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MANINGRIDA

MIRAGE

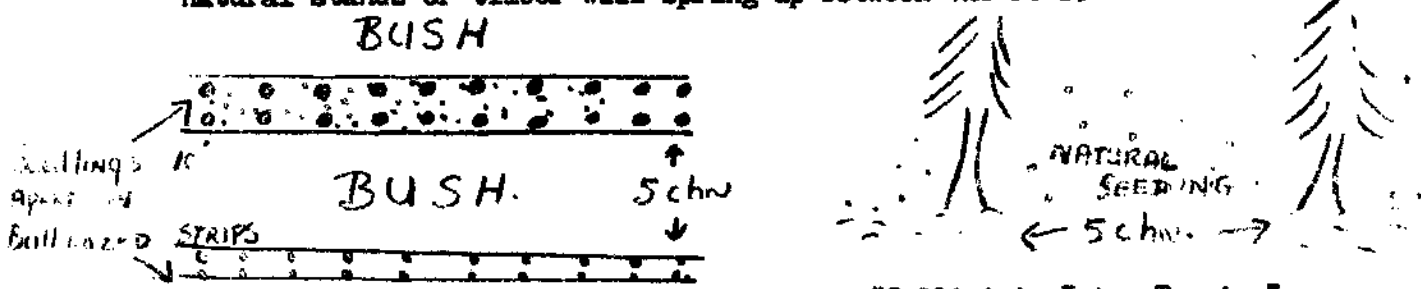


VOLUME XI DECEMBER 5th, 1969.

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE - FORESTRY

In the Maningrida area, it would cost too much to clear whole areas of bush and plant the more valuable cypress trees. So the method of "enrichment" planting is used.

During the Dry Season a bulldozer clears strips through the bush 15' wide and at intervals of 5 chains apart. In the Wet season the cypress seedlings are planted by hand in a double row in each strip 10' apart. When these trees grow they will spread their seed over the bush between the rows and in the natural stands of timber will spring up between the rows.



NURSERY: In the nursery the seeds of the "Callistria Intra-Tropica" cypress are put in the plastic tubes of soil and in 6-12 months will grow 8"-12" tall.

TIME OF PLANTING OUT: Planting begins only when the soil moisture reaches down more than 8" deep. We try to finish the planting by the end of January. February is alright, but March planting is thought to be very risky.

GROWTH: Cypress can normally be expected to grow about 5' taller and from 1/2"-1" in diameter a year, for the first few years. In this early period it is important to clear grass between the rows, and this is done by tractor and disc harrows, and done preferably before the grass runs to seed in April. A tree may take 50 years to mature.

At the end of the 1968/9 season 1,100 acres had been enriched in the Maningrida area. The C.I.A.O. have classed cypress in the same strength group as Jarrah. It is virtually disease and pest proofthe single and most formidable destroyer is uncontrolled BUSH FIRE.

Extract from a paper sent by George Craciun

It could be true that I'm a nervous female. It might even be true I'm just a normal wife with the usual dependency on her husband. Whatever the reason, since my husband's departure to Darwin hospital, I've certainly decided it's nice to have MY man about the house.

As Erik climbed into a land rover with a cheery wave last Tuesday, something like a stone descended rapidly to the pit of my stomach KLNK! "Only a couple of days" he'd said. Somehow I felt that this may not be strictly as it sounded. It now looks like two weeks.

Things progressed reasonably well. I visited a couple of people inflecting my restlessness onto them. These people were, incidentally wonderfully patient. The idea I thought was simply to keep my children (7, 2, 1 & 4) so well entertained that they wouldn't have time to worry then everything would be OK! HA! HA!

Wednesday only I arose. As it was quite hot, I switched on the kitchen fan. Loud crashing and banging assailed my ears. I hastened to switch it off while pieces of blade flew around the room. "Marvellous weapon" I thought ducking, "I must sell the idea to the government". I switched it off and turned round to deafening silence. Three pairs of eyes were fixed on me accusingly. "You broke the fan!" Darren (2) accused. "What will FATHER say!" put in Daniel (4) "Don't worry" said Douglas (7), who had softened a little after the other assaults "I'm the man here while Father is away. We'll fix it" He patted my hand reassuringly. "What'll we do now?" I searched the settlement and generally asked around. I could soon put in new blades. It's only one screw! I've come to the conclusion that fan blades are a kin to radium. Unavailable to the average person.

I read stories to the children every night and assured them that on Friday things would be alright as we'd get a telegram from Father and besides there'd be pictures. Darren went to sleep that afternoon on the promise that we'd go to the pictures when he woke. Then I hurried to the postoffice. Then just a small series of bombs fell. No telegram, no pictures and undisputed evidence that Darwin grocer is a NUT. I'd also next day received a parcel too unwieldy to carry home with two babies. Fortunately Mrs Zabo drove me down and back with it.

Then there is the odd toy that needs fixing. When I can't fix it the child looks at me and says "Father could fix it". Things like that certainly boost a person's morale.

The evenings are the worst. I get my boys off the bed and leave a sign. Not to relax. So I settle down with a book, cold drink, cigarette and SILENCE. Well I hope silence. "PING!" Something hit my roof. I stop; look round apprehensively then continue. "Clunk, Bang, Crash!" I jump up, surely some practical joker is throwing stones at my roof. I hurry to the door, open it a crack, then put my hand out to turn the light on.

To be continued.

INTRODUCING TREVOR POLLARD:

Trevor is originally a Victorian, but he is no stranger to the North. He went to school at Alice Springs and in Darwin while his parents were stationed at Amooongoona and Snake Bay. He is quite a keen footballer. You may have seen him driving the red maroon Holden car recently.

He expects to be at Maningrida with forestry until the middle of next year when he is due to enter National Service.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE WATER? On Wed

The Chlorinator at the water hols has "blown" and a new part should be on Friday's plane. At present water is coming from the bores and when pressure is low it means that the tanks are empty and we are getting the 5,000 gallons an hour direct from the pumps in the bores.

On Fri. See Supt's notice re use of water.

THE ARAFURA "C"

AGENCIES: We are agents for Yamaha motor bikes, Super Elliott and Malvern Star cycles, could we suggest you consult us before buying. Also we are agents for National and Teshiba electrical gear, and have already sold two record players and a couple of radios. When we move into the new store we will have this equipment on display.

FOOD: Our food stocks are very good - only rice and oats are a problem - due to their being over carried on the boat. More watermelon is expected on Friday and Goulburn Island Bananas are ripening fast in our drying rooms. Our Xmas toy range will be on display in a day or so.

CLOTHING: Boys T shirts \$1 Belts \$1.85 Sun Glasses \$1.20 Razors 65c
Mirrors \$0.50c Pipes 70c Shirts \$2.50 a.c good value.

Small boys shorts continue to be a problem, either they will all come at once, or we may have to develop a synthetic pair from bark. Many thanks to Jim McInerney for the time and care on our problem fridg.

At the theatre - Friday: ~~Funeral~~ "Funeral in Berlin" (a play?)
Saturday: "The singing Nuns"

At Church - Sunday 9.30 am Baptismal procession and Service. 4 Candidates.

7.30pm First Communion for new members. Preacher - Rev. G. Lyons

At School - Monday 7.30pm Break up concert, films, and presentation of prizes.

For Christmas. Everyone is given the chance today to give \$2 from their wages or their earnings to help out on the big Boxing Day picnic.

OFFICE:

Shortly after April went on holidays Edna moved from the sewing machines in Home Management, to the typewriter until a typist becomes available. Gill has temporarily postponed her holidays.

KITCHEN:

A new white figure has appeared among the cooks. It is BILL ARMSTRONG now appointed as a Kitchen Supervisor. Says Bill about the new job. "It's quite busy especially when baby tucker is on. Fortunately there's not a continual stream (of tummy troubles) going to the hospital.



FORESAY NEWS

Bruce Craven and Alan Brady have recently acquired some wealth and are heading South for holidays between mid December and February. Bruce is said to have taken a correspondence course in proposals of marriage, and may launch upon the matrimonial sea.

Frank McCabe accidently fell into a stump hole and may have to go South for medical treatment.

NELLIE wife of Jack Wunawan returned last week from the Adelaide hospital. She is resting at home and its good to see her.

VISITING: Roy Rewa and his family arrived from Milingimbi to visit relatives. Several Ganardpa men and some Jinang and Gunwinggu people have gone or are going to Cenpelli for the finale of the Yabuduruwa ceremony there.

Dan and Margaret Pollard have gone to taste the delights of civilization in Darwin for a few days. Their son, Terry is on two weeks leave from the Police Department, and is spending this time at Maningrida.

There's a possibility that a 3rd kitchen supervisor will arrive shortly (ex Delissaville) and a new Hygiene Supervisor is due any day.

Cooking with Kay: The editor tried Kay's recipe for chocolate cake and vouches that its "good tucker".

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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