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**IT'S**

**TRUE !**

It is quite a common sight in the more settled districts of New South Wales and Southern Queensland to see convoys of huge white motor trucks stacked high with bee hives, moving along the roads at night.

The hives are being moved from one patch of bloom to another, perhaps a hundred miles or so in a night.

One bee owner might have many different colonies scattered over country hundreds of miles apart, because as the bloom in one district gives out, the bees are taken to another district.

For many years it has been quite a common practice for city produce stores to have carpet snakes wandering about to combat the ever present rats, but now the produce men are turning to ferrets instead.

It appears the snakes get tired in the winter and are more inclined to go to sleep than to chase rats.

These ferrets, which most people only regard as rabbit hunters, catch as many as forty or fifty rats a week each.

They live in cages right in the building, and are released at night to trail rats through partitions, under floors, and into shipping crates.

Blushing brides usually attract the attention of all eyes, while the poor bridegroom gets no attention at all, except perhaps, a disdainful sniff from his "in-laws."

In an Arab wedding, however, the wedded pair are in a precisely opposite position. Everyone makes a big fuss over the bridegroom while the bride is relegated to a very unimportant role. In truth, her light is practically hidden under a bushel, for she is concealed in a large basket on a camel's back before the ceremony begins, and there she remains until it is over.



One of the most remarkable rivers in the world is the Ink River in Algeria.

It is believed the river originates from two sources, one of which contains considerable amount of ferric salts, while the other abounds in lead oxide. The combination of these two results in the inky composition of the river, and indeed the liquid is thick enough to be used for writing.

The ordinary garden worm belongs to one of the largest firms of haulage contractors in the world.



The amount of soil they bring to the surface every year is enormous . . . in some places it is as much as 18 tons an acre.

It has been estimated that a worm eats, renews and aerates about five inches of soil a year and there are anything from 50 thousand to 150 thousand worms in an acre of soil, according to its richness.

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## ABORIGINAL PARATROOPER

### *Australia's First*

The aboriginal people gained further credit for themselves last week when one of their number parachuted from a plane near Newcastle. He was L/Corporal Stan Houston, full-blooded aborigine of Rockhampton, and he had just graduated as a paratrooper at the Williamtown R.A.A.F. Station.



Stan, who had previously served on the battlefield in Korea, was one of sixteen paratroopers to receive their insignias from the officer commanding Eastern Area, Lieutenant-General Berryman. These men had just completed a four weeks course at the R.A.A.F. Station and were the second group to be trained there since November.

Before their passing-out parade last week, Stan and his fifteen fellow paratroopers, wearing full battle kit, jumped from a Dakota at Salt Ash, north-east of Williamtown.