But my comments on the development of young Evo will have to await another instalment.

―Edgar Beale.

ARCHIVES OF ILLAWARRA

The May meeting of the Society’s Council received with intense interest a letter from the Environmental Heritage Committee of Wollongong-Shellharbour-Kiama seeking support for a Regional Archives for Illawarra. It is thought that all three Councils, with the Illawarra County Council, might combine to provide a qualified and experienced archivist with a secretary and assistant to conserve past and present records, and ensure continuity for the future. Moreover, it could encourage local organizations of the broadest description, industrial or commercial, to deposit with it records past and present, because what may be trite today may be history tomorrow. This sort of thing is always important, but it is so much the more important when it is realized that Illawarra is a uniquely self-contained region, both geographically and communally.

Through the foresight of the University of Wollongong, with Professor Jim Hagan at the head, the University has amassed a most impressive archival collection. The University is now an official repository for local archives under the blessing of the State Archives Authority. But economic considerations and rationalization have enforced a limitation, and for the present at least the University is restricted in what it may do.

This is all the more reason, then, for the local government authorities to combine in leadership in this important field, perhaps with the objective of ultimately integrating University and all other sources of history into a working tool for experts and amateurs alike. At the same time collections of historical material—pictures, photographs, documents—could be assembled, recorded, and made available on a more systematic basis than has been possible in the past. Without this, there is a very real danger of loss or gradual destruction.

The proposal has the enthusiastic support of the Society’s Council, and we look forward to Illawarra’s civic fathers realizing the immense service they may now render to history.

A LINK WITH THE FALKLANDS

Mrs. Hilde Shaw, who was the Society’s Secretary at the time, recalls that H.M.S. Plymouth, unfortunately damaged in the Falkland Islands fighting, visited Port Kembla in 1970 for Anzac Day and the Cook Bicentenary celebrations. The commanding officer was our guest for the afternoon of the unveiling of the plaque near the lighthouse, and Mrs. Shaw and our then President, Miss Phyllis de Jersey, were afterwards the guests of the officers on board.

She would of course, have a different captain and crew in 1982; but we wish them all good fortune and a safe return home.