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MANINGRIDA

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A man on the land

An interview with Mr. Rex Jettner.

Rex came to Maningrida to have a look at the land and to make recommendations on the kind of crops which people might try to grow successfully. He is the Manager of the Producers Co-operative and travels widely. In the last six or eight months, he has covered almost the whole of the N.T.

Mr. Hunter took him to the Cadell River Garden. He was impressed by the good supply of water there. The soil is "pretty hungry" and will need a lot of fertiliser to make things grow well. The ground would need to be watered by irrigation. The best type of irrigation for Aboriginal gardeners would be the 'furrow type'. The water would be pumped in pipes to the highest piece of land, and then let run down channels to the gardens. He can see more garden land being opened on the Southern side, growing bananas, pawpaws, sweet potatoes and tomatoes. The soil there is not rich enough for good pineapple growing.

Other creeks around Maningrida would not have enough water to be spread over the ground by irrigation.

Near Maningrida, he suggests that a plot of about 20 acres could be sown with peanuts during the Wet Season as an experiment.

Bulman seems to have everything. The soil is better, and the water is excellent. The area lends itself to large scale development.

Giant steps have already been taken to get the station going there. Rex was very impressed. 'The work has got away on the right foot'.

In the next Wet Season it is proposed to plant two small areas with rice - one plot on black soil and the other on red soil. Although this will be grown in a commercial manner, it will not be harvested for people to eat but used for cattle food.

Mr. Jettner is looking forward to coming out this way again, and especially to see how the peanuts and the rice plots.

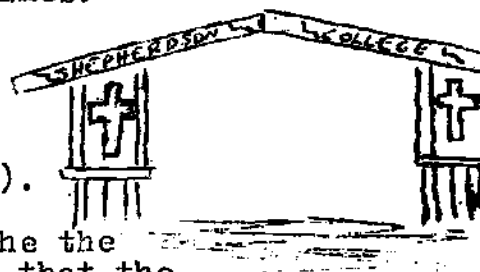
This interview took place at the busy air port, as the beef plane unloaded its great stack of cartons of food, and some eager dancing men discovered that they were not booked to travel !!

Also travelling in the outback during the last few days, Mr. Ted Evans arrived on an overland holiday journey and went up to the Blyth River, with Jack Miritja as a guide. Ted returns to Darwin today to judge some of the Aboriginal Eisteddfod entries.

Mr. Jack Orford is holidaying with Denis and Val Strand.

ELCHO ECHOES

1. On Saturday morning at Elcho there was a display of Aboriginal dancing. The enthusiasm of the six groups of dances had to be seen to be believed. As they waited for the visitors to arrive at 10 a.m. they were all keyed up - like footballers on the eve of a grand final, just like it was at Maningrida's first Open Day. One large group of men and women began by moving in a large circle with tall walking sticks in each hand. In another group spears were thrown and in another there was a ritual fight with fighting sticks. When the visitors were departing things were only starting to warm up. Some groups put on two or three different dances and in some 40 or 50 people took part.
2. Mr Giese is working on an idea to have one major Open Day in a different centre in Arnhemland each year. "Yuendumu had 2000 visitors this year it could become like the Mt. Hagen Sing Sing if there were enough planes."
3. The Gate of "Shepherdson College" designed by the local art teachers is quite impressive. Steel columns (sign of our present times) support a gable of cypress logs (Mr Sheppy originally came as a saw miller).
4. Tom and I stayed with an English family - he the engineer in the workshop. It seemed good that the houses stood in the natural bush setting - with no trees cleared unnecessarily. Tom was impressed by the fact that Aboriginal and staff houses mingled together in the new housing areas and people he wished to visit lived only a stones throw away.
5. Most of the streets were named. Neat signs greeted one in several places. The names were chosen by the village Council and the principle seems to be that if a road pointed towards an island, or billabong or some other prominent feature its name would be given to the road.
Some of the names were tongue twisters but as our host pointed out nine out of ten residents found no trouble with them.
6. The Choral Festival on the Friday night was a fine occasion. There were 3 choirs - Elcho jun choir (just released their second record), Women's choir, Yirrkala choir, 2 other groups and the Elcho Strings composed of fellows who really know how to strum a guitar, as well as some soloists.



7. The School Crest.

Black cockatoo	- moiety doa
white cockatoo	- moiety yiritjo
Ceremonial dilly bag	- old wisdom
Book	- new learning

The spear and woomera form a Cross.



Eisteddfod.

G.4.

Mr Dan Pollard is the chief cook for all the hungry singers and dancers staying at Winnellie Showground. Some of the Maningrida kitchen staff are helping him.

Maningrida's adult dancers were due to leave for the Eisteddfod yesterday. They are Messrs Paddy Fordham, Dick Gabalk, Murray Marala, Oscar Nalawid, Jimmy Budiyele, Joe Gwanga (didjeredoo player), Caruso and Frank Naumanangmana (singers) Terry Waymunga and David Irindilly. The schoolchildren went in earlier this week with Mr Peter Williams, Mr and Mrs Dan Gillespie and Miss Cheryl Pullen.

RUNNING REPAIRS

In the garage on Wednesday morning Jim Walbara was holding the blue Gunwinggu tractor radiator cover while Bill Scott with the oxy torch in hand, welded some of its broken parts together.

Bill reported that on the previous night, the Board of Directors had come to see him and explained that Mr Hunter had the key of the tractor engine. This was not one of Bill's big worries. He was thinking about the radiator. Anyway, it may not be very long before "the Gunwinggu's ride again."

DIESEL LAND ROVER

The parts are slowly coming to hand and Bill expects that his last job will be putting this on the road.

THE NAKARA BOAT

Theres a sad story here. After a lot of difficulties in removing broken parts of the engine and getting the new ones all was going well until one of the company men were sent to clean the engine. He partly did the job but during this operation, the sump plug was lost. Now, a boat which might have been afloat, is waiting for a new sump plug to come.

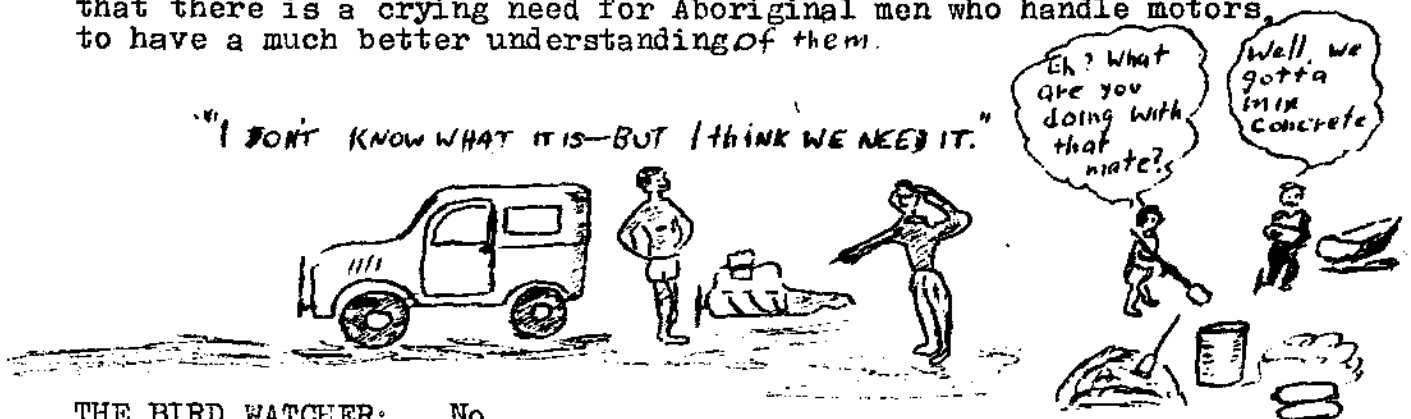
THE GOOSE TRUCK

Some of the Jinang men want to buy a new starter motor. Bill thinks that there are other parts more needed than this. Money seems to be the greatest need.

At the other end of the workshop Jim Elliott was making adjustments to an outboard motor used by the fishermen and oyster gatheres.

Outside the garage stood a truck which had a "brush" with a tree a while back on the Bulman road and Jim was optimistic that as soon as some parts arrive it should be as good as new.

A visit to the garage and a talk with these men makes one feel that there is a crying need for Aboriginal men who handle motors, to have a much better understanding of them.



THE BIRD WATCHER:



No.

The Magpie Goose "Man-a-Kada" also known as the pied goose.

This is perhaps one of the best known birds in Arnhemland and good tucker. They feed in the shallow water of swamps and billabongs eating lily roots. A few years ago they

took a liking for rice growing at Humpty Doo.

In the old days people used long sticks to knock them down out of trees and caught them.

They make their nests out of grass rushes usually in a swamp and lay from 5 to 8 eggs.

In the Dry Season they fly from the "Goose place" a big billabong near King River eastward toward Palpanarra lagoon.

THE COUNCIL

The meeting was held at 6.30 p.m. on Monday night.

Present. Councillors T. Ibberal, Billy Yiriyin, P. Banjurljurl, Toby On, E. Mankurinyin, P. Djakandra, J. Adjaral, P. Gangalara, B. Mundurrug, J. Gulerawuna, A. Wurdjal, J. Riala, G. Gandjibala, R. Wukkawukka, M. Brown, J. John, J. Guwanga and H. Mulumbuk.

Housing Trust.

The President said 'we want to see houses being built before the wet season comes. The people in the camp are pushing us, but we haven't got the Trust money yet - \$60,000. We want to see that money. All the Councillors agrees.

Cr. Riala - I've been asking for 3 years for buildings and for money for houses. "Maybe they'll start in the wet season.

Pres. - No. I don't want it to wait that long. I want to see the building going up.

The Plan of the Settlement.

Cr. Tom Ibberal - At Elcho Island Aboriginal and European houses are mixed together. Djupendowie lives here ... then a balanda house and another balanda, then Aboriginal houses, then another European family. I reckon that's a good idea.

Drinking tea.

Cr. Riala - I don't like drinking tea outside the kitchen. Too much wind and dust.

Cr. Ibberal - True. Too much dust. We're not animals.

Missing cups.

The President spoke about the missing cups - taken home some even thrown in the rubbish, gone everywhere. We can buy cups for ourselves at the shop.

Reading and Writing.

Cr. Ibberal - We can't read and write. There's only one chap here - he can half read and write.

Name for shop.

The Council talked about some Aboriginal names for the Shop. Some they felt were too hard for Europeans. They agreed on Bar-barr a billabong not far from the eastern end of the airstrip.

Peas from other places.

Money and the Government.

This week in Canberra, Mr. Bury, the man who looks after the Government money said these things. Old people will get 50 cents more in their pension cheques. Tobacco, cigarettes and radios will cost more. Almost \$20 million will be given to help Aboriginal people in the N.T.

Language learning.

Mr. Giese said that 5 schools will soon have classrooms with tape recorders and other equipment to help learn English. The schools will be Kormilda, Elcho Is., Maningrida and Yuendumu and Nightcliff High School.

WEEKEND DUTY OFFICER: Mr Eddy Carey
WEEKEND DUTY SISTER : Sister June Donohan

STAR THEATRE:

Friday : Billy Budd . *Pirate story?*
Saturday: Samam

CHURCH NOTICES:

Sunday 9.30 a.m. Sunday Schools
"God's grace - Baptism"
7.30 p.m. Evening Service
Thursday 7.30 p.m. Fellowship at Sister Maija's.

Miss Kay Hayes and Mr Russel Cameron of the Ecumenical Institute Chicago will visit Maningrida from Thursday to Tuesday Aug. 25 th and will then go on to Goulburn Island.

Birth: Rachel daughter of Lena Djabepa and Frank Nayukyuk on Thursday Aug. 13th.

Stanley is the name of Mr and Mrs Charlie Jarabilis son born Darwin and recorded earlier on.

People

From the Adelaide Advertiser: "Art Review

In a first one-man Adelaide exhibition at the Rigby Gallery, City Cross, Dennis Schapel, a young South Australian artist and teacher, presents a series of paintings based chiefly on his experience of life at Maningrida, an aboriginal settlement east of Darwin on the Arnhem Land coast.

Sympathetic understanding of the aborigine and a respectful appreciation of the significance of his legendary and tribal ritual, motivate this work, as well as the visual response to the pattern of figures in their natural environment. Landscape is the backdrop.

The larger paintings are "Chasin' the Chooks" - and in "Maningrida Beach" and "Larajeejee,"

Schapel has also absorbed a great deal of the character of design of the aboriginal bark painters during his 18 months in this remote area.

Often he uses the limited palette, predominantly earth colors, ochres and black, with the stylistic white skeletal cross hatching.

He has resolved the quandary of the clash of two cultures most sensitively in some of the smaller sketches - "Initiates,"

"Warning," "Jack and the Croc.", a near abstract, "Centre Night" and the pen drawing "Co-op."

Mr Bob Egges leaves on Saturday to begin work as Employment Officer for Aboriginal people at Port Hedland in W.A.

When Bob arrived at Maningrida and went to live in the Single Men's house with that well seasoned old schoolteacher Mr George Lee, he took a course in "teach yourself domestic science" and learnt a few things the hard way!!

We will miss this loyal Geelong football barracker and modest speculator in the share market. We wish Bob well in his new post.

A Farewell Social to Mr Bob Egges on the lawns at the Single Men's flats on Friday night. Everyone welcome.

Maningrida Mirage

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Maningrida Mirage NT Maningrida Community

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