at Mangerton and who within recent memory lived in Cliff Road, Wollongong. Many members today will recall the late Misses Jane and Ella Osborne. Mrs. Trenfield now writes:

"I seem to remember, when a child, the older aunts Belle and Edith telling me that their grandfather, Dr. John Osborne, was a great lover of beauty and nature, which was why he chose Wollongong finally as a place to settle, and I think he thought there was some resemblance to the Mangerton Hills in Ireland. These are near the Macgillycuddy Reeks, and are supposed to be one of the most beautiful spots in Ireland. Apparently from the summit of the Mangerton Hills the view is superb, in some directions looking over wonderful undulating country, and in the others over lakes and bays, and finally the Atlantic Ocean. I also seem to have recollections of having heard that Dr. John and his wife spent their honeymoon near there. As far as I know, none of our Osbornes owned land in that area, though I could be wrong".

(Apropos of the view, another member has drawn attention to a reference in the seventeenth-century author John Aubrey's "Brief Lives" to a certain Sir William Petty, who could "from the Mount Mangorton, in the com. of Kerry, behold 50,000 acres of his own land" — which would put him almost in Henry Osborne's class — Ed.).

WHERE IS IT NOW? THE "ILLAWARRA FOUNDRY" OF 1863-64:

The closing of David Brothers Pty. Ltd.'s "Garden Hill Foundry" in Denison Street, Wollongong, on 21st September, 1973 severs an industrial historical link with the district. Established in 1896 by David David and his brothers Edward and William, it remained an old fashioned "family" concern which merits a note in these pages.

Its closing, however, prompted a reminder of probably the original "foundry" in Illawarra, the "Illawarra Foundry" of John Byrne at Bellambi which had its brief life some 110 years ago. As with the "Garden Hill Foundry" its story was told by a series of advertisements and news items in the Illawarra Mercury from which the references have been extracted.

Whilst prior to its establishment there were "artificers in metal" in Illawarra, such as smiths (black, copper, tin) horseshoers, wheelwrights, etc., this is the first detailed "Foundry" (i.e. "casting") set-up noted by the present writer. Obviously situated to cater for the future mining and shipping developments at "Point Bellambi" of Thomas Hale, Henry Osborne and F. P. McCabe in the neighbourhood, it apparently came too soon and without adequate capital, a very common story.

Business began with an advertisement which was to run regularly for the duration of the life of the foundry. On Tuesday 11th August, 1863 it was announced:

"ILLAWARRA FOUNDRY, BELLAMBI. John Byrne, Engineer and Iron Founder, begs to intimate that he has commenced business at the above place, and that he is fully prepared to execute all orders that may be entrusted to him with promptitude and despatch."

An experience of 30 years in business, and an apprenticeship to the celebrated firm of SHARPE AND ROBERTS of the ATLAS Foundry, Manchester will form a sufficient guarantee that orders will be faithfully executed.
Old iron and brass purchased in any quantity.”

4-3-1864: ”To coal miners, contractors and others. For sale — 12 sets of coal waggion wheels and axles. Diameter of wheels, 2 feet 2 inches. They can be purchased in the present state or finished, as the purchaser may think fit.”

3-5-1864: “To engineers, iron founders and others. Friday 6-5-1864 at 12 noon sharp by auction the whole of the iron founder’s plant, tools and other materials on the premises. Moulding, boxes, furnace blast fans, ladles, casting sand, patterns for all kinds of work to suit every colliery in the district, wheels etc. Lot of pig iron, bar iron, etc.

. . . . . Must be sold as Mr. Byrne is turning his attention to other matters in the district. Terms cash”

10-6-1864: “New insolvent, J. Byrne, of Bellambi, Engineer, Liabilities £162/10/5 $(325) Assets £56/13/10 $(114) Mr. Humphery Official Assignee.”

15-7-1864: “Meeting of Creditors of J. Byrne. A special meeting on Tuesday 19-7-1864 at 11 a.m.”

19-8-1864: “In the insolvent estate of John Byrne; B. Fawcett to sell by auction from instructions from F. Humphery, Esq., Official Assignee, 2 p.m. Monday, 22-2-1864 adjoining residence of JOHN BYRNES, Woonona (together with list of plant listed above).

Notes: (1) Did John Byrne(s) live at Woonona and work at Bellambi? Was it the same man or same neighbourhood with two names?

(2) The original sale was scheduled for 6-5-1864, his notice of business continued to 5-7-1864, sale took place 22-8-1864: obviously a fight for survival.

(3) No other details of this venture have been sighted. Any comments will be appreciated.

— T. Cain

GET THE NAME RIGHT!

A correspondent, who as a junior member of the staff at A.I.S. was threatened with disciplinary action if he didn’t get the company’s name right, has pointed out that the correct title is not Australian Iron and Steel Limited, as shown in our October issue, but Australian Iron & Steel Limited.

He also points out that “Proprietary” in B.H.P.’s name (full title The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited) had a different meaning when the company was incorporated on 13 August 1885. It is not, and never was, a proprietary company within the meaning of the Act (i.e. a “private” or “family” company).

OLD ALBION PARK, 1900-1925 — VERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

The Municipal Council Chambers at Albion Park, until remodelled and enlarged in the late forties, consisted of a small wooden public hall in which the monthly council meeting was held in addition to its use for dances, euchre parties, concerts, movies and shows given by travelling minstrel and vaudeville companies. Opening off each side of the small stage was a room, one housing the School of Arts library and the other was the office of the Town Clerk. These were also used as mens’ and womens’ dressing rooms for functions.