HISTORY OF
ALICE SPRINGS BRANCH DISTRICT
PREFACE

To compile a folio of an area comprising approximately a quarter of a million square miles of country is no easy task. But that is the task which I have attempted on behalf of fellow members of the Alice Springs Branch of the Country Women's Association.

If you look at the map of Australia which I have chosen for the frontispiece of this folio you will see the vastness of the area which has been shaded—an area more than twice that of Great Britain. The extent of country alone has not been the major problem of compiling this folio. Much of this country, so remote and in places inhospitable, is known to only a few people. But of that part which is settled or partly settled, so much could be written that it has been difficult to decide what should be included and what should be rejected so that this folio should not assume voluminous proportions.

I hope that I have chosen wisely so that readers will feel impelled to seek more knowledge of the great "Inland" of Australia from books written by more capable authors. To facilitate this I have appended a short bibliography.

I wish to thank the many friends and acquaintances who have assisted me in various ways, and to extend to Country Women where ever they may be, sincere greetings from the members of the Alice Springs Branch.

Yours sincerely,

NATHALIE GOREY.
# Contents

1. **Preface** .......................................................... Page 1
2. **Exploration & Very Early History** ....................... 2–10
   3. **Further Exploration** ......................................... 11–16
3. **Climate** ............................................................. 11–12
4. **Physical Features -- Flora, Fauna, etc.** ................. 13–18
5. **Government** .......................................................... 19–22
6. **Our Branch** .......................................................... 23–26
7. **Memories of Early Days -- Mrs. Bloomfield** ............ 27–33
8. **Tempe Downs -- Mrs. J. J. O'Brien** ................. 34–35
9. **Industries -- Pastoral Minining** ......................... 36–40
10. **Hatches Creek -- Woman** ........................................ 41–47
11. **Methodist Inland Mission -- Rev. Griffiths** ......... 48–49
12. **Australian Inland Mission -- Rev. W. Cartledge** .... 50–51
13. **Church of England** ............................................... 52–55
14. **Finke River Mission, Hermannsburg -- Rev. M. Albrecht** 56–60
15. **Roman Catholic Church** ........................................ 61–64
16. **Communications and Transport** ......................... 65–67
17. **Schooling** .......................................................... 68–69
18. **Aborigines** .......................................................... 70–71
19. **Flying Doctor Service** ........................................... 72–74
20. **Connellan Airways** ................................................. 75–76

---

**Notes:**
- Page 19-22 is marked with a handwritten note: "Page 19-22: [Handwritten note]
- Page 26-29: [Handwritten note]
- Page 48-49: [Handwritten note]
- Page 50-51: [Handwritten note]
- Page 52-55: [Handwritten note]
- Page 56-60: [Handwritten note]
- Page 61-64: [Handwritten note]
- Page 65-67: [Handwritten note]
- Page 68-69: [Handwritten note]
- Page 70-71: [Handwritten note]
- Page 72-74: [Handwritten note]
- Page 75-76: [Handwritten note]
In the MacDonnell Ranges here is colour.
EXPLORATION AND VERY EARLY HISTORY

About the middle of the nineteenth century speculation on the nature of the centre of Australia ran riot. An immense inland sea? A sea connection between the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Great Australian Bight? A huge river system? A desert? Nobody knew. Speculation led to interest, interest grew, and many attempts were made to solve the mystery of what constituted the "heart" of the huge Australian continent. Some of these attempts are recorded, but of many made by courageous, adventurous spirits there is regrettably no record.

The first man to enter the area was Captain Charles Sturt who had earlier navigated the Murray waters and who in 1845-6 led his party from Adelaide to as far north as (approx) the 24th parallel of south latitude, to the east of the Simpson Desert. But it was John McDouall Stuart who had accompanied Sturt as a draughtsman, who first penetrated the "mysterious inland region." Eyre, Goyder, Hack, Freeling, Babbage, Warburton and others had journeyed into the northern areas of South Australia, and in 1859 Stuart himself, financed by William Finke and James Chambers, had gone beyond the present site of Marree, westward along the southern side of Lake Eyre and then northward to Neales River (Latitude 27) to which locality he returned later to carry out survey work. Hergott, his assistant, discovered the springs which bore his name until World War I, when unfortunately, prejudice against names of German origin caused it to be changed to Marree, the original native name.
Financed again by Finke and Chambers, in March 1860 Stuart with Kekwick and Heed, started on the expedition which succeeded in reaching the Centre. The Stevenson, the Finke, the Hugh, Chambers' pillar (\&), the James and Waterhouse Ranges, the MacDonnell, Davenport and Murchison Ranges were discovered and named. On Sunday, April 22nd, 1860, after following the Hugh river bed through the MacDonnell Ranges, Stuart reached the mount which today bears his name -- Central Mt. Stuart, but which he named Mt. Sturt "after my excellent and esteemed commander of the Expedition in 1844 and 1845, Captain Sturt, as a mark of gratitude for the great kindness I received from him during that journey."

What a moment of achievement it must have been when on 23rd April, he and Kekwick ascended the mount and hoisted the British flag on the pole which they had placed in the centre of a large cairn of stones! How carefully the small bottle containing the slip of paper on which they had signed their names would have been sealed!

But the centre was not journey's end for the small party. They pushed on north beyond Tennant Creek to Attack Creek which was the scene of an attack by natives. Then with rations low, horses failing and other difficulties, they retreated south. It is so easy to write "they retreated south" --- Slowly, with weary horses and scanty food supplies they made their way back.

But only two months later, on New Year's Day 1861, Stuart with twelve men and forty-nine horses, set off again. A government grant of £2,500 and further assistance from Finke and Chambers, supported the
Regions of Australia.
Central Mount Stuart

View of the MacDonnell Ranges
expedition. On this occasion the objective was the northern shore of the continent, 1,400 miles beyond Attack Creek. Failure to find waters north of Newcastle Waters turned Stuart back once more but in less than a month from the date of his arrival in Adelaide, this most tenacious man, accompanied by nine others, set out again to face the hardships and privations which he now knew so well. On 24th July, 1862, Stuart wrote in his diary — "I did not inform any of the party, except Thring and Auld, that I was so near the sea, as I wished to give them a surprise — I advanced a few yards to the beach and was gratified and delighted to behold the water of the Indian Ocean in Van Diemen Gulf, before the party with the horses knew anything of its proximity. Thring, who rode in advance of me, called out 'The Sea!' which so took them all by surprise, and they were all so astonished, that he had to repeat the call before they fully understood what was meant. Then they immediately gave three long and hearty cheers — I dipped my feet and washed my face and hands in the sea, as I promised the late Governor Sir Richard MacDonnell I would do if I reached it —

Stuart's record of the simple ceremony performed on 25th July, 1862 on the northern shore as distant from the Centre as the Southern shore, is I feel not out of place in this folio.

"I now had an open space cleared, and selecting one of the tallest trees, stripped it of its lower branches, and on its highest branch fixed my flag, the Union Jack, with my name sewn in the centre of it. When this was completed, the party gave three cheers, and Mr. Kekwick then addressed me, congratulating me on having completed
this great and important undertaking, to which I replied. Mr. Waterhouse also spoke a few words on the same subject, and concluded with three cheers for the Queen and three for the Prince of Wales."

The return journey, occupying five months as compared with nine months when travelling northward, was a most uncomfortable one for the intrepid leader. Suffering with scurvy, unable to partake of any solid food, reduced to "infantine weakness" and partially blind, Stuart was forced to travel hundreds of miles on a stretcher slung between two horses. When the ambulance horses could no longer be used he returned to the saddle, but fortunately the party was by then near to settled districts where relief was available. A grant of £2,000 and land in the interior rent free for seven years was his reward, but within four years Stuart's adventurous spirit had departed on the Last Journey of all.

The next party to visit the Centre was that led by John Ross on the Adelaide Overland Telegraph Exploring Expedition, which went ahead of the construction parties finding waters and timbers for the poles for the telegraph line which the South Australian Government had arranged with an English Cable Company to construct from Pt. Darwin to Adelaide by January 1872. The exploratory work done by this party of which Giles was second in command, and by the construction parties, is not well known. Their task was fraught with many dangers and difficulties and the completion of the line in two years was a remarkable achievement.
Ross and Giles who told of their adventures in a book "Exploring in the Seventies", were the first to visit Central Mt. Stuart after its discovery. In January 1871, after finding Stuart's route and following, and more than ten years after Stuart and Kekwick had cheered from the top of that lonely mount, they found the small sealed bottle which was returned to the Postmaster General, Mr. Charles Todd, in Adelaide. The message which it contained is now in the South Australian Archives Department and reads --

"John MacDouall Stuart and party, consisting of two men and himself, arrived from Adelaide in the Centre of Australia on Saturday evening, the 21st day of April, 1860 and have built this cairn of stones and raised this flag, to commemorate the event, on the top of Mt. Sturt. The centre is about two miles south-south-west, at a small gum tree, where there is a tree marked, facing the South. John MacDouall Stuart (leader), William Darton Kekwick, Benjamin Head."

The Overland Telegraph party followed Stuart's track generally at first but after several trips, an easier route was found to avoid the rough country and the gaps through which Stuart had travelled. To this party goes the honour of discovering the Todd River (bed) and Heavitree Gap, named for Charles Heavitree Todd. The creek which runs into the Todd was named the Charles, and the spring at which the original telegraph camp was established, was called Alice Springs after the wife of the Postmaster General. (See newsprint paragraph affixed, referring to Ross and explorer pioneers.)
There were many explorer-pioneers such as John Ross, who, in Australia's earliest days, quietly and unassumingly paved the way for future pastoralists, miners and wayfarers; but their deeds were soon forgotten, and today are entirely unremembered. The finder of Waite River was known only to this country's first pioneers, but it was whilst working for William and Bob Coulthard, early pioneers of Central Australia, that Mr. Dixon learned of the almost unceasing exploratory and pioneering efforts of the man who first discovered the Macumba Creek as early as 1857. He came again to that locality in the late 'sixties with a large flock of drought-stricken sheep from Umberatana Station, in the far north of South Australia.

The Ross life-story has just been completed by a local writer, and it is doubtful whether, in the whole of Australian history, any man did more than John Ross to find and actually settle new pastures within the inland areas of Australia. His long life encompassed almost sixty years of fruitful wandering, hardship, sacrifice and privation. It was whilst embarked on the Overland Telegraph Survey Expeditions in 1870-71, that he found the Waite River and named it after the late Peter Waite, who was Sir Thomas Elder's South Australian pastoral representative. Both these gentlemen were great philanthropists and did much to further exploration within inland Australia. On the same expedition which yielded the Waite River to Central Australian geography, John Ross found and named the Hart Ranges and described them as being rich in minerals. That vast area of mulga scrub which extends from the Waite River west to the telegraph line and north as far as Barrow Creek, is not generally known as the Everard Scrub, but Ross designated it such during his exploration of that area in the late summer of 1870. Fearless of heat, he and his party slowly wended their way to Central Mount Stuart and ascending the mount, found the bottle containing the names of Stuart's party, wrapped together with a copy of the Adelaide "Observer" which Stuart had brought with him on his expedition of 1860.

Upon the fine, bronze plaque of the Waite River Memorial are the words:

In memory of John Ross
Explorer-Pioneer
who with Harvey, Giles, Crispe and Herne passed by on Dec. 22, 1870
naming this river the Waite.

For him who dared shone no crown
of glory,
No laurel wreath bedecked his
brow with fame;
Shall we not then homage pay, in
saga, story—
'Ere lost forever is his un-
known name?

Erected by E. Dixon, Esq., Waite
River

A pastoralist of today honors the memory of John Ross.
Omit

--- TORD RIVER ---

Omit

--- HEAVITREE GAP ---

l. Tuit.
The Overland Telegraph line originally came from the South by way of Owen Springs, Jay Creek and at the foot of Mt. Gillen to the Alice Springs. Near the waters which Stuart and his parties had found north of the MacDonnells, were established the telegraph stations of Barrow Creek, Tennant Creek, Powell Creek, Daly Waters and Katherine. At a cost of half a million pounds the 2,230 miles of poles and wire had spanned the continent. Quoting the words of Charles Todd himself:

"The great work, notwithstanding all our disaster and mishaps was successfully accomplished within two years, and I think I may with confidence assert that no line passing through a similar extent of uninhabited country and where the materials had to be imported and carted over such long distances has been constructed in the same short space of time."

"When the wires were joined, I was at Central Mt. Stuart, and in the evening was inundated with kindly-worded messages of congratulations from friends in all parts of the Colonies. It was a bitterly cold night with the strong south-east wind which blows so keenly over the interior, as seated on the ground, with only the little instrument (a pocket relay) I now held in my hand, I received one after another of these friendly recognitions from those who took an active interest in my work and welfare, and till I was nearly frozen and completely knocked up with fatigue and excitement, transmitted my replies. I called for hearty cheers from my companions and nearly choked my valuable cook who eagerly essayed to respond with a chilli in his mouth......"

The line was for many years the one link between Australia and New Zealand and the outer world, then other cables were laid and it lost
OLD TELEGRAPH STATION

ALICE SPRINGS

BARROW CREEK - TELEGRAPH STN.
some of its importance. More recently radio and other modern means of communication have linked Australia with the world. But the telegraph line played an important part in opening up the Centre. To the lonely outposts came the linesmen and telegraphists to man the important relaying units, and to make in many cases the first settlements in their districts. Raising their own stock for food supplies, cultivating small gardens, giving hospitality and news from near and afar to weary travellers, facing loneliness and dangers, these men played their part in the development of the Outback.
Haast Bluff across the Derwent.

Mt. Ziel - Cloud Topped.
It was natural that the construction of the telegraph line should focus attention once more upon the Northern Territory, and the thousands of unexplored miles of country. Other heroic exploration parties ventured forth and among the leaders were Forrest, Giles, Warburton and Gosse who from 1872-6 traversed some of the most inhospitable land in our continent -- the great stretch which lies to the west and partly within our borders, and which is today almost as little known as it was then. Ernest Giles it was who under the patronage of Baron von Muller, journeyed from the Swan River settlement to the telegraph line, followed up the Finke and along the MacDonnell's to the plains at their western end. He discovered and named Rudall Creek, the Gosse Range, Haast's Bluff, Mt. Liebig and other physical features of our western areas. He was the first to see that beautiful valley of palms which is today the Mecca of all tourists who come to Central Australia. Mt. Sonder, Mt. Zeil and Mt. Heuglin were also added to Giles' map, but they were named by Baron von Muller.
Gosse also traversed the country north of Alice Springs to the Reynolds Range and the Lander River, then journeyed south-west over areas previously explored by Giles. He (Gosse) discovered and named that most remarkable smooth-sided rock, two miles in length which rises so abruptly from the plains to a height of over a thousand feet -- Ayres Rock. To his map also were added the Mann, Tomkinson and Musgrave Ranges.

Worthy of mention along with these leaders are -- Charles Winnecke who between 1877 and 1894 spent much of his time in the MacDonnells; Dr. Charles Chewings who investigated the sources of the Finke River in 1886 and spent fifty years in this country as a pastoralist and miner; and Messrs. Frank R. George, H.Y.L. Brown, and W.R. Murray of whom you will read more in the section devoted to mining. Mr. Alec Ross who crossed from Pt. Augusta to Perth in 1875 with Giles and returned as his second in command across Gibson's Desert in 1876, lived for some years at Barrow Creek with Mr. George Hayes, and is remembered by many of the "old-timers."

Among those whose names could well be included in this section, if they were available, are the early drovers, prospectors, miners, and pastoralists. The first of these soon made their way north, some with horses and cattle, over Stuart's tracks and by others no less difficult, and as the country which they prospected and settled was virgin land, they were of necessity explorers. On maps made by Mr. Brown during his journeys in search of minerals (1890-6) are shown Old Love's Creek Station, Undoolyah Station, Murray Downs, Coorundi (Kurundi) and Elkedra Station,
while Tempe Downs Station in the James was established during the early 1880's. The Finke River settlements were probably established even earlier -- certainly the Mission known to us today as Hermannsburg was founded in 1877.

It is indeed regrettable that the names of many of them are lost and that the adventures which they must have had, were not recorded for posterity.

On Henbury Station at least, the names of some of these early pioneers have been recorded. On a brass plate affixed to a stout round post, is the following inscription --

```
R. E. Warburton  1875  H. Breaden  1877
A. D. Breaden    1875  J. McDonald  1877
W. S. Stokes     1876  R. D. Coulthard 1879
E. W. Parke      1877  Tom Norman  1879
Chas. Walker     1877  E. H. Sargent 1879
H. Merrick       1877  A. H. Elliot  1880
Chas. Tomlin     1877  L. A. Bloomfield 1887
W. Parke         1887  A. F. Fergusson 1888
J. A. Breaden    1887  J. E. Warbuton 1890
```

To the memory of pioneers of the Finke. Erected by J. A. Breaden Esq."

(We are indebted to Mrs. J. O'Brien of Tempe Downs Station for the particulars of this interesting plate.)

At the bottom of the plate it is recorded that the first motor car driven up the Finke was the property of Mr. J.A. Breaden and was driven by C. Woodward -- 10.4.17.)
There were many explorer-pioneers such as John Ross, who, in Australia's early days, quietly and unassumingly paved the way for future pastoralists, miners and wayfarers but their deeds were soon forgotten, and today are entirely unremembered. The finder of Waite River was known only to this country's first pioneers, but it was while working for William and Bob Coulthard, early pioneers of Central Australia that Mr. Dixon, of Waite River learned of the almost unceasing exploratory and pioneering efforts of John Ross, who first discovered the Macumba Creek as early as 1857. Ross came again to that locality in the late 'sixties with a large flock of drought-stricken sheep from Uperatara Station in the far north of South Australia.

It is doubtful whether, in the whole of Australian history any man did more than John Ross to find and actually settle new pastures within the inland areas of Australia. His life-story encompassed almost sixty nearly sixty years of fruitful wandering, hardship, sacrifice and privation. It was whilst embarked on the Overland Telegraph Survey Expeditions in 1870-71 that he found the Waite River and named it after the later Peter Waite, who was Sir Thomas Elder's South Australian pastoral representative. Both these gentlemen were great philanthropists and did much to further exploration within the central areas of Australia.

On the same expedition which yielded the Waite River to Central Australian geography John Ross found and named the Hart Ranges and described them as being rich in minerals. That vast area of mulga scrub which extends from the Waite River west to the telegraph line and north as far as Barrow Creek, is not generally
known as the Everard Scrub, but Ross designated it such during his exploration of that area in the late summer of 1870. Fearless of heat he and his party slowly wended their way to Central Lowland Stuart Mount Stuart and ascending the summit mount, found the bottle containing the names of Stuart's party, wrapped together with a copy of the Adelaide "Observer" which Stuart had brought with him on his expedition in 1860.

On the fine bronze plaque of the Waite River Memorial, erected by Mr. E. Dixon of Waite River, are the words:

"In the Memory of John Ross
Explorer-Pioneer
who with Harvey, Giles, Graspe and Herne
passed by of Dec. 22, 1870 naming this river
The Waite.

For him who dared, shone no crown of glory,
No laurel wreath bedecked his brow with fame;
Shall we not then homage pay, in saga, story--
"Ere lost forever is his unknown name?"
The Australian continent extends roughly from latitude 10 degrees South to 40 degrees South, so climate varies from tropical to cool temperate. Rainfall varies from below five inches per year to over 60 inches per year. The map opposite shows the rainfall areas of the continent and also the approximate southern limit of the Summer rains, and the approximate northern limit of the Winter rains. I have emphasized the word approximate because as you will see from the table of monthly rainfalls, the centre of Australia does occasionally benefit from Winter rains, and districts south of the line do receive occasional Summer rains.

From the figures given, you will observe that rain falls chiefly during the Summer months -- October to February -- but storms may bring earlier or later falls. Oodnadatta has an average yearly rainfall of 4.76 inches, Finke River 7.34, Alice Springs 10.5, Barrow Creek 10.6, and Tennant Creek 14.7 inches, but annual records show that there is considerable variation above and below the average.

Throughout the area temperatures are high during the summer, but the degree of humidity is less than in districts of the coastal regions. So many people speak, and presumably think, of the Centralian region as being one of perpetual dust-storms that I feel it is necessary to give such storms special mention. Situated as it is midway between the areas of higher rainfall far to the south and to the north, and surrounded by vast dry land masses, it is natural that the centre should experience some dust-storms. When the Summer rains are late, or are much below
average, as on occasion they have been, dust-storms are more frequent, but in normal years they are not more prevalent than in many other parts of Australia which are much nearer to the coast.

The winter months, from April till August particularly, are characterised by pleasant sunny days and cold nights. Severe frosts are often experienced in the southern areas, and often the south-easterly, which is the prevailing wind throughout the year, is bitterly cold. It is during the winter months that climatic conditions are most favourable for touring. Reservations by tourists desirous of seeing the unique and colorful scenery of the inland, and enjoying the winter sunshine, are heavy during this season.

Though few residents of the Centre would willingly be "down South" during the winter months, most of them feel that biennial leave is beneficial — preferably during the summer!
Physical Features, Flora, Fauna, etc.

Oodnadatta is in the area known as the Artesian Basin. The typical landscape in this locality is one of gibber plains with occasional flat-top hills, remnants of the older plain level, and broad, shallow sandy creek-beds which flood-out infrequently. To students of geology this area is one of great interest, but here a brief explanation of the gibber plains and the flat-top hills should suffice.

Under arid conditions, deposits of silica have changed to a weather resistant material, flinty gasper, which forms the top on the flat hills. Less resistant surfaces of the flint have broken down, scattered far afield, and smoothed by weathering agents -- mainly wind-blown sand and water -- the stones form the type of desert which Sturt described so well in his journals.

On many maps the region west and north-west from Oodnadatta to the Musgrave Ranges and northward to the Basedow and Erldunda Ranges, is included in the Great Victoria Desert. But into this "desert" where gibber plains, sand-hills, claypans, spinifex and mulga are more in evidence than green pastures, settlers have taken their stock, and by careful husbandry, have earned their reward. The Alberga Creek, the Hamilton, Stevenson and the Macumba flood into the northern end of Lake Eyre when very heavy rains fall, but in these areas there are no natural permanent waters.

[Signature: C.T. Madigan]

The following description of the Simpson Desert which lies to the east gives a vivid impression of that area from
Typical Flat Topped Hills

Gibber Plains
the air. "At about thirty to thirty-five miles into the Territory, there were no longer any loam flats or claypans between sand-ridges, but only drift sand. These conditions prevailed for the next hundred miles, which were nothing but a dreary waste of sand-ridges, spinifex, and gidgee. From the air the earth appeared as a flat, pink disk, ribbed in a giant grid from horizon to horizon by the red sand-ridges, and streaked by the darker lines between the sand-ridges where the acacias and spinifex grew closer. There were no water-courses or claypans. The precipitation, such as it is, sinks straight into the sand, where it is absorbed by the roots of the hardy plants whose scant foliage braves the scorching air above. Every now and again we swooped down to within a hundred feet of the ground, and felt its hot breath, escaping gladly again to the cooler air above."

The Simpson Desert is a desert, but you would be committing a "faux pas" to speak of it as the "Dead Heart" in the presence of the drovers, cattlemen and others who have seen it in all its phases as they have travelled along its margins. One of these men expresses the view that an act of Parliament should make it a criminal offence to refer to it as such, and reminds us that no one calls the Sahara "The Dead Heart of Africa." The descriptions which I quote below are evidence that though "parts of Australia sometimes fall asleep, they are not dead."

"I have seen the Simpson Desert blooming like a garden, for with water that red sand will grow almost anything.......I saw the great sand-hills of the Simpson Desert flattened down with the big rains. To
THE IMPRESSIVE GAPS near ALICE SPRINGS
within a few feet of the top they were covered with a great dark-green mass of beautiful herbage, the best cattle feed in the world. There was grass waving like green wheat. Square miles of springing herbage. Flowers of yellow, mauve, blue, pink and red, making a carpet for cattle to walk upon. Even when rains have failed in one year, or even two years, the shrubs and tougher grasses will provide sustenance for travelling stock.

And old man salt-bush and canegrass grow to within a few feet of the tops of the sandhills, which after rain are flattened and covered with all kinds of luxuriant herbage.

North of Oodnadatta, the wide sandy bed of the Finke River with its banks bordered by eucalypts, and the surrounding flat-topped hills of glacial sandstones, are more picturesque, while beyond the sandhill country where desert oaks and spinifex grow, lie the James and MacDonnell Ranges of folded limestone and quartzite formation. These ranges approached from the north or south, appear to be an unbroken and impenetrable barrier, not higher generally than 1,000 feet but rugged and steep-sided, and glorious in their colouring. In these ranges are the impressive gaps — rugged, narrow, steep-sided breaks through which the streams of the inland flow after rain. Mulga trees, ironwoods, bloodwoods and eucalypts grow in the valleys, the latter particularly large and beautiful along the water-courses, — eucalyptus pupuana (the ghost gum) strikingly handsome with its green foliage and stark white trunk and limbs. The ironwood (acacia salicina) is often called the desert willow because of its long narrow leaves hanging vertically on thin stems.
Less spectacular, but quaint and interesting, are the gnarled corkwoods (hakea) with their cylindrical foliage, deep cream clusters of tiny flowers, and unusual seed pods. Throughout the area are the less obvious but interesting plants which give beauty to the bushland when they flower. Arakelia clothes the sand hills, and among the bushes and trees are colorful flowers, some of which I have listed below:

Chloris barbata,
Trichinium helipteroides,
Trichinium exaltum,
Trichinium macrocephalum,
Crotalaria Novae Hollandie,
Swainsonia lessertifolio,
Abutilon cryptopetalum
Hybiscus Sturtii,
Solanum ellipticum,
Didiscus glaucifolius,
Prostanthera stratiflora,
Cremophila Dalyana,
Wahlenbergia gracilius,
Helichrysum bracteatum,
Abutilon leucopetalum,
Helipterum floribundum,

In the western MacDonells, and in other localities, geologists have found interesting Ordovician and Archaeocyantinae fossils, the latter giving definite proof of the Cambrian age. Fossil shells of several varieties were found in profusion along the gorge of the Ellery Creek. Impressive peaks which rise above the mulga scrub plains are Mt. Zeil which Winnecke estimated to be 4,756 feet, and Mt. Sonder 4,480 feet. These mountains and Haast's Bluff have been skilfully painted by Albert Namatjiri and will be familiar to all who have seen his water colours.

North of the main range system are plains — well-grassed and spinifex plains with acacia scrub. Far to the east drain the creeks
Mountain Devil

Galah

-EAGLES-

Tawny Frogmouth

Echidna (Porcupine)
PALM VALLEY (CENTRAL AUSTRALIA)
Mt. Gillen with 3 Corkwood Trees in foreground

"Twin" Ghost Gums
which in rain times flow north east into the wide Sandover River, and those which flood-out on the northern edge of the Simpson Desert from the Strangways, Harts, and the Jervois Ranges. In the distant west are salt marshes, and northerly the Giles and Reynolds Ranges from which the Lander and the Hanson flood-out to the north-ward. Scattered hills and ridges give way to red loam plains with occasional granite outcrops. Hakea, low scrub mallee, and spinifex are the predominant growth.

**Birds, Animals, etc.**

Birds are very plentiful and of great variety. The following list was made for me by an observant schoolboy, and includes most of those frequently seen:

- Pink and grey Galah,
- Black Cockatoos,
- Shell parrots,
- Budgerigar,
- Ringneck and Mulga parrot,
- Pigeons (crested and rock),
- Magpies,
- Crows,
- Butcherbirds,
- Hawks,
- Eagles,
- Scrub robins,
- Wagtails,
- Finches,
- Miner,
- Curlew,
- Mopoke,
- Scrub turkey,
- Emu,
- Duck (after rain)

On his list of animals he put rabbits first -- naturally enough for Brer Rabbit certainly has made himself quite at home in the Centre.
Others are Kangaroos, Euros, Wallabies, Dingo, Echidna and Goanna, Prenty (?), lizards of many kinds, and last but by no means least in his opinion, Witchetty grubs.

My collaborator is here most insistent that I should mention "bush tucker". Perhaps he is right for in this category comes a wide range of edible bush or native foods which have been the sweet-meats and luxury lines of the native tribes for many generations. Honey ants collect bags full of sweet substance which is obtained by digging the deep ants nest; Witchetty grubs, aforementioned, are found in the roots of bushes; Yams are dug; "Lungwa" is a green seed pod of a vine-like plant; Wild figs are small brown fruits of a tree which has a leaf quite unlike a fig; Wild orange is more like a pomegranate than an orange; Wild gooseberry looks very much like the ordinary gooseberry, but is very acid to taste; and in the hard woody knobs which are seen on many of our trees is a sweet syrup — he calls these "cocky-nuts".
The history of the government of our district is really that of the whole of the Northern Territory, except that we are in this folio, including the far northern area of South Australia. (This section, from the southern boundary to Oodnadatta is included because the branch of the C.W.A. which was formed at Oodnadatta, is no longer in existence).

South Australia was settled in 1836, and the details of that State's progress will have been dealt with by other branches.

This part of Australia, now referred to as the Northern Territory was originally called the Northern Territory of South Australia. It was annexed to South Australia in 1863. After some expensive and unsuccessful experiments with agriculture in the northern areas, and a brief but disappointing mining boom, South Australia began to regard the northern region as a "White elephant" -- a name which it was to bear for many years, and which is today oft-times applied. It is an historical fact that during the later 1870's, the South Australian government did offer free transport to immigrants from Japan, but the government of that country refused the offer.

In 1911, on payment of approximately six million pounds, the Commonwealth Government took over the Territory. The administration of the region during the period which followed was quite unsuccessful, and at one time troops had to be sent hastily to restore order. The history of that stormy period will no doubt be detailed in the Darwin Branch folio.
Vesty's meat works which had started at Darwin in 1914, had given hopes that a profitable cattle raising industry would be established, but this venture closed in 1919.

After 1926, the authorities paid more attention to the development of the cattle industry and mining, throughout the area, and for administrative purposes the Territory was divided as from the 1st March, 1927 into North Australia and Central Australia with the twentieth parallel marking the division. A Government Resident and an administrative centre was established at the chief centre of population in each division — at Alice Springs and Darwin. It was during this period that the railway was continued by the Federal Government from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs in accordance with the provision of the Northern Territory Acceptance Act, in which the Commonwealth agreed to complete the line from the terminal points of the South Australian construction — Oodnadatta in the south, and Pine Creek in the north.

The world wide financial depression of the 1930's led to the abandonment of this administrative plan in July 1931. North Australia and Central Australia became one again under the old name of Northern Territory. Darwin became and is today the centre of administration for the whole area.

By the 1920's the population of the area had increased considerably. A voice in the government of its affairs was sought, and in 1923 the late Mr. Harold George Nelson was elected Member for the Northern Territory in the Commonwealth Government. Mr. Nelson remained the member for the Territory for over a decade and was then succeeded by Mr. McAlister Blain, the present member (1949).
During the days of World War II, when Darwin was attacked by enemy bombers, the Administration evacuated to Alice Springs, and for about five years that town was the centre of administration. It was during these years that the gradually increasing population of the Northern Territory requested some measure of self-government. An organization known as the Northern Territory Development League was formed with its headquarters at Alice Springs. One of several objectives was to press for self-government. In June 1947, the Northern Territory Administration Bill was debated in the Federal Parliament, and at the end of the sittings the Bill amending the Northern Territory Administration Act was passed. This provided for the formation of a Legislative Council for the Northern Territory — to this the people would elect representatives and the Government would appoint an equal number with the Administrator as President.

The first Legislative Council Election for the Northern Territory was held on December 13th, 1947. Candidates elected from our district were Mr. R. C. Ward for Alice Springs, and Mr. J. H. Nelson for Stuart. As a matter of particular interest to C.W.A. members, Olive M. Donnellan of our Branch contested this election.

Elected members and those nominated by the Government, and His Honour the Administrator, Mr. A. R. Driver, attended the inaugural meeting of the Council on February 16th, 1948, in the Supreme Court Building, Darwin. Subsequent meetings of the Council have been held in the old Court House, Darwin.
In the Northern Territory Bulletin July 1947, the Administrator expressed the thoughts and hopes of many when he said, "It is realised fully that the Council as constituted may not fulfil all the necessary purposes of a Council for a large Territory, but the main point was that it was necessary to have this type of self-government, and further it had to be started some time. As time progresses, so the Council may change in its makeup and in its powers, but for the time being, we must base the future of the Territory on what we have been given. Let us all accept the Council as it is constituted at present; let us all join together in finding out its weak points; then by concerted effort, let us all delete those weak points, and insert the strong ones in order that we will have for the future a well-balanced Council towards which we can all point with pride and say that each and every one of us had a hand in this".
The inaugural meeting of the Alice Springs Branch of the Country Women's Association was held on 26th June, 1933 at the Residency. Mrs. J. A. Perkins, the immediate Past-President of the Metropolitan Group, Sydney, was present and addressed those assembled on the aims and activities of the movement. After her address, it was unanimously decided that a branch should be formed and that affiliation with the South Australian Branch be sought.

Officers elected that day were:

President: Mrs. V. Carrington,
Vice-Presidents: Mesdames Lovegrove, Bloomfield, McCoy, Glass,
Secretary: Mrs. W. R. Brown,
Treasurer: Miss N. Taylor.

The four vice-Presidents elected to that first Committee are on our membership list today, and it is only two years ago that we said farewell to Mrs. Carrington who was President until 1938 and who now sends us nostalgic greetings from Queensland.

During our first year there were 56 members. (By 1939 numbers had increased to 83, and by 1946-7 to 119). Meetings were held in the Australian Inland Mission Club-room generally, but during the hot months the Residency was made available. West Maitland (N.S.W.) and Tumby Bay (S.A.) branches gave assistance which was greatly appreciated when the library was started in that year with 160 books. The Library was the chief interest of the branch for several years. Gift magazines and
papers were re-addressed to outback members who were unable to attend monthly meetings, and when in 1936, 678 books were on the shelves, the branch Librarian, Mrs. Chapman, ably assisted by Mrs. O'Connell, circulated books to outback members as far as 335 miles South, 320 miles North, 170 miles East and 150 miles South-west, in addition to the parcels of magazines and periodicals.

Handicrafts began in 1936 with Mrs. Cain as the first instructor. The year 1939 was a particularly interesting one for the handicraft enthusiasts. Demonstrations included pottery-making, basket-weaving, suede work, cane-weaving and organdie and felt flower making. In that year also was held the first of the Xmas social and dance functions for outback members who usually managed to be in town for the festive season. This was so successful that the function was for many years the big annual function of the year.

Hospital visiting and hostess duties by two members each month, as we have today, began in 1937 and the first C.W.A. Xmas-tree is recorded in 1938.

Wartime brought changes in C.W.A. affairs as in all other activities. Many functions were arranged and all efforts made to assist the Red Cross, Comforts Fund, and Ambulance Fund. Members served suppers at Griffith's House for servicemen and helped to raise money to provide amenities for the crews of H.M.A.S. "Arunta" and "Warramunga" to whom magazines and other comforts were also despatched. When these efforts were no longer necessary, we supported the Food for Britain, Fat for Britain, U.N.R.R.A. and U.N.A.C. appeals.
Through the years we have had many welcome visitors to our meetings; many of them have helped us considerably by telling us of activities in their own districts. Branch members have also been honoured to entertain Lady Dugan, Lady Huntingfield, Lady Hudd, and more recently H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester and Lady Norrie.

During 1946 negotiations began to acquire a building for our own use, and when this was achieved the former A.W.C. Recreation Hut became the C.W.A. Room. At the beginning of 1947 this room was loaned to the local Kindergarten Committee and has been used since then as a pre-school centre. Monthly meetings, evening functions, and handicrafts are being held in the building which now has lawns, trees, and attractive pathways adding considerably to the attractiveness of the newly painted structure.

This year, 1949, we celebrate our sixteenth birthday and looking back over the years we are perhaps justified in taking pride in the achievements of our branch. In the early days branch interests and activities were limited to some extent by isolation. Today distances have been greatly reduced by improved conditions of transport and communications, and by taking advantage of these and continuing to honour our Creed -

Loyalty to the Throne,
Service to the Country,
Through Country Women,
By Country Women,
For Country Women,

we look forward to ever-widening interests and spheres of activities in
This photo is cut down

H.R.H.

An Historic Occasion - H.R.H the Duchess of Gloucester visits Alice Springs Branch - August 1948
which we may make many worthwhile contributions for the wellbeing of our fellows.

Presidents:

Mrs. V. Carrington 1933-38,
Mrs. G. Glass 1938-39,
Sister Inglis 1939-42,
Mrs. N. O'Brien 1942-43,
Mrs. J. Donnellan 1943-46,
Mrs. A. W. Driver 1946-47,
Mrs. V. Abberton 1947-48,
Mrs. G. Simpson 1948-49,
Mrs. S. Sneddon 1949-

Secretaries:

Miss N. Taylor, Mesdames Brown, McCoy, Cain, Hamilton,
Anderson, Driver (M.A.), Ward, Warton, Kissel, Coxan.

Treasurers:

Miss N. Taylor, Mesdames McCoy, Glass, Driver, Merkle,
Miss G. Randall, Mesdames Brinkworth, McLean.

Group President — Inglis Group:

Sister Inglis, Mrs. J. Donnellan 1945-8; Mrs. K. Partridge 1948-
The inaugural meeting of the Alice Springs Branch of the Country Women's Association was held on 26th June, 1933, at the Residency. Mrs. J. A. Perkins, the immediate Past-President of the Metropolitan Group, Sydney, was present and addressed those assembled on the aims and activities of the movement. After her address, it was unanimously decided that a branch should be formed and that affiliation with the South Australian Branch be sought. Present at the meeting: Mrs. Harold Nelson, wife of the member for the Northern Territory at that time, and now her son is the representative for the territory, Mrs. Carrington, wife of District Officer, Mesdames Brown, Glass, Taylor, W. McCoy, Bloomfield, Lovegrove, G. Johannsen, Kennedy, Kramer, J. Donnellan, N. Jones, Neck, Sullivan, Tuthill, Roper, McLean, Poole, Orr, Kilgariff, McDonald, Myers, Adamson, Griffiths, R. Hamilton, Colson. Misses N. Taylor, M. Bloomfield, J. Bloomfield, H. Goldner, Sister Kelsell, Sister Forsyth.

Officers elected that day were:

- **President:** Mrs. V. Carrington,
- **Vice-Presidents:** Mesdames Lovegrove, Bloomfield, McCoy, Glass.
- **Secretary:** Mrs. W. R. Brown.
- **Treasurer:** Miss N. Taylor.

Three vice-Presidents elected to that first Committee are on our membership list today, and it is only four years ago that we said farewell to Mrs. Carrington who was President until 1938 and one year ago we farewelled Mrs. Glass who has gone to reside in Laura, South Australia. Mrs. Dorothy Neck has passed to the Great Beyond.

During our first year there were 56 members. (By 1939 numbers had increased to 83, and by 1946-7 to 119). Meetings were held in the Australian Inland Mission Club, but during the hot months the Residency was made available.
Mrs. Bloomfield's Home
- Loves Creek -

Crossing Finke River
Goods carried from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs before Railway

Transport - The Old Way
Camels on the Gibber Plains
West Maitland (N.S.W.) and Tumby Bay (S.A.) branches gave
assistance which was greatly appreciated when the library
was started in that year with 160 books. The Library was
the chief interest of the branch for several years. Gift
magazines and papers were re-addressed to outback members
who were unable to attend monthly meetings, and when in
1936, 678 books were on the shelves, the branch Librarian,
Mrs. Chapman, ably assisted by Mrs. O'Connell, circulated
books to outback members as far as 335 miles South, 320
miles North, 170 miles East and 150 miles South-west, in
addition to the parcels of magazines and periodicals.

Handicrafts began in 1936 with Mrs. Cain
as the first instructor. The year 1939 was a particularly
interesting one for the handicraft enthusiasts. Demon-
strations included pottery-making, basket-weaving, suede
work, cane-weaving and organdie and felt flower making.
Pottery demonstrations were given by Miss Ann Mitchell of
Goodwood, S.A. In that year also was held the first of
the Ymas social and dance functions for outback members
who usually managed to be in town for the festive season.
This was so successful that the function was for many
years the big annual function of the year.

Hospital visiting and hostess duties by two
members each month, as we have today, began in 1937 and
the first C.W.A. Christmas tree is recorded in 1938. Before
that period Mrs. Norman Jones, who has resided in Alice
Springs for 42 years, started a Christmas tree for the three
white children and the mixed bloods in the township, also
sending gifts from the tree to the Hayes family at Mt. Burrell
(this over 30 years ago) and to all other children in the
district.

Mrs. Norman Jones
She carried on the good work alone till
A.I.M. Sisters arrived in 1926. They then assisted, with
Mrs. Carrington in 1927. As the population grew, after
the railway line was opened in 1929, the function became too
big for Mrs. Jones' backyard, it was held for a few years
in A.I.M. grounds, and later on "Hospital" lawns, the number
then reaching well over the hundred mark for whites alone
and all coloured children were catered for as well. The
C.W.A. members then carried on from 1938 to 1950.

Organisations in Alice Springs have now
decided to hold a combined tree for 1951, to prevent a
surfeit of parties for some and the oft reappearance of
Father Christmas, to the mystification of tiny tots.
Wartime brought changes in C.W.A. affairs as in all other activities. Many functions were arranged and all efforts made to assist the Red Cross, Comports Fund, and Ambulance Fund. Members served suppers at Griffith's House for servicemen and helped to raise money to provide amenities for the crews of H.M.A.S. "Arunta" and "Warramunga" to whom magazines and other comforts were also despatched. When these efforts were no longer necessary, we supported the Food for Britain, Fat for Britain, U.N.R.R.A. and U.N.A.C. appeals.

Through the years we have had many welcome visitors to our meetings; many of them have helped us considerably by telling us of activities in their own districts. Branch members have also been honoured to entertain Lady Dugan, Lady Huntingfield, Lady Hudd, and more recently H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester and Lady Norrie.

During 1946 negotiations began to acquire a building for our own use, and when this was achieved the former A.W.C. Recreation Hut became the C.W.A. Room. At the beginning of 1947 this room was loaned to the local Kindergarten Committee and has been used since then as a pre-school centre. Monthly meetings, evening functions, and handcrafts are being held in the building which now has lawns, trees, and attractive pathways adding considerably to the attractiveness of the newly painted structure.

This year, 1951, we celebrated our 18th birthday and looking back over the years we are perhaps justified in taking pride in the achievements of our branch. In the early days branch interests and activities were limited to some extent by isolation. Today distances have been greatly reduced by improved conditions of transport and communications and by taking advantage of these and continuing to honour our Creed——

Loyalty to the Throne,
Service to the Country,
Through Country Women,
By Country Women,
For Country Women,

we look forward to ever-widening interests and spheres of activities in which we may make many worthwhile contributions for the wellbeing of our fellows.
Presidents:

Mrs. W. Carrington 1933-38,
Mrs. G. Glass 1938-39,
Sister Inglis 1939-42,
Mrs. N. O'Brien 1942-43,
Mrs. J. Donnellan 1943-46,
Mrs. A. W. Driver 1946-47,
Mrs. V. Abberton 1947-48,
Mrs. G. Simpson 1948-49,
Mrs. S. Sneddon 1949-50,
Mrs. Prior 1950-51,
Mrs. Abberton 1950-51,
Mrs. E. Warton 1951-

Secretaries:

Mesdames Brown, McCoy, Cain, Hamilton, Anderson, Driver (M.A.), Ward, Warton, Kissel, Driver (J)
Coxon, Chalmers, Hargrave, Whittaker.

Treasurers:

Miss N. Taylor, Mesdames McCoy, Glass, Driver,
Merkle, Miss G. Randall, Mesdames Brinkworth,
McLean, Donnellan, Cughtred, Kennett.

Group President - Inglis Group:
Sister Inglis [Mrs. J. Donnellan 1945-8;]
(Mrs. K. Partridge 1948-51; Mrs. Donnellan 1951.
Banner Design Competition

On September 1925, a Competition was held throughout the State of S.A. among C.W.N. Branches for a Banner Design. These banners to be used on special occasions had to represent the locality of the Branch; yet be simple in design to enable them to be embroidered on material.

65 Branches compiled a list of designs which were judged by a panel of 8 judges — D.S. Branch. gained first prize with the entry submitted by Mrs. S.C. Sheaddon. The judges commented:

"Excellent design, very effective as a banner, will be wholly executed. Congratulations!"
Memories of Early Days.

Among our members we are happy and proud to have some of the pioneer women of the outback. One of them, Mrs. Bloomfield Senior, takes us with her to the "old days", when though "the life was a hard one, they were very happy times."

Mrs. Bloomfield says --

"My husband bought the property, Love's Creek, from a Mr. Wallis thirty-eight years ago. We married and started out on our new life together in a buggy for the MacDonnell Ranges nearly 400 miles from the railhead, Oodnadatta. The journey usually took thirteen or fourteen days, camping out at night unless we came to a station. Spare horses were driven along by native boys. At a station we would have a washing day if time permitted. Our cooking was done mostly at night -- usually damper cooked in the ashes, and boiled corned meat. Space was scarce for much loading.

Sometimes the weather would try -- heat, dust, thunderstorms and sometimes rain. Heavy rains would delay us making roads boggy and causing creeks to flood. I have been a month on the road, when running creeks forced us to pitch camp and wait for the flood-waters to go down. Quick sands, in the creeks too were dangerous, as the horses would bog badly. Flies and mosquitoes and sand flies were the usual pests especially after rain.

"My first home was a little two-roomed hut in the hills, away from all civilized life. My nearest neighbours were thirty miles on one side, and forty on the other. The building was of stone carted from the
hills around. My husband burnt the lime for mortar, and the pine timber was dragged in from the hills. This pine, white-ant resisting, was used for the door and window frames. Having no refrigerators or anything in the way of modern conveniences we used a rough wooden structure covered with bag or hessian, with a tin tray on top filled with water from which pieces of flannel or bag hung down to keep the hessian wet. Our furniture was mostly packing cases used for cupboards.

"When I arrived at my home to be, I was met by an old man cook and a coloured girl who in time to come was my only companion, and a very faithful one too. When my first baby came prematurely while my husband was many miles away from home, and I had no means of communicating with him except by letter delivered by a black boy, the native girl attended me while I read directions from a mothercraft book. I still have that old book.

"We were so isolated that few people ever called — those who did were mostly men. On the whole the children kept well. The nearest medical aid was 400 miles away, so we had to rely on homenursing and first aid. The long journey to Oodnadatta had to be made when a baby was expected, and the return journey with a young baby was trying at times. The many different types of well water along the road would cause upsets and worry.

"Our stores were brought up by camel from the railhead, and usually took five or six weeks to arrive. They came once a year, generally during the winter. Sometimes supplies ran low and the weevils caused extensive damage. Most foods were ordered by the case or ton —
cases of jam and tons of flour. Flour and oatmeal, raisins and such foods which the weevils destroy, presented the chief problem of storage. Fresh fruit was quite unheard-of, and we could have a vegetable garden only when seasons permitted, as the water at the station was very highly mineralized and the seeds would not germinate without rain. We had potatoes and onions when they were available.

"Our mail was monthly, and came by camel. A tin trunk, nailed in a tree five miles from the homestead was our mailbox. We usually rode a horse or camel down to the main road to get the mail-bag which was bag sealed at the Post Office -- then at the old telegraph station. Day of days was mail-day! Papers were a month old, but they were news.

"Alice Springs was then a very small town. There were two general stores, one hotel, several little old shacks, and the Post Office and Telegraph Station about two miles distant. The only white women in the town were Mrs. Jones who was at the Stuart Arms Hotel, and Mrs. Freer at Raggatt's store. Mrs. Bradshaw was at the Post Office where her husband was Post-master. Later there was Mrs. McKay out there. Mrs. Nicker was in the district but not settled in the town. Seasons permitting, Chinese Hong grew vegetables which were a luxury. (Hong is a resident of Alice Springs today).

"Our only amusement was a picnic race-meeting held in Alice Springs at Xmas time. This fixture also depended on the season as all the horses were grass fed. People came from far and near. Bough sheds were made on the course for shelter from the sun and although there was
no tote nor any bookmakers, we would have "sweeps" and everyone would have a very happy time. It was very pleasant to meet again all the old friends whom we had not seen for perhaps twelve months or more. We made our own fun. Most popular was the dancing — on a camp canvas sheet pegged down to the ground very securely, and with accordion or gramophone music. Out at the station our only outings would be a drive or ride into the bush.

"My husband did his own droving. All stock for market had to be walked to Oodnadatta. With horses this took about three weeks, and with cattle five to six weeks. While my husband was away, I was left alone with a native girl and a native man whose job was to care for the water for the stock. These lonely times were not without some anxious moments. Snakes crawling about, strange natives sneaking around to steal meat or whatever they could and the loneliness, made the time of waiting seem longer than it really was. We usually had a good watchdog to give an alarm. When disturbed the natives were expert at getting away quietly.

"That first little soul who came to share our home at such an inconvenient time, stayed with us only a few days. Then my husband had the sad task of burying it on the station. Other children came, and when they were old enough we had a teacher to supervise their school lessons which came by mail each month. Once a year an A.I.M. padre would travel on camel from station to station, holding simple services and giving the children religious instruction. Mr. Bruce Ploughman was our padre for five or six years. The children on the stations were usually
baptized on these occasions -- I still have the sugar basin which was used during the simple ceremonies.

"In those days we were not able to order very great quantities by post as there was a 7 lb. limit and on some occasions only one pound was permitted. This was during the bad seasons when the camels were poor and weak. This inconvenience however was a minor one. We felt our isolation most when accident or sickness came. Then our only means of getting medical advice was to travel to Alice Springs and telegraph to Darwin or Oodnadatta for instructions. Of course there were times when such aid was not sufficient and then the long journey to Oodnadatta would be taken by buggy. On one occasion I had to go away to get treatment for very serious eye trouble. My husband's sister came up by buggy to look after my two children while I had a long stay in Adelaide for medical treatment.

"As I look around our modern little town today I realize that great progress has come to the centre since those days when we lit our slush lamps when darkness came. Perhaps I should explain a slush lamp. Kerosene was scarce and only came once a year; quite often the tins would be damaged in transit and the kerosene would have leaked away before the loading arrived at the station. It was therefore necessary to improvise quite often and we found the best method was to use those things which were always on hand -- a tin, some sand, and fat. When the light began to fail we poured in a little more fat!

"Many of the old friends and acquaintances of those days have passed on now. I remember George Wilkinson the store-keeper, known
affectionately to many as "the bushman's friend"; Sergeant Stott, a fine
man who entered into all sport and was a friend to everyone. There was
Jim Baker the storekeeper, Mr. McKay and Mr. Allchurch, postmasters,
Mr. Scott and Mr. Welton who owned the Stirling Station, Mr. Webb of
Mt. Riddock Station, Mr. Cavenagh who succeeded Mr. O'Grady as mine
manager at Arltunga then a dying mining town where a little gold was being
won with great hardship. Water was the big problem at Arltunga then—
Bores were unheard-of in those days. With only camels to transport the
heavy gear it would have been very expensive business. I went to the
Arltunga race meeting one year. I was the only white woman there, and
shall never forget that day. The men built a brush shelter for me, and
so that I could see the races in comfort they pulled a buggy level with the
finishing post for me to sit in. I was treated like a duchess. Those
old bushies were rough after years of hardship and loneliness, but when
a woman was about they did all they could to make her happy and comfortable,
and in many little ways to show her how much her presence was appreciated.

"As I look around the Alice today with its nice homes, lawns and
gardens, electric supply which makes so many modern conveniences possible,
schools, churches, train and plane services, wireless and Transceiver,
cars and bitumen roads, I am aware that the pioneering days as we knew
them, have gone. My husband has gone and my children are now married
with families of their own, but as I enjoy their company and the comfortable
conditions of living out-back today, memories of those old days are ever
with me. They were happy days. Life has been very worth-while."
We are most grateful to Mrs. Bloomfield for sharing with us her memories of the early days. In giving us the story of her own experiences, she has given us the story, different only in detail, of all the other fine women who pioneered this country. We who come after them, reaping where they have sown, must always be aware of the hardships they bore and the sacrifices they made. May we always be worthy to accept and pass on, the inheritance which they have given us.

Very truly they had -

Hearts to resolve,
Heads to contrive, and
Hands to execute.

The roar, and rush, and fever of the city died away.
And the old-time joys and faces -- they were gone for many a day;
In their place the lurching coach-wheel, or the creaking bullock chains,
O'er the everlasting sameness of the never-ending plains.

(G. E. Evans).
Tempe Downs Homestead
- 1943 -

Flood Waters Flow

Mustering Team

The Track is Steep
Tempe Downs is a cattle station situated 150 miles southwest of Alice Springs. It was first taken up by Patheson and Chewings and the first manager was a Mr. Thornton. I believe that the natives were troublesome in the early days but to-day all is peaceful and quiet.

The walls of the old original Homestead are still standing after 40 years, twelve miles from the present homestead site. These are on the banks of the Walker Creek which runs into the Palmer, a tributary of the Finke.

Situated five miles from the Palmer is the very pretty Illara Springs flowing for four miles and there are many beautiful rocks and caves. King's Creek, Kathleen, Stokes, and "The Bagott" are believed to have been named by the explorers in the early days.

Transport to Tempe Downs is much improved nowadays. We can leave Alice Springs after breakfast and be home that evening. On the way we pass through Reno's Rock, 60 miles from Alice Springs and then on through Henbury, a well-known cattle station on the Finke. The beautiful water hole there is a sight good to behold. There also is the brass plate to the memory of the early pioneers of the Finke.

(More details earlier).

Mrs. Roper was the first white woman to live at Henbury. I was the second and went there in 1926 with my husband and two small sons, my husband then being the manager. Mrs. Rawlins was the first white woman at Tempe Downs, and I am the second. I like Tempe, nestling among the
hills and ranges it is an ideal spot and fascinating, after so much flat
country.

I would like to mention how much we appreciate the Pedal
Wireless set, the Flying Doctor Service and the kindness and courtesy
of Mr. E. J. Connellan who has done so much to bring the outback nearer
to the centre of things.

mrs J. O'Brien
INDUSTRIES.

PASTORAL.

From the earliest day the pastoral industry has been the chief industry of the Northern Territory -- and therefore of the district with which this folio deals.

South Australia's northern areas were settled by Pastoralists early in that State's history, and the first stock to be driven into the Northern Territory probably came from those northern regions a few years after Stuart's successful penetration to the centre. Then when the construction of the O.T. line began in 1869, mobs of cattle were sent ahead with drovers, to supply meat for the construction parties, and later for the linesmen and operators. Others soon followed with their herds to establish the pioneer stations of the inland.

Unfortunately, successive Administrations failed to foster the industry in the Northern Territory, though much time, money, and labour was expended on other adventures. Until quite recently, the total staff for the administration of the Northern Territory pastoral industry has never exceeded one professional man, with the Police acting as ex officio stock inspectors. This is all the more amazing in view of the fact that the value of pastoral production has, at least since 1907, always been in the order of 90 per cent of the total production.

The difficulties experienced by the early pastoralists, are mentioned by Mrs. Bloomfield in her story of the early days. The extension to Alice Springs, in 1929, of the railway made it possible to
CATTLE awaiting Water at BORE.

EARMARKING CATTLE.
bring into the country such heavy equipment as boring plants, windmills, tanks and vehicles, and facilitated the transport of stock to southern markets.

After World War II, during which the Army had imposed veterinary administration and control, the Commonwealth Government agreed to the appointment of a civil veterinary staff of seven professional men, and more recently of five lay stock inspectors. The Chief Veterinary Officer of the Animal Industry Division of the Northern Territory Administration now has control of the administration of everything which pertains to the industry. This includes disease control, research, stock routes and travelling stock, meat industry and meat inspection, dairies, dingo control, stock husbandry and extension work. On a square mile of good land four miles south of Alice Springs the Northern Territory Animal Industry Research Institute is to be established with equipment and staff capable of attending to the problems of the pastoral industry. Here too provision will be made to make it possible for visiting scientists to work on problems of common interest.

We are grateful to Mr. A. L. Rose, O.B.E., E.D., B.V.Sc., the chief veterinary officer, Animal Industry Division, N.T., who made available "Problems Confronting Animal Industry in North Australia" from which the following extracts will be of interest to readers.

"When the early pioneers arrived in North Australia with their mobs of cattle which had been driven over little-known country for a period of months or even years, they settled on good pastoral lands where at least some permanent water was either available or could be easily
obtained by well-sinking. Subsequently, the cattle were contained in these areas by the necessity for remaining near the water. This principle has been enlarged and developed so that today cattle are held on a given area by bores or water-holes and not by fences. But the isolation of different lots of cattle according to waters is not absolute because with the coming of the first storms in the early summer, all cattle break and there is a complete admixture of all types of cattle on a given lease, and also a complete admixture of cattle from adjoining leases, and even some more distant.

"A real effort has been made on many leases to provide adequate water, mainly by boring. Primary production has been entirely free from taxation since 1937 and cattle values have been extremely high. Unfortunately, however, during the war and post-war periods it has been nearly impossible to secure materials for property improvement and development. In spite of these difficulties, during the last eighteen months a large number of bores have been sunk on leases, and there are indications that most lessees are anxious to press on with progressive programmes of fencing and water supply. Waters are usually provided at intervals of about ten miles, which means that as feed becomes scarce around the water, the cattle move out as far as four or five miles daily for feed. The effect of this is not as bad as may be imagined, because with the coming of the storms the cattle break away from the fixed waters and utilize the reserves of feed which have been entirely unstocked because they have no water during the dry season of about eight months.
"Cattle are worked with one or more stock plants, according to the size of the lease. These plants are entirely mounted and living gear and working gear is carried on pack horses, the total number of horses in a plant being from thirty to sixty. These plants are extremely mobile and move about from place to place carrying out mustering, branding, castration and spaying. The head stockman of this plant must be an excellent horseman, a good manager of half-castes and aboriginals (who are employed by many stations as stockmen under white supervision usually) have a sound knowledge of cattle and all the operations of their management, and must be honest and conscientious."

The following extracts from an article by Mr. Rose published in "THE CHRONICLE STUD STOCK SUPPLEMENT" 1949 are of interest:

"There are as yet only two primary industries of significant importance, (in the N.T.) these being the beef cattle industry, which represents about 86 per cent of the total annual production, and mining which accounts for the balance of 14 per cent."

"The stock routes as they stand today mark the line of progression of the early settlers as they moved from water to water; but now the shallow wells and uncertain waters of the early days have given place to bores which are equipped with modern machinery such as can be delivered only by modern transport methods."

"The annual turn-off in cattle is at present about 120,000 head and it is probable that this figure can be doubled, and the quality of the cattle improved by the introduction of better systems of cattle
management; by the construction of new bores, fencing and other refinements; by a closer investigation and control of animal diseases and by the provision of transport facilities."

Regarding cattle diseases, Mr. Rose continues:

"The cattle of Central Australia are probably just as healthy as those in any State of the Commonwealth, while the cattle leaving the more northern areas are subjected to rigid scrutiny, innoculations and dippings before they leave the Territory to enter bordering States."

Of the Fencing Problem he says:

"The provision of boundary and subdivision fences, yards and other refinements is a greater problem in the Territory than elsewhere, firstly, because of the huge areas to be enclosed; secondly, because of the long distances and poor transport; and thirdly, because there is even less good labor available than is offering in the States."

Summing up, Mr. Rose comments:

".........Good modern transport is, above all things, the one requirement that will put the Northern Territory on a better basis. Efficient transport will bring in the developmental requirements necessary to put the leases into full production and the same transport will just as surely take out to the centres of consumption the produce of the land."
Prospecting for mineral wealth probably began very early in our history when the construction of the Overland Telegraph line began in 1869 and drovers in charge of mobs of cattle sent to feed the construction parties made their way north. The railway from the south reached Oodnadatta about 1889. Adventurous men who had followed the railway construction went further afield prospecting the country, and it seems that the earliest discovery of alluvial gold was in 1887 at Paddy's Rockhole (Arltunga). This and the report of rubies being discovered in the bed of the creeks flowing south from Harts Range caused the South Australian Government to send geologist Mr. H. L. Brown to Arltunga in 1888. This discovery of the beautifully coloured stones which were believed to be oriental rubies caused a sensation. Hundreds of claims were taken up, 24 companies and syndicates were formed and large consignments were loaded on to camels and taken to Oodnadatta. Before these loads reached the railhead the acid test had been applied to those samples which had first reached Adelaide. They were garnets and of no value as gems!

Mr. Brown visited Alice Springs and Arltunga again in 1890 and 1896. On the latter occasion he journeyed out about 200 miles east-north-east from Alice Springs to examine the mica deposits (Harts Range). His maps show the route through Arltunga, the Harts Range, across the Plenty River and well out towards what is known as Jervois Range where copper is mined today. On these maps also can be seen the Overland
Telegraph line by way of Temple Bar Gap along the Simpson Gap Creek, north of Mt. Gillen to the original station. Undoolya and Old Love's Creek Station are also shown. The Colgarna mica mine was being worked then (the largest book of mica then found had measured 6 ft. x 5 ft. x 4 ft.) and a mine north of the Plenty River was being opened up. This mine is now known as the Mica King.

In 1896 there were 25 miners at Arltunga, and the small privately owned Huntingdon Mill crushed about 600 tons for about 730 ozs. of gold. After the geologist's visit the South Australia Government decided to erect a 10 stamp battery and a cyanide plant there, power being provided by a large Cornish or Lancashire type of boiler. The cartage of this boiler, the heavy battery boxes with stamps and other materials from Oodnadatta by horse teams was no easy task but the difficulties of the journey from Alice well north-east across the Todd to Arltunga south, were overcome and the battery began crushing. Available records of crushings at the Arltunga Government Battery are fragmentary but from February 1898 when the battery started till May 1903, over 4,300 tons had been crushed for 5080 ozs. gold bullion valued at £18,825. White Range was really a part of the Arltunga field and records show that crushings from various mines on White Range yielded about 1,2000 ozs. worth £44,000 from 900 tons of ore. Mine workings became deeper, individual crushings from mines became smaller and less frequent until at last the battery closed down. Very little ore was crushed after 1913. The battery lay idle for well over 23 years and eventually the battery boxes and stamps were sold and removed.
Alluvial gold was found at Winneke in 1902. There was a mild rush to the new field but production seems to have been small. At first the ore was taken to Arltunga for crushing but later a 10 head battery was erected with Government assistance. Available records show that to 1905 only 687 tons were crushed there for 932 ozs. of gold. Probably more was crushed but the heap of "tailings" shows that no large quantity was handled. Quite a number of now familiar names reveal that some of the miners remained and settled down as pastoralists.

Immediately after his visit to Arltunga and Plenty River in 1896, Mr. Brown went north to the Frew River and his map showing Murray Downs Station, Elkedra and Frew River Stations is of great interest. He did not find payable gold in this locality but his report was so encouraging that in 1900 a privately equipped prospecting party under the leadership of Mr. Allan Davidson went out to the Frew River country, passing over part of what is today known as Hatches Creek, via Kurinally and Coorundie (Kurundi) to the telegraph line at Bonny Well. His party went west, across the desert, and found gold bearing outcrops at Tanami, (August 1900) but being short of provisions, was compelled to return to the overland telegraph and thence to Adelaide. News of his discovery soon spread and prospectors some of whom came by way of Hall's Creek, ventured out to the site and obtained a few ozs. of gold. The South Australia Government sent a prospecting party under the leadership of Mr. F. R. George to investigate the country near the Peterman Ranges and from that locality they were to proceed north to Tanami. The story of
that expedition and the sad fate of its brave leader is told in the
newsprint headed "The Story of a Gallant Gentleman." (See page ?)

After George's death, Mr. W. R. Murray (Government Surveyor, South Australia) was sent from Adelaide to lead the party. The Tanami trip was abandoned and the party went north and north-east to the Frew River country to do more thorough exploration. One of the party was Dan Pedlar a prospector. When World War I came there was a strong demand for tungsten (used for hardening steel). Wolfram, the main source of tungsten was not well known then so samples were sent to various localities. One piece came to the Police Officer at Alice Springs and was shown to Dan Pedlar. Pedlar realised that the wolfram sample was the same material as that which Davidson's party had seen at Hatches Creek years before. The prospector was given £50 worth of rations to go by camel to Hatches Creek. He found wolfram at what is now the Pioneer Mine. Miners soon followed him, claims and leases were pegged and many scores of tons of wolfram valued at thousands of pounds were won and carted by camel to Alice Springs and Oodnadatta during World War I.

(A member at Hatches Creek has kindly sent in a description of that settlement and her impressions of life out there, while another has made available snapshots which should be of interest to readers). — Seefoto !

Wolfram was found in rich reefs at Wauchope Creek soon after Pedlar found it at Hatches Creek and large quantities of wolfram concentrates were sent abroad to be converted into tungsten-steel alloy.
Between the years 1907 and 1911 many prospectors arrived at Tanami from the north-west, Pine Creek, and other mining fields in the north of the Territory. It was estimated that in 1909 six months of intermittent work by a few men produced over 1000 ozs. of gold valued at about £4,000.

Until 1923-4 Laurie Brothers, held leases on this field but in more recent years Mr. and Mrs. Ken Harris.

The Granites gold rush took place in September 1932. The story of the mad rush to the diggings, the excitement, the journey out and the conditions under which the prospectors worked is graphically told by Ernestine Hill in "The Great Australian Loneliness" (chapter XXXV).

Water was scarce on the field, flies were plentiful and the general discomfort great. In less than a year only Mr. C. H. Chapman and his sons remained, obtaining mining leases over all the ground worth holding. Mr. Chapman being an experienced water-borer set to work to find a supply. A good one was obtained not far from the main show and has supplied sufficient for domestic and crushing purposes ever since. The light stamp batteries have crushed only a comparatively small tonnage of high grade ore but other large lodes have been found.

A year after the Granites rush came the Tennant Creek gold rush. Very rich ore was found not 200 yards from the Overland Telegraph where mailmen and packhorses had been passing regularly for over 60 years. Miners came to Tennant Creek from all directions but the greatest number
In September 1905 Mr. F. R. George was appointed by the South Australian Government (at that time controlling the N.T.) to lead a prospecting party to the Peterman Ranges and then to proceed northward to Tanami, where in 1906 Mr. A. A. Davidson had reported finding gold. Under George's leadership were the prospectors Hutton, Treloar, Fabian and Hall; Edginton, the camel driver, and two blackboys. The South-western corner of the Northern Territory has not been seen by a great number of white men even today, and forty-four years ago only a few of the adventurous spirits who set forth from the coastal settlements to explore the vast inland areas of the continent had penetrated that region. To this little-known part of the inland the 31-year-old George led his party, leaving Oodnadatta on September 13, 1905 and travelling by way of Todmorden Station in a north-westerly direction. It is difficult to understand why the party was sent on its hazardous journey to remote parts of the inhospitable region. The natives were generally timid, and the uncertainty of future supplies added to their anxiety as they made their way through dense mulga scrub, over rough stony country, finding here and there a deserted native camp and meeting occasionally a few of the nomadic natives who roamed in that inhospitable region. The natives were generally timid, and were treated kindly by the party, while the "boys" were able to induce them to come near the camp to receive presents of food or small articles. But on the night of December 6, soon after the weary men had retired, three natives attacked the camp. Hall was speared in the eye, and Fabian was wounded in the chest. George recorded, "Hall having the spear imbedded in his head, gave him the first attention. He was in great agony and kept asking us to pull the spear out. Found it had sunk into the eye socket right below the barb... The attempt to cut the barb gave him so much pain that I had to release it by cutting the eyelid with a razor. Although in great agony, he bore it manfully." Fabian's chest wound gave less trouble and responded to such treatment as the leader was able to give.

"Unfortunate Camp"

By December 21 the two wounded men were sufficiently recovered for the party to travel a short stage so they "left an unfortunate camp fervently hoping never to see it again." With two sick men, camels failing for lack of water and feed oppressively hot weather, heavy sandy country, flies and sore eyes troubling him George was "completely knocked up." When possible he called a halt on the slow arduous journey to rest his men of whom he wrote "I am exceedingly fortunate in the members of the party. They all recognise we are in a tight place and do their utmost without any murmur."

Passing north of Mt. Harris, across the sand hills to Andorrina Well, George led his party to Haast Bluff and then towards Glen Helen where after three months of severe hardship and privation they met Mr. Raggart and were greatly relieved to hear that there was plenty of feed and water at the station. George did not rest there but with Edginton and the blackboy Punch, started for Alice Springs with Hall "so that he may catch the coach to Adelaide and get medical advice, his eye giving him much trouble."

George's diary ends on March 27 when they camped near Jay Creek but W. R. Murray also of the Mines Department records that the party reached Alice Springs on March 31. George it is reported was "in no manner daunted, and full of hope that their troubles were past and success still lay ahead," but worn out with anxiety for the safety of his men and in poor health after the hardships of the journey, his body was unable to bear the strain of the illness which came with a change of water and diet. His death, on the morning of April 14 was a great shock to the other men who paid tribute to their leader's "unfailing courage and indomitable energy."

We may not have taken much notice of the small headstone which bears the name F. R. George, but now that we know the story we can also honour his memory.

Arduous Journey

Travelling in short stages at first to allow the heavily-laden camels to become accustomed to their loads, prospecting likely outcrops, dollying numerous samples dry-blowing for alluvial and finding little to encourage them in their search, the party moved on from one small rock-hole or soak to the next. Before long the summer heat, insufficient water and the uncertainty of future supplies added to their anxiety as they made their way through dense mulga scrub, over rough stony country, finding here and there a deserted native camp and meeting occasionally a few of the nomadic natives who roamed in that inhospitable region. The natives were generally timid, and were treated kindly by the party, while the "boys" were able to induce them to come near the camp to receive presents of food or small articles. But on the night of December 6, soon after the weary men had retired, three natives attacked the camp. Hall was speared in the eye, and Fabian was wounded in the chest. George recorded, "Hall having the spear imbedded in his head, gave him the first attention. He was in great agony and kept asking us to pull the spear out. Found it had sunk into the eye socket right below the barb... The attempt to cut the barb gave him so much pain that I had to release it by cutting the eyelid with a razor. Although in great agony, he bore it manfully." Fabian's chest wound gave less trouble and responded to such treatment as the leader was able to give.

"Unfortunate Camp"

By December 21 the two wounded men were sufficiently recovered for the party to travel a short stage so they "left an unfortunate camp fervently hoping never to see it again." With two sick men, camels failing for lack of water and feed oppressively hot weather, heavy sandy country, flies and sore eyes troubling him George was "completely knocked up." When possible he called a halt on the slow arduous journey to rest his men of whom he wrote "I am exceedingly fortunate in the members of the party. They all recognise we are in a tight place and do their utmost without any murmur."

Passing north of Mt. Harris, across the sand hills to Andorrina Well, George led his party to Haast Bluff and then towards Glen Helen where after three months of severe hardship and privation they met Mr. Raggart and were greatly relieved to hear that there was plenty of feed and water at the station. George did not rest there but with Edginton and the blackboy Punch, started for Alice Springs with Hall "so that he may catch the coach to Adelaide and get medical advice, his eye giving him much trouble."

George's diary ends on March 27 when they camped near Jay Creek but W. R. Murray also of the Mines Department records that the party reached Alice Springs on March 31. George it is reported was "in no manner daunted, and full of hope that their troubles were past and success still lay ahead," but worn out with anxiety for the safety of his men and in poor health after the hardships of the journey, his body was unable to bear the strain of the illness which came with a change of water and diet. His death, on the morning of April 14 was a great shock to the other men who paid tribute to their leader's "unfailing courage and indomitable energy."

We may not have taken much notice of the small headstone which bears the name F. R. George, but now that we know the story we can also honour his memory.
Gold Mine of "The Granites"--
The home of a branch member for 12 years. Note absence of vegetation!

Even more remote--
Gold Mine at Tanami
85 miles beyond The Granites.

M.N. L
2 x 2 deep out of
came by way of Alice Springs. All trade also was through Alice Springs so that about the middle of 1935 the train service which had been fortnightly from 1930 became a weekly one, though at first dining and sleeping cars were only on alternate trains.

Details of the rush, the growth of Tennant and the gold mines which exist today should be an interesting chapter in the folio of the Tennant Creek Branch. It is mentioned here only because of its influence on Alice Springs, the railhead town through which hundreds of gold seekers passed and by way of which all Tennant Creek stores pass today.

The mica deposits inspected by Mr. Brown in 1896 at Harts Range are approximately 170 miles north-east of Alice Springs. There are fifteen mica mines working there today and the mineral is transported to the railhead by truck over the graded road by which mails and freights arrive from Alice Springs. The majority of the 80 odd miners are Italians, working in steep hilly country under difficult conditions. Mica is worth about £2,000 a ton today, but apart from the lucky few, most miners in the area work hard to earn their living.

Mt. Palmer 3,700 feet and Mt. Brassey 3,780 feet are the two highest peaks in the range.

In May of this year this area was the scene of a discovery which has caused considerable interest and attention to be focused on the
MINING BOOM IN TERRITORY


One of the biggest mining booms in the history of the Northern Territory is in full swing. New and valuable fields are being discovered and old workings are being opened up again.

Several new towns have sprung up on the main fields and populations are increasing.

Government crushing batteries are working at top price to keep up with the large amounts of ore being brought in by prospectors.

Valuable finds of copper, tin and wolfram have been made in the Pine Creek area.

High prices are attracting miners to the fields and extensive surveys are being made by individual prospectors as well as the big companies.

The Minister for Territories (Mr. Hasluck) arrived here from Sydney yesterday announced that NT mineral production for the year ended June 30 was a record - £836,139.

Production of wolfram varies in accordance with the prevailing price, and during the year the price dropped from 180/- per unit to 100/- per unit.

"Mica mining, at the Harts Range and Plenty River fields has continued to be supported by the Commonwealth Mica Pool, controlled by the Department of Supply and Development. Production for the year was £79,541, an increase on the previous year.

"Gold continues to dominate the table of mineral production and the Warramunga (Tennant Creek) field still produces almost all the gold in the Territory. During 1948-49, 22,454 fine ounces of gold were produced, valued at £241,661. This is an increase of £82,935 over 1947-48. Increased production of gold is due to an output of 9,676 ounces of gold from Noble's Nob mine, which commenced treatment operations on their recently erected treatment plant."

In comparison with Tennant Creek, other goldfields in the Northern Territory produced 879 ounces between them, and of this total the Grapites yielded by far the major share with 776 ounces.

Comparative figures for the last two years for all minerals are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>1947-48</th>
<th>1948-49</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>£241,661</td>
<td>£158,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>£1,238</td>
<td>£91,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mica</td>
<td>£79,541</td>
<td>£54,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfram</td>
<td>£24,159</td>
<td>£48,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin</td>
<td>£10,093</td>
<td>£10,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>£1,373</td>
<td>£350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ochre</td>
<td>£2,600</td>
<td>£2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tantallite</td>
<td>£1,373</td>
<td>£350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Hasluck said that the upgrading of new fields would help in greater records being reached during the new financial year.

White patch in hillside denotes position of "Billy Hughes" Mica Mine - Waste Mica shows white.
district. Mr. Jack Crespan reported finding the uranium bearing mineral samaskite at his "Last Chance" mine, and geological parties who have inspected the locality have reported that this heavy, black quartzitic mineral occurs in several parts of the field. An area approximately 5,000 square miles is being investigated with the aid of Geiger counters which indicate the presence of radio-active minerals.

Among the first to investigate this interesting discovery were Mr. S. M. Sneddon, the Inspector of Mines in Alice Springs -- the first Inspector of Mines appointed in the Northern Territory in 1939, Mr. R. Dyson a geologist, and Mr. J. Daly, a geo-physicist. Further reports of this latest find will be read with interest when available.

This year, 1949, mineral production has reached a record figure for the Northern Territory. Gold accounted for more than half of the value of mineral produced, but copper showed an increase of twenty-three times the value of former production. Wolfram production declined. A recent statement released by the Minister for the Interior appended, gives latest figures of mineral production in the Northern Territory.
Kangaroo Hole. From here mining field obtains water supply.
Do you know what wolfram is? It is a hard black shiny element much heavier than lead and from it tungstic acid, used for hardening steel, is obtained.

Wolfram is the "be-all-and-end-all" of Hatches Creek. This mining field is about 300 miles north-east of Alice Springs and is reached either by air or by the road which runs eastwards from the main North-South road, branching off just north of Barrow Creek.

Hatches Creek is not a settlement with a main street. The various mines are scattered all up and down gullies and hills through which the creek itself meanders across the five miles of the field. There is a store and a post-office-cum-Police Station but they are quite a mile apart and not easily found by strangers. There is also a battery for crushing the ore at the Pioneer Mine but most mines are small shows worked by one or two miners with the help of aboriginal boys and few are of any great depth.

Wolfram varies in price but at present (1951) is worth approximately £1.00 a bag. It is not sent away in the rough state but has to be crushed, washed and jigged and then sewn into bags and despatched to the agents in Adelaide via Alice Springs.

There are at present only about 60 white people in Hatches and only five white women but there are eight children and the women manage
WOLFRAM CONCENTRATES
Ready to be bagged & sent away.

WOLFRAM bagged for
SHIPMENT -- WOLFRAM valued £20 bag
£400 per ton (1949)
£2,000
to have a few tea parties amongst themselves and all love the life.

Hatches Creek is a very pretty place for although the creek is dry for ten months of the year it is lined with beautiful big gums and dotted with lovely rockholes which hold water for practically twelve months. The one at the Eight-Mile Creek is a particularly big and beautiful one and a favourite spot for picnics and fishing.

Hatches Creek is surrounded by cattle stations — Elkedra on the South, Kurundi on the north and Murray Downs south-west.

The history of Hatches Creek dates back to earlier than 1914. Wolfram was sent away by camels during World War I. Since then the field has had its ups and downs including occupation by Chinese labour during the recent war, but the creek and waterholes, and the hills remain unchanging and beautiful through it all.

—Yes, the history of Hatches Creek does date back much earlier than 1914.

The first mob of cattle arrived at the Frew River in January 1889 having travelled for almost twelve months from Stuart Creek. In charge for the Willowie Pastoral Company was the late Mr. Bill Coulthard. With him were Ben and Tom Martin, Chris. Gooley, Tom Pierce, Alex Miller, Mick McInnerny, Dick Dobson, Joe Brown, Josh Hatch after whom Hatches Creek was named, and the sole surviving member Mr. George Hayes.

The late Mr. James Wickham was one of the early settlers at Hatches Creek having mined in that area during the days of World War I.

—Joan Deane
Early in 1927, the Rev. Jock Williams left Melbourne as part of a team of seven ministers whose commission was to scatter themselves throughout the northern parts of Australia. Mr. Williams eventually arrived in Alice Springs via Queensland and erected a tent on the banks of the Todd at the rear of Mr. Johannsen's residence where Northern Motors now stands. He did not stay long because he felt that the need of the Territory was a medical missioner. He already had his M.A. degree but asked for permission to return for further studies in order to come back as a qualified doctor. He was granted this and proceeded to England where he not only received his M.D. and other general medical degrees, but became known as a specialist in child psychology. Unfortunately an untimely death robbed us of his gifted service.

Rev. T. G. Lithgow of Queensland followed and he took in the present blocks in Bath Street and built a single room as a residence. By extensive patrol work Mr. Lithgow established the work of the Mission in every part of Central Australia.

Early in 1930 Rev. and Mrs. H. Griffiths arrived from Melbourne but proceeded to Katherine to care for all north of Tennant Creek Overland Telegraph Station. Christmas 1932 saw them back in the Alice to relieve Mr. Lithgow and to look after all the territory between Darwin and Oodnadatta. This they did till 1935 when Rev. K. Beckett came to Tennant Creek.
~ METHODIST HOSTEL ~

Where the lonely isolated bush children get their chance.

Situated HARTLEY ST., ALICE SPRINGS.

Over a million miles have been travelled by this Mission on wheels.

'ot-Missioner Lyons beside "Puss Moth" plane which we have taken in exchange for the "Fox Moth". It is appropriately named the "T. C. Rentoul".
The Methodist Church was opened in 1934 and was the first Protestant Church in the district. In 1936 the two blocks in Hartley Street were added and a scheme was launched in 1938 to erect a young people's and children's hostel. As the Mission was determined to erect and open this hostel free of debt it was not till 1940 that the work commenced. By this time war had come and the Mission decided to use the building to provide decent recreation facilities for the troops. As a soldiers' club we are proud of its record— it was a 'home from home' for thousands of young people. At the end of hostilities it reverted to its original purpose and today there are over forty young Australians getting their chance and being cared for by this Mission to the Outback.

Church work has steadily increased with the years and there is a need for further extension of the church building to cater for a Sunday School of nearly 100 scholars. The Committee of the Hostel also feels that another building is needed to meet the big demand for accommodation from all parts of the north.

Mr. Griffiths who left in 1941 for service as a padre in the Middle East received the appointment of director on the death of the late Rev. T. C. Rentoul. A change of policy of the Mission Board enables Mr. Griffiths to direct the Mission Field from Alice Springs instead of Melbourne. The Field covers about two-thirds of Australia.
In 1912 the Australian Inland Mission was formed by the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Rev. John Flynn was appointed Superintendent. That same year, Mr. Bruce Plowman offered his services and was appointed patrolling missionary. In 1913 he purchased a camel string at Oodnadatta and began patrolling from there to Tennant Creek, 600 miles to the northward. He was succeeded by Rev. K. F. Partridge M.A. who took over the camels in 1916, and was followed later by Rev. Coleedge Harland. Back again in 1930, Mr. Partridge resumed the patrol and has maintained it ever since.

In those early days, 1912-29 the Railway terminus was at Oodnadatta and transport from there to the Alice was fairly difficult, nevertheless these padres and John Flynn as Superintendent made frequent trips.

A Nursing Home had already been established at Oodnadatta in 1911, and three years later, in 1914-5, Sister Findlayson who had been in the nursing service under the A.I.M. at Oodnadatta travelled to the Alice and began a nursing service under the A.I.M. there. As no accommodation was available she lived for a month or so, in turn, with the few residents of the Alice.

This experiment was not continued after Sister Findlayson left, and it was not till 1916 that the next move was made to bring the A.I.M. as a permanent institution to the Alice.
-- A.I.M. Hostel --
Official Opening 26th June, 1926 by
Rev. Crookston, Mod: General
Also
Rev. A. Barber, R. Mitchell, David Chapman
& John Flynn (Flynn of the Inland)
Hostel Situated Todd St, Alice Springs

The Hostel complete with
Fence etc --
This move was a meeting held one night in June of that year in the back room of "Walfogs" old store. Sergeant Stott, George Wilkinson, Brownie the publican, Constable Sherman, Bert Wilkinson and K. F. Partridge. We formed ourselves into a committee with Sergeant Stott as President, and George Wilkinson as Secretary, and Treasurer; a subscription list was opened, £25 collected from the "crowd", and the Secretary authorised to make application to Darwin for a block of land on which to erect a Nursing Home. But it was not till August 1920 that the A.I.M. commenced building operations. Old Jack Williams, an Isle O'Man native, and an excellent stonemason who had already erected the Tempe Downs Homestead and built the Bond Springs dam, was started on the stone work.

As can be imagined building was a problem as all requirements had to be transported over the long miles from Oodna by camels. Progress was slow and at times ceased altogether. In 1925 a new contract was made with Mr. B. McLeod and the building was finished in August 1926 at a cost of £6,089. Of this amount £1,000 was a grant from the Home and Territories Department. It is only fair to mention that Rev. John Flynn was personally responsible for a large amount of the work. Thus the A.I.M. came to the Alice as a permanent institution.

The Home was opened with Sisters E. Small and I. Pope being appointed on 15th April, 1926, and ever since, except for the war years when the Army was in occupation, it has been staffed continuously.

In 1929 a Club building was erected in the grounds and here the padre and Sisters were able to conduct public worship and the ordinances of the Church, besides providing a meeting place for social activities.
Sisters' Duties
include Dentistry.
1930

1st Out Patient A.I.M. Hostel, A.S.
Sambo's fatty lipoma removed
local anaesthetic ~ ~ 1927/8

A.I.M. Hostel backyard - no wind
Sisters resorting to buckets & windlass for water supply 1926.
It is interesting to recall that way back in the 1920's the A.I.M. had its local committee at Alice Springs and such well known identities as Mrs. Standley, Mr. D. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Stott, Rieff, E. Allchurch. E. Noblit, J. C. Laywood, with Mr. G. H. Wilkinson as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, were amongst the membership. Later in the 1930's Messrs. V. Carrington, J. C. Lovegrove, L. McDonald, J. Lackman and P. Windle took up this work.

In 1927 the population was about 90, but with the completion and opening of the railway in 1929, there has been a considerable increase and in 1939, when the war broke out, it was estimated at 900.

It was during 1939, after lengthy negotiations with the Government that the present group of hospital buildings were erected to cater for the needs of the growing community. The A.I.M. had carried the burden of nursing the sick and injured for 15 years, but felt that the time had come when more adequate accommodation and facilities should be provided. The A.I.M. Home is now providing a great need as a convalescent and rest home for the women of the Inland.

The current project of the A.I.M. is the establishment of an Old Timers' Home on a site near Mt. Blatherskite, south of Alice Springs. Here, adjacent to a central administrative block, will be built small cottages to which the pioneer men of the inland may retire when they feel no longer able to contend with the rigours of bush life. Each cottage will be self-contained and the men will each be able to garden, keep fowls or do any other jobs which interest them, including the preparing of meals, if they so desire.
Such a scheme is surely on the same high plane as the A.I.M. hostels and the F. D. S.
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
FIRST RECTORY AT A.S.

THE PRESENT DAY C. OF E. WITH THE RECTORY BENEATH CHURCH.

THE CHURCH AND HOSTEL BUILDINGS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST - ALICE SPRINGS

INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH.

CHILDREN OF THE HOSTEL 1944.
An account of a journey made by Bishop Gilbert White from the Gulf of Carpentaria to Adelaide, in 1901, is recorded in his book "Twenty Years in Tropical Australia". The Bishop claims to have been the first minister of religion to have held a service at Alice Springs. The story of the next Anglican priest who visited the area is told (from the original diaries) by P. McD. Smith in "The Strenuous Saint". He tells of the journey made with horses, from Laura in Queensland through the Northern Territory and eventually south to Charlotte Waters, by the Rev. Father Wilkinson. Mr. Wilkinson held services and paid many calls during his stay in Alice Springs, and later emphasized the need for some definite work to be attempted by the Church.

It was not until nineteen years later, 1933, that the first Rector of Alice Springs, Rev. P. McD. Smith arrived. The Church and the Rectory was dedicated in 1936. Since then a new hostel to provide a home for children from out-back areas for school purposes has been opened. This fine two-storied building, to accommodate forty, was dedicated in 1945 -- St. John's Hostel. Besides this, there is a hostel for coloured children under the direction of the Church of England. St. Mary's Hostel is part of a property of some 400 acres purchased from the Australian Comforts Fund by the Australian Board of Missions. The long-term plan is to establish --
Ready for school, these children are taken & called for by Sister Eileen. School is 6 miles away.

Approach to the Hostel.

Pleasant scene at St. Mary's.

Sister Eileen Heath.
a. A Home for half-caste children,
b. A Centre of social life for the half-caste community,
c. A place for training adolescent half-caste girls and boys in domestic and rural arts or trades,
d. A place where a few half-caste families may settle on an acre or two and make a living by poultry farming or market gardening.

So far the Home for the half-caste children is as far as the scheme has progressed. Sister Eileen Heath is Deaconess of St. Mary’s and is doing fine work with patience and understanding, in training the fifty children who are under her care and guidance. Recently Sister Eileen was quoted as saying — "At school they learn the three 'R's'. Our task is to teach them the fourth 'R' — the most important and, I think, the most difficult, at least for half-castes to learn — responsibility!"
HERMANNSBURG MISSION

LESSON TIME AT THE MISSION.
Seventy-two years ago in 1877, the Finke River Mission, at Hermannsburg was founded by German missionaries, who came under the sponsorship of the Lutheran Church of South Australia. It would be most interesting to read the details of that first journey when sixteen young missionaries with 33 horses, 17 head of cattle and 3,100 sheep set out from Bethany, 40 miles from Adelaide on the arduous journey which was to take nearly twenty-one months to complete.

Kempe and Schwarz and their lay helpers had many difficulties to overcome in those first years, and not the least of these was the problem of finance. Being seven hundred miles from Pt. Augusta, the nearest rail-head freight charges were very high and records show that the cost of transporting such goods as flour etc. was as high as £47 per ton, and even up to £75 per ton, while the journey took anything from five to ten months, according to the season. It is not surprising that after 13 years both missionaries and their families returned to South Australia broken in health. But the Mission had been established and the Aranda language learnt, reduced to writing, and the work of translation started.

The Rev. C. Strehlow, a great linguist and research worker, and a man of commanding personality, followed and during the twenty-eight years of his service the native Christian congregation grew. The New Testament was translated in full into Aranda by the Rev. Strehlow, and
although only portion of this work has been printed it is hoped that soon the whole of the New Testament will be printed in Aranda.

[The cattle industry was established at Hermannsburg in the early years, but lack of an adequate water supply was a problem which became more acute during the drought years in the late nineteen-twenties and early thirties. The Rev. Mr. Albrecht who has been Superintendent since 1926 realized that there was little hope of successful work being done while the Mission was dependent upon water carted by camel, and was keen to have a pipe line from the Koprilja Springs, 4½ miles distant to Hermannsburg. Thanks to the interest of the Misses Teague, two artists from Melbourne, sufficient money was raised to finance the project and the pipe-line was laid in 1935. Today the water from Koprilja gravitates to the 44,000 gallon tank which provides water for many purposes including the vegetable garden project which has been a great success providing carrots, beetroot, kohlrabi, cabbages, cauliflowers and tomatoes almost all the year round. It is significant that since these foods have been available the birthrate has exceeded the deathrate every year except one, and outbreaks of scurvy have ceased.

About seventeen years ago a tanning industry was established to treat the hides of the cattle killed for meat, and the kangaroos caught for the same purpose. Hermannsburg boots, shoes, slippers, mats and rugs are well-known today for their fine workmanship and durability. Besides providing boots for the Mission workers, the industry provides work and a little money for the natives. Another industry which developed rapidly was mulga work decorated at first with poker work and
later with water colours. One of the first natives to work on mulga was the now world famous water colourist Albert Namitjera whom Mr. Rex Battarbee of Melbourne helped and encouraged. Other native artists whose paintings are keenly sought are Oscar (son of Albert) Walter Ebatarinja, Otto, Reuben and Edwin Pareroultja.

As an institution under the Child Endowment Act, the Mission receives the endowment for all children under 16 years under its care — about 160. This has made it possible to add variety to the diet, to increase the rations to women and children and to make some improvements of facilities for food preparation.

Besides the regular "baby welfare" day, there are regular school days at the Mission. A fully qualified teacher takes the three lower grades in the mornings, and the four upper grades in the afternoon, teaching in both English and Aranda.

Other depots which have been established under the administration of the Finke River Mission have prevented the general drift of the natives into the settled areas. These are the Haast's Bluff and Areyonga depots established in 1941 and 1944 with native populations of approximately 450 and 250 respectively.

Today Hermannsburg is a "must" on the itinerary of the many tourists who visit the Centre, and those who are able to visit the Mission are impressed not only by the fine work being done, but also by the genial hospitality of the people who are so earnestly trying to help the natives to make the transition from a nomadic life to the white man's way of life.
- Roman Catholic Church -

Alice Springs -

At the ARLTUNGA Mission.

Group includes Bishop Csell, Sr M. Columbanus, Sr M. Kevin, four boarders & some of the Blacks.

~ Easter 1940 ~
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

At the request of Monsignor Gsell (Vicar Apostolic of N.T., and later elected Bishop) a priest was first stationed at Alice Springs in 1929. He was Rev. J. Long, M.S.C of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Kensington, New South Wales. With volunteer labour he built the stone church in Hartley Street, and the two-roomed presbytery adjacent.

In 1935 Rev. P. Maloney M.S.C succeeded Father Long. A more adequate mission station was established for the Natives on the banks of the Todd a little distance from the town, and Father Long received valuable assistance from the devoted Mr. Frank McGarry in this section of his charge. During the war the Aboriginal Mission was shifted to Arltunga.

The year 1938 saw the advent of the Sisters, the Daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart, from Sydney, and the school was opened.

From 1939 till 1949 the parish was in charge of Rev. H. Easter, M.S.C. During Father Easter's term of office a new presbytery was built, the convent and boarding school completed, and additions made to the primary school. Today there are 65 boarders, and 140 on the roll-call. Another valuable addition to the parish was the parish hall -- erected by the Catholic soldiers during the war.

The original church, built by Father Long, is now quite inadequate for the Sunday Masses, and the Hall is used for this purpose.
It is hoped that soon an up-to-date kindergarten and infants' school will be built and later, a new church.
COMMUNICATIONS and TRANSPORT

The Overland Telegraph line, the coming of the railway, the modes of transport of the early days -- camel, horse, wagon, etc. -- have been mentioned before. The road northward, today known as the Stuart Highway, was at first a track from one Overland Telegraph Station to the next with stock routes where bushmen decreed, branching off. Later this became a road, but not until World War II was the Territory to see a bitumen highway. Though built as a war-time necessity this road is no less valuable to the economic development of our country in peace. Today heavily laden trucks, semi-trailers and road-trains speed north and south with stores and equipment, and mineral and station produce which is the wealth of our land. Cattle transport by road-train is yet in its early stages but that it may solve one of the problems of our major industry is the belief of Mr. K. Johanssen who pioneered this transport service.

Plane services are so much a part of the routine that it is difficult sometimes to realize that only in February 1937 was the Adelaide-Darwin route surveyed and a weekly return service opened by Guinea Airways Limited. In February 1939 three trips a week were made, then frequencies increased until 1943 when six services per week were operated because of the large number of Service personnel stationed in the Darwin area. After the war, the one-day trip Adelaide to Darwin and return to Adelaide the following day was inaugurated.
South Bound "Ghan" of The Gap

Camels at Work

--- Boring Plant on "The Track" ---
Trans Australia Airlines commenced flying between Adelaide and Darwin in November 1947 and with the commencement of the Government Airline, Guinea Airways who pioneered the service, were prevented from continuing.

Today Darwin has four services and Alice Springs five services weekly to Adelaide. The Monday morning service connects with Adelaide Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Tasmania. This made it possible recently for a station owner's wife to leave her seemingly isolated home 150 odd road miles from Alice Springs at 9 a.m. and arrive in Melbourne before 10 p.m. of the same day, a journey which by road and rail would have taken at least five days. An average of ten passengers daily reveals a willingness to use this modern method of transport which does so much to lessen "the miles that lie between."
~ Modern Transport of Cattle by Road "Train" ~
~ 1949 ~
SCHOOLING.

Thanks to Mr. T. Kissel for dates and figures.

Alice Springs has become the schooling centre of an area far larger than that of our C.W.A. area. Pupils attending the Alice Springs Higher Primary School and the Catholic School come from as far away as Wyndham and Derby in the northwest, Camooweal in Queensland, and Oodnadatta in South Australia. This is possible because the hostels of the Methodist Inland Mission and the Church of England, and the Convent provide accommodation for children of school age, while St. Mary's Hostel provides similar facilities for half-caste children.

The first school was situated at the rear of the block on which the police station stands. Ida Standley was the first teacher to be appointed to this school (on 6th May, 1914). Mrs. Standley came from Buchofelde in South Australia and until March 25th, 1929 she devoted her time to the white and coloured pupils who enrolled. Unfortunately there are no records available of the early years, but the first entry in the present oldest register is that of Milton Liddle, July, 1917.

His Parent or Guardian is given as "Government".

The school was originally called Stuart but changed in 1924 to Alice Springs and again in 1945 to Alice Springs Higher Primary when secondary work began. The average annual attendance for 1917 was 40.7. This increased steadily till 1942 to 76.1, but since 1945 when higher primary pupils were enrolled the average has grown from 126.5 to
236 in March 1949, when the staff consisted of Headteacher, three male assistants and five female assistants.

The "new" school was occupied late in 1929 when Miss Pearl Burton who succeeded Mrs. Standley vacated the temporary iron building which occupied the corner near where Quee's shop now stands. Additions have been made to accommodate the increased enrolments but the present site and school are quite inadequate. Recently members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works took evidence on the need for a new school in Alice Springs, and condemned the building in use at present. In the not-too-distant future it is hoped that there will be in the Anzac Hill area, a modern school which will offer to the children of the inland facilities equal to those available to their city cousins.

Today as from the early days of settlement, there are children who receive their lessons from the Correspondence School of South Australia. Too much praise for the splendid work done by the staff of this school could not be given. This "mail-bag" schooling requires supervision by the parents, (generally the mother) or by a person engaged as a governess. It presents certain difficulties, especially when it is the mother who teaches and the children are in various grades, but Radio lessons add variety and interest nowadays, while pupils are also supplied with library books from both the Correspondence School Library and the Children's Lending Library of South Australia.

Boarding allowances are payable to parents or guardians of children living away from home to attend schools in Alice Springs and
this does help, but schooling for children whose homes are in remote places remains a problem -- a problem which must be solved if the family group is to be the basis of increased population in the area.

Head Teachers, appointed by the South Australian Education Department, who have been in charge of the Alice Springs School are:

- Mrs. Standley M.B.E. 1914 - 1929
- Miss Pearl Burton 1929 - 1933
- Miss Nance Taylor 1933 - 1936
- Miss May Robb 1936 - 1937
- Mr. Donald Quinn 1938 - 1940
- Mr. Leslie Dodd, B.A. 1941 - 1947
- Mr. Norman Haines, B.A. 1948 - 1949
- Mr. Kenneth Rudd, B.A., Dip.Ed. 1949 -

Pre-school Education is in its infancy in the Territory. The establishment of a Free Kindergarten in the C.W.A. room by the local Kindergarten Committee and the intention of the Roman Catholic Mission to build a Kindergarten have been mentioned elsewhere. Though new, the Kindergarten movement has received generous support from all sections of the community. In charge of the Kindergarten since it was established is Miss Pat Kempe, daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. E. Kempe, of Macumba Station (S.A.).
The aborigines of the Northern Territory like those in most other parts of Australia, did not resist the coming of the white man to their lands. In a few instances clashes occurred as at Barrow Creek in 1874, at Wigley Waterhole, on George's trip in the Western MacDonnell's, and at Brooks's Soak in 1926 when Frederick Brooks was murdered. No doubt there were others, some well-known, and others known only to the courageous, adventurous men who wandered far from the out-posts of settlement. But in general the native seems either to have ignored the white settlers or remained to become the friendly if not very reliable, assistants of the pioneer whites. That some of the men and the lubras were friends-in-need to the pioneers is well-known.

Today the aborigines are under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Government. There are about 14,000 full bloods in the Territory and of these many are on the missions and reserves. Besides the Finke River Mission, the Roman Catholic Mission at Arltunga, and the Haast's Bluff centre, there is the Areonga Mission and the Baptist Union Mission at Yuendumu about 190 miles north-west of Alice Springs. Figures from the Aborigines Friends Associations' Annual report give approximately 5,000 natives in supervised camps at missions, about 3,000 in outside employment, and the remaining 7,000 as either nomads or relatives of those employed. The majority of those employed work on cattle stations.
under supervision. Recent conferences at Alice Springs and Darwin agreed to substantial improvements in conditions of employment and wages for the aborigines while the various missions are receiving child endowment from the Commonwealth Government.

The original Telegraph Station at Alice Springs is today a compound for those natives employed in the town area.
DINKUM AUSSIES

—Courtesy National Museum, Melbourne
Pupils & Teachers lined up ready for Royal Visit
23rd August 1946
Alice Springs H.P.
School Buildings in background

Mr Anthony Eden
congratulates
Mildred McGuiness
at Alice Springs.

1949
Alice Springs has become the schooling centre of an area far larger than that of our C.W.A. Area. Pupils attending the Alice Springs Higher Primary School and the Catholic School come from as far away as Wyndham and Derby in the North-west, Camooweal in Queensland, and Oodnadatta in South Australia. This is possible because the hostels of the Methodist Inland Mission and the Church of England, and the Convent provide accommodation for children of school age, while St. Mary's Hostel provides similar facilities for coloured children.

The first school was a small stone building situated at the rear of the block on which the Police Station now stands. Sergeant Stott applied officially for a school, and Mr. Sam Nicker who had journeyed south interviewed the then Minister for the Interior, Mr. Patrick McMahon Gllnn). As a result of their joint efforts the school was established. The school furniture was made locally by Mr. Sigimund, who also erected the building.

Mrs Ida Standley was the first teacher to be appointed. She came from Buchefelde in South Australia, and was escorted from the railhead at Oodnadatta by a Police Officer, Mr. "Trot" Kunoth. They made the long journey by horse and buggy, and the school was opened in June, 1914, with an attendance of twenty-five pupils. They were Dempsey Hong, Gordon Stott, Malcolm Stott, Tessa Betts, Katie Williams, Don Stewart, Mort Conway, Tom Williams, Dick Gillen, Maude Smith, Sonny Crooks, Doreen Crooks, Claude Nicker, Cameron Stott, Jack Cooper, Ada Hong, Essie Simpson, Amy Colley, Eileen Cooper, Willie Smith, Ben Nicker, Margaret Nicker, Agnes Stott, Kathleen Crooks and Emily Smith.

Mrs Standley devoted her time to the white and coloured pupils who enrolled until 25th March, 1929. Recognition of her services was made some years later by the award of an M.B.E. and her name is perpetuated in the Territory by Standley Chasm, familiar to many, who have never visited Alice Springs, from the paintings of artists who come to the Centre. One can well imagine that in pioneering education in Alice Springs Mrs. Standley would never have envisaged the rapid strides to be made in schooling in this remote spot during the next thirty years. From such a small beginning has grown the present system which offers educational facilities to Leaving Certificate standard to the children of not only Alice Springs, but also of that vast area for which it has become the educational centre.
The school was originally called Stuart but changed in 1934 to Alice Springs and again in 1945 to Alice Springs Higher Primary when secondary work began. The average annual attendance for 1917 was 40.7. This increased steadily till 1942 to 76.1, but since 1945 when higher primary pupils were enrolled the average has grown from 126.5 to 372 in June, 1951, when the staff consisted of Headteacher, five male assistants and seven female assistants.

The "new" school was occupied late in 1929 when Miss Pearl Burton who succeeded Mrs Stanley vacated the temporary iron building which occupied the corner near where Queen's shop now stands. Additions have been made to accommodate the increased enrolments, but the present site and school are quite inadequate. In 1949 members of the Parliamentarian Standing Committee on Public Works took evidence on the need for a new school in Alice Springs, and condemned the building in use at present. Recently the contract for a new school was let to a local contractor, and it is hoped that before long a modern school, which will offer to children of the inland, facilities equal to those available to their city cousins, will be erected in the Anzac Hill Area.

From 1929 to 1942 the education of the mixed bloods was undertaken at a separate school which was first established at Jay Creek. Later when the post office moved into the township this school was transferred to the Bungalow, (the original post office) and the work was carried on there until the children were evacuated early in 1942.

To-day, as from the early days of settlement, there are children who receive their lessons from the Correspondence School of South Australia. Too much praise for the splendid work done by the staff of this school could not be given. This "mail bag" schooling requires supervision by the parents (generally the mother), or by a person engaged as a governess. It presents certain difficulties, especially when it is the mother who teaches and the children are in various grades, but daily lessons add variety and interest nowadays, while pupils are also supplied with library books from the Correspondence School Library and the Children's Lending Library of South Australia. The school of the air, a detailed account of which is given elsewhere in this section, is the latest innovation towards overcoming the isolation of the children of the outback, by bringing them into closer contact with the teacher.
Boarding allowances are payable to parents or guardians of children living away from home to attend schools in Alice Springs and this does help, but schooling for children whose homes are in remote places remain a problem, a problem which must be solved if the family group is to be the basis of increased population in the area.

Head Teachers appointed by the South Australian Education Department, who have been in charge of the Alice Springs School are:

Mrs Standley, M.B.E. 1914-1929
Miss Pearl Burton 1929-1933
Miss Nance Taylor 1933-1936
Miss Monica Robb 1936-1937
Mr. Donald Quinn 1938-1940
Mr. Leslie Dodd, B.A. 1941-1947
Mr. Norman Haines, B.A. 1948-1949
Mr. Kenneth Rudd, B.A. 1949-1951
Dip. Ed.

Pre-school education is in its infancy in the Territory. The establishment of a Free Kindergarten in the C.W.A. room by the local Kindergarten Committee, and the intention of the Roman Catholic Mission to build a Kindergarten have been mentioned elsewhere. Though new, the Kindergarten Movement has received generous support from all sections of the community. In charge of the Kindergarten when it was first established was Miss Pat Kempe, who was followed in 1950 by Miss McCormac, and in 1951 by Miss Helen Reid.

A recent educational project is education for the Aborigines, which has been undertaken by the Commonwealth Office of Education. Schools for Natives were opened in July, 1950, at "The Bungalow" Alice Springs Government Reserve, Yuendumu Government Reserve, and Areyonga Government Reserve, in 1951. There is also one at Hermannsburg-Lutheran Mission which conducts its own school, and another at Arltunga, under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church. All thinking people have realised for some time that education for these people was long overdue, and it is hoped that this will help them to become useful citizens and to share in our democratic way of life.
School of the Air was officially opened at the Flying Doctor Base at Alice Springs on 8th June in our Jubilee year of 1951.

It has received considerable attention throughout Australia and in countries overseas as the first known school of its kind. Its aim is to supplement correspondence lessons which bring education to the children outback, by using the transceiver service of the Flying Doctor network to bring the teacher to the homestead.

School of the Air has been a worth-while project by the splendid co-operation of the Education Departments of South Australia and the Territory, but especially by the voluntary contribution of the staff at the Alice Springs Higher Primary School who have formed themselves into an honorary team of broadcasters sharing the work and specialising in their particular subjects.

The new project has an interesting story.

In 1946 a Council member of the Flying Doctor Service, S.A. Section, (Miss Adelaide Miethke) visited the Base, and whilst listening to the various sessions dealing with outback adult affairs, medical, commercial and general, she wondered about the children and whether it would be possible to gather them together "over the air" as an inland child community, and give them an educational service.

The idea was arresting and romantic, but was it practicable? Miss Miethke sought other opinion to supplement her own experience in F.D.S., education and broadcasting.

Mr. R.G. Pitts, Director of the Flying Doctor Base, could advise from the technical angle, and Mr. L. Dodd (now Inspector of Territory Schools) could discuss the problem of programmes, scripts and broadcasts. Each was an enthusiast and expert in his own sphere of work, and both were struck with the possibility of such a scheme and convinced that it would work.

When the idea of a service for the children was placed before the Council of the Flying Doctor Service, S.A. Section, it received full approval, and though it meant a new set-up in equipment and considerable work and expenditure, the Council was ready to back the scheme.

By September, 1950, new modern wireless equipment had been acquired and installed, a land-line had been laid from the Base to the Alice Springs Higher Primary School, the teachers had given up their staff-room to provide a studio, the Parents Association had installed up-to-date equipment, the teachers had offered their services for broadcasting, children and parents of the outback had received the announcement that the service would begin, and waited at their transceivers for the first educational broadcast. It was, of course, on an experimental basis, but it was heard clearly at Darwin in the north and as far south as Oodnadatta. Reports upon clarity of reception for different areas was carefully noted by the Base.
For the first three months the teachers were feeling their way, finding out how best to help the children, who were shy and inarticulate, and getting reports from parents upon how the talks were being received.

At the end of this period, the Head Teacher at Alice Springs (Mr. K. Rudd), the Director of the Base, (Mr. Pitt), Miss Miethke (F.D.S. Liaison for School of the Air) and, later, Mr. Dodd (Inspector for Territory Schools) met in conference to hear reports and take stock of how the service was developing. As a result of these discussions, it was decided to compile a Roll, and group the children according to grade, so that talks might be prepared at the various grade levels. Periodic roll-call would help the children to know their "school-mates" by station and by voice. A "question and answer" period would follow each talk and the children were to be encouraged to bring their difficulties to the microphone, and avail themselves of the two-way system to receive the help which would benefit all other children listening in.

The technique of the talks would become more personal, and parents would also be encouraged to seek guidance in directing the children's correspondence lessons. An experiment had shown that it was possible to bring the outback to the class room to listen to a singing lesson, and this might open up other developments.

During the next three months most of these ideas were incorporated in the sessions. But staff change, and it was necessary to provide for continuity and some degree of permanence in the broadcast team. Approached with this problem, the Superintendent of Primary Education (Mr. W.V. Leach) solved it by placing an additional member to the staff at the Alice Springs School. This allowed for a senior master to devote time to the planning of programmes and directing the work of the team.

Thus, School of the Air had reached the stage when it could be recognised as a permanent service, and declared officially open. This ceremony was happily performed by His Honour, the Administrator (Mr. A.R. Driver) in June of this present year.

Many parents have expressed their appreciation of a service whose success is based upon sincere interest, cooperation and goodwill, and the fact that, for the outback child, the teacher has indeed come to the homestead.
THE ABORIGINES OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.

Contributed by Mr. John Bray.

PART 1.

For many thousands of years before the British Empire had laws to regulate society, the age old inhabitants of Central Australia were carrying on their social structure very much as it is today.

This excepts the few sophisticated aborigines who have modified their creed to conform with the white man's laws.

The veneer of civilisation is very thin and even now breaches of tribal laws are settled in the primitive manner. Just what the average native of the Centre thinks of the white man and his ways is hard to fathom, but the myall native, who has not lived for any length of time on a settlement or mission, is a naturally courteous fellow and considers the white man to have many magic possessions.

With the first coming of the white man to the Centre, less than 100 years ago, the life of these nomads changed. The white man brought cattle and sheep, which were very soon found to be good eating. The aborigine could not resist killing this excellent provender, which was roaming apparently at will over his hunting grounds.

Inevitable repercussions followed and many natives were killed by the early settlers by shooting, poisoning flour given to them as good food, and various other horrible but effective methods.

Flogging for cattle spearing was by no means uncommon, and, even if the actual culprit was not always found, the severity of the punishment given to some acted as a deterrent for others. Antagonism was not one-sided and there are white men in Central Australia today walking on spear-scarred legs.

Slowly through the years the picture gradually changed. Through the influence of one or two Missions and a growing sympathy for an inferior race among the white population, the aborigine began to realise that the intruder on his hunting grounds could confer benefits besides penalties.

Their fondness for flour, tobacco, sweets and highly coloured garments, in addition to the realisation that their children would be cared for and fed when bush foods were scarce in times of droughts, were the main reasons for the attraction of the Stations and Settlements.
However, very little of a concrete nature was done for any large number of aborigines until comparatively recent years.

The history of the Hermannsburg Mission, for over 70 years, indicates a constant battle against shortage of water, a very low rainfall, droughts, coupled with slowness and precariousness of transport and communications. Above all was a struggle to inculcate the spirit of Christianity into the minds of people who to this day are afraid of the "Kurdaitchas" evil spirits which are abroad at night.

The Central Australian aborigine for generations has been a realist. Living in a hard cruel climate, he was forced to be constantly on the move in order to exist. His wits were ever alert for the euro or kangaroo, one of which would provide sustenance for a day or two for his small family group. The women folk and children did their share in the capture of smaller game and the collection of the few vegetables available, mainly yams which grow in the sand hills.

Their knowledge of the infrequent permanent waters in an almost waterless country was and still is, jealously guarded.

Why should the aborigine, depending on a small natural rock hole of water for his family needs, show the white explorer where to water his camels? They quickly learned that camels drink a quantity of water in one session sufficient to keep the tribal group alive until it moved on to the next watering place, perhaps two hard days walking distance.

Watering places, natural features, and the very trees and rocks of his country, form the basis of the aborigines' spirit world, his dreaming places, of which Ayers Rock (Oorla) is a prime example.

Gradually the aborigine is beginning to realise that for a comparatively small outlay of physical effort the white man is prepared to feed and clothe him and his family.

His emancipation is taking definite shape. Although a slow tedious task lies ahead, the children of nomadic parents now attend school and are learning to count more than the usual "four" which the aboriginal hunter considered quite sufficient for his purpose. Some of the old cruel practices are dying out; the necessity of killing young babies, who impeded the mother's movement when the tribe was on march, or leaving old people to die because their
pace was too slow.

Almost all the Central Australian aborigines now know that old people and children will be cared for at the nearest Mission or Government Settlement and advantage is taken of the fact.

Old customs die hard, however, and because previously the recognition of the authority of the old men of the tribe was universal, it is resented in some quarters when the white man Government "boss" dictates different rules. The same laws apply to white people and aborigines, which fact is still confusing to the older and middle aged men accustomed to carrying out tribal laws in a tribal manner.

With the amenities of modern transport and equipment, the task of caring for and teaching the aborigines that their future is secure, is easier today than at any other period. Slowly but surely, the necessity of living by hunting will die out. Another generation or two will see the aborigines of the Centre becoming more and more able to utilise their natural intelligence to share the white man's social economy.
Part II.

Of the many tribal groups in the Centre, the Aranda or Arunta, occupy the country of the MacDonnell Ranges, which stretch east and west for nearly 300 miles.

North and South of this natural boundary are the true desert natives. The Pitjantarras are in the South Western corner of the Territory and roam into South Australia. They have a common meeting ground near the Western Australian border with their neighbours the Pintupis. These latter are found mostly to the West of the MacDonells to a point nearly North West of Alice Springs.

The Waiipris line and hunt North of this line over a huge area from the O.T. Line to the W.A. border.

These main tribal groups are divided and sub-divided, each segment of the whole group having its own local country. Their social structure is most complex and only the aboriginal himself can tell you how the various family groups are allowed to inter-marry. Very strict laws prevail regarding marriage and transgressors to these tribal rules are severely dealt with.

This touchy problem is most difficult for the ordinary white person to understand and is best left alone by the inexperienced. They are quite capable of arranging their own domestic and marital affairs without interference.

To preserve the aborigines' normal way of life, before most of his age old customs are modified or discarded to enable him to fit into a white man's civilisation, various sections of the Territory have been set aside for the sole use of the aborigine.

The Reserves are generally speaking land which is useless for any other purpose than that of an Aboriginal Reserve, the first class pastoral land and the best waterholes having been long since acquired by the white man without consulting the original owners.

These Reserves are under the direct control of Government officials, whose sympathies lie in the appreciation of the difficulties related to the emancipation of a primitive race.

The two biggest Reserves in Central Australia are the Haast's Bluff area of a little over 7,000 square miles.
ALBERT NAMATJIRA DRAWING THE TOTEMIC DESIGN OF HIS FAMILY GROUP
with the South West Reserve, in that corner of the Territory, of even greater proportions.

A young settlement is growing slowly at Haast's Bluff, and already the cattle industry established by the Government since the war is showing marked progress. The beef grown here is utilised for the better feeding of the aborigine on three different settlements.

There are no habitations on the South West Reserve and over this huge expanse of hills and desert the aboriginal hunter roams at will.

A smaller Reserve at Jay Creek, 27 miles from Alice Springs, gives the local native a chance to modify his life to the white man's ways without the distractions of a township.

At the original site of Alice Springs, three miles from the present township, the Bungalow Reserve caters for the employees of municipal authorities and civilians, by feeding and housing up to 300 natives. This Reserve also serves as a staging camp or temporary home for aboriginal employees of cattle stations, on their infrequent visits to the hub of the Centre.

At Yuendumu nearly 200 miles North West of the Alice, the Settlement caters for the desert people of the Wailpri tribe and here again is a school for aboriginal children.

In addition to the Government Reserves and Settlements, two Missions have established stations, the sole purpose of which is to further the spread of Christianity among these people who are more afraid of "Kurdaitchas" figments of their own imagination, than we are of the devil himself.

Hermannsburg, established under the most arduous conditions in 1876, is administered by the Lutheran Church, and the population of over 300 consists of Western Aranda people.

East of Alice Springs, the Altunga Mission of the Little Flower, under the auspices of the Catholic Church, caters for the spiritual and bodily needs of the Eastern Aranda folk.

Both these Missions work in conjunction with the local Government authorities with regard to funds from Child Endowment sources, supply of rations and clothing and school curriculum.
One of the most recent establishments is at Areystong, some 60 miles South of Hermannsburg, tucked away in a narrow valley of the Krischauff Ranges. Governmental and Mission authorities share the responsibility of this Settlement in conjunction. This year another step forward was the commencement of school for the aboriginal children, the only difficulty as yet being the size of the temporary building which is much too small for the number of kiddies wishing to attend.

All these schools are under the control of the Commonwealth Office of Education, the teachers being selected and highly qualified personnel.

No restrictions have been placed upon the movements of the Central Australian aborigines, they are free to enter or leave their Reserves at will.

Only in the next generation or two will the foundation now being laid, bring concrete results. It takes a long time for a people as primitive as our Central Australian aborigines to be absorbed into the economic structure of a white race.
Mr. Alf. Traeger, O.B.E., operating one of his early model pedal sets.

The latest Base Wireless Station at Alice Springs, Central Australia.

Rev. Dr. John Flynn, O.B.E.

John Flynn digging his buckboard out of a sand bog during the early days.

The extensive network of pedal radio sets linked to each base station is shown by the small dots on the map.
Doctor and pilot plotting the course on the map before leaving on an emergency call.

The pioneer wireless station at Cloncurry, Q., is still in use.

The routine visit of the Flying Doctor plane is a gala day on the aboriginal mission stations.

"Yes, it's the Flying Doctor."

A patient being placed aboard the "Aerial Ambulance."

An aboriginal girl on the way to hospital in the Flying Doctor plane.

The FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE
THE FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE.

The Alice Springs Base of the Flying Doctor Service was built by the women of South Australia as a centenary memorial to the pioneer women of that State. The South Australian Council controls the Base, which was opened in August 1939.

The story of John Flynn’s vision—to establish the Australian Inland Mission hospitals and a flying doctor service to the outback—is probably known to you all, but it may not be out of place here to include a short summary of a service that is unique and now world-famous.

Dr. Rev. John Flynn, O.B.E., then superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, realised from personal experience the great need for some means of quick communication to help break down isolation and mitigate that ever-present anxiety—lack of medical aid.

"Bush" hospitals were established but they were inadequate to cover the needs of a territory approximating two million square miles. The scheme that John Flynn planned for the "health, morale and physical well-being" of the pioneer settlers was at first referred to as "an impracticable dream", but he went ahead. With the coming of air travel and radio Flynn was quick to realise their possibilities. The Flying Doctor Service began at Cloncurry in Queensland in 1928 with a chartered plane carrying a stretcher. Then came the designing of a mobile medical...
The designing of a mobile pedal radio set by Alfred Trager, an Adelaide engineer was a notable forward step. Gradually a radio network covered the inland, doctors flew to urgent cases, and "over the air" consultations enabled measures to be taken as promptly as would be effected if the sufferers lived in the coastal cities or towns.

It was the H.V. McKay Charitable Trust's assistance with finance, and Qantas Airways' offer of a suitable plane and the services of a pilot, that made it possible for the experimental Flying Doctor base to be established at Cloncurry, Queensland in 1928. The "impracticable dream" was proved practical. In each State sectional concils were formed and the bases which Flynn had planned began operating--Wyndham 1935, Pt. Hedland 1935, Broken Hill 1937, Alice Springs 1939, Charleville 1943.

The Federal government recognises the national value of the Flying Doctor service and grants an annual subsidy. Some States also assist, while patients pay what they can. Residents of the area served contribute, but maintenance costs are high. The service depends on donations and legacies from private citizens to operate as efficiently as possible. The number of stations on the network is 165, and is increasing annually. Approximately 1400 telegrams are received from outside sources to the base, and approximately 1700 from the base to anywhere in the world. These messages vary from ten words or so to 200 or more.
John Flynn lived to know that his objective was achieved. He won the heartfelt gratitude of those whose needs he discerned and worked with such courage and determination to satisfy. His death was a shock to the outback community. He had expressed a wish that his ashes be committed to the ground close to the base of Mt. Gillen. There the funeral ceremony took place in the natural and beautiful surroundings of the chosen locality.

The Rev. K. F. Partridge, close friend and associate of John Flynn for 40 years gave the address. The assembly stood silent as the ashes were buried and a Flying Doctor swung in from the west and dropped wreaths over the top of Mt. Gillen.

The Director of the Flying Doctor Base at Alice Springs (Mr. Graham Pitts) was present with a transceiver, and the flying service was put over the entire territory network. Reception was perfect throughout the inland, and at the close of the ceremony acknowledgements were received from all parts of the Commonwealth.
FLYNN MEMORIAL SERVICE:

More than 500 people from all parts of Australia assembled at the foot of Mount Gillen at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon to pay tribute to the memory of Rev. Dr. John Flynn, O.B.E., known and loved throughout the bush as "Flynn of the Inland."

In a simple, but moving service, Flynn's ashes were committed to the earth, while one of the Flying Doctor planes which he established in this country circled Mount Gillen, and dropped wreaths from the Australian Inland Mission. Old timers assembled in great numbers for the ceremony, and one man, looking at the concourse of motor vehicles and the great crowd of people, said "I never thought to see so many people standing at the foot of Mount Gillen, and if it hadn't been for Flynn, we wouldn't have had that many in the country."

It was perhaps the most spontaneous tribute of the afternoon.

The Rev. J. Gray Robertson, B.A., B.D., Convener of the Australian Inland Mission opened the service, in perfect weather, sharp at three o'clock. "You, who are gathered in these majestic surroundings today," he said, "are here in person and spirit to pay honor and respect to a great Australian who served his country so remarkably, and achieved so much in his own lifetime. I ask you to join in singing the hymn 'O God Our Help in Ages Past.'"

At the completion of the hymn, Rev. Houston, of the Australian Inland Mission Board presented a scripture reading from the 35th chapter of Isaiah, which, he said, was one of Flynn's most cherished passages in the Bible.

The verses read described the blossoming of a wilderness into a land of plenty, and were extremely fitting to the occasion.

Rev. Robertson then offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the life and work of John Flynn, giving thanks to God for the "mantle of safety which Flynn had cast over the dark and desolate places of Australia." Following this, the congregation joined in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Before committing the ashes to the earth, Rev. Kingsley Bridge, M.A. addressed the assembly.
"In the Gospel of St. John," said Mr. Partridge, "there occurs a verse which says: 'There was a man sent from God whose name was John.' Of a truth, John Flynn was such a man sent from God. John Flynn came to this world equipped with the gift of dreaming, and with the gift of vision, and with the gift of practical application of those dreams and visions. He spent himself, and was spent, in the service of men, in the accomplishment of those dreams and visions.

"There are many here this afternoon, and many listening-in, who have more practical memories of John Flynn — many who remember him coming along to a raw homestead, or a bush camp, and spending the afternoon and night there. Perhaps there was an old clock that wouldn't go, or a sewing machine that hadn't worked for a long time.

"Flynn's keen eyes would see these things, and most times when he left next day, the old clock would be ticking, and the sewing machine at work again.

"In his early days here," Rev. Partridge continued, "John Flynn was not a typically ecclesiastical figure, laboring here in the shadow of this great range cutting ironwood and burning lime for the hospital which he built — the first, and for a long time the only hospital in the area.

"Others will remember his patience, strength and kindness on the long night journeys which he undertook with the sick and suffering, going all the way overland to Oodnadatta with them to the railhead.

"Louis Bromfield said that immortality is what a man leaves behind him in achievement — and how well that applies to John Flynn. It is fitting that this service should be held here this afternoon in the open air — beyond the last fences — in the centre of the land he loved. It is fitting that bushmen and bush women should be gathered under the tower of Mount Gillen, while one of the planes he dreamed of pays its last tribute to a valiant soul."

Mr. Partridge added that mention should also be made of the work of Alfred Traeger, who he described as "the discovery of a workman enthused by John Flynn."

"I have been entrusted by Mrs. John Flynn," Mr. Partridge concluded, "to commit the ashes of her loved one back to the Centralian earth he loved and made his own."
Taking a small bronze urn from the wreath-laden table upon which it had been resting, Rev. Robertson handed it to Rev. Partridge saying "In accordance with Dr. Flynn's expressed wish, Rev. Partridge will now commit his mortal remains to the earth."

A detachment of police under S/Sgt. D. A. Smythe stood at the salute on either side of the place of committal, while Rev. Partridge reverently placed the urn in the ground.

Particles of mica gleamed whitely in the sun as Rev. Partridge sprinkled earth on the urn.

Then, as the gathering sang verses of the hymn "Abide with Me", the drone of a plane could be heard gradually mounting above the singing. As the singers reached the words "point me to the skies" a Flying Doctor plane circled Mount Gillen, and dropped the wreaths in a fitting climax to a most solemn and impressive ceremony.
On most station properties today there is an airstrip, used once fortnightly by the mail plane, and in emergencies by the Flying Doctor plane. Both these air-services are operated by Connellan Airways.

Edward Connellan's early interest in radio, flying, and the Northern Territory, led him in 1936 to purchase a Spartan plane, and two years later to make a survey of the Territory on a flight which covered about 40,000 miles. It was during this "jaunt" that he contacted John McEwen (then Minister of the Interior), who suggested airmail services to a group of stations, a suggestion which was followed up and resulted in a contract with the Federal Government.

The first service in 1939, covered from Alice Springs to Mt. Doreen, The Granites, Tanami, Inverway, Victoria River Downs, Wyndham and return, a fortnightly service with a subsidy of £1,500 and a Flying Doctor service for which Connellan received an annual payment of £1,600. Previous to commencing these services, a ground group (Vin. Connellan, G. and F. O'Keefe and S.E. Calder) assisted with the arduous work of providing aerodrome facilities. The first named three of this party gave their lives in World War II, and Sam Calder after winning a D.F.C. in Normandy, returned to the Territory to win the heart of Daphne Campbell of "Overlanders" fame.

By the end of the year, Auvergne, Carlton, and Nicholson were included, and within a year of commencement Timber Creek, Waterloo and Limbunya.
FUELLING COHENELLAN AIRWAYS MAILPLANE ON STATION STRIP - N.T.

Removing patient on stretcher from special small Ambulance Plane.
During July 1943 there was the addition of the Hermannsburg, Tempe Downs, Kulgera, Mt. Irwin, Erldunda, Doctor's Stones flight, an extension of the Wyndham run and an agreement between MacRobertson-Miller and Connellan to serve the North-west. The Borroloola service, and the one-day Huckitta flight opened in May 1945.

When the original contract with the F.D.S. lapsed in 1942, Connellan agreed to make a plane available for all medical calls for an annual retainer of £600, but as the service under these conditions was not entirely satisfactory, the F.D.S. agreed to a new contract in January 1947, by which Connellan keeps one plane for ambulance work, using it for charter work and local runs not more than three hours' flying time from Alice Springs.

Connellan's plane services have done much to lessen the hardships of life on outback stations. The regular fortnightly mails, the delivery of perishable goods in good condition, and the knowledge that it is possible to travel in a few hours, distances which by car or truck would take days, or even weeks in wet weather when creeks are flooded, have reduced that dread feeling of isolation and added greatly to the comfort of men and women who live on the stations of the inland.

Connellan says: "The availability of air-service is an important influence to encourage womenfolk to make permanent homes in these remote places, instead of going there only temporarily with a view to leaving for more populous parts when they can." Those who have had the benefit of air-services whole-heartedly agree. Their usual remark is "We don't know how we ever managed without."
Aircraft arrivals still arouse interest among the natives. This group was photographed at Ambalindum Station.
Mount Sonder, Macdonnell Ranges, Central Australia—Albert Namatjira
(From the original in the possession of Mr. George Patterson.)
A full-blooded aborigine painted this picture, capturing the majestic form and color of Central Australia. Such work brought Albert Namatjira fame, but he lives quietly with his people in the country he loves — and goes on painting.
ALICE SPRINGS PHOTOGRAPHED FROM THE AIR - 1949 -
THE TOWN — ALICE SPRINGS.

To most new-comers the town of Alice Springs is a very pleasant surprise. The photographs included show the wide tree-lined streets, and the encircling hills with Mt. Gillen, majestic peak to the west, but the neat lawns, well-kept gardens, and the homes are too distant to be appreciated. From the small settlement of the early days the town has grown extending in more recent years to the east side of the Todd, southwards towards the Gap, and westward where the industrial area provides space for workshops, etc.

Originally named Stuart, the town area was surveyed by David Lindsay in 1888. It is not known who actually chose the site but that no better could have been chosen is generally agreed.

A few of the "old-timers" who reside in or near to "The Alice" today, remember well those who shared the hardships of the old days. Fred Stone to whom the earliest land grant was made in 1889, Fred Raggart, storekeeper, and later owner of Glen Helen Station, the Benstead family who built and owned the original Stuart Arms Hotel, Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Ross of Undoolya Station (owned by Willowie Pastoral Company), Tom Wallis and his sons Frank and Albert, George Wilkinson and Harry Gepp his partner, Sergeant Stott who became Commissioner, "Sandy" Murdoch who conducted an eating house, Harry Earwaker the first blacksmith, Mr. and Mrs. Meyers, saddler and boarding-house keeper respectively, Tom Williams who ran the buggy mail service
During 1951 the people of Alice Springs have joined with the remainder of the Commonwealth in celebrating the fiftieth year of Federation.

Throughout the year the various organizations have staged special Jubilee functions, but the whole town and district combined in making Jubilee Day, May 9th, an outstanding day in the history of Alice Springs.

The highlight of the day was the "Passing Parade", a pageant of the history and development of the town. As the first inhabitants, aboriginee appropriately unclad and carrying their spears and boomerangs, proudly led the procession, followed by a representation of John McDouall Stuart's exploration party. The Overland Telegraph party was enacted, followed by pioneers with horse and waggon, native and white stockmen, miners with pack-donkeys, old time police in their white and blue uniforms, and an authentic police camel patrol. From early model buckboards the parade passed to the sedans, the huge road cattle train, and gigantic earthmoving machinery of the modern era. Following
Anzac memorial --- Lest we forget.
Alice Springs 1949

Taken from Anzac Hill with Hervitree Gap in Distance

A Home and Garden in Alice Springs
Books which may interest you:

Central Australia

The Great Australian Loneliness

Flying Doctor Calling

The Australian Bush

Brown Men and Red Sand

Taboo

North of 23°

Songs of the Songmen

No Roads go by

Lassiter's Last Ride

Cattle King

Flynn of the Inland

I Find Australia

Australia Through the Windscreen

Bad Medicine

Two at Daly Waters

January and August

Wings of Healing

This Township Stuart (now Alice Springs)

R.G. Society

Australian Journey

Australia's Empty Spaces

Myths & Legends of the Australian Aborigines

Woggeheeguy (Legends)

We of the Never Never

The Little Black Princess

The Empty North (Current Affairs Bulletin) - Commonwealth Education Office.

C. T. Madigan

Ernestine Hill

Mary E. Fullarton

C. P. Mountford

W. Harney

" "

Mrs. White

I. Idriess

" "

W. Hatfield

N. E. Hall

Elizabeth George

" "

Mrs. Purvis

Mrs. Purvis

Paul McGuire

G. Allen & Unwin Ltd.

W. R. Smith

Catherine Stowe

Mrs. A. Gunn

" "

Ernestine Hill

C. P. Mountford

W. Harney

Mrs. White

I. Idriess

W. Hatfield

N. E. Hall

Elizabeth George

Mrs. Purvis

Mrs. Purvis

Paul McGuire

G. Allen & Unwin Ltd.

W. R. Smith

Catherine Stowe

Mrs. A. Gunn

Ernestine Hill

C. P. Mountford

W. Harney

Mrs. White

I. Idriess

W. Hatfield

N. E. Hall

Elizabeth George

Mrs. Purvis

Mrs. Purvis

Paul McGuire

G. Allen & Unwin Ltd.

W. R. Smith

Catherine Stowe

Mrs. A. Gunn

Ernestine Hill

C. P. Mountford

W. Harney

Mrs. White

I. Idriess

W. Hatfield

N. E. Hall

Elizabeth George

Mrs. Purvis

Mrs. Purvis

Paul McGuire

G. Allen & Unwin Ltd.

W. R. Smith

Catherine Stowe

Mrs. A. Gunn