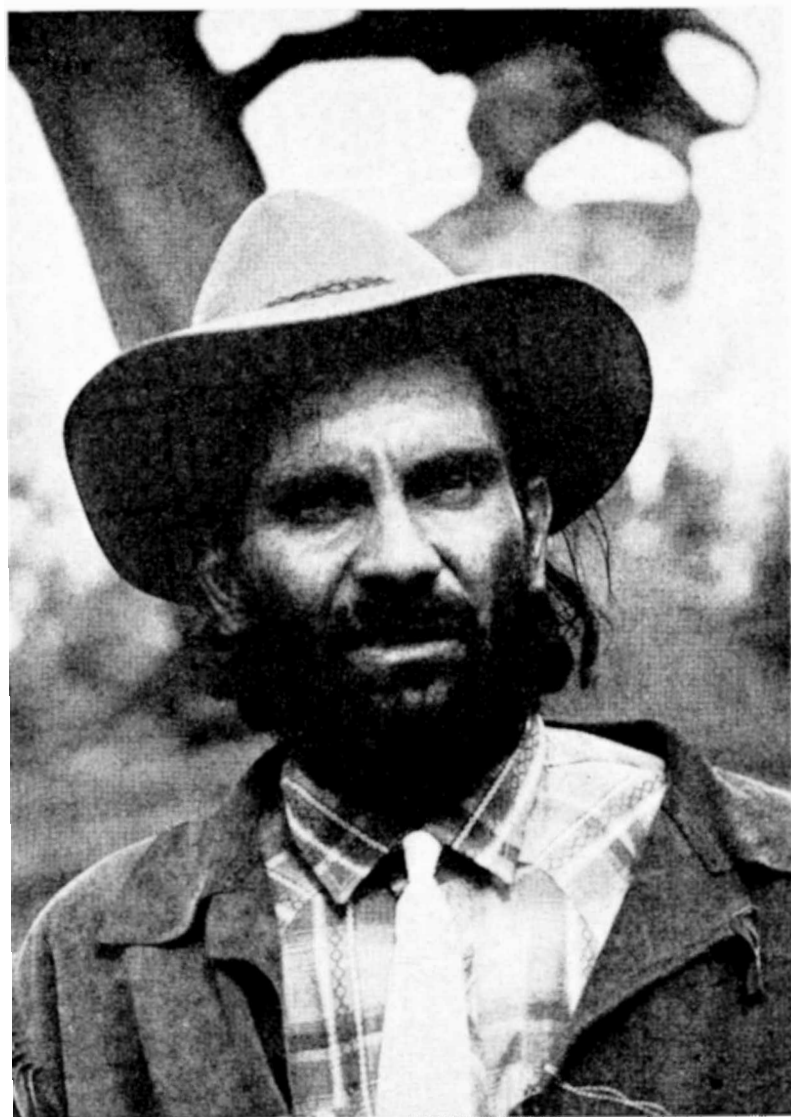


SMOKE SIGNALS

► It seems that *Bourke's National Aborigines' Day* went off with a bang, too. Headed by Pastor Bill Reid of the United Fellowship Church, local Aborigines organized a full programme to celebrate the day. A highlight was a procession which passed through the streets of Bourke, en route to the Davidson Oval, where a monster sports carnival was held. Floats in the procession included one showing a scene of the early days complete with bark huts and a canoe. Another was a United Fellowship Church float showing a Bible scene and the B.U.Y.F. float showed the

spread of the gospel by the missions. A semi-trailer carrying local schoolchildren was followed by two stationwagons full of preschool kindergarten children. A vintage T-model Ford and a group of Guides and Brownies brought up the rear. At the oval, spectators were treated to displays of football, races, boxing, and basketball. The day wound up with a Talent Quest (won by Tom McKellar) in the War Memorial Hall. A special guest at the Talent Quest was Aboriginal singer Dempsey Knight who had returned to his hometown for the celebrations. Dempsey has just returned from a successful tour of Poland and there is a possibility that he will soon make a tour of the U.S.A. A twenty minute film of his Polish tour and his singing were of great interest to the local people, many of whom had known Dempsey all his life.



Above: Bourke's semi-trailer full of kids

Left: Dempsey Knight

Below: A scene of the early days

