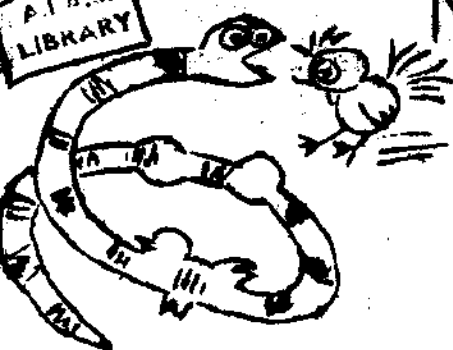


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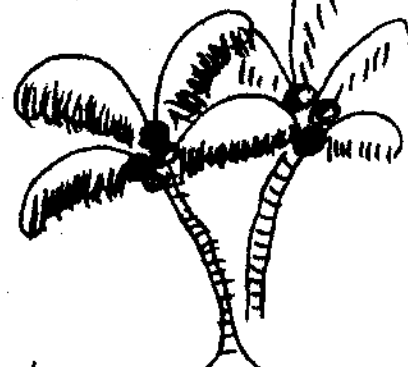
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MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

Vol 101



Friday Sept 10
1971

Twenty Visitors in one day.

For some days Dan and Lyn Watson suspected that eggs were disappearing from their fowl yard at Bulman. Then one morning Dan found a 12 ft. python not only inside the fowl run but with several eggs and a black hen inside her, and draped over some other eggs. So he smartly took up his shotgun and that was the end of the python. But not quite.

Nellie, the lady who helps Lyn in the house, took the python home and, like some of the old stories about the bad wolf in Red Riding Hood, cut the snake open and removed the eggs and the now crushed up hen. She laid the snake alongside the bed of Tex Camfoo, her husband, enjoying a weekend sleep-in!!!

"Did you eat the snake, Tex?" - "We do eat pythons, but this one was too poor, no fat. So we threw it away."

Bulman at this time of the year is a place where visitors drop in. Everyone travelling to Gove has to call in and show their permits to Dan, who acts as a kind of gatekeeper for the reserve. Plenty of mining exploration is taking place in the area at present. On Tuesday 20 visitors called at the Bulman homestead. The first 9 were from CRA (Conzinc Riotinto). A couple of these flew off in a helicopter to Broome W.A. late in the afternoon and the rest returned to their tent camp a few miles away. Two men on holidays from Hooker Creek, Superintendent John Jennings and Kevin, the store manager, gave the barramundi a break for a few hours. A pilot and a technician arrived from Sydney to do an aerial survey of the area north of Bulman on which Acquitaine now have an authority to prospect. They will stay for a week. Then as the sun was sinking, five Maningrida-ites rolled out of the dust.

Just as the tasty barbecue supper was getting under way, a vehicle drew up with 2 men on their way to Gove with some perishables from Katherine. That made twenty.

On Wednesday Mr. Rex Jettner was due to discuss the prospect of sowing maize and other seeds in the Wet.

In the Wet Season, of course, flooded rivers and creeks cut off all the approaches by road.

Among the Aboriginal people

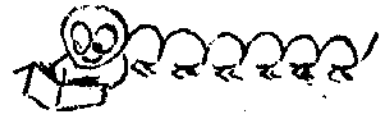
x Five children attend Kormilda College,

x About five younger children do not have a local school,

x Fred Milmilkuma is the only stockman who has lived at Maningrida. A few days ago this ancient old rider, feeling a surge of youth through his veins, took off after a runaway cow. The horse fell and went over the top of Fred on the ground. He may have a broken rib, but certainly he has been feeling very sore and bruised.

Bulman certainly looks to be a land of promise with good soil, water, buffalo and cattle in fine condition. The Aboriginal people are happy to settle and work in their country. Dan and Lyn are obviously at home. Lyn jokes about the difficulties and says: "The only way they'll move me from here will be in a wooden box!"

Books worth reading



"Art of Travel" by Francis Galton, sub-titled "Shifts and Contrivances Available in Wild Countries" which was first published in 1872 and has just been re-issued by the publishers is still a joy to read. Galton's biography would be an experience, too, if the outline on the jacket is anything to go by. Still I set out to look at the book, not the man.

I will pluck a few gems to give you a taste of Galton's humour.

"You are out in the wilds on your own - alone, alone, all alone, except for a few dozens native carriers, some teams of bullocks and asses, an armoury of muzzle loaders, an abundance of tents, boxes of tea, coloured beads, surveying instruments, notebooks, carts, wagons, sleeping bags, and a few close friends.

"On proper dress" - I need hardly mention pith hats (to be purchased only in Pall Mall) but a South African sportsman recommends a brimless hat of fine panama grass. Let your trousers be moleskin, your watch pocket macintosh, a waistcoat fitted with a pocket for letters of credit. Remember that flannel is best next to the skin and the hotter the ground the thicker the socks.

"On Native Women" - allow the men to bring their women with them, as the women will work whilst the men go hunting. It seems to me that a hard worked woman is better and happier - - -! It is in the nature of women to be fond of carrying weights. As for endurance, a good woman is better than a horse or a bullock; but so is an ass.



Galton also deals with other relevant problems as what to do when there is no water, how to face an enraged lion and to finish off, what to do if a bullock's tail drops off. There are two things that must be considered: "The bullock will not travel the worse for losing it" and "Oxtail soup is most nutritious."

This is a most humorous book from one of the most glorious eccentrics that the English race has developed.

J.P.

Expected home soon.

A King returning home with his Queen.

We all join in wishing Trevor and Helen happiness in their marriage and welcome Helen to Maningrida.



Good Grief.

"The birds were so thick that I didn't see any snow"

We hope that you had a good holiday Allan, and will look forward to hearing all about it.



The Father's Day Father.

Congratulations to Dan and Libby on the arrival of Ben.



Jan returning after renewing old New Guinean friends.

Well we dont really expect to see you looking like this - and this isn't a dare either.



Council

MEETING HELD IN BURERA CAMP ON 6/9/71

PRESENT: Present were 12 Councillors and 25 visitors.

DEATH AT OENPELLI: President said that Ngambainga's daughter had died at Oenpelli. Alf Wilson had sent a telegram. She had been sick for a long time.

JAMBILJ: President wanted a decision on the Jambij at Milingimbi - when was the right time for it. No-one else seemed to be worried about it so he was going to take his own group by Heron this Thursday.

DRAG-NET: Someone, black people or balanda, had taken Tom Wadaminja's drag net from Namangara. The person(s) who did it had not been identified, nor had the net been recovered. It was worth a lot of money.

CHANGE: There was a long discussion about changing. The old people had gone very strong on business and were staying at business for a long time. They were wild at the young people, they came in from the business and started throwing spears. Why should they do that? The young people were trying to make their own life. Why couldn't Councillors take a stand on this - what were they doing? They couldn't say anything; they had no ideas.

TALKING: Not many people were prepared to say what they thought. People from different tribes should speak up, and tell the Council what they thought. Some Councillors will talk about themselves but they do not try and find out what other people are thinking.

Early Pastoral Development in Arnhemland. By J. H.

The sight of the horses coming in from Oenpelli on Monday night reminds us that there is an ever increasing interest in the development of pastoral enterprises in Arnhem Land. We should remember, though, that many years ago other people attempted to initiate similar developments, and failed. We would do well to dwell on this a little as apart from the economic complexities the business of cattle raising calls for a great deal of very special knowledge indeed. It is easy to 'see' the potential in an area of country, but is entirely another to develop it successfully.



This is easily illustrated by going back to 1885 when a Mr. J. B. Macartney introduced cattle to the Goyder River (Arafura Swamp area). His interest in the region was sparked by glowing reports emanating from travellers in the area. In referring to a visit to the Arafura Swamp in 1883, the Government Surveyor, David Lindsay, had the following to say: "Through the ranges to the level country which is really magnificent, either for grazing or agriculture, and unsurpassed in the Northern Territory, these magnificent plains extend for forty miles."

This was the time of the Territory land boom and Mr Macartney moved into the area with a herd of 6,000 head of cattle to establish the "Florida" station of 5,000 square miles. The original herd of 6000 head had, by 1890, dwindled to a much smaller figure (1700 head branded cattle). The project was discontinued in 1893 and the property sold to the Eastern and African Cold Storage Company in 1903. This company also purchased other stations around the Roper River and, in all, held an enormous area of some 19,000 square miles. The Government Resident's report for 1904 predicted; accurately, that the costly enterprise must fail. In 1905 the Inspector of Stock reported that all was not going too well "on account of a considerable portion of the country being unfitted for stock, depredation by blacks, ticks, leeches, etc, etc, and as the stock are scattered over the country between Roper River and the North Coast (over 200 miles) -----".

The leases were subsequently forfeited during 1909 but were, in fact, abandoned in 1907 after having been mustered for what stock remained on them. The E. & A. Co. moved into Florida with 5000 head; there were thought to be a thousand or so there when it left. Buildings and other improvements had been erected at Florida and the Bulman; all that can be seen now are a

Cont.

couple of flag-stone floors and an old fire-place near the Bulman waterhole.

Efforts to re-establish a pastoral industry in the area are again under way, by the Murwangi Pastoral Company, and our own Bulman project. They are able to draw on the results of advanced technology but will require skilled and dedicated management if they are to prosper.

* * * * *

More about the horses.

Five stockmen from Elco^h went to Oenpelli recently and took delivery of 12 partly broken in horses. They arrived on Monday night at Maningrida and asked to stay for one week while the horses gathered new strength from our well covered pasture paddock. During the week the stockmen are taking the opportunity to handle the horses. An Oenpelli stockman accompanied them on the first leg of the journey and it may be that Mr. Jimmy Korduk may travel with them to Man-galala. There is a possibility that the horses may then be put on a barge and taken on the last section of their journey.

Calling all Teeth.

If you want to see the dentist while he is here, don't wait until the last minute. Mr. Silas Roberts who had a tooth out yesterday says that he is the best dentist ever to pull on one of his teeth.

From Western Australia.

Mr. Fred and Moira Luff, Stephen aged 4 and Neville 3 are from Manjimup (means 'rushes near water') in Southern Western Aust. - further south than the Buzzas at Bunbury. Fred is a Technical Assitant 2 and is learning the rapes from Allan Brady who expects to be transferred to Murganella shortly. Fred has been trying to convince some of the Aboriginal forestry men that the K trees in Sthn. W.A. grow twice as high as the fire towers. He is waiting on the photos which will arrive with his personal gear to give them convincing proof. Fred has played all kinds of sport, basketball, football, swimming etc. and Moira was a keen hockey player. Moira used to be a cashier in a butcher's shop before their marriage.

BASKETBALL.

In Tuesday's game, Arnhemland defeated Entrance Is. 38 to 28 points.

In the Second game Chalkies defeated Dolphins 70 to 33 points.

Draw for Next Week.

Tues. 14/9/71

7p.m. Kupanga v Cadell

8p.m. Pioneers v Entrance Is.

Cape Stewart bye. Referee and Scorer.

Thurs. 16/9/71

7p.m. Eagles v Arnhemland

8p.m. Dolphins v Chalkies

Cape Stewart bye. Duty Referee and Scorer.

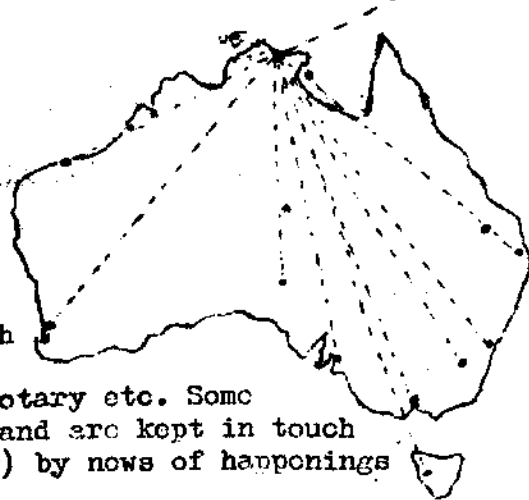
Many Thanks

To Mr. John Phemister for bringing out last week's
Mirage and to
Mrs. Margaret Inglis for doing the drawings

Held over until Next Week.

Scout Camp at Blyth River
MR Bill Clissold is engaged!
Silas in Central Australia.

Beyond Maningrida.



The following is the Mirage Mailing List. As someone has said, it almost reads like the Old Residents Roll. Apart from a couple of older interested friends of the Aboriginal people, all the other readers have spent some time at Maningrida. A number continue to give active support eg. by buying engine parts which are hard to get in the North, speaking to Schools and various groups of people such as Rotary etc. Some are working among Aboriginal people elsewhere and are kept in touch (and who knows, may be stimulated occasionally) by news of happenings here.

Apart from the Libraries and other editors (with whom we exchange papers) all are paying subscribers. About 4 are in the red at the moment.

Welfare Branch Head Office Darwin

- Mr R Buzza, Bunbury W.A., formerly teacher at Maningrida
- Mr Rob Prussian, Murganella, N.T. " Forestry TA 2 "
- Mr Bob Eggers, Pt. Hedland W.A., " clerk at "
- Mr Bill Scott, Bridgewater S.A., " mechanic at "
- Sister Sandra Stacey, Melbourne, VIC. " Survey Sister at Maningrida
- Sister Eileen Jones, Darwin, " Sister " "
- Sister Toni Eperjesy, Bamyili " Sister " "
- Miss Betty Meehan, Canberra, anthropologist " "
- Mrs Annette Hamilton, Everard Stn SA., anthropologist " "
- Mr Les Gunning, Darwin, Stocktaker at Maningrida
- Ptc. Merv Mason, Lutwyche, Qld., Forestryman at Maningrida,
- Mrs B.J.M. Durack, Perth, interested friend
- Mr D. Drysdale, Dorby W.A., original manager,
- Mr G. Hughes, DN. A.B.C. radio
- Mr Dick Muddimer, DN., A.B.C. radio
- Sister Helary Groothius, now address in Cont. Aust., Sister at Maning.
- Mr Bill Hilloger, Darwin, Forestry Supervisor
- Mrs Nancy Williams, Canberra, anthropologist at Yirrkala,
- Mr Dave Fryer, Kormilda C., Manual arts teacher at Maningrida
- Mr Dennis Strand, Melbourne, teacher
- Editor of Tiwi Talkabout, Snake Bay,
- Editor of Baru Dhakal Dhawumirri, Milingimbi
- Editor of Elcho News and Views
- National Library Canberra
- Library of N.S.W. Sydney
- Sister Maija Lehtonen, Umbakumba, sister at Maningrida.
- Mr Jim McInerney Adelaide, teacher, "
- Mr Kevin Ennis, Jingili N.T., Forestry, "
- Mr Bill Clessold, Mt Lyell TAS, electrician "
- Matron Helen Millor, Theodore Qld., sister "
- Mr Brian Jukes, Jingili, N.T., teacher, "
- Mr Roger Smith, Darwin, Forestry Research
- Miss L. Thomas, Adelaide, interested friend,
- Mr Rod Weathersbee, Adelaide, SA., helps arrange exhibitions of barkpaintings,
- Dr Don Jacobs, Darwin, Dept. of Health
- Aboriginal Theatre Foundation, Darwin,
- Sister Joan Fong, Darwin, visiting Dept. Health Sister
- Mr Frank Smith, Kormilda, Clerk at Maningrida
- Mr Rex Jettner, Darwin, is Seed and pasture advisor
- Mr Dennis Puffet, Boroko T.P.N.G., Fisheries
- Mr Nic Peterson, Canberra, anthropologist
- Miss Bobby Clark, Adelaide, interested visitor,
- MacIntyre Mines, Sydney
- Ocean Resources, Brisbane
- Mr R. L. Collins, Darwin, could be a Cadell gardener
- Miss Michele Castagna, Alice Springs, sister of Mrs Lyn Watson.

WEEKEND DUTIES:

Duty Officer: Mr Bert Ryan
Duty Sister : Sister Ena Pickersgill
Fire Duty :
Nightwatchmen: Jack John and Barney Baybanga.

STAR THEATRE:

Friday: Expected on today's plane.

CHURCH:

Sunday 9.30 a.m. Sunday Schools
7.00 p.m. Holy Communion
Wednesday 2.00 p.m. The Nth Aust District Synod will begin at Yirrkala and will be the last Synod. In future Church business will be dealt with at the United Church Conferences (Darwin) and community matters will go to an Civil and Economic Council meeting each year in one of the Arnhemland towns.
Mr Jimmy Gulerawuna will be the Maningrida lay representative at Yirrkala.
After this meeting the chaplain expects to anchor within the Maningrida area for a while.
Thursday 7.30 p.m. Fellowship

People.

Mr John Ruriya's nose started bleeding and didn't want to stop on Wednesday. After much difficulty the sisters did check it. Looking rather weak on it he went to Darwin on the medical plane on Thursday.

Also on that plane was Betty Midilwanga whose stomach was not too happy.

Word was received on Wednesday that Sister Maija will be remaining at Umbakumba as Sister Hilary Groothius has been transferred to one of the Settlements in the Southern Division. We wish Sister Maija well in her work on Groote Is. but sorry that we won't be seeing her back here in the near future.

Mr. Bill Goodwin arrived overland from Oenpelli on Wednesday and set out for Lake Evella, South of Elcho Is., for another survey of timber in that area. (A saw mill has been set up at Lake Evella.)

Schoolboys Charlie Jordilla and Jackie Anbordinga are at Balpanara for the Kunapippi ceremony which is under way there.

Among quite a company of Maningrida-ites who went into Darwin during the September school holidays, all helping to make a take over bid on Woolworths, were John and Tricia Carpenter and the children. John took the chance to look into further possibilities for the development of local private enterprise fishing.

Mr. Willy Jolppa's boat has arrived, after Willie almost despaired of ever seeing it. So that no one would damage it, the whole family slept on the beach and kept guard over it on Wednesday night, and then at the crack of dawn on Thursday morning they put to sea.

During the school holidays, Teaching Assistants Mr. George Garawun and Mr. Jimmy Pascoe have been doing some very good bark paintings.

In a few days time, most of Wolppers and ^{heavy} ~~law~~ equipment and staff will be moving to Snake Bay to work on a similar project. Mr. Jack Kirstenfield will take the 'back hoe' to do some excavation work for the mining men. ("Maybe the first mine ???"). Mr. Mike Oborski will come out in approx. 3 weeks to instal all the power lines in new and older areas of Maningrida.

Maningrida Mirage

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"Maningrida Mirage Volume 101" September 10th, 1971.

Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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