PERSONAL:

Best wishes for the future are extended to Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Wallace, of Millthorpe, on their recent marriage. Mrs. Wallace is well known to us as the former Miss Yvonne Hay.

In this regard we learn from R.A.H.S. Newsletter No. 38, July, 1965, that Millthorpe has now a Historical Society which has purchased a building for a museum, to be opened in October next.

VALE:

Regret is expressed at the death on July 6th of Mr. Philip Harvey, of Port Kembla. The late Mr. Harvey, who was aged 74, only joined the Society in 1964 but soon became a regular at all its functions. He was with us on the "Northern" excursion on 3rd July. His wife predeceased him and they had no children.

JULY MEETING:

There was an attendance of 39 to hear an absorbing and instructive talk on the formation and operation of a folk museum by Mr. E. W. Dunlop, of the N.S.W. Education Department. As explained by Mr. Dunlop "folk museum" is a name used in many European countries to describe a museum which aims to portray the life of ordinary people in other days. No aspect of life in past times is outside the scope of such a museum, and the more complete the collection the stronger is its appeal. Many of the folk museums of Northern Europe are surprisingly extensive. It is common practice to include fully-furnished homes, farms and workshops of other days in the collections so that quite a normal beginning is to set aside a spacious allotment of parkland — say 50 to 100 acres — to allow for the proper development of the museum.

The speaker went abroad in 1954 to study folk museums and gather ideas for a Museum of Education at the Armidale Teachers’ College. This proposal had been made in 1949 and approved in principle by the then Director-General of Education. With the co-operation of teachers and inspectors throughout the State, all sorts of relics (much better word "by-gones") of the nineteenth century school material was collected with the idea of setting up an old-style small school in the College grounds.

Shortly after the Public Instruction Act of 1880, the State was obliged to embark on a most extensive school-building programme, and a very common type of small school to be erected was the so-called ‘George Reid Temporary’ or "beehive" school, with a curiously rounded roof. One of these, built in 1884, was located at and removed from Pallamallawa (near Moree).

It is set up now in the College grounds as a ‘living’ school of the period — with the illusion that the pupils and teacher are temporarily absent.

In addition, the Armidale and New England Folk Museum was opened in November, 1958, in the town and is now firmly established as a pioneer Australian Folk Museum.

With the aid of slides of the overseas and local museums our guest gave us a very stimulating evening.

In R.A.H.S. Journals Vol. 41, Part 4, Pages 174/188 and Vol. 45, Part 5, Pages 269/280 Mr. Dunlop has articles on the establishment of the Armidale projects.

NORTHERN SUBURBS EXCURSION — SATURDAY, 3rd JULY:

Our party, consisting of 35 and led by the President, had an enjoyable afternoon. Leaving Wallongong by the ‘back’ roads our first stop was the Bulli Methodist Church, where Mr. Bayley was on hand to point out highlights of the historic building. Then to Sublime Point and to the Lawrence Hargrave Memorial, where Mr. McDonald gave a short talk.

Down to ‘Hill Crest’ (Hargrave’s home) for a visit (alas, too short!), to Mr. James Irvine’s museum of interesting "by-gones", where Mr. McDonald spoke again. This museum visit was a perfect complement to Mr. Dunlop’s talk.