

It is this belief and trust in God that has made the negro people of America such a great and wonderful people. Many of them have become famous throughout the world as scientists, doctors, lawyers, singers and business men. And they started from as low a start as is possible, and with almost no help, except the help they gave themselves and each other.

During my secondary school days I made many good friends among the negro people. I taught their children what I knew, and they taught me to sing and to play the guitar, but I never learned to play and sing as well as they did.

Well, kids, this takes me off this time. It has been a bit boring in spots, hasn't it? Never mind, we're going right inside the county jail next month. Maybe we'll find something interesting there.



This shapely lass is Julie Donovan, of Forster.

ABORIGINES PROUD OF NEW CHURCH

BISHOP PERFORMS CEREMONY

The coloured people on the Nambucca River must have been among the happiest in Australia one Sunday last month. It was a history-making date and they seemed to grasp its full significance. They saw the fulfilment of a cherished dream—a church of their own—and they made little effort to conceal their joy and pride.

Almost 200 of them, along with many parishioners, from Macksville, Nambucca and Bowraville, greeted His Lordship the Bishop, Most Rev. D. Farrelly when he arrived at Bellwood Creek to bless and formally open the new building.

Following the liturgical ceremony, they crowded into the Church to assist at the First Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. J. Dineen, Adm., Macksville. Their own choir, under the direction of Mrs. R. Tarlington of Nambucca, rendered appropriate hymns during the Mass.

His Lordship presided in the Sanctuary. Other members of the clergy present included Rev. Fr. T. Cusack (Macksville); Rev. Fr. O. Daley, P.P. (Bowraville); Rev. Fr. R. Redford and Rev. Fr. W. O'Hare (Lismore).

The new Church, dedicated to Our Blessed Lady under the title of Mother of Perpetual Succour, is the first of its kind built exclusively for the use of aboriginal people in the eastern States of Australia.

It has been erected on a site adjoining the Aborigines settlement at Bellwood near Nambucca Heads. Practically all the residents of the settlement are Catholics and number more than 200.

The forty-five children attending the State school on the settlement are also all Catholics. The head teacher, Mr. Eric Mason, and his assistant, Mrs. Phillipson both non-Catholics, have taken a deep interest in the new church. At all times they have given valuable help and encouragement, not only during the period when the building was in the course of construction, but also in the early days when the project was first mooted by Rev. Fr. R. Redford and Rev. Fr. Goss, C.S.S.R.

Estimated cost of the completed building was over £5,000. The generous donation of timber by sawmillers and others in the district represented a contribution of over £1,000 and brought the figure for actual outlay in cash to £3,800.

An earlier appeal conducted by Father Redford in the Macksville and Taylor's Arm districts and contributions received from various sources over the past two years reduced the initial debt to £2,600. The special appeal conducted in conjunction with the opening day ceremony reduced the debt by another £500. In announcing this at the close of Sunday's ceremony Father Dineen said that more than £200 had been contributed by visitors present.

Donations acknowledged included His Lordship the Bishop, £100 and the children of St. Patrick's School, Macksville, £25. Dr. Farrelly also donated the site on which the new church has been erected.

Further donations are expected, said Father Dineen and when these are received the total outstanding debt on the church will be less than £2,000.