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CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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President

Mrs. C. Whitehead
93-2635

Secretary

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Newsletter

Volume 11 No. 1

March, 1971

The Society meets at the home of Mrs. J. Marshall, 2 Jellicoe Street, Cheltenham on the 3rd Thursday in each month. Next meeting Thursday 15th April.

A study of the recerds of the East Bentleich School in 1854 saggest.

South Eastern Historical Association - Summer School 1971

On Labour Day weekend the South Eastern Historical Association which combines the activities of the Moorabbin, Chelsea, Mordialloc, Frankston, Mornington and Dandenong Historical Societies held its annual Summer School at Twin Rivers Lodge, Warburton. The theme of the School was an exploration of the history of Melbourne's water supply. Thirty five people, including some associated with country historical societies attended. The program included three bus tours, one of old Warburton and the Upper Yarra Dam, one of Marysville, Eildon and Alexandra, and one of Launching Place, Hoddle's Creek, Gembrook, Cockatoo and Yellingbo. Local historical societies assisted in entertaining and supplying information to the bus travellers. At a dinner on the Saturday evening the guest speaker was Councillor L.F. Payne of Chelsea, a commissioner of the Board of Works, whose subject was "The History of Melbourne's Water Supply." Films provided by the Board of Works were also shown. Delightful weather contributed to the making of a very successful weekend.

Fashions in Christian names and the reasons for some of them

Since the thirteenth century most people have had two names, probably because it was thus easier to distinguish any one person from another. Many surnames are rooted in occupations; "Smith" (which meant "a workman" and survives in "goldsmith" and "blacksmith"), "Farmer", "Miller" and so on. Some indicated place names — "John o' Stainsby" became "John Stainsby" and so forth. But Christian names have been to a great extent shaped by religion, fashion, novelty and the interests of the day. And so among them there has been much more change and variety.

For centuries Christianity exerted a strong influence on the names given to children. The forerunner of Christ and "the disciple whom Jesus loved" were both called "John" and there were three "Marys" associated with Him; hence the popularity of these two names, though it is now perhaps on the wane. Then as time went on the Church acquired saints whose names became popular - Bernard, Francis, Catherine, Margaret and many others. But from the sixteenth century onwards Protestantism rejected saints names except those which were associated with the Bible.

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