(24923 outside business hours). We would be delighted to be swamped by offers.

It is expected that the largest upstairs room will soon be re-opened with some handicraft and furniture on display. Again it is emphasised that the ultimate plan for the room is an elegant mid-nineteenth-century drawing room. All we require is sufficient money to enable this to be done.

The number of visitors to the Museum during the Christmas holiday period was very gratifying, as were the many complimentary remarks written in the Visitors’ Book.

— E. MACKRETH, Convener, Museum Committee.

OBITUARY:

We note with regret the deaths of two of our members: Mrs. Irene Hummerston, of 33 Bridge St., Coniston, a member for twenty years, who took a very active part in the Society’s work in its earlier days; and the Venerable Archdeacon Leo Hayes, of Oakey, Queensland, a distinguished scholar and student of Australian history and literature, who had received, for his work in these fields, the rare honour of an M.A. degree honoris causa from the University of Queensland. The Society extends its sympathy to their relatives and friends and to all who mourn their passing.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP — MR. C. W. GARDINER-GARDEN

At the February meeting of the Society’s Council it was unanimously decided to invite Mr. C. W. Gardiner-Garden to accept honorary Life Membership, in recognition of his services to the Society over many years.

Jock, as he is better known to his old friends, was one of our most active members in the earlier years of the Society, having been for some years Honorary Research Secretary. He was the author of the Society’s first major publication, “The Port of Wollongong,” still one of our best-sellers, and of “Observations on Some of the Historical Aspects of the Prominent Geographical Features of Illawarra”, a mine of valuable information on the early exploration of the district, which provided the definitive answers to some very vexed questions in early local history. Although precluded by ill-health during recent years from taking his former energetic part in the Society’s activities, he made a most important and valuable contribution to the preparation of our sesqui-centenary publication, “Earliest Illawarra”.

We are indebted also to Mr and Mrs. Garden for innumerable valuable, and often gratuitous, services which they rendered to the Society through their stationery and copying business in Wollongong. All good wishes from the Council and the Society go with them in their retirement.

KINGSFORD SMITH MEMORIAL, GERROA

On Saturday, February 10, a memorial, in the shape of the “Southern Cross” in concrete at ground level, was unveiled on the hill at Gerroa, overlooking Seven Mile Beach, from which Sir Charles Kingsford Smith took off in the “Southern Cross” for New Zealand on January 11, 1933. The monument, constructed as a result of the efforts of the Gerringong branch of R.S.L., on land provided by the Marist Brothers, was unveiled by the Hon. J. G. Beale, M.L.A. for South Coast and Minister for Conservation.

Among those present were Mr. S. Neilson, a passenger on the flight, and Commander Eric Kingsford Smith, Sir Charles’s last surviving brother. The ceremony was attended by a number of Society members, among them Mr. Ross Stewart, of Jamberoo, who was present when the “Southern Cross” took off. Mr. Stewart recalls that he was among those who helped to manoeuvre the plane into position, and that when the plane took off at 2.50 a.m., all the cars on the scene were lined up with their headlights facing east, to give the plane a back-bearing. Before the take-off Mr. Stewart secured Kingsford Smith’s autograph. He says he “wouldn’t have missed the experience for the world”.
Mrs. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Bayley, and Mr. and Mrs. Bradford also attended the unveiling. Messrs. Bayley and Bradford secured plenty of photos, which we will be looking out for at the December meeting.

**APPIN PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY**

The centenary of Appin Public School will be celebrated on Saturday, March 23, 1968. The principal, Mr. Curnow, has written to the Society extending a cordial invitation to our members to attend. Mr. Curnow's telephone number is Appin 220.

**OLD ILLAWARRA HOUSES: 44 Campbell Street, Wollongong.**

Passing along Campbell St., I have often wondered what was the history of this house. Now, with the help and co-operation of its present owner, Mrs. Mathews, I give you its story:

In 1880, a block of land 66' x 100' on the north side of Campbell St., between Church and Kembla Sts., being part of Lot 5 of Section 12 of the subdivision of C. T. Smith's 200-acre estate, was sold by his trustees, V. W. Giblin and T. O'S. Green, to D. A. McDonald, who in 1882 resold to George Billings for £30.

Billings must have set out to build the house, for he borrowed from the E.S. & A. Bank. However, less than three years later, he was declared bankrupt and in May, 1885, the bank sold the property to Francis Woodward of equivocal memory for £171-12-0, the amount owed to the bank by Billings. In September of the same year, Woodward bought another 2' frontage on the western side of the block from William Sutton for £5; but there is some doubt as to whether this 2' has ever been enclosed in the block.

Next month Woodward sold to Charles Frederick Smith (son of C. T. Smith) for £200. Smith mortgaged the property to the trustees of the Public Service Building Society for £300, and a little later for a further £100, both of which mortgages were duly paid off.

C. F. Smith sold in September, 1886, to Julius Ziem, of Corrimal, farmer, who came with his family to live there. Julius Ziem died suddenly in 1897, leaving a wife, son and four daughters. His widow and son were appointed trustees, and the former, who had a life interest in the estate, continued to live in the house with her four daughters until her death in 1922.

In May, 1924, the four daughters, Fredrica, Henrietta, Sarah and Beatrice, together bought the house from the estate for £475. In June next year they sold for £700 to Mary Ann Burns, who mortgaged the property to Catherine Ann Robson, wife of a police officer of Wilcannia.

Times were difficult and tenants uncertain, and in 1934, under the provisions of the Moratorium Act, 1932, the house was put up for auction in the name of Catherine A. Robson, with a reserve of £400. The bidding closed at £300, but it was afterwards sold to Mr. Angus Mathews and his wife for £350.

It was then in very bad order, with holes in floors and damaged fireplaces and hearths. It was surmised that people had been looking for £300 in sovereigns, withdrawn by Julius Ziem from his bank just before his death and never traced; but the treasure was never found.

There is also a well, still filled by a spring of water, in the back yard; and the curious little square dwarf turret, to which there is no access from inside the house, is thought to have once housed a tank to which water was pumped up to obtain sufficient pressure.

— **M. M. EVANS.**

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