

SKY PILOT NEWS April, 1968

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TINNED MEAT: FROM THE SKY PILOT'S LOG, 2CH BROADCAST

Arnhem Land staggered before the blow of the north west monsoon. Trees moaned and bent almost double, as if trying to hide their faces from the ruthless wind that swept over sea and land. Grim cliffs that had seen a thousand years of storm raised their heads above the surging waters and sweeping spray that drew lines of age and ploughed furrows of pain on their faces.

Giant breakers rolled across the Gulf of Carpentaria. When the hidden coral reefs tripped them up they fell in cascades of white, spilling thousands of tons of water back into the bosom of the ocean. No small boat could possibly live in such a sea. Long since the pearling luggers and ketches had anchored in safe waters, and only the ocean liners ploughed on their way, north of the shallow waters of the Gulf, and heedless of the elements. During the lulls in the monsoon, seagulls screamed over the beaches, but mysteriously they disappeared during the full force of the storm.

After the storm came a sudden peace and quiet on land; not so at sea. It would be long ere the waters of the Gulf returned to temporary calm to await the next storm. It is astonishing that the sea can be whipped to fury so quickly at the beginning of a storm and yet it takes so long for it to return to normal again.

The storms of human passion — hate, greed, war — likewise seem so easily aroused and yet leave in their wake years of misery, starvation and fear. Man proudly boasts to be the head of creation, yet when out of the will of God he has little to pride himself on.

From a tiny island, away in the Gulf of Carpentaria, a thin column of smoke ascended. It was not visible to me, but the Aborigines saw it, and reported. With the aid of field glasses I, too, could see it. Presently an answering smoke was sent up from the mainland. One of my black trackers explained: "Somefellow blackfellow send 'im smoke signals. By an' by we get message."

This was in 1931, when Arnhem Land was an isolated place. I watched carefully, but neither on the mainland nor the island was there any

break in the column of smoke — nothing like the morse code or the signals used by Red Indians. An old man sat crosslegged by the fire, bowed his head and appeared to go into a trance. For a long time he gave no sign of movement, then he roused himself and came over to us. I could not understand the Yukul language, but my tracker interpreted: "Blackfellow there, longa island," he said. "Him canoe bin break up. Him got 'im plenty water but no more tucker. Him bin hurt 'im leg — can't walk. By an' by 'im die suppose 'im no more got 'im tucker."

"Well," I replied, "we can't get a lugger through this sea. I'm afraid he'll have to stay there for awhile."

"We bin tell him you take tucker today," said the tracker.

"Today!" I exclaimed. "I can't possibly go today."

"You got 'im airy-plane," said the tracker.

"Yes, but what about the monsoon? The aero-plane is getting old now, and one of these days it'll fall to pieces in a monsoon. Besides, I can't land on the island to pick him up."

"You take 'im tucker and drop 'im down. Whiteman always go".

After that confidence, I couldn't well refuse. I disliked flying in the monsoons — especially over the sea. But I managed to get through somehow, and I dropped a couple of dozen tins of bully beef within a few yards of the injured man. I thought he mightn't be able to manage the key on the tins, so I also dropped a hatchet to slice them open.

The air was rough and very bumpy. I didn't like to fly too low, but I circled round until I saw him crawl over and pick up one of the tins. Then I turned for home and got the "Sky Pilot" into the hangar as quickly as I could.

It was some time before we were able to get the lugger to the island. When we did we found the man was weak and pitifully hungry. Around him was a stack of unopened bully beef tins. He had taken the paper labels off some of the tins but he had never seen tinned meat before and

did not realise that it was food. We managed to get him to the lugger, in spite of the surf, and back to the mission.

His leg was broken. A simple fracture, but it was badly swollen; it was some time before it could be set. Proper rest and good food soon made him fit again.

It was a lesson to me not to take things for granted. I had thought I was clever to think of dropping the hatchet in case the Aboriginal did not know how to use the key to open the tins. Sometimes I think we Christian preachers are content to fly over the heads of starving crowds to toss out a few sealed tins of food, then pride ourselves on what we've done.

Our Lord's command was: "Feed my sheep". Have you ever fed a motherless lamb? It's not enough to put a bottle of milk alongside it. Often it means getting down on your knees and, with infinite patience, teaching it to drink.

The Aboriginal could have starved to death surrounded by tins of bully beef. Thousands of people are starving to death, spiritually, while all the time there is a Bible in the house. They don't realise that it is spiritual food; or if they do, they don't know how to open it. A code or cipher looks very silly till you find the key. The Gospel story seems foolish to those who perish. You could open a tin of meat in a dozen ways; but there's only one key to open the Bible — and that is the Holy Spirit of God. Without the Holy Spirit you could study the Bible for years. Taking it as history, or as literature, or as a guide to laws or morals you could learn a lot from it; but it would still be a closed book to you.

The psalmist prayed: "Open Thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law." If you want spiritual food you must do the same.

Sometimes we throw texts at people, or, as it were, bash them over the head with a Bible and it doesn't do any good unless the Holy Spirit is behind the action. In many cases I doubt if He is. Moses was asked to speak to the rock. Instead, he lost his temper and hit it. God sent the water just the same, but Moses was punished. Our careless witness and ill-prepared sermon **may** be used of God to save souls. That doesn't mean that we've done well; it means that in spite of us the Holy Spirit has worked. Suppose we begin all over again in our Christian witness? We could scrap that clever sermon and use something simple instead. We could stop flying over people's heads and come down to earth, where we can get on our knees and gently and patiently teach them how to take the food they can digest. We could seek the Lord's glory and for-

get about our own petty ambitions. Then what a difference will be seen in the results of our work.

And the final entry in today's log is taken from the 24th chapter of St. Luke. "They said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?"

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY: The members of the Women's Auxiliaries have been very active during the year ending 31st March 1968. The Parramatta Branch has worked for the Sales of Work and the various Street Stalls held at Parramatta during the year. The Blue Mountains Branch has worked for the Office and Administrative Block and for the Building Fund. The totals raised by the Blue Mountains Branch are included in the figures for the Sales of Work, and we are most grateful for this wonderful help.

The Sale in May 1967 brought in a net profit of \$2,635, which is an increase of \$93 over the previous Sale. The Sale in October 1967 brought in a net profit of \$2,741, which is an increase of \$106 over the May Sale. Together these two Sales brought in \$5,376, which was a great help to our finances.

There were nine Street Stalls during the year and they brought in a total of \$838, which added to the profit from the Sales of Work makes a grand total of \$6,214 raised by the members of the Women's Auxiliaries. We are most grateful for this most satisfactory result of the activities of the year.

Unfortunately, during the year we lost one of our most valued workers when Mrs. Hainsworth passed away. For many years Mrs. Hainsworth has been a tower of strength in the Parramatta Auxiliary and she will be sadly missed. We extend to her husband, family and friends our deepest sympathy.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Following are a few extracts from the Director's Report for the year ending 31st March 1968: "This has again been a year of considerable material advance and as we look back we can see that financially it has been the best year we have ever had. Though the legacies, such as we received last year, have not been repeated our general income rose considerably and this is a very healthy sign. However, it is important to realise that our main work is of a spiritual and educational nature and this is rather more difficult to assess. But during the year there has been a remarkable improvement in the character and conduct of the children, especially some of the older girls, and we feel that this is more important than the material advance.

We thank God for this evidence of the working of His Holy Spirit and we look forward to further blessing as we enter a new financial year.

"During the year a total of fifty-three deputation meetings were held and these were attended by approximately 5,360 people.

"We commenced the year with 26 children, including the older ones on the staff, and during the year five children were admitted and three discharged; so our total at the end of the year is twenty-eight, which is two more than last year.

"The two Women's Auxiliaries held a combined picnic at Leura on March 6th which was well attended and proved to be a very happy occasion.

"This work has progressed slowly but steadily over the years and this last year is, without doubt, the most successful that we have ever experienced. The effect of the Prayer Meeting on both children and staff and the many blessings received in direct answer to prayer have been most marked. We give all the praise and honour to God who is the real director of this work; and we look forward to even greater things in the future."

BALANCE SHEET: The Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st March 1968 appears in this issue. Regarding it our Auditor, Mr. K. H. Pearce, A.C.A., says: "It is with pleasure that I enclose your 1968 Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1968.

"The year completed with an Excess of Income over Expenditure of \$5444.60; this is a most satisfying result, which is an improvement over the previous year if the Cullen Estate Legacy of \$8801 is not included in that year's income.

"It is rather distressing to note that the donations to building funds have dropped approximately in half from the previous year when buildings are needed for the expansion of the work.

"The Balance Sheet shows that the Fellowship at present is in the strongest financial position ever attained by it; for this achievement all your members and helpers are to be congratulated . . ."

TRACTOR: During the year the Mission Tractor broke down completely and we were unable to plant the crops needed for the early spring crops. However two of our Directors, Messrs. Ken Crossman and Ray Mitchell, who are engineers, came to our rescue and overhauled the tractor, putting in many hours of hard work getting it back into running order. It is now operating once more in a very satisfactory manner. We are deeply grateful for this kindly voluntary work which has been such a saving to us.

SOUVENIR ARTICLES: We still have souvenir spoons and other articles for sale. These have the Mission badge in black and yellow depicting an Aboriginal boy watching the billy boil. The tea spoons are priced at 95 cents each; the cake forks and butter knives are 85 cents and the serviette rings one dollar thirty cents. These are all we have left in stock.

SKY PILOT'S LOG: Two of the original recordings of stories from the Sky Pilot's Log are available on 10 inch long playing discs at \$4.00 each or \$4.20 posted. The two stories are "George's Son" and "A Dead Tooth". The late Mr. Sid Everett's voice can be heard again as he takes the part of George, the old stockman. These discs make splendid Birthday or Christmas presents and are proving very popular.

SALE OF WORK: There are two Sales of Work held each year at Marella Mission Farm. These are always on the FIRST Saturday in May and the LAST Saturday in October and in this way it is easy to remember them and make a mental note to be present. We are always very glad to receive gifts for sale and some of our friends are busy sewing for months beforehand. The success of these Sales has been due to the wonderful support we have had from our friends over the years.

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANISATION: Amongst our many voluntary workers have been members of the Catholic Youth Organisation who have done valuable work painting the exterior of Onslow House. We much appreciate the kindly efforts on our behalf of these young men.

TAX DEDUCTIONS: May we remind you that donations of \$2.00 and over are deductible for taxation purposes if made to Marella Mission Farm. If there is any question made about this it is as well to quote the number AF 1595C/SF.3380.

MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING: Our monthly prayer meeting, open to visitors, continues to be held on the third Tuesday of each month of the year (except December and January). It has been a time of great blessing for all who attend and there have been many most remarkable answers to our prayers. Prayer is the most important activity of the Mission Farm; as we honour God and seek His will in prayer, so He has entrusted us with greater responsibility in His service. Requests for prayer will be gladly received from friends. No names are mentioned, unless specially requested, and all prayer requests are strictly confidential.

THE SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP LIMITED
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 1968

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
Advertising	4.20	Bank Interest	1.70
Bank Fees	10.00	Donations to Home	10223.34
Children's Expenses	909.66	Home Offering Boxes	319.94
Car Allowances	520.00	Deputation	262.46
Children's Board	4694.00	Sales of Work, Stalls etc.	6818.24
Depreciation	852.00	Subs to News	85.57
Donations Earmarked	10.00	Government Allowances	5028.56
Electricity and Water	456.14	Parents' Contributions	770.00
Expenses, Rates etc. Cullen Estate ..	174.24	Sale of Salvage	596.25
Freight	12.82	Specific Donations:	
Honorariums	20.90	Building Fund	1121.80
Insurances	90.66	Dryer	66.00
Maintenance and Repairs	365.88	Office and Shop Improvement ..	200.00
Printing and Stationery	716.21	Picnic Ground	10.00
Postage	205.61	Quilts, etc.	21.00
Rent	520.00	Laundry Equipment	47.00
Salaries and Wages	10108.91	Adoption Society	60.00
Rates	456.00	Children's Expenses	246.60
Stalls and Sales of Work Expenses ..	744.90	School Expenses	75.00
Store Purchases	1514.65	Rates	456.00
Sundry Expenses	10.00	Store Income	1630.00
Telephone	57.54	Souvenir Sales	441.29
Travelling Expenses	13.93	Rent — Cullen Estate	1067.40
Vehicle Expenses	157.67		
Souvenirs Purchased	355.63		
Donations and Legacies received Building Fund for the year ended 31st March, 1968 transferred	1121.80		
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1968 transferred to Accumulated Funds	5444.60		
	<u>\$29548.15</u>		<u>\$29548.15</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1968

CURRENT LIABILITIES			CURRENT ASSETS		
Sundry Creditors	3044.00	3044.00	Cash on Hand	20.00	
RESERVE			Stock on Hand (at cost)		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		4988.78	General	400.00	
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			Souvenirs	397.22	
Balance 1st April, 1967	12063.08		Shop	256.12	
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ended ended 31st March, 1968	5444.60	17507.68	Commonwealth Trading Bank	4802.27	5875.61
BUILDING FUND			FIXED ASSETS		
Balance 1st April, 1967	18827.70		Buildings (at cost)	22177.81	
Add Donations and Legacies for the year ended 31st March, 1968	1121.80	19949.50	Land & Buildings, 63 Park Road (at V.G.)	8200.00	
			Children's Equipment (at cost less depreciation)	334.02	
			Furniture and Fittings (at cost less depreciation)	5510.72	
			Office Equipment (at cost less depreciation)	1705.59	
			Van (at cost less depreciation)	1437.83	
			Machinery (at cost less depreciation)	62.00	39427.97
			INTANGIBLE ASSETS		
			Formation Expenses		186.38
		<u>\$45489.96</u>			<u>\$45489.96</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP LIMITED

I report that I have examined the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account of the Sky Pilot Fellowship Limited. In my opinion the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1961, and so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Companies affairs. The accounting records (including Registers) examined by me have, in my opinion, been properly kept in accordance with the said Act.

K. H. PEARCE

Chartered Accountant

"Registered under the Public Accountants Registration Act, 1945, as amended".

BLACKTOWN
1968.