



Aboriginal Art Museum

Retired Station Manager hopes gifts will found Welfare Board collection

Some historic pieces of aboriginal art and a collection of photographs have been presented to the Aborigines Welfare Board by retired station manager and teacher, Mr. J. R. Milne.

Mr. Milne hopes that his gifts will lead to the founding of a museum at the Welfare Board's Sydney headquarters.

"Among *Dawn* readers there must be many like me who have gathered small collections together over the years," he said.

"Old Aboriginal art is becoming so rare these days I felt I was being selfish in keeping mine at home where few people saw it. Things like these should not gather dust.

"I hope my small contribution will encourage other collectors to help the Welfare Board set up some kind of museum where visitors from out of state and overseas can view the talent of our native craftsmen.

"I feel also that the work of aboriginal painters could form a special and greatly prized section."

Mr. Milne, who will be 80 in December, will be remembered by thousands of our people.

A Scot, who served in the Boer War and in World War I as a Royal Artillery signals sergeant, Mr. Milne and his wife came to Australia in the 1920's. He was appointed teacher-manager at New Angledool at the beginning of 1925 and from that day until his retirement in March, 1942, the children of his schools all talked with a faint Scottish burr.

From New Angledool (later shifted to Brewarrina) he transferred to Roseby Park in 1930 and afterwards saw service at Urunga, Valhallow, Cabbage Tree Island, Bellbrook and Taree.

Mrs. Milne was matron at these stations and their daughter, Miss Agnes Milne (now Mrs. R. W. Mutch of

OUR PICTURE

A Boomerang that was carried across Sydney Harbour Bridge at the official opening more than 30 years ago is presented to the Superintendent, Mr. H. J. Green (left), by Mr. Milne