

# KENNEL KAPERS — IN — KANGAROO LAND

Errr!  
Our hats are off and our faces are green with envy toward you people who are basking in the good hot sun, going fishing, eating strawberries and watermelon, and doing all those other things that ride in on the coattails of Summer.

Winter has slipped into Melbourne, Australia, with suddenness that belies the bright sun we see around noon every day. To put it bluntly, we're just plain cold.

According to statistics and weather reports, we should not be griping. The record low temperature here is only 27 degrees, and it never snows. The average night temperature gets down to 40 degrees and the daytime temperature is from 55 to 70 degrees. This is for the middle of winter here,

and at home we would consider that mild.

But!! There is just something about the weather here that is bone chilling. We had heard about Melbourne winters being deceptive, and I had thought they might seem colder due to a high moisture content. This doesn't seem to be the case, however, and I have spent some considerable time trying to analyze why everything seems so cold (this is a natural instinct for me under the category of "survival").

I have finally maneuvered my theories down to three main headings.

1. The beautiful warm weather we have known for the last several months did not leave us conditioned for the lower temperatures. After all, lounging around ship decks on the equator is even hotter than Atlantic Beach in July. When we arrived here, Melbourne had just come out of one of its hottest spells in history. There just didn't seem to be an autumn here which would allow us to make a gradual change into winter with respect to body, clothes and attitude.

2. The changeability of each day is enough to send you to a psychologist. The nights are very cold (despite the warm-sounding 40 degrees) and Jean and I have five blankets on our bed; yet sometimes we're still cold (it may partly be due to Jean's feet—I've often thought about renting them out to a deep freeze company.)

When I get up in the morning I put on a sweater and overcoat and start walking toward the universi-

ty. By the time I get there I am perspiring and people along the way must think I am doing a striptease act. However, by the time midafternoon rolls around it is cold again. To honestly combat the daily changes of weather you would need to carry a suitcase full of clothes plus an all-important umbrella for Melbourne is also known for its twenty-minute rain showers out of a clear blue sky.

3. The final reason I shall list is the lack of central heating anywhere in Australia. Australia's argument is that central heating is not necessary; but they can be pinned down to agreeing that if anywhere needed central heating, it would be Melbourne. Actually the newer buildings here are putting in both central heating and air conditioning.

Nowhere yet have I been completely warm artificially. Buildings are just not heated with expectations of people working or playing or living in shirt sleeves, and yet we need at least a sweater on at all times indoors. Our apartment is supposedly heated by a small cast-iron stove sunk into the wall (I have felt like calling it many other names.) It is about a foot off the floor, thus not even making a pretense of warming the lower part of the room.

Jean and I have finally bought two 1000 watt electric bar radiators which we carry around the house as traveling companions. (I had to stop Jean from naming them His and Hers.) These are only stop-gap measures until spring arrives, though, because they only

warm a small portion of me at one time. As an example, the other night I was sitting in my favorite chair studying; and as my upper body was shivering, I suddenly found the sock on my foot nearest the electric radiator on fire. This same thing has happened twice!! It is not that I was trying to be stupid, but at least my foot was warm. In case you haven't taken the hint, we'll be glad to trade any of you good people tons of air con-



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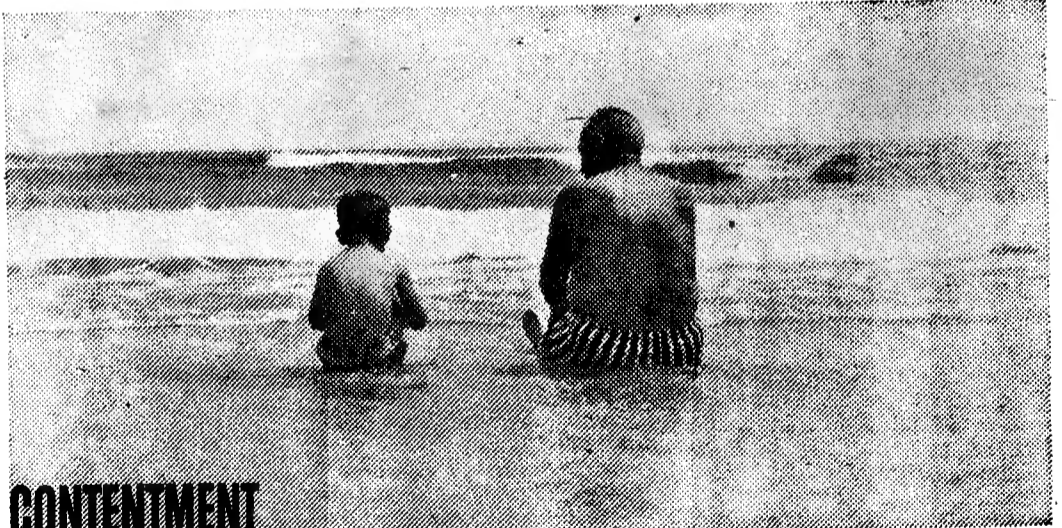
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