the surveying party! I think I can locate 150 families in the Wollongong area. Mr Henry Osborne and Mr Jenkins have offered me land, and 40 families can be located at Shell Harbour in addition to those already there. (Hoban, M. *Fifty one pieces of wedding cake: A biography of Caroline Chisholm*. Lowden, Kilmore, Vic., 1973, p.123)

So I think this provides enough concrete evidence to support the assumption that Chisholm did indeed accompany the group to Shellharbour & stayed long enough to see them settled to some degree. From what I have read, she was a very active participant in her settlement schemes to the extent that I wondered who cared for her young family during her frequent absences from home.

Perhaps one day I’ll locate her personal records - I guess this will involve a trip to England! I’m sure information about the Shellharbour settlement could then be unearthed.

Regards, Neroli Blakeman.

**BILLIARD SALOONS**

By Mick Roberts

For many years now I have been fascinated by the history of the liquor industry in Illawarra and, in particular, hotels.

The colourful story behind the growth of the industry from sly-grog shops to the thriving club and pub industry we have throughout Illawarra today makes intriguing research. I am currently working on the history of hotels and the liquor industry in Illawarra and am making steady progress.
However, researching hotels also brought to light many associated industries that ‘grew up’ with local pubs.

One such industry was billiard saloons. What places they were!

They were often fronts for exclusive clubs which supplied many illegal benefits to financial members.

I am including a chapter on billiard saloons in an updated print of “Little House on the Hill, a History of Hotels and the Liquor Industry in the Bulli District of NSW.”

Photographs of these saloons, especially around the Bulli district, are impossible to find. I would love to include a photograph of a local billiard saloon or hall in the book and hope a reader may be able to help me with either a photo or information.

The following extracts are from research I have completed so far on billiard saloons in the Bulli district.

**Billiards and Billiard Saloons**

The most popular of all indoor sports amongst men in the Bulli district last century were billiards and bagatelle. Billiards and bagatelle tables had to be licensed in the NSW Licensing Courts and the first to take advantage of attracting those interested in the table sport was John Floyd of the Railway Hotel at Bulli village in 1870. However the Railway Hotel’s annual license was spasmodic and the pub didn’t continue with the bagatelle license for any length of time.

Probably due to the fact that hotels were often short on space, and that enterprising business people were erecting purpose built saloons throughout the district, hotels never persisted in offering tables in their establishments. Purpose built billiard saloons sprang up in the Bulli area during the latter part of last century and hit their peak in popularity during the 1920s and 30s.

The billiard rooms were colourful places that usually were a front for illegal activities. The saloons, in most instances, had a barber shop and tobacconist at the front and were

*To be continued in next issue*