MORE ON PATRICK GERAGHTY:

Further to the item “A Night at the Geraghtys’” in the August Bulletin, the following sequel (from the Illawarra Mercury, 12 December 1879) may be of interest:

“GERAGHTY—At Lismore, Clarence (sic) River, on the 3rd December instant, Patrick Geraghty, beloved father of Mrs. Michael Cawley, of Bellambi, and thirteen other children, all of whom, with their mother and seventy-two grandchildren, survive him. The deceased was a native of Ireland, but resided in the Illawarra district during the greater part of his life, which reached 92 years.”

The same issue of the Mercury gives an extended obituary notice, including details of the Battle of Woonona.

—A.P.F.

ANOTHER S.S. “ILLAWARRA”:

In the September 1968 Bulletin there appeared a letter from the National Maritime Museum giving particulars of three ships named “Illawarra.” There was still another—an iron paddle-steamer built in 1883, of 106 tons with 2/60 h.p. engines.

Apropos of the above, we have just read “The Story of the Paddle Steamer,” by Bernard Dumpleton (1968, Colin Venton Ltd.—our copy from the Wollongong Public Library).

A fascinating story of the development of steam power in the conquest of the seas, it deals in detail with Great Britain, but the lakes of Europe and the river boats of America and Australia receive attention. A tribute is also paid to our country’s first steamship, the Sophia Jane (256 tons) which steamed from England to Australia in 1831. As well as being part of the national history she is closely connected with Illawarra. The book is well recommended.

—A.P.F.

YOWIE BAY:

(Yowie Bay, Port Hacking, has become familiar to members of our Society since we got into the habit of calling at the Camellia Gardens on Sydney excursions. Probably most of us thought, as I did, that it was a native name. This note in the “Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin” for January throws quite a different light on it—though surely the “blue-bellied joe” belongs to “Click Go The Shears,” not to “Waltzing Matilda”).

YOWIE, YOWEY, EWIE, EWIE BAY: it has been stated that “Yowie” is an aboriginal word meaning “place of echoes.” This is extremely doubtful, and it is quite incorrect as being the origin of the name of owie Bay. Several years ago an elderly resident told me that her father had been a shepherd for Mr. Thos. Holt, and that this area was called “Ewies’ Bay” because the ewes were sent there to lamb. “Ewie” is an old English name for a lamb. Recent information in the Sydney Morning Herald (18 and 25 Nov. 1973) added further detail. In the North of England a female sheep was a “yeowe” or “yow” (pronounced to rhyme with “jo”); in Lowland Scotland it was “yowe,” and the lamb was a “yowie.” The Old English derivation is “eowu.” It is thus easy to realise that by a slight change of spelling “yow” became “joe” to the old time shearer—hence the famous “blue-bellied joe” (ewe with a bareskinned belly) in “Waltzing Matilda.”

—M.H.N.