

THE LAND GIRL



No. 11, Volume 7.

FEBRUARY, 1947

Price 3d.

ONE MORE FURROW

MANY years ago a farmer and his boy were ploughing. The field was big and the day was old and the boy was tired but he took heart when the farmer said to him as they turned the plough, "One more furrow and then . . .". But when they got to the bottom of the field the farmer said, "One more furrow and then . . .", so they plodded on until they reached the headland once again and the farmer said, "One more furrow and *then . . .*". This time the boy looked up into his face and said, "And then, Master?" and his master answered "One more furrow".

The Minister of Agriculture has recently sent a letter to every member of the Land Army asking her to do one more furrow. We have heard a great deal lately about being a poor country but that doesn't seem nearly so easy to understand as being a poor person. We all know that the poorer you are the less you can buy and that the worst form of poverty is to be so poor that you cannot buy enough food to keep yourself alive.

This country at present buys a great deal of food abroad. If in the future we cannot afford to do this we shall have to grow it ourselves or go without.

The Land Army did a grand job in helping to win the war. Its members have just as important work to do now in helping to prevent us all from starving. The farmer in the story could not do without his boy, to-day the farmers of Britain cannot do without the Land Army.

In peace, as in war, it is a great satisfaction to know beyond the possibility of doubt that what you are doing helps and benefits not only yourself but your fellow human beings. That satisfaction will reward every member of the Land Army, from the oldest veteran to the newest recruit, who answers the Minister's call to do one more furrow.

M.A.P.

MUSICAL MILKING

I took my portable wireless set out to the cowstall during the sad summer of 1940 when Hitler's armies were sweeping across Europe. The war news demanded attention as well as the cows, and to listen to one while milking the other seemed a sensible economy of time. What was intended as a temporary arrangement only, has become a regular institution and the little radio set has remained in the cowstall ever since, throbbing out the B.B.C. programme at milking time.

The first question everybody asks when they hear the sound of a dance band coming from the cowstall is "What do the cows think about it? Is the old tale true that cows give down their milk better to music?" The disappointing reply is that it has no effect on the milk yield and it seems doubtful if the cows think about it at all. I can remember a new addition to the dairy giving a little start of surprise when Bing Crosby was suddenly and loudly transmitted towards her rear, but any disturbance she felt was very brief; she soon resumed the state of bored apathy common to dairy cattle. Nor does a change of programme effect a difference. News, dance music or a classic symphony are all the same to the cow and the most stirring appeal from official quarters for increased milk production has no effect on output. But the farm cats respond dramatically. When the wireless is switched on it sounds to them like the dinner gong and down they rush from the hayloft, or up they come from the field postponing a rabbit hunting expedition knowing well that when the pails, strainer and cooler are washed there will be a drop of something wet for them. The tortoise-shell cat insists on sitting on top of the set; a hard, uncomfortable seat with a leather handle in metal fittings but she gets some satisfaction from it. If not appreciation of music perhaps, some mild electric waves which blend soothingly with her own body currents.

The effect on the milker is more interesting. Obviously milking is one of those rhythmic manual occupations which can be done to music. We have our marching songs, rowing songs and hammering songs. If the B.B.C. would put over milking songs in their early morning programmes they might revolutionise the dairy farming industry. No one can pretend that the average cowstall is anything but a dismal place on a cold

dark winter's morning, and the prospect of working down a long line of cows before the chance of breakfast is something to take the heart out of a man. So why not hear the mellow tones of Big Ben and the cheerful voices of the announcers who, seemingly, are never wet or cold or hungry? There is no answer except the old convention that work is necessarily a solemn duty which must be performed in circumstances of profound gloom. In industry tradition has been broken. The "dark satanic mills" have gone and in their place we now have well-lit, well-aired factories with "music while you work" laid on for all repetitive manual operations. The critics who thought music or entertainment would distract workers from their jobs have been proved wrong. Anything which stimulates and refreshes the mind promotes efficiency and where numbers of people are working together a little interest is common from the outside world takes the edge off personal friction.

There is not much scope—or need for music in farm work. Tractors might be fitted with car-pattern radio sets if the exhaust and gear box could be effectively silenced and the thought of a plough turning over the furrows to the accompaniment of a Bach fugue is enchanting. Threshing sets worked by steam engines could be fitted with the old style caliope which used to be popular at fairs and there is unlimited scope for phantasy in considering musical attachments to chaff cutters and root pulpers. The electric fence too provides a convenient way of relaying music to any part of the farm—on a real "Comic Opera" holding the hand workers might go forth equipped with ear phones to plug in to the wire fence whenever they felt like whiling away the tedium of the day's work.

The old-time farm hand did have music while he worked before the roaring machine came to break his peace. The lark in the sky, the gulls behind the plough and the measured tread of a team of horses. No doubt his mechanically minded successor hears music in his machine, harsher harmonies with a faster beat yet more in tune with modern life and swing music than the quiet whistle of a ploughboy or the gentle song of Grandpa's dairymaid.

However idyllic the quiet days of old may have been and however noisy the beat of a modern milking machine, there is little poetry or music in the average

cowstall except the sound of milk squirting into pails, and if farming is to be set to music a beginning might be made in the dairy department because a job like hand-milking, so monotonous and so continuous, does not exist in any other walk of life. If the small expense of a wireless set brightens the atmosphere and relieves the drudgery it must be worth while.

J. B. Thorburn.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It has been decided that the LAND GIRL shall be discontinued after the March issue which will complete its seventh year of existence. In its place a News Letter which will retain some of the features of the LAND GIRL (including County News and Correspondence) will be edited at Headquarters. This will be issued free of charge; a copy will be sent to every volunteer in individual employment and blocks of copies to hostels.

There will be a number of outstanding subscriptions to the LAND GIRL on which further copies are due. Any subscriber who has already paid for copies after the March issue and who would like this money to be refunded, should write to her county office.



Me and my horse.
B. Sykes, 26697, Holland (Lincs.).

NATURE DIARY

February is traditionally a wet month in the countryside, and although the old saying does not always hold good, there is usually enough wet weather just now for its effect upon wild creatures to be noticed. For although most animals and birds show a surprising indifference to climatic conditions save when they interfere with their food supplies, excessive wet does frequently upset their lives, and none more than at the moment, especially on low land where flooding is likely.

Practically all our wild animals, large and small, can swim if put to it, but their young of course cannot, and often many litters of young rabbits, field mice and those interesting and attractive creatures, the voles, are drowned in their underground dwellings. When the flood water comes pouring down the holes and burrows the adult creatures can escape to higher ground, but the helpless litters that often appear as early in the year as February perish. The rabbit, for all its familiar timidity knows no fear in the protection of its young, and often the does stay by their offspring rather than desert them. Even otters suffer in some parts, for although they are master swimmers their little cubs nestling in the riverside holts are seldom big enough to swim for it.

The spring breeding urge is evident in but a few birds so far. Perhaps an odd blackbird or missel-thrush will start to build in some as yet exposed situation, but for those who are in heron country, interest at the heronries has already begun, with the great grey birds clamouring harshly as they repair their old nests and actually begin to lay their eggs, which being so large, require a long spell of incubation.

Apart from the familiar hazel catkins that send every hedgerow coppice into a faint golden haze now, there are the lambs-tails of the willow, a tree often neglected by amateur botanists and tree-lovers. And in every shady spot there are the fresh greens of the strange-flowered dog's mercury and the darker sheaths of the wild arum breaking through, the latter plant perhaps more widely known as cuckoo-pint, jack-in-the-pulpit or lords-and-ladies. An early appearing example of the romance that lies in even the names of our common wild flowers!

David Gunston.

This month's cover design is by A. Wakeford, 40839, Berks.

ENTERPRISING HOLIDAY

From Land's End on Sunday I cycled round the south coastline to Lamorna Cove, Mousehole, Newlyn and Penzance, and struck north to St. Ives where I found a delightful little house to stay at, right down on the harbour front, a dream of new white enamel and lovely cooking. St. Ives still has masses of cats. I remember just before the war I once counted fifty-nine in ten minutes down the alleyways. In spite of drizzle, St. Ives was lovely and still unspoilt. Monday I cut across country through St. Hilary where in pre-war years the All Souls Day play and the Nativity plays were broadcast yearly. At Helston, I barged right into the middle of the Harvest Fair. The place was crowded out with a jumble of horses, cattle and the usual fair ground attractions. I spent a long time watching young ponies being sold and then roughly broken in, to enable them to be led away by their new owners. Such tiny ponies to take three hefty men to pull them along on the end of a long rope.

My next night was spent at Coverack Cove, between Helston and Coverack. I had to cross the Goonhilly Downs which were covered with the most lovely varieties of heather ranging from deep magenta to pure white. Also the best blackberries I have ever tasted. There was real sunshine that afternoon and evening.

The following day I cycled through St. Keveverne, Penhoustock and Porthallow, all tiny places on the coast, with terrible hills, more like cart tracks with grass growing down the centre. The surface of the roads was so bad that every time I plodded a step forward I slipped back an inch or two. I found my ideal village at Manaccan. Very hilly, lovely old granite cottages, flowers everywhere. One or two village shops, just in the right places, and a wonderful little church, surrounded by clumps of hydrangeas and dracaena palms. There is a curiosity there in the shape of an enormous fig tree as high as the church tower itself, growing out of the tower about six feet from the ground. Where the tree gets its nourishment from, I couldn't say.

From here to Helford ferry on the Helford River was one mass of ferns of all types and sizes under a tunnel of trees. A very grumpy ferryman took me over the river which is a smaller edition of the lovely Fal. On reaching the other side, I very nearly got a free dip whilst unloading my cycle from the boat on to the rocks, with never a help-

ing hand from the grumpy ferryman. Anchored in the centre of this deep river are six of the huge landing stages used at Normandy on D Day at the ends of the long piers.

At Falmouth I stayed a night in a comfortable little place on a camp bed in a sitting room, surrounded by numerous photos of relatives, and pictures of Faith, Hope and Charity and Queen Victoria in her old age in very brilliant colours! In the harbour I saw the "American Farmer" which was so much in the news recently. The hole in her bows was terrific and a pair of good sized semi-detached houses could have been put in it. It would have taken more than a piece of soap to stop that up!

Wednesday morning found me at Restronguet on the Fal where I spent two nights with friends. I had one evening's sailing in the wide estuary of the Fal and lived for the two days in a whirl of mainsails, jibs, mizzens, centre boards, port and starboards, etc., so much so, that I began to think I belonged to the W.R.N.S. instead of W.L.A. My friend's garden was a mass of pink, wine and blue hydrangeas, which grow almost wild round about, and lovely trees and bushes of mimosa which was already in small bud, ready to bloom just after Christmas.

Friday, I cycled to Truro, and took a train to Liskeard where I cycled again down to the coast, Looe. Looe is one of my favourite spots in Cornwall, there is such a lot of interest in the fishing boats and fish market and never a dull minute. But the weather. I cheered myself up that night with chips (no fish) and coffee and the cinema, advertised as the smallest in England. It certainly was small, about 150 seating capacity, with the manager running up and down frantically trying to keep the children in the place from showing their enthusiasm too loudly at an exciting film.

Saturday I went from Liskeard to Exeter for my last night, and stayed at the Y.W.C.A. there, excellent value. 2/6d. for bed, bath and breakfast. Exeter has been very badly hit by the blitz, but although the cathedral has lost practically all its lovely old glass, the structure has not suffered so much and the majority of old houses and buildings immediately round are undamaged.

The girls at work think I'm "crackers" for going cycling on my own, but believe me there is plenty of fun in it, and not knowing where you will spend the next night.

S. B. Hilyer, 4821.

Dorset.



Girls employed by the W.A.E.C. who are living at Yapton Hostel in West Sussex putting apples in clamps on the grower's tennis lawn at Clymping. The apples are laid on felt and then covered with boughs of macrocarpa and straw.

DAY OF DISASTER

With thoughts of a straightforward afternoon—weighing behind an Alfa-Laval Auto Recording 2 Unit Combine and no butterfat samples, followed by reaching home in reasonable time for tea by way of a change—I arrived at C—Farm. All went according to schedule until halfway through the herd, when the electricity failed and the throb, throb of the pulsators faded away to silence—to be replaced with the ensuing unprintable language of the milkers! Then followed a consultation between Farmer and Cowman—whether to fix up the petrol engine or finish milking by hand. Farmer favoured the latter but Cowman argued against it, as the majority of the remaining cows were first calved heifers and had never been hand milked before.

Farmer's wife was trying to telephone the Electricity Company in order to convey a violent message from her husband. This was no easy matter, as no doubt the whole neighbourhood were trying to get connected also, but eventually the usual reply came through—"doing their best . . . soon as possible, etc". Well the engine was decided upon but when I saw it being tipped upside down in the middle of the yard, all thought of my five o'clock tea vanished.

In time the milking machine came to life again but as it was a winter afternoon, it was now very dim in the

cowshed. Two hurricane lamps were brought in—one useless and the other giving sufficient light to read one Recorder, so two candles were produced with which, in a leaning contest, the Tower of Pisa would not even have been "Commended". While the men were out of the cowshed, "Grandfer" had "nipped" in and borrowed their feeding bucket for his calves' gruel, so the cowman's mate was sent to find another. This he did in double quick time but the first feed never reached its destination as there was next to no bottom in the bucket.

The next calamity, after a sound feeder had come to hand and half a dozen more cows had been milked, was the lack of petrol in the engine and total absence of petrol on the farm and therefore, consequent temporary paralysis to Alfa-Laval once more. So Farmer's wife was sent hurtling down in the car to the village garage but returned in a few minutes panting that the car had broken down. After Farmer had departed to "fix" the car—lo and behold the electricity came on again, so I rushed to the Farm Gate and shouted the good news to him 100 yards down the village street. As the car moved off, back across the evening air came his reply, "Tell the B—s to switch it off again and save it for next time"!

Bucks.

M. E. W. Collinson, 34986.



Have you seen the Land Girl
With her uniform complete,
And seen how very smart she looks
So workmanlike and neat.

Or else the one whose overcoat
Is worn o'er any dress
Land Army socks and high-heeled shoes,
T'is funny none the less?

And people turn and look again
"My dear what can she be
D'you think she's dressed up for a joke
From a funny comedy?"

So smartly wear your uniform,
Be proud that you can be
A member of that worthy force,
The Women's Land Army.



Northants. J. H. Summers, 25319

An excellent way to procure large quantities of much needed darning wool is to cut off the worn out feet of discarded Land Army stockings and unravel the remains.

Herts. M. L. Holder, 7482.

VISIT TO FRANCE

I had the honour of representing North Wales Young Farmers on a visit, with nineteen others representing all the Agricultural Areas of England and Wales, to study agricultural conditions, and the Youth Movements of France. We were officially welcomed in Paris by the French Minister of Agriculture and other important persons, including Sir Herbert Smith who represented the British Embassy.

The weekend was spent in Paris where we saw "Notre Dame", the "Arc de Triomphe" the "Invalides", and one of the best known Agricultural Colleges in Europe which was once the house of Napoleon. We also visited the Palace of Versailles and walked through the "Hall of Mirrors" where the Peace Treaty was signed in 1919.

On Monday the party split up and we four girls went by car to stay for ten days at a small village, about sixty miles from Paris. We visited many farms and were shown a great many things but those which impressed us most were ploughing with oxen, wooden ploughs, vast acreages without hedges or fencing, lambs being reared indoors, and the low standard of milk production, but there is a very good reason for most of these drawbacks. The French people do not utilise wooden ploughs and oxen from choice, nor do they like to be backward with their milk producing, but while British agriculture, during the war, has had every advantage and opportunity to progress, the French have known what it is to work on their farms under a German master; all that was possible being taken out of the land and nothing put back. They are at present labouring under great difficulties, but their untiring efforts and grim determination deserve success.

N. Wales. Rhian Griffith, 63426.

CAN I HELP YOU?

Is it necessary to strip out a cow as dry as possible except when drying her off when she is in calf? My employer tells me he thinks I take too long over the stripping process.—W.L.A. 29794, Cornwall.

Yes, it is most important to strip completely at the end of milking, otherwise mastitis or other troubles may arise.

February, 1947

SIGNED BY HER MAJESTY
THE QUEEN

All ex-members of the Women's Land Army who completed at least 2 years' service and who received a willing release before V.J. Day (15th August, 1945) are entitled to receive a special certificate signed by the Queen. The certificate shows the dates of service in the W.L.A. and carries a personal message of appreciation from Her Majesty.

Any ex-member of the Women's Land Army who qualifies for a certificate under the conditions set out above and who would like to receive it, is asked to apply immediately to the Land Army County Office from which she obtained her release.

A CREDIT TO THE W.L.A.

Joan Spurgin of Hampshire, now out of the Land Army but formerly W.L.A. 18, who was one of the LAND GIRL Star Turns, is turning her Land Army experience to good use.

She has let it be known that she is available for emergency milking duty.

Here are some of her activities since last summer. During the summer months she milked at 5.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. every day, weekends included, at one farm. She took the place of a land girl on another farm while that girl went on her honeymoon. In November, she was called out at 5.30 one morning when she was not regularly milking to go down to the cow shed right away and carry on as the cowman had been fetched by car to the bedside of a dying brother. She was on the job in fifteen minutes. In the spell of hard weather just before Christmas she went to help in the bottling department of a big dairy as the roundsmen and girls were delayed so badly by the weather. (Ponies could not go out and milk had to be taken by improvised hand carts.) Joan washed an average of 2,056 bottles a day, including Christmas, and over 4,000 bottles on the day after Boxing Day. She has been called in to teach machine milking where machines had just been put in.

She lives alone in a cottage and does all her own work, including the gardening. She is certainly doing a pretty good job of work.

From "Situations Vacant" in *The Farmer and Stockbreeder*:—"Herds-woman wanted. Comfortable home. Twenty cows as family."
(Sent in by O. M. Hyde, 51804, Wilts.)

February, 1947

BOOK NOTES

Holdfast, by A. G. Street. (Faber 8s. 6d.)

The Budding Morrow, by Adrian Bell. (The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d.)

A new Street and a new Bell—luxury indeed, to please the fans of both these well-known farming writers. But if you want mainly a story let me warn you there is not a lot of "story" in either of them: I suppose Mr. Street's is more of a novel than Mr. Bell's. If, however, you want good sound books about the country as it is, and country life and work, and country people, you'll enjoy them both as much as I did.

Mr. Street has as his heroine the wife of a farmer who goes to the war. "Holdfast" is the story of her success, and of the complete mechanisation and arable-isation of what was before the war mainly grass and dairy. I wonder what you'll think of Uncle Phil's remarks when Phoebe says she is going to employ Land Girls?

Mr. Bell's story is mainly concerned with the clash of man and the machine; what good laughs he gives you with his stories of country folk—mostly by them, in their own language!

W. H. Hudson: The Vision of Earth, by Robert Hamilton. (Dent. 10s. 6d.)

The outstanding fact about W. H. Hudson was that he was a great naturalist, that his love of nature was even greater than his considerable factual knowledge, and that his writings were probably the beginning of the spate of nature and country books which continues even to the present day. I don't agree with all Mr. Hamilton's interpretations of Hudson; he was probably too big a man to be "interpreted" anyway. But this book serves as an interesting introduction to his work and as such it should encourage you to go to the source itself, and then make your own interpretation. Start with "A Shepherd's Life", or "Afoot in England", or "Hampshire Days".

Country Town Story, by Ruth Cobb is informative, and charmingly illustrated with her own drawings. If you want to know more about our country towns, get this book. (Published by John Crowther, at 7s. 6d.)

Farm History, by Grant Uden (Methuen, 3s.) is in the tradition of Scott Watson's "Farming Year" and the excellent Y.F.C. booklets. It is amply illustrated with photographs ranging from reproductions of mediaeval manuscripts to modern aerial photographs.

E. M. Barraud.

MISS BAXTER AND I.



Last month my friend Miss Baxter and I said to our farmer did he know it was the Festive Season and what were we going to do about it?

Our farmer said spread muck and cart turnips and when we said we had meant something more on the lines of whoopee and paper hats, he said he would give us government forms and red tape for the hats and we could go and whoop at the village concert that night or the football match on Saturday.

Miss Baxter said she had once gone to an ice-hockey match but she had taken her knitting and the Centre Ice had scored a goal with her ball of wool just as she got to her second intakes and by the time he had collected it off the goalkeeper's skates, the referee's moustache and a man in the three-and-fourpennies, it had rattled down to the garter-stitch. So she didn't think she would go and watch the match.

I said did our farmer think they would like me to do some of my conjuring tricks at the village concert? Our farmer said yes, the Disappearing Lady and if we started practising now, he could get on with planning how to start

a new war so that the Minister of Labour would allow him some workers for his 1950 harvest, and Gladys the cow had cut herself on a bottle so we could go and put on Archangel Tar and sacking because Sandy the cattleman would be practising for the concert.

I said had she been sitting or standing at the time? And our farmer said standing and when I asked on how many feet our farmer said near fore and playing the piano with the others and went away.

Well when we had discussed which piece Gladys was likely to have played and whether "near four" meant three or five and decided it was probably three because of Gladys not having five and that we would call them Bevin, Truman and Molotov, we set off for the byre.

On the way there I said was it sackcloth and ashes we were to dress them with? And Miss Baxter said no, tar and feathers like Epstein in the Bird Sanctuary and I said was he one of the Lesser Warblers and did she think Archangel Tar was another name for Noah like Lot's wife and the Pillar of Saltpetre? And Miss Baxter said it really didn't matter because these three never

would reach an agreement anyway so we would go and collect the stuff.

First we caught Hector, the cock, and got a nice handful of feathers, then we borrowed a pail of tar and some ashes from the men mending the road and then we collected three sacks from the granary and carried everything to the byre.

Gladys was lying down and chewing so we went to her head and asked her to get up but she took no notice at all. After a bit we remembered about cows getting up at the wrong end first so we went and talked to that end and she got up at once.

Miss Baxter said we would start with tar and feathers on Bevin and Truman at the back corners and finish with Molotov in sackcloth and ashes and if I would lift up Bevin she would pour on the tar unless Gladys exercised her powers of veto.

So I said "Come up there Ernie" and we pulled and when I had picked myself up from the next stall, the manger and the other side of the passage, I decided that Gladys was over-exercising her veto and started collecting the bits of my dungarees that Truman and Molotov were standing on.

Then Miss Baxter took a turn and when she had crawled out of the feeding trough and wiped the silage out of her ears, she remembered about cows' knees bending the wrong way and she lifted Bevin quite easily while I poured on the tar.

We thought we would have a rest after that so we decided to sit down and have our elevenses (bread and butter).

And then we decided to stand up and have our elevenses (bread and butter and tar).

I was just telling Miss Baxter about my Uncle Bertram who was tossed in a blanket when he was a lad at Eton and couldn't sit down for a week and Miss Baxter was saying that would teach him to be a lad at Eton or anywhere else, when a noise like an Alert started in the passage.

We thought our farmer had been quick about making sure of his 1950 harvest-labour and were just going to volunteer for the Wrens when Sandy, the cattleman, came in and said had we been hearin' him practisin' for the concert?

We said Aye had we and was he taking the part of the Flying Scotsman going through a tunnel? And Sandy said Na, he was Big Chief Hjawatha taking the part of Minnehaha (Katy at the post-office) against the White Man (Jim Wilson, him that killed the pigs)

and had we never heard "The Injun Love Call" afore?

Miss Baxter said: Well, as a matter of fact, she had when she was a Brown Owl Playing the Game in a totem-pole round the pow-wow but that was before she discovered it was the wrong game she was playing. Oot-toot-to-hoo.

Just then Sandy saw the tar on his floor and began making a noise like the White Scotsman taking the part of the Flying Pig against Jim Wilson and he said who the Holy Hughy had skelt a' yon on his clean flair and among the coo's feet forbye and her wi' a sair near fore!

We said it would easily wash off with a pail of hot Minnehaha and would he have a Woodbine because we had mislaid the Pipe of Peace.

So Sandy lit a cigarette, then he took a tin marked Archangel Tar from the shelf, put some on Molotov at the left top corner of Gladys and started wrapping it in a strip of sacking.

Miss Baxter and I took the three sacks away to the granary and when we came back Sandy had smeared some tar on his face and was sticking feathers in his hair and practising the Indian Love Call like anything.

As Miss Baxter said, as we carried the pail of tar back to Big Chief Road Metal, "It's an ill bird that feathers nobody's nest".

Scotland. Isobel Mount.

The Carnegie Hero Fund Trust have inscribed on the illuminated Roll of Heroes of the Trust the names of M. E. Addison, 111125, and E. Sedgebeer, 58761, Cornwall, whose rescue of a German prisoner from a bull was reported in the LAND GIRL of October, 1946. The Trust have also awarded each volunteer an Honorary Certificate and a sum of £10.



Calf love at Crawfordjohn.

ANGEL JIM

My name for him is Angel Jim, he is a pure bred Shorthorn bull calf, six months old, a beautifully coloured roan animal, with eyes that twinkle and eyelashes the envy of all us Land Girls.

I have explained to him in the politest of terms how to stand correctly and walk sedately, but he definitely does not work in conjunction with me. When his halter is fixed and the door open he plants his feet solidly in the straw and refuses to move: after much coaxing and rash promises of cake when he returns, he suddenly decides to go, with the result that I bang my elbows on the door and am dragged unceremoniously across the fold yard. He then turns round with his eyebrows (he definitely has eyebrows) raised and waits while I get my breath back. We both walk sedately forward and as I am just beginning to congratulate myself on my superb management he sees a duck . . . Picking myself up out of a ditch I see the whole of the farm staff (who always seem to be about on these occasions) rocking with laughter, and pointing to a mere speck in the distance. I usually find Angel Jim making believe he's a full grown bull, on his knees horning a tree stump, and finally an angelic calf and a very muddy Land Girl walk primly into the yard.

Ah, but one day I shall decorate his box with little cards and if Angel Jim could read he would say, "And who would have thought it possible with that silly Land Girl to train me, I should ever win so many prizes as a pure bred Shorthorn bull".

Glamorgan. K. Sleightholme, 129486.

The latest leaflets in the series "Making the Dairy Herd Pay" (issued free by Messrs. R. Silcock & Sons, Ltd., Stanley Hall, Edmund Street, Liverpool, 3) are interesting and well worth reading. No. 2 is called "Before and After Calving" and No. 3 "Good Cowmanship".

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STATIONERY, 3/6 per box.**

Maroon Leather Gold Crested
W.L.A. Diaries to clear, 3/- each

PENGUIN SUPPLY COMPANY
10, DOLEFIELD, MANCHESTER, 3

"CANNY" ACTIVITIES

We live in a great fruit-growing area so our motto in the early summer was "eat what you can and can what you can't". Each week we went to the Women's Institute canning centre in an old stable converted by the W.I. into a spotless workroom. The Preservation Organiser there is also our District Representative, Miss Hancock, and from her we had enormous help in stocking our larder for the winter.

Fruit such as plums or damsons had first of all to be stalked and graded. Over-ripe or unsound fruit was discarded, then we were taught to pack the fruit into the cans so that each can should be the correct weight when completed. After packing, each can was filled with boiling syrup made of sugar and water, a lid was slipped on each and the cans were sealed in a machine looking rather like a large domestic meat mincer.

After sealing, the cans were packed into a net and put into a boiler for sterilisation, the length of time depending on the type of fruit. Once the due time was completed the cans were taken out and plunged into cold water until they had contracted and cooled. Then they were dried and finally marked as to their contents.

Tomatoes were a lengthier job as they had to be plunged into boiling water after sorting to facilitate skinning. We packed ours solidly although they can be packed whole like the plums, for use in salads. No syrup was added of course, only a little salt. Sterilisation was as for the plums.

Apples too were packed in bulk. At the end of the day we were all expert peelers—every apple had to be peeled, cored and sliced thinly and then blanched before being put into the cans.

Now I must say that, as the test of the pudding is in the eating, we have tried some of our canned fruit and it is "fit for a queen with a crown of gold"! Thank you. Miss Hancock, and the W.I.!
Worcs. P. D. Smith, 141312.

Congratulations to M. W. Swain, 69491, Bucks., who has won both first and second prizes in ploughing matches with her team of horses. In the most recent one, she left her farm at 6 in the morning and rode her horses six miles to the competition—the condition of the field and the weather were said to be the worst ever known.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The total raised for the Benevolent Fund now exceeds £323,000. Recent contributions include £318. 0. 0. from CHESHIRE mainly raised by a Christmas Draw; £190. 0. 0. sent by W. RIDING who have organised various efforts such as a Bridge Party, a Raffle and a Dance. HERTFORDSHIRE's December Bazaar helped them to raise £100. 0. 0. for the Fund.

Over £123,000 has now been spent and of this grants and loans account for well over £100,000. At the time of going to press over £3,300 has been spent on grants this month, whilst the total number of grants made is now over 130,000.

The Homecraft Centre, now at the Square House, Bury St. Edmunds, attained its second birthday this month and had a lovely fancy dress party, to which were invited many local friends. The trainees on this particular course had, thereby, a splendid opportunity to show off their skill in cooking.

A six year girl has made plans to become a jobbing gardener in the district where she has worked during her Land Army employment and where she has many friends. She has been given a grant by the Fund to enable her to have a holiday after her long service and also to buy tools for her new job.

The Benevolent Fund Committee have been very glad to help a five year Land Girl who has recently had a serious internal operation. It has also been possible to send her to Ashton Wold for a period of convalescence which we hope will complete her recovery.

Another volunteer who has been helped during the last month had a serious bicycle accident and received severe facial injuries. She has already had one plastic operation and a grant has been made to help with her maintenance to relieve her of financial anxiety until her treatment is completed.

The pictorial map of Derbyshire is now published and can be obtained through any bookseller. If difficulty is experienced in obtaining copies of the map, enquire at your county office.

Miss Baxter and I, by Isobel Mount, costs 2/9 post free and is obtainable from the LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.

All that a dairyman is, he owes to udders.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. W. O. G. Andrew of Somerset writes that he feels he must express his appreciation of the services of Miss Nora Westcott, 105218, who has just completed four years' service with him.

"She has proved herself a real worker, ready and willing to help in any way and she takes a real pride in her job. For the last two years Miss Westcott has done a milk round, bringing home about £30 in cash every week and her books are kept wonderfully.

I am afraid she will not be with me for another four years as she will probably be married next year but I shall have the greatest difficulty in replacing her".

Dear Editor,

I am enclosing a photograph of myself with one of the Anglo Nubian kids I reared. I work on a farm where I do quite a variety of work. We have poultry, goats and market gardening. I love every minute of it and hope to continue in the W.L.A. for quite a while yet.

Essex.

E. Cadman, 147560.

(See photograph below)





Joan Cope, 47667, Northants., has sent us the above photograph of the Red Cross Convalescent Home at Ashton Wold, where thirty-five beds are maintained by the Benevolent Fund and many land girls have had a happy convalescence.

Mrs. Rixon, 166248, Pembs., says that Christmas there was wonderful. Every girl had a present made up from gifts sent by the Australian, Canadian and British Red Cross. Some members from the local R.A.F. camp came to tea and dinner and the W.L.A. Choir sang carols. Dancing, a pageant and games kept everyone happy and Boxing Day was passed in much the same manner. On New Year's Eve, an ENSA troupe gave an entertainment and all the New Year's Eve traditions were faithfully carried out. Every member of the staff, from the Matron to the cook, contributed to giving all those who were there a very happy time.

Sausage Hot-Pot Recipe

Place 6 sausages in a greased casserole and 3 rashers of bacon on top. Shred a large onion, peel and slice 2 apples and bank up round sausages. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and powdered sage and add 6 tablespoons of water. Now fill up with 3 tomatoes and sliced potato. Place a small piece of dripping on top, put on lid and cook slowly for about 1½ hours.

The Land Army hostel at Nazcing in Essex had a long and happy series of Christmas gaieties. There was a party with a Christmas tree on December 17th and two nights later (which was bitterly cold) everybody went out singing carols round the countryside. On December 23rd a large Christmas dinner was followed by games and charades and on January 8th there was the grand outing, towards the expenses of which the girls had been contributing weekly since the early autumn. This took the form of a visit to the Ice Ballet at the Toll Theatre by motor coach and a grand meal afterwards at a restaurant.

Just before Christmas, fourteen enterprising volunteers from Sandown Hostel in the Isle of Wight collected over £11 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children by singing carols. They carried lanterns and the snow was very deep—it was a very good effort as the girls had been out working the last two days in the bitter cold.

COUNTY NEWS

BEDS.—We have been greatly honoured by the award in the New Year's Honours of the B.E.M. to G. M. Gray, 58933, now undergoing a Government Training Course at Moulton. Congratulations and all good wishes go to her in her future agricultural career. After the spell of very bad weather which kept many girls off the land, though they were very busy in other ways, all our labour is once more fully employed, preparing for the new season. On New Year's Day the foyer of the local Theatre was filled with Land Army attending the annual pantomime, and topical W.L.A. references won much applause. A grand Party Dance at the Corn Exchange on 24th Jan. was an unqualified success, and much credit must go to Mrs. Truman and Mrs. Sharman of the County Office staff, who helped to organise such a splendid dance. The original advertisement for dancing partners brought a good response from as far afield as Twickenham.

Miss Medley-Costin, our new Regional Officer, has paid a welcome visit to Bedfordshire. All will be very sorry to hear of the impending departure to Canada of Miss N. C. Davis, our Assistant Secretary, who will be greatly missed. We welcome Miss P. L. Gilbert as County Organiser in the Eastern area.

BERKS.—We were most proud that one of our volunteers, Miss Mabel Butler, 19576, received the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours. Miss Butler has completed seven years in the L.A. and has been employed in one job for the whole of this time doing milking and dairy work. Fellow milkers will indeed realise that this is indeed a very excellent record and no mean achievement. Miss Butler has recently been released, but is remaining with her present employers, combining some of her previous duties with those of "Mother's help". Hewens Wood Hostel is now running a Training Course for new recruits. Girls are being taught the rudiments of gang work by the B.W.A.E.C., the use and manipulation of tools etc., and are being generally built up physically. The Course is progressing most satisfactorily and we look forward to a continuous number of these trainings, which should prove very helpful to both girls and employers. Nearly all the hostels held gay parties and dances during the festive season, their hospitality being shared by many of the nearby troops.

We are very glad to welcome three new Committee members, Mrs. Beven, Mrs. Ripley and Lady Agnes Eyston. They are all well known for their excellent work as Local Reps. and we wish them every success in their new sphere.

BUCKS.—A Christmas Party was held at the Town Hall, High Wycombe, on Nov. 30th, when we had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Beale, O.B.E., County Chairman of London & Middlesex W.L.A., who presented long service armlets. An exceptionally large number of volunteers and guests were present and Mrs. Beale spoke of the value of the work of the older L.A. members and the new recruits who were following in their steps. A Land Girls' Conference, the first to be held in this county took place at the County Farm, Aylesbury, in Dec. when Miss Bower and Miss Doman were present, and kindly answered questions and made difficult points clear. A representative came from among the girls at each hostel, and also from the private employees, and many interesting questions were asked and ideas brought forward for recreation and entertainment. It was felt that this experiment

had been most successful and must be repeated. A delightful pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, was admirably performed by the girls, members of the staff and friends, of Sentry Hill Hostel in the Church Hall, Marlow, and repeat performances are being given in two other halls in aid of the Welfare Fund. The Pantomime was produced by Mr. Reynolds, husband of the Warden, and much credit is due to all who took part. The first performance raised £21 5s. 3d. A very successful dance run by the Warden and girls of "Berryfield" Hostel, Princes' Risborough, realised the satisfactory sum of £20 for St. Dunstan's.

CHESHIRE.—Since our last notes Cheshire has lost the help of Miss Donald as County Organiser. Owing to ill health Miss Donald has had to resign, and as she has been associated with the Land Army since the very early days, she will be very greatly missed by Cheshire Land Girls particularly those in the Wirral.

The Christmas activities in Cheshire have produced the sum of £346 6s. 0½d., £200 of which has been sent to the Benevolent Fund, and the balance to the County Welfare Fund. A successful dance was also arranged by Miss A. Boardman at the Ram's Head, Disley; as a result of this the sum of £11 4s. was raised for the Benevolent Fund.

CORNWALL.—Mrs. M. G. Oseinton, who has been Assistant County Secretary during the past year, has succeeded Mrs. C. E. Pierrepont as our County Secretary.

The Christmas Sales, which were held throughout the County in aid of the County Welfare Fund during Dec., realised the splendid sum of £251 12s. 10d. The Prize was awarded by our Chairman, Miss Johnstone, for the best effort and this was won, jointly, by Barn Lane Hostel, Bodmin and The Crag Hostel, Wadebridge. Their delightful handiwork was displayed in a shop window in Bodmin and attracted much attention from passers by. Practically everything was sold out before the actual opening date.

CUM. and WES.—Miss Gower, our popular Cumberland Organiser, left us at the end of December and is much missed in this county. We should like to thank her once again for her help during the last two years—particularly in the Penrith Club, which she decorated so beautifully—and for her unflinching cheerfulness even on the darkest of Cumberland days! We wish her a happy and successful career on the stage.

Our Xmas Draw was a great success and realised £126 for the County Welfare Fund. The L.G.'s who distributed most tickets were J. Collinswood and M. Byrne, each with £3 worth. An informal party was held for District Reps., volunteers and office staff, on Dec. 21st at the Penrith Club when Mrs. Hacking and Mrs. MacInnes drew the winning tickets. A special two-tier Christmas cake sent by Lazony Hostel caused much favourable comment at tea-time! We congratulate Bolton Hall Hostel on their recent dance which made a profit of £6 7s. 6d. for the Benevolent Fund. Pears' demonstrators toured our hostels during Dec., and we are now looking forward eagerly to a further visit from Mrs. Browne, of the Central Council of Health Education, whose visit a year ago was an outstanding success.

DENBIGHS.—In spite of the fact that our numbers in the hostels have considerably dwindled and we have had to say goodbye, with regret to many "old stagers", the new girls and our Ward-mens have organised their usual Xmas Dances and Xmas Parties. Mrs. Podger has visited all the hostels and given her health talk. The talks were very much appreciated and, we are glad to say that she is returning in April.

We would like the privately employed girls to know how much their services are appreciated by their employers. Miss Martin, our Organiser, who now does most of the visiting cannot speak too highly of their worth and their employers' admiration.

DERBS.—Christmas and New Year parties were held in all the hostels and these were thoroughly enjoyed by L.G.'s and their friends. The wardens and staff worked extremely hard to make these parties a great success and the girls very much appreciated this. We are very sorry indeed that the privately employed L.G.'s live too far away from the hostels to join in these festivities. The girls at Trustley Manor Hostel gave a New Year Party to the children in the village. This is an annual event and the children always have a very happy time. Quite a number of members who are qualified to sign on for another year and have a State-Paid Holiday are doing so, and we hope that many more will follow their lead.

DEVON.—About 450 L.A. members were present at a very successful rally in Exeter on Dec. 14th. The Chairman of the D.W.A.E.C. opened the proceedings and presented 6-year armlets to 18 members. There was an exhibition of handicrafts, 192 entries in all, including needlework, knitting, toys and painting, and the standard of work was very high. Prizes were awarded for the best articles in each group. After a wonderful tea a drama competition took place. There were 17 entries from hostels and individual members. The prize winners for group entries were Redworth House, Totnes, for a lively rendering of "potted pantomime", and Fairfield House, Honiton for a beautiful presentation of a Holy Night scene. The individual items were won by Miss Maddison for piano solos, and Miss K. Snowden for three charming songs. It was a happy day altogether, and everybody is laughing still at Miss Bastin's performance in the humorous skit presented by the office staff! Parties and dances were held throughout the county at Christmas and New Year, and a delightful spirit prevailed. Some girls from Whimble House went carol singing and raised a creditable sum for the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital. Miss Phillott and the Bere Alston girls held a dance and raised £21 odd for the Benevolent Fund. They are to be congratulated on this great achievement. Cookery classes have been resumed, and other hostels have started a dressmaking course, and some girls are taking music lessons. We are very glad to welcome 20 Land Army members from different parts of the country who have started a training course at Bickton Hall and we hope that they will enjoy their stay in this county.

Special Announcement

LONDON CLUBHOUSE

Courtauld House is a club for the members of the W.F.G.A.
Charges 10/- a night for dinner, bed and breakfast.

THE WOMEN'S FARM AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION,

Courtauld House, Byng Place,
LONDON, W.C.1 Euston 3651.

Membership 12/6 a year including regular news sheets

DURHAM.—In the words of our Chairman, Jan. 11th, 1947, will be a day long remembered in the Durham section of the W.L.A. All the L.G.'s who were able (approximately 400), attended our gathering. Everyone agreed that it was a most enjoyable time well spent. First, we all had a grand tea together and great was the excitement at the

meeting of old friends from every corner of the county. There was a good little band, and incidentally plenty of impromptu W.L.A. crooners who threatened at times to engulf the musicians, so great was their fervour. Our Chairman, Lady Starmer, gave an address and presented long service arm-bands to the following 4-year girls:—K. Dunn, 95609, R. Delany, 93832, E. Bell, 102683 and J. Jamieson, 68008, and complimented all who have served so faithfully and well. We then had an inspiring talk by Mr. Bruce, Executive Officer of the D.W.A.E.C., who spoke of the excellent work done by the W.L.A. in the past, and urged still greater efforts in the future. Miss Brown, Vice-Chairman of the W.L.A. Committee, then spoke briefly and with feeling. Then followed a few words by Miss Griffith, County Secretary, to whose able organisation we owed our splendid day. We then departed en masse to the pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, at the Sunderland "Empire". Here we discovered unsuspected depths of talent in two of our members; A. Craddock, 164232, of Chester-le-Street Hostel, who added greatly to the merriment of the audience, and M. Carr, 169357, from Consett Hostel, who sang to us very sweetly. After the show there was a concerted rush to the various buses provided and the 400 had soon departed, tired but happy.

ESSEX.—Christmas made a welcome break in the monotony of sugar beet lifting and very good parties were arranged in all hostels. Other activities included Arts Council Concerts, Health Lectures and Dancing Classes which have been extremely popular. Just after Christmas a Leaders' Course was held at the Writtle Institute of Agriculture and the volunteers taking part in this were entertained at a party given by the County Welfare Committee. After tea an excellent conjuring performance trick after trick to the delight and complete mystification of his audience. We shall never forget the look of awe on the face of one volunteer who was asked to hold a slate while it was written upon by a spirit! The County Welfare Fund has bought reproductions to form a Picture Library for the hostels. These have been processed in plastic instead of framing with glass and are most attractive. Congratulations to Juliet Budge, 108280, who has obtained a vacancy at the Agricultural Training Centre at Bicton Hall, Devon.

Miss Johnston, new County Organiser for the Tilbury and Southend area, joined us on Jan. 27th and we hope that she will be very happy working with us.

GLOS.—Proficiency Tests were held at Brockworth Court at the end of the year when the following passed:—E. Worrall, 151452; J. M. Geoghegan, 159566; S. M. Healey, 85248; R. M. Callen, 278485, and L. J. Barge, 111874. We send them our congratulations. Miss Colnett and Lady Susan Hicks-Beach were the judges. The latter very kindly came from Wiltshire for the occasion. Southam Priory Hostel has closed and the volunteers have transferred to Shurdington. We



A happy group at Ruthin, Denbighshire.

are glad to think we are not losing the Warden, Mrs. Woolford, from Gloucestershire. She is taking over Wicks Elm, Berkeley, and Mrs. Forward will be going to the new hostel we are opening shortly at Syston Court. P. J. Tongue, W.L.A. 5749, was awarded the special prize for long good service in the W.L.A. at the end of the year. Miss Tongue enrolled in the L.A. in Sept. 1939, and has been working for Mr. Gabb at Stonehouse ever since. Miss Worrall and Miss Steward, who are working at Chedwood, were woken up one morning by their dog, who insisted on making them get up! Luckily they obeyed his instructions as the cottage was on fire! They managed to get most of the furniture out, and with the help of the other farm labour, the fire was extinguished. We are very glad that Mrs. Tamplin from the Central Council of Health is visiting the County again in March, and will tour all the hostels. Her talks have always been greatly appreciated. Gloucestershire W.L.A. are glad to welcome four ex-convalescers who have taken over 4 acres of land at the Land Settlement Estate at Newent. They are Sylvia Hazelgrove, Sylvia Thwaite, Elsie Hodges and Gladys Hobbs. We wish them the very best of good luck in their venture.

HANTS.—Our news this month is mostly of Christmas parties. Every hostel has had one and at Redenham the girls entertained the children from the Andover orphanage. There was a Christmas tree and a present for each child. Diana Stanley has run a very successful dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund, a special feature of which was the cabaret got up by herself with the Brook House girls. The cabaret was repeated at two of the six parties run by the Welfare Committee for all volunteers in the county. Owing to the great distances in Hants, the parties had to be run in six parts! They were all crowded out and it is calculated that at least two-thirds of the volunteers in the county were able to attend. As ever, at this time of year, our thanks are due to Mrs. Madley for her indefatigable efforts on behalf of our fund. The money raised by the Caledonian Market and the Winchester Ball have made our good times possible.

HEREFORDS.—Our annual Christmas Party held on Dec. 14th was most successful. More than 75 per cent. of the total girls in the county were present. The Hostel Drama Competition was held in conjunction with the Party and everyone enjoyed the variety of items. Brockington Hostel won first prize (a visit to the Pantomime for all the girls in the Hostel). Perrystone Court Hostel came second and Kingsland third, with a special mention for two girls from Redhill Hostel. The items included sketches, Nativity Plays, Hawaiian Dances and Songs. The Arts Council have given a concert to five of our hostels and were very much appreciated. Mrs. Tamplin from the Health Council has given talks to all our hostels on "Health and Happiness". Great progress has been made under the further educational scheme and hostels are having French classes. P.T. and music. Brockington Hostel hired a hall in Bromyard at the end of January and put on a show for the Benevolent Fund. E. Meredith, 163097, organised a dance in Fownhope on Jan. 24th in aid of the Benevolent Fund. Mrs. Pittott, one of our D.R.'s, held a Whist Drive at Holme Lacy for the Benevolent Fund on Feb. 7th.

HERTS.—December brought with it the usual round of parties and beautifully decorated hostels, decorations which lend colour and cheerfulness to the duller of recreation rooms. On Dec. 27th, Mr. and Mrs. Karl and Peter left Serge Hill for their new home in America; they take with them the good wishes of all who know them in the county. For over 4 years they were Wardens of this hostel and made it a happy home for all volunteers who went there. The Christmas Bazaar held at the Corn Exchange, Hertford, raised over £200 for the County Welfare and Benevolent Funds. We are most grateful to all volunteers who worked so hard

for it and also to all our farmer friends who gave so generously. Mrs. Muir, our Welfare Section Officer, worked unremittingly over its organisation and its success was largely due to her efforts. Holmes Hill Hostel opened at the end of Nov. as a training hostel for general farm and field workers. Our W.A.E.C. is once more helping us most generously and we hope that all through this year, we shall train 20 new recruits a month. From the hostel, girls will be drafted to other hostels or to private farms. On Jan. 7th Ayot House, Ayot St. Lawrence was opened as a W.L.A. hostel. This most beautiful house has been used as a Ministry of Supply hostel during the war. Miss Beecher, the Warden, is staying with us and we welcome her to the W.L.A. organisation.

HUNTS., CAMBS. and ELY.—J. Stratton is the first L.A. girl from this area to stay at Ashton Wold Convalescent Home. She had an operation for appendicitis prior to Christmas and was at the home over the festive season. She said she was almost glad to have had an illness as it had given her the chance to stay at Ashton! We were lucky enough to have Victoria Kinsley, Tilly Connelly and Gethyn Wykham-George from the Arts Council with us on 20th Jan. at Sawtry where they gave us an exceedingly good concert. Unfortunately, the concert at Thornley on the following night had to be cancelled owing to fog. On 16th Jan. 150 L.G.'s saw "Dick Whittington" at Cambridge, and on 22nd Jan. 110 girls from Hunts. and the Isle of Ely saw "Mother Goose" at Peterborough. A Dance at St. Ives for the Welfare Fund was a great success. Congratulations to J. Grimsey on winning a Silver Cup for Singing at a Talents Competition held at Ferstanton in Dec., and "Thank you" to the Carol Singers from Newton Hall Training Centre who raised £5 6s. for the Benevolent Fund. Ely Hostel have held several parties for their Polish friends and on 3rd Jan. a present from the Polish boys was a marvellous iced cake with the Polish Eagle in the centre.

We are glad to have Miss Tipping back with us after two months sick leave.

I.O.W.—December and January have been very quiet months; many old and valued members claiming their release, and a number of newer ones falling by the way-side, unable to stand up to the more rigorous conditions of winter. Christmas saw our Sandown Hostel almost empty. Everyone's thoughts were concentrated for weeks before-hand on the pleasing prospect of going home for practically a full week. We are now busy organising a dance at the big Drill Hall, Newport, which we hope will benefit substantially the Benevolent Fund and our own local Welfare Fund, both of which have been drawn on considerably of late, and the latter is now in very low water indeed. The date fixed is March 1st.

It is with very great regret that we have said good-bye to Miss Venham, who has been a District Rep. for over four years but we extend a hearty welcome to Miss O'dham who recently took over Mrs. Bunbury's district, and who has now consented to look after Miss Venham's members as well.

KENT.—East and West Kent have been amalgamated so there is now only one County Office at West Malling. The E. Kent girls will be sorry to lose Miss Butler, their Secretary, but with such reduced numbers it was felt that two offices were unnecessary.

Most of the hostels gave very successful parties with Christmas trees and Christmas dinners. These meant a good deal of work and organisation but a lot of enjoyment too and all concerned had a lovely time. On Dec. 7th, Lyncroft Hostel ran a most successful Sale in aid of the Welfare Fund. It was organised by the staff and girls. Mrs. Stevens, the County Secretary, opened the Sale. She was welcomed by a "Guard of Honour" of L.G.'s and presented with a lovely bouquet. The stalls were laden with gifts which were quickly sold, the raffles were most popular, and as a result the sum

of £28 4s. was handed over to the Welfare Fund. A Grand Dance and Cabaret was given in Maidstone on Dec. 11th by the County Chairman and Comm. to all the L.G.'s in Kent. Over 800 turned up, some of them from the remotest parts of the county. It was a great success and the girls enjoyed it. To quote from the letter of a girl who went—"Bright lights, a gay crowd, men in uniform and the room one hubbub of merriment. I was there to enjoy myself and I did". Unfortunately Lady Violet Astor, the County Chairman was unable to be present, but Lord Northbourne kindly deputised for her.

LANCS. is very proud of the fact that Miss Betty Holmes, 22913, has been awarded the B.E.M. Miss Holmes has been a member of the W.L.A. since 1940 and has given excellent service. Two of our L.G.'s, D. Darbyshire, 60391, and P. M. Forster, 73483, were accepted for training at Newton Hall, Cambridge, and are both enjoying the course very much indeed. Seven Lancashire girls were unfortunately in hospital at Christmas but they were all cheered by the greetings and a gift of 10s. from the County Welfare Fund.

We are very sorry indeed to lose the services of our County Organiser, Mrs. A. Robertson, M.B.E., who has left to take up a position with the National Advisory Service in Staffordshire. Mrs. Robertson had been with the L.A. in Lancashire for over seven years and will be greatly missed. We wish her every success in her new post.

LEICS. & RUT.—A very successful Prize Draw was held at the County Office in Dec. for the County Welfare Fund, the total proceeds being £276 5s. 10d. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who worked to make the Draw a success and also the Prize givers. At Xmas time there were the usual round of parties and entertainments in our hostels and we would congratulate the Wardens and their staff on the amount of work undertaken so cheerfully to make these a success. One of the hostels has recently had cookery demonstrations and a number of the volunteers were responsible for making the cakes etc., for their party. The Wardens and volunteers in the hostels, 10 in all, each undertook to give a Xmas parcel to our very sick volunteers in hospital or at home, and these were very much appreciated. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking those who have recently helped to raise money for the Benevolent Fund. We do hope that friends will continue this good work, as a great many volunteers in our counties have received, and are receiving, substantial grants and we are anxious to do our bit towards helping the Fund.

HOLLAND (LINCS.)—With some hostels holding over Christmas Parties until Jan. we have had an extended festive season in Holland, and members of the office staff were entertained by Mrs. Proctor, our Chairman, in her usual hospitable manner. At present we have Mrs. Griver and her daughter, of Messrs. Pears, touring our Hostels and their Beauty Culture demonstrations are proving most popular and helpful. Our Spalding Hostel organised a dance at the Corn Exchange on Feb. 5th, in aid of the local Hospital and the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund jointly. Bank House volunteers are practising untiringly for another Show, the date of which is not yet decided. We welcome Mrs. Clayton as the Warden of our Wyberton Rectory Hostel.

LINDSEY and KESTIVEN (LINCS.)—The majority of the hostels have been indulging in Christmas and New Year parties during the past few weeks. Congratulations to Miss Goodacre on her promotion to the post of Pioneer Warden for the County. Miss Goodacre was previously Warden at Revesby Hostel and we hope she will be happy in her new work. Bassingham Hostel held a most successful party on 14th Jan. They are to be congratulated on their excellent floor show—their songs and dances showed real talent. Our good wishes go to the members of Allington

THE LAND GIRL

Hostel who have now finished their fourteen weeks of intensive training in the various sections of agricultural work. Coming as "raw recruits" in Oct. from London and Middlesex they now go to their new jobs as trained "tough" L.G.'s. We wish them the best of luck and hope they will be happy in their new surroundings.

We are sorry to hear that our County Organiser, Miss Sampson, is leaving shortly and hope she will be happy in whatever new work she secures.

(Retrieved from the Christmas post)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The resignation of our Chairman, Lady Spencer, is a very great grief to all those connected with the W.L.A. in this County and elsewhere. For seven and a half years Lady Spencer has guided us and has worked unceasingly and unsparingly with and for us. The scope of her work extended far beyond this County and not only "our" Land Army but the Land Army as a whole will miss her. To us in Northamptonshire who were proud to call her our friend as well as our Chairman, who owe so much to her personal day to day care and thought for us, and her gift for making "grey things golden seem", Lady Spencer will always be part of the whole and her inspiration will long outlast our Land Army days. We hope sincerely that Lady Spencer's health will soon improve.

We welcome Miss Lees as our new Chairman. Miss Lees has served on the Welfare Sub-Committee ever since its inception and has been one of our invaluable representatives, and we are very grateful that she has consented to take Lady Spencer's place.

The last Y.W.C.A. Hostel was handed over to the management of the Land Army on December 1st and we parted with great regret and much gratitude from the most helpful and indefatigable Y.W.C.A. Regional Organisers who had looked after them for us. It is a great pleasure to us that so many of the wardens are remaining with us and we are very grateful to them. The air is very full of Xmas parties, and the hostels have very much enjoyed their visits to the Repertory Theatres at Kettering, Northampton and Peterborough, at all of which we have permanent bookings of a block of seats.

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

The cost of advertisements in this column is 2d. a word.

Advertisements offering a price are accepted only on the understanding that if a would-be buyer sends cash with her order, she is at liberty to return the goods and will then receive her cash back, less cost of postage. Anyone sending cash should enclose stamps for its return if the goods have been sold.

FOR SALE.—Ladies riding jacket. Lovat tweed, seldom worn. Bust 36. £4 10s. Also ladies brown boots, size 6, excellent condition, £2. Both no coupons. Guthrie-Smith, Blairhill, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross-shire.

FOR SALE.—Pair of brown breeches with leg strappings. Hardly worn. Waist 30. Inside leg 23. 45s. B'dock, c/o Fields Farm, Haversham, Wolverton, Bucks.

FOR SALE.—Hunting boots, size 7; black jacket, bust 35; also summer jodhpurs, waist 27. **WANTED** or exchange with above, larger jacket and jodhpurs. Rudland, c/o Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln.

FOR SALE.—Ladies' and childrens' Fair Isle berets, 12s. 6d. and 15s. 6d. Fair Isle mitts, 12s. 6d. and 17s. 6d. Various colours. Ornamental sealina-wax earrings, 4s. pair. Red and black wedge heel soles, suitable for sandals, 17s. 6d. Dark tan brogues, suit W.L.A. member, 18s. Both 7. **WANTED.**—Smart ladies costume, any colour. Bust 36, hips 38. Miss Edwards, Station Post Office, R.A.F. Wyton, Huntingden.

County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Kent	9804	17	6	1419
Surrey	5547	0	7	1226
Essex	5658	5	0	1024
Hertfordshire ..	4801	19	2	920
Yorks., W.R. ..	3527	15	4	897
Hampshire	8663	4	2	878
Northants	2887	6	5	839
Leics. and Rut. ..	2692	16	7	810
Bucks.	4915	7	8	801
Warwick.	7556	9	9	799
Devon	4163	19	0	737
West Sussex	5178	2	6	694
Yorks., E. and N. Riding	2906	19	2	685
Beds.	1070	16	6	663
Cornwall	1675	5	11	657
Worcs.	3100	0	0	645
Somerset	2780	18	0	625
Lincs., Lindsey & Kesteven	3276	14	4	595
East Sussex	4192	10	9	589
Oxfordshire	3867	4	3	589
Norfolk	6301	4	6	582
Northumberland ..	2858	10	3	568
Gloucester	2706	1	2	568
Hunts., Cambs. & Ely	3752	8	7	541
Notts.	1857	6	1	517
Cheshire	3529	19	4	500
Berks.	3556	10	8	497
Wilts.	2072	9	9	453
Durham	2043	11	2	448
East Suffolk	3607	9	3	442
Glamorgan	1180	0	3	410
Staffs.	1818	14	9	400
Cumb. & West'd. ..	753	3	6	391
Dorset	1475	19	8	367
Monmouth	1051	17	0	363
Salop.	1954	3	11	361
Hereford.	1866	10	4	360
Flint.	708	3	6	323
Lancs.	2842	6	8	316
Lincs.—Holland ..	2075	2	0	302
North Wales	2028	14	2	297
West Suffolk	2172	10	6	279
Brecon, Mont. & Radnor	863	19	0	269
Denbigh.	1209	16	11	251
Cards. & Carm's. ..	776	5	5	242
Derby	1546	12	4	193
London & Middx. ..	1294	12	7	188
I.O.W.	295	15	2	158
Pembroke.	1122	2	8	145

The total number of volunteers in employment on 18th January, 1947, was 26,823.

"THE LAND GIRL"

Published Mid-monthly

Order from your County Office or from THE LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.