Mr. Allen has put his idea into practice - and it involved plenty of work - by publishing in a special edition of "Shuttle", the magazine of the East Bentleigh Presbyterian Church a history of the church since it began in 1957. Here are recorded the story of the purchase of land in 1956, of informal meetings in a garage of people who organized a survey of the district, the formation of a provisional committee, the floating of loans and so on up to the building of a hall in 1958. The record also includes the names of several ministers and a deaconess, details of stewardship campaigns, accounts of the work of prominent church members and the acquisition of a manse and additional rooms to the hall. It concludes with the names of the office bearers of the many church organizations with brief reference to their beginnings and work.

It is interesting to note that the East Bentleigh Presbyterians built a hall before a church. This would not have happened fifty years ago. Does it suggest that the role of the church is changing?

The Society was so impressed with Mr. Allen's idea and the way he has carried it out that it intends to write to the larger organizations in the City of Moorabbin urging them to write their history every ten years and to place all completed records in a bank for safe keeping.

A PIONEER AND HIS CHURCH

Recently the Society was shown a newspaper cutting dated September, 1910 belonging to Mrs. F. Westhorp of Cheltenham. It was the obituary of her grandfather, Thomas Tilley. In his address at Mr. Tilley's funeral the then minister of St. Matthew's, Cheltenham gave some interesting information about the early history of the church.

Tilley came to Australia in the eighteen-fifties, settled at first at Collingwood where he lived for four years and then bought land in the Warrigal - Centre Dandenong Roads area and became a market gardener. He was associated with the first Anglican church in Cheltenham when "services were held on the piece of land in Silver Street adjoining Mr. Wilde's property opposite to what is known as Watt's Hill on the Centre Dandenong Road". The building there was also used as a day school and was known as "the Church of England Common School No. 127." Tilley was present at a meeting on 18th April, 1864 presided over by the Reverend Samuel Taylor of St. Andrew's, Brighton at which Messrs. Comport, Nowell, Francis, Taut and Tilley were elected to "a combined church and school committee". The meeting authorized Mr. Taylor "to apply to the Victorian Government for part of the Government reserve in the parish of Moorabbin" on which to build a church. This government reserve was the triangular piece of land in the centre of Cheltenham where St. Matthews now stands. At that time it also contained the Courthouse (since modernized) and the Mechanics Institute (demolished in 1960 to make way for the present Cheltenham Hall.). The church people were apparently anxious to have their services in a building other than the school as in 1865 it was decided "to move the church furniture to the

(over)