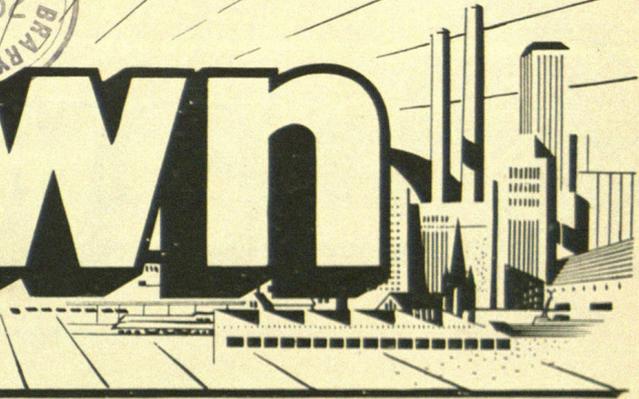


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Dawn



Vol. No. 1 Ser. No. 3

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

March, 1952.





OUR COVER

These two boys at La Perouse have different coloured skins. But they have the same hopes, the same ideals and the same joys.

Their colour doesn't matter . . . they're mates !



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Courage Has No Colour Line

LEARNING TO WALK AGAIN

The Story of Bill Charles

THE country sports arena is packed as the eight runners go to the starting line!

A few words from the starter and they take up their positions on the line.

"Hands on your mark; get set" . . . the crack of a gun, and the field is off, eight of the fastest runners in the district striving for a coveted trophy.

Slowly a dark-skinned athlete emerges from the ruck, and streaks away to an easy win.

The judges confer for a moment, and then over the microphone comes the announcement, "The winner of the hundred yards. Bill Charles. Time, ten seconds." A gasp goes up from the crowd for everyone had seen that the dark athlete was running barefooted.

. . . A very short space of time and the scene changes. This time no cheering crowds, no flashing limbs . . . no roars of applause.

Just a simple little cottage at La Perouse and on a bed on the back verandah is the same young athlete. Only this time HE HAS NO LEGS.



It's the same Bill Charles.

Despite two years of agony and mental anguish, that same infectious grin is there, the same quiet laugh. It IS the same Bill Charles.

Two years ago, Bill fell beneath a fast-moving train at Lismore and lost both his legs. Now he must learn to walk again!

When Bill left school, he became a police tracker cadet at Moree, where he spent six years; then he was transferred to Dubbo for his final six months' training under Sergeant Alec Riley.

His training finished, Bill spent the next two years in the Mudgee and Pilliga districts, but the job was too slow and he gave it away to take up, firstly, timber felling, and then dairying.

Bill discovered he had a natural talent for boxing, and travelled about the country a lot with Harry Johns' boxing troupe.

Bill was an outstanding runner too, for he consistently clocked even time for the hundred yards, and in the high jump could clear two inches better than his own height. (Bill is 5 ft. 9 in.)

He also excelled in football, cricket and tennis.

When Bill lost his legs he had lots of ambitions, just like any average young man. He hasn't lost those ambitions but his ideas must change and he must start all over again.

The Aborigines Welfare Board has arranged for Bill to be fitted with two artificial legs, and he has to learn to walk again.

"Once I could run 75 yards in less than 8 seconds," says Bill, with a wry smile, "Now it takes me more than 8 minutes to cover the same distance."

Bill will shortly go to the rehabilitation centre at Jervis Bay, to be taught to adapt himself to his new limbs and to learn some trade that will provide him with a living.

Bill has had a lot of pain and a lot of worry in the past two years, but he is a happy personality, and he feels the future has lots of good things in store for him.

The only thing that really worries Bill now, is that the severed nerves will itch sometimes, and he unconsciously scratches his wooden feet expecting to get some relief.

Bill is a shining example of that undaunted courage for which the Australian aborigine is renowned, for he has put aside his fears and worries and is determined to make himself self-supporting . . . as soon as he learns to walk again.

Courage has no colour line!

THE EASTER PARADE



THE

STATE'S

SHOWCASE

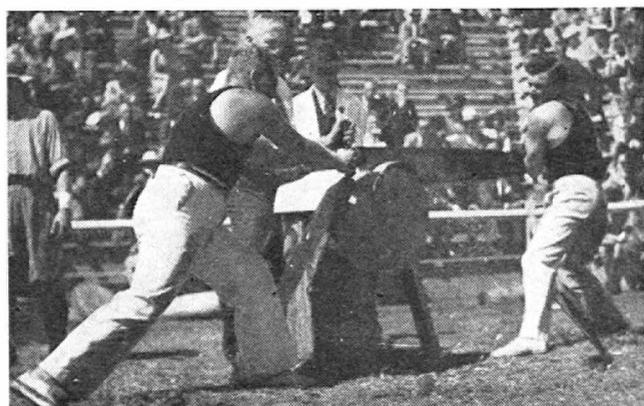
NEXT month is "Show" month . . . the month of the State's big Easter parade. The Royal Easter Show is one of the most magnificent exhibitions of its kind in the world, drawing to itself people and exhibits from practically every corner of the Commonwealth, New Zealand and overseas. It is indeed an exposition of Australia, as well as an expression of faith.

It all began in Parramatta, 128 years ago, when a newly formed Royal Agricultural Society held its first show on 10 acres of ground. The Society had raised £1,100 (the equivalent of £11,000 these days) to finance importation of good stock, plants and seeds, necessary for the beginning of agriculture in New South Wales.

Horses, merinos, cattle and seeds were imported, not to mention farming text books, and from that beginning rose the great agricultural structure of the modern State.

In 1869, the Royal Agricultural Show moved to Prince Alfred Park. By 1882 it had so expanded that more space was needed and Moore Park became the venue.

To-day the area is nearly 72 acres, holding almost 23,000 competitive exhibits, and able to accommodate



Brawny woodsmen on the saw.

The Showground buildings are worth over £2,500,000, and during the Show more than £5,000,000 worth of livestock, agricultural and manufactured goods are housed on the ground.

The original members of the Royal Agricultural Society were inspired by an ideal whose flame has burned brighter with the passing years.

To-day, more than ever, the world is deeply interested in feeding itself. In recent years, a commanding and expanding literature, in almost every civilized language, has grown from the attempts of thoughtful people to help in the solution of the problem.

Books, articles, even poetry, pour from the world's presses, dealing with all phases of land production, with soil preservation, soil fertility, stock health, and so forth, in each and every case inspired by a growing fear that as the world population increases, its food supplies decrease. We have been awakened to one important danger . . . that of soil erosion, not only the erosion caused by the elements but the erosion of quality caused by commercial farming which tears the heart from the soil and puts little or nothing back.



Over or under ?

over a quarter of a million people. There are 30 miles of road, 10 miles of underground electric cables, and 150 miles of wiring for commercial exhibitors.

Just as those R.A.S. pioneers were inspired by the need to feed a growing colony, so to-day, the R.A.S. of New South Wales is assisting in the great task of feeding the world.

This year the Show will begin on 4th April, and will be officially opened by the Governor-General, Sir William McKell.

The cost of promoting this year's Show is £150,000, and that amount has to be spent before even a single person passes through the turnstile. Last year, the Society paid away £26,000 in prize money. This year, it will be £28,000.

It will pay £37,000 in wages, and expects at least 1,250,000 people to attend.

For some weeks now a large army of tradesmen have been busy giving all the buildings a "face lift" before the opening day.

Ring events this year will be bigger and better than ever before, and according to R.A.S. Accountant, Mr. Skidmore, the programme will include some of the most spectacular displays ever seen in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Royal Easter Show is a big enterprise, and each day uses more electricity than any town or city in Australia outside the capitals.

It has been said that there is no more colourful and exciting spectacle of its kind in the world than the Royal Easter Show.



A little visitor to the show pauses to admire the Collie Champion.

To that end, it conducts at great trouble and expense, and with little recognition, competitions among farmers, designed to increase and improve the yield of the soil. In addition, it conducts the secretarial duties involved in the management of no less than thirty-five breed societies, the registering of studs, checking of pedigrees, the compilation of Stud Books to ensure purity of stud stock covering beef and dairy cattle, sheep of all breeds, horses, pigs and goats.



In another category, it controls the registration of dogs and cats, and conducts the administrative affairs associated with the breeding of poultry, pigeons and cage birds.

The Show also has a very important bearing on secondary industries. A vast area of the grounds and pavilions is given over to commercial exhibits.

Here the Society puts before the hundreds of thousands of visitors a pageant of invention, manufacture and merchandise, the like of which cannot be witnessed elsewhere.

In the great industrial pavilions, in smaller pavilions all around the ground, in open-air displays, in trade displays in the ring, are gathered together all manner of things from the latest in gossamer-woven feminine wear to the great wheat headers and ponderous earth-moving equipment.

Motor vehicles of all kinds, canning and bottling machinery at work, sweetmaking, textile spinning, pumps and sprays, windmills, vacuum cleaners, radios, pianos, bulldozers, sewing machines . . . a bewildering array of manufactures, from breakfast foods to railway carriages.

And with this are the educational and inspiring displays of public health authorities, police, the post office, wireless communications, television, many aspects of science, public utilities, the arts, displays from other States and other countries . . . grouped and arranged in such a fashion that all who wish may look and learn.

Of the sideshows and ring events little need be said except that for variety and interest, they stand comparison with any in the world.



That is our Show . . . our Easter Parade.

The Royal Agricultural Society was born at practically the same time as this new nation, it has shared its triumphs and losses from that day to this, and it will remain in the van of the people's march to progress and greatness for all the years to come.

A FINE AUSTRALIAN

Police Tracker, Sergeant Grovenor

An Appreciation by

Police Superintendent, R. H. Blackley

ALMOST fifty-five years ago, on the 16th July, 1897, Isaac Grovenor, a young Australian native, joined the New South Wales Police Department as a Police Tracker. "Ike," as he was popularly known to his many friends, was a native of Yass, and was then 27 years of age.

A man of kindly and modest disposition with the local reputation as an excellent horseman and bushman, Isaac Grovenor was recruited to the Police Tracker Service. During his period of fifty-two years with the Police Department, until he retired on the 12th January, 1950, he gave valuable and faithful service. He performed duty at various country stations namely, Animbo, Cooma, Wee Jasper and Braidwood; took part in the stock stealing cases; the tracking of criminals and lost people, and was transferred in 1926 from the

country to the Police Depot, Redfern, where he rendered outstanding service in breaking in and handling of police horses.

In July, 1902, he married Miss Lee of Cooma, New South Wales. The family is comprised of three daughters and three sons. The three daughters and two of the sons are married. There are ten grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Grovenor saw that their children were afforded an education and for some years one of the daughters assisted as a teacher at her school in a Sydney suburb. Mr. and Mrs. Grovenor's home and children have always been a credit to them.

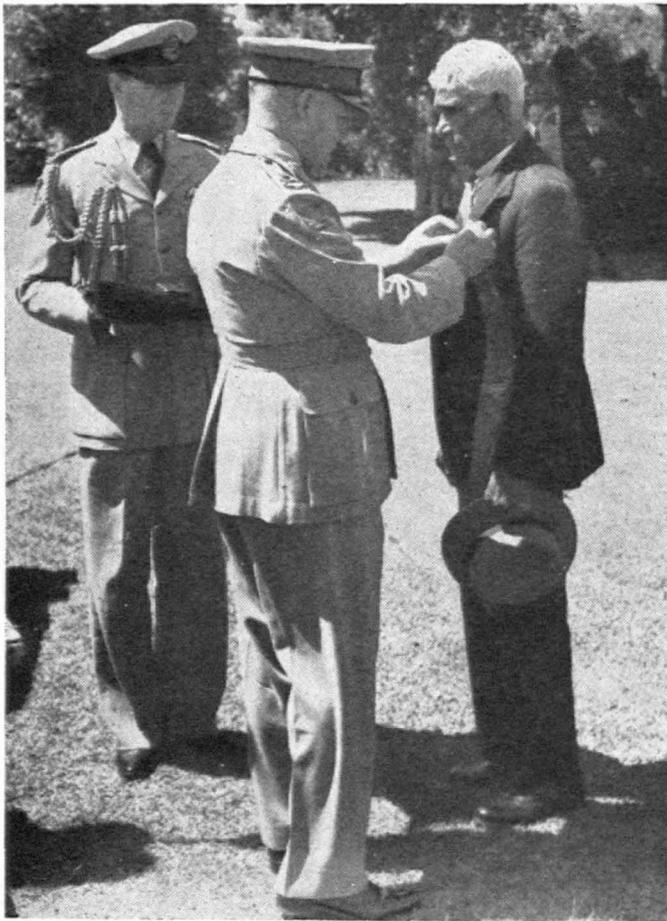
"Ike" was a keen gardener and a lover of flowers and music. He keenly appreciated the good things of life and by his unselfishness and conduct generally set an example to others.

He carried out his duties in the Police Service in an efficient manner and earned the commendation of all with whom he was associated.

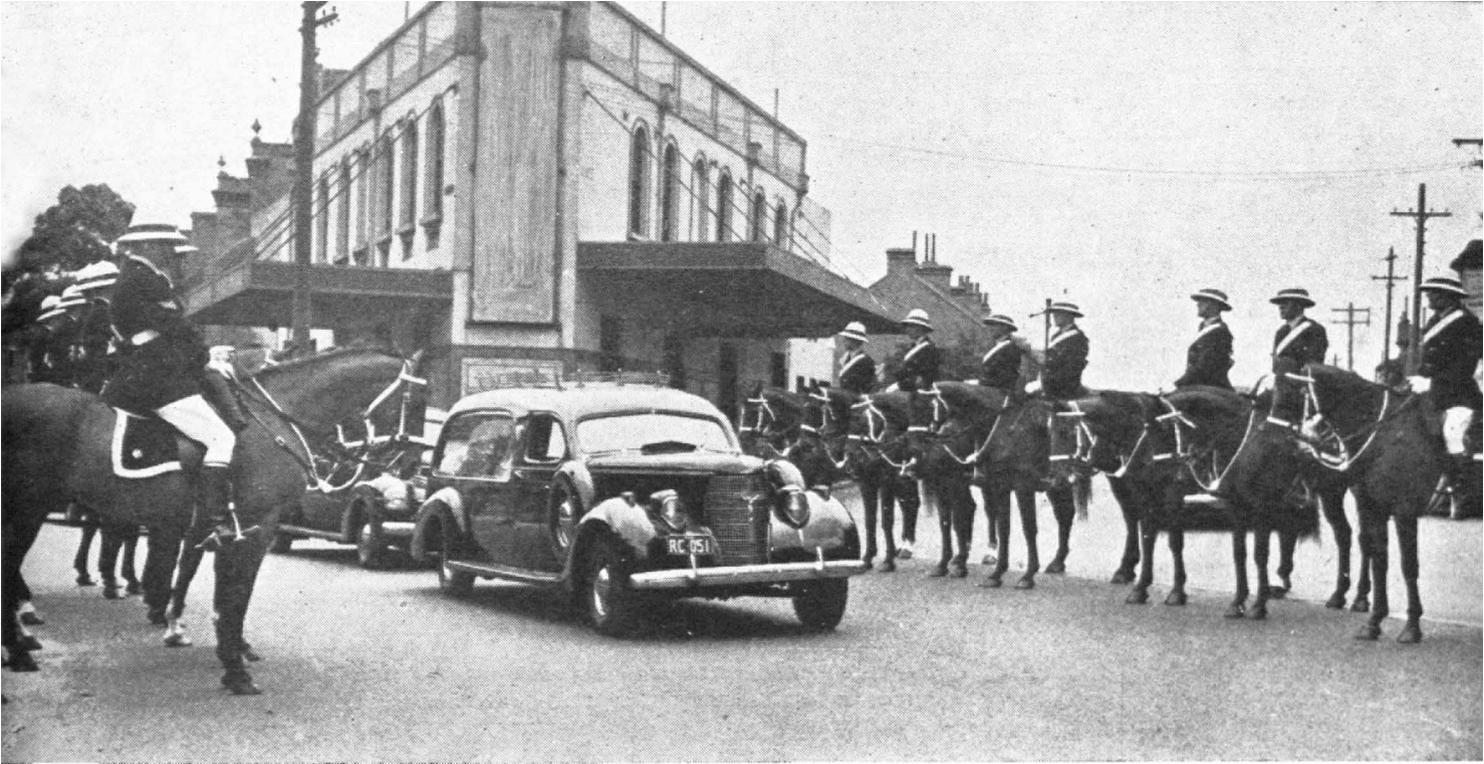
On the 6th March, 1951, His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Northcott, presented Tracker Sergeant Grovenor with the Imperial Service Medal in recognition of long and meritorious service, rendered to the New South Wales Police Department. He was one of only two trackers in New South Wales to attain the rank of Police Tracker Sergeant.

Ex-Tracker Sergeant Isaac Grovenor's death took place at Sydney on Friday, 16th February, 1952, and he was buried in Botany Cemetery on Saturday, the 17th instant. As a token of respect the Commissioner of Police, Mr. J. F. Scott, provided a mounted police escort to lead the funeral cortege from the funeral parlours in Crown Street along a portion of the route to the cemetery. Mrs. Grovenor and family expressed their deep thanks for the Commissioner's kindness in providing the mounted escort and those of us who were so closely associated with "Ike" at the Police Depot and elsewhere know how the kindly old gentleman would have appreciated such a tribute from the Department to which he rendered such valuable and lengthy service.

We pay tribute to the memory of one of Australia's native sons, a man possessed of high manly qualities, of kindly, sympathetic nature and one who cherished the principles of christianity.



The Governor presenting Sergeant Grovenor with the Imperial Service Medal.



The Mounted Police paid tribute to the late Sergeant Grovener by providing an escort for his Funeral.

In between visits to the beach and sight-seeing tours all over the city, Mona Madden (15) of Moree, still had time to have a medical check-up when she recently came to Sydney for a holiday with the Far West children.



A "CHEMICAL" FERRET

Animals can be routed from the deepest hole in a few minutes without digging or drowning if this chemical ferret is burned in the hole.

To make the ferret, saturate 6 in. x 6 in. squares of Canton flannel with a solution of 1 part of saltpetre and 2 parts of water.

After the squares have dried thoroughly, sprinkle the rough side of the flannel with a finely ground mixture of 1 part of cayenne pepper, 1 part of dry mustard and 3 parts sulphur.



Roll the pieces of cloth similarly to rolling a cigarette and cement the loose edges in place with waterglass. To use, ignite one end of the roll, and push it as far down into the hole as possible. The fumes given off by the mixture will quickly ferret the animal from its den.

THE ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

70 years of service—meet the members

THE Government control of aborigines dates back to 1881, in which year the Government appointed a Protector of Aborigines.

This system continued until 5th June, 1883, when a Board for protection of aborigines, consisting of five to seven members, was appointed. In the intervening years the Board was reconstituted several times until it was disbanded in 1940 to be reconstituted once again as the Aborigines Welfare Board with the Under Secretary instead of the Commissioner of Police, as its chairman.

In 1945, another change increased the number of members from ten to eleven and made provision for two members to be aborigines nominated by the aborigines themselves.

The Aborigines Protection Act provides that the Board shall, subject to the direction of the Minister, be the authority for the protection and welfare of aborigines under the Act, and shall exercise general supervision and care over all the aborigines and over all matters affecting the interests and welfare of the aborigines and protect them against injustice, imposition and fraud.

The Act provides that the Board shall be constituted as follows:—



1. The person for the time being holding the office of Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department, who will be chairman. This is Mr. C. J. Buttsworth.



3. An officer of the Department of Education. This is Mr. J. P. Glasheen, now a member of the Public Service Board. Mr. Glasheen, who was until recently Assistant Director of Technical Education in New South Wales, has had a very wide teaching experience and has taught at practically every class of school in the State.

He is most concerned that every young aborigine should have every possible opportunity of improving his or her education.



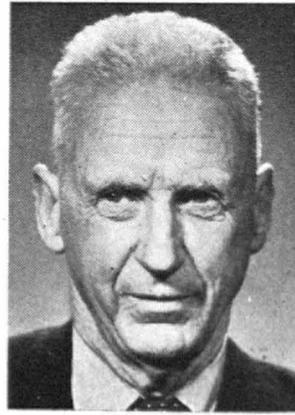
2. The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare. This is Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb, who has been with the Board for over fourteen years, and who has a true and earnest understanding of the aborigines' problems.



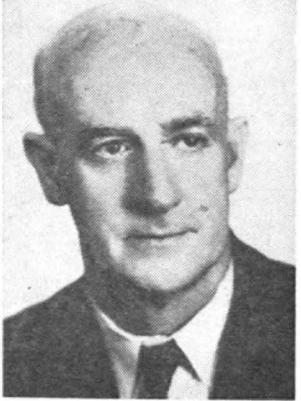
4. An officer of the Department of Public Health. This is Dr. Grahame Drew, Metropolitan Medical Officer of Health in New South Wales. At one time Dr. Drew was Administrator of the Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement (Q.).



5. A member of the Police Force, of or above the rank of Inspector. This member is Superintendent R. H. Blackley, a man who has spent the greater part of his long police service in the country and has a sincere interest in aborigines and their assimilation into the white community.

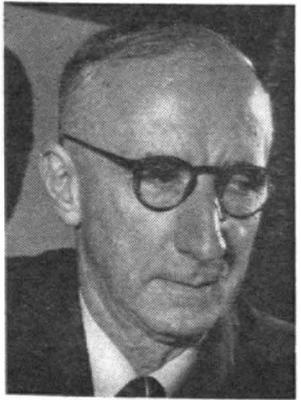


9. The second is Michael Sawtell, well-known Australian author, and recognised as one of the country's greatest living authorities on aborigines. He has lived among many of the wild tribes and speaks their various dialects. He was appointed to the Board about ten years ago.

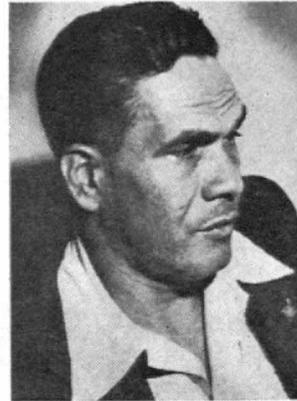


6. A person associated with agricultural affairs. This is Mr. Ernest Wetherell, M.L.A., member for Cobar. A former country newspaper proprietor, Mr. Wetherell has a first class knowledge of the country and its problems and an earnest desire to encourage the agricultural activities of the aborigines.

The Act provides that the remaining two members of the Board shall be two aborigines, one being a full-blooded aborigine (this position is vacant at the moment although an election will shortly be held), and the other being either a full-blooded aborigine or a person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood nominated for appointment in accordance with the Regulations, by aborigines or persons apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood, possessing the prescribed qualifications. This second position is filled by Mr. H. S. Groves, an ex-serviceman, and a man who has a genuine interest in his own race.



7. An expert on sociology and/or anthropology. Professor A. P. Elkin, Australia's foremost anthropologist is Vice-Chairman of the Board. He has made a careful study of the Australian aborigines, particularly the more primitive tribes of the north.



10. Mr. Groves was born at Caroon Aboriginal Station 46 years ago and was educated at Coonamble Public School.

On completing his apprenticeship as a plumber, he travelled widely in almost every part of the Commonwealth.

Two persons nominated by the Minister.



8. First of these is Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C. Born, and educated in the country, Mr. Wright has for many years expressed a genuine concern for the welfare of all aborigines.

Now actively engaged in public life, Mr. Wright still maintains that interest.

The Board continually stresses that its aim is the ultimate assimilation of aborigines into the white community.

The Board hopes to achieve this object by the provision of improved housing and living conditions, by attention to health and hygiene, the provision of equal educational facilities for aboriginal children as for white children, the development of social, sporting and cultural pursuits and by individual welfare activity.

A DREAM CAME TRUE!

Our Singing Ambassador

TWENTY years ago a barefooted little aboriginal boy ran laughing and playing on the Murgon Aboriginal Reserve in Queensland. A happy, carefree youngster, with a heart full of childhood happiness and his voice full of song, he never dreamed, even in his wildest flights of imagination, that one day he would stand on the concert platforms of the world, to receive the enthusiastic applause of tremendous audiences.

When an aboriginal child is born in Australia, it is traditional for the grandfather to prophesy the future of the child. On 13th September, 1924, when Harold Blair was born on the Murgon Reservation in Queensland, his grandfather inscribed the future of this male child on a roll of bark from the gum tree. He predicted that young Harold would have four wives and would live to the age of fifty. He also wrote that Harold would become a great chief and leader of his people. It is doubtful whether or not Harold will have three more wives to fulfil his grandfather's prophecy, as he's very much in love with his present wife, but he has managed to become a great leader of his people through perseverance, determination and the love of singing.



Harold Blair and his charming wife.

To-day, Harold is recognised as an outstanding example of aboriginal courage and fortitude and his ambitions reflect the excellent aid offered to his people by the governments of Australia.

When he was four months old, Harold's mother moved to another reservation where Harold has fond memories of his earliest years. When he was seven years old, his mother remarried, moved away, and left him on the reservation, which was operated by the Salvation Army.



Young Harold's hobby was singing. He sang when he worked, he sang when he played, and he sang just for the pleasure he got out of it.

At the age of sixteen, he applied for his first job, on a dairy farm. This was a memorable event, for it was also the first time he wore a pair of shoes. Even to-day it pains him to think about it, because he used to keep taking his shoes off whenever he could, to relieve his tired, aching feet from their unaccustomed cramped condition.

His first job, with one other boy, consisted of milking 100 cows twice a day and clearing the fields of weed and scrub.

The dairy farm in the McPherson Ranges was so far from the nearest town that even the farmer's wife flatly refused to live there.

Only once in six months did he get into town for a haircut, which is surely a long time between clippers. For this job he received 15s. a month. All of this, except 1s. a week, was sent back to the reservation to help pay for the clothes and rail fare which had been given to him for his trip to his job.

Six months on this job and Harold was ready for a change.

He quit the job and returned to the Reservation, much against the farmer's wishes. He obtained another job closer to home and near his mother and stepfather. This next job, with five other boys, consisted of milking 25 cows twice a day and for this he received £2 a week.

Shortly after World War II broke out, Harold decided to leave this dairy to go to work in the canefields and started out on £6 a week.

In the town of Bundaberg there were two churches . . . one attended by the white community, the other by the coloured workers.

In order to go from his lodgings to the church on the other side of the town, he had to pass the white people's homes and church.

Never forgetting his passion for singing, Harold often led the boys down the street, through the town, singing church hymns and native folk songs.

Most of his singing was an imitation of the old gramophone records he had heard, by John McCormack and Richard Crooks.

One Sunday morning while returning from church, the owner of the canefields stopped him and asked if it was he who had been singing earlier in the morning. When Harold said it was he, the man asked what his job was and asked if he could drive a tractor.

Never having driven a tractor before, but being familiar with trucks, Harold said he worked in the canefields and that he could surely drive a tractor. So he got a new job . . . that of tractor driver. During this time Harold played trumpet in the Salvation Army band and also sang with them. His wages increased until he was presently foreman on about £20 a week.

His new prosperity went to his head apparently, because he bought several cars and always managed to wreck them and walk away unconcernedly, leaving the car by the roadside. He was exempt from war service because of his essential job.

Salvation Army routine disturbed Harold's idea of how music should be played, for contrary to their sort of music, he insisted upon playing soft and low and often tried his own variations on all types of musical themes. This didn't go over very well, so Harold quit the Army band. After that he took leave from his job and decided to go to Brisbane for a holiday . . . his first visit to a large city.

In Brisbane, a friend arranged an interview with Marjorie Lawrence, the famous Australian opera star.

In order to meet her, Harold had to borrow a necktie, coat and hat. He did not understand why the hat was necessary, but he felt it was an essential part of the formal dress.

Success at Last.

Harold sang for Miss Lawrence and a group of newspaper people, and the next day the newspapers carried headlines about his voice. He was a success.

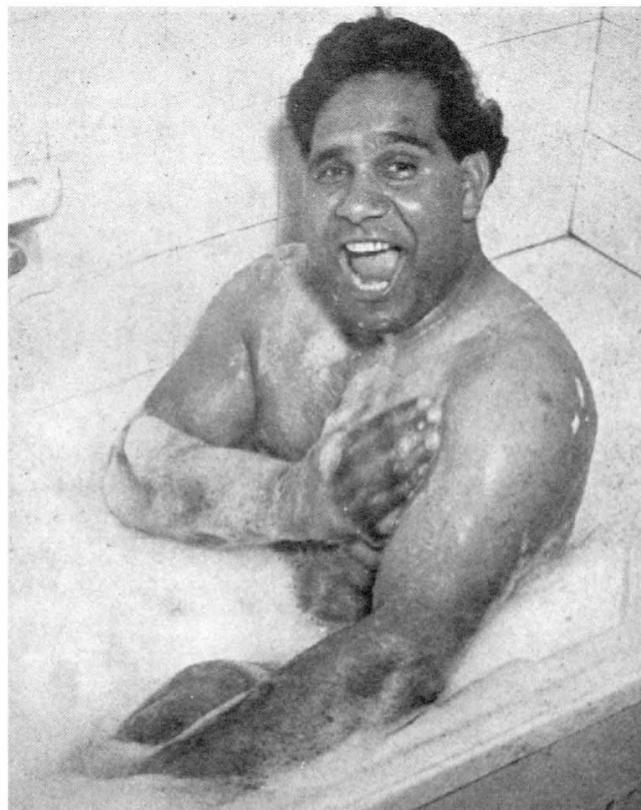
The Acting Premier of Queensland was so impressed by Harold's ability, his appearance, his easy manner and perfect English that he arranged for him to be offered a Government job in the daytime and an opportunity to study music at night.

Harold refused the offers because he said he must concentrate on music full time.

Then the newspapers burst out with a fresh tribute to his ability, and a noted physician, Dr. Duhig, gave him £600 to start his musical career.

Returning once more to Melbourne, this time to enter the Dame Nellie Melba Conservatorium, Harold became the first aborigine ever to study there and was the only full-time male student in a class of sixty girls. Out of this class he met the girl who was later to become his wife.

After studying at the Conservatorium for three years, he went to America on the suggestion of American singer, Todd Duncan, with whom he studied when he arrived in Washington, D.C.



Shortly afterwards, Harold commenced studying with Miss Sara Lee, the little southern voice teacher who had discovered Todd Duncan himself when he was a schoolboy.

Before he returned to Australia last year, as a guest star for the Australian Broadcasting Commission, Harold gave only one concert in America, in the New York Town Hall, and the entire audience stood and cheered when he had finished.

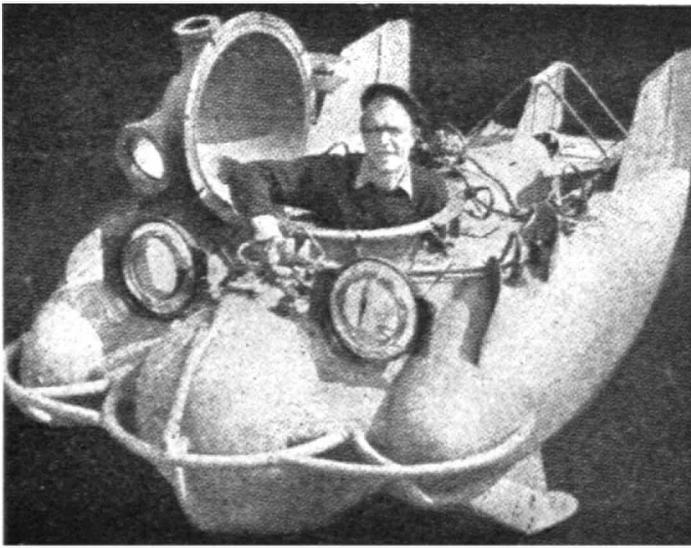
Speaking of colour distinctions, Harold said: "It was in Washington that I first learned there was such a thing as a colour line. I tried several times to get into theatres only to find that I was barred because my skin was not white. I was shocked. Such a thing had never happened to me in Australia. It is part of the typical American scene, but it makes me realise that Australia is still the freest country in the world."

Audiences who have flocked to concert halls to hear Harold Blair sing have been stirred by the quality of his voice, his sense of drama, his natural dignity and his ease of manner.

In his meteoric rise from the canefield labour to the concert platforms of the world, he has shown that there is no limitation to what the Australian aborigine can aspire, if he has sufficient determination. Harold is intensely proud of being an aborigine and the biggest thrill his success is bringing him is the thought of the glory it reflects on his own race.

"I want everyone to realise that my people are just as skilful in all walks of life as the white race, provided they have the educational opportunities," he said.

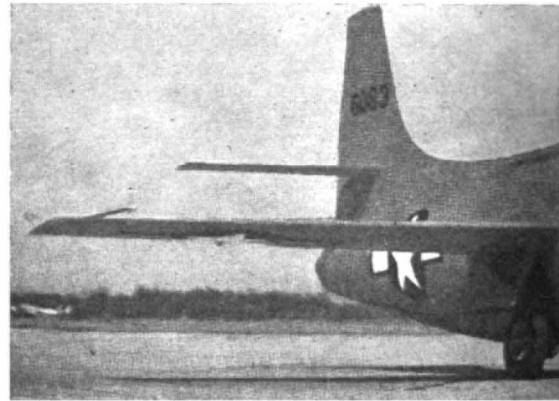
There we have Harold Blair, a credit to himself, his people and his country.



This midget submarine built by a German mechanic can descend 900 feet and stay under water for 4 hours.



Cork comes from the spongy outer bark of the Cork Oak in Spain. The trees are stripped every ten years.



Powered by four liquid oxygen and alcohol rockets it . . . much faster than



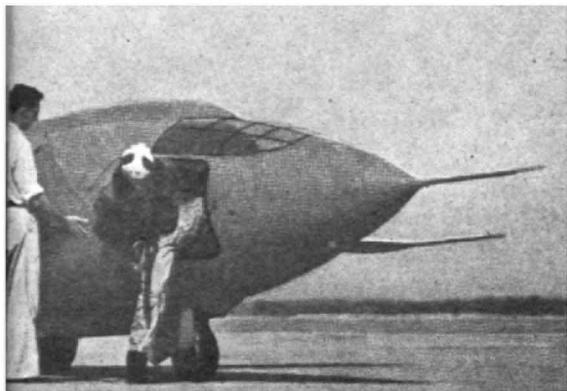
These inedible bitter oranges from Sevilla (Spain) are on their way to Britain to be made into marmalade. Then it is sold back to Spain again.



The men of the Wagogo tribe of Tanganyika (Africa) wear their hair long. They have to serve as a warrior for 10 years before they can marry BUT . . .



This American lady made these garden vases from old bottle tops. One vase contains 6,000 tops.



American X-1 plane flies at over 1,000 miles an hour speed of sound.



In Virginia (U.S.A.) Helicopters are used to spray chemical dust over crops to kill insect pests.



... The girls of the Nandi tribe in Western Kenya cut their hair right off. They love to wear lots of copper wire bangles.



Drying fish spread across the fields like hay on the Island of Aplichau (Hong Kong).

THE WELFARE OFFICERS

A Letter from the Superintendent

My dear Aboriginal Friends,

For some years past, the Board has been aware of the need for keeping in closer and more continuous touch with our aboriginal people, particularly those who are living away from the stations where the Manager and Matron are always at hand to offer help and advice.

During the course of the daily life of those folk who live in camps on the outskirts of towns or in private homes of their own, there frequently comes the time when they run up against problems and difficulties, and often times they would welcome assistance. Sometimes there may be a domestic trouble; sometimes difficulty in obtaining or holding a job; sometimes legal advice is wanted; sometimes a youth or young woman needs help and advice on a very personal matter. In all such cases, the Board's Welfare Officer is at hand and his services should be sought. Maybe, too, some aboriginal person may be at cross-purposes with his fellow white man—there may be petty jealousy or animosity—and if these troubles are taken to the Welfare Officer, he would in all probability act as a "go between" and eventually restore harmony and goodwill. Aborigines too, sometimes have trouble in attending to their papers and documents—the filling in of income tax returns or completing an application for maternity allowance or child endowment claims; or possibly the witnessing of a signature. In all these cases, the Welfare Officer can be a great help to you.

Welfare Officers too, have an important duty in educating the white people to understand the dark people and to develop a proper attitude of tolerance and goodwill. The white community has still a lot to learn about the aborigines.

Welfare Officers are trained workers and have to be carefully selected. At the present time, there are only three in the field, but further appointments will shortly be made and others are still in training. The three already engaged in the work are stationed at the following centres:—

Coff's Harbour—for the Upper North Coast District.

Kempsey—for the Mid-North Coast District.

Moree—for the North-western Slopes and Plains.

It is expected that two new appointments will shortly be made, namely at Dubbo for the Central Western Slopes and Plains, and Nowra for the South Coast District.

Other districts to which future Welfare Officers will probably, in due course, be appointed are South-western Slopes and Plains and the far Central Western Plains.

Offices have been established at those centres where Welfare Officers have already been appointed, and aborigines are invited to call on the services of these Officers at any time.

Good wishes to you all,



Super. of Aborigines Welfare.



This lovely lass is Esther Johnson (16) who was recently screen tested for a leading part in a new Chauvel Film Production. Esther is Treatment Room Assistant at Murrin Bridge.

BANKING ENCOURAGED

WITH the continuation of abundant employment, and the high wages received by aborigines throughout the State, opportunities are afforded them to improve their living conditions and to establish a bank credit for use on "a rainy day."



It is difficult, however, to convince many of the aboriginal people of the advantage of saving money.

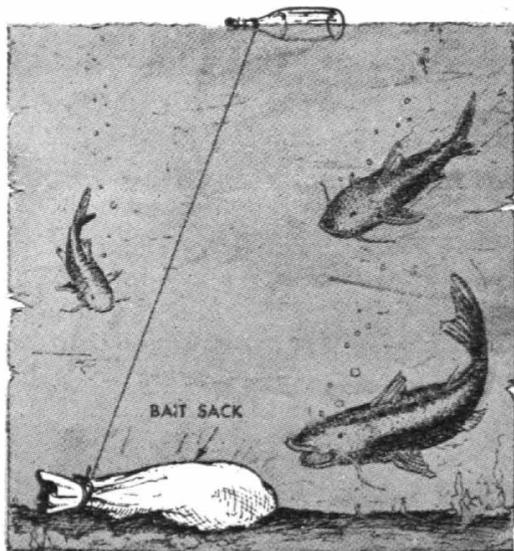
Education, however, coupled with the development of a more stable social attitude will probably in time bring about a better outlook on the part of the people. Realising that any surplus capital held by the aborigines is, in a number of cases not being used wisely, the Board recently considered the question of inducing aborigines to save money and to open savings bank accounts. This aspect is regarded as of great importance in the process of assimilation of the aborigines into the white community. Arrangements are in hand for agencies of the Commonwealth Savings Bank to be established on a few stations as a trial and an extension of the scheme will be considered in the light of the results achieved.

HELP YOURSELF

Bait Bag Attracts Fish

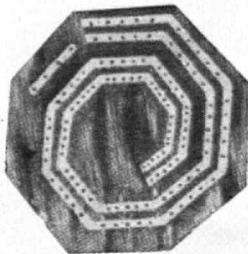
IF you want to bring home a good catch of jewfish, catfish or flathead, don't try to do it by hunting down the fish. Instead, make them come to your bait.

To do this, half fill a sugar bag with equal parts of pollard and fish or chicken scraps (flesh, gut or bones) or bloody meat scraps. Place a heavy stone in the bag and tie it. Attach a bottle float to the bag with a long line so you can easily locate it and then let it go to the bottom. The fish attracted by the odour of the bait will come long distances to try and get the contents of the bag. As the fish will be in the vicinity of the bag, just lower your baited hook and you are sure to bring in a good catch. If you use meat scraps it is always a good idea to leave the bag out in the sun for about a day first so the bait will ripen.



A Better Crib Board

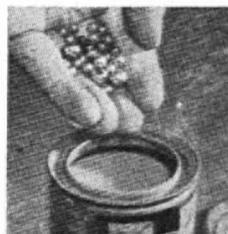
Crib players who often experience difficulty in knowing whether they are coming up or down the score board will find that this octagonal one solves the problem as the counting is done forward and in one direction only. Four players can keep separate scores on the board which makes it easy to compare the count.



To assemble the board, a piece of plywood is cut to an octagonal shape, after which the scoring holes are drilled, so that each succeeding five are slightly closer to the

centre than the last five. This gives the spiral effect necessary to get the complete number of holes. Coloured lines make it easy to follow the holes, especially if pegs of the same colour are used.

Ball Bearings to Mix Paint



Here is a quick and easy way to stir paints used frequently in small amounts. After the can is opened and the paint thoroughly mixed, drop a dozen or more old ball bearings into the can. To get a smooth mixture thereafter, just shake the tin vigorously before you paint.

Easy Signwriting

Where neatness of lettering is not too important, shoe polish applied with a cloth swab will be found more convenient for doing temporary signs than a brush and paint. It saves the job of cleaning a brush, the polish will not run, and opening and stirring paint is eliminated. The swab is made by wadding a piece of cloth around a pencil or piece of stick and tying it with string.



No Sawdust

Acting like an air scoop, a simple device (merely a piece of tubing) attached to the side of a handsaw handle blows away the sawdust that drops on the sawline during the backward stroke. Air entering the scoop on the forward stroke of the saw is directed, through a tapering curved passage, downward towards the wood.

HAPPY HOMES

Children Make Good Progress

THE Aborigines Protection Act provides for the constitution and establishment of homes for the reception, maintenance, education, and training of aboriginal wards, and the Board controls two such homes . . . Kinchela Boys' Home and Cootamundra Girls' Home.

Each home has facilities for the care of up to 50 children between the ages of 6 and 15 years, and the training given the children at these homes is designed to fit them to take their place in the community at the appropriate time, and to acquit themselves as good and useful citizens.

Relatives of aboriginal children at the two homes have from time to time sought information relating to the homes and the Board has arranged for a series of photographs to be taken showing the various aspects of the daily lives of the children.

These photographs will be published in "Dawn" from time to time.

Kinchela Boys' Home

Located 16 miles from Kempsey, the Kinchela Boys' Home stands in 32 acres of good agricultural river flats and is nicely laid out with lawns, gardens, swimming pool and a playground area.

The farm section is given over to the training of the older boys in practical farming before their transfer to employment as apprenticed wards.

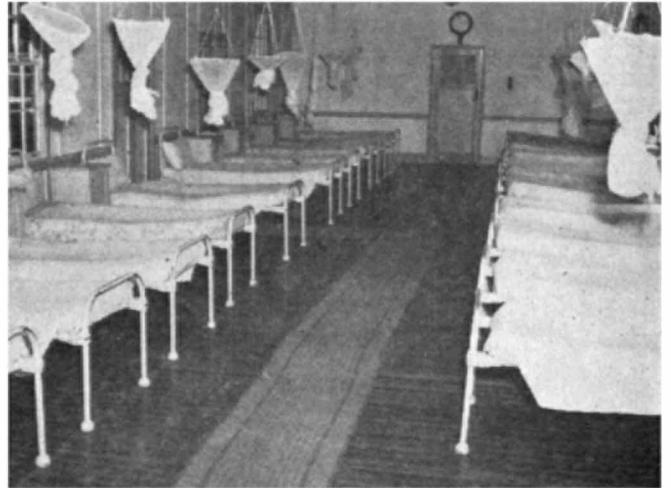
The senior boys assist on the farm and in the vegetable garden and generally display an interest in this work.

The farm which comprises 30 acres and carries a dairy herd of thirty-three head of stock and four horses, provides the home with milk, butter and cream all the year round in normal times, whilst 90 per cent. of the vegetable requirements of the institution are produced by the home itself.

The normal annual milk production is in the vicinity of 8,000 gallons and the butter production about 1,600 lb.



The Kinchela Pool is popular.



One of the Kinchela Dormitories.

All the boys attend school until they reach the age of fifteen, and some exceptional pupils continue on even past that age. At the present time five boys are attending high school at Kempsey and are making good progress.

Weekly church services are held at the home by the Chaplain and Sunday School is taken by one of the Board's officers. On certain Sundays parties of boys are taken to church when services are held in adjacent townships.

The Board realises that the recreational side of the home's activities is very important from the point of view of character building. The boys participate in football, cricket, athletics and swimming, and in addition, are taken on conducted walks and picnics. The boys are all keen fishermen and often get some good catches.

While full use is made of the film projector and regular film screenings are provided for the boys, they

are also encouraged to listen to the news and sporting sessions on the radio, and the Manager periodically lectures them on current topics.

At the present time there are forty-six boys at Kinchela.

It cannot be over emphasised that these boys at Kinchela are not delinquents. They have been committed to the Home by Order of the Court, because they have hitherto been neglected or have become orphaned, or at the request of their parents,

The general health of the boys is excellent, and this is well illustrated by the fact that almost without exception every boy in the Home has increased his height and weight during the past year, some to the extent of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches and 23 pounds. The boys at Kinchela have perhaps got away to a bad start in life through no fault of their own, but the Board is determined that they will have every care and amenity to qualify them to take their place in the community alongside their white neighbours as good, honest, Australian citizens.



Mr. Rice, the chef at Kinchela is a very popular man. His present capable assistant is Norman Perry.



A class at Kinchela Boys' Home.

Cootamundra Girls' Home

The Cootamundra Girls' Home, a lovely old house which was once the local hospital building, is only 2 miles from the town of Cootamundra. It caters mainly for girls of school age. One or two tiny tots of pre-school age are also included in this big family.

Many girls have received excellent training at the home in the past years, to accept employment as nurses, telephonists, and domestic duties.

No less than eleven of the girls attend Cootamundra High School while others are receiving specialised training in domestic science.

Seventeen other girls attend the primary school in the town and all are good friends with their fellow white pupils. The girls have a special bus to take them to and from school.

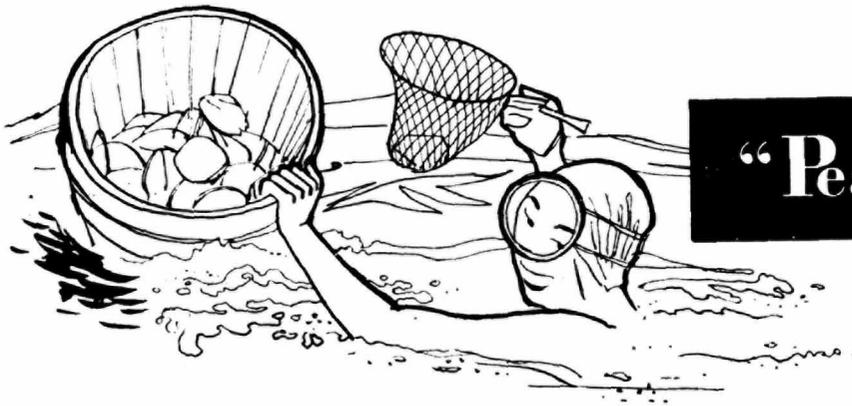
The children at Cootamundra are a very happy team. They attend the local picture theatre and have hikes, picnics, tennis tournaments and concerts.

Evening classes on reading, knitting and fancywork are conducted at regular intervals.

During the summer months the girls are taken regularly to the town swimming baths and it is gratifying to observe how they are accepted by the townspeople generally in all their social activities.

All girls of suitable age are trained in laundry work, cooking, mending, sewing and handicrafts.

There are, at the present time, forty-three children in residence at the home.



“Pearls for Profit”

JAPAN no longer has the exclusive knowledge of how to grow a perfectly formed pearl in an oyster specially impregnated by the hand of man . . . experts who went to Japan to study the industry there after the war, brought back the secret to Australia.

The Australian Government is working on the “blueprints” of a plan to grow human cultured pearls in Australia.

When the scheme becomes an established fact, a string of pearls will be within the reach of hundreds of thousands of women who normally would not have been able to afford them.

After V.J. Day a special pearl investigation commission went to Japan and was given the secret which made Japan’s pearl industry one of its most valued assets. This was a formula which Japan had guarded like a military secret since 1913.

It had been the monopoly of one man, Mokichi Mikimoto, whose employees before the war, were culturing forty million oysters a year.

Mikimoto’s boats ranged far into the South Pacific to get the oysters needed for the Japanese pearl farms and these boats stripped practically everything from the oyster beds to get the three-year-old shells they required.

The oysters were kept in sea-water tanks on the way back to Japan and only very healthy specimens were used for the grafting operations. Mikimoto needed 15,000 of these oysters every working day of the year.

The grafting method he discovered after twenty years of research was a great advance on the crude method used in China . . . putting a grain of sand inside the shell . . . because the sand always showed up in the pearl, and made it almost useless on the market.

The Mikimoto grafting operation is performed by girls between the ages of 12 and 20. It is a most delicate operation and requires a hand as sure and steady as that of an eye surgeon.

The shell of the oyster is held open with a piece of bamboo and a tiny speck of mother of pearl, almost too small to be seen, is laid on the flesh of the oyster. Then an incision is made so that the speck falls inside the delicate skin and is covered by it. Next, this is tied with a ligature and removed to another oyster where it is placed so that the living tissue will grow into the flesh of the second oyster. It is essential that the oyster not be out of the sea-water for more than two hours.



The delicate grafting operation.

After the operation, the oysters are put in cages and lowered from rafts to live in special beds for seven years.

At the end of that time, seven or eight in every hundred will have produced a pearl which can be distinguished only from a natural pearl by the use of X-rays or an electro-magnetic analysis.

I discussed the industry with pearl divers and fishermen in the north, and their ideas about the possibility of such an industry varied considerably, although all believed that it was more than a possibility and eventually could mean many millions of pounds to the people working on it in the north.

One man who runs a fleet of fifteen pearling boats and has an experimental farm on the north coast of Australia, said that the secret brought back from Japan would undoubtedly be worth many millions of pounds to this country.

He said, however, that the trouble would be in finding the girls to do the grafting jobs. He said there would be few white girls in the north who would have the patience for the job even if they could be found.

This is a difficult problem to overcome, because in the whole of the Northern Territory, "an area which is considerably bigger than the whole of Britain," there are only about 500 white people. There are, of course, about 13,000 aborigines, mostly on Government mission stations and reserves, but it is claimed that they would be most unsuitable for such delicate grafting operations. They would not be able to show the required dexterity.



Sorting the Pearls.

One pearl fisherman, however, suggests that the solution may lie in New Guinea. He says there are plenty of natives in New Guinea who are loyal and intelligent workers. Women among them could be easily trained to do the oyster grafting, he says, and would make an extra good job of it.

But, he says, their training should start immediately, though even if the pearl culture scheme were to start immediately, it would be 1958 at least before we would begin to gather in the finished pearls.

There is no reason why this bid to save the Empire's pearl industry should not be able to repeat or eclipse the fortune made by Japan from the same idea. When we consider that Japan was making over £10 million a year from cultured pearls we can easily visualise just what this scheme can mean to Australia.

Almost without exception the pearl fishermen of the north agree that such a scheme is inevitable if the pearl industry is to survive.

They contend that at the present time the industry is no longer profitable because the boys who man the boats, do the diving and other necessary labour, are demanding, and getting, high wages. Also, fuel oil is

dearer, boats are more expensive to build and equip, and maintain, and the pearl market, probably through lack of publicity or a preference for other stones, has fallen away considerably.

Most of the pearl shell taken in Australia is sent to the United States for the manufacture of a better class of button.

Usually, at the end of each pearl season, a buyer, representing Paris principals, visits the main Australian pearl fishing ports and buys the best of the collection.

No huge hauls of valuable pearls are there to await his inspection, for only a few pearls are found in the many thousands of pearls opened. Many of the old pearl beds are now being worked again, as they have had a chance to rest during the war years.

In Australian waters, most of the diving is done in about 60 feet of water. Previously, the Japanese would go down as far as 240 feet, but the local divers have not developed the same technique as the Japanese.

At the present time, pearl shell is realising about £500 a ton and trochus shell about £100 a ton.

It is estimated that the pearl-diving industry earns Australia about one million dollars a year, but this, of course, does not nearly compare with the anticipated income of thirty million dollars from the cultured pearl industry.

So now Australia, and particularly the north, looks once again to the pearl beds for a long and lucrative source of revenue.

Watch That Fire

IN view of the extreme danger that has existed, and indeed still exists at present, from the ravages of bushfires, it is most important that Managers of all Aboriginal Stations and other officers in charge of Reserves, Institutions, etc., should take every precaution to ensure that the danger from fire to Departmental property—including buildings and other improvements—should be reduced to an absolute minimum.



No specific direction can be given as to what action should be taken, but each officer should use his own discretion and act accordingly.

With regard to buildings it should not be necessary to stress that rubbish, grass, or other combustible material should not be allowed to accumulate in close proximity to such buildings. Fire-breaks should be burnt around buildings, if practicable. Serious disciplinary action should be taken against any person or persons who light fires in the open air, who throw lighted cigarette butts on to the ground, or who in any other way offend against the Regulations pertaining to prevention of bushfires.

BIG COUNTRY TRIP BY BOARD MEMBERS

Many old friends met

Early this month a party of Board Members, comprising the Chairman, Mr. C. J. Buttsworth, Dr. Grahame Drew, and Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb, accompanied by District Welfare Officer, Mr. J. K. Burless, spent a week visiting Aboriginal Settlements in the North Western part of the State.

The tour included visits to Moree, Boggabilla, Collarenebri, and Mungindi.

As many as possible of the aboriginal folk living in those centres were seen.

The members were extremely interested to meet so many aboriginal friends during this short tour, and to study on the spot, the living conditions of the people.

The Board recognises that a personal knowledge of the people and the establishment of friendly relations are essential to a complete understanding of their problems. This, too, is regarded as the beginning of many more visits to other centres and it is hoped that in the course of these visits that members of the Aborigines Welfare Board, will make contact with the majority of the dark people in this State.

At Moree, the members noted that the contract for the building of new homes on the Station, was still incomplete, and despite the fact that a large number of cottages are almost ready for occupation, the people are still obliged to live in their humpies, tents and shanties. A determined effort will now be made to try and induce the contractor to complete the work.

The Board hopes that when the new homes are handed over, and are occupied, the people will show that they can care for them, and improve the surroundings by establishing gardens and planting trees and shrubs. Every family, too, should loyally and truthfully abide by its promise, in the tenancy agreement, to pay rent regularly.



By so doing, they will show that they are capable of recognising their duty as citizens, to do something themselves to improve their living conditions.

Mrs. Morgan, wife of the Station Manager, has a delightful troop of twelve little Brownies.

These lovely little girls, all looking very smart in their uniforms, provided a very pleasant half-hour of entertainment for the visitors in the Hall.

The new School is a fine acquisition, with its bright airy classrooms and Home Science Section. As soon as the contractor fences off the playground area, it is understood that the teacher and children intend embarking on a beautification scheme.

Visits were also paid to the Top Camp, where other aboriginal people of Moree have their temporary homes.

Realising the need for a better understanding between the local authorities and the aborigines, the members paid a courtesy call on the Mayor and councillors and it is hoped that a better understanding between the Board and the Council, will result from the mutual exchange of ideas.

After Moree, the Members paid a full day visit to Boggabilla Station. Here they met the Manager, Mr. Forster, and his capable wife, who introduced the visitors to many of the people in their homes. It was a joy to meet some of the old hands of the Station, notably Charlie Dennison, who is now in his 90's and Harry Lang, who still asks for a gill net to catch fish in the river.



Charlie was a very active stockman in his day, but now his sight is fading and he is not so active.

His beloved saddles still rest on the floor of his bedroom.

Harry, on the other hand, is still "full of beans" and can still crack a joke.

As soon as the money can be provided, steps will be taken to have a new hall and a new ration store built, as well as reconditioning all the homes.

From Boggabilla the next visit was to Mungindi.

Here the Board members met about a dozen families, all of whom are living independently, but in unsatisfactory dwellings. These folk gave a warm welcome to their visitors and almost without exception gave assurances that they would purchase suitable blocks of land within the township, if the Board gave some assistance in the way of loans, to enable them to build better homes.

The next, and final visit, was to Collarenebri, where most of the aboriginal people are living in a group of shanties on the stock route, just outside the precincts of the town. A number of these folk also expressed the desire to have better homes, and stated that if the Board would assist them with finance to build homes, they, too, would purchase blocks of land and erect better houses than those in which they are now residing.

For some years past the aboriginal children at Collarenebri attended the Collarenebri Public School but had to occupy a separate detached building and play in their own playground.

That unhappy state of affairs was brought about by the opposition of a few people in the township.

However the old prejudice has broken down, and it was most gratifying to note that all the children are educated side by side with the white children, and they now play together as a happy family.



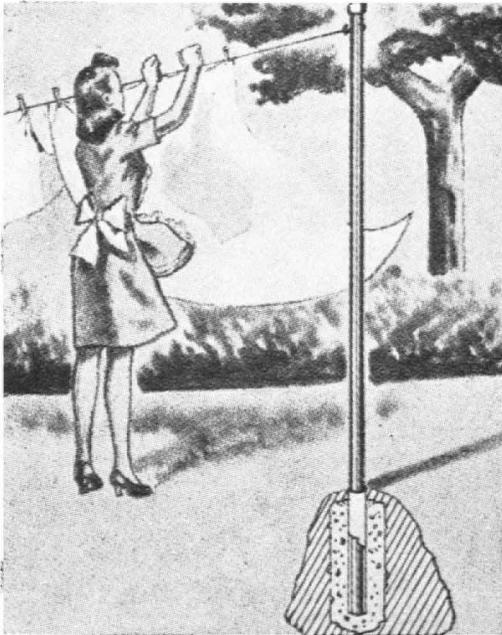
HOME



HINTS

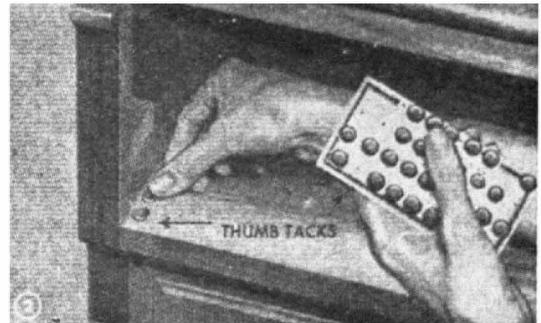
Easy Clothes Line

From two lengths of standard pipe you can make a permanently installed clothesline pole that can be taken out of the ground whenever necessary. A 3-ft. length of 2-in. pipe is cemented in the ground flush with the surface. A 10-ft. length of 1½-in. pipe then is used for the clothesline pole, being held firmly by the larger pipe. When the clothesline pole is removed, the pipe in the ground should be plugged to keep out dirt.



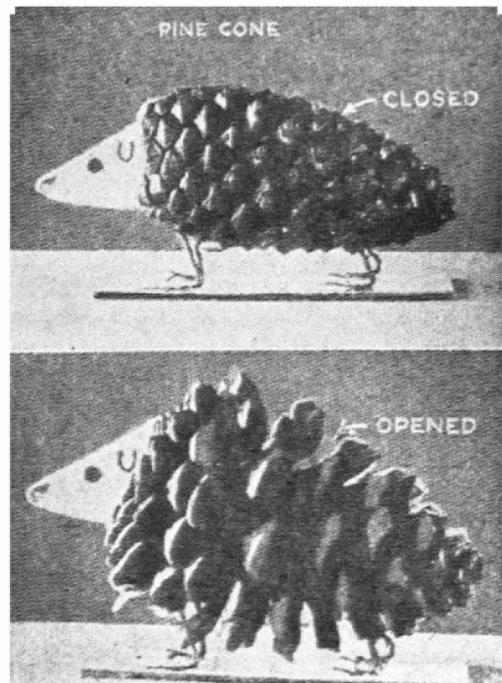
To Make Drawers Glide Easily

Drawers will glide noiselessly and easily if thumbtacks are pressed into the runners on which the drawers slide. A thumbtack that has a rounded-head and an enamelled finish is better than a flat-head tack.



A Novel Weather Forecaster

Because the cones from pine trees tend to open when the air is dry and close when the air is damp, knowledge of this fact can be utilized in making this weather forecaster. The body of the animal is a pine cone; the head is cardboard and the legs are short lengths of wire resting on a cardboard base. During periods of high humidity when rain is more likely, the cones will be closed, but when the humidity is low and the weather probably will be fair, the cones will be open.



To Protect Kiddies' Shoes

If your children scuff the tips of their shoes, try brushing several layers of shellac over the tips after shining them. This helps hold the gloss and protects the leather.



Pete's Page



Do you boys and girls remember the drawing of the little boy and girl and their dog, in last months "Dawn"? Well, first prize for colouring in that drawing went to Melita Newton (10), of Cowra. Melita won a lovely book and 5s.

Congratulations to all you youngsters who won a prize this month, but do not be disappointed if you missed out. Just have another try.

Hullo Kids,

I was very pleased to hear that so many of my young friends liked "Dawn," and I was even more pleased to get so many letters, photographs, and drawings.

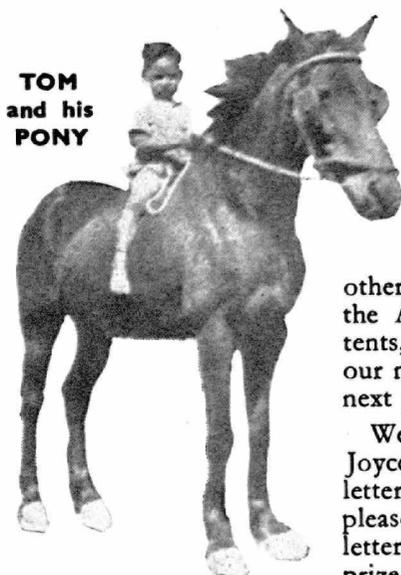
Of course I haven't room here to read you all the letters I received so we'll just pick the first one we come across.

Now, let's see. It's a letter from Tom Peckham, of Manildra Street, Narromine, and Tom says "I'm six years old and I'm in 3rd class here at the Public School at Narromine. I like going to school very much and the games I like best are football and swimming. I also like drawing and adding up sums."

Tom sent along a photograph of himself on his pony. What do you think of it? And of course Tom wins a special prize of 7s. 6d. for that letter and photograph.

Dorrell Monsell (14), of Woodenbong, sent along a couple of very fine drawings, and one of them, showing a house on the Reserve, won a prize of 7s. 6d.

I had some very nice drawings from Joyce Mercy, of Ashby and a very interesting letter.



**TOM
and his
PONY**

Joyce said "This is one of my drawings that I have done in my spare time at school. I hope you'll like it. I have seen "Dawn" and I think it very interesting to know all about our aboriginal friends in other places. We live on the Aboriginal Reserve in tents, but we hope to get our new house this year or next year."

Well thanks very much Joyce for that nice little letter, I know you will be pleased to learn that your letter and drawing won a prize of 5s. and a book.



Now what do you think of this photograph? Isn't it a good one? That's young John Craig of Wallandoon Station, Wallenbeen and his dog.

John wins a prize of 5s. for sending this photo along.

See how easy it is to win good prizes!

Send your letters to

Pete

C/o DAWN MAGAZINE,
Box 30, G.P.O.,
Sydney.

If you have a good photograph of yourself with one of your pets, or perhaps with some of your school mates, send it along to me, will you?

If we publish it we will pay you 5s.

On this page you will see our cartoon, all about old Biffo the Bear and his pet giraffe. When you have finished reading it, colour in the **BOTTOM** picture, that is, the **LONG** one, with chalks, crayons, or paints, and send it along to me. You might win one of the nice prizes.

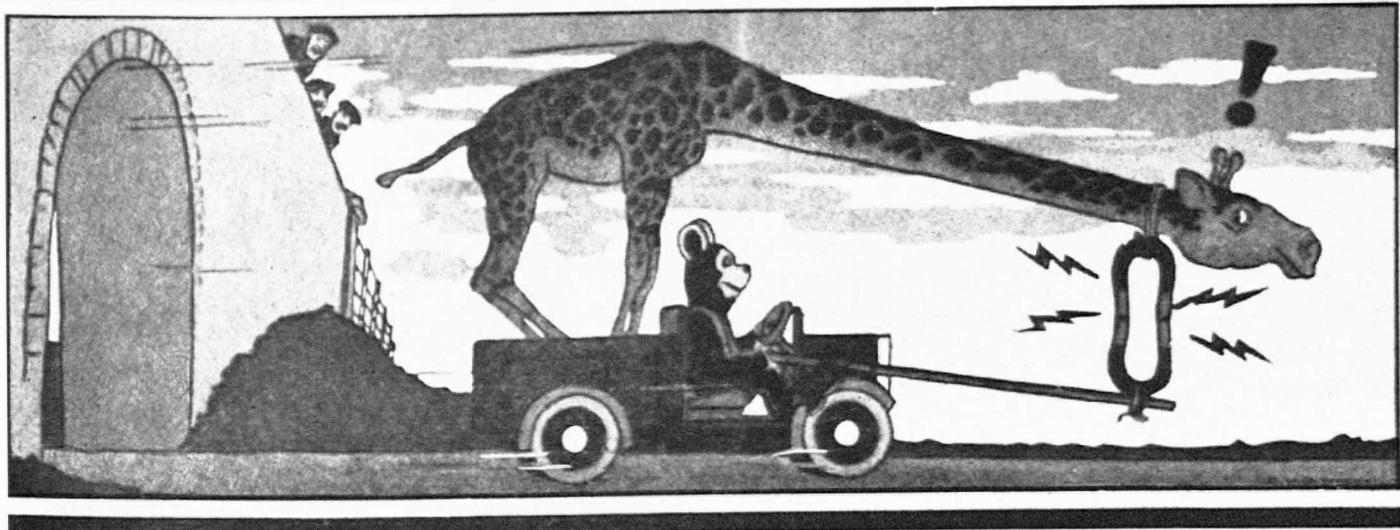
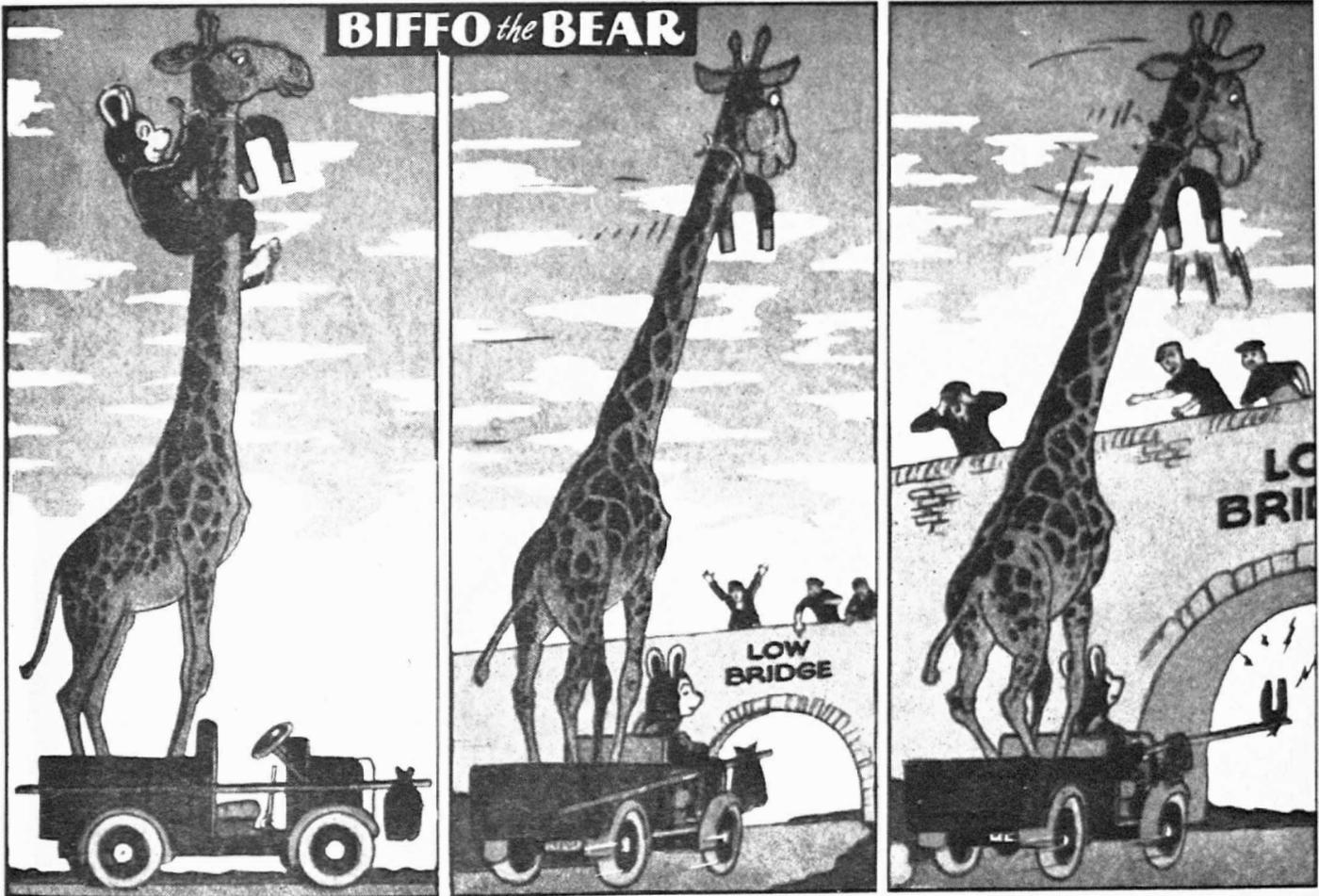
Be sure and put your full name, age and address on your letter.

And don't forget now, be sure and write to me because I want to hear from all my little friends, from every part of New South Wales.

All the Best now

Until Next Month,
Cheerio,

Pete





IN THE GARDEN

THE importance of vitamins in the diet has been very forcibly brought home to everyone in recent years. Many Australians have seen at first hand or have actually experienced the rather alarming effect of vitamin deficiency.

Something not quite so well known is the result of experiments showing that vegetables rapidly lose their vitamin content after picking and that it is best to pick and cook them the same day. Moreover they contain many essential salts that help to make these vitamins available to the digestive system. All of which shows how really health-giving are fresh plucked vegetables from the home garden.

For purposes of comparison the following table, while not showing actual proportions of each vitamin, gives an indication of what the popular vegetables contain.

| Variety. | Vitamins. | Variety. | Vitamins. |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Beetroot | A B C G | Lettuce | A B C E G |
| Cabbage | A B C G | Onion | A B C G |
| Carrot | A B C G | Parsley | A B C E |
| Celery | A B C E | Radish | A B C |
| Cucumber | A B C | Spinach | A B C E G |
| Endive | A C G | Tomato | A B C G |
| Garlic | A B C | Water Melon | A B C G |

Digging.

If there is digging to be done, and no doubt there will be, seize the opportunity to do it when the soil is moist and friable, but never too soon after rain, because, if worked when it is wet and soggy, it will form hard, dry clods in which plant life will have a struggle to live.

Poppies.

Perhaps you have Iceland Poppy seedlings ready to transplant. If so, keep the centres well above the ground when setting them, because once soil fills the crowns they will almost certainly rot. After planting water sparingly until they are established.

March is the time to grow the following :—

FLOWERS

Anemones, Snapdragons, Double Daisies, Marigolds, Calliopsis, Canterbury Bells, Carnations, Cornflowers, Chrysanthemums, Cinerarias, Clarkias, Delphiniums, Dianthus, Foxgloves, Freesias, Gladioli, Lupins, Marigolds, Nemesias, Pansys, Phlox, Poppies, Stocks, Sweet Peas, Violas.

VEGETABLES

Broad Beans, Beet, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Lettuce, Onions, Parsley, Peas, Radishes, Spinach, Swedes, Turnips.

Growing Onions.

This month's sowings include onions, but selection should be confined to an early or quick maturing variety such as Early Barletta. This is a particularly useful variety. When the bulbs are just forming they can be eaten as "Spring" or "Salad" onions, others can be allowed to grow into pickling size, and the remainder to full size.

Sow the seeds, not too thickly, in drills (12 inches apart) and cover with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of soil which should be kept moist until they germinate. As the bulblets form, pull out those not required so that the remainder stand about 1 inch apart. In a few weeks these will be large enough for pickling and more bulbs can be pulled. This should leave a space of about 4 inches between those to be fully matured.