

# SKY PILOT NEWS

APRIL, 1960

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SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP

## RALLY and SALE of WORK

to be held (D.V.) in the grounds of

## MARELLA MISSION FARM

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ACRES ROAD, KELLYVILLE, N.S.W.

### SATURDAY, 7th MAY, 1960

10.30 a.m. — 5 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING, 2 p.m.

ALL THE USUAL STALLS: REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ALL DAY

*Proceeds in aid of our work for needy aboriginal children.*

Do your shopping while you enjoy a day's outing in the country; at the same time you will be helping this work for the dark children of our own land.

**POULTRY:** You may buy young ducklings here and fatten them at home.

Make up a car party, including your friends. For children there will be swings, slippery dip, and rides on Mission ponies.

If you are unable to come by car, there are buses from Parramatta to Kellyville Post Office. The Mission Farm is about one mile from the Post Office, but transport between the Mission Farm and Post Office bus stop will be arranged for the following buses :—

Depart Parramatta Station:

8.48 a.m.  
11.00 a.m.  
12.16 p.m. (Rouse Hill bus)  
1.15 p.m.

Depart Kellyville P.O.

1.55 p.m.  
4.11 p.m.  
6.40 p.m.

Gifts for the stalls will be greatly appreciated. They should be railed to the "Sky Pilot," Parramatta Railway Station, or brought direct to the Mission Farm before or on the day of the Rally.

For further particulars, please 'phone Marella Mission Farm, YA 2427



**RALLY AND SALE OF WORK-** We do ask you to make a special effort to be present at our Rally on May 7th. As our work is developing so rapidly, we need added finance to maintain it and overcome the tragedy of having to turn away needy dark children, for whom, at present, there is no accommodation. As explained in the March "News," we are not appealing for thousands of pounds to build an elaborate new home. We have the use of the Sky Pilot's own home for another five years, free of rent, and we have our own annexe, with children's dining room, offices and store; but there are some things that are urgently required.

Firstly, we need £2000 to wipe out all our past and present obligations, and to finish furnishing the annexe. That is our target for this year, and it should be well within our reach, if everyone is willing to share in it. That is, of course, £2000 above our normal expenditure for the care of the dark children and the maintenance of our usual work. We are beginning the first year of our second Five Year Plan as from 1st April. We have much cause to praise God for the successful completion of the first Five Year Plan, and, as mentioned previously, our family of dark children is twenty times as large as it was at the beginning of the first Plan; also, our assets now exceed our liabilities by well over £2000. But assets are not cash. There are still outstanding accounts to be met, and we invite you to have fellowship with us in sharing this burden and making it possible for us to raise this extra £2000 for building and arrears. Next year we hope to be able to begin further buildings, as set out in the March "News", but we have to take one step at a time.

**HOME OFFERING BOXES.** For those who would like to help out but have not the ready money, may we suggest that you apply to the Secretary for a Home Offering Box. Those odd pennies would hardly be missed, and if each of our supporters gives 1/- a week, it would be more than sufficient to meet all our needs. Those small coins placed in the Offering Box and sent in every three months would make all the difference. Please do no delay. Let us have your name and address and a box will be sent to you. We who are on the staff feel that we can ask you to make this small sacrifice for your Lord and the little dark children for whom He died. When we had only two or three children to care for, we could often manage by forfeiting our salaries, or by waiting some months for it, but now, with such a large family, the personal sacrifice of two or three is inadequate. For that reason we look to you. We had 5,000 visitors to the Mission Farm last year. If even half of that number

gave 1/- a week extra, our objective for this first year of our second Five Year Plan would be met. In these days of many public appeals for worthy causes, no one likes to ask for money. To us it is not just a sum to be spent on expensive buildings, it is plain bread and butter for hungry dark children and a simple shelter from the cold and wet.

**THE DARK CHILDREN.** Little Ralph has recovered fully from his complaint, but, in company with many of the other dark children, he has suffered from this "Asian 'flu," or whatever you may call the epidemic which is so prevalent just now. It has meant many a sleepless night for the staff as we watched over him during his illness. With so many set-backs and the handicap he started with, he has such a slender hold on life that we cannot afford to take any risks. Our Honorary Doctors, with the unselfishness so characteristic of them, have come even near midnight to attend to him. There is no doubt that these little dark children, many of them without fathers or without mothers to care for them, are receiving Christian love and devotion that may, in a small way, help to compensate them for the great handicap with which they face life in a white community.

**JOHN.** Contrary to our usual practice, we admitted a dark boy of 14 years of age recently. Our accommodation does not provide for boys of this age at present, but we overcame the difficulty by giving him a room in the main house, next to the Sky Pilot. John was tragically unhappy at school, where many of the boys were unkind to him on account of his colour. To a sensitive nature, this alone was a great trial. Then his stepfather could not bear to have him in the house, and so his home life was not at all a happy place. But his mother and sister are lovely people and have a great love for him, and it was his mother's wish that he should come to us. John, who has had polio, was under the Crippled Children's Society for some time, and it was at their earnest request that we investigated his case. John had only attended school for two or three days this year, and his habit of playing truant meant that legal action would have had to be taken unless something was done. However, he is wonderfully happy here and has settled down very well. He is attending a new school, and seems happier there, too. We ask for your prayers for him. He will be fifteen later this year, and his ambition is to work on a farm. If all goes well, we are confident we can find a place for him here.

**CORAL.** Many friends have been praying for Coral. At fifteen, before she was ready for it, as she is young for her age, she went to work in the city, and suffered, as a consequence



of bad companions. After she had lost several positions, she was sent back to us for a period, before going to another position in the country. We had a pathetic little letter from her recently, all tear stained, as she wrote to apologise for all the trouble she had caused us. No one, she said, had ever loved her or even kissed her "goodnight" before she came here four years ago at the age of twelve. Now she craves for the love and affection of those in the only real home she has ever known. Life will not be easy for her, and she badly needs our prayers and sympathetic understanding.

**PEARL MUNRO.** We are very happy to announce that Pearl, a dark girl of 18 years of age, has joined the staff. Pearl has a little girl of 16 months (Suzanne), who is also with us. Already we wonder how we ever managed without Pearl. She has settled down very well, and her happy, quiet nature is a great asset in the work.

**BUILDING.** Although there are still cupboards to make and painting to be completed, the annexe is already in use. With winter coming on soon, it will be a great asset having the dark children's dining room opening direct from the kitchen. We look back with a shudder to those frosty winter days, those wet and miserable days, on which all the children's meals had to be carried for 40 to 50 yards across the open to their old dining room. It was so difficult to keep meals hot and attractive under such conditions. Our tiny kitchen, less than 12 feet square, with a ceiling only six to seven feet from the floor, was unsuitable for cooking for a total of over 30 persons daily, and in summer it was so hot it blistered the paint on the walls. Now it has been enlarged to twice the size, and the ceiling has been lifted to give greater coolness and comfort. A new double sink has been installed (ready for the plumber to connect), and cupboards have been made the full length of two walls. Only those who have had to manage on pioneer missions or in primitive "outback" homesteads will know the difference that these things make.

**SEPTIC TANK.** Next on our programme for this year is the installation of a septic tank and proper toilet facilities for both children and visitors. This is not a luxury, it is an absolute necessity where there are so many people and not even a local sanitary service. If anyone thinks that missionary work is all glamour, they should take a turn, as we all have, in attending to the disposal of the toilets! This has been almost a daily job, and only the fact that we treat all Mission jobs as a service for our Master has given us grace to carry on so long. But in these days it should not be

necessary. The first part of the extra £2,000 we are appealing for this year will go to the provision of the septic tank.

**FLY WIRE.** Next on our list is fly wire, to enclose the kitchen and dining rooms. Through the courtesy of the makers, we have had a 4-gallon drum of fly spray given to us each year. This year has been an exceptionally bad one for flies, and we have almost run out of fly spray after only three or four months. We also used quantities of Diazinon, and flies could be swept up in great piles, sometimes half a bucketful at a time. This, of course, is not healthy, and part of our £2,000 will go towards fly-proofing.

**GROWING TOO FAST.** This work has been growing too fast for us. Five years ago, with only one dark child to care for, we anticipated a very gradual growth. However, once the work became known, the needy dark folk flocked to us, and, in spite of very severe screening, we simply could not turn away many for whom we really had no room. We did not have even the ordinary facilities that you would find in the simplest home. Meals, hot water for bathing or washing up, had to be carried almost fifty yards. We installed double-decker beds in all rooms, and even then there was insufficient room. The Sky Pilot's children shared their rooms with dark children — everyone did all that was humanly possible to cope with an increase of 2,000 per cent in five years.

Somehow, by the grace of God, we managed it, but it has not been easy. Mrs. Langford-Smith and Isabelle, for several years did all the cooking, washing, cleaning and caring for 15 to 20 children — most of them infants. In their "spare" time they entertained hundreds of visitors and assisted with Street Stalls, Sales of Work, and attended meetings, and so on. We thank God that our friends are coming to our assistance in increasing numbers, but more help is still needed.

**ORCHARD.** We have — or had — 400 fruit trees in the orchard. They are all over 30 years old, and are well past their prime. Gradually we are replanting with fruit trees of every variety that can be grown in this district. The main object is to provide fruit for the dark children all the year round, fruit for preserving and jam making. We wish to increase the orchard until all the old trees have been replaced. But we badly need the services of an experienced orchardist to help with this work. We do not expect to find a suitable honorary worker, and are quite willing to pay the usual wages; but we need a man who is fully qualified to undertake the pruning, spraying and other routine jobs. What is more, we need a man



who loves the dark children and will be a witness to God in his work and contact with others. A retired orchardist, reasonably active, would be able to manage. If you know of such a man, please ask him to get in touch with us. Accommodation is a big problem, as we are using all available accommodation for the dark children at present, but if we can find the right man some arrangements can surely be made.

**PICNIC GROUNDS.** Gradually we are improving the picnic grounds, the huts and the barbecue kitchen. This is, of course, a "spare time" job done mostly with voluntary labour. Twenty willow trees have been planted round the bank of the dam, and other shade trees will be planted from time to time. There are 2½ acres of grassland and 10 acres of bush for those who like bush rambles. This is our Youth Fellowship "stamping ground." We also use it for special functions such as Rallies and Sales of Work, days for the "Shut-ins," etc.

We suggest that Youth Organisations within your own particular Church might also like to use it. It is available (after previous booking, of course) for barbecues, car drives, Sunday School picnics and other such functions. **THERE IS NO CHARGE** — and this might appeal to some, but if such youth groups care to take up a collection or make a donation towards the cost of the upkeep, electricity for the lights and urn, etc., we would be glad, though there is no obligation to do so. It would be an opportunity for young people to visit a new spot, and (if in the daytime) there are kangaroos, emus, peacocks, pigeons, guinea fowls, and all kinds of farm animals and pets to be seen. It is also an opportunity for young people to see the dark children for whom we care, and the interest in Missions might be increased as a result. What about mentioning it to the Youth Leaders in your Church?

**EGG CARTONS** We have from time to time mentioned many different things that are a help to us, but one thing has been overlooked. We are always glad of good, clean, empty egg cartons. If you have any lying about the house, you might remember to save them for us. They only cost a few pence each, but we use from 50 to 100 each week, and it all mounts up.

**DAY FOR "SHUT-INS."** We held our annual day for "Shut-ins" at the end of March. Altogether we had about 70 or 80 people here that day, including car drivers and helpers. God gave us a beautiful day, though rather warm for the time of the year, and everything went very well. Some of our guests had not had any outing whatever since our last day for "Shut-

ins." Can you imagine being shut in one room for a whole year? Surely it is worth while to give these aged and ailing friends a picnic once a year. Usually we have chicken or turkey sandwiches, cakes and scones, and we finish off with fruit salad and ice cream — or fresh cream from the farm. We are grateful to the members of the Women's Auxiliary and the car drivers for making this day the success it proved to be.

**GROWING UP** Probably there is hardly a mother who has not said at some time: "What a pity the children grow up so quickly!" This is understandable, and yet if a child failed to develop into a normal man or woman we would be very distressed.

To most people the little dark children are so lovable and fascinating that it is a temptation to spoil them. But dark children grow up, and any system that overlooks their needs as they develop can only end in failure. When parents love their children and are able to give them a reasonable home life, this is ideal, for we can never take the place of **GOOD** parents. (There are, unfortunately, some parents who do not care for their children or want them, just as there are amongst white people, but these are in the minority).

In caring for the needy or neglected children we must not overlook the future of those who are growing up, the men and women of the future. It is wise for us to consider what we are aiming for and where we are getting. Physical health is good, education is necessary — but what then?

We feel that the only way to true happiness and assimilation is to make it possible for every dark teenager to look forward with reasonable certainty to married life and a home of their own. We have many children here who come from broken or unhappy homes — not all of them by any means, but far too many. If the young dark people are to have a reasonable chance of lasting happiness in their married life, they should have something in common with their partner, a similar background of culture and interest, if possible a fixed spiritual belief to fill the void left by the loss of native beliefs and the failure to understand the white man's spiritual outlook. This is not as easy as it may seem, because our own beliefs in spiritual things are so interwoven with tradition, custom and Western civilisation that there is a danger of its being beyond the grasp of some dark folk. If they are to become Christians, they need understanding and guidance in sorting out the essentials from the non-essentials. As our children grow up, we must give more and more of our attention to these matters if our work is to have any lasting value.