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MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

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Pa/S

A Mystery Boat

Interesting events took place last week when reports came in of a couple of boats (manned by Europeans), working in the Blyth River.

While the Fisheries mob were winding their way back from the Coburg area (chasing more poachers) that indomitable Barman Extraordinaire and Henchman commandeered a passing Works charter while the passengers took some refreshment at the local Inn. Some cunning aerial reconnaissance produced two photographs of the mystery intruder, who, it appears disappeared at about 40 knots over the horizon, dragging his net behind him, on the next tide out.

Various reports and similar incidents around the Arnhem Land coast necessitated the visit of two police and a Fisheries Inspector from Darwin, to conduct enquiries into the incidents.

Conclusions have been reached but not enough evidence this end to take much action. Should be an interesting week around the waterfront in Darwin, according to reliable sources!

J.C.

On the High Seas.

The search at sea for mysterious vessels went on last week from the Fisheries dinghy piloted by Silas and Billy Yiriyin.

The two men sailed to Goulburn Is. and then as they drew away past Sandy Creek they spotted a ship. Fishing boat? Prawner? The two men peered across the water and then Silas said "Best if we see what it is. That's what we came for". So they steered towards the mysterious one, and coming closer, saw what they reckoned was a croc. shooter. A man at the wheel gave a wave and pulled his hat over his face. Silas thought that he recognised him. Then the vessel tried to make a getaway but the fisheries' dinghy tossed over the choppy sea fast enough to circle the boat. The sea was too rough to take a photo but the identification number was clear enough.

The two men pressed on towards Murganella where they reported the incident and this information was passed to the authorities.. When the vessel reached Darwin Harbour some interested visitors came down to see her. They chanced upon some croc. skins on board her!!!

From Silas Roberts.

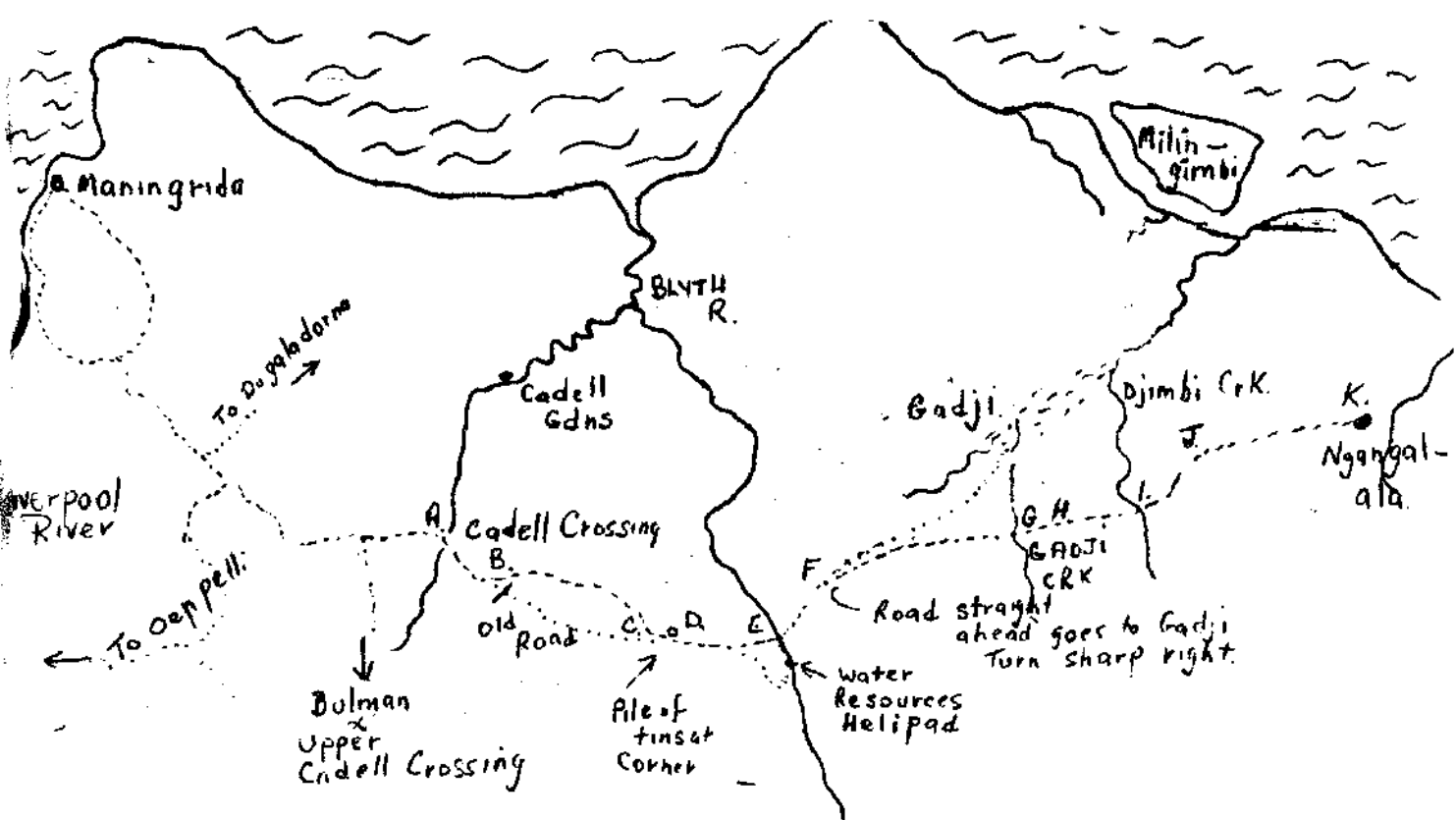
Near Disaster.

When the Works Charter with D.W.O. John H. and Supt. John W. . . were returning from their photographic expedition to the Blyth River, they saw a chilling sight. Smoke was rising from dry grass near the fuel dump at the airstrip. As the plane touched down they could see the naked flame. only yards away from 50 drums or so of aviation fuel. Only a few yards further away, was a plane meekly waiting to be blown to smithereens.

Word spread quickly to the Settlement "There's a fire at the airstrip." Some helpers were on the spot very quickly and soon had the blaze put out. Allan Grieves burnt his hand when moving a hot drum out of the fire.

The whole incident could have ended in tragedy.

The fire hadn't started on its own. Some children had been playing there. A couple who were slow in running away, made a brilliant tactical move. They decided to be helpful. They came up to the two Johns and pointed out a ladder which was in the path of the flames and in danger of being burnt!



The Road to Ngangalala.

The road has now been travelled by several drivers including Alfie Roberts, Jack Gardiner, Terry Bates and Roger Brooks. Terry and Roger found that there were some traps for 'new players' and have drawn up this "DRIVER'S GUIDE".

Maningrida to Cadell Crossing	A	26.5 miles	39 minutes
to Forestry Rd. turn-off	B	7.6 "	20 "
to Tape & Tin Tops (by the road)	C	10.1 "	27 "
to first Billabong (dry)	D	2.8 "	12 "
to Blyth River Crossing	E	12.2 "	62 "
to sharp bend to right (turn off Gadji Rd.)	F	2.1 "	11 "
to Gadji River crossing	G	10.3 "	35 "
to end of fence line (sharp turn to right)	H	2.0 "	11 "
to Djimbi Creek crossing	I	2.2 "	16 "
to fence line junction (turn left to Ngangalala)	J	8.3 "	54 "
to Ngangalala	K	3.2 "	10 "
TOTAL:		87.3 miles	6 hours

Welcome to Bruce and Margaret Neale

Bruce and Margaret are teachers, trained in the arts and crafts field, and have come to us from Milingimbi. Bruce hails from the Opera House city of Sydney and Margaret from Melbourne, of Westgate Bridge fanc. Bruce taught at Yuendumu early last year and then transferred to the Crocodile Islands where he was joined by his bride earlier this year. Bruce is a keen guitarist. Margaret enjoys basketball and dancing. They live in the "Phemister's House".

Dancing

Under the guidance of Specialist Dancing Teacher David Gulpilil, the pre-school children were putting on a splendid display of traditional dancing on Wednesday; - hands were clapping and feet stamping, just like the old veterans. It was good to see it.

Forestry

A new mechanic, Mr. Albert Wesley, arrived this week. Mr. Wesley was born in Malta and has been in Australia for 6 years.

Mr. Eddie Webber, the A/Sawmill Manager, cut off the first knuckle of his thumb in an accident at the mill on Wednesday. Fortunately an aircraft was on the strip and he could go into Darwin Hospital.

From the Postman:

A Letter or Two

Mrs. Prussian of Boddington, W.A. read about the difficulties Mr. Fred Luff was having in convincing some of the Forestry men that the West Australian karri trees grow as high as the fire tower, so she very kindly sent some photos.

In a passing comment she threw light on the youthful activities of one of our old hands. "I think Bert Ryan is still at Maningrida. He is from W.A. - in fact, he used to dance here in my home town, years ago, and was at Dwellingup at one time.

Mr. Bill Scott has recently returned to "Antarctica" after driving a new Toyota to a drilling rig, 160 miles north-east of Alice Springs. On the way up, at the boss's suggestion he did a "Cook's Tour" visiting Coober Pedy (the last place God made and forgot to finish), Ayers Rock, the Olgas... At Alice Springs I wined and dined for 2 days with some affluent Americans who forever whinged about the economic pressures back home and the devaluation of the almighty dollar. Believe you me, I was almost in tears..."

Bill did quite a lot of sight seeing around Alice Springs, Jay Creek, Simpson's Gap, etc. etc., then off up the bitumen to the dirt road that goes to Lake Nash for 90 miles to Mount Skinner Station. From here an Aboriginal man, Jerry, piloted him over the last 17 miles to the drill site. Jerry originally came from Borroloola and knows Silas Roberts.

Bill enjoyed quite a time being odd job man - mechanic at the site, then homeward bound to Adelaide on the "Ghan".

Sister Sandra Stacey writing to renew her "Mirage" subscription. "...was talking to a gentleman the other day about Maningrida. The Liverpool River - yes, he knew it well. He had been there in 1925!!! ... and camped just where the settlement is now. I asked what he had been doing there and it seems he was collecting crocodile skins for a well known meat company. I had a feeling, by his reaction, that the government of the time was not aware of this little sideline !

Sandra, moving through a constant flow of nursing lectures, essays and reading, send her regards to everyone.

The Grida Group.

Eighteen ladies gathered on Wednesday night and formed an informal club called THE GRIDA GROUP. It aims to bring women together who normally would see very little of each other, and give them the opportunity to enjoy a variety of programs in each other's company.

Meetings will be informal, held fortnightly and arranged by two ladies in turn. If the enthusiasm shown at the first meeting continues, the Group should have an interesting future.

Basketball

There will be no draw for this week's basketball competition but you should have your programme and that will keep you informed till the end of the competition before semi and grand finals. There will only be stories issued to the Mirage.

On Tuesday Dolphins defeated Chalkies 54 to 50 points. The second match, Cadell defeated Eagles 44 to 40 points. There weren't any arguments or fight. Please let us keep it that way for the rest of our matches.

Thursday night.

J. Pascoe.

Cape Stewart and Pioneers made a very colourful sight on the court in the night light.

Cape Stewart 39 defeated Pioneers 28.

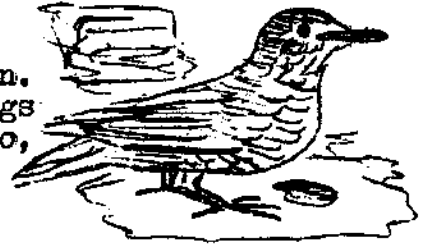
In the second game Kupunga 62 defeated Garatpu formerly known as Rolling Bay, 50. For the Kupunga team Jim Walbara did a mighty job, scoring 16 baskets more than half the total number scored.

He's there!

Mr. Ray Baku, after saying "I'm going to Gadji tomorrow" for about 8 weeks has made it. He travelled with Mr. Jack Gardiner and Mr. Roger Pink in the brand new Toyota to Ngangalala on Saturday.

The Birdwatcher

The Arnhemland escarpment country supports some birds that can be found nowhere else. Among these is the unusual Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon. Because of its restricted range, the nest and eggs of this pigeon were unknown until a few years ago, but this is not to say the bird is hard to find.



In fact, every time you go down to the Cadell Crossing or to the Mann River stone country you cannot help but notice them. They are very large and heavy birds which waddle over the sandstone ridges, bellies so close to the ground that you can't see their legs. They are quite a plain brown colour, except in flight when a bright chestnut patch on the open wing becomes visible. Cayley describes it as a shy bird, but I cannot agree with this at all. They feed on grass seeds and other small plants that grow in this unusual environment. They will never perch in trees - their legs have probably lost the ability to do this. They will nest deep in the ledges of the sandstone ridges where the eggs will be shaded from the sun all day. The only nest found - (to the best of my knowledge) - was near Oenpelli in October 1968, and all that remained of the clutch was one broken egg, so that the breeding season and the size of the clutch is still not known. There are many other facts still to be solved, as to the natural history of the Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon.

John Gardiner.

Our Favourite Bird Again?

"Whilst in Darwin we (the Army men that were at Maningrida) came across a book of poems, one of which we thought you might be interested in for the Maningrida "Mirage". So here it is:

THE BROLGA

The Brolga or Australian Crane
Holds dancing orgies on the plain,
And students of the Russian Ballet
Have crept in crowds across the Mallee,
Far beyond the desert grasses
To where the Brolga holds his classes,
And many a motif for the leg
Has emanated from an egg
But certain purists do not care
For such technique and prudes declare
Specific movements of the Brolga
Unacademic, if not Volga.

Poet unknown."



Bird Danger.

Mr Allan Grieve brought in a Perth newspaper clipping about a friend of his from Parkes (Mr Peter Williams' country).

Huge Eagle Collides with Light Aircraft.

"For a second all I could see was feathers, and I felt air rushing through the aircraft's windscreen" said 24-year-old flying instructor Les Watts.

Les was describing his immediate reaction after a huge eagle had smashed through the windscreen and into the cockpit of his twin-engine Beech Baron at 600ft as he prepared to land the aircraft on the Barrow Island airstrip off the North West Coast of W.A.

A Royal Flying Doctor Service aircraft picked Watts up at the Barrow Island strip and flew him to Perth. He had seven stitches put into his top lip. Two of his front teeth were knocked out, and he had cuts about the face and hands."



WEEKEND DUTIES:

Duty Officer: Mr Bert Ryan
Duty Sister: Sister Ena Pickersgill
Fire Control Officer: Mr Dennis Coleman

STAR THEATRE:

Friday: Omar Khayyam - "a glass of wine
a loaf of bread and thou"

CHURCH:

Sunday 9.30 a.m. Sunday Schools "The cost of discipl@ship"
7.00 p.m. Evcning Service. Conducted by Bunuk.
Thursday 7.30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

In 3 weeks - on the last week end in October - the
3 men will come from Goulburn Is. for the mission.

BIRTH:

Terry son of Daisy Natjundanga and Albert Wurdjal
6/10/71, 5th surviving child.

PEOPLE:

Dominic and Ambrose are in the Darwin Hospital waiting for their arms to mend.

Two ladies from Goulburn Is. - Miralaidj is staying with Millie
and Ether Jaliba is spending a few days with Toby and Mary Giese.

Mr Bob Phillips - Youth Activities officer and Mr. Peter Garner,
Physical education specialist arrived on Thursday for a short visit.

Mr Glen Bagshaw is due home today after talks in Darwin about fishing,
gardening etc. Geoffrey and Mark came home last week end.

Mr Phillip Arthur arrived this week to work with the mining men. Phillip
has been with McIntyre since 1967 and for the past 2 years has been on the
nickel fields of W.A. His home town is Newcastle N.S.W.

CORRECTION:

It was Mr John Delaney (not Coleman) who went on holidays last week and
may have to do his National Service training.

Mrs Cec Carey's sister Mrs Leila Johns from Michigan and Mrs Prue
Horstmann from Victoria stayed with Cec and Eddy over the week end.

Two P.M.G. men came out on Thursday to look at the telephone set up in
the store. They agreed to move a hand set to a new box which Mr Bob Cross and
his men have made near the postoffice counter. In this way Mrs Dickfoss will
be able to attend to telephone calls more easily.

The Maningrida Town Hall is about to rise. A clearing has been made
in the pine plantation and tool shed erected. Laying out operations will
now begin.



Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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