

A CHANCE TO TRAVEL THE WORLD

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S THEATRE

HAVE you ever thought what fun it would be to travel in a caravan? I'm sure you have. It would be even better, wouldn't it, if you were able to journey through other lands. How splendid it would be to see the world from the doorstep of your own little house-on-wheels.

Here's a pleasant surprise for you. Quite soon you may have a chance to meet two adventurous people who have travelled through many different countries by caravan. They are touring with a travelling theatre which has been started especially for children. You can tell it is your very own theatre from its name, for it is called the Australian Children's Theatre.

Nor is that all; there is more exciting news. These people, whose names are Joan and Betty Rayner, are Strolling Players; just the same sort of Strolling Players you may have read about in your history book, and they are going to entertain you with songs and stories and plays they have collected all over the world. Their programme is tons of fun and you will love it.

They use many costumes but no scenery—instead the audience is asked to imagine it. And what fun it can be to imagine a market place in Mexico for the talking donkey, a raging ocean for a pirate, or a medieval castle for a French princess. After acting each story the players slip behind a screen to change their costumes and then, in the twinkling of an eye, are back on the stage again as entirely different characters. They take so many parts in some plays that audiences think there are five or six actors instead of only two.



these mountains in Georgia there are swift-running streams that carry tiny particles of gold down from untraced gold deposits. Shepherds sometimes take a long-haired sheep-skin or fleece and sink it, woolly side up, in the stream. It has to stay there for a long, long time, but eventually so many little particles of gold stick to the greasy wool that it is quite golden all over. Then they sell it to the gold-buyers for a high price.

The Strolling Players have acted for children in many different lands and they have all loved the songs and plays and dances you will be seeing. So as you watch and listen to stories about many different people, you will know that girls and boys in other parts of the world are very much like yourselves, and interested in the same sort of things. And remember that you will be seeing this programme through your very own theatre—the Australian Children's Theatre.



Perhaps you would like to hear something about the interesting places they have visited? Very well. If you can find a very good map of Canada you may be able to see a tiny island just off the coast of Nova Scotia named Oak Island. On that island Joan and Betty Rayner saw the great hole in which Captain Kidd, the pirate, is supposed to have hidden most of his treasures. Some years ago, old parchment maps were discovered showing that treasure was buried there and ever since then people have been searching for it. They dug pits all over the island until they came to this particular spot where they found unmistakable signs of the old pirate hoard. But it is so cleverly buried on collapsible platforms deep under water that so far no one has been able to reach it. But they are still trying.

Then you have heard the story about Jason and the Golden Fleece, haven't you? I wonder whether you know that there really are such things as golden fleeces? Joan and Betty met a man in Sweden who saw one being made up in the Caucasian mountains. Away up in



Chasing the wild horses with Hilton Wightman (14) of Boggabilla.