

TRIBUTE TO LATE ALBERT NAMATJIRA

Albert Namatjira was a great man because success as a painter drove him on to constantly improve his work. By proving that Aborigines have latent talents that can be developed, the artist inspired many of his people to try for greater things. This also changed the attitude of whites towards Aborigines. His early passing was a sad loss to all Australians.

These are the sentiments expressed by the fifty people who attended the Tribute to Albert Namatjira held by the Tamworth Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines one Friday night recently. Mr. Fred Woodgate, F.R.S.A. gave a talk on the life and work of the artist, a paying tribute to the many people who assisted him rise to fame. He said that four years ago he wrote to Namatjira, congratulating him on his success, stating that the sales of his work in the Tamworth district were about four times that of any other artist of any nationality. A reply was received from the Finke River Mission, which is the headquarters of the Arunta tribe, where Namatjira was born, lived and finally died. Enclosed with the letter was a photograph of the artist and photographs of a number of other tribesmen he was instructing in painting.

Miss Margaret O'Neill, who worked for a considerable time at Alice Springs Hospital, showed coloured slides of the hills, valleys and trees that were the artist's favourite subjects.

Prints that were representative of Namatjira's early and later paintings were on display on the walls of St. James Church of England hall where the function was held. Many remarks were made about the faithful reproduction of the scenes and the pleasing combinations of vivid colour.

Competition

Before supper was served, results were announced of the competition conducted for boys and girls. Entitled "When I Leave School", all entrants received an Australian Flag. Prize winners received a bag of sweets and a framed Namatjira miniature picture. These were Norma Tighe and Trevor Hill, with second prizes to Annette Matthews and Danny Bugg.

Thanks

Mrs. Esther Mundine, of 1 Heyer-street, South Grafton writes:—

"Would you please publish the enclosed expression of thanks for me ?

I would like to thank the Staff and Nurses of the Grafton Base Hospital for their kindness and help whilst I was in hospital.

I would also like to thank all those people who assisted us and gave such assistance following the death of my husband, Richard, on June 20th.

Especially the people of Baryugil, Tabulam, Bonalbo, Woodenbong, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mundine of South Grafton, and Mr. and Mrs. John Mundine."

TALENTS

In the lore of the Orient, there is a story about a good man who built a large and prosperous business through honest toil and unselfish co-operation with his fellow workers. As old age crept upon him he began to feel concerned for the future of his enterprise. His only living relatives were three stalwart nephews.

One day he called the young men to him, saying, "One of you shall be my successor." They thanked him and each vowed to do his very best if chosen.

The old man continued, "I have a problem. He who solves it best shall have my business." So saying he handed each youth a coin. "This is a large room, but go and buy something that will fill the room as full as it is possible, but, spend no more than the coin I have given you. Go now, but return at sunset ; I shall be waiting."

All day long the men went about the market place and among the tradespeople, and as shadows lengthened they made their way back to the house of their uncle. He greeted them kindly and asked to see their purchases.

The first youth dragged a bale of straw into the room. When he had untied it, it made a pile so great that it hid two walls of the room. He was complimented by the others, who helped him clear it away.

The second youth brought in two bags of thistledown, which, when released, filled half the room. The other two cheered him.

The third youth stood silent and forlorn, "And what have you ?" asked the aged man.

"I gave half my coin to a hungry child," he answered meekly, and most of what I had left I gave to alms at the church, where I asked God to forgive my sins."

There was no cheering, but the youth continued. "And with the farthing I bought a flint and this small candle." And with that he struck the flint and lighted the candle which filled every corner of the room with light.

The kindly old man could not help but think of the passage of scripture which he quoted, "Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things." And while the young man fell to his knees, the old man blessed him and gave him all his possessions.

MISSING PERSONS

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Frank Suey, who left Michelago about four months ago to try and find his sister, Marlene Suey.

Frank should be asked to contact Mrs. E. Witt, Post Office, Michelago.