Mrs. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Bayley, and Mr. and Mrs. Bradford also attended the unveiling. Messrs. Bayley and Bradford secured plenty of photos, which we will be looking out for at the December meeting.

APPIN PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY

The centenary of Appin Public School will be celebrated on Saturday, March 23, 1968. The principal, Mr. Curnow, has written to the Society extending a cordial invitation to our members to attend. Mr. Curnow's telephone number is Appin 220.

OLD ILLAWARRA HOUSES: 44 Campbell Street, Wollongong.

Passing along Campbell St., I have often wondered what was the history of this house. Now, with the help and co-operation of its present owner, Mrs. Mathews, I give you its story:

In 1880, a block of land 66' x 100' on the north side of Campbell St., between Church and Kembla Sts., being part of Lot 5 of Section 12 of the subdivision of C. T. Smith's 200-acre estate, was sold by his trustees, V. W. Giblin and T. O'S. Green, to D. A. McDonald, who in 1882 resold to George Billings for £30.

Billings must have set out to build the house, for he borrowed from the E.S. & A. Bank. However, less than three years later, he was declared bankrupt and in May, 1885, the bank sold the property to Francis Woodward of equivocal memory for £171-12-0, the amount owed to the bank by Billings. In September of the same year, Woodward bought another 2' frontage on the western side of the block from William Sutton for £5; but there is some doubt as to whether this 2' has ever been enclosed in the block.

Next month Woodward sold to Charles Frederick Smith (son of C. T. Smith) for £200. Smith mortgaged the property to the trustees of the Public Service Building Society for £300, and a little later for a further £100, both of which mortgages were duly paid off.

C. F. Smith sold in September, 1886, to Julius Ziemis, of Corrimal, farmer, who came with his family to live there. Julius Ziemis died suddenly in 1897, leaving a wife, son and four daughters. His widow and son were appointed trustees, and the former, who had a life interest in the estate, continued to live in the house with her four daughters until her death in 1922.

In May, 1924, the four daughters, Fredrica, Henrietta, Sarah and Beatrice, together bought the house from the estate for £475. In June next year they sold for £700 to Mary Ann Burns, who mortgaged the property to Catherine Ann Robson, wife of a police officer of Wilcannia.

Times were difficult and tenants uncertain, and in 1934, under the provisions of the Moratorium Act, 1932, the house was put up for auction in the name of Catherine A. Robson, with a reserve of £400. The bidding closed at £300, but it was afterwards sold to Mr. Angus Mathews and his wife for £350.

It was then in very bad order, with holes in floors and damaged fireplaces and hearths. It was surmised that people had been looking for £300 in sovereigns, withdrawn by Julius Ziemis from his bank just before his death and never traced; but the treasure was never found.

There is also a well, still filled by a spring of water, in the back yard; and the curious little square dwarf turret, to which there is no access from inside the house, is thought to have once housed a tank to which water was pumped up to obtain sufficient pressure.

— M. M. EVANS.

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