



DAWIN

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B. J. ...



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N.S.W. ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD**

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Our Cover

"*Bilinga and the Fig Tree*", the Australian Aboriginal legend of Taree, as interpreted by Australian artist Byram Mansell, F.R.S.A. (Lond.), A.R.A.S. (see story of the legend, page 11).

The Board

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WELFARE BOARD POLL CLOSELY FOUGHT

Election of the part-Aboriginal member of the Aborigines Welfare Board resulted in a closely fought poll, won by Mr Leslie Darcy, of Goodooga.

Mr Morgan, the previous full-blood Aboriginal representative on the Board, was elected unopposed, but 14 nominated for the position of full-blood or person apparently having an admixture of Aboriginal blood, and final voting was close.

Poll result was made public on 21 January, and Mr A. G. Kingsmill, chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, wrote to the Aboriginal members. Mr Kingsmill congratulated Messrs Morgan and Darcy, and, with his colleagues on the Board, looked forward with keen anticipation to their assistance and co-operation in promoting the welfare of Aboriginal people.

First meeting of the Board after the election, was held in Sydney on 21 February, where Mr Morgan and Mr Darcy got down to work after they were welcomed by the Chief Secretary, Mr E. A. Willis, and members of the Board.

Policy

Nominees for election were invited to convey to readers of *Dawn* (November/December issue) personal details and views of policies that they would propose if elected. This was Mr Darcy's statement:

DARCY, Leslie, bakery proprietor; age 31; Adams Street, Goodooga.

My full name is Leslie Kenneth Darcy; I am single; born on 22 May, 1935, at Brewarrina. The early years of my life were spent in a small house near the Darling River at Brewarrina. After the death of my father and on leaving school I was apprenticed to the local bakery. Eventually I got my certificate. Later, I decided to venture into business on my own at the Goodooga Bakery.

The Board got down to business after it had warmly welcomed the new Aboriginal member

Finding business a wonderful way of making friends, I decided then to also obtain a taxi business, which gave me a wider scope to meet and contact people mostly of Aboriginal descent, in all walks of life—on Reserves, on the Missions, in their employment, in their pleasures, and most of all in their needs.

I have represented Group 15 at football on numerous occasions and find sport a great help to me. At present I am the Senior Vice-President of Group 15 Country Rugby League, and Foundation Vice-President of the Goodooga Boys' Club, which, when fully operating, will consist of a majority of members of boys of Aboriginal extraction.

I was accorded a great honour in January, 1965, when I was appointed a Justice of the Peace, after being nominated by the then Premier of N.S.W., the Hon. J. B. Renshaw. I believe that I am one of the first Aborigines to be given this honour.

My policies if elected to the Board will be assimilation by education. Education on all levels is of the greatest importance, starting with our children. Of equal importance is home life and environment. To get the true feeling of Aboriginal people, I feel that the Aborigines Welfare Board should have a greater representation of Aborigines on the Board.

Voting Details

In the election 1,474 persons applied for enrolment; 12 of these applications were defective and returned for adjustment to those concerned, but were not re-submitted. Net enrolment figure was 1,462, to vote for the 14 nominees.

In the 1964 elections, 904 people were enrolled, to vote for 9 nominees.

Ballot papers in the 1967 election were received from 781 people (469 in 1964); 110 of these votes were rejected for various reasons. All voters were advised of the correct voting procedure before they submitted their votes.

All votes had to be placed in a ballot box by noon, Thursday, 19 January, 1967, or posted to reach the Returning Officer by that time.

Ballot boxes were located on the counter of the Board's office in Sydney, and field staff collected

Nominations were received from the following people:

Full Blood—Regulation 26 (1)

MORGAN, James; builder's labourer; age 64; Reedy Street, Coraki.

Full Blood or person apparently having an admixture of Aboriginal blood—Regulation 26 (2)

BOLT, David; pensioner; age 33; Cabbage Tree Island, via Ballina.

BOLT, Henry John; labourer; age 26; Cabbage Tree Island, via Ballina.

BOLT, Kenneth; handyman; age 50; Cabbage Tree Island, via Ballina.

BRIAR, Fred; labourer; age 30; Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station, via Lake Cargelligo.

BRINDLE, Ken; labourer; age 34; 27 Caroline Street, Redfern.

COMBO, Clarence; store manager; age 45; Cabbage Tree Island, via Ballina.

DARCY, Leslie; bakery proprietor; age 31; Adams Street, Goodooga.

FERGUSON, Arthur; labourer; age 42; 21 Cook Street, Rozelle.

FROST, Charles; boomerang maker; age 62; 14 Goobang Street, Condobolin.

GRANT, Cecil William; labourer; age 58; 11 Coonong Street, Griffith.

HALL, Harry; plant operator; age 42; c/o Post Office, Walgett.

LEON, Charles Lester; pensioner; age 66; 50 Devlin Street, Ashcroft, Green Valley.

RIDGEWAY, Leslie Arthur; welfare officer; age 38; Cabbage Tree Island, via Ballina.

WILLIAMS, Clive; labourer; age 51; 15 Denison Street, Rozelle.

The election this year was conducted by the secretary of the Board, Mr J. A. Henderson, as Returning Officer.

Welfare officers of the Board cleared ballot boxes in country centres and sent the votes to Sydney. Polling was: Walgett, 123; Cowra, 59; Lismore, 52; Tabulam, 45; Narrabri and Boggabilla, 42 each; Dubbo, 41; Bourke, 40; Lake Cargelligo, 28; Brewarrina, 21; Woodenbong, 19; Wilcannia, 16; Cof's Harbour, 15; Armidale, Deniliquin, and Taree, 7 each; Moree and Wallaga Lake, 5 each; Nowra, 2; Kempsey, nil.

Postal votes and the Sydney ballot box made up the remainder of votes.

Of the 671 votes admitted to the ballot, complete count of first preference votes was:

votes in "travelling" ballot boxes on stations and reserves throughout the State. This action by the Board is probably the main reason why voting was higher in this election than in previous ones.

Preferential Vote

Voting was on a preferential basis. This meant that the candidate with the lowest number of first preference, or No. 1 votes, was eliminated, and his No. 2 preferences distributed. The process continued till there were only two candidates left, and the one with the higher number of votes was declared elected.

Bolt, D.	33	Frost, C.	14
Bolt, H. J.	19	Grant, C. W.	75
Bolt, K.	7	Hall, H.	79
Briar, F.	10	Leon, C. L.	30
Brindle, K.	44	Ridgeway, L. A.	75
Combo, C.	18	Williams, C.	88
Darcy, L.	79	Informal	48
Ferguson, A. *	52		

* Previous member

Top: Mr E. A. Willis, Chief Secretary (left) and Mr A. G. Kingsmill (right), chairman of the Board, welcome Mr Darcy (second from right) and the returning full-blood representative, Mr J. Morgan

Centre: Mr Leslie Kenneth Darcy, newly elected representative on the Board

Bottom: Returning Officer for the election was Mr J. A. Henderson, secretary of the Board



Mr K. Bolt was excluded, his preferences being distributed as follows: Bolt, H. J. (3); Brindle, K. (2); Ferguson, A. (1); Leon, C. L. (1).

Elimination continued as follows: Distribution of BRIAR: Bolt, D. (1); Bolt, H. J. (2); Brindle, K. (2); Darcy, L. (1); Frost, C. (2); Leon, C. L. (1); Ridgeway, L. A. (1).

Distribution of FROST: Combo, C., (1); Darcy, L. (1); Ferguson, A. (4); Grant, C. W. (5); Hall, H. (1); Leon, C. L. (4).

Distribution of COMBO: Bolt, D. (4); Bolt, H. J. (2); Brindle, K. (3); Darcy, L. (3); Ferguson, A. (4); Grant, C. W. (1); Williams, C. (2).

Distribution of BOLT, H. J.: Bolt, D. (8); Brindle, K. (7); Darcy, L. (1); Ferguson, A. (3); Grant, C. W. (1); Leon, C. L. (2); Ridgeway, L. A. (1); Williams, C. (3).

Distribution of LEON: Bolt, D. (3); Brindle, K. (6); Darcy, L. (1); Ferguson, A. (3); Grant, C. W. (3); Hall, H. (1); Ridgeway, L. A. (9); Williams, C. (12).

Distribution of BOLT, D: Brindle, K. (33); Darcy, L. (4); Ferguson, A. (3); Grant, C. W. (2); Hall, H. (1); Ridgeway, L. A. (2); Williams, C. (4).

Distribution of FERGUSON: Brindle, K. (13); Darcy, L. (11); Grant, C. W. (15); Hall, H. (8); Ridgeway, L. A. (10); Williams, C. (13).

Totals were then: Brindle, K. (110); Darcy, L. (101); Grant, C. W. (102); Hall, H. (90); Ridgeway, L. A. (98); Williams, C. (122).

Distribution of HALL: Brindle, K. (14); Darcy, L. (28); Grant, C. W. (12); Ridgeway, L. A. (26); Williams, C. (10).

Totals then: Brindle, K. (124); Darcy, L. (129); Grant, C. W. (114); Ridgeway, L. A. (124); Williams, C. (132).

Distribution of GRANT: Brindle, K. (24); Darcy, L. (26); Ridgeway, L. A. (44); Williams, C. (20).

Totals: Brindle, K. (148); Darcy, L. (155); Ridgeway, L. A. (168); Williams, C. (152).

Distribution of BRINDLE: Darcy, L. (98); Ridgeway, L. A. (23); Williams, C. (27).

Totals: Darcy, L. (253); Ridgeway, L. A. (191); Williams, C. (179).

Distribution of WILLIAMS: Darcy, L. (104); Ridgeway, L. A. (75).

FINAL COUNT: Darcy, L. (357); Ridgeway, L. A. (266).

PARENTS SHOULD WARN SCHOOLCHILDREN OF CIGARETTE DANGER

Schoolchildren should be warned now that cigarette smoking is an unhealthy habit which they should avoid, says the N.S.W. Department of Public Health.

Cigarettes are sometimes jokingly called "cancer tubes" and "coffin nails", but the joke is a grim one, and always at the expense of the smoker.

Smoking is the most important form of exposure to the risk of lung cancer. It has been proved that the more a person smokes, the more damage he is likely to cause to his health.

The chemicals inhaled in tobacco smoke have a harmful effect on the heart, blood vessels, digestive tract, lungs, kidneys, and nervous system.

Very few of the world's top athletes smoke even ten cigarettes a day, and then only when not training for competition. Most athletes admit that smoking is harmful to their training.

Doctors of all nations are giving up or cutting down their smoking. Some of them, like millions of other people, are changing to less harmful forms of smoking, like pipes and cigars.

Apart from these things, carelessness with lighted cigarettes causes fires and explosions (and deaths) in city and country each year.

Parents

Many parents do not realize the influence their own smoking habit has on children. But research shows that children whose parents smoke are far more likely to smoke than children whose parents don't smoke.

The earlier a child begins to smoke, the more he can be expected to smoke when he reaches maturity. And the longer he has been smoking, the harder he will find it to give up the habit in later years when he realizes the disadvantages of the habit.

Waste

Smoking is a wasteful habit. An average smoker will spend more than \$100 a year on cigarettes, and this money could be well spent to help educate children or to buy entertaining and useful things.

Responsible parents should tell their children about the harmful effects of smoking, and try to stop them from experimenting. Usually there is little time between the first cigarette and the beginning of smoking many regularly.

Few people think about the risk they are taking by smoking heavily, but it is never too late to break the habit. Most parents would agree that if the harmful effects of cigarette smoking had been known when they were young, they probably would not have begun to smoke.

Those who feel that way would be doing their children a great service by discouraging them from taking up the habit.

DUBBO GIRL APPOINTED J.P.

Twenty-one-years-old Barbara Nolan, of Dubbo, is believed to be the first part-Aboriginal woman in the Central West to become a Justice of the Peace. She is certainly one of the youngest.

Barbara was sworn in before Judge R. F. Cross at Dubbo Quarter Sessions late in February. Her justly proud parents are Mr and Mrs W. T. Nolan, of Macquarie Street, Dubbo.

She left Dubbo High School with her Intermediate Certificate then took a 2½-years course in typing at Dubbo Technical College, where she gained an exceptionally good pass.

Barbara is employed by the Clerk of Petty Sessions Office at Dubbo and is studying for additional examinations which will advance her career.

LONDON SUCCESS OF DAVID KERIN

David Kerin, 22-years-old blind Aboriginal who left Sydney in September, 1962, has successfully completed a physiotherapy course in London.

Announcement of his success was made early in March by the Minister for Territories, the Honourable C. E. Barnes, and the New South Wales Chief Secretary, the Honourable E. A. Willis.

In 1962 the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments joined to help David, a former pupil of St Edmund's School for Blind Boys, Wahroonga, to undertake a physiotherapy course at the Royal Institute for the Blind in London.

Physiotherapy is the electrical treatment and massage of the human body.

Although David was born in the Northern Territory he was educated in New South Wales since infancy—first at St Lucy's School for the Blind and later at St Edmund's where he obtained his leaving certificate in 1961.

The New South Wales Aborigines Welfare Board approved of part of the funds held in trust for the benefit of Aborigines being applied towards the cost of David's studies and altogether contributed \$4,000. The Board has maintained a continuous interest in David's progress and a member of the Board, while on a private visit to England, interviewed and counselled the lad. The Commonwealth Government continued his pension with supplementary weekly assistance for a totally blind person and paid air fares to and from London and other expenses while he was in England. He was also given help by St Edmund's School.

The course was not easy for David and although he had to repeat a year his persistence has been crowned with success.

In congratulating David both Ministers said that the help given by the Catholic Church and the two Governments was an indication of the close

partnership between governments and the missions to help Aborigines find a useful place in the community.

The Ministers said that this was a practical result of the policy of assimilation and expressed satisfaction that their Governments have been able to co-operate in helping David Kerin to qualify for a worthwhile profession.

Early Life

David, the youngest of a big family, had a grim start to his life. But through sheer hard work, and with great help and care from his educators, his fellow pupils both blind and sighted, and from Government and outside friends, he has won fine achievement.

Living with his family in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory in 1949, David suffered an attack of conjunctivitis in both eyes.

He was flown to Darwin for treatment, and at one stage it was thought he would have to have his eyes removed.

In Darwin, Father Flynn, who used to be an eye specialist, arranged for him to go to Melbourne and then to Sydney, where he came under the care of the Dominican nuns of St Lucy's, Homebush.

After two years there, when he was six, David went to St Edmund's, and stayed there till 1962.

David was one of the first pupils at St Edmund's School for the Blind, Wahroonga, when it opened 12 years ago. The principal said that David had been an excellent, above-average pupil.

David has amassed some impressive "firsts".

He was the first Aborigine boy at St Edmund's. He is believed to be the first blind boy from a N.S.W. school to go to London for the physiotherapy course under the Royal Institute for the Blind. He is the first blind Aborigine to pass the Leaving Certificate in N.S.W.

Braille

David had mastered braille by the time he was 10 years old.

Braille is a system of writing, using abbreviations and contractions not unlike shorthand, by which blind people can read any text, book or even music. A machine like a typewriter punches indentations on a hard paper, and by passing his fingers over the raised punchmarks, a blind person can read.

There are standard textbooks written in braille for blind children, but as the children advance to higher grades the textbooks change frequently. This poses serious problems.

In David's case, his textbooks in English, Latin, French, Economics, History, and Physics for the Leaving Certificate were prepared by voluntary effort.

The work on this was done by the Catholic Braille Writers' Association, with help from the Royal Blind Society.

In some important cases, however, the staff of St Edmund's sat up late on many nights preparing special texts for David to read next day.

David himself worked to 10.30 every night in the last term before he sat for the Leaving Certificate.

When sitting for the Leaving, David had the same time as all others in which to do his papers. The questions were in braille and he dictated his answers to a boy in a class lower than his own.

Encouragement and direct assistance have come from all quarters.

When David suffered his affliction, the North Australian Workers' Union in Darwin organized the raising of \$800 towards the expenses of his education.

At St Edmund's, however, the Christian Brothers are supported by St Vincent de Paul Society, and no charge is made on boys whose parents cannot support them at the school.

The \$800 raised in Darwin for David was invested in bonds for him, and now is available for his use.

The Aborigines Welfare Board granted him a bursary in his last two years of schooling at St Edmund's, and for several years paid \$2 a week towards his maintenance.

A Sydney businessman, who had been threatened with blindness, contributed \$16 a month over two years to St Edmund's for David's use.

For the last two years of his Sydney schooling, David attended St Pius X School at Chatswood while still living at St Edmund's.

Mixing with sighted boys at St Pius's, David gained much of the knockabout confidence that children get in normal living and playing together. His mates at Chatswood, too, helped him a great deal in his studies.

At St Edmund's David played cricket and football, and he swam—sport playing a big role in preparing blind persons to mix easily in a world of sighted people.

HOW TO STRIP-OFF OLD PAINT

When an old painted surface is solid and in good condition, all you have to do in most cases is to clean off any dirt or grime, rub down lightly with fine abrasive paper, and repaint.

But when the painted surface is chipped and blistered you should strip it off so that the new coat of paint will be smooth and not scarred.

If one part needs stripping, you will have to strip the complete surface—stripping isolated areas will leave the new paintwork patchy.

Exterior woodwork can be stripped cleanly by using a blowlamp and scraper, but you must be careful—otherwise you could scorch the timber or start a fire.

Butane gas blow-torches are much cleaner and more convenient than the old kerosene type with its broad flame. You can adjust the flame of gas torches to suit the job you are doing.

For the handy man the most convenient way of stripping old paint is to use one of the liquid strippers available. The special liquid is merely brushed on and allowed to react on the old paint so that it can be scraped off.

These liquid strippers are available also in pressured spray packs. Both types are convenient but are expensive if large areas are to be treated.

The stripper begins to soften the paint as soon as it is applied. Wait a few minutes until the paint "bubbles up", when the scraper should slide easily through, right down to the bare timber.

On a vertical surface scraping should start from the top—if possible in horizontal strokes. Scrapings should be caught on old newspaper and not left lying around.

After stripping, the exposed woodwork should be sponged down with water—preferably hot, and containing a little household detergent. The wood must be allowed to dry thoroughly before painting.

GET RID OF RATS

Rats bring disease and cost Australia millions of dollars a year. They are dangerous and dirty. They are tough, quick-breeding, and carry disease-bearing fleas. They often attack children.

Don't make your house and backyard a comfortable place for them to live. Kill them and get rid of them by keeping them out of your buildings.

Protecting Buildings

To keep rats out of your buildings, make sure that all holes and large cracks are stopped up. Rats often enter a house through drains and sanitary fittings, so make sure that these, too, are protected. As well, protect your water supply container.

Food should be kept in rat-proof containers. Garbage, before being removed, should be stored in metal or other strong bins with close fitting rat-proof lids. Don't scatter food in yards and workplaces.

Poisoning

Poisoning is probably the most effective way of destroying rats, but you should be very careful with poisons. Barium carbonate, phosphorous paste, and "M109" are all effective rat poisons.

Rats often become thirsty after eating the poison, and this is why you should protect your water supply container to prevent water contamination.

Keep rat poison out of reach of children and away from domestic animals. If you want more information about how to poison rats and protect your house from them, write to the Publicity Branch, Health Department, 52 Bridge Street, Sydney, asking for the leaflet "Rats Carry Disease".

THE GOOD EGG

Eggs are needed for good health because they are high in protein, rich in minerals and vitamins, and there are hundreds of ways you can cook them.

Eggs combine well with meat, fish, or vegetables, and enrich sauces and improve salads.

The Womens Section of the Department of Agriculture offers the following information about storing, cooking, and preparing eggs.

Storing

Do not wash eggs until they are to be used; store them broad end up in a refrigerator or ice chest. Keep eggs away from strong-smelling foods—otherwise they will absorb the smell.

Unbroken egg yolks (separated from whites) in the refrigerator or ice chest will keep for several days if placed in water in a covered container. Leftover egg whites can be kept refrigerated, in a covered glass container, or can be frozen separately in ice cube trays.

Cooking Hints

Eggs are one of the simplest and most plentiful foods, but they should be prepared with care; overcooking can ruin their flavour and texture.

Yolks separate from whites better when cold, but they beat better at room temperature. If you break the egg when separating yolk and white, use the shell to remove the yolk; the yolk tends to stick to the shell.

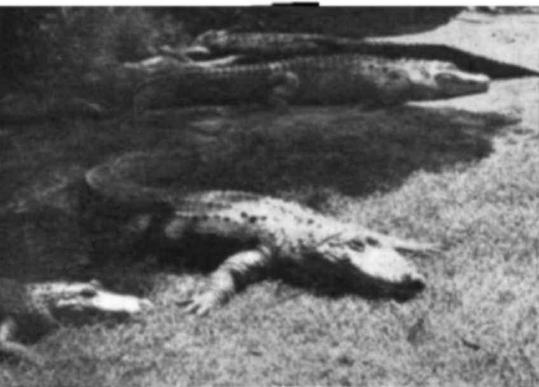
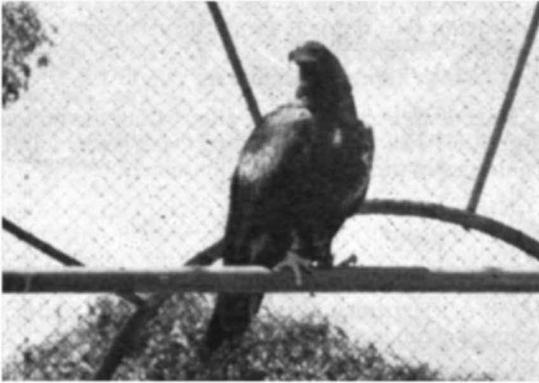
To stop egg shells from cracking when you boil them, take eggs from the refrigerator 20 minutes before you start. Egg white must be at least 10 hours old before it can be stiffly beaten; a dash of salt makes it easier to beat. Stale egg whites do not beat well.

Stiffly beaten egg whites should be used straight away. If you leave them standing the foam begins to turn into a liquid. Fold the beaten egg whites into any mixture, but do not stir or beat.

Remove saucepan from stove when you add egg yolk; any egg mixture being heated should be stirred all the time.

Egg yolks contain sulphur which blackens silver, so use wooden, plastic or stainless steel beaters, forks, etc.

This adaptation of an article by John Wilton, is by kind permission of Currency, the monthly staff magazine of the Reserve Bank of Australia



“Harmful” Animals

Our knowledge of animals and their way of life is increasing steadily and this has caused startling changes in our opinions of many animals—particularly predators, animals which attack other animals.

Many so-called harmful creatures which compete *directly* with man for food, have been found to be, in fact, hidden friends. For instance, the leopard has been removed from the list of harmful animals to that of protected ones in British East Africa!

For many years the leopard has been on the black list throughout Africa and people have been encouraged to kill them. As a result, there are now hardly any leopards left in many parts of Africa.

One consequence has been that wild pigs and baboons, formerly controlled by the leopards, have multiplied overwhelmingly.

African farmers have learned that wild pigs and baboons caused far more damage to crops than leopard raids on poultry and stock. Other African governments are about to follow British East Africa's example and protect leopards whose positive advantages until now had not been understood.

often Hidden Friends

Otter

Equally startling is the changed attitude to the European otter. For centuries it has been regarded as a menace to fish. In Poland, man succeeded in killing off all otters. At first there were fish in plenty, and then fish numbers dwindled rapidly. What had happened?

The otters had been catching mostly sick fish which had less chance to escape them. When the otters went, disease from the sick fish spread rapidly among the healthy ones, and millions of fish died.

Profiting from the experience of the Polish people, the Swiss have removed the otter from the list of so-called harmful animals and made it a Federally-protected animal. In time, other European nations can be expected to follow Switzerland's example.

Willow Grouse

The story of the willow grouse (a bird) in Norway is even more interesting and involved.

Some years ago the willow grouse numbers were declining and birds of prey were thought to be the cause. It was obvious, wasn't it? Everyone could see it for himself.

War was made on the birds of prey and many of them were wiped out, but the willow grouse continued to die till there were very few left alive.

Then someone found what had really been happening. The grouse were being attacked by a disease which the birds of prey (hawks and falcons) had kept in check—by taking the sick grouse which were the easiest to strike down, and also by controlling the grouse numbers.

Up till about 1900 the willow grouse had been attacked by a certain disease every four years or so—whenever, in fact, they became overcrowded. But as the number of birds of prey became smaller, and the grouse population increased for a time, the ground occupied by the grouse became more heavily infested with the disease, which then broke out every year, instead of every four years.

Coyote

It is possible some American States will protect the coyote (a small kind of wolf—something like our dingo, or native dog), which till now has been regarded as harmful.



In 1955, authorities in Missouri discovered that coyotes might kill and eat, say \$500 worth of food and livestock. But most of the rest of their food was mice and rats which, if the coyotes hadn't eaten them, would have ruined \$700 dollars worth of crops. The authorities said: "The answer seems clear: we have a \$200 profit in those coyotes."

Two years earlier, farmers in Colorado had reached the same conclusion. The farmers decided to wipe out all coyotes. They gave it up when they found their success was hurting their pockets. Gain in lambs and calves saved from the coyotes was less than the loss caused by the rabbits and rats which increased alarmingly and raided crops and pastures.

The coyotes had been acting as regulators and preserving the balance of nature. Predators do this because they generally have wide tastes in food and take what they can get most easily.

Rabbits and Trees

As early as 1921, scientists discovered that pine trees in some parts of America were not allowed to grow to their full height because snowshoe rabbits, in winter, kept feeding on their tender buds and twigs. Normally, the snowshoe rabbit was not a big problem, but because most of the coyotes—which feed on those rabbits—had been killed, the numbers of rabbits increased very much.

Australian Dingo

The American experience with coyotes might be of use to Australia, where, some day, the dingo may be protected.

Dingoes probably kill 2,000,000 lambs and calves a year, and cost graziers about \$20,000,000. But, like the coyotes in Missouri, dingoes probably earn a considerable profit for Australian graziers in keeping down rabbits, kangaroos, wallabies, and other animals which compete for grass with sheep and cattle.

Eagles and Others

The wedge-tail eagle is another "harmful" Australian creature which probably does more good than harm. It kills lambs, but almost certainly kills many other creatures such as young kangaroos, wallabies, and rabbits.

Australian graziers should remember, and they surely do, that six rabbits eat as much grass as one sheep.

Man is slowly finding unsuspected usefulness in other creatures he has regarded as enemies. For centuries, the European porcupine has been thought a killer of trees because it stripped the bark from saplings; but now it has been found that the porcupine helps people who look after forests by controlling the trees which man does not want to grow.

The Australian black cockatoo, like the European porcupine, also strips bark from trees. But it has been found that the cockatoo does at least as much good as harm by controlling the numbers of a beetle, the grubs of which are the destructive wood borers in forest trees.

It is all too easy for man to think that a bird or animal that competes directly with him must be an enemy. It is just as easy for him to think that an animal or bird is of no use and that its destruction doesn't matter.

What possible use, for instance, are hippopotami? And what does it matter that their numbers are becoming less and less? It matters quite a lot.

Hippopotami have been found to be very important in the farming of fish in Africa. The hippopotami fertilize the rivers, and provide food for the tiny animals on which the fish feed. And the fish farming is important in Africa.

Crocodiles too?

Even the crocodile may be useful. It controls snakes and other reptiles and shell-fish, but it sometimes attacks humans. The mankiller crocodiles are thought to be "rogues", and that the average crocodile is frightened of man and avoids him.

But it is almost certainly true that if crocodiles were all killed out there would be some unexpected results, especially in Asia.

Farmers in Mississippi, America, wanted to kill off all alligators (something like our crocodiles) because they ate a few calves. When they had killed the alligators, the farmers found that they had probably lost a lot of water. Usually, the water flow in summer slowed in the alligator "wallows", and not as much ran to the ocean.

There are many examples, too, which show that man has been needlessly destructive. Nature is like a delicate machine operated by many cogs. Remove one of the cogs and your either stop or alter the operation of the machine.

The balance of nature is easily upset when man takes a hand.

BILINGA AND THE FIG TREE

In 1956 the Commonwealth Bank commissioned Australian artist Byram Mansell, F.R.S.A. (Lond.), A.R.A.S., to design a mural for its new premises at Taree. With some of the coloured clays dug in the hills of Taree, Mr Mansell created a large ceramic mural depicting an Aboriginal legend of Taree. It is fitting that one of these Stone Age stories should be interpreted through pottery, that craft which is as old as the story of mankind. The story of the legend is printed below, and Dawn next month will carry a story of the artist and further examples of his work.

In the dream time when the mists of time rolled away, legend tells of a wise man who lived with a wandering tribe of Aborigines, so far back that the name has long been forgotten through the ages.

Nuruna was the name of the warrior, who will always be remembered. Nuruna was a deep thinker and a clever man, as you will hear.

He was a friend of all the animals that roamed throughout the land, and the birds that made their homes in the high gum-trees and on the ground.

Nuruna wandered over the vast mountains and hills and along the many deep valleys. He would stop to hear the water cascading over the stones, for



it was a sweet sound. Nuruna knew the language of the brook.

Along the banks of the stream grew many strange and beautiful flowers, for no other country but Australia has such flora. The rainbow colours of the flowers delighted Nuruna very much. He and his tribe were happy in these surroundings.

The birds in those far off days were all drab and not like they are now. The only sound they could make was a faint chirp. Nuruna thought long and deeply about all these things.

One day when resting on the banks of the stream after a long journey, for the day had been very hot, Nuruna's attention was drawn to Allinga, the sun, shining through the trees, casting its flickering light on the edge of a deep cave.

The colours on the side of the cave were made more beautiful to look upon by these darting shafts of light.

Such earth colours are used by the Aborigines to paint their bodies when they hold their corroborees, to dance and imitate the actions and customs of the animals and birds they know so well.

After much meditation Nuruna decided he would paint the birds in these gay colours just like the flowers that grew upon the land.

So, one by one, as the birds came to drink of the cool waters Nuruna painted them different colours, and as they flew away in their gay splendour the birds started to sing a song of joy; each in his own tune and all have to do so even to this very day!

The last of the birds to come and drink were painted with a white clay; this the Aborigines call the "milk of mother earth". When this was done the birds flew into the sky rejoicing with their song.

Now, Peralla, the turkey, lived in the deep forest and never mingled with the other birds. Hearing their strange song and looking up he saw their bright colours as they flew overhead.

Discovering what had happened, Peralla, who was a surly fellow, became very jealous. There and then he vowed vengeance. He became so angry he rushed off to the great smouldering-oak; and, as you know, this strange tree of fire was for ever burning in the dream time and from this tree the Aborigines of old lit their fire-sticks to start their camp fires, long before they knew how to make fire themselves.

The turkey in those days was very strong and was able to push over the smouldering-oak, which he did. The fire, now released from the fallen tree, leaped among the dry grass and leaves, and very

soon the whole forest was ablaze. Never was there such a fire before, nor has there been one since. Peralla, the wicked turkey, was determined to burn everything up. The great billowing flames and smoke spread over the land.

Bilinga, the magpie, flying through the flames of the forest fire became partly black, and has remained so. The great ordeal of the fire had robbed them of their song. On, on they flew towards the coast, being guided by a big winding river that still flows to this very day and is known as the Manning.

As darkness descended over the land and the fire was left far behind, Bilinga and his mate took shelter and rested after their long flight in a tree with large leaves. As the dawn broke over the hills they discovered the strange tree bore many figs. Bilinga's mate gave him some of the fruit to eat which restored his song. To this day the magpie can be heard singing his delightful notes as the great sun, Allinga, gives the morning light over our great land.

This pleasant place by the river where Bilinga, the magpie, was given the fruit that restored his song so long ago was named by the Aborigines, Taree, the "Home of the Fig".

The mural in the Commonwealth Bank at Taree



YOUR CAREER— POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

This information about the Postmaster-General's Department has been extracted from the latest edition of the booklet "Background to Careers", published by the Vocational Guidance Bureau of the Department of Labour and Industry.

The Postmaster-General's Department is responsible for all communication services in the Commonwealth and employs more than 90,000 people in a wide range of jobs. (All salaries shown here may be out of date. For latest information write to Recruitment Officer, Personnel Branch, G.P.O., Sydney.)

1 POSTAL DIVISION. Junior postal officers (under 18 years), mail officers-in-training (18 to 20 years), and postal clerks-in-training (over 15½ years) are employed. All applicants must pass a relevant entrance examination, and postal clerks must also possess an Intermediate Certificate (including English and three other subjects). During training, salaries range from \$768 (under 16 years) to \$1,804 (at 20 years). As qualified adults, postal officers and mail officers are paid \$1,950 a year, and postal clerks \$2,034 to \$2,706 a year.

There are prospects for promotion and transfer to different types of work. Telegraphists-in-training are also recruited. Lads from 16 years of age may apply. The salary in training for juniors ranges from \$962 (at 16 years) to \$1,754 (at 20 years).

2 ENGINEERING DIVISION. (a) Apprentices. A wide range of apprenticeships is offered. All post offices can supply a list of those available each year. An Intermediate Certificate pass is preferred for some trades. Lads should be 15 to 20 years old and must qualify at an aptitude test and an interview. Wages range from \$868 in first year of service to \$1,866 for the adult apprentice.

(b) Linemen are engaged in erecting and repairing telephone lines, laying and repairing underground cables and may also undertake cost estimating and supervision of pole treatment.

Applicants for the position of linemen-in-training should be between 17½ and 40 years and must pass a competitive examination in Mathematics (second year standard) and technical and general tests. Training lasts a year and may take place in Sydney, or in country areas. Salaries during training range from \$1,072 (at 17 years) to \$1,866 (at 21 years).

(c) Technician-in-training. Technicians working for the P.M.G.'s Department are concerned with the installation, testing, and maintenance of automatic telephone exchange systems, electronic equipment associated with trunk line systems, radio transmitters and receivers, telegraph machine systems, and television transmitters.

Entry

Technicians-in-training are recruited from lads 15 to 18 years old. An examination for appointment is usually held about September. This is of approximately Intermediate Certificate standard and consists of tests in Mathematics and Science, together with a special information and general paper.

Training

The training course takes five years—the first year is full-time in Sydney. The next four years are completed in Sydney and/or country areas, with specialized training in either telephone, radio or telegraph equipment.

Prospects

After qualifying as a technician, further study may lead to promotion to positions of Senior Technician and Supervising Technician. Salaries for technicians-in-training commence at \$868 a year (at 17 years or under) and rise to \$1,838 a year (at 20 years or in fifth year of service). Adult technicians-in-training are paid \$2,008 to \$2,064 a year. Qualified technicians commence at \$2,206 and increase by regular amounts to \$2,962 a year.

Promotion is then based on merit, up to Supervising Technicians Grade 4, at \$5,470.

(d) Engineering (electrical) Cadetships are awarded by the Commonwealth Government on the best six papers. The awards cover all compulsory fees, irrespective of parents' income. Commonwealth Scholarship holders may also apply for a living allowance subject to a means test. The maximum living allowances are \$520 a year (student living with parents) or \$793 (student living away from home). Full particulars and application forms are available from the Officer-in-charge, University Branch Office, Department of Education, University of Sydney.

3 CLERICAL DIVISION. Recruits may enter as either Third Division clerks or as clerical assistants.

Entry requirements are those for all clerical workers in the Commonwealth Service. Further information can be obtained from the Commonwealth Public Service Inspector, Commonwealth Centre, Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

4 CAREERS FOR GIRLS are available as clerks, telephonists, phonogram operators, typists, and accounting machinists. Apart from telephonists and phonogram operators, who must pass an entrance examination in spelling and arithmetic, girls are recruited in the usual way through the Commonwealth Public Service Inspector.

Further Information from Recruitment Office, Personnel Branch, G.P.O., Sydney, and the Vocational Guidance Bureau's leaflet *Careers in the Postmaster-General's Department*.





TIP FOR THE MONTH A sheet placed between two blankets makes the bed a lot warmer.

▶ Harold Keed, co-proprietor of Peak Hill's successful boomerang factory (see *Dawn*, November/December, 1966), has been elected to the town's Rotary Club. This is quite an honour, and must make Harold one of the very few Aboriginal members of Rotary in Australia.

▶ Charles Perkins, manager of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, has sold his house and taken three months' leave for a round-the-world study tour. He and his wife will leave in April, visit New Zealand, United States, Canada, Mexico, Britain, the Continent and Russia and return through the Middle East and Far East.

▶ Rev. Keith Ewin and his family were farewelled by their many friends at Woodenbong Aboriginal Reserve late in January. The Ewins came to Woodenbong four years ago and have become great friends and advisers to the Aboriginal people there. The farewell was a sad occasion, but the people staged an entertaining concert for the Ewins. Dick Donnelly's singing of Aboriginal songs and legends, to accompaniment of tapped sticks, fascinated everyone at the concert. Rev. Ewin was vice-president of the successful Woodenbong All Blacks' Football club. Gifts were presented by the Club and other residents of Woodenbong. The Ewins will move to their new appointment at Engadine, Sydney, but always will be interested in the affairs of the Woodenbong people. They have been assured a warm welcome whenever they visit the Reserve.

▶ An exhibition of Aboriginal art held in Tamworth late last year aroused considerable

interest. Armidale area welfare officer Mr D. G. Yates represented the Aborigines Welfare Board at the official opening, and was presented with a painting. Mr Yates returned it to the exhibition organizers who disposed of it and later presented \$56.74 to Mr S. J. Cole, mayor of Tamworth. This and other money went to "The J. F. Kennedy Memorial Fund", which provides Aboriginal scholarships in Tamworth. Three Aboriginal children have been selected for the scholarships and two others are being considered. Each will receive \$50.

▶ Scientists digging in the floor of a cave on the Nullabor Plain in February have discovered that ashes in the cave probably were from fires lit by man 20,000 years ago. This is believed to be evidence of man's earliest habitation on the Australian Continent. The cave had been used as a flint mine possibly by a race of people who lived before Aborigines.

▶ People in Paris have been standing in long queues to see films about the life and ways of the Australian Aborigine. One of the films could not be shown publicly in Australia because it shows certain religious ceremonies forbidden to uninitiated Aborigines. The collection of films was prepared by the Commonwealth Film Unit, which has been asked to take the show to several other centres in Europe.

▶ Jimmy Little, in his early days in show business, often wondered where his next meal would come from. He doesn't worry about that any more. His talent and hard work in the past 10 years have taken him to the fame and fortune he deserves. In a review of his latest L.P. record (his seventh), the critic said that Jimmy now had a more assured vocal style and a more polished approach.

IT'S A FACT



Snowflakes are not frozen water as are hail and sleet. Snowflakes occur when water vapour forms crystals on tiny particles, usually dust, in the upper atmosphere. The crystals usually grow into flakes having six points, but other geometric shapes such as prisms, pyramids, needles, or combinations of these have been found. No two flakes are alike. Snow only falls on about one third of the earth's surface.



Building in Nome, Alaska, one of the northernmost communities in the U.S., presents many problems. Permafrost, or perennially frozen ground, is the reason. A summer thaw or overheating may cause an improperly constructed building to sink or be wrenched out of shape. Buildings are usually built on piles which permit the ground to rise and fall with less effect on the structure.



The earth's oldest known living things, the bristlecone pines, cling to life on the dry, rocky mountain slopes near Death Valley in western United States. They are gnarled and twisted by the severe climatic conditions found at altitudes of more than 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) in which they live. The oldest, 4,900 years, has a single living branch though the bulk of the tree is dead.



Mary McLeod Bethune, who died in 1955 at the age of 79, was probably the most honoured Negro woman in the United States. Recipient of degrees from 14 colleges and universities, holder of decorations from several foreign governments, Mrs Bethune accepted special assignments from Presidents Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, and Truman. She is the founder of Bethune Cookman College in Florida and later the National Council of Negro Women.



A recent United Nations report shows that much of the labour that goes into producing rice is wasted. It blames the old-fashioned labour-consuming practice of transplanting seedlings by hand. A mechanized Japanese farmer can, by direct seeding, produce 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of rice with seven minutes labour; the old method requires seven hours of labour to produce the same amount. Many U.S. farmers are faster yet. They seed by aeroplane.



Seven Asian nations have joined in establishing a research centre in Formosa to improve and increase their vegetable and fruit crops. The countries are the Republic of China, Japan, Laos, South Korea, Republic of Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand. The centre is co-sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). The Rockefeller Foundation of New York City made a large financial grant to get the centre under construction.

Hello Kids,

School takes up quite a bit of your time each week, I know. But there is still a lot of spare time for you to use. What do you do with it?

Probably you play some sport, and just enjoy yourself with your mates. And so you should. But if the weather is bad, or if the TV set is broken (lots of kids in Sydney, and in big country towns, watch TV), there are plenty of things you can do with your spare time. Like taking up a hobby, for instance.

Many grown-ups have found that they enjoy their hobby so much that they would like to work at it all the time. And some of them find that they are able to do this, instead of doing a job that they don't like very much.

There are many different hobbies for children. Thousands of children all over the world collect stamps. One boy in Britain not long ago bought a stamp for 25 cents, then found that it was really worth \$3,000.

But the thought of possible profits is not the main reason why people collect stamps. They do it because it is interesting and because stamps help you learn about a country's history and geography, and its bird and animal life, and other things.

Some children carve ash trays and ornaments from plaster. Others paint pictures, build kites, or model aeroplanes—there are thousands of things you could do. And you would really enjoy yourself doing them.

Don't waste *all* your spare time, boys and girls. Make good use of it; you'll be glad you did.

'Bye for now, kids.
See you next month,

Pete



**SOLUTION TO
FEBRUARY
CROSSWORD**

Pete's Page

A WORD-SQUARE

IF YOU PRINT THE CORRECT FIVE FIVE-LETTER WORDS IN THE BOXES READING ACROSS, THE SAME FIVE WORDS WILL ALSO READ DOWNWARD.

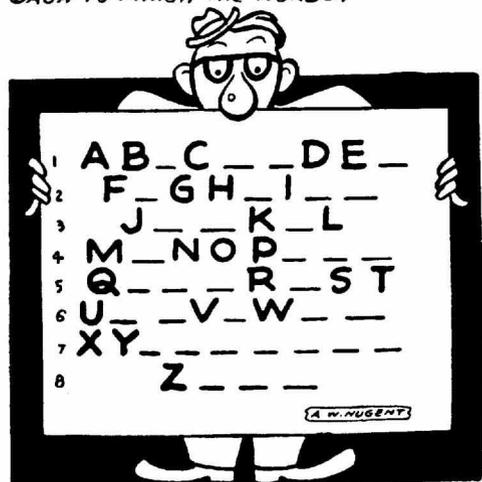
THE DEFINITIONS ARE: 1. A SMALL FOOD FISH 2. AN AFFRAY 3. CHURCH DIGNITARY 4. AN ENGLISH CITY 5. CONCISE

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					



ANSWER: 1. SMELT 2. MELEE 3. ELDER 4. LEEDS 5. TERSE

LISTED BELOW ARE EIGHT INCOMPLETE WORDS CONTAINING, IN CONSECUTIVE ORDER, ALL THE LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET... FILL IN A LETTER OVER EACH DASH TO FINISH THE WORDS.



ONE CORRECT SOLUTION: ABSCONDER, FIGHTING, JACKAL, MONDOLY, QUEEREST, UNAWOMED, KYLOPHONIE, ZEAL

