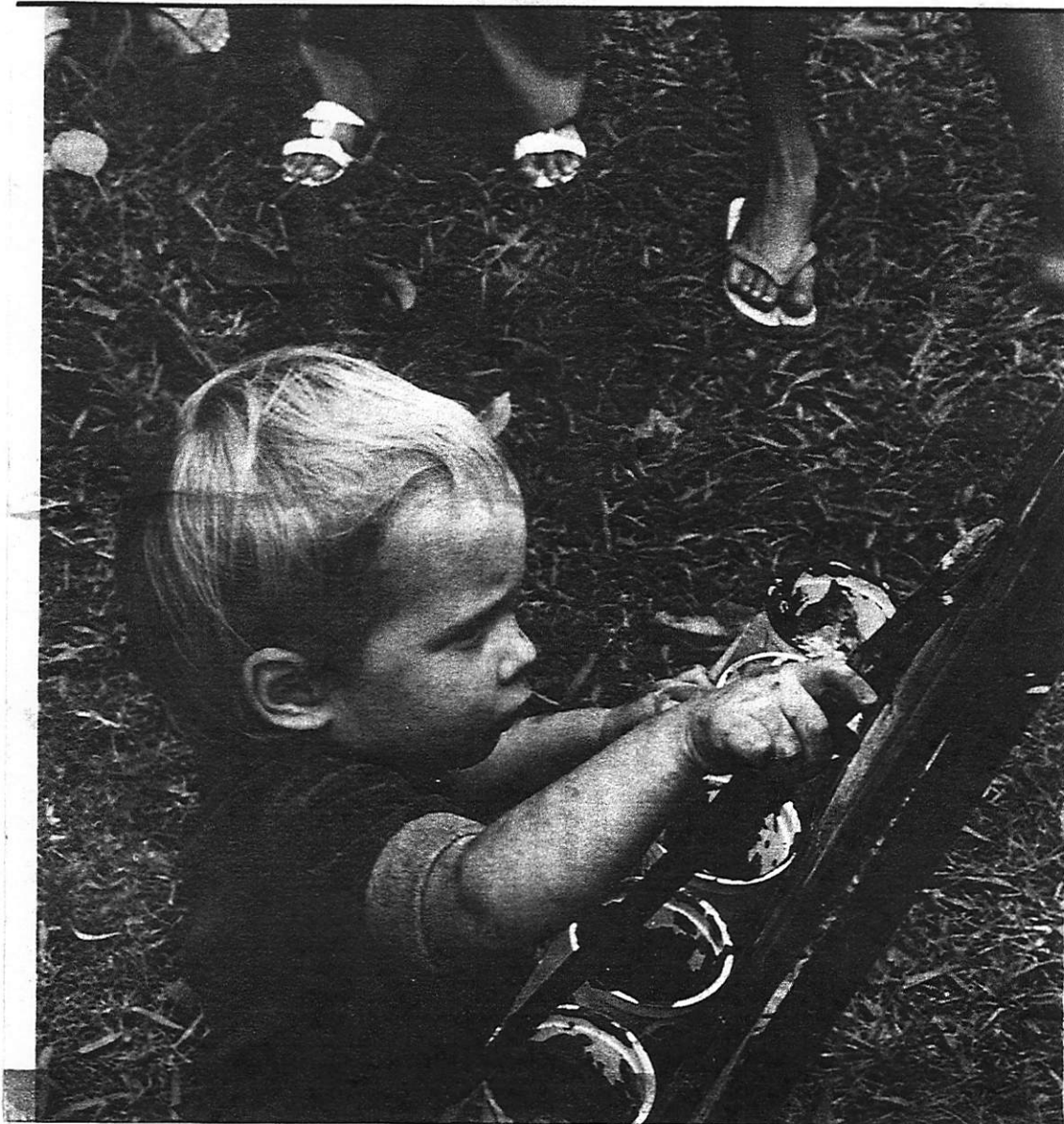
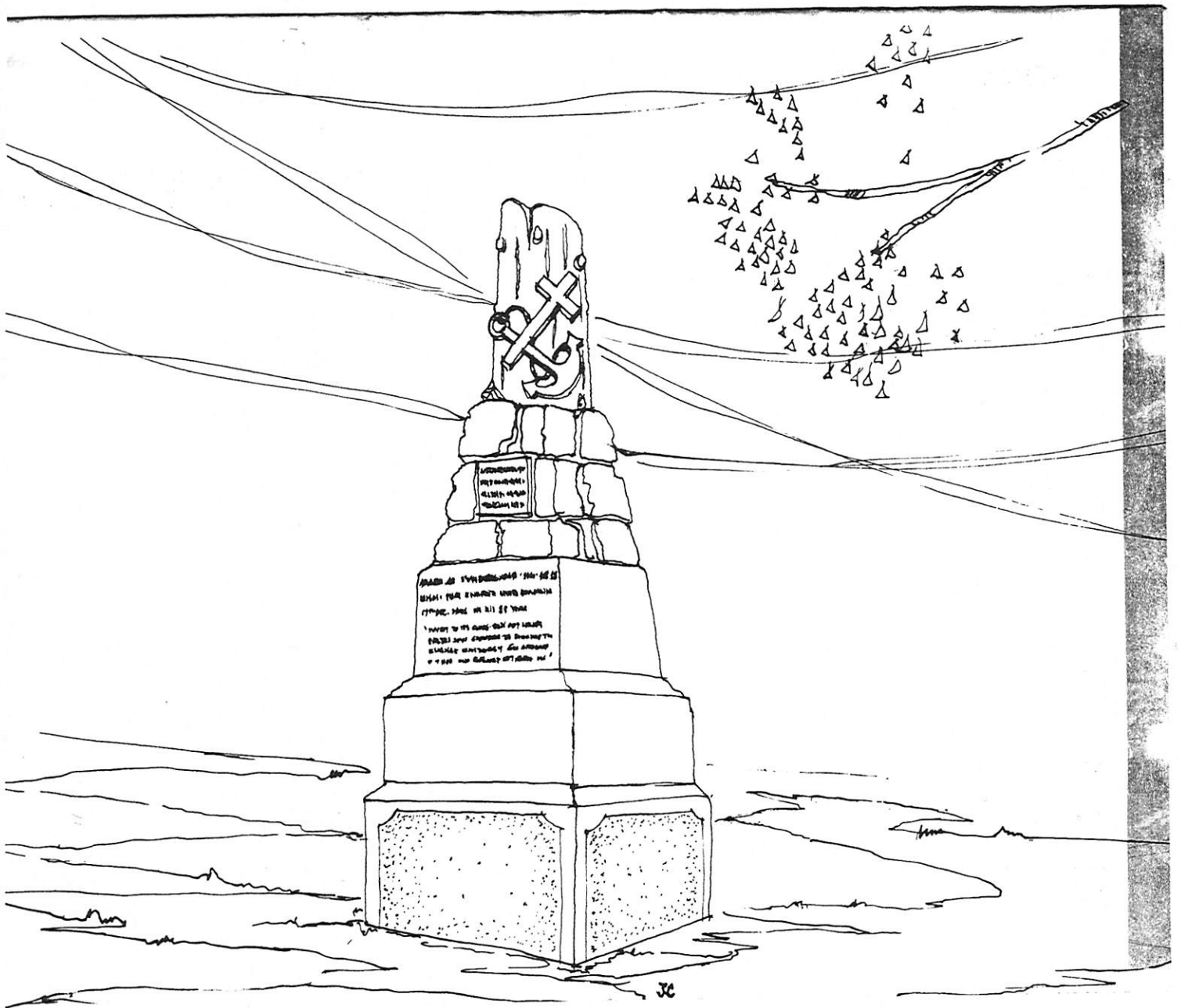




THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

30





ROWNTREE'S MONUMENT

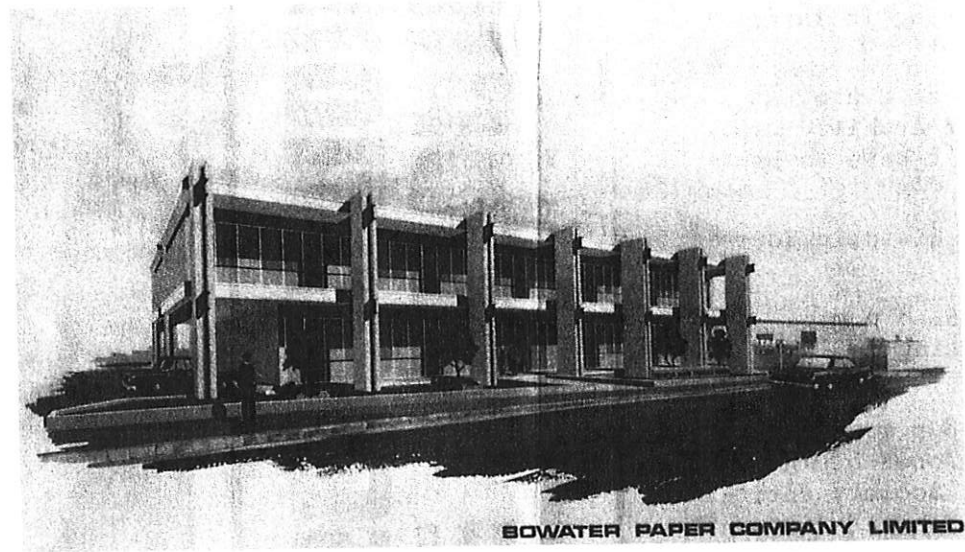
During the goldrush of the 1850's, Thomas Stephenson Rowntree was engaged in the coastal shipping trade. He purchased land at Waterview Bay with the idea of building a patent slip near the present Thames St. wharf. However, T.S. Mort persuaded Rowntree to join with him in building a dry-dock. This was to grow into the huge undertaking which changed the name of Waterview Bay to Mort Bay.

Captain Rowntree built "Northumberland House" on land now occupied by Max. Cooper Pty. Ltd. in Darling St., west of St. Mary's. He also built "Woodleigh", which is still standing in Stack Street, for T.S. Rowntree, Junior. "Woodleigh" was designed by Edmund Blacket, the architect of St. Mary's Church nearby.

Rowntree was Mayor and Chairman of Balmain in 1864 and again in 1871 and was celebrated as the winner of the first ocean yacht race in Australia. He died in 1902 at the age of 85.

The Monument in Macquarie Terrace was erected in memory of Thomas Stephenson Rowntree by Balmain Council in 1941. The headstone from Captain Rowntree's grave in Balmain Cemetery forms the upper portion of the monument.

BOUQUET TO BOWATER



It is encouraging to see industry make an effort to beautify rather than destroy our surroundings.

Such a case is the Bowater Paper Company's attractive new store and warehouse in Terry Street, Rozelle.

The General Manager, Mr. R.J. Brideson, outlined the Company's plans for landscaping the grounds which include planting trees, shrubs and flowering succulents. OTHER COMPANIES PLEASE TAKE

NOTE!

GAS STORAGE

The Association's President, Bill Haesler, has written to the General Manager of the Australian Gas Light Co. asking for further details of the proposal for storing natural gas in the Balmain Coal Mine.

Some of the points he raised are :-

- (1) What is the type and size of the intended Balmain installation.
- (2) What route will the pipeline take when entering the Balmain Peninsula.
- (3) Will the pipeline be under or above ground and what regulator stations will be associated with it.
- (4) Will it be necessary to resume properties.
- (5) Are any above ground gas holders intended for Balmain.

The entrance to the Balmain Coal Mine is in Birchgrove Road, adjacent to the Birchgrove Public School, on property at present occupied by Howard Smith Industries P/L. It seems to be becoming a tradition to make schools, hospitals and densely populated areas as dangerous and unpleasant as possible.

THE CHILDRENS LIBRARY

The library is now a going concern with over 1000 books and 24 registered borrowers. It opened on 19th December--when there were 36 visitors (28 children and 8 adults)--and again on 9th, 16th and 23rd January. It will continue, in the Watch House, each Saturday morning from 9.30 to 12 noon.

All Balmain children up to the age of 12 to 14 years may use the library and they can borrow books for home reading if they register as borrowers. Children who wish to register are asked to enter their name and address on a registration card and to get one of their parents to sign it. There is a registration fee of 40c. but no other charge.

Parents are asked to encourage children to look after books (as well as read them) and to return them promptly. The date of return is entered on a slip at the back of the book.

The family of each borrower will receive a copy of the Association's News Sheet as issued and it is hoped that parents

will find interest in the activities of the Association.

Many thanks to all those who have given books and to the volunteers who have helped sort and prepare them for use--cataloguing, stamping, fitting with plastic jackets, etc.

Others who might offer to help to maintain the library would be most welcome.

Money for the purchase of new books and for library equipment will also be very welcome.

A staff of two is needed to man the library each Saturday. Those who have already volunteered for this are being organised into a roster so that we can develop a corps of experienced people. A strong roster will mean that none will be called on too often.

We hope that, with your support, the Library will grow--that we will have more borrowers--will be able to lend more books--perhaps open more often and extend the age limit.

UNIT SITES

Ugly home units on sites covered with concrete or bitumen for car parking are the major threat to the scale and character of this area. Aesthetic quality cannot be written into building regulations and you can do nothing about the appearance of these buildings, but the landscaping of sites can and, as the subject of legislation, ought to be enforced. Council regulations stipulate that at least 25% of the site of a three storey flat building shall be landscaped --but this regulation is not being enforced. You can take positive action by 'phoning or writing to the Council Engineer or Town Planner, enquiring or objecting to the lack of landscaping in particular developments. Trees and other planting are the only way of at least half disguising these disastrous buildings--let the Council know what you feel about it.

HISTORIC TOUR OF RANDWICK

The tour will commence at Nugal Hall, 18 Milford Street, Randwick, at 11.00 - 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, 28th February, and will include a number of other notable buildings in the Randwick area.

Nugal Hall was erected in 1853 to the design of Colonial Architect Mortimer Lewis, mainly in the late Gothic period style. It is one of Randwick's most notable buildings.

Arranged by the Historical Sub-committee.
All Association members are welcome.
Enquire to Peter Reynolds - 82 3752.
Admission to Nugal Hall - 50c.

SMOKE SCREEN

"Visual observations by the (Maritime Services) Board's officers employed in the area at the time failed to detect the emission of smoke from a ship in the area and records of wind directions and strengths during the early hours of the morning in question as supplied by the Bureau of Meteorology, having regard to the topography of the contiguous area, have failed to support, with certainty, the exact direction from which any smoke would have originated.

"Having regard to the fact that the Board has not been able to substantiate that the smoke nuisance was, in fact, caused by a particular vessel, it has not been able to take any further action in the matter. However, the Board is maintaining a close watch in the area for any breaches of the Smoke Control Regulations."

One wonders in what way the Board's

Sibyl Masterman

On January 14th, Sibyl Masterman died in Balmain Hospital. The last stage of the illness she had so courageously fought for over two years was mercifully short and, for that, all of us who loved her can be thankful.

Sibyl was the founder of the Balmain Association. In 1965 she arranged preliminary meetings at her house on Long Nose Point and every year since our Christmas barbecue has been held on the waterfront there. Sibyl was interested in all the Association's facets and worked for the fund-raising, historical and architectural sub-committees. Tree planting schemes were close to her heart: what she wanted was to see Balmain streets lined with growing things--preferably jacarandas!

The Watch House, of course, was Sibyl's pet project and in fact our acquisition of the building stemmed from a chance remark of hers. Not long before the Association's first public meeting in November, 1965, she was driving up Darling Street with Toni Mackenzie. Passing the Watch House--then a pigeon- and plonko-infested derelict building--Sibyl remarked that it would be good if the Association could get hold of "a place like that" for its headquarters. Toni said: "Why not that?" and the idea was discussed with enthusiasm at the next steering committee meeting--a meeting at which Alan Harding was present for the first time. Alan undertook to find out which Government department owned the building and the rest of the story is history.

Sibyl and her younger daughter, Possy, were two of the most faithful workers on the Watch House restoration and to everyone connected with this phase of the Association's activities the Watch House will always bring happy memories.

Our consistently good and close relations with similar organisations, particularly the Paddington Society, the Annandale Association and the Glebe Society, are also largely due to Sibyl's gift for friendship and we are sure that her friends in those organisations will miss her as we do.

But Sibyl would be horrified at the thought of fulsome praise or thanks for all she did for us and perhaps the best epitaph came from an old friend of hers, speaking at her funeral: "Listen a moment, and you will hear her laugh."

Thursday, 11th February - at 8 p.m.
Association General Meeting in lower Town Hall, Balmain.

Monday, 15th February - at 8 p.m. at Watch House - Meeting of Architectural Sub-committee. You don't have to be an Architect to join.

Sunday, 28th February - Historic Tour of Randwick.

Thursday, 15th April - At 8 p.m. - Association General Meeting in lower Town Hall, Balmain.

Monday, 1st March - At 8 p.m. at Watch House - Talk by Mr. A. Jones of the Campbelltown Historical Society entitled "William Redfern - Convict Surgeon".

Sunday, 28th March - Expedition to Cow Pastures, 30 miles west of Sydney. A day picnic by car. All members welcome. Details Peter Reynolds - 82 3752.



MEMBERSHIP.

Current membership stands at 266. Unfortunately more than half our members from last year are unfinancial. Take heart--if you have this News Sheet, you have paid, but if your friends tell you they have not received their copy, perhaps you might suggest they pay their subscription to :

The Hon. Treasurer,
Balmain Association,
P.O. Box 57,
BALMAIN. N.S.W. 2041.



WATCH HOUSE RESERVE?

The small plot of land next to the Watch House has been sold for about \$8,000 and plans have been approved for a house on the site. The Association is most concerned that this development will be detrimental to the Watch House.

The Association had hoped that a small reserve could be established on the vacant land but this recent development raises a substantial problem in this regard. However, efforts are still being made to have our hopes realised.