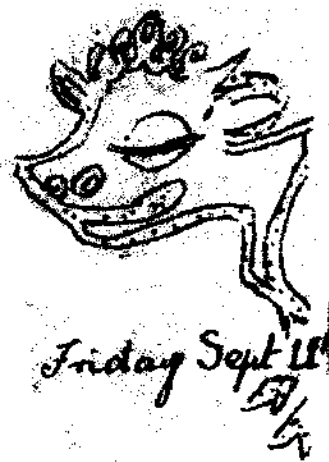


MANINGRIDA MIRAGE



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57/58

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY.

Old places, old faces - and a lot of changes. Your writer witnessed these in a recent journey from Maningrida to Darwin, via Mainoru and Katherine.

The dominant impression is one of progress. In our own little community we have seen some progress over the last few years. It is nothing, though, when compared with advances taking place in other parts of the Top End. Roads - it now takes 5 hours to travel from Mainoru to Katherine, where once a hard days journey was to be expected. People - Adelaide River is now a thriving little community complete with Commission houses and proper streets where only a short time ago it was just another relic of the war-time years.

The first leg of the journey is a familiar one for your writer - each bend in the track to Bulman is well known by now, the charm of the journey however is never-ending. The transition from harsh coastal country to the picturesque escarpment and eventually the gentle savannah extending across the southern watershed is a graphic example of the wonders of Nature. It is mostly burnt out now, savaged by the annual bush-fires which sweep across Arnhem Land. After Bulman one travels through rugged hills and pale golden grassland, out of the reserve and up to Mainoru Station. American money is being lavished on this place, formerly the home of the famous Mackay brothers, Jack and Sandy, both now dead. Bulldozers have cut ragged gashes across its hills, everywhere, fences seem to run in all directions. There are airstrips for the ungainly but efficient aeroplanes which spread seed and fertilizer far and wide to "improve" the run. The old station is gone, replaced by a group of "pre-cut" homes in which the station staff are housed. One thing has not changed - the encampment for the aboriginal families who live and work at Mainoru.

The scene is duplicated next door, only in a grander fashion. Mountain-Valley is a big place in all respects. Owned by a giant American Corporation it is developing into one of the show-places of the North. Most striking are the herds of Brahman cattle browsing by the side of the road.

Next stop, Paswicky, still the same old place. New faces though - and a lot of old ones, half remembered from a brief period spent in that country. This is a Government cattle station, there is no too much going on. The homestead is a pleasant agglomeration of structures, standing by the side of a small billabong, from which the water supply is drawn. The bird-life is remarkable, waders, mag-pie, geese, doves, many-hued parrotts.

Next place, Banyili. Beautiful lawns, very orderly and very quiet. Not many people around (Sunday afternoon). Some old Maningridians here, Zoli and Toni Epergesy, Mr. Lee Cookie and, recently arrived, Sister Maja. Some building going on - new transitional houses.

On to the Bitumen then, past Maraboy, a ghost town where tin was mined in the pre-war years. Katherine, dry, untidy and ugly - and growing fast. The town is dominated by the meat-works but recent developments indicate that the tourist contributes substantially to its economy. The town is saved by the river, a brilliant swathe of green sustained by a goodly flow of clear, fresh water.

North through monotonous hill country, to Pine Creek - self styled "Get away to Arnhem Land". Not so now, perhaps in the past. A chargeless place, living in the memory of by-gone; and more contd....

COUNCIL.

Council held 5.30 pm, 7/9/70.
Present : Sixteen Councillors.

1. President said a letter should be written to Supt. to see if old people can have houses to live in.
2. Jack Riala said he wanted to know about the timber. Someone told him that the timber was going to be sold at Snake Bay. The carpenters had no timber at Maningrida.
3. President said the beer tickets would be sold at the office every night 4.30 pm - 5.00 pm. No tickets would be sold at the club as from 8/9/70. Three council men would have to look after the club this week. They would be :
BILLY YIRINYIN
TOBY MALAGALIA
RAY MUNYAL.
The President and the Superintendent would check on them from time to time.
4. The Club is starting at 5.30pm each night in future, by popular request.

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY contd.

exciting days.

Next stop , Adelaide River, a burgeoning community. This is a growing agricultural area, and looks it. The old, and famous, pub has not changed but it is being pressed hard by real estate development. How long before it comes down in favour of a brick and glass motel ?

End of the road, Darwin. In the Territory, but not of it.

J.H.

School News

Good news parents! School resumes on Monday, and from the faces about the settlement it appears that both the teachers and children will be happy to be back at school.

Now that the latest "business" is completed many more children are in town, it is hoped that they will also be joining the classes at school.

There will be a concert shortly where all the Eisteddfod items will be performed. The date will be appear in next weeks MIRAGE.

Mr. Stevens and his wife (formerly Robyn Strong) are due to take up appointments for third term - We hope they arrive in time for the commencement of school.

P.W.

FOR SALE

Honda 50 motor cycle, near new. Has been ridden by a careful lady driver only. Apply:- Lyn WATSON. Price \$290.

BANKING HOURS

Banking hours have been altered to 3.30 - 5pm Monday to Friday, in New premises. The Watson residence.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

YIRRKALA LAND CASE RE-OPENS

This week the fight over the land at Gove Peninsula, near Yirrkala re-opened in a court in Canberra, a big city in the south. A big company called Nabalco wants to use the land to dig up bauxite, which is used to make aluminium for saucepans and billycans and many other things. The Government wants Nabalco to use the land too. But the Aboriginal people at Yirrkala say the land belongs to them because it is their dreaming country and they and their fathers and grandfathers have always lived there long before the white man came. So to decide who is right in this fight everybody has gone to court and the judge will listen to everyone's story and make up his mind who should have the land.

BIG URANIUM FIND

Near Oenpelli, another company has found a great amount of uranium which is used to make atomic energy, which can make electricity or be used to fix up sick people. It is the biggest lot of uranium ever found in the whole world. The company says that when it comes to dig up the uranium from the ground it will try to give jobs to a lot of people from Oenpelli. The uranium in the ground at Oenpelli will be worth 700 million dollars when it is dug up and sold.

OUR DANCING TEAM

Someone told me during the week that some people still did not know for sure that Maningrida had won the big dancing contest in Darwin at the Eisteddfod. So I thought I would write and tell everybody about the prizes that our men won and what a good job they did. Here are the prizes:

Solo Dance -- This is where one man dances by himself. Crusoe Guningbai was our dancer and he danced the Gardi-Gardi. All the other people who danced against Crusoe were young men and big boys. But Crusoe tried hard, and with a lot of tricks he came second. He was very tired when he finished dancing.

Bamboo and Songman & Paddy Fordham sand and David Irindilli played bamboo very well. Paddy sand his 'White Cockatoo' song and they won first prize.

Mime -- Paddy, David, Dean and Talbert danced and Dick too, even though his foot was very sore. They had to tell a story about animals and Paddy led them in the story of the brolgas worrying for the dingo. Ronnie Baramala was the dingo and they came second.

Group Dance -- This was where everyone dances on the stage. First the Port Keats men danced with their big team. Then the Numbulwar men with all their feather armbands and last our men. All the Maningrida children and the teachers were very proud of our men as they tried so hard. Paddy Fordham was jumping in the air and landing on his back and bouncing up to dance some more, and all the other men and Dean and Talbert from the boys team did their best. When Mr. Evans said that we had won the shield and we all wne "Yukai!" Crusoe and Frank won second prize with their Gardi-Gardi and our men finished off the night by coming second in the campfire singing.

All the men were very proud and they all said they had won the prizes for Maningrida and not just for themselves. They said that they would like to put the shield in the window of the Store so everyone could see Maningrida's prize.

d.g.

BASKETBALL NEWS!!!

A meeting will be held at the basketball court on Tuesday night at half past seven, to try to start the basketball competition again. Anyone who is interest in playing or helping please come along. TUESDAY NIGHT: 7.30 p.m. at the BASKETBALL COURT.

AT THE WEEKEND

DUTY OFFICER:

DUTY SISTER : Sister Ena Pickersgill

FIRE CONTROL: Mr Eric Quick

COUNCIL NIGHT WATCHMAN: Mr Jack John

STAR THEATRE:

Friday

Saturday

Watch the notices.
(Films should arrive by
Heron express today.)

CHURCH NOTICES:

Sunday 9.30 a.m. All age Sunday Schools
"Called to choose life together"
7.30 p.m. Evening Service, Mr. Bob Cross.

When you go travelling in the bush, how do you know the right way to go?

Some people who have come to the Territory from other places have got lost with no signs or tracks to follow. It is a terrible thing to be lost and trying to decide which way to go.

We look for signs of the right way through life. Jesus speaks about two tracks. One is the easy way of selfishness and wild living that leads to destruction. The other is a hard and narrow track but it leads to life. We have to choose which way we will go.

J. Goodluck.

PEOPLE

Mrs Betty Hiatt has found some interesting middens (big heaps of shells. Burada people call them *...*), along the Gudjerama. The approach to the rubbish dump landing goes over the top of a big midden.

On Monday morning Betty left for the Blyth River with a group led by Frank Gumanama to look at some of the many middens there. Stone implements and charcoal burnt in fires hundred of years ago could be hidden in these places and if found might tell an interesting story about earlier days.

Mrs Margaret Bridgeman, David and Michael are holidaying with Sister Helen Miller.

Miss Margaret Djuwandayngu is staying with Mr and Mrs John Pheuster during the Komilda College holidays. Her brother James Gallanamy has come to Meringilla for the Aboriginal Benefits Trust Fund twice this year, and reckons that he would like to live here for a while. Now his sister has come to see for herself.

Mr and Mrs Peter Cook are spending a few days with Dan and Libby Gillespie. Peter is a sub editor of the N.T. News.

Staying in Ohlsen's house this week is electrician Ivan Baker from Elcho Island, wife Gwenda and a vigorous young man Paul. Ivan is on holidays and wiring the Co-op Managers house.

The School Fete will be held early in October and the organisers are anxious to collect your discarded clothing, comics, magazines, records or other items. If you have any items the Parents and Friends will arrange for them to be collected.

Maningrida Mirage

AIATSIS Library, RS 29.7/2

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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