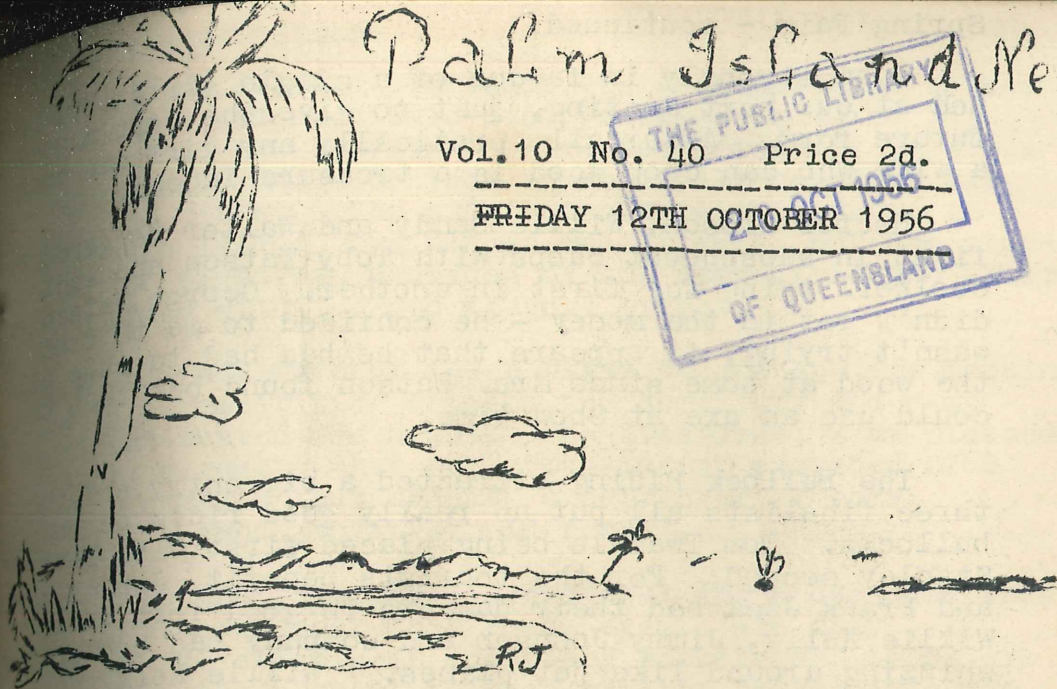
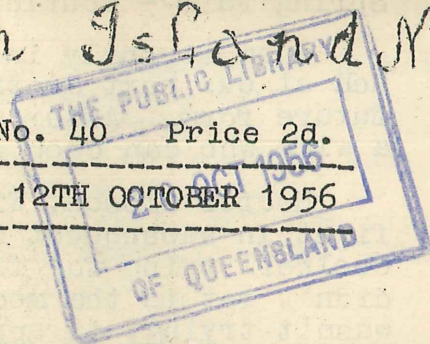


Palm Island News

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FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER 1956



SPRING FAIR '56.

The Palm Island Annual Spring Fair was held on Saturday October 6th. After several days of doubtful weather the morning was fine and clear and luckily the remainder of the day lived up to its early promise.

As a big programme had been arranged and ample supplies for the stalls procured, it was decided to make an early start and the stalls opened for business at approximately 10 a.m. and a start was also made with the sport programme but as usual the foot races received little support.

Tommy Congo was placed first with Cedric Geia second in the only event of this type held.

Next on the list was the first of the woodchopping event won by Ashley Coolwell, Jimmy Daisy got down from his axe for long enough to take second money, followed by Ted Tranby in third place. The next event was the ladies woodchop, in which Alice Archie wielded a flashing blade to take first prize with Beatrice Dodd second.

(continued over page)

Spring Fair - continued:

I am strongly in favour of a single girls chop held at our next meeting, just to give the boys a guide to future form. After all, practically any girl can cook a wife who can chop wood is a treasure indeed.

Hector Gibson, Willie Sandy and Walter Bengaroo were first in subsequent chops with Toby Watson and Ashley Coolwell tying for first in another. George Watson didn't get in the money - he confided to me that he wasn't trying, it appears that he has had to chop all the wood at home since Mrs. Watson found out that he could use an axe at Show time.

The Bullock Riding attracted a big entry and the three finalists all put up really good rides on rough bullocks. Tom Twaddle being placed first with Peter Stanley second. For the tourists benefit, Johnny Rock and Frank Jack had their dancers in good form while Willie Kelly, Jimmy Johnson and company had boomerangs whizzing around like jet planes. Willie Kelly tells that he is working on a new design boomerang, says that if it turns out all right he'll only need to know your address to hit you.

By the time these events had been completed and the tourists had departed it was time to adjourn and get ready for the night session. This took the form of a barbacue, Island fashion, held on the sports ground and complete with all trimmings. This, I am pleased to state, was a huge success. Jacob Baira, ably assisted by some of our regular lugger boy visitors, turned out an excellent spread which included lashings of pork, and turtle cooked island style, and backed up by plenty of vegetables and rice and appetising looking bread.

The repast was spread on table tops arranged on the ground and illuminated by fires started in hollow logs set upright at appropriate intervals all around. The crowd which included practically every man, woman and child on the island served themselves in record time and all surplus food was disposed of by some of the boys carrying it amongst the crowd in tubs while the dancing was in progress. (continued on opp. page)

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Spring Fair - continued:

Part of the dancing programme was a competition between Johnny Rocky's and Archibald Jacob's teams in which the latter obtained the decision. Kirk Jacko and Alf Saunders also held a solo dance contest in which Alf Saunders was declared the winner. The paint boys were also there in force and the Island boys danced really well, but the high-ward combined with the men to good effect.

We should see more of these mixed dances and are looking forward to a competition between the dormitory and camp girls at our next dance night. As Treasurer, I am pleased to be able to report that our gross taking exceeded £260 and I feel certain that despite a carryover of some commodities a good profit should result.

I am sure that everyone is grateful for a day like this but let us all remember that these events are only produced by the efforts of voluntary workers and if we are going to ride the present team of willing horses into the ground the future will not look too bright. "What about it you young people?"

ARRIVALS.

We welcome to Palms Mr and Mrs. Shepherd and daughter who arrived last Tuesday from Woorabinda on annual leave. We hope they enjoy their stay on Palm Island.

SWIMMING.

Now that the hot weather is with us, we notice quite a few in swimming and enjoying themselves.

BOTTLE DRIVE. The competition for the child who collected the largest number of empty bottles was won by Keith Pickles and Denning Bannings. They brought in 129 bottles.
