SONG OF WOLLONGONG

by Richard Morgan

The tree-clad hills, their ageless watch are keeping,
Like sentinels they guard our native home.
The wind-swept sea towards the shore is leaning,
To veil the sun-kissed sand with snow white foam.
The city streets within this noble setting,
Their thronging crowds, the busy thriving marts,
The distant sound of seas forever fretting,
These things impress their charm upon our hearts.
There nature smiles and blends with man's endeavour,
Could Bass and Flinders in their dream foresee,
With vision clear, with faith that lasts forever,
The heritage they left for you and me.
Oh Wollongong, thy praises we are singing,
Through storm and calm, through sorrow and in mirth,
All exiles thoughts in far-off lands are winging,
To thee dear home, the city of their birth.

ITEMS OF INTEREST IN HAWKESBURY MUSEUM:

PENNY FARTHING BICYCLE with solid rubber tyres and iron spoke was popular from 1878 to 1885. The front wheel has a diameter of 41/2 inches and the rear wheel 16 inches. This bicycle was rather unsafe as the weight of the rider was high up and nasty falls were common. The SAFETY BICYCLE with two equal sized wheels driven by a chain and cogged wheels succeeded the "penny farthing" and with the application of the pneumatic tyre from Dunlop's invention of 1889, the bicycle really became popular. The forerunner to these was the VELOCIPEDE OR HOBBL HORSE of 1818. It was made of wood and was moved by a person pushing on the ground with his feet. In 1838 the first machine propelled by pedals on the front wheel was introduced. This was appropriately known as the BONESHAKER. In 1865 iron rims were fitted on wooden wheels. About 1900 the free wheel mechanism was invented.

IRONS. Burnt fingers, aching muscles and frayed tempers went with the use of the BOX iron of 1860. It had to be filled with hot charcoal and was quite heavy. The FLAT iron of 1890 was heated on a stove and used with a padded holder. In 1900 the MRS. POTTS variety was introduced with the great advantage of a detachable handle. The GAS iron of 1920 was much more pleasant to use but more dangerous. The ELECTRIC iron of 1930 was the model that all irons were based on for the next 35 years. It was clean, smooth and weighed 6lbs. The STEAM AND DRY iron of 1930 sprayed a fine mist in the path of the iron to cut down on the job of "damping down".

The present day irons weigh as little as 2lbs.

SAMPLERS were fairly common as needlework pieces during last century when people had lots of time. Joseph Gosper family shows the births from the father in 1804 to the last child in 1854. It was worked