

SPONSORED BY  
ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



PRICE 5 c .

# ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

24 Duff Street,  
Arncliffe. 2205.  
February, 1976.

Dear Friend and Member ,

The regular meeting will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday evening, February 20th, 1976, at 8 p.m.

Place: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale.

Business: General.

Syllabus Item: Mr. Rose Bray, who is a member of the Society, will tell us of "The Early History of the 1788-1820 Association" which should prove to be most interesting.

Supper Roster: Mesdames Grace, Hunt, Troughton & Thompson.

Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr. D. Sinclair,

President.

Phone 587-4555

Mrs. E. Eardley,

Secretary.

Phone 59-8078.

Mrs. E. Wright,

Treas. & Soc. Sec.

Phone 599-4884

Mr. A. Ellis,

Research Officer.

Phone 587.1159

Mrs. B. Perkins,

Publicity Officer.

Phone 587-9164.

Manners are like the zero in arithmetic, they may not be much in themselves, but they are capable of adding a great deal to the value of everything else.

Freyer Stark in "The Journey's Echo".

A limited supply of the following books, written and illustrated by the late Gifford Eardley (reprinted by popular request) are now available, cost \$1.00 each, postage extra.

- Book 1. "The Early History of the Wolli Creek Valley"  
Book 2. "The Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway"  
Book 3. "Thomas Saywell's Tramway, 1887 - 1914. Rockdale to Lady Robinsons Beach"  
Book 4. "The Arncliffe to Bexley Steam Tramway"

Also available are: (By the same Author)

- Book 5. "Heritage in Stone" (Limited Stocks)  
Book 6. "All Stations to Como" (Limited Stocks)  
Book 7. "The Early History. Tempe & The Black Creek Valley"

Contact Secretary 'Phone 59.8078.

OR Miss Otton 'Phone 59.4259.

ALSO Smith's Florist Shop, Tramway Arcade, Rockdale.

Society Badges are available - \$1.00 each.

. . . . .

Miss Otton, Curator of "Lydham Hall", is in need of Ladies and/or Gentlemen to assist with the weekend roster. Visitors come from far and wide to see this lovely old Home, and your presence would greatly facilitate inspections. Ring Miss Otton, Phone 59.4259. Your call will be appreciated.

. . . . .

It is with regret that we announce the death of Miss Batty, who was 95 years of age, and one of our oldest Members. Until ill-health intervened, she was a regular attendant at the Society Meetings, and thoroughly enjoyed being one of us. To her loved ones we offer our sincere sympathy.

Social News: A Bus Trip, to include an inspection of the "House of Shells" at Bellambi, morning tea at Bulli, and lunch at Wollongong, has been arranged by the Social Secretary, Mrs. Wright, the date is -

Date: Saturday, February, 21st, 1976.

Meeting Place: Town Hall, Rockdale.

Time: 9 a.m. Sharp.

Cost: \$2.50 per person.

If you wish to enjoy a good day's outing, ring Mrs. Wright, phone 599.4884. Don't delay, as this trip is proving a popular one. Bring your own food, and hot water etc., for your "cuppa". Return at approximately 5.00-5.30 p.m. Friends are welcome.

. . . . .

Coming up on April 11th, 1976, is the spectacular "Lancer Service" at St. Johns Church, Parramatta. Again, if the response is good, a Bus will be chartered for the occasion. Prospect Dam has been suggested as a spot for lunch. For further particulars contact Mrs. Wright, and also details will be in your March issue of the "Bulletin". Friends are welcome.

. . . . .

The Syllabus Item for our March meeting will be presented by the ever popular "Peter Sage". He will take us "Here & There".

At a later date, we would suggest a "Slide Evening," presented by our Members. Keep this in mind, and choose some of your favourite slides for this occasion. Watch for the date.

. . . . .

We would like to say "Thank you" to all who have either Donated or Loaned their precious "Bits and Pieces" to make Lydham Hall so interesting and attractive.

Miss Thomas,  
Bexley.

English Camera. 50 years old.  
Draper's scissors. Over 100 years old.  
Belonged to her late parents. Donated.

Mr. Dickey,  
Bexley North.

1 Jardiniere.  
Wooden fancywork rings. Over 90 years old.  
Donated.

Mrs. Sproule,  
Bexley.

Small white jug, 3 leaf clover on one side.  
Donated.

Mrs. S. Pearson,  
Hurstville.

Brass fireside set. Donated.

Mrs. L. Monk.  
Bexley.

Black marble clock, 1914. On loan.  
2 English Police Waddies )  
Gentleman's Wedding Coat, 1914.) Donated.  
2 Brass Piano Candlesticks )

Mrs. Monk,  
Bexley.

1 Bean Stripper.  
1 Book "Australian Men of Mark" 1788-1888  
4 Christmas Greeting Cards, Embroidered.  
Donated.

Misses Stacy,  
Bexley.

1 cloth hat (belonged to their late brother)  
made in Malta & given to each survivor of the  
S.S. Arabia, before returning to England.  
1 felt hat belonged to their grandfather, the  
late B.J. Round of Birmingham.  
2 lacy pockets, to hold watches & chains which  
would hang on the bedpost.  
1 small brown crockery dish, made at Lithgow  
Pottery. Box of silk velvet ribbons. Donated.

Mr. & Mrs. L.H.R. Weekes,  
16 Hawthorn St., Kogarah.

2 seats from Rockdale (originally on Railway  
Station. Donated.

Mrs. Aynsley,  
Arncliffe.

1 Brooch, ivory & gold nugget. Belonged to  
her late mother, Hannah Kelsey Payne, 1887.  
1 chamber "Country Cottages" design.  
1 Holy Bible. Hannah Kelsey Payne 1884.  
1 Wesley Hymn Book, 1892.

\* \* \* \* \*

OUR TRIP TO MAITLAND OVER THE EIGHT-HOUR WEEK-END - 1975.

- R H Dunsmore.

There were 43 of us, including some members of the Sutherland Society. We left Rockdale Town Hall at 8.10a.m. Saturday, 3rd. October in one of Janalli Bus Co. coaches, the driver being Bob Luly. It was an overcast day with a very light shower or two, and the day remained that way, but with no rain to speak of. We travelled through Strathfield, Concord, Ryde, Eastwood, Epping to Hornsby and the gardens, trees and shrubs were lovely, full of colour. From Hornsby we followed the Pacific Highway to the new Toll Road across the Hawkesbury Bridge to Brooklyn and on to Peats Ridge Restaurant (The Oaks) where we had morning tea. After a short respite we travelled on to Cessnock, leaving the Pacific Highway at Doyalson. We had lunch at the Cessnock Workers' Club. We lost a good deal of time here waiting to be served, but I think we all enjoyed the meal when it arrived. Leaving Cessnock about 3.30p.m. we travelled through the grape growing district of the Hunter Valley. The country was lovely and green, the grape vines coming into leaf and sending out their branches along the wire fences upon which they grow. We went through Pokolbin, Brokenwood, Lakes Folly and past the Airport, through Lockinvar into Maitland. Just before reaching Pokolbin we stopped at the Bellevue Winery which belongs to the Drayton Family. We were unable to see any of the cellars or workings, but some of us purchased some wine. It was a very pleasant spot and the countryside was really lovely. To the left of the building was an old press used years ago for pressing the grapes. It consisted of a wooden box made of hand cut timber, about 5 ft. square and 1 ft. deep. About the middle of one side was a large post set in the ground and standing about 7 ft. high. It was about 2 ft. in diameter. About 5 ft. from the ground a log about 10"-12" in diameter and about 30 ft. long was morticed into the post to allow it to pivot up and down when the other end was raised or lowered. This log came out at right angles to the post and over the centre of the wooden box. At the other end of the log or arm were two posts about 12 ft. high on each side of the log. The log could then be raised by block and tackle. The drums or utensils holding the grapes were placed in the box and attached to the bearer or log the other end of which was raised then allowed to settle down pressing the grapes slowly under its own weight. This was a very slow and clumsy method and it is many years since it has been used.

Arriving in Maitland we called at Grossman House. This was built in 1860 as a private residence. Later it was a girls' school and it is now run by the Hunter Regional Trust as a Museum. It is situated beside the High School, built right on the street alignment having no verandahs or porches. It is a two-storey Georgian building with shutter-covered windows. As the coach arrived about 5.00p.m. the windows and shutters were opened and we were welcomed by the ladies. The house is beautifully furnished in a style of gracious living with many beautiful items. One piece of china on the large sideboard known as a 'pagoda' is unique. It consists of several pieces which fit



together but when separated can be used as individual items - the only other known piece like it is in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. In the bedroom there was a very large and heavy four-poster bed, and other pieces of matching furniture. Downstairs was the kitchen, now used to display various items of domestic appliances used in the early days. There were irons, urns, fountains, boilers, butter churns, etc., and a big open fireplace.

Opposite Grossman House is a lovely large two-storey house with iron lace balustrades, set back in a large block of land. This is the Rectory for St. Mary's Anglican Church, which is on the corner. This Church was designed by Edmund Blackett in 1860.

Leaving Grossman House we proceeded down High Street, the main street of Maitland. The Post Office on the corner of High and Bourke Streets was built in 1881. On the corner of High and Church Streets is an old hitching post for horses in the form of a little Black Boy.

From Maitland we came down the New England Highway to our Motel - the "East Maitland Motel", our Host and Hostess being Mr & Mrs Webber. They were very attentive and we all enjoyed our stay. The Motel was rather new and very well appointed. There were colour T.V. sets in every room, the first motel to have these on the North Coast. The meals were excellent and we had a very satisfied party. On Sunday morning we left the motel about 9.00a.m. Each of us was given a Henny Penny luncheon pack which was placed in the refrigerator in our room - we were to have a picnic lunch. We drove to Morpeth, about 3 miles. Morpeth was the first shipping port for the district and the boats used to come up the Hunter River from Newcastle and Sydney. The main wharf was Queen's Wharf, just away from the Morpeth Railway Station. After the railway was built between Morpeth and Maitland the shipping gradually decreased and faded away. About 1953 the Railway was closed and Morpeth has become a back number. Morpeth has a wealth of history. William Arnott first started a bakery there, later going to Newcastle, then to Homebush. Mr Soul, of Washington Soul started making Violet Talcum Powder there. The Railway Station is a very solid brick building, typical of the stations built in those days, it is now occupied by the Dept. of Works. We were met by Mrs Mesmer, the wife of the local Doctor, she was very charming and full of information. She took us round the town, showing us the points of interest, including the Court House (now Museum and Library). We stopped at Marlborough House which was built in 1848 for Squire Taylor who owned the Bond Store. The grounds and garden were beautiful but we were not invited in.

Mrs Mesmer was a very good speaker and gave us a lot of the history of Morpeth. We drove to St. James' Church just as the service finished. Before inspecting the Church Mrs Mesmer took us up an avenue of trees about 1/4 mile to Closebourne House where she introduced us to Mr Arkell, the Superintendant. Closebourne was a large stone homestead built by Lieut. Close about 1826 and designed by Francis Greenaway who owned an adjoining property. Lieut. Close was the first man to receive a grant of land in the area. He was given his choice, and selected 2,000 acres of the high country in preference to the River flats which were covered

by heavy forests of Cedar. He selected his land in 1818 and built his home in 1826. He brought up a family of 5 of his own, also 7 of his sister's children. He had St. James' Church built in 1840 and dedicated by Rev. William Cowper. In 1847 he gave it to Bishop Tyrrell as a gift to the Church of England. Closebourne is now the Conference Centre for the Church of England, it has sleeping and dining accommodation for 200. It also caters for the students at nearby St. John's College and is available for weddings and other social functions.

In the front garden is found the Railway station name sign MORPETH and one of the platform seats. There is also a large flat round stone about 5 ft. in diameter with a large hole in the centre. This was used for cutting and shutting the steel tyres and repairing the wheels of the old horse-drawn vehicles.

St James' faces East and West, on the Eastern wall there are beautiful large stained glass windows. When Bishop Stanton came in 1890 he had an avenue of Brush Box trees planted running from Closebourne House to the Church. By leaving the front door of the Church open he could see the sun shining through the stained glass windows from his study window in the early morning. Mr Arkell was very knowledgeable and told us a lot about the primary industries as they were carried on in early days. He said that the soil on the river flats is up to 150 feet deep and reputed to be the richest in the world. He said one could dig down and follow the various layers left after the periodic floods that have occurred over the years. After an inspection of the Church we set off to find a spot for lunch. The park opposite the Maitland Railway Station looked inviting but the portion with the shelter sheds was locked. We went on to Kurri Kurri and had our picnic lunch in the park there.

After lunch we went to Wollombi, 18 miles South West from Cessnock. This was a lovely drive through the hills. Wollombi was on the original Northern road from Sydney. It was a thriving village having five hotels at one time. It had a Court House and the Post Office had the first telephone exchange between Sydney and Newcastle. We were given a talk by Mr Mahenie, who with his wife, showed us over a very interesting Folk Museum which was housed in the old Court House. The Post Office was a large stone two-storey building and St. John's Church which was 125 years old, was much admired.

Wollombi was expected to become a large centre but after the crossing of the Hawkesbury River at Brooklyn and Peats Ferry the road North by-passed Wollombi which has slipped to a sleepy village.

We arrived back at our Motel just in time for dinner.

Monday was a beautiful morning, the sun was shining as we left the Motel about 9.00a.m. after a very nice breakfast. Our first stop was at Hexham at the Oak Cafe. Then we proceeded to Mayfield, Newcastle, where we picked up Mr Fred Gregory of the Newcastle Historical Society. He was a very well-informed and able speaker and gave us an outline of

the early history and founding of Newcastle.

Captain Cook sighted Nobby's from 6 miles out to sea and mentioned it in his Log in 1770.

Two escaped convicts, the Bryant Brothers, discovered coal there in 1798 and Lieut. Shortland inspected the spot and decided that it would be useful. In 1801 Lieut. Menzies of the "Calcutta" which had been delayed from sailing owing to a convict rebellion at Castle Hill, volunteered and became the first Commandant of Newcastle.

Mr Gregory took us through the industrial suburbs and down to the waterfront where quite a number of ships were berthed. We saw the row of Moreton Bay fig trees that are 130 years old, at Islington, a suburb named after Islington in England.

We crossed Throsby Creek which joins the Hunter River at the Harbour. We passed Goninian's works where the poet Henry Lawson worked for some years as a carriage painter; went along the waterfront where several dredges were moored, the floating dock was there. The dredges have a full-time job keeping the river mouth open. The ships have their own loading devices, and the coal is exported in a pulverised form, so not as much labour is used on the waterfront now. We passed the Railway Station and went round to Nobby's, following the beaches round to King Edward VII Park where the sunken garden was much admired. It was really very beautiful. The park is steep, having high grassy banks which form an Amphitheatre. We climbed the hill and stopped opposite Windmill Hill, so named because it had a windmill there in the early days. When it was taken down the seafarers complained that they had lost one of their landmarks, so an obelisk was erected. The view from here was 180 °, over the City on one side and over the beaches and out to sea on the other. There were four large ships anchored awaiting berths in the harbour.

Leaving here we made our way to the Christ Church Cathedral, situated in an imposing position on a hill overlooking the city and the sea. The Cathedral is on the site of the first slab hut used for public worship.

In 1817 Rev. William Cowper built the first Church. In 1847 Bishop Tyrrell was assigned the Church as his Cathedral. This dismayed the people of Morpeth and the St. James' Church. Over the years structural changes have been made and financial troubles overcome until to-day we see a very fine Cathedral. We were fortunate that the Verger arrived while we were there and as a special favour he invited us to the Warriors' Chapel where he showed us their most precious treasures. Donning gloves he opened a small case and brought out a beautiful pure gold Chalice and Paten studded with gems. He showed them to us individually. Opening another case, he brought out a book with covers of pure gold also studded with gems with the Dove of Peace in enamel in the centre. Inside, the book was divided into sections for each Church in the Diocese, the names of the various Churches being illuminated in colour and the names of the fallen inscribed in black. The gold for the Chalice and Paten was obtained from rings and

jewellery given by the people who lost their loved ones.

Leaving the Cathedral we went to the R.S.L Club for lunch. Afterwards Mr Gregory showed us the land that was taken up by the Australian Agricultural Co., which is now a residential suburb. We saw St. John's Church, also the brick Incinerator which won the John Sulman prize for architecture which, unfortunately didn't function as required so is a white elephant.

About 3.30p.m. we said "Good bye" to Mr Gregory outside his home, and commenced our return journey. We had a lovely trip, leaving the Pacific Highway and following the new road to The Entrance and back to the Pacific Highway at Wyong. We had a cup of tea at The Oaks, Peats Ridge. The traffice was very heavy but we had no undue delays. As it became dark we were entertained with pleasant singing and music by some of the members of the party.

We arrived at Rockdale about 8.00p.m. after having a really nice week-end and our thanks go to Mrs Wright.

-----

#### Speaking of outings -

Mrs W Parker submitted the following appreciation -

"We sure did enjoy our lovely Saturday afternoon trip, 20th September to Botany Cemetery and La Perouse.

There was not a full bus by any means.

Those that were on the trip including the bus driver, enjoyed our roam around Botany Cemetery., also our afternoon tea at La Perouse and the trip via Matraville and back by old Botany Road.

We had a glimpse of the old Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, a really historical spot of Botany, and also a very old pine tree at the old Botany tram terminus."

-----

- *being a brief political history  
of the St. George District.*

- *by R.W.Rathbone. (Reprint - 1966)*

With the possibility of yet another Federal Election continually being canvassed by our sensation-seeking press and our election happy politicians, is rather appropriate that we should have a look at the political history of our own St. George District for it has long been recognized as the most sensitive political barometer in Australia.

.....

The seeds of responsible self government in N.S.W. were sown almost from the time the first white man set foot on the shores of Sydney Cove for although the Colony was originally intended for convicts alone, the sheer inability of the authorities to feed them caused Governor Phillip, as early as April 1790, to ask the Home Government to send out free settlers with agricultural experience.

So successful were his efforts that by 1795 the Colony was completely self-supporting and by 1828 free settlers outnumbered the convicts.

In order to mollify the grievances of the free settlers against the autocratic and often quite hostile actions of the Governor, a Legislative Council of five nominated members was appointed in 1824. It consisted of the Lt. Governor, Colonial Secretary, Chief Justice, Principal Surgeon and Surveyor General. In 1829 this was increased to 15 members.

In 1825, William Charles Wentworth had begun to demand political representation in the Legislative Council but it was not until July 1842 that the British Government passed a new Constitution Act which provided for partial representation of the colonists.

The franchise was extended only to those persons who owned freehold property valued at pounds 200.0.0 or more or a dwelling with a rental value of at least pounds 20.0.0 per annum.

It was proclaimed in January 1843. Electoral Districts were soon arranged and writs issued.

The area we now know as St. George found itself in the Electoral District of Cumberland which covered the whole of the region between the coast and the Hawkesbury - Nepean River system, except the City of Sydney which was a separate division and the towns of Windsor, Penrith, Parramatta, Liverpool and Campbelltown which together



constituted the Electorate of Cumberland Boroughs.

If the people of N.S.W. were indifferent to the advent of parliamentary government (as most historians would have us believe), they entered into the election of their first Representative Council with an enthusiasm which belies this. In fact, they seemed to find the diversion highly entertaining.

Because of the scattered nature of the settlement and the poor means of communication, polling took place over a period of six weeks.

Sydney was the first seat to be decided and there were five candidates for the two representative seats it contained. These were the seasoned and politically astute William Charles Wentworth and his right-hand man Dr William Bland; a personable young military officer Captain Maurice O'Connell; a newly arrived barrister named Hinton William Hustler and the notorious, gin-swilling king of Sydney's underworld, Robert Cooper.

As there was a general agreement on all major issues, the election was fought entirely on personalities and right from the start it was a no-holds-barred contest. The Wentworth-controlled organ, "The Australian" was the main propaganda medium for the first mentioned candidates.

O'Connell was dismissed as "an imposter, young, inexperienced and totally unworthy of the popularity he enjoyed. "Hustler's candidature was described as "deliberate a piece of effrontery as it would be possible to imagine", whilst Cooper received the full blast of "The Australian's disfavour being described as" of such a stamp both morally and mentally as to render it a deep insult for anyone to suppose for a moment that the electors could be made or base enough to make him their representative."

Even the infant "Sydney Morning Herald" took some pains to point out that "if it be an accepted political practice that the low and unlettered were to represent the educated and refined, Mr. Cooper would have strong claims to our support."

Nomination Day was Tuesday, June 13th and before a banner-bearing crowd of five thousand of Sydney's populace assembled before a large timber platform called the Hustings in Macquarie Place, the Returning Officer and Sydney's first Lord Mayor, John Hosking, introduced the candidates to the electors. It was the custom in those days for someone to formally propose and second each candidate who then addressed the gathering before a show of hands was taken. As there was no certainty who, in the crowd, possessed the right to vote and who did not, any defeated candidate could demand a ballot.



Cooper and O'Connell may have lacked experience but they gave their opponents a painful lesson in political organization on that memorable day. Supporters of Cooper and O'Connell packed the square. When Hustler rose to speak he and his proposers were inaudible above the constant hooting at the foot of the hustings steps. Bland, in endeavouring to get onto the platform was "thrown down with violence and received such an injury that he was carried to his residence in an unconscious state." O'Connell was greeted with considerable enthusiasm whilst Cooper, who addressed his followers from the back of a cart, was boisterously cheered.

Only a most generous appeal to the mob by Captain O'Connell enabled Wentworth to be heard but when he rather ungraciously referred to the O'Connell family's Catholic ties (although O'Connell himself was an Anglican) "a clamour of yelling and hissing broke out and absolute confusion reigned for a quarter of an hour during which time several boxing matches took place and Wentworth's banner and portion of the hustings were utterly demolished." And when Wentworth accused Cooper of having promised to support him then of putting himself forward as a candidate, the rest of his speech was lost in uproar. A show of hands indicated a clear win for O'Connell and Cooper whereupon Wentworth and Hustler demanded a poll.

Voting, which involved writing the candidate's name on the front of the ballot paper and the elector's on the back, took place some days later.

If nomination day had been a riot then polling day was a hundred times worse. So violent did passions run that the poll in the Gipps Ward (Miller's Point) part of the city had to be suspended when Wentworth supporting seamen armed with harpoons clashed with O'Connell sympathisers and levelled the polling booth. Supporters of rival candidates had their carriages upended and their windows smashed. One man was killed whilst Dr. Whittle, a known Wentworth advocate was thrown from his horse "receiving a severe contusion on his head." With the aid of a detachment of the military, the poll was at last completed, Wentworth and Bland having a substantial majority over O'Connell with Hustler and Cooper sharing equal last place.

.....

The election in neighbouring Cumberland was held a fortnight later and although free from the violence of the Sydney poll was every bit as dramatic. Cumberland was also entitled to elect two members.

Those who nominated were the highly respected and surprisingly liberal James Macarthur "son of him to whom the colony is indebted for its main export"; William Lawson, old, esteemed, honest and upright, one of the trio who had crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813 and an ardent supporter of his friend W.C.Wentworth; George Robert Nichols, a radical

and a reformer, former editor of "The Australian", the colony's first native born solicitor - once a man of means but since the 1842 Depression somewhat disillusioned and financially embarrassed and John Ryan Brenan "a nominee of the publicans and their class"... one of the colony's three police magistrates.

There seemed little doubt that Macarthur and Lawson would have an easy victory. At the eleventh hour, however, there occurred an event which made the Cumberland poll perhaps the most bitter of the whole election. This was the last minute nomination of wealthy landowner Charles Cowper for the Cumberland Seat. Cowper had contested the nearby Camden Electorate a few days before nominations closed in Cumberland in the full expectation of receiving the support of the influential Macarthur family. He was shocked to find that James Macarthur not only declined to sponsor him, but actively campaigned for his opponent, the Colony's Attorney General, Roger Therry.

A large proportion of Australia's convict population were Irish Catholic political prisoners who were always restive and an ever-present source of discontent. Therry was both Irish and a Catholic. Furthermore, as Attorney General he was a paid government official. In a furious contest in which many charges of bribery and intimidation were made, Therry had narrowly defeated Cowper.

Describing Macarthur as a "Turncoat, a prince of renegades and a patron of white feathers", Cowper threw his hat into the ring with the undisguised intention of avenging his own humiliation. The fight in Cumberland was short and cruel and despite herculean efforts on the part of both "The Australian" and "The Herald" and the patronage of such prominent figures as Wentworth, M'Leay and Alexander Brodie Spark, Macarthur wilted under the Cowper onslaught. In the final stages Lawson completed the rout by switching his support to Cowper.

Cowper with 503 votes topped the poll, followed by Lawson 381, Macarthur 371, Nichols 339 and Brenan 137.

It is not known how many of the handful of settlers residing in the Parish of St. George who were entitled to vote bothered to make the terrible day-long journey along the deeply rutted track called the Illawarra Road, across the dam at Cook's River to the nearest polling place at Woolloomooloo, but any who did make the effort would appear to have voted for Cowper.

.....

Our first two parliamentary representatives were very diverse characters indeed. Cowper at 36, possessed a mild and affable nature which concealed a driving ambition. He was a man of outstanding ability and tact and a political adroitness which in later years was to earn him the sobriquet of "Slippery Charlie".

His father was the Rev. William Cowper, a colonial chaplain under Samuel Marsden and he had arrived in the Colony at the age of two. His first post was in the Commissariat Department and in 1826 he was appointed by Governor Darling to be Secretary of the Clergy and School Lands Corporation. When this position was abolished by Governor Bourke, Cowper took up land at Corryong on the Upper Murray and began breeding shorthorn cattle.

In an Assembly which numbered amongst its members such historic figures as Wentworth, Bland, Therry, Windeyer, Robert Lowe and the fiery Presbyterian prelate, John Dunmore Lang, Cowper stood out as a fluent and thoughtful debator, a consistent advocate of improved means of communication and an uncompromising opponent of Wentworth. He proposed and chaired many of the Select Committees of the Council, was one of the sponsors of the Sydney Railway Company which built the first line to Parramatta and was an acknowledged expert on taxation procedures and stock diseases.

William Lawson was 69. He had arrived in the Colony as an ensign with the N.S.W. Corps, where he rose to rank of Lieutenant. Packed off to England by Macquarie in 1810, he managed to return the following year and retired to his property "Veteran Hall" at Prospect where he ran a small flock of sheep. In 1813, he joined Blaxland and Wentworth as surveyor in their epic journey over the Blue Mountains and received a grant of 1,000 acres on Campbell's river near Bathurst for his trouble. He explored the Mudgee district and acquired large holdings there. In 1824 he returned to Prospect where he ultimately died. A most likeable old farmer who was affectionately known as "Old Iron Bark", he was a poor speaker, had little interest in politics and the government of the Colony, but conscientiously attended meetings of the Council to support Wentworth with his vote on important issues at a time when many other members regarded membership as little more than a status symbol. One of the very few occasions on which he exerted his independence was when he voted with Cowper in the latter's repeatedly unsuccessful attempts to have meetings of the Legislative Council opened with "PUBLIC PRAYERS to Almighty God." William Lawson was in fact, the first party hack in our political history and did not seek re-election at the expiration of his first term.

... to be continued.

### Sanitation.

It has been wisely said that civilisation begins with sanitation! However, it is not intended to elaborate on this important theme, but rather to concentrate on the local "Saniticans" poetic efforts to wheedle a Christmas contribution from householders served on their particular round, a project in which they were, in turn, supported by the gentlemen known as the "Garbo's".

Both groups performed unpleasant, but very necessary duties, and both left their "Christmas Cards" in obvious places they hoped would inspire the generosity of the householders.

A collection of these unique cards has been made over the years. Fortunately for the residents of the St. George District the "Sanitican" no longer has the need to call, his job has been eliminated by the underground sewerage system, hence his "Calling Card" may be regarded as a "Collectors Item".

On the Northern side of the Harbour, the men who conducted this essential service called themselves: "SANITOLOGISTS". (in 1972).

### XMAS GREETINGS.

Little Miss Muffett  
Sat on her tuffet  
With furrows deep in her brow.

A cockroach or spider  
Oft sat down beside her  
Speeding her exit - and how!

Little Miss Muffett  
Sure had to rough it  
In those pre-sanno pan days.

She wouldn't be nervous  
Today with our service  
Of smart and cleaner ways.

So with jolly good reason  
In this festive season  
Your SANNO MAN is here to say....

.... A HAPPY XMAS.

-----