

FLYING MEDICAL SERVICE STAFF

Executive Officer: Mr. S. HUMMERSTON
Medical Officers: Dr. M. MUELLER, O.B.E.
 Dr. D. TINDAL
Matron: Sister M. HOPE

HOSPITAL CENTRES

CEDUNA, S.A.
 The Murat Bay District Hospital—
 Sisters V. HOLLE, M. BELL, M. CUTHBERT, V. GAMEAU, B. SMITH, Misses D. DUVER and L. WHITE.

WUDINNA, S.A.
 The Central Eyre Peninsula Hospital—
 Matron: Sister J. ZILLMAN.
 Sisters N. WILKINS, D. WHYBURN, M. MACKENZIE, Miss M. CHADWICK.

COOK, S.A.
 The Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital—
 Sisters B. FOX, M. ROSS.

TARCOOLA, S.A.
 The Tarcoola Hospital—
 Sisters M. TARR, J. GRIFFEN.

PENONG, S.A.
 The Penong Memorial Hospital—
 Vacant.

COOBER PEDY, S.A.
 The Coober Pedy Medical Centre—
 Sisters V. COCHRANE, H. HEAVER.

RAWLINNA, W.A.
 The Nursing Hostel—
 Sister E. THOMAS.

AIRCRAFT

Cessna 210 — VH-AEC	Mr. A. E. CHADWICK	Miss R. McLACHLAN.
Cessna 210 — VH-FMS	Mr. J. LINDRIDGE	
Beagle Airedale — VH-UEP	Mr. W. BEDFORD	

PILOTS

PHARMACIST

RADIO CONTROL STATION

Control Officer — Mr. K. ELLIS
 Mr. A. E. CHADWICK
 Miss FARR



*The
 Real
 Australian*

The Bush Church Aid Society
for Australia and Tasmania

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VICE-PRESIDENT

The Most Reverend, The Archbishop of Melbourne.

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Marryatville, S.A.
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141 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

HONORARY AUDITOR

F. W. A. Eagar and Co.,
8 Belgrave Street,
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B.C.A. HOUSE

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Telegraphic Address: "Chaplaincy", Sydney.

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Morton House,
262 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.
Phone: 63 8962.

"AUSTRALIA FOR CHRIST"



from the
FEDERAL
SECRETARY

With each successive issue of this magazine we have tried to build a more personalized picture of the Society at work. The informative cover pages and the liftout prayer pages as well as the variety of articles from the staff, have been amplified as space and circumstance allow.

Within this issue we have included small photographs of some of our staff members. This, no doubt, will call forth the wrath of some of them but we hope it will be appreciated by others. Our purpose in this is very definite, for we believe that it is by a vital personal concern that we can strengthen the prayerful and practical interest of our readers. Let us never lose sight of the fact that behind the composite story of Society endeavour lies the personal contribution of individual people.

You may read of a new venture in faith in a mission dis-

trict, a medical ministry to meet an emergency situation, the routine of Christian living in hostel work, or any other facet of Society endeavour, and overlook the personal contribution of those concerned. Of course, the hallmark of Christian service is the abandonment of self, and our staff would be the first to submit that, under God, their personal contribution is to be reckoned in His sight and not the sight of men.

In a similar vein one is constantly made aware of the measure of sacrificial support given by some who stand behind our ministries. I have been humbled, many times, by those who have given freely of their talents—in money, in time and in ability—with the same selfless spirit of devotion which I have seen evidenced within those called of God to go forth in His name.

Individual people, singly or

together as a family, face the exacting task of personal expenditure of themselves to the uttermost. Often this is not an isolated experience but for many is an almost constant state of demand. Achievement and frustration go hand in hand for them as for all who set their hand firmly to the task of extending the Kingdom of God.

To those outside the Christian experience, the selfless devotion of others should stand as a witness and challenge. Herein lies the evangelistic content of our service to the human community. Vital as this is, however, it must not rest here. Those of us who "profess and call ourselves Christian" must be challenged by the faith, vision, energy and devotion of others, to Him. Surely we cannot shelter behind their doing so much, when our contribution is often so little. Pious expres-

sions of praise and gratitude to God will too often reflect this hollow note of hypocrisy unless our own willingness to spend and be spent is of the same calibre.

Read on now and appraise each situation in relation to our own personal commitment. Remember that the same Spirit, by His constant companionship, offers the same measure of encouragement and power to those of us who are willing to place ourselves at His disposal.

THE B.C.A. WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

ANNUAL FAIR

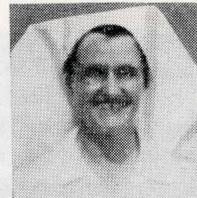
ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL CHAPTER HOUSE

Friday, 23rd July, 1965

Commencing at 11 a.m.

COOPER PEDY

Sister V. Cochrane



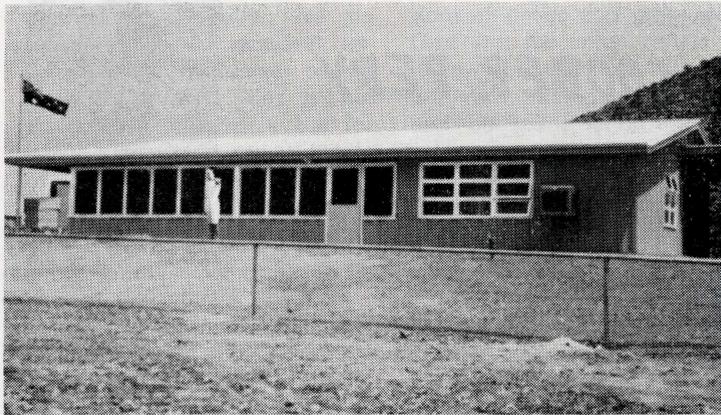
The Coober Pedy Medical Centre is situated approximately half a mile out of the township which comprises four stores, hall, garage and the Lutheran Church. During the cooler months of the year the population is approximately 1,500, and consists of both aboriginal and white people and comprises a number of nationalities.

When I was appointed here, I felt it was a challenge, not only with the commencement of the medical centre, but also because of further opportunity for spiritual work. Sister Heaver and I were here for a week prior to the opening and spent this time unpacking drugs, groceries, etc., besides cleaning the place up, making beds, hanging curtains and all those things which are so necessary before an official opening. The day after the opening, an account of which was given in the last R.A., we opened for business and were being pitied by some people, as they were expecting us to have a rush of patients.

Instead of that we did not have one customer. Our first inpatient was a midwifery case who was admitted at 3 a.m. the next morning, but was flown out to Tarcoola prior to the birth.

The first two or three weeks were rather slack, but our outpatient numbers have increased rapidly; we now have treated 350 patients in two months, our worst case being an aboriginal woman who was brought in at 1 a.m. a few weeks ago. Three women were fighting over one man and an iron bar and a lump of wood with a four inch nail in it were used as weapons to hit each other over the head. Consequently one required 15 stitches and the other three stitches in their heads. Both claimed they didn't even have a headache. We had 9 inpatients, one being an emergency appendix case, who was flown to Ceduna.

One of our main difficulties is finding out the surname of some of the aboriginal children. We have discovered in some cases that if the father brings



"The Coober Pedy Medical Centre"

the child for treatment, the child takes his surname. If the mother brings the same child in the child gets her surname—woe to our records!

It has been a great joy commencing regular religious instruction lessons at the school for half an hour each week, and also commencing a Sunday School in the garage at the hospital. The first day there were eight children present and this number has gradually increased to fourteen. The children who come seem to be interested and enjoy themselves; in fact, two of the older girls have arrived at 8.30 a.m. for 10 a.m. Sunday School.

We praise God for the willingness of some of the people here to lend us equipment for Sunday School. Chairs and a blackboard have been loaned until we are able to obtain our own equipment. We thank God for the willingness of the Council of Leigh Creek Church of England to provide finance for the necessary lesson books, etc., which were required for the commencement of the Sunday School.

Would you pray for this work which has been commenced in the Lord's name, that the work will not be hindered through any lack and that all may bring Glory to His Name?

MEDICAL CALL

John Lindridge

It was a typical Monday morning in Ceduna. The sky was cloudless and the temperature about 90 degrees and rising. Nothing requiring a flight had occurred on the 8 a.m. session, although Sister Cochrane had admitted another patient at Coober Pedy.

By morning tea time Monday-itis had been beaten and I had done some routine maintenance on F.M.S. The radio, which had been playing up, seemed O.K. after cleaning the relay contacts, and the grease spot on the carpet had come out with detergent. All was well in the camp. That was, of course, until the noon medical session.

My phone rang at ten minutes past twelve. "Radio base here. Dr. Mueller would like to go to Coober Pedy at one o'clock. A possible stretcher patient to evacuate."

That gave me 50 minutes. Plenty of time for a quick lunch.

As Coober Pedy is in the

Rocket Range, I rang Airadio for permission to fly in the range then checked with the executive officer for freight or drugs to go on the flight. Then a quick lunch and out to the aerodrome.

I made out a flight plan for the round trip then pulled F.M.S. out of the hangar and put the stretcher in the luggage compartment.

Dr. Mueller and Sister MacKenzie arrived, and we were soon on our way. We climbed to 7000 ft. to get above the turbulence, then settled down to a comfortable flight.

Our track took us over the coastal wheat belt, then over the sand hills. This country consists of continuous sand hills, covered with light Mallee scrub, with a few salt lakes here and there. Good country for kangaroos, and nothing else.

Forty minutes after take off we passed the last sand hill and came to the East-West Railway Line. Malbooma siding was just to one side. We were on course and cruising at 179 m.p.h.

The road to Mulgathing and Commonwealth Hill stations showed up well. Sister MacKenzie, who was on her first visit to Coober Pedy was horrified to learn that they were neighbours but still lived 25 miles apart.

By this time we were in the

rocket range but clearance had been given for the flight so we were quite safe. Lake Warrada, a dry salt lake, came into view. Then it was time to let down. We started to rock and roll in turbulence below 6,000 ft. and we were all pleased to report "Circuit area Coober Pedy" to Airadio.

Sister Heather Heaver was there to meet us with the Holden, and after unloading the stretcher we drove in to the Medical Centre. Sister Vaisey Cochrane met us at the door, and after the usual greetings, Dr. Mueller went in to see the patient.

The patient was a newcomer to Coober Pedy, a middle-aged woman, and she had suspected appendicitis. Dr. Mueller, after examination, decided to transfer her to Ceduna, so while her husband went to pack her case, we had a welcome "cuppa".

We laid the Holden seats flat, thus making a satisfactory ambulance, put the patient on the stretcher and drove back to the aerodrome.

Within minutes we were on our way again. This time Sister Mackenzie was too busy attending to the patient to admire (??) the scenery. We had a bumpy climb which didn't help the patient, but at 8,000 ft. it was smooth and she dozed off.

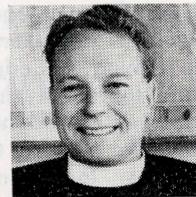
I spoke to our radio base to advise the hospital to prepare for a patient and also to meet the plane with the ambulance. These arrangements made, we could again relax and watch the country unfold beneath us.

Fifteen minutes out of Ceduna we commenced our descent and as we landed the ambulance arrived at the hangar. The patient was transferred, and at 8 o'clock in the evening Dr. Mueller and Dr. Tindal operated to remove a gangrenous appendix.

A normal type of situation that is handled regularly all over Australia. A sick patient, the Doctor calls, the patient to hospital, operation, patient recovers. Ceduna is different only in one respect—distance. When a patient calls the Flying Medical Service they could be up to 300 air miles away—two days away by bush roads. Air, of course, is the only means of travel.

Thus the Flying Medical Service with its radio operators, doctors, outback hospitals, aircraft and pilots are giving medical protection to over 10,000 square miles of outback South Australia, giving these people security in knowing that in times of sickness or injury we are there to help them.

TIMBOON



Reverend A. Baker

On more than one occasion I have been told by other members of B.C.A. staff that I am most fortunate to have a lovely little parish like Timboon. During the past twelve months I have come to appreciate their remarks.

When I read and hear of the tremendous areas of most B.C.A. centres covering thousands of square miles, and the type of country they contain. I must agree, Timboon is a lovely little parish. It covers an area of about 750 square miles, and within that area one finds both beautiful, rich countryside and a notorious rugged coastline. Apart from Timboon, services are conducted in four other centres, namely, Simpson, Peterborough, Curdies River and Princetown.

Perhaps the main feature of Timboon itself is the large consolidated school attended by 1,200 children. These children are transported from the surrounding districts by buses; some travel up to 30 miles to the school.

Simpson is an area which holds a considerable amount of interest. It is an area which has recently been cleared and divided into farm blocks by the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission. Already more than 180 families have settled on these dairy farms since the scheme commenced just over four years ago.

Included in the duties of the parish is the position of part-time chaplain at the Coorie-mungle Prison Farm. This is an open prison where 50 to 60 men are engaged in land clearing, farm work and the running of their own saw mill. I visit the farm each Wednesday afternoon when time is spent mixing amongst the men, chatting and joining in the various recreational activities. Following the evening meal a short service is conducted; Holy Communion is celebrated each quarter. This work has proved most interesting and provides many opportunities to be of assistance to the men in both a spiritual and practical way.

● Just 20 years ago this month, the Real Australian announced the coming to Ceduna of Sister Vera Holle at a time when the staff was indeed hard pressed. We give thanks to God for such a long and valuable period of service. Sister Holle has served the people of the west coast at Ceduna, Wudinna, Tarcoola, Penong. She was sister-in-charge at Tarcoola when the present hospital was opened in 1956, and recently was sister-in-charge at Penong. At present she is serving at the Murat Bay District Hospital, Ceduna.



Sister V. Holle.

● The N.S.W. Secretary, the Reverend L. J. Wiggins, is to spend June and July as locum tenens in the Derby Mission of North West Australia. We will by then, be able to announce the name of the new missionary.



● Incidentally, in the paragraph recording Sister Holle's joining the staff, the article goes on to state that "at least three more double certificated nurses are urgently needed for the Medical service." That was in 1945. Now in 1965 our urgent need is for at least three double certificated nurses who would serve for a period of at least two years.

● Many thanks are due to Miss Rowena McLachlan for her valued help in relieving work at the Ceduna Pharmacy for the past six months, and for her offer to stay an extra month, thus giving us extra time to find a qualified Christian Pharmacist.

● Our congratulations to David and Anne McDougall on the safe arrival at Ceduna of young Peter McDougall.

The Place of Prayer



The following pages represent a daily prayer calendar which will be revised with each issue. We earnestly seek your prayers for the individual members of our staff. We suggest you remove these centre pages from the magazine and keep them for your regular devotional use.

"Let us ask God that they may receive from Him all wisdom and spiritual understanding for full insight into His will, so that their manner of life may be worthy of the Lord and entirely pleasing to Him. Pray that they may bear fruit in active goodness of every kind and grow in the knowledge of God. May He strengthen them, in His glorious might, with ample power to meet whatever comes with fortitude, patience and joy; and to give thanks to the Father who has made them fit to share the heritage of God's people in the realm of light."

(Adapted from Colossians 1 N.E.B.)

- 1st** The Rev. and Mrs. Ray Neve and the Wilcannia Mission, N.S.W.
- 2nd** The Rev. and Mrs. Brian Viney and the Menindee Mission, N.S.W.
- 3rd** The Rev. and Mrs. Brian O'Grady and the Tarraleah Mission, Tasmania.
- 4th** Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kerr, Miss Myra Attwood and the boys at the Broken Hill Hostel, N.S.W.
- 5th** The Rev. Alan Baker and the Timboon Mission, Victoria.
- 6th** The Rev. Alan McMahon and the Quorn Mission, S.A.
- 7th** The Rev. and Mrs. Ron Keynes and the Leigh Creek Mission, S.A.
- 8th** Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rich and the girls at the Port Lincoln Hostel, S.A.
- 9th** Miss Rose Campbell, Miss Dianne Sidebottom and all the helpers and scholars in the Mail Bag Sunday School.
- 10th** Mr. and Mrs. John Lindridge, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Chadwick and the flying within the Medical Service.
- 11th** Mr. and Mrs. Stan Hummerston and the administrative work within the Flying Medical Service.
- 12th** The Rev. and Mrs. John Wyndham and the North-West Line Mission, Tarcoola, S.A.
- 13th** The parishioners and organisations of the Derby Mission, W.A.
- 14th** Miss Rowena McLachlan and the work at the Ceduna Pharmacy, S.A.

- 15th** The Rev. Theo Hayman, Mr. Alban Kirkby and the South Australian Representation.
- 16th** Mr. and Mrs. Sid Bennetts, Miss Win Ikin and the boys at Urallie Hostel, Moree, N.S.W.
- 17th** Mr. Kevin Ellis, Miss M. Farr at the Radio Control Station, the Radio School Teacher and children.
- 18th** The Rev. and Mrs. Barry Green and the Ord River Mission, W.A.
- 19th** Sisters Marion Hope, Vera Holle, Mavis Bell, Val Gameau, Meryl Cuthbert, Beverly Smith and Misses Dorothy Duver and Lesley White at the Ceduna Hospital, S.A.
- 20th** Dr. Merna Mueller, Dr. and Mrs. Don Tindal, and the patients within the Medical practice.
- 21st** Sisters Barbara Fox and Maude Ross at Cook Hospital, S.A.
- 22nd** Sisters Marjorie Tarr and Jean Griffen at Tarcoola Hospital, S.A.
- 23rd** Sisters Vaisey Cochrane and Heather Heaver at the Coober Pedy Medical Centre, S.A., and Sister Edna Thomas at the Rawlinna Nursing Home, W.A.
- 24th** Sisters Julia Zillman, Nancy Wilkins, Dorothy Whyburn, Margaret Mackenzie and Miss Margaret Chadwick at Wudinna Hospital, S.A., Mr. Bill Bedford and the patients carried by air.
- 25th** The Rev. and Mrs. Bernard Buckland and the Murchison Mission, W.A.

- 26th** The Rev. and Mrs. Barry Huggett and the Port Hedland Mission, W.A.
- 27th** The Rev. and Mrs. Harry Goodhew and the Ceduna Mission, S.A.
- 28th** All students in training for outback ministries, a continued supply of replacement personnel, our Box Secretaries, the evergrowing number of supporters and their ready response.
- 29th** The Rev. and Mrs. John Stockdale, Mrs. W. Hughes, the Victorian Committee and Office Staff.
- 30th** The Rev. and Mrs. Bill Rich, the Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Williams, the Rev. Les Wiggins, Messrs. Laurie Calder, Frank Burner, Mrs. Joy O'Neill, Misses Ruth Close, Deirdre Briggs, Suzanne Thorley at Headquarters and the Council of the Society.
- 31st** Give thanks to God always—for personal blessing, for opportunities to serve Him, for the growth of the Society work since its formation.

O Lord God of our nation, Who hast commanded men to subdue and replenish the earth: Look in Thy love upon all who in distant parts of our land are striving against many difficulties, and are deprived the access of the means of grace. Strengthen and guide the Bush Church Aid Society and all members of the staff. Cheer and comfort them in discouragement and loneliness, bless their ministrations to the good of those they serve, and grant that the message of redeeming love may thus be rooted and grounded in our national life, to the glory of Thy Great Name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, we remember before Thee those whom Thou hast called to Thy service. Bless them this day, we beseech Thee, as we pray for Call forth others to stand with them in their task. Grant to them, as to us, the joy of service, the ability to achieve and the serenity of Thy peace, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

● The Council of the Society received with regret the resignation of Sister E. Thomas to take effect from 31st July. But for a few months Sister has served with the Society for a period of 20 years, having joined the staff of the Medical Service in January, 1946. In 1951 she went from Cook to Rawlinna to commence the nursing work in that town, and has been in charge there since. In the last few years Sister Thomas has continued despite indifferent health in the hope that someone would be found to replace her. On leaving Rawlinna, Sister will enter an Adelaide hospital for an eye operation, and then go to nurse her aged mother. We indeed thank God for her long service with the Society in such a difficult and lonely situation, and pray that God will bless and keep her always.

● The Reverend Noel Hart and his family have returned to Sydney at the conclusion of his term of three years' service with the Society at Derby in North West Australia. Mr. Hart pioneered the work in this area and his ministry has been particularly valuable. We wish him and his family every blessing on their return.

● We are grateful to Sisters Meryl Cuthbert and Val Gameau for their service with the Society over the last twelve months or so. Miss Cuthbert will return to Melbourne and Miss Gameau is to undertake training as a deaconess. We wish them both every blessing for the future.

● On the 1st June last year David and Anne McDougall joined the staff of the Society for a period of twelve months to allow the installation and modification of equipment at the Radio Base to be carried out. This work has been carried out in a most efficient way and we are indeed grateful to Mr. and Mrs. McDougall for their valuable period of service. As well as the radio work, they have contributed a great deal to the youth work in Ceduna and surrounding areas. We pray that God will bless them in the days ahead.

● Miss Myra Attwood, who has served at Port Lincoln Girls' Hostel for the past year, has transferred to the Broken Hill Boys' Hostel. We remember her in prayer as she settles down in this new location.

NEW PLACES FOR OLD FACES

The Flying Medical Service and Mr. Allan Chadwick are almost synonymous. Since its inception 27 years ago, Allan Chadwick has used his ability as a pilot to fly medical aircraft with unerring skill and efficiency to the Glory of God.

The willingness of both Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick to make their home in Ceduna and to serve for such a long period has meant much in the story of the Medical Service. It is no small task to fly an aeroplane over some of Australia's most inhospitable country, and it is no easy thing to be at home waiting for the safe return of a husband.



The knowledge that Mr. Chadwick has of the area and of the radio network has made him ideally suited for the task of conducting the regular radio sessions at the Control Station in Ceduna and to be on "stand-by" when a second aircraft is needed.

Mr. Chadwick is, of course, still flying, so this by no means marks the end of his flying career. However, he now feels that the time has come to "phase out"—to hand over the reins to Mr. John Lindridge who will now be responsible for the main part of the Flying in the Medical Service.

* * *

URGENTLY NEEDED

One Christian Pharmacist for the Ceduna Pharmacy
One Dentist
Three Double Certificated Nurses.

EYRE PENINSULA OLD FOLK'S HOME

In 1957 when this Home was opened, the Board of Management at Port Lincoln, S.A., asked the Society to help in launching the venture. Our part was to provide the necessary staff, and this the Society had continued to do until the early part of this year.

Under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Vizer at the beginning, and with Mr. and Mrs. R. Avery in charge during these past six years, the home has been well established and maintained. With the growth of Port Lincoln over the last 10 years and with plans afoot to expand the size of the home, it has been felt both by the Council of B.C.A. and the local Board of Management that the time had come for the local committee to become fully responsible for the whole venture.

Miss Marjorie Farr agreed to supervise the home until local staff were found and in April this year concluded the Society's work at the home.

It is almost 20 years since Miss Farr joined the staff of B.C.A., and in that time has served at B.C.A. Hostels in Wentworth Falls, Wilcannia, Mungindi, and Port Lincoln. She has assisted in Penong Hospital and at the Old Folk's Home.

Miss Farr has agreed to become housekeeper for the single members of our Flying Medical Service staff at Ceduna.

We indeed thank God for her service and devotion to the task and will remember her in prayer as she undertakes this new avenue of service.



CEDUNA PHARMACY

Rowena McLachlan, Relieving Chemist, Ceduna

To the people we serve, that is, the people of Ceduna and the outlying districts, Ceduna Pharmacy apparently is the chemist shop supplying their medical needs and nothing more.

As a pharmacy, the shop is little different from any other, in that we carry the same shop stock, and dispensing is very much the same wherever one may be. The ratio of counter trade to dispensary trade is, I believe, quite good. In this respect there is ample opportunity to be a chemist and not a cut-throat businessman. Naturally we supply quite a few of the pharmaceutical needs of the hospital at Ceduna. We have also been supplying the needs of Wudinna until the town has its own chemist early in June. We send a few sundries to Tarcoola, Cook and Coober Pedy as well. Most of the people who live west of Ceduna up to Fowler's Bay and Nundroo (100 miles west) are regular customers of ours. Their orders are sometimes rung through, and sometimes posted. Usually they are sent out on the Mail Van which goes twice weekly. Sometimes we have

orders from Coober Pedy and Western Australia, but this isn't very often. The long distances involved constitute the main difference from the usual suburban pharmacy.

I feel that my main problem is presenting a positive Christian witness in my daily work. We know what our private devotions consist of; we know that we are teaching Sunday School each week, but what are we doing day by day in the vocation to which we have been called, and what are we doing to let people know that this is not just a job, but a position to which we have been called?

As you can see, I firmly believe that we should present a positive witness to those whom we serve and that this is the hardest part, especially when serving with a Christian organisation. As a pharmacy, then, Ceduna Pharmacy is little different from any other, but the vocation of the chemist involved is the most important part and he must be sure that this is a position in which he has been placed for the extension of Christ's kingdom.

NULLARBOR NUPTIAL

Mrs. J. Wyndham

The sun was shining, a cool breeze was blowing; everything seemed quiet and still as we arrived at Cook by train—but this was a false impression. There was busy preparation behind the closed doors of the "sleepy-looking" houses. This was the day of THE wedding—the first wedding at Cook since 1947.

We went across to the Hospital to find everything spic and span. The dining room was filled with bowls of fresh flowers sent from Kalgoorlie, 539 miles away. What a rare and lovely sight they were here! Roses, dahlias, zinnias, and others all beautifully arranged. This room, with chairs from all over town neatly placed, was to be the 'chapel'. The adjoining room, a hospital ward, was to be the vestry, while the verandah was furnished with chairs and a long table which was set for afternoon tea.

As the time approached 3.30

p.m. the chapel filled to overflowing with the excited townsfolk, dressed in their very best.

At 3.45 p.m., to the strains of the Bridal March from Lohengrin, the bride, dressed in a lovely white nylon frock made by the Porter's wife, entered the chapel on the arm of the Station Master. She was preceded by a flower girl and a young bridesmaid.

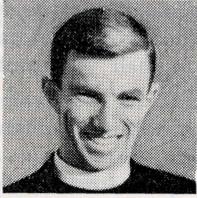
The ceremony was completed with only one hitch—quite some difficulty in getting the ring on that third finger.

Then with photos taken, confetti everywhere, the guests went in to a lovely afternoon tea. A beautiful white wedding cake, made by Sister Ross and decorated by the Station Master's wife, graced the centre of the table.

The food was eaten, the toasts and speeches made, and everyone had a lot of fun. Children and parents then wended their way home—the children to bed, and most of the parents to return for Evening Prayer.

The bride and groom joined us in worshipping God that evening. What a wonderful way to end such a happy day, and what a wonderful way to start married life!

URGENTLY NEEDED
One Christian Pharmacist for the Ceduna Pharmacy



Progress at Port Hedland

Reverend B. Huggett

As I write this we are just recovering from the aftermath of Easter Services. This involved a trip of some 650 miles, during which services were held at Marble Bar, Wittenoom, Roebourne, at a station with the delightful name of Coolawanyah, and of course at Hedland. I was very fortunate this trip, in that I had a co-driver, or perhaps a better word would be a co-conversationalist. Conversation tends to have very narrow limits when driving alone, and you have to talk to yourself all the time!

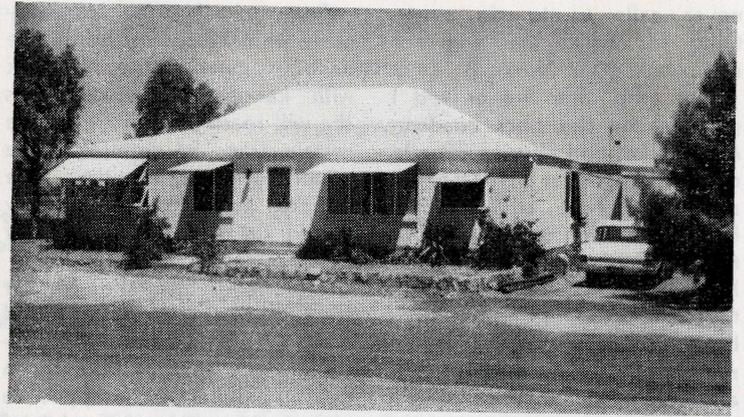
Unfortunately the roads are bad after the recent rains. One intensely frustrating thing about driving in the north, is that the car is in a perpetual state of "needing something done".

It is always good to get home, and now that the new furniture has arrived and there are some soft chairs to sit on, home is even more attractive than ever. The renovations are finished, except for an odd touch of paint on door frames, window sills, etc., and this has made the Rectory into a far more utili-

tarian place than before. A refrigerator with a deep freeze compartment, ceiling fans, and a modern washing machine all make life easier, especially for Peggy, in such an enervating climate where housework is even more of a chore than usual. Fortunately it is getting cooler now, and in fact it has not been necessary to have the fans going at night for the past week or so.

We have a constant stream of visitors, ranging from unemployed hobos to visiting clerics. These are both a trial and a joy. A trial because with the high cost of living up here, they cost a lot to feed, but a real joy because among the many knocks on the front door there is occasionally that of a Christian brother, with whom we can have real fellowship.

The parish is made up of the four towns mentioned at the beginning of this article, but within the next few months, four new towns will be operative, after an expenditure of many millions of pounds. These towns at Mt. Goldsworthy, Mt. Tom Price, Mt. Newman and



"It's always good to get home"

The Rectory, Port Hedland.

King Bay are all concerned with the production and shipping of iron ore. The character of the area is rapidly changing from sparse grazing and small mineral claims, to multi-million pound international mining exploits.

Progress means people, and this means a tremendous challenge for the Christian church. The problem of how to bring the message of salvation through Christ to these people lies not only with the clergy, but with witnessing lay people, who can show the relevance of Christ in their day-to-day life. I wonder would you be a "voice in the wilderness" if God called you to work as an engineer, or as a

surveyor, or as a nurse, in the outback?

Recently I met a man who was converted at Christmas. He works as a grader driver with the P.M.G., and as his last project was in the desert, he had only been to church three times since his conversion. I asked him if he would like to teach Sunday School, fully expecting an embarrassed refusal. Imagine my rejoicing to hear him say, "My word, that would be beaut, wouldn't it? Where's the book?"

This, I believe, is what God demands: a virile and ready response to tackle an opportunity He has given us. We may feel totally inadequate, but God

never calls us to do something for which He will not equip us.

Not long after we arrived I got lost on the back road to Marble Bar, and after an 80 mile detour, arrived at 7.15 p.m. to start the service at 7.30 p.m. Had it not been dark, no doubt the worthy parishioners would have been somewhat dismayed to see the Rector, attired in a blue singlet and dirty shorts, ringing the bell with one hand and trying to get dressed with the other.

I am no longer amused by jokes about two men and a dog coming to church. At some of our services the dogs outnumber the congregation. My preaching seems to hold a unique appeal to various forms of wild life. At one service I felt I had made a profound effect, every eye was riveted on me. I discovered later a 6 in. centipede had ambled across the front of the pulpit.

There is no doubt the pioneering spirit dies hard in the north. Until recently the electric light was connected to the church at Marble Bar before the service, by the church warden donning rubber gloves (ex washing up) and hooking wires over the appropriate prongs. "One at a time," he hastened to assure me. I felt it impolite to enquire whether it went through the meter.

Peggy is battling courageously with the cost of living; she has developed quite a knack with kangaroo casserole. As she will readily testify, there are certain traps in ordering three months' groceries at a time. One of our acquaintances recently ended up with 48 packets of Weeties.

Not long ago the freezer truck, a large semi-trailer, rolled over a few miles out of Roebourne. I was passing by a few days later and stopped to inspect the wreck. I was joined by a chap driving a truck of indeterminate vintage, powered, so he informed me, by a General Grant tank engine. His load on that trip was a large front-end loader. As we idly speculated on how the truck could be righted, he suggested we "have a go". He enquired if I could drive a front-end loader. I assured him that after sports cars these were my first love. So we hitched up to the appropriate spots, drove off, and up it came. No sooner had this happened than a team arrived with two other semis, and finding the job done, offered some reimbursement for our trouble. So I drove off, having been much entertained and £3 richer!

Yes, life in the north certainly has its moments! It can be lonely, and yet extremely rewarding. Do not neglect to pray for us and our brethren.

The Bush Church Aid Society for Australia and Tasmania

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