

## EARLY DAYS ON P.I.

By "Cappy" Smith.

"Mr. Curry accompanied us to Brisbane on this trip and we wore red blazers and straw hats. The matches held here were played down at the farm and after each match Mr. Curry always gave the players a party. These parties were always enjoyed by all.

All kinds of races were held in those days, including a chipping race. The men were in teams and were given a hoe each. The best team, who chipped the most weeds and finished first, got a prize. The Babinda team was the most exciting team there.

Mr. Hazeldine, who was second in charge, died here and was buried down on the beach on the left hand side of the new Free Issue Store. The grave is still there, and was only recently fixed up to keep it looking nice, as the years and the bad weather since then made it look old.

The corroborees etc. were held at the people's homes. In those days, they did not have a special place to stage the dances. Things changed a few years later when new people came to live here. All the things we used to do died out by then.

A lady missionary arrived to take up her duties here. Mrs. Geo. Ryan was one of the girls who taught Sunday school, she was then Ena Bunting. Miss Simmons, the missionary, was the first to take up church work here and prayers were held in the old grass school and she was liked by everybody young and old. Miss Simmons lived at Casement and later moved from there to Curocoa Island and a house was built for her there. Willie Corbett brought her from Curocoa to Palm every Sunday in a small boat and the services on Sunday morning were lovely to hear, especially when the organ was played.

The different tribes lived together and named their little settlements: Clumpoint, Cooktown, Babinda, Halifax and Sundown. These places are still called by these names today.

-----