could carve them or decorate them in their leisure hours before the next kill, in the art known as scrimshaw. At last the head and skeleton would be cut adrift, to sink quickly out of sight.

Contrary to what one might expect, the whaleship did not remain a blackened mess from all the soot-laden grime. Enough of the sweet, clean oils were carried into the atmosphere to ensure that normal cleaning and the scouring of salt-spray and winds restored the pristine sparkle of sails and woodwork, for whalers were a proud people. Ashes would be cleared from the try-works; the pots would be cleaned and, impregnated as they were with oil, would thus retain a pewter-like glow of cleanliness. And ship-board life would settle down into monotony and languid whittling at whale-ivory and bone until, once again, excitedly, a shout would come from the crow's nest: "Thar she blows!" The chase would be on again; and with luck for everyone and everything but the doomed whale, the process would begin anew. As flensing began, the try-pots would again be needed; and, in the words of Melville, the order would ring forth: "All ready there? Off hatch, then, and start her. You, cook, fire the works!" And the bustle of trying out would begin again.

Edgar Beale

**AUGUSTUS EARLE IN ILLAWARRA – 1827**

On a recent visit to the National Library at Canberra, I purchased a book entitled *Augustus Earle - Travel Artist* by J. Hackforth-Jones.

This book contains a complete catalogue of 167 paintings, by Earle, in the National Library collection. These paintings include nine (Nos. 93-101) which were painted or sketched during Earle's visit to the Illawarra in April-May of 1827. These paintings include:

**Watercolours**

93. Cabbage Tree Forest Illawarra New South Wales (NK 12/36)
94. Cabbage Tree Forest, Illawarra, New South Wales (NK12/37)
95. A Bivouack, day break, on the Illawarra Mountains (NK 12/39)
96. A Bivouack, day break, on the Illawarra Mountains (NK12/40)
97. Mr. Cowells Farm on the Coast 60 miles South of Sidney (NK12/44)
98. View on the Coast of New South Wales, Illawarra [Blowhole, Kiama] (NK12/48)
99. Illawarra, Scene on the Coast of N.S.Wales [Blowhole, Kiama] (NK12/47)
100. Skirmish, Bush Rangers and Constables, Illawarra (NK12/49)

Most of these paintings are small watercolours, average 10" x 7". Four are reproduced in the Society's publication, "The Oldest Road". Also on display was a large [c. 3ft x 4ft] oil painting based on the small watercolours [Nos. 95 & 96] and classified:

3. A Bivouack of Travellers in Australia, in a Cabbage-tree Forest, day break.

Not much is known of Earle's time in Illawarra. From the views painted, we can assume he travelled down the old road south of Bulli Pass, by the large tree often referred to as "The Government House" and depicted in painting No. 93. His watercolours of Mr. Cowell's Farm (No. 97) and view from the Blowhole Kiama suggests that he travelled as far south as Kiama. Apart from this, all we know is that on the way back to Sydney he fell off his horse and broke his leg (letter to Mrs. Ward ML Ae23). Earle's paintings are some of the earliest pictorial records of Illawarra.

M.O.