Eventually a bushfire wiped out the school and the school bus system swept children from outlying areas to the public school at Albion Park. However, Tullimbar school re-opened during the second decade of this century for quite some time with a resident teacher named Tindall. Finally closed 1965.

The store originally built by W. Fryer is, I understand, now a roadside cafe and I note that W. Moles' residence near the school is now advertised for sale in the bulletin of the National Trust.

However, the locality still remains as a memorial to the old aboriginal named "Tullimbar" who was well known to my grandfather, Major E.H. Weston of the "Macquarie Gift" property nearby.  

Bert Weston

CABBAGE TREE HAT

(Reprinted from the note on our Cabbage Tree Hat in the Museum. Can anyone name the author?)

This cabbage tree hat is given to the Illawarra Historical Society with the express permission of the late Miss A.R. Hurry on condition that it is recorded that it was made by her mother, the late Mrs. Lionel Hurry, who, prior to her marriage, was Sarah Dennis.

The hat was made by Mrs. Hurry for her nephew, Albert G. Dennis (son of her brother George) when he was a small boy holidaying with her at "Vine Cottage", Flinders Street, Albion Park. (Note name inside hat). Our good fortune is that the City boy did not take the hat home with him! It is interesting to note that, in later life, the boy became Chief Traffic Manager of the New South Wales Government Railways.

I do not know how Mrs. Hurry obtained the hands (as the palm fans were called), but the Misses Dennis, of "Goldena Cottage", Marshall Mount, told me that their mother, Mrs. W.A. Dennis, who prior to her marriage was Sarah Nesbitt Parkinson, would ask the natives to climb the cabbage trees and get the hands for her. In return, she would bake for them a "halfmoon", a damper baked in the ashes.

The leaves were stripped from the hands and boiled and bleached in the sun and dried. The leaves were then split in lengths, the width being in accordance with the size of the plait desired. Mr. W.A. Dennis made a small tool, rather like a slotted razor blade, for this purpose. Each strip edge was turned in before the work proceeded.

I would like to draw attention to the very fine plaiting and stitching in the hat which I consider reflects great credit on the patience and artistry of the maker.

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For the information of the Society, I would like to mention that Mr. Henry Brooks, of Osborne Street, Wollongong told me that in Kangaroo Valley his mother bleached the leaves by putting them on the laundry roof and allowing the frosts to do the job.

Further: The Misses Denniss have told me that the Tibbles family, who lived in Marshall Mount Road, near the South Coast Railway Line, made quantities of hats and, twice a year, took them to Sydney to sell, their stand being in Pitt Street, either on the corner of Hay or Campbell Streets.