BARNEY DOWD PASSES:

Staunch friend of our society of yesteryear, Bernard Thomas (Barney) Dowd passed away on September 7 at the great age of over 90 years (not given in the death notice).

During the first decade of our society Mr. Dowd, who was an
officer of the Department of Lands and a competent researcher, first addressed the society on August 10, 1950, on James Meehan and on that occasion outlined the position of Throsby's Stockman's Hut—the first building in Wollongong—using the evidence in Meehan's field book. As a result of his research the plaque, first erroneously erected on a large stump in Parkes Street, Port Kembla, was removed and re-erected where it now stands.

It was at the March 1960 meeting that Mr. Dowd spoke on "The First Five Grantees and their Grants in Illawarra." In October 1960 the paper was published by the society in duplicated form. Subsequently, with the growing interest in local history in the community and high schools the paper sold out and only last year was reprinted offset by the society. It contains the map locating the stockman's hut.

Mr. Dowd addressed the society from time to time—annually in the late 1960s. He continued into the 1970s—when he could not drive himself, his son drove him down until at last, after his address in February 1974 he announced that, with advancing age, he was compelled to discontinue his visits.

Students far and wide speak in high praise of his work for Australian local history for which he was awarded many years ago a Fellowship of the Royal Australian Historical Society. When we lost him as a visitor to Illawarra we were sorry: now in our regret at his passing we are glad to honour the memory and to benefit from the work of one of the greatest workers in the cause of history that the Illawarra Historical Society has known.