This enlightenment was achieved by a succession of slides, for the visual is the only effective approach in learning to recognise features of any style of art. Mr. McBride was extremely interesting and successful in showing us things which could well have set members rummaging in old cupboards and casting appraising eyes around second-hand shops, because good examples of the hitherto rather neglected art nouveau style will assuredly be the antiques of tomorrow.

BLOW FAMILY REUNION

Descendants of John Blow, who arrived in the “Susan” in 1839, will hold a reunion on August 28th and 29th, meeting at the Centenary Hall, Albion Park, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the 28th and at the Blowhole (which, as Mr. Doug Blow points out, was not named after the family) at 9.30 a.m. on the 29th.

For further information please contact Doug Blow (042) 56-2162; Kevin Blow (02) 586-4926; Phillis Thompson (nee Blow) (044) 48-6155; or Lorraine Blow (02) 982-6290.

Mr. Doug Blow would appreciate any information which would identify the property (he believes, at Avondale) which John and his eldest son William Blow bought from James Shoobert in the 1840s. William Blow remained there after John moved to Foxground in 1850.

“THEY WERE THE FIRST”

Recent moves by the Department of Education to review the system of subsidised and free bus transport for school children living beyond a specified distance from their particular school because of alleged malpractices in the matter of overcharging and charging for services not performed, reminds me that the first such service in N.S.W. was set up about 1905 to convey pupils to Albion Park Public School from the Yellow Rock area, about five miles distant.

The contract was given to the sons of a dairy farmer, Cecil, Ossie and Mark Prior, living at Yellow Rock. The vehicle provided was a hooded waggonette drawn by a sturdy half-draught horse, and with the youngest brother, Mark, as coachman, it picked up and carried about a dozen children to the school each morning. Mark would then unhitch the horse, throw a saddle on his back and return home to work on the farm until mid-afternoon when he would ride back and reverse the process. It was a heavy drag for one horse, especially as the final mile was an uphill pull.

For this service the contractors were paid the princely sum of sevenpence per pupil per day and the service continued until after the 1914-18 war when use of motor transport became general in the form of school buses.

The three Prior brothers eventually left Albion Park for the “big smoke” and became well known in Sydney as the owners and operators of a small chain of tobacconist shops with attached barber facilities along George Street.

A prodigious effort of memory allows me to list the names of those boys and girls conveyed around the years 1909-1913, these being Blanche, Marie, Veronica and Jim Fleet, Virginia Robb, Alma Clarke, Bert Haynes, Jack Becker, Lily Cochrane, Ella Prior, Mary and Stella Timms. Sadly, many of these are no longer with us.

—Bert E. Weston.