



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides' Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office on 14th August and 5th September, 1940.

### 14th AUGUST.

Present.—Lady Chauvel, Mesdames Blackwood, Edmondson, Littlejohn and Misses Harrison, Ritchie, Moran, Russell, and the Secretary.

Agreed, that congratulations should be given to Mrs. Littlejohn and Miss Russell on the excellence of the War Appeal Magazine.

That there should be a meeting of members of the War Savings Group.

That a sub-committee should be formed to deal with the question of refugees in relation to Guiding.

That Miss Black, Acting Commissioner for Hospitality, should be asked to make a list of people free and able to help with transport for evacuees from Hong Kong.

That leave of absence for three months should be granted to Miss Cameron.

Reported that a letter had been received from Mrs. Elder thanking the Association for the arrangements made for Guides to help sort paper for the Childrens' Hospital.

That the Metropolitan Ranger Committee was organising a country dance party in aid of the Guide War Appeal on 21st September.

That a letter had been received from Lady Murray Anderson thanking the Association for 15 cases of clothing for evacuees, and referring to Miss Martin's report of her Guiding experiences in Victoria.

That a letter had been received from the Hon. Mrs. Sydney Marsham saying that Lady Clarendon was now the Overseas Commissioner.

### 5th SEPTEMBER.

Present.—Lady Chauvel, Mesdames Faulkner, Blackwood, Edmondson, Littlejohn, and Misses Drury, Harrison, Moran, Purnell, Ritchie, and the Secretary.

Agreed, that the by-laws as received from the Guiders' Committee be approved.

That leave of absence for three months should be granted to Mrs. Bakewell.

That leave of absence till the end of the year should be granted to Mrs. Orr.

That a letter should be sent to Miss Edith Pulz, conveying sympathy to her in her recent severe illness, and expressing the pride felt by the Committee on hearing of the courageous and cheerful way in which she had borne her illness, and of her helpfulness in the hospital.

Reported that Mrs. Blackwood would like her gift of £50 to the Guide House to be put to a fund for a caretaker's cottage.

That there were 12 members of the War Savings Group.

That Miss Moore and the Secretary, repre-

senting the Association, had met ships on which were evacuees from Hong Kong; that, acting with Miss Black, names of the evacuees had been sent to Metropolitan Commissioners.

That in response to a request from the A.I.F. Women's Association, Lady Chauvel had asked Mrs. Tate and Miss Moran to be in charge of the children at a party to be given to the evacuees from Hong Kong.

That the proceeds of the concert, organised by Mrs. Fairbairn, and given by the Ladies' Blue Symphonic Orchestra, were £38/19/5.

That a letter had been received from Miss Joan Alston, thanking the Committee for good wishes to her as Acting Commissioner for Extension.

That a letter had been received from Lady Murray Anderson, thanking Victoria for its contribution of £591/8/- to the Air Ambulance Fund.—M. E. Bush, State Secretary.

## WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS

### DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

Rupanyup: Miss G. Kendall.  
Blackburn: Mrs. Frank Lewis.

### BROWN OWL.

1st Kingsville: Miss M. Green.  
1st Apollo Bay: Mrs. Cawood.

### GUIDE CAPTAIN:

1st Newport: Mrs. Ames.  
9th Hawthorn: Miss D. Landmann.  
1st Caulfield: Miss L. Buggee.  
2nd Caulfield: Miss M. McDonald.  
2nd South Yarra: Miss D. Morton.  
1st Portland: Miss M. McLean.

### PACKS.

1st Birchip.

### LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.

Mirboo North.

### CANCELLATIONS.

### CAPTAIN.

1st Castlemaine Rangers: Miss D. Tubb.  
1st Broadford Rangers: Miss J. Daws.

### DISTRICT SECRETARY.

Daylesford: Mrs. McRobert.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

"Adventuring," South Australia.  
"Bandeirantes," Brazil.  
"The Girl Guide Courier," West Australia.  
"The Girl Guide Magazine," South Africa.  
"Te Rama," New Zealand.  
"Waratah," New South Wales.

[These magazines will be found in the library at Headquarters.—Editor.]

# “Matilda”

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

Price: 3/- Per Year; 4/- Posted. Single Copies, 6d. each.

Editor: E. H. PURNELL, 10 Hermitage Road, Geelong.

Contributions should reach the Editor not later than the 18th of each month.

VOL. XVII.

OCTOBER, 1940.

No. 3.

We regret that we omitted to acknowledge that the article headed **Guide Gift Week**, published in the September “Matilda,” was taken from “The Guider.” We apologise for this omission.—Editor.

## NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers will notice that this issue of “Matilda” has been reduced to sixteen pages. This has been necessary owing to regulations governing the shortage of paper, and in the New Year further cuts will be necessary, but it is hoped that by setting “Matilda” in a smaller, if less attractive face type, it will not be necessary to make drastic reductions in copy.

—EDITOR.

## IMMEDIATE

We would like to remind Divisions that representatives for the 1941 Guiders' Committee should be elected in order that they may attend the November meeting on Friday, 1st November, at 8 p.m., at Guide Headquarters, 60 Market street.—M. E. Bush.

## COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE

The Commissioners' Conference was held on Thursday and Friday, 19th and 20th September, at Shenton, Kinkora road, Hawthorn, by the courtesy of Mrs. Swinburne. This house and garden made a delightful setting and friendly atmosphere for the Conference, and even the weather was kind and allowed us to enjoy it to the full.

The Conference commenced on Thursday morning after an opening ceremony by Lady Chauvel. On Thursday afternoon, Lady Dugan arrived and was welcomed by Lady Chauvel, and later every Commissioner was presented to her. She was accompanied by Lady Armitage, and they both stayed to tea. During the afternoon, Miss D. Hayman gave an entralling talk on Guiding in India, where she has been for the past two years.

Questions sent in were discussed and many viewpoints put forward. Also reports were re-

ceived from heads of the departments, and from the different branches of war work. There was a practical session each day when ceremonies and games were explained and demonstrated.

Forty-seven Commissioners in all attended the sessions. In the absence of Mrs. Faulkner, the Convener of the Committee, arrangements of the Conference were in the hands of Mrs. Colin Macdonald.

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Swinburne for her hospitality in allowing us to make free use of her home.—M.R.F.

## GUIDERS' CONFERENCE

This year, we can say in very truth, that we had a “State-wide” Conference, as there were representatives from 11 of the 19 Country Divisions. The afternoon session was attended by about 100 Guiders and at the evening session for delegates there were 40 present.

The questions discussed brought forward many interesting and thoughtful suggestions. The summing-up of Question 1 was: That we could best build on the Guide Law and so give greater training and aid to a feeling of security. On the practical side, we should aim to expect of the Guides such things as are within the scope of their capabilities. They could give local help in taking messages, etc., and we could concentrate on outdoor things and so keep them healthy. We should base our training on the Guide Law and on a wide outlook of internationalism, and must teach the Guides the importance of health. The question relating to Badges brought forward much argument. Four badges came under consideration for alteration, viz.: Aborigine, Booklover, Health and Friend to Animals. They should all be considered as practical badges. This practical part of all badges should be emphasised. Guides should only write what they cannot speak, and only speak what they cannot act! Miss Moore, Commissioner for Tests and Badges, pointed out that it was important to find examiners who understood what was wanted in the test. Some badges, for instance, Child Nurse, Sick Nurse and Ambulance, definitely need special instruction, and Guides should not be passed without having received that instruction.

The by-laws for the Victorian Guiders' Committee were discussed and passed by the delegates. Owing to lack of space, these will not be published until next month. There is one

by-law, however, to which attention should be paid when Divisional representatives are being chosen for next year's Committee.

**By-law No. 2.—Membership:** Only Guiders who hold or have held a warrant within a period of two years shall be eligible for election to the Committee. The Committee shall consist of one representative from each Division and Lones and Extensions, elected by its own Guiders, each Division to be free to decide its own method of election. Country Divisions may either elect as their representative one of their own Guiders, or a Guider who lives in the metropolitan area. Each Division shall also elect a "deputy" to represent them at meetings of the Committee if the Division representative is unable to attend. The retiring Committee shall elect two of its members for the following year, one of whom shall be a retiring office-bearer. These continuity members shall change annually. It is optional whether these two members represent their Divisions or whether new representatives be elected in addition.

Divisions are reminded that their new representatives should attend the November meeting, i.e., Friday, 1st November, at 8 p.m. at Guide Headquarters, 60 Market street.

The Guiders' Own service, lead by Miss Purnell, was thoroughly enjoyed by the 80 Guiders present. The subject, "How Can We Help the Guides to Develop a Sense of Responsibility and Dependability," brought forth some very spirited interchange of ideas from a large percentage of Guiders. Many of the remarks tended to show that as Guiders we might well set our own house in order.

To sum up the result of this year's Conference in one word, I should venture to say it was "thought-provoking."—O. G. M. Knight, Chairman, V.G.C.

## GUIDE WAR APPEAL

The following letter has been received from the Secretary of the British Seamen's Society:

The Mariners' Institute,  
South Quay,  
Great Yarmouth,  
England.  
3rd August, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Littlejohn,—

The two cases of comforts sent by you on the s.s. Strathmore have arrived and been cleared this week. On behalf of the British Sailors' Society and our local branch, I want to thank you and your Girl Guides very much indeed for such a magnificent gift. All the comforts are so very useful and all the work is such good work.

I can assure you that our sailors greatly appreciate your generosity. The flannel vests are a most unusual gift, and most useful. The men so often ask for underclothes. It is splen-

did of you all to help so very substantially, and the Society is most grateful.

I personally am very very pleased with the contents of the cases. The unpacking provided a great thrill.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Dorothy Elton,  
Hon. Secretary.

To 5th September, 1940, 26,553 garments have been sent to England. Of these, 2062 went to the British Seamen's Society at Great Yarmouth. Money received for the year amounted to £5,152/12/6.

## W.V.R.N.S.

Last June I wrote to everyone who had enrolled with the W.V.R.N.S. through the Guides . . . that meant 350 letters and with each letter went a summary form to be filled in so that I could check up whether you were still ready to be called upon. Well . . . three months have passed and so far just half those 350 letters have been answered.

If any of you have the faintest recollection of ever receiving that summary form from me, do have a look for it. Or if you know that you registered with the W.V.R.N.S. write and tell me if you have since changed your address, telephone number or occupation, or if you have gained further qualifications for doing any particular work.—P. M. Russell.

## TRAVELS ABROAD.

When travelling alone one realises to some small extent how widely spread is the Guide Movement. When leaving for England in October, 1938, I was given letters of introduction to so many Guide people abroad, and Miss Irving very kindly wrote ahead to Adelaide, Perth and Colombo. At each of these ports I was met by a Guider and given a most enjoyable day.

When the ship berthed at Plymouth, I received a letter of welcome from the overseas secretary, Miss de Renzy Martin; and then in London I was met by Mrs. R. Alers Hankey, whom some of you will remember as Margaret Brown. I stayed with Mrs. Hankey, her husband and most attractive small son, Adrian, in London for the first month.

While in London I visited Imperial Headquarters, the most inspiring place; it is so colossal and so close to Buckingham Palace!

Miss de Renzy Martin sent me several invitations, including one to a party for overseas people given by Miss Royden. Many dif-

ferent countries were represented, mainly by Rangers who were in England to study the language. We exchanged ideas on Guiding and enjoyed a very happy evening.

A London district church parade was held at St. Paul's Cathedral and overseas Guiders were invited. Never have I seen quite so many small Guides in socks carrying colours; and how well they sang! We were given seats in the front pews, and I sat next to a Guider from India.

Christmas I spent in Devon, in a thatched cottage. It was a white Christmas—snow lay three feet deep. There is something very fascinating about a picture card Christmas.

During January I attended a Brownie Training at Foxlease. It is exactly as you have always imagined it to be, and what a welcome awaits all visitors! There were fourteen of us: three patrols, Chaffinches, Rooks and Chiffchaffs. I was the patrol leader of the Chiffchaffs, and a merry time we had. During the week I was tested for the necessary recommendation for the Eagle Owl Test. Later I did the actual test in Dorset. Miss Kerr, the Great Brown Owl, was the examiner.

At this stage Misses J. Robertson and A. Searle, both Victorian Brown Owls, arrived in England. We planned a caravan trip and set out on this adventure at the beginning of May, and many and varied were our experiences during the five thousand mile trip.

Starting from North Wales, going down the map to the South of England—Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset—then up the map, through the Midlands, Lake Districts, and so to Scotland, right to the top of the map.

On the way back, we spent a week-end at Waddow, the northern training centre. We didn't mean to stay, as it was very near the end of our nine weeks on wheels, but we were persuaded to. Waddow is on the river Ribble and the patrols there are named after river birds.

Back to North Wales we went, to return the caravan and car. Returning to London I found a position for the summer months in North Cornwall, and a delightful place it was—Constantine Bay by name. And there I was when war was declared. Miss Searle and Miss Robertson were at Foxlease, and so we were able to help there with the crowd of evacuated children from Portsmouth. What tales they have to tell of that time! You have probably read about it in the Guider.

I joined them there in late September, after

the children had gone to homes in a neighbouring village. We were able to do some war work there—filling in the names and addresses on hundreds of ration books, cycling around the district making a house-to-house canvas for the Women's Voluntary Service, asking for volunteers to roll bandages, wash and mend clothing for the evacuees, hospital work or blood donors; also helping to keep the many local and evacuee companies and packs going. Guiding in England is considered to be war work, and we were requested to wear uniform on all the above occasions. Helping to keep the children happily occupied is a very important thing in war time, and what could be better than Guiding for them?

Part of the time we were at Foxlease, we stayed in The Cottage, furnished by Canada. It was autumn in the New Forest, where Foxlease is situated, and the colours of the trees with the vivid green grass and moss was almost unbelievable.

'Twas November when we left Foxlease; they farewelled us with a dinner party, "Bon Voyage" being written on the table in acorns with the centre piece of red and white spotted toadstools set in moss. I wore a brown cord around my head!

London was grey—November fogs and mists; at night: complete Black-Out. We stayed at Our Ark, the Hostel for Overseas Guiders, but used by London Guiders during the war. The shops were full of the loveliest Christmas displays, and we had a busy time, with a theatre almost every night.

Southampton—Foxlease Guiders on the station waving us farewell—thank you, Foxlease, for a truly inspiring stay.

The ship—Black-Out all the way, not so much as a match flare on board after dark; Sydney non-stop from Colombo. Melbourne—family—and friends.

ELIZABETH LARDNER.

:0:

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 5.—Mystery Fete, at St. Stephen's Hall, Richmond.

October 12.—Ranger Sports Day (see Ranger Page).

October 19.—See Ship Ahoy.

October 26-27.—Camp Gipton (see Camping Notes).

October 26-27.—Working Bee, Guide House.

November 9.—Ranger Conference.

November 16-17.—Working Bee, Guide House.

## District News.

### GIRL GUIDE COMPETITION

Under the direction of their Commissioner (Mrs. D. Bruce) the Ballarat Girl Guides took part in a musical competition at St. Andrew's Hall recently. Six Companies competed for the shield, which was won by the Pleasant Street Methodist Company, conducted by Miss B. Jackson, Captain, with 258 points. The other Companies in their order of merit were:—Scots' Church, conducted by Miss J. Murdoch, Captain; Skipton Street, conducted by Miss M. Blake, Captain; St. Peter's, conducted by Miss Jelbart, Captain; Orphanage, under Miss Jackson, Captain; and the Rangers, under Miss Fraser, Captain. Mrs. W. G. Warburton was the judge, and the three pieces were "The Cuckoo Clock" (sung in unison), "Dreamland Tree" (part song) and "Kookaburra" (round).

Before announcing her awards, Mrs. Warburton congratulated the choirs on their very fine effort. Such work, she said, was of splendid educational value and fitted in well with their programme of Guide work, which was a really wonderful training and preparation for future life. She added a special word for the Captains, who trained the choirs. Her comments on the winning choir were highly complimentary, while for the Rangers she had a special word commenting on their pluck and spirit which enabled them to take part in the competition although not numerically as strong as the other five choirs. The shield was handed over to the winning choir by Mrs. Bruce, who also presented Mrs. Warburton with a Doulton vase as a token of appreciation from herself and the six Captains.

Sweets were sold to swell the proceeds which will be donated to the Guides' War Fund appeal.—From the "Ballarat Courier."

### A PENNY PARTY

There are 15 Guides in our 1st Skipton Co., and on Saturday, 17th August, we held a Penny Party to raise money to buy wool for the Australian Comforts Fund and to replenish our local Guide funds.

Any country Company who wishes to raise money can be assured that this way is well worth while.

We held this party in the hall where we hold our weekly meetings, and worked hard to make it a success. We charged 1d. entrance fee, and had all sorts of games to make it a real party. There was a lucky dip filled with wonderful surprises for everyone. We charged 3d. a dip, and there were things for children as well as for grown-ups, so everybody had a chance to dip for something they really wanted.

Over in another corner of the hall we had a dart competition, which was a great success, and for this we charged a 1d. for three darts, and the person who threw the highest score won the prize of a pipe and tobacco pouch.

Peg your claim for the treasure! was another

attraction. On a tray underneath a layer of sawdust was hidden a 5/- piece, 2/-, 1/-, 6d., 3d., and two 1d. Each person bought a claim for a penny, and the Guide in charge gave you a match with a piece of paper with your name on struck into the slit top and you pegged out your claim wherever you thought the treasure was.

The smaller children had great fun trying to pin the Tenefoot Badge on the Guide's tie. We had a large drawing of a Guide and each child was blindfolded, turned round three times and anyone who stuck the drawing pin exactly where the badge should be received a prize. This was also a 1d. a turn.

Another game which sounds easy but isn't, is throwing cards into a basket at a distance of five or six feet away. Each person was given the pack of cards and the highest score received a prize. The highest score happened to be 10 in the basket, which goes to show it's not so simple!

Chinese Checkers was played for a 1d. a game, and we had the most adorable doll dressed as a Guide, which we christened "Mary Matilda." People had to guess her name for 3d. This was a very popular item. Also there was a bottle with £2/14/9 filled all with threepences, and the person who guessed to the nearest threepence won a green glass jug and six glasses.

Our produce stall brought in a wonderful amount of money. We sold vegetables, eggs, jams, pickles, flowers, cakes and sweets.

Afternoon tea was had for 6d. All the Guides brought cakes, scones and biscuits, and four girls were allotted to take charge.

The afternoon was a great success, and to our surprise we made £14/8/3.

Next time any of you want to raise funds, why not try this idea we have found so successful?—Judith Chirnside (Captain).

### SHIP AHoy!

S.R.S. Akuna will be commissioned into Sea Ranger service at Albert Park Lake on 19th October at 3.30 p.m.

Would you like to witness this unique event? If so, get in touch with F. L. Weickhardt (U 1261) for particulars.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### TO THE EDITOR.

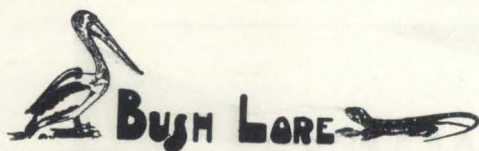
Dear Editor,—

May I be permitted to reply to E.E.M., in your September issue?

The writer declares that the brave person is "he who is sure of himself."

I venture to suggest that the brave man is he, who doubting self, yet goes forward, not blindly but knowing God and relying on His leadership. There is a wisdom wiser than ours. Only thus may we Guiders dare to lead youth to-day, realising the bigness of the task we have undertaken.—Yours, etc.,

Joan Harper, Toorak.



Acting Editor : INA WATSON

## "THE ADOLESCENT GAIETY OF SPRING. . ."

October, and the spring tide is in full flood—the migratory birds are arriving back from their trips, which sometimes extend half-way around the world; the butterflies are hatching out; flowers are blooming; trees putting on their fresh dresses; and bird nesting is in full swing. It is the most exciting time of the year. How lucky we are to have eyes, ears and noses to enjoy it all.

### BIRD OF THE MONTH—

#### The Yellow Robin

"Clinging sideways to a stake,  
Eloquent appeal I'll make;  
Spare a scrap for pity's sake!  
Aw, let's be friends!"

—C. J. Dennis.

One of our friendliest and cheekiest of birds, he is known affectionately as "Yellow Bob."

As he clings in his favourite position to the side of a sapling, notice how perfectly he is camouflaged, with the grey of his back blending with the bark. But there is no mistaking that yellow waistcoat and those handsome dark eyes when he turns round to pounce on some hapless insect for which he has been waiting.

His piping call on one note is often heard, and is much like that of the tree-creeper, but is slightly different in tone and tempo. His harsher scolding notes and the sweet song he has during the nesting season are not so well known. The scolding is often imitated by the lyre bird.

He and his lady are similar in colour, and both help in the domestic duties. The nest is cup-shaped, and, like those of all the robins, beautifully made and finished. Placed usually in a low fork, it is made of cobwebs, grass, and rootlets; the outside has bits of bark and lichen placed on it so that it fades into the background of the tree, and inside, it is lined with gum leaves placed crosswise. They will return to the same place to nest year after year.

The eggs are greenish-blue, blotched with dark colour. When the birds are sitting on the nest, they will crouch down when a human approaches, but will sit up and peer over the top should a dog come near.

I am glad to have letters on nature subjects, and will try and answer any queries sent in.

### GLOW-WORMS.

An interesting enquiry came from Rita Pearce, of Colbinabbin: "Why can glow-worm lights only be seen after rain?"

The answer is that glow-worms (the sort found here) is the larval stage of a very tiny gnat—fungus gnat—and they live in dark cracks in the face of moist rocks. It does not mean that they do not glow at other times, but only that they do not venture out of their dark cracks for you to see until the rain has covered the ground and rocks with the moisture that is necessary for them.

### NATURE NOTES FROM RUPANYUP DISTRICT

#### FAIRY-RING.

The first rains in June produced a perfect fairy-ring on our lawn which has lasted till now, when the dark green grass has faded and the ring has merged into the lighter-occluded lawn. We first noticed it when three or four mushrooms pushed through, and then at each successive rain, one or two more popped up in different spots around the ring.

(The ring is formed by first one or two fungi dropping their spores roughly in a circle, some of which germinate and push up fresh plants. These in turn seed, and the ring grows successively larger.—Ed.)

#### ROSEBUDS.

I have noticed that the formation or folding of the rose petals makes the bud completely waterproof.

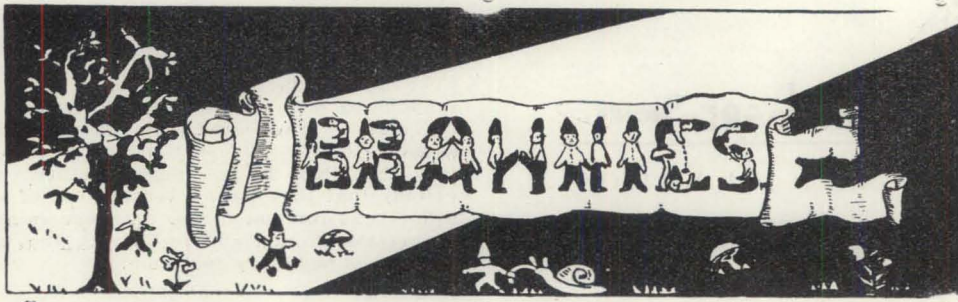
#### YELLOW TOM-TITS.

The yellow tom-tits are nesting now. The nest I am watching is very small and frail, made of twigs, etc., and containing three little eggs coloured a very, very delicate pink.

(I take it that these are the little tits with the yellow at the base of the tail. Did you discover anything especially interesting about this nest? They are built in two storeys—the lower one, cosily lined and finished, in which the family is reared, and which has the entrance at the side. On top is another open, cup-shaped depression, the use of which is still doubtful. Some have said it is to deceive the cuckoos! However, it is generally accepted that it is for the male bird to rest in at night. This is the only Australian bird known to build in this curious fashion.—Ed.)

### WHAT IS AN INSECT ?

Its marks are these: (1) The body is divided into three parts—head, chest and abdomen; (2) it has three pairs of legs; (3) it has a single pair of feelers (antennae); (4) the adult breathes air through holes in the sides of the body. These four marks apply to all adult insects; but most, though not all, adult insects have wings—two pairs, or one pair of wings and one pair of undeveloped wings (balancers). —(Gillies and Hall).



(Editor: Margaret Heseltine.)

"Then, welcome Fate's discourtesy  
Whereby it is made clear.  
How in all time of our distress  
And our deliverance, too,  
The game is more than the player of the  
game  
And the ship is more than the crew!  
—Rudyard Kipling.

### BREVITIES

The secret of a good programme is that Brown Owl has all equipment ready for each item and there is no spare time between items.

This is a good time for sowing seed. Start your Brownies on their plants for Golden Hand.

Trafalgar Day falls on 21st October, so why not have a special nautical programme on that date. Here is a suitable programme for that day.

### AN EXCITING PROGRAMME (Very Nautical)

The Pack goes for a trip on a Sailing Ship. All line up on the wharf and each Brownie pays her fare (1d.) and is inspected by the Officers—Brown Owl and Tawny. If anyone has no fare or does not pass inspection, a very clean and tidy Brownie may smuggle her on board. (Five minutes).

Game.—Clear the decks (see Brownie Games). (Ten minutes).

Story.—(Ten minutes).

Game.—A storm is rising and Captain gives orders to trim the sails, and shouts out certain knots to be tied. Brownies with the knots tied correctly win points for their Six. The ship strikes a rock and is wrecked. Brownies make life belts with their cord and swim to an island. Those who did not tie rope correctly have to be rescued. (Ten minutes).

Game.—Shipwrecks (Brownie Games). (Ten minutes).

Handicraft.—Clothes and sails have to be mended. Here is a chance to hem and darn and sew on buttons. Others have been cut on the rocks so some can bind up grazed knees and cut fingers. (Fifteen minutes).

Nature Competition.—The Pack goes exploring. (Tawny has scattered leaves and flowers, etc., about the island). Each Brownie may collect any leaf or flower of which she knows the name. After three minutes, Pack sits in Pow-Wow Ring and counts the number of things collected, and then the whole Pack discusses the names and what the plants are like when growing. (Ten minutes).

Captain sights a steamer (can be Tawny) and a Brownie semaphores for help. The Pack is picked up and they all steam home picking up all the rubbish on the way (Brownies hold each others belts as they run). When everything is tidy, they skip into Fairy Ring and sing six rhymes.

To end, the Pack shouts "Hey Presto" very loudly and vanishes, so that not a trace is to be seen within 30 seconds. (Ten minutes).—M.B.

### CHRISTMAS HANDICRAFT

Christmas is not so very far off, and it is not too early to be thinking about the Pack Christmas presents. Let the Brownies choose their own presents because, after all, it is they who make them and give them to their mothers. Here are a few suggestions you can give them. More will be published next month:—

#### NEEDLE BOOKS

Remove the "insides" from old Christmas cards: give each Brownie a piece of flannel or other suitable material, slightly larger than the opened card, and let her turn down and tack a hem all round, choosing cottons to tone with her card. Fix flannel inside card with ribbon or thick thread, and put some needles into flannel.

More advanced or artistic children could just be given a plain piece of cardboard and could draw their own design, or make a picture from tiny scraps of coloured paper for the front of the card.—H.G.

#### DUSTERS

Each child could bring a piece of soft material about three-quarters of a yard long. These can be as gaily coloured as they like. Turn down a hem about half inch all around, tack this down, and then with coloured border

cotton three or four rows of decorative tacking could be done on the hems and a flower or animal, etc., could be worked in one corner. These would make a useful present for mother.—L.N.

### KNITTING BAGS

A piece of material three-quarters of a yard long. Two could be made out of one length. These could be either plain or printed. The plain ones could be worked on one side, make them up and hem or machine the top hem of three-quarter inch to allow a tape to be run around and so pull the bag up. One row of decorative tacking could be worked round over the machining. One of these would be greatly appreciated by mother for the Sox she is knitting.—L.N.

### PACK'S FAVOURITE GAME A Singing Game

Tune: Sing a Song of Sixpence.

"Here's some little Brownies dancing in a ring  
And as they're skipping lightly  
They also gaily sing,  
Then they take a partner  
To join them in their play  
And dance around together to pass the time  
away."

Brownies form two circles, one inside the other with the same number in each. One circle skips to the right and other to the left, until they have to take a partner. The Brownies from the outside circle then take a partner from the inside circle, and they skip around together to the end of rhyme.

After each game the circles change places, outside coming in and vice versa.—1st Newport Pack.

### BROWNIE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING

A very happy evening was spent at Headquarters on 20th September by those who attended the annual meeting of the Brownie Branch. After the minutes the following reports were received:—

Miss Heseltine gave her report on the Brownie Page in "Matilda" and asked that Brown Owls should send in criticisms and help with suggestions. Her resignation as editor of our page, to take effect in December, was accepted with regret, and we would like to thank her for all her work in the past.

Miss Holtz gave her report on the Brownie Cottage, giving details of the improvements that had been made.

The Brownie Guiders' Committee have worked very hard to raise money for this work.

Miss H. Gross then presented the balance sheet, and we were pleased to know that we have a credit balance of £8/9/7.

The evening then took the form of a discussion:

"Magic in the Pack—Yes."

"Magic in the Pack—No."

Miss Heseltine took the affirmative side and pointed out that if magic were taken from the Pack we would have to dispense with the

Fairy Ring and the Totem, so all the charm of Brownies would be lost. The Pack would very soon develop into a Junior Guide Company, which is just what we want to avoid.

Miss Tulloh took the negative side, and gave a very amusing account of the dreadful after-effects she had experienced personally, through imitating the heroine of a story. She felt that magic was just escape from reality and life would be much harder for a child who had not been taught to meet hard knocks and difficulties.

Many new ideas were gained from these two speakers.

New songs were taught by Miss Lardner and Miss Searle, and after supper the meeting closed with Brownie Taps.—G. Thurgood, Brownie Secretary.

### A SPOT OF COLOUR STOOLS.

We hope to purchase 24 round stools for the Brownie Cottage. Each one to be painted a bright colour, just as the dining room stools at the Ark in London.

The cost per stool is 9/6. If you, your Pack, or Company would like to give and paint a stool with your nameplate affixed underneath, get in touch with Miss A. Searle, 38 Sims st., Sandringham, S.8 ('phone, XW 1287), and she will tell you how it can be done.

As there is to be only one stool of each colour, let us know of your choice as soon as possible.

### THE GUIDE HOUSE GARDEN

We would remind Guides, Rangers, Guiders and Commissioners that the next working bee at the Guide House will be on 26th and 27th October, and the one in November will be on 16th and 17th. The Guide House and Cottage will be available for these two working bees, and we have a great deal of work to do, so we hope for a good response. The one in October will be gardening and maintenance work round the house, and another big job will be the cleaning of the swimming pool, and we hope that the weather will be warm enough to make this an enjoyable occupation. The one in November, with camping in mind, and as well as gardening and maintenance work round the house, all those interested in camping will be asked to help in the supervising of the camping equipment so that it will be ready and in good repair for the camping season. So, Guides, Rangers, Guiders and Commissioners and all members of the Guide Movement, please bear these dates in mind and make your applications early because you are accepted in order of application. The price will be the same as before (10/6), which includes train fare, bus fare and food. Would all those making their application send their 5/9 in postal notes, so that your tickets can be bought for you, as they are at concession rates.—Clara Broadhurst,



# THE SIGN POST

*Editor: Elizabeth Alfred.*

## OPENING QUOTATION

"Politeness is like an air-cushion—there may be nothing in it, but it eases the jolts of the world wonderfully."

## THE FIRST-CLASS TEST

### FIRST AID.

There is a greater need now than ever before in the history of Guiding to train our Guides for the First Class Badge.

By passing these tests they will become more efficient, and this will lead to greater confidence. We want them to feel confident, to feel sure that they can be relied upon, and this applies particularly to the First Aid section of First Class. This section is definitely practical, and seems to appeal to the average Guide.

There is much to be learnt, so it must be done gradually. Do not wait until the Guides have finished their Second Class before starting training.

Do all Guiders know that it is **NOT NECESSARY** now to pass the Ambulance or Home Nursing Badge? But the section is divided into two parts, and can be tested by a doctor or nurse. The big difference is that in the old test the book says: "Know signs and symptoms, etc.; know how to deal with, etc.," whereas the new test reads: (a) Deal with the following, etc., which means that the Guides must actually deal with the accident. They cannot do the test by reading it up. Hence the need for plenty of practice.

I have always found it best to train the P.L.'s and Seconds first of all. Firstly, so that they may be ahead and then so that they may help by practising in their Patrols. On going around visiting Guide Companies, I have been sorry to find that the Patrol Leaders are NOT ahead of their Patrols, and I wonder is that a problem with many Companies. Is it the Guider's fault? Could they not give the P.L.'s a little extra training, or else how can they lead?

If the P.L.'s anyway have some training first they can help a lot, for example, when you are sure that they know the bandages let them have Patrol time and every member of the Patrol practice those bandages.

This will mean at least two bandages to each Patrol. Most of us have some discarded ties which can be used.

Many of our Guiders now have the First Aid and Home Nursing certificates, and can train their own Guides. Those who have not could: (a) Ask for a Guider who has these certificates to come and give a demonstration and talk, say, once a month; (b) ask a nurse who could spare an evening to come and help.

Now, look up your P.O. and Rules, page 43, No. 4, under the Service heading, and read:

(a) Deal with the following:—

**SHOCK.**—See St. John's First Aid Book, pages 43 to 45. Let Guides practice in twos or threes, one acting as patient. Then make a game of it, giving points according to the amount of treatment correctly given:—

Haemorrhage (various methods).

Severe haemorrhage must receive immediate attention, no matter what other injuries.

See now page 104. First method, direct pressure on wound; second method, direct pressure on pressure point between wound and the heart; third method, tourniquet on pressure point.

Plenty of practice is needed here for, first of all, we must learn the pressure points. Then make it competitive or have relay games, and they will thoroughly enjoy learning it all.

**ASPHYXIATION (Artificial Respiration)**  
All our Guides who are learning swimming at school get a good grounding in this, and can help train the others. See pages 144, 156.

There is much to learn here as we must include obstruction by a foreign body—choking pressure from outside, swelling of the tissues, inhaling poisonous gases, etc., and there must be no doubt as to what must be done. The first part needs plenty of practice on the floor in twos, and the Guides thoroughly enjoy it.—F. Davies.

(To be continued.)

*There is no victory without courage.*

*A wise man knows what not to say — and doesn't say it.*



Editor—E. FAULKNER.

Minutes of the Metropolitan Ranger Committee meeting held at Headquarters on 6th September, 1940.

Present.—Mrs. Faulkner (in the chair), Rangers Win Cozens, Gwen Roberts, Margaret Clarke, Myra Farley, Peggy Edmondson, Betty Newey and Betty Horsley.

Country Dance Party.—The Convener, Betty Newey, reported that this is to be held at St. Stephen's Hall, Richmond, on the 21st September, at 8 p.m., admission to be 9d., supper 2d. The party will be open to everyone, not only Rangers, and the proceeds will go to the Guide War Appeal.

Sports.—The Convener, Myra Farley, reported that these are to be held at the University on the 12th October at 2.15 p.m., and that a circular giving details of events, etc., had been sent to all Companies. It was decided to give an order on H.Q. to the winners, the amount to be fixed later when it is known how many Companies will be competing.

Conference.—It was decided to hold this on the afternoon and evening of 9th November. The Convener, Betty Horsley, reported that five Companies had sent in subjects for discussion, and it was decided to ask Companies to provide speakers to introduce their subjects. Miss Hayman is to be asked to give a talk on her experiences of Guiding in India at the evening session. It was decided that, as the by-law stating that committee members must be elected by preferential voting was now found to be impracticable, it should be amended at the Conference.

The next meeting was fixed for Friday, 4th October, at 6.45 p.m. at H.Q.—Betty Horsley, Hon. Secretary.

## POLAND IN DEVONSHIRE

By J. B. PARKER  
Headquarters General Secretary

Recently two Headquarters' representatives visited Madame Malkowska's School, "Middletown," at Stoke Fleming, near Dartmouth, and because Guides have helped so enthusiastically with this school, we know you feel a very per-

sonal interest in it and so we want to tell you about it.

First we want you to understand the underlying idea on which Madame Malkowska has based her school. She believes firmly that Poland will rise again, as she has risen before, triumphant over tyranny and destruction; but the future rebuilders of Poland are her children, now scattered over many parts of Europe. It is vital that as many as possible of these should be brought up in the faith and traditions of their country. To achieve this Madame Malkowska is establishing a little bit of Poland in Devonshire.

She is helped in this task by Marol Chmielowska, who teaches, and Helenska Padereska, who acts as nurse, and also by some of the mothers, who have been leased a house very cheaply so as to be near their children, for many of the 16 children now at "Middledown" escaped with their parents, and as their fathers find work they pay for their education and keep.

The Polish Ambassador and the Polish Consul are also assisting out of their funds. So though the help of Guides is always appreciated and needed, the school is primarily supported by the Poles themselves, and we may feel proud to be assisting their efforts.

Now let us tell you what "Middledown" is like. It is first and foremost an ideal house for children, with large airy rooms and a big garden and fields, part of which have been made into a kitchen garden. It stands on the cliffs with a wonderful view of the sea and the Devonshire coast, and there are the loveliest sandy beaches nearby.

When we were there, Madame Malkowska had not been able to complete the furnishing of the house, but she had got all the things essential for the comfort and happiness of the children, who always come first with her. The class room is cheery and bright with solid trestle tables and forms made by the Torquay Boy Scouts. There are lots of Polish and English books and kindergarten games. Madame Malkowska has managed to pick up a piano cheaply at a local sale, so that Marol can teach the children the traditional singing games and dances of Poland. There is even a large doll's house which cost 2/- and is full of toys sent by Brownies and Guides.

Each child has its Treasure Box, in which

is stored those strange collections of shells, pebbles, coloured paper, etc., so precious in its eyes and so apt to be thrown away as rubbish by the grown-ups.

There is a large dining room for meals which is also used as a sitting room by Madame and the staff; it has at present only the minimum necessary furniture. The children have plain, wholesome food, mostly Polish dishes prepared by Peter's mother, who is cook. All readers of "The Guider" will remember Peter, who came from Poland when only a few weeks old.

The children learn English as well as Polish, and when they know sufficient and are old enough, they go to the local village school. Their ages range from six months to 11 years, and although most of them are so young, they are organised on the Patrol system, and those who are old enough are formed into Orderly Patrols and help with the housework and wait at table.

Madame Malkowska is very grateful for all the help she has received from Guides; she has had many gifts of clothing; the children are really well dressed and she has sufficient clothes to fit them all out for next winter.

There are still many things needed to make the house more comfortable; black-out curtains, stair and bedroom carpets and comfortable chairs for the staff, but Madame Malkowska hopes to get these in time.

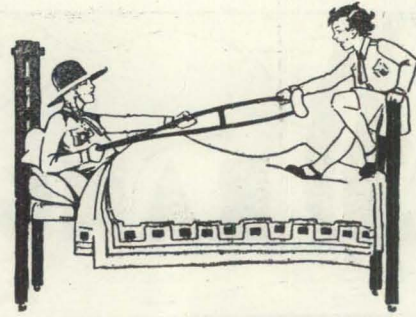
At her request, the Polish Consul-General has set up a Committee to assist her with the management of the school; the Chairman and Secretary is Count Jan Balanski-Jundzill and the address is: c/o Polish Research Centre, 32 Chesham Place, London, S.W. All financial gifts should be made through him. In a letter just received he writes:

"I should like to take this opportunity of expressing our warmest thanks to the Girl Guides' Association for their generosity towards Madame Malkowska's school. These are very difficult days for Poland and her people, and the sympathetic interest and the constant help which we are receiving from you are very deeply appreciated."

We wish you could all visit the school and see for yourselves the splendid work being done there. We know that Madame Malkowska will always be delighted to see any of you who are in Devonshire.—From "The Guider."

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

All through my life it has been made clear to me that not only the proper, but the wise conduct is to do what is right and leave the consequence to God, rather than aim at a right result through dubious means. For no action ever produces quite the results we expect and so we cannot count on the end of any action, but only on the means employed to gain it. How greatly an event differs from our expectations of it has often amazed me.—Phyllis Bentley, in "Take Courage" (John o' London's Weekly.)



Editor: Sydney Foott.

Well, there are two possible Extension camps this year—1st and 6th Post Guides—both of which are very thrilled at the prospect. Camp is exciting enough at any time, but camp for an Extension Guide means such a lot—it is really the proof that she IS a Guide, and like other Guides goes off to camp and sleeps in a tent and takes part in Patrol duties and all the hundred and one excitements of camp.

There was a very thrilling Ranger enrolment during the last month, when one of 1st Post Rangers was enrolled at a meeting of 3rd Melbourne Rangers. As this particular Post Ranger is in a wheel chair, and is able to use her hands very little, the Ranger pre-enrolment test had to be modified and adjusted to suit her capabilities.

Regarding Christmas cards—once again we bring to your notice the fact that you can get these from the Extension Branch at the cost of 5/- a dozen, or 6d. each. These cards are hand-painted on parchment, and your orders should be sent to "Christmas Cards," c/o Miss Joan Alston, 5 Struan street, Toorak.

The address of the Assistant Commissioner for Extensions, Miss Sydney Foott, is now 108 George street, East Melbourne (J.6108).

## Ideas for Post Budgets

As we had to cut out the Patrol competition idea from last month's "Matilda," owing to lack of space, this month we will have two as compensation.

The following competition is one which could be played either at a party or in a Patrol budget. Each Patrol has a blank sheet of paper headed "Breakfast (or Dinner or Tea) for the Smith family—Mr. Smith who drives a lorry, Mrs. Smith, Jimmie aged 10, Nancy 13, and Joan aged 4." At the back of this blank page is an envelope containing pictures of food and corresponding recipes—a dozen or so if you can manage it. Each member of the Patrol takes out a suitable recipe and its picture, and pastes the picture on to "set the table," numbering the picture and the recipe (which is pinned to the bottom of the page). Then Captain judges the Patrol on the sense and practicability of the food chosen, and whether the recipes and pictures correspond. Nice

though the picture may look, it is really not VERY sensible to have cheese soufflee for breakfast!

And here is a game for a Hospital Company. (This game can be varied in many ways, as I will show at the end.) Each Guide has a sheet of squared paper, of the type with 10 squares to an inch. Each marks the north on her paper, and then the game starts. Captain tells everyone where to go, giving compass directions and number of paces (each square is a pace). These directions indicate the route to a buried treasure, and obviously it is very important that they should be closely followed. When Captain stops, she passes round the map which actually shows the way she travelled, and those Guides who have arrived at the same spot get a jewel from the pirates' hoard—in other words, a point for their Patrol. This game may be varied by using real maps, in which case the Guides should arrive eventually in a certain town; by playing it as a team game, the first Guide in the Patrol marking off the distance, and then passing the map to the second; and so on. It might also be used in a Company budget for Post Guides by giving each in the Patrol a direction to follow. And it is, of course, used in active Company meetings, or at Post Guide meetings, giving actual directions to a real buried treasure.

We sing of the Polar Bear, fearless and bold,  
He never feels hot and he never feels cold—  
In the place where he lives summer never occurs

And the rest of the year he wears plenty of furs.

**Chorus:**

Tirralli tirralay, tirrali tirralay  
And the rest of the year he wears plenty of furs.

The crocodile lives in the tropical belt  
And never the heat nor the cold has he felt—  
Because in the winter his summers begin  
And the rest of the year he wears crocodile skin.

**Chorus:**

Tirralli tirralay, tirrali tirralay  
And the rest of the year he wears crocodile skin.

Now we poor unfortunates live in a clime  
Requiring at least three full suits at a time—  
A thick one, a thin one, for days cold and hot,  
And a medium one for the days that are not.

**Chorus:**

Tirralli tirralay, tirrali tirralay  
And a medium one for the days that are not.

## GUIDE SHOP

**BROWNIE OVERALLS (All Sizes).**—They will now be sold at 8/6 instead of 7/11. We are sorry about this, but manufacturing costs have made this necessary.

**GUIDE KNIVES.**—Will now be sold at 3/6 instead of 3/9.

**GUIDE BELTS.**—The new style Guide belts, which will be those sold in future, are kept in two sizes, 34in. and 38in. Would all people ordering, please state which size they require.

**RANGER BLAZER POCKETS.**—These are now in stock. They are large Ranger embroidered Badges which can be sewn on to blazer pockets and are really very nice. They are sold for 2/6.

**PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.**—We would stress again the need for people when ordering goods to send more than enough money to cover the cost of the goods. Prices are fluctuating so much that without any warning it is necessary to increase prices, and so it would save a great deal of work for the Guide Shop if this extra money were sent, as it is so much easier to return the change to you than to go to all the complicated business of making out special receipts and ledger accounts. Thank you very much if you would bear this in mind when you make your next order.—Clara Broadhurst.

## COURTESY.

We in the Guide Movement have a law concerning courtesy, and I am wondering whether perhaps some of us have become so used to it that we do not talk enough about it.

Do we not find that the Guides of to-day are not so courteous as they were 10 years ago? This, of course, is a reflection of the times, because we find the same cry on all sides—the schools tell us that the children are not amenable to discipline, that they are lacking in courtesy towards their teachers.

Perhaps an incident which occurred recently may show us where our Guides are failing—and where we ourselves are failing, too. Last summer the Guide House was the scene of great activity, and there were many comings and goings. A small group of Guiders arrived one morning with many bags and packages of equipment; a couple of Rangers were sitting on the steps leading from the lawn to the verandah, and watched one Guider make six or seven trips up and down those steps, carrying cases, etc., in each hand. The Rangers made no attempt to help carry the luggage, or to move out of the way.

Can the Movement take up the challenge to overcome this attitude so prevalent in the girls of to-day? If we do not help our Guides towards a higher ideal of courtesy, what is to be the effect on the next generation? It is our responsibility, and we must accept it. We have a great opportunity for training girls to be valuable citizens, both in their employment and in their own homes, and we must begin while they are young—courtesy must become so natural in their lives that they do not stop to think about it.

So let us concentrate on the virtue of courtesy—if our Movement becomes renowned only for the behaviour of its members, at least we have contributed something of value to the community.—M.E.A.

# CAMPING and TRAINING

## GUIDERS! BE PREPARED.

It is urgent that we should make every effort to have the sort of Companies and Packs that the Chief Scout had in mind when he gave the world the Guide Movement. At the Guiders' Conference after we had discussed the question of how we can best help our Guides to play their part in the war and face future difficulties, it was unanimously agreed that the best way we can help them is by putting all we know into our Company and Pack work. Let us ask ourselves: Is our programme adventurous? Are we out of doors more than in? Is there plenty of variety? Do we demand and expect our Guides to be observant and reliable? Is camping and hiking carried on as part of the regular programme? Do our Patrols work under their own steam with plenty of ideas and initiative, and is the Guide Law understood and thought about and kept?

We must be always on the mark if we are to give our best to the Guides; we ourselves must be growing all the time in order to be able to give. There is always something we can learn about Guiding methods. I have heard of Guides lately who have passed the second-class fire-lighting test by talking about it and have never lit a fire out of doors! I am continually meeting Guides who do not know what a stalking game is. What thrills and adventures the Guides are missing and what opportunities the Guiders are missing, through not knowing!

While we still have time, let us prepare ourselves to give the utmost to the children. Let this be our form of National Service until something more urgent is demanded of us. Those of us who have never camped, start camping! Others, go to a training week or to special training classes and outdoor days! Let each one of us do something about it, and keep on doing it, even if it means a personal sacrifice. If we feel strongly enough about it, think what we can do!

## WEEK-END FOR NEW CAMPERS.

This camp will be held at "Gipton," Frankston, 26th-27th October. Fee 3/6. Rail return fare 3/-. All Guiders will be welcome, particularly those who have never camped before! Please apply to Miss Harrison, with 2/- deposit, by 12th October. Deposits not refunded if withdrawal is made after 12th October.

## LICENSED GUIDERS' WEEK-END HIKE.

Cup Week-end.—It is proposed to take the train to Wesburn and hike to a place in the mountains, spend Saturday night there, hike to the Guide House on Sunday when anyone having to return can do so. The rest of the party will spend Sunday night at the Guide House and hike down to Woori Yallock on Monday and Tuesday. Please let Miss Harrison know by 12th OCTOBER if you are coming, so that we can fix Patrols. There will be a small fee of 9d. per head for overhead expenses, everyone will bring her own food and kit. This is AN EVENT, so try and come.

## OUTDOOR TRAINING, 12th OCTOBER.

Adventure games, stalking and tracking. Guider-in-charge, Miss Hoffmeyer. Place, Wattle Park. Guiders will meet at the Elgar road and Riversdale road corner at 2.30 p.m. Please notify Miss Macartney at the Guide Office by 5th October if you can be present.

## WORKING BEE AT GUIDE HOUSE.

The Gardening and Camping Committee are planning a combined working bee for the Garden and for Camp Equipment, 15th-17th November. The cost will not exceed 10/-, including fare. Apply to Miss Broadhurst at the Guide Office.

## OPEN WEEK-ENDS AT THE GUIDE HOUSE.

The bookings are heavy for the rest of the year, but there are small numbers of vacancies. Apply to Miss Harrison, 126 High street, Glen Iris, and enclose 2/6 deposit for each applicant. Space does not permit us to print particulars this month; please refer to the supplement, September "Matilda."

## SUMMER TRAINING WEEK.

Every Guider should make an effort to go to a training week every few years. The next one will be held at the Guide House, 27th December to 4th January. General training in Guide and Brownie work will take place. Guider-in-charge, Miss S. MacLeod. Applications should reach the Hon. Secretary, Miss B. Macartney, at the Guide Office, accompanied by 5/- deposit and 5/9 rail fare (if desired) by 15th November. The fee will be 30/-. plus fares.

## PIONEER CAMP.

This will be held next Easter at the Guide House. Groups of Guides from different Companies are expected. Each Patrol will camp in a little spot by itself and be responsible for its own cooking and everything. Patrols will meet together for games and camp fires and Colours. There is still time for Guides to prepare themselves with the help of their Guiders. Each month we are printing hints. Please, Guiders, pass them on!

Have you been able to borrow a tent and practise pitching and striking it? Try having a day camp, doing everything as if you were in camp, even if it is only in a friend's garden; it is great fun, and you can "sleep" in the tent during rest hour. You can erect a flagstaff for the Colour ceremony which is one of the nicest parts of a camp day—remember that a flagstaff is one of the gadgets you can make for the test. Talking of gadgets, have you made that rucsac yet? You will need it for Easter.—F.V.B.

## SUMMER CAMPS AT THE GUIDE HOUSE.

We printed all the details of these camps last month and space does not permit that they are re-printed, so please refer to September "Matilda" or write to Miss Harrison for details.

Guiders' Campcraft Training (26th December to 3rd January).—For Testing Camp Adviser and Camper's Licence and for general

campercraft training. This camp takes place every year and has a reputation for fun and cheerfulness! Every Guider should know how to camp. Owls specially invited. (Why don't more Owls camp?)

**Ranger Camp, 26th December to 2nd January.**—Open to Rangers and to Guides who will be going on to Rangers in 1941. Fee 22/6.

**Guide Camps, 3rd-10th January and 11th-18th January.**—For Guides under 15th years on 1st January, 1941. Should have one year's Guide service. Six Guides or five Guides and one Guider may apply from one Company. Fee, 22/6 plus fares.

### Applications to all these Camps are asked for by October 16

#### YOUTH HOSTELS.

For information of conditions under which Guiders or Rangers may take parties to Youth Hostels, see the Camper's Leaflet and P.O.R. Rule 70. Miss Harrison has full particulars of the various hostels and of which suit Guide requirements. Permission cards must be signed by the District Commissioner and a Camp Adviser. These are obtainable from the Guide Office or from Miss Harrison.—Elaine Moran.

#### LONES

Dear Lones,—

Since my last letter I have celebrated my first birthday as your Commissioner. It leaves me breathless. I feel I have hardly even got a grip of things where Lones are concerned, and am only just beginning to understand the mysteries of my records and files. I have a Bluebeard's cupboard where everything is stowed away, and it is a point of honour to be able to produce any correspondence or reference demanded of my Secretary in the shortest possible time. She has a particular interest in my letter book, and I in my filing, and we have a friendly rivalry in proving—or in trying to prove—the infallibility of our systems. I will admit that I am sometimes hard put to keep my end up but have always managed to scrape through.

This year's juggling with files has taught me one thing—the extreme importance of correspondence, which means the writing, answering, filing and listing of letters. Without this the Lone Branch which has so little chance of personal contact, could not exist. (Incidentally, during the year I have written 794 letters!)

I would therefore impress on all Guiders the importance of keeping in touch with me, particularly over my alterations in the personnel of their Companies, or any non-attendance of their girls. We decided at a recent Guiders' meeting to consider anyone's non-attendance for three months would result in her being put out of the Company, to make room for someone on my waiting list.

But before this is done I would like to try and contact the girl with the aid of my L.L.A. member in her district. I feel in this way we may bring her back to the fold before she has completely "faded out." So I would be very grateful if Guiders will report this lack of attendance to me. You will realise that unless I am notified I still think the girl is functioning.

Having just brought the records of the Companies' personnel up to date, I have come to the conclusion that the Lones are like the shifting sands of the desert, and I feel that only constant and systematic surveillance will keep up their numbers.

You will realise the necessity of this when I give you the facts of the year's figures. When I took over on 6th September last year there were 200 Lones all told—Guiders, Rangers, Old Guides and Guides. Now there are 140. During the year 64 girls have been placed in Companies. Of these, only 33 are



"Quality you can TASTE!"

**BROCKHOFF'S**

"Oven-crisp" **BISCUITS**

B. 826

recruits. In my address book there are 107 names of girls who have faded out in the past year. Some—a very few, alas!—have gone on to active Guiding.

The loss in Guiders is even more serious. There are 14 whose names were on my list when I took over who either resigned immediately or who have given up during the ensuing year! To replace these there are four new ones, and three in training who will probably be ready to help in Companies next year.

There are five Companies less. The Lone Old Guides have disbanded in spite of "The Recorder's" (Mrs. McNaughton's) strenuous and untiring efforts to hold them, and two Ranger and two Guide Companies owing to their Captains resigning. These Companies have amalgamated with others.

This is not what you would call a very flourishing situation, is it? But it is a situation that must be faced and combated with all our strength. Knowing what the Lone Branch can mean to children who have not the means of getting the benefit of Guiding in any other way, surely we will not leave a stone unturned to bring up our numbers again.

I have every confidence that now that we have an L.L.A. and have extended the interest of our Branch so much further, this can be achieved. I have had useful suggestions from my Executive which I intend following up, and I can assure you it won't be for lack of trying if the Lones don't take a turn for the better

before another year has passed. Our special cog in the machine is such an important one that it is worth struggling for.—M. R. Fairbairn.

The following is a list of articles belonging to the Lone Branch which Lone Guiders can obtain at a reasonable price by applying to the Lones Equipment Officer, Mrs. Howatson, 19 Berkeley street, E.2:—Six dice and throwers, 23 pencils, 2 loose leaf books, 1 record file, account book, receipt book, note book, rubber, 2 enrolment cards, 3 test cards, 1 Rex Duplicate, Gestetner Durotype, packet of typing paper and envelopes.

M. R. Fairbairn.

## "MATILDA"

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