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THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 (Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council)  
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CARSS COTTAGE MUSEUM opens Sundays & Public Holidays, 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.  
 Admission charges are 30c. per adult, 10c. per child. Donations for display  
 in the museum will be received at the discretion of the Society.

MUSEUM ROSTER FOR JULY, 1983

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Attendants</u>                 | <u>To open museum</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3           | Mr. and Mrs. R. FitzHardinge      | Mrs. FitzHardinge     |
| 10          | Mrs. B. Butters, Miss P. Harry    | Mrs. B. Butters       |
| 17          | Mrs. P. Thornley, Mrs. G. Cootes  | Mr. J. Lean           |
| 24          | Mrs. A. McOnie, Miss M. Foley     | Mr. J. Veness         |
| 31          | Mrs. D. A. Hatton, Mrs. M. Grieve | Mrs. D. A. Hatton     |

MUSEUM ROSTER FOR AUGUST, 1983

| <u>Date</u>   | <u>Attendants</u>                    | <u>To open museum</u> |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 7             | Mrs. V. Bussell, Mrs. D. Bamford     | Mr. J. Lean           |
| 14            | Mrs. E. Cunnynghame, Miss D. Maclean | Mrs. G. Johns         |
| 21            | Mrs. S. M. Kelly, Mrs. M. Kermond    | Mrs. S. M. Kelly      |
| 28 (Open Day) | Mr. A. Ellis, Mr. K. Grieve          | Mr. K. Grieve         |

NOTE: Any date given which is inconvenient may be changed on request to  
 Mrs. G. Lean (Tele. 57 5940).

LIBRARY NEWS from E. Howard

The 4th Annual Report of the Heritage Council of New South Wales for 1980-81 may be seen at Carss Cottage. It is a very interesting document both in the many clear photographs of places worthy of conservation and in the text itself. Buildings, communities and natural landscapes claim the interest of the Heritage Council which negotiates with "relevant government departments and local councils concerning the need for protection and sound management of a number of remnant natural areas." Among the areas given particular attention in this period were Oatley Park and Scarborough Park, but no real details or progress reports are given.

Of course there are many areas which may be of special importance to members, so please remember to look at this report when you visit Carss Cottage.

NEWSLETTER

Next meeting: Thursday, 14th July, 1983 Time: 8.00 p.m.  
Place: Exhibition Lounge, 2nd Fl., Kogarah Civic Centre, Belgrave Street.  
Guest Speaker: Mr. Keast, History Master at Peakhurst High School  
Topic: History in the Australian School Curriculum.

LADIES ON SUPPER ROSTER: Mrs. G. Johns, Mrs. G. Taylor

Next Management Ctee. metg: 7.30 p.m., Carss Cottage, Tues., 26th July

REPORT OF JUNE MEETING - by Miss M. Dunphy

After opening formalities the Chairman asked that last month's Minutes should be read etc. Arising from these Mr. A. Ellis reported on a recent successful visit to Carss Cottage of the Illawarra Historical Socy. and the Chairman outlined arrangements so far in hand for Australia Day, 1984.

Among correspondence was an invitation re Kogarah's Mayoral Ball (\$17.50 per ticket); reference by K.M.C. to Carss Ctge. lease expiring in 1986 about which Ald. K. Cavanough spoke, pointing out possible problems in lease terms. Authorisation has been received for reduced postage rate for Newsletter.

Treasurer's report: Mrs. G. Johns advised we have approx. \$900 in hand, despite an excess of expenditure over income in the past month.

General Business: Volunteer museum attendants were sought for Queen's Birthday holiday. Mrs. Hanlon and G. Coxhead offered their services.

Mr. A. Ellis spoke about recording information for broadcasting over FM radio 2MBC. St. G.H.S. has begun a Tuesday night ¼-hour programme. He promised to obtain a list of themes covered by these talks to avoid duplication should we decide to go on air.

G. Coxhead referred to the possible danger to the museum of dead trees nearby. The Chairman said Council was dealing with this matter.

A meeting had been held that night with the History of Kogarah Committee. There was still urgent need for volunteers to help with interviewing.

Guest speaker Mr. Fred Midgley from Sutherland Shire H.S. came forward to give his slide-illustrated talk on changes in transport along George's River. First he gave a short outline of happenings last century when the river was a principal means of communication, carrying the area's products, such as timber, stone, shell, oysters, sand and garden produce to the markets and bringing in needed commodities. He then showed scenes of past times when regular pleasure trips by an assortment of craft created popular resorts such as Parkesvale, now returned to its original wild state. There were row-boats, flat-bottomed and paddle-wheel vessels, steamers and ferries. For the latter there were three crossings, first at Lugarno, next Tom Ugly's Point and then Taren Point. The first punt was laboriously hand-winchd and we felt sorry for the first punt-master, exposed to all weathers as he toiled to turn the heavy wheel. Then came bigger steam-operated ferries, some in pairs, and finally the bridges.

There were some interesting shots of Como Railway Bridge when boatsheds abounded in its vicinity; and of the half-finished Tom Ugly's Bridge.

The Chairman made the usual presentation when thanking Mr. Midgley for the time he must have spent in researching and preparing his material.

SOCIAL NEWS - Everyone will be sorry to hear Laurie Curtis has been very very ill, again in hospital and forbidden to resume work. Also seriously ill is Mrs. M. Smith, Vince Smith's widow. She is in Ward 5, St. Geo. Hospital. Another for whom concern is felt is Mrs. S. Hanlon, now receiving medical care; and Mrs. Beaven has not been well.

2.

Home again after a thoroughly enjoyable trip overseas are Dick and Val Burghart, both looking much better for the change.

SOCIAL CALENDAR:

On Sunday, 21st June 23 Society members and friends went on a tour of Sutherland Shire about which Mrs. M. Grieve will report later. Great service was provided by Mrs. M. Hutton-Neve and Mr. F. Midgley of Sutherland H.S. and Arthur Ellis as tour guides. All three impressed with their vast store of knowledge of local history. A profit of \$22.00 was made, including \$6.50 from a raffle drawn en route, but \$10.00 is being donated to Sutherland H.S. in appreciation of their help and time. Mrs. Butters won the raffle.

LADIES DAY---6th July at Hurstville R.S.L. Club has been fully booked.

EXTENDED WEEK-END TOUR, 1st-3rd October, 1983 to Port Macquarie and Environs: Fare plus 2 night's D.B.&B. at Port Macquarie = \$86. Deposits and part payments will be accepted at July meeting.

SUGGESTED MANLY EXCURSION, Saturday, 27th August - commencing from Manly at 11.00 a.m. Fare only and admission to Waratah Park \$15.50. Limit of 18. Meet at Manly wharf, Circular Quay to catch 10.30 a.m. ferry. Details and list circulated at July meeting.

RAFFLES: June prize was won by Mrs. N. Lock. July donor is Mrs. E. Postlethwaite.

Thought for the Month of July

A second marriage is a triumph of hope over experience. - Dr. Johnson

NOTES ON JUNE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - by G. Coxhead

Present: J. Veness (Chairman), Mrs. M. Grieve, Mrs. B. Butters, Mr. J. Lean, L. H. and V. Burghart, Mrs. G. Johns, G. Coxhead, Mr. H. Wilkes.

Guest: Miss K. Boyd, Chairperson, St. George Youth Workers Network.

Before proceeding with the meeting discussion took place with Miss Boyd re our involvement in the Youth Festival at Hurstville on Sunday, 7th August. Several ideas put forward are to be worked on.

Mrs. Johns read last month's Minutes on behalf of Miss Dunphy (ill). The Chairman spoke of L. Curtis's continuing illness. Resolved to write to him. Illness of other members reported. Mr. and Mrs. Burghart were welcomed back.

Possible use of air time on FM radio 2MBC was discussed - details to be sought. Photographs have been ordered from the SRA. One delegate from St. George and Hurstville Historical Societies is to be invited to attend July Management Ctee. mtg. to consider formation of Illawarra Railway Centenary Ctee.

Other matters raised were: Testimonial Dinner to Mr. Jim Forbes, retiring Kogarah Town Clerk; purchase of copying machine; receipt of cheque for \$100 from History of Kogarah Committee to cover any expenses we may be incurring on its behalf; Kogarah Mayoral Ball on 22nd July; social outings; listing of new members; slates made up by Mr. FitzHardinge (two sizes: small to sell at \$3.50 each, large at \$5.00); books from Sutherland H.S. for sale at Carss Cottage Museum.

The Forbes Dinner was very well attended, catering and speakers were excellent.

Mr. FitzHardinge has used slates from Carss Cottage that were surplus to sell as souvenirs at the museum. Each has a pokerwork inscription. His effort is much appreciated.

The two books from Sutherland H.S. have both been written by Mrs. Hutton-Neve: "Kunnell to Cronulla" (\$3.50) and "Woniara Cemetery" (\$2.50).

CHRISTINA STEAD

Some people refer to her as Australia's finest writer. She was born Christina Ellen Stead and her name lives on in her writings although she herself died in March, 1983 at the age of 80.

Australian by birth, she later became an expatriate, spending most of her days in Europe and the U.S.A. She is particularly remembered locally because for some years of her life she resided at Lydham Hall, Bexley. For a time she also lived at Watson's Bay.

Her husband of many years was William Blake, himself a business-writer. He and his wife compiled an anthology "Women in Love" which was published in 1945.

Strangely she had no books published before she left Australia for England in 1928. Her career till then had been in teaching and as a secretary. It was in Paris that her husband took her first manuscript to a publisher. This is in print as "Seven Poor Men of Sydney".

She was born in 1902 and later acquired a step-mother with whom she lived most unhappily. Her childhood relationship with her father was more pleasurable as he would talk to her at bedtime until she went to sleep.

Her marriage led her into a roving life wherein she came to learn much about many countries. She was in Spain during its civil war and had vivid memories of her sojourn there. While in Spain she wrote "House of All Nations". It took her only six weeks to complete. She was a quick, inspired writer, whose eloquence is a feature of her books.

Two other well-known books among those she wrote are "The Salzburg Tales" and "The Man who loved Children".

By nature she was often easily irritated and ascerbic, becoming more so as she grew older, but her stories show that her passion for the cities of the world, life and love, could be exhilarating and they represent a substantial contribution to the world's literature.

(This article is based on one in The Sydney Morning Herald, April, 1983)

**NEWS**

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Wollongong celebrates its sesquicentenary in 1984 and the SRA is to upgrade the station as its contribution to this historic anniversary.  
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Sensing a need for outer suburban dwellers living away from the coast to visit a good surfing beach, the SRA last summer introduced the Penrith-Cronulla Beach Train to provide a direct link between the far-western suburbs and the surf.

From a survey it made of passengers soon after the service began it was apparent that a real need was being met, raising a smile of satisfaction on the faces of SRA officials.

(From STATE WIDE, March, 1983)  
.....

In June yet another wedding was celebrated beside Carss Cottage. Bridal parties like the picturesque environment.

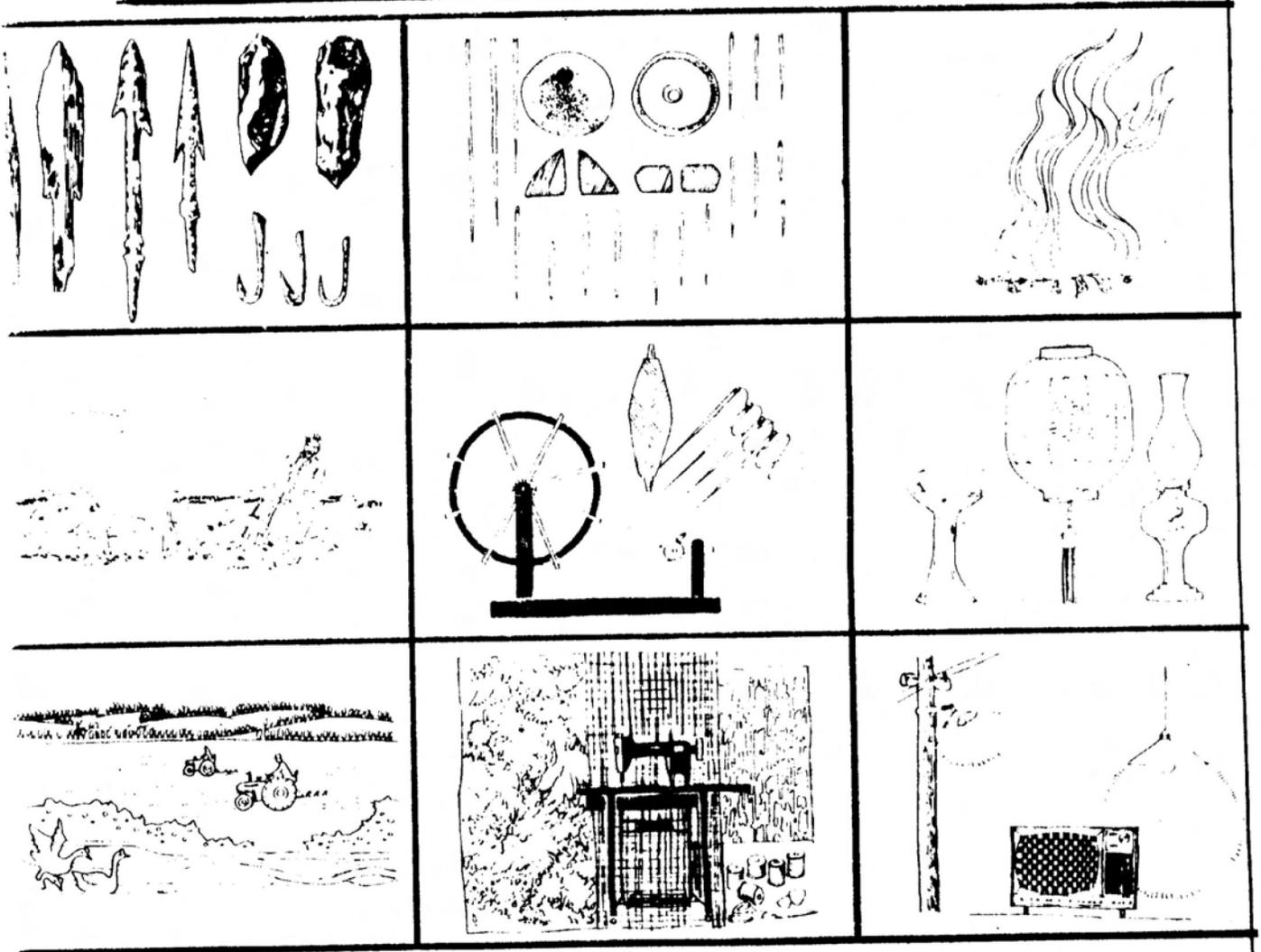


# China - Then and Now

The recent Sydney exhibition of China's "Entombed Warriors" was an outstanding success and while thoughts of Chinese life are still in our minds Elaine Howard thought it might be a good time to reproduce here a Chinese cartoon, graphically demonstrating the changes that have progressively taken place in that vast country from primitive times to the present. The changes illustrated parallel those occurring in the Western world over a similar period and can be easily related to our own history.



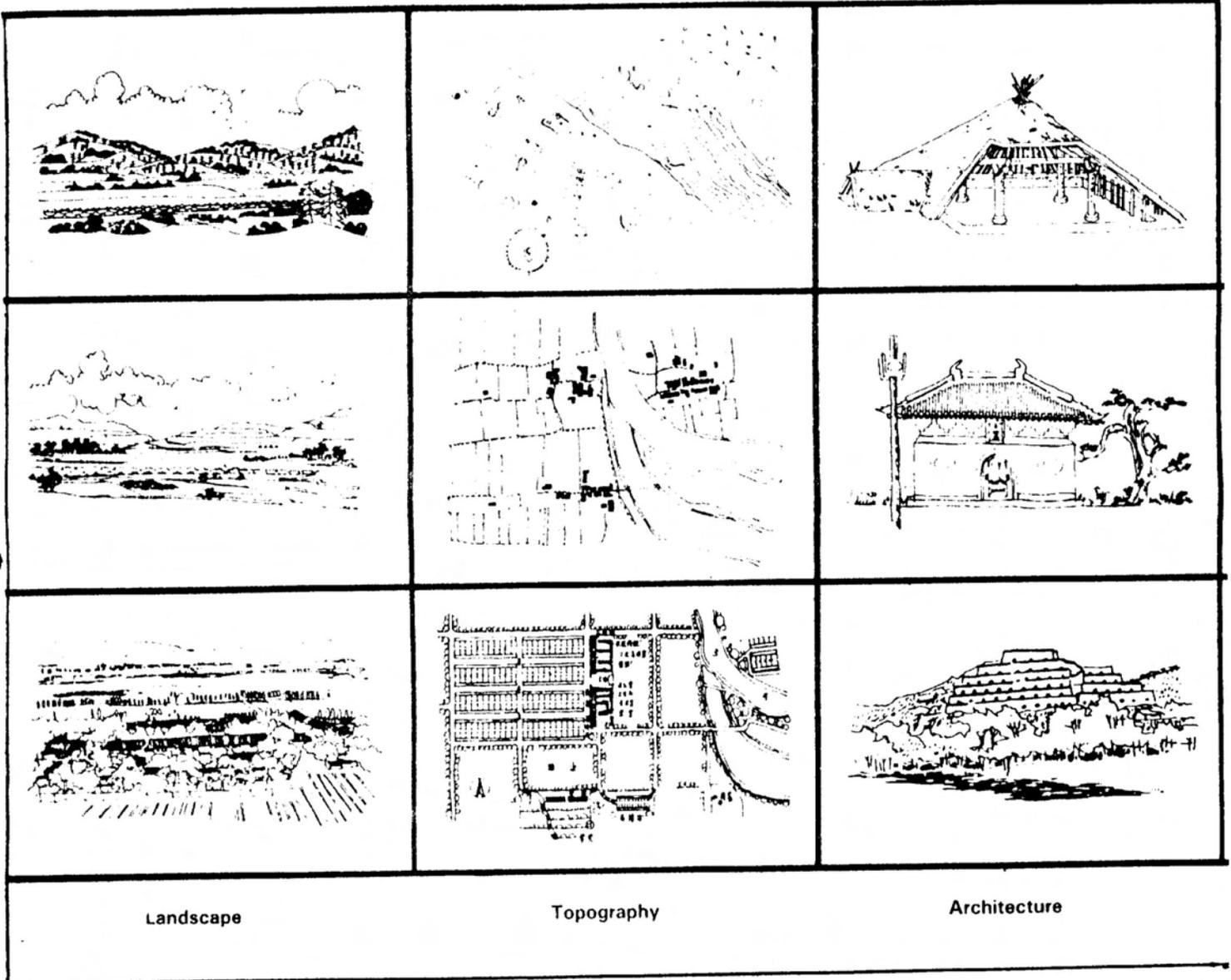
## CHRONICLE OF CHANGE



Implements

Domestic utensils

Energy



Mrs. M. Grieve presents this account of China's

### THE ENTOMBED WARRIORS

The recent exhibition at the N.S.W. Art Gallery engendered tremendous interest and as many as twenty thousand people per day came to view these terra cotta works of art. A mere seven models, five figures and two horses, all life size and meticulous in every detail, were the cynosure of all eyes.

The sculptured warriors were discovered by the chance digging of a well and the amazing memorial to Qin Shihuang was revealed, enabling the history of his province to be reconstructed.

Qin's tomb was an unprecedented achievement in the mortuary traditions of China where burials were extravagant and elaborate. Some six thousand soldiers, from the lowest rank to generals, were placed in formation around the huge mausoleum. The clay figures were complete with weapons and shields. Every branch of the army was represented. Of special significance was the headgear which progressed from a humble cap to an elaborate helmet in the form of a bird for the higher echelons.

The state of Qin, situated in the western regions of the Wei River, was founded in the late 9th century B.C.

6. It was only one of some 150 to 200 vassal states, known to have existed at that time.

The province of Qin became an extremely efficient fighting machine, reasons for its success including its invincible geographic position and the experience which had been gained through constant campaigns against the barbarian tribes along the frontiers.

Qin society was a strictly, often harshly, ordered one. The government ruled through fear. It opposed any activity, educational or cultural, that was not of immediate tangible benefit to the central government. Rewards were on the basis of merit and not hereditary. Forms of punishment were cruel and included the universal practice of flogging. The death sentence was carried out by the barbaric means of boiling in a cauldron or cutting a person in two at the waist. No wonder Qin was able to conscript three quarters of a million workers to carry out his ambitious projects!

The greatest of these was the construction of the Great Wall of China, achieved through forced labour. This famous landmark was 3,000 km. in length and was distinctly visible to the astronauts who landed on the Moon.

Each time Qin conquered a feudal state, a replica of the ruler's palace was rebuilt on a hill north of the capital, the city of Xianyang, which remained the centre of the empire.

The name Qin, pronounced Chin, suggests that the amalgamation of all the states into one empire, known as China, was in honour of this powerful leader.

The entire country was divided into thirty-six commanderies, each one governed by three men: an Administrator for civil affairs, a Military Governor and an Overseer to check on the first two (which gives rise to the vexing thought "Who takes care of the caretaker?").

The two main concerns were agriculture and war. Commerce was suppressed because it was considered non-productive.

The following innovations were instituted by this famous realist: the standardization of the written Chinese language; the introduction of standard weights and measures; and a type of trade mark on manufactured goods. Also the use of coins, such as the Half Tael copper coin, for transactions.

The organisation of the subterranean army created for the protection of Qin Shihuang's tomb reflects the type of military supremacy of the Qin state over all of China. Armoured troops such as these were unknown before the 5th century B.C. The quantity of weaponry and related military equipment found in the burial pits reveal the continued and extensive use of cast bronze (an alloy of copper and tin) during the Qin dynasty. The principal weapons recovered from the pits include the dagger axe, spearhead, halberd, sword, arrowhead and crossbow. The latter, with its precisely fabricated bronze firing mechanism, was the most sophisticated of all.

This weapon was not to be a feature of warfare in Western Europe until the 14th century. The bronze bolts for the crossbow and the bronze sword in the exhibition have a layer of chromium to protect them from corrosion.

Iron was in use at the time; the armoured vests of the cavalymen are believed to have plates of iron linked by leather thongs.

The wooden chariots with bronze fittings in use during this period had precursors as early as the Shang dynasty. Subsequently they were gradually superseded by the quicker and more effective cavalry.

The foregoing is a brief account of the accomplishments of an industrious race of people who lived two thousand years ago. (concluded on p. 7)

## AUSTRALIAN CENTENARY OF THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION



The Australian branch of the St. John Ambulance Association was formally established in 1883 with the setting up of a State Centre in Melbourne. Other States established Centres as follows: South Australia, 1884; Queensland and Tasmania, 1889; N.S.W., 1890, and W.A. in 1892. This year marks the centenary of the first Centre.

The badge of the Order of St. John is well known through the voluntary first-aid services rendered by the uniformed wing of the organisation, the St. John Ambulance Brigade. It embodies the Maltese cross with a lion and a unicorn alternating in the four spaces between.

In the 11th century, during the First Crusade, a knightly order, the Knights Hospitaller, was formed. The Knights were also known as the Knights of Malta. They distinguished themselves in naval and military warfare but became better known for their "charitable and benevolent services to suffering humanity". The Order of St. John is directly descended from this 11th century one which was revived in Europe in the early part of the 19th century and in Britain in 1831. In the new industrial age accidents were common and the Order of St. John was at the forefront of first aid training. The St. John Ambulance Association was formed in 1877 to give training in medical first aid.

The first State District of the St. John Ambulance Brigade (which is also a foundation of the Order of St. John) was founded in N.S.W. in 1903. Members wear distinctive black and white uniforms and are regularly to be seen wherever people are gathered in numbers. Frequently in times of civil emergencies - floods, cyclones, bushfires - they are called on to attend and render assistance to victims of the disasters where required.

There is also a high degree of cooperation between St. John Ambulance foundations and State civil ambulance services. In fact civil ambulance services throughout Australia derive from the pioneering work of the Order and in three States - W.A., South Australia and the Northern Territory - the State ambulance services are maintained by the Order and its foundations.

As part of its knightly and monastic tradition, the Order of St. John in Australia is organised as a Priory, with the Governor-General as Prior or head of the Order. Each State Governor is a deputy Prior.

In June Australia Post issued a 27c stamp to commemorate the Centenary of the St. John Ambulance. The design incorporates the eight-pointed cross as seen on the badge. This cross was originally the emblem of the Amalfi Republic but later, following the Order's association with the island of Malta, the design became known universally as a Maltese cross.

(Taken from an article in Australia Post's May-June Stamp bulletin, 1983)

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**WORLD COMMUNICATIONS YEAR** - On 19th November, 1981 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming the year 1983 to be World Communications Year. Throughout this year a world-wide series of activities will stress the importance of communications as an integral part of economic and social development.

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The Entombed Warriors - continued from p. 6

In the year 221 B.C. the fight for the ultimate supremacy of China was won by the state of Qin.

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### THE STORY OF A SEWING MACHINE

This story is made available to us by courtesy of Mr. George Gardner of Engadine whose mother was Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Gardner, owner of the sewing machine.

Mrs. Gardner was born Sarah Elizabeth Murray on 24th March, 1886 at Bethnel Green, London. This was one of the poorer urban areas and Sarah Elizabeth knew what it was to be brought up in very difficult circumstances. In recalling her young days she said she could never remember her mother having any spare money in her purse, for whenever any money came in it went straight out again to buy food.

Some memories remained vivid even after the passage of many years, for instance, she would always associate the Salvation Army with loving service. She remembered seeing General Booth marching at the head of the Salvation Army; and seeing the earnest group standing on the gutters declaring the good news of God. Also she had good cause to remember how the Salvationist men and women loved and served people in their poverty and need.

Like many another member of a needy family she was required to "pull her weight" from an early age. At age thirteen she purchased a sewing machine so that she could make blouses. That was paid for at the rate of 3d. a week - all that could be spared - but in the course of time it gave her full ownership. It was an 1886 hand-operated model and became a familiar object in her life, being in regular service almost until she died at age 96.

She would go to the factory to collect the cloth which she would make up into blouses at home on her faithful sewing machine.

Cupid arranged that she and Frank Gardner should meet in London and fall in love. Their marriage followed and in the course of years five children were born. However one baby boy died soon after birth. Now the sewing machine was being used to make infants' wear and children's clothing, as well as for all the miscellaneous jobs a handy, thrifty young housewife could use it for.

Frank saw service in World War I and in the unsettled postwar years the Gardners made the decision to migrate to Australia. They packed their treasures and in the 1920's took the big step, settling at first on the north side of Sydney Harbour, initially at Cammeray, later at Northbridge. Mr. Gardner was a bootmaker by trade and was therefore able to find employment.

In Australia two more sons were born but tragedy also struck as the couple lost the two daughters they had brought out from England.

The old sewing machine was converted to treadle operation and George still remembers the wooden base it had when hand-operated which lay discarded for years in a shed at the back of their home. Mrs. Gardner continued to make good use of the old machine, doing all the household and family's sewing on it. She sewed well and George remembers with pride the neat-fitting shirts she made for him.

Frank Gardner died of natural causes in 1937 by which year the children had all married so that "Ma", as they called their mother, was alone. She was then in her sixties but full of spirit. From Caringbah where she and her husband had been living she went to Hargrave Park housing settlement to live in a corrugated Army hut. Of her own initiative she began visiting the old men's home at Lidcombe where she was doubly welcome. She was an accomplished player of the mouth organ and the inmates appreciated this unusual form of entertainment. Also she was wont to take with her gifts of handkerchiefs, made on her sewing machine.

In "Ma's" seventies, then eighties, and through to ninety years of age, she was involved in an elderly people's entertainment group. At eighty-nine she was still dressing up in her "coster's" dress, prancing around a stage, playing her mouth organ and the "clappers", rendering songs such as "Knees up, Mother Brown" and "There was I waiting at the Church". What a trouper she would have been if she had opted for a stage career!

Amongst her elderly friends "Ma" was affectionately known as Sally. Until three months before her death she was playing her mouth organ for the old folk at Chesalon Nursing Home. By then she was living with George and his wife at Engadine. From Hargrave Park she had moved to Hurstville where she spent twenty years of her life.

In all these moves the old sewing machine was taken with her - to part with it would have been like losing a friend.

During her last weeks in hospital, George saw her cry only once. She was talking to Salvationist Doreen Brookes about her early days in London. "Ma" told of a lady living in a flat above hers who had no money for food, who was too embarrassed to come down and ask for something to eat. She recalled this sad incident of some seventy odd years ago - and she cried..... cried because someone had hesitated to seek the help she would so readily have given. She never forgot it. Her concern and pity for others was characteristic of her generous nature.

Two years before her 96th birthday she had bought a more modern sewing machine but still would not part with the beloved first one - and for George and his family it is a treasured link with the days when she was still with them. It is part of their own lives and a family heritage.

A few days before his mother's death it was George's sad lot to tell this grand old lady that she only had a short time left. Here George's own words are most appropriate:

"She did not reject the news one little bit and during the following minutes prepared me for her departure. One comment was 'Now, George, don't you let my going away spoil your Christmas'." A brave woman, indeed.

The final words of this story are written by George:

"'Ma' Gardner's simple trust in God, and confidence in His forgiveness, along with her practical concern for others leave us the richer for knowing her".

This very Christian woman died on 18th December, 1982, sadly missed by her three sons and daughter, her in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as her many friends and admirers.

As Psalm 23 (which was one chosen for her funeral service) would have told the bereaved:

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Surely there could not be a more fitting description of a life well spent, nor a better hope for the future!

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SUMMER'S TOLL - Visitors to Carss Cottage may wonder why so many palm fronds are dead and notice that a large nearby gum-tree is also dead. They are victims of our recent exceptionally hot dry summer. While the palms will recover they will be barer, but the gum-tree seems beyond recall.

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