

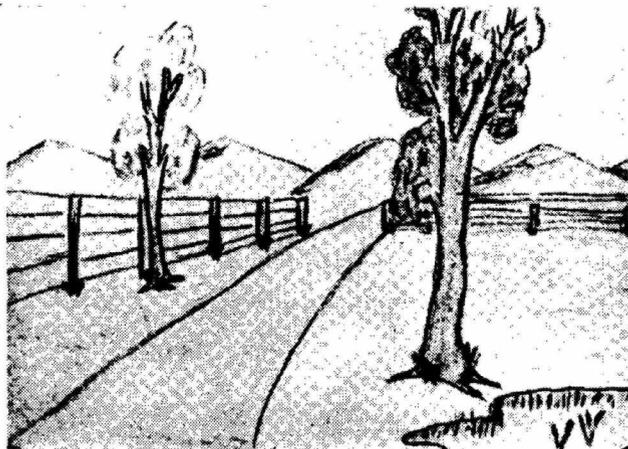
ZEBU CATTLE.

by Michael Sawtell.

In a recent issue of *Dawn* there was some reference to the Zebu cross beef cattle now called the Santa Gertruda cattle. In 1908, I was on the Adelaide River in the Northern Territory looking after some cattle for a well-known Darwin butcher. Running among the ordinary beef cattle were some Zebu cross cattle, that were the descendants of the Zebu cattle, that were brought by the English to the ill-starred settlement well over a hundred years ago. You may read all about this settlement at Port Essington, in Mrs. E. Hill's book "The Northern Territory". Those cattle were left behind, with the Timor ponies and Buffaloes. In time the Zebu cattle crossed with our beef breeds. The Zebu cross, that I used to muster, were always fat, but they were rather wild and small, but they were tick immune. I used to say to the old cattlemen, "These are the cattle for this country", but they used to laugh at me and say: "They are too small". That was so, for in those days cattle were not marketed till they were older and bigger than they are to-day.

However, the Americans have evolved a new breed out of the Zebu cross, which is called the Santa Gertruda, and which we now import back into Australia.

This new breed of beef cattle, the Santa Gertruda, are now being bred in many parts of North Australia, the Gulf country and the Peninsula of North Queensland, but there is still a rather strong prejudice against them, for they do not look as well as our beautiful Shorthorns or Herefords. I must also admit, that under Australian conditions, they would be rather difficult to keep quiet. The North Australian Monthly had a great deal to say about them recently. It now appears that only about one-eighth cross of Santa Gertruda is necessary to make our beef tick immune.



This fine black and white sketch by Zetta Clarke, of Murrin Bridge, wins her a special prize. Congratulations to you Zetta.

SANTA VISITS WALLAGA LAKE.

Once again the children had the thrill of seeing Santa Claus at Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Station, when they had their Christmas Tree in the Recreation Hall, which was gaily decorated with streamers and balloons for the occasion.



Everyone at Wallaga Lake had a very busy time getting the hall ready for the Xmas Party.

Prior to Santa's arrival all the residents had a sumptuous afternoon tea of lovely cakes, sandwiches, icecreams, drinks and lollies very kindly supplied by the Bega Methodist Church. These good Christian people come 40 miles each year to help the Manager and Matron to make the Christmas Tree a great success. Not only did they help with the Station Christmas Tree this year, but they helped to make history for the South Coast, by extending an invitation to the Aboriginal children of Wallaga Lake to attend their Tree which they hold each year for white children in Bega.

The Manager was only able to take a limited number of 16 children on the Station truck to the Bega Tree, where they were given a wonderful welcome, and no differentiation whatsoever was made. The children played games side by side with the white children, and the white children gave presents off the tree for the Aboriginal kiddies. In return the Wallaga Lake children sang Christmas carols without showing any signs of shyness.



All spic and span, these happy youngsters eagerly awaited the arrival of Santa Claus.

An invitation was extended to the white children of the Methodist Church in Bega to attend the Station Christmas Tree, and Santa Claus had himself photo graphed with Joy Wattling from Bega on his right and Errol Stephens of Wallaga Lake on his left, as a genuine symbol of our policy of assimilation.

Once again every one sang Christmas carols and the children were recipients of lovely gifts, and one and all had a most enjoyable afternoon.