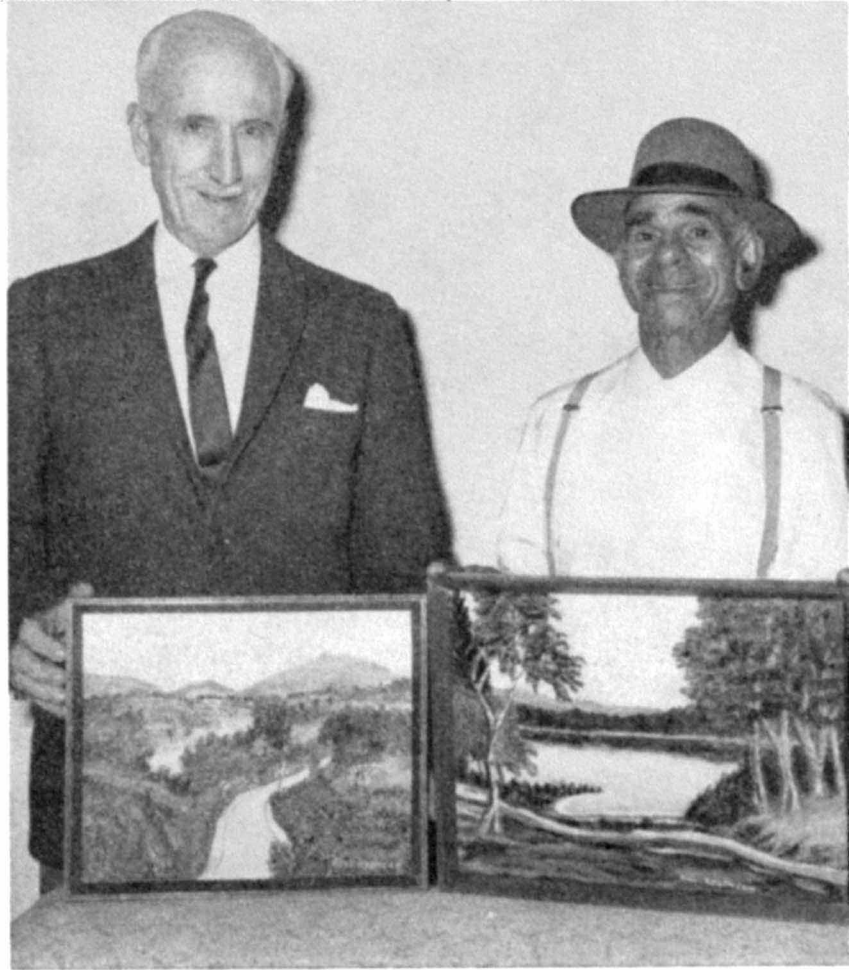


FORMER BLACK TRACKER SUCCEEDS AS ARTIST



Mr. Weiley, M.L.A., and artist Billy Robinson with two of his landscapes

The paintings of Mr. Bill ("Tracker") Robinson, of Grafton, are in keen demand at five guineas a study.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly, has purchased a number for some friends, who are art patrons, in Melbourne. They have two more on order at present.

Mr. Robinson was formerly a sergeant black tracker attached to Grafton Police District, but is now living in retirement, after 41 years with the Police.

Mr. W. R. Weiley, M.L.A., took two of the paintings to the Art Gallery in Sydney 12 months ago to have them appraised by experts. When the paintings were exhibited they were sold immediately, and there has been a steady demand for them ever since.

Mr. Weiley told *Dawn* that Mr. Robinson, a non-smoker and total abstainer who had made physical fitness his hobby, had excelled at boxing and held the North Coast lightweight championship for some years.

One of his daughters had passed her Leaving and trained as a teacher, and was now doing missionary work in New Guinea. Another daughter was a nurse.

One of his sons had inherited Mr. Robinson's talent as an artist and, after studying art at Grafton Technical College, had painted numerous murals for various business houses throughout the North Coast district, Mr. Weiley said.

He said the opinion of an expert at Sydney Art Gallery was that although Mr. Robinson's paintings were obviously the work of an untrained artist, they showed considerable natural ability.

The drawing, colour sense and perspective were excellent, and the artist achieved a vividness and freshness of color that made the paintings most attractive.

The expert said he would not attempt to value the paintings. Value was fixed by demand as much as merit, and fantastic prices resulted when there was a keen demand for an artist's work.

He quoted "Grandma" Moses, of America, an untrained artist whose work was in keen demand at prices ranging up to thousands of dollars.