwards accused of making the comfort of the seats in the corners the most important consideration—but, as Miss Irving said, the first thing one did on entering a corner was to sit down—and some of the seats were very comfortable! Actually in the judging handicrafts, ingenuity and comfort were all included. The corners were, of course, a company effort, done by the Guides themselves.

As well as Brownies, Guides and Rangers' displays, there were miniature rock gardens, made by members of Local Associations.

As well as the Guide Demonstration, there was an English fair, in which there were all sorts of fascinating sideshows. One of these was an excellent cure for bad temper—it consisted of breaking up old china, while another one involved slashing a ham.

There was, too, a Thanksgiving Service, in which the Guides took part, and various other celebrations and festivities. Altogether the Victorian Guides had a very happy and enjoyable time, for which they are truly grateful to the South Australians.

Miss Battle then spoke to the Conference on some of the history of Folk Dancing, explaining the differences between folk dancing, country dancing and Morris. Folk dancing is really the continuation of some of the early religious festivities, with the object of propitiating the various gods. The chief priest went ahead, and after him, in procession, followed the men, in disguise and dancing. When they were sure that the god was awakened and listening, they offered up a sacrifice—sometimes inanimate, such as corn or fruits, sometimes an animal or a human life. There are still many places where these sacrificial dances persist—in the Morris sword dance, and, in words, in "London Bridge is falling down."

It was Cecil Sharp who did so much for folk dancing, and who traced the origin and music of so many of the dances. Incidentally, it is interesting that the name "Morris" dance may come from the time when John of Gaunt's army came home from Spain when anyone in disguise was called a Moor.

The maypole has its early origin in the days when bands of people would dance around the trees of the woods, seeking the favour of the spirit of the tree. Then they found it more convenient to dance around one tree, and chose the may, and then erected a pole, as a general representation of the spirit of the tree.

Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn, who had been present at the World Conference in Sweden, spoke on some of her experiences there. They went first to Copenhagen, and then on to Stockholm, where the Swedish guides gave them a most enthusiastic and friendly welcome. They were entertained by the Princess Sibylla. They were also welcomed at a Midsummer feast, where the stage was decorated by branches of silver birches—which, in Sweden, are as common as gumtrees here.

Among the twenty-six countries represented at the conference were Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Esthonia, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, Suomi-Finland and the United States of America.

At Rattvik, where the Conference was held after two days in Stockholm, there was a Patrol Leaders' camp of over two hundred leaders. Each night the delegates were entertained by country dancing and songs by the Swedish Guides, or by the villagers in the native dresses.

Mrs. Fairbairn also told us the Chief Guide's remark, "that Guiding and Scouting are like a patent medicine—if you alter the medicine you may alter the result."

On Sunday afternoon a Guides' Own, as part of the Guiders' Conference, was held at St. Helena. Here, in an open paddock near St. Katherine's Church, assembled the Guiders, who were again honored with the presence

of Lady Huntingfield. Miss Barfus was in charge of the service, and spoke to the Guiders on the necessity for carrying out the first clause of the Guide Promise—"On my honour I promise to do my best to do my duty to God."

Too often we are guilty of leaving out this most important part of our aim as Guiders, and while we are usually ready to give our time and thought to helping the Guide to pass her tests—signalling, knotting and the like—we omit altogether to give her that moral courage and religious foundation which is such a vital part of her character.

After the close of the Guides' Own, the Guiders inspected St. Katherine's, and then home, in the cool deepening dusk.

Everyone at the Guiders' Conference would like, I am sure, to express their thanks and appreciation to the Chairman, Miss Paling, to the various speakers, and to the Committee for the tremendous amount of work and responsibility which they so successfully undertook.

It was a fitting tribute to the spirit of co-operation and sisterhood which embraced us, that we should, at the Guides' Own, sing Whittier's "O Brother Man."

"O Brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother,
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there.
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

Preliminary Phenological Record.

(Continued from page 3)

- 12.—Apple (variety . . . one popular in district—(a) Winter buds burst; (b) Flowers open; (c) Seeds all brown; (d) Autumn colour half complete; (e) 90% leaves fallen.
- 13.—Grape Vine (variety . . . Select most popular in locality); (a) Winter buds burst; (b) Pollen being shed; (c) Ripening begun; (d) Autumn color half complete; (e) 90 per cent leaves fallen.
- 14.—Bidgee Widgee Burr (Acaena sanquiorba).—Burr breaking.
- 15.—Welcome Swallow. (a) Last seen; (b) return.
- 16.—Fairy Martin (a) Last seen; (b) return.
- 17.—Black-backed Magpie. Swooping at nesting time.
- 18.—White-backed Magpie. Swooping at nesting time.
- 19.—Green Praying Mantis.—Eggs hatch.
- 20.—Hive Bees—first swarm.
- 21.—Vine Moth—First on wing.

I hope Companies will send in reports to me, that I may pass the information on to the League of Youth. The League year will close on 30th June, 1937.

One sheet only should come from each Company. If plant or animal is not observed, write "Not seen." Do not include anything outside a three-mile radius from Company meeting-place.

Take care to avoid early records arising from unusual situations.

Any reports on (a) Appearance of pests; (b) Weather; (c) Events in local crops, pastures, gardens or stock would be most helpful.

M. H. JOLLY.

Gipton Site Working Bee.

On Saturday, 11th October, 1936, thirty-one Guide folk did yeoman service—or should we say Guide service?—on the site, and the result is a metamorphosis.

The District Commissioner, Mrs. J. A. P. Ham, and Mrs. W. H. Wykes, and Mrs. Bond, of the Frankston Local Association, were among the first to arrive; others in the advance party were Miss Lena Weickhardt, who was in charge of the pruning and planting, and was assisted by Miss Carine Wettennan; both these Guiders are trained gardeners.

Eleven Guides of 1st Frankston Company came, and others represented were 1st Melbourne Rangers, Malvern District, Hawthorn District, 6th Victorian Lone Rangers, South and Port Melbourne and Albert Park district.

A map of the site was pinned to the wall, with labels attached, showing the jobs to be done. Only two labels remained when work ceased at dusk. A dead tree was chopped down, a large sandhill removed in barrow and spread over another part of the grounds, the very extensive hedge trimmed, and the prunings burnt; and all dead wood on the site chopped and stacked for firewood. The mowing of the lawns was another solid task. A large selection of necessary tools and implements had been very kindly lent by various people. Through the kindness of the ladies of the Local Association, "time off" did not include getting and clearing away meals, for these ladies took charge of all this part of the day's activities.

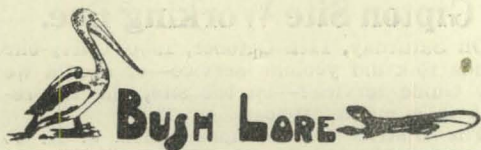
During the afternoon, all present had a share in the privilege of planting the many shrubs and trees that had been presented. The three companies of Rangers who had done much of the preliminary developing of the site each planted a pine tree, which will give welcome shade to Guides of the future. Another shade tree given by Mrs. C. P. Broadhurst was planted by the District Commissioner; the representatives of the Local Association planted another; Frankston Guides had a finger in the pie, too, likewise the other workers. Frankston Guides have kindly undertaken to nurture the newly-planted shrubs, and water them occasionally during the first months.

Parties of Guides who camp at Gipton will carry on the work, bit by bit, and next autumn there is to be an official Arbour Day for further planting.

Interstate Poster Competition.

The entries for the Interstate Poster Competition were not so numerous as expected, although there were some from Victoria and New South Wales. Of the four entries in our own State, two secured prizes and two honourable mentions. The judges were Mr. G. C. Benson, Mr. Harold Krantz and Miss Irene Carter, who awarded the first prize (£3) to Miss Jean Robertson, 1st South Perth Ranger Coy., for "directness of statement, drawing, and idea well expressed, and simplicity of treatment."

The second prize went to New South Wales, and the third was awarded to Miss Biddy Perry, South Perth.



TEEMING MILLIONS.

Talking of insects, so much of late made me think of Law 6 in relation to them: "A Guide is a Friend to Animals"—and by animals we have come to mean all living creatures. Do our Guides understand this? Do they discriminate between destructive and harmful insects on the one hand, and useful and harmless insects on the other? The natural tendency is to squash, stamp on, destroy!! Children are thoughtless in their destruction, often ignorant, and in the case of very young children, tease and hurt small things just for the fun of it. What an opportunity we have here!

BROWN SHIELD BUG.

The babies are exact replicas of the adults. The eggs from which they emerged were transparent and it was seen that the egg was intact, and that the exit had been made through a tiny hinged trapdoor. (Observation)

The following are notes from Froggatt's "The Insect Book":—

Bugs: Hemiptera, from the structure of the forewing—one half of it horny, the rest semi-transparent. The mouth has all the parts solidified into a tapering sheath known as a beak or rostrum—stiff and jointed, rests under the thorax when not in use. Enclosed in this beak are one to three fine pointed hollow hair-like tubes called setae. The bug presses its beak upon the plant and sucks the juice through the setae, which pierce the skin.

Plant Bugs—Metallic Green Shield Bug, Green-spined Orange bug, Crusader bug, Brown Gumtree bug, Rutherglen bug, Coon bug.

("Matilda" wants observations on these or any other bugs you have seen.)

PARAGRYPILLACRIS.

This poor creature has no common name, but belongs to the grasshopper family. The following observations were sent in by a Guide: A paragrillacris came in a piece of wood, in a load from the country. He was curled up in a hole—only young, a pale shade with brown markings and wings just beginning to grow. Has long feelers, easily twice the length of the body. Saw lots of them at Mornington at Christmas time. They eat other insects, as I found out, because I put one in a jar with other things, and he ate the lot. Also they can give you a nasty nip, as I also know.

My specimen is curled up in an old emperor gum-moth cocoon now. How he managed to get in plus feelers, and then turn round, facing the opening, I don't know, but there he is.

CUP-MOTH CATERPILLARS.

Found the first arrivals of this season's cup-moth caterpillars, during the week-end. (July.) They are not much more than a quarter inch long, but have all the markings, colored already.

(I also found some on a small gum, and was astonished at the huge "bays" they had eaten in the leaves, although only tiny.—Ed.)

Visitors to the Gardens.

My path to work lies through the Fitzroy Gardens, and so many different birds visit there that I started noting them down.

First of all there are the ones we see in our gardens at home—blackbirds, sparrows, starlings, minahs, the lovely song thrush and the white-plumed honey-eater, which most of us know as "Greenie."

The next on my list was a bird which I spied on a plane tree trunk. I wasn't sure what it was, so I had a very good look, and, on turning up Leach's Bird Book, found it was the white-throated tree-creeper.

Crimson rosellas (the big red and blue ones) are common, and they are frequently accompanied by the young ones, which are not like their bright parents, but have red, yellow and green plumage, all in very dull tonings. I have even seen two of the crimson rosellas flying down Collins Street, and perching on the Melbourne Club building, quite undeterred by the traffic noises.

In the spring a pallid cuckoo arrived, and day after day, and for what seemed hours at a stretch, sat on a flagpole across from my window and sang his monotonous ascending-scale call. No wonder one of his names is the brain-fever bird!

A lovely spinebill hovering over a flowering shrub, numbers of gold finches, three of them sitting on top of the tallest blossoms in a bed of crimson salvia, a blue wren and family on a smooth green lawn! these are pictures which brighten the grayest day.

At a very busy period (8.59 a.m.) all pedestrian traffic was held up on one of the main paths while a black duck and her family crossed to one of the lakes. Eleven children there were, very fluffy and young, and they had carefully arranged themselves in threes, with a single one at head and tail, quite in the best Guide manner.

Cormorants were giving the gold fish a bad time in the Treasury Gardens next door. The red and the brush wattle birds are two more very frequent visitors—their unmusical cries are very noticeable in the quiet of a Sunday morning.

One sunny lunch hour I watched two thornbills feeding a pair of lusty youngsters in the lemon tree which is in the garden of the building where I work. They seemed to be collecting scale insects off the leaves. Those babies had such good appetites that the parents didn't get a minute's rest.

For months I had been trying to find out how the collar round the throat of the Indian turtle dove was made up. A tragedy in the bird world enabled me to examine a corpse, and I found that the feathers were almost oblong in shape with a black square and then a white square on each feather. Alternative feathers had the squares of colour reversed, which gave the checked effect.

The last one to be added was the best of all—a pale, grey shape that late one evening flew silently on to a bough in the light from a street lamp, and turned its solemn face round to me—an owl!

Altogether my list amounts to twenty-five, including in addition to those already mentioned kookaburras, magpie larks, fantails, robins—and it is still growing!

INA WATSON.

BROWNIES

If you think the world is all wrong, remember that it contains people like you. (Ghandi).

Original Dances.

(a) The 1st Eastern Hill, St. Peter's Pack, Dance for the Stradbroke Cup.

It is evening, the early moon shines on the figures of two tired children. They limp and are evidently lost in the bush. At last they sink exhausted on a mossy bank and fall asleep.

A band of aborigines in full corroboree paint enter. They wish to dance and they wish for others to dance with them; eagerly they confer, and one points out to the others pink and green orchids. Quickly they dance up to them and the flowers agree to dance with them. They dance round together in a circle, now the natives dance into the centre, now the orchids, now they dance with stealthy, snake-like movements, twisting in and out, now again in the centre, now they are as the emu, now in the centre.

The moon is setting—the dancers hopping like kangaroos reach the banks where the flowers settle down just as if they could never move—little greenhoods and pinkbells, the natives dance away to their hunting grounds.

Comes the dawn, the sun rises, the children wake, startled and afraid—they hear the sound of a "Coo-ee," they turn to each other in delight, happily, hand in hand they skip off towards the call.

And so the dance is over. L.T.

(b) AN ORIGINAL DANCE, 1st Richmond Pack.

"What do you mean by an Australian dance, Brown Owl?"

"I think it would be a dance like the blackfellows used to do, don't you?"

"But what would we do in the dance?"

"Could we have lions and tigers?"

"No, kangaroos, because it's in Australia."

"I want to be a blackfellow."

That was our first pow-wow about our dance, but gradually we decided what we'd do, and why. Our tom-tom beater, armed with a biscuit tin and a pair of scissors, sat in the middle and round her four Brownies, holding branches of gum representing trees. In the shade of each tree crouched two blackfellows; and everything was very still, because the country was in the grip of a drought. But the worst drought must end, and soon we heard, on the tom-tom, the first patter of rain. Two blackfellows wakened, stretched out their hands to see that it really was rain, and joyfully went round to waken up the others. The harder the rain fell the more wildly they danced, while the trees swayed and tossed their banches. Then they squatted and slapped their thighs while Paula did a solo dance—we discussed the knotty problem of whether blackfellows did catherine wheels, high kicking or tap dancing, and decided that Paula should do some high kicks. Everybody then showed by actions that the rain would make things grow, and the black men would have lots to eat; and they danced in and out till a loud clap of thunder sent them scurrying back to the shelter of their trees.

"But what are we going to wear? Could we wear masks, black jumpers and stockings?"

"But we haven't got any!"

A visit to the Museum showed us Australian aborigines in tall head-dresses decorated, as were their bodies, with red and white feathers, and with necklaces of small pieces of cane strung together. Then came inspiration—we wouldn't be black, but brown, with uniforms turned inside out and tucked into bloomers, tall black hats, brown paper beads, lots of cotton wool feathers and brown grease-painted faces, hands and legs.

We were very busy people then, till the day came when we went to see another Pack do their dance, and to show them ours. Our Commissioner came and saw us, too! and she thought that perhaps it would be better if we just let the Rangers represent us in the dance section; but she had a prize for each Pack; and our mothers would be able to see our dance at the District Concert. H.G.

(c) A FAIRY DANCE by 4th Brighton Pack. Danced to the music from "Morning," part 1, "Piergynt Suite."

As the curtain rose there came into view a garden with flower beds of daffodils and poppies, green lawn (green carpet).

At the back of the stage towered green cypress, and to one side of the picture sat a small brown elf by a toadstool. From the other side of the stage a little girl came into the garden and settled down to read. Presently to the soft strains of music, a fairy queen appeared, dressed in white, with a garland of white blossom through her long golden hair. As she danced among the flowers she gently touched the other fairies, who were asleep. Gradually they awoke (six little fairies in pastel shaded frocks) and danced happily in the garden until a great golden sun rose above the trees, when the Fairy Queen beckoned them once more to their flowery bower. N.L.

CORRECTION.

TOOTHBRUSH HOLDER.

Instead of "hammer 2 double pointed tapes" should be "two double pointed TACKS."

CHRISTMAS HANDICRAFTS.

Here are some ideas for varying the same old useful articles to be given away at Christmas.

Firstly the calendar! Have you tried making them with cardboard animal background, such as an elephant with calendar forming saddle, or dog or cat with one fastened to their collar? The animals need to be simple and plain, not too much detail or work attached or it would be too difficult. Animals to be traced can now be bought by the hox, and have endless possibilities.

These same animals also provide ideas for needle cases which would be a bit different.

What about a tie-rack for father? A piece of strong cardboard or three-ply, two small eyelets screwed in with a skewer stuck through. If the skewer has a piece of thick thread or a rubber band wound round it on the outside of the eyelet it will prevent it slipping through. The whole lacquered or silver-frosted.

Have you tried hanky-bags in the form of Dutch trousers or dolls, their skirts the bag, with a slit in the back to put the hankies in? The heads can either be rag ones with painted faces and wool hair or cut off cheap celluloid dolls.

Mothballs can look quite dainty if first wrapped in red crepe paper and then gold or

silver tricotine twisted to form stems like a bunch of cherries and tied together with ribbon in bunches of three.

Books for children can be of the folding type instead of with leaves. These are made with cardboard, cut to size desired and joined with linen or calico on both sides to make strong enough. These are admirable for a story picture such as Ginger Meggs. V.H.

OPENING AND CLOSING FOR A TRIP TO THE SEA.

(Tune: The Wearing of the Green)

Oh Brownies come and gather round,
We're going to the sea;
So pack your bags, put on your hats,
And come along with me.

Now all must have a ticket here,
A penny each they cost,
So run to Tawny Ticket-man
And see they don't get lost.

Now shut your eyes, count up to ten,
Open, what do you see?
A station and a railway train
Waiting for you and me.

Now, take your seats. The signal's down.
The guard is whistling fast.
The train goes on with many a puff,
Hurrah! The sea at last.

To Close:

Now, Brownies, it is time for home,
The train begins to puff;
We stare back at the sparkling sea,
We haven't had enough.

We scramble from our railway train,
We shut our eyes again—
We find we're in our hall once more,
When we've counted back from ten.

Opening.

For those who like to end with the secret:

Where we have been, no one can find,
For never a trace do we leave behind.
Only the mortals we've helped to-day,
Know that a Brownie has been this way.

The following could be used for an opening:

Where we will go, nobody knows,
For Brownies all have magic toes!
Whether it's forest, beach or fairyland,
Wherever we go, we will Lend a Hand.

FLYING-UP CEREMONY.

Pack in a circle around the toadstool. The Brownie goes to the toadstool and finds her "Wings" and then goes and says goodbye to Brown Owl. The Pack then form a pathway towards the door, where the Captain is standing. The new Sixer and Fiver each take a hand of the Brownie and go with her up the pathway saying—

"We will speed you on your way
As you from the Pack do fly
To the great big Guiding World
That's waiting now to be explored."

The new Sixer and Fiver then shake hands with and salute the Brownie, who then goes towards the Captain. As the Sixer and Fiver go back up the pathway, the Brownies say "Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye," and the Pack and Brownie salute each other. R.L.S.

Library Notes.

Is it a surprise to many or few, that our Library contains over 100 copies of music?

Why worry what you can afford in the way of Country Dance music—to face a music shop mean £s. Hopeless? no: not a bit! Just go up to Library and borrow the copies you fancy and try them out decide what you want—and then it is time enough to purchase.

We have all the different sets in Library, 1 to 10, which give you a wide choice. Then, again, "Black Nag," "Gathering Peacocks" etc. etc. can all be had in separate copies, and so Country Dancing is within the grasp of all.

Now, how many more Country Dance parties can be enjoyed, how many more financial difficulties relieved, as well as many a Company being self-supporting and a "cheer" to their Local Association—you are giving a pleasure to many—even though you lack the "gift" to play a tin whistle, or a mouth organ, you will find someone who can . . . or arrange music. So, on with the dance!

Again, how often is Captain "stuck" for a new song, and the Co. want "something fresh"? LOOK OUT for growing stale. It is a complaint whose first symptoms always originated in Captain . . . so BEWARE: a very unsuspecting disease, but very infectious—so try a new song—put a little "fresh" dash into the Company. Singing always does, for even the poorest singer likes a try—and all enjoy the "Companionable Air"—of community singing. Then do have a look through the Catalogue always kept in the Library Cupboard . . .

Guide Song Book, Campfire Singing, Song of the G.G., Sea Songs and Shanties, and a host of others. ("Matilda" will not let me put in the whole 100).

And, again, for our sober moods . . . "Guide Hymns and Tunes", etc. I feel sure, Captain, if you peruse the list, something will turn up to help you over "that" difficulty.

Lately we have been hunting through Scout Headquarters Library, as well as among the books of our own on sale, and quite a few have been purchased, and placed at your disposal—and many more "earmarked" . . . "to be our's" . . . but then of that you will hear again . . .

CORRESPONDENCE.

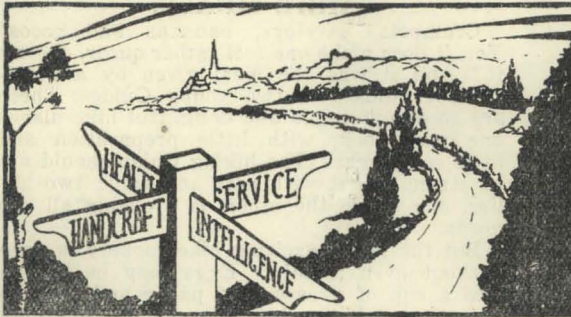
Dear Editor,

8th October, 1936.

Although I am not actually hard up for something to do, I can't refrain from expressing my surprise at a statement that appeared in the September "Brownie Page." I have a very soft spot for our Brownie page, and the spot extends to the blocks that appear on it from time to time—particularly the last one—and it came indeed as a surprise suddenly to read "everyone is tired of them."

May I prove an exception to this rule? The quaint little men in their funny postures in an endeavour to herald the good news, "Brownies" always get a smile out of me. I don't say that a new block won't do even more, but I, for one, am certainly not tired of the old block—if I were, I would take it as a sign that I was tired of the whole page. Very far from it, though; so "Here's to the old block, and good luck to the new"—but don't let's be tempted to turn too easily from the old love to the new. Yours sincerely,

A B.O. IN RECESS.



The Sign Post

(Editor, Miss R. Denny)

MADemoisELLE MARIA GLORIA.

(Concluded)

"Cornet Howard!" said de Courcillon thickly. Mademoiselle Maria Gloria laid her hand on his arm.

"They brought him here yesterday," she said quietly, "he was wounded, and pitiful. Monsieur le Duc, do you not understand? He was one against ten?"

"So it was not for France, but for an Englishman!" said de Courcillon, very white. "How did he get here?"

"My servants found him swooning by the road."

"And, Mademoiselle, why did you lie to me? Did you think I should slay a wounded man?"

"I did not know, I thought at least you would not let me stay. My cousin would have killed him."

They heard trampling on the stairs.

"King Charles or King Louis?" shouted the leader.

"France!" cried de Courcillon, but from behind him the wounded man called out hoarsely, "England and—don't fire!"

De Courcillon leant over the banister:

"Messieurs, I am one of His Majesty's officers."

"Surrender!" called the Englishman.

De Courcillon laughed. "Have I not said I am one of King Louis' Officers?"

"We shall fire on sight then," came the answer.

The English swarmed up the stairs: one carried a lantern, and the Star of St. Louis glittered on de Courcillon's breast.

There was a confused babble of voices.

"That is he with the star," cried one. But Mademoiselle Maria Gloria was upon the landing: "No!" she cried. "There is an Englishman here."

She carried the lamp with her, and as she spoke she dashed it down. The sudden darkness confused the English; they heard the weak voice of Cornet Howard calling not to fire, and de Courcillon's gay voice saying:

"Messieurs, you are correct; he with the star is a Frenchman!"

The darkness grew alive with the sound of stumbling footsteps; they could not tell if one or twenty men waited above, and to complete the confusion the man with the lantern tripped. They were in deep darkness.

"Go back into the room," whispered Maria Gloria to de Courcillon.

He felt her close to him, her hands clung to his coat pleading; but he put her aside with a laugh and fired into the press of men.

A murmur of rage arose. Someone fell heavily. They shouted for lights. The foremost man managed to strike his flint and tinder; as the flame arose they saw a figure looking down on them with the Star of St. Louis on the breast.

There was a low hum of voices, and muskets fired at the star as the tinder went out.

A sound sounded like a very delicate laugh.

A dark outline swayed up against the square of the window. The losing balance fell over the balustrade and slipped with a dull sound into the hall.

Suddenly the place flooded with light as a party of men with torches swept in from the courtyard.

"What is this?" asked Marlborough, stopping. On the floor lay a woman, her long black hair twisted over her face, and on her breast a little diamond star.

Marlborough's eyes flashed over the soldiers staring dumbly, stupidly, at the white figure.

"What have you done?" he demanded. "Is she dead?"

But de Courcillon had come down the stairs: terribly calm, he walked past them all and knelt beside Maria Gloria.

"She did it for me," he said. "See, she took this off and pinned it—a target—on her breast in the dark; for me—"

Marlborough bared his head; for all the red light, his face was pale.

De Courcillon lifted the black hair; the silence was absolute till above them showed the wan figure of Cornet Howard.

"Your Highness," he said, "give-that-man-his-life—" and fell into a comrade's arms.

"Monsieur," said Marlborough, "we will not intrude longer. I have no need to tell you that you are free."

He turned abruptly away, his officers at his heels.

But de Courcillon was calm. He took from her the Star of St. Louis and turned into the night and rode across the fields.

"Had we had time, we had loved Mademoiselle," he said to the Star of St. Louis, "but now we have all eternity."

And when he fell at Oudenarde these diamonds shone very brightly on his breast.

THE END.

NIGHT SIGNALLING.

Now that the nights are warmer and drier let us have more of our precious hour and a half of Company meeting time outdoors.

Really exciting things can be done in school yards and even in streets. Have you tried signalling with flags by the light of street lamps? One Company had a great time doing this one night; the Guides loved it, as they love all games in the dark. There were two teams, each of which had a message to deliver, and the first to bring their message to the appointed spot won the game. The first sending station was at one lamp-post and the first receiving station at the next. When the latter received the message, they sent a runner with it to the sending station at the next lamp post, who in turn signalled the message to the second receiving station further on. Thus the sending and receiving stations were at alternate posts.

If the Guides are not used to station signalling let each station have a list of procedure signals (see "Signalling for Guides") and a torch.

See that the signallers are in the light from the lamp but not directly under it, and choose streets with little traffic, as car headlights are decidedly disconcerting. I.W.

BRAINWAVE BASKET.

State Badges.

Those cloth State Badges fade so! The blue diamond may be brightened by painting with waterproof blue ink, obtainable from any shop which sells artists' materials. A bottle will prolong the lives of the whole Company's State Badges for many a long day.

The "Books."

It simplifies dealing with books—text books, roll books, log books, etc., if they are kept in a box, with or without a lid. The box can be moved from the cupboard to the table, and there are the books, all standing in a tidy row. A list can be written or pasted on the end of the box and the books checked by this before returning to the cupboard.

Trails.

Laying a trail in streets often presents a problem. Stones and sticks are rare (they may, of course, be brought from home), and even when found and laid are liable to be kicked aside by the public. Shreds of colored paper, pieces of wool or colored string or beans are useful, but of no use on a windy day, as they won't stay put! Chalk is not woodcraft-y, but with it one can make those exciting signs and if a dark blue or grey chalk is used, the signs are not conspicuous. Whatever the material used, the last followers of the trail should collect it.

AN AWFUL THOUGHT.

An Awful Thought has just come to us! Every Guider in Victoria must have endless ideas or else she has none. Therefore, the Endless Ideas will be sending their ideas to the Sign Post Page, and the Have Nones will be sending for some. How busy we shall be . . . perhaps! In the August issue we asked Guiders to send in articles or queries, and so far we have had—none. At least everyone will have one Wave, or even a ripple, for the Brainwave Basket. Send it to the Signpost Editor, H.Q.'s. R.D.

HIKE MEALS.

Crumpets, saveloys, bananas and cocoa! Yes, it does make one feel rather queer, doesn't it? And it was the meal given by a First-Class candidate to two young Guides. There are so many simple and delightful hike dishes one may cook, with little preparation and little equipment. The hiking Guide should not be strung about with pots and pans; two billys, one inside the other, is probably all she needs.

But the really exciting hike cookery is done without even a billy. Eggs may be broken into a cup of greaseproof paper and the cup then wrapped in wet newspaper. Or they may be cooked in an orange skin; if the skin is lined with paper the egg will not taste of orange. Tomatoes may be cooked wrapped up in several large wet leaves.

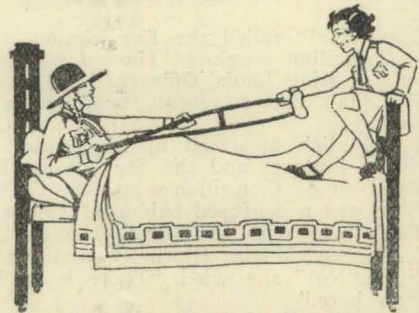
If potatoes are partly cooked before the hike, they may be scooped out and eggs cooked in them. Sausages may be cooked in banana skins.

Meat may be wrapped in very damp greaseproof paper, then damp brown paper, and buried in the ashes. When the brown paper is burnt off, the meat will be cooked.

If the Guides like using a frying pan, show them how to fry eggs slowly by pouring the fat over the eggs until the yolks have a thin white covering. Cheese Dreams are famous, but have you tried Sausage Dreams? Slice cold sausages and make into sandwiches; fry in dripping until brown on both sides.

Sausages should be dipped in dry flour and cooked in hot fat; and slices of peeled apple may be cooked with them.

Irish stew is a favorite; flour the meat thickly, add water and onions cut into thick slices. The potatoes are added last, laid on top of the meat, and steamed. Salt and pepper is added when the potatoes go in, and remember to cook slowly. "A stew boiled is a stew spoiled."



CONCERT IN AID OF EXTENSION BRANCH.

A very successful concert in aid of the funds of the Extension Branch was held in St. Peter's Hall, Eastern Hill, on Saturday, October 10th.

This success was due to the great help given by everyone and to the organisation of the concert by Miss Brown. We were also greatly helped by an anonymous person who donated to us the hire of the hall, and the numerous people who bought tickets even though they could not be present. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking them all.

All the returns are not yet in, but we are hopeful of clearing £8. J.A.

"THE RANGER PAGE"

Editor: Miss Boyes.

Notes on Hike Cooking.

Since temper depends largely on digestion, food can make or mar a holiday, and deserves to be taken seriously. Apart from the sheer fun of selecting the menu and the pleasure of beholding one's first successfully cooked damper, outdoor cooking gives every Ranger a chance to create something, teaches forethought, and often provides those long-sought emergencies! What does one do when the only billy develops a leak just before boiling, and there's no more water?

Carrying Hikes.

For these we want to go for a long day's tramp unencumbered by frying pans or squashy cakes. So we call for suggested lists of "What to take" from our Rangers beforehand, pool their ideas and arrive at something like this:—

Day Hike for Six, 12 miles, rough, bushy track.

Gear: Billy, mugs, watches, compass, two knives, spoon, groundsheet—yes, even if it's fine, lunch paper, tea towel, and little rubber tube for bellows.

These last two are rather luxuries, of course!

Food: 1 loaf, $\frac{1}{2}$ butter (in mug or tin), honey, tea, sugar, milk, fruit, biscuits, raisins, material for cooked item.

There won't be time to cook more than one course on a carrying hike. Remember, Rangers or anyone will probably under-estimate time it takes to get meal cooked, and then Captain has to restrain them from eating things raw because they are famished! Better start on bread and butter!

Suggestions for cooked items:

Damper horns. These are done on a green stick size of your thumb and about 2ft. long. Mix S.R. flour to stiff dough and twist round stick like a cream horn. When they slip off stick cleanly they are done, and can be filled with butter or anything.

Kebobs are more elaborate. Have rings of onion, potato, tomato, bacon and chunks of steak. Thread these alternately on green stick and cook on coals. This makes a mixed grill. Note: Cut rings thinly. Split stick at end and fit a chip in split to stop things sliding off end.

Orange Custards can be done in an orange skin filled with egg, milk and sugar mixed, and stood on coals for few minutes. Apples, chops, fish, etc. can be cooked in well wetted brown paper (about six layers) and when it has burnt away they are done.

Fire. But none of these will be eatable unless the fire is sensibly constructed and allowed to burn down. This is the order of the day: Of the six hikers, three fetch wood and make neat piles in sizes, one lights fire, one unpacks kit, one looks after billy all the time, until tea is made. One also should be responsible for fire all the time, or else out it goes just as the dampers are half done.

Woods. After rain, in the Dandenongs, for instance, it's quite a test to get a hot fire going quickly. If everything is wet bark will burn best, and give most heat, and dry out first. Wattle is not good for starting the fire. Lower branches of tree ferns usually keep dry in pouring rain. Twigs broken off gum trees

are less likely to be saturated. If the rain persists the groundsheet can be fixed over wood pile and fire and the rubber bellows will be a boon.

Wind. I should have mentioned first that the match needs to be applied on windward side of fire and, of course direction of smoke considered before setting out food. This would seem obvious, but is often forgotten.

And finally let us as Rangers set an example by remembering always when we are out the golden rule:

"That none but those we have helped this day
Should know that the Guides have passed this way."

Training.

The last Courses for the year in Brownie and Guide Training began early in October.

32nd Victorian Training Week. If applications warrant it, a Training Week for Guiders and prospective Guiders (over 18 years of age) will be held from Tuesday, 29th December, 1936, to Wednesday, 6th January, 1937, inclusive. Further details are not yet available as to exact date and place, but applications should reach the Training Secretary at the Guide Office not later than 14th November, accompanied by a deposit of 5/-. Deposits will not be refunded unless withdrawal is made a fortnight before the beginning of the Week. The fee for the Week will be 30/-.

When applying, Guiders should state whether they wish to do Brownie or Guide Training, and whether they have attended a Training Week before.

M. E. BUSH, Commissioner for Training.

Camping.

Applications for the following Camps should reach the Camping Secretary at Girl Guide Office, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.I., not later than 14th November, 1936. Applications must be accompanied by 5/- deposit for each Camper, and written permission from the District Commissioner. The full fee for each Camp is 22/6.

A **Combined Ranger Camp** will be held at the seaside from 26th December to 2nd January, inclusive. Both country and metropolitan Rangers may apply.

A **Combined Guide Camp** will be held in the country from 28th December till 4th January inclusive; these dates have had to be altered, being earlier than those originally advertised. This Camp is for not more than four Guides from any Company whose Guider has not herself a Camper's Licence.

A **Camp for Patrol Leaders** who have already passed the Second Class Test will be held from 12th to 19th January, inclusive, at the seaside.

The fee for any of these camps is 22/6.

A **Campcraft Week for Guiders** who wish for camp training will be held from 20th to 27th January, inclusive. Guiders who have been nominated by their Commissioners will be tested for the Camper's Licence and Quartermaster's Certificate; the candidates will need to go into camp one day sooner, and stay one day later, than the main camp dates. The fee for this Camp is 35/-.

F. H. PURNELL, Commissioner for Camping

APPOINTMENTS.**District Commissioner.**

Box Hill—Miss P. Salmon,
26 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell, E.6.
Fitzroy and Collingwood—Mrs. Charles
Sutherland, 31 Hampden St., Armadale, SE.3
Maryborough—Mrs. Morton,
C/o. Union Bank, Maryborough.
Yarraville and Newport—Mrs. Roy Ebeling,
80 Stephen Street, Yarraville, W13.

District Captain.

South and Port Melb.—Miss Frances Davies.

WARRANTS.**Brown Owl.**

1st Corryong—Miss Eunice Flitton.
1st Daylesford—Miss Una Hands.
5th Hawthorn—Miss M. Harris.
1st Stawell—Miss Margaret Bristow.
1st Wangaratta—Miss Leila Howell.

Tawny Owl.

1st Canterbury—Miss Olga Holtz.
4th Caulfield—Miss Melva Hicks.
1st Dandenong—Miss Beryl Baines.
1st Somerville—Miss Joyce Newman.
1st Stawell—Miss Valmai Johnson.

Captain.

4th Ballarat—Miss Marion Blake.
1st Cororooke—Miss Elsie Binns.
1st Daylesford—Miss Hazel Grant.
1st Euroa—Miss Hazel Malseed.
10th Geelong—Miss Muriel Wiggs.
1st Hawksburn—Miss Jean Kerr.
1st Krowera—Miss Nellie White.
1st Mansfield—Miss Jean Finlason.
1st North Fitzroy—Miss Pat Beresford.
1st Portland—Miss Elsa Williamson.
1st Portsea—Miss Stella Kendall.
2nd Prahran R.V.I.B.—Miss Nancy James.
1st Tatura—Miss Eileen Buckley.
1st Toorak—Miss Jean Mitchell.
5th Vict. Post Guides—Mrs. Ivan Robinson.

Lieutenant.

3rd Caulfield—Miss Betty Steedman.
1st Dimboola—Miss Dora Davies.
2nd Fitzroy—Miss Monica Cannobio.
1st Maffra—Miss Doris Hill.
1st Monivae—Miss Vera Brewis.
1st Monivae—Miss Beryl Loats.
1st Portsea—Miss Sylvia Kendall.

Ranger Captain.

1st Monivae—Miss Martha Morris.
2nd Prahran (R.V.I.B.)—
Miss Alison Campbell.
S.R.S. Akuna—Miss S. H. Irving.

Ranger Lieutenant.

1st Dimboola—Miss Phyllis Morison.
S.R.S. Akuna—Miss Lena Weickhardt.

District Secretary.

Daylesford—Mrs. McRobert, Lake Road,
Daylesford.
Frankston—Mrs. Bond, Gould St., Frankston
Hamilton—Mrs. Cleator, Box 19, Hamilton.

REGISTRATIONS.

Packs—1st Harcourt.
Companies.—1st Albert Park, 3rd Carlton
(Jewish), 1st Harcourt, 12th Vict. Lone
Guides, 13th Vict. Lone Guides.

CANCELLATIONS.**Division Commissioner.**

Mildura—Miss M. E. Bush.

District Commissioners.

Castlemaine—Miss D. Leviny.
Hamilton—Mrs. Le M. Kneebone.

Tawny Owl.

1st Cheltenham—Miss M. Hornibrook.

Brown Owl.

1st Yallourn—Miss D. Drummond.
2nd Yallourn—Miss B. Kerr.

Lieutenant.

1st Cheltenham—Miss J. Linford.
4th St. Kilda—Miss Betty Casper.
6th Vict. Lone Guides—Miss P. Lightowler.

Captain.

2nd Ararat—Miss E. Alfred.
3rd Ballarat—Miss M. Hutton Jones.
1st Bendigo—Miss Maud Koska.
1st Boolarra—Miss J. Rodway.
1st Caranballac—Miss M. Edwards.
2nd Hamilton—Miss K. Colville.
1st Hastings—Miss J. Hodgins.
1st Koondrook—Mrs. E. J. Eagle.
1st Portland—Miss Freda Charke.
6th Prahran—Miss G. C. W. Rogers.

Ranger Lieutenant.

1st Balwyn—Miss Evelyn Yule.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

1st Bendigo—Miss R. MacLellan,
27 Drought Street, Bendigo.

UNIFORM FOR SALE.

A Guider's Uniform in very good order is for sale. Has a four-inch hem and bust measurement is 34in. Cost £5/5/-; Guider would accept 2½ guineas. JEAN WESTERN, Devonscot, Kardella.

**SCHOOL
BLAZERS**

Ribbon-bound Blazers in high-
grade flannel, .. from 18/11

**Blazers Tailored to
Measure**

In the best quality Velour
Flannel from 45/-

SNOWS

John Snow & Co. Pty. Ltd., Melb.C1