

SKY PILOT NEWS

SEPTEMBER, 1959

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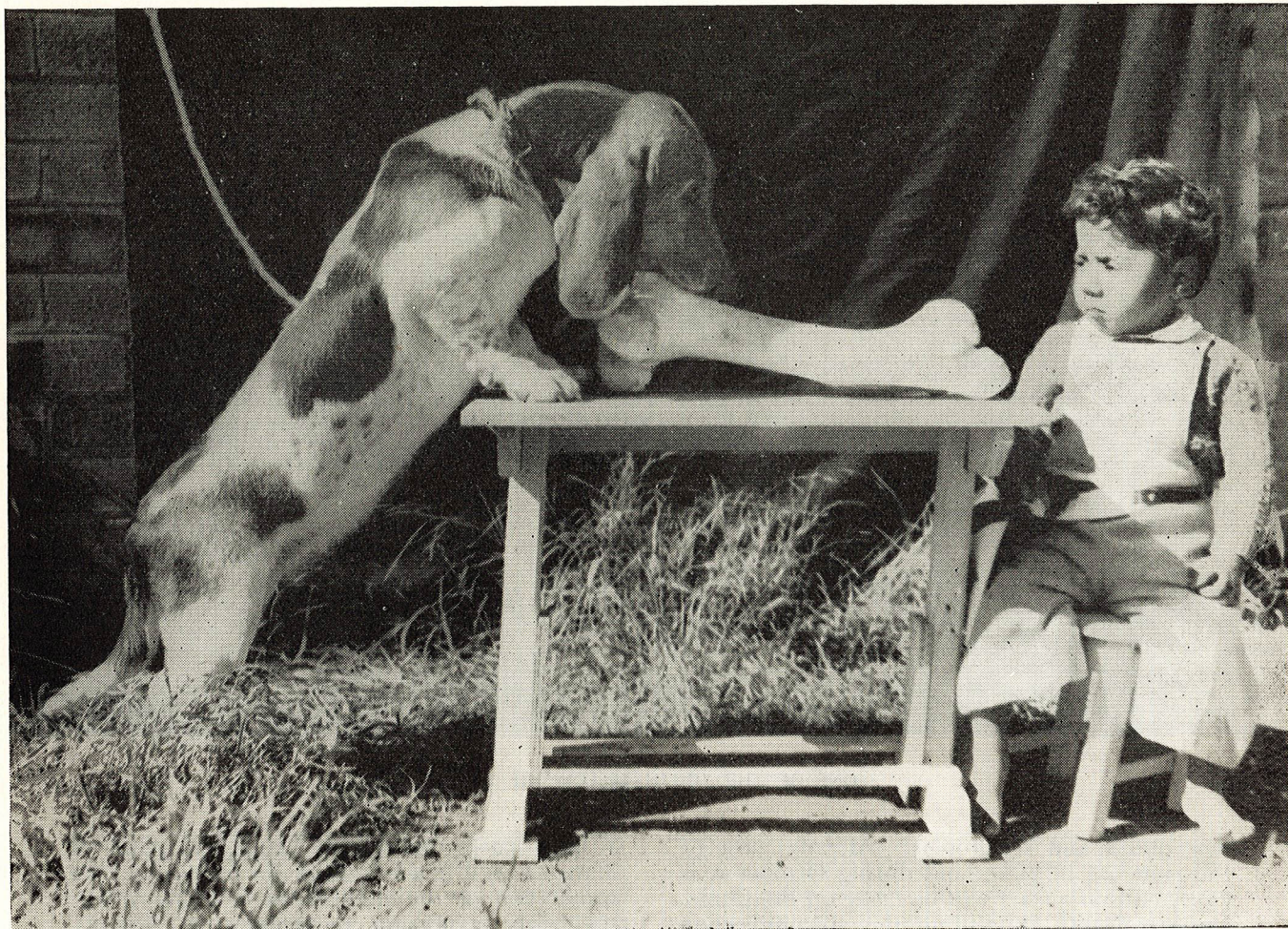
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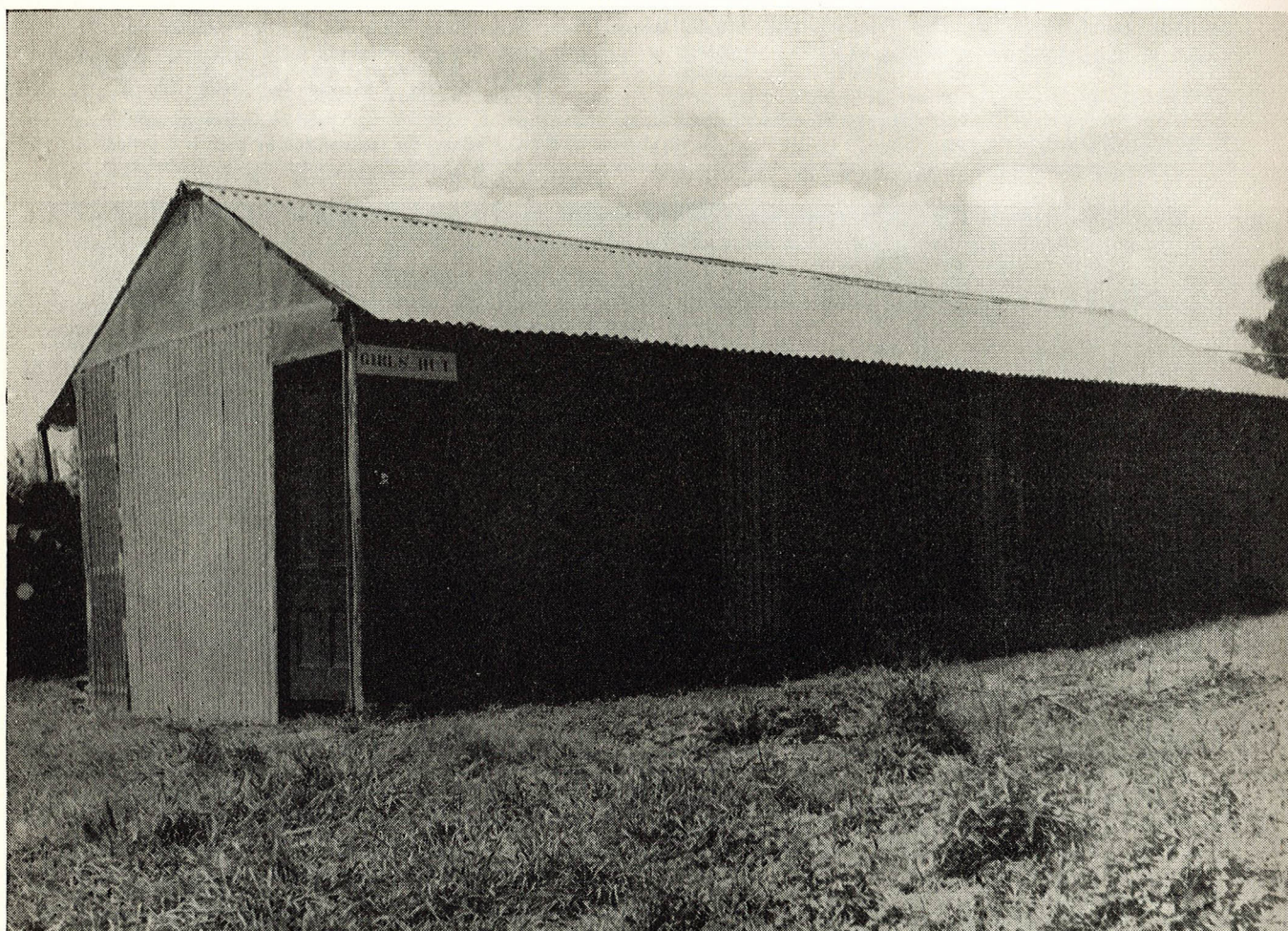
"NOTHING LEFT? NEVER MIND, THERE'S PLENTY AT MARELLA MISSION FARM SALE OF WORK ON SATURDAY, 7th NOVEMBER.

The past few months have been very busy on the Mission Farm. The huts for the Youth Fellowship had to be finished off in time for the Youth Camp at the end of this month (September). This meant that money had to be found for timber and iron. All the members of the Youth Fellowship were active in organising outings and other functions, in order to raise the money. A Mystery Drive early in August was a success. This was followed by a trip by North Auburn Baptist Cricket Club and our Youth Fellowship to Nowra. We are not quite sure which side won the match!

Several members were unable to make the trip, and there was an exchange of players. It appears that both sides won; anyhow, everyone enjoyed the trip and the fellowship.

There was a working bee on 15th August and another on 12th September. Unfortunately, heavy rain made it necessary to spend valuable time in repairing the road, after several cars bogged!

THE APEX CLUB: Once again the Apex Club have come to our rescue. They are undertaking to build the framework of the



ONE OF THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP HUTS

new offices and storerooms. Already most of the piers are in place, and during October it is expected that a start will be made on the frame. We are deeply grateful to this splendid body of men for their unselfish voluntary help. It will be remembered that a couple of years ago they built a shelter for the dark children, installed a toilet dissolvenator and laid concrete paths and floors, amongst other jobs.

The shell of the enlarged kitchen is already in use, but pressure of other work means that it may be a little while yet before it is finished completely.

Our electrician, Mr. T. Ryan, who is also a storekeeper in Castle Hill and a very active member of the Apex Club, has been busy running power lines to the Youth Fellowship huts and picnic grounds, the pumping plant and the new kitchen. The children have learned to watch for his coming, as he usually has some pleasant surprise for them. Sometimes it is

a huge packet of sweets; sometimes cases of oranges; once it was a large tin of bisuits. We seated two of the small boys in front of the tin, with permission to sample its contents. Their delight is evident from the illustration in this paper.

VOLUNTARY HELPER: For almost three months we had the voluntary assistance of Mrs. Stanyer in the Mission House. We are very grateful to her for all the washing and ironing and other jobs that she undertook so cheerfully. When she had to leave, we wondered how we could possibly manage without. It meant a great saving for the staff while she was here, and we are greatly in her debt for this Christian action.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY: The Auxiliary has been active with street stalls and preparation for the big Rally and Sale of Work to be



BOYD AND STEPHEN SAMPLE THE BISCUITS

held at the Mission Farm on Saturday, 7th November. Most of the members have been faithful workers for many years, and the amount of work they manage to accomplish is astounding. We would welcome a few new members, however, as the work is expanding so rapidly. Full particulars may be obtained by a 'phone call to the Mission Farm.

MRS. LANGFORD-SMITH: We are sorry to have to report that Mrs. Langford-Smith caught a chill getting up to sick children at night during the "mumps season". Unfortunately, this turned to double pneumonia. Although she refused to stay in bed for as long as the doctor ordered, Mrs. Langford-Smith made a quick recovery, and was soon back at the cooking, washing, mending and caring for our large family of little ones.

SEPTIC TANK: Sooner or later it will be

necessary to instal a septic tank to cope with the needs of our children, staff and visitors. We are grateful to Mr. Kennedy for his advice and assistance in drawing up plans and making an estimate of the costs. As soon as money is available the work will commence. It is very necessary, as there is a danger of the drainage finding its way into the dam otherwise. As the children look on the dam as their swimming pool, we want to keep it fresh and clean for this purpose.

One of our visitors, after watching the children swimming in the dam, remarked: "And do you have to use that water for drinking purposes?" Perhaps we should mention that we have city water for all household purposes; the water from the dam is to be used only for irrigation in the orchard and garden. When water restrictions are in force and you happen to see our spray line in full operation, please remember that we are using our own water

supply for this. It is very kind of those anxious friends who remind us that we have "forgotten to turn off the water" during restricted hours, but water restrictions do not apply to our dam!

FRUIT TREES: Besides the 400 bearing fruit trees (mostly plums) on the Mission Farm, we have planted another 150 young trees of assorted varieties. When these trees commence to bear we should have sufficient fruit for the children most of the year, as well as supplies to preserve or make into jam. All the young trees had to be netted; the rabbits delight in stripping off the bark even when there is plenty of other food about.

SPRING: We are always glad when winter is over. It is difficult keeping a lot of small children warm and dry during the winter months. As the fruit trees come into blossom and the green appears on the cedars and oaks, it is a welcomed sight. Now our iris paddock is coming into blossom, and the hippeastrums are bursting into a glory of colour. We have the double flowering deep purple wistaria, as well as a single variety in shell pink; these are always admired, because they are rarely seen in gardens today. But even the common wistaria is worth a place in any garden.

IS IT WORTH WHILE?: Strangely enough, we are often asked if it worth while trying to help the coloured children. Some visitors say that they are "better left alone". Probably these folk have seen some of the hopeless and miserable natives who sometimes camp on the outskirts of the country towns. It must be remembered that many of the dark children who come to us have been born in the city. They would be hopeless and lost if hunted away

to the bush or placed in some "blackfellows' camp". There are many white people living in squalid conditions in our city slums. We do not judge the standard of living of all white people by these unfortunates. Given proper training, there is no reason why dark children of mixed blood should not take an honourable position in our community. They are what the white man and circumstance has made them. It is up to us to see that they have an equal chance of health, homes and happiness. They can be spoiled, as other children can be spoiled; but they can learn and profit by our care and guidance, as other children can. Above all, we are not working alone. The God who created these dark children loves and cares for them; we are His agents. If we do our duty, God can be depended on to do His part. But our part is not merely a "duty"; it is a joy and a privilege. As small, black arms twine around our necks and hearts; as smiling faces and happy laughter sounds in our ears, we are more than rewarded for all the love and care we have bestowed on them. Yes, it is worth while.

As has been said, a man is not very interested in a bank until he puts his money into it. If people are not interested in the welfare of the aborigines, maybe it is because they have taken no share of the burden. How true it is that where our treasure is there is our heart.

CONCLUSION: Again we praise God for His goodness to us. We see the encouragement of the expanding work, the happy, growing children. We look forward, this Spring, to new life and new hope, not only in the budding trees, but in the future of those whom God has placed in our care.

Although this copy of the News is sent out with the other issues, it is our intention, as soon as possible, to be able to send out each month's News separately.