

Great-gran 'should get peace'

By **LEIGH EDWARDS** Age 7th May 1970

Mrs. Mary Clarke's greatest wish is to see her great-grandmother given a decent burial.

Which is understandable since great-granny has been dead for 94 years.

Mrs. Clarke, 83 — an Aborigine who lives at the Framlingham settlement near Warrnambool — is one of the two remaining great-grand-daughters of Truganini, the last of the Tasmanian Aborigines, whose bones now lie in the Tasmanian Museum.

Both Mrs. Clarke and her sister, Dolly, who lives a few miles away at Ellerslie, trace their descent from one of Truganini's daughters, Louisa, who escaped by boat from Tasmania and settled in Victoria.

In Mrs. Clarke's home is a picture of Louisa, who married an American sealer, Harry Briggs.

Mrs. Clarke recalled how as a child Granny Briggs would tell her about Truganini.

"She told us Truganini was a very kind, peaceful woman who stopped her

people from fighting with the white people and tried to stop murder going on," she said.

"Granny Briggs said that sometimes they were frightened to go out because the people were about shooting Aborigines for sport."

"In the end Granny Briggs hid in a boat and her husband took her away. She was glad to get away because she had seen a lot of her people killed."

Truganini stayed in Tasmania and died of old age at 73. But a few years after the burial she had pleaded for, her bones were dug up and have been in the Tasmanian Museum for the past 92 years.

But the Tasmanian Deputy Premier (Mr. K. O. Lyons) hopes to get the Government to agree to the remains being re-buried.

"I only found out a few years ago her bones were in the museum. I think it's really wicked," said Mrs. Clarke.

"One thing I would like to do before I die is to go and see the remains buried decently. It's only right."