Sky Pilot News July 1964

Marella Mission Farm
Sky Pilot Fellowship Ltd., Marella Mission Farm

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SKY PILOT NEWS
July, 1964

Published monthly by the Sky Pilot Fellowship Ltd., Marella Mission Farm, Acres Rd., Kellyville, N.S.W. Tel. 634-2427
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SUBSCRIPTION, 2/6 per annum. Registered at G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission by post as a periodical

SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP
RALLY and SALE of WORK

to be held (D.V.) in the grounds of

MARELLA MISSION FARM

ACRES ROAD, KELLYVILLE, N.S.W.

Saturday, 31st Oct. 1964

10.30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
PUBLIC MEETING, 2.30 p.m. – FREE PARKING
ALL THE USUAL STALLS: REFRESHMENTS AND HOT PIES AVAILABLE ALL DAY

Proceeds in aid of our work for needy aboriginal children.

Do your Christmas shopping while you enjoy a day’s outing in the country; at the same time you will be helping this work for the dark children of our own land.

Make up a car party, including your friends. For children there will be swings, slippery dips, and pony rides.

If you are unable to come by car, there are buses from Parramatta to Kellyville Post Office. The Mission Farm is about one mile from the Post Office, but transport between the Mission Farm and Post Office bus stop will be arranged for the following buses:—
Depart Parramatta Station: 8.49 a.m., 11.05 a.m., 12.29 p.m., 1.15 p.m.
Depart Kellyville P.O.: 11.47 a.m., 1.33 p.m., 2.00 p.m., 5.07 p.m.

If coming by car turn off Windsor Road at President Road, follow to end, then turn left into Greens Road and first turn to left is Acres Road. The Mission Farm is the third home on the left in Acres Road.

Gifts for the stalls will be greatly appreciated. They should be mailed to the “Sky Pilot”, Parramatta Railway Station, or brought direct to the Mission Farm before or on the day of the Rally.

For further particulars, please 'phone Marella Mission Farm, 634-2427.
Please pray for a fine day.
THE BEST YEARS OF LIFE:
From the Sky Pilot's Log

In these days of changing values it is well, sometimes, to pause to take stock: are we being stampeded into accepting propaganda for fact, or are we sure of our ground? “Everyone” tells us that this is the day of youth; and sometimes we see Youth Leaders bending over backwards to coax, beguile and flatter the “teenagers” into so called Christian Clubs in an endeavour to “influence them for good.” I am sure that few people would quarrel with the good intentions behind these endeavours, and we wish the Youth Leaders — be they laymen or Ministers — every success; but, before we throw in our lot with them we are entitled to ask: Just how is it intended to “influence them for good”? It is true that any code of ethics is better than none; and that a good code of ethics is better than an indifferent one; but what are we trying to give these “teenagers”? Is it merely Jeremy Bentham’s form of Hedonism or Utilitarianism, the “greatest good for the greatest number”, thinly disguising the real aim of the “most pleasure at the cost of the least pain”? Or do we follow Socrates in the belief that virtue is knowledge and vice is ignorance; in which case all we need to do to help the young people is to “educate” them? Or on the other hand are we going to introduce them to a new source of power — power against “anti-social behaviour”, bad ethics; or, if you prefer the old fashioned word that the Bible uses, just plain SIN?

In the desert country, a hundred miles from Alice Springs, an Aboriginal led me into his hut and showed me his most prized possession, a beautifully polished cabinet radiogram. He had been earning good wages and he had bought it at the township and brought it out in a taxi which had cost him almost as much as the radiogram. But watching the face of the Aboriginal, as he carefully removed the dust cover and polished an imaginary mark with his handkerchief, one could see just how much that instrument meant to him, and whatever the seeming extravagance in such a setting my heart warmed to him. And then I woke up. It was not a transistor; there was no electrical power with 100 miles, and the power plug hung uselessly from the back of the instrument. I questioned him. “No”, he admitted frankly, “there’s no power yet, but if ever it comes this way . . .” I looked over the great sandhills where the drought had turned even the mulga to gaunt skeletons devoid of the power to survive and thought of those words: “All power is given unto me in heaven and earth . . . without me ye can do nothing.” That’s what the teenagers need, the power of the Holy Spirit — ethics will follow.

But when “everyone” tells us this is the day of youth, just what is meant? No one denies the value of youth but, apart from energy, the main value in youth is in its potential. On this farm we value carrot or cabbage or lettuce seed only because of their potentials. Youth is valuable because of what it will be, or could be, rather than what it is in the “teenager” state. Sometimes we forget this, or it might be more correct to say the “teenager” forgets it.

Then at what age is a life most useful? Some people are quick to say that life begins at forty, but they are just as ready to agree that it ends about 60. But when, according to statistics and not popular opinion, is a man at his best? Some years ago this letter appeared in the Daily Mail, England:

“Sir — It is not good for the race to believe that a man’s best days are over at sixty. It tends to break down man’s energy, and prevents him from utilising the best that is within him — the best that has come from years of experience and work.

“There are figures to show that the greatest productivity of man’s life lies in the decade between his sixtieth and seventieth year. The method adopted to learn the actual facts relating to man’s working period was as follows:

“Some four hundred names of the most noted men in all times, from all lines of activity, were chosen. There were statesmen, painters, warriors, poets, and writers of fiction, history, and other prose works. Opposite to the name of each man was indicated his greatest work or achievement. This list was then submitted to critics, to learn their opinion of the greatest work of each man submitted. The names of their greatest works were accepted, or altered, until the list was one that could be finally accepted. After this was done the date at which the work was produced was placed after the name, and so the age was ascertained at which the individual was at his best. The list was then arranged according to decades.

“It was found that the decade of years between sixty and seventy contained thirty-five per cent. of the world’s greatest achievements. Between the ages of seventy and eighty, twenty-three per cent. of the achievements fell; and in the years after the eightieth, six per cent.
"In other words, sixty-four per cent. of the great things of the world have been accomplished by men who had passed their sixtieth year; the greatest percentage, thirty-five, being in the seventh decade.

"The figures for the other periods of life are interesting. Between the fiftieth and the sixtieth years are found twenty-five per cent., between forty and fifty, ten per cent. These, all totalled together, leave the almost negligible quantity of one per cent. to be attributed to the period below the age of forty.

"Two great classes of work fall below the forty year limit. These are the deeds which require the extreme of physical power and vim, as the conquests of Alexander the Great; and the beautiful expression of the lyric poetry, which is typified by the nervous, super-sensitive temperament of such men as Shelly and Keats. But, taken as a whole, the figures prove conclusively that the period of the greatest achievement in a man's life comes, not when he is in his youth, but only with the years of mature manhood.

(Signed) Martin Sherwood."

Henry Durbanville (George Henderson) has published a splendid book "The Best Is Yet To Be" (B. McCall Barbour, Scotland) in which the above letter was printed. This book is worthy of a place in any library. Personally, conscious of advancing years, I was most indignant when the book was presented to me; but I found it packed with sound common sense and encouragement.

To repeat, youth is valuable mainly for its possibilities as (if the quoted figures are correct) only one per cent. of the world's great achievements were made before the age of forty. There is no short-cut to experience, and experience alone will provide us with the practical material with which to make our greatest contribution to life. Do you think you are too old to serve our Lord and Master? People over eighty contributed six per cent. and those under forty, one per cent. to the quoted achievements. Rededicate your life to God and His Holy Spirit will show you where He wants you to work when you are over eighty — and even if you have not yet reached that age.

And the final entry in today's Log is taken from the 20th chapter of Matthew: "He went into the market-place about the eleventh hour and said, Go ye also into my vineyard."

SALE OF WORK: The Sale of Work to celebrate the sixteenth anniversary of the commencement of the "Sky Pilot's Log" will be held (D.V.) at the Mission Farm on Saturday, 31st October, as advertised elsewhere in this leaflet. We would ask for your special prayers about this function. First, we need a fine day and only God can give us that. If we are faithful in prayer we can be confident that once again we will have a beautiful day. But some people are a little vague about prayer; they think it is largely a matter of wishful thinking. One supporter said: "What's the use of praying? Suppose someone else in Kellyville wanted rain and you wanted a fine day; would one out-pray the other? You couldn't have it both wet and fine on the same day in Kellyville!" But we did. We have not heard who did the praying on the other side; but we do know that it was a lovely fine day and our picnic grounds were bone dry and the sun shining on them. People came through heavy rain only a mile or two away and the cars arrived wet and muddy. Some friends phoned us after the sale to sympathize with us for the "dreadful" day; to us it was a beautiful day and a record sale. But then, of course, we are "old fashioned" and we believe in answered prayer.

However it could happen that we take it for granted that we will have a fine day and get slack about our praying or honouring God; or we could come to depend on the money from the Sale too much, forgetting that God provides in His way, not ours. If ever it happened that way we might have a wet day to test our faith. Now, no doubt some people will say: "That's just an attempt to leave a loophole: if it doesn't rain they will say it is an answer to prayer; if it does rain they will say that was only sent to try their faith." Like the man who was asked, at a time of spectacular weather signs in the sky, if it was the end of the world. He said: "No, definitely not." And his reputation as a prophet went up. He himself knew that if he said "yes" he could be proved wrong; if he were right he would get no credit in the chaos of such an event, so the safest thing was to say "no".

But experienced Christians will understand; and the fact that we have never yet had to postpone a Sale of Work because of the weather, in spite of having two every year, speaks for itself. What really matters is that we should be right with God in our own hearts and walking with Him in the very centre of His will; in that case it will not matter if it is wet or fine, it will still be the day that the Lord hath made and we will be glad and rejoice in it. Those words of the young Hebrews faced with death should be an
inspiration to us: "God is able to deliver us, and He will; but if not . . ." Well it would make no difference, they were ready, either way. This is God's work; He will provide in His own way and through His own channels in His own time; and it will not be early or late, but just right — unless we let Him down.

BUILDING PROGRAMME: With twenty-four dark children and the staff to look after them we are once again pressed for accommodation. It is quite impossible to fit any more children in Onslow House and as it is they are somewhat cramped. It is not the sleeping room alone that is the difficulty; they have no play-room, dining-room or study-room for homework. At present they have meals in relays because they are now too big to fit into the old temporary dining room. In wet weather they must stay indoors, which means either the hall or their bedrooms. Trying to do homework with room barely to stand is becoming quite a difficulty, for our children are growing so fast that they are rapidly developing into young men and women. For several years this problem has been in our minds; but there were new beds, inner-spring mattresses, blankets etc., to provide; besides finishing off the plumbing, painting and other jobs on the building. Now all these have been completed and we can turn our attention to further building.

After much prayer it was decided to go ahead with the most urgent building requirements this year. These would be (1) The renewal of the roof of the Mission House which leaks so badly in almost every room that serious damage and inconvenience has been caused this Winter. (2) The building of extra staff accommodation, particularly for the Secretary who for nearly fifteen years has been more or less living in one tiny bed-room. (3) A dining-room cum study-room for the dark children at least 20 feet square. (4) A laundry and ironing room for the children’s washing large enough to enable two workers to operate together. (The present laundry is only six feet square and is quite inadequate) The girls have to work the machines every day but Sunday because of the great volume of washing with so many small children. (5) Additional accommodation for boys. Our “family” is a little out of balance at present with 16 girls and only eight boys; it is quite impossible to take any more boys in Onslow House.

The total cost of all this building will be about £5000 and we wish to complete it within two years at the latest. After the decision to go ahead had been made we heard of several small legacies that had been left to us and which should be available within a few months. They amount to about £1650 which is quite a good start and seems to set the seal of God’s approval on our decision, as we had never previously had any legacies, mainly because this is only a newly established work.

Elsewhere in this leaflet we are giving further details of our needs and we would ask you to pray that this money may be provided without our having to draw on our ordinary slender income. The building has already commenced and those present at the Sale of Work should be able to see something of what is being done. The various buildings will be undertaken in the order listed as finance is available. During a period of 12 months we had to refuse admittance to over 70 needy dark children. It is so hard to have to turn them away. Little dark mothers come to ask if we can take their children “just for a little while” to prevent possible court action which could result in the loss of them when they are declared neglected children, and removed from the custody of sometimes unmarried and desperate mothers. We are forced to say there is no room; every bed and cot is filled and the dormitories will hold no extra beds. The dark mothers are not articulate in their appeal; they turn away and we see slow tears gather, for mother love dies hard — and that is all. Maybe there is a phone call later to see if we have “changed our minds” (as if it were as simple as that!) and the click of the receiver despondently dropped into place as the line goes dead sounds dreadfully final. But of course there was no room at the inn and the Saviour was born in a stable . . . it is an old story.

Gowans & Son, 17 Rosedale Avenue, Greenacre. 70-6406

MARELLA MISSION FARM

16th ANNIVERSARY RALLY

31 OCTOBER, 1964

☆

Special Building Fund Appeal to commence at the

Sale of Work

£5,000

Needed urgently for £5,000

- Staff Accomodation.
- Mission House Roof Repairs
- Children’s Dining-Room cum Study and Play-Room
- Laundry for Children’s Washing and Ironing.
- Boys’ Additional Dormitory Wing.

These past years while others have been talking about the assimilation of the Aborigines, we have been quietly putting it into practice; training dark boys and girls from all sorts of over-crowded city environments to take their place alongside their white brothers and sisters.

In this brief period over 80 dark children have known for longer or shorter periods the shelter, comfort, security and spiritual training of a Christian home.

Fresh milk, cream, eggs, vegetables and fruit from the Mission Farm have helped to correct malnutrition and other deficiency diseases.

Loving Christian Care has brought peace and security to young lives previously so storm tossed. Mostly from city areas; in special cases from the great outback; deserted, neglected or problem children have come to join in the happy family where individual needs are met with thoughtful and prayerful consideration.

Trained Infants’ Nurses care for the smaller children. The Director has had 36 years experience with the Aborigines; his wife (who acts as Matron) 28 years, and the Secretary-Treasurer 15 years. This is not some experiment of mushroom growth; devoted missionaries have and will continue as long as God spares them and the need remains.

Over 100 Voluntary Workers and two Women’s Auxiliaries work for us year by year and yet most of our support comes from pensioners and people in the lower wage groups. The average donation received is less than £1; yet as with the loaves and fishes, our Saviour sees that no child goes hungry — even if there are not many fragments remaining!

Marella Mission Farm is not subsidised by the Government nor is it the responsibility of any Church organisation. It is an evangelical, interdenominational mission, registered as a charity; a venture of faith, maintained by the sacrificial giving of Christians from all Churches working together for the love of God and His little dark children.

We do not raise money by raffles, guessing competitions or chocolate wheels; we DO depend on your generous giving to this special appeal.

All donations of £1 or over are deductible for income tax purposes. Have you discharged your debt to the original inhabitants of the land we tore from them?