

# WILCANNIA "WHISPERS"

By

JACK QUAYLE

Wilcannia Aboriginal Settlement has been undergoing a period of setbacks. There are quite a number of young able bodied men knocking about unable to secure employment. The reasons for this set up is not known, but is easy to establish the fact that most of them look in the wrong direction, because there have been several men come to this district from other parts to find jobs in a very short time.

We know that work is hard to get all over the state at the present time, but why do so many men come from elsewhere and get in on our own able bodied young men who, one would think, would never be out of employment, because of their youth and strength? I see plenty of aged men working on constructional jobs that require youth and strength while the younger men walk the streets looking for a job. There must be some explanation for this.

Burt Hunter is 70 years of age and a father of a large family and yet he is never out of work; he is at present employed by a constructional engineer, hod carrying. Jim Wyman is another who is never out of a job. He also is a man over 55 years of age and a father of a large family, including 5 sons over school leaving age. Stan O'Donnell, Bill Harris, Bob Jones, Alf Bates, Arthur Clarke, Bill Kennedy, Ted Brody, Alex Mitchell, Laurie Quayle, Louis Jones, Peter McFarlane, are men who are always in employment and they are all over 50 years of age.

Again I ask you, why does the younger man find it so hard to find employment?

Is it (as I said previously) that they look the wrong way?; or is it because the employers prefer the older men who are more competent in their jobs than the younger men? If the latter is the case it is time the younger generation woke up to themselves and learned to do things as they are expected to do them.

What will become of the rising generation if another depression should hit this country similar to that of 1930-31?

However, the employment situation for our young men around Wilcannia is becoming pretty grim, or so it seems, and I personally would advise the young men of this district to go walk-about for a while till the hoodoo has left the place, or till some of the older generation retire to the Old Age Pension.

I have heard it said that it is of no use them going to any other district in search of employment, as they would be hunted back to where they came from. Strange to say no one has ever been driven away from here; we have young men here from Brewarrina, Bourke, Cunnamulla, Queensland, Condobolin,

Wanaaring, Murrin Bridge, Menindee, and numerous other places seeking employment, quite a number successful and several not so successful, but nevertheless still here and still living, at least not starving, and needless to say they are happy.

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## SPORTING

It is pleasing to note the number of our boys joining up in the local football club, and the number making names for themself in that direction. Ernie, Bob and Bruce Hampton. Percy (Charcoal) Hunter, Ray Hunter, Cecil Payne, and Len Briar are some of the boys who have established themselves as first grade football players and each one can give a good account of himself on the football field. St. Theresa's Mission is training a team of School boys to play for the Wilcannia Schoolboys Challenge Cup, and I have no doubt that these boys will extend any team they meet.

There will be a knockout Competition at Wilcannia this month and the Boomerangs are organising themselves to enter a team in the Comp. It is expected that they will take a lot of beating, as they will have the Hamptons, Hunters and Payne playing with them in the Knockout.

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## TELEVISION STARS FROM LOCAL ABORIGINES

The British television unit making the picture "The Flying Doctor" has filmed some of the local aborigines in the picture, with Jimmy Williams playing a prominent part. Young Johnny Quayle and Leonard Kerwin, also played parts in the film. It was expected that several other boys would appear in the film as well, but the unit was recalled to England for some unknown reason. However it is expected they will return again to do another film and the Aborigines are looking forward to making another appearance on the screen. We would like to hear from some other Station or Reserve that has played a prominent part in film production as we consider that this kind of thing will go a long way towards bringing the Aborigines and the white man closer together and I consider it another step towards assimilation. Wilcannia is playing a big part in this direction as they are producing so many boys and girls able to take their place as entertainers, film stars, and sportsmen.

Jimmy Bates and Bill Webster are starting to fence their homes and inquiries are coming in from other probable fencers regarding wire and the possibility of getting posts carted. It is pleasing to see these people