



Smoke Signals

TIP FOR THE MONTH When using unpicked wool that is to be used again, wind the wool around a saucer and fill it with water. This takes out all the kinks.

► Most historic Aboriginal sites in north-west Western Australia have been recorded in case they are damaged by expanding industry. Mr I. Crawford, curator of anthropology and archeology at the Western Australian Museum, has made the records in the past seven years. He said that companies had been co-operative. "If we found Aboriginal art sites on a hill marked for excavation, the company usually changed its plans and helped to preserve the sites," Mr Crawford said.

► Pastor Donald Brady, of Brisbane, became the first Aborigine to receive a Churchill fellowship when awards were announced in October. For the past six years, Mr Brady, 42, has helped rehabilitate hundreds of Aborigines in slum areas of Brisbane. On his fellowship he will make a 4-month tour of New Zealand and the United States to study the integration of indigenous people.

► A colourful historical pageant was part of the centenary celebrations at La Perouse Public School a few months ago. The school was one of the first in the State to enrol Aboriginal children, in 1868.

► Each year the Department of Technical Education conducts special English classes for New Australians. Now the Department has a new problem: a lady, "I'm not a New Australian", has written that she finds English "not a nice language". She wants to know if there are any classes in Aboriginal.

► Famous Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira has been honoured many times since his death. Now his portrait has appeared on a special five-cent stamp to commemorate "*Famous Australians*".

► Twenty-three-year-old Phillip Ugle, the first Aborigine appointed to the staff of Western Australia's Parliament House, started work in the Legislative Council late in October. Mr Ugle is required to deliver messages to Council members, to learn how parliamentary records are kept, and have a knowledge of parliamentary history and procedure. Mr Ugle is married, and has three young children.

► **FOR BRAVERY** Mr R. R. Smith of Gulargambone received posthumously the Certificate of Merit award of the Royal Humane Society. The Society asked his sister Mrs Sylvia Swan, of Moree, to receive the award in Sydney in September. Mr Smith's daughter Kathleen, Mrs Retta Binge (Narrabri), and Mrs R. Smith (Moree) accompanied Mrs Swan to Sydney for the ceremony. The report of Mr Smith's bravery said: At about 5.30 a.m. on 6th April, 1967, a Police Officer of Gulargambone Police proceeded to the Aboriginal Reserve where a building was burning, there he saw Mr Smith who was severely burned about the whole of his body and in great pain. On the way to the hospital the Police Officer discovered that Mr Smith was sleeping in the building with another man, who is an invalid pensioner. It seems he left the burning building when he first became aware of the fire but re-entered it to assist the invalid pensioner whom he thought was inside. When he entered the building he could not find his friend but by then the whole building was on fire. Mr Smith kicked boards from a wall and in escaping sustained severe body burns from which he died. The invalid pensioner had escaped from the building before the fire was greatly advanced.