

# WRECK BAY STATION

## Visit by Children to Steel Works

A visit to the huge Australian Iron and Steel Works at Port Kembla by twelve Wreck Bay Station children took place in August.

Two additions were made to the number who had made the Canberra trip, Tommy Moore on his first trip and Isaac McLeod also on his maiden voyage. Tommy must have been looking forward to it as his mother reports he was up at 2 a.m. fully dressed and waiting.

Once the initial and eternal arguments were settled as to places in the Kombi, they were off. Being a little ahead of schedule time was sufficient to allow a short stop at the famous Kiama Blowhole where the children left the vehicle and inspected this wonder at close range.

A bit too close for Betty Ardler who nearly left her shoes every time the water "blew".

Arriving at the Visitors' Centre at the A.I.S. Works at the appointed time, 10 a.m., the party met with a grand reception.

Being allotted a special guide for the day, Mr. A. Russell, the tour soon got under way. Using the Kombi they headed first for the huge new Blast Furnace which was in the process of being tapped of molten iron and slag. Gingerly the children followed Mr. Russell up and along the catwalks until the great molten stream from the furnace was immediately underneath.

From the Furnace they travelled to the new inner harbour being constructed and watched the machines drilling the sea bed and blasting out the rock to make the way deeper for big ore boats. Huge shovels on drag lines were ripping into the water pulling up the waste rock. New gantries were being constructed overhead, trucks streaming back and forth, with torches cutting, riveters banging, workmen poring over the structure everywhere. It is said it would have been possible to pluck up twelve sets of eyes, maybe thirteen because even the Station Manager's were sticking out a little.

After having a quick glance at the beached tug, "Hero" which lays on the outer harbour beach front they were in time to watch the coke ovens being emptied, seventeen tons of glowing red coke being pushed from the ovens every few minutes. The Kombi then did a grand tour of the Works at large with Mr. Russell explaining to the kids what was what.

A picnic lunch was provided by the Company after which a film on Industry generally was shown.

Then began the arduous tour of the Rolling Mill where the process of transforming the great lumps of ingot steel, red hot, into strip, bars and various other

shapes is undertaken. The children visited the operating cabin where two skilled men moved small handles which in turn revolved, rolled and bashed at the ingot on the moving path below. They watched as the ingot was slowly but expertly shaped from a bulbous lump into a flat, pliable plate of glowing steel only to go racing off along the path of rollers to undergo another treatment. The party followed along, down the long line of rollers until over a quarter of mile had been traversed. By this time the original ingot was a sheet of thin steel plate about a half mile long.

A quick visit to the tinplate section where all Australia's plate is made for cans, tins, etc., then back to the Centre and after apples, kindly distributed by the Works, into the Kombi and home. Arrival time 6 p.m.

Sceptics may ask if it has been worth while, but it is doubtful if anyone would remain sceptic if they were to accompany the children on such a tour. From what the parents report steel is flowing in practically every home at Wreck Bay!

Many thanks to the Australian Iron and Steel Works for making such a day possible, to the guide Mr. Russell who showed great kindness and interest, to the Staff of the Reception Centre and to the children themselves. Their behaviour was excellent, made even more desirable by the dangerous location, their interest was unflagging and their conduct a credit to themselves and their people.

Target for November, Sydney.

## CANCELLATION OF BURSARY

### A TRAGIC WASTE

A young boy who was granted a bursary by the Board in March, 1959, did not make satisfactory progress with his schooling at the Maroubra Bay High School, as he was continually absent from school.

He continued to play truant and after many opportunities court action has been taken by the Child Welfare Department, and the Board with regret has been forced to cancel his bursary. A wonderful opportunity given to this young man on the threshold of his life has been thrown away. An opportunity such as this should be grasped with both hands and every advantage derived from it.