CENTENARY OF ALL SAINTS', ALBION PARK:

All Saints' Church of England, Albion Park, celebrates its centenary this month. The north-east corner-stone was laid by Mrs. Rowsell, wife of the rector, on 30 October 1874. A glass bottle, containing copies of the "Australian Churchman" and "Illawarra Mercury" and an inscribed scroll, was placed in a cavity under the stone.

Bishop Barker of Sydney provided the plans and specifications (all his own work?). The church was built by a Mr. Schadel from stone quarried at Yellow Rock. The roof was of shingles (afterwards replaced with asbestos tiles, and now with aluminium alloy sheeting). The estimated cost of £900 was only exceeded by £71—good going, even for those days. The church was opened and consecrated by the Bishop on 8 December 1875.

The original trustees of the church property were Edward Henry Weston of Albion Park, William Fryer of Albion Park, Edward Prior of Yellow Rock, Lionel Hurry of Macquarie River (sic) and Evan Robert Evans of "Penrose," Dapto—all well-known local names. The first churchwardens were John Allen, James Cawdell and Edward Prior.

The gates and stone fence, erected as a tribute to the pioneers who founded the church, were dedicated by Archbishop Mowll in 1956.

Previously part of the parish of Dapto with Albion Park, the Provisional District of Albion Park (All Saints', Albion Park; St. Andrew's, Oak Flats; and St. Peter's, Albion Park Rail) was formed on 12 June 1961, with Rev. W. V. Payne as Curate-in-Charge. It was raised in status to a Provisional Parish in October 1966. St. Andrew's, Oak Flats, was separated and became an independent Provisional District as from 1 July 1968.

Among the many features of interest in the church are the pipe organ which came from a bombed-out London church, and was reassembled in its new setting by the then Rector. Rev. V. Evans, and his father; and two cedar chairs, hand-made by a local carpenter named Caldwell, which were part of the estate left to the church by Miss Albertina Hurry, who was present at the consecration of the church and died aged 93 in 1966. (Many of Miss Hurry's possessions, through the generosity of the then rector, Rev. R. N. Beard, and the parish authorities, found their way into the Museum).

The church is on the National Trust's "Recorded" list.

(Information mainly from leaflet prepared by Rev. R. N. Beard for a visit of the Church of England Historical Society, and presented to this Society by the Rector, Rev. K. Campbell).

THE MUSEUM WANTS:

A pram.
A Coolgardie safe.
A blouse suitable for an oldtime schoolma’am.
A school-type blackboard.
If you can help, please ring Mrs. Evans (29-5868) or see one of the supervisors when the Museum is open.

HAVE YOU A CHRISTMAS GIFT PROBLEM?

We have received from the National Trust a few copies of its Christmas Gift Catalogue, which might help to solve your problem. They will be on display at the December meeting.