

I am writing for Alec Bilson and his wife Lulu Bilson who ask you to make application for Lulu Bilson to be granted the Pensioner's Wife's Allowance. Mrs Bilson is said to be about sixty-two : she is trying to find out her age.

<sup>heela</sup> When Mrs Bilson and her first husband <sup>working the man cutting wood + Lulu washing clothes</sup> were on Whitecliffs Station, <sup>she was</sup> she was bitten on her right hand by a diamond-pattered snake. The then manager of Whitecliffs Station, Mr Brockman, cut her hand and tied a ligature round - but kept the ligature on for some thirty hours. A native couple coming into Whitecliffs Station were alarmed when they saw her and begged petrol to take her to Laverton Hospital where the matron told her to take the next train to Kalgoorlie. She agreed to the amputation of her hand because she wanted to live to look after her little daughter: but I cannot forget the pain in her eyes when she came round and realised her loss; she is one of those rare high-spirited people who endure and do not complain. She has never been given any compensation or help.

The other women ~~all~~ <sup>Bridget & Mary McGrath</sup> admire her. They say: "She could carry her little girl with one arm. She can sew a dress; she can cook; she can wash; she can carry three cans of water - one in her hand , one on her arm and one on her head. She is ~~always~~ happy working and she works hard too." But poor brave Lulu knows better than any other all the things she cannot do now and here.

Not long afterwards Lulu's first husband died and some time later she and Alec Bilson were married. Alec was working as a station hand and the stations where there had been only cattle <sup>putting on sheep</sup> were putting on sheep. Lulu did her part in all the work that she could manage.

Only last year (1959) winter-time Stumpy Wilson got the chance of a job for himself and his wife Susan at Jinna Rock Station, so, wanting a woman to "becompany" for his wife when he was out mustering, he persuaded Old Alec to work as a team-mate with him : and there were Stumpy and Alec mustering all day out on the run, and Lulu and Susan were working in the woolshed picking up wool. <sup>the sheep and bringing them to the woolshed</sup> That was two and a half weeks' work and five pounds each for Old Alick and the two women who were able to buy some <sup>bought</sup> new clothes.

Lulu loves the interest of work in a community and the independence of earning and tried to continue working at the stations, but they tell her she is too old ~~now~~ and she has to give in.

~~When~~ Alec - who is nearer eighty than seventy - has applied to <sup>National</sup> Welfare for help to obtain an Age Pension he has made application for Lulu also, in 1956, in 1957, and on the 21st of August 1959. You will understand that Alec shares ~~with~~ with his wife, and that "what might be enough for one is not enough for two."

I do ask you most earnestly to make application for Mrs Lulu Bilson to have the Pensioner's Wife's Allowance as soon as possible, and ~~some~~ <sup>as</sup> other allowances that ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> eligible to receive that would be due to become due.

Yours faithfully,  
W. M. Bennett