satisfactory, although it was the best that could be achieved in the circumstances. Then the day came when funds permitted the purchase of a good steel cabinet which was placed in a back room of the present president’s office, in those years, towards the end of the 1940s. With a key to the door, a small group led by the late Alec Fleming, the late Jock Gardiner-Garden, and Roy Grenfell, used to meet there week in, week out for year after year, identifying material and cataloguing it. Painstaking though their work was, it was always done in a spirit of laughter, true comradeship, and enjoyment of work which was of the highest importance. Indeed, this remarkable trio came to be known affectionately as the Back-room Boys; and of this well-matched team of work-horses none pulled his weight harder than Roy Grenfell. So he is to be remembered as a foundation member in every sense; a founding member indeed. It is true to say that the Society of today would never have been the same without him.

Advancing years demanded some relaxation from such labours, and he gradually withdrew from active work. He richly deserved the honour the Society then bestowed upon him — its highest — in creating him an Honorary Life Member. One may be sure that he saw the continuing strength of the Society with pleasurable interest and, one hopes, a measure of truly justifiable pride.

To his widow and family the Society tenders its sincere sympathy, in deep gratitude for his sterling part in laying and building upon the firmest and best of foundations.

—E.B.

Father O’Malley, writing from New Zealand, also sent a tribute, which reads in part:

“Gentlemanly to his fingertips, he (Roy) was a good envoy with visitors to the monthly meetings and with those, beyond the Illawarra, on the monthly excursions. During his years on the committee his advice was always valuable.”

ART GALLERY ACQUISITION — GUERARD’S “AMERICAN CREEK”

Any members who have not seen this painting at Wollongong Art Gallery are urged to do so. It is the original oil painting, dating from the early 1860s, which is better known as the lithograph in Eugene von Guerard’s work, which includes the landscape of Lake Illawarra. The artist visited our locality in 1859, and obviously found it an inspiration.

At about $60,000.00 the picture is a real bargain. It belongs here, and is now ours for all time, pursuant to the wise purchasing policy of buying art works having local significance. This acquisition is admirable, and the City Council and Gallery are to be congratulated on their far-sightedness in securing the picture before it went elsewhere. Worth every cent of the cost, it must increase in value, as indeed it already has. It is good art representative of a famous 19th century artist; it is good history; and its subject, an advancing swathe of clearing cutting into a primeval rain-forest, is a standing warning on the conservation of nature.

—EDGAR BEALE.