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Carpelli

Oct 30 1913

Professor Spencer Esq.
Melbourne.

Dear Professor,

I got your wire and hope that you get the specimen all right. The small black Kangaroo I sent you was a very bad specimen, but I thought that you could use it for reference. I got the three pounds of 3 - all right, and bought, dress stuff, belts, razors, & looking glasses, but have not yet handed them out. My cargo has not yet been landed. I left the boat at Woodhead and rode from there to Carpelli on horse back so that I could answer your questions by this mail. The man in charge of the Lone Hand will bring the launch to the landing and by the time that he has unloaded I will have the mail ready. I am enclosing the answers to your questions pinned together, and hope that you can make them out. I was too unwell with a heavy cold while in Darwin to try and get answers for you, but hope this will

will reach you in good time. Some of your questions I was unable to answer, I.E. The Iwaidji ones. No natives here would give me the answers or could not give them. There is no Port Essington natives near here.

Alice (Mer-ru-law) is true Iwaidji, but Rodney I could not locate. If I knew his native name I could find out for you

Re Ungara - There are two men of that name.

One, Ungara is Mutkalakki's father, and the other one is Werdatee's (Janzer) uncle. The Ungara who was here with us; and had taken the place of Mutkalakki's father; has two names. Ungara - Uzriyar.

The other chap is, Ungara - Mul-yara-mee. I spell the names phonetically and they must be pronounced quickly, just like one word.

As you say, it is very hard to get the proper pronunciation of native words, and in very few instances do the natives pronounce exactly alike.

While in Darwin I was walking along the street near Allen's store, two natives were pulling a hand cart. I thought I heard some one say Paddy 'Kal. I turned towards the two natives, and in an instant they let go the hand cart, and a second later

They had hold of me and were dancing
 around me, yelling you Paddy Kal, you
 Paddy Kal, after a considerable time I got
 them quite enough to talk to & they were two
 of the natives that we had in our camp at
 Bathurst Island, quite young boys and I
 cannot convey to you how pleased they
 were to see me. They could talk no
 English but I could thoroughly understand
 what they wanted to know, and that was,
 where were you. The tears were running
 down their face, and if I had not slipped
 away into the store and bought them some
 lollies, I believe they would have
 started to cry. Father Croix came along
 and he could not make out what the
 row was about, I explained to him
 and he said that they were boys from
 the mission station and that it was his
 hand cart & the boys were getting some
 goods ready for Bathurst Island. You
 can understand how the poor boys felt,
 when they saw me. I was the only one
 in Darwin that they knew, so you
 can guess how they felt. They kept
 saying, Paddy Kal, you, two fellow them

back quick fellow, meaning that they wanted you and I back on the island again. I gave them a good bit of lollies and left them standing in the street watching me, as I walked along and every time I looked back, they yelled out something and waved their hands - and the last words that I could hear, was; two fellow come back

Next day I went to the hospital to see Mankalathi and Toby. I saw a little black boy in a bed; he had a broken leg and was watching me every where that he could see me. As soon as I had seen my two boys, I went over to the little chap and his eyes were nearly out of his head with excitement, at last he managed to gasp out; You Paddy Kat - and lo, he was another of our Bethurst Island crowd. He held on to my hand, until the Doctor came along, and then the little chap started the Alligator Corroboree, then the Shark Corroboree, Poor little chap lying there with a broken leg, was as pleased as the others to see me. He was one of the little chaps who was trying to see

who could eat the most treacle at once.
You remember the lot of children who had
treacle all over their faces. It is wonderful
how they remember a person I do not think
that the Bathurst Islanders will ever forget
you and myself. I wish that I had time
to learn their language, I am sure that we
could get everything from them now—
I am very disappointed with Beckett's
visit to Oenpelli, he is a crawler, he
was questioning some of the natives here
who were not workers on the place, asking
them if I gave them plenty of tucker,
blankets, mosquito nets and in each case
he was answered, no, him no give me big
fellow tobacco, no more blanket only little
bit tucker. Had Beckett had any manly
ways with him he should have asked me
what natives were working here I would
have pointed out to him the boys who were
workers and he could have asked any
questions he liked, I consider it a low
down dirty action for Beckett or any
one else to crawl around trying to seek
underhand information from outside natives.
One native that he questioned was a native

named Gubberment, that Linaere had with him when he came here, of course Gubberment said that I gave the natives nothing, expecting, Beckett to at once give him some thing. Poor old Romula said what for Beckett ask his blackfellow any thing. That one Gubberment him properly liar. That is Romulas opinion.

Beckett has not the slightest idea of how natives should be worked. He believes every thing a native tells him, and once a cunning native knows that, Lord only knows what yarns would be told him. I fancy Beckett thinks that he will be the next Chief Protector and if that happens I don't know what the Department will come to, I for one will probabally resign. It is a great pity that the whole of the Australian natives could not be placed under one head, and a salary paid so that a man like yourself could afford to take charge of the whole thing and place it on a proper footing, we should then have a goal to steer to. Myself, I am now furling in a five mile paddock to keep the horses from getting cancers during the

wet season. I then start ploughing, and building some more houses for the natives and will probably by April next, have everything ready for schooling the children. And when I get things ship shape, I am going to ask his Excellency and the Chief Protector to give me a visit and fix up things definitely - I am afraid Professor that you will get tired of this schawl and say, thank goodness this is the end of the novel. You must put me in the place of the Bathurst Islanders that I met in Darwin, I was the only one that they knew in a strange land and you are the only one that I know, who thoroughly understands the natives and the right way to treat them. Mind this is no slur on our present Chief Protector, who is the best man in the N.T. to be the Chief Protector; but his knowledge does not get anywhere near yours. Mrs Cahill and Ruby send along their kindest regards to you and hope that all is well with you and yours. I am always pleased to hear from you and while I am at Confilli, don't hesitate to ask me for any thing that I can get you in any way.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a happy New Year
 I hope to remain yours truly
 Paddy Cahill