

22 APR 1953

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# Dawn



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

March, 1953.



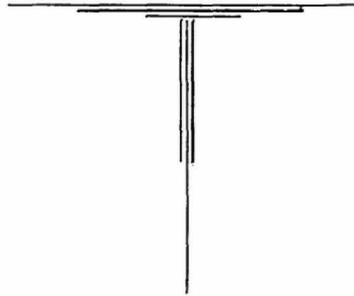
*Easter 1953*



## OUR COVER

This beautiful girl and her bouquet of Easter Lillies symbolises our Lord's Resurrection on that first Easter Morn many centuries ago.

As this Holy time approaches it should remind us to be more understanding, more gentle, with our friends, and more tolerant to our enemies.



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## FAREWELL!

We have had some classy fighters  
In Australia in the past,  
They were tough men of the glove game,  
Who were clever, hard and fast;  
But there is one great fighter  
Who stands out above the rest,  
And his name is always mentioned  
When men talk about the best.  
He was a hard two-fisted fighter  
Who had K.O's in both hands;  
He was known the whole world over  
As Australia's David Sands.  
Dave was born and bred near Kempsey  
On the sunny central coast  
He went to school in Burnt Bridge,  
The home he loved the most.  
But Fate to Dave was real unkind,  
One evening on the road  
His truck smashed up and he was killed—  
Trapped beneath the load.  
There's his broken-hearted mother  
And his wife and family;  
They are left behind to mourn him  
And to keep his memory;  
There's his brothers and his sister  
And all his boxing fans,  
Who were shocked in silent sorrow  
At the death of David Sands.  
The crowds that packed the stadiums  
And saw him fight throughout the years  
As he fought his way to victory  
And responded to their cheers,  
And the men he used to spar with  
And the men he fought and beat,  
They sent flowers to his graveside  
And stood silent in the street.  
They all knew they'd lost their idol  
Who had never known disgrace  
As they lowered him in glory  
To his last long resting place.  
Yes, we have had some mighty fighters  
Who were clever with their hands,  
But there'll never be another champ  
Who could box like David Sands:  
So I close this little poem, there is no more to tell.  
And I bow my head in sorrow . . .  
As I write this last farewell.

—R. SHERRY,  
Burnt Bridge.

## NEW SUPERINTENDENT FOR BOARD

*Mr. Maurice Saxby*



**Mr. M. H. Saxby.**

Early this month, the new Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare took up his duties at Head Office and has already expressed a very keen desire to get about the State and meet as many aborigines as possible.

A member of the Public Service for the past 34 years, Mr. Saxby has been in turn an officer in the Lands Department, the Police Department, the Audit Office, and the Child Welfare Department.

In the Child Welfare Department, Mr. Saxby was formerly District Officer and was at one time Resident Officer at Broken Hill.

He has travelled widely all over New South Wales—from Tibooburra to Eden, and from Wentworth to Tweed Heads.

For just over five years, Mr. Saxby was Superintendent of the Riverina Welfare Farm at Yanco and has also been Superintendent of the Boys' Training School at Gosford and the Girls' Training School at Parramatta. Since 1945, he has been Superintendent of the Field Branch of the Child Welfare Department.

A keen sportsman, the new Superintendent is keenly interested in many social organisations such as the Far West Scheme and the Family Welfare Bureau.



**A Pretty Maid a-Milking went!**

**A clever drawing by Stan McIntosh, of Boggabilla.**

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PEOPLE

*New Superintendent's Letter*

*By Mr. M. H. Saxby, Superintendent, Aborigines Welfare Board*

To the Staff of the Aborigines Welfare Board, the Aborigines of New South Wales, and my Well-wishers:

Dear Friends,

The writing of this, my very first letter in *Dawn*, impresses on me the importance of the work which lies ahead of us. I say "us" because, as I see it, the work of the Aborigines Welfare Board cannot be successfully accomplished without the co-operation of "us" all. I look for, and know I shall receive, the loyal and wholehearted support of all members of the staff, both from Head Office and the field.

From our friends throughout the State we must have, not only good wishes and sympathy, but also practical support which translates words into deeds.

From you, my aboriginal friends, must come a determination to worthily take your place with your white brothers and sisters, sharing with them the boundless privileges of life in this fair land and accepting its responsibilities also.

For my part, I am looking forward to meeting you all as soon as possible and hope to make many new friends among you in the years to come.

Might I assure you of my great pleasure in coming to work with you, and express the hope that together we may accomplish something worthwhile for the aboriginal people of New South Wales, which of course means, for the good of us all.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. H. Saxby', written in a cursive style.

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare.

# WINNING A PLACE IN THE WORLD

## THE POLICY OF ASSIMILATION

by

C. J. Buttsworth, Chairman, Aborigines Welfare Board

THE eventual assimilation of the aboriginal people into the white community is the primary objective of the Aborigines Welfare Board, and no one is better qualified to express an opinion on this assimilation or to interpret its conditions and advantages than the Chairman of the Board.

Not only has Mr. Buttsworth had a wealth of experience among the aboriginal people but, more importantly, he has a genuine and sustained interest in their problems and their well-being.

This is the first of a series of similar articles from the Chairman, and they will appear in *Dawn* each month.

Most of the readers of *Dawn* will have heard about this policy aim of the Aborigines Welfare Board. It is of the greatest importance to aboriginal people that they should understand clearly what is meant by this word of five syllables and how we hope to bring about the changes aimed at under this policy.



It is our aim to see the people of aboriginal descent living within the community, not as separate little sections or groups here and there, but as part of the one community with no distinction between white and dark. We must understand in the first place why it is that our aboriginal people, generally speaking,

elect to live at present in small communities by themselves. The answer, I would say, is that they do so simply for companionship, because the white people do not accept the aboriginal people as neighbours and friends. It is important that we should understand this attitude of the white communities.

In many countries, people of the same race only mingle with one another in their own groups and classes, or castes as some are called. In Australia, divisions are not so definite or noticeable. One feature, however, is usually to be found, and that is that people are disinclined to mingle on equal terms with others who do not observe similar habits and standards of living. This is the main reason why the white and dark races in our country centres do not live side by side as neighbours and friends should.

The foremost aim in life of most young people is to purchase for themselves a home. A great deal of saving and sacrifice is involved because it costs a lot of money in these days to build a home. And having bought a home, the owner takes great pride in furnishing it nicely, in making a garden and creating pretty surroundings. A person who owns his own home probably feels he is somewhat better than a man who merely rents one, and the person who rents one no doubt feels a lot better than a person who has



no home at all or who only lives in a poor kind of hut or shack, with little furniture, no garden and ugly surroundings.

It is not surprising that people should feel this way. Sacrifice is a very important quality in all civilisations, and any man might be justifiably proud of possession or achievement which is the result of hard work and sacrifice. And it is not surprising that such a man will think something less of another who has not attempted to win for himself a similar place amongst his fellows.

During the war and since, work has been plentiful and most aborigines have earned good wages. Despite this, very few have attempted to build homes for themselves, and except in those cases where the Board has built for them, aborigines still live in huts and shacks around country towns, apparently no better off than when work was hard to get in the depression years.

Throughout the country people looking on ask why so many aborigines live that way when they have been earning good wages. Can they then be blamed if they say there is something wrong with these aborigines? And that is principally the reason why the white people are not inclined to accept the aboriginal people as neighbours.



That, I believe, is all that matters in the attitude of the average Australian. I am sure that prejudice on any racial grounds is slight or non-existent, and that the attitude of the white people will change immediately when the aborigines show that they can use their money wisely, and become home-loving, sober and industrious citizens. That they can and will I do not doubt. They have already proved in the field of sport that they are brilliant athletes; they have produced great artists and singers; they are good workers. Above all, perhaps, they inherit from their forefathers a kindly nature and disposition that has endeared them as a race to all who really know them.

In the next issue of *Dawn* I hope to say something further on this subject.



# 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.

2/6 will be paid for each photograph published. But be sure and write your name and address plainly on the back of each photograph.



The successful Moruya Convent School Basketball team. Doris Davis is in the back row, second from the right.



Two of a kind. Eric John Craigie, of Boggabilla and his small brother, Ron.



Pat Perry and Marie Ward smile for the camera.



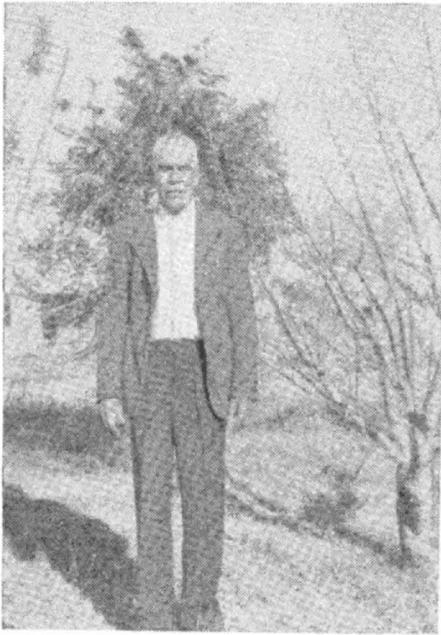
Jack Walford of Collarenebri. Jack has had a busy time with the floods lately.



A proud grandfather. Jack Griffiths, of Burra Bee Dee, and granddaughter Bernadette.



M. Hamilton, of Coonamble, goes to town with his guitar.



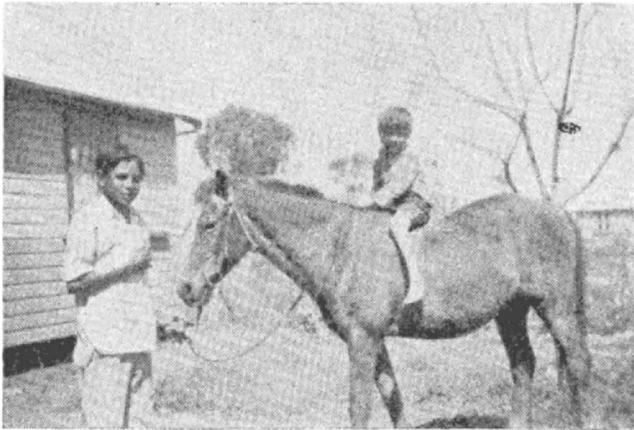
**Jack Craigie, 62 year-old resident, who came south from Queensland 50 years ago, and stayed here.**



**One of Kinchela's most outstanding athletes, John Armstrong, who has just started work.**



**A future heavyweight. Douglas Patton, of Boggabilla.**



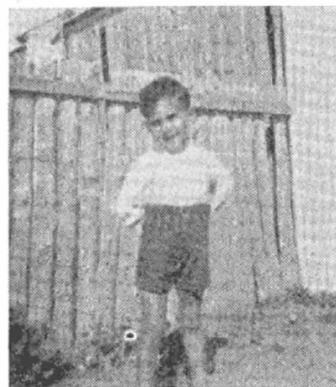
**Lloyd Dennison and Reggie Haines of Boggabilla, and of course, their horse.**



**Mrs. Elizabeth Goulding, "Queenie" Robinson, Matron, Mrs. Biddy Griffiths and Harriet Robinson, at Burra Bee Dee on "Queenie's" 76th birthday.**



**Charlie Hippi, one of Boggabilla's best footballers.**

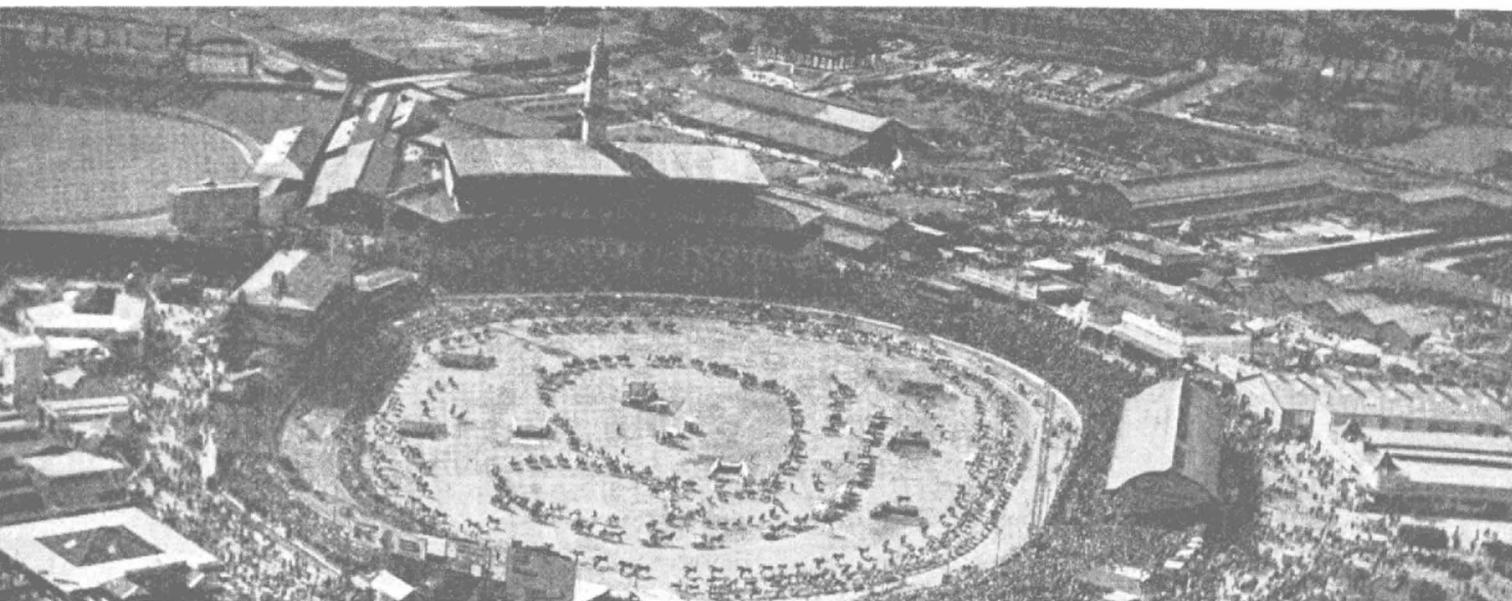


**Young Douglas Hamilton, of Coonamble, has a big grin for the cameraman.**



**Julie Dennison and Clarrie Haines and their "shy" dog.**

# The Easter Show! . . .



THE "Show" is on again . . . the great Easter Show . . . 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 . . . an expression of faith.

The Royal Agricultural Society which conducts this great exhibition 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.

This year's Show marks the 131st Anniversary of the foundation of the agricultural show movement in Australia. The first Show was held at Parramatta in 1822. A Show has been held in Sydney every year except 1919, due to an influenza epidemic, and from 1942 to 1946 inclusive, owing to the military occupation of the Showground. Twenty-two inches of rain in ten days almost washed out the 1927 exhibition, at which the late King, then Duke of York, was a guest.

First president of the Agricultural Society was Sir John Jamieson. It is an interesting fact that Merino sheep pioneer, John Macarthur, won most sheep prizes at the first Show. Sheep are not now exhibited, but are shown at a special Show in June.

John Blaxland, son of the explorer, won a 20-dollar prize at the first Show for a threshing machine his father described as "a device of uncommon utility." A shepherd, Maurice Roach, was awarded 32 dollars for weaning 297 lambs from a flock of 316 ewes. Mary Kelly won a prize for locally produced silk, and prizes also were awarded for essays based on the "most economical method of preparing extract of bark," and the "best mode of preparing castor oil for human consumption."

The Show has seen many startling changes as the years have rolled on, and the Society has functioned under different titles. In 1869, it moved to Sydney proper, holding its first Show at Prince Alfred Park. In 1881, the Society took a lease of land at Moore Park and began, with a bank balance of £71, the long and expensive task of transforming an ugly gully, pitted with deep fissures, into the present beautiful exhibition ground. Extra land was added to the original lease, bringing the total area to 71½ acres.

Much of the reclamation work was performed by collecting household rubbish, street sweepings and municipal garbage. The first Show on this ground was opened in 1882. In 1891, Queen Victoria granted the Society her sanction to use the prefix "Royal."

The Society's right to occupy the present site was challenged in the Courts, but an appeal to the Privy Council subsequently established the Society's right to occupy the land to assist in the improvement of the breeding of roadster horses. Later a special Act of Parliament granted the Society a lease of the ground for agricultural Show purposes.



**The Sideshows are always a popular feature at the Easter Show.**

A long-range building and improvement programme has brought the ground to its present up-to-date standard. By 1922, the date of the Centenary Show, £160,000 had been spent on improvements. Since the end of World War II the Society has spent £211,000 on improvements, and has plans to spend much more when conditions are more opportune.

The Society now values its assets at £8,000,000. Revenue from all sources last year totalled £298,874. Gate receipts were £151,726, and Entry fees yielded £10,143, space rents £38,102. The Society paid £29,051 of this away in cash prizes.

In 1922, revenue was £70,627, gate receipts £35,491, entry fees £2,732, space rents £15,820. Cash prizes totalled £9,357.

This year's Show will cost an estimated £150,000 to stage, and cash prize-money will be £26,040 plus 206 trophies worth £1,788.

Membership of the Society is 6,000.

The Society has a waiting list of more than 2,000 and this year created an associate membership at a reduced fee, but without full membership privileges.

## District Exhibits

Nearly 10 per cent. of the total amount of staging the Show is spent on the five Commonwealth District Exhibits. The Society spends £10,000 on prize-money and in paying costs for collecting material, on freight, staging and sustenance for workers employed on the exhibits. The exhibits represent all phases of rural industry in every part of N.S.W. and the Moreton and Downs districts of Queensland.

Sydney is included in the geographical boundary of the Western N.S.W. Division, but nothing grown within 10 miles of the centre of the City is included in the Exhibit.

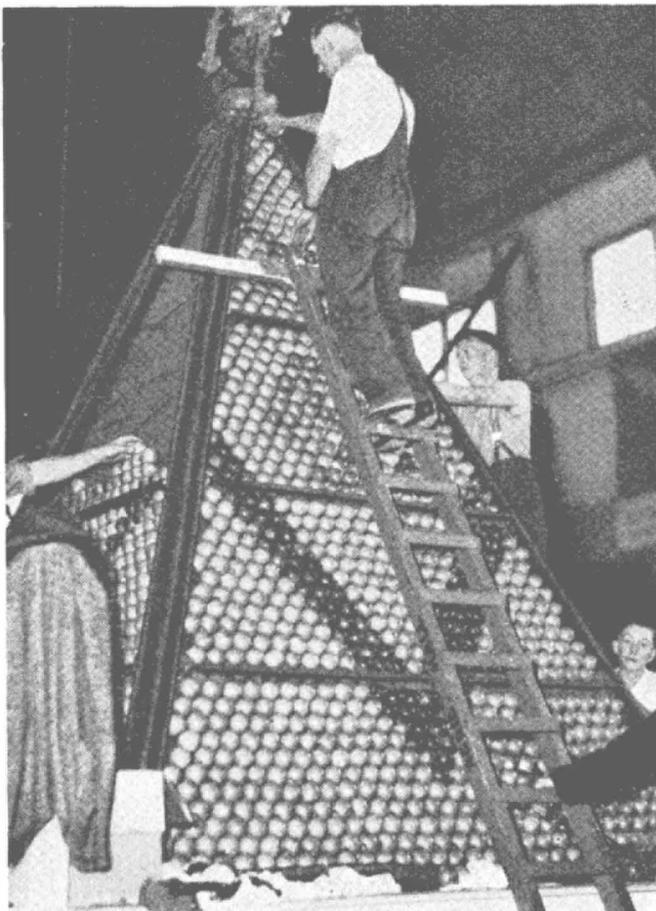
The same restrictions have been applied to produce grown by State-owned institutions in N.S.W. and Queensland. There are more than 20,000 items in the five district exhibits.

To ensure that each exhibit contains a sample of every product, organisers duplicate and, in some cases, treble plantings to guard against losses from bush-fires and drought.

Accent everywhere in the Show is on the part youth is playing in rural industry, and the influence of young minds in the modern approach to rapidly changing situations that affect the economy and practices in agriculture.



**Steer riding, with its thrills and spills, is another popular ring event.**



**One of the District Exhibits in the Agricultural Hall.**

Every year the Show seems to get bigger and bigger. Take, for instance, the various exhibits.

This year there will be 6,748 horses (except trotters), 1,136 trotting horses, 1,348 dairy cattle, 1,441 fat cattle, 189 goats, 56 fat lambs, 677 pigs, 383 exhibits of wine, brandy, Australian whisky, etc., 4,124 exhibits of poultry, pigeons, pheasants, etc., canaries, cage birds, etc., 3,523 dogs, 182 cats, 437 agricultural exhibits, 314 dairy produce exhibits, 3,030 horticultural exhibits, 916 woodchopping and sawing entries, 1,847 arts and handicraft exhibits.

Forty horses will make an attempt during the Show to break the 37-years old water-jump record of 33 feet created in 1915 by Mr. W. McIlwain's "Thumbs Up." It is the longest-standing record in the Society. The horse which beats the record will earn its owner £55.

Six tons of butter, bacon, ham, cheese, and tinned dairy products will be displayed in special refrigerated showcases in the dairy hall.

There are 550 commercial exhibitors at the Show and another 200 have made application for stands when more space is available.

Every item of food brought to the Showground by caterers is subject to inspection by Government food inspectors, so the public can eat in safety.

The Society annually spends more than £2,000 on promoting competitions to stimulate interest in, and encourage adoption of, more modern methods in cultivation of wheat, maize and linseed. It also is financing a farm production drive, two scholarships for students to take diploma courses at Hawkesbury Agricultural College and Sydney University.

And so the Great Show rolls on. Another year another success . . . each one adding to the education and the entertainment of an ever increasing population . . . a great showcase for the exhibition of Australia's industry and enterprise.

The percentage of young men and women, and even children who play important roles in each Show is increasing annually, bringing fresh ideas and solid support for patrons of the Society who have been loyal supporters for 25 and even 50 years.

The Society has captured this upsurge of youthful enthusiasm and enterprise by providing competitions, appointing youths to quasi-official positions in judging rings, and giving them a show "baptism" by allowing them to be principals in some of the main-ring feature entertainments.

For instance, 6,000 girls from suburban domestic science and secondary schools will "tell" the story in colourful mass displays of an Oriental Dance of the Lanterns.

A split-second timetable has been prepared for ring events during the 10 days and 8 nights the Show is open, a non-stop tableau of activity and excitement.

Jumping events will provide a spectacular preview to the equestrian contests at the 1956 Olympic Games, and so all events this year will be conducted under conditions which will be applied during the Games. Not one event will be permitted to exceed 30 minutes. Classes in which big entries have been received have been cut into divisions to observe this time limit.



**Waiting for the Dog Judging.**

# NO ONE SHOULD DROWN!

## TRAGEDY CAN BE AVERTED

ALMOST every time we read the papers we learn of yet another death by drowning.

Very often these tragedies could have been averted if someone present had a knowledge of resuscitation.

This month we have set down the rudimentary treatment necessary in such cases.

Begin treatment immediately patient has been taken from the water.

(1) Loosen all clothing about neck, chest or waist and see that there is nothing in mouth or throat to obstruct the breathing.

(2) Carry out artificial respiration as follows:—

(a) Place the patient face downwards with his head turned to one side. (See illustrations.)

(b) Kneel beside patient between knee and hip facing his head. (See illustrations.)

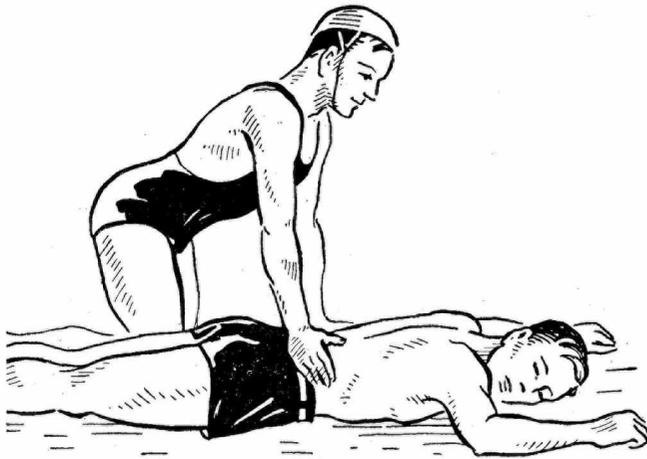


Fig. 1.—Expiration—Pressure on.

(c) Place your hands flat over his lower ribs, one on each side, the thumbs parallel to each other and about 2 inches apart. Keeping your arms quite straight, swing your body forward until the arms are vertical, applying firm, but not violent, pressure straight downwards on the patient's chest. (See Fig. 1.) By this means the air and water (if any) are driven out of the patient's lungs. This movement should occupy about 2 seconds.

(d) Then keeping your hands in position, swing your body back so as to relax the pressure. (See Fig. 2.) This movement allows air to enter the lungs and should occupy about 3 seconds.

(e) Repeat these movements twelve times per minute; that is, a forward movement occupying 2 seconds, and a backward movement 3 seconds, should be carried out twelve times in each minute.

Carry on until natural breathing is restored or until a doctor pronounces life to be extinct.

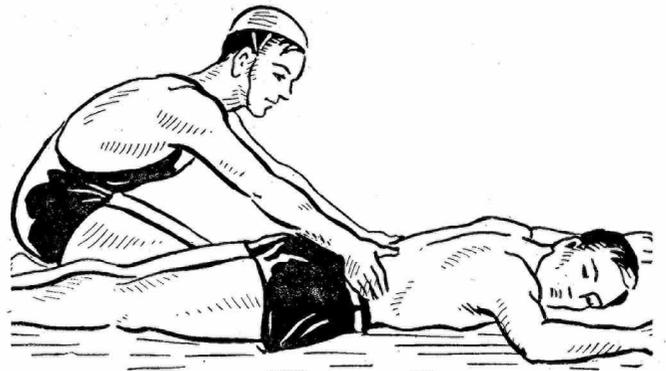


Fig. 2.—Inspiration—Pressure off.

### Additional Measures where there is Assistance

Whilst one person is carrying out artificial respiration, others may rub the upper and lower limbs steadily from the feet and wrist towards the heart. Warmth may be applied to the body and limbs by means of hot water bottles, if available. Hot water in ordinary bottles, which are wrapped in some material to prevent burning of the patient, will answer the purpose. Place them in the arm pits, between the legs and at the sides and feet of the patient.

### When Natural Breathing has been Restored

When natural breathing has been restored, place the patient on his right side. He may then be given small quantities of hot, strong tea or coffee. Remove wet clothing, wrap the patient in blankets and put him to bed as soon as possible.

# FROM CAROWRA TANK TO MENINDEE

## TRANSFER OF 200 ABORIGINES

*This is the second in a series of reminiscences from Ex-Inspector E. C. Smithers, who recently retired from the Aborigines Welfare Board, after more than forty years in the service.*

On one occasion many years ago when the water supply at Carowra Tank Station failed, the Aborigines Welfare Board directed that the aboriginal people there be transferred to a selected site at Menindee.

Arrangements were accordingly made for a special train to pick the people up from Conoble Siding, which was about fifty miles away.



When the people had all arrived at the siding in readiness for their train trip, the railway staff from Sydney took charge. I suggested that the fifty-odd hunting dogs which the families had brought with them should be loaded into an open truck and covered with rope netting, but the railway officials said this was contrary to regulations and they would have to go into the guard's van. So into the guard's van they went.

Most of the aboriginal people had never travelled in a train before and the railway officials, after two hours' desperate effort to get them all aboard . . . and keep them there . . . gave up in despair and asked the Matron and I to take over.

Accordingly, the Matron took charge and within fifteen minutes everyone was aboard and ready to move.

Good supplies of food were taken on to the train at Ivanhoe and we made several stops along the way to "boil the billy" and have some food.

Incidentally the manager of Carowra had gone ahead and had arranged suitable accommodation and a good hot meal for everyone on arrival.

We stopped the train about three miles out of Menindee station, where we had previously arranged for lorries to meet us and take the people straight out to their new station.

Our main troubles at this stop were the newspaper reporters (three of them) and the dogs tied up in the guard's van.

These dogs were really a wild lot and none of the railway staff could get near them.



However, the boys tied sheath knives to long poles and gradually cut them all adrift. It didn't take the dogs long then to sort themselves out and find their rightful owners.

When the people were taken to their new camp site we put them in tents for a while and later provided houses.

One of the most amusing incidents of the transfer concerned the fifty or sixty goats at Carowra.

The people used these goats for milking purposes, and as they were loathe to part with them, three of the boys undertook to drive them overland to Menindee.

One morning they started off with their sixty goats and arrived at Menindee three weeks later with no less than 140 goats.

The police along the way had many complaints about missing goats, but as none of the goats were branded the matter was just left to die a natural death.

In any case the Carowra people were very fond of goat flesh as well as goat's milk, so none went astray.

On their arrival at Menindee, the aborigines were given a lecture and warned against hunting emus in close season.



This lecture was taken very seriously and absorbed with great interest, but it was a rather strange coincidence that before the arrival of the aborigines there were plenty of emus both on and near the camp site but had almost disappeared within a few weeks.

One need not emphasise the fact that emu meat was a favourite dish of the Carowra people.

# NOW YOU KNOW!

**OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO HOTTENTOT (CAPE) CAPTAINS WERE ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE AUTHORITIES AS HEADS OF CERTAIN TRIBES. TO EACH WAS GIVEN A STAFF OF OFFICE AS A SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY.**

*Elsie Plamini*  
THIS IS THE SIGNATURE OF A MUSIC STUDENT LIVING IN BLOEMFONTEIN, ORANGE FREE STATE!

**THE KING OF ANKOLE**  
(PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA)  
NEVER MAKES A DECISION WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF HIS LION! THE BEAST IS BELIEVED TO BE THE REINCARNATION OF THE FORMER KING, AND MEDICINE MEN TRANSMIT ITS VIEWS ON ALL AFFAIRS OF STATE.

**ETHEL WATERS**  
IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE FIRST LADY OF STAGE AND SCREEN AS FAR AS NEGRO AMERICA IS CONCERNED. AN ENTERTAINER WHO STARTED OUT AS A SINGER, SHE ROSE SWIFTLY TO STARDOM. NOW OVER 50, SHE WAS MARRIED WHEN ONLY 13 YEARS OLD AND DIVORCED AT 14!

**THE TILIKUM** AN INDIAN WAR CANOE OWNED BY CAPTAIN J.C. VOSS OF CANADA, SAILED AROUND THE WORLD IN FOUR YEARS (1901-1904) - A DISTANCE OF FORTY THOUSAND MILES!

## EX-COOTA. GIRLS COME TO TOWN HOLIDAY AT COLLAROY

Thirteen ex-Cootamundra girls (and they're not a bit superstitious) have just had the time of their lives at their annual holiday at Collaroy.

The annual "get together" always gives them plenty to talk about and they took every advantage of the opportunity. Visits to the city, swimming at the beach, theatre parties, days at Luna Park, and other kindred outings made the time pass only too quickly.

Despite all their engagements, however, they found time to visit the Aborigines Welfare Board and renew old acquaintances. Cakes and lemonade were the order of the day when they visited the Chairman of the Board (Mr. C. J. Buttsworth) and Mrs. Inspector English.

In the accompanying photograph in the back row, from left to right are: Marie Ward, Harriet Perry, Olive Colless, Ruby Zooch, Ruth Whaddy, and Heather Wilson.

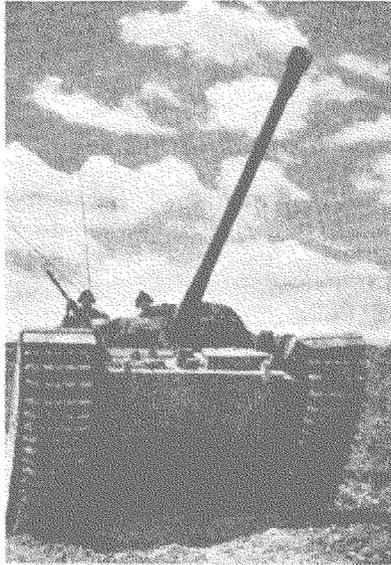
To the left of Mr. Buttsworth are: Edna King, Dorothea Combo, Thelma Miller, and Pam Tighe.

On the Chairman's right are: Margaret Cruse, Veronica Haradine, Dorothy Mitchell, and Mrs. English.





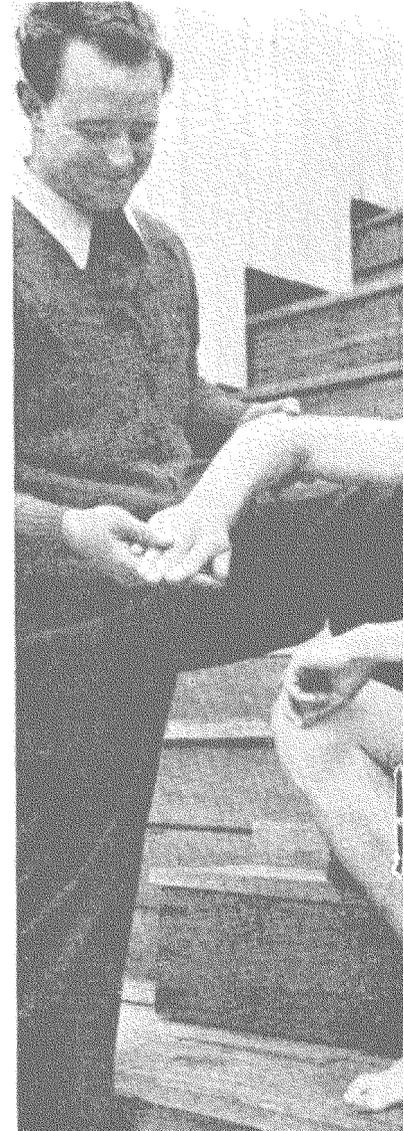
Heavily padded leather clothes, an inch of lead on the sole of his boot, and a terrific amount of nerve, are all very necessary for this International Speedway Rider.



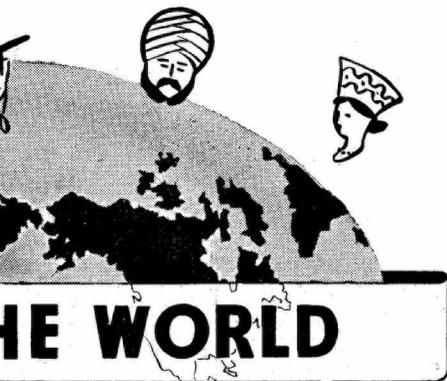
This mighty tank moves into action "Somewhere in Korea." The United Nations forces fighting the Communists in Korea are well equipped with the very latest in modern equipment.



The State Coach. In this magnificent golden vehicle, valued at over £7,000, Queen Elizabeth II will drive through London after the Coronation ceremony on June 2nd. It will be drawn by 6 white horses.



Jon Henricks, Australia's young fastest swimmers in the world. His action with his coach before he entered the water.



swimming star, is one of the  
re he is seen discussing an arm  
ers the water for his daily swim.



This little fellow wasn't a bit over-  
awed by the dignity of the Guards  
outside Buckingham Palace. After  
all, he was a soldier too, even if  
he was dressed more for comfort  
than for ceremony.



The Helicopter demonstrates how  
easy it is to pick up a survivor  
from a life-raft. These ingenious  
aircraft are able to perform almost  
impossible tasks.



Prince Charles, Heir-apparent to the British Throne, looks rather  
dour, but his little sister can see plenty to laugh about. These two  
Royal youngsters are now 5 and 3 years old respectively.

# SMALL BUT VICIOUS!

## *Many Types of Fleas*

Fleas are distinguished from other parasitic insects, such as bugs and lice, by being flattened from side to side and not from above, as well as by undergoing a distinct metamorphosis.

About one thousand different kinds of fleas have been described and of these five kinds are commonly found in the vicinity of human habitations. They are the human flea which lives on human blood; the rat flea which carries typhus fever from rat to man and the plague flea which conveys bubonic plague from rat to man; the cat flea which lives usually on cats, but readily attacks dogs and other animals, as well as man and is, therefore, very common in many homes; the dog flea which lives on the dog but frequently attacks man; and the fowl flea which is often found on poultry and readily sucks man's blood.

### *A Serious Pest*

The fleas which may be conveyed into our homes either on animals or on ourselves are serious pests because, in the adult state, they may live very intimately with us. Since they pierce the skin in order to get their meal of blood they make wounds, which are liable to receive any dirt-conveying disease germs and any excreta from the body of the flea.

The female flea lays her eggs among rugs, carpets, dirty crevices in floors or wherever there is an accumulation of dust and debris. The flea's eggs hatch into maggot-like creatures totally unlike the adult in both structure and habits. During development three definite stages are passed through, and a complete metamorphosis takes place after a long resting period before the final jumping flea appears.

### **Control**

The chief causes of fleas infesting houses are want of cleanliness, particularly allowing dust, etc., to gather; proximity of outhouses, hen runs, stables, etc., where fleas are allowed to breed unchecked; and free access of flea carriers—cats, dogs, rats, mice, etc.—to the living rooms of the house.

To get rid of fleas one must treat their domestic hosts and destroy the flea's breeding centres. Rats and mice must be banished. The careful removal of dust and dirt from crevices means not only removal of food supplies of the flea larvae but also destruction of the eggs and cocoons lying in the dust.

Regular washing of dogs in water containing carbolic helps them to repel fleas. A good carbolic soap may be used. Though it is difficult to wash cats, they must be regularly combed, and pyrethrum powder or

naphthalene should be rubbed into the fur so that they will repel fleas. Cleansing of all domestic animals allowed in the house is essential; it is not enough to exclude them, as this may merely spread fleas by changing the usual sleeping quarters of the host.

A person harbouring fleas should take a hot bath and soap-well; the washable clothing should be washed with hot water and soap. Other clothing can be sprayed with a solution of D.D.T. and left to air.

### *Soap and Kerosene Emulsion*

In houses, floors and woodwork should be washed with water containing carbolic or with kerosene emulsion.

Kerosene emulsion may be prepared as follows: Cut up  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of hard soap and place in 1 gallon of water and boil until dissolved. Remove from the fire and immediately stir in 1 gallon of kerosene. Mix until thoroughly emulsified. This makes a stock solution of kerosene emulsion which for use is diluted with water at the rate of 1 pint of stock solution to 9 pints of water, which gives a dilution of 1 in 20.

The stock solution may be diluted at once with cold water, but if allowed to stand until cool, it must either be reheated or else hot water must be used to dilute it. The final diluted emulsion should be white and creamy with no free oil on the surface.

Dogs (not cats) may be washed in kerosene emulsion (1 in 20) or carbolic sheep dip (prepared according to the makers' recommendations) but either of these mixtures should be washed out of the dog's coat after half-an-hour or it may cause burning. The bedding of the animals and places frequented by them should be sprayed thoroughly with kerosene emulsion containing D.D.T.

Generally speaking, in localities where fleas give trouble, the floor space should be kept as bare as possible and heavy curtains not allowed to fall to the floor. Cedar oil or other similar oils used for floor cleaning will either kill or drive away fleas. A house may be cleaned by scrubbing with hot soapy water, or with kerosene emulsion.

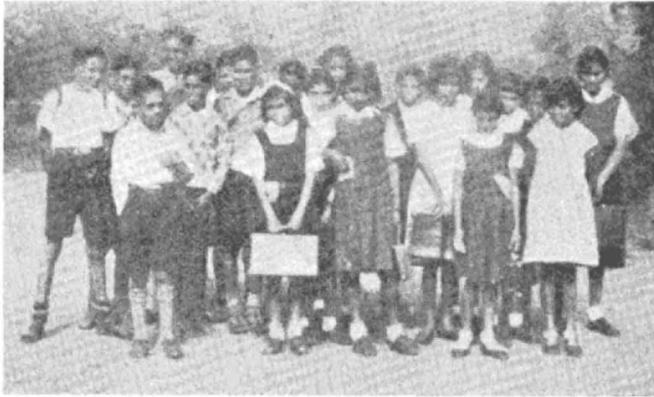
Dusts containing D.D.T. or concentrated solutions of D.D.T. in kerosene, if used around carpets and skirting boards, will kill fleas. One of the most effective mechanical means for destroying fleas or other household pests is the regular use of the vacuum cleaner.

# TAREE . . . A HAPPY STATION!

## ABORIGINES WELCOMED!

The town of Taree, with a population of a little more than 8,000, spreads itself along the north bank of the beautiful Manning River, and is the centre of one of the richest dairying districts on the North Coast.

On the other side of the river, and about two miles from the town, the Taree Aboriginal Station, with a population of 225 aborigines, housed in comfortable modern cottages, nestles in a beautiful bush setting.



A happy group of Station students lined up ready to board the bus which takes them to and from school.

The general community of this district is proud of its aboriginal content. Sporting bodies welcome the teams of players in various sports, and individual aboriginal sportsmen are frequently included in district teams.

No town concert is considered complete unless a few of the Station's musical artists appear on the programme. The new local radio station, which is just about to be opened, is also looking forward to using some of the Station's talent in its broadcasts.



Janice Ridgeway is introduced to the Headmistress of the Taree Primary School by a new schoolmate, Beverley Ivers, whose father is a Taree businessman.

Taree churches are not lacking in their interest in the aboriginal people. Not only do we have frequent visits from the clergymen of the town, but Station church people are invited to attend and take part in various church gatherings held in the town churches.

The Taree Boy Scout Movement has also been pleased to take the Station's only four eligible boys into their Cub Pack. The lads have wonderful times at their weekly gatherings.

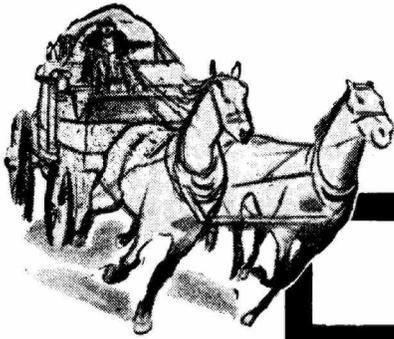
Late last year, a Progress Association was formed by Station residents, and three funds are now being administered by this organisation. Apart from a Management Fund, the Station has a School Fund to provide educational assistance for the children and a Scout Fund to provide for the requirements of the Stations' Boy Scouts, and later on, for Girl Guides also.



Ronald and Janice Ridgeway being farewelled from their home by their parents on the first day back at school. Ron attends High school and Janice, Primary school.

The Station has a thriving Rugby Football Club which holds substantial funds to meet its needs for the forthcoming season. The second grade team has won the district competition for the past two seasons. This year the residents are fielding a strong first grade team.

At the beginning of this year a new era in educational facilities was opened for the station children, with nineteen former pupils of the Station School enrolled at the Taree Primary School and six at the Taree High School. The school on the station has now been made an Infants' School and is attended by twenty tiny tots.



## Along the Mail Route

Sister Hinter, of the Far West Scheme, recently conducted a Baby Clinic at Moree Station and examined a number of babies. Sister Hinter said she regretted that, at present, it would not be possible to establish a regular clinic on the Station.

The twenty-four new homes on Moree Station are now occupied and many of the residents already have promising flower and vegetable gardens under way.

There are still nine more new homes to be completed, but even then sixty residents will remain in the old homes.

There has been a large influx of visitors to Bellbrook recently. Les Smith, Jim and Ray Widdis of Armidale, spent a holiday with George Cohen and Victor Wright and his family from Aberdeen stayed with the Joe Quinlans as also did George Campbell and family of Nowra.

Victor Shepherd, who is working in Sydney, recently spent a brief holiday with his family at Bellbrook.

Rae and Margaret Kelly have returned to Bellbrook Station after a long stay at Burnt Bridge.

Congratulations to George Quinlan, Flossie Quinlan and Ron Cohen, who have moved up to Kempsey High School from the Nulla Creek Aboriginal School at Bellbrook.

Most activity on Cabbage Tree Island has virtually come to a standstill owing to the unprecedented rains and consequent floodings.

Fortunately the island suffered no great damage other than causing great inconvenience to the residents in moving about. In many instances canoes and boats had to be used when one family desired to visit another.

Owing to the approach of the football season, the Cabbage Tree Island club has been busy and already held several meetings, mostly to combat attempts to lure station players into outside teams. However, it now appears that the station team will remain intact and should be better than ever this year.

Probably the proudest woman on Cabbage Tree Island these days is Mrs. Charlotte Kapeen. The reason for her pride is the success being achieved by her pugilistic grandson, George Kapeen.

Congratulations to Phillip Carberry, Claude Mundy and Fred Little, of Nowra, who have all recently become Boy Scouts.

The little fellows, Colin Little and Sam Drew, have joined the Nowra Cub Pack.



After a hectic morning on the beach, girls at the Collaroy Christmas Camp found a rest in the dormitory very welcome, especially with Dawn to read.

# HOME



# HINTS

## Worcestershire Sauce

Take a gallon of vinegar, 3 lb. of treacle, 1 bottle of anchovy sauce, 2 oz. of cloves, 2 oz. of garlic, 1 oz. of cayenne pepper, and about 2 tablespoons of salt. Boil all together for half an hour or longer. Strain off the cloves and garlic and bottle while warm in airtight containers. This sauce improves with keeping.

## Potato Scones

Mash one pound of boiled potatoes, add 4 oz. of flour, pepper and salt to taste, 1 tablespoon of baking powder and a little chopped parsley. Mix together with a beaten egg and enough milk to make a stiff dough. Roll out to one inch thickness on a floured board. Bake in a fairly hot oven.

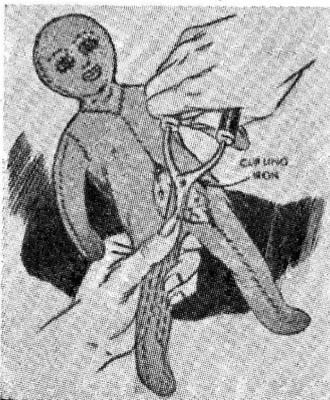
These are very nice when split open and buttered like ordinary scones.

## Destroying Insects

Put some alum into hot water and let it boil until it is all dissolved; then apply the solution hot, with a brush, to all cracks, closets and bedsteads or wherever insects are to be found.

Ants, bedbugs, cockroaches and all creeping things may be exterminated by its use and there is no danger of poisoning.

## Curling Iron Used to Stuff Rag Doll



The difficulty of inserting cotton or other padding in the narrow parts of rag dolls can be overcome by using a curling iron. The tool is used like tongs to place the padding and, with the jaws closed, it also can be used for tamping.

## Novel Home Window Beautifier is Roller-type Fabric Shade



A unique way to gain a pleasing effect in the windows of your home is by replacing the window-shade material with a colourful fabric. The expense is small. Perhaps some material left over from recently made draperies can be used, in which case each shade will match the draperies exactly. To convert a shade, first remove the old material from the shade, leaving it intact so that it can be used as

a pattern for cutting the fabric. Cut the fabric a little oversized to allow room for a hem at each edge. The hem at the bottom should be large enough to permit inserting the wooden slat from the old shade. Attach the fabric to the roller with small tacks and transfer the pull cord.

Discarded coffee percolator takes on new duties as a string holder. Simply place the ball of string on the percolator shaft and thread it through a hole in the pouring spout. When brightly painted and topped off with a decal, the pot adds a decorator's touch to a modern kitchen. A small notch in the spout holds the end of the string.



Dear Editor,

I received my *Dawn* this morning and was very pleased to get it. When I am finished with it I am sending it on to some people in the country who first told me about it and they in turn to send it on to others.

It is a lovely magazine and has a nice lot of reading in it.

Mrs. L. Cunningham,  
11 Vaughan Street,  
Lidcombe.

. . . Thank you, Mrs. Cunningham. I was pleased to hear you intended passing *Dawn* on to your friends. Better still, if you let me have the addresses of any of our aboriginal friends or relatives who are not getting *Dawn* we will gladly put them on the mailing list and you will be able to keep your copies. —Ed.

Dear Editor,

As the writer of the booklet, "Cummeragunga," it was with a feeling of pleased satisfaction that I read your complimentary remarks in *Dawn*, for which I thank you sincerely.

There seems every indication of "Cummeragunga" being a greater success than I had anticipated when I first set out to write. But I will say I spent much of my time and patience sitting down to study and writing at night, after a long day's work, for my education is only limited and what I received at our school at Cummeragunga. My biggest inspiration was, and still is, my love for my aboriginal people.

In bringing "Cummeragunga" before the people I am much indebted to Mr. A. E. O'Connor, who worked untiringly against many setbacks, and no words could express my gratitude to him.

I am at present working in the fruit areas of Shepparton and Mooroopna, and so it is my pleasure to see many aborigines who work here. Even though I may be only one, I still believe the aborigines are a wonderful people. It is good to see them here every day working so happily and ever ready to share each other's joys . . . or sorrows.

Soon, this work will be over and they will say good-bye to each other as they set out for new fields, some perhaps to take other employment already secured or to take the best propositions offered against the coming of winter.

With all best wishes to the success of *Dawn* and to my aboriginal friends.

—Ronald Morgan.

. . . Thanks, indeed, for your interesting letter, Mr. Morgan. Congratulations, firstly on your literary work, and secondly in the pride you have for your own people. As you say, the aborigines are indeed a wonderful people and nothing is beyond them if they are prepared to strive for it. —Ed.

# The Editors Mail



## THE BEAR FAMILY GOES FISHING



A clever sketch by Kathleen Newman, of Condobolin.

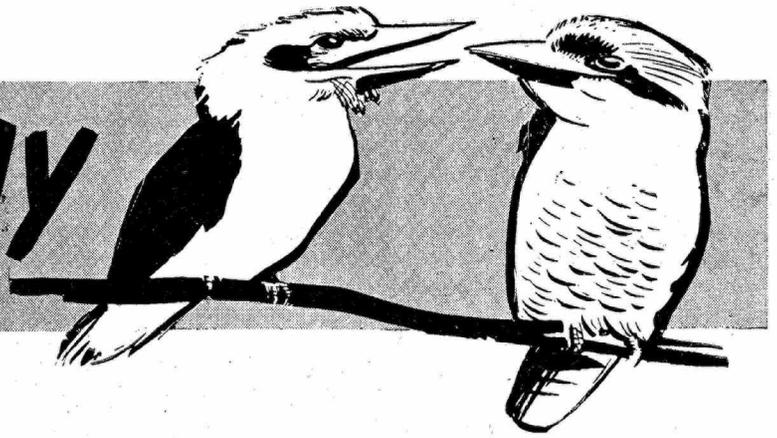
\* \* \* \*

## "FAREWELL!"

Our splendid poem, "Farewell," dedicated to the memory of our great champion, Dave Sands, was written by Roderick Sherry of Burnt Bridge. Rod, who is a labourer with the Main Roads Board, is 30 years of age, married, and has three children . . . two boys and a girl.

A former pupil of Burnt Bridge School, he has written many other poems and we look forward to seeing more of his work in *Dawn*.

# THEY SAY



Bellbrook residents are proud of the progress being made by young Jimmy Quinlin. Boarding at Kinchela Home, Jimmy attends Kempsey High School, and although he did not begin his High School course until the second term, secured first place in four subjects and second place in two subjects. Jim has been promoted to the general class this year. Congratulations, Jim.

Jim Kelly and Denzil Quinlin, of Bellbrook, are both having a successful season with the local cricket team. Both are excellent fieldsmen and Jim is scoring the runs while Denzil is collecting the wickets.

Ruby Zooch of Strathdoon, Nubba, wants to make some new pen friends.

Ruby is 20 years of age, and is very interested in swimming and cycling.

Mrs. Ivy Campbell, wife of Mr. Tom Campbell, of Burnt Bridge, died recently in the Macleay District Hospital.

*Dawn* readers extend their sincere sympathy to the bereaved husband and six children.

Volunteer labour has been called for to assist in the erection of a tennis court on Burnt Bridge Station but to date no response has been forthcoming. This is most surprising as Burnt Bridge residents are usually only too eager to assist and co-operate. Now what about it, you young fellows?

A very successful dance was held in the Burnt Bridge Recreation Hall a few nights ago to raise funds for Kempsey Ambulance, which does a really wonderful job for the residents, at any hour of the day or night.

Shirley Binge, James French, Francis Binge, Pat Clarke, Thelma Johnson, and Margaret and Ivan Raveneau, were the Moree representatives at the Christmas camp at Collaroy and are STILL talking about the wonderful time they had.

In a farewell gathering in the Moree Recreation Hall last month, the aboriginal people of the district expressed their gratitude to Dr. P. J. McMahon for the work he had done amongst them, and also their sorrow at his impending departure from the district.

Dr. McMahon arrived at the hall accompanied by Matron Lillicrap, Mesdames D. Hitchins, T. Davies and Mr. J. Callaghan, and the ceremony opened with a short speech by the Manager, Mr. Morgan, who then called on Mr. Bert Draper to speak on behalf of the aboriginal people of Moree.

Mr. Draper delivered a classic eulogy on Dr. McMahon and his work, in his own inimitable style, concluding with the remark that Moree's loss would be "someone else's gain."

Nurse Christine French then made a presentation to the Doctor on behalf of the community. It was a beautiful chrome and plate glass mirrored traymobile upon which was a set of sherry decanter and glasses, the latter being a gift from the children. Following the presentation, Nurse Alma Tighe said a few words on behalf of the McMaster Ward patients and staff and called on Matron Lillicrap to support her.

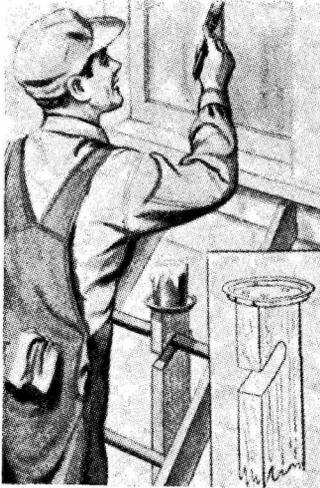
Tiny Jeanette Binge then presented Matron Lillicrap with a bouquet. Doctor McMahon responded and the ceremony closed with everyone singing "For he's a Jolly Good Fellow."



"The Homestead," a clever sketch by Hilton Wightman, of Boggabilla.

# HELP YOURSELF

## Painting Outdoor Furniture



Before painting outdoor furniture, apply a coat of shellac to the surface. This will keep the resin in the wood from bleeding through the paint, and the latter will retain its original colour throughout the summer. If you apply weatherproofing compound to swings and lawn furniture, keep the weatherproofing from streaking or running by binding it to the wooden base with a thin undercoat of shellac.

## Fly Repellents

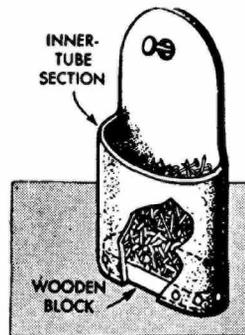
Flies and other insects dislike the odour of moth crystals and will stay away from any garbage pail that contains a trace of the repellent. In the case of a step-on pail on an open porch, placing a handful of crystals in the pail before lining is especially desirable.



Assorted rubber bands can be cut from worn-out rubber gloves. Strips from wrist portion provide larger bands, and smaller sizes are cut from the fingers.

## Sections of Car Inner Tube Make Bins for Small Parts

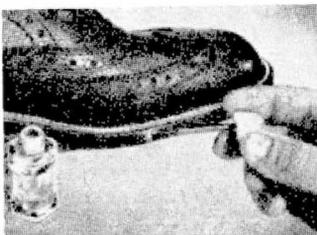
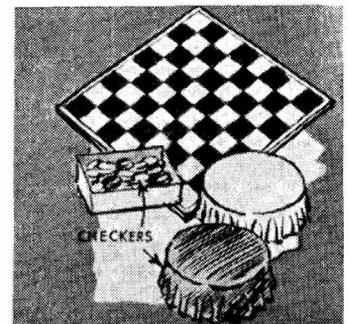
Useful bins for small nails, screws and other parts can be made from sections of a car inner tube. Make each one by cutting away the side, as illustrated, to leave a flap at one end, and then tacking a wooden block in the other end to serve as a bottom. Punch a hole in the flap for hanging and, if desired, reinforce the hole by cementing a couple of rubber washers around it. When using a bin, parts can be poured out on the flap for easy accessibility, and can be replaced merely by tipping the bin back into a vertical position. Also, if you want to carry a bin in the tool kit or your pocket, the parts can be kept intact by folding the flap over the opening of the bin.



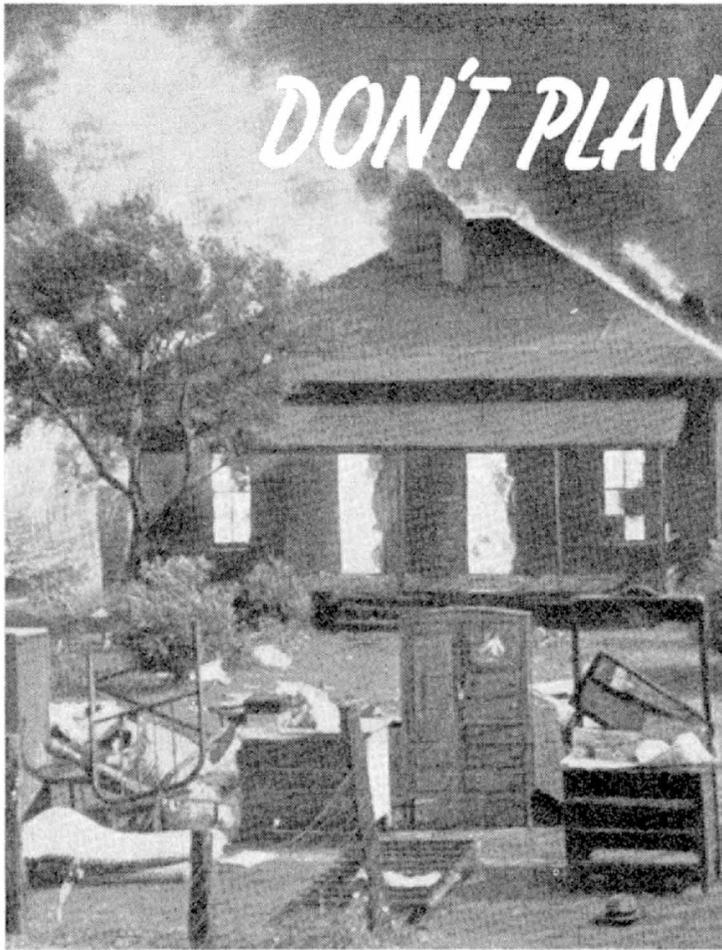
## Testing Campfire Wood

When selecting fuel for a campfire or fireplace, remember that hardwood will produce the most satisfactory fire. It is, of course, more difficult to ignite than softwood, but once ignited it produces a hot, slow-burning fire. If you are unfamiliar with the types of woods, a simple test for fuel purposes is to press your fingernail into it where the bark is off. If the surface of the wood dents easily under pressure of your nail, it is softwood.

Inexpensive checkers to replace ones that are lost are improvised from beverage-bottle caps. Paint the caps red or black, or identify them by brand name.



Before wearing a new pair of shoes, coat the edges of the soles and heels with clear fingernail polish. This helps retain the original finish, prolonging the "new look" of the shoes.



# DON'T PLAY WITH FIRE

Each year in New South Wales an average of 60 people die of burns accidentally received. Many of these are children under five years of age. The most vulnerable group is, therefore, young children and babies who need special care. Many other persons suffered great pain and spent weeks or months in hospital, and some were disfigured for life.

Most (if not all) of these accidents are due to someone's carelessness.

## To Protect Yourself and Your Family from Burns and Scalds

1. Keep matches beyond the reach of young children.
2. Keep kettles and pans of hot liquids at the back of the stove.
3. Keep petrol and kerosene out of easy reach. See that petrol in cans or bottles for household use is plainly labelled.
4. Pouring kerosene on a fire is a dangerous practice. If petrol is used, by mistake, the result is likely to be disastrous.
5. Clean clothes with petrol out of doors: never in a room with a naked flame (oil lamp, gas or fuel stove, open fire).
6. Keep open fires protected by wire screens.
7. If oil or petrol lamps are used, place them where they cannot be pulled over by young children.
8. Fill lamps and oil stoves in daylight.
9. Teach young children the danger of playing with fire and with matches.
10. Remember that celluloid articles are extremely inflammable.

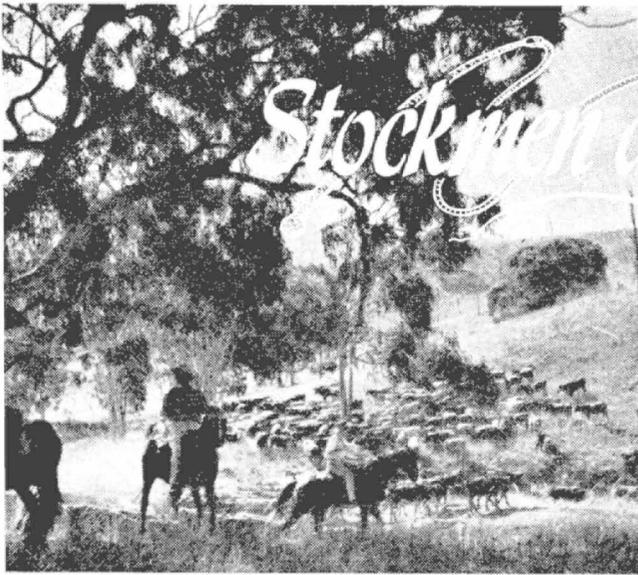
## Treatment of Burns and Scalds

1. Carefully remove any clothing over the injured part unless firmly adherent to the skin.
2. Place the injured part in water. Cold water is best unless a large area is involved, in which case the water should be at body temperature. Care must be taken, however, to keep the water at body temperature. Baking soda may be added to the water (1 table spoonful to a gallon). A child, if extensively burned or scalded, may be placed in a warm bed until dressings have been prepared, or while awaiting the doctor's arrival.
3. Dress the injured parts by applying strips of linen or calico soaked in—
  - (a) a solution of baking soda in water that has been boiled and allowed to cool (one dessert-spoonful of soda to a pint of water); or in
  - (b) warm strong tea made by boiling a handful of tea in a kettle of water for a few minutes.

The strips may be boiled in the water with the tea, lifted out and allowed to drip until sufficiently cool, and then applied. They should then be covered with cotton wool.

4. Keep the patient quiet and warm. Give warm drinks and wrap him up in blankets.
5. Do not use carron oil, vaseline, butter, or any other oil or fat on a dressing for burns.
6. Do not open blisters. (A doctor may do so later, however.)

Remember that a burn or scald if, extensive, is always to be regarded as serious and a doctor called at once.



# Stockmen and Drovers

## Swimming Flooded Rivers

by

MICHAEL SAWTELL,

*well-known author, lecturer and traveller  
and Member of the Aborigines Welfare Board*

MANY years ago—indeed, more than fifty years now, long before there was any thought of Aborigines Welfare Boards—I did a great deal of stock work among the cattle in far outback Australia with aboriginal boys as my mates.

I have mustered wild cattle in the scrub, “moonlighted” them, and gone on long droving trips with the aborigines.

I have run brumbies and indeed done all kind of rough and hard station work with the aborigines and, therefore, I know, from my many years of first-hand experience, that the cattle industry in the North could not have been carried on in the pioneer days without the aid of unpaid aboriginal labour.

The aborigines have always made splendid horsemen and bushmen, and in fact, in the Kimberleys, I have often seen aboriginal girls dressed as boys doing stock work, and doing it very well indeed.

One of the best horsemen that Queensland ever produced was the now almost legendary Billy Waite, who was the hero of old-time buckjumping shows and the bushmen’s idol round the campfires outback.



Without any fuss or swank and dressed in just a pair of ragged moleskin pants, Billy would go round the Shows in Queensland picking up a few pounds by riding buckjumpers that were “unrideable.”

In these days, he would make hundreds and would probably be invited overseas to compete in the

world’s great rodeos.

Billy was a great rider and could break the heart of any outlaw. In fact, the bosses of the shows used to ask him not to ride the buckjumpers “out” but to jump off when he had demonstrated that he was master, thus giving the horse “heart” by allowing it to think it had thrown its rider.

To be able to successfully jump off a buck horse is almost as difficult as riding one!

Our aborigines make splendid drovers too, mainly because they are so observant and because they sing to the cattle at night.

Many people think cattle are just stupid animals, but that is very wrong. After cattle have been on the road for a time they get to know all the drovers, and if a stranger rides up they know immediately, for they run together and show uneasiness.

At night the aborigines corroboree to the cattle, and they really like it because the human voice seems to have a great power over them, as with many other animals.



Therefore, the drovers sing to the cattle at night and if a newchum drover is not singing to the resting cattle the boss drover will bawl out from the camp fire, “What’s the matter? Are you asleep?”

Some readers will remember the lines from “Banjo” Paterson’s poem *Clancy of the Overflow* . . . “As the stock are slowly stringing, Clancy rides behind them singing.”

### Through the Floods

Aborigines are also very good at swimming cattle over rivers. I have swum some of the largest outback rivers with cattle and indeed I have swum the Georgina, the Diamantina and the Cooper whilst they were in flood.

I have also swum the flooded Catherine in the Northern Territory, and that is a really difficult and dangerous swim.

There are certain things one must know about swimming cattle over flooded rivers if he wants to live to do it again.

I saw that splendid droving picture "The Overlanders," starring Chips Rafferty, and remarked it was full of technical errors—errors which city people perhaps would not notice but experienced drovers would most certainly see at once.



**Swimming a River.**

Firstly, no one appeared to be minding the cattle when all the drovers were drinking in the pub at Anthony's Lagoon, and it is a well-known fact that drovers never leave their cattle unattended. The boss would no more think of leaving his herd than a captain would of leaving his ship.

Secondly, in swimming the cattle over the flooded river, Chips Rafferty was most seriously at fault, for he did not unbuckle his reins before he rode his horse into the water.



When one rides a horse into a flooded river the reins must always be unbuckled, otherwise if the horse plunges it may get its leg in the loop . . . or the rider might get his leg in it . . . or the loop might snap on a log and drag the horse under water and drown it.

The way to follow cattle over a river—and cattle are strong swimmers—is to ride your horse in, unbuckle your reins, and slip off on the top side of the shore so that the current of the stream washes you against and not away from the horse. You must swim alongside the horse by holding on to the

pommel of the saddle, for it is only in books and articles by city-bred writers that the drover rides in the saddle over a flooded river. It is simply impossible for any horse to carry a man in the saddle over a flooded river.

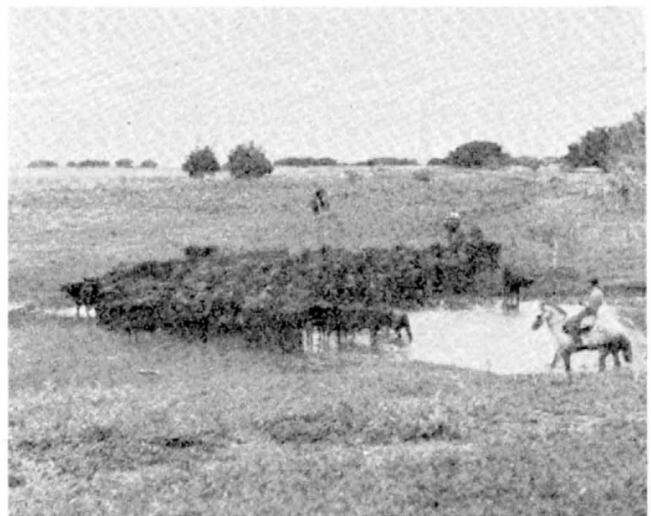
The rider slips into the saddle as soon as the horse touches ground on the other side, otherwise, if the horse is above him and going up a bank it might lash out and kick him in the face.

Aborigines do not need to be told all this, for their wonderful sense of bushcraft has already endowed them with the knowledge.

Those who saw the "Overlanders" will remember that when the cattle had swum the river they went up a narrow cut road. This would have been fatal. The first hundred or so wet dripping cattle would have turned the road into a quagmire and they would have bogged or slowed down to such an extent that the other cattle behind them would not have been able to land or get past. The remainder of the cattle would have broken and in the language of the bush would have gone "Hell, west and crooked."

There are certain recognised crossing places in the big inland rivers where there are sandy places to go in and out, and this often makes a crossing much easier.

If I ever have to swim a big mob of cattle over a flooded river again—and that is most unlikely now—give me a few aboriginal stock boys who know what to do and I would be game to attack the toughest river.



**At the Waterhole.**

# Pete's Page



Pete's Page

Hello, Kids,

Well, summer has skipped away very quickly and we are in autumn with winter just round the corner. I know the boys don't mind, because it means football, but how about the girls?

Whatever has happened to all my artists! I had very few colour-in entries from my friends this month and am beginning to wonder whether you like them or not.

Ambrose Brown of Wreck Bay sent me along one of his usual good sketches and so did Pat Chapman of Falls Creek. (What do you think of it?) In her letter, Pat said she would like some pen friends who are interested in stamps. So how about it, kids? . . . the full address is Pat Chapman, Falls Creek, via Nowra.



Who'd like to live at the North Pole?

Another fine sketch this month came from Kathleen Newman of Condobolin. A special prize to you, Kathleen.

My extra special mates up at Boggabilla sent along the usual bagful of drawings. (I don't know how they managed because they had big floods all around them last time I heard.)

From Boggabilla I had drawings from Hayden Haines, Barry Stacey, Ian McIntosh, Nevill Binge, Tom Binge, Lloyd Dennison (a special prize to you, Lloyd), Don McIntosh, Stan McIntosh, Eric Craigie, and Fred Binge.



"Hello! quite A MISTAKE"

Gwen Clarke, of Moree, won a special prize for her very interesting letter. Gwen said, "I enjoyed your visit to our school and was very pleased to meet you but I didn't recognise you until you mentioned *Dawn*. I have a pen friend who lives in South Africa. I got her through the Sunday comic, *Sunbeams*. My brother, Lyal, is getting married very soon in West Kempsey, and my cousin, Steve Duke, is also getting married in West Wyalong.

We have moved into one of the new houses here and I have got my garden going well. I have flowers, onions, pumpkins and tomatoes. My brother and sister have their own gardens.

Many other people have also moved into the new houses and have nice gardens and lovely lawns.

We are all looking forward to another visit from you."

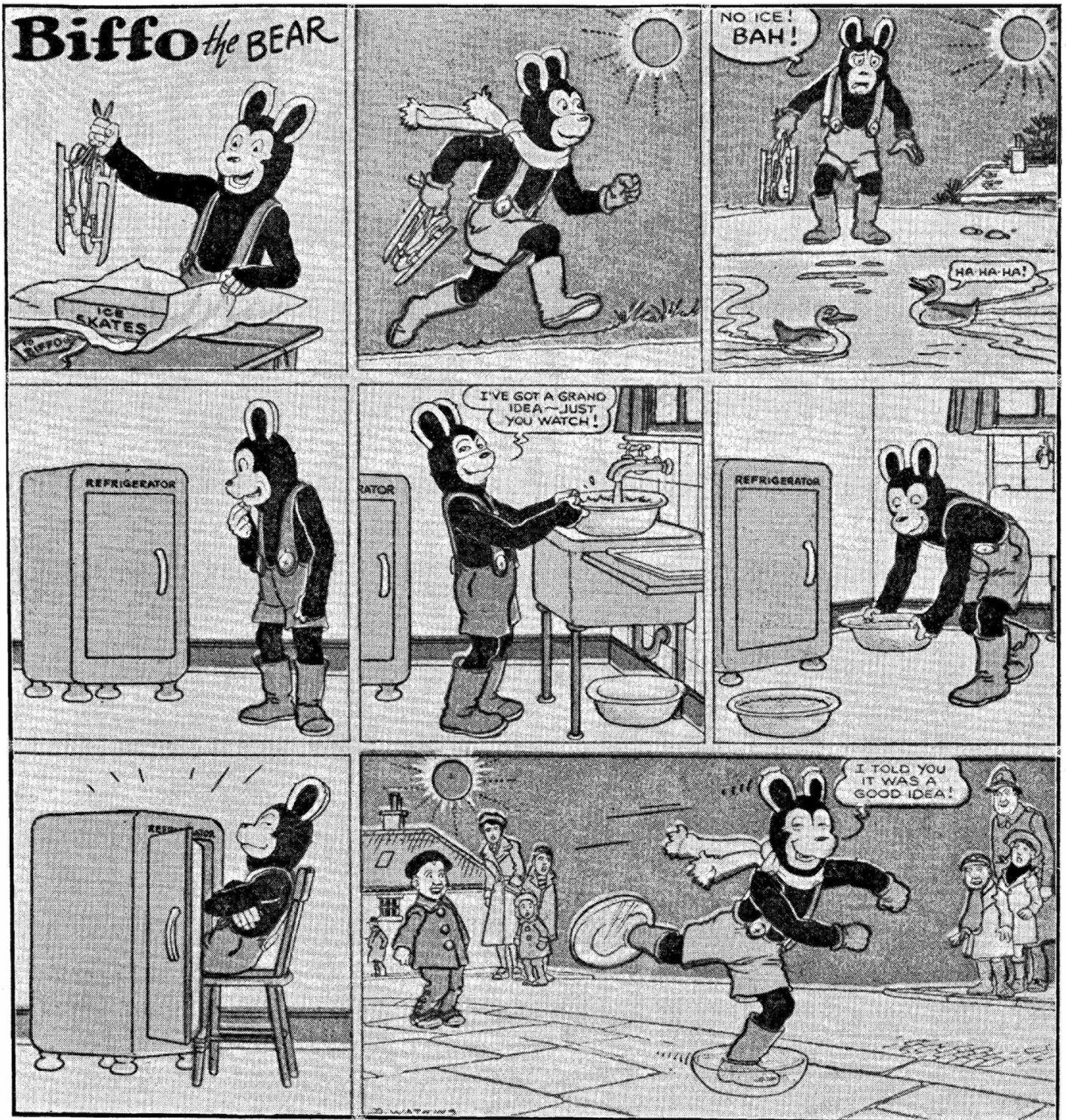
Thanks, Gwen, a lovely little letter, and packed with news.

Now I want all my young friends and I really mean ALL, to write and let me know just what they would like in *Dawn* . . . more painting contests . . . stories . . . puzzles, etc. And I STILL want lots and lots of photographs. Remember, we pay 2s. 6d. each for them now.

All the Best until next month.

Your sincere friend,

Pete



## . . . SIDELIGHTS ON THE EASTER SHOW . . .

There are 8 miles of underground electric cables and 140 miles of electrical installations for exhibitors throughout the Sydney Showground.

This year, commercial exhibitors will occupy 485,300 square feet of space and employ 6,000 people during the Show. The Society itself employs another 600.

Motor exhibits alone occupy 100,000 square feet of space.

There are 27 miles of roads and pathways on the Showground. Family picnic areas and resting places expanded this year cover 10 acres of land. The Society will provide hot water free from 60 speedy-boilers at different points on the ground, and so thousands of picnickers will have their lunches on the lawns.



## IN THE GARDEN

FOR colourful beauty, abundance of blooms, and hardiness of nature, there are few shrubs to equal Hydrangeas. They can be grown in most climates, except where it is very windy—and a south-east position, touched by the morning sun, is just right for them. Hydrangeas are not hard to grow, correct pruning being one of the most important factors (as it is with all other flowering shrubs). Winter pruning is best—after the shrub has finished flowering. During the summer keep Hydrangeas well watered, and add some decayed manure, leaf mould or compost to the soil so that the roots will get sufficient moisture.

The changing colour of Hydrangea flowers is still a mystery to many people, but the explanation is quite simple. The colour change is caused by the content of the soil. If the soil is acid, a pink-flowered Hydrangea will turn blue in time; or perhaps some of the flowers will be pink and others blue. If the soil is alkaline, a Hydrangea that is blue-flowered will most certainly turn pink the next season. Knowing this, you can change the colour of the flowers at will. Lime, either slaked or carbonated, will make the soil alkaline and turn the flowers pink. Sulphate of iron, alum, or iron filings dug in around the plants will turn the flowers blue.

### WHEN TO GROW

One of our readers has very wisely suggested that as *Dawn* is often late in reaching the outback stations most months it would be well to keep our flower and vegetable timetables a month **AHEAD**.

And so we suggest that the following flower and vegetable seeds be grown in **APRIL** not March.

#### FLOWERS

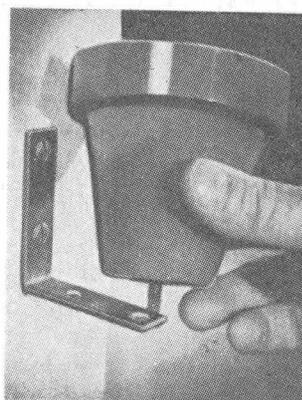
Acroclinium, Ageratum, Alyssum, Anchusa, Anemone, Antirrhinum (Snapdragon), Aquilegia (Columbine), Bellis Perennis (Double Daisy), Blue Lace Flower (Didiscus), Branchycome, Calendula, Calliopsis, Candytuft, Canterbury Bells, Carnation, Chrysanthemum (Annual), Christmas Bush, Cineraria, Clarkia, Cornflower, Cynoglossum, Delphinium, Dianthus, Forget-me-not, Foxglove, Freesia, Gaillardia, Geum, Godetia, Gypsophila, Helichrysum, Heliotrope, Hollyhock, Ipomopsis, Larkspur, Linaria, Leptosyne (Yellow Marguerite), Lobelia, Lupin, Marigold, Mathiola (Night-scented stock), Mignonette, Mimulus, Polyanthus, Nasturtium, Nemesia, Nemophila, Nigella (Love-in-a-mist), Pansy, Pea (Perennial), Phlox, Pentstemon, Petunia, Poor Man's Orchid (Schizanthus), Poppy (all varieties), Portulaca, Primula, Ranunculus, Saponaria (Big Gyp.), Scabiosa (Pin Cushion), Statice, Stock, Sweet Pea, Sweet Wivelsfield, Sparaxis, Thalictrum, Venidium, Verbena, Viola, Virginian Stock, Wallflower.

#### VEGETABLE SEEDS

Bean (French), Beet, Beet (Silver), Borecole, Broad Bean, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Cauliflower (early varieties), Cress, Endive, Herbs, Lettuce, Mustard, Onion, Parsnip, Pea, Radish, Rhubarb, Spinach, Turnip,

### COMPOST IS NECESSARY

All old plants, dead flowers, vegetable peelings, grass clippings, food scraps and manure, should be put in a heap in the corner of the garden, and then covered with a few inches of soil. Leave a hole at the top of the heap so that vegetable liquids and slops can be poured in.



Simple wall bracket for a flowerpot is made quickly from angle iron and bolt. Latter is inserted through hole in the bottom of the pot and the outer hole in bracket. Pot and bracket are painted the same colour.