



# WILCANNIA

N  
E  
W  
S

ON the 9th August, between the hours of 12 noon and 1 p.m., the residence of the Supervisor of Wilcannia Station, Mr. John A. Quayle was completely destroyed by fire.

Mrs. Quayle had been on a shopping expedition during the morning and on her return she attended to her lunch and left two young girls, Norma Dutton and Roma Johnson to take care of the dinner while she delivered some goods she had collected for some of the residents.

Shortly after she had left her home someone called out to her that her house was on fire. She ran from the other end of the settlement to see if the children were safe, but there were others there before her, and saw to it that there was no one near the burning building.

Quite a number of the residents made determined but unsuccessful efforts to save some of the furniture and personal effects, but a strong wind kept them back and nothing was saved except a refrigerator, a child's cot and a three-quarter bed.

Mr. and Mrs. Quayle's loss was in the vicinity of £300.

Several of the boys of the Settlement must be commended on their gallant efforts to save the building and other effects. These boys are Mr. Walter Clarke, Mr. Roy Hunt, Mr. Fred Leppert, Mr. Bob Wilson, Mr. Louis Jones, Mr. Bob Jones, Mr. Joe Jones and Joe Day, Len Barlow and Frank Johnson.

Under trying circumstances, the loyalty and gallantry of these men were outstanding and Mr. and Mrs. Quayle wish to thank them all very sincerely.

When the fire was at its peak and flames were leaping thirty to forty feet in the air, several men volunteered to run in under the flames and save the refrigerator, which was standing at the front gate about fifteen feet from the blazing building. The front of the frig. was starting to scorch and the men wet a blanket each, put them over their heads and raced in under the flames, collected the frig., and raced out to a safe distance before putting it down. When the blankets were removed from their heads it was found that the intense heat had caused the blankets to scorch on the outer side.

Allan (Nugget) Johnson had some trouble in endeavouring to save three ducks that used to live under the building. It was said that old Nugget crawled under the burning building to push the ducks out, and some of the boys had to crawl in and push old Nug out.

Another incident worthy of note is that of Joe Day. When the fire broke out Joe was one of the first to put in an appearance, and being a cold windy day, Joe still had his Army topcoat on, and in the confusion, Walter Clarke grabbed him to throw him out the window with the rest of the gear that was being thrown out, but a timely squeak from Joe saved him from a short cut into the open air, through the window and Walter Clarke gave him a kindly push out through the proper exit.

The townspeople were very considerate, as they took up a collection for the burned out family, and provided them with the necessary comforts to tide them over till something can be done towards getting them back to their normal standards again.

---

## OBITUARY

### MR. TED JOHNSON

Saturday 23rd August was a very sad day for the residents of Murrin Bridge Station when it was announced that much-loved Ted Johnson had passed away at Kajuligah Station, via Ivanhoe.

After the Manager had confirmed all with Constable Baker of Ivanhoe, Lance Johnson, with Albert and Max to accompany him, travelled the 300 miles to bring the deceased to Murrin Bridge for the burial.

The funeral took place on Monday, when Rev. Fr. Comerford conducted a short service in the Station church, after which the cortege moved slowly around the Station to the cemetery. Almost all of the residents attended the graveside ceremony to pay their respects to one of the most highly respected men of the district. Ivanhoe residents sent a beautiful wreath with their heartfelt sympathy.

Funeral arrangements were conducted by relatives of the deceased to whom much credit is due.

Ted was one of the oldest residents of the district and of the people of Murrin Bridge. He worked faithfully till the day of his departure in death. His illness was short and sudden and a surprise to all who knew him. Ted died in the arms of his niece Mrs. Charles. In his day, Mr. Johnson was an excellent foot runner, winning many events of note in the district. All his life Ted was an all round stockman and was never happier than when in the saddle. Murrin Bridge and the district are the poorer without him. "In the midst of life we are in death". May the memory of Ted and his noble life ever inspire all to follow in his train. Sincere sympathies are extended to all who mourn his death.