



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

53 Bruce Street,
BEXLEY.

9th September, 1966.

Dear Friend and Member:

The next meeting of the above Society will be held as follows:

DATE: Friday evening next, 16th September, 1966, at 8 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Rockdale.
BUSINESS: General.
GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Gifford Eardley will present a paper on
SCARBOROUGH PARK, illustrated by slides.

Would lady members please bring a plate.

Gifford Eardley.
President.

R. W. Rathbone.
Secretary.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1966/67.

Following are the office bearers of the St. George Historical Society -

Patrons: The Mayor of Rockdale, and
Mr. T. J. McCarthy.

President: Mr. Gifford Eardley.

Senior Vice President: Mr. C. W. Napper.

Vice Presidents: Mr. Arthur Ellis
Mr. Ian Ryan

Hon. Secretary: Ald. R. W. Rathbone.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D. Sinclair.

Hon. Auditor: Mr. A. W. Matheson.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

You are reminded that your membership subscription for 1966/67 is now due. \$1.00 for the first member of your family and 50 cents for each additional member. And there are only 22 copies of Mr. Eardley's book left at 60 cents a copy. Send your 60 cents NOW!

MR. ELLIS'S TALK APPRECIATED.

One of the most amusing papers we have heard was presented at our last meeting by Mr. Arthur Ellis. A precis is attached to this bulletin.

THE H. M. S. "ENDEAVOUR" TRUST, AUSTRALIA.

To commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Captain Cook's discovery of New Zealand and Eastern Australia the H. M. S. "Endeavour" Trust plans to build, in Britain, a replica of Captain Cook's "Endeavour", and to sail her in Cook's wake to New Zealand and Australia to arrive in time for the 200th Anniversary celebrations.

The replica of Cook's historic vessel later will become a national maritime museum to be founded in Sydney.

In 1969 it will be 200 years since that great seaman and navigator, Captain James Cook, R. N., sailed H. M. S. "Endeavour" across the Pacific to New Zealand and on to Botany Bay.

To devise an appropriate way of marking these momentous anniversaries the H. M. S. "Endeavour" Trust was established.

The Trust intends to build an exact replica of Cook's vessel to verified plans and specifications, and to sail her around Cape Horn to New Zealand and Australia

The new "Endeavour", when built, will sail under the command of Captain Alan Villiers, whose name is well known to all who have read of the Sea and its ways.

Under Villier's captaincy, the "Endeavour" will arrive in New Zealand in 1969 and Australia in 1970, where it will be the focal point in each country's anniversary celebrations.

After arrival on the coast and before being finally docked H. M. S. "Endeavour" will visit the States on Australia's eastern seaboard.

Then she will be laid up in Sydney to form part of the proposed National Maritime Museum, a project for which tremendous public enthusiasm has already been displayed.

The Trust feels that the building of this vessel and its voyage to Australia will be a fitting tribute to Captain Cook and a demonstration of the debt Australia and New Zealand owe to this great sailor.

Interest in the ship will grow with the years, and generations to come will enjoy possession of a striking tribute to a remarkable man.

The total cost of the "Endeavour" project - covering construction and the voyage to Australia - is estimated at 600,000 Australian dollars.

ORGANISATION.

A deed has been executed and registered in Sydney, New South Wales, establishing the H. M. S. "Endeavour" Trust, and a company entitled Captain Cook's "Endeavour" Limited has been formed and registered to handle the business affairs of the Trust.

A New Zealand Committee of the H. M. S. "Endeavour" Trust has been established at Auckland and at Wellington, to co-operate with the H. M. S. "Endeavour" Trust in Australia.

These committees will work in conjunction with a Governmental Committee set up in New Zealand to co-ordinate arrangements for the bi-centennial celebrations of Cook's voyage.

An energetic and enthusiastic committee has been formed in the United Kingdom under the title "The British Committee of the H. M. S. "Endeavour" Trust. Viscount Boyd of Merton has accepted the position of chairman with Admiral Sir Charles Madden as secretary. An office has been secured, by courtesy of the Australian Commonwealth Government, in Australia House, London. This committee will supervise construction of the ship and handle affairs generally in the United Kingdom.

BUILDING THE SHIP.

A contract is being negotiated in England for construction of the "Endeavour" replica in accordance with Admiralty plans and specifications.

During construction the project will be under the technical supervision of Mr. Marcus H. Fletcher, Captain Alan Villiers, and the British Committee of the H. M. S. "Endeavour" Trust.

SPECIAL NOTE.

All donations to the H. M. S. "Endeavour" Trust Fund have been approved by the Australian Commonwealth Government and the Taxation Commissioner as Allowable Deductions from assessable income of the donors resident in Australia. If preferred, donations may be spread over a period of three years. Please make donations payable to Hon. Treasurer, H. M. S. "Endeavour" Trust, No. 2 Carrington Street, Sydney.

APPRECIATION.

The Trust gratefully acknowledges the generous assistance and facilities provided in the initial stages of its formation by many societies, companies, and individuals, both in Australia and overseas.

The above message has been culled from a brochure issued by the Trust and your committee feels sure that it will prove of general interest to the members of the St. George Historical Society. The president and the treasurer represented our Society at a meeting, held by the Randwick Historical Society, when representatives of the Trust met with Aldermen from the local Councils, and also representatives of the various local historical societies. As a result of this meeting the St. George Historical Society decided to form a committee, chosen from its members, to formulate ways and means whereby our Society can assist in the fulfilment of this great national project.

OSWALD SCHOLES 1881 - 1964.

PIONEER.

By - Arthur Ellis.

being a precis of a Paper presented to the St. George Historical Society on August 19th, 1966.

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Oswald Scholes was born at the Governor Bourke Inn on 26th March, 1881. His father, also Oswald Scholes, was a butcher, wholesale meat merchant, livestock dealer and innkeeper. He had three brothers, William, George and Claude and a sister, Eva, who was born at Bexley and was the first girl baptised in Christ Church of England.

The Governor Bourke Inn was then a three storied timber building and stood on the present site of the Governor Bourke Hotel at 94 Parramatta Road, Camperdown. Attached was a livestock market which the Senior Scholes conducted.

Young Oswald was born to the tune of the auctioneer's cry and the cries of the cattle, sheep, horses and pigs in their pens. By coincidence all these sounds except one may still be heard by the passer-by if he cares to cross the road from the inn site and walk a short distance to the fence of the Sydney University Veterinary School - all the cries but one, that of the auctioneer.

Little is known of his first years but we do know that when he was four years old his parents loaded a large wagon, hitched up some horses and ventured into the wilds of - Bexley - a heavily timbered, sparsely populated district with few houses and fewer places of trade.

One of these was a butchery conducted by John Hanlon. This man had been forced to sell out and it was to this place that Mr. Scholes took his wife and family. The butchery was situated in Stoney Creek Road and is now numbered No. 34 being used today as a residence (and in the interim as a grocery store and by a farrier).

At the age of five young Oswald was taken to enrol at school at Kogarah and the daily journey to school took him along a track which is now the full length of Dunmore Street down the rocky slope to Fry's Creek, often in flood, and eight feet deep and up the steep slope topped by the newly opened Illawarra Railway and so to school. The teachers there included Mr. Andrews, Mr. Chapman and Miss McNamara. Little Oswald journeyed to school with the children of neighbours for about a year until a school was opened at Bexley when Oswald was redirected to join William Gilchrist, Alfred Samuelson, George Collins, Lucy Smith, James Ewart, Charles Sturt, Alec Tomkins and others to become foundation pupils there.

Foundation pupils were of course taught by foundation teachers and these were Miss Simpson, Mr. Harry Luck, son of Thomas Luck fuel merchant across the road from the school, Miss Swann, a relative of our late esteemed President, Mr. Woods and Mr. Hay. A little jingle was recited by some of the children to help them memorise the teachers' names and it went...

"Miss SIMPSON had the LUCK to see the SWANN go into the WOOD to get a bit of HAY".

The Scholes Boy learned the usual three R's during school hours and roamed the countryside after school with his pals till supper time, experiencing many adventures including tree climbing, taking birds eggs, trapping rabbits and occasionally visiting the few remote building sites. One such site was mounted on a hill later to become known as Jubilee Hill. There they found the workmen had departed for the day to visit the Man of Kent Inn at Kingsgrove. The licence of this Inn was later to be transferred to a house in Stoney Creek Road and became Jim Smithson's Wine Bar.

Back to the building site ... and we see the boys playing in the foundations, overturning the water buckets, throwing bricks in the lime putty pond and generally enjoying themselves. These depredations did little to hamper the construction which was a home for the wealthy retired inn keeper William Wollaghan, late of the Waterworks Inn, Botany Road, Mascot. It was later purchased by Mr. Fortescue of Arncliffe. This fine house became the Salvation Army Bexley Boys' Home and is now the living quarters for the Officer in Charge, Major Bray and family.

At the age of about fourteen, young Scholes left school to assist his father in the butchery business, Bexley was growing. Land was being taken up and the expanding business warranted the provision of a proper slaughter shed which was built on the west bank of Stoney Creek on what was known as Alston Park, a large area of land used for agistment. It consisted mainly of a cement floor graded to one side where there was a blood hole. Raised above this was a shed of three slab walls and a "bark pole" roof with a substantial roof ridge beam from which hung the tackle for hoisting the dead bullock for breaking up. Sheep were hoisted on a somewhat more primitive gallows pole nearby.

The cement floor remains, today, partly covered with weed growth and is situated in part of the drainage easement or reserve through which flows

Bardwell Creek at a point between Preddey's Road and Coveney Street. The gorgeous deep green of the weed growth is probably attributable at least in part to the many gallons of blood and bits of offal which spread there during the years of its use as a slaughter shed.

Here meat was loaded into a cart and transported to the Scholes Butchery in Stoney Creek Road and to others, some as far distant as Rocky Point Road, Arcnliffe, near Allen Street.

Young Scholes was a big boy, strong as a horse, 6'2" at 18 years and delighted admirers by showing his prowess at porting huge quarters of beef from the cart in the road to the stilliards or beef scales which hung from the meat rack in the shop. On one occasion he lifted a 290 lb. forequarter of bull meat.

The site of the slaughter shed was also used for the raising of pigs and had one duck. Now this was not a feathered web-footed duck but "Jimmy the Duck" an unfortunate who was employed by Scholes Senior to work about the slaughter shed, keep the pigs and dismiss wandering boys who often called out to annoy him asking, "Have you fed the ducks yet, Jimmy? Quack! quack! quack!" This call would arouse his ire since his self addressed exclamations probably a manifestation of the solitary life he led had been compared by the boys with those of a duck. Jimmy also operated the boiling pot which was used to boil the "waste" meat scraps and bones from the shop. These commodities were returned from the shop periodically in a trolley hauled by two large goats and the trolley and goats were a familiar site on Stoney Creek Road for several years.

As they hauled their load they were sometimes met by a bullock team driven by Harry Martineer one of a family line of bullock drivers hauling timber felled in the still rich forest land beyond Kingsgrove and sometimes by Vol Sewell a man who used his bullocks to haul poles felled in Gannon's Forest for distribution throughout St. George and other districts to serve as poles for telephone and electric wires.

The delivery of meat to individual customers was carried out on horse back and thus young Scholes rode about the bush delivering meat which was carried unwrapped and covered by a cloth in a large cane basket which he hung in the crook of his arm and rested on his thigh. Few will remember the butcher's boy of the day mounted on a shaggy pony and accompanied by dogs and flies. He would arrive at a remote house, I say call, if not announced by the resident dogs. Answering his call would come a woman carrying a plate or dish into which the boy placed the ordered meat, a task which necessitated a working knowledge of the various cuts. The woman usually paid, ordered meat for the next delivery and departed, leaving her dogs to farewell the boy and to continue yesterday's fights with the itinerant dogs or to "collogue" with one or more of them after the fashion of these pathetic animals.

A favourite customer of Os Scholes was Mrs. Wollaghan whose home Os had visited as a boy during its construction and who was wife and mother of a family of hearty meat eaters. She would occasionally have young Scholes butcher one of her home raised pigs and rewarded him generously. Like the Chicago Meat Packers described about 1905 in a book called "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair, she used everything of the pig except the squeal; the blood for black pudding; the head boiled, chopped fine and pressed made Head Cheese; the bristles were

gathered and sold to brushmakers and the intestines when not used to contain sausages, consigned to the gut factory, situated at Glen Road, Arncliffe, on a site now occupied by the shelter shed used by the Supervisor of the Tip there.

Boys and men who worked there were known for the distinctive odours detectable in their presence and were not popular at social functions, especially indoors in summer.

Apart from his deliveries of meat, Os received five shillings a week to drive Mr. Gormly, Manager of the Sydney Soap and Candle works to and from Rockdale each day ... and he well knew the way to Kogarah. He had gone to school there for a year and even now was required to ride daily to deliver the meat to John Frater's Hotel at Sans Souci and have it there in time for breakfast. On this long ride the pickle usually leaked out of the meat and ran down his leg.

Charlie Douglas was the patriarch of the Douglas family at this time and it was said that the family had been founded on this remote peninsula during the time when convicts ran away from the settlement at Sydney Cove and could travel no further than George's River where some of them settled and lived by fishing and later by stripping trees for bark. Hence Stripper's Point, the name of the peninsula before some late 19th Century "Hooker" gave it the high sounding name of Sandringham.

In 1899, at the age of 18, Young Scholes joined the Hurstville Volunteer Fire Brigade. He was a bit young some said but he was a big strong youth, accustomed to drive horses and with a temperament leaning towards community service. He also well knew the way to Hurstville. He had, for some time taken horses there, including his father's and some of Mr. Kinsela's and Wollaghan's to be shod by Mr. Jim Welsh, a Hurstville Farrier. Another farrier, Arthur Croft, was a fellow volunteer fireman and on one occasion these two assisted Police Sergeant Kelly and Mr. Welsh to draw the fire engine by hand to a fire at Garthon and Angus's Feed Store near Gloucester Road because the horse, a notorious gib had refused. On another occasion Os had his boots burned off whilst fighting a fire near the Blue Post Inn.

After a few years young Scholes' horizons were further widened by trips to Sydney after calling at Abel's Bakery to purchase some of his favourite tarts. On many occasions he and his pals went on to Manly by the steamer "Fairlight" or to Chowder Bay or Clifton Gardens by the "Lady Edeline" for dancing at "Dixieland". Sometimes when chided by the "Push" as a bush simpleton young Scholes easily fended off these pimply slum dwelling larrickins simply by employing the arms which had held the huge basket of meat and the shoulders which had ported 290 lbs. of beef. However, the really peaceable young man came to prefer a popular dance place at Sutherland conducted by innkeeper Ted Boyle in Lobb's Hall now an auctioneer's rooms in Boyle Street. Those he met there were little less aggressive than their Dixieland counterparts but they were his own class and kind raised in a like environment.

About this time, the fleeting pleasures of adolescence gave way at the age of 29 to a marriage to May Mullins, a Sutherland girl. Soon after the marriage, history was repeated for the Scholes couple packed up and, emulating the Senior Scholes, travelled into the bush and opened a butchery and slaughter shed at Wyangarie near Kyogle. Whilst here, twin girls, Lily and Laura, were born. When the girls were about six years old their parents returned to Sutherland where Mr. Scholes took employment with Mr. Charles Stapleton, a butcher

whose three grandsons still conduct the same butchery at 782 Princes Highway, its prosperity assured by, among other things, its proximity to Woolworths.

Charles Stapleton's father had supplied meat and bread to the construction gangs on the new Illawarra Railway line at Como and later at Helensburgh....also to gangs of workmen engaged in opening up the National Park.

While at Sutherland, Mr. Scholes was active in foot race running on a crude track in the street near Boyle's Hotel and later on a properly constructed track nearby. Those activities plus wood chopping were promoted by Tom Malone. Trips to Cronulla showed only ten buildings there including Geddes Hotel, T.J. Thompson's "Country House", a shack occupied by Mr. McGuire and sons, some shell grit gatherers and a few other ramshackle buildings. The sight of anybody in the surf was sufficient to move someone to call the police.

The Scholes family later moved to Kogarah and occupied among others, 28 Montgomery Street, opposite the Court House, and Mr. Scholes began an association with Holden's Butchery which lasted for the rest of his working life. An essentially outward turning man, he made many friends and after his retirement was often to be seen walking about in Railway Parade, Kogarah, spending most of his time yarning with old acquaintances or wiping the floor with all competition at the chess tables at the Kogarah Hotel. By the end of the 50's his health had begun to fail and on 1st August, 1964, at Caringbah Hospital among the visitors came DEATH to a Bexley Pioneer.

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