LAST WORD ON EVELYN OWEN

In the August Bulletin reference was made to the high desirability of an authentic record of the designing of the Owen gun. It was suggested that our member, Mr. Gerry Wardell, was likely to be the best authority on the subject from a technical point of view.

It is pleasing to be able to record that this has already been done with what one can only commend as exemplary thoroughness. Early this year Mr. Wardell prepared a thirty-page booklet giving a general account of the development of the gun. It has been published in an extremely limited form, but a copy is held in the Reference Section of the Wollongong Public Library. A further small edition is in preparation including illustrations.

Further, Mr Wardell has prepared an even more detailed statement of the development, running to some 200 pages. It remains to be seen whether this will be published, but the main thing is that it has been written. The original, the property of Mr. Wardell, is held in the Central Library of Lysaghts. Knowing Mr. Wardell, his statements on the matter can be accepted without question as completely authentic, and everyone interested in the history of this locality, and indeed of our nation at war, should be grateful to him.

Finally, he has prepared a brief hand-out which explains most of what the general reader might require to know, and it is our privilege to be able to publish a copy of it. This will be done in a later Bulletin.

REMOVAL OF THE OLD WOLLONGONG LIGHTHOUSE

That heading will surely raise the eyebrows, if not the hackles, of members. But it seems that a suggestion has been made seriously, if a little mysteriously, that the old lighthouse, Wollongong’s best-known symbol, should be moved to Port Kembla, where it doesn’t belong, and never will.

True, it has been hard to track down the proposal, and not so much has filtered through lately, so that perhaps nothing more need be said. But members should be aware that such a preposterous idea has been put forward. It is scarcely necessary to say that the Society would be in almost violent opposition, and so, we believe, would the whole community. Let the very thought of any tampering with our lighthouse be forgotten.

REPRINT OF BOOKLETS BY A. P. FLEMING

Several of the valuable booklets on local historical subjects by the late Mr. A. P. Fleming have been out of print for some time. The Society has a reprinting programme under way, and it is hoped that the first of the reprints (“Pioneer Park”) will be on sale within the next month.