

## **MINERS' BOOTS— SMART FASHION**

### **Windfall For Natives**

#### **DARWIN.**

Natives in the Wessel Island group are now the best-dressed in Arnhem Land.

They have everything from shorts and long trousers to mining boots and panama hats. They lack only ties.

Lubras and piccaninnies also are dressed in white man's clothing.

Twenty of them have inherited all the surplus clothing from the white community of 30 miners and officials.

The white men were evacuated from Marchinbar Island by air after completing tests to prove bauxite deposits on the island. They could take only a limited amount of luggage, and they handed the surplus to the natives.

#### **WATCHMAN LEFT**

The natives are now waiting for the return of the white men during the next dry season to continue mining, as the whites gave them plenty of food, tobacco, and clothing for not too much work.

The project has now closed for the wet season, and a lone white watchman, experienced with bush natives, Jack Jensen, is living at Marchinbar and looking after the camp.

Marchinbar Island is part of the Wessel Island group off the coast of Arnhem Land, and contains the largest known bauxite deposits in Australia.

Next year a party of geologists and other mining men will explore bauxite deposits on the Arnhem Land mainland at Buckingham Bay.