

Around About By Justine Weatherford

Around About Australia
(continued from last week)

After we completed our delightful cruise and disembarked, we walked a short distance along Circular Quay to the point out in front of the Opera House where we lunched beside the harbor under the trees. We were soon back on our bus taking an educational city sightseeing tour which alerted us to Sydney's past and cosmopolitan present as we traveled through Kings Cross, Double Bay and Rose Bay, visited South Head and Paddington and made short stops at sensational Bondi Beach and at the historic "Rocks," an area built by early convicts' labor.

Sunday morning at 8:30, we bussed away to the north to begin our farm holidays. First we drove through miles of lovely suburbs along Sydney harbor's north shore and then near the Tasman Sea to New South Wales' second largest city, Newcastle, the gateway to the fertile Hunter River Valley. In that area, we observed enlarging cattle and sheep properties, saw several hydroelectric and several coal-fired power plants and whizzed through several Welsh coal-mining towns where various industries flourish. We then drove over the great Dividing Range into the Orana Region where the Central Slopes fall away from the range into the Plains Country.

Here the rainfall is markedly less than in the coastal regions, although there are several good streams where there is usually good fishing for golden perch and Murray cod. Wildlife, particularly birdlife, is plentiful. Kangaroos and emus run in mobs on the open grasslands or rest in the shade of clumps of wilga, coolibah and brigalow trees.

We had Sunday afternoon dinner at the Hungerford Hill Wine Village, a large parklike stopping place. Then we drove on through the valley to the gorgeous, historic "Belltrees House." When we reached Quirindi a group of farm hosts and hostesses waited to take us to their homes. For the next two nights, I stayed on "Old Warrah" with Marge and Ron Smith, their sons, their horses, sheep, cattle, chickens, cats and kangaroo "Honey." I learned a bit about rural life in central Australia, about how carefully they catch every bit of rainwater, how devastating droughts are. I hadn't dreamed that I would be touching one of the swift-moving kangaroos, but Honey and I were soon friends, and I took many snapshots of her in the evenings and early mornings — she slept under bushes all day.

Tuesday morning after a fine breakfast, Marge drove us back into Quirindi where we rejoined our friends and got back on our coach for another day's traveling in a northwesterly direction to the town of Coonabarabran (about the size of Heppner). Coonabarabran is near the western entrance of Warrumbungle National Park which features rugged terrain formed by volcanic activity when Australia was young. The park contains much animal and bird life. Our next farm hosts met us near the eastern entrance to the park at the Warrumbungle Guest House where we had a late lunch and enjoyed seeing a great assembly of vividly colored parrots and other birds before going out to the farm properties where we spent that afternoon and night.

For this stay, I was grouped with three other women and we were taken to "Weenya," the huge home of Marge and Bill Lambell. Marge offered to take more guests as she said, "I always have 14 beds made up for guests." I believe their home was close to the size of the Fair Pavilion Building — it had many tremendously large rooms, beautifully furnished; a wonderfully large yard; and a cluster of smaller homes and buildings nearby. The Lambells have a Merino and Polled Shorthorn Stud business, raise race horses and have many acres of wheat which was about to be harvested. The walls of Bill's game room are covered with pictures of their prize-winning cattle, sheep and horses and their diningroom displays many prize awards such as large silver bowls and trays. That afternoon, we were driven around their property before we enjoyed dinner and some visiting. Along with the lamb we were most often served, Marge Lambell introduced us to the New Guinea bean, a mild tasting but very strange looking vegetable that they raise along with many other fine vegetables and a large variety of fruits.

The next morning, Feb. 15, we again assembled at our bus and continued our journey into the interior of New South Wales, turning south and westerly to reach Dubbo about noon. There over 16,000 persons live in the "Hub of the West." It is an excellent farming region, has attractive parks and a nice business district. We drove to the quite new Western Plains Zoo, a little south of Dubbo, which is Australia's greatest open-range wildlife park with no bars or cages and through which visitors drive among large areas holding animals from different continents. We saw fine groups of Africa's rhinos, elephants and camels, along with areas holding animals and birds from each other part of the world. In the huge Australia section I finally found Koalas (don't ever call them bears — they are marsupials as are kangaroos).

After a big barbecue lunch put on by the zoo staff, we moved to a fringe area of Dubbo where we met our hostesses for the last rural stay of our trip. Again I was grouped with three other women and was taken to the home of Judy and Denis Skinner, whose property named "Kybeyan" is well over an hour's speedy driving from Dubbo — out through historic Mendooran (which is a sleepy-looking town a bit larger than Ione) and then past the tiny hamlet of Merrygoon (10 km. beyond Mendooran) and a few km. farther along gravel (unsealed) roads. There we had a fine afternoon, a pleasing evening (as usual watching part of the Winter Olympics on colored T.V.) and a good look around their property which they share with Merino ewes, Leicester rams and a fine collection of red Santa Gertrudis cattle, riding horses, geese, chickens and assorted wildlife and birds. Their sons learned leather tanning in school and have a sizeable collection of animal skin rugs in their rooms.

I was surprised to find that Denis Skinner is a first cousin of my hostess of the previous night, Marge Lambell. After our luncheon on Thursday, Judy drove the four of us back to Dubbo where we met our fellow travelers and took a walk through the very old Dubbo Gael, parts of which were built in 1865, had a little shopping time and went to the R.L.S. (Retired Servicemen's League) clubhouse for dinner before going out to the Dubbo Airport for our evening flight on Air New South Wales back to Sydney.

It was after 10 p.m. that night before Julianne King and I and other friends were again settled into the Hyde Park Plaza Hotel. The next day we were told to sleep in or to wander around Sydney, looking or shopping, until afternoon. I did lots of walking and looking, particularly enjoying the super department stores and my trip up to the top of Sydney Tower, the highest structure in all the southern hemisphere. When we were making ready to leave the hotel for the airport and our flight to Tahiti, we were told that Australia required a \$20 departure tax from each traveler. We all managed that and all boarded the Qantas flight in good spirits and laden with Australian souvenirs.

Majeske chosen Resident of the Month



Freida Majeske

Freida Majeske has been selected as Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home's Resident of the Month for March.

At age 19, Freida Ann Kurth left her home in Ringle, Wisconsin, to help her sister, who was married to an Echo rancher. She tells of a "whirlwind courtship" with Mr. Adolf F.

Majeske, after which they were married, April 5, 1920, at Echo.

Mrs. Majeske recalls that Adolf was born May 15, 1891 in Germany. He and several of his cousins decided to come to the U.S. They had heard of the possibilities of securing land to farm on in the Northwest, so they decided to come to Eastern Oregon to try their luck.

After ranching just one year in western Oregon, the Majeskes returned to Lexington, never to leave again. Through the years, the Majeskes purchased the Roy Tyler place, Nat Shaw place, and the Ernest Christenson place.

Freida and Adolf had three children: Eugene Frank, born July 12, 1922; Audrey Mounts, born February 19, 1929; and Patricia Wright, born January 11, 1934. Mrs. Majeske says that all three are still living and Gene farms the original place. Audrey is a housewife in Gresham and Pat is the Morrow County health nurse,

and lives in Lexington.

Mrs. Majeske has been a widow since 1973 when her husband passed away at the age of 82. She has six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; all but one live in the area.

She is a member of the Rebekah Lodge, American Legion and V.F.W. She has numerous hobbies and regularly attends meals and programs at the Senior Citizens' meal site in Heppner.

Spring cleanup to be held Saturday at W.C.C.C.

The annual spring cleanup at Willow Creek Country Club is scheduled for this Saturday, March 24. Golfers are asked to bring a garden rake, or spade,

pickup, or just themselves, said a club spokesperson.

There is a lot of work to do and so it is hoped that there will be a large turnout of

golfers to assist with this cleanup. It is hoped that all work will be completed so the course will be ready for the April opening," she added.

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PARKAY **PARKAY**

MARGARINE CUBES
PARKAY, 16-OZ.
59¢

CLOROX **CLOROX**

BLEACH
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ASSTD. FLAVORS **JELL-O GELATIN** 6-OZ. **59¢**

DOLE **PINEAPPLE JUICE** 46-OZ. **\$1.19**

CARNATION POWDER **COFFEE MATE** 11-OZ. **\$1.49**

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PILLSBURY, ALL READY **PIE CRUST** 18-OZ. **\$1.35**

JIFFY, 8.5-OZ. **CORN MUFFIN MIX** **4/\$1**

MRS. BUTTERWORTHS **SYRUP** 24-OZ. **\$1.85**

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