

Dodged Rent for 10 Years . . .

S. M. says Board "Very Tolerant" in Eviction Bid

It is with some regret that the Aborigines Welfare Board reports that a total of £63,855 is owed in rent by tenants of homes on Stations and Reserves.

This was disclosed in the recent case of Mr. Horace Saunders, who left a house on the Taree Aboriginal Station after the Board was reluctantly forced to take action to recover rent which was outstanding for a period of more than ten years.

Mr. J. Scott, S.M., who granted the order to eject Saunders, said, "he knew of no more flagrant refusal by a tenant to face up to his obligations".

There had been no suggestion that Saunders had never been in a position to pay rent for the cottage.

"The Board has been very tolerant over the years in dealing with Saunders," the Magistrate said.

Unhappily the eviction aroused some controversy. Purfleet residents took sides in the matter—some for and some against.

Perhaps the most pertinent comment at the time came from a well-spoken aboriginal woman who is reported to have publicly "deplored" eviction as a "disgrace to the aboriginal race".

The woman, who clearly had deep feelings on the matter, added: "I am not afraid of anybody but if a man isn't prepared to pay for a roof over his head then he is not fit to live under it."

Other tenants claimed it was just as "dishonest" to fail to pay rent as it was to fail to pay grocery bills and taxi fares.

After the court case the Board made a special appeal to all tenants financially capable of paying rent to be regular with payments and avoid the possible discomfiture and humiliation of being forced to leave their homes.

The rental charged on good type houses built since the war is very low—17s. 6d. a week.

If through unemployment or illness a tenant is temporarily unable to pay rent he should advise the Manager or Welfare Officer of the facts.

In these cases all tenants of the Board are assured of every consideration.

Where a tenant fails to meet his obligations for no good reason the Board must give consideration to making the home available to some adversely housed family which needs a home and is prepared to make every attempt to pay rent.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

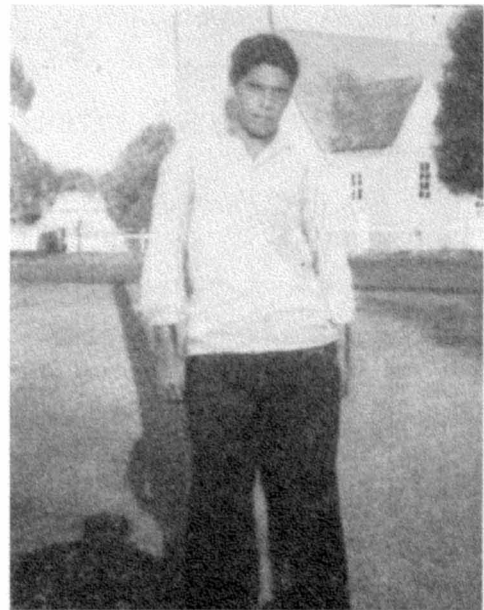
| DOWN | ACROSS |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Bark. | 2. Baby. |
| 2. Bread. | 4. Bag. |
| 3. Bat. | 5. Beet. |
| 7. Bob. | 6. B. |
| 9. Ball. | 8. Bud. |
| 11. Burn. | 10. Bib. |
| 12. Broom. | 12. Bell. |
| 13. Bed. | 13. Brook. |
| 14. Bee. | 15. Ben. |

"An army must have generals to lead it, but if the only men in it who have the mark of greatness are generals, it will win few victories."

—Field Marshal Lord Slim.

"The fountain of contentment must spring up in the mind; and he who has so little knowledge of human nature as to seek happiness by changing anything but his own disposition will waste his life in fruitless efforts and multiply the griefs which he purposes to remove."

—Dr. Samuel Johnson.



Eddie Walker of Box Ridge