

SKY PILOT NEWS

JULY—
AUGUST
1984

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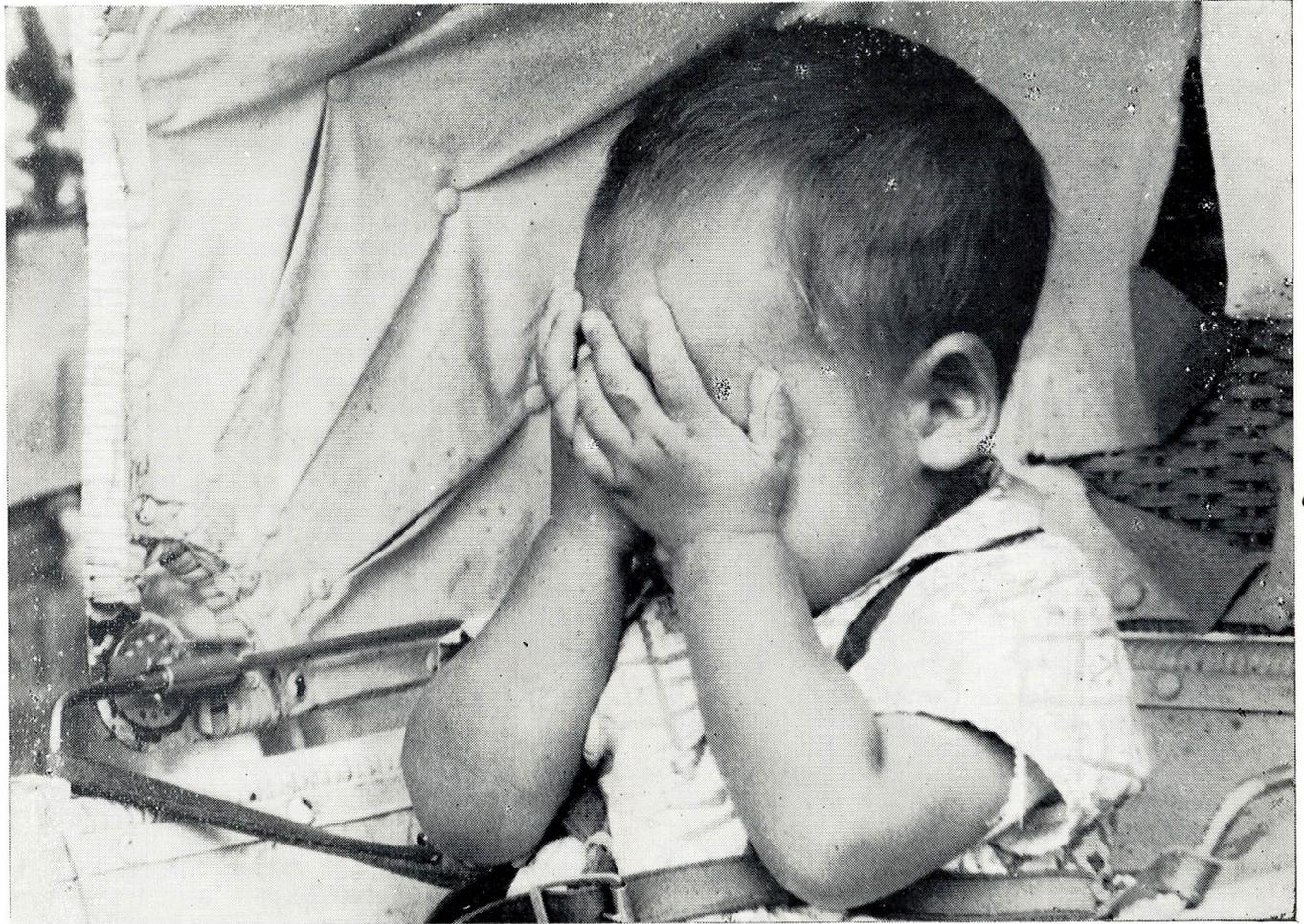
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 29 Castle Hill, N.S.W. 2154. Telephone 629-1555.

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: 17 York Road, Kellyville

Founder: The late K. Langford-Smith, A.M., Th.C., F.R.G.S.; General Secretary: Mrs. Norma K. Warwick,
B.A., Litt.B., Th.C.

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Make a child happy today! Put your savings to work to help us in our ministry to needy Aboriginal children. See inside for details.

LEAVES FROM THE PAST

In place of our usual story from the **Sky Pilot's Log**, we offer still further extracts from letters written by the Sky Pilot, Keith Langford-Smith, to Gwen Mottram, who became his wife in 1936. These letters give an interesting picture of the hardships and isolation of Arnhem Land in those days.

30/6/33: The next little bit of fun was that I flew to Oenpelli and could not land. The wind was in the wrong direction and a fence had been built across the landing approach. I had no petrol to go elsewhere and as the fence looked rather hard I carefully landed in a bilabong. The plane naturally overturned, doing a little damage and frightening my passenger (an old doctor from Darwin) into fits . . . In order to get to Roper (River) as soon as possible I borrowed horses and rode sixty miles to Goulburn Island. There was no track — we had to cut through bush, swamp and forest — and I did not enjoy the trip. Since I injured my leg I have not been able to ride properly, and with the jolting I got I was not able to walk for some time after getting off the horses.

Arriving at the coast (of the Arafura Sea), the only method of reaching Goulburn Island was by a damaged and deserted blacks' canoe. I tore a blanket into strips and we caulked the worst of the cracks with it; accompanied by three blacks I started on the four miles of sea between the mainland and the island. Half way over the blanket strips worked out and we were swamped. Fortunately we managed to right the canoe and by constant bailing and frantic paddling on the part of the blacks we eventually arrived safely at the island. If you look at your map you will see Goulburn Island due north of Oenpelli and you can (if you wish) follow the route back to Darwin. Leaving Goulburn Island, we ran the lugger round the coast to Darwin. It was nice and smooth until we passed Cape Don Lighthouse on the Coburg Peninsula, but as we were crossing the Gulf it became very choppy. Arriving at Darwin on 10th May, I left by train for Mataranka on 17th and for Roper River from Mataranka on 18th. A week at the Mission and then back to Katherine by car and Darwin by train. I had to spend a couple of weeks in Darwin but then I went south to the Daly River in a lugger and put in a couple of weeks there before returning to Darwin again. This time only one day was spent in Darwin and then I went to Cape Don Lighthouse in a lugger again. I went as a guest of the Skipper, but became one of the crew, for we were caught in a storm and the boat was battered about and started leaking badly. All hands and the cook

were at the pumps for a day and a night before we arrived back at Darwin and put the boat on the slips. . . Well now, I have been talking about myself ever since I started writing and you will be tired of reading about the Sky Pilot's wanderings. . .

I will be visiting the south in a month or two now, I think, and I will look forward to spending a little time at Watersleigh (Nowra). I could have come by the last boat and left the plane here until later, but I was too tired. I am going to have a week or two holiday here first — somewhere away in the bush. The reaction of a number of crashes and other worry has made me very weary and I could not face the terrible cold of the south yet either. Even here, I nearly die with cold at night, though the temperature is seldom below 60 deg. even in the early morning.

28/9/33 (written from Sydney while going through a period of personal suffering): I have been in town today (supervising drawing a map of Arnhem Land) and when I returned about an hour ago I found your letter awaiting me. . .

Some day—perhaps very soon—I know this present cloud will have passed and the brightness then will more than make up for the present shadow. I could not understand at first why God allowed it, but now I know there is some good purpose through it all, and my only prayer is that His name may be glorified. Thank you, Gwen, for your prayers. I need them very much at present. It is so difficult not to be hasty, and I want this matter cleared up in a kindly and a Christian manner. Because someone has acted unjustly and has been at fault, it is no excuse for me to do the same, and I pray that in whatever action I take I may look to our Saviour for His guidance and blessing.

ANOTHER THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS

At the end of July we sent a further contribution of \$3,000 to Church of England Homes for the support of the Aboriginal children whom we sponsor. At our Annual General Meeting (see report elsewhere in this issue) and also at a recent meeting of the Marella Management Committee attended by Mrs. Warwick. Mr. Collison assured us of his appreciation of our regular support and mentioned what an essential part this played in the support of so many needy children.

This brought to over \$161,000 the amount we have contributed since the children left our direct care in 1979. Due to a printing error, this total was not made clear in our last issue. It is encouraging to realise that so many friends have stood by and helped in such a substantial way to keep the work going.

We quote with permission an article headed

The Worst and Best Child from Care (May 1984), the magazine of the Church of England Homes:

When Rodger first came to Marella (cottage) he was very hard to control. Says Abe (his housefather), 'He did a few things that were pretty bad but I don't want to say anything about them. If I do, other people might get hurt. But I reckon we saw Rodger develop during the time that he was here. His headmaster at the local school said that he "blossomed."

'They thought he was not too bright but they put him into a higher class for discipline reasons and found that he really had some brains after all. The problem had been with his attitude.

'I am not saying that his change was all because of us. But he really latched onto us here.'

Rodger had come from an unsettled family. His parents had split up. He was the middle child in the family and tended to get blamed for everything. Rodger had spent much of his life in and out of homes.

Says Abe, 'He left us after two years. When he left here he was real good. The last I heard he was living with his mother and things were going well. Rodger was the worst and the best child we had here, if you know what I mean.'

Douglas, Eddie and Sarah, an Aboriginal family for whom we cared for some time at the old Marella, are now being cared for at the United Aborigines' Mission Children's Home at Bomaderry. All are reported to be doing well; the boys are at High School, and Sarah loves to play the recorder. Please remember to pray for these children, and for the hundreds of others who spent (in many cases) years of their lives with us. Many are now adults, of course, but need our prayers as much as when they were children — more, in fact.

NEWS SNIPPETS:

Vision Videos is off to a good start, with our General Secretary, Norma Warwick, showing the Blaiklock video tapes to several groups recently. We should all be aware by now of the proliferation of "video nasties", and as Christians we should be actively involved in the battle against such perniciously evil influences in our society. One way of doing this is to promote the use of sound Christian videos in our homes as well as in our church groups. If you would like to hear more about this ministry and/or would like to see the Blaiklock series, **A Mind Behind It All**, phone Mrs. Norma Warwick on 629-1555.

Our Annual General Meeting, held in July, was as usual a time of happy Christian fellowship. Various reports were presented, including the Financial Statement and Balance Sheet, copies of which appear in this issue. Council members were re-elected and appreciation expressed of the support given by them all over many years. Mr. Arthur Kennedy was re-elected Chairman, Mr. Gordon Cairns remains our Financial Advisor, and Mr. Keith Pearce has once more accepted appointment as our Honorary Auditor. Mr. Jim Collison, Chief Executive Officer of Church of England Homes, addressed the members of General Committee and spoke of the children in their cottage homes whom we support and those in foster care and others who have returned to a strengthened family situation.

The Parramatta Branch of our **Women's Auxiliary** also held its Annual Meeting recently, when all the office bearers were re-elected. A great debt is owed to all Auxiliary members, who work so tirelessly to raise funds for the Aboriginal children.

Mrs. Norma Warwick thanks her many friends for their prayers and good wishes following her knee operation in July. She is gradually recovering, and at the time of writing had graduated from crutches to walking stick. When it is known whether or not this operation was a success, a decision will be made about surgery to the other knee. She writes, 'My friends, Rev. Carl and Mrs. Gwen Hammond, were wonderfully kind in caring for me in their home at Avalon for some time after my discharge from hospital. Carl went the second (or third) mile and even cleaned my car, so that it was beautifully clean when I was well enough to drive again. Gwen brought me to Marella one day during my convalescence and helped me to attend to urgent tasks, but the replies to most letters were delayed. I would like to thank everyone who so patiently awaited my return for an acknowledgement of their correspondence. I am afraid I missed some phone calls; several times I hobbled to the phone, only to find that it stopped ringing just as I lifted the receiver, because my movements were so slow.'

Mrs. Gwen Langford-Smith held the fort at Marella during the Secretary's absence, attending to phone and visitors and so on. Fortunately, she was well enough to cope with this, though she succumbed to a nasty bout of 'flu soon afterwards. At the time of going to press, she was making a good recovery and had been given a good report from her heart specialist.

Our garden is looking good, thanks to the helpers mentioned in our last issue. Mr. James Dunne, son of our valued voluntary worker, Mrs.

Anne Dunne, pruned the roses for us this year, so we are looking forward to the spring and summer blossoms.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful for the following donations, receipts for which are held in our office and are available on request:

- 6/6/84—M.C.—Eastwood \$10
- 13/6/84—R.A.—Cronulla \$10
- 20/6/84—J.G.—Concord \$20
- 28/6/84—R.A.—Harrington \$15
- 29/6/84—S.J.—Chester Hill \$30

FROM OUR MAILBAG

'Thank you kindly for sending me the Sky Pilot News, which I enjoy reading. I have enclosed a small donation which I trust will help you with your good work of caring for the Aborigines; the children, I know, need all our care we can give them; yours, I feel, is a very loving and giving work.'

M.H. (N.S.W.)

'Was thrilled to receive our copy of the last Sky Pilot News and especially to read of your new avenue of service. As so often has happened in the past, the sign of God's seal on new directions for us has come through Marella links . . .'

P.A. (N.S.W.)

'Thanks for the Sky Pilot News. I think I read every portion of news and find it interesting and full of Gospel messages.'

C.A. (N.S.W.)

BOOKS AND CASSETTES

We still have supplies of books and cassettes as listed on the enclosed order form. We especially recommend two cassettes which do not appear on the form, but which can be ordered by inserting cassette name or number under 'Other' on the form. (All cassettes are \$4.50 each, post free.)

Firstly, S1 consists of four dramatised stories broadcast by the late Keith Langford-Smith on the Sky Pilot's Log over thirty years ago. Many friends use such stories for Sunday School classes or school Scripture lessons; each takes about thirteen minutes. The titles are The Dead Tooth, The Mean Man and Ejah, Parts One and Two. These stories give a unique insight into aspects of life in Arnhem over half a century ago, as well as a message given as 'the final entry in today's Log'. Even though the broadcasts ceased so many years ago, scarcely a week goes by when we do not receive a letter such as B.S. writes: 'My interest in this work

(Cont. on p. 5)

MARELLA MISSION FARM LTD.,
Deposit Fund,
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dates from the time I used to listen so intently to the **Sky Pilot's Log** on the radio.'

The second cassette which we highly recommend is C4. This features two messages, **Does God Exist?** and **Resurrection, Fact or Fantasy?** given by our late friend, Professor E. M. Blaiklock. These will help to strengthen your faith and also assist you to give a reasoned answer to those who question the existence of a Supreme Being and the historical fact of Christ's resurrection.

THAT IMMEASURABLE CATASTROPHE

Broadcast on Faith for Today, Auckland, N.Z., 4th August, 1983. Used by permission.

How many of you remember, I wonder, this dire anniversary? It is 69 years ago, something more than an hour from now at this end of the world, that 'the lamps went out'. The gas lights were turning off all down Whitehall when Viscount Grey said, as he left the House of Commons: "The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." Big Ben had boomed the fateful hour. We were at war with Germany.

I can remember the banner headlines on the evening newspaper which I had pulled from the letterbox before the starlings which disputed possession with us could tear it: **The Empire at War**, they ran. I stood barefooted by the metalled road, a little boy in Standard 3, and deep inside I knew the world would never be the same again. Scoundrels and fools, processing down the century, have made certain that none should light the lamps again.

And yet, as the same Viscount Grey said, we stumbled and blundered our way into that immeasurable catastrophe — just as men do into the ruin of their lives. They did not intend it to be thus at the first compromise, the first lowering of the standards, the first small betrayal of the good, the clean, the upright, but step by step, like the nations in 1914 they slip, trip, lurch into disaster. Who was to blame for 1914 and the swathe of bloodied earth that was driven through time in those four shocking years? The Kaiser seems no longer to be blamed.

It was, in fact, the inevitable end of years of petty sin, of thoughts of hate and greed, of a million, million surrenders and acts of compromise, of the rejection by men, all men, small and great, leaders and led of what One stood for who died by human wickedness, nailed and hammered to a cross of wood in Jerusalem. Herbert Butterfield, the Cambridge Professor of Modern History, said in his remarkable book of 35 years ago, **Christianity and History**: "If there were no more evil in

the universe than exists in this room where I sit alone at this moment, it would be enough, by its clashings and entanglements to produce in a few years some enormous human conflict." I quote from memory but it is clear that he meant that evil cannot be contained. It is like atomic waste. Whatever the amount it prodigiously pollutes the environment. Kipling had warned the world at the time of the great Fleet Review of 1897: "For heathen heart that puts her trust/In reeking tube and iron shard,/All valiant dust that builds on dust and guarding calls not thee to guard/For frantic boast and foolish word/Thy mercy on thy people Lord." It is a fact then and now that, as the same poet said: "Still stands thine ancient sacrifice/An humble and a contrite heart." That is the lamp which is not put out.

As the man who wrote the last book of the Bible to be written said in the last decade of the first century: "The light shines in darkness and the darkness has not overtaken it." It comes back to us — to give one Christian to the world. It is costly. It demands our all but of that duty there is no escaping. As Shakespeare said: "It's not in the stars, dear Brutus, but in ourselves."

PUT YOUR SAVINGS TO WORK!

Have you money in a cheque account or a low interest savings account, or even hidden away, which could be working for the Lord? We can provide an opportunity for you to send such funds into active service without risk to your capital. Many folk who have supported our ministry over the years cannot afford large donations because of the need to set aside a sum for future needs. Here is an opportunity to put this sum (or part of it) into our Deposit Fund and help us to continue our sponsorship of needy Aboriginal children. Then, if an emergency arises, you need only to contact us and ask us to refund all or part of your deposit. This will be sent within seven days or within a calendar month, according to the choice you make when sending your deposit.

We feel that our support of the Aboriginal children in their cottage homes and in foster care is a vital ministry and we invite you to share it with us. It is an effortless way to ensure that Marella has a steady flow of funds for this purpose.

You may choose to make your deposit free of interest, or at a low rate of interest as specified on the application form. Interest (except on interest-free loans) will be calculated monthly on the minimum balance in your account, and an interest cheque sent at the end of May and the end of November each year.

The funds will be invested in government or bank-backed investments or with other institutions which have been approved by the Government to handle trust funds. The difference in the interest we receive from these and that which we pay to you will be used to help support the Aboriginal children. Your deposit will be available at any time for repayment, as we have already mentioned. You make the choice

when sending your deposit whether it should be returned to you within seven days of your request for repayment, or within one calendar month.

If you would like more information, phone the General Secretary, Mrs. Norma Warwick, on 629-1555, our Financial Advisor, Mr. Gordon Cairns, on 84-2454, or our Honorary Auditor, Mr. Keith Pearce, on 622-5327.

MARELLA MISSION FARM LTD.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1984

INCOME	
Bank and Other Interest ..	10,705.51
Blaiklock Sundries	205.00
Blaiklock Memory	300.00
Donation Returned	500.00
Donations—Children's Shoes ..	100.00
Donations—General	18,883.84
Donations—Needy Aborigines ..	100.00
Donations—Wages	719.85
Home Offering Boxes	395.00
Legacies	11,435.14
Sale of Books	1,408.67
Sale of Work, Stalls etc. ..	4,200.20
Sale of Salvage	37.50
Sale of Cassettes	120.25
Subscription to News	180.75
	49,291.71
LESS EXPENDITURE:	
Bad Debt	34.50
Books Purchased	840.51
Blaiklock	72.36
Church of England Homes—	
Donations	18,200.00
Depreciation	1,225.00
Electricity	25.31
Insurances	411.63
Maintenance and Repairs	114.36
Postage	2,252.61
Printing and Stationery	2,255.32
Rent	3,445.00
Salaries and Wages	14,864.65
Cassettes Purchased	98.81
Stalls and Sale of Work	
Expenses	102.82
Stores Purchased	1.66
Sundry Expenses	55.00
Telephone	403.89
Vehicle Expenses	582.76
Workers' Expenses	322.80
	45,308.99
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year ended 31/3/1984 transferred to Accumulated Funds	3,982.72
	3,982.72

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 1984

ACCUMULATED FUNDS	
Balance 31/3/1983	44,218.85
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31/3/1984	3,982.72
	48,201.57
BUILDING FUND	
Balance 31/3/1983	3,457.18
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31/3/1983	—
General Reserve	60,800.90
	64,258.06
SURPLUS & RESERVES ...	
represented by	112,459.65
FIXED ASSETS	
Office Equipment at cost	
less Accumulated Deprecia- tion	3,287.69
Van at cost	
less Accumulated Deprecia- tion	2,070.00
Furniture and Fittings (at cost less Accumulated Deprecia- tion	558.80
	5,916.49
INVESTMENTS	
Shares (at cost)	5,378.50
Australian Savings Bonds	62,000.00
Interest Bearing Deposit (on account Long Service Leave)	7,250.00
St. George Building Soc.	20,000.00
United Permanent Building Society	10,000.00
	104,628.50
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash on Hand	40.00
Stock on Hand (at the lower of cost and net realisable value)	1,224.75
Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia — Castle Hill current account	645.91
	1,914.66
TOTAL ASSETS	112,459.65
LESS LIABILITIES	nil
	112,459.65