

Next in importance in "Jedda" is the Dingle family. This comprises May, Arthur, Margaret and Leslie. May and Arthur Dingle are husband and wife, and Margaret and Leslie their children.

May is a charming girl, very intelligent, and was, in fact, a possibility for the role of "Jedda," until Leslie decided to come along and spoil things. The Dingle family hails from Mataranka, in the Roper River country; Arthur is head stockman on a station there and a champion didgeridoo player. He recorded by the hour at Avondale Studios and earned the name of "Hot-Lips" Dingle for his efforts. May, who is twenty-one, appeared in some scenes in the film, as a consolation prize for missing out on the name role.

Ten-months-old Leslie, a delightfully fat little grub of a boy, plays Jedda as a baby. It is Margaret Dingle, however, the scene-stealing three-year-old, who may well live in people's memory long after most of the other players in "Jedda" are forgotten. Margaret is an imp in ebony. On the set, everyone was her slave. Out at Avondale Studios (at Turella in Sydney, mind you) she would complain of bindi-eyes on the ground so that various crew members would have to pick her up and carry her!

They took Margaret to the Zoo at Taronga Park one day and her ceaseless chatter was stopped for,



This is Ngarla Kunoth and her mother at their home in Alice Springs. Ngarla is the pretty Arunta girl who has the name role in the film "Jedda."

perhaps, a day; then she launched out into descriptions of "long way horses" (giraffes), "big feller dogs" (lions), "jumping fishes" (seals), and "debbil debbil men" (gorillas). In "Jedda," this mischievous little bundle of dusky loveliness steals every scene in which she appears.

There is one young lad in "Jedda" who has more Territory tradition in his blood than any member of the cast except the full-blooded natives, and that is 12-year-old half-caste Billy Farrar.

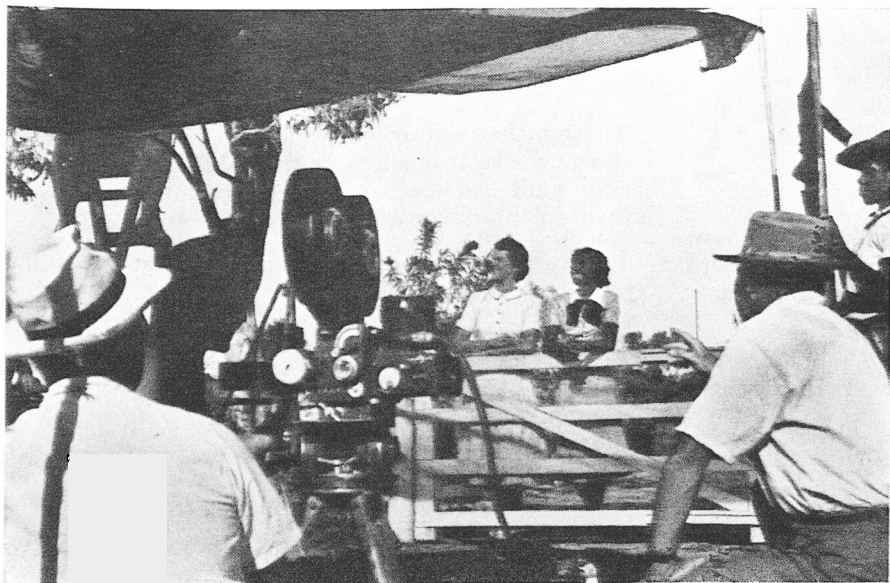
Billy's great-grandfather was head

musterer to Costello, who blazed trails from Queensland to the Kimberleys for the Duracks and other great pioneers. His maternal great-grandfather was Charles Scrutton, a member of the Jardine expedition. In the film, little Billy plays a lad whose ambition is to grow up to be head stockman on the station where Jedda lives.

Of absorbing interest in the film are the wild aborigines of Arnhem Land and the Centre. Chauvel toured from Wyndham in West Australia to the Gulf of Carpentaria, from Melville Island to the Finke River and everywhere he photographed magnificent scenery and magnificent aborigine types. You will see members of the Pitjanjara, Aranda, Pintubi, Wyungman, Djauan, Wogait, and Tiwi tribes in "Jedda."

The impression is never given that Australia is swarming with large tribes of aborigines, since most tribes are by now sadly depleted, but white Australians and many of our big city aborigines will witness scenes of authentic tribal life for the first time.

"Jedda" is an absorbingly interesting film about Australian aborigines. As it flashes on the screens of the world it will throw the spotlight on the native population of this country, and because of the expert acting work by Ngarla, Bob, little Margaret and the others, will give many people a newer and wider appreciation of this great race.



Mother and foster-daughter, a scene from "Jedda" being rehearsed by Charles Chauvel just before the cameras start to roll. Betty Suttor plays the mother; Betty is well-known in Sydney radio and has acted in radio in America.