

Smoke Signals

▶ Here's a little yarn about this grumpy party in Canberra who doesn't like women drivers. Mr Charles Perkins was peacefully driving to work at the Office of Aboriginal Affairs when . . . CRASH! . . . another car ran into his back bumper bar. Charlie got out of his car to do the usual roaring and raving, but was struck dumb when he saw that the culprit was none other than fellow-worker from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Margaret Lawry. Apparently Charlie could only stand there and sadly shake his head. After all, what would YOU have said?

▶ Heard recently about a court case in Queensland where a bloke was accused of stealing a cow. In his defence, he told the magistrate that he hadn't intended to steal the animal. Said he, "I only took a piece of rope, your worship. But when I got home, I found that there was a cow on the end



Stan Roach with boomerang and admirers in Fiji.

of it!" Anyway, he got 12 months for stealing the cow and 6 months for contempt of court. Bet those last 6 months came hard!

▶ In September last year, Stan Roach of Glebe enjoyed a 10-day holiday to Fiji. The trip was sponsored by the Fiji Show Committee which "imported" Stan to give boomerang throwing demonstrations to Fijian people. Wherever he went, the people were fascinated, especially a group of 6,000 school children. Some of the folk reckoned that the boomerang came back because of black magic and Stan reckons that he had a tough time trying to convince them otherwise. During the trip he was asked into a lot of homes and ate meals sitting with his hosts on the mats on the floor. Stan commented on how similar the people were to Aborigines in attitudes, ways of thinking, humour, and family closeness—things that made him feel at home wherever he went in Fiji.

▶ Would Lora May O'Rourke (nee Carter) contact the Public Solicitor, 272-282 Queen Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000, please? They are holding some money in trust for you.

▶ Over the past few months, the Paulian Association, co-operating with the Department of Child Welfare and the Aboriginal Medical Service have been organizing food and cooking demonstrations in Aborigines' homes in the Newtown-Erskineville area. A home that is often used for the demonstrations is that of Margaret Donovan (pictured). Here some of the mums who have been attending the sessions are shown at St Mary's Social Centre, Erskineville, where they had an enjoyable Christmas get-together.

