

# Dawn

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A MAGAZINE FOR THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF N.S.W.

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## Our Cover . . .

Our Cover Girl this month is twenty six year old Vera Murray.

Vera, who originally came from Angledool, is now in service in Sydney, and her folks live in Col-larenebri.

Noted for her fine tapestry work, Vera is also keenly interested in the theatre.



## "DAWN"

*is a monthly magazine produced by the N.S.W. Aborigines' Welfare Board for the Aboriginal people of New South Wales.*

Editor: E. COLIN DAVIS, F.R.E.S.

## In this Issue . . .

	Page.
High Standard at Wreck Bay... ..	1
Caroona Residents Fail to Keep Faith	1
Wallaga Residents accepted ... ..	1
Our Roving Cameraman ... ..	2
Along the Mail Route ... ..	4
Roseby Park ... ..	5
Cabbage Tree Island ... ..	5
More Exemptions Granted ... ..	5
Help Yourself ... ..	6
New Cathedral in Salt Mine ... ..	7
Murrin Bridge has Problems... ..	8
Burnt Bridge Helps Spastic ... ..	8
A Fortune in Gold ... ..	9
Summer Camp Essay Competition ...	11
Michael Sawtell Pays a Visit ... ..	12
Cattle Food from Orange Skins ... ..	12
Sketches of Outstanding Aborigines...	13
Now You Know (Feature) ... ..	17
Strange but True ... ..	18
They Say ... ..	19
Pete's Page ... ..	20
Biffo the Bear (Cartoon) Inside Back Cover	
In the Garden ... ..	Back Cover

## High Standard at Wreck Bay

The population at the 30th June, 1955, was 166, practically the same as last year. During the year, three families moved off the station and two moved on.

The general condition of the dwellings is good. Most of the residents take a pride in their homes, many having nice flower gardens round them.

A high standard of education is still maintained in the Station School, and the children show a keen interest. Early in February this year, twelve children were transferred to Nowra High School, and reports from that School are very encouraging.

A young lady from the Station has qualified as a first class telephonist and is employed at the Jervis Bay Post Office.

Employment is still a major problem. There being no industry in this district, the men have to travel to other districts.

The attitude of the people is friendly, conduct is good, and no serious trouble has occurred during the last twelve months.

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## Caroona Residents Fail to Keep Faith

### Many Rents Outstanding

The population on the Station at the end of the year was 202, and a number of aborigines at Caroona, while not actually residing on the Station, are part of the Station community.

A school is conducted on the Station by the Education Department, at which 52 children are in attendance. A further sixteen children are attending Quirindi High School. A school bus transports them from the Station to School.

Throughout the year, the residents have been encouraged to effect repairs and improvements with very satisfactory results. There has been a most noticeable improvement in the general appearance of the Station, and considerable pride is taken in the houses.

The employment position is very good. This Station is supplying the district with a pool of skilled agricultural labour and many of the men are taking jobs on the Railway, chiefly fettling and permanent way work.

Although well able to do so, few residents have honoured their obligations in meeting the very low rental charged for the modern homes on this Station.

Residents are regarded as being generally more advanced in their social standards than on most other Stations. Many own their own cars and refrigerators.

The Station is well kept and neat in appearance.

## Wallaga Residents Accepted

### Colour No Problem Here

The population at the end of the year was 162, which was a slight increase on the previous year.

Employment in various forms of casual work was good throughout the year. A number of men are employed by the Department of Main Roads.

Electricity was connected to the Station by the Bega Valley County Council. This has proved a great asset.

A new road of access to the Station from the main Bermagui Highway was recently built, which has greatly improved the approach to the Station.

The Station is reticulated from the Mt. Dromedary Gravitation Water Main, and all the cottages are now connected to the main supply.

The Station maintains a small dairy herd and fresh milk is available for the residents. A community garden yields fresh vegetables and, in many instances, residents have their own vegetable and flower gardens.

A School is on the Station, at which 39 children are in attendance. Two children are attending High School at Narooma.

A very fine spirit of co-operation and understanding towards the aborigines, is displayed by the white community of this district, noticeably so at Cobargo, Bermagui and Tilba. In recent years particularly, there appears to be no distinction, provided the aborigine shows that he wishes to uplift himself and makes an effort to do so.

Several respected white people of the district have called at the Station to take aborigines out spear-fishing, fishing, prawning, and to play football. Aborigines employed in the Main Roads Department, attend picnic parties with their white friends and their families and spend weekends at the nearby beaches.

One of the largest funerals in the district was recently seen when a young lad was buried at Cobargo. The Schools were given a half holiday and children from the Public School and Convent attended. The Church of England Minister conducted the service and the Catholic Priest attended the funeral. Nearly all the white people from Cobargo and its environs were present to offer their condolences to the parents.



# OUR ROVING CAMERAMAN

THE aboriginal people in this State are scattered over a wide area, so far apart that many of them may never meet, but the magic camera can bring to us intimate glimpses of these people and enable us to become better acquainted with each other.

If you have photos at home, similar to those you see published in *Dawn*, send them along and thus add to, and maintain, the interest in your fellow men and women.



These two grim looking young fellows are Robert Lawrence and Mervyn Collins, of Guyra.



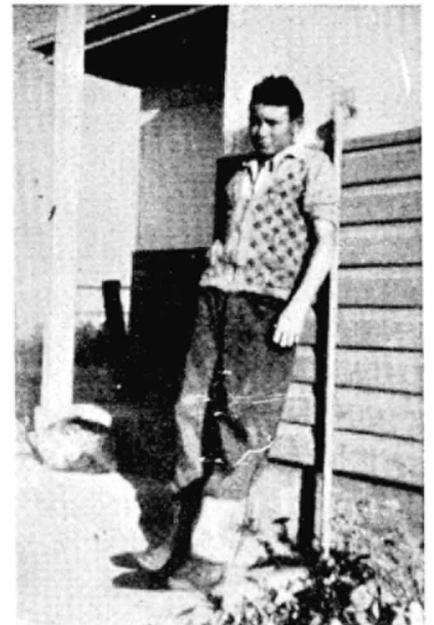
The girls with the smiles are Mary Kelly, Joan Kelly, Chuggie Harradine, Mrs. Harradine, Barbara Eggin and Joyce Kelly.



Reaching for the sky. Angus Connors, of Guyra.



George Quinlin, Victor Cohen and Flossie Quinlin certainly got among the fish.



Lindsay Christian, of Barellan, seems to be taking it easy.



**Ernie Dargin, Colin Sloane and Kathy Dargin, of Condobolin.**



**One of our real oldtimers.**



**Another Guyra identity is Harry Connors.**



**Does anyone recognise this young man ?**



**The wandering musician is Bob Wighton.**



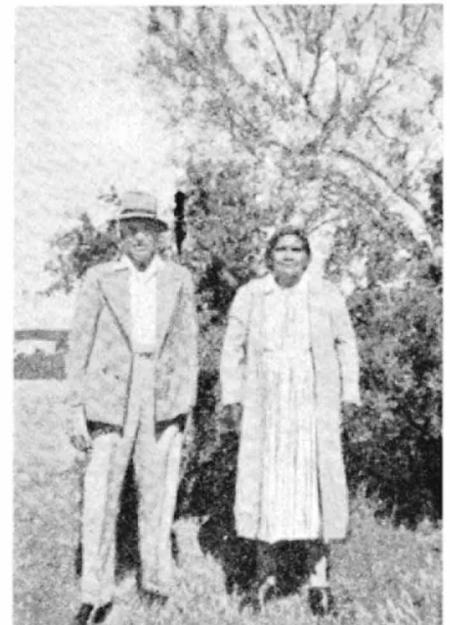
**Mrs. Charlotte Green of Ashford, and her daughter Gladys.**



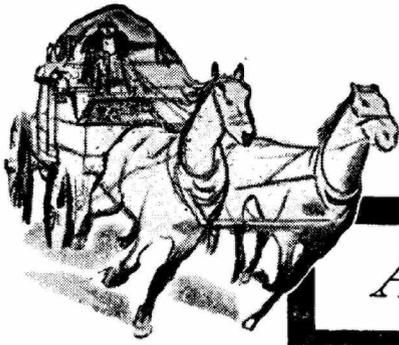
**This is Archie Turnbull, of Nambucca.**



**Gloria Haines and Julie Dennison, of Boggabilla, wading in the flood waters.**



**A couple of well known Swan Hill identities.**



# ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE

All abled-bodied men are collecting paspalum seed at Cabbage Tree Island. Seed this year is extra good, and good money could be made if only the weather would co-operate.

\* \* \* \*

Most of us have heard a great deal about aborigines in films and La Perouse is not without its film stars.

The film "Smiley" had its aboriginal caste—to name a few, Clarence Woodland, Dixie Lee (it will be remembered that Dixie took a very good part in the film "Jedda"), Pat Simms, Larry Walker, Hubert Timbery, Reg Wiggin and Bob Simms, who took the part of King Billy, complete with beard.

Last, but not least, Barney our local dog. "Barney", a star at any time.

Reg Wiggin took part in the play, "Twelfth Night," which has just finished at the Elizabethan Theatre at Newtown.

Once again La Perouse entertained overseas people with Bob Simms taking the leading part with a demonstration of boomerang throwing.

The five stars from the picture "Guys and Dolls" who are touring this country were the visitors and as usual the boomerang "got them in".

\* \* \* \*



Selwyn Holten, of Green Hills, near Kempsey, is a very talented singer and instrumentalist.

## Rare Find of Aboriginal Implements

A Ballina high school teacher has discovered rare aboriginal implements at Empire Vale, six miles from Ballina.

The collection includes two abrading stones, which are the only known specimens from northern New South Wales.

The teacher, Mr. W. H. Abbott, collected the implements after their position had been reported to him by a first-year pupil, Graham Saul.

Australia Museum Director, Mr. J. W. Evans, has described the find as "a very interesting one".

\* \* \* \*



A fine black and white sketch from one of our young readers.

## Roseby Park

This is one of the oldest Stations, and the population is only 103. The past year has been one of steady employment. Several families have made application to be included in Housing Commission ballots, and if selected, may leave the Station during the year.

Paint has been supplied by the Board, and residents have painted their homes. Other repairs have been effected.

The Education Department has completed the moving and renovation of the school building, and much improved conditions now exist.

Towards the end of the year, a start was made by the Progress Association to build a Public Hall, and on completion, it will be available to residents for social activities.

The Board hopes that as funds are available for the erection of houses in Nowra, a number of families will become absorbed into the general community and that in the not distant future, it will be possible to close this Station.

## Cabbage Tree Island

There has been little change in the Island's population, which now numbers 143.

Able-bodied men are dependent, for the most part, on seasonal occupations in the district.

A new office was constructed, and painting of dwellings commenced. This work was carried out by residents, material being supplied by the Board.

A new motor launch was recently delivered to the Island to replace the one carried away by floods last year.

School is held on the Island and 44 children are in attendance, while eleven pupils attend the Ballina High School.

Residents have co-operated well with the Management, and a healthy community spirit exists.

## Moree

The population of this Station has remained static during the past year. One family left to live in accommodation provided by the New South Wales Railway Department.

Most of the residents have painted the interiors of their houses and fences have been maintained and repaired.

Interest in outside social activities is non-existent owing to the attitude of townspeople towards the aborigines. There is a definite, and indeed, a heart-breaking "colour line" attitude on the part of the white community in Moree, with the result that the average aborigine gets no encouragement to seek or strive for assimilation.

Funds have been raised by the residents for the Ambulance, and also painting McMaster Ward at the District Hospital. Dances have been held in the Recreation Hall in aid of the Football Club, Parents and Citizens' Association. The Ambulance received £24, and the Hospital £27. Recently a wedding reception was held in the Recreation Hall.

Fourteen homes have agreed to pay for the connecting of electricity to the houses when available, in the near future.

## MORE EXEMPTIONS GRANTED

Every day more and more Aboriginal people are indicating their willingness to accept the responsibilities of normal life, and are seeking exemption from the care of the Board.

The following names are those of our people who have recently been granted exemption—

Baird, Mavis Jean .....	50 Little Conadilly Street, Gunnedah.
Bloxsome, Hazel Thelma .....	Deering Street, Ulladulla.
Carney, Arnold Horace .....	Aborigines Reserve, Gulargambone.
Craig, Lewis .....	Aborigines Reserve, Coffs Harbour.
Crawford, Harold William .....	Walcha.
Davidson, Percival James .....	Croudace Street, Walcha.
Jarrett, Walter Thomas .....	Aborigines Reserve, Nambucca Heads.
Lake, Ronald Elvic .....	Guisley Station, Walgett.
Marshall, Stanley .....	Aborigines Reserve, Nambucca Heads.
Thomas, Roy .....	Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Station, Tilba Tilba.
Williams, Jessie Sheila .....	Aborigines Reserve, Nambucca Heads.

# HELP YOURSELF

Try rubbing tiled bathroom walls with olive oil applied on a clean, soft rag. It keeps tiles glossy in spite of the steamy atmosphere.

\* \* \* \*

Arriving home late from the shopping the other day, I was just about to egg-and-crumb the veal cutlets for dinner when I realised I had forgotten to buy eggs and there wasn't one in the house. I made a substitute by mixing a little custard powder with water to an egg-like consistency, dipped in the cutlets and rolled in dried crumbs. My brainwave solved the egg shortage, and nobody knew the difference at dinner, either!

\* \* \* \*

If you are troubled with hair oil staining the backs of upholstered chairs, make clear plastic covers to fit the top of each chair. I draped the plastic over the top of the chair to be covered, then pinned it firmly to fit. I then removed and machined the plastic over paper, to prevent it from slipping, and my covers were complete. Covers cannot be seen and are easily wiped if they become soiled.

\* \* \* \*

If cream woodwork in kitchen has been discoloured by smoke fumes, try the following—wipe over with a cloth wrung out in warm water and ammonia. The result is astonishing.

\* \* \* \*

When short of room on the clothes line for the washing, I peg the light articles to the bottom of the heavy articles and so get more things drying at the same time.

\* \* \* \*

Having an old fashioned, but quite good kitchen dresser, I decided to make some use of it. The bottom half (cupboard), with a coat of paint and new handles, made an ideal storage cabinet for my sewing-room—the drawers being particularly handy for cottons, patterns, etc. The shelves of the old dresser had the small piece used for holding plates removed, also the cup-hooks. Small holes were filled in with putty and sandpapered. A coat of stain and varnish was added, and the result is now quite a presentable set of book-shelves.

To prevent nylon or other types of ribbons—hair ribbons especially—from fraying, cut ends zig-zag and paint edges with colourless nail lacquer. New or old ribbons can be treated this way and be kept as good as new.

\* \* \* \*

I discovered in my last home that it just is not wise to place a bathroom mirror over the wash basin. Particularly when the children are racing for school, they'll comb their hair and let the strands fall into the basin and block up the pipes. Now that we have both these items planned separately there's much less time spent in cleaning out the pipes.

\* \* \* \*

To repair scratched or chipped porcelain, fill with a mixture of dry shellac and powdered titanium oxide. The latter can be obtained from any paint store. Melt the ingredients, heat the surface with a blowtorch, or soldering iron. Rub the patching material over the area until the depression is filled. Smooth with a heated knife blade, sand when dry, and finish with a coat of porcelain enamel.

\* \* \* \*

To make a cheap wall plaque, mix  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. Plaster of Paris with cold water, enough water to make a paste, pour onto large dinner plate, not covering the outer rim of plate. Place small piece of looped wire in wet paste (which is used for hanging plaque) leave to set for 2 hours. Turn out and sandpaper edge carefully. Paint a pastel shade and decorate with decal.

\* \* \* \*

I made some inexpensive cacti bowls out of old discarded gramophone records simply by placing them in a moderate oven for a few minutes. When they were soft, I bent them into shape of a bowl with a fluted edge lacquered to suit the room or may be left in the natural black colour.

\* \* \* \*

Cover a beetroot stain with a piece of bread lightly damped with water. Leave until the stain is absorbed by the bread. Treat the stain immediately.

# NEW CATHEDRAL IN SALT MINE

Featuring brilliant underground scenes, this South American project is second of its kind in the world

One of the world's modern wonders—an underground cathedral wholly carved out of salt—was completed and opened for worship recently.

The underground cathedral of salt is in the ancient salt mines of Zipaquira, in Colombia, South America. The mines were being worked long before the Spaniards arrived in the country in the 16th century.

The Zipaquira cathedral will be the second underground cathedral carved from salt in the world. The other is at Wieliczka, a few miles from Cracow, the medieval capital of Poland.

The Zipaquira cathedral of rock salt will be almost as big as the cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. The nave and aisles are almost 400 ft. long, and, in addition to the High Altar, there are ten others. Ceilings, walls, and pillars, and a large cross are all carved out of salt.

Britain has a rock salt mine known as the Meadow Bank Mine, in Cheshire, producing about 50,000 tons of salt a year, some of which is exported to Australia and New Zealand.

The shaft is 450 ft. deep and, although the mine cannot compare with the Zipaquira workings, the place is impressive enough.

At the bottom of the shaft visitors step out of the cage into a "room" that looks like the crypt of a huge cathedral. Floor, walls, pillars, and roof have all been carved out of the salt.

Most wonderful salt mines in the world, however, are at Wieliczka. Visitors descend by elevators to a depth of 900 ft. or by a grand salt staircase to other levels.

Shortly before World War I began in 1914 a brilliant international ball was held in the underground city of salt. A description of the scintillating scene, written at the time, describes the brilliant gathering.

"Half of the crowned heads of Europe was there, the diplomats of a dozen Powers, women in gorgeous creations. The orchestra played lilting Strauss waltzes. . . . And, when the time came for departure, lifts took

the guests upward through glittering shafts to the street levels. Railway lines bore others through the labyrinth of fairy-like crystal passages."

This great ballroom, 300 ft. long, 90 ft. high, has been hewn out as the result of 40 years' working.

It has a dull-grey ceiling, glistening pillars, and flashing chandeliers of hard, glistening salt 30 ft. high and 60 ft. in circumference, and the scene is brilliant as the lights gleam and glitter on the sparkling white surfaces.

Statues representing Vulcan and Neptune and other mythological personalities ornament the room, and a throne was erected at one end for any monarch who honoured the mines by a visit.

Only a short distance from this splendid ballroom is the great underground cathedral.

In it is a great organ, and the High Altar with its crucifix, twisted pillars, and statues of saints carved in pure glistening white. In addition to the cathedral there are chapels in the mine, perhaps the most striking being what is known as the Queen's Chapel, which has an altar adorned with a view of Bethlehem, sculptured from the salt rock.

In this gigantic mine there are 65 miles of roadways and galleries, and 30-odd miles of railway track, with a full-size railway station equipped with waiting and refreshment rooms.

One of the weirdest experiences is to sail across the black waters of any of the mine's sixteen salt lakes.

The man in charge pulls the boat along by means of ropes which extend across the lake.

The heavy brine washing against the gunwales produces a most weird effect. The water is so strongly impregnated with salt that no fish ever swim in it, and certainly no bird has ever come to drink from it.

## Murrin Bridge Has Problems

The position regarding employment remains the same throughout the year. Most of the work is of a casual nature, such as fencing, shearing, station work and general labouring, many of the men travelling up to 150 miles to take up work.

A considerable amount of repair work has been carried out on Station buildings and roads have been regraded.

The people at Murrin Bridge are somewhat backward in their social development. It is not many years since they were living under primitive conditions on the banks of the Darling River. They depend upon the Manager and Matron a good deal. Efforts to organise their social activities have not been particularly successful, and an attempt is now being made to do this through the children.

Several residents have effected improvements to their homes, and some have started vegetable gardens. Every encouragement is being given to these people to carry on the good work.

### WHERE IS JACKIE MELROSE ?

Would Jackie Melrose, a full blood aborigine, or anyone knowing his whereabouts, please communicate with Mrs. P. Gibbs, c/- Aborigines Welfare Board, Box 30, G.P.O., Sydney.

The last we heard of Jackie he was working for a Mr. Cummerford, near Dubbo about 1944 or 1945.

Can you help ?



Lorraine Darcy and three of the smaller "fry" from Cootamundra. As usual, there are plenty of smiles.

## Burnt Bridge Helps Spastics

John Knox, 8 years, a spastic, of Burnt Bridge, was sent by the Board to Sydney for specialist treatment. John, although handicapped, is a game little boy who tries to participate in all the games with his mates, and as a result is very popular on the station. Residents on their own initiative presented him with a purse of £5 10s. to help him during his stay in Sydney. His mother Joyce Knox who accepted the money on his behalf was so deeply touched could not find words adequate to express her gratitude to the residents of Burnt Bridge and requested that this be done publicly through *Dawn*.

The Progress Association, Burnt Bridge, through the aid afforded by the A.W.B. is the proud possessor of a five valve automatic radiogram. One and all eagerly awaited the official presentation one evening not long ago, followed by a free Dance, enhanced by the latest recorded dance music. Special children's evenings are being allocated for the school children.



This charming lass is Julie Brown of Guyra.

## Horses Sleep Easily

Horses have the power to sleep while standing, and various experiments show that they rest better on their feet than on their sides. Their legs are equipped with muscular mechanisms that cause them to lock, and permit them to rest. When a standing horse is unconscious, there is no direct brain control over the muscles essential to the keeping up of an erect posture. The muscles in the legs, back and chest are controlled by the reflex actions of the spinal cord. In a similar way, a bird sleeping on a swaying limb keeps a reflex balance. Horses sometimes go for months without lying down, yet they normally sleep from eight to ten hours a day.

# World's most inhospitable but richest spot is undoubtedly Fort Knox (U.S.A.) which houses . . .

## A FORTUNE IN GOLD

First prize as the world's most inhospitable spot must go to a group of buildings some 30-odd miles southwest of Louisville (Kentucky, U.S.A.).

People who approach are met with such signs as : DANGER : KEEP OUT : HALT, DO NOT ENTER WITHOUT PERMISSION and a host of other warnings.

The spot is the site of the biggest gold cache in the world—Fort Knox Depository.

The idle, the curious, or the criminals who get into trouble at Fort Knox (if they ever do), can't complain they haven't been warned. There can be hardly be another doorstep on earth from which the "Welcome" mat is so conspicuously absent !

After reading all the signs surrounding the fort, if you still aren't satisfied that you have absolutely no business there, you come up against a more peremptory reminder in particularly bold lettering, some three hundred feet ahead of the main gate :

**HALT !**

State Your Business in Loud Speaker !

**DO NOT ENTER WITHOUT  
PERMISSION**

At this point you may discover that you are thoroughly covered by a concentric layout of pillboxes and turrets, mounted on a high steel fence which is floodlit after dark.

Should you happen to be the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury, or a Very Important Senator, you have a good chance of getting past the forbidding gate and, through a succession of steel doors, into the inner sanctum of the main buildnig.

Once in a blue moon on, the strength of a special pass, some lesser mortal may get close enough to The Vault to admire its twenty five-inch casing of reinforced concrete and its steel-plated door, which no blow-torch can melt and no drill pierce.

### Buried Billions

The admiring is done strictly from the outside, of course ; nobody but the staff, the President, or a Congressional committee is allowed to enter the Vault.

Inside, guarded by the most formidable array of signals, alarms, traps, and assorted secret devices ever installed by the country's foremost bank-protection specialists, there is an eyeful : £6,250-million worth of solid gold, stacked in £7,000 bars, each the size of a small brick—12,500 tons of them, all told !

This isn't U.S.A.'s only treasure-store, but it is its pride and prize, the golden apple of its eye. More than one-half of the nation's entire gold-reserve is kept here under the watchful eyes of a strong and carefully-selected body of guards.

Practically within earshot lies the Fort Knox Military Reservation, from which, if need be, a small army could be summoned to deal with any would-be intruders out in force to take a bite out of U.S.A.'s buried billions of bullion.

Every night, elaborate rituals are observed inside and outside the floodlit gates to make sure that all hands are on the alert for any conceivable emergency and know exactly how to deal with it.

So far nobody has ever attempted to hold up the U.S. Treasury in this formidable lair, and the chances that anybody ever will are slight. The biggest prize-packet in the world is also the most impregnable !

Apart from the elaborate material safeguards, the human factor has been made as foolproof as possible.

The formidable force of employees (their exact number is something of a military secret) who watch the Golden Ramparts of Kentucky on U.S.A.'s behalf have been hand-picked, screened, and tested to the last degree.

It takes two combinations to open the twenty-six-ton door which gives access to the inner sanctum, and no one person knows both. Every time that door is opened, moreover, an automatic device records the fact.

Every report made by a watchman is similarly mechanically recorded on a slip of paper that falls into a special locked safe and cannot be retrieved by the person who made the report. Thus it is impossible to cover up an error or omission.

Private conversations, even in hushed tones, are virtually out of the question inside the gold vault, for every sound is picked up by supersensitive microphones which transmit it to special listening devices in the guard-room.

As in all American mints, workers employed in the vault are required to take a shower bath and change their garments before checking out. Discarded work-clothing is inspected for tiny flecks of gold that may have been or may just have stuck to it. Even the bath-water is filtered.

### Golden Shrine

In view of all these routine precautions, the officials are not worried that any of the gold stored at Fort Knox might vanish through theft. Gold in bar form is so heavy, so unwieldy—and, above all, so hard to dispose of—that anyone attempting to steal it from any mint, let alone Fort Knox, would be merely writing himself a sure ticket to a penitentiary.

Nothing like the Fort Knox Depository has ever existed on the face of the earth; the gold-studded temples and mausoleums of the East, the fabled treasure-chests of Oriental potentates, are puny hoards in comparison.

There is more gold in Fort Knox than all the central banks of Europe lumped together hold in their vaults, more than all the millions of private hoarders throughout the entire world have scraped together, and probably more than lies, still untapped, in the bowels of South Africa's biggest and newest array of goldfields.

Outwardly, America's national golden shrine does not look nearly as impressive as one might expect from a place, where more than 6,000-million pounds lie in resplendent repose. The main building, which houses the vault, is a tomblike structure, no bigger than a small-town courthouse.

There is absolutely nothing fancy or glamorous about it—no ornaments, no frills, no amenities. Nothing at all in fact that fails to serve the one and only purpose for which the twentieth-century Temple of Mammon was built: to keep the gold in and intruders out.

### Gloomy, uninviting

So gloomy is the place, so cold and uninviting, that it is frequently spoken of as a "gold-cemetery." In 1948 Mr. Thomas I. Parkinson, president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, in a statement criticising the official gold policy, lamented the precious metal's dreary life in the United States, which invariably "ends in its ignominious burial at Fort Knox."

The ancient Egyptians, Hindus, and Chinese, to mention only a few other peoples, certainly did things more magnificently, and in better style. But then the United States is a strictly utilitarian nation.

From the farcical viewpoint, the inconspicuous size and shape of the Fort Knox Depository has its advantages.

A small building is obviously easier to watch and control than a large one; it also makes a lesser target in the event of an air raid. The Depository, built in 1936, is of course bombproof, but there seems to be some question as to how it would stand up under atomic attack. In the event of an emergency it can be completely flooded.

There was no need, of course, for a bigger building. One of the characteristic qualities of gold is its compactness; a ton of it would fit snugly into a hatbox! All the 12,500 tons at Fort Knox are comfortably stored in a two-storey vault, half of it below ground level, which is only 40 ft. wide by 60 ft. long. There are twenty-eight different compartments, each with its individual door, lock, and seal.

Despite the awe, secrecy, and "strong-arm stuff" which surrounds it, Fort Knox is essentially only a symbol typical of the complexities of our civilisation. The fabulous hoard stored in its jealously-guarded vaults serves none of the purposes for which gold, in the age-old conception of mankind, was originally intended.

Actually the one and only function the "sterilised" wealth at this and other national depositories performs is that it is there, "in being."

So long as the people of the United States know that the bullion is safely stored there, everything is fine. For this knowledge, together with the country's productive capacity, maintains the value of the dollar and renders it readily negotiable abroad.

### "Spot Check"

"We take it for granted that the gold is still in Kentucky," a U.S. senator remarked several years ago. "If it isn't, and nobody should find out, it wouldn't make any difference."

The gentleman was perfectly right! If the rumor once started, however, that the bullion had disappeared from Fort Knox, and the people began to believe it, there would undoubtedly be the devil to pay! The mere acceptance of such a story would rock American and world economy, even though, in actual fact, every ounce of the gold was still in the vaults.

No doubt it was with this appalling contingency in mind that President Truman, in April 1952, offered Fort Knox passes to an "inspection committee" of the "Daughters of the American Revolution" after that important organisation had voiced misgivings about the national hoard.

"Go and look for yourselves," the President told them in effect, but the worthy ladies declined the offer.

The Eisenhower Administration, however, promptly accepted. A special "settlement committee" jointly appointed at the end of 1952 by the outgoing Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. John Snyder, and his successor, Mr. George Humphrey, made a "spot check" of eighty-six thousand of the gold bars stored at Fort Knox.

About nine thousand bars—a hundred and thirty tons of them—were weighed on special scales registering to the hundredth part of an ounce. Tests for fineness were also made on twenty-six bars selected at random and drilled from top and bottom.

"Results were in exact agreement with the record," the committee reported to the new Secretary of the Treasury.

In order to allay the fears of even the most hardened sceptic, the investigators went on to say that "results would have been the same," if every single one of the gold bars in stock had been tested.



Ross French, of Mallangarel.

### THE 1956 SUMMER CAMP . . .

## Essay Competition

The response by children who attended the Summer Camp at La Perouse to the essay competition was somewhat disappointing, as only twelve entries were received out of a total number of 79 children who attended the Camp. The twelve entries were from:—

ALLAN, Lola	... ..	of Carooona.
BRENNAN, Mary Anne	.. ..	.. ..
CUBBY, Ray	... ..	.. Goodooga.
MORRIS, Dawn	... ..	.. Brewarrina.
PITT, Daphne	... ..	.. Moree.
RAVENEAU, Ivan	... ..	.. ..
SAUNDERS, Mavis	... ..	.. Carooona.
SHILLINGSWORTH,		
Percy	... ..	.. Goodooga.
SLATER, Ismay	... ..	.. Carooona.
SMITH, Patricia	... ..	.. ..
TAYLOR, Frances	... ..	.. ..
WEATHERALL, Ada...	.. ..	.. Moree.

The essays were judged at Head Office by Messrs. Saxby and Mullins, and Mrs. English, who found it a very difficult task to separate the best entries. After a great deal of deliberation, the following prizes were awarded:—

First, £1 1s. od., Ismay Slater of Carooona.

Second, 10s. 6d., Daphne Pitt of Moree.

Third, 10s. 6d., Percy Shillingsworth, of Goodooga.

Here is the winning entry by Ismay Slater:

### "WHAT I LIKED BEST AT THE SUMMER CAMP"

#### LUNA PARK

Of all the wonderful sights that I saw in Sydney, I liked Luna Park the best. There were so many strange and exciting things to see which I had never seen before. I enjoyed every minute of my visit.

I went for a ride on the Ghost Train, the boat ride among the River Caves, a ride on the Big Dipper, a ride in the Dodge'em cars. It rained very heavily whilst we were at Luna Park.

Drinks and cakes were ready for us, and when we had finished we went to Coney Island. As you go in, wind vents on the floor blow up your clothes. There are two boards that go back and forth; it is very hard to walk on them. Inside there is a large saucer-like wheel which goes round and round. We couldn't stay on long, but it was fun. Then there were the moving bridges to walk on. I went on the slippery dip at least five times.

When we came out of Coney Island, we ran through the pouring rain to the bus and went back to Camp. We had had a lovely day.

# Michael Sawtell Pays a Visit to Castlecrag Men's Brotherhood

An appreciation by Mr. Malcolm H. McLelland

A rather unfamiliar subject was given unusual treatment one Sunday evening just before Christmas when Mr. Michael Sawtell gave his views on Central Australia in general and the aborigines in particular to a gathering of men and women at Castlecrag, one of Sydney's northern suburbs. The occasion was the two-monthly meeting of the local Men's Brotherhood held at the tiny Methodist Church Hall; the meeting had been declared an open one, thus explaining the presence of wives and lady friends of members.

The air of the meeting was one of curiosity as Mr. Sawtell rose to speak during the tea. It was decided that, to give the speaker time to do justice to his subject, he be allowed to begin before the tea was over. It was quite obvious from the start that Mr. Sawtell bore a great love for his country and realised the great potential which lay latent in the "dead heart" of the continent. Every aspect of the inland was vividly described, and the speaker lightened his talk with a number of amusing personal anecdotes. The importance of the great waterways of the centre was emphasized among other things by Mr. Sawtell, and he succeeded in convincing his listeners of the essential truth of his remarks. A vote of thanks was moved during which it was said that it was certain that each of those present in his own individual way would do his best to promote the ideal presented by Mr. Sawtell.

Mr. Sawtell also gave the address in the church service immediately following the Brotherhood meeting, and in this he devoted most of his time to discussing the welfare of the Aboriginal people of Australia, both full-blooded and half-caste. The lamentable plight of some of these people, as pictured verbally by Mr. Sawtell, gave rise to much sympathy in the congregation. The speaker based portion of his address on the parable of the Good Samaritan, pointing out that the Aborigines were our neighbours, and it was our duty to "bind up their wounds, pouring in oil and wine" rather than to "pass by on the other side."

The analogous use of this parable has doubtless been employed for many different purposes, but surely none so fitting or pertinent as on this occasion. Not only are the natives of Australia our own neighbours, but they are even the companions of our home-land. We have an unlimited obligation to these people, the original inhabitants of the "Great South Land of the Holy Spirit". Each member of the congregation at Castlecrag undertook to send to the Prime Minister a letter requesting the granting of the Old Age Pension to aged de-tribalised non-exempted Full Blood Aborigines on Government stations. →

## CATTLE FOOD FROM ORANGE SKINS

Cows throughout America are getting fat on a diet of oranges. More precisely, they're eating thousands of tons of a mixture of molasses, yeast and carbohydrates made from orange skins and pulp-waste products of the juice-canning industry.

These constitute 50 to 60 per cent. of the whole fruit as it comes from the tree.

The yeast, the richest natural source of complete proteins, could easily be refined and made palatable for human consumption, according to processors.

Approximately 1-million tons of the orange cattle food have been produced in Florida alone during the past few years.

Agricultural scientists have shown it to be an excellent starch and sugar feed for both beef and dairy cattle. A similar product made of dried grapefruit peel has been found to stimulate milk production.

Recent chemical tests have shown the orange yeast to contain significant amounts of the nerve vitamin thiamine—now considered necessary for the health of not only cows, but men.

Since the 1941-42 canning season, when citrus molasses first was produced on a small scale, there has been an almost explosive growth in its production.

Besides cattle feed, the molasses is utilised widely today in grass ensilage and in increasing the sugar content of all sorts of mixed feeds.



Vivianne Laurie, Irene Roberts and Mary Roberts, of Cubawee, make a very musical trio.

It may be said that Mr. Sawtell was able to convince his audience at Castlecrag of the worth and importance of his "one man cold war" against the Government on behalf of the Aborigines whom he loves so well.

Mr. Michael Sawtell, who is a member of the Aborigines Welfare Board, is a well-known lecturer and author and is much sought after as a speaker.

# SKETCHES OF OUTSTANDING ABORIGINES

An Address given by REV. GORDON ROWE

at the Maughan Methodist Church P.S.A. on Sunday, 30th January, 1955, and broadcast over Station 5KA.

Tomorrow we celebrate Australia Day, the anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers in this country 167 years ago.

Instead of drawing your attention to our own very remarkable achievements during those years, I invite you to turn aside with me, and take a look at the increasing success with which the original inhabitants of this land are being assimilated into our community.

It has been estimated that they have carried on their primitive stone-age way of life here for 12,000 years. Opinions still differ as to whether ours is better than theirs, but the fact is, that wherever the aborigines get the chance, they forsake theirs for ours.

Naturally, their success is not being achieved without much help. Although there are now only 75,000 left scattered all over Australia, of whom 30,000 are part white, more than 400 full time missionaries are at work among them, on mission stations, government stations, and children's homes.

In addition, all the Australia governments, with the exception of Victoria, have an Aborigines' Department, staffed by competent and sympathetic men and women, who are provided with many thousands of pounds annually to spend on the preservation, welfare, and training of the aborigines.

Interest in them is greater than ever. This is not all due to pity or shame. Much of it is due to the growing realisation that these people are rendering a great service to Australia in many fields—stockmen, shearers, cane cutters, drivers, fishermen, and in water-works, highways and railways, and have shown themselves capable of being trained for other fields as well.

The first team of Australian cricketers to visit England were aborigines. That was as far back as 1868—ten years before the first white team went. They played 47 matches, won 14, lost 14 and drew 19. The outstanding player was Johnny Mullagh, scoring 1,679 runs, and taking 245 wickets.

Let us look for a few moments at some present day aborigines who are doing wonderfully well in their new field of enterprise.

Miss Muriel Stanley of Queensland was the first aboriginal girl to become a qualified nurse. She was born and brought up at the Church of England Mission at Yarrabah, twelve miles from Cairns.

As a girl her ambition was to become a nurse and work among her own people. On passing the required educational standard in 1941, she was received for training at the Women's Hospital in Sydney.

At the end of 1944 she passed the Final Examination of the New South Wales Nurses' Registration Board, and was presented with her certificate in January, 1945.

Later she returned to the Yarrabah Mission where there are 600 people, and has since been Matron of St. Luke's Hospital there. In the working of the Hospital she is assisted in the nursing and domestic work by aboriginal girls, who have become quite competent in those departments.

Matron Stanley is a member of the Church Army, and in 1953 while attending a Church Army Conference in Newcastle, was the Guest of Honour at an afternoon tea party given by the widow of Canon Campbell.

At that gathering she contended, as she has frequently, that education is the main need of her people, and that without it there can be no advancement for them.

Following her example several native girls in other parts of Australia have taken up nursing and obtained their certificate.

Albert Namatjira of Central Australia received the inspiration to paint in 1934, when at the Hermannsburg Mission he saw an exhibition of water colour paintings done in the district by Rex Battarbee and John Gardiner.



Albert Namatjira with Lillian Kunoth, one of the stars of "Jedda".

He told the Missioner, Pastor F. W. Albrecht of his desire and he offered to help him with the equipment.

When Rex Battarbee returned to Hermannsburg two years later Albert offered to be camel boy for him in return for lessons in painting. They were away for two months, during which time he received the only lessons he ever had. He was then 34, had been married for years, and had several children.

He was already a good craftsman in both iron and wood, a good worker, and ambitious to improve his position. Moreover his adoption of the Christian faith had naturally brought a steadiness into his life which enabled him to pursue a definite aim.

His first exhibition was held in Melbourne in 1938, when Mr. W. H. Gill gave him his first chance to prove his worth to the Art World. The exhibition was a great success, and since that time exhibitions of his paintings have been held in all State capitals, and Alice Springs. Some years he has received as much as £2,000 for his paintings.

Other members of his tribe at Hermannsburg have been inspired by his example, including his own son Ewald, but it was several years before their work was good enough to attract attention. In recent years members of this Hermannsburg Art Group have held exhibitions in several capital cities, often in association with Namatjira.

In 1953 he was awarded the Coronation Medal, and in 1954 was one of the two Northern Territory aborigines flown to Canberra with the official party for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Before returning home he was entertained by friends and well wishers in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and the Tanunda district, where he paid tribute to the first missionaries, who set out from that locality nearly 80 years before to found the mission at Hermannsburg.

From the early days of white settlement the police have had the assistance of black trackers in their work. Many of these trackers have rendered splendid service to the country and some have made it a lifetime job.

Such a one was Frank Williams, who now lives in retirement at Bourke. He was attached to the N.S.W. police force for 45 years. He was born on Tooralle Station on the River Warrego in 1881. Brought up in the bush, he learnt tracking from his father and mother as a child.

He started to work as a police tracker at Drysdale, 23 miles north of Cobar, when he was 19. After Drysdale he served at Gongolon, Cobar, Dubbo, Byrock, and Bourke. He was 25 years at Byrock, and his last 12 years were served at Bourke.

Since his retirement a few years ago, he has several times been called in to lend the police a hand. He reckons his hardest tracking job was to track Mack

McDonald years ago. McDonald, a full-blood aborigine had come down to Brewarrina from Queensland. At Brewarrina he murdered a boy under very savage circumstances, and went bush.

Williams set out on his trail, and tracked him from Brewarrina for 50 miles towards Weilmoringle Station. Much of the tracking was through creeks, where McDonald went to avoid being traced. But Williams caught up with him, found him asleep, and had him arrested.

Frank Williams is proud of several things. One is the gold watch presented to him by his white police colleagues on his retirement. Another is the citation sent to him by the Registrar of the Imperial Service Order, from St. James' Palace, London, when he was awarded that distinction. Another is that November day in 1953, when he went down to Government House, Sydney, and was presented with the medal and ribbon of that Order.

Two of his sons were in the A.I.F. in the Second World War. One was killed in Malaya, and the other spent three years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp, and as a labourer on the horror railway.

Many aborigines enlisted in the defence of Australia in the two World Wars, and in Korea, and several won decorations. The first promoted to Commissioned rank was Reginald W. Saunders, of Portland, Victoria.

After active service in Libya, Greece, Crete, and New Guinea, he was selected to return to Victoria and attend an Officer's Training School. From this he graduated as a Lieutenant in December, 1944, the first aborigine to receive a Commission.



**Captain Reg Saunders.**

In reply to my letter of congratulation, Lieutenant Saunders sent the following letter in acknowledgment:

14 Glebe Ave.,  
Cheltenham,  
Victoria.

18/12/44.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your kind wishes and congratulations. My philosophy is that once a person undertakes to do something, no matter how big or how small, that person should do it to the best of his or her ability, which may account for my very small part in helping to pave the way to ultimate victory. Many thanks for your book. Many of the people mentioned in it are very familiar to me.

You mentioned in your letter an attitude towards the people of my race. But neither you nor I can change that attitude, because changing of it rests with the aborigines themselves, and my contribution towards helping them, is just simply by setting up an example—not by words, which are cheap, but by deeds.

Once again, Sir, I thank you, and wish you and your fellow-workers all the best of luck.

I remain,  
Yours sincerely,  
(Sgd.) R. W. Saunders.

Reg Saunders also served in the Australian Army in Korea, and in 1951 was promoted to the rank of Captain, and given the command of a Company. Men who served under him said that as an Officer and a man Captain Saunders would be hard to beat. He is now an officer of the Australian Regular Army, and stationed at a Military training camp in Victoria. His wife is a part aboriginal girl who was in the W.A.A.F's. in World War II.

Harold Blair, born in Queensland, and educated at the Purga Mission, attracted attention when he sang at his work on his employer's farm near Fassifern, and became popular at district concerts.

When he was 20 in 1945, Marjorie Lawrence invited him to sing to her at her Brisbane hotel. She praised his voice, and foretold a good future under competent teachers. About the same time he sang Advance Australia and other songs at a War Loan Rally in the Brisbane City Hall to the applause of 2,000 people.

His next success was in an Amateur Hour broadcast from Brisbane, when his singing of Macushla brought him 9,000 votes—a record at that time. To help him the Government gave him a job in the Native Affairs Department in Brisbane.

Money was raised by a group of white people to send him to Melbourne to study at the Albert St. Conservatorium. Here he made good progress, and in 1949 was awarded the Performer's Diploma, the first aboriginal to receive such an award.

Blair toured Australia for the A.B.C. as Vocalist with the Symphony Orchestra, and sang excerpts from Jephtha, Judas Maccabaeus, and Handel's Messiah. He also gave a cultured talk in the Guest of Honour Session.



Harold Blair.

He then went to America, and studied at the Howard University for 18 months under the Negro baritone Tod Duncan, and appeared as Guest of Honour on a New York television programme—the first Australian aborigine to do so.

On his return to Australia he took part in the Commonwealth Jubilee Concert Season under the A.B.C. He married Miss Dorothy Eden of Melbourne, where they now reside.

Miss Amy O'Donoghue left here in 1953 to serve at the Mt. Margaret Mission in West Australia as a Missionary teacher. She was then at 23 fulfilling a desire she had cherished for years.

She came from the Nepabunna district in the north, and when a child was taken to the Colebrook home at Quorn, conducted for the United Aborigines Mission by Matron Hyde and Sister Rutter.

She received her Primary education at the Quorn Public School, and when the Home was transferred to Eden Hills near Adelaide, attended the Unley High School and obtained the Intermediate Certificate.

Then to prepare herself to teach little children, she took the short course of the S.A. Kindergarten College at North Adelaide, did practical work at the Belair Kindergarten, and received the College certificate.

To further prepare herself for missionary work she entered the Adelaide Bible Institute in 1950, and after 2 years of intensive study gained the Institute's Diploma.

Miss O'Donoghue is the first qualified part-aborigine to go from South Australia to do mission work elsewhere, and we all wish her every success.

The first aborigine in South Australia to be allotted a block under the soldier settlement scheme is Tim Hughes. He may also be the first in Australia. He comes from Pt. Pearce, where his father was a highly respected Methodist Local Preacher, and at whose funeral six white local preachers bore his mortal remains to their last resting place in the Pt. Pearce cemetery.

Tim won the Military Medal at Gona in New Guinea in December, 1942. The citation says he silenced two enemy machine gun posts with the use of hand grenades and a machine gun, so that his platoon could move in. It goes on to say, Private Hughes showed remarkable bravery, exceptional coolness, and initiative. His total disregard for his own safety set a fine example throughout the platoon, and also throughout the company.

His block is of 987 acres, and is at Reedy Creek in the South East. On the property is a new five roomed timber framed Trust Home. In this Tim lives with his wife and two children. In preparing his block for occupation he cleared much scrub, and erected 6 miles of fencing.

In the preparation and working of the block, Tim, who is now 36, has had the wholehearted assistance of his wife, who was a Colebrook Home girl, and son Paul, and daughter Denise 8. They run sheep and cattle, including 11 milking cows.

They all speak highly of the kindness and helpfulness of their white neighbours. Recently Tim said this: "Our time is all pretty well taken up with our work on the property, but on Sunday we all like to go to the service in the Conmurra Methodist Church." And of the aborigines he said, "To give them everything now would be a waste of money. They have to be trained. Some would be capable, but most of my people need training and understanding."

Time prevents my mentioning many others. How have these people become outstanding? Well, in the very same way as white people do. In the first place they have had the natural ability, and in the second someone to take an interest in them and show them what they could do and how they could do it. Most white children wouldn't get anywhere but for the encouragement and co-operation of their teachers, parents, and homes.

And it is so with the aborigines. We can't do much for those of fixed habits. We must concentrate on the children. For their preparation for absorption into the general community three things are necessary. First, an improvement in native housing. Children who live in hovels or shanties are not only likely to have an inferiority complex, but also have no means of cultivating the habits of modern civilised living.

Second, teachers should frequently impress upon these children the opportunities that are open to them. To arouse in them an enthusiasm for better things. And third parents must be given every inducement to see that their children receive a good education. Many take them away too soon—even from the primary school.

It has been found that scholarships for boys and girls—such as are provided in New South Wales, and hostels for them to live in—such as Western Australia provides, are helpful inducements.

Our Government here, in South Australia, is aware of this need, and has expressed its willingness to pay board and lodging for aboriginal boys and girls, who, after qualifying in a primary school, wish to go on to some form of secondary education. The door is wide open. Some are coming in. Let all of us do our best to induce many more to do so.

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## CAN YOU TAKE A HINT?

**Homemade cakes** are a treat these days and to prevent your freshly baked cake from sticking to the cake plate, be sure to sprinkle the dish with a little icing sugar before setting the cake on it. The sugar will absorb the moisture on the bottom of the cake and keep the pieces from adhering to the cake plate.

\* \* \* \*

**From time to time** your sink may become blocked. When you next suffer this inconvenience press some chloride of lime into the vent pipe. The second step is to pour in some boiling water slowly to dissolve the lime. Fill the sink one-third with water and when this has emptied, allow the tap to run for a few minutes.

\* \* \* \*

**When the warm weather returns**, it's time for refreshing salads. To prevent the hard-boiled eggs from turning black on the outside, drop them into cold water immediately they are cooked.

\* \* \* \*

**If your light cotton or linen frock** is stained with vegetable or fruit juice, first wet the stained area and use a chlorine liquid diluted with ten parts warm water. When the stain is removed rinse and dry thoroughly.

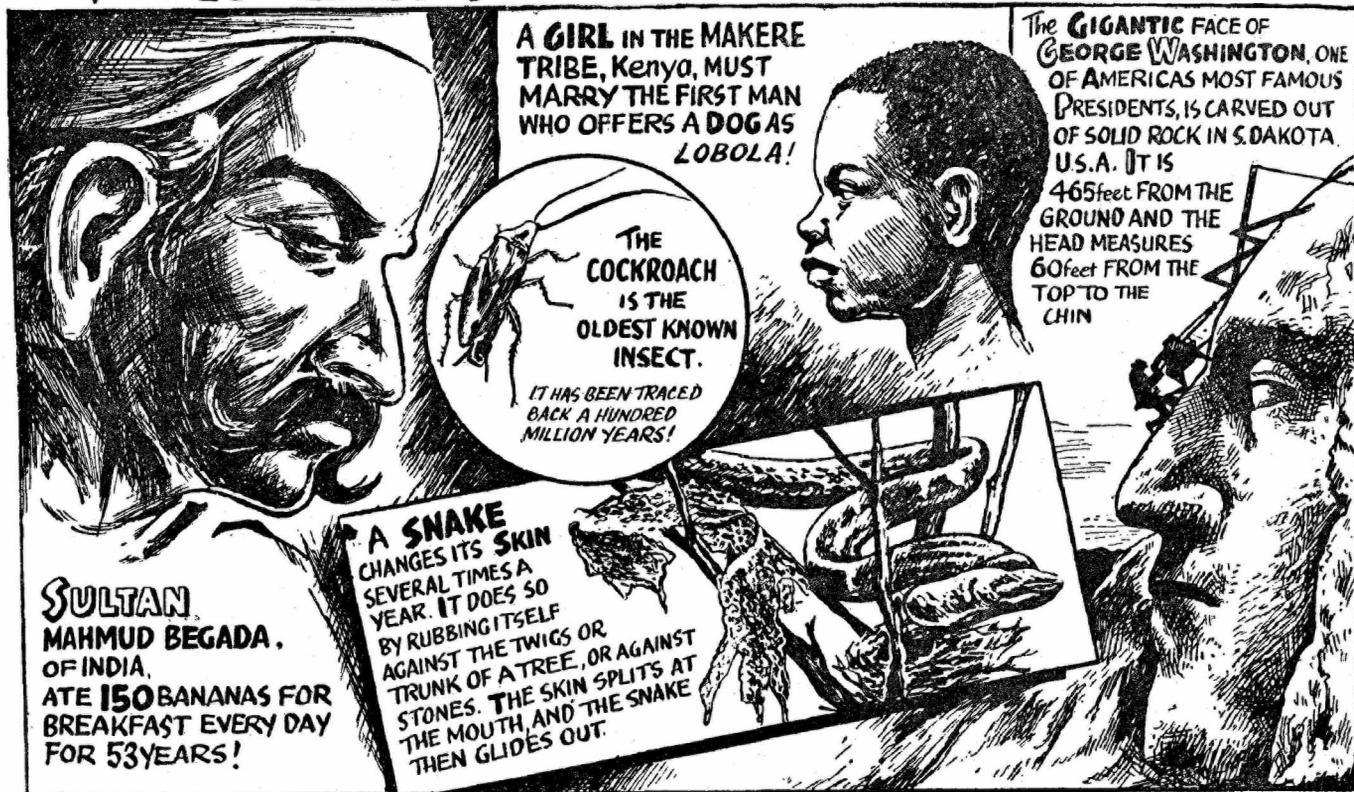
\* \* \* \*

**Try this mixture** for removing those particularly stubborn stains on baths. Into equal parts baking soda and bon-ami pour enough kerosene to make a paste; then rub into the stained areas of the bath.

\* \* \* \*

**For those who live near the sea** or in a wet climate this is a little tip for keeping salt dry. If the salt is kept in a screw-top jar put a dry pea in it; or if it is kept in an open dish place a piece of blotting paper at the bottom of the dish.

# NOW YOU KNOW!



**A GIRL IN THE MAKERE TRIBE, Kenya, MUST MARRY THE FIRST MAN WHO OFFERS A DOG AS LOBOLA!**

The **GIGANTIC FACE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON**, ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS PRESIDENTS, IS CARVED OUT OF SOLID ROCK IN S. DAKOTA, U.S.A. IT IS 465feet FROM THE GROUND AND THE HEAD MEASURES 60feet FROM THE TOP TO THE CHIN

**THE COCKROACH IS THE OLDEST KNOWN INSECT.**  
IT HAS BEEN TRACED BACK A HUNDRED MILLION YEARS!

**SULTAN MAHMUD BEGADA, OF INDIA, ATE 150 BANANAS FOR BREAKFAST EVERY DAY FOR 53 YEARS!**

**A SNAKE CHANGES ITS SKIN SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR. IT DOES SO BY RUBBING ITSELF AGAINST THE TWIGS OR TRUNK OF A TREE, OR AGAINST STONES. THE SKIN SPLITS AT THE MOUTH, AND THE SNAKE THEN GLIDES OUT.**

## Jams and Pickles are Popular

### CAPSICUM REISH.

(Yields about 10 six-ounce glasses.)

To prepare the capsicum, cut open about one dozen medium-sized peppers and discard seeds. (For best colour, use 6 green peppers and 6 sweet red peppers.) Put through food mincer twice, using finest blade. Drain and use pulp for making relish.

Two cups (14 ounces) of the prepared peppers, 7 cups (3 pounds) sugar, 1½ cups white wine vinegar, 1 bottle liquid fruit pectin.

Measure prepared peppers into a very large saucepan. Add sugar and vinegar and mix well. Place over high heat, bring to a full rolling boil, and boil hard 1 minute, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and at once stir in bottled fruit pectin. Then stir and skim by turns for 5 minutes to cool slightly. Ladle quickly into glasses. Cover relish at once with ¼-inch hot paraffin.

### PINEAPPLE AND STRAWBERRY JAM.

(Yields about 9 six-ounce glasses.)

Twelve ounces sliced strawberries, 2½ cups crushed pineapple, 5 cups sugar, 2 tablespoons lemon juice, 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind (optional), ½ bottle liquid fruit pectin.

Place strawberries in large saucepan. Add crushed pineapple, sugar, lemon juice and rind, and mix well.

Place over high heat, bring to a full rolling boil, and boil hard 1 minute, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and at once stir in bottled fruit pectin. Then stir and skim by turns for 5 minutes to cool slightly, to prevent floating fruit. (Use metal spoon to skim off foam.) Ladle quickly into glasses. Then cover jam at once with ¼ inch hot paraffin.

### MUSTARD PICKLE.

(Piccalilli.)

Eight pounds mixed vegetables (cauliflowers, shallots, cucumbers, and marrow), 1 lb. salt, 1 quart vinegar, 1 tablespoonful plain flour, 4 oz. sugar, 1 tablespoonful ground ginger, 2 tablespoonfuls dry mustard, 1 tablespoonful turmeric, 1 oz. allspice.

Prepare the vegetables and put them into a large bowl. Sprinkle with salt and leave overnight. Wash free of brine and drain well. Mix powdered ingredients to a paste with some of the vinegar. Put remaining vinegar into a pan with the allspice. Bring to boil and boil for 2 or 3 minutes. Stir strained spiced vinegar into the paste, then simmer and stir the mixture together for 15 minutes. Pour over vegetables, mix well and pack into jars. Seal in the usual way.

For a softer pickle, boil the prepared vegetables (after brining) in the mustard sauce for five minutes. Then put into jars.

# Strange but True!

At Clerkenwell, London, there was for many years a shop run by two sisters, and no item sold ever exceeded the sum of one farthing! A large stock of wares included books, sweets, pencils, tops and toys. The Farthing Shop only went out of existence early in this century.

\* \* \* \*

The best grades of raisins are made from choice grapes by cutting half through the fruit stalk without detaching it from the tree, thus leaving the cluster to shrink and dry by the heat of the sun while on the vine. Another method is to dip each bunch of grapes into a solution of lye made of the ashes of the burned tendrils after which the fruit is dried by exposure to the sun.

\* \* \* \*

It is a fairly common expression to describe a woman as a "grass widow" when she is temporarily separated from her husband, but the phrase has a curious origin. During the centuries when British soldiers were permanently stationed in India, their wives and children invariably lived in the colony. These were mostly on the coastal areas where the summer heat was almost unendurable. Officers usually sent their wives to the hills during the worst of the summer. Here the magnificent green grass was in direct contrast to the arid coasts, and it became the custom to send the officers' families to "the grass," and women thus separated from their husbands were known as "grass widows."

\* \* \* \*

Although pipe-smoking for women is believed to be a modern craze, it was a fairly common practice in England during the past century. In Denmark, women have smoked pipes for centuries, and it has long been popular in several other European countries.

\* \* \* \*

A pack of baboons once invaded a native settlement in Tuli, Southern Rhodesia, and kidnapped a baby. The child was recovered the following day, unharmed.

\* \* \* \*

More than 4,000 rubies and sapphires are used in the engine-room of a modern battleship.

\* \* \* \*

A bee's stinger is approximately one hundred times finer than the finest needle made.

All Chinese believe in proper burial and the gift of a handsome coffin is a much esteemed gift. Often caskets are kept in the home for years so as to have them ready when needed. White is the color of mourning in China.

\* \* \* \*

The fiercest and most voracious fish in the sea is the barracuda. One-third of the fish length, which may be up to 8 feet, is taken up by the massive head with its protruding lower jaw. Both jaws are fitted with huge canine teeth, which meet in a vice-like bite. Besides the canine teeth, there are more than a hundred needle-sharp teeth at the extreme edges of the upper jaws, while on the tongue are a number of rows of small, sharp, recurved teeth. The barracuda has caused more injury to man than even the shark, and they will attack any prey without provocation. The speed of the fish has been estimated to vary between 25 to 30 miles an hour.

\* \* \* \*

Now in the U.S. you can buy fruit-flavoured sugar for drinks. Designed to save squeezing fruit, the fruit-flavoured sugar is merely dissolved in water.

\* \* \* \*

Hamlet, the hero of Shakespeare's famous drama, has long been a subject for controversy as to whether he actually existed. The sagas of Iceland contain an account of two persons named Hamlet, but historians of Denmark do not consider the history of Hamlet, as a prince of that country, as authentic.

\* \* \* \*

Eggs are two-thirds water and a good laying hen needs 18 gallons of water a year.

\* \* \* \*

During his lifetime, an average man has approximately 800 hair cuts, and loses some 50 to 60 pounds of hair.

\* \* \* \*

In Brazil, certain Indian tribes believe that by drinking a certain potion on ceremonial days they will receive the powers of their ancestors. The potion is made of bones of their predecessors, buried from 10 to 20 years, pounded into powder and mixed with a liquid.



### *Excitement as Aborigines Married*

Excited guests began to shower confetti over five aboriginal bridal parties before they had left the church on Tabulam Reserve one Saturday recently.

The five couples who were married were:—

- Geoff Phillips and Susan Hickling.
- Colin Hickling and Iris Avery.
- Purvis Mercy and Cecilia Walker.
- John Robinson and Kate Torrens.
- Erkie Archie Green and Gwen Logan.

The last mentioned couple are from Woodenbong and the others from Tabulam.

The couples took part in probably the first mass wedding ceremony among aborigines on the Northern Rivers.

They were married by Pastor Frank Roberts of the United Aborigines' Mission.

The zoo strong congregation packed the church and spilled into the church grounds.

The guests began arriving in Tabulam from early Saturday morning.

Some of them came in taxis.

They gave the bridal parties a rousing reception as they left the church to attend separate wedding breakfasts.

Only white people to see the ceremony were the Tabulam Station Relieving Manager, Mr. S. P. Walker and his wife and family, school teacher Mr. A. Soorley, and the taxi drivers.

The wedding service was dignified with few hitches.

Each party remained in the church until all five services had been completed.

### **Brides in White**

The brides wore ankle length frocks of white and were attended by bridesmaids dressed in pink, and tiny flowergirls in lemon.

Each carried bouquets of dahlias and roses which were grown on the Station.

Fathers or guardians gave away each bride.

A resident at the Station, Marjorie Marsh, made most of the frocks.

Best men fumbled nervously when they were asked to produce the wedding rings.

Some of the 'grooms were all thumbs when they tried to place the rings on their brides' fingers.

The wedding ceremony was the climax of a spiritual upheaval which is sweeping the aboriginal community, particularly in the Tabulam area.

### **Knew Vows**

Mr. Walker said he was convinced the couples understood the true implications of the wedding vows.

Because no hall was large enough five separate wedding breakfasts were held.

The guests drank cordials, tea and ate the usual dainty foods.

There was no intoxicating liquor.

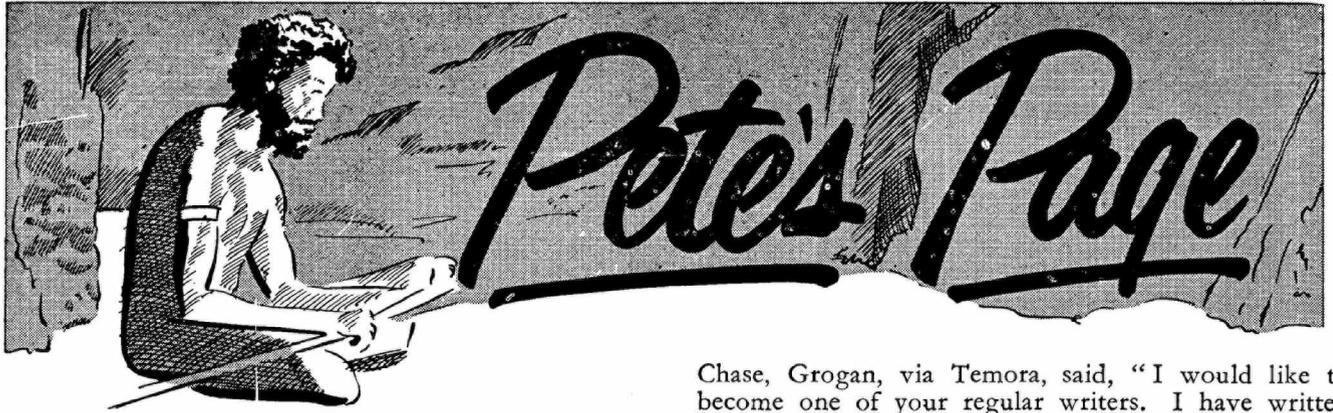
Reserve "elders" Jack Walker and Eddie Hickling helped Pastor Roberts organise the wedding ceremonies.

Many of the guests remained in Tabulam to attend a special service in the church.

"The singing was excellent," said Manager Walker.



June Roberts (12), of Coff's Harbour, with the Headmaster of Lismore High School, Mr. Jenkins. June is in first year and hopes to become a teacher. Mr. Jenkins is very pleased and proud of the dark children who always attend school dressed so neatly in their school uniforms.



Hallo Kids!

Well the school holidays are over once again and we'll all have to settle down now and work hard at least until the next holidays in August.

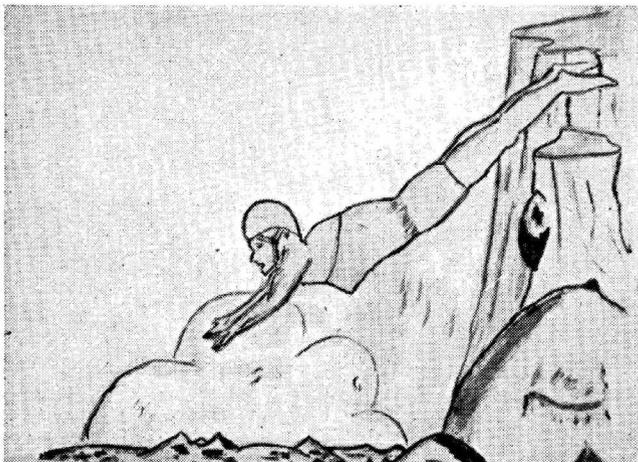
I've had a lot of nice letters from my young friends during the last few days and that's a rather good sign. Noel Russell, who is up at the Mount Penang Training School at Gosford, wrote and told me how interested in *Dawn* he was and how he would have liked to have come down to our Summer Camps. Noel hopes to be leaving Mount Penang round about August.

Ruth Bryant of Nambucca Heads, wrote and suggested we should run a home town essay competition, with the writer choosing his or her own heading. That sounds like a good idea, Ruth, we'll have to see what we can do about it.

Richard Ballangarry of Auburn, wrote a nice long letter and sent me a drawing. Richard, is in second year at High School and doing very well (he tells me confidentially, though, that his maths could be a bit better). Never mind Richard. Keep at it.

Joan Kelly, whose postal address is Box 89, Post Office, Balranald, would like a pen friend, boy or girl, between the age of 16 and 22. Joan's hobbies are horseriding, collecting film stars pictures, reading and hillbilly music. How about it now. How about some letters for Joan? Joan also suggested we should run some movie star crossword puzzles. What do you think about that idea?

Our special prize this month goes to Mildred Murray for her very interesting and very well written letter. Mildred, whose address is C/- Mrs. F. Cronin, Emu



This fine sketch was sent in by Pam Morris, of Burnt Bridge.

Chase, Grogan, via Temora, said, "I would like to become one of your regular writers. I have written one letter before and thought I might write a few more seeing it is our peoples magazine. I enjoy working out here very much. The farm is such a big place and so very nice. We have a fair few animals, lambs, sheep, cows, pigs, turkeys, fowls horses, dogs . . . and even a cat.

I was born at Koorawatha and when I was about three I went to Cowra. I liked Cowra very much and lived there until I was almost 12 and then went on to the Home at Cootamundra, where I stayed for three years. The Matron was a lovely person and looked after everyone so well. I must have been a terrible headache to her sometimes, but I guess we're all the same. One day, when I am 18, I hope to go back to my parents, who live down the South Coast. We often write to each other. I also hope to see all my old friends and relatives at Cowra.

At the Cootamundra High School, I used to play Vigoro, Softball, Hockey and Basket Ball, but Vigoro was my favourite sport.

Now wasn't that an interesting letter? How about some more from all you other girls and boys. And now until next month.

Cheerio,

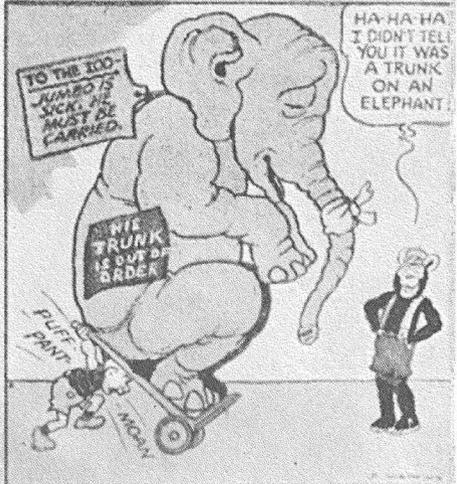
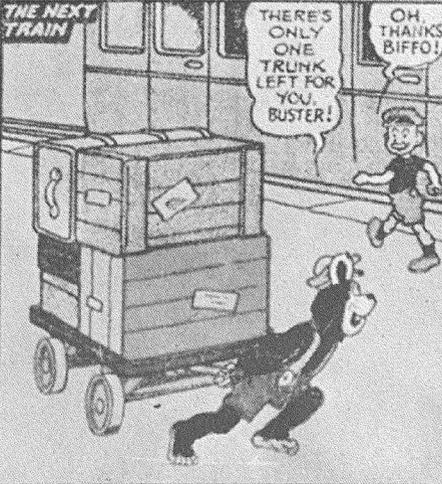
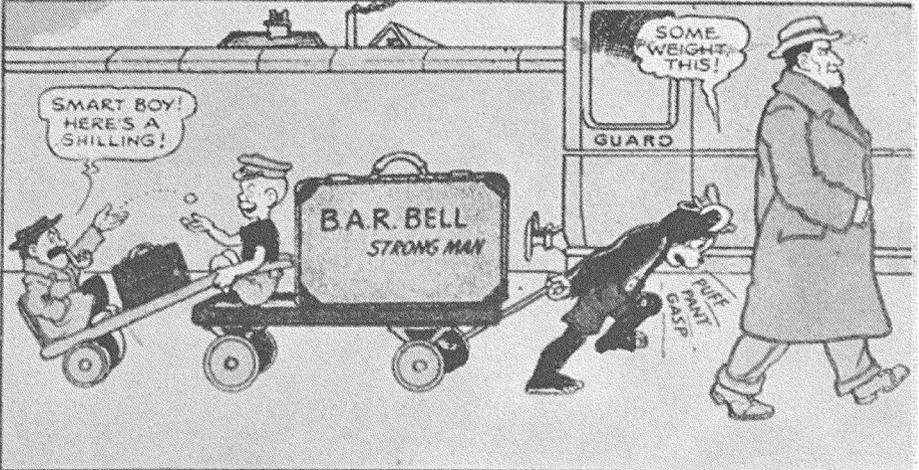
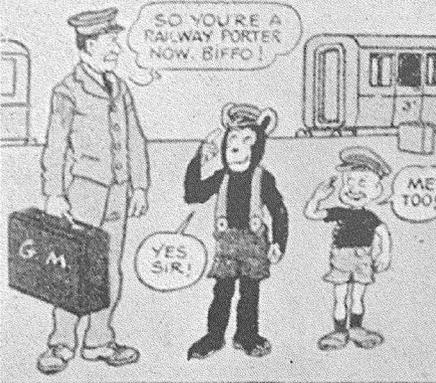
Your sincere pal,

Pete



Carol Donovan, one of our regular contributors from Bowraville, sent this sketch.

# Biffo the BEAR



## PASS IT ON

When **You** have read DAWN Pass It On—

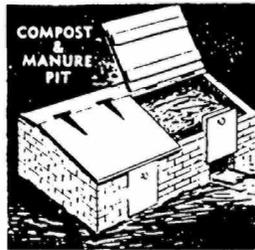
If you have friends or relatives who are not on the Mailing List send their names in now.



## SOME HANDY HINTS



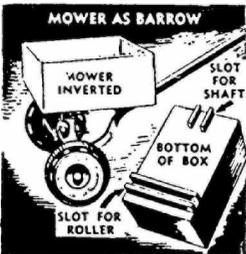
**Rubbish Pan.**—Kerosene tin, cut as shown, with broom handle nailed to back, is handy for litter.



**Compost.**—Make pit of bricks on edge; doors are double slide of fibro spaced to thickness of bricks.



**Garden Boots.**—Take out the soles of old boots, insert pieces of wood, tack on to the uppers.



**Barrow.**—Reverse mower, fit a box as shown with grooves to hold over handle and roller of machine.



**Weeder.**—Fasten handle of old saucepan to broom-handle with screw and piece of wire bound round end.



**Seed-bed.**—Length of old guttering, perforated and stopped at each end, makes good seed-bed.



**Spout.**—Old tablespoon fastened to can-spout throws liquid manure under plants, avoids scalding leaves.



**Weeds.**—Make weeder from old carving-fork stapled to a section of broomstick let slightly into wood.



**Vines.**—Train passion-fruit over flat trellised roof; it protects from hot winds, makes harvesting easier.