

## WELFARE OFFICER ACCEPTS NEW POST IN FAR NORTH

Mr. S. Preston Walker, former Welfare Officer at Moree, has resigned to accept a new post as North Queensland representative of the British and Foreign Bible Society at Townsville (Q.).

Before joining the staff of the Aborigines Welfare Board in March, 1956, Mr. Walker was a missionary in West Australia.

One of his first appointments with the Board was as relieving manager at Murrin Bridge. In 1958 he was promoted to Welfare Officer at Moree.

During his five years in the North-West Mr. Walker and his wife made many friends among our people.

Tributes to their work were paid by speakers at a widely representative gathering in the Moree A.I.M. Hall just before they left for Townsville.

Mr. and Mrs. Walker were presented with a dinner set by the gathering which expressed sorrow at seeing them go but wished them health and happiness in the tropical north.



Mr. Preston Walker (rear row) photographed with a group of children from Moree Station school

### The Death of a Princess . . .

## *Sad Week for Burnt Bridge*

Mrs. Agnes Dotti, the last surviving daughter of King Binnalong, who was chief of the Kombaingai tribe in the Kempsey district, died suddenly on December 21.

The death of the Princess, who was 68, came under particularly tragic circumstances.

A few days previously her adopted son, Thomas Layton (46), was found dead on one of the back tracks leading to Burnt Bridge Aboriginal Station.

On December 21 another resident of Burnt Bridge, Mrs. Lucy Dotti (75), passed away in Macleay District Hospital.

Mrs. Agnes Dotti, on learning of her death went to the home of Mrs. Alma Davis (Lucy's only daughter) to extend her sympathies.

The Princess had barely spoken when she had a heart seizure, collapsed and died.

Station Manager, Mr. A. Henriksen, told *Dawn* that the Princess had been receiving treatment for a chronic heart condition for some time and no doubt the sudden death of Tommy Layton, whom she looked on as a son,

and the death of her life-long friend Lucy, proved too much for her.

The Princess is survived by four daughters, a son, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Lucy Dotti is survived by seven sons, one daughter, 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

It was fitting that these two old friends shared the same church and the same burial service. More than 400 relatives and friends attended the service and people came from near and far to pay their respects to these grand old ladies.

Tommy Layton's funeral took place a few days earlier. When he was a boy he was taken into the Dotti family which then lived at Yellow Rock. When he grew up he went "walkabout" on jobs and was away for 18 years. Three years ago he returned to the Dotti family at Burnt Bridge Station. The family had grown up so Tommy went to live on his own in a neat, clean little cottage. His death was due to natural causes.

Members of both Dotti families would like, through *Dawn*, to thank all concerned for the floral tributes and expressions of sympathy.