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Historical Society Bulletin November, 1969

(Warning — unless you have a good map and a good bump of locality, do not attempt to explore Paddington unguided).

Having no waterfront, Paddington is perhaps less interesting than Balmain, which we visited last year; but it is probably the lack of a waterfront which has largely spared it the ravages of industrial or high-density development, and enabled it to retain its nineteenth-century houses, both in the original village of the 1840's and in the long rows of mid and late-Victorian terraces with their elaborate ironwork. It was incidentally, a surprise to most of us to learn how large many of these terrace houses were internally — and also to learn what astronomical prices are being paid for them since Paddington became fashionable again.

But there is much more to it than mere fashion. Paddington is well worth preserving both for its colonial cottages and as a specimen of a Victorian suburb, and this Society wishes the Paddington Society every success in its unending battle against the forces of "progress" (the most question-begging word in the dictionary), Mammon and the internal combustion engine.

KEROSENE SHALE: Discovery and Refining.

Recent issues of the R.A.H.S. Newsletter, dating from August have featured articles and comments on kerosene shale in New South Wales.

It began with an article on Hartley Vale by E. J. McKenzie of Lithgow society, stating, inter alia, that the work of processing began at Hartley Vale in the mid-seventies.

However our own society has published a booklet by Mr. A. P. Fleming, councillor and past president, which shows that kerosene was refined in the mid-sixties at American Creek, which was the predecessor of the Mount Kembla coal mines.

Entitled "The Pioneer Kerosene Works at American Creek" the booklet that the works were the first in Australia.

In no comment so far printed by the R.A.H.S. have the works been mentioned. Except for the name, Joadja which our society visited again this year, has not gained reference.

Mr. Fleming's book gives a comprehensive outline of the history of the Mount Kembla venture until its final closing in 1878.

He then goes on to trace the successor companies which turned over the area to coal mining which still continues successfully.
PIONEER KEROSENE WORKS at American Creek (Mount Kembla) 1967: 15pp quarto with Kromcote pictorial cover: available at our museum at 40c plus 13c pack and post.

R.A.H.S. Newsletter please copy.

OUR MUSEUM AGAIN OPEN:

After renovations our museum is again in business. Voluntary workers staff the museum which is proving a particularly good Sunday afternoon attraction.

All the society's publications are available there for purchase at all times.

Much remains to be done in improving the displays — already equal to any in the country. The work will be continuous.

GUIDE TO MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS IN N.S.W.:

A valuable guide listing all museums in New South Wales, compiled by the N.R.M.A. Touring Department is available free to members.

Local agencies at Wollongong and Thirroul make it easy for members to secure copies. Those touring are advised to secure a copy before departure so that they can visit (and compare, perhaps, for ideas) museums which are proving valuable to the study of local history.

CHILDREN'S HISTORY OF SUTHERLAND SHIRE:

Our last issue mentioned the above book to which our editor and research officer has written the foreword.

It was mentioned that it was understood that the shire will give a free copy to every school child in the shire at the celebrations next year.

The Shire Clerk, Mr. A. G. Hill, has written to inform us that the statement is incorrect and that no decision had been made by the shire to do this.

We apologise for the error and to any who may be inconvenienced by the statement.

Our editor actually overheard the idea mentioned neither by the author nor himself during the course of conversation and rated the idea as superlative!

Despite the fact that the statement is wrong it is suggested that the idea is very much right and is worthy of consideration by members of Sutherland Shire Council.