Street, up Crown Street to the Cross Roads and thence down the Princes way to Albion Park, Jamberoo and Kiama.

Hot water will be available for lunch. The excursion promises to be particular interest. In its spring flush the coast is worth seeing for itself but the points of historical and architectural excellence will ensure a rewarding excursion. This will be our last venture for the year.

Bookings may be made as usual by ringing Mr. Grenfell (2-2318). bus will accommodate 45 excursionists only.

OCTOBER MEETING

There was an exceptionally large attendance of members and visitors (among whom we were particularly pleased to welcome a number of resident of the Market Square neighbourhood) at the monthly meeting on 5th October when Mr. A. P. Fleming (Junior Vice-President) spoke on “The Old Wollongong Market Place”.

In the new world the ancient custom of providing a market place generally a rectangular site at or near the intersection of two main streets was maintained, as it was at Wollongong and Kiama in Illawarra.

The Colonial Secretary writing to the Surveyor-General on October 5, 1833 said applications were being received for land at Wollongong and a plan was required as early as convenient. Surveyor Elliott’s work in 1833 culminated in a plan dated 30th October, 1834, showing a market place.

Alexander Stewart in his “Reminiscences” said the market place was enclosed with a three-rail fence “by the Crown Gang” (convicts) but the waste until the agricultural shows were held. James Jervis (R.A.H.S. Vol. XXVII p.104) says a weekly market was established in 1839 and a subscription list opened to build a market house.

In 1861, the Wollongong Council decided to set up a market, formed a sub-committee of the Mayor and four Aldermen to control it, and make public appeal for suggestions. E. N. King, licensee of the Queen’s Hotel (1861) offered his large room, yards, stables and paddocks free on Tuesdays and Thursdays for use as a general market. Next year, R. T. Hayles, also licensee of the Queen’s, established salesyards in the square. John Collie, an auctioneer held a sale and proposed to do so monthly. It is doubtful, however, if the Market Place ever became a true market.

The first show (1843) was a private exhibition by the three Osborne brothers, Henry, John and Alick, of some recently-imported cattle, together with fruit and vegetables grown locally. This led to the formation of the Illawarra Agricultural and Horticultural Society (1844), which held its first show there intermittently until 1871, when the Society was wound up owing to lack of local interest.

Other typical functions were bazaars in aid of the Congregational (1858) and Catholic (1858) Churches, an open air service by the Primitive Methodists (1870), the erection of huts for parliamentary elections (1858) and performance by the “Australian Blondin” 30 ft above the ground, carrying a boy (1880).

Among the enterprises conducted were those of S. Steele (Auctioneers 1861), “Seaview” Boarding House (1862), N. M’Ara (builder, cabinet-maker and undertaker, 1863), James McCleery (blacksmith, 1873), “The Illawarra Mercury” (1856-1876), Miss Randall’s School for Young Ladies (1858) from 1873, St. Mary’s Convent School. Many hotels were in and near the square — “Wollongong,” “Travellers,” “Governor Bourke,” “Royal Marine,” “Fremason’s Hall,” “Queen’s,” etc., etc. One Mackie had a brewery in the forties. The legal fraternity was well represented in 1861 — Dick Brothers, Percy Owen and a Mr. Henry Jones all practised there.

The square was offered for rent annually under certain conditions and 1879 John Beattie paid £2/10/- ($5) for the privilege.

By notice in the Government Gazette of October 27, 1891 the Wollongong Borough Council was appointed Trustee of an area of 1a. 2r. 17p., dedicated for public recreation. The days of markets, shows, etc., were over, followed the shifting of population with the coming of the railway in 1887/8 and the decline of Belmore Basin as the gateway to Wollongong. The square became a garden, with concerts by the Town Band.
The Market Place is now a quiet residential area, the only other activities being the letting of apartments, the Secondary Girls’ School conducted by the Sisters of The Good Samaritan, and our Society’s Historical Museum, which occupies a building which housed the Wollongong Post Office from 1864/1893, and later, until its acquisition in trust (1966), various State Governmental offices, including the short-lived Wollongong Harbour Trust in the 1890’s, and recently the Department of Labour and Industry.

There are a number of gaps in the history of the site and building, mainly due to the lack of local records, missing newspapers, Government files and the like. In view of the ever-increasing number of visitors, and their enquiries, it is earnestly suggested that the Council adopt an intensive research programme to document fully the Society’s home.

MUSEUM NOTES

Mr. E. Nethery (Member) has agreed to join the Committee and has already shown his worth by enlisting the aid of his son and, together with Mr. K. Thomas, painting the floors of the two upstairs rooms recently granted to the Society by the City Council.

It is expected that within the next few weeks, “Grandma’s Room”, a late Victorian cottage bedroom, will be on display in the smaller of the two rooms. The Handiwork Exhibition is to be staged in the larger room.

**Handiwork Exhibition — 18/11/67 to 2/12/67.**

A most interesting variety of handiwork of the 19th and early 20th century has been collected, and the exhibition will be officially opened at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, 18th November. It is hoped that all members will attend and will interest their friends in the exhibition; members of the Committee will have put time and hard work into collecting and staging the exhibits with the idea firstly of publicising the Museum and secondly of raising some money towards reducing amounts owing for the establishment and running of the Museum.

Charges for admittance will be 30c per adult, 5c children (covering admission to both Museum and Exhibition).

As it seems necessary to have a supervisor in the exhibition room, in addition to the normal Museum Supervisor, an appeal is made to Members to give an afternoon (or two, or three!) between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Please contact Miss de Jersey (telephone 2-8740) or Mrs. Mackreth (2-4923).

Convener, Museum Committee.

E. MACKRETH, ALBERT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, WOLLONGONG, N.S.W. 1864-1908, by A. P. FLEMMING...

(Obtainable from the Museum or the Secretary, price 40 cents, postage 8 cents.)

The Prince Consort Albert was, most emphatically, a Good Thing; and the Memorial raised by the loyal citizens of Wollongong to his memory was likewise a Good Thing, of a sober and utilitarian character befitting that blameless and humourless Prince under whose influence Queen Victoria had abandoned all thoughts of levity. The Albert Memorial Hospital in Flinders Street served the district from 1864 to 1908, until, on its removal to the present site on Garden Hill, the name was changed to the Illawarra District Hospital.

As mentioned in the last issue of the Bulletin, Mr. A. P. Fleming’s paper on the history of the original Hospital, read to the Society on October 1, 1964 (the meeting closest to the centenary of the opening of the Hospital), has now been published by the Wollongong Hospital and the Society in conjunction, as a most attractively produced printed booklet, incorporating in appendices additional statistical material on the Hospital and a short biographical note on the Prince.

Readers of Mr. Fleming’s earlier works will hardly need to be told that his latest publication is distinguished by accuracy and thorough research, covering the first moves for a memorial, the foundation, building and opening of the hospital, and its management over the forty-four years of its existence in its original form. Many odd and interesting details have been culled from the annual reports over this period, some of them disclosing practices which would not commend themselves to modern hospital administrators. Times have