



# MANINGRIDA MIRAGE



Vol. 55

Friday Oct. 23rd.

The Administrator Mr Chaney and Mrs Chaney along with Commanding Officers of the Armed Services in N.T., Mr and Mrs Giese, radio, press and T.V. men will arrive at 2.30 p.m. on Friday. They will arrive from a morning visit to Roper River.

Following the Mill opening at 3 p.m. the official party will see the Mill working and tour some of the forest area.

... At the Mill opening - EVERYBODY WELCOME

Official party leave at 4.30 p.m. for Darwin.

The Wooden plaque reads:

MANINGRIDA SAWMILL  
Opened by His Honour The Administrator  
of The Northern Territory  
The Honourable F.C. Chaney C.B.E. A.F.C.  
23rd October 1970

This plaque was engraved by Mr Alan Grieve.

## Inter School Spbrts.

The news is well and truly out now that the first Arnhemland Sports will be held at Maningrida, beginning 16th November and running for one week. The school and some settlement staff will be involved in a lot of extra work but as we have run several school carnivals before we feel confident of making the Sports a success. Teams will consist of 10 boys and 10 girls from the following schools, Maningrida, Oenpelli, Millingimbi, Elcho Island, Croker Island, Goulburn Island and possibly Kormilda College. Our school hopes to field a strong track and field team and is confident of putting up a good showing against the best of Arnhemland. D.F.

## Store

As from and after the 1st of December 1970 all monthly accounts will be closed; thereafter all transactions will be by cash or cheque only. Assuring customers of our best service at all times and a reminder that the banking hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday 2-5 p.m., Saturday 9-11 a.m.

## Odds and Ends.

By J.S.

Last week at school, it was pleasing to see a school boy stop a fight between another two school boys. The two boys who wanted to fight were the best of friends the next day. Many thanks to the boy who broke up the fight.

From Boston (United States) comes this story. A woman was driving down a busy freeway when her brassiere shoulder strap became caught in the column gear shift of her car and held her down over the steering wheel. Because she couldn't see properly, the woman side swiped seven cars before wrecking her own. Now she has sued a world famous-brassiere manufacturer for unspecified damages.

Suitable? title for a documentary on female equality by the Channel 0 television network entitled "Women are revolting."

John Stevens

# SHELLS.



Three people who know a lot about sea shells were here on Monday, Mrs Blackburn (wife of the Judge), Mrs George Haritos and Mrs Cameron. They had flown up to the Wessell Island to collect shells at the week end.

They said that some shells are worth \$1 each but they must be picked up alive on the reefs. Almost all the smaller shells which come in to the Craft room for sale are dead. Many are pretty and quite good but have lost their shine or have some points broken.

Shops which sell shells will only pay top prices for shells taken alive and unspoilt in any way.

## Stone fish. (by Jim Pickersgill)

One of our keen fishermen, Jim has caught this deadly fish at Tom's Creek, the old Jetty and one at Gudjerama Creek.



Some years at Normanton in Northern Queensland Jim saw a man getting out of a boat and partly stepped on one so that the skin of his foot was barely scratched. They rushed him to hospital and despite drugs, he was still in a lot of pain.

It looks like a rock cod up to 10" long, but much uglier. It has little spikes running down his back and at his gills.

Jim's advice is - if you catch one, cut your line and throw it back into the water.

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To the Editor,

Sir,

I would like to reply to the letter from A. Bond regards Connellans faulty service and his otherside of the story preamble quoted from Connellans despatch clerk.

It must be obvious to all that Mr Bond is a very recent arrival to this Settlement and consequently hasn't had to put up with a past very inconsistent air service (perishables included).

I would like to ask the despatch clerk through Mr Bond what he means by other places en-route would be affected by the carrying of 2nd class mail and the daily newspaper to those very selfish people of Maningrida by carrying these articles and leaving perishable items behind, for those other unfortunate folk en-route. The Connellan flight schedule Darwin/Maningrida is clearly defined and is not to be confused with the Mission flights and the only other port of call is Oenpelli. I understand that the non arrival of newspapers on a Tuesday is no fault of Connellans and that steps have been taken in Darwin to ensure that papers on this day arrive on time.

If Mr Bond was to meet the ration plane he could see for himself that at most times there is ample room for perishables, 2nd class mail and newspapers alike. One of our biggest grouches has been the inconsistent service with the daily newspapers. Surely Mr Bond 20 or so papers would not overload the aircraft to the extent that some perishable items would have to be left behind.

There is also another important side of the story and that is the definition of the word perishables. I can assure you that at least half of the weight carried would only come under the heading of perishables if one was a goat or an Ostrich (these creatures have a fondness and castiron stomachs for tins, cans etc. in their daily diet. There are quite a few people (old hands) on the Settlement that need reminding that the free freight enjoyed by us here at Maningrida is only for items such as butter, meats, eggs, bread etc.

cont. from P. 3.

and if this was strictly adhered to and barge facilities (now a very good and regular service) used for non perishables all food, freight etc problems would be overcome and better for all concerned

NEVARC 0007

The Editor,

Dear Sir,

In reply to A. Bond's letter in last Friday's "Mirage", I must say, my heart bleeds for the poor "bloke who puts our stuff on the plane", who has to make difficult decisions like whether or not to put a roll of newspaper, weighing 2 to 3 lbs., on an aircraft with a loading capacity of 3,000 lbs., and leave some perishable food behind instead.

I am sure, we are all grateful to Mr Bond for enlightening us; for we, the grumbling majority, in our wicked ignorance have always suspected that the "faulty service" might have something to do with indifference, or worse, outright negligence, on the part of someone of Connellan's staff.

From now on, whenever it should happen again, - as it did twice in the not so remote past, - that the food plane cannot come until Friday noon, instead of Thursday afternoon, and our food boxes marked "FREEZER" have been left sitting in the plane for about 24 hours, I shall not mind, but think with pity of the poor bloke with his head full of to-be-made decisions and shall be thankful that I have a couple of dogs who are not fussy about the freshness of their tucker. On the contrary, they just drool over rotten sausages and chicken pieces.

E. Quick

cont. from previous page.

The profit of the Store is finely balanced and cannot afford inroads into ~~the~~ its current share of the 7 dollar cake, for 7 dollars is the total fund available for man woman and child per week at present coming into Maningrida, and this includes all sources; many demands are made on these meagre monies.

We are subsidising the postal and banking services, as neither or both of these utilities anywhere near pay the wages (award rates) of a staff member, but do take up the full time of one.

The recent innovation of the Darwin Trader to the northern route has caused a freight increase of 80% (these are facts presented by leading importers). V.B. Perkins have increased freezer and cold-room charges by 50% (makes the free food plane pretty valuable to the settlement?). We are unable to use air services as we are priced out by having to pay 13cents per lb. Marine Insurance is up, too. Thus far and further if at all possible the Store has absorbed the increased costs, basing its costing on the fact that as from July of this year through liquidation it will not be required to set aside monies for direct taxation.

Would customers other than authorised personnel please refrain from coming behind the counter.

Assuring all of our sincere interests in Maningrida and all people of the settlement.

Yours Faithfully

G. Bagshaw.

The Editor:

Dear Sir,

In what will be probably be amongst the last letters I write for insertion in that readable and interesting the "Mirage" I respectfully ask that the letter be published in full, or withheld from publication entirely.

As from and after 1st December 1970 all monthly accounts with the Store will, with the exception of organisational accounts e.g. Bulman, Parents & Friends, Domestic Science, Settlement a/c and the Kitchen, be formally closed. Thereafter all purchases will be in cash or by cheque,

The reason for this action, strongly recommended by our accountants, Bank manager, and the Registrar under whose direction we ceratinly come, being an incorporated body is the impracticability and uneconomic operation of such accounts.

The time factor involved in operating and processing monthly accounts is out of all proportion to the limited supervisory staff available to us, and this time can be better spent in the many facets of store-keeping, including training of staff. The changing pattern of trade accounts, particularly as applied to food and allied industries is a contributing factor. In southern stores the accounts system was freely abolished years ago, due to the necessity to meet the terms of suppliers - nett 7 days. These conditions are rapidly being effected in the Territory. Our 3 main suppliers of foodstuffs, Eyles, Tulleys and Hickmans are all operating 7 days with only provisional allowance for receipt of goods per medium of the barge. Whilst the great majority of people have always met thier obligations in regard to the 30 day account or technically nearer 60 days from the 1st of a given month to end of succeeding month, the Maningrida Store has over the years lost appreciable sums, through extending account and cheque facilities.

An adequate banking agency is operating and whilst not for one moment suggesting which bank anyone should use, there is merit in the practice adopted by many residents of operating a small current agency account for convenience purposes.

The Store will accept cheques in payment of purchases but only marginally in excess of same, cheques other than ~~that~~ Government should be processed for cashing purposes through either the bank or be lodged with us for 5 days pending clearance. I believe it to be entirely unfair to us to ask for discriminatory practices on our part, we should not change one and refuse another.

It has been asked what does the store do with all its accumulated profits. Frankly it has never made large profits over past years and must meet the significant costs of paying its way including freight, insurance and wages; here, like the Forestry Branch it meets the full N.D. Award rates of pay to Aboriginal staff. Further it must redeem all former shares of the Co-Op Society, and meet a back taxation claim of 4 years.

The Store meets in total the wages of Messrs Cross and Pickersgill, this it does not begrudge, as without them no appreciable growth can take place.

The entire costs of the new Store have been borne from Store funds, the building and equipping of the Bakery is a direct debit to the Store. Initially both the Self Help Housing, and the prospecting fees of the local aboriginal people who will successfully receive rights over an area of land, will come largely from Store funds. In the interim the Store has borne the full costs of the MPA residence currently nearing completion at  $\frac{1}{2}$  the price, incidentally, of a Government dwelling. We must in the immediate future purchase a dwelling for Mr. Cross, also one for the baker.

## Week-End Duties

Duty Officer: Mr Bert Ryan      Fire Control: Mr C. Reid  
Duty Sister: Sr Helen Miller      Night Watchman: Mr. Jack John.

Weather: Oct. 9th 17 pts.      Oct. 20th 22 pts.  
Oct. 21st 41 pts

## STAR THEATRE

Friday : "Pistols of the Red River Yikkee!"  
Saturday: "Towards the unknown"

## CHURCH SERVICES:

Sun. 9.30 a.m. All Age Sunday Schools  
"For or Against the Lord"  
7.30 p.m. Evening Service  
Thurs. 7.30 p.m. Fellowship at Sister Maija's

Jesus said "How many times have I wanted  
to put my arms around all your people,  
just as a hen gathers her chicks under her  
wings ..."



Good wishes we send to Mrs Elva Dickfoss who is having an operation in the Darwin Hospital. It will be 3 or 4 weeks before Elva is back on duty in the post office and we hope that she will have a sound and speedy recovery.

Also on the sick list Mr Tom Wogbara. Tom has a compound fracture of the big toe after finding himself in a hole on the oval on Saturday.

Miss Alice Ganwarbi has joined the staff at the shop.

Mrs Patsy Jiritji (wife of Harry Mugarbi) returned to Maningrida and to school with her little baby Suzie.

Welcome to Jerry and Fay Cook and Fiona. Since early 1969 Maningrida has been without a maintenance carpenter and so the arrival of Jerry is very welcome. They are Tasmanians by birth (Launceston) and have come from Umbakumba.

Maybe we don't know how well off we are here! Electricity hasn't arrived in Umbakumba homes and workshops yet (Tilly lamps, etc.) and the airstrip is a bumpy 35 minutes away - near Angurugu.

Sister Helary (Anne) Groothius is now working at Umbakumba and Sister Joan Molloy (here in 198 for a time) has to leave the North soon, because of her eyes. At the moment she is at Snake Bay.

## "WEDNESDAY WOMAN"

People watching this Mt. Gambier T.V. program would have seen Sister Sandra being interviewed and maybe heard something about baby tucker. Sandra has also been on deck at Rotary, a couple of Women's Meetings, and setting up a display of craft work at the High School. One interesting discovery at home is that "the milkman delivers orange juice."

Mrs. April Elliot is away in Queensland for a few days for the marriage of one of her daughters and is ~~away~~ due back next Thursday.

Messrs. Jack Meritja and Don Gundinga have arrived after a long walk from Darwin. Jack has written the story of the journey and this will appear in next week's issue.

The Morning Star is shining very brightly in the evening dances and a party of ten hope to move off for Goulburn Island to present it there, on Saturday morning.

# From the Newspaper.

## Big Dust Storms in the Desert.

Down in the Desert country, there has been a lot of dust this week. Very strong winds have been blowing and bringing thick dust from Alice Springs to Tennant Creek. In Alice Springs the dust was so bad you could not see the sun.

Jelly fish back. In the newspapers people have been saying that the sea wasps (jelly fish) are back in Darwin. They are coming back to Maningrida too. Two weeks ago Peter Williams caught four small ones in his net when he was catching mullet. Some children have been getting little stings on the front beach too. The jelly fish always come when the big rains are coming. If you get a bad sting from one of them, you can die very very quickly.

## Wanderers win again.

Wanderers ~~and~~ Reserve and Colts Rules teams won their games in Darwin last week. A lot of (children) the Colts team are Kormil College boys, some of them from Maningrida.

## Basket ball

A splendid drop of rain to open the proceedings on Tuesday night. The first game, Demons v Dolphins postponed for 2 nights on account of the same.

### Chalkies v Oysters.

For a while it looked as though the elastic legged larrikins, Chalkies, would do it again. The first half was patchy with a lot of mishandling - many people were worrying for the slippery cement. Half time scores were Oysters 10 - Chalkies 8. In the second half, oysters got things moving and Chalkies weakened badly. Jim Jam and Larry Weipa were a great combination - JimJam pulling off a couple of great scoring plays. For Chalkies, Alfie played his usual hard game and Long fella Micky landed some good shots.

Final Score Oysters 34 - Chalkies 18.

Best and fairest : 3 pts. JimJam (Oysters). 2 pts. Alfie Roberts (Chalkie)  
1 pt. Larry Weipa (Oysters)

### Gorillas v Cadell.

Gorillas were missing the Puffing Peter Williams (gone to N.S.W.) and David Irindilly (Bulman) and had only 4 men until little Solomon was recruited. Solomon proved his worth, working hard all night even though he's so small. If he wanted to bite Jimmy Madama on the knee he'd have to stand on a bucket. Gorillas held the Cadell River bush rangers to 12 all at half time which was a good effort. Sam the Man, Mr. Mac and Jimmy Madama were a hard working trio for Gorillas, Jimmy Madama and Peter G. carried the attack for Cadell. Jimmy is very accurate and Peter G. is everywhere on the Court, never resting. Dick Gabalk showed a bit of form for Cadell.

Final score. Cadell 30- Gorillas 24.

Best and Fairest. 3 pts. Peter G. (Cadell) 2 pts. Dick Gabalk (Cadell) 1 pt. Jimmy Madama (Cadell)

### Draw for next week.

7 p.m. Demons	v	Gorillas <del>Oysters</del>	Demons tipped to win.
8 p.m. Cadell	v	Oysters	Oysters " " "
9 p.m. Crocodiles	v	Dolphins	Crocodiles to win.

### Stop Press.

A very close game on Thurs. evening in the game which had to be postponed on account of rain.

Dolphins 59 defeated Demons 55.

Points. Tim Barco 3, Dick Smith 2, Albert 1.



Hawks and Waratahs Colts (by Tim Darcy)

Last Saturday the two teams played a hard tough game. Waratahs were leading early in the game after 2 fantastic goals from the mighty Big. W. Those brave men Thomas W., Timothy, Talbert, Ted and the Longfella were all badly injured but they kept going to the end. At half time Hawks still had no goals while Tahs had 5. But then in the second half Hawks tried much harder and kicked 10 goals - 3 from T.D., Andy 4, Ronnie 1 and Sam 2. For Tahs Don. W. scored 3.

The good players:

Waratahs

Jimmy Maralunga  
Solomon  
Timothy  
Barry  
Jimmy Jaburali

Hawks

Ronnie  
Andy  
Albert  
Tim Darcy  
Jacky

S O F T B A L L (by Dianne Fryer)

Last Saturday, 17.10.70, we held our weekly Softball match. It was well attended and we have now four well formed teams - Swallows, Leopards, Magpies and Herons (the older ladies team).

First game Swallows (the cream team so far) played Leopards. Results 13 - 2 in favour of Swallows.

Second game which turned out most exciting was Magpies verses Herons. The star of the day was Molly Wodaguga who hit a beautiful home run and also got home three fellow players. Not bad for a Mum with six kids, Results 13 - 10 in favour of Magpies.

Anyway we are moving along slowly and hoping that all who attend are having a great time. Also thanks to Mr Strand for the umpiring this week.

Next week:           Magpies v Leopards  
                          Swallows v Herons

R O U N D U P of LOCAL SPORT (by Dave Fryer: Sports Organiser)

Our local sporting activities are still showing plenty of interest and support. Senior and junior basketball is flourishing and the colts football is a regular feature now. Womens softball has arrived and seems certain of a solid future.

It is hoped to start a volley ball competition next week and we trust that another success can be reported.

Senior mens football has dropped off a bit, lets hope that it doesn't fade completly.

Both players and organizers are needed in all sports so roll up and have a go at either job. Do you have an activity outside of your work? Support your local sports committee.

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Here's Hoping.

Rev. Gordon Symons (Chairman of MOM) who was here for an hour last Friday indicated that both he and Mr. Ken Nowland, Supt. of Milingimbi were quite interested in sharing the cost of getting a mechanic to service privately owned vehicles. Replies from other Superintendants should be known very soon.

**Maningrida Mirage**

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