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ILLUSTRATIONS ... F. & A. Midgley

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NURSE LOBB

An early shop in Sutherland which stood on the corner of a laneway (now Flora Street) and Railway Parade (Princes Highway) where Woolworths now stand, was owned by Meridiths. It was not a large building but it stocked various items of groceries. Most noticeable to a person entering the store was the stone floor. The widow, Kate Meredith, married Arthur Lobb, son of Daniel Lobb who was a pioneer in the coaching business between Sutherland, Loftus Junction and Audley from 1886.

Although not a trained nurse, Kate commenced her work in Sutherland and surrounding areas in 1896, ten years after the laying out of the Town. Working mostly as a midwife, she was on call at all hours.

My mother told me of the time Nurse Lobb brought me into the world. She visited my mother days previously, so she knew approximately when to expect a call. It was 2 o'clock in the morning when my brother Leo ran from the house near Dent's. Creek on North West Arm Road to Sutherland to get Nurse Lobb; and Leo had to wake them. Arthur harnessed the horse in the sulky and they all raced down the "back road" — which was later President Avenue. But when she arrived the event was nearly over. I think my mother said her fee was 10/- (\$1.00) — a cheap birth on March 25, 1904.

Over the years as I grew up I have seen her out all hours of the night, hail or rain; or in the sunshine, in her blue cape and veil, driven by her husband Arthur to all parts of the Shire. Of course there were times when she had to arrange her own transport when Arthur was working with a horse and dray on the Sutherland Shire Council.

During the severe epidemic in 1919, when many lives were lost, Nurse Lobb was active where homes were quarantined, and a notice placed in the window to that effect.

It was with much regret that the residents of the Shire learnt of the death of Nurse Kate Lobb, which occurred suddenly on Tuesday, July 11, 1939, aged 73, thus ending 43 years of nursing service in the Shire. She was laid to rest in the Church of England portion of Woronora Cemetery.

Inscribed on a tablet on the grave are the words, "A tribute from the mothers of Sutherland".

Mick Derrey

Heathcote School of Arts: the official opening took place on July 11, 1931, when Mr. E.W. Boyle performed the opening ceremony. Mr. E.P. Kinsela, MLA, spoke appreciatively of community spirit and stated that the building was erected entirely by voluntary labour.

Miranda Musical Society gave a well-supported two-hour concert in Lobb's Hall at Sutherland on 5/1/1901.

"I Remember" ..

THE PROPHET

He said he was a man of vision, a prophet come down to earth: he dressed in black apparel with a long coat down below his knees.

The solemn-faced man never seen without a volume of Holy Writ in his hand. He journeyed from place to place around Sutherland, preaching on a personal basis, and in return asking for finance and sustenance not for his soul but for his body.

He was a persistent uninvited guest at St. Patrick's Presbytery in Merton Street, and he was a trial to his host the Rev. Father.

I recall when he came to me asking succour; I spurned him and turned away, saying unto him, "Get thee out of here and come not back ever! —thou art a nuisance!"

Many gave to him and were probably saved; but alas, many tuned their faces from his to be likely eternally damned: such were the people of the earth in those days.

He offered eternal salvation and everlasting bliss, but the people did not want any; even the priests were turning against him. For it came to pass one cold day in August 1941 that the priest, yea, the high priest, turned him out of his house, saying unto him, "Go now, get thee hence and do not return among us, for we have had thee; thou hast tarried too long here, thou art owning us problems and even embarrassment — thou art naught but an idiot and a pest:"

So he went forth out of the house in great anger, and there was much weeping and gnashing of teeth, for he was much displeased.

He left dejected and disgusted, stumbling out into the utter darkness of the sinful world, murmuring "I bless you and forgive you but it is bitter cold and I have nowhere to go". He went forth and was seen no more.

It was about midnight; a cold August south-westerly wind was howling around it was bitterly cold. The fire alarm sounded, immediately awakening all the Sutherland firemen, to reported for duty on the double. When the



fire engine left the station it awakened all the other residents of Sutherland — for the fire call was to the Catholic Church in Belmont Street; as we turned out of Flora Street we could see the Church aglow with light, With great columns of smoke billowing out of the tiles on the roof. Two priests met us, and told the captain that the whole of the underneath of the Church was used as a storeroom —housing stalls for bazaars and props for stage shows etc.; and all this very inflammable material was very well alight.

We ran several hoses to extinguish the fire. I recall the water hitting the foundation piers and walls and bouncing back at us, making all of us wet and cold.

The fire took about an hour to control, but the main building was saved. After we had packed up, Fathers Purcel and Dunlea invited us into the Presbytery to have a wee drop of Scotch to help ward off the cold; this was always kept in -- sure --purely for medicinal purposes only!

We were ten firemen in all, and when we left there were several empty bottles on the table.

The Fathers thanked us and said we had done a magnificent job — and we, being entirely a Protestant crew, laughed and left.

And as the spirit moved us we marvelled amongst ourselves.

Was this a judgement on the priests for casting out the prophet, or was it revenge from the prophet for being cast out?

Your guess is as good as mine. -

.. Geo. Heavens

The Game of Bowls: most of us know the story of how Sir Francis Drake insisting on completing his game of bowls after the Spanish Armada had been sighted in the English Channel. The game is one of the most ancient, it being recorded that complete playing equipment had been discovered in an Egyptian tomb dating back to approximately 5200 B.C.. Thus, probably some form of the game would probably have been played in various countries through the ages. The h. are credited with having introduced the game to America, and the first games there are said to have been played in a place named Bowling Green, New York. Bowling was banned acme English kings because it was "too harmless". A sport which did not train men in war-like skills and was worse than useless; before the advent of gunpowder and the musket, archery was a popular and encouraged pastime, especially for young men: but today archery, as with bowls, is becoming increasingly popular amongst the ladies an invasion of which Sir Francis surely would not have approved!

LIVERY STABLE TO MOTOR GARAGE

Arthur Perks came from England before the first World War and settled in Helensburgh where he commenced a business with a livery stable. He was an enterprising young man, and soon had a horse-drawn coach operating to and from the railway station, as well as hiring out a coach with himself a driver, suitably dressed for the occasions. Weddings were a specialty, when the coach and horses were suitably decorated.



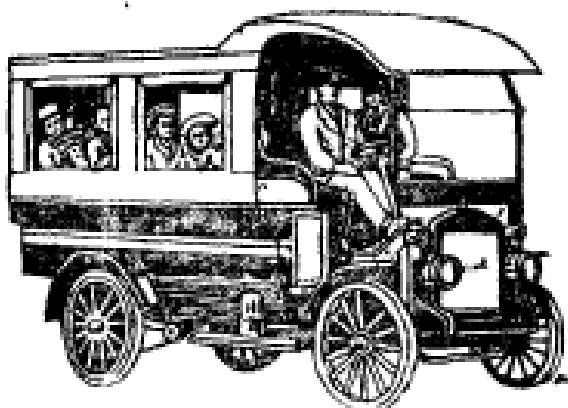
After a few years Perks decided to go back to England and sold the business. On his return to Australia he came back to Helensburgh and offered to buy back the livery stable and coach business, but the proprietor refused to sell. Perks was not easily rebuffed, however, and in 1915 bought a motor bus and commenced running in opposition to the horse-drawn bus. There were many races between the galloping horses and the lumbering bus to their destinations.

The motor bus was not a well known make and was called "Little Giant" by its manufacturers, the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Co. of Franklin, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.. It had hard rubber tyres and was chain-driven, achieving its popularity no doubt through novelty rather than comfort over the horse bus.

Perks again built up a livery stable, which he sold with the bus run, and opened a motor garage in 1924 facing Railway Parade (now Princes Highway) Sutherland. It was a small garage with a drive-in for vehicles, and also a small display window. Petrol was sold from a kerbside pump marked "Visible" Petrol for 26 pence a gallon. Although this was the first motor garage in Sutherland Perks was not the first to have a petrol pump. Marshall Russack, who came soon after, installed the first pump, selling the "Waratah" brand.

A circular sign suspended over the footpath indicated service for Studebaker cars, whilst signs in the windows notified the availability of genuine Ford parts, and cars for hire.

Next door to the garage was Patterson's butcher shop. This business was later sold to Edmondsons, who also had a butcher shop in Carlton. On the southern side of the



Little Giant bus at Helensburgh

garage were vacant allotments to what is now known as McCubbin's Lane. A couple of doors from Patterson was a shop conducted by Arthur Perk's' wife, selling confectionery and drinks.

Experience in operating a bus service was apparent when Perks acquired a Chevrolet chassis and built a bus body on it. He then commenced a bus route between Sutherland and Gynea in 1924, but soon after establishing it he sold to Mr. J. T. (Mick) Jennings.

To meet the expansion of his garage business, Arthur Perk had a larger building constructed incorporating the previous site. This garage large display windows on either side of a central entrance for motor vehicles. There were now three kerbside petrol pumps; two dispensed "Shell" and the other "Plume". other "Plume". In large lettering painted near the shop and almost the length of the building was "A. Sutherland Garage*"; whilst above the doorway was displayed "Cars for hire. Phone Sutherland 34'. A towing service was provided with a vehicle for the use of customers or for those unfortunate enough to break down or have an accident. In 1927 Parks sold the garage to Mr. Costa, who remained in business there until 1933.

A regular customer at the garage soon after it opened was Mr. Turner of Grays Point who drove his T Ford tourer each day and parked inside, then catching the train to work in the city. He continued to do this until Costa closed the garage when he transferred his custom to Vallance's garage down the street.

The confectionery business was sold to Mrs. Hodge; who remained for many years. Arthur Perk invested in business property in the Sutherland township. In 1939 he was President of the Sutherland Chamber of Commerce; and during World War 2 he was Chief Warden of the National Emergency Services in the Sutherland Shire. The Shire Council later contributed £50 (\$100) towards a gift in recognition of the voluntary service given by him.

After the war Perks, left the Shire and went to the Gosford district where he settled down to a complete change from the past on a citrus orchard.

F. Midgley

Sources: Messrs. A. Perks, C. Fackender, J. Midgley, G. Heavens, Author's notes.

Sent. 8. 1915: "Sutherland Shire Council's new Chambers, erected the corner of Railway Parade and Eton Street, were occupied for the first time, and are a decided improvement on the previous premises". The "previous premises" was a shop rented at 15/- weekly with residence at the rear; and the Shire Clerk, who lived there, was required to pay 5/- rental per week from his salary of 30/- (\$3.00): but in those days two people could live in frugal comfort on 15/- or 20/- weekly, the balance covering plain essential clothing etc..

OPENING OF PORT HACKING WHARF AT CRONULLA

Towards the end of World War I the North Coast Steam Navigation Company discussed the proposition of running a steamer at weekends from Sydney to Cronulla, and in May 1917 the S.S. Orara made a round-trip excursion to Cronulla, amongst the passengers being several Shire Councillors, Such an excursion would not only pass many beauty spots along the coast, but would also open is, parts of the Hacking River and National Park --provided that a wharf could be built at Cronulla. A suitable site was selected at the end of the peninsula at Hungry Point, the Steamship Company and the Council agreeing to share costs.

The wharf was completed at the end of 1918, and on January 25, 1919 The State Governor, Sir Walter Davidson, performed the opening ceremony in the presence of several thousand spectators.

The S.S. Orara arrived from Sydney to land her passengers on the wharf, the steamer being welcomed by a flotilla of bunting-dressed launches and other small craft; while the Governor stood on the wharf to watch the berthing, He was welcomed to the district by Clr. J. Hill, Shire President with a -guard-of-honour of Cronulla returned servicemen. The Governor then cut a piece of ribbon stretched across the wharf, with a pair of silver scissors presented by Mrs. S. Furley, and formally declared the new wharf opened".

Refreshments were served to the official party, and in proposing the toast to "The Day We Celebrate", Mr. E. Furley, President of the South Cronulla Progress Association, said that this new direct route, which afforded the chance for tourists to make a delightful round trip, was result of the enterprise of the Steamship Company and the efforts of Cronulla Citizens and the Shire; and it would also open up many new beauty spots in the area.

The Steamship Company had been running holiday-excursion trips to the Cronulla area for several years but now that a wharf had been built it was foreseen that this would provide a delightful and pleasant mode of journeying to Cronulla and the National Park for week-end holidays.

Passengers could also be landed at Port Hacking and then make the return journey by train. The Company confidently expected that the venture would provide satisfactory financial returns for both parties.

The wharf projected 362 feet into the river on the northern side of



S.S. Orara at Port Hacking Wharf.

the entrance to Port Hacking, and at the end as a T 70 feet long connected to the shore by the main body of the wharf 15 ft. wide. The piles, at 16 feet centres, were driven 13 ft. into the sand.

However, the initial enthusiasm did not last; and, with insufficient patronage to allow of profitable berthing, the Company ceased to come into Port Hacking, turning off Cronulla to make the journey back to Sydney. In 1924 the Company terminated its excursions; and neither the Company nor the Shire Council obtained any return for their financial outlays. Over the ensuing years the wharf deteriorated until it became unsafe and was demolished, but for many more years several of the massive wooden piles loomed forlornly askew, but they too have now entirely disappeared — an unhappy venture planned and lunched with much hopeful promise.

M. Hutton Neve.

Source: Hurstville "Propellor", 1919.

Bottle's Long Drift: while walking along the beach at Cronulla one day in January 1922, a Kurnell resident, Miss Edna Feeings, picked up a corked bottle containing a letter written on notepaper of the steamer 'Atua'. The letter, dated January 20, 1918, stated the bottle was thrown overboard when the ship was 1500 miles from Sydney, the object being to note the location of its discovery and the time it occupied. The letter bore the signature of John Fraser of Darlinghurst, and as had apparently been drifting for four years.

-- Hurstville "Propellor" 20-1-1922.

Holt Village 21st Birthday: on November 17 (Thursday) the residents will celebrate their 21st year of foundation, and the Society has been asked if it would care to assist by providing a display of "historical photographs" for the occasion; and this will be arranged with pleasure.

New Country Museums:

Bega Historical Society has recently opened the "Family Museum" in the old Family Hotel (1866) at 47 Church St. Bega.

Bingara Museum was opened last May, and occupies a slab building which was erected about 1860 as a hotel.

West Wyalong has also recently opened the Bland District Museum at 16 Main Street (2.30 to 5.0 p.m. daily). It concentrates on the goldfields era.

The First Vehicular Punt across Georges River from Woniora (Tom Ugly's Pt.) to Horse Rock Point Sylvania was established in 1886, the puntman hauling on an endless rope to move the punt, often assisted by his passengers. It was later replaced by a steam punt.

PIONEER SCHOOL MISTRESS

Recently I was privileged to be given a 400-page "Australian Reading Book. (5th Book for Girls). Published by William Collins in England in 1877, it was once the property of Miss Henrietta McAnne, who taught the basic "three R's" to the farming community's children at Menai for almost eleven-and-a-half years.

When a Provisional School opened in May 1902, in a 12 x12 feet room rented for 7/6d (\$1.50) a week in Owen Jones' house at Bangor (Menai), the teacher appointed was Miss Mary Richardson, who stayed only three months. In July 1902 Miss McAnne was appointed by the Department of Public Instruction, Like her predecessor, she boarded at Jones', later prevailing upon Charles Bentley to close in the end of a verandah on his homestead to form a small room. This was duly done, being constructed of lathe and plaster to complement the rest of the house. Here Miss McAnne lived as a member of the family until posted to Darkes' Forest.

When the one-room schoolhouse was erected by Contractor Hugh Chisholm of Hurstville and opened in December 1903, the pioneer teacher had the honour of being the first to teach there.

Henrietta McAnne always dressed as befitted a school mistress of her era. Of fair complexion with blue eyes and slight of build, she wore an embroidered white long-sleeved blouse and black calf-length skirt. She wore a muff-chain around her neck, at the end of which a small clasp lock ornamented watch hung; this she tucked into the top of her skirt, producing it to check times for school periods and recess.

A chart containing "The Golden Rules of Life" adorned a wall of the schoolroom. These commenced with the "Golden Rule" spoken by Christ (Matthew 7, v. 12), others being short such as, "Don't listen to conversations-that don't concern you"; "Always knock at a door before being asked to enter". The rules were instituted by the teacher and were recited by the pupils at the commencement of lessons each day. Of the Catholic faith, Miss McAnne each Friday for the final half-hour period led the children in reading a chapter from the Gospels of the New Testament, these books being stored in a Press (book cupboard).

Children looked forward to hikes and outings to observe and study interesting things. One such adventure was in 1910 to see where a coal bore had been sunk near the



BENTLEY'S HOMESTEAD, 1904. ROOM
ERECTED FOR SCHOOLMISTRESS ON LEFT.

Woronora River not far from "Jockey's Cap", by a Government crew in 1885. The children walked from the school along the rough Old Illawarra Road then along the cart tracks of Barden Road to follow a foot track down the hillside to the bore site

where heaps of rock, clay and a number of "cylinders" extracted by the drill fascinated the children. Hikes were made to Mill Creek with its then lovely fresh water pools and a popular place for the pioneer settlers to enjoy a swim.

When Miss McAnne went from the rural settlement on Saturday mornings she walked to Sutherland via Price's rowboat ferry at Woronora River, and caught the train to Wollongong where she spent the rest of the time until Sunday afternoon with the Dwyer family at Mt. Drummond, a suburb. She returned to Bentley's after dark, having stopped at Price's for a cup of tea after which one of Jack Price's sons would escort her up the steep hill to see her on her way.

A kind and gentle woman, Henrietta McAnne was a strict person when it came to discipline. She wielded the cane when offenders broke the code being the rules of punishment - "one or two strokes" according to the type of offence, each being inscribed in the Punishment Book. Some boys were particularly unruly while the girls obeyed their school mistress on more respectful terms, although some received "one stroke". Two girls, considered the darlings of Miss McAnne, received money to buy lollies or were given a "Wee MacGregor" sweet bar as a reward for cleaning the school; but when the girls were caught in a misdemeanour by the teacher they retired to the schoolroom and wept. One lad for additional punishment often stood behind the blackboard and easel with a dunce's cap on his head.

On one occasion three boys decided to play a trick on their teacher on her way home along the track through the bush in the school ground to Bentley's home. They scooped out a hole about a foot deep and covered it with small sticks, twigs and leaves. When she came along she tripped over when stepping in the "trap", much to the delight of the culprits who escaped detection and punishment.

School concerts were popular events at Christmastime "break-up.". The children were trained for several weeks for items in the home of Mrs. Jones who was a skilled pianist. On the morning of the concert Mr. Webb would arrive with a cart loaded with Christmas bush and Bells and Cycad palms. The side of the school house was decorated to spell out the greeting "Happy Christmas". A large marquee was erected facing the school verandah (which served as a stage), while forms from the school and seats from several homes provided seats for the audience. Bentley's new piano was transported to the school on a spring cart by two of Mr. Bentley's sons. Lanterns placed at appropriate positions provided illuminations. Younger pupils presented their items first, the programme following age groups up to the point when parents and friends contributed a number of items. A bountiful supper served from hampers concluded such happy occasions.

A disturbing event in Miss McAnne's life came through the ministrations of a school inspector, Mr. McKenzie. The Inspector was a big surly man who by his very presence petrified the children into scared silence. He would storm into the teacher's chair and fire questions at the pupils which they were afraid to answer. The Inspector generated his oppressive manner over the school mistress, and when on visits to the school accompanied her

to lunch at Bentley's where she was too upset to eat.

As a result of continued visits the Inspector in his reports stated the "pupils were not up to standard requirements", which resulted in an "inquest" by men from the Department of Public Instruction calling a council of enquiry. Older scholars as well as some parents were called on to give their opinions of the good teacher's capabilities in her absence.

When the pioneer lady left Menai in December 1913 to commence teaching at Darkes Forest she was driven there by Charles Bentley in his four-wheeled buggy. Later she taught at Mortdale, but because she was becoming prone to deafness in her later years of teaching she was appointed to the Correspondence School of the Department.

When she retired she went to live with and assist her sister, a Nursing Sister, in the Blue Mountains where a Convalescent Hospital was established. with small chalets in the grounds.

Alf Midgley

Sources Department of Education, Miss N. Bentley, Mr. E. Webb.

"Bury Me Beneath a Wattle Tree": many years ago in the southern Monaro there roamed a swagman known as "Wattle Willy". His expressed wish was to be buried beneath a wattle tree, and he always carried a note clearly stating this. Also in the envelope with the note were a number of wattle seeds. "If there is not a wattle tree near where my body is found, please bury me on the spot and plant these wattle seeds at the head of my grave", ran one part of the note. Strangely, he was found dead beneath a fine big wattle tree in full blossom on Wattle Day. The late Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833-1870) made a similar request in one of his poems. There was once a wattle tree over Gordon's grave in Brighton (V.) Cemetery, but it no longer grows there.

First Commercial Feather Mattresses: It was in 1829 that Australians first slept on shop-made feather mattresses. In Pitt Street, near Circular Quay, there was a draper's shop where bedding was made. The owner was a friend of Sir Henry Parkes, who became the owner of the first mattress. The ticking was imported from England, but any citizen having fowls or other birds of any kind found a ready market for their feathers. When Parkes opened his shop, in Hunter Street he was assisted by the friend in Pitt Street who supplied the bulk of the stock.

(In rural England, until into the early 19th C, the bride-to-be's "marriage portion" always included a homemade feather mattress, collections of washed and selected soft feathers being a gift from female relatives and friends).

Taren Point was, in the earlier days of this century, also known as Commons (also spelt Comyns) Point.

AROUND THE SHIRE 1939:

For Sale: Caringbah: weatherboard & Fibro Cottage, 2 rooms, kitchen, etc.. Almost one acre of land. £210 (\$420).

For Sale: Peaches, 6d (5c) per dozen; Plums, 40 for 6d.

For Sale: Two sulkies, new sulky harness, £5 10.0 the lot.

To Let: Lilli Pilli: Cottage, 21/- per week (\$2.10).

To Let: Weatherboard & Fibro Cottage, 3 rooms, kitchen; outside laundry and bathroom, city water, electric light, verandahs, 16/- per week (\$1.60)

Extract: 'S.C.A.M.' newspaper 1939.

-Geo. Heavens

OLD SUTHERLAND LANDMARK IS DEMOLISHED

The old wooden building of St. John the Baptist Church of England at Sutherland will have been demolished by the time this issue is printed.

It was the first Anglican Church in the Shire, its history going back to March 3, 1894, when the district was first licensed and the building opened on March 4 -by Archbishop Saumarez-Smith. The Church of England School Hall was opened on March 27, 1904, the Hall also being used for services.

The two old buildings have served at least three generations of parishioners, but for the past 12 years they have stood, aged, forlorn and dilapidated behind a tall screen of shrubs, alongside the modern brick church opened in 1965. Now these old buildings have been demolished to make way for a new hall to serve new generations.

The buildings originally stood at the corner of Boyle and Eton Streets, where the Police Station and adjacent Court House (whose proceedings have been transferred to another location) but were bodily removed from here in 1932 to the site on the corner of Flora and Belmont Streets.

- M.H.N.



Synopsis of article by Jenesse Ivers in the Bulletin of January 1977.

SUTHERLAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND ON THE SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE POLICE STATION AND COURT HOUSE.

I Remember

FOWL PLAY

In the early 1930s Sutherland received a legacy -- many hundreds of People who had rented houses in and about Newtown, Marrickville and Rockdale areas, but having nowhere to go when evicted for not being able to meet their rent made their way to Woronora, Engadine, Gray's Point and the 'Mad Mile' (one of the most popular).

The residents of Sutherland did not like all these new arrivals coming into their territory, and regarded them as problem. Some of these people were not the best of types, and many locals spoke out against this invasion, including businessmen and others. This was not to be wondered at as many were ill-kempt and dirty.

When the relief work was established I had to work alongside many of these men. I found them quite friendly and hard workers, with a good sense of humour.

One chap was named Derby; he was little and wiry -- and a crook of the first order. His specialty was stealing fowls. He could go into a poultry farm, make friends with the dogs, steal as many fowls as he could carry and make not a sound. He slipped rubber bands on their beaks to stop them squawking and also on their legs to put them in a chaff bag: if you wanted a foul at a cheap price, see Derby.

One day one of the local parsons took it upon himself to criticise the way the men were working, and complained to the Shire Engineer Mr. Thompson. This caused a lot of trouble and several of our gang were sent to work in Oak Road Quarry -- which was like being in jail.

So Derby took it upon himself to punish the Reverend. One night he went to Tuck's poultry farm in Oak Road and stole six prime fowls, took them to the parson's residence and released them in his backyard. Derby then went to Mr. Tuck and told him he had seen the Reverend pinching his fowls. Bill Tuck, who was renowned for his fiery temper and use of guns, made off to the police and reported the matter.

Sergeant McNeil and P.C. Murphy departed in the motorcycle and sidecar to visit the Reverend — who, to say the least, was very upset and surprised!

Bill Tuck collected his fowls OK; there was no argument; the Reverend said they were not his, but he couldn't explain how they came to be there, and he was most embarrassed.

I'm sure it was only the fact that he was a man of the Cloth which saved his from real trouble; and the police realised it had been a bad joke.

We all knew who had engineered this piece of devilment, although Derby didn't ever admit it,

-- Geo. Heavens

MIRANDA'S WILD MAN OF THE BUSH

For some weeks during the winter of 1931 a 'wild man' had been terrorising women in the lonely and bushy parts of Sylvania and Miranda, prowling around various isolated homes and peering through windows. The "wild man" was described as being of bedraggled appearance, with staring black-shot eyes, with a long black & matted beard and hair, ragged and dirty.

Various attempts were made to catch him, but he always eluded his pursuers to escape into the thick scrub and bush. Then early on a Saturday morning he was seen attired only in torn shirt and trousers, with bare bleeding feet. He was finally cornered near a garden shed while chewing Leaves.

When approached, the "wild man" explained that he was the son of an earl, had been robbed of his inherited fortune and transported out to Australia. He had a bottle in one hand and, as approached by the owner of the property, aimed a blow at the man.

At that moment Constable Packett -- who had been urgently sent for as soon as the man was sighted - emerged from some scrub to grab the man but he again rushed into the bush. A number of men joined with the constable in a long and arduous chase and finally blocked his escape. The civilians kept the "wild man's" attention focused on themselves while Constable

Packett crept up from behind and flung himself at the man. A grim struggle followed, both rolling over and over in the scrub until, smeared with mud and exhausted, the captive was finally held down until the Sutherland Shire Ambulance arrived. The constable wrestled in the ambulance with the man practically all the way to the Reception House where the "Wild man of the bush" was eventually lodged -- and after he had then declared himself be the prophet Mahomet.

— M.H.N.

Source: Hurstville Propeller 1931.

* * * * *

A "First Fleeter": the introduction of the European wild rabbit has done more than any other feral import to harm the agricultural and the pastoral development of this country. The rabbit was a "First Fleeter", three of them having been owned by Governor Phillip. Some years later a Mr. Austin of Barwon Park, Geelong, released 13 rabbits on his property - and then some ten years later wondered what had hit him, for he finally had to kill off about 20,000, and yet leaving thousands of others: for rabbits breed fast and are not restricted by drought.

Nov. 5, 1605: "The Gunpowder Plot", when Sir Guy Fawkes attempted to blow up the British House of Parliament.

Dec. 12, 1901: Marconi transmitted the first "Wireless" (radio) signals over the Atlantic.

Dec.14, 1911: the Norwegian Roald Amundsen was the first to reach the South Pole.

CRONULLA BEACH SCHOOL OF ARTS



*CRONULLA SCHOOL OF ARTS IN
CRONULLA STREET, 1908.*

"Minutes of meeting held in the large room at Cronulla Beach Hotel on Saturday 21 March 1903*

This was the foundation meeting of the Cronulla School of Arts, an organisation which is still active today, although now in a different form.

A public notice of the meeting had apparently previously been circulated, so that the proceedings were mainly formal.

A provisional committee was formed, consisting of: -President, Mr. John Aitchison; Secretary, Mr. James Robinson; Treasurer, Mr. James Thorne; Committee, Mrs. (2) Davis, Messrs. - Windsor, - Stacey, M.J.B. Daley, T.E. Sayers, R. Laycock, A. McDonald, - Bouchier, - Arundell.

The Objective of the meeting having been formally stated by the President, "it was unanimously agreed to take action to erect a School of Arts Hall and open a Library as soon as possible".

A subscription list opened at the meeting produced £2-10-0 (\$5.00).

It was decided that the Hall be capable of seating approximately 120 people, and that it be of weatherboard with iron roof; it being left to the secretary and the provisional committee to investigate the matter.

Meetings were apparently fairly infrequent, as the next Minutes are January 1904, when it was decided that the committee canvass for subscribers.

These early Minutes are indefinite and somewhat confusing; but it seems that a small wooden building was erected about 1904-05 to serve as a community hall. The years between 1903 and 1905 appear to have been devoted to enrolling new members and to holding small socials and concerts to raise funds for building. Unfortunately, these are only vaguely referred to— although it was noted that "Mrs. Corbutt had kindly agreed to organise a Magic Lantern Show".

At last the committee were in a position to call tenders, the quote of a Mr. Eagles (one of 4 tenders) was accepted for £195-19-9, this being increased by £12 0 0 with the consent of the committee after further consideration, although the reason for this was not made clear in the Minutes.

"The Building Committee reported that the contractor had finished his work in a satisfactory manner and recommended the payment of the balance of his money". The committee themselves varnished the walls of the rooms.

At a later stage — and this is not clear in the Minutes -- at the November 1905 meeting the secretary reported "having interviewed Government officers concerning the building of a hall, and explained that they

required a Library and Reading Room in the front The following plan was agreed upon.... Hall, 24 x 25 ft., Library 10 x 10 ft., Reading Room 10 x 10 ft., with a passage 5 ft. wide between the two rooms. A platform at one end of the hall to be 15 x 6 ft. with 2 Cloakrooms, one at either end of the platform, each 5 x 6 ft."

By 1907 the Provisional Committee had completed their work and the School of Arts was ready for use. (The Minutes do not indicate what type of material was used, or how the finance was raised for this new building. In 1912 extensions were added, and a contemporary publication referred to the "new building", but whether this description included the above building as well as the extensions, is not clear).

On Sept. 14, 1907 a public meeting was called to enrol further new members and to elect a permanent Management Committee, for which nominations were called and balloted, the ballot being declared on Sept. 30:-

Patron, Mr. F.W.A. Downes (MLA): President, Mr. C. McAlister: Vice President, Mr. Wm. Burns Secretary, Mr. L. Laycock Treasurer, Mr. E. Thorne: Committee — Mrs. McAlister, Miss Burns, Messrs. L. Giddings, J. Delaurence, J. Hill, J. H. Whip: Auditors, Dr. Hughes, Mr. R. Bouchier.

Rules and By-laws were drawn up and adopted 25/9/1907.

In 1912 an extension was added to the building. This was made a gala occasion and the main street was gay with fluttering bunting — for the State Governor Lord Chelmsford, accompanied by Lady Chelmsford, was making his first visit "to the popular seaside resort of Cronulla", where His Excellency "was to perform the ceremony of fixing a marble memorial tablet on the outer wall of the extension to the local School of Arts"... He was duly presented with "a handsomely bound Address of Welcome." An echo of this visit occurred in the Shire Council Minutes of 23/12/1912, when it was resolved "that Councillors individually share the cost of the Illuminated Address presented to His Excellency". (The cost was not stated).

In introducing the guests-of-honour, Mr. Downes as, reviewed the history of the School of Arts, stating "The new building was of brick consisting of a General Meeting room, a Billiard room, and a Library room with 1000 books. The building cost £2500, and a Government subsidy of £1 for £1 was being sought".

The marble plaque placed by Lord Chelmsford is now in the custody of this Society, it having been purchased for \$15.00 from a Sutherland second-hand dealer.

The original little wooden building has long since been demolished, and the "new brick building" has over the years undergone varied alteration and renovation. It is still to some extent a community hall catering for local interests, but the onetime extensive Library was disposed of shortly after the Shire Library system came into being, the old-fashioned books being sold off at bargain prices.

The Cronulla School of Arts, is still functioning, but today one must look twice to discover it — sandwiched between new modern

buildings . a far cry from the time when the little wooden School of Arts stood in a paddock facing a dusty road.

-- M. Hutton Neve

Sources: Minutes of the Cronulla School of Arts in the Shire Archives: Australian Town & Country Journal 1912: Author's notes.

DEDICATION AT KURNELL 1899



MR. CARRUTHERS.

On Saturday May 6, 1899, the official dedication of Kurnell as a Public Park was made by the Lieutenant Governor Sir Frederick Danley, in the presence of Rear Admiral Pearson Naval Commander-in-chief, the Hon. J.H. Carruthers Minister for Lands, a large number of members of each House of Parliament, and a large body of the general public. The official party, which numbered about 300, left Redfern Railway Station shortly after noon, and on arrival at Sandringham lunched at Tollemache's Hotel. Here, the "toast of the Queen" was honoured, and afterwards the guests

embarked in three steamers, "Dawn", "Aurora" and "Dayspring". Kurnell was reached at 2.45 pm. and on disembarking the Lieutenant Governor, together with the Admiral and Minister for Lands was received by a guard-of-honour from the Naval Brigade. Mr. Bridge, Clerk of the Executive Council, read the Minute of Dedication, and the Lieutenant Governor addressed the assemblage, reading an eulogium on Captain Cook, and then formally handing over the Park to the people of the Colony.

Mr. Carruthers followed with a short history of Kurnell and its acquisition by the Government, as well as an account of the origin of the name. Rear Admiral Pearson then broke the flag, the band of the Permanent Artillery played a few bars of the National Anthem, and a salute was fired from H.M.S. Goldfinch which was lying off Kurnell, and from Bare Island Fort. A visit was paid to the grave of Forby Sutherland, and the official party, and the official party then returned to the city. Steamers ran at frequent intervals throughout the day conveying many interested spectators thither.

Alf Midgley

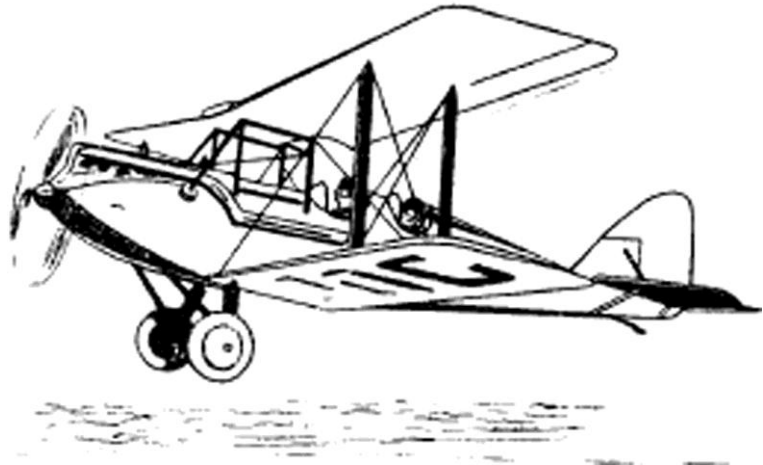
Sources "St. George Advocate" (NSW Public Library)

The Suburb of Bonnet Bay was proclaimed in the Government Gazette on Nov. 28, 1969. The correct spelling has only one "t", the original name for the locality being "The Old Woman's Bonnet", because of the foreshore shape.

FROM SAND TO SKY:'Joy-riding' at Gunnamatta Bay in 1929/30.

One may reasonably say
that in World War I it
was demonstrated that
man could, like the birds,
soar in the skies,
although not with the
same effortless grace.

And it was not long
before it was possible for
those other than wartime
airmen to enjoy the thrill
of rising above the
ground to emulate "the
fowls of the air".



So it was that early in 1930 that the Shire Council, after having made enquiries, received a reply from the Civil Aviation Department relative to aerial 'joy-riding' over the Cronulla beaches. "There is certainly a grave risk of accident in landing and taking off, and this danger is increased if the beach is crowded", was the rather obvious advice of the Department and added that it did not know the name of the pilot responsible as it was not notified of arrivals and departures from Mascot.

The Council replied that if it were possible to trace the pilot and/or the aeroplane, he should be asked to advise the Council when -- and where -- he proposed to land, so that a special area could be set aside for this purpose and picnickers warned against entering the danger zone.

A part of Gunnamatta Bay was set aside for the purpose, and flights were made at weekends and on holidays, the flights being governed both by weather conditions and according to low tides, thus enabling the plane to use the sand for take-offs and landings.

The flights started between 1928 and 1929, but lasted for only a year or two, the approach of the Depression negating the extravagance of any spending on "aerial joy-rides".

--- M.H.N.

Source: Hurstville Propeller 1930.

* * * * *

The Australian Oil Refining Pty. Ltd. started pumping oil in 1956. It was built at a cost of \$50,000,000.00: the road from Cronulla to the Refinery cost \$360,000.00, of which the Oil Coy. paid \$312,000.00

DIAMOND DRILLING VENTURES

Several attempts were made by James Murphy, a keen mining speculator in the to drill for coal seams, the most successful one being in the bed of a creek which was to be known as Dent's Creek after Fred Dent who was in charge of the drilling.

The bore of 4-inch diameter was a little south of the natural stone bridge adjacent to the present North West Arm Road. A seam of coal eleven feet thick of good hard grade was encountered at 2,400 ft, but owing to its depth was not considered a commercial proposition, and any further attempts were abandoned. Fred Dent drilled a bore to 2,000 ft. on the site where the Bunnerong Power House was later erected.

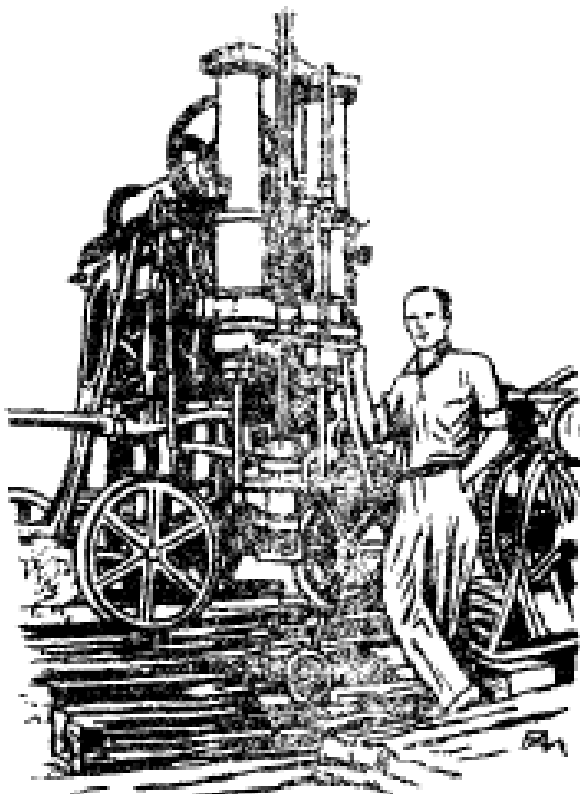
During the early 1920s, George Booker, of Sutherland, was working with the same drilling plant operated by Fred Dent's brother Alf at Helensburgh looking for coal seams. Whilst there, Booker got me a job with Dent which would begin when the plant moved to Berrima. Here we drilled for coal for the Berrima Cement Co., about 11 miles from Berrima jail.

About this time I was left in charge of the camp, my workmates having other things to do, leaving me in the solitude of the bush. Evening came, and soon everything was

shrouded in darkness.

Eventually, I felt it was time to go to bed and have a good night's rest. But it was not be. Some-thing stung me on the rump. It was a scorpion; I leapt out of bed and thought my end had come. Never had I suffered such intense pain. I applied various "remedies" including nicotine, and I thought I was going to die, so I wrote a note telling what had happened and that and that I had not died as a result of foul play.

On completion of the job all the equipment was loaded onto a waggon drawn by a team of bullocks. We travelled through Robertson, then the going became extremely hazardous. To get



ALF DENT WITH THE DRILLING RIG

to our destination, the Wongawilli mine, the bullocks blazed a trail through the thick bush and timber - and there were miles of it. At Wongawilli mine our Job was to drill for coal seams.

Come 1924, I was closer to home, working on the Woronora Dam boring for the foundations. Sam Pepper was the boss of the drill and I was the assistant. Before we got there the wall site had already been cleared of all big trees, there being 200 men working there. There was a grocery store owned by Brown, and a bakehouse where Bill Waller baked all the bread on the site.



While I was there a Sport Committee was formed, and they decided to have a sports day. One of the events of the day was a foot race across the wall site of the dam from one side to the other and return, in which 175 men took part, each hoping to win either the first prize of £3 (\$6), 30/- (\$3) for second, or 10/- for third prize. One of the men in the race — who "boiled the billy" — was known as "Wingy", having only one arm. He didn't do too well with this handicap, being jostled and caught off balance, resulting in a number of falls. The race was won by George Booker; I ran second, being "pipped on the nosh" by George. But it was a gruelling encounter as we raced down the hill, chased by big boulders displaced by the thundering herd of men.

Our next job took us north to Coraki, near Lismore, on the Richmond River, where we travelled on Baggot's paddle-wheel punt. Baggot had a saw-mill about 70 miles from the river-mouth, and used the punt for removal of timber. At Coraki, the younger brother Walter Dent travelled with us where we again bored for coal. When this job was completed we packed up, moving the equipment to the site of the Wyangla Dam near Cowra, boring for the foundations.

On a drilling job in search of coal seams, Professor David (known as "the father of Geology" in this country), whose job it was to select the site for drilling operations, declared after the drill had struck ironstone at a considerable depth that it was useless to continue as there was never any coal beneath ironstone. Alf Dent, however, wasn't convinced, and he decided to go on for another 100 feet — when to his delight he struck an 11-foot seam of coal.

When working near Cowra, Professor David, in pointing to the range of hills, declared that one could imagine the waters of the ocean lapping against them. This remark caused great amusement amongst the drilling crew - though of course the Professor (who had a black beard) didn't see us.

When the drill, which had been in operation for some time bringing up different types of core, reached a depth of 1500 feet, to our amazement the core on our examination was oyster shells. Perhaps the sea had been there at one time some millions of years ago, and the Professor was right .

Mick Derrey.

WILLIAM SIMPSON OF PORT HACKING

Mr. William Simpson, known as "The Father of Port Hacking" to an earlier generation, died on gene January 11, 1918 at the age of 77.

He was born in Sydney in 1841, and when seven years old was taken to live at Port Hacking, which was then the happy hunting ground of some local Aborigines. He became one of the early pioneers of the North West and South West Arms of the Hacking River — where small schooners used to call in for oyster shells, these being take to kilns at Cook's River for burning into lime; and gathering of these shells provided an industry for settlers in the area.

Simpson later took up market gardening, and would sail up the coast to Botany Bay in his boat "The Blink Bonnie" with his produce for markets in the St. George district.. After a short period as market gardener he left Port Hacking to live at Sans Souci for a few years, where he engaged in contracting for road work.

However, "the bush" was his prime love, and in the 1870' he returned to Port Hacking, where he hired himself out as a guide for Sydney sporting parties, and on shorting and fishing excursions his knowledge of the erea and his general services proved invaluable.

In November 1865 he bought a block of 50 acres of Crown Land at the mouth of Cabbage Tree Creek, and here he built his house named "Tyreal"(now spelt Turriell. This was destroyed in a bush-fire in the 1890s. but was late rebuilt as the "Port Hacking Hotel", but more generally known 'Simpson's Hotel".. It became a favourite holiday location. especially for honeymooners. .The Kogarah-Port Hacking Mail Coach, which began running in 1886, after crossing Georges River, travelled to the end of Port Hacking Road at Turriell Point; here Simpson had erected a flagstaff, and when a flag was hoisted he would cross over in his oil launch to pick up his visitors. Simpson's Hotel was destroyed by fire in, I think,, the 1950s -- I am not sure of this date.

Through his guide duties William Simpson became acquainted with many influential Sydney citizens; and it is said that he was primarily responsible for initially introducing Sir John Robertson to the beauty of the wild Port Hacking area— who in 1879 as the Premier of New South Wales, dedicated some 16,000-odd acres as "The National Park".

Together with Mr. Frederick: Holt (eldest son of the Hon. Thomas Holt and owner of "Sutherland House" at Sylvania) William Simpson was one of the newly formed Road Trust— before the advent of a Shire Council — for the purpose of having a road cleared and formed from Georges River Sylvania to Turriell Point, this cart track becoming Port Hacking Road.

Following a largely attended funeral at Sutherland his remains were interred in the. Woronora Cemetery,.

-- M. Hutton Neve

Source: St. George "Call" 1918: Author's notes.

NEAR-MOTORING FATALITY 1931,...

Sedan on edge of Precipice

One Sunday in August 1931 a large sedan car containing four women was negotiating one of the small hills about three miles from Audley when an attempt to change gears failed. The car, rushing backwards, came to a Standstill when one of the wheels jammed in a rut, leaving the car just on the balance of crashing over a 300-foot drop. As it hung in this perilous position many onlookers expected it to crash over at any moment, but the four women managed to scramble out in safety..

The vehicle was in such a position that it seemed dangerous even to touch it for fear of it slipping. Ropes were quickly requisitioned and lashed to trees on the opposite side of the roadway, thereby blocking the whole of oncoming traffic. A Park ranger was soon on the spot and he gave permission to have a tree felled to cut large props to support the car. This was quickly done and the car made temporarily safe. A steam roller, used in construction of Lady Carrington Drive, was sent for, and an endeavour was made to haul the car back to the roadway. Owing to a sharp bend in the road the driver was unable to get a straight pull, as failed - in fact, the steamroller itself failed to get a grip because of the wet surface, and being on an incline had to be pushed by many willing hands.

The next move was to try to build the roadway a little wider with huge boulders to allow the congested traffic to pass. Many motorists set to work carrying heavy stones from the side of the cliff and a track was soon made. The driver of the nearest car was asked to move but after much consideration he refused to move as he believed the makeshift unsafe and was afraid of his own car crashing over into the gully.

Eventually with more ropes and much willing manpower, the car was gradually dragged back on to the road, and the long stream of waiting cars moved on, after nearly two hours' delay.

-- M.H.N.;

Sources Hurstville "Propellor".

"MARCH TO FREEDOM" this began at Nowra on August 23, 1918, at the Post Office in Junction St., the marchers including soldiers, nurses, aids and schoolchildren. Rallies and luncheons were held at different towns: along the route -- Kiama, Jamberoo, Dapto, Port Kembla, Wollongong, Corrimal, Woonona Bulli, Thirroul, Scarborough. The processions and rally dates for the different centres were:- Sutherland Sept. 2, when Clr. J. Hill welcomed the marchers at a rally on the area between the railway station and Tramway Office (still standing 1977) and Railway Parade (Princes Highway). Gatherings were also held at Hurstville Sept. 3, Carlton Sept. 4, and Kogarah and Rockdale on the same date. From Arncliffe on Sept. 6 the procession moved to Martin Place Sydney.

-- F.M.

PIONEER EXPLORATION OF WORONORA RIVER



CAPT. HUNTER

The earliest recorded exploration of the Georges and Woronora Rivers was made as early as 1789, but the rivers remained unnamed. The rivers, in all their rugged beauty, were inhabited by Aborigines who no doubt looked in trepidation at the invasion of their centuries-old habitations and seclusion of rocks and flora. The Woronora River was named "Wooloonara" by Assistant Surveyor Robert Dixon in 1827 when under instructions from Surveyor General Oxley, Dixon's party journey up the river to where John Lucas had established a mill on 150 acres at the head of the tidal waters where a freshwater stream flowed into it.

Dixon's naming of the River was obtained from the natives, meaning "place of no sharks". The original "Wooloonara" was a few years later spelt as "Woronora".

The account of Captain John Hunter, Master of the "Sirius" of the First Fleet, wrote in his Journal about the expedition he led part way up the Woronora and Georges Rivers during the latter days of September to mid-October 1789, and is recorded:-

"After having rested a few days I determined not to lose any time but go immediately and make a survey of Botany Bay while the weather was good and pleasant." Towards the end of September two boats with provisions, tents, and etc. were got ready and dispatched under the care of Mr. Kalties the Master of the "Sirius" and Mr. Blackburn the Master of the "Supply", who both assisted in my work at Botany Bay.

"A few gentlemen of the settlement having signified a wish to accompany me, the party resolved to walk over and meet the boats there; this route being well known and the path well trodden, it was not an unpleasant walk. We joined the boats about noon and found the tents pitched. The same afternoon we began our operations, and in about ten days finished the survey of the bay.

"The anchorage in this bay as I have before observed is extensive and the passage it is easy; there is a cluster of rocks which lie south-south-east, about two cables length from a little bare island on the north shore on which the sea breaks frequently high; but if you keep Cape Banks open you will avoid them. Both shores are bold too, till you come thus nigh. A little above Point Sutherland (south Shore) is another patch of rock:) which to avoid turning, keep the land below this point open. Although the anchorage here is



HUNTER'S MAP 1789

extensive, yet by looking at the chart, it will appear a small spot for so large a piece of water; from both the north and south sides, and from the bottom of the bay, the flats run off a great distance from four to fifteen feet of water. I did formerly believe that there was an easy channel over the flats into the west river, but on this examination I think it rather difficult, if practicable at all, as the soundings are very irregular.

“This river in some parts has good depth and near end within its entrance but higher up it is all shoal water and full of knowls of land; in short, it is only to be navigated by boats; it has two branches in which there are several coves, or bays containing shoal water. After having gone to the head of this river and returned to the bay again, we then entered a small river which empties itself in the north-west part of the bay; this river as far as I went up, which was about five miles, is all shoal water (it has since been examined to the head by Lieutenant Bradley); in short, these rivers were with me no object.

“At this time to throw away time upon; I therefore made no other survey than an eye sketch; every reach is laid down true with respect to direction; the soundings are the depth at or near low water; and the distance is estimated by short portions at a time, that they might be the more correct.

“It will easily be perceived that by looking at the draught of this bay, that it will not be possible to lie land-locked with a ship in any part of it; you will always be exposed to the large sea which tumbles in here with an easterly wind. The edge of the flats (in three fathoms) is determined by many interfections, so that its true extent is pretty nearly ascertained”.

--- Alf Midgley

Sources: 'Historical Journal of Transactions at Port Jackson and Norfolk (Hunter): Author's notes.

The Outback Waterbag: One of the most familiar objects in outback localities of Australia during the summer months is still the canvas waterbag. It is a boon to bushwalkers and rural travellers who are in need of a drink of cool water. The waterbag was introduced by Major Sir Thomas Mitchell during his famous exploring expedition in Queensland in 1846. He improvised the now familiar waterbag when he had a tick flourbag smeared with a generous supply of melted fat. Into the treated bag the Major poured some water and for the rest of the journey the party were never without a refreshing drink whenever needed. Previous to the introduction of the waterbag the old-fashioned goat and sheep skin water containers were generally used in Australia by pioneer settlers.

.. F.M.

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In September 1911, 24 residents of Burraneer Bay petitioned for a Post Office, and this was established in Hill's Boatshed.

CRONULLA STORM FIFTY YEARS AGO

Cronulla received the full fury of a storm on New Year's Day in 1922; when the biggest and wildest sea for many years broke on the beach, and hundreds of residents and holidaymakers flocked to the beach to stand for hours in the pouring rain watching the awe-inspiring spectacle. Many wondered how the new sea wall constructed by the Sutherland Shire Council would stand its first big trial but it stood the test wall, no damage being done. (This wall was destroyed in an even wilder storm in 1949).

Early on Monday afternoon, Jan. 2, a launch was observed off Cronulla being driven towards the beach, and shortly afterwards it capsized and sank, but the next day the police ascertained that no one had been aboard the craft. It is believed that the launch was moored off Gibbon Beach, at the entrance to Port Hacking, and during the storm broke adrift.

An experience which might have been attended with fatal results was the lot of three women and a boy of 12 during the storm on Monday morning. A Mrs. Topham, her son Ralph, her sister and a visitor, were standing admiring the rough sea and, thinking they were safe, sheltered from the rain on a large rock under the cliffs just past the tram terminus at Cronulla. They were fully 20 yards away from the water's edge when a huge wave came up, breaking right at their feet and completely enveloping them. Two of the women were washed off their feet and rolled several yards over the rocks. Fortunately, a second large wave did not follow, and although bruised and shaken, managed to regain their feet in safety. The boy Ralph had the presence of mind to grab hold of a jutting piece of rock and wait until the water, which had completely enveloped him, receded.

--- M.H.N.

Sources Hurstville "Propeller" 1922.

A Soldier's Grave: A gravestone in the Liverpool (NSW) churchyard records the story of a remarkable accident. The man was Private Alexander McCulloch of the 50th Foot Regiment. He was standing near a blacksmith's forge with his loaded musket nearby when a flying spark touched the priming, causing the musket to discharge, inflicting a fatal wound. The 50th Regiment was twice stationed in Australia, and the graves of all soldiers who died while serving in the Colony, or after they had been discharged and settled as civilians, may be seen in several of the older cemeteries. In All Saints Churchyard at Sutton Forest are the graves of several soldiers of the 50th who were killed by Aborigines.

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Inoculation Is Not a Modern Innovation: in 1804 an advertisement was appearing, advising "Mr. John Harris, surgeon of the New South Wales Corps, informs the parents of children belonging to the Military that he will attend to inoculate with vaccine infection those who may choose to attend him at his house at Sydney every Tuesday and his house at Parramatta every Saturday until further notice."

EARLY SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL NOTES

Annual Minutes from the Shire President (Clr. W. G. Judd) at the Co Council Meeting January 24, 1910: -

The Shire has made steady progress, the Council inspecting the plans of 6 new structures, and 15 subdivisions and 380 parcels of land changed hands either by public auction, by private transfer or by lease. Council began the year with a credit balance of £264-4-1, and finished with £112-12-10, having disbursed during the years the sum of £3148-13-2. 75% ,was spent on roads, 18% on general purposes and 7% on parks. Three hundred chains of road were cleared, 400 chains formed, 160 chains ballasted, 290 chains gravelled, and in addition 20. pipe culverts and 4 stone culverts were constructed. Council thanked the Minister (Mr. Lee) for the exceedingly prompt manner in which he dealt with the tenders for the Cronulla Tramway construction.

Early in the year Council resolved to secure land on which at some time the Council of the day might erect a home for itself. Offers were invited, but the directors of the Holt-Sutherland Estate made a most generous offer and practically gave the site free at the corner of Eton Street and Illawarra Road, about one third of an acre, right at the gate of the town. The offer was thankfully accepted.

Council erected 3 good wharves, and up-to-date ferry service was instituted between Gunnamatta and Audley, calling at the Shire wharves.

A good road gives access to the Woronora river, and a portion of the 140 acre reserve has been improved. A picnic shelter and ladies' dressing shed have been erected, and the people now crowd this locality to demonstrate Council's wisdom in giving attention to this neighbourhood.

About a mile north of the Cronulla Hotel, having a frontage to the ocean of a mile or so, there is a barren wilderness of sand dunes. As far back as 1886 the Government of the day reserved from sale 260 acres. No doubt the Government's intentions were good, but a small fortune would need to be spent here to render it fit for the purpose of public recreation. A large and wealthy syndicate has made it known that it is prepared with practically unlimited capital at its disposal to create a model town-ship here if the Government will sell.

By Council's representations to the P.M.G., the Department has approved of the estimates of a Receiving Office at Yowie Bay.

-- Alf Midgley

Chain length: 22 yards = 1 chain; 80 chains = 1 mile,,

Illawarra Rd.: Princes Highway.

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Como Primary School: a single-room wooden structure was opened by Mr.Mutch, Minister for Education, on January 29, 1921. (The school established at the Railway Construction Camp c1881 was closed when the Camp was moved on to Heathcote in 1885).

THE PRESIDENT WRITES

Writing for the Bulletin this year finds me not long back from a touring holiday in the north of Queensland. A pleasant improvement in the east coast roads of the State makes touring in that direction a pleasure. There are many miles on this route, and few inhabitants, making the job difficult for the road builders..

Particularly significant, historically, was a visit to Cooktown, north of Cairns - a little town noted for an early visit by James Cook after his ship was holed on a coral reef nearby. The drive from Cairns is also one to be remembered, because of the roughness and inhospitality. Too tyres and three tubes were casualties, making a land trip today little better than Cook's tour by sea.

Cooktown made notable advances following the discovery of gold in parts of the tableland, even supporting a short railway, although now no sign of this was to be observed. Three magnificent buildings stand in the main street overlooking the harbour. One, a Bank of New South Wales, is a building large enough to be a main branch in any large city; its interior is fitted out with some of the finest cedar joinery I have had the pleasure to &serve. Another, the old Catholic Convent, has become a museum -- with a National Trust classification.

Cairns retains its charm by its remoteness. Other coastal centres show little change. This State is very dry-- New South Wales is very green in comparison which bring me to Wauchope, the "timbertown". Apparently competing with Dorriggo for supremacy, Wauchope illustrates its supremacy with a pioneer village type museum, called "Timbertown", in which many of the arts and crafts associated with the industry are set up. This excellent installation is well worth a visit.

H. Ivers, President.

* * * * *

Death of Miss Clarice E. Nelson. Oct. 1st, at 91 years, Her death removes one of the last few pioneers of the 1890 period. The late Mr. Joseph Nelsen with his wife and family arrived in 1893, settling in Port Hacking Road Miranda, where they took up a small block of land. Later, they moved to Caringbah, opening a shop in the Kingsway (then Beach Road) about 1914. This small wooden "General Store", opposite Port Hacking Rd., stood for very many years; and Miss Clarice, with her sister Edith and brother Wilfred, were well-known proprietors for over a half-century. After retiring from business activities some years ago, they bought a small cottage in Vista Road Caringbah, continuing their active interests in the Congregational Church. Mr. Wilfred Nelson is the last surviving member of this old pioneer settler family in the Shire.

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In March 1919 the wire hawser on the Lugarno ferry broke and the punt drifted towards the Moons with a horse and vehicle on board, they being rescued with some difficulty late in the evening.

This page may be detached and kept for reference:

FIXTURES

- Dec 9 1978: Film evening — to be arranged.
- Jan 13: Members Night: Members are invited to give short talks, or show descriptive slides. Average time about 10 mins.-(max. 15 mins.). Please advise me before Jan. 6 of your topic. 'Phone 524-5095.
- Feb. 10: Mr. Walsh: Antique Timepieces — Clocks, Watches, Music Boxes, etc.
- March 10: Annual General Meeting.

EXCURSIONS.

April: Weekend tour of the Singleton district to be arranged. Approximate cost = \$60.00. Full details will be given in the February Bulletin. Contact the President (521-1407) for bookings.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1978: Members are advised that Subscriptions fall due on January 1, 1978.

Adults: \$2.00; School Students (to 18) \$1.00.

The Hon. Treasurer will appreciate the early payment of 1978 subscriptions.

Please note that only financial members may stand for election or vote at the Annual General Meeting.

New Members since August Bulletin:

Messrs. K. R. Armstrong, Kirrawee; J. W. Barber, Gynea; Harvey Davidson, Gynea; Mr. and Mrs. R. Davey, Illawong.

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THANKS: I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my personal and sincere thanks for the co-operation and assistance I received from Brian Methan Pty. Ltd., Antique Dealer, of Kogarah for his kindness in loaning the various pieces of antique furniture to enable me to set up a display of a Victorian Bedroom during the Embroidery Exhibition in September at the Civic Centre for the Save the Children Fund.

-- MERRELL TAPLIN,

Hon. Secretary.

The President and members of the Executive Council extend best wishes and greetings to all members for both Christmas and the New Year.

This page may be detached and kept for reference:

Publications Committee 1977-78: Mr G Heavens (Convener), Mrs M. Hutton Neve (Editor), Mrs. P. Garland, Mrs, D. Vale; Mr. F. Midgley and Mr. B. Griffin; the President ex officio.

Contributions Members are asked to submit material for the Bulletin — it need not be confined entirely to local history interests, but such material is especially welcome. If material is extracted or re-written, please quote source. If hand-written, please print names in BLOCK (= capital) letters; and hand to Convener or Editor, or post to Editor's address. Copy for the February 1978 issue should reach the Editor by the end of December because of New Year holidays.

Bulletin Copies are supplied to all branches of the Shire Library, and to the Shire President, Shire Clerk and all Councillors.

The Society is Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society and the National Trust of Australia, NSW Branch.

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Printed extracts any editorial material maybe reprinted in other publications provided that acknowledgement is made both to the writer and to this Society's magazine.

Monthly Meetings of the Society are held on the 2nd Friday of each month, commencing at 8.0 p.m., in the Presbyterian Church Hall, corner Glencoe & Flora Streets Sutherland, Visitors are welcome.

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

PUBLICATIONS OF LOCAL HISTORY: on sale at each monthly meeting; proceeds are paid to the Society.... Illustrated History of Sutherland (F. Midgley) 50 c.; Thos Holt, 50 cents; Kurnell, 50 c. these are illustrated: Martha Matild4 Mrs. James Birnie; these last three are by M. Hutton Neve. Also on sale is Reflections, illustrated, by A. & F. Midgley, \$1.00; the proceeds of this book is paid to the Menai Church Pioneer Fund.

<u>President:</u>	<u>Hon. Sec.:</u>	<u>Publications Convener:</u>
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