GRAND OLD MAN OF TALBRAGAR HAS HIS MEMORIES

Pride of place as senior citizen on the Talbragar Aboriginal Reserve is firmly held by “Tracker” Riley, 85 years old and still going strong.

Mr Riley is one of the most famous black trackers to come out of New South Wales. He worked for the Police Department for more than 40 years, during which time he solved six murders in the Dubbo district alone. Lord Wakehurst thirty years ago presented Mr Riley with a medal for his service from King George.

Probably his crowning achievement was his lead-up work to the capture in the 1930’s of mass murderer Moss, who was charged with having killed 13 people over a 20-year period.

It took Mr Riley over 12 months of painstaking investigation to run his man to earth, but finally he did, adding one more illustrious chapter to the proud record of service shared by the State’s black trackers.

Mr Riley today lives quietly on the Talbragar Reserve with four families totalling a population of 33. An 18-acre reserve, Talbragar is ideally located near Dubbo at the junction of the Talbragar and Macquarie Rivers.

With his wife Ethel, and a grandson, “Tracker” has refused the offer of accommodation in Dubbo.

“A rat-race”, says “Tracker” scornfully when told of the joys of town dwelling.

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