

NORMAN BILSON, (Wangkai name WALARU), Alec Bilson's younger brother, dictated a letter as follows to the ^{be sent to} District Native Welfare Officer in Kalgoorlie applying for an Age Pension on the twenty-third November, 1959: -

Dear Sir,

Please will you help me to apply for an Old Age Pension to be paid to me in money at the Post Office in Kalgoorlie.

I feel I am finished now and my eyesight is going. I can't do any more station work and there is no ~~more work~~ other work for me to do. My first work was at Old McComishes cattle station at Laverton after my brother Alec finished work there. It was all cattle work then and when cattle were given up I broke in horses that were sent to Perth. I worked for Old McComish till he died. Then I went to work for Billy and Jasper Bright on their Kookynie Station, and I have worked there ever since, they have cattle and sheep and horses. I have always worked on the same station, first for McComish, then for the Brights.

But I am not up to the work now. My age is seventy. I believe I am seventy because I was a man when the First War started.

Yours truly,
Norman Bilson.
(his mark.)

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The District Officer for Native Welfare wrote in reply to Mrs Bennett's enquiries on the eighth of June 1960 as follows: -

"NORMAN BILSON - is not seventy years of age as stated by Mrs Bennett and is not yet old enough for the Age Pension. He is engaged at pastoral work."

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Norman Bilson still complained of his sight and when he met Mr John McInnes whom he had known in the early days of the Goldfields he asked him what is his age.

to Mrs Bennett
Mr John McInnes wrote the following letter for Native Welfare about him: - 31/10/1960

"I walked into Coolgardie (from Wilgangie) Christmas Eve 1895, went to Laverton (W.A.) in 1900, and have associated with natives more or less ever since 1905, droving, Station work, etc.

Referring to Norman Bilson in 1914 he would have been about twenty years of age, when I first got acquainted with him. He was always a smart industrious boy and as far as I know always led a sober industrious life. Because he appears to have a good constitution should not debar him from getting a pension to which I am sure he is justly entitled.....

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) John McInnes.

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As Norman has had trouble with his sight the whole of this year, Mrs Bennett took him to Dr Illingsworth, at Kalgoorlie, on the 2nd of November, 1960.

Dr Illingsworth says Norman Bilson has cataract and wrote a letter for Norman to deliver to the District Officer for Native Welfare. It is understood that Norman will have an invalid pension and treatment.