

# "CHILD'S PLAY"

## SUCCESS BY ABORIGINAL BOY

Tom Cain, 14 years old, of the Aboriginal Station, Moree, has submitted a successful play, written for the Rural Bank's "Childs Play" radio session on 2UE.

Tom was a visitor to the Summer Camp held by the Board for outback children at La Perouse in January, 1957.

He has based his play on the story of an aboriginal girl, Sally Smith, who was selected to visit Sydney with other children to attend a Sports Meeting. It tells of Sally's excitement at being selected and of her train journey to the city. On her arrival she was deeply upset by a display of colour prejudice, but by her devotion to her little white friend, overcame this and won the affection and acceptance of her white host family.

Tom was recently brought to Sydney by the Rural Bank to take part in the production of his play, and was the guest of Mr. Gordon Grimsdale, radio producer, and his wife, actress Sheila Sewell, at Forestville. In the Grimsdale home, Tom found no colour bar.

Mr. Ron Murphy, of the Rural Bank staff, undertook to look after Tom, while not engaged in the production of his play. Tom soon discovered the automatic telephone and, with the assurance of an executive, set about discussing details of his play with Mr. Grimsdale.

Later he rode between the ground and top floors of a big city store by escalator, grimly trailed by the weary Mr. Murphy.

Back to the 'phone for a couple more business calls and then to lunch—a hefty steak with trimmings.

Interviewed later, Tom was asked what impressed him most in Sydney. He quickly settled for the automatic telephone, but said he wouldn't like to live in Sydney, because, "You can get killed too easily".

A cast of Sydney's finest radio actors, assembled for the play's production, and after rehearsal, Tom went into conference with Mr. Grimsdale and suggested a few script changes, then went for a ride in a lift with Mr. Grimsdale's son, Howard.

Tom's play earned a fee of £5 5s. od., besides his trip to Sydney, and with part of this, Tom bought a pair of guinea pigs for a friend.

*Dawn* and the Aborigines Welfare Board are happy and proud to congratulate Tom on his successful effort and hope it will be the forerunner of others.



Max Munro, of Tamworth, poses as a primitive artist

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### AS I SAW THE WORLD ABROAD—continued from page 2.

seen how I have been living—selfishly, thinking only of my family and my aboriginal people. Now I see that I must care for my family, the aboriginal people, the white people, my nation and the whole world.

Thank you very much for the *Dawn* magazines. Please do keep sending them. It means such a lot to me to see the progress of my people. I am so grateful to the Aboriginal Board for what they are doing for us.