

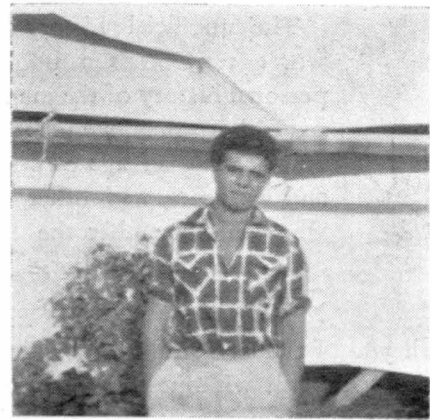
When something was needed to take the place of the river traffic it arrived when the first bush service of the Butler Air Transport landed and established a flying base there for points further West.

If the credit of making Bourke something more than a dot on a New South Wales map is due to anyone, it is due to Butler. The previous two-day train journey is hours' flying time from Sydney. The service freights and carries passengers on an intra-state airline which has created a precedent in Australian flying.

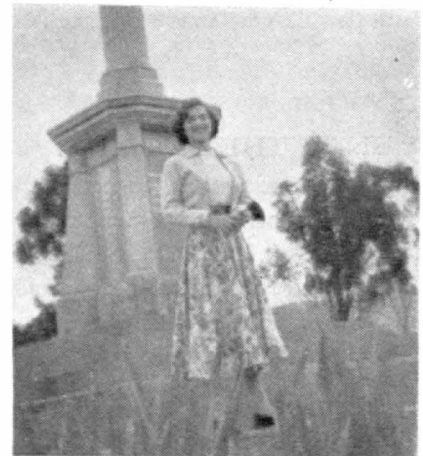
Beyond Bourke there is flat plain, salt-bush and desert that was once tough for a camel to cross. Now it is brought within hours by the lonely silver aircraft which spans the distances every day of the week. The Great Outback is no longer the remote "Back of Bourke" place of a few years ago when bullock waggons hauled wool and hard riders rode with the mail.

No one will ever know the deep feeling of gratitude and consolation that the outback people get when the silence of mid-day is broken by the monotonous drone of an aircraft.

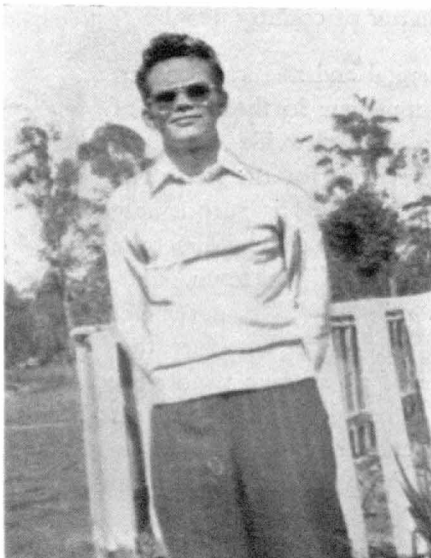
But in spite of the opening up of the loneliness, Bourke will forever remain an Australian town. Tradition and History have implanted themselves well into the roots of the place, and not even time will erase the spirit of Bourke.



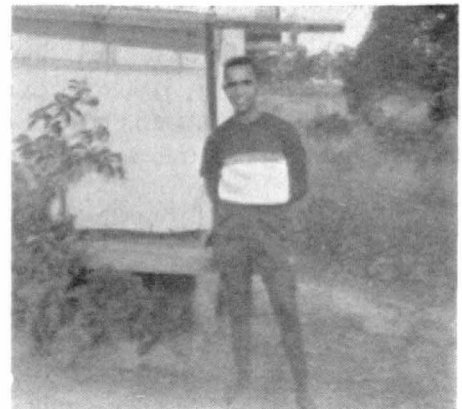
The young man in the gay shirt is Cyril Whaddy, of Alexandria.



Valerie Nolan, of West Dubbo, is one of Dawn's real fans.



Clarry Newman, of Karuah, formerly of South Kempsey.



Kevin Boney is well known in Urunga.