

is going to be. But don't you see that NO setup is ever going to be perfect? That no organization is ever going to satisfy everybody all at once? That is why there's dozens of Aboriginal organizations in this state now and new ones forming all the time. Each probably feels that *it* is going to provide the answers. But somehow they don't. So what are the Aboriginal people going to do? Wait for that golden day when

everything will be perfect? You'll be waiting! . . . Because the whole business of life is trying and struggling and getting slapped down again and trying again. By that we grow and it applies as much to a millionaire as to a peasant. That's why I say again, that if the Aboriginal people don't decide to seize on something and *make* it work, however imperfect it may be, they won't advance. —Ed.)

A story of School, Jobs and Satisfaction

When Casino girl Marlene Ferguson, 17, was going to St Mary's College, Lismore, she came pretty close to leaving school during her third year. Why? Not because she didn't enjoy school. Indeed, she "liked it very much." But several of her friends were leaving and so were her cousins. They were all very close and Marlene wanted to leave school and get a job with them. But, knowing how important schooling is, her parents asked her to stay on. She agreed to do so until she had her School Certificate.

After the School Certificate, Marlene Ferguson left school and came to Sydney. There she had a couple of jobs, without being very sure *what* she wanted to do. Then Mrs Ruth McDonald (one of the Bryants) suggested to Marlene that she apply for a job as a bank officer—a job which called for a School Certificate.

So, Marlene applied and did the entrance exams. At first, she heard nothing and thought that she had missed out. Then, out of the blue came a telegram saying that she had been accepted for six months probation at the Erskineville branch of the Commonwealth Bank. Soon after this, Marlene got sick with peritonitis, but the bank was willing to wait until September 8 for her to start work.

Right from the beginning, Marlene was happy in the bank and says that she "wouldn't leave it for the world. I am well paid and I am learning a lot as well as meeting new people."

Early in November, Marlene is starting a further course at the bank's head office in Martin Place. When her six months probation is up, she is pretty sure that she will be able to get a transfer to the



Marlene Ferguson, of Casino.

Casino branch of the Commonwealth bank. Does she want this?

"Yes, oh yes. I got pretty home-sick some time ago. I miss my parents very much. I don't miss the entertainment of Casino, because there's none up there to miss, but I *do* want my family." Hasn't Sydney got *anything* that will keep her here? "Oh," says Marlene, "I've got plenty of boyfriends, but none in particular. I don't know if I might meet one who'll be able to make me change my mind about going back to Casino."

Has the School Certificate been important to Marlene? "Yes, I treasure it," she says. "Without it and the references which I got from the sisters, I wouldn't have been able to get this bank job—or anything else worthwhile. I know now that I would have ended up in some awful, low paid job, or even with *no* job. I'm certainly glad that Mum and Dad kept me at school."