TWO WHO LOVED HORSES.

The horse trough which the Society with the assistance of the Moorabbin City Council placed in the Cheltenham Park in 1964 bears the names - "Annis and George Bills". Members had noticed or heard of other troughs exactly similar which were or had been placed in main roads round the city. One was also noticed in a country town. "Who were the Bills?" we wondered. The State Library of Victoria has kindly supplied us with the following information about them -

George and Annis Bills were an English couple who lived in Australia for a time during last century. George, of Buesst and Bills, bookmakers, made a great deal of money from this business and bequeathed £70,000 for the erection of horse troughs throughout the world.

Both George and Annis died last century; Annis died in England but we do not know were George died although he lived in Hawthorn and it is thought that he died in Australia. His son, Richard Bills, once a circus proprietor, breeder and importer of circus animals, lives at Yarra Glen, Victoria.

As late as 1935 the "Argus" reported that Mr. A.B. Phillips, on behalf of the estate of A. and G. Bills, had four ornamental horse troughs erected in Melbourne. These were at the Haymarket (now demolished) at the corner of Sydney Road and Flemington Road, and at the corners of Sydney Road - College Crescent, Sydney Road - Walker Street, and St. Kilda Road - Nolan Street.

As horse troughs are no longer required, the money from the bequest is now being given to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and some other similar organizations. In 1965 the R.S.P.C.A. received £5,000 from the bequest and this money was used to aid lost dogs.

TWO EXHIBITIONS.

One was at the Central Library on 5th February when twenty people, including Councillor F. Le Page, Mrs. Moorhead, President of the Mornington Historical Society, Mr. T. Sheehy, the City Historian, Mr. J. Simpkin, Chief Librarian of the City of Moorabbin and members of our society were present at the quarterly meeting of the South-Eastern Historical Association. Mr. Simpkin and Mr. Sheehy had arranged a most interesting display of old books, newspapers and newsletters bringing to life the past of the area along the eastern shore of Port Phillip. And at the Latrobe Library Mr. Weston Bate recently opened an exhibition of paintings, prints, documents, books and newspapers connected with early Ballarat. It makes vivid the story from the hard but peaceful squatting era to the turbulent days of gold and Eureka. The Exhibition will be open until May 26th.