Smoke Signals

TIP FOR THE MONTH When drying wet shoes stand them on their heels—the soles dry much quicker this way.

Ballina welfare officer L. A. Ridgeway tells *Dawn* that the people of Maclean are up in arms about the heading of the story on page 3 in March issue. Lenore Randall, who graduated from Grafton Base Hospital as a nursing sister last December, comes from Maclean, not Ballina. And the Maclean people want the record straightened; they alone can claim to have fostered this talented and attractive young lady.

A Sydney woman told radio station 2SM early in April that her pet galah had torn $1,360 in notes to shreds. The money, a gift from her mother, was kept in a tin under a cupboard. But the galah, in an angry mood, ripped off the lid of the tin and attacked the money with its claws and beak. The woman said: “I wasn’t game to tell my husband. I thought he might kill the bird with a stick.” She took the money to the Reserve Bank, where a team of girls spent six weeks piecing the money together again. The woman got all but $20 back from the Reserve Bank.

Another bad-luck-with-money story was told in Sydney late in March. Owen Smith, a 20-year-old glass cutter-glazier, withdrew from a 20-man syndicate of workmates two weeks before it won $200,000 in an Opera House lottery. Owen is saving to get married next year, but the sixty cents saved on the lottery ticket cost him $20,000. His winning workmates felt bad about the situation, and presented Owen with the extra prize of $1,500 they won for being one ticket number off first prize.

Quadruplets—all girls—were born in Darwin early in April to Mrs Mabel Mein-Bel, a full-blood Aboriginal woman of Daly River, Northern Territory. The quads are believed to be the first born to an Aboriginal mother and are the first born in the Northern Territory. The babies have been named Joan of Arc, Luidi, Regina Ann, and Phillipa. The father’s name is Dandy Gambang Urra. The parents are not Christians but gave permission for the quads to be baptised. Tribal elders decided to give the babies the surname Jimarin, after their paternal great-grandfather, a primitive hunter of the Moil tribe in the northwest coast of Northern Territory. The parents have seven other children.

Mr Wally Norman, president of the St George Auxiliary of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, wrote to *Dawn* a few months ago about the excellent support the auxiliary had received in his area. “You may be interested to know that we have found in the St George area,” Mr Norman wrote, “a great deal of public sympathy for the Aboriginal people and their problems. Public support for our Auxiliary has been so generous and spontaneous that, after only 18 months in existence, we have been able to supply the Foundation with a 16-mm projector for visual education, an up-to-date washing machine for their newly renovated premises, a piano for their social rendezvous, some wrought iron furniture, plus a cheque for $150 for three scholarships for Aboriginal children’s school supplies. We are very fortunate in having a very enthusiastic and dedicated committee and look forward to bigger and better contributions towards the advancement of the Aboriginal people, on behalf of the residents of the St George-Sutherland area.”

Melbourne University late in March announced a scholarship scheme to enable an Aborigine to study at the University. It includes a living