

DICK DIAMOND'S NOTES ON SOME OF THE CHARACTERS

THOMO: The legendary outback story-teller of pre-radio, pre-TV days when the only entertainment bushmen had was the spinner of yarns. Thomo's interjections are good-natured chaff. An easy-going character who commands respect; the men look to him in a crisis.

THE SHEARERS: A hard-working bunch. Their independent outlook comes from their hard living way of life: shearing, droving, kangaroo shooting.

IRISH: A wild and woolly militant who, despite his crankiness, should be a warm even lovable character.

BRODIE: A small holder who has worked hard for what he has. In the conflict between the shearers and the big pastoralists, he is caught between two fires. He is no villain but a hard, strong character who is out to protect his interests, much as the men are out to protect theirs.

JOE: A man who has suffered for his beliefs. He has a more mature approach to life than the others. There is no bitterness in Joe but a determination not to repeat his mistakes.

MARY: A hard-working girl of the bush who has had more than her share of troubles. She is strong in standing up to Joe.

BOB: A whimsical character who should sing *Old Black Billy* in that way, not solemnly as a dirge.