

SAM ANDERSON

An All Time Great

A lonely old man who died in a disused drover's hut near Casino last weekend was robbed of international cricket fame . . . because he was an aborigine.

He was Sam Anderson, said to be 79, but people who knew him claimed he was years older.

That he should have worn a green and gold cap is undisputed by hundreds of cricketers who played with and against him.

In the 1920's and 30's Sam pulverised bowlers, took miraculous catches, bowled with guile and stood up to the wickets to the fastest bowlers.

And in those years Sam must have been more than 40 years of age.

His record as an all-rounder probably has never been equalled in any cricketing nation.

Sam's birthplace and his introduction to cricket are vague.

Bora Ridge grazier, Mr. Murray Yabsley, who knew him well, believes Sam came from Queensland where from all accounts he was a wonderful athlete.

Sam in the last 10 years has heard little of the praise heaped on him. He has wandered about, a lonely figure, not caring much about anything.

Facts and figures of Sam's district career are not available.

Old timers will tie you down with stories of a memorable innings . . . a magnificent catch . . . a wonderful bowling performance.

District cricketers once sent Sam to the Sydney grade club, Ryde. But he fretted so much he failed.

Mr. Yabsley was captain of the Bungawalbyn eleven with which Sam recorded so many of his notable performances.

He said last night: "I have seen much cricket but never have I seen such a finished stylist as Sam. His cricket was beautiful and a pleasure to watch.

"I batted with him many times. If a particular bowler troubled me Sam kept him away from me. That's the kind of fellow he was."

Sam, according to old timers, could almost nominate his score against any class of attack.

Then there is the story of how as a wicketkeeper he would stand at the wicket to the fastest bowler, and sometimes flick off a bail, deceiving both batsman and umpire.

Sam was buried in Coraki cemetery after a service in Box Ridge aboriginal chapel.

If there is a cricketers' Valhalla, Sam will be sitting up there far above the salt.

—Acknowledgments to "Northern Star."

Interesting Aboriginal Demonstration

On virgin land in the beautiful Lane Cove district, near Sydney, Ronson Pty. Ltd. has just completed the first section of an administration block and factory representing a present investment of over £180,000 which, at the end of a 5-year period, will increase to a total between £250,000 and £300,000. The factory was opened officially by the Minister for National Development, Senator the Hon. W. H. Spooner, M.M., on May 18, 1959.

The new factory had already commenced production of Ronson Lighters and Ronson Super Trim Electric Shavers and, on completion of the official proceedings, visitors were invited to see the whole process of manufacture, and to contrast modern methods with the old, as exemplified in a realistic aboriginal display set up in a section of the factory by three men from the La Perouse settlement. It depicted aborigines of long ago as they practised the ancient art of firemaking, using the primitive equipment, which must have been familiar to the Dharruk tribesmen, who roamed this very area for centuries before the arrival of any Europeans. The exhibition was of special interest to overseas visitors from England and America.

Afterwards the men took boomerangs into the factory grounds and gave an interesting display of boomerang throwing. The English and American visitors, fascinated by the graceful flight of the whirring boomerangs, eagerly tried their hand, and, tutored by John Timbery, most of them saw their boomerangs return very close to the throwing point.

The Ronson Varaflame lighter is simply the modern development of a very ancient principle. For tens of thousands of years, flint and ironstone have served man to produce fire. A modern lighter is ignited in the very same way, although science has succeeded in making the operation a great deal simpler and quicker.



Beverley Porter, Jenny Young and Edie Sampson, of Carroona.