unheard, and often implied. Thus the fact emerged that there has never been a detailed study of the original place-names, even though, as is customary, they are usually descriptive and therefore could have been helpful in identification on modern maps.

Perhaps the core of the trouble is that there is no agreement even on the readings of the names, which may vary from copy to copy of the originals. It is to be remembered also that the French抄写者 may well have done a bit of translation in transcribing, and that their could have been other corruptions in the process. To take Baye de Neusne as an example, the first two words, "bay of", are easy; but is the letter S of the third word a long S as in the old caligraphy, or is it an F? And is the fifth letter an N or a V? Indeed, one of the latest articles renders the word Neufve. Another article (by W.A.R. Richardson in The Great Circle, April 1984, pp. 1-23), seeking to show that Jave-la-Grande is not Australia but the coast of Vietnam, says in the course of a study of place names on the east coast that this name presents "real problems" and the others are none too easy anyhow! For the name of our "bay" he has perhaps half a dozen readings. The only translation he achieves is "New Bay", which seems unlikely because every feature seen was presumably new. In short, there is nothing settled; nor is there any ready answer on what our potential local-name means, or many another. One may readily accept Mr. McIntyre's opinion that one good result of the controversy is that the Portuguese scholars are at least setting up their own task-forces to re-examine the place names, adding: "I welcome this, because only natural-born Portuguese can do the job".

It may, therefore be years, if ever, before there can be any clear definition of meanings; and it could be that this name, which seems never yet to have sparked a convincing suggestion as to its meaning, will never yield up the secret of its origin. Nor can one be historically certain that it is correctly assigned to Lake Illawarra; though my money is placed in a confident bet on the judgement of my old colleague, Brigadier FitzGerald, that the solution and the assignment are alike correct. But for proof, and the meaning of the name, we will simply have to wait.

Edgar Beale

WHEN DID WOLLONGONG SHOW SOCIETY START?

Apropos of that date (1882) given by Mr. Nixon, in his talk at the May meeting, for the commencement of the Wollongong Show Society, we have been reminded that there was a Show Society in Wollongong in 1856. It appears that the formation of the Dapto A. & H. Society was deeply resented by the President of the Illawarra Agricultural Society, Mr. Charles Throsby Smith, who referred to his own Society as being "in the thirteenth year of its existence".

It was, however, claimed by the Dapto Society that the Illawarra Society had failed to honour an understanding that its show should be held at different centres in rotation, but it had been constantly held in Wollongong "to the neglect and detriment of Dapto and Kiama". So it would seem that the Illawarra Society was originally intended to cover the whole district, but developed into a Wollongong Society solely. A remaining question is whether there was any continuity, as an organisation, between the original Illawarra Agricultural Society and the later Wollongong A. H. & I. Society.

Can anyone answer it?