

# SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP



APRIL, 1953



Director: K. LANGFORD-SMITH, F.R.G.S.

MARELLA  
MISSION  
FARM



Kellyville



New  
South  
Wales



ADDRESS  
ALL  
LETTERS  
TO



"S K Y  
P I L O T"



2CH



47 YORK ST.,  
SYDNEY

ISABELLE and "PIXIE" at Marella Farm.

Our first leaflet, published in October 1951, announced the idea of a mission farm and home for dark children. It was explained that the "Sky Pilot" owned a 30 acre farm which was in full production during the war but the stock had been disposed of

when it again became possible for him to resume full time Christian activities. It went on to say: "It is the 'Sky Pilot's' intention to restock the farm gradually and conduct it as a mission farm. After running expenses are met all profits will go towards the mainten-

ance of the radio session, the holiday home for coloured children, and ultimately towards the building of a further home for missionaries on furlough." After 18 months it is interesting to review the work that has been accomplished. It must be remembered that we commenced this work with no finance and no staff but with faith that God would supply all our needs as they arose. The devil has been active: there have been disappointments and setbacks but in spite of this the work has gone ahead in a most encouraging way.

During four years the farm had not been worked, fences and buildings had fallen into disrepair, gardens were overgrown, machinery rusted up, and except for a house cow and half a dozen cross-bred fowls, there was no stock. The saw-mill had broken down, rotary hoe required repairs estimated at £70, the electric chaff-cutter had stripped gears, the electric battery brooder was in pieces and so on. Unfortunately our first assistant, appointed on November 3, 1951, was only able to stay for six weeks. Mr. Langford-Smith at the time was preparing seven scripts weekly for broadcasting besides taking services on Sunday and occasional meetings during the week, but for nearly four months he and Mrs. Langford-Smith carried on with the help of school boys on holidays and occasional visitors.

In April, 1952 Mr. Don Donsworth joined the staff. His courage and faith were undaunted; he felt called of God to this work and was not dismayed by the difficulties or his lack of agricultural experience.

Mr. Wallace McDonald, an experienced farmer, joined the staff at the end of October 1952, so we have only had six months in which to develop the agricultural work.

The saw-mill is now back in commission; the chaff-cutter (through the courtesy of Mr. Bonser, the maker, who supplied the necessary

parts free of cost) is in daily use. The incubator and battery brooder were repaired and used in the chicken season. The old brooder house, a room 36 feet by 16 feet, with a cypress pine floor, has been lined and ceiled, doors and windows added, electric power installed, and now is divided into three rooms which are being used as temporary quarters for the staff. About 3,000 yards of five-wire boundary and subdivision fencing has been erected, half of it rabbit proof. An office for Miss Porter has been added to the verandah of the house and a back verandah has been closed in as temporary sleeping quarters for extra members of the staff. Thirty-three breeding cages have been built for fancy birds, new netting has been erected to enclose 18 poultry pens, and 288 square feet of brick and concrete flooring has been laid in shedding. The framework has been erected for five permanent sheds for use as stalls when fetes are held and for general use at other times of the year. Another thousand feet of piping for irrigation has been laid, and the creek has been surveyed and plans drawn up (by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission) for building a 50' x 10' concrete retaining wall. This would give sufficient water for farm irrigation and would make an ideal swimming pool for the dark children. The rotary hoe has been repaired and an Allen Oxford motor scythe has been purchased to cut crops for hay and ensilage. Fattening coops to hold 200 cockerels have been built and many other improvements made.

Restocking has progressed during the past 18 months and we now have 2 cows and 2 heifers, 2 riding ponies, 1 draft horse, 4 stud sows, 30 sheep and a saanen goat. There are breeding pens or trios of White Leghorns, Australorps, Rhode Island Reds, Chinese Langshans (black, white, blue), New Hampshires, Light Sussex, Modern Game and Croad Langshans; Muscovy and Khaki Campbell ducks; American Bronze and White



#### STAFF, MARELLA MISSION FARM

Mr. and Mrs. W. McDonald, Mr. D. Donsworth, Miss N. Porter,  
Miss I. Thorne Mrs. F. Hutchinson.

Holland turkeys. We also have six varieties of bantams.

Our many pets will add to the interest of the children and visitors; there is also a profitable market for young ones. There are five thoroughbred dogs and three Persian cats. We have white rabbits, guinea-pigs, white and chocolate mice and white rats. There are silver pheasants, quail, goldfish and over 20 varieties of pigeons.

As mentioned previously we have only had a man in charge of the agricultural work

for about six months. Much of his time was spent picking and packing plums, and owing to an accident he lost over three weeks' work and was not really fit when he resumed duties. However, in the limited time available, about 15 acres have been cultivated and beans, squash, cucumbers, marrows, tomatoes, watermelons and peas have been marketed and there should be more vegetables to market each month as growing crops come into production. In less than six months the total value of fruit, vegetables, poultry products and wool marketed exceeded £500, which does not include the milk, butter, eggs, fruit,



Homing Pigeons Returning to Marella Mission Farm

vegetables etc. used by the staff. Much time had to be spent in fencing, clearing blackberries and other necessary improvements, so this is a very creditable performance.

**PREVIOUS ASSISTANTS:** Many of our assistants who worked on this farm before its conversion to a mission have become lifelong friends and come back to visit us. At least one is now a missionary, another an ordained minister, and many others are engaged in Christian activities. Some laid down their lives during the war, one has returned too badly injured to resume farm work. We are very fortunate in having Mr. H. Ryan to help us part time. He was on the staff many years ago and though he is working all the week he reserves every Saturday to help us.

**VOLUNTARY WORKERS:** Our voluntary workers have been excellent and we are deeply indebted to them. We specially thank Mr. Dudley Foord (University of Sydney) and Mr. David Bockman (President of the Evangelical Union), who have spent many weeks here doing voluntary work. Mrs. F. Hutchinson, who is living here permanently, has also been a great help. She has undertaken picking, packing, milking and other jobs to leave the men free for heavier work.

Other friends have helped us on odd days; though they are too numerous to name, we value their contribution on behalf of the dark children.

Mr. E. H. Perrett, our Hon. Auditor, has been a tower of strength and his two sons,



eggs and meat for the staff and coloured children but the profits will pay most, if not all, of the wages. As mentioned previously the income from the farm is at present only about £1,000 per annum; this should be at least doubled next year. It must be remembered that the wages mentioned are not merely spent in farm production. Other work includes maintaining the radio session; conducting Church services and youth meetings; writing articles and stories; answering 2,500 letters a year; general improvements of the property in preparation for the home, and so on. Nor is other Christian work neglected. The "Sky Pilot" is the founder and leader of the only Christian Youth Fellowship in Kellyville; Mr. Donsworth is the Superintendent of a Sunday School and the Secretary of a Y.P. Fellowship; Mr. McDonald is engaged regularly in Sunday School work; Miss Porter is an active youth worker and helps organise camps, outings and meetings for young people, and so on.

The improvements in building, fencing etc. have added considerably to the assets of the farm which now, with stock and plant, exceed £14,000. The greater portion of this was not raised by public subscription; Mr. and Mrs. Langford-Smith bought the farm at a time when no one seemed interested in the venture and by hard work over a period of 13 years, built up the value to £12,000 before inviting friends to join in the great work for our Master. A large sum is yet required before we can complete the home, but our Lord says that the silver and gold is His and the cattle upon a thousand hills. He expects us to ask big things of Him; if our faith is constant there will be no lack.

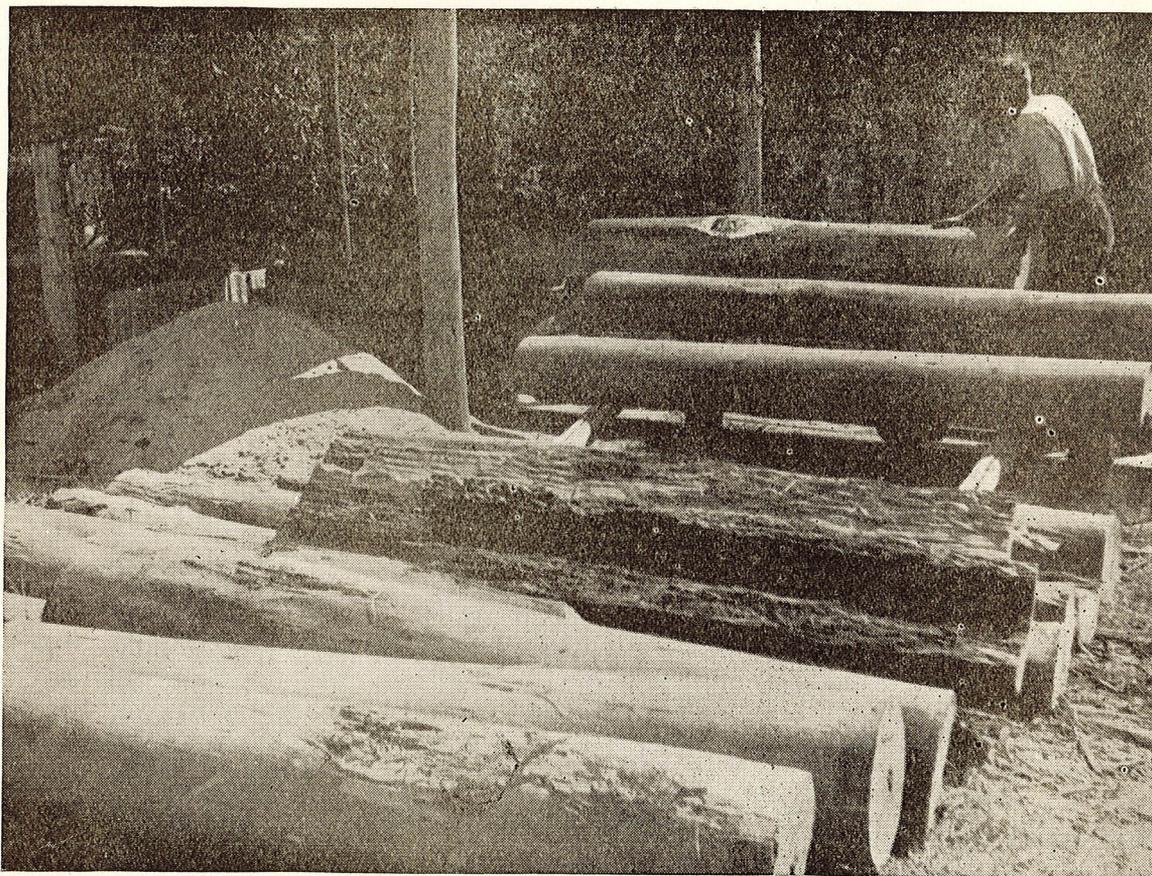
**THE HOME:** We hope to lay the foundation stone for the home for dark children about October, 1953. Backed, as we are, by the prayers and support of thousands of listeners to the "SKY PILOT'S LOG" we feel sure that this vision will soon become a reality. Are you able and willing to assist

in this effort? Our first need is PRAYER our second FINANCE, our third VOLUNTARY HELP in various ways, especially for the fetes held twice a year.

**REST HOME:** In our first leaflet we mentioned that we hope also to provide a home for missionaries in need of rest before resuming their labours in the field. Though it was decided to make the home for dark children a first priority the other aim has not been forgotten. While unable to build this special home for some time, we have thrown open our own home and already many tired Christian workers have come to us for periods of physical and mental refreshment. For a few weeks they are members of our family and in quiet country surroundings they find time to be still and know God; then they go back to their strenuous work leaving us the richer for their Christian fellowship. It is a joy to know that God has used the farm in this way.

**RADIO:** The children's session each Tuesday at 5 p.m. from 2CH has continued for three-and-a-half years and in this time thousands of children's letters have been received. It is a wonderful opportunity of reaching children who do not attend Church or Sunday School and the results have been most encouraging. Negotiations are at present in progress to commence a Saturday session of the "Sky Pilot's Log". The A.B.C. has also asked Mr. Langford-Smith to prepare scripts for possible use on the National network. We would value your prayers regarding this matter. Between 4,000 and 5,000 people have signed a petition asking that the session be continued and from the letters received each week it is evident that no other session is taking the place of the "Sky Pilot's Log".

**LETTERS:** Our friends have been very faithful in writing to us and the number of letters received still has a marked value in negotiations for the recommencement of the session. Since the session first began over



Sunshine and Sawdust, Marella Saw Mill.

11,000 letters have been received—an average of 2,500 per annum or nearly 50 a week.

**CAR:** On December 30, Mr. Langford-Smith's car was involved in an accident when the steering jammed. Both he and Miss Porter (who were on the way to take part in the Tuesday's broadcast) were injured. We are deeply thankful that the injuries were not more serious. Unfortunately the Insurance Company have treated the car as a total loss and paid £150 (the full insurance value), keeping the car. As it is not possible to buy a serviceable car for this amount it has been very awkward to keep up the deputation work. Again we would appreciate your prayers.

**"OLIVE":** Special prayer is asked for 'Olive'

(that is not her real name). Many will remember her story as told in the "Sky Pilot's Log" some time ago.

Olive's father was a white man who lived in a hut near the swamps of Arnhem Land; he earned his living shooting buffalo for their hides. Olive's mother was an aboriginal woman whom the whiteman had brought with him from another district. Her father was good to Olive; in the evening he would take her on his knee and tell of the interesting things he had seen during the day, or give her bright berries and pretty coloured stones he had found in the bush. Olive was very happy and thought life would always go on in this happy, carefree way; then her father went to Darwin and returned with a white woman.

This woman knew about Olive, but as soon as she arrived Olive knew that life would be different. She abused Olive's mother and hunted mother and daughter from the hut to the blacks' camp "where they belonged". Olive's father pleaded that his little daughter might remain; but the woman was adamant and finally he loaded the black woman with stores and turned her and her child away.

The camp blacks accepted them only while the stores lasted; then their attitude changed and one night Olive's mother overheard their plans to kill her and her daughter, for they belonged to another tribe. Late that night the mother took Olive and fled into the jungle. All night she walked, till her flimsy dress was torn to shreds, her body cut and bleeding.

At daylight they reached the swamps where water seeped in and hid footprints. But it was heavy going and Olive was tired and had to be carried. Mosquitoes were troublesome and great clouds of them settled on naked flesh and left huge blood smears when wiped off. Finally the mother fell exhausted by a bush at the edge of the swamp.

The black mother did not pray; she had broken the taboos of her people and had never heard of the whiteman's God; but God saw and took pity, as when Hagar was in similar plight. . . .

Late that night Olive's mother staggered into the "Sky Pilot's" camp with a bundle in her arms. It was Olive. The mosquitoes had been at work and one couldn't see her features—the tiny face was a swollen, pulpy mass and it was difficult to find her mouth to force down a few drops of water.

"Sky Pilot" took Olive to the Mission and later returned her mother (at her request) to her own people. There were no white women at the mission then but the "Sky Pilot" "adopted" the four year old child. Sometimes

she would wake screaming with fear and throwing her arms round the "Sky Pilot's" neck would cry: "Oh, Moningna, I dreamt they were sending me down to the blacks' camp. You won't ever send me there, will you?"

Years went by. War broke out and the coloured children were evacuated to Sydney. The "Sky Pilot" lost touch with Olive, but after the war a half-caste girl of seventeen was sent to help at Marella Farm. Was it coincidence that it was Olive? At her 21st Birthday Party Olive left the young people at their games and, sitting on the "Sky Pilot's" knee, whispered: "This is better than the blacks camp, Moningna."

Olive was converted during Dr. Appelman's campaign. She left us and sought other employment in an attempt to make her way in the world. We had great hopes for her and for a time she did well, then began to drift to the slum areas where dark people congregated. One midnight, in answer to a phone call, the "Sky Pilot" went to her rescue and found her drunk. He brought her back to the farm and for a time she tried to break with the undesirable friends she had made. But it happened again and again. Today Olive is in jail. . . . Will you pray for her? Christ said: "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand."

Olive is one of many. There is no place in the city where coloured people may meet in pleasant surroundings and enjoy Christian fellowship with their own people; or where their children may be left without fear of contamination with evil influence and companionship. Marella Mission Farm is not intended to be just an "institution"; rather it is designed to be a happy holiday home where dark children can have plenty of fun and entertainment and the Christian and moral training that is so necessary to fit them for their difficult position in life.