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CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| THE RAILWAY TO CRONULLA | M. Derrey |
| "SHIRE'S' AIR RAID ALARM " | G. Heavens |
| IN THE BEGINNING" | M.H.N. |
| EARLY DAYS IN MIRANDA | F. Midgley |
| NEW IDEA FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS | M. Hutton Neve |
| HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA: 1788-1988 | M.H.N. |
| SYLVANIA RSS & AILA SUB-BRANCH | D. Salt |
| MIRANDA SCHOOL ESSAY | J. Madigan |
| PORT HACKING TRAGEDY | M. Hutton Neve |
| HERE & THERE | M.H.N. |
| A PREACHING UNDERTAKER | F. Midgley |
| THE ROCKS RESUMPTION (1902) | D. Vale |
| THE OLD SHIRE | M. Derrey |

ILLUSTRATIONS ... F. Midgley

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THE RAILWAY TO CRONULLA



Nearing the end of the Depression years, about 1934 there was a lot spoken about an electric train line to Cronulla. That was when the Shire was split into two factions, those in favour and those against a railway.



Meetings were held at Sutherland, Cronulla, Miranda and Caringbah. Clrs. Arthur Hand and Joe Monro stood on a platform to address the meetings in favour of the railway; Clr. Tucker was one I can remember who opposed the project. Tempers flared and very often a fight took place between the two factions. This suited a resident named Wally, he being -- so I was told -- at one time a lightweight boxing champion. Wally threw his weight behind the anti-railway faction; but Wally was not satisfied with using his fists --he also carried a tyre lever.

Another prominent anti-railwayman was Mr. Bob Turner, who had just purchased Tyldesley's farm and the big house, near what is now the President Hospital on the northern side of President Avenue. Bob Turner had just been ousted from his farm to make way for the East Hills Railway; and was no doubt feeling some resentment about this new line taking a few acres of his Sutherland land with no compensation being paid. It was said that when a railway passed through your land the property owner would be more than compensated with the rising value of the land.

There was more trouble between Sutherland, Miranda, Caringbah and Cronulla as to where the line should go. Cronulla, wanted the line to cross at Taren Point, shortening the distance to the city. Sutherland objected, saying that

they would be isolated; Miranda wanted the line to branch off the main line at Jannali, but this didn't suit the business people of Sutherland.

It took many fights and arguments and letters of opinion in the local weekly newspaper S.C.A.M. before the line was determined and placed where it is today.

-- Mick Derrey

SUTHERLAND SHIRE'S AIR RAID ALARM

This was my experience in the first and only Air Raid alarm in the Shire.

By early 1942 everyone had been warned of the impending enemy attacks; Arthur Perks, Chief Warden of the National emergency Services (N.E.S.) had done his work well. We had all been instructed to dig air raid slit trenches at our homes -- everyone had their own trench mostly half-full of muddy water.

I had constructed what I considered an excellent air raid shelter, made out of a 1000 gallon tank cut down vertically and laid over on its side like an igloo. This I covered with sandbags and earth, down at the bottom of my garden. When I had completed it the floor was muddy from the rain, so I put a couple of barrow loads of nice clean Cronulla sand in as a carpet. Now all was in readiness for the enemy to arrive. Sure enough, in the early evening of May 31, 1942, there were a series of big booming noises coming from the direction of Sydney. Immediately all the electricity was cut off everywhere was pitch black, and the sirens began to wail; it was all very scary; a sudden silence descended over everything -- the hush-before-the-storm feeling.

We knew what to do: the wife ran to the shelter (complete with blanket). I jumped on my push-bike and pedalled like mad to the Fire Station, ready to put out the fires from the incendiary bombs which were to descend on us from the air -- or otherwise for whatever purpose we were needed.... So we waited in the pitch dark, the fire engine's motor ticking over in a state of readiness, filling the station with fumes.

After an hour a phone message came to dismiss us: we were to go home, as the trouble was over.

So home I went -- only to find my wife snugly asleep in bed; and me the "All Clear" had not been sounded, I had a few unkind words to say -- I remonstrated, so to speak. After all I had spent 3 weeks preparing the finest air raid shelter in the district; I wanted it used a bit, to say the least. My wife told me to go and try it myself. I did -- and discovered to my horror and dismay that I had overlooked something. As well as building the finest air



raid shelter, I had created the most modern and up-to-date all-weather Cats' Toilet facility extra good for cats: but for humans -- alas: it was impossible to breathe therein: Next day I changed the Sand and fitted a cat-proof door, but unluckily -- or luckily; please yourself -- we didn't get a second chance to test the shelter, thanks to the Atomic bomb.

An odd notes when I was riding to the Fire Station along Toronto Parade that night, I found I was racing a steam train up the hill; the fireman was busy stoking up the furnace --with, of course, the door wide open, quite oblivious that an air raid was in progress. What a wonderful target that train would have aside:

N.B.: Arthur Perks, a well-known businessman of the 1920-1940 period, is still living and now residing in the Gosford area.

Geo. Heavens

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IN THE BEGINNING

The Sutherland, Shire Council, was convened on March 7th 1906 as a Provisional Council , holding its first meeting in the Miranda School of Arts on June 18, The first Shire Clerk was William Danne, and the President was William Geo. Judd. In 1907 a new Council was elected by ratepayers.

Menai (then named Bangor) is probably the oldest settlement in the Shire, although organised settlement did not begin until a Welshman, Owen Jones, started farming in 1895. The first land grant was made in 1829 for timbercutting.

Heathcote was once known as "Bottle Forest": Several land grants were made here by Surveyor-general Sir Thos. Mitchell in 1842, but within about 20 years the tiny settlement had collapsed because of isolation and therefore the difficulty of marketing produce.

Sutherland Congregational Church was the first place of worship to be built in the Shire, being erected in Robert St., on the western side of the railway line. Congregational worship began at Sylvania in 1884.

The Village of Gunnamatta" was named by Government Proclamation Feb. 26, 1908, the name was officially changed to "Cronulla".

Georges River Bridge Toll was lifted on May 31, 1952, after having been in operation for 23 years.

MHN

EARLY DAYS IN MIRANDA

Joseph Nelson came to Miranda with his wife and family in 1892, having been forced out of Sydney by the Depression. Like many others at the time they were unable to pay their rent and facing eviction, sought to begin life elsewhere.

The Nelson family were taken around Miranda in a horse coach driven by Robert Cook, in search of a suitable block of land. Eventually they chose a site on Port Hacking Road. The land agent representing the Holt-Sutherland Estate Land Co. Ltd. directed their attention to a mound of fresh earth saying it was good soil, and demonstrated by giving it a hearty kick, but in doing so revealed the ironstone underneath. Joseph Nelson didn't change his mind. From there the coach took them to Lye's house, then on the southwest corner of Malvern and Sylvania Roads. Lye's later moved to the site of today's Miranda Fair. In those days Malvern Rd. ran from the function with the new Princes Highway to Port Hacking Rd. near today's Sutherland Hospital. This of course is now part of The Kingsway.

Joseph Nelson built a bag humpy to shelter his family, but had nothing to cover the roof rafters. He went to William Burns, who had a timberyard, and explained that he had just arrived in Miranda but had no money, and asked Burns it was possible to supply him with galvanised iron for a roof, and that he would pay for it as soon as could. Joseph Nelson got his iron.



William Burns, a Roman Catholic, proved to be a good friend to the Nelson family, who were Baptists, later loaning them £100 to set up a grocery business in Redfern. Wilfred Nelson, a son, left the farm with his younger sister Clarise and went to look after the shop in Redfern, coming home at weekends.

In 1904 Nelsons opened a small store near their house facing Port Hacking Rd.. In 1918 a new and much larger store was opened on The Kingsway Caringbah -- the site of today's Caringbah Hardware.

When Wilfred Nelson first commenced school in Miranda he went to a private school run by Mrs. Walcott on Port Hacking Rd. not far from his home, near the present-day road junction. referred to as the "Six Ways", his parents paying six pence a week for his tuition. Wilfred's two sisters Edith and Clarice who had been attending the first Miranda Public School (where Port Hacking High School now stands) also attended the private school for a while because of ruffian tactics by some of the boys at the public school. After Mrs. Walcott relinquished her private school it moved further down Port Hacking Rd., near Garnett Rd..

An early resident in Miranda was Mr. J. Macfarlane (who later Wane the Clerk of the Sutherland Shire Council) who appeared to be a general handyman around the area. He helped at Hall's, who had the first post office, by putting up a spring fixed behind the door to let the occupants know of someone had entered the post Office room. So that cattle wouldn't get out when people came for mail and forgot to close the gate, Macfarlane built a baffle of posts. He later married Hall's daughter.

A Mrs. Howe had a store in the back of her house, which was next to James' property in the hollow (east of the present day shopping centre). It was in James house that the first Congregational church services were held. To reach the house a track ran off Malvern Rd. (The Kingsway). In the earlier days of Miranda the hollow was always referred to as "James Hollow".

Early settlers in the area were Mondels, who came about the same time as Nelsons; another family who came to Miranda a year before the Nelsons were the Burton.. A granddaughter and her husband and child, Rebecca -- a fourth generation of the Burtons of Miranda -- took up residence in the home of Mr. Wilfred Nelson, Vista St. Caringbah, when he entered the Uniting Church Retirement Homes in Rockdale in March 1980. Wilfred was delighted that members of a family with whom he

had been associated all his life had purchased his home.

-- Fred Midgley

Sources: Interview with Wilfred Nelson, June 1980; he died in August 1980.

* * * * *

Dates of Historic Interest In February.

7th: The Colony of New South Wales was formally proclaimed and the Governor's Commission read -- 1788.

13th: The King's School was opened in George St. Parramatta by the Rev. Robert Forest -- 1832.

15th : The first known discovery of gold in Australia was made in 1823 near the Fish River NSW, but, was hushed up.

17th Death of Pierre Receveur of La Perouse's party at Botany Bay -- 1788.

22nd : First land Grant in Australia signed -- issued to James Ruse at Parramatta -- 1791.

24th : Governor Macquarie announced the establishment of a Free School in 1810; opened 16th April in the same year.

Dates of Historic Interest in March

4th : Mutiny of convicts at Castle Hill -- 18014.

5th: Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser first published -1803.

8th: The Mitchell Library opened --- 1910.

10th: Rev. Samuel Marsden arrived in Sydney •--- 1794.

15th: Inaugural meeting of the Royal Australian Historical Society -- 1901.

19th: Sydney Harbour Bridge opened -- 1932.

20th: Philosophical Society of Australasia placed a memorial tablet to Cook, and Banks at "South Headland"-- 1822. Although Cook named the headland Point Sutherland (in memory of Forby Sutherland), it was soon after changed to Inscription Point. The Shire Council had the original name replaced in 1970.

25th: Death of Mrs. Caroline Chisholm -- 1877. * * * * *

A NEW IDEA FOR FAMILY

HISTORIANS... .

An unusual slant on the recording of Family History was suggested in the Sydney Morning Herald a few months ago, but one which has not occurred to anyone.

Eastern suburbs residents are having their houses photographed both exteriorly and interiorly as part of their Family History.

"There are many people who wish their forebears had left a photographic memory of their surroundings as well as of themselves", said a photographer who is busy carrying out commissions to record family residences in the Darling Point areas.

We have all too little record of the myriad homes since 1788. Only a handful of mansions and a variety of small cottages survive throughout the State, although in general these we know something of the people who built and resided in the large homes.

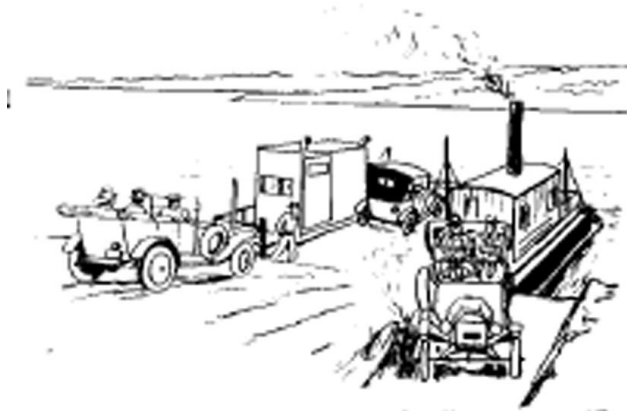
But we know little of the cottage-dwellers -- who built them, how much they cost; how many rooms and how furnished; what garden space (if any) did they have, and what flowers and vegetables were grown? What were the forebears' trades or professions, even their wages, Did they travel by steam train -- and where?

All this information helps to form a socio-economic family picture of the past. Social historians, struggling through old newspapers and magazines, search often unavailingly for the historical backgrounds of "the men in the street".

Photograph your home and your garden -- or the environment around you. Besides recording the bare genealogical family data, Intersperse your story with a few amusing or interesting anecdotes. photograph the family



car -- and the family Pets. If you are lucky enough to have a photograph of grandfather and family seated in their buggy or firm-cart -- together with a patient old Dobbin --then you have a comparative span of family history which tells more than mere words. Can you recall the vehicular ferry at Horse Rock Point Sylvania before the days of Georges River Bridge?



Select your photographs carefully, both past and present, adding family and place names and dates; and use these to illustrate the written family history. One word of warning: If you are a grandma writing the history, or assisting, do not splatter the pages with a collection of small grand-children, no matter how cute you may think them:

Commented Mr. Philip Geeves regarding the suggestion of the SMH.

"People today are compiling dossiers documenting their own lifestyle -- where they live, their employment, and what they earned and so on".

Such details will add a delightful and personalised intimacy to your 20th century descendants.

Carefully selected material -- even a newspaper clipping of an unusual local event in which one of the family took part --will provide an unique and valuable record for future generation.. Try to have it typed on reasonably strong paper(quarto is the best else; approx. 10 x 8 inches? Photographs should not be pasted; instead, fasten each corner with a small piece of adhesive tape or, better still, use commercial photo-corners; these may be bought at most camera shops.

Do you recall this onetime charabanc, with the seats running from front to back?



Do not forget to name clearly each photograph, where taken and date; and when using photos. of persons, give the full). name (and maiden name of married women and give the husband a name -- this helps to double-check genealogical tables).

-- M. Hutton Neve

* * * * *

HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA 1788 - 1988

The Australian Bicentennial Authority is now well into the organisation of a monumental work --- to be published probably in nine volumes. Dr. D. Armstrong is general manager of the A.B.A., whose various sub-committees are preparing the material.

He is seeking suggestions from the general public concerning celebration plans, but is meeting with some apathy.

There' is, however, a strong feeling in some sections about the Australian flag. Older people, especially those

of British stock, wish to retain the traditional British link -- with the small Union Jack in the upper corner -- and others, especially the large ethnic groups, want a new flag without any British tradition.

Dr. Armstrong considers the History should not over-emphasise British settlement in too much detail -- again because of ethnic groups' objections. (They also want either European or World History substituted for British-Australian History in State Schools).

Although Victoria was part of NSW until separation, this State is concentrating on their 150th celebrations in 1984; and South Australia is doing the same for 1986. Western Australia became a separate State in 1829.

-- M.H.N.

Sources Information supplied from A.B.A..

* * * * *

Heathcote National Park: Approx. 5,000 acres. The woodland vegetation consists of eucalypts, blackbutt, bloodwood and a wide variety of shrubs. The grass-tree and the Gynea lily during the spring months predominate amongst the many wildflower displays.

Subscriptions for 1983 must be paid before the A.G.M.

SYLVANIA R.S.& A.I.L.A. SUB-BRANCH.

Mrs. Daphne Salt of Como West is the grand-daughter of Mr. Guido F.L.C. Weber, who was a nephew of Misses Clara and Mysie Rice, whose parents were Captain William and be. Honoria Rice, pioneers of Sylvania. The family grave is in the C/E Section in Woronora Cemetery.

Mr. Weber was instrumental in the formation of the Sylvania Progress Association, the Sylvania School P & C, and the Sylvania Sub-branch of the RSL, . known as the Returned Solders Sailors & Airmen's Imperial League of Australia.

1st Annual Report – 29th January 1935

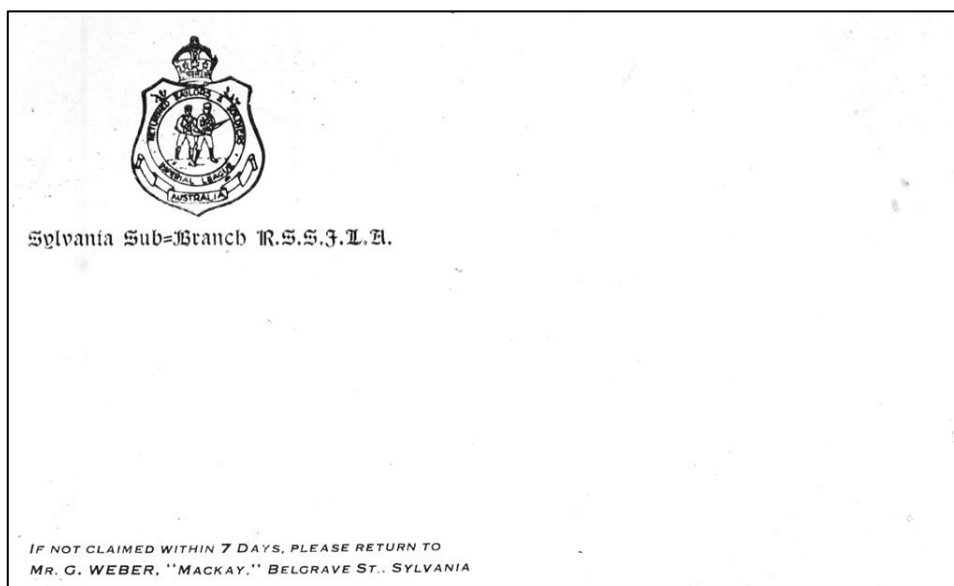
“At our inaugural meeting held on the 23rd July last year we had with us Mr. Hadfield, State Secretary; Mr. Donald, State Hon. Treas. and Mr. Speeding, Assistant Sate Secretary.

At the first general meeting held on the 27th August the following officers were elected:

President: J. Lobb, J.P.
Vice Presidents: Capt. Dix & Gordon Edwards JP
Hon. Treas: GA. Brown Hon.
Sec. G. Weber J.P.
Committee: Messrs. Waller, Mildwater and Reddy

We started with- a membership of 10 and have increased to 16, including four of the Australian Nursing Staff, of whom Matron Gould was Principal Matron.

Poppy Day was duly celebrated thanks to our lady collectors and other friends. Our net proceeds were about £12.



Original envelope used in the 1930s

Your Hon. Sec. represented you at the State Congress, and, together with Mr. Mildwater, at the ANZAC Memorial.

As the next State Congress is to be held in Orange it is doubtful if any of our available members will be able to attend.

-- G. Weber, J.P.

From -- Mrs. D. Salt

* * * * *

MIRANDA SCHOOL ESSAY -- ,1921

Extracts from an essay written by Miranda schoolboy Jim Madigan in October 1921. The contents were marked by the teacher as correct and signed "A.W." (Arnold Weber) The original is in a file, held by Geo. Heavens.

In 1879 The National Park was dedicated to the public by the Government of Sir Henry Parkes.

Early in 1880 the first railway survey was made of the south coast railway line which runs through Sutherland.

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

Mr. H. Dunn (now deceased) was the first caretaker of National Park in 1889, and the roads through the park were constructed by the following men -- S. Watkins, R. Ferris, J. Henry, and J. C. Beer.

The first steam launch on the Port Hacking river was the "Roaring Gimblet" The captain was Mr. W. Reid who is still in the park (1921).

The first Trustees of National Park were St. Henry Parkes, Hon. John Incas, Hon. John Sutherland, Sir John Robinson, Doctor Atherton, Walter Bradley, and Mr. John Want (Chairman).

-- Jim Madigan

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A PORT HACKING TRAGEDY.

When Lieut. James Cook came ashore at the Kurnell "Landing Place" on Jan. 29. 1770, he was surprised to see so few natives other than some women and children. In exploring the foreshores he met with a small group of naked armed men; and again, encountered a few men a little further along Georges River; but he recorded that he could not be sure whether these were two different parties or the same group trailing him.

According to aboriginal legends told to early visitors to this area, about 130/140 years before the Endeavour arrived there was to be the usual gathering of kinships at Booth West Arm for a large corroboree of these various Botany Bay-South Coast tribes. These included the kinship "clans" of the Gwiyalgal (south of Sydney in the Botany area- and to the west, around Liverpool, the Dharuk people. The Kurnell Cronulla group would probably have averaged about 200 or so, but this can be only an estimation --- because of the tragedy which befell them between 1730/1740.

According to a Paper read before the Linnaean Society of NSW in June 1899 by Mr. Walter A. Harper, detailing his results of the exploration of Aboriginal rock shelters at Port Hacking, referred to a local tradition describing this tragedy. Near "Tyreal Head" (now Little Turriell Point at the entrance to Burraneer Batt was the traditional crossing place of the river because of its shallows. "Near by", Harper stated, "was a great cave". When a sudden tropical storm occurred as a group from the Kurnell/Cronulla area was about to cross, they all took shelter in the cave which, "struck by lightning, collapsed, smothering a whole tribe".

This was completely forgotten until in 1918 Mr. Harry Simpson, a boat proprietor at the Point, recalled the story and decided one day to check its accuracy.

According to The Sun of 3-9-1918, "Mr. Harry Simpson blasted away portion of the rock, and on clearing the debris discovered many human bones and aboriginal stone weapons, hundreds of them, all jumbled together, are exposed".

The discovery was referred first to the Metropolitan Police Superintendent, and then to the Government Medical Officer, after which the Government Health Officer was consulted as to the disposal of the remains.

However, one or more photographs were apparently taken by the Government Printer's office, as an illustration of "Aboriginal kitchen riddens and relics, Port Hacking", appeared in Frank Cridland's "Story of Port Hacking, Cronulla and Sutherland Shire".

I have contacted the Archives of the police and Government Health Officer's Departments, but they have no records. I also contacted the Aboriginal Section of the Australian Museum. but they too have no record of any such artefacts or skeletal remains having been passed to the Museum. One can only presume, therefore, that the artefacts (and probably some of the bones) were passed around as "historical curios", becoming a nine days wonder; then in later months -- or years -- thrown out as unwanted litter.

Source: Linnean Society Journal, June 1899:

The Bun 3-9--1918: Dawn magazine July 1968.

-- M. Hutton Neve

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HERE AND THERE

Rolf Bolderwood was the penname of Thomas Alexander Browne (1915). He arrived in Australia at the age of ten, and later worked as a squatter, gold warden and magistrate. It was during this period that he wrote the outstanding story Robbery Under Arms, basing his narrative on the daring exploit of a cattle-stealer named Redfern, who overlanded a thousand head of stolen cattle (with scarcely a loss) from SW Queensland to Adelaide in 1870 - and sold them profitably: The story was first serialised in the Sydney Mail in 1882 and published in book form in 1888.

The Bluey" was the name of the blanket-roll carried by the old-time swaggies who walked the outback in the 19th and early 20th centuries (including the Depression years). According to Henry Lawson, the general colour of the blanket was blue, as it did not show the dirt.

The Afghans (or "Ghana") were the several hundred Mohammedan camel drivers who came to Australia between 1860 and the 1920s. The majority, however, came from what is now Pakistan rather than Afghanistan. Their religious taboo on the drinking of alcohol made them especially popular for the darting of liquor to the thirsty goldmining camps. Their nomadic tradition and skill in leading their strings of camels over seemingly inaccessible country led to bitter hatred by white bullock drivers, who tried to have them banned in Queensland. The famous "Ghan Train", which still links Alice Springs with Port Augusta in S.A. was named after them.

-- M.H.N.

A PREACHING UNDERTAKER



Lt.-Cpl. C. Allardice,

The history of Hurstville records that in the 1890s the "Allardice Entertainment Hall" opened for dances and lantern-slide slide shows, and for the early silent movies.

According to Bands Directory, William Allardice, proprietor. of that establishment, was then in residence in Dora Street Hurstville in 1879.



WILLIAM ALLARDICE

In 1900 the family became undertakers, registered as E. A. Allardice & Co., Forest Rd. Hurstville: "E.A." was Elisabeth Ann, William's wife.

Checking through 30 years of Sands' Directories it is noted that the address of the Funeral Parlour is sometimes Forest Rd. other times Carrington Av.; it can be safely assumed that the Parlour was on the corner of these two streets where Labor Funerals are today. The residence was listed as Carrington Av..

In 1902 the name was changed to Allardice & Co., and in 1908 it became William Allardice & Co. until 1929, although William had died some six years before the business traded under that name. In 1929 the Funeral Parlour had moved to Patrick Street Hurstville, not far from the earlier establishment.

When William Allardice, a tall man, conducted a funeral with the horse drawn hearse, he dressed in his dark suit with a long swallow-tailed coat. He would always hook his hands behind his back under the tails: and he also wore a top hat.

William was also a lay preacher. He came to occupy the pulpit at the Menai Congregational Church quite often when the services were held at 3 o'clock on a Sunday afternoon, when the Rev. Nathaniel Robinson was the minister in charge. During his time of prayer, among other things he prayed for the " Lord to prosper as in our businesses". Whatever Mr. Allardice said would soon be forgotten by the congregations to pray for prosperity in his line of business seemed out of place, and that was not forgotten. His facial features resembled a skeleton with skin drawn over it. He had a completely bald head, and his sermons were dry and boring.

How Allardice travelled to Menai the older residents were not able to remember, so one must presume it was by horsedrawn conveyance. His daughter, aged about 20, sometimes accompanied her father, and was remembered as a most charming person. In 1910 she attended the opening of the "rebuilt" church with her fiancé and her father.

In 1914 he conducted the funerals of the first twins born in Menai, infant daughters of George and Jessie Midgley. Edie, although the stronger, died at four months, and her weaker sister Connie survived one month longer. The tiny bodies were conveyed by Allardice to his Mortuary at Hurstville in a light horsedrawn vehicle.

William and Elisabeth Allardice were not without loss either; their son Lance Corporal C. S. Allardice of Hurstville, aged 22, of the 4th Battalion A.I.F., was listed as missing at Gallipoli.

I have a number of World War I issues of the Sydney Mail in which there are hundreds of cigarette card else portraits of men on active service in various fields overseas. Amongst these portraits in an issue of Sept. 22, 1915 is Lance Corporal Allardice.

The family grave is in the Congregational section of the Woronora Cemetery. with a square-based needle or pillar type of headstone. The eastern side of the headstone is what could be described as a memorial, as it is unlikely that the soldier was interred there. The date of death was given as August 6, 1915.



W. ALLERDICE
UNDERTAKERS AND EMBALMERS

Carriages supplied for Wedding and Picnic Parties
 Estimates given for Monumental Work, Wreaths, Crosses
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 Sunday Funerals if required

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Kogarah 188

HURSTVILLE

'St. George Call' January, 1914

William Allerdise was a member of Loyal St. George Lodge, Manchester Unity Hurstville, the L.O.L. Ulster 514 Rockdale, and of Harim 690, R.B.T. of which he was a Sir Knight. He died suddenly on Saturday November 17, 1923, aged 70. A short funeral service was held at 2.0 p.m. on Monday the 19th, in the home of the deceased, "Bong Bong" 82 Woniora Road Hurstville. "No Flowers" were requested. E. Munn or Hurstville was the officiating undertaker.

In 1932 Elisabeth Ann was still residing in Woniora Road. She died on Tuesday November 2, 1943 at the age or 87, surviving her husband by 20 years.

-- Fred Midgley

Sources: Sands' Directories 1899 to 1932, Sydney City Council Library: Mrs. V. Coleman, Miss A. Bentley, late Mr..D. Archer; Preaching Records of Menai Congregational Church 1915 to 1922: Sutherland Shire Council Local History Library for "St. George Call" 21-1-1914: "Sydney Morning Herald" 19-11-1923; "Sydney Mail" 1915: Author's Notes from Woronora Cemetery, Mrs. I. Bonwick.

* * * * *

Illawong Public School, due to the efforts of Year 6 Class teacher Mr. Robert Wedmore and his pupils, have through the P.& C, published a commendable book on the history of Illawong. The local estate agents (Illawong) have copies at \$5.00.

Sutherland Bushfire Brigades: this new magazine, which was launched in December, will benefit the 600-odd members of the Brigades. Apart from Brigade news and general reading for the family, Fred Midgley has been asked to contribute historical articles on different areas of the Shire -- Woronora, Menai, Sandy Point, Bundeena etc..

Hurstville Historical Society: this Society has just published Ald. Ron Rathbone's booklet 'Some Early Politicians of the St. George District'. This was the text of the Third Waldron McCarthy Memorial Lecture which Mr. Rathbone delivered to the Society in 1982 -- and for those privileged to hear it, as I was, it was both interesting and delightful. Price \$1.00 from the Hon. Secretary, Dr. J. Hatton, 15 Anisette Av.. Kogarah 2217. Postage (not stated) would probably be 40 cents.

The Society are now making plans to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the land grant to James Oatley in 1833, to be held between July and November 1983. Oatley was one of the earliest clockmakers in Sydney.

THE ROCKS RESUMPTION (1902)

"One of the oldest and most picturesque portions of Sydney will soon be a thing of the past; and before such a thing is the ease, a visit to "The Rocks" would well repay satyr of our citizens who, except by name, know nothing of the neighbourhood, and would care to see how our ancestors, both rich and poor, builded in those far-off days. They still stand, those wonderful old houses; the mansion of the merchant with massive walls four square, staring out of shadeless windows over the little cottages perched in all manner of nooks and corners, weather-worn and scarred, their sand-stone steps hollowed by feet of three generations but nevertheless crouching, sturdy and grimly defiant of the modern city scarce a stone's throw always these old mansions reminiscent of the times when Dawes Point and its neighbourhood was accounted one of the best residential quarters of the city; the cottages higher up on the ridge of the earliest settlement when, as a writer remarks: "The Rocks' was a term synonymous with St. Giles and Wapping in one".

In those days the place seems to have been a mixture of sailortown and Alsatia, studded thickly with the most nefarious dens and low pothouses boasting such expressive names as the "Black Dog", the "Sheer Hulk", the 'Whalers' Arms," the "Evening Gun" and the "Sailor's Return".

Describing Gloucester Street in the 1850s, a visitor says: "It struck two as we crossed the high bare green by the windmill above St. Phillip's and walked, or rather stumbled and climbed along Gloucester Street to our destination. At this time there could hardly be said to be a street; it was merely a space between two straggling lines of houses ranged along the side of a very rough rocky declivity, and these were turning their backs or their sides or their faces to each other".... But presently, there will be no more Gloucester Street, no more Cambridge Street either. Light and air will be let into spots where they have long been strangers, and one of the finest portions of the city redeemed from insignificance and decay.

"Traversing the whole of the resumed area will be three main thoroughfares: New Harrington Street 80 ft. wide; Princes Street 130 ft. In width, and New Cumberland Street 80 ft. wide, whilst George Street North will be broadened from its present 140 ft. to 100 ft.. The extra space given to Princes Street is to allow for an elevated roadway come netted with the North Shire extension scheme, as also for the proposed bridge over the harbour. Essex Street is to be widened to 70 ft., and halfway between it and Argyle Street a new one is to be formed.

"No mention of the resumed area would be complete without some allusion to the notable scheme propounded by the Advisory Board for the housing of the men who work along the wharves, and who reside mainly on or around "The Rocks", in buildings five storeys in height and containing between them some five hundred families -- between three and four thousand souls. One will have frontages to Kent Street, Windmill and Argyle Streets. The other will be in Kent Street, somewhere at the foot of the Observatory Reserve. Each tenement will consist of from two to five rooms, lit by electricity, reached by lifts; and as sanitarily perfect as science can make them. In the great basement will be a library, bathe, and probably shops. The square will enclose a common courtyard for the use of all.

"Within "The Rocks Area are two historic churches, St. Phillip's and St. Andrew's (the "Scots Church"), besides Trinity Church, and the fine Roman Catholic one of St. Patrick; also many large and important buildings as ware-houses, hotels, etc., that the path of improvement will be most likely conducted so as to spare. Probably, owing to proximity of wharves along the foreshores of the resumed area, it will always be in great measure a workingman's quarter, so far as least as residence is concerned, although certainly, an ideal one possesses of some of the finest views in Sydney.

"The public, it is considered, owe a considerable debt of gratitude to Mr. O'Sullivan for his courage and patient persistence in promoting a scheme by which one of the finest parts of our city, hitherto hidden in squalid seclusion, will be thrown open and utilised for the lasting benefit of the community at large, and the commercial prosperity of Sydney in particular."

It will be of interest to members that the Minister of Works, Mr. R. W. O'Sullivan, lived at Cronulla and had property there, and EWOS Parade was coined from his initials.

-- Dana Vale

Source: "The City of Sydney -- the Story of Its Growth from its Foundations to the Present": John Sands Printery 1902 (Sydney).

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THE OLD SHIRE....

What I Saw. Heard and Remembered

Where the Gymea Technical Collage is now was George Smith's dairy, which began in 1897. This brings us to Gymea at the rear of what is now the Gymea Post Office, where an area of land was cleared and a cricket pitch laid long before the turn of the century. As a very young child I saw where a shelter shed had been burnt down by a bush fire. I have learnt through the years that the Lye, Fletcher, Loveday and Mondel boys played cricket there.

I must not forget to mention some of the early farmers on the Holt-Sutherland Estate before the Sutherland Shire Council came into being. The first one that comes to mind is George Kidds' farm in the valley halfway between what is now Kareela and Oyster Bay, where he grew vegetables and citrus fruit on the back of a creek which was once there. I don't think Mr. Kidd had any poultry -- unless he kept them in a glass case : -- for the area was overrun with wild cats (i.e. "feral cats"), foxes and wallabies galore. Then came the Wilkinson farm on The Boulevarde, where North Gymea Primary school now is. The entrance to the farm was where Greenway St, is now. Directly opposite was the Berger farm; from Kilburn Rd. to Manchester Rd. there was about 5 or 6 acres of fruit and vegetables and pigs.

On the corner of The Boulevards and Sylvania Rd. was Ted Thacker's farm. His land extended from The Boulevarde t o where Dwyer St. now is. The rest of the land to The Kingsway was Bob Marien's farm. His son Frank had the brick house built in approximately 1913, where the Union Club is now. Frank Marien was the Editor-in-Chief of Smith's Weekly newspaper.



Further towards Miranda, on the NE corner of Sylvania Rd. and The Kingsway was a market garden owned by Mr. Curtis. My Uncle Lew, while working there in the garden, died of sunstroke about 1901, so I never got to know him.

We come to what is now Miranda Fair. It was here that the Lyes had a flower garden of around 4 acres. Their small cottage faced what is now Central Av., behind The Kingsway. Their two children, I remember, were Jack and Rene. Flowers from the farm were packed in a wicker basket and taken to Sutherland by horse and sulky to be put on a certain train for the city. All business must have been pre-arranged, as there were no telephones.



I remember Hills & Watts Nursery on the corner of The Boulevard and Wandella Rd., now Seymour Shaw Park. The other garden I remember in this locality was owned Mr. Win Roberts, on an area of land on the corner of Port Hacking Rd., Box Rd. and Bellengarra Rd. He became the first Sutherland Shire Council's Health Inspector in 1910.

I have read at different times where the Shire was a prosperous farming area, but I totally disagree, as the farmers had to rely on the elements for water. My parents often spoke of the 1902 drought; for approximately four years Sutherland people carried their washing to a waterhole just below the natural stone bridge, this being known as "The Basin" or the "Diamond Drill". They also carried a bucket of water back to Sutherland. It was not until 1911, when a pipe line was laid from Penshurst to Miranda for water for the trams that the gardeners tapped, the mains and were able to have sprinklers.

As for the poultry industry, it never got going until about 1913. As there were no incubators in the Shire the farmers had to rely on a broody hen, under which thirteen eggs were placed. They also had the foxes to contend with. You would hear the farmers having a post-mortem of their losses -- fifty or sixty on one night killed by the foxes: and then there were the "two-legged foxes" who would steal fifty in one night; this went on well into the 1920s.

In the 1911-12 period a "Bottle-o" came around once a week selling rabbits, which he would skin on the cart. The next week he would be buying bottles. My mother used to call him Robbie; I don't know whether it was his "title" or his name earned in spurious dealing in his occupation. I was only eight at the time. If I said there were two dozen bottles

he would say, "Count them. There is only one and a half dozen". You could not win. That sort of thing went on for years up to and during the Depression 1930-32.

The largest orchard and vineyard on the early Holt-Sutherland Estate was along President Av. -- half of what is now Gynea, the other half in Miranda, Sylvania Rd. being the boundary of Sutherland and Miranda. The area I refer to extended from Manchester Rd. to the eastern boundary of 112 Wyralla Rd. and included Sylvania Rd., Pines Rd. and Walker Av, to what is now Forest Rd., owned in my time by a Mr. Walker. The area contained thousands of grapevines, which were grown on six foot split posts.

I have heard from some of the "old-timers" when I was a child that this area I have just referred to was pioneered by the Stapletons before the train came to Sutherland (1886). I also heard that it was Stapleton's first Slaughter yard before they moved to the southern end of Glencoe St. Sutherland. By about 1918 the orchard and vineyard had deteriorated and the land eventually went back to grass.

In the early Depression years the Sydney Harbour Bridge was still under construction: the unemployed were making demands on the Government for extra food: revolution appeared to be certain. Then a Fascist-type organisation was founded by Colonel Brie Campbell. Known as the "New Guard", it was planned to control unemployment and to oust the Lang Government. Campbell organised men in different districts to act as his officers and to recruit men. One of his districts was Sutherland, where men had to be instructed in the functions of the New Guard. Such an area was the former orchard and vineyard which later became Walker Av. and Pines Pde. to Sylvania Rd.. That was his parade ground, where he came to drill and to address the three or four hundred men who were there -- of whom I was one, not by choice, but by obligation.

I was employed by one of the New Guard officers at £1-0-0 per week to supplement my food ration. While addressing us from a platform and speaking through a megaphone (no micro-phones in those days)-- the parades were all held at night in 1931 -- he said: "Jack Lang will never open the Harbour Bridge;" We in Gynea knew some attempt would be made to prevent Jack Lang from cutting the ribbon -- twelve months before the bridge was completed. As we all know, it was Capt. de Groot of the New Guards who rode up on horseback to slash the ribbon.

I would like to state here that I am the last surviving

member of Eric Campbell's "GyMEA Army" -- as I stated earlier, not by choice, but by obligation.

As I unravel my childhood memories I think of the first bitumen road ever laid in the Shire. I was thirteen at the time when I saw the men tarring Surf Rd. Cronulla. The men responsible for the experiment were John Garlick, Under Secretary for Local Government; and Clr. Joe Monro, in 1917. The contractor was Frank "Racker" Fretus; the only two work-men I can remember are Tim Thornton and Frank "Racker" Fretus junior.

I also remember the making of Alouera Rd. Cronulla in 1916-17, and the reclaiming of Dunningham Park(opposite) from the sea, where the high sand dunes would shift with the prevailing winds, The sea came into the frontage of what is now The Workers Club.

-- Mick Derrey

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New Bridge Across Georges River: in December last the Dept. of Main Roads announced that it had called tenders for a new bridge at Tom Ugly's Point, on the eastward side of the present bridge, to carry southbound traffic. This of course will mean the destruction of the old original vehicular ferry ramp, as well as the remains of the old stone retaining wall along the river foreshore -- which was at the bottom of the paddock in front of the onetime Sutherland House.

Ancient Romans in the South Atlantic: the New York Times of Oct. 11, 1982 reported the finding of tall jars known as Amphorae and used by the Romans in the 2nd century BC. These were found buried in mud and coral in a bay near Rio de Janeiro, but have yet to be authenticated. If an accurate report, this seems to indicate that Roman explorers discovered Brazil some 17 centuries before any western explorers. ... Here is an avenue for historically minded Latin scholars to research: -- how far south did the Romans sail? Over two thousand years ago Greek scholars pondered the possibility of a "great southern land".

1983 Subscriptions: all receipts (not already collected) will be found in this Bulletin. Please note that subscriptions must be paid before the Annual General Meeting.

Feb. 13. 1832: The King's School, Parramatta, opened by the Rev. Robert Forest.

EXCURSION REPORT

The tour of the Kangaroo Valley was good. Travelling through Bowral and returning through Berry and South Coast towns. The people from the Pioneer village were very helpful and arranged for us to also inspect the church and then the old hotel.

No day excursions have been arranged for the hot months and the next full day will not be until May 21. This is expected to be in two parts; firstly, in the morning, to the Egyptian Room" at Petersham; and after luncheon, to Fort Denison at 2.15 p.m. We are still waiting for full confirmation of the former.

To enable inclusion of launch fares and donation to the Egyptian Room" together with coach hire, we will need to charge \$7.00 for members and \$8.00 for visitors.

The weekend for March 4, 5 and 6 will be as previously detailed, so at this time there is no need for further repeating, unless any member of the Executive Council has a question regarding the tour.

Aileen Griffiths, Convener.

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FIXTURES

February 11: Mr. B. Sargeant:

Indexing Council Records

March 11: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. No visitors.

NB.: 1983 Subscriptions must be paid before The start of the meeting.

April 8: To be announced.

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CONTRIBUTIONS Members are invited to submit material for the Bulletin; this need not be confined to local history, but this is especially welcome. If material is extracted or re-written, please indicate source. If hand written, please print Names in CAPITAL LETTERS. Copy for the May Issue must be in the hands of the Editor by March 25th -- earlier preferred.

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

The Society is affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society and The National Trust (NSW Branch).

Society Publications are registered with the National Library Canberra in accordance with the international Standards Serial Numbering; this automatically includes copyright. The Society's registered number appears on all publications -- ISSN 0586-0261.

Publications of Local History are usually on sale at the monthly meetings, proceeds being paid to the Society. The following are available:

Illustrated History of Sutherland Suite: F. Midgley: \$1.00 (There are only a few copies left: they will not be reprinted) The Hon. Thomas Holt, MLA (illus.) : M. Hutton Neve: 50 cents History: of Woronora Cemetery & Pioneers: M.H.Neve: \$2.50 (illus)

(To be published in the New Year: The Early History of Kurnell to Cronulla (illus.) M. Hutton Neve.

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

Monthly meetings of the Society are held on the 2nd Friday of each month, commencing at 8.0 p.m., in the Recreation Room of the Shire Council's Administrative Centre in Eton Street Sutherland (2nd floor). Members' visitors and intending members are welcome.

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Hon Treas.: Owing to the resignation of the past Hon. Treas. Mr. S. Stedman in December, Mr. Colin Coleman has agreed to be Acting Hon. Treas. until the Annual General Meeting.