CONTENTS

<u>OBITUARY .... T. G. Moore</u>

The sudden death on Nov. 5 (from a heart attack) of our Publicity Officer Mr. Tom Moore, was both a sad blow and a sad loss to this Society. Although he had served in this capacity only since our last Annual general Meeting, Mr. Moore had been of the greatest assistance in many ways "behind the scenes", and had always done all he could to forward the interests of the Society through publicity, both with the local press and through his radio contacts.

The President Mr. Ivers, and several other members of the Society attended the funeral service at Woronora Crematorium: a large sheath of lovely flowers was given by the Society; and the sympathies of members were expressed in a letter from the Hon. Secretary, as well as a personal card from the President and Mrs. Ivers, to the widow and family.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

<u>Shire's ___ Oldest ___ Resident?</u>

Mr. Tom Dickson of Pioneer St. Cronulla, aged 98 years, may fairly safely make this rather unique claim; and he is also thought to be the oldest Boer War veteran in Australia.

He was born at Redhall, Berwickshire (Scot.) in 1875, and served with King George's Own Scottish Borderers -- this was a voluntary corps raised in 1669 initially for home defence, but after an extended period of training at 1/-- (10c) per day when in camp) men were eligible for regular service enlistment. then taking the Oath of Allegiance, Mr. Dickson recalled, the Scotties refused to swear to "King Edward VII', but insisted on the variation "King Edward I of Scotland and King Edward VII of England" --for the Scotsman is intensely national and loyal to his ancient Caledonia.

Mr. Dickson came to Australia in 1912 and worked as a railway fettler in NSW until he retired in 1936, when he dame to live at his present address. There were then only two houses in the street, with a poultry farm next to him. The view from his small cottage, situated on a slight rise, then swept from the Heads of Port Hacking right across the seafront out to Boat Harbour. In the past near forty years he has seen the poultry and fruit and flower holdings disappear as the land was repeatedly subdivided as suburban settlement closed in.

Mr. Dickson, who has been married twice, is well known in Congregational circles, having joined the Cronulla Church on his arrival. He still attends the annual gathering of the Boer War Veterans at Victoria Barracks, the last being held at the end of October, when thirteen were present as guests of honour at a luncheon given by the Eastern Commandant Major-Gen. K. Mackay.

Mr. Dickson is in reasonably good health and actively interested in all around him, his only regret being that he can no longer tend his small garden — this now falls to his wife, a sprightly seventy-odd.

M.H.N.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE'S ,
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The first Council Chambers

On June 18, 1906, five men met in the Miranda School of Arts.

They were the Provisional Committee of the nominated Sutherland Shire Council to set plans into operation for the Council to be elected by ratepayers.

This duly eventuated on November 24th 1906, when an aggregate of 659 votes were cast amongst eleven candidates , from which the Ridings A (Miranda), B (Cronulla) and C (Sutherland), each received two top-of-the poll candidates.

The first Shire Council meetings were held in a small single storey building facing Railway Parade Sutherland (= Princes Highway) with the southern side adjacent to Blacksmith's Lane (now Boyle's Lane). A room at the rear served for a short time for the accommodation of the first Shire Clerk Mr. Dane.

The building was erected during the mid-1890s, when it was occupied by a Workmen's Club. The next occupant until 1901 was a man named Downie, when Mr. Carey opened a butcher's shop.

Before the Carey family came in 1901, a "gas light" (kerosene) was attached to the under part of the building's verandah over the footpath. Soon after, the light was taken off and fixed above the front entrance of Boyle's Hotel.

Into these humble quarters moved the Councillors and Officers of the Shire Council. Miss Johanna Lehane, sister of Thomas Lehane (a cattleman and a Councillor, on whose once vast acres now stands the Sutherland District Hospital) was the landlady. In August 1909 Miss Lehane notified the Council that they could have a new lease of the premises at the initial rate.

However, by 1909 The Councillors were looking out for land for a suitable site for the erection of a Council Chambers. By May of that year a dozen offers of land were received. Some were rejected as not suitable, while others were to be inspected.

However, from the midst of proffered assistance the Directors of the Holt-

Council Chambers in 1918

Sutherland Estate made a most generous offer of practically giving the site free at the corner of the Eton Street and Illawarra Road (Princes Highway), being about one-third of an acre: and the offer was gratefully accepted.

In the meantime the Councillors had got down to the difficult administration of the undeveloped Shire.

The first evening meeting of the Council was held in October 1910, on a Monday night. Since the inception of the Council meetings had been held in the afternoon; but with the change to the evening it was thought that more ratepayers would attend "in the gallery".

In December 1911 Clr. Judd -- who was the Shire Council's first President in 1906 -- raised objection to fellow Councillors being called out of Council meetings by ladies, protesting, "How can business go on?"

Clr. Boyle moved a motion at a Council meeting in October 1912, with the unanimous support of fellow Councillors that Council instigate a competition for drawings (in pencil) or designs for a suitable new Chambers.

On December 21 of that year Councillors, at the conclusion of an after-noon meeting, their final for the year, adjourned to Boyle's Hotel, where health's were drunk and the good fellowship of past years was to be expected the next year.

The year 1914 was marked as one of progress towards the erection of the new Chambers, whilst on the other hand gathered voices of protest were raised against its proposed location. Council Minutes verify some of the decisions during the middle months of the year.

> Minute May 25: motion of Clr. Cook, seconded Clr. Cooper, that immediate steps be taken to erect suitable Council Offices at the corner of Eton Street and Railway Parade: Ayes 4, Noes 1.

> Minutes June 22: motion of Clr. Hill, seconded Clr. Cooper, that the offer of Mr. Henry Davis (Solicitor) to finance the proposed building of the new Chambers be accepted.

> Minute June 22: motion Clr. Munro, seconded Clr. Hill, that Mr. E.N. Vernard of Cronulla, Architect, be appointed to prepare plans and supervise the work connected with the Chamber's erection.

At the Council meeting on July 28 Clr. Monro stated he was going to vote against the proposal of raising the roof of the Council Chambers from 11 ft. to 13 ft.. He was in favour of retaining the old building and giving MacFarlane (the Shire Clerk) £260 ($520) and leaving the question of the proposed Chambers in abeyance for two or three years. Clr. Hill was of the opinion that if the project was shelved the Council would be held up to ridicule.

Influenced by pressure groups from Cronulla and Miranda areas, Clr. Monro, at the Council meeting on July 27, 1914, moved "that the new Chambers should be erected at Miranda as this was more central than Sutherland". The motion was lost on the casting vote of the Shire President, Hyndman. In the meantime the Councillors had the future Council Chambers site planted with trees supplied from the State Nursery.

Tenders submitted for erection of the new building varied from £1530 ($3060) to £1678-10-0 ($3357).,, The Council submitted the tenders to Mr. Davis of the Public Works Dept. for consideration. The finance to borrow

through Henry Davis & Co. Solicitors, to erect the building, was to be re-paid over five years.

Disputes between some Councillors and ratepayers over the building and its site prolonged the project, and "fuel was added to the fire" when Council received a notice to quit their premises: "Councillors, Shire Council, Sutherland. Take one (1) weeks' notice from August 3rd to quit premises now occupied by you as Council Chambers. After the impertinent re-marks of your President, I cannot tolerate you as a -tenant any longer and I shall require the premises punctually as I want to turn them into something useful".

The Council sought a stay of legal proceedings and were successful.

Meanwhile, in late July 1914, Cronulla Parents, Citizens and Rate-payers at a largely attended and rowdy meeting were urged by an Alderman Harris to stand shoulder to shoulder to resist the latest injustice to Cronulla and Miranda, with the meeting declaring that the building of the Council Chambers at Sutherland was the most glaring act of insincerity the Council had at that stage been guilty of.

During the second week of August 1914 Shire President Hyndman, at the largest meeting held in the Shire at that time, addressed over 350 rate-payers in the Miranda School of Arts. The meeting was called in an attempt to explain the Council's actions and to calm the "ruffled plumage" of protestors -- largely from the people of Cronulla and Miranda. It was to be a strong protest meeting, but lost venom as it progressed.

President Hyndman stated the lowest tender received for the erection of the Chambers by two applicants was £530 (3060). He also explained

several causes for the decision along with Mr. Davis the Government Minister for Works -- deciding to erect the building at Sutherland. The President won his protesting factions over and was acclaimed at the end of the meeting on a motion of confidence, with only one dissenter, amid rousing cheers, that the Chambers be erected at Sutherland.

Work on the Council Chambers vent forward unhindered, the building contractor being Mr. William Crawford. The building was occupied by Council in July 1915, having cost £468 (4936) above the accepted tender.

With the growth of the Shire's population the building became too small for administrative work, and in 1928 work commenced to enlarge it. On March 2, 1929, the Minister for Local Government, Mr. M. Bruxner, officially opened the building. In 1965 it was demolished to make way for the present Council Chambers, the "David R. Kirkby Administration Centre."

— Alf Midgley 'Sources:
"St. George Call": Hurstville "Propellor": Mr. D. Carey.

* * * * * * * * * *

First Bank Depositor: the first Bank in the Colony -- and therefore first in Australia -- the Bank of New South Wales, opened for business in Sydney on April 8, 1817; and the first depositor was Sgt. Jeremiah Murphy, 46th Regt.. His deposit of £50 ($100.00) was a large sum for those days, and would probably at least equal that of $500/$700. The original ledger sheet is preserved at the Head Office of the Bank.

SILK MERCER & HABERDASHER.

OSEPH FARMER , of
"Farmer & Co. 1840"

in 1839 a young Englishman, farmer by occupation and by name, and his wife Caroline arrived on the "Royal Saxon" as "bounty immigrants". As Joseph was the son of a farmer -- and the seventh son--it is probable that he was more of a "farmer" in name than in occupation, and that it was a convenient guise in which to migrate as a "bounty settler" on his marriage.

A few month later Caroline opened a small dressmaking and millinery shop in a room of their rented dwelling; and Joseph began as a draper in the upper end of Pitt Street Sydney on 21/9/1840. Later, he opened a branch at Parramatta and acquired new premises. He was a sufficiently prosperous draper by 1845 to indulge his interest in horse-racing and to win some minor charity races. In 1847 the business was leased to Price & Favenc until William Farmer, Joseph's nephew, arrived to learn the drapery trade. Joseph had six daughters and three sons; one son died in infancy; one, as an adult went to live in France; and the other, the elder son Joseph Harley, preferred to follow his forefathers in farming rather than enter the drapery firm. He too migrated and took up land in Queensland... So hence the advent of the nephew William.

About five years after the expiry of the lease William, under Uncle Joseph's guidance, took control of the firm in partnership with William Williams and Francis Giles, and by 1854 they had seventeen employees. In the succeeding 40 years the Farmers had several changes of partners; for some years Richard Painter was associated with the firm until his retirement in 1869; and after John Pope joined the firm in. 1856 it carried the name of Farmer, Painter & Pope, but on Painter's retirement the trio of Joseph and William Farmer and John Pope traded as Farmer & Co..

In 1870 Joseph returned to England to live in Kent, where he died in November 1890. William continued his Sydney control of the firm until the early 1880s when he too returned to live in England at Ascot Place in Berkshire. In 1897 Farmer & Co. became a public company, William continuing as chairman of directors until his death in July 1908. He visited Sydney only twice during his chairmanship.

In England William entered into traditional public life, first becoming a "Lieutenant of the City of London" and later Sheriff; he was also High Sheriff of his home county of Berkshire; was made a Knight Bachelor in. 1891, and a few years later was elevated to the position of Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners -- an ancient Guild.

Farmer & Co. set the standard for Colonial-Victorian commercial gentility; their shopwalkers (could one describe these frock-coated elegants as "social receptionists"?) seemed to glide on silent feet as they led

their clients to the required counter and bowed milady to a chair Their serving staff, both young men and young women, were quietly dressed, low-voiced and attentive; all ladies were addressed as "Madam", whether married or single; when payment was made in cash, the handling of coin was both discreet and unobtrusive. A lady did not "shop" at Victorian Farmer's – she allowed them her "patronage"; and to "patronise Farmer's" was a social essential for both husband and wife. Shopping was a leisurely pleasure in those distant days.

As well as becoming both an important commercial and a social institution Farmer & Co. supported the "Saturday Half Holiday Association" for employees during the 1860s (employment from 8.0 a.m. to 6.0 p.m. five days per week and until 10.0 p.m. on Friday was generally accepted). Joseph had, however, in 1853 strongly opposed the "early closing" movement, thus delaying action for some 10 years: but after its acceptance Farmers became the first business house in Australia to close at 1.0 p.m. on Saturday. There were few public holidays, and neither these nor any annual leave were paid. When in the increasing tempo of this 20th century radio (or "wireless") began to echo around the world, in 1923 Farmer's took out the first Australian commercial broadcasting licence as 2 FC.

In recent years Sydney Farmer's have extended to the suburbs, and the Shire branch was opened at Miranda on March 17th 1964. Today, shop wares are in open array there are no frock-coated shopwalkers to escort one to a counter and a carefully placed chair and to instruct an assistant to display the items requested by Madam. Today it is the Jet Age -- the shopper zooms in, looks around, selects, pays and is gone: shopping no longer al-lows for the social leisure of Joseph and William Farmer's gas-lit premises.

-- M. Hutton Neve

Sources: Mr. R. Woodward, Archivist, Farmer & Co. Sydney. Mr. R. G. Dryon, University of New South Wales.

One visitor to the Pioneer Historical Exhibition (page 10) who was especially intrigued with the facsimile shop of "Farmer & Co. 1840" was Mr. Philip Sydney Farmer of Mortdale, whose great-uncle was Joseph.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Esbank House, Lithgow: this beautiful old house, built in 1842 by Thomas Brown who first established the coal industry in Lithgow, is now a restored colonial home and museum administered by the Lithgow District Historical Society. Persistent industry by the members have produced a model of what a country town museum can be. Apart from the excellent collection of Lithgow pottery there is a good collection of mining lamps and artefacts, black-smiths' tools and patterns for the blast furnaces, advertisements, and a first-class display of contemporary photographs of the pottery. The museum is open 10-12 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. daily except Thursdays.

-- Australian Society for Historical Archaeology: Newsletter July 1973.

HORSE DRAYS OF SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

This article concerns a period from October 1908 to November 1917.

In the early days of the Council the beast of burden was the horse; the motor lorry was still in its infancy. Construction of roads was a huge undertaking in so vast an area, and it was the men who bent their backs with pick and shovel and the horse drays who made them.

Employment was hard and difficult to obtain. There were no industries in the Shire and men turned to the Council for hire of their labours. Some stayed for a short time only, while others became "permanents". Others were farmers who sought a livelihood when droughts prevailed or flood rains ruined crops.
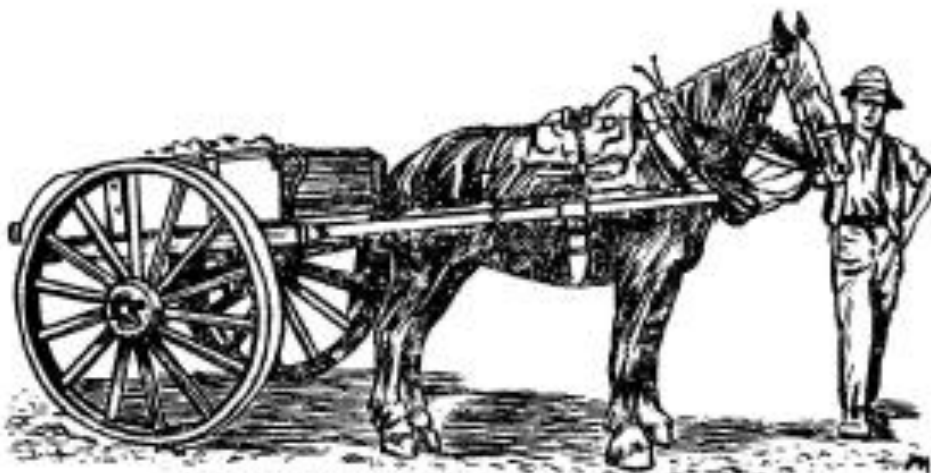
In this period embracing nine years, records show the names of 130 men who had at some time been employed. Of these, C. Green of Sutherland was employed as a painter; T. Fisher of Miranda as a ploughman; and 32 were carters. Others from Miranda were: H. Avery, A. Loveday, R.Marian, D.Saul, R. Towel, J. Sparks jun., R. Sparks, A. Wittaker, A. Wilson and T. Wiggens. from Sutherland: C. Dwyer, F. Demond, A. Lobb, A. Mepstead, W. Richards, G. Cook, H. Richards, T. Radcliffe, A. Dwyer, J. Gilligan and W.Green jun., whose mother owned the horse and dray.

Jack Gilligan, despite the intermittent number of steam trains operating during those years always dismounted from his dray and led the horse over the rail bridge at Sutherland, for fear of the horse taking fright from the smoke belching through the wooden deck of the bridge.

J. Buckman, S. Fenton, D. Atkinson and T. Hopkins were residents of Waterfall; A. Hayes came from Cronulla; G. Perram lived at Heathcote; and R. Gambetta came from Loftus, with Owen Jones and his son Rowley from Menai.

In road forming it was the job of the ploughman to form the gutters.

One instance is recorded on Bishop Road leading to the Postal Receiving Office at Menai, when the road was being formed on April 4th 1911. Owen Jones ploughed up the gutters whilst S. Smith led the horse for two hours.

Billy Green with horse and dray

The dray men helped to load and carried filling, gravel, metal, sand and Iron stone for road ballast. Removal of a pin tipped the tray of the dray and its load.

A simple and reasonably accurate method of measuring a considerable distance, rather than the continuous use of the tape-measure, was to take the circumference of a dray wheel, then move the horse and dray to the required starting point. The ground was then marked and the wheel also, at the same position with coloured chalk. The dray man would then lead his horse while another employee counted the revolutions of the wheel.

Pay for an ordinary hand for a day's work in 1911 was eight shillings and ninepence for 8 ¾hours which included Saturday work to make up the 48-hour week. A man with horse and dray was paid thirteen shillings and threepence per day. If the weather was wet, even for an extended period, the men received no pay.

-- Fred Midgley.

Sources: Daily work records Oct. 1908 to Dec. 1943 of the late Arthur Midgley,
Fred Valiance and Cass Dwyer.

****

BYWAYS   OF   HISTORY

Witchcraft Marriage Null & Void: "All women, of whatever rank, profession, or degree or age, whether virgins, maids or widows that shall impose upon, seduce and betray into matrimony any of His Majesty's subjects by the use of scents, paints, cosmetic washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron stays, hoops, high-heeled shoes and bolstered hips, shall incur the penalty of the law against witchcraft and the marriage shall stand null and void".

The Tasmanian Branch of the Pharmacy Guild last year (July 1973) drew attention to the fact that legally this 1770 English statute is still in force in Tasmania!

David Jones' Store: David Jones arrived in Sydney in 1835, and became a partner in the business of Charles Appleton. In may 1838 the partnership was dissolved, and David Jones, with two assistants, began business in "large and commodious premises opposite the General Post Office, George St."

Christ Church St. Laurence Pitt St.. Sydney: an appeal was launched towards the end of 1973 to assist in the restoration of this Anglo - Catholic Church. The foundation stone was laid in 184D and the building was consecrated in 1846.

North Shore Settlement: as early as 1826 it was proposed that the settlement at Sydney Cove should extend across the harbour to the hilly a n d scrub covered "North Shore", but it was almost 20 years before this eventuated. The Government Gazette of Oct. 9, 1838 announced that a site had been selected by the Surveyor General Sir Thomas Mitchell and laid out for the "Township of St. Leonards in the County of Cumberland". The 1846 Census took account only of those of 14 years and over, thus showing a population of 412 adults living in 106 houses.

Kareela, the suburb at the head of Oyster Bay, is aboriginal for "place of trees and water".

HISTORIC ORGAN RETURNS TO SYLVANIA

Thomas Holt, M.L.A., Colonial Treasurer of the first N.S.W. Parliament in 1856, and subsequent owner of 12,000 acres of what was to be part of the present Shire of

Sutherland, erected a mansion at Sylvania, near to today's Sylvania Waters, and named it "Sutherland House". The gracious English type manor was completed in 1881, and contained 39 rooms, spacious and well tended grounds, cottages, outhouses etc..

Thomas Holt, a Yorkshireman, was an ardent Congregationalist and assisted in founding the Congregational Church at Marrickville in 1871. Marrickville became the missionary Church to infant causes at Kogarah and Sylvania.

On the invitation of Frederick Holt, the eldest son, who administered the Estate, a number of people gathered together -- comprising largely servants and employees on the Estate -- in the "Organ Room", on the south-east corner of the building, where a church service was conducted. The year was 1884 and the preacher was the Rev. Dr. Robert Day, a Scotsman, and minister of the Marrickville Church. Services continued for some years in the Organ Roam before being transferred to the gatekeeper's cottage.

Sketch of the organ

The "Organ Room" was named after the beautifully ornamented instrument which it housed, an organ of intricate design and a tribute to the craftsmen of the period. When Sylvania Congregational Church was completed and opened in 1904 the organ was given by Mr. Frederick Holt to the church.

The organ remained in the little wooden church for several years until another organ took its place; but the relegation failed to escape the notice of William Woolnough, a skilled piano tuner from Hurstville, who had the instrument transported to his residence in West Street. Upon his death the organ passed into the safe keeping of a married daughter, who retained possession of the historical organ until 1971, when she sold her home and moved into a home unit.

This resulted in an enquiry as to whether Sylvania Church would like the organ back again; and an affirmative answer resulting, the historic organ returned to its home-area of some 90 years ago.

The organ measures about 5 feet both in height and breadth, and is assumed to be more than a hundred years old. It is in remarkable condition and still playable for its created ministry. The ornaments and carvings with floral decor in panels, stands as a magnificent servant of the Christian belief and a historical link with pioneers.

The Rev. Eric Atkin, who grew up in the Sutherland area, and is now the Minister of Sylvania Church, is enthusiastic about the organ, and it has.

been given a place of honour in the new church, which was officially opened by the State Governor Sir Roden Cutler, on August 12, 1968.

-- A. Midgley.

Sources: "Australian Congregationalist": Mr. A.R.Johnson; Rev. E.Atkin.

* * * * * * * * * *

PIONEER HISTORICAL EXHIBITION,

This was held in the Westfield-Miranda auditorium on Nov.10-17, as part of the continuing "Southside Festival" in connection with the opening of the Opera House. It was arranged by members of the Historical Exhibit-ions Committee, comprising the President and Mrs. A. Ivers, Mr. and Mrs. T. Cosgrove, Messrs. A. and F. Midgley, Mesdames M. Taplin and M. Hutton Neve (Organiser). The Shire President Clr. K. Skinner, formally opened the Exhibition on Saturday Nov. 10, when several Society members were in period dressing, ranging from approximately 1860 to 1920.

Farmer & Co. very kindly lent and erected the facsimile of the firm's original 1840 Pitt Street shopfront, as well as loaning two old-type show - cases for the shop. Members "dressed" the shop with a display of Victorian laces, linen and china.

Displays of Victorian jewellery, horse brasses, personal items be-longing to the Rev. Samuel Marsden and his family, a selection of historical photos. of the Shire, all created much interest -- as did two old typewriters (1895 and c,1900) and an 1895 office telephone switchboard. A late-Victorian "parlour" depicted the type of furnishings seen in many a Shire pioneer home about the 1890s. Children from the 4th classes of Kirrawee Primary School provided a special table-display of varied personal historical items belonging to their families.

A large number of schoolchildren visited the Exhibition-- 3 classes from Our Lady of Fatima School Caringbah; 3 classes from Kirrawee Primary; 4 classes from Miranda Primary; and a group from the Sutherland Handicapped School -- a total of about 350. As the study of local history is now a part of all Shire school studies, the teachers advised they welcomed an Ex-hibition such as this, for it provided the children with "visual history" of a bygone era. One 10-year-old lad asked: "What is that fumy black thing against the wall?" This was a cast-iron fireplace, with fender and fire irons! It was difficult to describe to the children what a "fuel stove "was and how one washed, cooked, ironed, without electricity. One of the greatest attractions for these children was a 1925 tabletop gramophone and "period" records -- it greatly intrigued them to see it wound up, the disc-brake released and the record playing with a needle! Such is the generation gap!

Besides the children, approximately 260/270 adults also viewed the Exhibition. All proceeds ($73.81) were donated to the "Twilight Committee" which is the Sutherland Hospital auxiliary supporting the Geriatric Centre.

-- M.H.N. *

* * * * * * * * *

The St. John Ambulance Station at Audley was established 21/12/1921, with a grant of £25 ($50.00) from the National Park Trustees for equipment.

LOCAL HISTORY IN SHIRE SCHOOLS -- 50 Years Ago

> "Arrangements have been made with the Royal Australian Historical Society to encourage the teachers and senior pupils of our schools to initiate the study of local history in the various centres of settlement in this State ...."

This was the opening paragraph to a circular signed by "P. Board", Director of Education", Dept. of Education Sydney, 22nd August 1921. Accompanying the circular was a page of suggested lines of research: it was proposed that a period of 3 to 6 months be spent on the project, and that headmasters

then forward the collected material to the Department, who would pass it on to the Royal Australian Historical Society. However, enquiries made of the "Royal" indicate that there is no record of the material having been received; but it is believed that much of the material may be in the Archives of the Education Dept.   it was from this material that the Department prepared the Jubilee history of Miranda School.

The late Mr. W.J. Chiplin was then headmaster of Miranda Public School and he enthusiastically organised his senior (primary) pupils to implement the project by interviewing pioneer residents where possible. A few of the original contributions still remain, all painstakingly written in childish copperplate.

(N.B.: Miranda Public School was at the corner of the Kingsway and Kiora Road).

The following excerpts are from the historical records kept by Mr. George Heavens.

"Miranda School was in first place a one room building in Mr. Douglas' paddock on Kingsway twelve ohs. west side of Wandella Rd., opened about 1893. in about 1905 two room School was built at present sight the Teacher was Mrs. Sinclair and the first scholar was my Grand Father he was at school before it opened it did not open the day it was advertised."

-- Harry Luxton

"The first Agricultural Show was held on the ground, now occupied by the Public School, over thirty years ago, and it was the finest show ever held in Miranda.

"The Shire Government was established in 1906, The district being placed in the Bulli Shire. This was strongly opposed by the Miranda Progress Society, After strenuous work the Commissioners very reluctantly consented to form Sutherland district into a separate Shire.

"The Miranda Public School was established about 30 years ago, in a small rented Building on the ground now occupied by Mr. Loveday Sen.."

-- Archie Anderson

"Poultry Farming, Market Gardening, Cattle, Vineyards, and the Growth of Flowers, were chiefly indulged in.

"Mr. O'Neil, and his wife, who was Nurse to Queen Victoria, opened the first boatshed at Cronulla, in 1882.

"Mr. H. Dunn, now deceased, was the first caretaker of National Park, 1889.

"In the early days Native roses and Waratahs grew abundantly where

now it is most thickly populated, around Sutherland, and the place was wild, with Native dogs, Wallabies, and Kangaroos.

"The first steam launch on the Port Hacking River was the "Roaring Gimlet", the Captain was Mr. W. Reid, who is still on the Park.

"Cronulla is very beautiful, and a favourite holiday resort".

-- Jim Madigan.

 One pupil (name missing) gave an interesting note about the Miranda School of Arts.

"The old school of arts was erected at the 5 ways 1904, later in 1923 it was sold to Mr. Richards and in .... another was erected because it was not big enough.

"In 1899 T Holt sent two cases of books to Mr. Macfarlane to start a school of arts with but Mr. Macfarlane kept the books till the School of arts was started in 1904"

Mr. J. W. Macfarlane, the first Shire Clerk, sent some personal reminiscences to Mr. Chiplin (14 Oct. 1921):

"As a Settlement or Village I think I can claim to be the Pioneer as I had charge of the first Post Office and by that means helped to place the name of the District on the map. The Office was opened 1st December 1892. Mr. Thacker, Mr. Berger and the Lye Family had settled before I did, but up to the time I mention the place had no distinctive name.

"I pitched my Camp in June 1892 and in the Spring of that year w e established our first Organisation, designated The Holt—Sutherland Horticultural Society; subsequently merged into the Miranda Progress Association. President Mr. E. Thacker; Secretary Mr. William Douglas; Treasurer, myself.

"About 1897, I cannot fix the date precisely, the late Mr. Samuel Ellis Holt (a fine soul) consigned to my charge two large boxes of books; I got our little circle of workers together and after some trouble we established the Miranda School of Arts. We met in a small enclosure at the rear of the Congregational Church. To the Deacons of that Church Miranda owes more than she ever knows. They gave us the opportunity of creating a centre of social and intellectual life which was most inspiring.

"The pioneering work of Miranda was done between the years 1892 and 95; if ever a Tablet is erected to the memory of "the rude forefathers of the Hamlet" the following names should certainly be inscribed thereon:

"Edward Thacker, William Douglas, Henry Denton Stevens, John Paton, Charles Eggleston, Sebastian Marien, Alfred Stringer, William J. Baldwin, Samuel Heaton, John Tressider, Henry Luxton, Samuel J. Nelson, Jeremiah Cashin".

(this is so far the earliest record of the pioneer settlers of Miranda).

History of Miranda School Buildings: this is an early record, written by Mr. W. J. Chiplin 2 th Sept. 1913.

"The School was opened on July 10th 1893, with an enrolment of 18, in a building (since demolished) situate about ¼ mile from site of present buildings. The first teacher was Mrs. Harriet Sinclair.

"The enrolment is now 236 .... the area of the school ground is 2 acres.

"In 1906, the school was made a Central School, and children were conveyed from Cronulla & Port Hacking (starting in July 1906). Later (in Nov. 1906) children were conveyed from Sylvania. In January 1910, a school was opened at Cronulla, and the children from that centre were no longer conveyed to this school. The conveyances from Port Hacking and Sylvania still convey the children.

"An additional classroom was built in 1906, another in 1907, and another in 1913".

 (To this was later added a notation: "An additional classroom and a Teacher's Room were erected in 1915").

Naming of Miranda: the correct origin of this was given in our Oct. Bulletin -- named by Mr. Jas. Murphy, Holt-Sutherland Estate Manager, after the character 'Miranda' in the Shakespearean play "The Tempest".

M.H.N. *

* * * * * * * * * * *

YOWIE, YOWEY, EWEY, EWIE BAY: it has been stated that "Yowie" is an aboriginal word meaning "place of echoes". This is extremely doubtful, and it is quite incorrect as being the origin of the name of Yowie Bay. Several years ago an elderly resident told me that her father had been a shepherd for Mr. Thos. Holt, and that this area was called "Ewies' Bay" because the ewes were sent there to lamb. "Ewie" is an old English name for a lamb. Recent information in the Sydney Morning Herald (18 and 25 Nov. 1973) added further detail. In the north of England a female sheep was a "yeowe" or "yow" (pronounced to rhyme with "jo"); in Lowland Scotland it was "yowe", and the lamb was a "yowie". The Old English derivation is "eowu". It is thus easy to realise that by a slight change of spelling "yow" became "joe" to the old time shearer -- hence the famous "blue-bellied joe" (ewe with a bare-skinned belly) in Waltzing Matilda.

.. M.H.N.

* * * * * * * * * * *

COAL DRILLING IN THE SHIRE: in 1879 Thos. Holt decided to explore for the Bulli coal seam, but leased the mining rights on a royalty basis. The first bore, put down at Cronulla, was negative; the second, near the intersect-ion of Kingsway and Dolan's Rd., was abandoned when the drill broke at a depth of 1500 feet. The third test was nearer to Sutherland on Hotham Rd., where an 11-ft. seam of good hard coal was struck at 2,400 ft., with 6 ft. of soft domestic coal another 60 ft. down. This seemed to indicate the Bulli seam, but the depth of nearly 3000 ft. was discouraging -- all the more so when it appeared that there could be a geological fault in the coal strata --- possibly a downward dip. The uncertainty of it all discouraged the syndicate working the lease, and the project was abandoned.

* * * * * * * * * * *

"The Roads Obelisk": Macquarie Place, adjacent to Loftus Street: as the construction of roads began developing under the Macquarie regime, Governor Macquarie had this obelisk erected in 1818, to serve as a starting point for the measurement of out-going roads.

CAPTAIN J. McCLENAHAN ......
Popular Georges River Skipper

The first vehicular punt to ply across Georges River between Tom Uglys Point and Horse Rock Point Sylvania was established in 1864. This was replaced in 1881. A wire cable ran through one side of the punt around large grooved driving wheels turned by man-power. This punt carried four horse drawn vehicles.
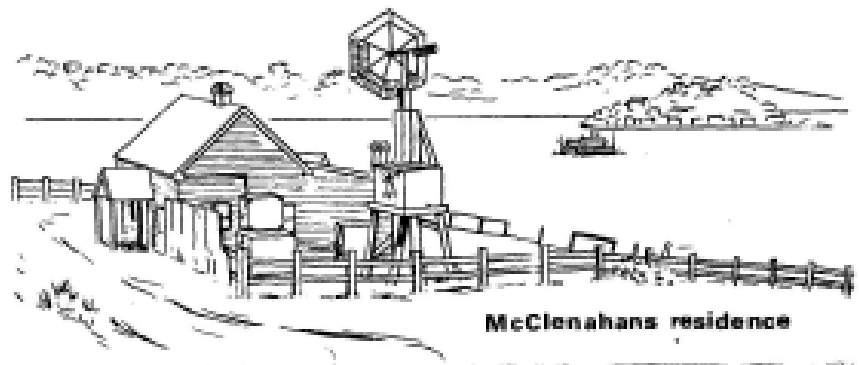
The first steam punt commenced in 1888 and carried six vehicles. 1910 the service was duplicated.

A popular man in charge of the ferry was Captain J. McClenahan, A newspaper article in April 1906 stated: "The familiar face of Captain McClenahan has been seen continuously for the past twenty years, and his friendly 'good day' was as much part of the road journey as any landmark". His predecessor Was Captain A Dunn, who in 1897 was living in the old Toll House.

Three duly qualified men, J. Storey, W. Watson and G. Matterson con-prised the staff in 1906, each working in three shifts of eight homes. Holiday traffic in that year averaged 200', vehicles and 225 horses, while the trips worked out at four per hour for twenty-two hours.

On the first Thursday of each month the punt stopped from 6.0 p.m. to 6.0 a.m. the next morning for overhaul, although in cases of sickness or emergency arrangements were made to carry passengers. The toll payable for a return trip was sixpence (5 cents) for a vehicle , 3 pence for a horse, two pence for a bicycle and rider, and one penny for foot passengers.

Captain McClenahan's home was close to the ramp where the punts drew in somewhere near the present-day boat launching ramps and Baby Clinic at Sylvania. The house is shewn in the illustration with Tom Uglys Point in the background.

McClenahans residence

In December 1906 Mr. McClenahan suffered an illness and was placed in the care of Dr. Lannock in Kogarah Hospital. On recovery and after a short period of convalescence he was back in his beloved job.

It was to his credit that no serious accident ever occurred until about the time of his retirement.

On March 25, 1911, at Tom Uglys Point a horse and sulky driven by a woman accompanied by children, baulked halfway up the ramp onto the punt. The punt moved out and the horse backed into the river. There were screams

as the punt was reversed from the river by the driver, W. Weston. A deck hand, R. Hannan, jumped into the water and extricated Mrs. Sullivan -- the sulky driver -- and her children from their perilous position; but the horse continued to go back, got into deep water and, resisting rescue, was unfortunately drowned.

On March 12, 1912, the friends of Captain and Mrs. McClenahan gave tads a send-off at the Sylvania Pleasure Grounds on the eve of their departure to make their home in the United States of America with relatives. Mrs. McClenahan was presented with a silver spectacle case and Mr. McClenahan a smokers stand and field glasses.

Mr. and Mrs. McClenahan were resident at Sylvania for over a quarter of a century. Five years after leaving Sylvania Captain McClenahan died at Dallas, Texas, on March 17, 1917, aged 74 years.

-- Fred Midgley.

Sources: "St. George Call": Historical notes of Sylvania by Mr. A. R. Johnson.

****

THE PRESIDENT WRITES

from Deloraine Tasmania Dec 1973

At present holidaying in Tasmania, I think of the 1973 year of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society drawing to a close, and the issue of the Bulletin now in preparation.

This offshore State of the Australian Commonwealth has everything to offer in lesson-teaching on the subject of historical preservation. Practically nothing of original stone or brick construction has been destroyed--many are still occupied as dwellings or as museums in city, town and country, dating back to the 1820s.

During my stay in Hobart I visited an area known as "Battery Point", an area overlooking the docks in much the same manner as "The Rocks" area of Sydney overlooks its docks. Like The Rocks, it contains many old buildings. One building called "Narrynya", now a Folk Museum, is a masterpiece and should be held as an example to all on the manner of museum management.

Practically every town and village, even though only several miles apart, has some historic relic.

The Society has had another interesting year, having had the benefit of interesting speakers and worthwhile excursions. The experience of a second term as President has been very rewarding to me, and I wish to thank all members for their attendance at meetings, and particularly the Executive Council members who ably arranged the affairs of the Society. ... And I wish to encourage the new Executive of the Society in their task in the forthcoming year.

As in every Society, there are the sadder moments, and I wish to record with very much regret the passing of a valued member of the Executive in Mr. T. G. Moore, after a period of illness. Tom had been of immense value to the Society during his short association with us and will be greatly missed.

-- Harold Ivers,

President

FIFTY YEARS OF RADIO IN AUSTRALIA

The anniversary of the first fifty years of radio in Australia was celebrated on 13th November 1973, and over the years it has earned a permanent place in the homes and hearts of thousands.

The first regular transmission in Australia was 2 BL (originally 2 BC then 2 HP), which started on 13th November 1923, operated by Broadcasters Ltd., closely followed by 2 FC operated by Farmer & Co. on the 5th December 1923. The first radio stations in other States were 3 AR in Victoria, starting 26th January 1924 and operated by Associated Radio; 5 CL in South Australia on 20th November 1924 was seventh; followed by 7 ZL Tasmania as the eighth on 17th December 1924; 6 11F operated by Westralian Farmers in Western Australia, fourth, on 4th June 1925; and 4 QG in Queensland on 27th July 1925 - the fourteenth radio station to begin operating. When the Australian Broadcasting Commission emerged in 1932 it took over 2 BL, 2 FC and stations in other States. In 1927 the A.B.C. began broadcasting "Short Wave" and called it "The Voice of Australia".

The first organised system of broadcasting was the "sealed set scheme" started on 1st August 1928. This scheme meant that stations were maintained by the subscriptions of listeners using receivers capable only of receiving the station to which they had subscribed. The receivers had to be sealed at the P.M.G. so that no alteration could be made to permit reception from other stations. This scheme ended ten months later and a new system called the "A B" System started in June 1924. The A/B system comprised three categories, A, B and C. These categories meant that all stations could operate only under their class regulations of A, B and C, and it still operates today.

The first receivers were small "crystal sets", named after a certain crystal component in this radio. Later this crystal component was replaced by the "Fleming valve" in 1904, doing the same job, only better, and it came to Australia in the 1930s. In 1906 De Forest invented a valve similar to the Fleming valve with the property of amplification, and it followed the Fleming valve to Australia in the 1930s.

Further advances with the radio valve and circuitry came with the influence of war, and three to four valve radios were built with loudspeakers, a larger version of the earphone. In 1918 E.H. Armstrong invented the Superheterodyne radio, which improved tuning, and it came to Australia also in the 1930s. A recent invention, the transistor, came in the 1950s and 1960s and replaced the valve.

Among the early radio serials were "Mrs. 'Obbs", "Yes What?", "Dad and Dave", "Digger Hale's Daughters", and "Blue Hills" (Originally known as "The Lawsons"), starring Nelly Lampert as Hilda. There were other shows like "The Amateur Hour", Dick Bentley's "Out of the Bag", "'Uncle George' (George Saunders) and 'Bimbo', the renowned Jack Davey and is Quizz Session; "Auntie Margaret"; the "Fairy Godmother" with her children's show on Sunday nights; and the well-known comedian Roy Rene (known as "Mo").

The introduction of television at first seemed to make the future look dark for radio -- as it had for the suburban cinema --- but radio is determined to continue with the aid of transistors, these providing high-

performance pocket-sized radios. However, gone for all time are the dramatic and humorous serials So we look forward with interest to the future

fifty years.   -- Colin R. Ivers (13 years)

****

ABORIGINAL CEMETERY MADE SECRET: an Aboriginal burial ground in South Australia has been declared a prohibited area and its location is to be kept a secret from the general public. The area, near Blanchetown, 83 miles NE of Adelaide, is considered to be of "profound scientific significance". Secrecy for the site is considered essential in order to protect it from possible damage by unsupervised visitors. The site is thought to have been occupied almost permanently from prehistoric times until after white settlement. The site could provide scientists with invaluable material on the traditional and ancient life-style and customs of its former residents. The burial ground was exposed during clearance in 1960. It contains in excess of 130 skeletons of the Ngaiawang tribe. The prohibition on unauthorised entry to the site was made under the South Australian Aboriginal and Historic Relics Preservation Act 1967.

-- New Dawn, Sept. 1973.

NB: In the Boat Harbour area at Kurnell, valuable historical information concerning aboriginal settlement, as well as unique geological formations, are being destroyed by gangs of larrikin-type motor cyclists, who have made these ancient sandhills and the adjacent vegetated areas their illegal playground. The strange and ancient "Botany Cone" estimated to be at least 10,000 years old, has already had sane ten to fifteen feet eroded from the top of its cone --- caused by "bikies" in riding "scramble up and slide down". In other areas, aboriginal middens ("party-feasting" areas) have been destroyed, their shell-remains, up to 2000 or 3000 years or so, being taken for garden filling, fowl-grit and the like The only way to preserve these uniquely historical sites is to follow South Australia and ban public access: but in the case of Boat Harbour Reserve the whole area would need to be strongly fenced and the area continuously patrolled to prevent trespass.

* * * * * * * * * * *

First Sydney Library: "Ten gentlemen of Sydney" formed the Australian Subscription Library and Reading Room in 1826. The entrance fee was £5-5-0, and the Annual subscription £2.2-0. This was the nucleus of the library which was later to be built on the corner of Bent and Macquarie Streets. This building was demolished many years ago.

Loftus Aerodrome: in 1923 there was an application to the National Park Trustees for the lease of 40 acres of Park land at the back of Daniel Lobb's cottage and stables at Loftus Junction (opposite the Tramway Museum) for the construction of an aerodrome --presumably for commercial "joy rides". The Trustees deferred consideration of the request, which apparently did not progress further.

Sutherland 1892 -- What? Where? "Sutherland Township" was described as "a postal village 15 miles south of Sydney".... As to Where? -- "... a railway station on the Illawarra and South Coast Line".

THE SHIRE COUNCIL OBJECTED TO CRONULLA SUNBATHING IN 1926

With the advent of the steam tram in 1911 the popularity of Cronulla beaches increased, especially after World War I, and in general the Shire Council kept time as far as possible with the march of progress in the provision of tarred main roads, water reticulation, and much else -- but they "maintained a strange area of exception to this general rule .

"The Council did not like too much of the human form being exposed on Cronulla Beach.

"The Council Minute Book notes that in 1926 Council took exception to bathers sunbaking on the sand clad only in bathing costumes. It resolved in January 1926 to enforce the use of shorts by men, while women were ordered to cover themselves with kimonos or other suitable over-garments.

"This beach regimentation created interest outside Sutherland Shire, particularly in the city press. The Sydney Morning Herald was anything but daring in its advocacy of licence in beach dress, but it found Sutherland Council's regimentation too much and criticised the resolution."

(To enforce the edict that males must wear shorts over their swim suits when sunbathing, Council hired out beach shorts for this purpose).

"The Sydney Morning Herald alleged that shorts hired out to the men for sunbathing were only washed once a week. Council strongly denied this, replying that it carried at the dressing pavilions a good stock of shorts and that shorts were disinfected and washed after every separate hiring. Writers in the press tried to make fun of Sutherland Council for years after for its strict beach regulations. Other commended the Council for its efforts to maintain a high standard of conduct on its beaches.

"Modern surfers would laugh at anyone who entered the sea in a neck-to-knee costume. But that was the rule for Sydney when surf bathing began. In 1929 a design in women's bathing costumes came on the market: a costume with a low back. Sutherland Councillors again came forward as moral guardians: they frowned on the wearing of the backless costumes. On 23 October 1929 Council placed on the Minute Book a resolution prohibiting bathers from appearing on Cronulla beaches in such costumes".

For the next few years the metropolitan press hammered at this very "pious prudery" of the Council, warning that Cronulla weekends would became "more respectable than Melbourne on the Sabbath".

"Adverse publicity on the Council's attitude to Cronulla beach attire inhibited action when complaints were lodged in 1931 against 'almost nude bathers' walking in the streets and swimming in the Woronora River. In 1933 complaints from Cronulla residents about bathing costumes in the shopping area were handed over to Government authorities and police; but again no action was taken. The difficulty was to find people prepared to go to Court to swear that the attire was 'offensive'. Much talk and many objections .... but not a single prosecution.

"The Premier's Department pointed to provisions of the Vagrancy Act - and to the significant fact that the police had reported that conduct at Cronulla 'did not show any tendency to be offensive'."

SAILS TO ATOMS: David R. Kirkby.

published Sutherland Shire Council: 1970

COMING EVENTS

MEETINGS:

January 11:   Members' Night   Members are invited to "read a paper", or to show some slides they have taken, giving details of these.

If you are able to take part in this Evening, would you kindly contact the Hon. Secretary to enable us to arrange the programme. Suggested time is 15 minutes each.

February 8:   Historical Slides; .... Alf and Fred Midgley will show some of their slides.

This programme is highly recommended to you as their photography and subject-matter are of the highest order.

March 8:   ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:.... all positions become vacant; do give consideration to standing as a candidate for the Executive Council.

April 12:   This meeting night falls on Good Friday. It is difficult to arrange accommodation for an alternate night, and at present we do not anticipate there will be a meeting in April. However, further details will be given in the April Bulletin and at the March meeting.

EXCURSIONS:

Arrangements are being made for 'the Society to attend the "Re-enactment of Captain Cook's Landing Day" at Kurnell in April, as a half-day outing. Further details will be given in the April Bulletin.

Weekend to Berrima. 16th and 17th March: bookings are coming in slowly, and we would be glad to hear from members if they will (or may) be attending.

We have been forced to change the motel booking from Bowral, to Mote1 Mittagong, due to the sharp increase in fees: but we can assure you this is for the better.

Also, we have been invited to have dinner at Mittagong Bowling Club on Saturday evening --- the motel is only about two hundred yards from the Club.

We have been in communication with the Hon. Secretary of Berrima District Historical Society, and they are arranging for a guide (or guides) as we decide nearer the time, to meet us at Mittagong on the Saturday to conduct us through their area.

-- Aileen Griffiths,

Hon. Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The financial year of the Society closes on 31st December 1973, and fees for 1974 become due and payable on the 1st January 1974. Full membership is 'CO each, and Junior (up to 18 years if full-time student) is .50c.

Early payment of fees would be appreciated by the Executive Council.

If the material is handwritten, all names should be in clear BLOCK letters, and figures (dates etc.) should be clearly printed. Contributions may be handed to the President, Mr. G. Heavens or Mrs. M. Hutton Neve.

Contributions for the April issue should be handed in at the Annual General Meeting   or, of course, earlier than this. A meeting of the Publications Committee follows the reception of copy for consideration, after which it must be prepared for publication -- the typing of the magazine takes about a week; arrangements must be made to suit the convenience of the Shire Council for production; and the magazine must be posted before the end of March to ensure postal delivery before the beginning of April.

Contributions, long or short (as in this Bulletin) are always welcome from members. It is essential that the sources of historical data be given.

* * * * * * * * * * *

"Martha Matilda of Sydney Town": by M. Hutton Neve: published by the Society: price 20c. The publication expenses of this was made possible by a grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society, as that Society's encouragement of local history. "Martha Matilda" was Mrs. James Birnie, whose husband was the first land–owner in the Shire, at Kurnell. The story relates some of the difficulties -- and tragedies -- of early 19th century married women who had no legal rights of property.

* * * * * * * * * *

Publications Committee: Mr. Geo. Heavens (Convenor), Mrs. M. Hutton Neve (Bulletin Editor), Messrs. H. Ivers, R. Hall, F. Midgley and B. Sargeant.

* * * * * * * * * *

The opinions expressed in this Bulletin are not necessarily those of this Society.

* * * * * * * * * *

This Society is affiliated both to the Royal Australian Historical Society and to the National Trust of Australia (N.S.W. branch).

* * * * * * * * * * *

The. "Royal" has 147 Local Historical Societies affiliated to it -- this for N.S.W. only indicating the great interest now being taken in our past history. All other States have well–organised local Societies: both in this State and in the others many of the local Societies have varying types of Local History or Folk Museums. The N.R.M.A. provides a comprehensive list of all such Museums -- some of which are commercially run, other than by Historical Societies.

* * * * * * * * * * *