

## TALKING BOOK FOR BLIND DUBBO MAN

Well-known and popular Dubbo Aborigine, Mr. Thomas Carney, who is blind, was presented with a talking book machine at a ceremony in Dubbo recently.

Mr. Carney, who lives with his family in Old Dubbo Road, was blinded in an accident.

Before that, he was a well-known sportsman in the town and district, and his children too, are keenly interested in sport.

Mr. Carney's talking book was presented to him by Mr. J. Johnston, President of the Dubbo Auxiliary of the Royal Blind Society of N.S.W.

At the same ceremony, talking books were presented to two other Dubbo residents, Mr. D. H. Currey, of Macleay Street, and Mrs. E. Ferris, of Darling Street.

The Auxiliary now has distributed 14 talking books to blind people in the Dubbo district.

A talking book is a machine similar to a tape recorder. It plays a tape in the same way as a tape recorder, but it is different in that the tape is contained in a cassette and does not have to be threaded on to the machine.

A talking book tape half an inch wide can record on up to 18 tracks.

It is possible for one tape to contain 22 hours of reading.

The talking book was developed in England with the help of a £200,000 grant from the late Lord Nuffield.

The idea was brought to Australia by Mr. K. R. Bunn, now Director of the Royal Blind Society in N.S.W., and Australia was only the second country in the world to have talking books. They are not yet in use in the United States.

The talking book machine presented to Mr. Carney, was donated by the Trangie Lions Club. The other two were donated by the Rotary Club of Dubbo.

Mr. Johnston described the Trangie Club's gift as a particularly wonderful gesture and symbolic of the way service clubs assisted people outside their own district.

Mr. Carney lives with his wife and six children on a farm he bought out of compensation he received for the accident which caused his blindness.

**Our picture from the "Dubbo Liberal" shows Mr. Johnston presenting the talking book to Mr. Carney at the ceremony in Dubbo Council Chambers**

