



THE TOM CAIN RADIO SHOW

A Blow to the Colour Bar

Not long ago, an outback aboriginal schoolboy wrote a startling radio play about racial prejudice.

It was a simple, sensitive play, and it was called "Sally Smith Go To Sydney".

Radio listeners heard the play in the 2UE "Child's Play" series.

It was written by Tom Cain, 14, a shy, idealistic boy who lives on the aboriginal station outside Moree.

And Sally in the play was a self-portrait of Tom—aware of his colour and his heritage.

Sally is sent from an outback town to Sydney for the first time for a sports meeting.

Sally wins through

There is a subconscious emphasis on clothes and cleanliness on this first venture into the white man's city.

And Sally finds that in Sydney she is billeted with a white family which doesn't like dark people.

There is dramatic, almost pitiable poignancy in this situation, but in the end Sally is accepted.

With a childish, simple approach, Tom found an answer to this colour bar and achieved a happy assimilation.

He ended his play with a warm, sixteen-word sentence from the narrator, which says: