

Aboriginal Girl on World Tour

Six Months Abroad

An aboriginal girl left Melbourne last month on a world tour. She is slender 21-year-old Joan Brown, of Alexandria. Joan is the daughter of a white timber-cutter father and an aboriginal mother. She left Melbourne in the Italian liner *Neptunia*. Joan worked for five years as a Sydney telephonist to save money for her world trip. She is accompanied by a white friend, Miss Pam Taylor, of Haberfield, also a Sydney P.M.G. telephonist. The attractive, flashing brown-eyed Joan said: "I hope to be a good ambassador for Australia. I suppose that, because of my colour, many overseas people will be curiously interested in me as an Australian. But I will not worry about that. Once the rather snobbish people who refused to speak or associate with our race used to hurt me very much, but I guess I have outgrown that. I am really proud of my colour and will never deny to anyone that I am an Australian aborigine. I want to have a great holiday—a grand walkabout, as people of my race describe it."

Miss Brown said she was engaged to a white man, of Randwick. They had agreed she should have her overseas trip before they married. She added, "He is really very agreeable," and added with a laugh, "quite nice as white people go."

Joan's fiance, 22-year-old wharf-labourer, Ray Martin, of Canberra Street, Randwick, said he would be "quite proud" to make Joan his wife. "Joan is easily the nicest girl I have ever met and she is loved by my family and all my friends," said Ray. Ray and Joan intend to marry in November next year and, while Joan is away having her "last fling," Ray will be saving every penny for a home. "Joan has been looking forward to this holiday for some time," Ray said.



**Proud Father, John Johnson, of
Condobolin, and his daughter, Cynthia.**

Farewell to Moree Teacher

Mr. & Mrs. Bridge Depart

A send-off party was recently held at the home of Mrs. Harold Duke, on Moree Station, by the aborigine's school Mothers' Club to say a last goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Bridge and family, who had received a transfer from the Moree Aboriginal School.

The little home was packed to capacity with mothers, all anxious to make the tea party a success.

The table was beautifully decorated and prepared with many good things to eat, all home-made! Holding a special place on the table was a delicious butterfly cake, with dainty colourings on the wings, made by Mrs. Harry Cutmore, and feather-light scones were made by Edna Madden, one of Mrs. Bridge's cooking pupils.

During the afternoon tea, Mrs. Ted Saunders said the mothers and children were losing a good teacher in Mr. Bridge and a good friend.

Mrs. Madden asked Mrs. Bridge to be sure and write to the mothers, and hoped that the Bridge family would return some day.

Mrs. Duke said she could not let Mrs. Bridge go away without a party in her home, and a happy memory of the mothers whom she has helped so much. "We will all miss our 'mother's' afternoons," said Mrs. Clarke. "You and Mr. Bridge were the nicest couple, and we will miss the fun and frolics."

Mrs. Sampson hoped Mr. Bridge would be happy at his new school, and said how sorry everyone was on the station to see their loved Headmaster go from Moree. Mrs. Bridge thanked the ladies for their good wishes and said they had had a happy 3 years among them, and promised to write and to keep the friendship which had been given so freely to her and to her family. "Your children will hold a special place in our hearts, because we have grown to love them dearly and we will always be interested in you and yours, and some day we will return to Moree," she said.

Mrs. Duke then asked Miss Judy Duke to play Mrs. Bridge's favourite record ("When Your Hair Has Turned to Silver"), which Mrs. Duke usually sang at "Mothers' afternoons.

The guests later inspected the gardens made by Mr. Duke and many photographs were taken of the mothers and their children.

The afternoon ended when Mrs. Bridge thanked Mrs. Duke and the mothers for the unforgettable party, and said she was delighted to learn that many of the mothers would be at Moree Station to wave a last good-bye.