

FARMERS SAY SHE'S WONDERFUL . . .

## *Grandma Sims is Queen of South Coast Harvest Time*



Two keen young pickers, Kevin Mason and Johnny Connell, of Bergalia, who work after school and on holidays



The 76-year-old Mrs. Bella Sims down on the farm with her orphaned grandson, Dougie Mason

Ask any Tuross River farmer to name the best pea-pickers on the South Coast and you are likely to receive a positive answer: Grandma Sims' team.

Such an answer will reflect the farmer's enthusiasm for the highly-rated squad of aborigine pickers who take off his winter green-pea crop.

The squad, sometimes numbering 40, has become known as "Granny Sims' team", simply because Mrs. Bella Sims (76), has been part and parcel of the harvest scene for so many years.

Mrs. Sims, who lives in Nowra, looks forward each year to the chance to get outdoors with members of her family and other aborigines drawn from Nowra and Roseby Park.

According to farmers around Bodalla, the aborigine team have become experts and cause so little damage to vines that two and often three pickings are possible.

The pictures with this story were taken on the Bodalla farm of Mr. Keith Lavis, a brother of champion Olympic horseman, Mr. Neil Lavis.