"WERE MY ANCESTORS FIRST FLEETERS OR CONVICTS?":

"I know my grandmother was born in Wollongong but I don't know where her mother came from or her father. Their name was Kiernan. My Grandmother was Mary Kiernan and married Gustave Uhrstrom about 1887 then Thomas Edwards about 1900 after she was widowed. He died about 1914 and was buried in Wollongong Cemetery, Mary Edwards died about 1933."

This message comes from Mrs. Iris H. Rush (nee Uhrstrom) of South West Rocks.

We always suggest to people seeking similar information that they secure "Compiling Your Family History" by Nancy Gray from the Society of Australian Genealogists, History House, 8 Young Street, Sydney for $1.00 plus 13 cents if posted.

That book gives all the information required to trace a family tree.

WOLLONGONG HARBOUR MARINA OPPOSED BY OUR COUNCIL:

Council of our society resolved to oppose the proposal to re-design part of Wollongong Harbour between the new breakwater and the creek to provide a large concrete parking area with quay for mooring boats.

The scheme, which the society was informed is to be carried out by Wollongong City Council with approval of the Maritime Services Board, envisages abolition of almost half the historic Brighton Beach where the sandy foreshores allow public recreation and children to frolic on one of the few places with shallow water in almost complete safety.

The scheme would permit a limited number of cars to be parked on the huge concrete slab proposed to be placed in lieu of the sandy beach and a limited number of boats to occupy areas where children have been accustomed to enjoy themselves.

The historical value of the area will be much reduced if the plan comes to fruition.

Our society's council would be glad to have further opinions of members on this proposal.

SLOW POISON:

A favourite employee at Berkeley was an old hand known as "Tom the Gardener." He was never called by any other name. Old Tom was sent out for some trifling offence. Mr. Jenkins was fond of the old chap. He had a hut to himself, worked as he pleased, and was a keen fisherman, who taught the "new chum" boy how to snare hooks, and the various baits for different fish. We had great times together. Tom was just on his four score and ten. He liked his drop of rum, but was the greatest tea-drinker that I ever met. As the old saying goes, "Age will tell." Eventually Tom fell ill, and that fine old medico, the late Dr. Marshall, then a resident of Wollongong, was sent for. In those days, all huts had most capacious