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MANINGRIDA MIRAGE

Vol. 86

Friday 28th. May

No! It's that one!



COUNTING THE TREES

A Forestry Timber Resources team, consisting of Bill Goodwin, Charles Curry, Peter Snell and David Peacock left Darwin with two Toyotas heavily loaded and drove overland to Maningrida, arriving on Sunday, 5 days after departure. The vehicles and crew will conduct a timber volume assessment survey (how much timber) in a large area bounded by the Cadell and Liverpool Rivers, then move to Lake Evella for another survey, before returning to Maningrida to work between the Cadell and Blyth Rivers.

The basic aim of the surveys is to determine the actual volumes of timber by species, especially cypress pine and stringybark and woolly butt, over each area concerned. This information can then be used to help plan future cutting at the sawmill, and provide a basis for a possible chipwood industry. The technique used in the survey involves the use of aerial photos, a technique rare in Australia, but widely used in Europe and America.

Back at the Darwin office, each photo systematically covering the district under study is pricked by 5 pin dots, the position of the dot being determined by a computer-designed grid arrangement. A circular area of half an acre around each dot is interpreted, using an instrument enabling stereo vision, according to tree heights, species (pine, eucalypt, paperbark, mangrove, jungle or rubbish), the density of the tree crowns, the terrain of the land, and the expected drainage pattern (that is, good run-off, swamp, or salt-water influence).

For the Maningrida area being worked at the moment, 195 plots were selected, and for the next six weeks, the two vehicles and a helicopter for a short while will endeavour to accurately locate each one. This is far from easy or pleasant work, judging from the amount of undergrowth, fallen logs and longgrass present.

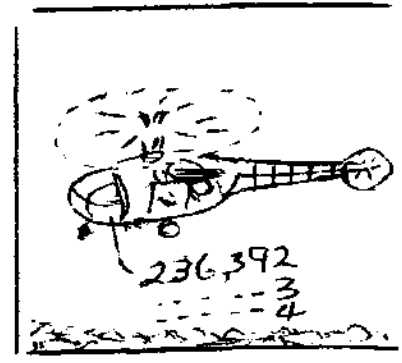
The plots are found using long-range compass bearings and distances taken from the aerial photos, and then by more accurate compass bearings and 100 feet tapes, and finally by the photo interpreters use of his skills.

The trees falling in the half-acre are measured for diameter, height, species, ability to form saw logs, poles, chipwood or nothing, and also the extent of defect caused by fire, termites or natural growth.

All the collected information is fed into a computer; merchantable and total volumes per tree and per plot are derived; and by combining this output with the earlier office photo interpretation, a fairly accurate estimate of the total useable volume of timber in the district is gained.

We then hope the information will be put to good use.

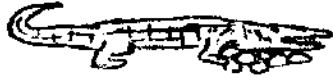
C. Curry.



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PARENTS & FRIENDS 7.00 p.m MONDAY AT School.

The Bad Crocodile



A Gunavidji story told by George Yarlmur and his family.

In the old dreamtime days, Juda Point was joined to Entrance Island and many lilies grew in the billabongs there.

At Gudjerama there was a Crocodile called Jowanja and 2 eagles, (brown and white) Jumbolowa and (black and white) Ragarra.

The crocodile asked the two eagles to make a canoe while he went hunting for some sour potatoes. Presently he came back, with potatoes, and an eagle made a fire, and he began to cook. When he pulled the potatoes out of the hot ashes he hid all the big soft ones under his legs and gave the hard old rotten ones to the eagles.

The eagles were not very happy about this. "He gives us the bad ones and keeps the good ones for himself" they said.

The same thing happened on the next two days, but by now the canoe was finished and 2 paddles had been made too. When the eagles were given another lot of poor potatoes, they waited for crocodile to go hunting and then they decided to go away. They paddled away quickly from the Gudjerama towards Entrance Island.

When the crocodile returned from hunting and saw the two eagles paddling away, he swore at them, and quickly looked for a suitable tree to make a canoe.



First of all he cut down a gum tree but this was too heavy and sank, then a mangrove tree which also sank. Next he cut a pandanus palm, and this floated a little bit. Then he tried the white Boroka tree which has light wood and floats well. So he hopped on to it and paddled up to the land between Entrance Is. and Juda Point.

The eagles had stopped there to cook some mullet they'd caught. Unfortunately cooked fish did not agree with them and they vomited. They said to each other "Lets go and catch more fish but we wont cook it." The Raw fish tasted good to them.

As the crocodile paddled closer he made a grab for the eagles canoe. As he did so, the sea rose higher and higher until Juda Point and Entrance Is. were cut off by water. As the water rose higher, he grabbed at the canoe again and began to take it away. The eagles growled "He has stolen our canoe."

The two eagles decided to stay on the Islands for good. "Ragarra" went to Haul Round Is. and "Jumbolowa" stayed on Entrance Island. The crocodile went back to the Gudjerama.

From the Newspapers.

MORE NEWS ABOUT SACRED PLACES:

The Government has made a law about five sacred places in Arnhemland. Three of them are near Yirrkala and the other two are Nimbawah and Inyaluk near Oenpelli. The government is going to mark these places and put fences around them if they have to. Aboriginal people will be made rangers to look after the places. If a stranger wants to go there he will have to ask first and, if he is allowed to go, an Aboriginal ranger will go with him to make sure that nothing is touched or broken.

The Store (Shortages)

We apologise for some shortages of stock, the month old strike involving the Darwin Trader is now catching up with us, though out of stocks or shortages have been minimal, and should be completely overcome within a week or two.

The Bakery



The number and quality of the applications for the position of Baker have been very pleasing a final decision will be made within two weeks. The oven has been installed, dough mixer and bake mixer to hand, the wrapper and slicer is enroute from Adelaide and only the moulder and divider is awaited. This expensive toy fell off the truck enroute to the barge, and suffered multiple bruising some altercation is proceeding between the respective insurance companies.

In all, production should get under way some time in July of this year, with bread, pies, cakes etc. how can it miss - we currently spend \$1,000 per month importing approximately 30% of the settlements demand, and do not make \$10 on the lot, in other words the store subsidises the cost of bread believing that 55 cents a 1½ lb loaf is excessive enough, without our margin. (23 cents per loaf freight)

G.B.

Monthly Meeting

M.P.A. meeting Wednesday June 2nd at the school 7.30 p.m. (transport back from Goulburn permitting.)

Social Gattings.

ARNHEMLAND'S FIRST DEVONSHIRE TEA

Maningrida scored another impressive first on Tuesday afternoon, when what was reputed to be Arnhomland's first Devonshire Tea was held at the school.

The occasion was a farewell to Kormilda students who returned to Darwin on Wednesday to commence their second term studies. Catering and organization were handled by John Phemister, Shirley Armstrong and the Post Primary ladies - (sometimes referred to as the Domestic Scientists).

A splendid batch of scones was turned out complete with traditional jam and cream. Fashions were eye-catching and the picture was completed with a multi-coloured beach umbrella. There was even a friendly spaniel on the lawns and music in the background.

Due to some unforeseen technical problem the S.K. Armstrong Memorial Fountain was non-functional. However, this did not mar what was undoubtedly Maningrida's successful debut into the social headlines of Arnhomland.

Coming events to watch for:

1. A Masque Ball in the kitchen - tickets \$25,00 per couple.
2. A Picnic Race Meeting - with Messrs. John Phemister, Michael Ngulabiya and Gowan Armstrong acting as Stipondary Stewards.

A Blow up and a Blow out.

Yesterday morning, workmen on the ^{power house} side of the air strip Highway were seen scattering in great haste, while others held back the traffic. Then a huge cloud of dust and a big bang! Forestry men were blasting out old tree stumps to make way for a new road. More about the road system later.

In mid week, those underground men, the hygiene workers battled with a blockage in the sewerage line near Frank Smith's place. After much frustration, they managed to push out the tree roots which caused the block. The water then shot down the pipe..wood

TWO YOUNG MEN

The Mandiwala (Dog Dreaming) ceremony is at present being performed by the Jinang people. Two boys are about to be initiated and the ceremony is being performed in connection with it. All this week Charlie Jarabili and Paddy Jutjingu have been singing the songs associated with the myth. Paddy plays large throwing sticks instead of the more usual clapsticks and there is no drone pipe. The dancing men tie clusters of leaves around their thighs and shake their legs at incredible speed making rustling noises.

Charlie Jarabili says that Ray Munyal and Alec Jurma will come back to Maningrida because they are "bosses" for this ceremony. When they are here the ceremony will be brought to a close. This will include a more elaborate presentation of the myth, when one man will act the part of the Dreaming Dog, and the circumcision ceremony.

Charlie says that this might happen this weekend or perhaps payday weekend. C.G.

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HORSES

Four men from Mountain Valley Station returned to Maningrida on W Thursday en-route for Bulman and home after visiting relations at Elcho Island. They say that later on in the Dry Season, they hope to drive some horses from Mountain Valley overland to Lake Uvella, south of Elcho.

CARS

On the road again, is Nym's truck after being in the hospital for a major operation. It had to have almost a new engine put in. Why? Because it ran without water? No! Without Petrol? No! Without oil? Yes! A few pints of oil might have saved \$400 worth of new engine parts and repairs.

Next on the list for repair is Fred's utility. Trouble? It ran without oil, everything in the engine got overheated and all 'seized up'.

BASKETBALL

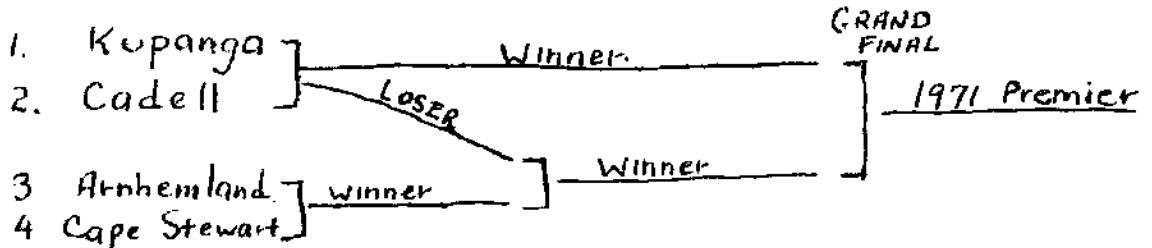
This week Dolphins defeated Cadell River 46/36
Cape Stewart defeated Eagles 58/42.

Points for Rounds One and Two.

Kupanga	22	Cadell River	22
Arnhemland	18	Cape Stewart	16
Dolphins	14	Entrance Island	8
Eagles	8	Chalkies	4

Draw for the Semi-finals Tuesday June 1st. 1971

7p.m. Kupanga v Cadell River
8p.m. Arnhemland v Cape Stewart



CUBS

On Saturday, 24 Cubs went to Tomkinson Hole for an outing. In the pre-dinner games, several of the great heroes from the pictures came to life, Zorro, Cowboys and Indians etc. Then into the water where every boy easily passed his swimming test. Each six made their fire and cooked dampers and made tea while the leaders cooked the steaks. After lunch, fishing was the order of the day. Several enthusiasts like Ross, Andrew and Stephen caught five little

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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