

1952

SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP

SKY PILOT'S LOG

Broadcast by Keith Langford Smith

OVER

2 CH

SYDNEY

Mon., to Fri., 12.15 p.m.

Saturday, 12 noon

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A Home for Aboriginal Children from the city areas.

THE COLOURED CHILDREN

During the war the coloured children from Arnhem land were evacuated by the Government. Many were brought to Sydney where they were educated with white children, treated as white children and enjoyed the amusements and entertainments provided for white children. It was like a new world to them. At the compounds and some of the mission stations there were not the same facilities to entertain. Musical programmes were seldom heard as in those days radio reception from the south was very poor—a little more than a curiosity, in fact.

For a few happy years these coloured children enjoyed the lives of normal white children. They were treated kindly by most people who went out of their way to make the children happy and their stay in the city enjoyable. But with the closing of the war years it was decided to send the coloured children back to the tropics. Many of them had now grown to young manhood and womanhood, for dark children develop early.

The novelty of the return journey, the interest of seeing dimly remembered places and the excitement of meeting many people served to occupy their minds for a time, but gradually they settled down to routine and the monotony of life in a restricted place began to weary them. No more concerts, picture shows or outings to new places of interest; very few books to read or new people to meet. It was inevitable that what had once satisfied them (having known nothing better) now proved inadequate. The result was that as opportunity presented itself, many of the older ones escaped from mission or compound and "hitch-hiked" their way back to the city. But life in the city was different now. No longer were they the special care of Government or Mission; they had to fend for themselves. Fortunately employment was available and many commenced to work in factories, shops and other places. Being gregarious by nature these coloured people began to congregate in cer-

tain parts of the city such as Redfern and Newtown. Some of them married, most of them had children, and these children were often brought up in undesirable, congested parts of the city. They were strangely out of place in tenements houses and on city pavements. Their parents and grandparents had roamed forest and jungle of unlimited spaces but they were condemned to live, sometimes whole families, in a single room. With the inherited instincts of a nomadic people they were fenced in on every side and amidst squalid surroundings, often in the company of "bad whites". Many drifted into a life of crime and vice, and following the example of their parents found a refuge in drink.

"Lost Tribes":

There were many missionary societies working amongst the aborigines in the out-back but none who catered specially for these "lost tribes" in the city. It is true that there was a mission doing a splendid work at La Perouse, but most of these children did not live there and so were untouched by this Christian influence. Some of the parents discovered the Sky Pilot's Log session on 2CH and realised that the "Sky Pilot", who had worked amongst them in Arnhem Land, was still alive and still interested in them. One by one they sought out their old friend, often bringing their children out to the farm at Kellyville for brief periods. Unfortunately there was no accommodation and no facilities at the farm for caring for large numbers of dark children and the time came when many had to be turned away. That was how the mission farm eventuated.

During the war years this farm, owned and managed by the Sky Pilot, had been in full production to help provide the food-stuffs so badly needed by a country at war. There were about 2,000 fowls, 800 ducks and 50 pigs. An orchard of 400 trees provided up to 1,000 boxes of fruit a year and a market garden provided hundreds of bushels of tomatoes, beans, and other vegetables. But with the end of the war the Sky Pilot was



"At Marella Mission Farm"

again able to take up full time Christian work which led to the commencement of a daily radio broadcast. When no sponsor was available the stock on the farm had to be sold to enable the session to continue and for several years the farm was unstocked and unworked. About 1950, with the arrival of a new generation of city-bred dark children, the demand for a home for them away from the city slums became insistent, and the Sky Pilot determined to use his farm for this purpose alone.

It was a tremendous task. To rebuild broken down fences and shedding, restock the farm and work the neglected gardens called for a great deal of labour and money. But where was this to come from? **There** was only one answer; from God who has promised to supply all our needs.

It is now (October 1952) twelve months since this scheme was first announced over the air. At first many people laughed at the idea that seemed impossible of fulfilment without substantial financial backing, of which the Sky Pilot had none. But already the farm is beginning to take shape again. Many fences have been re-erected, shedding repaired and yards stocked with poultry, pigs and sheep. A tremendous amount of work is required before the farm is back in full production, but supported by the radio listeners and helped by our mission staff this is gradually being accomplished. For three years there was no staff at all to help with the radio session or the mission farm, though valuable help was given by various voluntary workers. Now we have the nucleus of a permanent staff of mission workers.

Staff:

Miss Norma Porter, who for two years gave up all her spare time to help with the office work, is now the full time secretary of the Sky Pilot Fellowship, having resigned from her position with the M.L.C. Assurance Co. We owe a great debt to her for her conscientious and unselfish work.

Mr. Don Donsworth, who joined the staff in April 1952, is a graduate of the Sydney Missionary and Bible College, Croydon. He is known to many friends already by his bright Christian witness. He has felt the call of God to this work and has already proved a great asset.

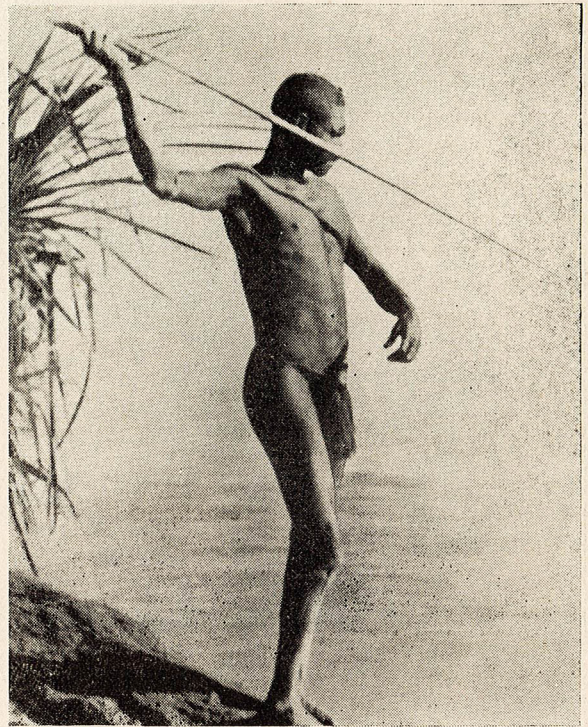
Miss Isabelle Thorne, a dark girl in her teens, has also joined the staff and is engaged mostly in household duties. We appreciate her help very much and she has already proved a great asset. Usually our "family" consists of ten or more and not only is accommodation taxed to the utmost but cooking and washing-up is a nightmare. Isabelle is very fond of the dogs and other pets and we have to watch that she does not spoil them! Her bright and happy disposition and love of fun helps to make us forget the worries and anxieties of a work that is growing quicker than we can manage without long hours.

We have also received valuable assistance for several weeks from Mr. John Hayes, who cared for the chickens; Mr. Bob Porter, who has undertaken all the fencing, and Mr. Ray Harris, builder, who has done much to repair and add to the buildings.

There are, of course, many voluntary workers, too numerous to mention by name, who have given up much of their spare time to help in various ways.

Women's Auxiliary:

A women's auxiliary of over 30 members has been formed to arrange details for the garden fetes, which are held twice a year at the mission farm, and to assist in other ways. Mrs. K. Langford-Smith is the Presi-



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dent, Mrs. E. Hampson and Mrs. E. Stevenson Vice-Presidents, and Mrs. C. B. Wright is the Secretary and she is assisted by Miss E. Hathaway and Mrs. G. Watt.

WHY A MISSION FARM?

Sometimes we are asked for the reason for establishing a mission farm at all. Briefly, the reasons are as follows: All charitable work is expensive and the money has to come from somewhere. Many Christian people are already giving as much as they can afford to various Christian missions and if we appealed for large sums of money it would mean that these friends would have to cut down their support of other work in order to help us. We do not want any Christian activity to suffer. The answer seems to be that we run the farm, first, to provide fruit, vegetables, milk, butter, eggs etc., required for the use of the dark children and the surplus farm produce may be sold to provide many other items that may be re-

quired. Twice a year we hold garden fetes at the mission farm. On the stalls are farm produce and articles made and donated by friends. When Paul was in need of money for his missionary work he made and sold tents, for he was a tentmaker by profession. We are not tentmakers but we can produce and sell other articles, following his example.

There are, of course, no raffles, guessing competitions or any other form of gambling. We depend on the straight out sale of useful articles and the donations of interested friends.

Farm Activities:

Friends sometimes ask us what kind of a farm we intend to run. In past years this farm was a large commercial poultry farm also running pigs and other side-lines. Now conditions have changed. It is not intended to run a large commercial poultry farm. Instead we are establishing a breeding farm with pens of many commercial and fancy poultry breeds. The main object will be to sell fertile eggs and breeding stock, after our own requirements are met. A small flock of sheep will provide meat and the wool clip will pay the cost of maintaining the flock. The orchard and market garden will be worked firstly to provide what is needed in the home and the surplus will be sold to meet other expenses. In this way our call on Christian friends for the support of this work will be reduced to a minimum.

Accommodation:

One of the major problems today is accommodation. Building is expensive and we have no funds available to enable us to launch out in a large building programme—much as it is needed. Our first concern is to find accommodation for our staff. We have converted one of our sheds into temporary quarters for them. This shed is 36ft. by 16ft. with a wooden floor and lined with fibro. As soon as possible we intend to build a cottage for our workers and then this converted shed would act as temporary accommodation for the first of the dark children.

THE ABORIGINES

It is not known when the aborigines first came to Australia, but it is believed that they came in two groups. The first of these, a Negritic group, were frizzy-haired people represented by the Tasmanian aborigines. The second group were a smooth-haired Dravidian type, probably of Indian origin. Australia was a very isolated country and animals reach their highest development where most forms are living in association with each other. In such case the herbivores become fleeter and better able to defend themselves and the carnivores that prey upon them have to develop in a corresponding manner. An example of this is Africa. Australia was a land that knew little change and therefore, as there were no dangerous carnivores, the marsupials advanced but little and when the white man came he found the animals gentle, timid and utterly incapable of defence.

The aborigines, isolated from warlike and savage races, had to compete only with similar primitive tribes and so did not develop weapons or means of defence as did other peoples in less sheltered areas. Like the marsupials they were not able to stand against the guns of the white man and many thousands of them were slaughtered in the early days of white settlement in Australia.

A nomadic, food-gathering race, the aborigines did not cultivate the land or possess animals that could be domesticated. They required large areas of country in which to hunt the native fauna and gather the wild fruits, berries and roots that formed their diet. When white settlement restricted their hunting grounds they found it increasingly difficult to maintain their age-long method of existence. However, the nomadic habit is still in-born in every aboriginal and this makes it difficult for him to settle down to a routine existence in a restricted space. The desire to go "walkabout" crops up frequently, even in those born in the city.

City life, with the temptations of the

white-man's vices makes it difficult for aborigines to maintain even the morals and social organisation of their race. That is one reason why we want to bring the city-born dark children into the country where they can develop in the fresh, open air and become useful citizens instead of a social problem.

THE SKY PILOT'S LOG

The daily radio broadcast, known as the Sky Pilot's Log, has continued now (Oct., 1952) for a period of four years and it is listened to by an increasing number of friends. Letters of appreciation and support have come to hand in greater numbers each year. During the four years over 9,000 letters have been received and they are now coming in at an average rate of over 2,000 per annum. As explained in our previous leaflet we owe a great debt to the management of station 2CH Sydney for making the radio time available free of charge. However, we cannot take the continuance of this for granted and the only sure way of establishing this session permanently is to secure the sponsorship of some Christian business firm. We do ask for your special prayers that some sponsor or sponsors may come forward. Even if the Saturday session was sponsored it would be a great help.

Not only have many thousands of listeners learned much about the aborigines, the white pioneers and the flora and fauna of Central Australia and the far North, but the simple Christian message woven into these parables has been used of God to bring help and comfort to many needy souls. We do not make a practice of reading or quoting letters of appreciation, nor do we attempt to count or list the number of those who have been converted, by God's grace, through this session. There has been ample evidence that God's Holy Spirit is working by this means though, of course, the full results will never be known on earth. The session is maintained entirely by the voluntary free-will offerings of friends and we do not issue home offering boxes or make any collections or appeals or send out begging letters. A

brief announcement made over the air from time to time informs new listeners that the session depends on voluntary donations but we depend on God to supply our needs through Christian friends who feel called to support the work.

MISSION FARM APPEAL

In the case of the Mission Farm, however, we have made a very special appeal on behalf of the dark children who have no one to speak for them. This is not an appeal for the radio session or anything but the dark children themselves. As any thinking person will realise it is a costly business in these days to establish a mission farm and home. In order to achieve this purpose as quickly as possible we have asked every interested friend who can afford it to put aside for this purpose one shilling a week for a period of six months. This amount may be sent monthly, quarterly or in the one sum of 26/-. It should be addressed to Keith Langford-Smith, Sky Pilot's Log, 2CH, 47 York Street, Sydney; and the envelope should be marked "Mission Farm Appeal." Out of the many thousands of listeners if only one thousand respond it will, by God's grace, enable the farm to be established. The farm was valued recently at over £10,000 and we are fortunate to have this splendid 30 acre property. The appeal is for funds to restock the farm and erect additional buildings.

THE FUTURE

It is desirable that a work such as this should be firmly established and carry on long after the Sky Pilot is here to direct it in person; that is, if the Lord tarry. We are fortunate in having a Council of missionary hearted men and a staff of workers prepared to devote their lives to the work. Our Patron is the Rt. Rev. Bishop W. G. Hilliard, M.A.; Director, K. Langford-Smith, F.R.G.S., A.R. Ae.S.I.; Council: Rev. R. C. Kerle, B.A., Th.L., Rev. G. R. Delbvidge Th.L., Mr. W. I. Dalrymple; Auditor: Mr. E. H. Peritt, F.C.A. (Aust.); Secretary: Miss Norma Porter; Staff Assistant: Mr. Don Donsworth.



Gum Leaf Band, La Perouse

LEGACIES DO HELP

The following wording is suggested for use
in wills in which it is intended to benefit the
Sky Pilot Fellowship:

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Sky Pilot Fellowship, Marella Mission Farm,
Acres Road, Kellyville, in the State of New South Wales, the sum of
pounds and/or the following property free of all duties,
for the acknowledged purposes of the said Fellowship, and I declare that the receipt
of the Treasurer for the time being thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to my
executors or trustees for the said legacy and/or devise.

"DRAKE'S DRUM"

This book of short stories taken from the Sky Pilot's Log and published by the Christian Press should be on every bookshelf. Each story in the book has been used of God to bring spiritual help and comfort to listeners, yet the book is by no means what is classed as a "religious" book. The real life stories are full of humour, pathos and interest; yet each has its application to the deeper things of life. It is a book specially for the non-Christian friend and his interest will be held to the last page. Yet many Christians have found it a source of help and comfort. Mr. Langford-Smith's earlier books, "SKY PILOT IN ARNHEM LAND" and "SKY PILOT'S LAST FLIGHT", published some years ago in Australia and overseas and later translated into Braille are now out of print. But autographed copies of "Drake's Drum" may be obtained from the author, Keith Langford-Smith, "Sky Pilot's Log", 2CH, 47 York Street, Sydney. The book will be posted direct on receipt of 10/- (including postage and packing).

VISIT THE MISSION FARM

Friends are invited to visit the mission farm, Acres Road, Kellyville, any day but Sunday. Kellyville is on the Windsor Road, ten miles from Parramatta. It is in the beautiful Hills District and makes a pleasant afternoon drive. There is a large picnic ground and hot water may be obtained at the mission house. Children will be delighted with the many pets which include Cocker Spaniels, Chinchilla Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, White Rats, White and Chocolate Mice, Goldfish, Pekin, Duckwing, Spangles and other Bantams. There is a large loft of Homing Pigeons (which were used by the Sky Pilot in conjunction with the aeroplane ministry in Arnhem Land). Fancy Pigeons include Fantails of all colours, Pigmy Pouters, Satinettes, Silverettes, Bluettes, Blon-

dinettes, Dragoons, African Owls, Turbits, Magpies, Tumblers (Long Faced and Saddlebacks) Modenas, Swallows, Nuns, Tipplers, Carneau, Jacobins, Helmets, etc.

There are cows, horses, sheep, pigs, ducks, pheasants, turkeys and fowls of many varieties.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

We Australians owe a great debt to the Australian Aborigines. In caring for the dark children of our own land we are following the old saying that "charity begins at home." How true this is! And the aborigines are lying, like Lazarus, at the rich man's gate, waiting for the crumbs from our table and our cast off clothing. Have we done as much as we can for them? Have we done anything at all? If not, this may be our last opportunity.

If you would like further information about the work of the Sky Pilot Fellowship please write to Keith Langford-Smith, 2CH, 47 York Street, Sydney; or phone UW2427 (the Mission Farm); or, better still, come out to see the farm. But remember, you will find only one or two coloured children established at their Home; the rest of them are waiting until the accommodation is available. God grant they may not be disappointed!

CLOSING OF THE SKY PILOT'S LOG

Since this leaflet was prepared we have received word of the closing of this daily radio session as from the end of October, 1952. As mentioned elsewhere, we owe a great debt to the Management of Station 2CH for granting us time free of charge, for a period of over three years. The fact that they are no longer able to do this must not obscure what they have already done. Thousands of people have been blessed as a result of this work and eternity alone will reveal its full value. The Mission Farm and other work of the Sky Pilot Fellowship will continue, of course, and we pray that if it be God's will the time may not be far distant when once again the Sky Pilot's Log will be on the air.