

When travelling in the South, people coming in contact with him were always unanimous with their remarks about his personal charm and great natural dignity. This observation is not confined to Albert. It is equally true of most of our older Aborigines in Central Australia. However, it has been the prerogative of Albert, by the grace of God, to show this quality of his race to others, to all strata of our society, including Her Majesty the Queen, when he went to meet her in Canberra. In this way he has rendered his people a service that will not be forgotten, a service which already has borne valuable fruit.

Albert, even with all the great success in his life, had remained a stranger in his own land. We know how deeply he loved his country, which love is reflected in his paintings of the hills, the valleys and the trees, in glowing sunshine, and under the condition of changing colours, so peculiar to the Centre. Yet, essentially, this man remained a homeless wanderer.

A very genuine and good friend from Sydney, who had been responsible for large sums of money that had been paid to Albert during the preceding 12 months, when he found him living under a tree even minus a tent or campsheet, came to us in distress, asking: "How can I help Albert? He can't stay as he is." We had no answer, no immediate answer. He had owned two

houses, but sold both. When he returned again to live in the place where he was born and bred, he went to live in a wurlie: this wurlie, only a few weeks prior to his removal to hospital, burnt down through some accident.

For him, we can do no more, and his widow and family are provided for. However, there are other Aborigines, charming people with much dignity and endowed with natural gifts. They look to us for an opportunity and guidance. In spite of many honest attempts at making them happy and valuable members of our society, we have fundamentally failed. The grace of God has been shining so conspicuously and warmly in Albert's life, enabling him to reach a height as very few of us are privileged to attain. God surely is ready to do the same for that remnant that is left, but He can do it through us only. If we have not found a formula as yet according to which we may transform the life of a nomad and make a producer out of a food collector, we may be sure of succeeding eventually if we rely on God for guidance, rather than follow our own way of thinking. There is a lesson to be learnt from Albert's development and eventual success. Let us, therefore, not grow weary in our efforts to find a just solution to the problem and in this way honour the memory of the first prominent Aborigine Artist in Australia, Albert Namatjira. God in His grace will not fail us.

Christmas Tree at Tabulam

Parents and children from the Aboriginal Station at Tabulam were entertained at the annual Christmas tree and party.

There were 80 children, residents of the station and 12 visiting children among the 190 people present.

Visitors included Mr. E. Morgan, aborigine welfare officer of Lismore, and Mrs. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Mr. Pat Mulligan, representing Casino District Ambulance, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lockett, of Casino, and several local residents.

The function was organised by the station manager and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. F. Levin, and the success of the party was due mainly to Mrs. Levin's untiring efforts.

The Buffalo Lodge at Mallanganee supplied all drinks and icy poles, the catering expenses were met by money from the social club funds and the Aborigines' Welfare Board, whilst the toys were purchased from social club funds.

This fund consists of money derived from the growing of corn on the station.

The major portion of the social club fund is earmarked for a projector and educational films pending the installation of electricity.

Santa Claus distributed toys and sweets to the resident children.

Visitors were entertained with the singing of Christmas carols and anthems by the aboriginal community, music for which was provided by Rex Williams and Bobby Robinson.

OBITUARY

Many readers will learn with sorrow of the death of Mr. Les. Moyle, Editor of the Corroboree Magazine and a strong crusader for citizenship rights for Victorian aborigines.

Mr. Moyle, who had a long and colourful association with the Victorian aborigines, was loved and respected by all who knew him.



Mrs. Joan Robinson, of Melbourne, formerly Joan Kelly, of Balranald