

## Shire President's Tribute

# BOB SMITH PRAISED

The Editor, *Dawn*.

Dear Sir,

It gives me very great pleasure to contribute a few words in praise of Mr. "Bob" Smith of Greenhill, Kempsey, who retired from the service of Macleay Shire Council at Christmas, 1957, after nearly fifteen years valuable service to the community in this area.

Bob worked on the outside staff, chiefly on the maintenance, construction and repair of roads, and he was experienced in all phases of the work, particularly concrete work, at which he was something of an expert.

Bob was thought of highly by workmates and Councillors alike, as evidenced by the fact that a reference under seal of Council was presented to him on his retirement, reading as follows :—

"The Council has noted that you have retired and wishes to place on record its appreciation of your sterling work whilst an employee for a number of years.

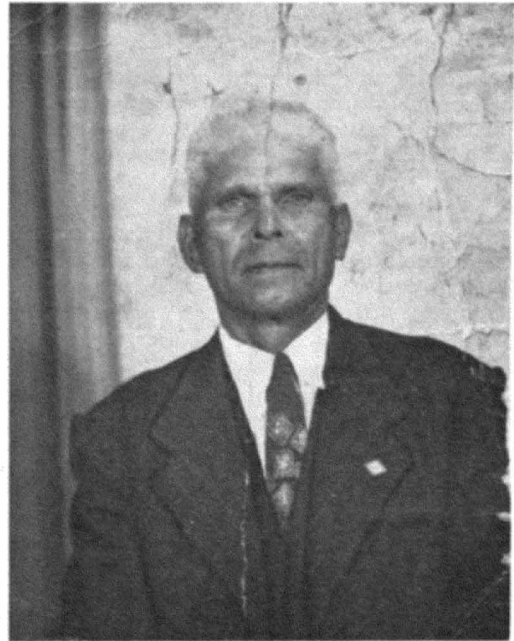
"During the term of your employment you have attended to your duties in a most efficient and cheerful manner, and the high esteem in which you are held by your fellow employees is a true indication of your worth.

"The Council trusts that you will continue to enjoy good health and that you will enjoy the years of retirement so richly earned".

Bob was born at Sherwood on the Upper Macleay on 1st January, 1893, and married Miss Beatrice Murray at Burnt Bridge on 17th December, 1913. He has been on the Macleay all his life, and at present lives in a good type house at Greenhill, and with his wife has successfully raised a large family of children. Evidence of the regard which the Shire Staff have for Bob was shown when the staff union representative was spoken to about him. Said the Union representative :—

"Bob Smith's principles and character are second to none. He is also one of the greatest ambassadors that the coloured race have ever had on the Macleay. He is not just a good blackfellow—he is an outstanding man. Indeed, the fact that Bob's skin is dark is neither here nor there. We accept him as a man, and we are happy to say that he accepts us in the same fashion".

It is perhaps needless to add that as evidence of his standing in the community, Bob has been the holder of



**Bob Smith**

full citizenship rights for many years, and may often be seen Saturday mornings in the town of Kempsey having a friendly beer with his white friends. On occasions during his service with Macleay Shire Council Bob has been left in charge of his white workmates, and never during these times has any complaint been heard. Bob is truly a credit to the community, and although he has ceased work with this Council, having reached the retirement age of 65 years, it gives me pleasure to note that he is still to be seen in the area doing private jobs of concrete work at which he is so skilled.

Good luck to you Bob, and may you live many years to enjoy these surroundings in which you were born and bred. May you live many years to give to this community yet a further measure of your labour. And may you live many years so that we may have the pleasure of seeing your cheerful face round and about the town of Kempsey and in the Shire of Macleay.

**L. R. KESBY,**

President, Macleay Shire Council.

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