

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence

*The Brotherhood helps all in need and endeavours
to arouse thought and action on social questions.*

FITZROY

SEPTEMBER, 1955

No. 114

The Superior writes on . . . THE FORGOTTEN NEEDY – SOCIAL JUSTICE "NOW!" – – JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

It is good to know that the needs of the widow and family of the brave Dutch migrant who recently lost his life by drowning are to be provided for. "The Herald" is to be commended for the lead it took in the matter. One cannot but wonder, however, what must be the feeling of war widows, old age and invalid pensioners and other such needy folk who are compelled to exist on the miserable pensions handed out by the Government. Again it is a question of "these ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone."

I try to tell myself that the custodians of public moneys cannot realise the extent of the sufferings of those who have to keep body and soul together on a few shillings a week. But yet they must know the high cost of living and they must have heard of high rentals. As I write I hear that tea is now to cost 7/2½d. Precious little of the cup that cheers are pensioners to have in the future. We the taxpayers have to subsidise meals free for members of Parliament at Canberra. For that is what that deficiency of £16,000 on the Parliamentary dining room really means. In comparison with the overall national expenditure that £16,000 is a comparatively small sum, but how the knowledge of it must hurt those who have not the wherewithal for decent living.

Such is the kind of thing that fosters the growth of communism. The communists sponsor the cause of the pensioners, and of course in doing so they add to their numbers. Such will continue to be the case until all "who profess and call themselves Christians" make the cause of the under-privileged their cause. With your sustained support we shall continue to fight for social justice for all. I consider that all people of goodwill should know of these things.

"NOW!"

Our paper "NOW" helps I think in this direction. It is encouraging to know that a goodly number of you read the paper. I hope that

you pass your copy on to friends, for I feel that the want of understanding is the main cause for so much apathy in regard to social questions which are so vital to the welfare of the nation. It should be ever remembered that social injustice leads to social unrest and social unrest leads to communistic domination.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

I feel sure that all of you who are within a reasonable distance of Melbourne and Carrum Downs are going to make a very special effort to be with us at some of our Jubilee functions. The first of these will be the Village Fair at Carrum Downs on 1st October. This is being arranged for entirely by the settlement residents themselves. By the way they have been working over the year the event promises to be a huge success. On Sunday, 16th October, at 3 p.m., the Bishop of Wangaratta is to bless our new Community Centre. It may be that the hall will not be able to hold all the congregation, but arrangements are to be made whereby the service may be heard by those in the nearby garden and surrounding rooms. On 2nd November (All Souls Day) we shall have our usual service of remembrance at 10 a.m., when we shall think specially of the members of the Staff and B.S.L. friends who have been called to higher service. These must never be forgotten by us who still carry on here on earth.

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FAMILY PROJECT IS EXPANDING

Since the Victorian Government asked the Brotherhood to extend the Family Service Project among families in Camp Pell as part of the Government's plan for eventually clearing this emergency housing centre, the social work staff on the project has been increased to four. The Red Cross and the Mental Hygiene Authority are each seconding a social worker to the Project.

The Family Service work began early in the year when a social worker, Mrs. D. Zilinskas, was appointed to work intensively with a small group of families living in Camp Pell whose applications for Housing Commission homes had been rejected because of rent arrears or unsatisfactory standards of house management.

Having gained the co-operation and confidence of the families, the worker assists them to cope with budgeting, housekeeping and child welfare problems, encourages them to raise living standards and plan for their future.

The progress made in the first three months resulted in the Government's request for extension of the work. The Housing Commission will pay the salaries of the social workers, and the Brotherhood will be responsible for administration costs, transport, etc.

A hut at Camp Pell has been made available by the Housing Commission to provide office space, a caretaker's quarters, and facilities for encouraging sewing and carpentry. One section of the hut will be furnished attractively and cheaply to demonstrate how improvement can be made in other huts and in new Housing Commission homes.

As usual voluntary helpers have rallied to the Brotherhood's side and the renovation of the hut has been carried by young people from the Teachers' Training College, Scots' Church Presbyterian Fellowship and students from Janet Clarke Hall and Trinity College.

In this our Jubilee year the service will be one of special significance. On 5th November the Centre will be officially opened by Sir Edmund Herring at 3 p.m. For this we are expecting a record attendance. Those who intend to go to Carrum Downs by our buses should secure their tickets from this office in good time. The same applies to those who intend to go to Mornington on Saturday, 12th November, for the garden party in the really beautiful gardens of our holiday home "Morven."

We are hoping that our Market Fair in the Lower Town Hall on 30th November, which will be opened at 11 a.m., will be another "best-ever" event. Our actual birthday will be celebrated by a garden party in our Fitzroy Garden on 8th December, which will be the same as that in the year 1930, in which the Brotherhood was founded. I know that many of you will be there to wish us many happy returns of the day just by your presence.

ADAMSTOWN

I am very happy to know that the Parish of Adamstown, New South Wales, where the Brotherhood was founded, will be represented at our Jubilee Celebrations. The present Rector of the Parish, the Rev. William Weston, is to open a building at Carrum Downs, to be known as St. Stephen's House (the Parish Church at Adamstown is also dedicated to St. Stephen). The house to be opened will be used to accommodate voluntary workers and country and interstate visitors who wish to pay a few days' visit to the Settlement. Mr. Weston is to preach at St. James, Dandenong, at 11 a.m., on Sunday, 11th December. I am hoping that many of our friends who are within reasonable distance of Dandenong will be with us for this service. In the evening of Sunday, 4th December, there will be a Brotherhood Service in St. John's Church, Latrobe Street, at which I am to preach.

INVITATION

I want all B.S.L. Friends to regard this as an invitation to these functions, and we hope to have large numbers of you with us. Some special invitations will be issued, but only to people who do not receive our "Notes." In looking back over the years I realise to some extent how great should be my gratitude for the many blessings which have been ours. As I think of all that has happened over the years I think of the manner in which you, our friends, have supported us in every effort and have stood by in our difficulties. We really are grateful for the continued loyalty and understanding of you dear people. I pray that you and yours may be richly blessed.

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.



Children's Centre Expansion Continues

The work and importance of the Fitzroy Children's Centre were brought home to those who saw the recent exhibition "Things We Have Made and Created," arranged by Club leaders and members. Over 200 people attended the exhibition and were amazed at the quality and range of articles on display.

Reviewing the work of the Club throughout the year, the President of the Children's Centre Committee, Mrs. de Nijs, said: "It has been a year of worthwhile struggle. We have reached a turning point and can now proudly continue the work of our Centre. In the past year the new leader, Mr. Alex Greig, has done wonders. Attendances are regular again; club membership is

now 134. Some 250 children attended camps, and outings were organised for a further 1,100." Special tribute was paid to the twenty voluntary leaders who assist in organising and supervising Club activities. At their own expense some have taken courses in craft work to fit themselves for this important aspect of the work.

In an area where delinquency rates are high and many homes are substandard, there is an urgent need for extending the membership and scope of the Club, and new recreation and activities rooms are planned in extensions which will be built when the £50,000 Silver Jubilee Building Appeal target is reached.

SETTLEMENT PLAN IS BECOMING POPULAR

Seventeen organisations are now being advised and assisted by the Brotherhood in the planning of village-type settlements for elderly people. The Brotherhood believes that, while settlements do not meet the needs of all elderly folk, community living with opportunities for independence, security and occupational activities is the answer for many.

It is encouraging to know that others are following the programme which the Brotherhood has pioneered.

Other recent visitors included a party of Asians who are working and studying at the Sydney University under the Colombo Plan.

All who visit the Settlement are amazed at the extent to which it is run by the residents themselves. There are now 160 residents and only three full-time Brotherhood staff.

The increased interest in old people's welfare has emphasised the need for co-ordination, particularly in such areas as the Mornington Peninsula and the Dandenong ranges. To ensure that there are planning and co-ordination the Hospital and Charities Commission will shortly call a regional conference of all organisations now assisting or intending to assist the aged with hospitals, homes or clubs.

NEW 'COLLINS COURT' PLANNED FOR SETTLEMENT



Described by Robin Boyd of the "Herald" as a "lifebouy for pensioners," this intriguing building will be next on the construction programme at Carrum Downs.

The building will provide much-needed extensions to the Collins Court apartments for infirm residents. It will include ten single rooms and two double apartments. Meals for forty will be provided in a dining room, and there is also provision for kitchen, store room and nurses' quarters. The inner windows will face a circular courtyard where gum trees are already established, and the outer windows will overlook a surrounding

road and the beauties of the bush.

We had hoped that work would have already been commenced on these flats. However, because of the need for further finance, this has not been possible. Thanks, however, to the generosity of the good folk responsible for the Voluntary Helpers' Shop at Camberwell, we are now hopeful that the work may not be deferred for long. The Voluntary Helpers are to give us £2,000. This should make all the difference. These good people came to our aid with a similar sum when we were in difficulties in regard to the building of the Community Centre.

RADIO FRIENDS GROUP TO BE FORMED

We have been so pleased with the work made for the Opportunity Shop in the City by our band of 3XY wireless listeners that it has been decided to form these workers into a Group, calling it the "Wireless Listeners' Group."

Hand knitted goods have been made by these listeners from a number of country centres—Geelong, Wonga Park, Spring Vale,

etc. We would be pleased to contact others who would be interested in joining this "Wireless Listeners' Group."

At some future date it may be possible for all these members to have a "Get together" to meet each other.

Winifred Rogers
Marie Perry
3XY Brotherhood Broadcasters.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS AT FITZROY

Several staff changes have taken place at Fitzroy. Two new social workers, Miss T. Wardell and Miss Christian, have joined the Family Service Project, and the Brotherhood's Senior Social Worker, Mrs. S. Johnston, has transferred from the Social Service Bureau to the Family Service Project, making a total of four social workers now engaged full-time on the project.

Mr. Tony Bishop is responsible for administration and organising associated with the work, and Mrs. Schoof is secretary to the Family Service Project staff.

The Board Room has been converted into an office for the Project worker, and Mr. Bishop has been housed in a prefabricated hut in the yard.

In the best traditions of the Brotherhood, the staff is putting up cheerfully with the crowded and difficult conditions. At the same time they are taking a keen interest in the plans for extensions at Fitzroy and the Jubilee Appeal which will make these plans possible.

Remember . . .

The garden party to be held at the home of Mrs. R. Curtis, 5 Fellows Street, Hughesdale, on Saturday, 8th October, is being organised by the Hughesdale-Murrumbena B.S.L. Group.

STAMPS EARN MONEY FOR B.S.L. WORK

The voluntary helpers who sort and sell used postage stamps for the B.S.L. could handle many more than they are now receiving.

We would be particularly grateful if office workers could save bulk stamps for us. They can be sent or left at the City Shop, 51 Royal Arcade.



PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE—

SILVER JUBILEE MARKET FAIR

in the LOWER MELBOURNE TOWN HALL, on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30th

to be Opened at 11 a.m. by FATHER TUCKER

A record variety of stalls—
Plants and Flowers — Cakes —
Sweets — Produce — Toys — Used
Clothing — White Elephants —
and Antiques — Dips — Light
Refreshments

Goods for the fair will be welcomed at 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy (JA 3335) and 51 Royal Arcade (Central 2721).

We welcome these new B. S. L. Friends

Suburban

Mr. Lewis, Dandenong.
 Mrs. Keys, Dandenong.
 Mrs. Churton, Pascoe Vale.
 Mrs. Reddish, Ivanhoe.
 Mrs. Wyse, North Coburg.
 Mrs. Austin, Brighton.
 Master Ross Austin, Brighton.
 Mrs. Laity, Clifton Hill.
 Mrs. Davey, Malvern.
 Mrs. Hadlow, East Melbourne.
 Mrs. Kay, East Brighton.
 Mrs. Lewis, East Melbourne.
 Mrs. Murray, Beaumaris.
 Mrs. Reid, East Hawthorn.
 Mrs. Thomas, Mentone.
 Mrs. Young, East Malvern.
 Mr. Oxford, Moreland.
 Mrs. Steel, Essendon.
 Mrs. Howlett, Thornbury.
 Mr. Coneston, North Melbourne.
 Miss McPherson, Armadale.
 Miss Delany, Camberwell.
 Mrs. Looker, Black Rock.
 Mrs. Roff, Toorak.
 Mrs. Giles, Ormond.

Country

Mrs. Barnes, St. Arnaud.
 Mrs. Spence, Bunyip.
 Miss McNair, Bendigo.
 Miss Burgess, Geelong.
 Mr. Martin, Monbulk.
 Mrs. Brockstra, Newborough.
 Mrs. Humphrey, Korumburra.
 Mrs. R. Saunders, Korumburra.
 Mrs. Scott, Korumburra.
 Mrs. McDonald, Korumburra.
 Mrs. Wright, Korumburra.
 M/- Hudson, Montrose.
 Mr. Evans, Warragul.
 Mrs. Vroland, Euroa.
 Miss Baker, Westmere.

Mrs. Coster, Yallourn.
 Miss Jennings, Olinda.
 Miss Downing, Maryborough.
 Mr. Larsen, Bright.
 Mrs. Campbell, Leongatha.
 Mrs. Perrett, Leongatha.
 Mrs. Clarkson, West Yallourn.
 Mrs. Hutchinson, Frankston.

Interstate

Mrs. Coutts, Chelmer, Queensland.

B.S.L. FRIENDS ARE ASKING TO . . .

1. Take a sympathetic interest in B.S.L. activities.
2. Interest their friends in the Brotherhood and to get them to become B.S.L. Friends, and perhaps join a "B.S.L. Group," whose aim is to organise an annual function for B.S.L. Funds.
3. Pay 5/- a year to help defray the expense of printing and posting the "B.S.L. Notes."

Humanly speaking, the success the Brotherhood has had over the years is due to a very large extent to its Friends. As our Friends have grown so has the B.S.L.'s work. The effect of what we do in the future depends on our success or otherwise in gaining new Friends.

"MORVEN" IN USE WHOLE YEAR ROUND

Throughout the year some 200 age and invalid pensioners enjoy holidays at "Morven," the Brotherhood's Holiday Home at Mornington.

However, during the coldest winter months, when the weather is not suitable for holidays for old people, the home is made available to mothers and children who badly need a holiday. Only small groups can be accommodated at a time, but the home and its ideal facilities are made use of the whole year round.

Visitors are always welcome, and the gardens under the care of Mr. Hansen has become one of the most attractive on the Peninsula. "Morven" is in Tanti Avenue, just off the Nepean Highway.

EDUCATIONAL WORK KEEPS SPEAKERS BUSY

Each week an average of five meetings are addressed by Brotherhood speakers as part of the programme to arouse more public interest in social problems and the Brotherhood's work.

Municipal councils, youth groups of all denominations, men's societies, ladies' guilds, trade unions, lodges, branches of political parties and schools are constantly asking for speakers.

The Brotherhood always tries to accept, believing that this "educational" work is one of its most important tasks.

Through its staff members the Brotherhood is also associated with numerous organisations and committees working in various fields of social service. These include the Victorian Council of Social Service, the Old People's Welfare Council, Victorian Council of Mental Hygiene, Howard League for Penal Reform, Diocesan Centre, Australian Association of Social Workers, National Fitness Council and City Development Association Housing and Re-development Committee.

DO YOU WANT THE "B. S. L. NOTES" ?

Almost 6,000 copies of the B.S.L. Notes are sent to B.S.L. Friends. We are anxious that all who are interested in the Brotherhood's work should receive the "Notes" and know of the work we are able to carry out on their behalf. However, if you no longer wish to receive the "Notes," we would be grateful if you would let us know so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
 BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE,
 51 ROYAL ARCADE,
 MELBOURNE, C.1. Central 2721.

Please find my donation for £ : :

NAME

ADDRESS

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."