

# SKY PILOT NEWS

JULY, 1961

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## THE MURDERER: FROM THE SKY PILOT'S LOG, 2CH BROADCAST

The court was sitting in Darwin, and an aboriginal was being tried for murder. There was nothing in favour of the accused; he was an educated boy who knew all about the white man's law. Without any provocation, he had speared to death another native, who was a stranger to him.

He was asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed on him. No, he had nothing to say. He could not, or would not, suggest anything in his own defence. Even his counsel had been unable to do more than to ask for leniency and suggest it may have been a tribal affair. There was no proof of this, and the fact that he was an educated boy and had never seen the victim before, went against him. Twenty years! A long sentence. As the prisoner was led away I caught a gleam in his eyes, and I felt that there was a story behind it that no one knew about. Some time later, I mentioned the case to George.

The old stockman paused. "What did you say the boy's name was?" he asked.

I told him, and George was silent for a long time. Then he said: "Look 'ere, Smithy, I'll tell you a story. You can believe it or not, as you please. But it's just between you and me, mind. There's no proof except my word, and I guess that wouldn't count for much in a court of law when it's agin someone in a high position. I'm just an ole stockman who's lived too long among the blacks to be reliable. It's a story about a native called Dick. That's not his real name, of course, but it'll do. Well, this 'ere Dick was supposed, by tribal law, to marry a girl named Rose — though that's not her name, neither.

"You know how it is with natives, they must marry the girl that the law fixes should rightly belong to them. If she's only a child, as often happens, why, then they must wait till she grows up. Her husband-to-be must 'grow her up', as they call it. Well, Rosie was only a child, but Dick 'grew her up'. He looked after her and waited as the years went by. And though you mightn't believe it, they was real fond of each other. I often used to see 'em walking hand in hand, which is unusual for natives; but then, of course, they had been brought up amongst white people, and maybe they had

picked up some of the white man's habits an' ideas.

"There was a white woman in the district — I'm not goin' to tell you *where* this happened, o' course — she were the wife of a sort of Government official. Well, she took a likin' to Rose and taught her to cook an' help in the house. By-an'-by Rose grew up — old enough to marry by blackfellow law, anyhow, though heaven knows that ain't very old.

"It was all fixed up that Dick was to marry Rose — the tribe saw to that — an' Dick was as pleased as a dog with two tails. Mind you, he had waited a good many years, so you couldn't altogether blame him. Well, round about this time the white woman's husband got orders to transfer to another district, and they decided to take Rose with them. It was easy to arrange a thing like that in them days. Anyways, Dick came to me in a great state an' asked me if I could do anythin' for him. I felt real sorry for both of them, so I butted in an' went to see the white woman.

"I says to her: 'Missus, they tell me you are movin' to another district soon?'

"That's right, George,' she says. 'My husband has been promoted. I won't be sorry to leave this place, either. We've been buried 'ere for years.'

"What about young Rose,' I says. 'You wouldn't be thinkin' of takin' her along o' you?'

"Of course I'll take Rose,' she says. 'I've spent years trainin' her to cook an' do the housework. I couldn't face havin' to begin all over again with a new girl. Anyhow, Rose is happy with me, an' she wouldn't want to be left behind.'

"But,' I says, 'maybe you didn't know that Rose belongs to Dick. She's his by tribal law, and he's growed her up an' waited all these years for her. They're real fond of each other, too. You wouldn't be for separatin' 'em now, would you?'

"Tribal law!' she says. 'Some silly blackfellow business! I'm not goin' to let that worry me. Rose is too young to marry — much too young. Anyhow, when she's old enough I'll see she is married to some decent boy from our new district. Tribal law, indeed! That's all nonsense.'

"'Beggin' your pardon, Missus,' I says, 'but it ain't nonsense to them. Dick is terrible cut up about it all. The blacks have feelings, same as white folk. Couldn't you let Rose stay here with Dick? Or let Dick go along with you? It ain't his country where you're goin' to, but he'd be willin' to leave his country an' work for you, just to be with Rose.'

"'Certainly not!' she says. 'Anyway, it's none of your business. You've lived so long among the blacks that you've sunk to their level. I'm takin' Rose with me, that's final, an' I'm not goin' to have Dick hangin' about, neither. If you're such friends with a blackfellow, you can tell him that from me. Tell him to keep away or there'll be trouble.'

George paused so long in his story that I had to shake him. "What happened then, George?" I asked.

"Eh? Oh, sorry, Smithy. Well, they went away with the mailman, takin' Rose with them. And Dick followed them foot-walk. Yes, Smithy, that boy followed 'em footwalk for a hundred-and-eighty miles, an' turned up in the camp a few days after they arrived."

"He must have been fond of Rose," I said. "Surely after that they wouldn't be heartless enough to send him away?"

"Well," the old stockman continued, "this is where you'll have to use your own imagination, because there are two different stories as to what happened then. Dick said that Rose told them he was in the camp, and she pleaded with them to let him stay."

"How did they take that?" I asked.

"At first they were angry, but then they came round and told Rose to fetch Dick up to the house and they would give him some tucker. Well, Dick was as happy as a king. He went up to the house, an' they gave him plenty of tucker. That part of it is true enough, all the natives swear to it."

"And what's the other part of the story?" I asked again.

"Well, Dick says the white woman took him into a back room, and when no one was there she give him a pair of trousers an' a good shirt, belongin' to her old man. But she warned him not to let the other natives see them, in case they got jealous and wanted shirts and trousers, too. Anyway, Dick took 'em back to the camp on the quiet an' hid them in his swag. That's Dick's story."

"And what is the other story?"

"Well," said George, "a couple of days later a policeman came along and searched Dick's swag and found the shirt and trousers. They took him to court, and the white woman swore that he had stolen them. She said that she had given him food and treated him well, but he must have taken the opportunity to thieve

the clothes. No one saw her give Dick the clothes, and it wasn't mentioned in court about Rose bein' Dick's tribal wife. Dick got two years in jail."

"What a rotten thing to do!" I exclaimed. "How did Rose take it?"

"Well, she cried a bit and swore Dick never stole in his life, but they wouldn't listen to her. Then while Dick was in jail they married her to a boy from the new district — a boy who was forbidden to her by tribal law."

"And what about Dick?" I asked.

George paused again, then he continued: "When Dick came out of jail he worked for me for awhile, but he changed into a sullen, bad-tempered boy. He never took another lubra, just lived by himself. Years went by, an' Rose an' her husband came back to Rose's country on a walkabout. I was hopin' that Dick wouldn't hear about it. If he did I guessed there would be trouble. Ah, well! How — how long did you say that blackfellow in Darwin got for — murder?"

"Twenty years!"

"Ah, yes, I thought that's what you said. Twenty years! Well, well, it's a long stretch — even for murder. But I'd sooner be Dick when it comes to the Judgment Day than that white woman. S'help me, Bob, I would!"

And the final entry in today's Log is taken from the 18th chapter of Matthew. Jesus said: "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"

**NATIONAL ABORIGINES' DAY.** Friday, 14th July, was marked by the National Aborigines' Day Observance Ceremony, in Martin Place, Sydney. By special invitation, a number of our dark children were present, and they enjoyed the outing, and especially the lunch that followed, very much indeed. Mrs. Langford-Smith, Mrs. Warwick and Miss Isabelle Thorne accompanied the children, who looked very attractive under their silk banner, bearing the words: MARELLA MISSION FARM, KELLYVILLE. A great many of our friends were present at the ceremony, and we made many new friends as a result of the children's attendance. There was also wide newspaper and TV publicity.

**ANNUAL MEETING.** The Annual General Meeting of the Sky Pilot Fellowship Limited was held at the office of the Company, Marella Mission Farm, on 17th July. The Balance Sheet, which was presented at the meeting, appears in this leaflet. The members of the Council, and all other office-bearers, were re-elected for a further term. The following brief extracts from

the Permanent Director's Report may be of interest to our readers:

"During the year ending 31st March, 1961, we have seen more progress than in any other year since the Mission was formed. On looking back our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for the wonderful way He has undertaken for us. There has been a steady improvement in the health, happiness and spiritual welfare of the dark children in our care; also, there has been more material progress than we dreamed possible.

"Extra sheds were built in the picnic grounds, and an electric copper installed for the use of the Mission and the various Church organisations who use the picnic grounds. A septic tank was built and two water closets. The tank has been built to cater for 50 people, so should be large enough to allow for increases in the number of children provided for.

"The children's dining room and kitchen have been fly-proofed.

"Extra cupboards have been built in the office, kitchen and children's dining room; also shelves in the library. A phone switchboard has been installed in the office, to enable calls to be switched through from office to house.

"We purchased a re-conditioned Addressograph machine and had stencils cut for the names of all subscribers to the Sky Pilot News.

"A projector was purchased for deputation work. . . . A Victa Special Mower was purchased.

. . . . A plaque now hangs in the office, which states that the office is the gift of the Blue Mountains Branch of the Women's Auxiliary.

"A hut 110 feet by 20 feet was purchased from the Housing Commission. It is now in position, ready to be fitted up as living quarters for the dark children.

"All the above improvements have been paid for by the Mission, or our supporters, and yet, as the financial statement will show, we have also been able to reduce our past liabilities. We have cause to praise God for this rapid expansion.

"At the Fete on 7th May, 1960, a net profit of over £440 was made. In October, the net amount, including donations, was £1,201, which is an all-time record.

"During the year nine children were admitted and twelve discharged. The number of children in residence has kept fairly constantly at between 17 and 20. We are unable to exceed these limits until new quarters are ready for use.

"Mrs. Langford-Smith has been very ill during the year and had two trips to hospital, the most serious being for a collapsed heart. On both occasions Mrs. Onslow came to our assistance as a voluntary worker, and took charge of the house and children in a most

capable manner. Our special thanks are due to her, and it is a wonderful thing to realise that we can call on her in times of emergency.

"Mr. Kennedy, our Deputy-Chairman, has been a great help in organising the voluntary workers and supervising the building of the septic tank, the drains, and in putting the plans for the new hut to the Shire Council. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy have also helped us during emergencies by caring for Ralph, who needs special care and attention.

"The Victa Company made a TV film of the Mission children for use in their advertising. It has been shown on one or two occasions, and it is anticipated that it will be used more frequently once the credit squeeze has eased. It will help considerably to make this work more widely known.

"This year the Parramatta Town Hall authorities allowed us a total of ten Street Stalls. These are very important, as it enables us to convert a considerable quantity of clothing, unsuitable for use, into ready cash. On an average, the Stalls bring in about £40 each. They are run entirely by the members of the Parramatta Branch of the Women's Auxiliary.

"We were able to arrange for all the children to go away for three weeks' holiday during January. They went to various homes, as in other years, and everything proved very satisfactory.

"I would like to place on record my personal appreciation of the Council, and Mr. Cairns, the special adviser. Throughout the year there has been perfect harmony in the Council, and much of our progress has been due to the advice and guidance of the Council.

"As mentioned in my last Report, this work falls into three separate but closely related sections: (1) Care of the children; (2) Office, store, financial records and books; and (3) General direction of the work, deputation, writing of the "News", and planning for the future. My wife has managed, with Isabelle, to care for the dark children. The washing and cooking alone takes a lot of time and effort, and it is remarkable that we have been able to manage so long with such a small staff. Mrs. Warwick still combines the position of Secretary and Treasurer, and is untiring in her work for the Master. For over eleven years she has taken her full share of the work and responsibility, and we could not have reached our present position without her. My own work is only possible because of the devotion and assistance of my wife, acting as Matron, and Mrs. Warwick as Secretary-Treasurer.

"To God be all the praise and glory for what we have been able to accomplish during the past year in our efforts for the dark children."

**THE SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP LIMITED**

**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 1961**

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Books .....	5	0 0	Bank Interest .....		1 13 9
Bank Charges .....	1	7 0	Donations to Home .....	3482	4 2
Children's Expenses .....	125	16 0	Home Offering Boxes .....	328	9 0
Car Allowance .....	100	0 0	Deputation .....	86	6 3
Children's Board .....	2661	0 0	General Donations .....	38	10 0
Depreciation .....	169	6 6	Subs to News .....	40	4 0
Entertaining .....	26	0 0	Government Allowance .....	1126	14 0
Insurance .....	75	8 2	Parents' Contributions .....	306	10 0
Maintenance and Repairs .....	163	7 8	Sale of Salvage .....	204	2 8
Printing and Stationery .....	252	10 5	Sale of Books .....	25	0 0
Postages .....	81	5 8	Fetes, Stalls, etc. ....	1107	5 2
Presentations .....	8	15 3			
Rent .....	61	0 0			
Salaries and Wages .....	2106	9 5			
Store .....	27	1 6			
Sundry Expenses .....	56	11 5			
Telephone .....	57	18 10			
Travelling Expenses .....	14	13 6			
Utility and Trailer Expenses .....	137	13 8			
Youth Fellowship .....	30	0 0			
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year transferred to Accumu- lated Funds .....	585	14 0			
	£6746	19 0		£6746	19 0

**Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1961**

CURRENT LIABILITIES		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	CURRENT ASSETS		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sundry Creditors .....	1319	14	0					Commonwealth Trad- ing Bank .....	226	5	10				
Loans .....	360	0	0	1679	14	0		Cash on Hand .....	10	0	0				
<b>RESERVES</b>								Stock (at cost) .....	315	1	8	551	7	6	
Asset Revaluation								<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>							
Reserve .....				2202	18	10		Children's Equipment	234	10	0				
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>								Furniture and Fittings	1755	7	8				
Balance 1/4/60 .....	254	13	0					Office Equipment .....	528	19	3				
Add excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31/3/61	585	14	0					Utility .....	1098	8	0				
	840	7	0					Buildings .....	3416	0	1				
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>								Machinery .....	56	0	0	7089	5	0	
Balance								<b>INTANGIBLE ASSETS</b>							
1/4/60 .....	915	17	6					Formation Expenses .....				93	3	9	
Add Do- nations for the year ended 31/3/61 .....	2094	18	11	3010	16	5	3851	3	5			£7733	16	3	
							£7733	16	3						

For and on behalf of The Sky Pilot Fellowship Limited

K. Langford-Smith, Permanent Director

A. W. Kennedy, Councillor

We have examined the books vouchers and records of The Sky Pilot Fellowship Limited for the year ended 31st March, 1961. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required, and, in our opinion, the above Balance Sheet has been properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Company. In our opinion, the Register of Members and other records which the Company is required to keep under the Companies Act, 1936, and by its Articles, have been properly kept.

K. H. PEARCE MOCATTA AND CO.,  
Chartered Accountants.

(Signed) K. H. Pearce.

"Registered under the Public Accountants'  
Registration Act, 1945, as amended."

Blacktown, 22/6/61.