than what individual members could keep at home, as storage facilities were non-existent.

After the War the Society was approaching the City Council with enquiries for possible quarters for the storage of archives or for the location of a museum. The formation of the Society had originally been promoted by the Council and further consideration was expected. The Council was planning expansion of their operations and modernisation of the Council Chambers in view of the formation of the Council of Greater Wollongong, which took place in 1947. To refurbish the Chambers, they decided to make use of the wartime concrete air-raid shelter that had been built between the Council Chambers and the Post Office for the storage of old records being removed from the Council Chambers, and invited the Society to take over the custody of these records and use the shelter for possible storage of the Society archives. It was better than nothing, but without shelving or any other furnishings everything was in one big pile covering most of the floor space and leaving little room to move.

I remember Rate Books going back 50 years and Estate Subdivision Posters which are now an interesting feature of the Reference Library collection. The greatest find was all the framed photographs showing views of Wollongong which were quite historical. Although hardly the venue for preventing deterioration of these records, it was not until 1959, after the Council had completed the new Chambers on the corner of Burelli Street, that it was decided to transfer the Library to the old Council Chambers in Crown Street. This was a tremendous improvement in library conditions, and the provision of facilities for a Reference Section and Archives Storage was a most professionally executed organisation by our highly esteemed Hon. Research Officer as Council Librarian.

Although the Wollongong Public Library continued to move, advantage was taken each time to improve the facilities further, the move to the Coles building at the corner of Keira Street being made in 1977, and to move to the Wollongong Leagues Club in Burelli Street in 1984 prior to the move to the new Council Administration Block in June this year.

It is a pity that Alec Fleming, who worked so hard to see the formation of an archives collection, did not live to see the move to the corner of Keira Street while Bill Bayley, the greatest collector of historical material passed away before the move to Burelli Street.

J.L.N. Southern

"ALL MY WORLDLY GOODS": A SETTLER'S WILL

Though it would be easy to dismiss the short will of James Williams as something merely amusing, it in truth provides a valuable insight into social history. Found in the papers of Henry Gordon (that pedagogue turned farmer), the text reads:

"I, James Williams in the Colony of New South Wales and District of Illawarra, being of sound memory, yet sensible of the Uncertainty [sic] of human life do make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following. That is to say. I give to William James my two bullock plough and Harrow. To Henry Gordon I give and bestow my standing crop out of which he is to pay my rent of Four pounds. The Doctors bill to [be] paid in equal shares by William
James and Henry Gordon as well as seven shillings to Mr. Fairs."

The will was executed by the testator by making his mark, as did the one witness (there should have been two, but who would question the dying man’s wishes?), so that Williams can be classed as illiterate. It is not dated, nor is the paper watermarked with a date; yet from the farming association with Gordon it is a fair inference that the period was perhaps 1865-70. Further, since Gordon’s farm was on American Creek, it could well be that the land Williams worked—but obviously did not own—was as a sharefarmer in a fold in the foothills of Mount Kembla. The crop could have been anything at all, though probably potatoes or grain; and the rent could have been for a season or for a year. Finally it is likely that there could have been a partial intestacy; the old battler could have received rations and accommodation from Gordon or someone else, although if from Gordon it was doubtless extremely Spartan, because that family lived in truly dire poverty, however genteel. Thus it is more probable that the old battler had a rough hut near the land he worked, with the result that in addition to a few garments he would have owned a blanket or so, and a few pots, pans and kitchen implements. If so, he died intestate as to these.

But what seems clear is that Williams was feeling his grip on life weakening; some kind person—himself no marvel of literacy—wrote out the will, whereby William James eventually got the two-bullock plough and harrow, charged with his share of the debts. The value of the crop Gordon was to receive, depending on the luck of the season, might not have been enough to cover his share of the debts, although in a fertile region like Illawarra there should have been a profit. So that was that: exit James Williams, his property methodically disposed of, while the landowner was to get his rent, the doctor his fee, and Mr. Fairs his seven shillings. And if any personal effects did not even rate a mention, the partial intestacy may not have mattered a twopenny damn; the clothing and pots and pans must have been deemed valueless. The worldly goods and responsibilities of James Williams, in all their simplicity, were thus all accounted for.

R.I.P.

THE LATE E. B. BRADFORD

That charming but now neglected Czech writer, Karel Capek, once wrote a novel, "An Ordinary Life", in which he told the story of a modest public servant whose life was in every way ordinary, in the sense of being uneventful; but then Capek began to probe further and further into his "hero’s" past, thus revealing a life of hidden depths, with strangely complex sub-strata. The point he made was a good one; how little, indeed, do we really know people we thought we knew well?

The same could be said of Bert Bradford. Members of older standing in our Society will remember him and his wife as regular attenders at meetings until his retirement took them from Port Kembla to Jamberoo. Even then, he proved himself an indefatigable worker with the late Ross Stewart, as indeed he had been before his retirement, in collecting fine material for our Museum in the Jamberoo and Kiama areas, while the present writer acted as labourer and lorry-driver. His interest in our work continued to the last, because by his will he directed his executor (the present writer) to go over all his personal belongings and effects