

"After this visit no one will be able to suggest to me that Central Australia is a dead heart. From now on, I shall always look upon it as a living heart, beating with confident energy."

ABORIGINE HOST IN DARWIN

A Darwin resident, Phillip Roberts, a full-blooded aborigine, woke his wife Hannah one morning during the Royal visit to Northern Territory, with the news:—"The Queen and Prince Philip are to call on us today."

Administration officials had told Mr. Roberts a week before about the planned visit but the husband kept it a secret from his wife until a few hours before the event.

Naturally Hannah was excited but when the Royal guests arrived at the Roberts' attractive stucco-brick home in the Darwin suburb of Night Cliffs, Hannah shed her shyness and ideally played the role of hostess.

Phillip Roberts is one of Darwin's most respected citizens. He is self-educated and earns £26 a week as a medical survey assistant.

White neighbours clustered outside the Roberts house, singing the National Anthem as the Royal car pulled up outside and the Queen and Prince Philip walked up to the front porch.

Phillip Roberts introduced his wife, his eldest daughter Phyllis, Phyllis' husband, Mr. David Woody, and his other daughters, Rhoda, 14, Connie, 12, Mavis, 7, Margaret, 5, and Miriam, 18 months.

A neighbour's youngster peeked through the doorway as the Queen inspected the house, with its three bedrooms and modern kitchen.

A memorable picture of the Duke of Edinburgh handing over his spade to an aboriginal boy after planting a mock orange tree in the schoolgrounds at Broome, West Australia. The Queen also planted a tree during the visit to Broome



This Northern Territory mother came 148 miles in a bumpy, dusty truck ride from Mount Alan station, nursing her baby, to see the Queen at Alice Springs. She is Dorothy, a Wailbri aboriginal, and she held her baby, Rebecca, in a primitive bark cradle

(Sydney Morning Herald pictures)

Mr. Roberts told the Royal guests that he paid £4 15s. a week rent to the Housing Commission.

Mr. Roberts said he was born 42 years ago in the Alawa tribe on the Roper River, had undergone full initiation rites and still sometimes used his tribal name, Waipuldayna.

He had gone to mission school until fifth grade and had since educated himself.

He had first trained as a motor mechanic and now was a medical assistant for the Northern Territory Health Department, travelling in Arnhem Land, detecting leprosy, malnutrition and tuberculosis among his own people.

Prince Philip asked why more aboriginal people did not come into Darwin for treatment.

He laughed when Mr. Roberts explained that tribal superstitions still lingered and many natives were afraid of dying outside their own reserves.

The Queen complimented Mrs. Roberts on the spotless appearance of her home.

As the Queen left Mr. Roberts presented her with a copy of Darwin journalist Douglas Lockwood's book, "I, the Aboriginal," which tells of Phillip Roberts' successful bid to become assimilated into Darwin's community.