

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## QUARTERLY BULLETIN



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FORGOTTEN POLISH ARTIST

A cemetery is a place of history wherein may often be found unusual stories, as in Lot 125 R/C Section I Woronora Cemetery: herein are interred the unmarked remains of John Radecki\*\* who died May 10, 1955 at 90 years.

He was born in Poland and after being educated at Posen, migrated with his parents and brothers and sisters to Sydney. His father was Paul Radetz,\*\* 1766-1858 youngest son by a second marriage of Count Jose de Radetz# 1766-1858 (or Hradec). The Count was an Austrian Army officer who after distinguished service in the Napoleonic Wars became a national hero.

His grandson John, who lived in Hurstville, was an artist of great natural talent, this being outstandingly developed as a pupil of the famous Julian Ashton School in Sydney. John's artistic interests led him to the design, study and manufacture of stained glass, and in partnership with John Ashwin (Ashwin & Co.) he opened a small, factory in Dixon St., Sydney, but when Ashwin died John Radecki bought out his share.

Various clays were imported from Czechoslovakia for making the glass; all paints were made and hand-mixed by John, and the glass was fired in his ovens. He became renowned as a stained window-glass artist, desiring and manufacturing many exquisite pieces, mainly for religious installations.

Probably one of the most admired is the magnificent "Caxton Window" donated by the Sydney Morning Herald in 1941 in the main reading room of the Public Library of New South Wales. The design of this was based by Radecki on an old copperplate engraving, of which only one print containing an authentic portrait of Caxton exists in a Californian museum. There is another Radecki Window in the Library's Board Room.

When John Radecki died one of his sisters attempted to carry on the work, but she was neither a business woman nor an artist of the talented calibre of her brother, and the stained-glass manufacture ceased. The many sets of painted designs and black-and-white plans sketched by John, and the secret formulae of the coloured glasses, disappeared after his death...Today he lies forgotten in Woronora Cemetery.

--M.H.N.

\*\*"Radecki" is the "Australian" spelling used by John: his father retained the older spelling (Radeski.). # This is the original form of the name.

(Interview with John Macintosh of Waterfall, a grandson of John Radecki)

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Kurnell Shire? In October 1925 the 370 electors of Kurnell petitioned the Minister for Local Government to allow a new Shire to be created to comprise the Kurnell area of about 5000 acres. The Shire Council advised the Minister that it had no objections to the scheme. The petition was not granted.

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Rates Paid?? When a petition was presented to Council in 1922 from residents along the Sutherland-Menai-to-Ferry (i.e. Lugarno) road for improvements to the road, the Council deferred consideration to enable a check to be made to ascertain how many had paid their rates.

"YORK HOUSE". Burraneer Bay.

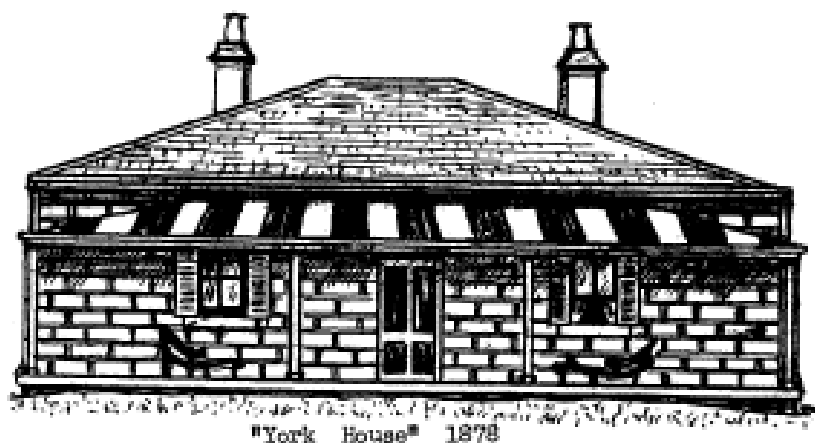
The land on which this house stands was described as Lot 14, 40 acres, when Thomas Holt sold it to Charles York in 1873 —.who in his Will was described as being "of Kogarah, Port Hacking near Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, Gentleman". Here Charles built a stone cottage with material quarried on the property, the building being completed by 1875.

Today this cottage is known as "Fernleigh", the home of Mr. Errol Alcott and Mrs. Ivey Alcott, B.E.M., J.P..

Charles of Kogarah (with his twin brother James) was one of a family of five sons and three daughters of Charles York sen., "Land Proprietor and Grazier, of the County of Gook and Colony of New South Wales," residing at Emu Plains. Charles sen. married Maria Chalker (or Charker) at St. Luke's Church of England at Liverpool in 1821. Charles jun. married Emma Blackman, by whom he had a son Thomas James and a daughter Harriet Elizabeth.

When Charles jun. bought the Holt land and built the cottage, it was for "a country retreat". This portion of the Pariah of Sutherland (or Southerland; both spellings were still used) was the first Crown Land to be opened for sale in 1856. Patrick Dolan purchased his block during this period, and his son Dominic also bought a block at the head of Burraneer Bay. Like "York House", Dominic's small stone cottage still stands but has been considerably altered over the years.

To reach "York House" Charles drove from Kogarah to Woniora Point (Tom Ugly's) with two servants, presumably a coachman and housekeeper. They crossed Georges River by a vehicular punt, and then followed a track leading from Horse Rock Point Sylvania (the approach to Tom Ugly's Bridge) to a track which branched off in a south-easterly direction. This is more or less the line of Port Hacking Road through Caringbah and across Burraneer Bay Road; here the track swung downhill (Saunders Bay Road) towards the waterfront. An 1881 map in the Mitchell Library shows this route as a "bush track": it marks "Dolan's House" (head of Burraneer Bay), a "cottage" (south of Dolan's), and



then "York House" near the waterfront.

A photograph of the original cottage, taken during Mr. Charles York's time, shows that the verandah spanned only the front of the house, and that there were no front attics. The stable on the south side of the house is to be seen -- a low stone building with a back and two side walls, open across the front; there were no horse stalls, and the photograph indicates there was not an upper storey or loft as has always been thought.

It would seem that there were two bedrooms on the south side, with a "parlour" and a dining room opposite. These four rooms are separated from the back of the house by a passageway, off which opens a room with a fireplace. This in turn opened onto an open courtyard, across which was a separate kitchen. This suggests that the central fireplaced room (where apparently there had been a fuel stove) was probably a "serving room" where meals were kept hot until ready for service to the dining room. From this rear inside passage a narrow staircase led to two small attic rooms facing the kitchen.

An examination of the plan and structure of the house to this point indicates that this is the original building (plus the kitchen).

The house eventually passed act of the York family, and at a later stage, probably between 1908 and 1912, according to an examination of the structure, it was altered by a new owner. These structural alterations indicate that the small room off the rear passage was enlarged; the fireplace stack (on the than outside back wall) was removed entirely; the fireplace was then rebuilt as a "dummy". The chimney stack had apparently reared above the outside wall of the two small back attics. The attics, dividing wall was removed and new windows put in. On the front of the cottage two small attic rooms were built under the roof -- here, the timber construction is quite different from the original wooden construction. The verandah was extended around both sides of the house; the paved courtyard was floored with wood, walled in at each end (with exterior doors) and then roofed over, providing a living room which runs the breadth of the house, and off which the kitchen now opens.



"Fernleigh" 1974

Recently, Mr. Alcott transferred the upper section of the land to his son Dr. Kevin Alcott, who has just completed a very attractive two-storeyed brick home, designed to harmonise with the old sandstone cottage below it.

When The National Park was reserved and dedicated by the State Premier Sir John Robertson in 1879, Charles York was one of the original Trustees of the Park's Board, but he served only a short period, dying October 28, 1880. He was buried in the Church of England Cemetery at Emu Plains — his twin brother James had died four months earlier.

Charles' son, Thomas James, had four children, one of whom was Bertie Edgar, who had an only child Audrey Walford, now Mrs. Kenneth Walford-Smith of Mona Vale. At the invitation of Mrs. Ivey Alcott, Mrs. Walford-Smith with her husband and two schoolboy sons recently visited this onetime "York House" (Fernleigh), and were thrilled to inspect the property once owned by their

forebear. Mrs. Walford-Smith brought with her an old family photograph showing the cottage as it was in her great-grandfather's days the sketch on the preceding page is taken from this photograph.

-- M. Hutton Neve

(Sources: Mitchell Library: St. Luke's Church Register: Mrs. K. Walford-Smith).

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MATTHEW FLINDERS. R.N.: Bi-centennial Year

This is the Bi-centennial year of the birth of Matthew Flinders at Donnington, Linc. on March 16, 1774 — not far from the small village of Aswarby where George Bass was born in 1771. The Lincolnshire Association has organised a major exhibition in their "Museum of Lincolnshire Life" as well as a comprehensive programme of associated events. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra is to give a concert in Lincoln Cathedral: and a "fellowship in creative writing to enable a young Australian to spend a year in Lincoln-shire" is to be provided.

He joined the Royal Navy at 15 1/2 years of age, following in the foot-steps of his uncle John Flinders— having as a child been fascinated by reading Daniel Defoe's book "Robinson Crusoe". He arrived in Sydney in 1795 with Governor Hunter: his local explorations are well known to us.

He was the first white man to circumnavigate the continent — Chinese are thought to have preceded him— completing an arduous two-year voyage in 1803 in the leaky and decrepit Investigator.

At that time the island-continent was generally known as "New Holland": strictly, that referred to Dutch claims west of 130 deg. long.; otherwise "The Colony of New South Wales"— and colloquially, "Botany Bay". Flinders was the first to refer to it as "Terra Australis", which title he gave to his book "A Voyage to Terra Australis", published the day before he died. Later, mainly through Macquarie, the name became "Australia".

-- M.H.N.

"Flinders and Bass crossed the Blue Mountains in the Tom Thumb" !! This snippet of "history" from a junior pupil at Our Lady of Mercy College was related by Sister M. St. Luke.

# **Cronulla Theatre**

FOR RESERVATIONS PHONE CRONULLA 238

**Night 8 p.m. — SATURDAY, JULY 13th Matinee 2.30 p.m.**

*Sue Carol — Nick Stuart in a dazzling story of Rampant Youth*

## **"GIRLS GONE WILD"**

(A Bright and Attractive Picture)

*Also Belle Bennett —and— Anita Stewart in*

## **"WILD GEESE"**

A Pinpointing of the Famous Novel by the same name

COMEDY

AUSTRALIAN AND AMERICAN GAZETTES

*And No. 5 of "The Collegians"*

Sutherland Shire Council. However, his project was thwarted when he found that he could not obtain a lease for three years at £100 (\$200) per year; while the price asked to purchase the land was £1975 (\$3950), the owner demanding a cash payment. Shortly afterwards another site was obtained and new plans were submitted to the Council with an estimate of £1500 (\$3000) for the building.

The building was duly erected in Curranulla Street (now Cronulla Street) being a large barn-like structure covered overall with corrugated iron, and situated some 200 yards south from the junction of Curranulla Street and the Kingsway. Hooley conducted a butcher's shop nearby. A narrow lane ran to the back of the building, off what is now Ocean Grove Avenue. The picture show was used for other public functions as well.

By August 1917 the operator was faced with opposition when Cronulla School of Arts was leased for three years for the showing of pictures on each Wednesday night.

The innovation of entertainment was growing in popularity, and despite the "jerky's pictures was usually boosted on the musical side by a pianiste playing as the pictures were screened, using appropriate music to the story unfolding on the screen. A motor was rigged up to provide power for the projector.

Cronulla was well in advance of Sutherland in this role of entertainment. The trams provided a ready transport from Sutherland along the route, carrying fans to the "flicks". It was not until 1921 that Mrs. Emily Russack opened a picture show in Boyle's National Hall in Station Street (now Boyle Street) Sutherland.

The production of "silents" continued to improve and popularity grew, while the "celluloid stars" were held in awe. By the end of the "roaring twenties", talkies were being introduced.

Closure of Cronulla Theatre in January 1974, to make way for a large shopping complex and offices ends a chapter in the showing of motion pictures in Cronulla.

As early as 1911, a report appeared in a district newspaper stating that an enterprising gentleman proposed to erect a picture theatre at Cronulla, plans having been prepared which were to be submitted to

In 1928, with the backing of Greater Union Theatres, a substantial building was erected in Cronulla -- the theatre which closed its doors this year. Simultaneously in 1928 Sutherland Theatre was opened a few doors along from Mrs. Russack's picture show and she was appointed manager.

Films screened at Cronulla were usually those programmed at Sutherland. A system evolved whereby the film screened at Sutherland in the first session was rushed to Cronulla during the interval, while the film shown at Cronulla was picked up for the second session at Sutherland. The interval time for the men who made these "swap-over" despatches was up to half an hour; and the picture operators screened "shorts" after the ten minutes' interval. Jack Midgley, then aged seventeen, who was employed in Marshall Russack's motor garage, used any vehicle available to do the Matinee trips (2.30 p.m.), while Eric Valiance (later to own a general store adjacent to Sutherland Post Office, undertook the run on his motor bike for the night programme.

The programme illustrating this article was advertised in "S.C.A.M." on Saturday July 13, 1929.

-- A. Midgley.

(Sources: "St. George Call": Mr. Jack Midgley).

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#### ARCHIVES MATERIAL

For some years both the Society and the Shire Council have been acquiring varied material of local interest for their separate Archives collections. In some instances this has led to unnecessary duplication as well as division of parts of the same subject-matter. Following discussions with the Society's Executive Council it was decided to transfer all Society Archives material to the trusteeship of the Shire Council, so that the two collections would be amalgamated and form one undivided series.

An appeal is therefore made for the donation or loan of documentary material. If loaned (as printed matter and photographs) these would be copied and returned.

Many people do not realise that practically any type of local photograph is of potential historical value. Not only would these cover scenic views, but also personal photos of social and family groups, portraits of family forebears and the like. Even an unidentified group may be of value, for it will at least indicate the clothing worn at that period and the fashions of the day. A Lands Sale leaflet will usually contain a plan of the land offered as well as often an illustration of bush or scrub -- where today is a neat suburban street or busy business centre.

Members (and their friends) who may have some item of interest are asked to contact me at the Council Chambers by letter (P.O. Box 17, Sutherland 2232) or telephone (521.2511) before calling with material, so that an appointment to meet may be arranged.

-- B. Sargeant, Chief Librarian,  
Sutherland Shire Council.

## C O N C O R D

Concord N.S.W? -- No. Concord Massachusetts U.S.A.! We in Australia are apt to be apologetic about our history, as western civilisation here goes back just over two hundred years. Furthermore, it is only comparatively recently that such history as we have has seemed worth saving in the eyes of the average Australian. At last, many more people are realising that it is only as we preserve our heritage from the days of the first settlers, that we can have anything historical to our credit.

Comparing ourselves -- as we do, to our detriment -- with the really old of 2,000 years and over in Europe, it was with surprising pleasure that I realised, on a recent visit to the States, that American history goes back just over two or three hundred years also.

Not long after Captain Cook entered Botany Bay in 1770, Daniel Boone was blazing the trail for the settlement of Kentucky.

During 1620, when the first Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, Cape Cod, from the Mayflower, the Dutch were making explorations in Australian waters.

Governor Bourke began his rule in N.S.W. in 1831 according to history books; and in the same year, in the Park Street Church at Boston,\*\* the famous song "America" was first sung.

One more case in point was in 1733, when General James Oglethorpe founded the beautiful city of Savannah in Georgia, This was just three years before Daniel Carl Solander was born --later to be one of the Botanists to accompany Captain Cook on the voyage to discern the eastern coast of Australia.

One could give many such comparisons, and a real link is discovered when one realises that like us, Americans tend to apologise that their history is so recent by world standards.

The story of Concord U.S.A. is another bond, for we too have a Concord in our State. On the morning of April 19th 1775, 700 of the King's Regulars drew near the village of Lexington. Earlier, Paul Revere and William Dawes had brought word of the Regulars' march. Revere was captured Dawes was forced to flee, but a Dr. Prescott escaped to carry the alarm on to Concord. Militia and Minute Men (companies formed at a minute's notice) from nearby towns gathered on the slopes of Punkatasset Hill and marched to a hill overlooking the North Bridge over the Concord River. Here, they looked down on the bright red coats of the British and as they continued to march, the British were forced back over the bridge. This is where the American cause for independence from the British first started; and in July a Virginian George Washington, took command of the local forces, eventually bringing about the formation of an Independent Country with its own government, which we now call America.

-- Dorothy P. Smith.

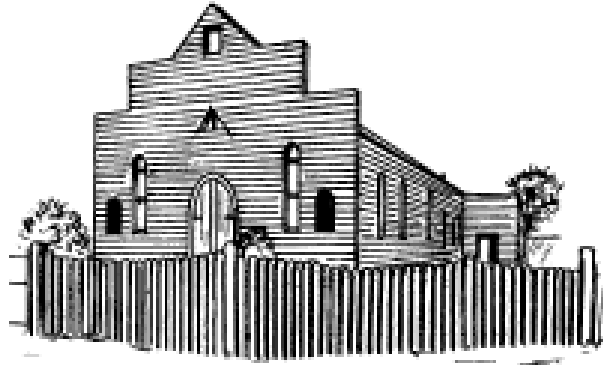
\*\* Boston, Mass., was named after the Lincolnshire (Eng.) city near where Geo. Bass was born, and where he became an apprentice-surgeon, later arriving in Sydney in 1795.



## FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES

The first religious services were probably held by a handful of Protestants (Anglican and Methodists) in the Bottle Forest area in the 1840s-1850s; Congregational services were held in Sutherland House, Sylvania by the Holt family in the early 1880s.

The Sutherland Congregational Church had its origin in 1886 in a wooden building on the corner of Oxford and Robertson Streets this area then being considered the centre of the newly founded Village of Sutherland. It had originally been planned that the new Illawarra Railway would follow along the Como-Jannali crest, with a station adjacent to the "Main Road South" of 1864 (East & Loftus Parades); and "Lobb's Hall" (now Opi's Pharmacy & Bookshop) and the "National Park Hotel" (the Royal) were accordingly constructed in this "business centre", with a planned residential area on the eastern side of the railway (now the business centre).



The "Evangelical Jubilee Congregational Church", Robertson/Oxford Streets in Sutherland.

Pastor Anderson, a native of Mauritius, is said to have conducted this first service. It is believed that services were also held in the waiting room of the newly constructed railway station until such time as a Church building was erected in Robertson Street.

Some years later this building was removed to a new site adjoining the old Post Office in Princes Highway, where later Vallance's Store was. The date of removal is believed to have been 1909. The complete building was moved on wheels by horses -- and created unexpected traffic problems. The building jammed on the narrow railway bridge, and traffic banked up for two days before it was decided to saw the building into two parts, but even so more difficulty was experienced in re-erecting the Church on its new site. At this time the Rev. Mr. W. A. Marsh was the minister in charge.

Roman Catholic Community originally the Sutherland district formed a part of the Parish of Illawarra, but in 1886 it was transferred to the Parish of Bulli. In the first few years of settlement there were only a very few Catholic families, and the priest would ride through the bush to officiate in private homes, one of these being the cottage of a Mr. Kelly who lived near the (present) Woronora Cemetery. The district was then transferred to the Hurstville Catholic Parish, being served by Father Cornelius Conway. In 1891 a small wooden building in Oxford Street was converted to a church.

(Source: unabridged MS History of the First Fifty Years of Sutherland Shire Council:  
D.R.Kirkby: Library Archives)

-- M.H.N.

THE S.C.A.M. NEWSPAPER

The late Mr. A. E. Vowles of Rockdale moved to Hotham Road, Sutherland (now Gymea) in the early days of this century (date not known), and with his father commenced a poultry farm.

Following his father's death the son decided to return to his old trade of Printing, and so he opened a Printing Office in Hotham Road in an old iron shed, Jowyn Place now is. After he had become established he decided that a free weekly newspaper would do well in the Shire; So on Friday 4th April 1924 the first issue of "S.C.A.M." appeared, circulating throughout the Sutherland Shire. The initials "S.C.A.M." stands for "Sutherland Cronulla Advertising Medium".

Owing to ill-health in 1930 Mr. Vowles decided to sell the business and advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald; and on 1st December 1930 Mr. J.G.Hall and his son Reg. took over. After World War 2 Mr. Hall decided to take his nephew Mr. R. G. Woodrow into the business as a third partner.

S.C.A.M. continued to be published until April. 1960) when, owing to the fact that there were getting to be so many free newspapers in the Shire, it was decided to discontinue publication. A month later, 26th May, Mr.J.G.Hall passed away at the age of 82 years. The proprietors of S.C.A.M. Printery Pty. Ltd. are now Mr. R. J. Hall and Mr. R. G. Woodrow.

--R. J. Hall.

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HE SWAM GEORGES RIVER

In the early days of this century there lived at Shipwright's Bay at Kogarah a colourful and patriarchal old soldier, Ebenezer Addis, a veteran of the Indian Mutiny and the Crimean War. He was a popular character, well-known and respected by the settlers on both sides of Georges River. He was often around Tom Ugly's Point where picnic crowds gathered in the summer months, and for a small wager would become the centre of attraction when he was persuaded to swim across the river.

"It was a sight to be remembered, this giant of a man wearing old dungarees out off at the knees, and a long sharp knife in his belt to combat the finny monsters of the deep.

"Most of the spectators crossed the river in the punt and spurred him on with cheers and shouts of encouragement. After a short rest at Sylvania he swam the return journey and was welcomed with tumultuous applause .... With his silver grey hair and long white beard, he looked for all the world like the current version of an ancient Viking emerging from the sea".

--- Extract from "Tanasari": Recollections of Childhood Days:  
by M. Grieve: Kogarah Historical Society. (Privately  
published).

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. John Hall was given permission in 1911 to establish a cargo steamer service between Cronulla and Sydney and to use the Gunnamatta Bay wharf.

A PIONEER REMEMBERS .....

Mr. Maxwell Foldner, who lives with his wife at Miranda, is an early settler, arriving here as a two-year-old in 1892, for many years living in Flora Street Sutherland, where he went to school.

He clearly-- and enjoyably-- remembers varied incidents of the "early days". As a five or six-year-old he often walked with his father through the sandy scrub and bush-lined tracks leading to Cronulla Beach, taking about two hours each way. He recalls the long walk to Sydenham and back in 1901 when his father took him on Feb. 15 to see a spectacular train smash. It was, however, the viewing of Halley's Comet in 1910 which made one of the greatest impressions.

"The Comet seemed to stretch over the whole northern sky," he said. "The head (from Sutherland) seemed to hover over La Perouse, while the long fiery tail disappeared over the Blue Mountains".

In those early days the pre-Shire was a quiet and scattered farming district.

"Beautiful big and juicy peaches were grown at Miranda-- nothing like the small ones bought today. Nearly everyone had a cluster of fruit trees, even if they weren't orchardists; and old Mr. Ted Thacker grew beautiful grapes -- there were several small vineyards in the district. The Mondel family had a small mixed farm of fruit, flowers, vegetables and grapes, on a block now opposite the Shire Hospital on the Kingsway.

"The roads were rutted and muddy in winter and dusty in summer. Food was hard to keep fresh in the summer. Most homes had a well and also a tank or two, and in the summer butter (and some other foods) would be put in a bucket and lowered into the well,

"The summer of 1902 was a drought year with very high temperatures. I remember seeing the leaves wither and dry up on the trees, with birds dropping dead out of the trees-- killed by thirst and the heat".

In the summer months it was not unusual to meet a large black snake crossing the road while walking to church or school. Flying foxes (a large type of bat) were very numerous, and nearly everyone kept a gun to shoot them as they swooped on the fruit trees.

Kerosene lamps and candles provided the lighting; heating and cooking were done by the fuel stove, for which the men and boys cut wood from the National Park. Very few homes had any laundry facilities; and like many another boy young Maxwell's job was to push a wheelbarrow of laundry from his home in Flora Street to "The Cradle" on the outskirts of National Park, adjacent to the small "waterfall" where the MWSD Board is now carrying out work east of the new expressway near Merton Street; and here many of the local women washed, while the children bathed. "The Cradle" was a rocky formation somewhat resembling an infant's crib.

Prior to the opening of Georges River Bridge all vehicular traffic crossed the river by punt, and as a schoolboy Mr. Foldner recalled a "traffic jam" one afternoon in 1910. The first vehicle at the head of a long line was waiting to board the 3.0 p.m. punt -- with the line extending

as far as Hands' Timberyard on the Sydney Road (Princes Highway) -- about opposite the Sutherland Brickworks; the last vehicle did not cross on the punt until 3.0am the following day!

During World War I train travel to Sydney was delaying: all trains from the city stopped at Oatley, and trains on the Shire side terminated at Como. Passengers had to alight and, after having their bags inspected by an armed sentry at each end, walked across the Railway Bridge a safety precaution in case of bombs being planted on passenger trains.

The quiet days of pioneer settlement have passed; where farmlets of orchards and vegetables and flowers grew for the Sydney markets, are now rows of suburban homes and bituminised roads, with an unending echo of passing traffic.

"Everyone and everything seem to be in such a hurry", observed Mr. Foldner. "It's noise all the time -- and speed. Life was certainly easier in the early days, even if we didn't have much of anything; at least we had quietness, and friendly neighbours, and healthy living".

-- M.H.N.

(Interview with Mr. M. Foldner of Parraweena Road Miranda).

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Proposed Shire Hospital: the first suggestion of a public hospital for the Shire was made on June 3, 1925, when a Mr. Washer of Como led a three-man deputation to Council (the others being Messrs. Heslop and Robertson). A public meeting was called, and a committee was elected to investigate the possibilities of the erection of a hospital on an area of five acres on the Kingsway between The Boulevarde and Box Road. Nothing eventuated from this move, and it was not until October 1939 that another effort was made, when Sylvania Progress Association asked the Council to initiate the movement for the establishment of a hospital in the Shire, as there was no hospital between Wollongong and Kogarah. It was pointed out that there was a great increase in the population of the Shire, brought about by the new railway, construction of factories, and the growth of the Shire generally.

The advent of World War 2 postponed further considerations, and it was not until November 1946 that another public meeting decided "that a memorial kiosk should be erected to serve the hospital and that the hospital should be known as the Sutherland Shire Memorial Hospital". In 1949 tenders were called, and on April 29, 1950, the first sod for the Sutherland Shire Hospital was officially turned and initial construction commenced.

-- M.H.N.

(Sources: unpublished MS Shire History: D.R.Kirkby: Historical Records from S.C.A.M. 1939 -- kept by Geo. Heavens).

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The first Shire Council motor vehicle purchased for staff use was a Ford motor car bought in 1922 for £244.0.0 (\$488) to replace the horse and sulky used by Overseer Dwyer.

Hotel Cecil at Cronulla was built by the late Clr. C.O.J.Monro in 1926.

DR. J.A.BEATTIE

Dr. Joseph Aloysius Beattie, L.R.C.S., was born at Athlone in Ireland and educated in Dublin, completing his studies at Trinity College where he won the Gold Medal for Pathology.

He came to Australia in 1876 and held several positions in the State service. For some time he was the health officer at the quarantine station in Sydney during the epidemic of small-pox, when the services of medical men for this purpose were exceedingly difficult to procure.

Later he established the Prince Henry--sometimes known as the Coast Hospital -- at Little Bay, and for a period was its medical superintendent, after which he served for a time under the Lunacy Department. About 1833 the Government appointed him to proceed to England to organise immigration.

The ship chartered by the New South Wales Government to bring migrants was the "Abergeldie", of 1878 tons register. She was launched by J. Duthrie, Sons & Co., of Aberdeen, in 1869, being their first ship with iron in her construction, having iron beams. A seaman who served on the ship believed she was converted from a full-rigged sailing ship to steam, and as a cargo carrier was in Australian waters in 1871.

The ship was specially fitted to convey passengers for the voyage to Australia. The small steamer left Plymouth on May 13, 1884, with 500 adult migrants and 200 children. Dr. Beattie was the medical officer in charge.

Amongst the migrants were John Dawson and his wife Emily, and their four children Emma, Annie, Edith and Lily, who was only six weeks old. They had conducted a small mixed business in Sheffield, but stories of fortunes to be won in Australia had attracted them. The Dawsons were greatly impressed by the ability and kindness of Dr. Beattie, on whose services they, like others, relied -- especially those with young children.

The arduous voyage of nearly eight weeks ended when Captain Crombie turned the "Abergeldie" into Sydney Harbour on July 11, 1884. When they arrived, the Dawsons intended going over the mountains to the "diggings". At first they went to live at Botany and later at Leichhardt and St.Peters. The urge to move on was very strong and in 1885 they settled at Bellevue Parade Hurstville, which in those days was very sparsely populated.

After twelve years' residence at Hurstville they again experienced the lure to push farther afield, and with their family, which now included a son, they took to a homestead selection of 23 acres at Menai (then Bangor), there being only two other families there when they arrived -- the Jones and the Midgleys in 1897.

After three years organising immigration, which he did with notable success, Dr. Beattie went to the State Hospital and Asylum at Liverpool in 1886. The Institution of which he took charge was nothing more than a refuge

for old men. With his remarkable capacity and energy he developed it as a State Hospital, besides looking after the interests of the old men committed to his charge, with the utmost care. His principle work was in the establishment of the hospital, and the geniality and ability he brought to bear won him widespread esteem and affection. When he relinquished his task the hospital had capacity for between eight and nine hundred patients, including special departments for cancer and consumptive cases.

For a long time all the consumptive cases that came under the care of the State were sent there. Sometimes great difficulty was found in providing accommodation and some subsequent discomfort was unavoidable, but the benevolent efforts of Dr. Beattie were such that complaints were unknown.

It was largely through the efforts of Dr. Beattie that a separate institution for consumptive was brought into existence at Waterfall. In 1901 he went to London to represent the State at the International Tuberculosis Conference, and nine years later the Government commissioned him to visit Europe to investigate the latest methods employed in the treatment of cancer.

In 1916 he retired after more than 30 years as Medical Superintendent at the Liverpool State Hospital as a result of a stroke of paralysis the previous year, which left him in a precarious state of health.

This kindly man, who remained a bachelor, died at his residence, Moore College, Liverpool, on a Saturday at the age of 73 years. He had enjoyed wide popularity and the funeral was largely attended. The girls of St. Anne's Orphanage preceded the cortege to St. Andrews Church, with four hospital attendants acting as pall-bearers.

—Fred Midgley.

Sources: Records of the late Mrs. Emily Dawson. Notes of Mrs. Lily Midgley

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Waratah Park Sports Complex: this area, with its large Olympic Swimming Pool and sports grounds, is alongside Princes Highway at Sutherland. Although developed as such only a few years ago, it had its genesis over sixty years ago.

"The Trustees of the National Park are now clearing and fencing 12 acres of a portion of the National Park close to Sutherland Township for the use of the general public, as a park and recreation ground. This will be a great acquisition for Sutherland and for those interested in sport... Great credit is due to the Shire Council in having assisted in getting this concession granted". (Aust. Town & Country Journal 1911)

Until the beginning of World War 2 (1939-1945) there were two or three cemented cricket pitches, together with several tennis courts ---where in pre-war days the late Mr. David Kirkby, Shire Clerk 1929-1963, would find relation as a tennis player.

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Boyle Park/Prince Edward Park: it was originally named after Clr. Boyle who served intermittently for nine years between 1911 and 1934; it was renamed as Prince Edward Park in October 1920.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL FIELD DAY IN 1908

On Monday 22nd February 1908 the Councillors and some officers of the Sutherland Shire Council set out for a Field Day. They caught the morning mail train at Sutherland for Waterfall, where they had prior arrangements to meet one of MacNamara's Coaches to commence a tour of inspection, the arrange moats having been made by Mr. MacFarlane the Shire Clerk,

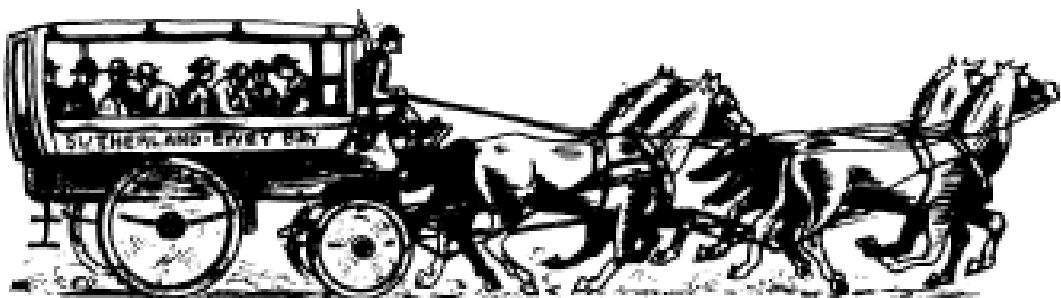
At Waterfall the first subject of attention and contention was the Consumptive Home -- which to Councillors was a spike in the Shire's wheel of progress. The party gazed towards the building nearing completion, which stood out in bold relief midst a mass of vegetation facing an eastern sky. Some Councillors were struck by the rugged grandeur of the panorama and were braced by the atmosphere of a 700 feet altitude.

However, the Councillors became absorbed in critical debate. President Judd, alluding to the Sanatorium, remarked: "Why, the place will damn the district! -- I 'now what the sewerage farm has done for Rockdale! And at Liverpool think of the old men dying about the place! And here think of the waters our heritage -- the National Park being polluted from such a source, and the place is finished! The Government must be persuaded to use the building as a Convalescent Home".

A prominent official of the party added support in stating: "Of course it wouldn't affect the present city water supply but would surely ruin the Park; and as for a Home for Incurables — it was a farce! How many could stand the variations of climate with 100 degrees during the day while in the morning the glass would be down to 50 degrees!" The official emphasised his opinions with a contemptuous "Ridiculous!" The party, after further debate and criticism, agreed generally and the subject terminated.

The next point of official consideration was noted in a big hill, the removal of such being the work of a neighbouring Council (Bulli). The party decided to curb the "help yourself" policy and noted some action for the near future.

Councillors were then guided to an inspection of Waterfall's artificial reservoir holding 250,000 gallons of fresh water. Pumped by means of steam machinery from a natural dam at the base of the mountain, the water



**SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCILLORS ON A FIELD DAY, 1908**

then reticulated to the homes of residents and also supplied the railway engines. The reservoir was situated on the township's highest point, being cylindrical and of stone.

After deciding no further Council attention was required at Waterfall the party bade farewell to the popular stationmaster, Mr. Threlkeld, and boarding MacNamara's coach moved towards Heathcote.

Taking the upper road they passed the small Anglican Church where Cllr. McAlister's wife the previous day had ably played the organ, warmly assisted by both choir and congregation. Further on the traces of kaolin (silicate for china or porcelain) were observed, and numerous holes pointed to the opening of a new pit by Messrs. Bakewell (= brick & pottery manufacturers at Sydenham) whose enterprise aggregated a sizeable tonnage during a year. At Heathcote the Councillors picked out the areas to spend £80-0-0 (\$160.00) granted by the State Government.

At Engadine a halt was called at Cllr. McAlister's home in Woronora Road where the party enjoyed refreshments, and on departure each member was given a magnificent "Lord Nelson" apple -- the least weighing one pound.

Sutherland township was reached without further event. A discussion was held as to the best possible manner on how to spend £120-0-0 (\$240) recently received from the Government for continuing the roadwork from Woronora 'fiver to Sutherland. The scheme warranted some calculation, and the overseer, Mr. Sparkes, was instructed to work out the estimates.

At Sutherland the horses were changed and the party boarded the coach and directed towards Cronulla where the prospect of a tasty lunch at Davis' Hostelry awaited them. There was much to be discussed at Cronulla, with Reserves and Dressing Sheds for bathers being the first consideration. The enlargement of the gentlemen's quarters to three times the size of the structure then in use met with general approval. Cllr. Cook suggested a welcome idea for the ladies by utilising a sheltering cave at the southern point of the beach by screening it off with wire-netting for privacy, while affording opportunity to rinse sand from the feet before dressing.

Councillors decided to leave such a debatable proposition for discussion at the next Council meeting, but as a temporary measure the flooring of the ladies' room would be arranged with cross batons on the style of a hatch-way, thus preventing accumulation of sand. A similar arrangement was to be considered for the men's quarters.

The spring well at Gunnamatta was next to be inspected, and the necessity of a pump (hand) was noted. The party then inspected Cllr. McAlister's (he owned property at Cronulla) special rudder on his boat, which excited various comments as to its curiosity.

On the road to Shelly Beach evidence of the Council's work was viewed where necessary, where culvert and red repairs were being carried out. On arrival at Shelly Beach the party met their friend Mr. Wiltshire, and the question of using his subscribed £10 (\$20) towards improving the Reserve was discussed. Councillors suggested clearing parts of scrub and allocation of



a portion of Wiltshire's funds for fencing.

It was agreed that the natural beauty of Shelly Beach drew the attention of the practised mind as to the possibility of a splendid swimming basin on similar lines to that on the northern side of Coogee, President Judd, while in reminiscent mood related how in company with other youthful companions had enjoyed a dip in the briny there forty years ago.

The well at Oaks Reserve was next in line for observation. Here a never failing spring emptied its clear waters into a brick well 8 ft. in diameter and 8 ft. deep. With the united help of Council and residents the well had been decked and fitted with a hand pump. A busy industry had sprung up with the carting of water, and evidence was present of the operations of a horse and cart whose owner was involved as a carrier filling a tank to supply a nearby builder at 2/- (20c) per load.

Concluding the Cronulla inspection the party turned their direction to Burraneer by the coach, to where a proposed road was to be formed. The inspection was carried out rapidly due to the prevalence of mosquitoes-- the Councillors in fact being prepared to make any sacrifice to get out of the place.

One point remained to be visited at Turriel. The stone jetty that had given landing accommodation for so many years to residents on all sides had fallen into disrepair. The councillors agreed that substantial repairs be carried out.

Having completed a long and profitable day (to the ratepayers)-- while being warned in the meantime by Bill Simpson to guard against any visitation from the "Yahoo" on the homeward journey — the party turned for Sutherland, tired but satisfied that the round of the clock had not been spent in vain.

— A. Midgley.

(Sources: "St. George Call": Author's notes).

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TORRES STRAITS: Extract from Flinders' Report to Governor King

H.M.S. Investigator  
June 10, 1303 "Sir,

Sir,

Judging that it may be very useful to Ships bound for India from this Port to know that the Torres' Strait, is both practicable, and may be expeditiously made, I have to inform Your Excellency .... that I safely passed from the South Sea to the Indian Ocean by it in Three days, lying at anchor each night, in Tolerable safety ...."

The Sydney Gazette 12/6/1303 commented: "Captain Flinders having thus far ascertained the existence of a safe passage for Ships through Torres' Straits (which he performed three days), will greatly facilitate and shorten the intercourse between this Colony and our Possessions in India: He is very particular in his cautions respecting the warlike disposition of the inhabitants of the Islands lying in these Straits, which will require vessels going this passage, to be in some measure armed and prepared for any hostile attacks."

"OUR YESTERDAYS"

Municipality of Cronulla: A largely attended public meeting for the purpose of discussing this question was held in the Masonic Hall, Cronulla, on Wednesday night (= Oct. 18), the meeting being addressed by the President of the Shire (Clr. C.O.J. Monro, M.L.A.) and others.

Sutherland "Boys' Town": A very successful dance, numerically, socially and financially, was held in the Sutherland School of Arts on Saturday night last. The dance was organized by the Woronora Progress association, whose President (Mr. G. Hogden), Mr. Barclay and other members of the Association left no stone unturned to ensure the success of the function, with the result that the attendance numbered fully 300. The proceeds were in aid of Rev. Father Dunlea's Boys' Town, which he started about three months ago, after he had seen the (American) film "Boys' Town" (at a Shire screening). By this function Boys' Town will benefit to the extent of £15-8-0.

Seasonable Shirt Specials from Geo. Prosser: "The live wire mercer and tailor": he was advertising special lines of men's Shirts at prices from 4/11d to 8/11d, with "Super Quality White Genuine Spun Silk Coat Shirts" at 3/11d.

Bread -- 5 ¼: Yes! We deliver anywhere in Sutherland, Miranda, Sylvania, Caringbah and Cronulla at 5 ¼d on our ticket system, or 5 ½d cash. P. Shoemith, Baker, Kingsway, Miranda.

(Sons of this man still bake in the Shire).

G. HEAVENS. Builder & General Contractor: Estimates given freely on all classes of building. Plans and Specifications prepared. 119 Princes High-way, Sutherland. Phone LY 2245: Local 245.

-- Extracts from Historical Records kept by  
Geo. Heavens: S.C.A.M. October 1939.

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Mr. John Macfarlane, first Shire Clerk, died May 31, 1947. He came to the pre-Shire in 1392 and settled at Miranda, where he became the first Postmaster. With the formation of the Shire and the election of the first Council, he was appointed Shire Clerk at a salary of £2-10-0 per week. His duties were somewhat varied -- including those of Inspector of Nuisances and Cattle Slaughtering.

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Kangaroo Valley: the Hamden Bridge Museum & Historical Park, adjacent to the Hamden Bridge over the river, should prove of interest to members. The Museum is an 80-year-old homestead, the Rendall Cottage, which was originally due to be submerged under the waters of the projected Shoalhaven Dam. The cottage was dismantled and rebuilt on the present site. The homestead has old-style furniture as well as modern dressed in late 19th C. costumes. Machinery and farm implements, wagons and sulkies are displayed outdoors.

"The Open Road" (NRMA : Feb. 1974

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## SOME EARLY SCHOOLS

The earliest record is of a "Dame's School" opened by Miss Clara (or Clare) Rice, daughter of Mrs. Honoria Rice who had a small general store at the settlement) in her mother's large villa home at Sylvania early in 1883. It closed at the end of the year when the State began to enforce compulsory primary education under recently passed Education Acts.

Following representations by Mr. F.S. Ellis Holt of "Sutherland House" the Education Department authorised a Mrs. Maria Myer to take charge of a school in April 1884, in a house leased by the Department; but it is not clear if this building was so used, for Mrs. Meyer advised that "the school buildings are in a very bad condition and extremely unclean, having served for many months as a sort of night-refuge for travellers .... the school consists of two small rooms; neither of which is large enough to contain desks or forms".

A "neat weatherboard building" was erected in 1885 or early in 1886, and records suggest that other accommodation was used until this new building was ready. However, apparently a school did exist, with an initial enrolment of 32 and an average weekly attendance of 22. It closed for a time in 1887 owing to lack of pupils, but opened again in May 1888 with Miss Clara Rice in charge.

1890 was a notable year for many schools, for Arbor Day on July 16 was celebrated for the first time --- an important event for this little school. The Education Dept. encouraged the planting of trees in school grounds by subsidising local residents' donations; and Mr. Ellis Holt, who was Chairman of the School Board for the sub-district of Sutherland, donated £15 (\$30) to the £5 raised by the parents, and some four dozen young trees were planted in the school grounds.

Shortly after this several families left the district, and by the end of 1891 there were only six pupils and the school closed, the remaining children attending Miranda by subsidised horse-vehicle.

It was not until 1923 that further efforts were made for a new local school, when the Sylvania Progress Association applied, stating that the construction of the Georges River Bridge would bring increased settlement to Sylvania. A new brick building was opened at the end of January 1925 with approximately 70 children.

The first State School to be opened was at the Railway Construction Camp at Woronora (Como) Feb. 16, 1884, in a small wooden building, with an average attendance of 56 children, although a total of 35 were enrolled at the opening of the school. The area at that time was known as Woronora, as was the school, but in May 1884 the name was changed to Como. As the Railway Camp closed in mid-1885 when the construction workers were transferred to Heathcote, the school also closed. The few children who were not of the (fishermen's and timber-cutters' families on Georges River) no doubt were without schooling until Sutherland School opened in 1887.

"The picnic of the pupils attending the Como Public School eventuated last Saturday. Expectant juveniles and their friends began to assemble at

the school grounds at an early hour .... Visitors arrived by water at intervals, and shortly afterwards the appearance of a well-known city band was the signal for the procession of pupils to form. Headed by a dark blue banner bearing in white letters the inscription 'Our Girls' and carrying beautiful wreaths and arches of ferns and flowers, a long line of lasses was led by the band, after which came the boys, carrying in black and white a banner with 'Our Boys', and bearing some handsome flags .... Messrs. Rowe & Smith\*\* had kindly lent a spacious marquee, under which was a store of good things from Mr. Stedman's# well-known factory in the city .... Toys were later given to the children, these having been supplied by the men working on the rail-way".

Railway Construction Camps were established at Heathcote and Waterfall to allow the extension of the Illawarra Railway to the latter point. This led to the opening of Public Schools at Heathcote in September 1885 and at Waterfall in November 1886.

Sutherland Public School was opened in March 1887, following an application by Mr. William Bramley on behalf of the parents of 42 eligible children. (Mr. Bramley built the original "Railway Hotel" c. 1890 -- now Boyles, which he had intended to open as a grocery store with dwelling above. When a Public Works camp for unemployed was set up in the National Park he converted the building to a licensed hotel).

The Education Department's District Inspector reported in mid-1886, "a settlement was forming at Sutherland, and the population was likely to increase". The estimated number of residents at that time was 75 (these would be adults), the majority of the men being employed in cutting fuel for the Sydney markets or working at the "Diamond Drill" which was boring for coal. Others, it was noted, were engaged in clearing land, making roads, and working for the Railway Department. Two acres were resumed from the Holt/Sutherland Estate, at the present site, and a wooden building was erected to hold about fifty children. In 1888 another room was added, but by 1892 the wood-en building had become dilapidated and unsuitable.

It was then decided to erect a permanent building, together with a teacher's residence, and brick buildings were constructed, with iron roofs. The school, opened in 1893, was divided into two classrooms, and "seating accommodation is afforded for 112, and air space for 154 pupils. The residence comprises 5 rooms, kitchen, pantry etc." (Thus the date of 1893 on the school is that of the erection of the first permanent building).

In 1899 an additional brick building was added, being divided into two classrooms by a glass partition. The old wooden building -- which had continued to be used -- was removed. Records show that by mid-1899 there were 136 children enrolled, with an average attendance of 101. There was a

\*\* Rowe & Smith were the contractors for the construction of this portion of the Illawarra Railway. This was obviously a "farewell party".

# This is now Stedman Henderson's Sweets Ltd., Rosebery.

staff of three -- Mr. Herbert Small, head Teacher; Miss V. A. Wilson, Assistant; and Miss T. Wilson, Pupil Teacher. (For many years the only way to learn either a profession or a trade was to be apprenticed in one form or another: young teenagers of 15 or 16 years became "pupil" teachers, receiving some training from the Head Teacher, and instructing groups of children under his supervision. "Pupil teachers" existed until teachers' training colleges were founded).

As the settlement grew, so did the demand for accommodation at the school. In 1924 four new classrooms together with staff rooms were added. At the same time there was an increasing need for secondary schooling within the Shire, and in 1929 the Sutherland Intermediate School was opened, this catering for the "Intermediate Certificate" of three years' secondary schooling. Until after World War 2 this was the only State secondary school in the Shire; to obtain any higher qualifications children had to travel outside the Shire.

Burraneer Bay: it is little known that a Public School was opened early in 1893 at the corner of Burraneer Bay and Gannon's Roads, to serve settlers' children in that locality (which included Highfield or Caringbah at a later stage). This school closed in July 1908 when Miranda became a "Central" School, and Government-subsidised horse transport was arranged for children coming from Sylvania, Cronulla, Burraneer Bay and Lilli Pilli. This school was re-opened in modern premises in the early 1950s.

Miranda Public School was opened in rented premises in July 1893, but the following month the children moved to a newly constructed wooden building at the corner of Kiora and Malvern (Kingsway) Roads where, with various additions, it continued for many years.

The reputation of the Miranda Central School owed a great deal to its headmaster Mr. W. J. Chiplin, under whom one might say that its senior classes approximated junior High school, wherein mathematics, French and Latin were taught in addition to advanced primary subjects. The Village of Miranda was the centre of the young settlement (and pre-Shire), and much of the life of Miranda at that time revolved around its school.

Thus Miranda is not the oldest school in the Shire, as has often been thought; that honour falls to Como (Feb. 1884), followed by Sylvania (April 1884, Heathcote (1885), Waterfall (1886) and Sutherland (1887).

Since the Cook centenary of 1970 Shire schools have included in their curriculum the study of local history, this having been initiated by Mr. Chiplin of Miranda School see January 1974 Bulletin). This later interest resulted from the efforts of the late Mr Tom Moore in launching the "Sutherland. Shine Studies" pamphlets. These are distributed in bulk to all schools within the Shire, as well as being available at all of the Shire Branch Libraries for other interested persons.

-- M Hutton Neve.

Sources: Dept. of Education: Australian Town and Country Journal, March 1885: Author's own notes).

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In June 1922 Council impounded 101 head of straying stock on the roads.

UNIQUELY VALUABLE ADDITIONS TO THE SHIRE REFERENCE LIBRARY

Two new publications just purchased by the Chief Librarian should be of interest to Society members in general and of particular interest to those who may be tracing family histories or doing similar research.

They are produced by Genealogical Publications, established in 1972 "to print books and reproduce manuscripts relating to Australian history --family and local, and in particular unpublished biographical and genealogical source records".

Index to Birth Marriage Death & Funeral Notices in the Sydney Morning Herald is a massive production. Three volumes have already been completed, covering the period 18/4/1831 to 30/6/1851, with a total of 11,500 entries. Vol.IV is in course of preparation: Presumably this will conclude at Jan. 1, 1856 when registrations became compulsory.

Gravestone Inscriptions — N.S.W.: Vol. I: \$11.00: these are taken from the old Sydney Burial Ground -- perhaps better known as the "Sandhills Cemetery", where Central Railway Terminal now is.

This Cemetery was opened in 1819, over 30,000 interments taking place before it was closed in 1888. The Colony's first burial ground was in George Street where the Town Hall stands. Some of these gravestones, dating back to 1808, were transferred to the Sydney Burial Ground when the George Street Cemetery closed.

Prior to any railway construction, descendents where possible were contacted concerning transfer of interments at Government expense. All grave-stones which were at all legible were preserved and transferred mainly to the cemetery at Bunnerong; some 6000 names of these were recorded, as well as the complete legible inscriptions from nearly 3000 gravestones. Approximately another 6000 stones were transferred to other cemeteries, both in the Sydney suburban area and in country districts. The second volume in preparation will list all these transfers and indicate the cemeteries. Several were transfer-red to Woronora Cemetery by descendents.

Vol. I contains as well a brief history of Sydney's early burial grounds, quotes a few quaint inscriptive verses, and contains 30 pages of excellent photographs.

These two comprehensive publications have been compiled by Messrs. K.A. Johnson & M..R. Sainty, Genealogical Publications, North Sydney. The Index volumes have an average retail price of approximately just over \$50.00 each -- this is owing mainly to the cost of photocopying all the original entries, the only reproductive method available. But as they record births, marriages and deaths prior to the establishment of the Registrar General's Office in 1856 they are of unique value for research.

History of Berrima District: James Jervis (1st ed. 1962): this has been brought un to date with supplementary chapters to 1973 and has also been fully indexed. A limited edition of 1000 copies at \$7.50 is nearly exhausted, so that this work of the late Mr. Jervis is all the more welcome to the Library's reference section.

-- M.H.N.

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DEATHS OF SUTHERLAND BUSINESSMEN

**Still Going Strong!  
GEO. PROSSER'S  
Winter Sale**

Mens Blk. Cashmere Sox 1/9 pt.  
Sale Price  
Mens Striped Oxford Work Shirt,  
all sizes . . . Sale Price 3/8  
Men's Winceyette heavy weight  
Pyjamas, all sizes . . . 5/2  
Boys striped Tennis Shirts, all  
sizes . . . 2/8  
Mens Overcoats, Pullovers at Cost  
Yes! We make Lay-Byes during Sale

**GEO. PROSSER  
MERCER  
SUTHERLAND**

The deaths occurred at the close of 1973 and the beginning of this year of Mr. George Prosser and Mr. Marshall Russack, who conducted their respective businesses in Sutherland.

George Prosser came to Sutherland in the 1920s and opened a mercery Store in 1928 in Princes Highway, near the northern end of the shopping centre, later moving further up the Highway a few doors south from Woolworths of the present time.

Mr. Prosser was considered a shrewd and keen businessman having a reputation for quality goods. He advertised consistently in the Shire newspaper the "S.C.A.M", the advertisement on this page being extracted from an issue of mid-1929. Interesting comparisons may be made against the prices of similar articles today. When established, his advertisements always carried the slogan "The live wire mercer and tailor."

For many years, until the outbreak of the second World War, Mr Prosser maintained an active interest in Shire cricket, being secretary of the Sutherland Club and Shire association. Meetings were held in his shop.

With his wife Hazel (there were no children) he lived in a spacious bungalow in East Parade until he sold the property to the expanding United Services Club in the early 'sixties, at the same time disposing of his Mercery mean, whereupon retiring with his wife to Carss Park. Prosser died on January 12th.

(:ie will also be remembered in Sutherland for his interest in the founding of the first Sutherland Chamber of Commerce, re-organising it in later years.)

Mr. Marshall Russack died on December 20, 1973, at the age of 69 years, having retired from his business almost a year previously.

Marshall Russack came to Sutherland in 1921, acquiring accommodation in Boyle's Hotel. He commenced to operate a motor garage and repair shop in 1924, next to the building of historic note which had housed the Sutherland Shire Council from mid-1906 for nine years on Princes Highway adjacent to Blacksmith's Lane (Boyle's Lane).

Later, a more commodious building was erected a short distance along the highway at the corner of President Avenue. In recent years this was altered o accommodate a modern service station.

Mr. Russack was a skilled motor mechanic, and exercised his knowledge

in the business for 49 years until ill-health caused him to retire.

For several years from 1921 he was involved in pioneering a motion picture theatre in Sutherland, with his mother being the driving force.

Boyle's Hall was used until the nearby Sutherland Theatre was opened in 1928.

The advertisement depicting Mr. Russack's business activities comes from a Sutherland Shire commemorative publication of 1939.

— A. Midgley.

(Source: Author's notes).

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**Marshall's Garage**  
**AND SERVICE STATION**  
 39 PRINCES HIGHWAY, SUTHERLAND  
 MOTOR REPAIRS AND ENGINEERING  
 Phone LY 2294 (Day or Night)  
 Insurance Specialist. High Class Duce Fin-  
 ishing. Experts in Towing and Salvaging.  
**OFFICIAL N.R.M.A. GARAGE**  
 Established 1924



"Marshall's Pictures", managed by Mrs. Emily Russack, opened in July 1921.

As the films were all silent in those days, piano music was provided by Lil Burchell, daughter of a local doctor.

Sutherland War Memorial was unveiled May 27, 1921. Some of the foundation stone used to build it came from Fredk. Holt's demolished "Sutherland House" (gutted by fire 1918) at Sylvania.

May 23, 1896: South Australian women received the right to parliamentary vote.



NO MORE STEAM !-- Farewell, "Vintage Train"

First introduced in September 1960 as a part of the historical celebrations connected with the 50th anniversary of the extension of the railway-to Dunedoo, the "Vintage Train" has in subsequent years become a most popular and sought-after attraction.

The recently formed Public Transport Commission under Mr. P. Shirley, has decided that the cost of operating the "Vintage Train" is too great, and accordingly the train will make its last official run on Saturday March 30, in connection with local celebrations at Burwood. It is understood that the new Administration considers there is not any tangible return to be gained from the operation of the "Vintage train"; and in view of the Financial situation so far as the Commission is concerned, there was no valid reason why the loss should be increased by the operation of a non-revenue producing train such as this. In addition, the Administration was of the opinion, it is understood, that the operation of a steam-hauled train over fully dieselised lines presented major operational problems, not only with servicing, but also in the provision of suitably qualified crews and staff, who could be more gainfully employed on revenues freight operations.

Thus, what could well be the last country operation of the "Vintage Train" took place on Feb. 10, when four "period" passenger carriages, together with two travelling water tanks,\*\* were hauled from Sydney Terminal to Somaderry return. Despite the rapidly changing weather, the sight of this unusual steam train created considerable interest on the Illawarra, especially south of Wollongong.

In January the "Vintage Train" was chartered by the Spastic Centre of NSW to run a half-hourly timetable on the Lidcombe-Sefton Junction-Chullora Junction Lidcombe circuit. Capacity crowds were conveyed, but because of the use of two locomotives, it is understood the Commission came out the best, with an income greatly in excess of the minimum guarantee.

Both the engines used for these trips have recently passed their annual boiler examinations, and are thus available for a further 12-month period of restricted traffic service. Their use on enthusiast excursions is, unfortunately, somewhat limited by their restricted haulage capacity, making it difficult for the hiring organisations to cover costs.

Whilst rail fans and readers would doubtless contest the claims put forward by the Commission, it will be interesting to see what political pressure (if any) is brought forward by country towns etc., for the "Vintage Train" to be retained as a "free" attraction to the many celebrations etc. which always seem to occur in "railway" towns. However, the new Administration is known for its "anti-steam" feelings, and it would not be surprising if this was to be a forerunner to even harsher things to come.

-- extract NSW : Digest" Feb. 1974: published by the Australian  
Railway Historical Society, NSW Division.

\*\* These "travelling water tanks" must usually be taken, as practically all standing service tanks are now demolished -- there is one at Waterfall.. (- Ed.)

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With the beginning of a new year for the Society, it seems well to consider some of our interests from the point of view of the Executive Council.

The management of this Society should be similar to that of any other type of undertaking; i.e. conducted on business lines, for after all the Executive Council is not only the "work horse" of the Society but also its Trustees. All Council members are responsible for the organisation of the Society's activities as well as the administration of its funds.

I hope you have carefully read the Eighth Annual Report and noted the details of Income Expenditure. Thus you will see that our main source of Income is our members' subscriptions.

Increased Costs: as we all unfortunately know only too well, continuing inflation is raising all living costs. We have to face the fact that there will almost certainly be postal increases. At present we have reduced postal rates for the Bulletin, but this concession will probably be either partially or perhaps totally withdrawn next year. There are members who cannot attend general meetings, and others only occasionally, so that the Bulletin is their only benefit from membership. The Annual Report cost us \$13.44 in postage; and should it be necessary to circularise members on some particular issue the postage amount would be at least the same.

Subscriptions: it has been obvious to the Executive Council for some time that the rate of the Annual Subscription must be increased for 1975, and this matter will be one of the considerations of the Executive Council.

I am not happy that profits made from our excursions (during 1973, receipts - \$485.00: costs \$275: profit \$210), are becoming increasingly necessary to support our funds. A bus holds only 40/44 people, and it is mainly the same members who support these excursions, so that approximately 30% of members are providing additional funds for the welfare of the whole Society. I feel that this responsibility should be spread more evenly, and this could be achieved by an overall increase in the subscription.

Badges: as our present Badge stocks are almost exhausted, and as many members feel the size is rather large, we are considering having produced a smaller badge on a pin. This would be lighter in weight, and so would be more attractive for ladies' summer frocks etc.; while for the menfolk it would be suitable as a tiepin or lapel pin. This type of small Badge would also be less expensive than the present one.

Excursions: we try to organise these with as much "historical interest" as possible. Enquiries are to be made concerning an all-day tour farther afield than usual, to include a light evening meal on our homeward journey. This would mean arriving back at Sutherland between 8.30/9.0 p.m.. This would allow us to visit places of unusual historical interest. However, the cost involved would be a prime consideration.

Appreciation: I sincerely thank Society members for the confidence they have placed in me by my re-election, and assure all that the progressive welfare of the Society is my objective.

-- Harold Ivers: President.

The Eighth Annual. General Meeting of the Society was held on March 8, 1974.

The Patron of the Society, by the terms of our Constitution, is the President of the Sutherland Shire -- this year, Clr. Kevin Skinner.

The Election of Officers and Executive Council resulted as follows:

President: Mr. Harold Ivers, B.E.  
Vice Presidents: Messrs. R.J. Hall, Geo. Heavens, Fred. Midgley  
Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Eileen Griffiths  
Hon. Treas.: Mr. S. Stedman  
Hon. Archivist: Mr. B. Sargeant  
Research Officer: Mrs. M. Hutton Neve  
Publicity Officer: Mrs. M. Taplin  
Committee: Mesdames A. Ivers and J. Glover, Mr. K. Matthews

(N.B.: The Constitution stipulates a maximum of five Committee members: the, Executive Council has the power to appoint the remaining two, subject to approval at a general meeting of the Society

President:	Hon. Sec.:	Bulletin Convenor:
Mr. H. Ivers, B.E. 620 Princes H'way, Sutherland: 2232 Ph. 521.1407	Mrs. G.F.Griffiths, 34 Richmount St., Cronulla: 2230 Ph. 523.5801	Mr. Geo. Heavens, 78 Toronto Parade, Sutherland: 2232 Ph. 521.6190

Publications C'tee: (for April Bulletin): Mr. G. Heavens (Convenor), Mrs. M. Hutton Neve (Editor), Messrs. H. Ivers, R. Hall, F. Midgley, B. Sargeant.

The Society is affiliated both to the Royal Australian Historical Society and to the National Trust of Australia (NSW Branch).

Contributions, for the July Bulletin should be handed in by the end of May --or, of course, earlier than this - to the President, Convenor or Editor.

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Mrs. Ivey Alcott, B.E.M., J.P.: we congratulate Mrs. Alcott, who is one of our Foundation members, on the honour granted her by Her Majesty.

Mr. Tom Dickson: we regret to advise that this old Cronulla resident, who was interviewed in the January issue of the Bulletin, died suddenly at the age of 98 years while the Bulletin was being printed. Another old Shire resident, Mrs. Gertrude Muller, of Willarong Rd. Caringbah, died in February at the age of 94 years, after forty years' residence.

Mrs. Laurel Toulmin left in March for a short visit to England.

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Souvenirs: the Society has recently purchased a number of teaspoons, etc., with the Society's Badge (in colour) thereon. These are inexpensively priced and may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

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