

Children's Newspaper

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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YOUTH HOLIDAY

CN correspondent visits one of Britain's loveliest centres

No Youth Centre in Britain is more attractive than Kilvrough Manor, standing white and four-square among its trees and lawns, about eight miles west of Swansea.

Kilvrough Manor is one of the biggest of the chain of holiday centres, stretching from Argyllshire to Hampshire, run by the National Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs and its local Associations.

There it was that a CN correspondent spent a week-end not long ago in company with a party of schoolgirls from Paris and members of two English Youth Clubs, and this is his account of a visit which he will not soon forget.

As I pulled up beside a white pillared porch sheltering a blue front door several boys came running out. They had just arrived by coach, found their sleeping quarters (60 visitors can stay here), and were just off to explore the grounds and find the short cut down to the sea for a bathe.

Then I met the Warden, Mr. E. S. Bomback, and his wife, from South Africa, who have the constantly recurring task of turning a collection of new arrivals into a happy holiday family.

SHOP ON WHEELS

After some tea with the French party in the dining-room, furnished like a Welsh kitchen, we went upstairs into the lounge which looks out across the grounds to the Gower hills. There was a writing room, for letters home, and a big room for indoor games and dances.

Outside, on the big gravel sweep in front, was a van on wheels known as "the shop." This sells almost anything you might want, from sweets and toothpaste to stamps for that letter home.

Kilvrough stands on the famous Gower Peninsula of South Wales and looks across the Bristol Channel at the cliffs and hills of North Devon and Somerset. It is famous for coves and big beaches with acres and acres of sand, for cliffs, for caves all waiting to be explored, for romantic old castles and little stone-built churches, as well as for wonderful bird life.

COLOURFUL INTRODUCTION

Mr. Bomback is enthusiastic about all these things, and on the first evening of each "holiday" he gives an interesting introduction to them, a kind of "meet-the-Gower" talk, illustrated with really fine colour pictures, taken by himself, which he shows on a screen in the big room.

Kilvrough, he explained to me, has a fourfold purpose. First, it provides a holiday centre for youth clubs. And it really is a centre—the point from which all sorts of activities, not always easy to pursue at home, branch out into this particularly attractive corner of our island.

You may pack up a picnic lunch; borrow a bicycle (for one shilling a day) and explore the whole peninsula; join a party to inspect one of the prehistoric camps in the neighbourhood; or visit the big stones of Arthur's Seat which once formed the burial chamber of some great Celtic chief.

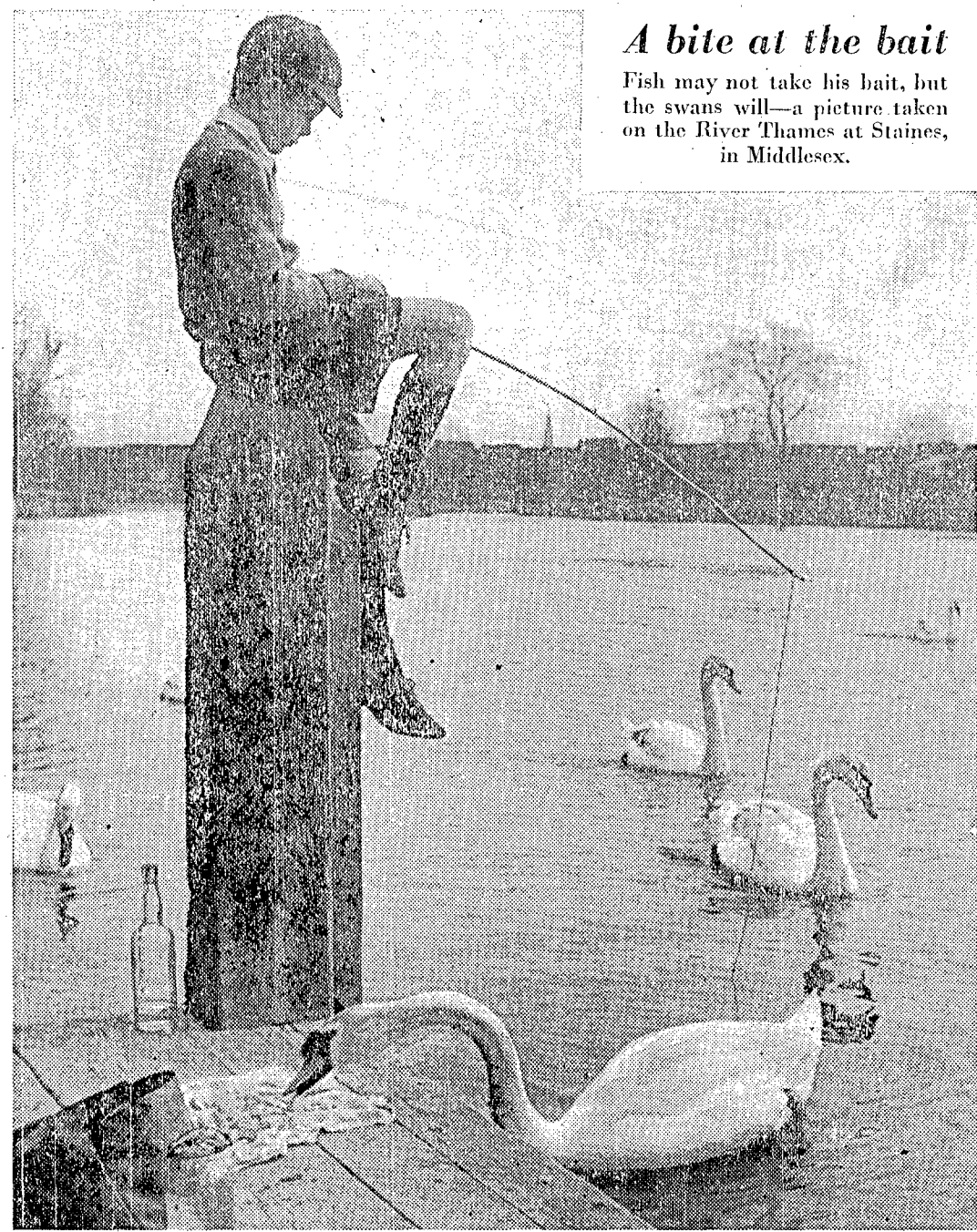
USED BY SCHOOLS

Kilvrough is also used for conferences. It specialises in receiving all kinds of youth organisations, catering for them and making them feel at home quickly. It provides accommodation for children on "School Journeys," organised by schools from all parts of the country.

These "journeys" last from a few days up to a fortnight of a school term and are treated as part of school work. The pupils take notebooks and keep diaries of their activities from day to day.

Then there are courses for Girls in Industry. Personnel managers and others in charge of staff in industrial concerns send girls, who they think would benefit by it, for a week to Kilvrough or one of the other centres. As well as such

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A bite at the bait

Fish may not take his bait, but the swans will—a picture taken on the River Thames at Staines, in Middlesex.

FLYING ANGELS OF THE OUTBACK

The only women in the world operating a flying doctor service are two women doctors who work in the desolate Nullarbor Plain of Australia. They are Dr. Freda Gibson and Dr. Merna Mueller, who operate the Bush Church Flying Medical Service, serving lonely homesteads within a radius of 350 miles. Few Australians know their story.

Since the service was established in 1938, some 15,000 patients have been treated. Dr. Gibson and her late husband were the pioneers of this humane organisation, and after his death in 1948 Dr. Freda maintained it. She has flown over 200,000 miles and brought 200 patients to the hospital at Ceduna. King George VI awarded her the O.B.E.

Every year she and her 26-year-old partner, Dr. Merna Mueller,

make an average of over 100 trips, flying 25,000 miles to give succour to 1250 sick or injured people. They are available 24 hours a day, and often give emergency treatment in the aircraft itself.

No wonder the scattered families who live in Australia's dry hot interior call these two women the Flying Angels of the Outback.

BIRDIE

A large seagull swooped down on a golf ball on the Flamborough Head golf course and swallowed it as it flew slowly over the players.

Not knowing if there was anything in the rules about golf balls swallowed by seagulls, they agreed another ball could be dropped without penalty.

The player who lost the ball won the hole. We do not know what happened to the seagull.

ROUGH RIDE ROUND AUSTRALIA

A reliability trial, claimed by its organisers to be the toughest in the world, will test drivers and cars from many countries when they leave Sydney this week for a month's drive around Australia.

The trial held last year for the first time was so successful that the organisers have extended it to cover every State in Australia. The 260 entrants will drive for hundreds of miles in uninhabited country along bush tracks and sand dunes.

From Sydney the drivers will go north into Queensland, across to Darwin, along the north-west coast of Australia through Wyndham and Broome, south to Perth, across the Nullarbor Plains to Adelaide, through to Melbourne, and back to Sydney—a distance of more than 9000 miles.

SHARKY WATERS

For the first time in 45 years a man has succeeded in swimming the 15-mile stretch of dangerous sea between Three Anchor Bay, Cape Town, and Robben Island. Mr. Vic Pearson, a Rover Scout, on his third attempt set up a record of 6 hours 15 minutes through a high running sea with a temperature of 46 degrees.

Mr. Pearson was surrounded by small vessels with men armed with rifles, watching for man-eating sharks every foot of the way.

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