MENANGLE-CAMDEN EXCURSION

Sunday, 18th May 1986

The Society’s next excursion will be run on Sunday, 18th May visiting several historic places in the Menangle, Campbelltown and Camden districts, including the picturesque little Church of St. James at Menangle, designed by John Horbury Hunt the brilliant, original and quarrelsome architect of the Osborne Memorial Church at Dapto. St. James has been closely associated for several generations with the Macarthurs and Macarthur-Onslows.

During the afternoon, we will inspect another of Hunt’s designs, “Camelot”, described as “a French-inspired fairy castle”. It was built in the 1880s for James White, partly on the foundations of a much older building, the mill erected by John Oxley, Surveyor-General and explorer, on land granted to him in 1816, and named by him “Kirkham”. “Camelot”, said Professor J.N. Freeland, “reveals Hunt’s work at its most different and best”. Certainly it is architecture of a type very rarely found in Australia.

The bus will leave Cross Roads, West Wollongong, at 8.30 a.m., travelling via Crown, Burelli, Corrimal and Bourke Streets. Fares will be $15.00 for adults and $10 for children, and include afternoon tea served at “Camelot”.

Bring morning tea and a picnic lunch.

Book at the May meeting, or ring Mrs. McCarthy on 29-8225. Please let us have a deposit of $5.00 each when booking or, in the case of phone bookings, as soon as possible afterwards.

OBITUARY: DR. HARRY MALDON

The Society records with great regret the death of Dr. Harry Cleveland Maldon, our former patron, foundation member and honorary life member, aged about 84 years. Several years ago he retired to Norfolk Island, but still retained his interest in us as well as his many other local interests, His community services were such that it was a matter of some wonder that he never received any public honour in recognition. A move to this belated end was actually in progress, supported by the Society, when the sad news arrived that he had been killed instantly when knocked down by a car. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Maldon and her family, with our grateful thanks for all he did towards foundation and support of the Society over the years.

APRIL MEETING: THE SOCIAL LIFE OF MINERS

As an exercise in oral history, this talk was taped; and it was just as well, because no summary could possibly do it justice. Now it stands in our Archives as a permanent record of the life of Corrimal miners about 1918-20.

Our speaker was Mr. Gordon Sellers (member) who has been called the Last of the Old and the First of the New. He is still an active mining consultant. His family have been associated with coal-mining in Illawarra almost since its beginnings, while he in person has been engaged in the industry since boyhood. Thus he knows from experience its background from the point of view of management as well as of the miners themselves. For the latter he has the deepest respect, describing them as proud and industrious.

We were treated first to the appearance and flavour of little Corrimal at the time (about 800 people), its houses, shops, churches, the pub, schools, roads and plenty...