

“ Finally, by sleight of hand, he produced a small star which he said he had taken from my chest.

“ I immediately felt a great weight had been lifted from my mind. I had been tense and sick, but now I relaxed and within three weeks I was as good as new.”

Ordeal

Phillip Roberts has therefore been through his ordeal by witchdoctor's fire.

He believes that witchdoctors can be a power for good as well as evil.

For instance, if the white doctors working in remote areas can persuade the tribal witchdoctor to work with them their task in diagnosing the complaint of a sick and silent native is made much easier.

They can also learn from the witchdoctors, according to Phillip, the correct way to approach timid, primitive patients who are generally terrified of stethoscopes and hypodermic needles.

Sandy Willika

Sandy Willika, a Juaun tribesman, aged 32, has lived all his life in the Katherine district.

He was too old to attend school when the native education programme began, but he pestered the teacher at Katherine, John Collins, until he started an adult education course.

Sandy attended night classes regularly and learned to read and write. He became so convinced of the benefits of education that he now sends his children to a school at Beswick settlement, about 60 miles away, and is thus separated from them and his wife.

Sandy is paid the award wage as municipal ganger in Katherine township.

The Northern Territory's first six citizens were Bruce Pott, Jack White, Holder Adams and Ted Cooper, all of Darwin, Smiler Major, of Tennant Creek and the late Albert Namatjira.

They were given this status in 1957.

Pott, White, Adams and Cooper all have jobs on award rates of pay in Darwin.

Major is a contractor who builds yards and fences on pastoral properties in Central Australia.

ELIZABETH BATTS

WIDOW OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

By VIV. ODEWAHN

The great deeds and daring of the early explorers of Australia are well known, and although the wives of these great men contributed greatly to their husbands success little has been said of them. Elizabeth Batts was married to Capt. James Cook in the year 1762, to this marriage six children were born. Although Cook made great discoveries, the tragic life of Mrs. Cook has had little or no mention. Her first tragedy was to learn of her husband's untimely death in the Sandwich Islands of which Cook discovered and named after Lord Sandwich now known by the native name Hawaii, this was on 14th February, 1779. King George III was not forgetful of the services of his great subject, he settled a pension of £25 per annum on each of the three sons of the great circumnavigator, and a pension of £200 per year on the widow.

Mrs. Cook had soon cause to deplore the loss in their country's service of others just as dear to her as her gallant husband. The following year, (October, 1780) when the "Resolution" and "Discoverer" returned, her second son, Nathaniel, aged sixteen, was lost on board the vessel "Thunderer", at that time a man-of-war, which floundered in a gale and sank. The youngest son Hugh who was a student of Christ's College, Cambridge, died of fever at the age of seventeen years on 21st December, 1793, and on 25th January the following year the eldest son aged thirty-one years and bore the name of James after his father and commander of a sloop named "Spitfire" was driven to sea whilst attempting to board his ship "Spitfire" off the English Coast at a town named Poole, and perished in a heavy gale of which all crew and Captain were lost. His body was later recovered and conveyed to Cambridge and buried by the side of his younger brother Hugh, at whose funeral he attended only six weeks before.

Mrs. Cook was herself brought to the brink of the grave by the accumulated bereavements, but she recovered her health and lived to the remarkable age of ninety-three years, having survived her husband by fifty-six years. She died on 13th, May 1835, leaving a charitable bequest to the poor of Clapham, England.

Cook's statue, by Woolner of London, was unveiled by His Excellency, Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of New South Wales, in Hyde Park, Sydney, in the presence of a vast audience and a public holiday was proclaimed to celebrate the occasion, 25th February, 1879.