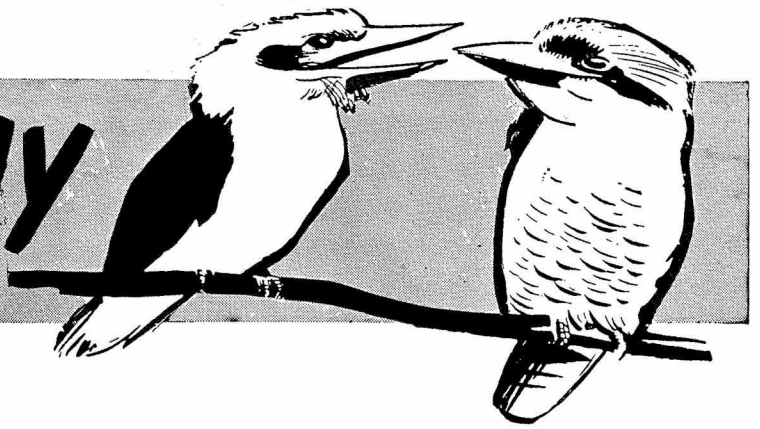


THEY SAY



A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MRS. SUSAN McGRADY

by H. F. S. ROBERSON, Manager

This is a tribute to a woman, who, now she has gone from us so suddenly, makes her absence felt very much.

She was Susie, or "Sookie" to everyone. She just had to be friendly with everybody, and that she had many friends was evident in the number of people who travelled far to pay their last respects.

She was devoted to her family, and stood by them from the eldest to the smallest infant. She could not realise that they had grown up and could fend for themselves. Her energy was boundless and she was not content to live on the small pension her husband, Bill, drew as an invalid. She was held in high regard at her place of work on a local property where she did part-time daily work.

I do not think one penny of their joint income was wasted, for home improvements went on all the time. There was no elaborate and extravagant spending and Susie was always ready to show off her latest purchase whether it was the frig. or the bath and hand basin. Her latest purchase had been a set of sun blinds over the front verandah. She was content to do her shopping, mostly when the Station truck went to town.

Susie was a driving force in anything she undertook, perhaps a bit too forceful at times.

She knew where her people had to go and it grieved her that some of them were slow to take the opportunities that could be had. She did in fact voice this opinion over the national radio network not long ago. Her only complaint was that nothing was done to assist young girls after leaving school. She advocated that they should be trained to take up such duties as domestic work.

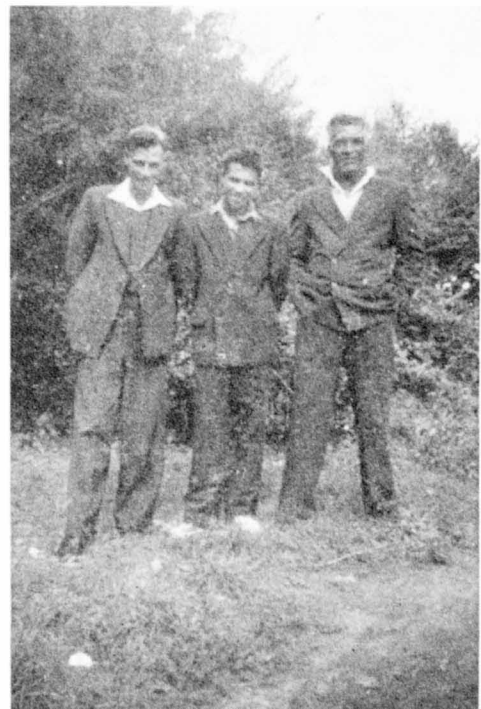
Susie was a foundation member of the Toomelah Branch of the Country Women's Association at Boggabrela Station. She was at one time Vice-President, and later Treasurer. She made several trips during that time as delegate to the annual conferences held in Sydney, and travelled many miles to C.W.A. meetings of branches in the district. Susie was always well received and could adapt herself no matter the circumstances.

As one of the elders of the Station no meeting or function took place without her presence. This was a mark of respect as she was someone the people could look to for support. Susie was nominated for election to a seat on the Aborigines Welfare Board, but was beaten by a few votes.

It is stipulated that this body should consist of one full blood and one other aborigine, as serving members.

It is unfortunate that Susie went at a time I was just beginning to understand her, but welfare work of any kind is slow in results.

Her progress to help her people through her own energies was slow, and it is hoped her absence will make her people realise what she was trying to do for them, and I hope they will not disappoint her. Her contact with the better things in life was there for all to see.



The Blair family of Ben Lomond—Lionel, Dick and Charlie