

## LAST DAYS OF PUCKEY'S HOMESTEAD Council Beaten to Punch

"Vandals and scavengers have beaten the Wollongong City Council to its proposal to demolish the old Puckey homestead on the northern shore of Fairy Creek, North Wollongong.

The council decided last year to demolish the old house and salvage some of the timber and other material for future use.

In recent weeks much of the house has been stripped of its fittings. Timber and bricks have been carried off by the truckload.

People in Stuart Park said yesterday they had noticed signs of activity around the old house, particularly over the Christmas-New Year period.

A "Mercury" representative visited the house yesterday and found several men working on it. The sound of hammering and sawing could be heard through the thick under-growth some distance away.

He saw two men on the roof apparently pulling off beams when he stepped into the clearing around the house.

All work ceased when he moved up to the house and some of the men hurriedly hid their tools from sight.

One man got down from the roof and sat down while a photographer took pictures of the house.

When questioned, one of the men said he had been told it would be "all right" to take timber from the house.

A council Health Department officer said yesterday that the council had resumed the property with the rest of the Collaery estate some years ago.

The council had not favoured a recent proposal to establish a holiday camp on the site.

A long-range plan for a marine drive along the foreshores would result in the road going right through the property.

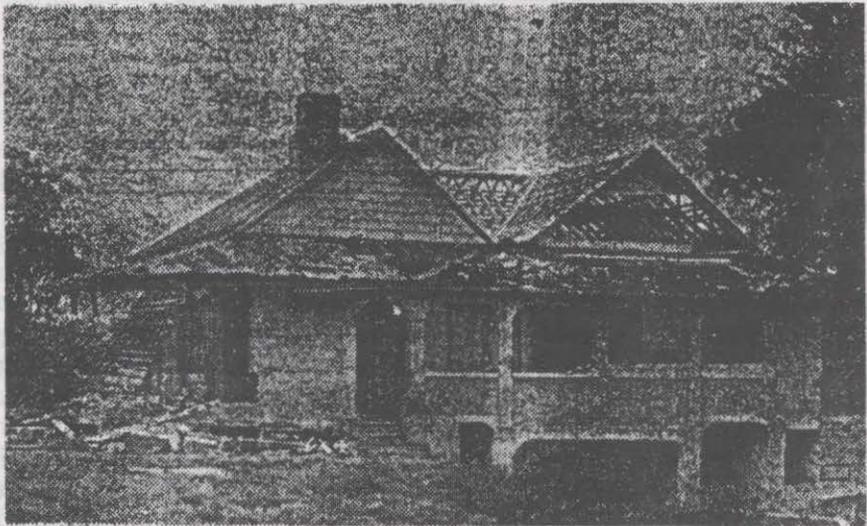
The road would go along the sandhills from Towradgi, across Fairy Creek, to join the road through Stuart Park.

The spokesman said the council Engineering Department had been instructed to proceed with the demolition of the homestead.

Mr. A. F. Cavion, of Corrimal, who submitted a plan to the council for the conversion of the area into a holiday centre, said last night the council should consider allowing private enterprise to develop the district's tourist potential.

He was prepared to spend £12,000 on renovating the house and beautifying the area."

*(Illawarra Mercury 8-1-1960)*



Puckey's Homestead in Ruins