Mr. Worland was a foundation Councillor of the Society, and at the 1946 Annual General Meeting was elected Honorary Research Secretary. On the occurrence of a vacancy in the presidency in March that year, Mr. Worland was elected, and filled both offices for the remainder of the year. He held the presidency continuously until February 1957 — a record term — and was Senior Vice-President in 1958 and 1959. As well as addressing the Society on a number of occasions, he was, both during his term of office and since, in great demand as a guest speaker for other organisations. In this and other ways he contributed a great deal to the development and maintenance in Illawarra of interest in local history, and played a major part in the Society's affairs during its formative period.

PIONEER ARCHITECTURE:

On Sunday, 7th July, a demolition squad from the Society went to work on an old farm building on the property at Marshall Mount formerly owned by Mr. D. L. Denniss, and now by Mr. B. B. Finch. In spite of a pronounced list and a generally precarious appearance, the old building was far from easy to wreck, and we found by experience that the product of pioneer building methods was much more solid than it looked.

The method of construction is worth recording. Massive hardwood posts, roughly squared with an adze, were set upright in the ground at each corner, and squared hardwood beams nailed across the tops at the front, the rear and each end. Triangular frameworks of saplings, rising above these beams at each end, supported another sapling which served as a ridge-pole, this in turn being joined to the front and back beams by sapling rafters. The external walls consisted of vertical hardwood slabs, set in the ground and nailed at the top to the beams with square hand-forged nails. Horizontal laths split from cabbage-palms were nailed to the inside of the slabs. The interstices were filled, and the inside surfaces plastered, with clayey mud, which was worked to a smooth finish and whitewashed. (One local recipe for the whitewash was a mixture of white wood-ash and skimmed milk).

The roof was of cedar shingles nailed to horizontal battens. The ridge-capping — galvanised iron beaten out more or less flat, then bent to make an inverted V — was obviously not original, and it is surmised that the first ridge-capping consisted of long sheets of bark bent over the ridge of the roof and overlapping the uppermost shingles. Under the shingle roof, timbers had been laid across from the front to the back beams, and a ceiling of whitewash hessian nailed to their undersides.

The original floor probably consisted of earth and creek-gravel, rammed hard. Later one section had been cemented, and another floored with conventional boards on adzed sapling joists. A tree trunk had been planted upright in the earth floor for what purpose we could not determine.
It was in one of the window-frames of this building that we found the remains of that remarkable anticipation of the Cooper-louvre, carried out in wood instead of glass and metal, which, ingeniously recreated by Mr. E. B. Bradford, is on display in the Museum.

From another old building, also being demolished, on the same property we secured another ingenious bush architect’s device — forked sticks nailed to the slab walls at intervals to support guttering.

The material salvaged from these buildings will be put to good use by the Museum Committee — details to be published at the appropriate time. We are indebted to Mr. Denniss and his sister, Miss L. Denniss, for leading us to this treasure of authentic pioneer materials, and to Mr. B. B. Finch for his gift of the materials to the Society.

NAME THIS MOUNTAIN:

Some years ago representations were made by the Council of the Society to the Lands Department suggesting the revival of names once given to certain prominent features of the Illawarra Range: Regent Mountain and Mount Brisbane, names bestowed by Governor Macquarie during his 1822 visit, and Burelli, the fourth of the mountains from which Major Mitchell took names for the streets of his infant town of Wollongong. The matter was then deferred until the proposed Geographical Names Board should eventuate.

Last year, the Board having been established, the Society renewed its submissions, with the weighty support of Mr. B. T. Dowd, F.R.A.H.S., formerly Research Officer of the Lands Department.

We have now been advised that the Counsellors to the Board have forwarded the proposed names to the Secretary of the Board, requesting him to note them on the Board’s records so that they may be incorporated in the list of names to be gazetted as geographical names when the Board has under review the standard topographical maps of the area.

Macquarie’s descent of Regent Mountain and ascent of Mt. Brisbane are described in his Journal of his Illawarra tour, reprinted in “Earliest Illawarra,” the Society’s sesquicentenary booklet.

The identification of Regent Mountain was not free from difficulty; but the opinion of the Counsellors to the Board, in which the Council of the Society concurs, is that the name should be applied to the highest part of the Illawarra Range to the northward of Wonona Mountain, i.e. to the summit roughly half-way between Wonona Mountain (which stands above the entrance to the Bulli Colliery) and the top of Bulli Pass. This summit stands above the Elbow on Bulli Pass and is approximately half a mile from Wonona Mountain on the south and the same distance from the top of Bulli Pass on the north.