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MANINGRIDA

MIRAGE



Vol. XIV
VOLUME XIII DECEMBER, 24th, 1969.

CHRISTMAS IN RUSSIA.

We who will have plenty of fruit, nuts, sweets, meats, puddings and cakes at Maningrida will find it hard to imagine what Christmas for a prisoner of war in the snows of Northern Russia must have been like from 1945-48.

Alf Dickfoss was there. He was born in Eastern Germany in a small farming community and later moved to the city of Hamburg. He was injured during D-Day attacks and after recovering was sent to the Eastern front and taken prisoner by the Russians in January, 1945.

The Russian Communists don't observe Christmas and so there were no extras. There was little food and most of the men were half starved. So Christmas was a time when the men thought and talked of home and the old time cake and puddings and roast pork. It was in Russia that Alf was a "forestry" man, cutting bush timber. He believes that he could still build a log cabin with an axe as his only tool.

In Australia Alf has been a commercial fisherman (at Cairns for 5 years) and a contract miner for almost 10 years (Mt. Isa, Pine Creek). He enjoys the outdoor life, boating and fishing.

Elva comes from the Casino district in Northern N.S.W. (not far from Lismore) where she helped her parents milk up to 60 cows on their dairy farm. Sister Ena is the eldest and Elva is number 5 in a family of 9. She became a machinist, making clothes and other soft furnishings. Best of all she liked sewing shoes. Each stitch had to be properly done and a good job was more important than a big tally for the day. "I can understand why shoes are so dear" Elva says. Our best wishes to Alf, Elva and their boys in their life and work here.

HJORAY FOR THE RAINDS.

Queenie, our weather lady, reports the following 9 a.m. rainfall recordings:

Saturday	151 points	Tuesday	82 points
Sunday	36 "	Wednesday	82 "
Monday	186 "		

XMAS GREETINGS.

Glyn and Dan Watson were unable to see everyone before leaving and wish a ll their friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Mirage Staff also wish our readers a Happy Christmas. Mrs. Valerie Strand is our new typist. She's come back to the keys after an absence of 7 years, and doing a good job.

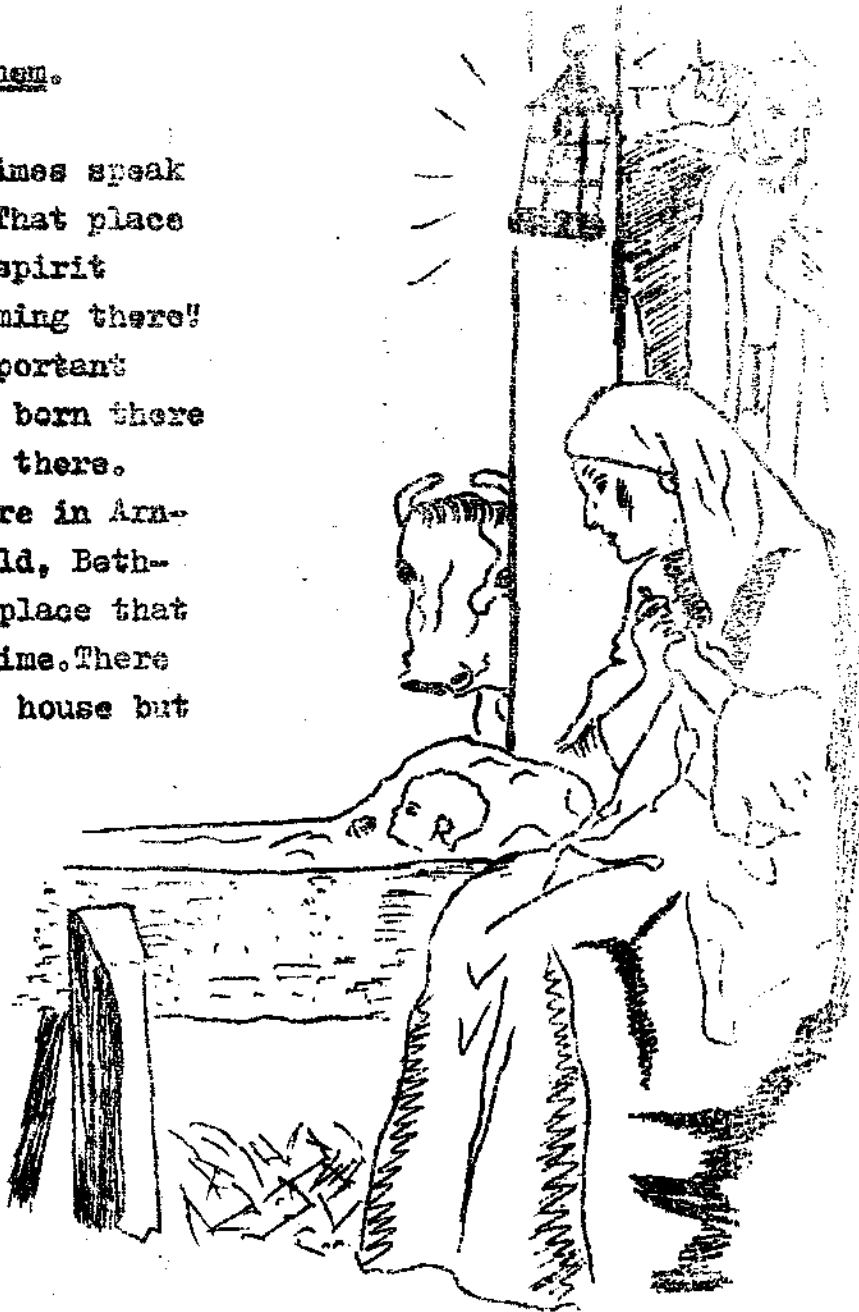
From Maningrida to Bethlehem.

Aboriginal people sometimes speak of a certain place and say "That place is very important to me. My spirit came from there. I have dreaming there!"

Other people have some important places too because they were born there or some great event happened there.

For Christians here in Arnhemland and all over the world, Bethlehem is the very important place that we are thinking of at this time. There Jesus was born. Not in a big house but in a stable. His mother laid Him on the straw where the donkey and cow were.

We believe that God's spirit was in Him. He was wangarr (sacred), but He walked about among people, living our kind of life, eating and sleeping, helping people, teaching and dying on the cross and rising again.



We call Him Our Lord, boss, bung-kuwa and Our Saviour, the one who lifts us up. He is our Number One Dreaming. He waits to give His Spirit to us.

We are living here in Maningrida, but in our thoughts let us get up and go to Bethlehem.

People.

Mr. John Buck has returned from Snake Bay for Christmas. He has just announced his engagement to Miss Maureen Claxton of Townsville (and from Melbourne before that). Our poets are either taken up with the Christmas rush or away on holidays - so we say "they Congratulate you both. Good luck John Buck."

The foreman and four men from Harris James Contractors struck a pretty wet day to unload their gear from the barge on Sunday. The Riversong is reported to be due from Milingimbi today with tools from their last job. (at Mil.)

At Bagot Hospital, Virginia and Molly Waouguba are doing well. In Darwin Hospital, Gloria is still fairly sick, Melva and David (son of Roy Rewa) are getting better, Lurick Fordham, Daisy and Elizabeth are coming on well, and so is Johnny Mundurrug Mundurrug.

David Gulpilil (whose story will be in the next issue) and fellow film star Dick Dandalil are off to Sydney on Saturday.



Red apple. One crop is ready for picking now and soon there will be new flowers and then more apples. There is a tree just outside the Govt. store. There are big ones at Gudjerama. Maurnk-likka.

Yumulu. A yam, which can be found anywhere in the bush. Its leaf is like a bean leaf. Its vine may spread across the ground or climb up the trunk of a tree. Roast before eating.



Gunai. The nearest thing to black grapes to be found here. Grows on vines and can be found now. The taste is a bit sharp.

Wambajarr. Black berries the size of a small marble. Trees are to be found at Sister Cmc's. and Mr. Jensen's. There is a big mob at Juda Point. They taste good.



Mulagiya. These are small green berries about the size of a marble.

They can be found anywhere and are good tucker.

Ngatiu. The cabbage palm. The berries are boiled and the skin is removed. They are then pounded with a stone and put in water for three days. The softened berry is then ground into flour and can be made into damper.



"Walili". The 'cheeky' yam found in the bush. If eaten straight away the eater will be very sorry. It has to be soaked in water for 2 days. These are not mature yet, but are growing.

Jiritia.

Lily roots. Growing in the billabonga where there is plenty of water.



Warrtikiritia.

This yam grows anywhere and is growing now. It is usually roasted in the fire for a few minutes, then the skin is removed and it tastes like coconut.

PROGRAM OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SAURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>
Hospital	Sr Miller call P.M. Normal	Sr Tilloy	Sr Miller	Sr Ena	Sr Ena	Sr Cec
Kitchen	OPEN	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Co-op	OPEN	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN
Hasty Tasty	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN
Connellans	Two Flights	No Flight	Normal	Normal	-	Normal
Duty	R Eggers	<u>M.J. Hunter</u>				

BOXING DAY.

Sports in the morning at the Settlement (because of wet weather and vehicles not in the best of trim)

SPEAR THROWING on the oval

PILLOW FIGHT.

TUG OF WAR. The Superintendent is leading the Staff team and will tackle all comers.

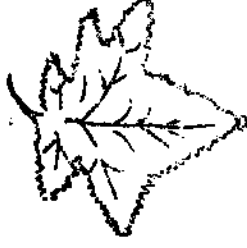
PROGRAM OF CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

7P.M. Carols on wheels to leave from Superintendents office (weather permitting) to be followed by fireworks display (if they come on todays plane).

CHRISTMAS DAY.

9.30A.M. Christmas Play at the Church.
10.30A.M. Father Christmas arrives.



DINNER:

Will be served at the school. Don't be slow in coming or you may miss out.

Afternoon. Football match. Red & white v Black & white

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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