

16th-22nd Nov.

C/O Mrs E. MacDonald  
Borroloola N.T. 23rd Nov.-  
via Mt Isa N. Q'ld 8th Dec.

Wrotham Park  
North Q'ld  
2nd November, 1966

Mr E.C. Butler  
Manager,  
Weipa Aboriginal Settlement  
via Cairns  
Northern Queensland.

Dear Mr Butler ,

I wonder if you would be good enough to ask Sam Kilndan (Kirrdan) for some further information for me. On checking through one of the tape recordings made at Weipa I found that Sam had mentioned a whistle which was blown at the time of the Witjanam ceremony as a signal to keep the women away. On the tape Sam says "they start to blow the whistle they cut from bamboo ". Unfortunately I omitted to question him about this. Some time, when you can spare a moment, I wonder if you could get him to tell you more about this whistle. It might be more effective if done in private.

If possible, I should like Sam to make one for me. If he could be persuaded to do this I should like to purchase it as a piece of Aboriginal craft work. I should also like to know the name of the whistle (in Sam's own language - Ling-yiti ).

In case Sam can (a) make the whistle and (b) blow the signal on it I am sending you, under separate cover, a small reel of tape. If Sam -or some other Weipa man - is able to blow the Witjanam (Witj'n'm ) signal it may be possible for someone to make a tape recording of it and to send it back to me.

On the tape recording Sam could

- (i) say the name of the whistle
- (ii) play the sounds of the Witjanam signal
- (iii) then tell the story about it

I realise that I may be asking too much and that Sam's own knowledge may not go as far as this. It may be worth trying however.

If Sam is unable to make the whistle he may be able to indicate to you its length and width. He may be able to copy the sounds, vocally.

Once again I should like to thank you and Mrs Butler for the pleasant stay at your house. Also to wish you all the best for the transfer when it comes  
Yours sincerely,

Alice Mayle