soap opera.

Despite the unfortunate interior remodelling of the art-deco Commonwealth bank and the fire damaged Whiteway cinema, the street has massive potential now that it remains in the economic doldrums and real estate is extraordinarily cheap. The brains behind our much touted ‘Industry World’ should have the imagination to get the entire street declared as part of our National Estate before this precious between the wars streetscape is either demolished or unsympathetically ‘renovated’ out of existence.

THE ILLAWARRA STAR

Has anyone heard of or, better still, possesses copies of a local newspaper called The Illawarra Star. I am not familiar with it but an acquaintance informs me it was owned by W.C. Wentworth. Furthermore, this acquaintance informs me that one of its journalists, David Henwood, was an undercover Military Intelligence Officer who spent a lot of time with an ironworker called Gordon King, who was the local head of the Communist Part of Australia.

I would be delighted to hear from any reader who can provide any information about Henwood or King. I would be even more pleased to hear that somewhere someone has preserved some copies of the Illawarra Star, particularly those produced in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

RICE PADDIES IN PRIMBEE

I’ve recently been informed that the area where the sports oval is in Primbee today was once given over to rice paddies established by Chinese Market Gardeners.

I have not previously encountered references to rice growing in Illawarra and wonder if any reader can verify the claim about rice growing in the Primbee area.