

MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME

Mrs. Margaret Tucker, who will probably be better known to old friends as Margaret Coombs and who left Cootamundra Girls' Home in 1917, writes from Louisville, Kentucky, United States of America.

She says—

"Thank you very much for the copies of *Dawn*. I was delighted and so were people I lent them to; they were so interesting because I have quite a lot of names in them. I was especially interested to learn of Mr. Pettitt, Mrs. English and Miss Lowe, of whom I was very fond when I was one of her girls at Cootamundra.

This place, "the Old Kentucky Home", holds a lot of interest for me, as all our aboriginal people in Australia know Stephen Foster's many songs, which are a great favourite of ours. We were shown all over the house and many beautiful pieces of furniture, hundreds of years old. Also silver and porcelain and the desk where he wrote his song "My Old Kentucky Home". It is now valued at \$25,000 and is about 25 miles from the town of Louisville.

We went on another 25 miles to see the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. It was most inspiring. I am learning a lot of good things here and especially American history.

We are all here with an African play called "The Next Phase". I take part in three scenes and people are flocking to see it, and have been taking us into their lovely homes, and they invite us everywhere. I am so grateful for everything and I will get some interesting pictures to send home. This experience has certainly changed my whole outlook on life and has made things so much brighter. I have visited a lot of schools and colleges here and have sang to them and have enjoyed it.

Hoping all the Aborigines Welfare Board Officers and their families are well,

Yours respectfully,

(Sgd.) Margaret Tucker.

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ROTARY AT WORK AT CONDOBOLIN RESERVE

Once again, the Condobolin Rotary Club have assisted the local Aborigines' School. A new and enlarged fence has been completed round the school area by the Rotarians, assisted by the men of the Reserve.

The new fence has made a great difference to the appearance of the school and grounds, and it will be possible to carry out extensive gardening activities now when the dry season breaks.

How the Black Wren came to have it's Red Feathers

By Miss Mildred Norledge of Kyogle.

(With acknowledgement to the *Northern Star*.)

In the days of long ago—in the *Dreamtime* and all creatures were created, all plants, all trees, and all the plants and trees were in their shape and form as we know them now—it was then that there was a *Great War*.

Now the Brown Snake it is said made the war and there was much fighting. One day the creatures that were not fighting on the side of the Brown Snake—held a solemn conclave as to how they would be rid of such a great fighter and valiant warrior as the Brown Snake. For if the Brown Snake died the war would be ended, and so it was agreed that die the Brown Snake must. "But how," said the creatures, "are we to be rid of such a great enemy and warrior as the Brown Snake? Who will spear him to death?" "I will spear him to death," said the Currajong Hawk—and so the Currajong Hawk picked up his spear and went forth to kill the Brown Snake.

Now the Currajong Hawk was very swift and quick quick as the Brown Snake was quick, and being a hawk he could hover over his enemy, as well as fly above his reach—so now the war became a duel between the Brown Snake and the Currajong Hawk and great was the Boorabung—which means many creatures—that watched and great was their joy when the Currajong Hawk killed the Brown Snake.

Now no sooner than the Brown Snake was dead the question arose as to who was to carry the Brown Snake back to his tribal ground for burial as was the custom—all the birds tried to carry the Brown Snake, but none could do so only the little black wren. And to this day you can see the red feathers on the wings of the black wren where the blood from the spear wounds of the Brown Snake dyed them red.

Collected and compiled by—Mildred Norledge, Kyogle, N.S.W.

As told by—Mr. T. Close (Snr.), Woodenbong.

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Corks of all sizes have many uses in the kitchen. Try dipping one in kerosene for simple removal of rust from metal. And for tarnished brass, if the stain has not eaten in too deeply a cork dipped in ammonia and turps works wonders. Dry and just polish in the usual way.

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Did you know that a crust of bread cooked with green vegetables absorbs the odours? And a few breadcrumbs added to scrambled eggs will add to the quantity but not spoil the flavour.