



Smoke Signals

TIP FOR THE MONTH. Save eye-strain when knitting with dark-coloured wools by placing a small white towel on your lap. The towel reflects light on to the wool which you will see clearly without straining your eyes.

► More than 50 Aborigines from central Australia have been picking asparagus at Gundagai, in New South Wales, and they've been doing quite well. Newspapers in October reported that the men were being paid \$1.04 an hour, and when proficient would be earning about \$60 a week on contract rates. Northern Territory's assistant administrator, Mr Dwyer, said that the men were well housed and had a recreation tent equipped with TV. They were brought to Gundagai from Alice Springs in a bus chartered by the asparagus growers.

► The N.S.W. Methodist Conference approved in October the ordination of Australia's first Aboriginal Methodist minister. He is Rev. Lasarus Lamilami, of Arnhem Land. Mr Lamilami was born on Goulburn Island and has spent most of his life there. A trained carpenter, he took up Sunday School teaching and lay preaching to help the work of the mission in his area. He will be ordained in Darwin, and will become one of the first Aborigines ordained in any denomination.

► Pastor Frank Roberts was another Aboriginal churchman to receive publicity in October. Pastor Roberts, president of the Aboriginal Evangelistic Association, is seeking \$20,000 to expand the Association's work in N.S.W. and southern Queensland. It plans to buy a "church-on-wheels" which would visit Aboriginal missions, settlements and reserves. The Association hopes eventually to carry out evangelism among Aborigines throughout Australia.

► Charles Perkins, popular manager of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, received the "Young Man of the Year" award presented in Launceston, Tasmania, at the Junior Chamber of Commerce convention in October. Charles will soon have a third TV documentary about his life filmed, and is considering offers from three publishers for his autobiography.

► Max Daniels, 24-year-old carpenter, is the first Aboriginal to be awarded a Churchill Fellowship. Max, although comparatively young, is a leader among his people of the Tiwi tribe at Snake Bay Settlement, Melville Island. He has brought his carpentry skills to work for the benefit of his people. Max will use his award to travel for six months in Papua-New Guinea and New Zealand observing the conduct of co-operative societies among developing people, and methods of home construction and boatbuilding in those places.

► As well as Max Daniels (above), two other Aborigines—Clive Williams and Theresa French—soon will fly to New Zealand on a study devoted to "The Maori". The tour, planned jointly by several University adult education departments, will give about 30 visiting Australians an insight into Maori life, race relations and official policies.

► Preservation of Aboriginal relics received much attention recently. The Minister for Lands, Mr Lewis, has appointed a committee to investigate the preservation of Aboriginal relics. The committee will suggest a suitable system for supervising the preservation of relics. One of the committeemen is Professor Elkin, vice-chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board. One of the first steps, the reservation of land at Mootwingee, is included in the N.S.W. Government's proposed National Park and Wild Life legislation. The 1,200-acre area at Mootwingee, 80 miles north of Broken Hill, contains many Aboriginal rock carvings and chippings and cave paintings—some of them 3,000 years old.