

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM: MRS. HILDA AITKEN

JULY 17, 1891 - JULY 30, 1987



Mrs. Hilda Aitken was born in Bermuda and grew up at Claremont in Smith's Parish, the eldest of six children of Gilbert and Clara Smith. After completing her education at the Whitney Institute under the distinguished academic Mr. J.C. McLaughlan, she became a member of the Bermuda Post Office staff in Hamilton. Shortly after the outbreak of the First World War, she married Robin Aitken. At that time, he was a Chief Engineer with the Furness Bermuda Line. He always said he fell in love with Hilda the first time he saw her and vowed he would marry her; and marry her he did. Jean and Joan are their two daughters.

Even though Mr. Aitken was at sea a great deal of the time, "Home" was a very happy place, his homecomings were like holidays. Mrs. Aitken was left with the everyday responsibility of caring for and encouraging two young children. She instilled in them a deep appreciation of Bermuda's history, and an intense love of its beauty. Religious upbringing was an integral part of her family's association with the Wesley Centenary Church; which was always an essential influence in her life. Like many Bermudian mothers, she taught the girls to swim before they could barely walk, and initiated them into the art and joy of picnicking.

These years coincided with the developing Girl Guide Association and the intensifying of the suffragette movement in Bermuda. These two organizations provided an outlet for her enormous enthusiasm and energy for the betterment of women's equitable position in the community.

The basic principles of Guiding, as imparted by her, influenced the life of her children and provided a value system which served them well in the varied, and often stressful circumstances, in which as adults they found themselves. It was Mrs. Aitken's belief that everything was possible, until proved impossible. The suffragette movement captured her pioneering spirit and led her along the road to become one of Bermuda's first two women members of parliament.

It took personal courage to establish the role of women in the political life of the island. Her contribution continued as chairperson of Bermuda's first Social Welfare Board, and as a member of the Young Offenders Commission. She used all of her resources to pursue and research the most recent developments in those two fields, in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. Her charter membership in the Bermuda Pilot Club is an indication of her special contribution to the newly established statutory services in Bermuda.

Her voluntary work encompassed the LCCA, THE IODE, her church and many other groups too numerous to mention. She spent many countless hours making teas for servicemen, and was also a World War. Duty was her first priority, but she had one personal indulgence, it was her old Bermuda roses, and as a Rosarian, she cherished her membership in the Rose Society.

Mrs. Aitken was a long-time member of the Girl Guides Association. She was recruited by the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell and loved to tell the story of how she made her Promise.

Continued on page 13

A THRILLING EXPERIENCE

by
Enith King, Co-Editor

What a thrilling experience! A Brownie Guide had just returned from a packhouse holiday at Paget Island and was relating some of her experiences there. Her eyes lit up as she told how the Brownies were all called up early one morning by their leader and told to bring their sleeping-bags because they were going up on the hill to watch the sunrise. When they went out it was still dark and Brownie Leader told them to lie down on the bank and wait and she would alert them. What anticipation! One Brownie told her leader she could not imagine her mother lying still so long watching and waiting. She was always so busy organizing things about the house. At last those who had dozed off were alerted. Wake up! What a beautiful sight!

As they looked to the horizon in the east, the dark skies were suddenly becoming alight with rays of bright orange and rosy pink. Up, up, they stretched from beyond the seas. Then the

top of a bright yellow ball began to appear. Higher and higher it arose until it looked like a huge golden ball. Blue skies began to show through like magic. Morning had come. These little ones had seen what one writer described as "God in His Glory."

Summer is now over. Camping and vacation time for many of us have come to an end. Some of us have paid stiff prices to go abroad to seek recreation and rest from our many responsibilities and cares. We have explored other lands, their mountains, rivers, and waterfalls, marvelled at buildings and many works of art. In the end we have returned home and as the plane descended looked out of the window. What beauty! The beautiful blue sky with its feathery clouds and beneath them the crystal blue sea displaying its many designs of coral and there was an atmosphere of serenity over the land. Was this beauty here when we left or were we too busy or unappreciative to notice?

Is this why people travel again and again to our shores?

Perhaps W.R. Davies had us, Bermudians, in mind when he wrote in his poem, "What is this life, if, by our care, We have no time to stand and stare."

IN MEMORIAM

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Continued from page 6

She ran her own Brownie Pack for twenty-five years, and later became a Life Vice-President of the Association. During her years of service to Guiding, Mrs. Aitken never faltered in her belief in the Promise and respect for the Laws. Her thoughts were always for others; and her commitment was forever.

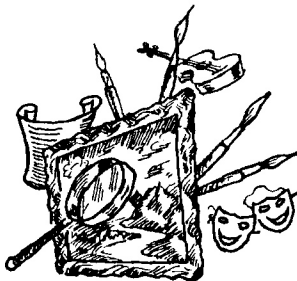
Mrs. Aitken will be remembered among the great women of the Movement, who laid the foundation for girls and women of today.

The most sincere tribute we can pay to Hilda Aitken is to continue through Guiding to prepare women to be competent and caring mothers, and to take their places in the professional world and in the community as leaders.

EXPLORING

THE

ARTS



SIMPLE SCULPTURED STAR

1. Use tracing paper to make a careful tracing of the 6-pointed star. Use a ruler for straight lines. Trace the star off on to a square of paper the same size, and cut it out. When cutting with scissors, always cut from a point to the centre. Do not attempt to cut from the centre outwards.
2. Fold the star in half from one point to the opposite one, crease and open out.
3. Refold again from the other points to those opposite them, crease and open out (figure a). When opened, it should have 3 creases (figure b).
4. Turn the star over and fold in half, this time across the middle.
5. Open out and repeat twice again. When opened out, the star will have creases across it.
6. Hold the star with the first creases you made bent towards you. Push the 2 points together and recrease again from the centre outward. Repeat this all round. Turn the star over and recrease the short back folds.
7. Now the star should stand out with a lovely shape. Attach a loop of cotton to the back of one point with Scotch tape to hang it up. If you want it to sparkle, paint the star gently with liquid glue and sprinkle glitter over it.

See page 19