TOM THUMB FESTIVAL 1996

The Week 26-30 March 1996 marks the 200th anniversary of the voyage of the Tom Thumb to Illawarra with Matthew Flinders, George Bass and the boy Martin aboard. As part of this occasion, a number of festivities are planned. It is envisaged that Heritage Week in Illawarra next week will have a maritime heritage theme and that there will be a Tom Thumb festival with possible re-enactments. Two replicas of the boat exist - one in the National maritime Museum and another at the Northbeach Hotel, this later replica being owned by Holy Spirit College, Bellambi.

BOOK REVIEW

"Click Go The Years!"

Elaine Mabbutt’s work highlights photography as a source material for local history. The work represents photographs spanning fifty years of Berry’s history, from 1875 to 1925, arranged so as to focus on the community’s people, their origins and callings, their personal family and social activities and events considered by photographers to be of significance at the time.

For those wanting to know more of the history of Berry, it is a very readable account.

An informative by-product was the activities of itinerant photographers and, as time went by, the studio photographers.

Never throw out old photographs; deliver them to the Museum.

The book is on sale at the Museum.

Peter Daly

THE OWEN GUN’S FIRST CASUALTY

In a sensational little article published in the Illawarra Mercury on Saturday June 17, 1995 (p. 30), veteran Mercury Journalist Ron Tindall, in his regular ‘Industry Footnotes’ column, revealed that 53 years ago on June 17, 1942, seventeen year old Timothy Ryan “was killed by a stray bullet from an Owen Gun