

The Local Scene

MORT'S DOCK SITE - ASSOCIATED STEAMSHIPS APPEAL

An appeal by Associated Steamships Pty.Ltd. against Council's refusal to permit the establishment of a steel discharging/delivery berth and seatainer terminal at Balmain will be heard at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 3rd November at Leichhardt Municipal Council, before Mr. E.S.Chivers, State Planning Authority. Counsel representing L.M.C. is Barrister B.O'Keefe and Ebsworth & Ebsworth for Associated. It is estimated that this appeal could last two or three days. **COUNCIL GALLERY WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** It would be most desirable if as many members, other associations & clubs, residents affected in the Dock area could be in attendance for at least some part of the hearing as a follow up to the Petition presented to the Council, and the Resolution forwarded to the N.S.W. Government at the conclusion of our Public Meeting. **THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SUPPORT THE REJECTION OF THIS APPLICATION. ITS UP TO YOU.**

CLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC OF THREE STREETS RESUMPTION OF Reynolds, Stephen & Adolphus Streets appeared in the Government Gazette of 19/8/66 and 28/9/66. Each of these streets leads to the waterfront.

OIL COMPANY MOVING? Esso Standard Oil (Aust.) Ltd. has applied for a depot for their lube blending plant chemical storage or chemical terminal on property formerly owned by Dickson Primer & Co. Pty.Ltd. Maritime Services Board is resuming foreshore lease area at Booth Street. Council regards the application as one which would create serious hazard to existing adjacent closely settled residential development, and is contrary to public interest. Prohibited under the Draft Local Plan, certificate of which is proclaimed to be "imminent" this matter has been referred to - State Planning Authority, Dept. Local Govt. Maritime Services Board, Civil Defence, Dept. of Mines, for an expression of their views. Everybody but us???

VAGARIES OF THE BOARD? Stephen Street & Chemicals

Rumoured for some weeks and now reported in Sun Herald "Swift & Co. announced in February that it would make a one for five par issue in October to finance the erection of a tank farm at White Bay for which official approval had been granted. However, there is still some doubt on the White Bay site. Discussions with the Maritime Services Board have been continuing. The Company is believed to have two other alternative sites."

NOTE: No formal permit has been issued by the Council, "approval" was given with 23 restrictions. In petitioners interest perhaps the Council could make some enquiries?

WATCH HOUSE NEWS

THE LEASE

is in final stages of preparation. Tender for the first stage has been let to Mr. G. Garber, local roofing expert, it is expected that by the time you read this, renewal of roofslates & fascia boards may be completed. The Watch House was recently gazetted by the Public Works Dept. as an Historic Monument.

BALMAIN'S EARLY YEARS

"THE FENWICK'S" From Mrs. George Allman Griffin, now of Lake Street, Laurieton, we have received a charming and informative letter, with which she has enclosed some pages of her childhood memories as the grand-daughter of John Fenwick, of the family of tug operators and former owners of the old "Shipwright's Arms" Hotel. Known for more than a century on the Sydney waterfront, the history and traditions of shipping go hand in hand with this family, and will be of immense interest to our Historical Committee. Margaret Griffen has told us of early Balmain with dignity, sometimes whimsical in presentation "Miss Munroe, (who made beautiful lingerie for Sydney ladies) Mr. & Mrs. Mackenzie who lived on the corner of Weston & Darling Streets in a stone house built by the convicts, Mrs. Moran who owned a beautiful King parrot, the old tram to the wharf, the tug boats arriving from England, fireworks in the harbour when the American fleet was in, Sunday School Superintendent Mr. Sinclair, affectionately known as Grandfather Bushell because of his whiskers, the doctor with the bulldogs who was so good to the rich and poor, the "Shipwright's" cellar where some of the young men slept off a good time after leaving the ferry late Saturday night, the childhood dresses of gingham and torchon lace, the fragrant roses grown by her grandparents and parents at Belmore House Lakemba, the house with the six folding cedar doors." All this and more comes from Margaret Griffen, who in conclusion tells us that her grandfather's home at Lakemba is now known as "Roselands" - a name familiar to all of us.

We are indebted to Margaret Griffen for sharing her memories with us.

OF HISTORIC INTEREST.... 7 Vincent Street, Balmain.

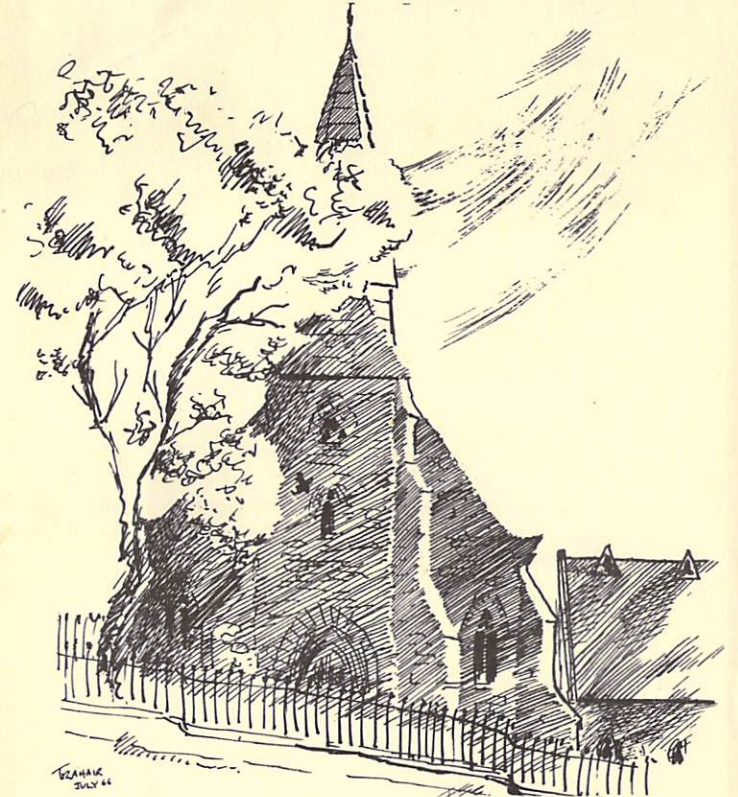
Now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Len Barton. Purchased earlier this year in a state of dilapidation, the house was saved from threatened demolition by Mr. Barton's undertaking to restore it. Investigations revealed that the house was built by Adolphus Young, who was High Sheriff for New South Wales in about 1847. Adolphus Street was apparently named after him. It is a commodious building with solid sandstone walls and slate roof, and with surprisingly ample space upstairs, expressed by a delightful symmetrically placed dormer window. Clumsy alterations and great neglect had defaced and concealed the simple beauty of the original work. Painsstaking, careful and costly restoration work is now beginning to reveal another significant manifestation of Balmain's past. R.C.I.

5/10/66

Identities

Well known to us as one of our most helpful and willing workers for the district, Mrs. Adelaide Binns, longtime resident of Darling Street, Balmain has inherited her love of antiques from her grandfather Alexander Moore, famous a century ago for his furniture establishment in Pitt Street Sydney, "between the Willow Tree and Market Street." Catalogues from 1861 are cherished by Mrs. Binns, and we have been privileged to peruse them. Alexander Moore had the "Labour Bazaar" formerly Hartley's. This is one for our Historical Committee who could record some of the information lovingly collected on Balmain and early Sydney.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



NEWS SHEET

FOURTH ISSUE • OCTOBER 1966

St. Andrews Congregational Church was built in 1853 of locally quarried stone, by William Burt of Balmain. Recent restorative work gained for it a Certificate of Merit from the National Trust. It is noted for its fine cedar ceiling and an exceptionally fine "Walker of London" organ.

Public Protest

"A PUBLIC SPIRIT UNUSUAL IN THESE TIMES."

This was one radio news commentator's comment on the public meeting which the Balmain Association held at the Balmain Town Hall on 27th September, to discuss Maritime Services Board's proposed port plan for Sydney, and its effect on the Balmain peninsula. The meeting, said to be one of the largest since depression days, packed the Town Hall with more than 500 people. Much desired information may have been forthcoming had the President of the Board, Mr. W. H. Brotherson been in attendance.

Of the people who accepted our invitation to address the public, Ald. N. Origlass as the opening speaker put Leichhardt Council's case thoughtfully. He was followed by Town Planning expert Mr. John Toon, who commented that the Johnston Bay part of the project appeared to be inevitable.

President of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, Mr. F.C. Hewitt, M.L.C. came in for most of the questions. Whilst agreeing that containerisation should go to Botany Bay, he felt that Balmain may have to be used as a "stop-gap" in the meantime.

Mr. C. Fitzgibbon, Secretary of the Waterside Workers Federation came next, and confirmed a major point in our protest, that the proposed port plan could only lead to inevitable land resumptions, and that industry becoming "hungrier and hungrier" would have to be accommodated. In quoting container sizes, acreages required for handling tonnages of goods passing through the city and suburbs and the cost of transporting them, Mr. Fitzgibbon ably demonstrated his knowledge of the subject in a fluent and professional way.

Robert Irving was the Association's speaker. With his sincere and emotional appeal to save the area from destruction he won us more friends in ten minutes than any appeal made before.

From the point of view of numbers and enthusiasm, the meeting was successful. The resolution passed almost unanimously will leave no doubt as to our intentions - our continued efforts to protect the residential amenities of this district. Repeated here for the record is the Resolution, despatched immediately to the Rt. Hon. The Premier of N.S.W. with information copies sent to The President of the Maritime Services Board, The Minister for Local Government, The Chairman of the State Planning Authority and the Leichhardt Municipal Council.

"THAT THIS PUBLIC MEETING OF BALMAIN RESIDENTS RESOLVES THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES BE CALLED UPON TO HOLD A PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE MARITIME SERVICES BOARD'S PROPOSED PORT PLAN AND THAT PENDING THIS INQUIRY ALL WORK BE SUSPENDED IN RELATION TO THE PORT PLAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEICHHARDT."

FLASH! "The N.S.W. Liberal-Country Party Government has set up a joint committee to study and make recommendations on the development of Botany Bay. The Committee is expected to begin hearing evidence in open inquiry within a fortnight."

Extract - "Australian Financial Review" 5/10/66.

Libraries

"People who have no books to read are in a little better position than those who cannot read..."

For Leichhardt

(Library Board of N.S.W.)

Of the 39 local councils in and around Sydney only three have no plans to establish a library service. One of these is Leichhardt. Since its inception in June this year, the Committee for the Promotion of Public Libraries in Leichhardt has been investigating the costs involved in establishing a library service in the district, and has sought support from local residents and organisations. Leichhardt Council has twice discussed the subject, and have expressed unanimous support in principle, but have rejected the scheme on the grounds that to erect, staff and stock a new building in each of five wards simultaneously would cost \$400,000.

The Committee opposes this argument as being unrealistic. An excellent service at Marrickville, developed gradually over the past 20 years, most of its branches sited in existing or new buildings built at a cost considerably lower than Leichhardt Council's figure. The committee is confident that a rate of a farthing in the pound on U.C.V. (realising annually with the State Government subsidy \$54,000) would be more than adequate to launch a first rate library service. As the Council has rejected a request to examine ways and means of settling up a service based on this rate, the Committee proposes to take the following action: (a) to request the Council to adopt the Library Act of N.S.W. so that future discussions can be limited to the question of finance.

THIS REQUEST WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING
1st Nov. at 8 p.m. AND YOU ARE URGED TO ATTEND SO THAT
THERE CAN BE SEEN TO BE SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL.

Leichhardt Town Hall is at the junction of Norton and Marion Sts. and is on the Petersham Bus route from Balmain Town Hall. Trans- port on request before the day to Terry Chapman, ph. 82-3993.

(b) so that the Council may be assured of local demand for libraries it is planned to circulate a petition throughout the Municipality. Over 30 local organisations, including P & C Associations have pledged support for the campaign, and with their help it is anticipated that every local elector will have the chance to approve or reject the proposal.

"A proper library service is an essential component of every civilized community." From the Report Library Board of N.S.W.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING
Oct. 20th Balmain Townhall
at 8 pm. SHARP

Coming Events

THE VINTAGE CRICKET MATCH

1 p.m.	THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION	SUNDAY -
No.2 Pitch	V	23rd OCTOBER,
BIRCHGROVE OVAL	PADDINGTON SOCIETY	

This will be a family afternoon - the more the merrier. Both players and onlookers are invited to attempt a "vintage appearance." ALL PLAYERS please contact GRAHAM STEVENSON at the General Meeting 20th October for further details.

A PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE BEST VINTAGE LADY OUTFIT.

HALLOWEEN PARTY 31st October, - 35 Wharf Road, 8 p.m.

TICKETS - \$1 each, limited to 100 persons.
HOT SUPPER & PUNCH, but please bring own additional drinks.

PRIZE FOR THE BEST APPARITION MALE OR FEMALE -

(Richard Waterfield handling tickets for this, see him at next General Meeting October 20.)

Advance Notice

The Association will hold its last General Meeting for the year at 8 p.m. THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER, BALMAIN TOWN HALL. We will then go into recess until FEBRUARY 1967.

REMEMBER last year's friendly Xmas get together on the Masterman's waterfront? Again this year they have kindly made their garden and their driftwood available for an informal Barbecue night. Bring your own STEAKS & VINO and plenty of XMAS SPIRIT - Make the night go with a SWING! Prospective Association members will be welcome too!

LOCAL FILM

"TIGER COUNTRY" - with John Power & Robert Irving, and some Balmain scenes to boot - little more is known as to the date of presentation. First to get this information please advise other members, as it should be soon.

There is a group of "potters" in the bottom of Sybil Masterman's garden. All enquiries welcome.

ALSO Artist Association member Bill Baxter, recently come to live in 46 Louisa Road, wonders whether there are sufficient triers amongst members to warrant starting a sketch group. Contact Mr. Baxter direct if interested.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE wishes to thank all members who gave their time to the preparation and organization of the public meeting To members of other associations clubs etc. and to non-members who assisted, also a special THANK YOU!