

Reports put the position of the box about 200 miles north of the Warburton Mission. To reach this, the party plans to use a trackless route only once followed by a white man—W.A. prospector and explorer, F. Hann, who travelled that way to the Rawlinsons in 1904 and prospected unsuccessfully around their western end.

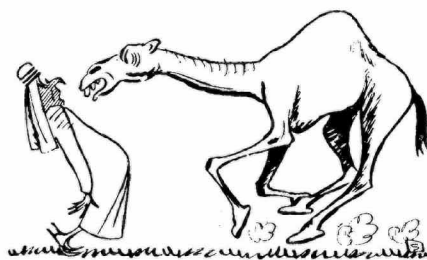
As far as is known, only he and two earlier explorers, Forrest and Giles, passed anywhere near the Leichhardt box area, but any of them could have passed by it on the other side of a sandhill.

This year's expedition will have the essential advantage of a native guide who knows where the box is supposed to be.

He will take them into what is probably the world's toughest, harshest, driest inland country, where the friendliness of desert natives is doubtful.

This year, W.A.'s early rains have penetrated far inland, and it is hoped that the route will be found passable, despite Sgt. Anderson's conviction that only horses and camels could travel it.

Experienced local men—dingo-trapper, V. R. ("Wacka") Lloyd, prospector Stan Bridgeman and Martin and Jim Cable, mine-owner and station-manager, respectively—hope that a track will be found for vehicles and that water will be available, for no waterholes are known on the route north of Elder Creek.



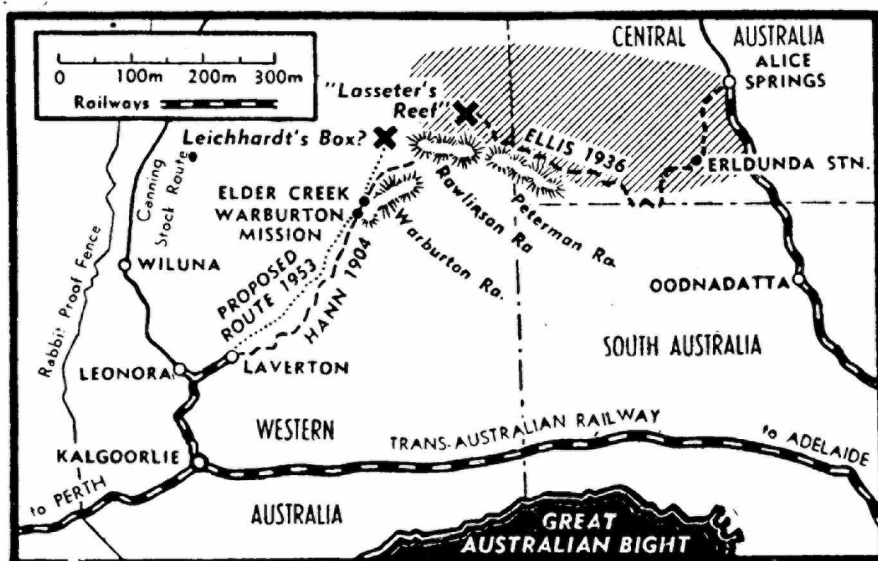
If the vehicles cannot get through Grayden proposes to use horses or camels or a light aircraft.

The intended route is the shortest from the nearest point of civilisation, the Warburton Range Mission, which is an isolated outpost more than 300 miles from the nearest settlement, Laverton, the extreme north-eastern point of the W.A. goldfields.

Detective Bruce Gooch, who, with Sgt. Anderson in 1949 did a 10-week patrol over country similar to that on the expedition's route, describe it as a vast area of red, rolling sand-hills running east and west and stretching from the Canning stock route right across the W.A. border into Central Australia.

Both men doubt if jeeps will get through. "It's bad enough packing yourself and your pack animals over those hills, let alone vehicles," says Gooch.

But if the expedition finds the route impassable they have the alternative of another—longer, but probably easier—over which vehicles have travelled.



It is the route used by Ellis and a Lasseter's reef expedition in 1936, starting from Alice Springs and working westward.



In vehicles, the party reached a point—the supposed position of the reef—less than 100 miles from where Leichhardt's box lies, if the native reports are fairly accurate.

But to use this route, if the first attempt fails, may mean a race—a race via Kalgoorlie, Adelaide and Alice Springs and out into the desert and back before the warm weather begins.



Mr. and Mrs. Bert Solomon, of Condobolin, leaving the Church after their wedding recently