

EARLY DAYS ON P.I.

By Cappy Smith.

"Years went by and people were coming from various places to live on Palm Island. Soon a store keeper was needed to look after the Store and issue the rations to the people. A house was built for him.

Our own houses were made of grass. The single men's hut was erected where the Baby Welfare now stands, while a good crop of sweet potatoes grew on the present hospital site.

We received very little fresh meat in those days, though we got plenty of corned meat. There were plenty of wild pigs here those days and many folks would spear fish to add to their variety of foods.

There were two little white boys living here then, John Hamilton, son of the launch Master, and Robbie Curry, son of the Superintendent. Some of us taught John to use a spear and he soon became as good with the spear as our own boys.

There was a pony here and Percy Garbutt taught young Robbie to ride.

Our football team consisted of all big men around 14 stone to 15 stone weight, the lightest going about 9 stone. Some of those players are not living now, but a few who are, are Bob Fulerton, Jim Bandfield, Genemi Geia, Fred and Arthur Brakenbridge, Jim Harvey and Alf Palmer.

We had a couple of trips to Brisbane and one to Teowoomba and the people on the mainland were very glad to see us play.

-----  
Whatever your business, do it well. -  
-----