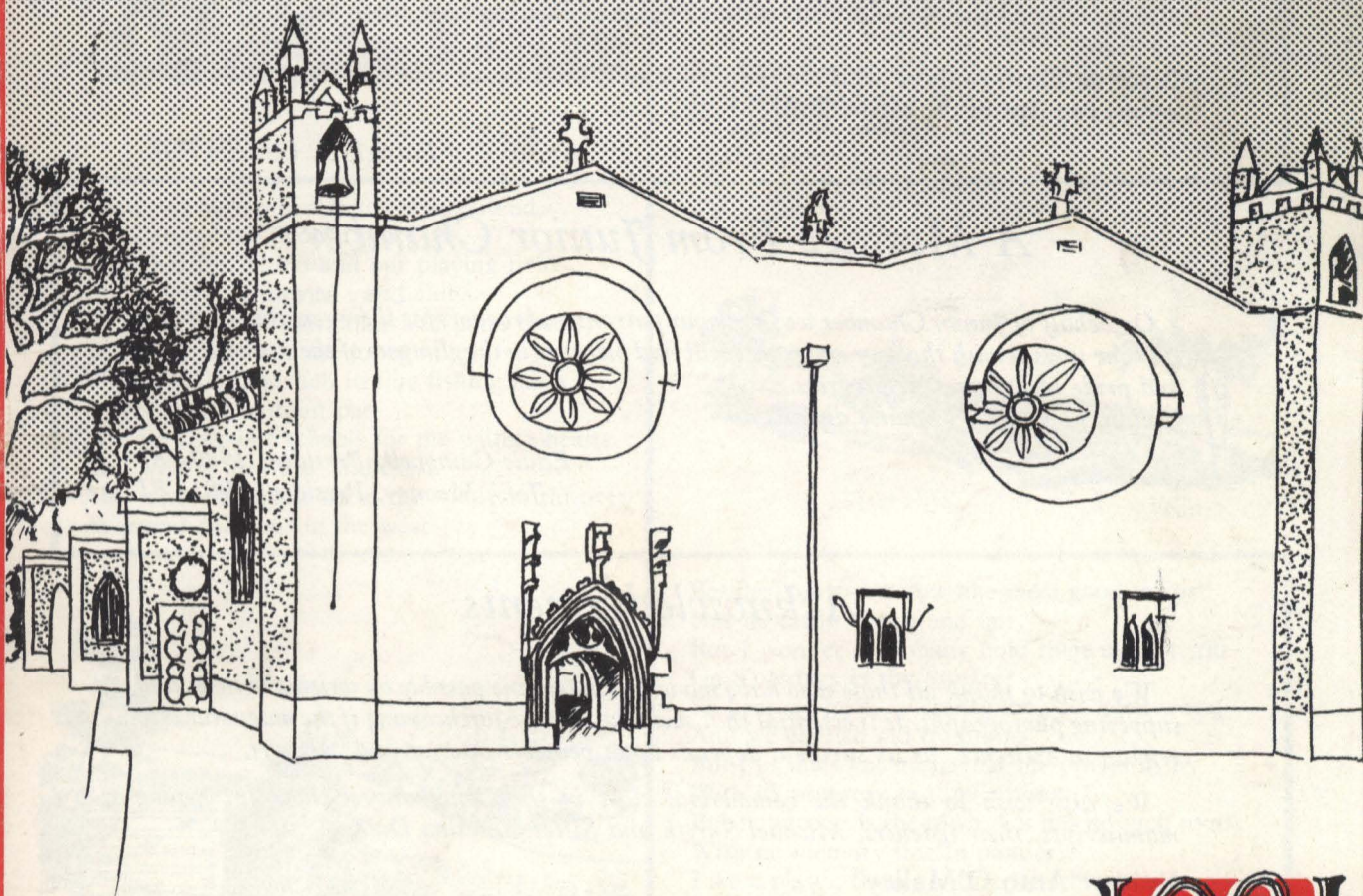


ANNAGH



1981

ANNAGH

A Ballyhaunis Magazine



Christmas 1981

Season's Greetings

The past year has brought its share of sorrow as well as joy and, with the shortening days - gearrógaí dubha na Nollag - sets the scene for the drawing up of defences against cold and decay; yet who can deny the presence of hope in the air of Ballyhaunis and its environs? The rescue of the textile factory with its valuable job potential was no mean achievement and an earnest of the worth of community endeavour. The continuing success of 'Annagh' establishes the visible proof of the contribution that Junior Chamber continues to make to the social life of the area. I thank them for the opportunity to wish the people of the parish, the surrounding districts, and their absent friends the age old wish of the Prince of Peace whose birth we shall shortly celebrate:

'Peace on Earth to those who are God's friends. That Peace engender hope - if winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

Patrick O. Costello P.P.

A Message From Junior Chamber

*On behalf of Junior Chamber we thank our patrons and readers for their generous support. It is our special wish that our emigrants will find pleasure in the glimpses of their towns's past and pride in her present progress.
Nollaig faoi shean's mhaise dhaoib.*

*Eddie Campbell, President 1980/'81
John Mooney, President 1981/'81*

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank all those who have made this magazine possible by writing articles and supplying photographs. It is essential that such material be forthcoming if the magazine is to remain in existence, as its survival depends upon people's interest and support.

We also wish to thank the commercial class in the Community School for typing manuscripts, their teachers, Michael Smyth and Sister Teresina Daley.

Editor: Anto O'Malley

Cover: Chris Pratt

Committee: Pat Higgins, Jim Lundon, Joe Hosty and Matt O'Dwyer

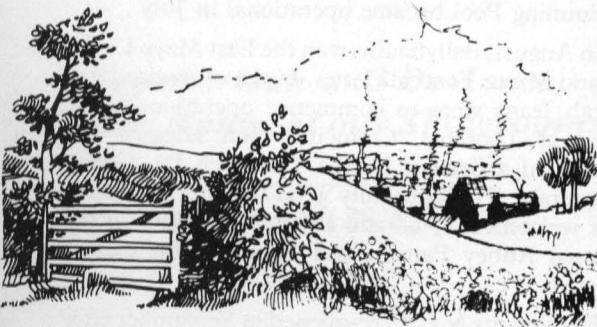
CHEERS!

Now here's a toast, friend, to Ballyhaunis,
And to all God's people in it!
And should any man ask where on earth it is,
This is hardly to his credit!
But to bring the light now to backward folk
From Downpatrick to Tralee,
It's the first town set on the fine high-road
Between Knock and Castlerea
Or if ever by any grim misfortune's blighting
South to Galway you must go,
It's the last blessed town to give you heart
Before you will leave Mayo!



But then backward folk may still well ask
What is its claim to fame?
Has it very much else to shout loud about
Beyond its pleasant name?
Well, there is its Abbey on the one high-hill,
And its convent on the other,
And on the third there's the parish church,
And can many a town do better?
Then I ask what other inland towns take pride,
In a swimming pool of size,
Or a plant to package there the finest meats
That gladden European eyes?

Then, we have our social centres, friend,
Our den for the Scouts and Cubs,
Our libraries, courts and our playing fields,
Our cinemas, cumanns, and clubs.
We have homes from home and hotel rooms,
We've the café and the lounge bar,
With a hinterland rich in fine fishing lakes
A golf course without par.
And we have our schools for the willing hearts,
And willing they are and blest,
And wise men know them the whole world over
As proud paragons in the west!



Besides, our town now like most good towns
Has its cattle - mart and fair,
But I wonder how many hold their market still
On Tuesdays in the Square?
So here we have reverence for past good ways,
And we cherish old traditions,
But this does not mean that life passes us by
With its progress and inventions
But how poor is the town that has no such roots,
With no memory fine to ponder!
Like a plastic flower with a false bright face
It lacks the heart of wonder!

Rev. John O'Connor O.S.A.

Review 1981

Tá deire la blian eile beagnach ann anois tá sé in am dúinn féachaint siar ar roinnt de na rudaí a tharla timpeall orainn.....

The year was ushered in at the Junior Chamber New Year's Eve Ball at the Scouts Den at which the 'Award for Personal Endeavour' 1980 sponsored by Keane Kitchens was presented to Bernard Freyne by Emmet Keane and the 'Commercial Endeavour Award' sponsored by Dillon and Co. Ltd., was presented to Austin Grogan by John Dillon.

As January progressed there were many Dinner Dances and Socials in the area. The G.A.A. 'Footballer of the Year' went to Pat Freeley while John Prenty received 'Clubman of the Year' award. The Pub Quiz in which twenty-nine teams took part was won by the G.A.A. team - John Prenty, Dermot Eagney, Jim Lundo and Aidan Kelly. The Mastermind Competition was won by Padraic Waldron.

February saw the production of 'The Boyfriend' by the pupils and staff of the Community School. St. Patrick's Dramatic Society staged a three-act comedy 'Friends and Neighbours' at the Parochial Hall, produced by Hugh Rudden. The Ballyhaunis Golf Club hosted an R.T.E. Radio Sports Quiz compered by Jimmy Magee in which the home team was Tommy Keenan, Pat Curley and Tom McNicholas. In far off Glasgow, Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber Debators defeated Glasgow to reach the International Tripartite Final of Junior Chamber Debating. A series of Spring Lectures was held in the N.C.F. Mart Complex (thé Michael Davitt Room) organised by the Advisory Committee.

April saw the production of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Magazine edited by Anto O'Malley. It was launched at a function attended by Mr. Paddy Muldoon, Chairman of Mayo Co. Board. The Ballyhaunis Milk Run was also held in aid of the Irish Wheelchair Association - the youngest participant was Kathy O'Neill aged 7 months and in excess of £1,000 was raised. Garvan Dwane won the Mayo U-18 Championship in Badminton and later partnered Enda Moran to win the County Mayo Doubles. The International Debating Final between Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber and Calderdale Junior Chamber took place at Ballyhaunis Community School in April 4th 1981. Ballyhaunis achieved a memorable victory. The Members of the team were John Dillon-Leetch (Capt.), John Higgins, Chris Pratt and John Mooney. The Ballyhaunis G.A.A.

Club's twenty one day U.S. tour commenced in April. The Party of fifty-five visited New York, Boston, Washington and Hartford.

In May the Community School won the Connacht Colleges Junior Football title for the second successive year. A new telephone kiosk was erected in Upp. Main Street. In early June, fifty five children received their first Communion at St. Patrick's Parish Church from the Very Rev. Father P. Costello P.P., Ballyhaunis. One week later over eighty children were confirmed by His Grace the Most Reverend Dr. Cunnane, Archbishop of Tuam at St. Patrick's Parish Church.

The 4th Mayo Troop Boy Scouts celebrated its Golden Jubilee in June when Scouts from sixteen areas gathered in Ballyhaunis for a weekend of activities. On June 28th the Archbishop of Tuam, Most Reverend Dr. Cunnane concelebrated a special Mass in St. Patrick's Parish Church. The parade of Scouts to the Mass was led by the Army Band of the Western Command. A Fashion Show in aid of the Scouts Den which was extensively renovated during the year was held. The Community School Yearbook was edited by Anto O'Malley. In the June General Election, Mr. P. Morley T.D. (Fianna Fáil) was re-elected to Dail Eireann. Concillor Jim Higgins was a candidate for Fine Gael. Ballyhaunis Re-habilitation Institution held their National Bike Day. The Annual Corpus Christi Procession through the town was held, as usual. Junior Chamber held a Tenth Anniversary Dinner.

The Began Feis was held in July. Michael Webb the Ballyhaunis Goalkeeper won a Connacht Senior Football Championship medal with Mayo against Sligo. A new Children's Playground beside the Swimming Pool became operational in July.

In August, Ballyhaunis won the East Mayo Under 16 and Minor Football Titles. It was announced that Farah Jeans were to commence operations at the plant at Tooraree. Councillor Jim Higgins was appointed a Senator by the Taoiseach Dr. Garret Fitzgerald. The unusually good weather in August was welcomed by all and enjoyed especially at the Annual Abbey Pattern and Sports at the end of August.

Ballyhaunis N.C.F. re-opened in September after a brief closure and successful Show and Sale was held in October. A Public Meeting was held in the

Scouts Den to review the Ballyhaunis Draft Plan. Many people from Ballyhaunis were involved in R.T.E. Community Radio West programmes during September in programmes transmitted from Knock, Claremorris, Foxford and Ballina.

Through the year the area has grown and expanded. The Handball and Squash Court was roofed; a new Advance Factory was commenced at Tooraree; new houses continued to dot the area on all sides of the town.

In October, Dr. Michael Cleary, John Cleary and Enda Moran took part in the Dublin City Marathon.

And so, yet another year comes to a close we look forward with confidence in an expanding, vibrant Ballyhaunis agus mar sin guimis go mbeirimid beo ag an am sin arís.

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Scaling The Wall



(Left to Right): Micheal Cleary, John Cleary, Pat Scanlon (Killorglin) and Pat Freeley await the starters whistle

Marathon '81 began for me last Winter when I read the schedule in an English Sunday Paper for the London Marathon. The writer, Christopher Brasher convinced me that anyone could run a marathon with the proper training.

Early January saw me sneaking up to Hazlehill in the car at night and jogging. On that first evening I did a mile without stopping in 12 minutes! I was thrilled but I couldn't tell anyone, they'd only laugh at me. I kept at it and gradually improved my distance and my courage. In March, I jogged to Hollywell Cross and back-three miles on the Main Road.

Then the Milk Run came along. I was on the Organising Committee, at last a justifiable reason to jog. I did it! Through the town after last mass, past the Slags on Webb's window, out the Clare Road, past the neighbours and home!!! Five miles in 40 minutes! I was started.

In June, Mike and I began to follow Noel Carroll's basic marathon schedule. This meant a change from the occasional jogging six days a week - No time to recover. Because of Mike's uncertainty in the evenings we changed to morning jogging. This meant getting up at 8 o'clock during my Summer Holidays. Why was I the one who had to make the sacrifices? Still it had its compensations. Though not a great summer the mornings were beautiful and we usually finished our run feeling they were well worth the effort.

It was during these mornings we encountered our first fan club. We could never figure how they knew we were coming but they were there every morning without fail, Dave Judge, Charlie O'Reilly and Johnny McGarry, with one eye on the milk meter and the other to see which one of us was the leader. Did they have bets on us? Their wonderful words of encouragement never failed to raise our spirits (or

hackles) 'Daft Baskets', 'Mother Ireland is rearing them yet'. 'What's keeping ye lads?' Then there was Peter Regan rushing up to the Cross with two buckets of milk for us. 'No thanks Peter, better give it to the calves'

As the weather improved we began to get thirsty on our runs, no problem as there were plenty of taps in farmyards. But as our runs got longer we decided that water alone was not enough for our by now magnificent bodies. We needed nourishment after all Saturday mornings we were running fifteen miles! We read that the best form of nourishment for runners was glucose. But try as we might we couldn't find any glucose in any of the water from Carrowkeel to Cottage! We even tried carrying bottles of glucose and water with us but found it kind of awkward. There had to be another solution. Mary, my wife was honoured to be the privileged one to get out of bed on Saturday mornings and meet us in Braclagh Bog with our glucose and water - sure we chased home after it!

We had one faithful admirer. He was there every morning without fail and he was always in the same spot - just inside the ditch as we went round the 'Forge Corner' in Lisduff. I swear to God every time we passed he brayed 'Kindred Spirits'.

By the end of August we were flying. We were running 50 miles a week and doing our 15 mile runs in 2 hours - 8 minute Miles - a 3 and a half hour marathon! I was true for Brasher anyone could run a Marathon, but we were going to do at least a 3 and a half hour one! 'I wonder how we would do in competitive Cross Country Races after the Marathon?' 'We might even bring home some silver'. Then the bombshell - early September Mike got a new car, we discovered something was wrong.

Our routines were short - we checked with another car, They're short! The longest we had really run was 13½ miles. 8 minute miles how are

you!' - 9 minute plus! We wouldn't do the Marathon in 4 hours. For that week our morale was at the lowest and I nearly quit.

The Saturdays got longer. 17, 18, 20 miles and we returned later and more knackered each morning. This posed a slight problem for Mike, he had a roomful of patients to face many of whom at that particular moment did not feel or look half as bad as himself.

We were now joined by Sean Moran who unfortunately had to withdraw at the last minute, and Tony Keane who was in the Marathon last year. They added variety and considerable pace.

Bernie Byrne's became the watering place for Marathon aficionados. 'Put on plenty of goosegrease on'. 'This will be your easiest its like Lough Derg, you don't know how bad it is the first time.' 'You should run in the Phoenix Park Mini-Marathon', 'Pat Freeley is training in Limerick', 'Run on the outside lads so we will see you on television'. Our last night in town, promises of pints and pounds next Tuesday night.

Finally we were ready. Off to Dublin on Friday with a presentation from the School Staff to wish me luck - more weight to carry! I **had** to finish no matter how long it took. Heed the last piece of advice 'Be wide sham, take it easy, take several hours if you have to!' We leave the town with handshakes, waves, promises of more sponsorship and horn hooting.

The Mansion House, Sunday, in to register, meet Pat Freeley. Three of us decide to meet the next day.

Great atmosphere and excitement. Meet Frank Greally and Michael Joyce, a great fuss made of us, introduction to famous athletes, - 'three lads from our hometown'. Photos for a magazine. Beginning to feel important. Nice!

The big day. Talk about excitement! We are off. Nice and easy early on. First casualty after 6 miles. He is sitting on a bench just inside the Phoenix Park. Doesn't look bad. He is getting loads of sympathetic advice and encouragement. 'Just get up and walk' 'Try to keep going for another mile', 'Don't worry you will feel better after a while'. All to no avail. Suddenly his friend comes back for him with a look of disgust on his face he roars at him 'Get up, you lazy basket...' It worked. Wonder did he finish?

Always thought 'you hit the wall' at 20 miles. But at 7 miles in the Park hundreds of runners were hitting the wall, of course others were hitting the trees and more were just doing it on the grass! Further into the Park we meet our Fan Club, 2 wives and 2 kids 'Come on daddy,' 'Good man, Pat' 'You're looking great Mike'. That added a spring to our step.

Fifteen miles and we begin to pass some runners. Does wonders for us. We meet an old man going at a steady pace. He looks seventy if he's a day. 'Stay away from him or he'll disgrace us'. News comes through that Neil Cusack has won it. That's a joke, no one gives a damn, beginning to get a bit hard now.

17 miles, it's hell. Brasher never mentioned this! We miss the dogs. Where are all the Dublin dogs? Nothing like the dog snapping at your tender achilles tendons to take your mind off the pain and get you galloping for a mile or two. On the other hand if a dog came now he'd be welcome to my achilles tendons and a few other parts as well!

20 miles at last! But still at least an hour to run. 'Don't think of that!' We pass Eric Murphy featured in 'Sunday Tribune' and 'Late Late Show'. Makes us feel good. Jimmy McGee with a 'mike' - doesn't ask us anything - just as well he would probably be told to get lost at this stage. Someone comments 'smoking is bad but this is ridiculous!' Pat and I decide not to bother with drinks anymore, it breaks our stride. 'Where the hell is 22?' - Longest mile I have ever run. '23, 24, 25 only a mile to go', think of coming in the Clare Road. Mike Byrne will be at the door with a pint for us.

The end is in sight, a few hundred yards to go. I think to myself, 'Up the pace for a glorious finish', a runner in front of me collapses, 'easy now, don't end up like him'. We don't rush it. We cross the line together. 'We've done it!!!' 'Never again' was the reply.

John Cleary

Paddy Delaney

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Oldest Ballyhaunis Photograph?

The lady whose photograph you see is Mary Waldron.

She was born in the village of Cave, Ballyhaunis in approximately 1807. Her parents were Honor Tarpey and Anthony Waldron, who had nine children: Brigid, Kate, Norah, Mary, Margaret, Rose, Mark, Michael and Ned (Edward).

Sometime prior to 1857, three of the Waldron sisters, Kate, Norah and Mary, left Ireland. Ocean travel during the 1840's and 1850's was made in small wooden sailing ships, referred to as 'coffin ships' because of the high mortality rate. Crammed into the 'steerage' compartment, passengers made the long journey with little light, hardly any fresh air and extremely unsanitary conditions. Many were buried at sea. The voyage was unpredictable, lasting anywhere from four to fourteen weeks or even longer. All three of the Waldron sisters survived this trip to the United States.

Mary Waldron married John Durkin, also of Ireland, probably in New York City. On 7th December 1857, Mary Waldron Durkin gave birth to twin daughters who were named Anna and Mary. Mrs. Durkin died shortly afterwards and was buried in Calvary Cemetery on 16th December 1857. One of the twins, Mary, lived only 15 days and was buried with her mother on 23rd December 1857. The other baby, Anna Durkin, survived.

When she was 21 years old, Anna Durkin married Patrick Joseph Mooney on 12th July 1879. They had nine children, all born in New York City, Mary, Ellen, John, Anna, Frank, Walter, Catherine, Edward and Maguerite.

Mary Waldron lived only a few short years in her new country. She left her home in Ireland during times of hardship and made a hazardous trips across the ocean.

Today, 120 years since her death, she has numerous descendants.

She was a first cousin to the late Canon Waldron P.P., of Annagh and Logboy 1871 - 1892 and was also a grand-Aunt of the late Dr. Eamon Waldron and, the same to the present Mark Waldron of Cave; and would be a great-great Aunt of Gerry Cribben, Tooraree.



Mary Waldron

(This photograph is reproduced from a daguerrotype which is more than 120 years old, since Mary Waldron Durkin died in 1857. In ordinary light, the image is difficult to see, except when held at an angle. It is hand-tinted, her dress soft brown, the brooch at her neck plae green. When posing for a photograph of this type, the subject had to sit still for 3-5 minutes.

To reproduce the image, black and white infrared film had to be used, and a close up lens with a red filter.

The daguerrotype is well preserved in its original case, a wooden box with a carved or pressed design, covered in black leather. It is lined with red velvet brocade. The daguerrotype is sealed behind glass with a gold-metal frame.

Original and negatives in possession of Mrs. John A. Ward, Minot, North Dakota, a great-great granddaughter of Mary Waldron.



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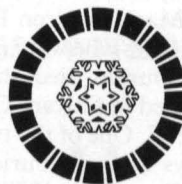
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Look Over Your Shoulder

by Séan Durkan

The name Ballyhaunis in its Irish form denotes a river; yet the most prominent features of our town are the embracing hills on which stand our places of worship - and perhaps our existence too. The Augustine Abbey, which with an on going tradition of over 600 years, must take pride of place.

The Convent and its communities over the years have watched over and prayed, with and for, the people and started them on the road of life. Our magnificent Parish Church where so many have made their first and final public appearances watches over all.

Ballyhaunis today, is a thriving town with modern facilities - educational, commercial, recreational. Modern Industries - Meat processing, furniture manufacturing, concrete processing, clothing, steel works and service Industries, all providing extensive employment.

The professional services required in a modern community are well represented and a good community spirit is evident that, in brief is Ballyhaunis 1981.

Look over your shoulder and speculate on how our town looked a century ago, and its development in that period. The railway bridge and the embankment on either side of it were not there. The fields of Devlis joined the fields of Cherryfield and the road from Cherryfield joined the Devlis road at the point where Frank Connolly's house now stands, the river from Devlis which ran through the fields is 'lost' under the bridges and embankment. Between the river and Devlis crossroads was a village of thatched houses the last of which was knocked about 1969. It is fascinating to speculate on the numbers of men needed to excavate and remove the Railway cutting through the Convent Hill. The cutting was required to gain access for the Railway to the west. No bulldozers or mechanical shovels, just manpower and the horse and cart. They levelled the hills, they filled the hollows, they built the embankment, they hewed the stone, they built the bridges, they fenced the fields, they hung the gates, they made roads. They changed our lives.

With the advent of the railway a rebuilding of the town took place. Suddenly we had hotels, side-car men (forerunner of today's taxis) improved access roads, and a degree of prosperity following the long period of full employment. Footpaths were laid and a covered sewage system with which people had a right to connect. The footpaths were flagstones standing six to nine inches above the roadway. They were colourful and clean with varying tints of red

and brown stone in a constantly changing pattern of irregular sizes. There was a bordering kerbstone and outside this a stone channel. This consisted of a series of slender stones running parallel to the kerb and carrying the water overground to the rivers.

At the river in the town centre, there was and still is, a public way leading down to the river. In bygone days most houses in town kept a cow or cows and the cows were driven to the river to drink during the dry spells. Carts were driven there carrying empty barrels which were filled manually with buckets of water drawn from the river. This water had domestic and commercial value. On the other side of the street was, and still is, the town well. This was the principal source of drinking water in the town. These water sources were the forerunner of the modern supply which we take for granted today. This supply arrived in the mid 1930s following the advent of electricity to the town. The foresight of the citizens of that time in getting the electricity and water supply at an early stage is one of the most significant achievements in the history of the town.

The old boys' school on the hilltop still stands a reminder of our heritage. The barefoot children who raised the dust in the yard as they kicked a football made of layers of paper bound with string, wore clogs of local manufacture in Winter time. The clogs with their wooden soles, steel toe-caps and shod with light metal bands, were made locally and sold to outlets in other localities. There were many such industries and a man was often titled by his trade: thus, Nailor Byrne, who made nails, the Smith for a local blacksmith who in addition to shoeing horses would make parts for ploughs, harrows, gates etc., the Miller followed or preceded by a surname (there was O'Brians Mill on the Clare Road at the point known locally as Mill Bridge and Plunkett's Mill on the Dunmore Road), Cooper Byrne who made churns and barrels etc. There were Sadlers and Tailors and numerous other titles denoting skills. There were dressmaker's, cartwrights and wheelright's, undertakers with horse drawn hearses to carry the dead and side-car men to cater for the living. It was a solemn occasion when a hearse drawn by two and sometimes four black horses passed through the town on a winter's evening with ghostly lanterns and a black clad driver with a white flowing headband draped round his black hat. The only sound was the clop of the hooves and the shuffle of feet and by tradition no light showed and all activity stopped.

There was a racecourse complete with stand, at Tooraree; a good way out of town at that time! A colourful parade of horses and jockeys through the

town on Race Day is a sight to remember.

Clare Street ended at Miss Macks' Hill and Abbey Street was one-sided overlooking the Friary fields.

Our town had characters who gave it character. They were in all walks of life.

Opera and Pantomime, Comedy and Tragedy, of a very high standard was produced regularly and an abundance of talent was available. There were suitable halls and pennies (of which there was 240 in a pound) would pay for all this.

The Railway Station was a focal point. From it all the migratory workers departed for England to work on a seasonal basis. Having put in the crop, cut the turf and fenced the meadows, they came to Ballyhaunis station to catch the boat train. There was a very close relationship between town and country and a sense of sorrow and gloom at their departure was general. Many of them had walked long distances through the night to board the early morning train.

The 'Spalpeens' as they were called returned in their hundreds at Christmas with money enough to balance the Family Budget and a sense of peace and hope came with them.

There was little motor traffic in the thirties and there was a constant stream of carts to and from the station. Peter Hannon had a spur railway line to his premises and it was not unusual to see ten or more wagons on his siding at one time. This was equivalent to ten articulated lorries today, and all that volume of goods was handled by manpower and distributed by horse and cart.

There were egg dealers who between them dispatched 2,000 cases of eggs per week to Dublin for shipping. With the approach of Christmas these same traders doubled as fowl merchants and many a Christmas festivity was financed by the earnings of the pluckers and packers of the thousands of fowl rallied for shipping. The fairs 'made' Ballyhaunis and the railway made the fairs.

FAIRS ENOUGH

Did you know that a horse fair was held in Ballyhaunis on the 29th October 1981, just a few weeks ago?

There were two horses and four dealers at it. Fifty

years ago there would have been several hundred horses & as many buyers & sellers. There was a monthly cattle fair, and monthly pig fairs, and combined the cattle fairs of March 16th and October 29th were two major horsefairs. The fairs were of great economic significance: a farmer who required credit for seed, implements or even a cash loan would invite a chosen shopkeeper to visit him and in the course of the visit would display his stock which would have an estimated value at a particular fair. An arrangement for credit would be made.

Horses were important because in those days motorized transport was practically unknown. Armies, industries, city cab men, farmers and private persons (doctors, priests etc.) all used horses - so the horse fair was a big occasion.

Horses would be paraded on the streets, with the more pretentious decked out in coloured ribbons or shining leather and brass. A dealer would trot his horse up the street to show his paces and the more daring would cause the horse to circle on a long leading rein. With many dealers executing the same manouvres at the same time, the crowd of onlookers became participants in the ritual, advancing and retreating to the coming and going of the animals. Some nice footwork was called for and in effect we had the thrills of a wild west rodeo and the running of the bulls in the streets of Spain - on our local streets long before we viewed them on cinema and television.

Some dealers at Ballyhaunis fair came looking for light draft horses suitable for pulling city cabs and light carts. In the afternoon of those far off days it was thrilling to see twenty or more fillies (young unbroken horses) in a bunch, perhaps on the loose or lightly roped together being driven at a fast trot under the railway bridge on their long trek to Dublin and the English market. Quite often the dealer rode horseback and crossed England by boat, driving his horse through the English countryside and selling to farmers from his herd.

Traders often provided overnight accomodation for the horses; a re-collection of the times includes the restless stirring of iron shod hooves on the cobble-stoned yard. As the horse fairs coincided with cattle fairs the town was under severe pressure to accomodate the numbers and variety of livestock on those occasions.

For days before the fair livestock wagons were accumulated on the sidings of the railway station and astute dealers and farmers were not averse to 'standing' a railway man a pint to find out how many wagons the various buyers had booked. The type of beast a particular buyer was interested in was a matter of local knowledge and the number could be arrived at when one knew the number of wagons.

Thus if you had a 'black polly' to sell and knew how many were wanted and available you arrived at an asking price. At the fair you had a variety of notables, 'scouts' who checked the number, quality and location of cattle on offer. 'Tanglers' who 'just happened' to be in the vicinity when a deal was being made and stepped in on a bargain at the crucial time with the customary 'what's between ye men' and then proceeded to negotiate the narrowing of the gap until following a lot of hand slapping (another custom of the time) the final splitting of the final crown (a five shilling piece) was negotiated on the understanding that there would be a 'decent' luck penny.

The foregoing is just a brief outline. There was one unique event which was enacted for the last time in the mid 1930s. The villages of Kilvine and Aughamore traditionally had a 'faction fight' on the afternoon of the March fair. Both sides met at the square in the late afternoon when the day's business was done. The object of the exercise was to drive the opposing side out of town. The Kilvine line was beyond the Friary gate and the Aughamore line at Webb's shed (now Bernard Frayne's Gas Depot).

Vigorous blows were exchanged and minor injuries sustained. Business premises closed their doors and barricaded their windows, while participants tried to establish who was the 'greatest'.

Sometime in the thirties I and a group of companions viewed and scene from the railway bridge. We stood as it were on the hilltop of time and watched the opposing forces fade forever into the mists below. World War Two was on the horizon and never again would this scene be enacted.

PROGRESS!!!



In this photo from 1952 the late John Durkan is pictured in the original place premises of Durkan's Bottlers.

In the background is a Cairnes Ale lorry. This was the delivery vehicle operated by Thomas Freeley of Ballindrehid who subsequently brought the Irish Ale Depot to Ballyhaunis and managed that depot for many years before retiring some years ago.

In effect the Cairnes Ale lorry is the first Irish Ale delivery vehicle in this town. Cairnes is a foundation store of Irish Ale Breweries.

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May They Rest In Peace.....



Raymond Hannan R.I.P.

*'Shall claim of death cause us to grieve,
And make our courage faint and fall?
Nay! Let our faith and hope receive....
The rose still grows beyond the wall'.*

Raymond's life though short, brought great joy to his family, his friends and to many people in this close knit community.

His gentle, unassuming manner, his great love for the very young and respectful concern for the elderly, together with a delightful sense of humour and a truly sensitive understanding of the problems and sorrows of others, are but a few of the many attributes that endeared him to so many.

His leisurely pursuits were those of the sportsman and nature lover. The many fine trophies and awards he won in fishing competitions are ample proof of his achievement and dedication.

I treasure special memories of his childhood, which was shared with my son, George - his first cousin and close friend.

The lines chosen to open and close, this tribute are from the writings of A.L. Frink and express a desire that like the rose tree he planted in my garden, as a child, his memory will live.

*'Scattering fragrance far and wide,
Just as it did in days of yore
Just as it did on the other side,
Just as it will forever more.'*

'In iothlainn De go gcastar sinn.'

Moira



Padraic Moran R.I.P.

With all who knew Padraic I share in the great sense of loss which stems from his absence; but also I share the great sense of joy which stems from the memories he left behind.

May he be at peace-playing soccer for the first team.

Mark

*You helped me when I needed help and did it willingly
And never shall I forget the kindness shown to me
I owe a debt of gratitude that I can never pay
Thank you Padraic from my heart is all that I can say.*

Thomas

Padraic was a great sportsman, who participated in all games. A terrific guy always with a smile on his face. He never had a harsh word for anyone; he was a friend you could rely on. I am proud to have known him. He was so full of life he would be sad to think that all who loved him on this earth were mourning him.

'Slan a chara is bronus'

Brendan



The tragic and sudden death of Vinnie Caulfield has robbed Ballyhaunis of one of its best loved characters.

A kind loving husband and father, Vinnie ran a business for some forty years in Upper Main Street. It was a business enlivened greatly by his personal touch. His personality, generosity and sheer good humour and wit were appreciated by all. He was a man who cared about people and in his own quiet unobtrusive way did much to help the needy.

The people in Largonboy, Began, Knock, Coogue, Brackloon and Aughamore will also miss Vinnie. No more will his van call on their doorstep to meet their weekly needs.

Outside of his family I think the people who will miss Vinnie most are the lads of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. and Vinnie never missed a match and his witty comments from the sidelines brought cheer to the heart on many a cold day. A fine footballer himself he was a shrewd judge of the games.

To Vinnie winning didn't matter, it was the enjoyment out of the game that was important. Though in the end, he himself lost the battle for life, his memory will linger on.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen and sons, Tommy, Vinnie, Seamus and his daughters Helena and Anne.

Go ndeaná Dia Trocáire ar a ánim.

DEATHS.....

(Ar Shli Na Firinne - November 1st 1980 to October 1981)

Rita Hopkins, Upper Main St.
Dr. Eamon Waldron, Doctor's Road,
Mrs. Delia Walsh, Redford
Mrs. Brigid Meath, Clare Street
Martin Lyons, Classaroe
Sr. M. Caramel, Mercy Convent
Mrs. Mary Lyons, Upper Main St.
Mrs. Mary Clarke, Brackloon
Patrick Tighe, Main St.
James Noone, St. Gerard's Crescent
John Lyons, Gurteen
Patrick Tully, Tooraree
John Finnegan, Knox St.
Mrs. Margaret Cribbin, Johnstown
Mrs. Mary Byrne, Knox St.
Michael J. Webb, Devils

James Healy, Holywell
Mrs. Norah Greene, Knox St.
Sean Cleary, Clare St.
Mrs. Delia Waldron, Knox St.
Thomas Biesty, Bohogue
Mrs. Mary Johnston, Abbeyquarter
Mrs. Mary McGarry, Killinagher
Raymond Hannon, Bridge St.
Thomas Drudy, Drimbane
James Judge, Redford
Mrs. Emily Freeley, Cararea
Thomas O'Dowd, Holywell
Mrs. Brigid Doorey, Killnager
Desmond FitzGerald, Bridge St.
Mrs. Julia Winston, Devils
Mrs. Mary Flately, Forthill
Kathleen Murphy, Devils
Mrs. Catherine Judge, Aghloragh
Josephine Webb, Main St.
Sr. Benignus, Mercy Convent
Mrs. Catherine O'Malley Johnson, Knox St.
Terence Grogan, Carrowkeel
Annie Glynn, Tooraree
Thomas Greally, Devils
Christina O'Boyle, Carrarea
Mary Biesty, Bohogue
Mrs. Mary Mulkeen, Knockbrack
Delia Forde, Derrynacon
Patrick Smyth, Brackloon South
Padraic Moran, Knox St.
Vincent Caulfield, Upper Main St.

DEATHS ELSEWHERE

Michael Fitzmaurice, Abbey St.
Margaret Murphy, (nee Finn), Classaroe
Edward Waldron, Redford
Mary Murphy (nee Sullivan), Derrylea
Edward Kedrian, Derrynacon
Mary Schwarz (nee Grogan), Hazlehill
Austin Fitzmaurice, Togher
Martin Harte, Holywell
Sr. M. Consilio Murphy, Lecarrow
Josephine Parker (nee Grogan), Upper Main St.
William Freeley, Scrigg
John Morley, Began
John Laffey, Abbeyknockmay
Sr. Regis, Achill
Fr. Michael Cribbin P.P., Partry
John Freeley, Main St.
John Carney, Island
Nellie Greally, Ballindrehid
Nora Brown (nee Cassidy), Tooraree
Kate Flynn, (nee Forde), Derrynacon
Sara Woods, (nee Fitzmaurice), Lisbane
Mrs. Julia Thornton, Swinford
Sara Owens, Tooraree
Edward Murphy, Main St.
Mrs. Delia Regan, Cloonbrook
Patrick Boyle, Ballintubber
John Stenson, Aughamore
John Creaton, Esker, Kilkelly
Owen Lyons, Annagh

BIRTHS *FAILTE*

To Peter and Noreen Gallagher, Baragarriff
a daughter, Clare Elizabeth

To James and Mary Walsh, Knockbrack
a son, Shay Thomas

To John and Philomea Moran, Bracklaghboy
a son, Michael John

To Patrick and Mary McDonagh,
a daughter, Anna Christine

To John and Mary F. Cleary, Clare St.
a daughter, Rachel Frances

To Martin and Winifrid Mongan, Station Heights
a daughter, Kathleen Marie

To Martin and Josie Cunnane, Carrowkeel
a daughter, Mary Catherine

To Eugene and Catherine Morley, Bridge St.,
a son, Robert

To John and Noreen Kilduff, Upper Main St.,
a son, Jonathan Paul

To William and Kathleen Frayne, Bargarriff
a son, Noel Martin

To Barry and Anna Butler, Doctor's Road
a daughter, Clare Elizabeth

To William and Marina Coyne, Doctor's Road
a son, Karl William

To Patrick and Frances Gaffney, Devlis,
a daughter, Patricia Frances

To Timothy and Martha Byrne, Johnstown
a daughter, Marita Anne

To Martin and Eileen Naughton, Devlis
a daughter, Edel

To Edward and Nuala Murphy, Main St.,
a son, Thomas Patrick

To Terence and Ellen Maughan, Cherryfield,
a son, Owen Valentine

To Michael and Mary Lyons, Lecarrow
a son, Desmond Joseph

To Thomas and Mary McDonagh,
a son, John Paul

To Joseph and Maureen Finn, Pattenspark
a daughter, Deirdre Elaine Mary

To Edward and Maureen Thornto, Doctor's Road,
a daughter, Roisin Elizabeth

To Joseph and Mary Rochford, Knock Road
a son, Séan Thomas

To Michael and Ann Fitzmaurice, Forthill
a daughter, Yvonne Philomena

To Michael and Rosaleen Keaveney, Devlis
a daughter, Mona

To Noel and Teresa Armstrong, Hazlehill,
a daughter, Natalie Maria

To Eamon and Breda Burke, Devlis
a daughter, Brigitta Thérèse

To Michael and Margot O'Loughlin, Devlis
a son, Vincent Thomas

To Joseph and Rosemary Freeley, Upper Main St.
a son, Joseph Martin Mary

To Michael J. and Kathleen Walsh, Abbeyquarter
a son, Michael Joseph

To William and Eileen Nestor, Abbey St.,
a daughter, Laura Patricia

To Joseph and Kathleen Healy, Annagh,
a daughter, Laura Bernadette

To Timothy and Lily Rabbitte, Derrylee,
a daughter, Nora Jacinta Mary

To Austin and Joan Biesty, Pattenspark
a daughter, Caitriona Imelda

To James and Anne Walsh, Johnstown
a daughter, Sandra Cathriona

To Hugh and Mary Rudden, Doctor's Road
a son, Brendan Paul

To Brian and Peg Byrne, Doctor's Road
a son, Damian Patrick

To Anthony and Ann Nestor, Island
a daughter, Gillian Mary

To Liam and Carmel Donnellan, Corofin
a son, Martin Paul

To John and Margery Gallagher, Knock Road
a daughter, Selina Maria

To Seán and Ann Hanley, Knock Road
a son, Niall Francis

To Michael and Margaret Mulligan, Clare St.,
a daughter, Hazel Christina

To John and Helena Barrett, Devlis
a daughter, Lorraine Martina

To Patrick and Kathleen Curley, Hazlehill
a daughter, Michelle Bríd

To Thomas and Judy Regan, Killinaher
a daughter, Michelle Amanda

To Michael and Ann Coffey, Station Rise,
a son, Patrick

To Patrick and Mary Keane, Doctor's Road
a daughter, Audrey Bernadette

To James and Mary A. Mulrennan, Gurteen
a son, James Anthony

To Bernard and Jean Gallagher, Knock Road,
a daughter, Aileen Francis

To Patrick and Kathleen Higgins, Curries,
a son, Patrick John

To John and Elizabeth Dillon-Leetch, Annagh,
a son, Geoffrey Charles

To Bernard and Mary McDonagh,
a daughter, Ellen Josephine

To Flannan and Serena Moroney, Abbeyquarter,
a daughter, Lorraine Breege

To Michael and Christina Nolan,
a son, Gary Patrick

To Michael and Cáit Webb, Main St.,
a son, Michael John Martin

To John J. and Maureen Lilly, Redford,
a son, Adrian Joseph

To William and Shelia Broderick, Brackloon,
a daughter, Emma Jean

MARRIAGES

Desmond Maguire, Redford
Kathleen McGrath, Curries
Declan McIntyre, Tuam
Vivienne Lynch, Ballyhaunis
Patrick J. Keane, Crossbeg, Aghamore
Mary C. Curley, Clare St., Ballyhaunis
Thomas J. Walsh, Crossboyne
Martha T. Folliard, Carton South
Edward Tighe, Larganboy
Maeve Waldron, Knock Road, Ballyhaunis
John G. Lawlor, Athy, Co. Kildare
Mary Eaton, Main Street, Ballyhaunis
Patrick Cummins, Knock
Mary Murrin, Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis
Edward Mulrennan, Tooreen
Mary Sweeney, Drimbane
Thomas Prenty, Knock Road, Ballyhaunis
Fiona Murray, Doctors Road, Ballyhaunis
Charles Grier, Leixlip, Co. Dublin
Mary Herr, Knox St., Ballyhaunis
John K. Barrett, Tallaght, Co. Dublin
Noreen Folliard, Upper Main St., Ballyhaunis
Dr. John B. McGuire, Ballindrehid
Joan Eagney, Curries
Kevin F. Doyle, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
Catherine Cribbin, Johnstown
Michael Prendergast, Cloondroon, Claremorris
Anne Regan, Clare Street, Ballyhaunis

MARRIAGES IN ST. MARY'S ABBEY

Daniel C. O'Sullivan, Portrane, Co. Dublin
Anne B. Gordon Moran, Mountain
Thomas J. O'Malley, Achill
Bernadette Kelly, Drimbane

MARRIAGES ELSEWHERE

Brigid L. Regan, Carrowkeel
Michael Keane, Tooreen
Richard McLoughlin, Limerick
Helen Waldron, Cave
John Halpin, R.N., Main St.
Brid Fleming, Lavalleyroe
Joseph Byrne, Johnstown,
Helen Loftus, Cloonfad
Thomas J. Plunkett, Forthill
Mary Moore, Donegal
Thomas Morley, Island
Catherine Finnerty, Ballinrobe
Michael Anthony Plunkett, Forthill
Martina Costello, Corofin
Patrick Moran, Tooraree
Mary Veronica Waldron, Ballindrehid
Kevin J. Healy, Holywell
Mary A. Fitzgerald, Glin

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Going -A-Ploughing

A recent newspaper article about losing a ring and finding it years later, brought this true incident to my mind and it might in turn stir up memories for some reader either at home or abroad.

About twelve years ago, having returned from England with my 'fortune' (or misfortune) I bought a tractor and some machinery and started doing bits of work here and there around the farm.

I was ploughing a two-acre field at the back of the house and my father (who died a few years ago R.I.P.) was following me up and down, making sure that the furrows were straight and the sods were all turned over, and that no bit of green was to be seen etc.

He was like many men of his day and believed that if you did a job at all you should do it right and especially believed in perfection at ploughing. Of course this was no wonder as he was an expert and meticulous ploughman in his day and ploughed with a team of horses and plough, all round the locality and indeed further afield. Many of the older generation still talk to me today about his prowess at the art of ploughing and his keen interest in it.

At any rate there was I doing my best to please him and comparing myself to the Kerryman 'who got the Nobel Prize for outstanding work in his own field' Suddenly I heard my father shout and I thought 'Here goes again, another crooked furrow or another unturned sod' This time he was standing examining something closely. It turned out to be a bright coin which had just turned up on top of the sod. As the new decimal currency had just come into use I thought somebody had lost a new coin but on closer scrutiny the coin turned out to be a half

sovereign. My Father's eyes welled up and the memories come flooding back to him.

One evening 50 years previously, his father who was commonly known as 'Yank' having spent many years in the U.S.A. was coming home from work. (He worked on the farm for the nuns at the local Convent). He crossed down this field we happened to be ploughing to bring up the cows for milking. On his way back he discovered to his horror that he had lost his 'wages' from the nuns. His wages were (yes you guessed it) a half sovereign.

My father recounted for me how the whole family were brought out looking for the 'wages' and how they stayed until dark that night and for days afterwards and still no trace could be found. The scenes of anguish and dismay can be easily be imagined as the half sovereign was quite a bit of money in those days and there was a fairly large family to support and without a mother as she had passed away before that time.

Everybody who came to the house months after our discovery was told the story and shown the half sovereign and my father was so proud of his find and the story behind it all. My sister who was in the U.S.A. came home on holiday shortly afterwards and took the half sovereign and got it made into a ring for herself. However she has promised to give it back to one of my children when they come of age.

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since and a lot of ground has been ploughed but the memory of that half-sovereign and the joy it brought one old man and the sorrow it brought another, will linger with me always.

Murt Hunt



Tom Lyons and Pat Lyons, Aghamore using the Furrow Plough in March 1938

(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Mary Forkan, Tooreen)

To the Bronx and back



AT THE GATES OF THE WHITE HOUSE

Back: John Webb, John Toolan, Padraic Cuniffe, Brendan Morrissey, Padraic Prendergast, Séan Moran.

Front: Jim Lundon, Des Lyons, Gerry Lyons, Tommy Prenty, John Higgins, Eamon Healy and Jimmy Duggan

At 9.30 a.m. on the day April 10th 1981, the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Tour to the United States of America was ready to leave the Square for its first ever trip across the Atlantic. Thirteen months had elapsed since the inaugural meeting of the Club Committee, during which time fund-raising projects such as the Lord Mayor and the Pub Quiz Projects were to be undertaken and thirty one meetings of the Committee were held.

On board the Shannon bound coach was a full compliment of players, substitutes and mentors and 23 others including 4 from Coventry, who were to avail of the opportunity to visit the U.S. with their fellow towns-people. The Square was crowded with well-wishers and only the video camera of the Club President, Austin Grogan could adequately capture the excitement and jubilation, tinged here and there with a little trepidation of a mother or a wife who had heard from relative yanks of the dangers lurking in the side streets of New York. Fortunately, the blessing from Fr. Costello P.P. to the Group on

board the coach prior to departure was to see the entourage return safely three weeks later on May day - tired and weary from jet-lag, (what was it St. Paul said about charity?) but all in full health and fitness. It is clear that such fear of remote parts is ill-founded when one recalls the face of Julia Winston amongst the well-wishers as she bade farewell to her sister, Kathleen. Both of their lives were to be extinguished only a few weeks later within a few yards of their home.

The final words of tribute, complete with warnings from Club Chairman, Hugh Rudden and travel agent John Dillon were to be steadfastly heeded and the organisation of plans within the U.S. were rendered much easier as a consequence. Indeed as the one responsible for such plans I stated at our home-coming reception that the club-members did Ballyhaunis proud: they were really ambassadors whose adherence to timetables and instructions throughout our eight thousand miles of travel together made the trip so much enjoyable for

everyone. Plans once made and sanctioned by Team Captain, Pat Freeley and Committee Chairman Gerry Lyons were readily accepted. The tears of pride in the Anne McInerney (Stenson) of Tooreen, President of the Mayo Ladies Association in New York, as she bade us farewell at Kennedy Airport will always complement her earlier words of praise. 'I have seen teams from Ireland come and go' she confided 'but when you see your own neighbours step off the plane and conduct themselves in a manner so befitting their parents - then you can truly be proud'. And this was the type of pride you could feel swell inside the hearts of Ballyhaunis emigrants in Gaelic Park, the Flemings; Tom, Bill and Mike, Sean Finn, Walter Boyle and the Plunchett's, John and Mary, or in that lone Ballyhaunis well wisher, Fr. Vincent Keane on our arrival in Washington D.C.

On arrival at Shannon Airport for departure we were greeted with the news that our flight would be five hours late for take off. Luckily this was not to be the omen for the next 20 days and while enjoying the hospitality of Aer Lingus we were introduced to the Assistant General Manager of the Airline, Mr. Gerry Buckley, by Norrie Dillon. Mr Buckley expressed his appreciation of our travelling with his company. During the wait some were busily occupied preparing for the possibility of a drought over the Atlantic, while others watched earnestly as General Alexander Haig experienced rather less difficulty in being airborne after a quick stop over on an official American Government jet travelling from Shannon to the States.

Despite the fact that the film on board the Jumbo 'The Lifting of the Titanic' did little to dispel the flying fears of some and despite the qualms of conscience regarding the answer to the question on the U.S. emigration entry form asking those who were on agricultural land in the past 30 days to present themselves for inspection, after a most pleasant flight we touched down on Kennedy Airport to the Céad Mile Failtes of a welcoming party comprised of New York organiser Tony Greene (Knox Street), Pat Gavin (of the Mayo Team in New York), Michael McDonnell (Balla), John Fitzgerald (Western People Correspondent) and friends and relatives of those travelling including Paddy and Mary Jordan, Sean Finn, Alf Tarpey to name but a few.

The first night in Sloan House on 34th Street and 8th Avenue could best be described as memorable but deficiencies in accommodation were adequately compensated for by the hospitality of the barman in the nearby Blarney Stone Tavern just a few doors away. Most of the group spent two nights at Sloan House prior to distributing themselves amongst friends and well-wishers in New York.

On our second evening in New York we were to take our first taste of the New York subways - famous only for the graffiti and one incident which will be forever recounted will be the sight of one member selling a Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Magazine to an inquisitive black female commuter. We are now en route to Gaelic Park in the Bronx, the first of many official functions. Besides others already mentioned here to greet us were Tony Cunnane (Bridge St.), Martin Killeen (Carrownedan) the Dalton and Higgins sisters of Clare Street, Kitty Morley (Lyons) Knockbrack and her brother Jack. Following the niceties of speech-making by Tony Greene and yours truly, Anne McInerney presented a plaque on behalf of the Association to team Captain Pat Freeley, the first of many such presentations to the team and mentors throughout the weeks that followed and which were reciprocated on all occasions by similar presentations in Connemara marble.

The morning after the night before Michael Waldron refereed a game between Tyrone and Connemara Gaels on the renowned sod of Gaelic Park followed by the Ballyhaunis V New York/Leitrim/Mayo selection, and defeat by 4-7 to 0-7, with former club member Tony Greene scoring 1-2 for the New York side. Little wonder that on returning to Gaelic Park on 28th April, to meet the Mayo Football Club of New York that Ballyhaunis were out for vengeance and with a scoreline of 3-13 to 0-8 justice was truly done.

It is not for the author to give an in-depth description of the days of sight seeing - suffice to say that what was to be seen in each venue was visited by some member or other - who were henceforth to rely on the graciousness of Irish relatives, and friends and strangers for accomodation in their own homes. One notable feature was that, coincidentally it was common practice to meet a group of Ballyhaunis 'tourists' strolling down 5th Avenue or around Madison Square Garden. It was only now when one travelled blazer-clad on the subways of New York where the eyes of both black and white strangers were raised from an apathetic siesta to gaze curiously at the blazer crest, or when the travel bags or crests were the regular cause of chance meetings with fellow Irish, that one realised the importance of having the group properly attired in blazers, tracksuits, jerseys etc. One such example was when the team was lining out for a match in St. John's Seminary, Boston that a former Mayo woman came up to meet us in a wide-eyed suprise having seeing the tracksuits from a distance. Or on arrival at the United Nations Building in New York where an explanation of the blazer crest and the Irish connection meant being escorted by the



**AT THE GRAVE OF THE FAMOUS
HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION
JOE LOUIS IN ARLINGTON CEMETRY,
WASHINGTON D.C.**

Left to Right: Eamon Healy, Joan Connell, Tommy Grogan, Michael Byrne, Michael Daly & Jim Lundon

security guard past waiting queues to prime seats at a meeting of the U.N. Security Council - presided over by our fellow countryman Sean Dorr. The compliments which were extended to the President of the Council and to Ireland by the succession of speakers to a motion on the problems of racism in South Africa were indeed heart warming.

On Thursday, 16th April we arrived in Boston and once again to the welcoming faces of former Ballyhaunis men, Frank Mulligan (Devlis) and Niall McGillicuddy (Knox St.). The tireless efforts of both of those over the next few weeks were to surprise those who did not know of their big hearts from former days. As a guide to Boston, Frank Mulligan could not be rivalled and despite the fact that he was leaving for an Irish vacation three days later, his decision to rejoin us in New York for the last few days was welcomed by all. Neil McGillicuddy's understanding of the difficulties encountered by we inexperienced travellers, and his travelling thousands of miles with his wife Gorman and daughter Anne to be with us at every game resulted in the group being delighted to be able to show their gratitude with small presentations to both himself and Frank Mulligan prior to departure.

Boston - the home of the Kennedy's and the home of so many other Irish ex-patriots has a cleaner appearance and more relaxed atmosphere than the Big Apple, somewhat more akin to the pace of Dublin. Problems encountered here by visitors generally resulted in having to engage in conversation with some Irish Americans. The Irish

connection has to be witnessed to fully understand why the Kennedy clan have nurtured it. This was to be our home for the next week with the Galway Football Club of Boston as hosts. The kindness and hospitality of the Club members exceeded all expectations and club Secretary Margaret Quinn was to the fore in directing this powerful human machine which provided transport, accommodation, football matches and social occasions with flawless precision. The precise detail of every arrangement was climaxed at the official reception on Easter Sunday by the production of a huge cake with 'Welcome to Boston - Ballyhaunis' suitably iced thereon. This function was preceded by the football match already referred to between the Galway Club and Ballyhaunis with a draw as the result. In extra time, however, the strain of 'jet-lag' took its toll with a resulting four point win for the Boston men. Formerly of Holywell, Mrs. Patsy Teehan (Biesty) was one of the many spectators and later we were to meet Ballyhaunis tourists, Mrs. M. Regan, Tooraree visiting her son Shaun and Mrs. Agnes Heaney visiting daughter Angela in Boston.

On Easter Monday, the famous Boston Marathon was to be the attraction with Irishman Neil Cusack finishing in 23rd place from the tens of thousands of participants. Late arrivals, Austin and Pat Grogan, John and Cait Dillon and Committee Treasurer, Tom Prenty were welcomed with the news of folks at home basking in the Easter sunshine which still had to make its appearance at somewhat higher latitudes. The one copy of the 'Western People' was read by all with the earnestness of maturing exiles.

Our Boston visit was interrupted for a memorable two-day trip to the famed Capital City of Washington D.C. Our overnight stay in the Holiday Inn on New York Avenue resulted in a few winks less than the proverbial forty, with a great party atmosphere being present, but everyone was up bright and early for a nine-hour coach tour of the capital, the Space Museum, the White House, Arlington Cemetery and other places of interest concluding with a relaxing visit to Mount Vernon - the home of George Washington. Memories such as these leave an indelible print on the mind. Besides the obvious graves to be visited in Arlington Cemetery was the grave of the Brown Bomber, Joe Louis, who had been laid to rest on the previous day.

The return flight to Boston on Delta Airlines was to be piloted by a native son of Clifden, who helped extricate some newly purchased handcuffs from an overzealous Security Guard who feared a Ballyhaunis takeover of the American skies.

Departure from Boston on the following day, Friday meant some genuinely sad farewells to new found friends as we prepared for the 200 mile coach

tour to Hartford, Conncticut. Once again the welcoming hand was extended - by organiser Jackie Bermingham formerly of Dunmore McHales and Galway Senior Football fame. Together with his brother Junior and the Staunton family they were to introduce us to many members of the Irish/American Club, mostly second generation Irish/Americans. The Club has its own large pavilion and football pitch. Here too the whole H-Block issue raised far stronger feelings & emotions than in Ireland as the name of Bobby Sands had become a legend two weeks prior to his death. Football Club President, Ronnie McCann was another cog in a wheel from which generosity, hospitality and welcome were to revolve for the next two days.

The touring side had cause to rejoice on the Saturday, with a decisive win on the football field followed by a reception which continued for a full twelve hours. A report in the Local Chronicle by a reporter who was watching his first game of Gaelic Football was to conclude:

'The game is a blend of basketball (they can dribble the ball), soccer (they use a round ball and can kick the devil out of it), American football (the can run with the ball) and War, (they knock each other all over the field)

Sunday we were on the return road for the four day stay in New York and to the news that Kerry Co. Champions, Feale Rangers had to suffer the disappearance of the Sam Maguire Cup from Gaelic

Park. Enquiries among the Ballyhaunis contingent proved fruitless although there was fairly general agreement that Mayo had lost its best chance in 30 years of getting the self-same cup.

The famed New Yorkers Race Track was the Monday venue where Race 3 on the card was sponsored by the Ballyhaunis Gaelic Football Team - arranged by Tony Greene and John Fitzgerald. I had the unique experience of presenting the trophy to the winning rider. The few dollars left in pockets were quickly devoured in hit and miss bets but the one consolation was to see the official notice board extend its welcome to Ballyhaunis by its impressive lighting system. Joining the touring party on the grandstand were Tommy Carroll (Knox St.) who was holidaying in New York and Helen and Mary Mullarkey formerly of Tullaghanune.

On Tuesday, the team returned to Gaelic Park for the victory described at the outset followed by a farewell function. On Wednesday was the abortive trip to Atlantic City, New Jersey for which Frank Mulligan had offered to act as courier. Strained health and strained finances saw the cancellation of the trip and within hours we were on board the St. Patrick's winging our way homeward, after a great send off at Kennedy Airport, and with a firm resolve from all that this was to be the start of something big. Who knows?

John Higgins

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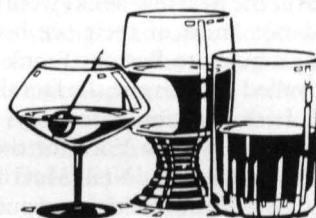
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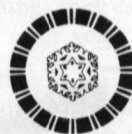
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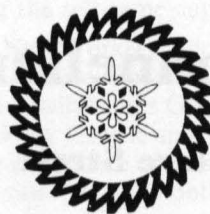
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St. Patrick's College

(1961-'62)

By Patrick O. Costelloe, P.P.

The nineteen forties saw a great advance in the understanding of and development of equal opportunities for all. In Europe the common dangers confronted by civilian as well as military populations helped to destroy the notion of privilege and governments were forced to legislate for the needs of all their peoples in the field of Social Welfare, Education and other basic needs. Despite the cynicism of later judgements on these years there were men of good will and vision who sincerely wished that the peace to come would not be abused as were the years of peace which followed previous wars. Such things as the Beveridge Report (1942) and the Butler Education Act (1944) in Great Britain set the headline for many of the social reforms of even our own country. Post primary education in Ireland in those years was still the privilege of the few, and in spite of heroic efforts of voluntary organisations the idea of free post primary education with free transport was still a dream of the future.

The Idea

Here in the West of Ireland the need for post primary education was all the more keenly felt. In those days emigration was the lot of many adolescents when school was no longer an option for them. Many a talented young boy or girl was condemned to menial tasks because of this lack of further education, and the success of the few to raise themselves to higher levels served only to accentuate this lack. The late Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Joseph Walsh, was one of those who foresaw the need and did a wonderful job in providing secondary education in the larger centres of population in his diocese. He established St. Colman's College, Claremorris in 1945; extended the facilities of Convent Schools to establish Secondary tops and was a pioneer in the provision of co-education where the means were not available for separate schools. As part of his programme a secondary school for boys was established in Ballyhaunis in 1961. Ballyhaunis came late in this development because it was lucky in that it had an efficient and successful Vocational School & the Convent was catering for girls only. However the Vocational School was hamstrung by the Act under it was established and could not present candidates for Leaving and Intermediate Certificate Examinations. It was to cater for this situation that the College was established, and here it is pleasant to recall the happy co-operation between the two schools under the new headmastership of Padraic Hughes, of happy memory, and his worthy successor, Eddie Thornton.

The Realisation

In 1960, Archdeacon Geoffrey Prendergast P.P. was succeeded by Fr. Tom Rushe as Administrator. He immediately set to work to implement the ideas of the Archbishop. He purchased the four acre site on the old Tooraree Racecourse, engaged Bantile Ltd., of Banagher, to erect temporary buildings and, through voluntary fund raising, met the initial cost of the project. All this time he was engaged in the heavy task of renovating the Parish Church - only a man of his boundless energy and generous spirit could have achieved so much in so short a time. The present writer has good reason to remember his generous help and warm friendship in these trying times. In this he was ably helped by the gentle Fr. Tom Heraty Ballyhaunis has good reason to remember with gratitude the work of those good priests.

St. Patrick's College opened on Thursday 7th September 1961, with three priests, including Fr. Francis McMyler and Fr. John Kennedy and an enrolment of thirty-nine boys drawn from the surrounding parishes. These early days were one of adventure and excitement. The boys had only a vague notion of the fact that they were making history and one day their names and photographs would be part of the traditions of Ballyhaunis. They did make history of course in another way - but that, perhaps, is another story! These youngsters set a pattern that was to endure. Their later successes in the Certificate examinations, in games, in debates and dramatics were things they can now remember with nostalgia in their riper years.

The later years

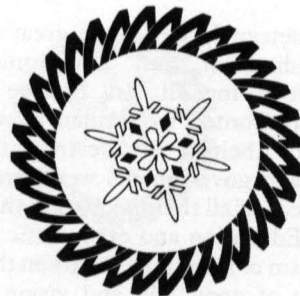
The College quickly fell into the routine of ordinary secondary schools of the time: the usual subjects were studied, games played and social activities fostered. Other teachers joined the staff as the numbers grew and the curriculum widened. The College was fortunate in the quality and qualifications of these. Fr. Kieran Waldron, Fr. Colm Burke, Fr. Frank Glennon, Jarlath Fahey, Morgan Jennings, Michael Glynn, John Cleary and Terry Coleman and later the various teachers in the Vocational School and Convent who shared classes with the College - all added their own special talents to the formation of the students.

The free education scheme widened the intake of students and this meant a rethinking of the aims and methods of secondary education. The free transport scheme meant that second level education was

within the reach of all our young people and increased accomodation, a wider and more realistic curriculum was necessary and the rapidity of this development left many schools at a disadvantage. The cold fact of economics was now becoming a formidable problem: the rise in the standard of living was reflected in the new demands made on schools. No longer would inadequate heating, lack of toilet facilities, crowded classrooms, inadequate teaching aids etc., be tolerated. The affluent Society had arrived - without the affluence to back it up!

Soon it was evident that better use would have to be made of the facilities available and where new facilities were provided greater use was to be made of them by the greatest possible number. This caused many headaches to many school authorities but eventually such difficulties were ironed out by the goodwill and unselfishness of those involved in the area. A beginning was made in Ballyhaunis by sharing of classes and teachers, between college and convent. This was widened to include the Vocational School and in the mid-nineteen seventies the yellow buses were a feature of the street scene in Ballyhaunis - no doubt a hazard to the traffic too. This co-operation was a blessed thing; it meant a new deepening of the friendship and co-operation between the three schools which was to flower in the new Community School. A school is not a site in a field or a conglomerate of buildings - it is a body of people, teachers, students, administrative and maintenance staff, devoted to learning and deriving their authority from the parents and guardians of those they teach.

In 1969, Canon J.G. McGarry succeeded Fr. Rushe in the pastorate of Ballyhaunis and he too added his unique talents to the education scene in this area. He was intensely interested in the developments in education in the post Vatican 11 years, especially in the teaching of religion and the Liturgy. He was always charitable and stimulating in his questions and comments and when the present writer made some of his more than usually idiotic remarks the Canon always led the discussion back to reality with the question: 'But Why?' How do you



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envisage this or that?' but always the encouraging smile and the bolthole, 'Yes, you have a point!'.

Aftermath

It is always difficult to assess the value of a movement or event while one is close to it. We have always to stand back from a scene to get in focus. That is what history does for us, and history can only become history with the passage of many years. Later other pens may sharpen in more realistic ink to write their impressions of these years but there is the ever present uncertainty in any teacher's mind as to the value and endurance of his teaching. Will it be measured in a nutshell as Padraic Colum's Scholar of the forties asked:-

'But what avail my teaching slight?
Years hence in rustic speech a phrase
As in wild earth a Grecian Vase!!!'

The past is always real in the Present....but the future is never more than the possibility of the present and History will be the record of that. Is St. Patrick's College a faded memory - a place without relics? Not even a ruin to mark its place? Hardly so - Fuit Ilium, erit Roma: 'Rome arising, Illion falling!' The spirit of three schools lives on in the new Community School - the meeting of three currents that enlarge and enrich each other and give a challenge of strength to the future. Ní neart go cur le chéile....!!!'



September 1961 - First Year Students
St. Patrick's College, Ballyhaunis

THE FIRST STUDENTS, 1961

Brian Byrne, Clare Street
James J. Byrne, Bruff
Patrick Carney, Coogue
Eugene Caulfield, Bruff
Walter Cleary, Logboy
Thomas Cribbin, Main Street
Michael Feeley, Aghamore
John Fitzmaurice, Forthill
Andrew Fitzmaurice, Cloonfad
Michael Forde, Moneymore
John Freeman, Aghamore
Peter Gallagher, Derrentogher
Patrick Glynn, Carrownedan

Thomas Glynn, Upper Main Street
Michael Healy, Holywell
Kevin Henry, Tooreen
John Henry, Tooreen
Michael Herr, Knox Street
John Higgins, Devlis
Thomas Judge, Cloncrim
Patrick Judge, Coolnaha
Thomas Kelly, Tooreen
Thomas Kelly, Upper Main Street
Desmond Lyons, Kiltaboe
Thomas Lyons, Greenwood
Kieran McLoughlin, Coogue South

James Morley, Knox Street
John A. Murphy, Lecarrow
Martin Murphy, Began
Patrick Nestor, Tooreen
Enda O'Brien, Shanvahera
Valentine Rattigan, Ballyhaunis
John D. Salmon, Ruane, Knock
Patrick Sloyan, Riask
Michael Travers, Brickens
James M. Tighe, Acres, Aghamore
Mark A. Jordan, Cummer
John K. Kelly, Began
Brendan Lyons, Ballina

First Holy Communion *1981*



Pupils of St. Mary's National School in Ballyhaunis who received their First Holy Communion in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis on the 7th June 1981

Front Row (l to r): Lynden Denady , Padraig Lyons, David Connor, John Jordan, Brian Byrne, Damien Gavin, Michael McNamara, Dara Shields, Patrick O'Malley, Anthony McNamra.

Second Row: Roisín Curley, Marie Hunt, Linda Biesty, Rhonda Cribbin, Martina Moran, Sheena Forde, Lorna Higgins, Pamela Fitzgerald, Patrick McGarry.

Third Row: Marie Gallagher, Linda Morris, Lorcán Higgins, Emma Curley, Barry McCrudden, Regina Dyer, Michael Sloyan, Margaret Flanagan, Brian Freyne, Eileen Maughan, Margaret Maughan.

Fourth Row: Carol O'Dowd, Mary Green, Breda Sloyan, Michelle Kent, Fiona McNamra, Stella Keane, Caroline Madden, Lorraine Gaffney, Kieran Flynn.

Back Row: Stephen Finn, Patrick Tighe, Aidan O'Boyle, David Green, Peter Flanagan, Evan O'Dwyer, Martin Regan, Niall Kelly, Fintan Keane, Tony McManus.

Reverend Father Costello P.P. Teachers: Mrs. B. Regan, Mr. J. Duggan.

Classes of '51



FIRST COMMUNION PENTECOST SUNDAY 1951

Front Row: Brendan Moran, John Mulloy, Joe Kelly,

2nd Row: Luke Freeley R.I.P., Francis Larkin, Edward Fitzgerald, David Coen, Michael Waldron, Jimmy A. Ruane, Ambrose Johnston R.I.P., Terence Waldron, Thomas Lyons, John Cleary.

3rd Row: Denise Sweeney, Rita Clarke, Dymphna Byrne, Margaret Ruane, Josephine Levins, Margaret Mulligan R.I.P., Muriel Forde, Finola Dillon-Leetch.

Back Row: Mary Fitzmaurice, Irene Walsh, Rita Walsh, Maureen Connolly, Teresa Moran, Pauline Tarpey.

(Photo courtesy of John Cleary)



DERRYLEA NATIONAL SCHOOL 1951

Back Row (left to right): Tommy Joe Ruane, Jimmy Cribbin, Jim Griffith, John Joe Cleary, Michael Waldron, Matt Costello

Third Row: Florrie Greene, Mary Cleary, Kathleen Cribbin, Freddie Cribbin, Mary Dowling, Jarlath Connell, Michael Moore, Paddy Costello

Second Row: Rita Moore, Carmel Cribbin, Dollie Greene, Bridie Cleary, Bridie Waldron, Angela Finn, Margaret Cribbin, Mary Rabbitt, Rita Burke.

Front Row: Brian Moore, Pat Higgins, Pat Byrne, Josephine Gildea, Mary Fitzmaurice, Tom Byrne, Jim Higgins, Eamon Sullivan.

(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Mary Higgins)

SOUNDINGS

Yearly reports from some of the organisations and clubs in the town.



Dr. J.B. Joyce (third from left centre row) Chairman of the Ballyhaunis Branch presenting a cheque for £2900 to **Mr. B. Tuohy** of Western Care.

Also front; (left to right): Miss Mary Murrin, Miss Anne O'Dwyer, Sr. M. Assumpta, Miss Catherine Staunton, Miss Mary Finn, Mrs. Nora Sweeney.

Centre Row: Mr. Eamon Healy, Miss Josie Folliard, Dr. Joyce, Mr. Tuohy, Mrs. Hannah O'Dwyer, Mr. Bernard Freyne

Back Row: Miss Phil Hughes, Mr. John Morley, Miss Bridie Lavan, Mrs. B. Tuohy, and Mrs. Kathleen Madden.

We are happy to say that Western Care is alive and well and staunchly established in Ballyhaunis, and that the annual collection for 1981 far exceeds any collection of previous years. As a special project for the Year of the Disabled, members from Aughamore, Ballyhaunis, Began and Tooreen took part in a sponsored fast in the hope of raising a few hundred pounds to add to our collection. Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors the end result was the raising of £2,500. That sum together with the proceeds of our Annual Social, £400 was handed over to Mr. Bertie Tuohy, President of Western Care by Dr. Joyce, Chairman of the Branch at a ceremony at the Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis. Accepting the cheque, Mr. Tuohy said 'It is my great pleasure to accept on behalf of Western Care Association this marvellous contribution by the Ballyhaunis Branch.

It is, I understand, the proceeds of a sponsored fast and special Social organised as the Branch's special effort to help the mentally handicapped in this Year of the Disabled. Such a large sum, almost £3,000 is positive proof of the great reservoir of good will towards Western Care, and the tremendous support of the public for its objectives. It indicates also the magnificent generosity of the people of Ballyhaunis, Aughamore, Began and Tooreen and the great enthusiasm and dedication of the Branch

members. Merely to say 'thank you' to all concerned seems inadequate. But let us hope in the years ahead, the kindness, concern and hard work of the people involved in raising this money will be rewarded by the further expansion and improvement of services for the mentally handicapped'.

It is hoped by the time 'Annagh' is going to press next year that we will have a day centre in Ballyhaunis. At least Western Care have led us to believe that this is in the pipeline.

As in former years Aughamore and Tooreen have come up trumps with substantial sums - the proceeds of Socials and Raffles in each area.

Regrettably all the members who took part in the sponsored fast were not available for the photograph taken at the presentation ceremony. This year we have a representative on the Executive Council in the person of Bernard Freyne.

Officers for 1981/'82

Chairman Dr. J.B. Joyce
Treasurer Fr. Desmond Walsh
Secretary Hannah O'Dwyer
Council Delegate Members:
Eamon Healy, Chris Pratt, Mrs. Mary Forkan

Mrs. H. O'Dwyer

SOUNDINGS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce in this its second year of existence may appear on the surface to be inactive, but rest assured that is not so. The Chamber is constantly monitoring all aspects of our community and has re-established an on-going liason with the local authorities resulting in a five year development plan which should ensure that Ballyhaunis remains one of Mayo's leading towns. The plan includes two much needed car parks one at Barrack Street, the other at the rear of Main Street and Knox Street.

We welcome to Ballyhaunis, Farah of Texas who now occupy the Advance Factory which was formerly Blue Bell. Presently building is in progress for a second I.D.A. Advance Factory and we shall spare no effort in assisting the Authority to attract some Industrialist.

Work should commence shortly transforming the former Vocational School into a Regional College for Fire Officers, serving all the midland and western counties.

The Officers for 1981/'82 are:

President Austin Grogan
Vice President John Forde
Vice President John G. Dillon-Leetch
Secretary Barry Butler
Treasurer John Dillon
P.R.O. Oliver Jordan

JOHN O'BRIEN

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BRIDGE CLUB

The A.G.M. was held in the Central Hotel on September 18th, 1981. The following officers were elected for the year 1981/'82

Captain Mrs. Dolores Jordan
Vice Captain Miss Patricia Waldron
Secretary Mrs. Corrine Flateley
Treasurer Mr. Frank Loughran
Tournament Director Mrs. Angela Joyce
Ass. Tourn. Director ... Mrs. M. H. O'Connor

*The four Officers elected by a secret ballot were:
Mrs. Yvonne Loughran, Mrs. Mary Higgins, Mr. Bertie Lynch, Dr. Tommy Joyce.*

The outgoing Captain, Mrs. Cait Dillon thanked her Committee for all their help during the year and wished the incoming Captain and Committee every success in the year ahead.

An extra competition for the Bridge Club this year is a Perpetual Cup very generously put up by Mr. Seamus Durkan, which will played for in the Scouts Den.

Corrine Flateley
(Hon. Secretary)

APOSTOLIC WORKERS '81

President May Moyles
Vice President Mrs. Kathleen Finn
Secretary Bridie Brennan
Treasurer Mrs. Peg Byrne

We had a very successful year. We helped the mission both financially and with goods made by workers.

We attended a Mini-Vigil in Knock in June especially for Apostolic Workers. This vigil was given by Fr. Casey, a missionary priest and Fr. Colm Kilcoyne C.C., Tooreen.

We had a very successful display in the Parochial Hall in July. We will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Ballyhaunis Branch in May 1982.

B. Brennan
Secretary

SOUNDINGS

FIANNA Fáil

1981 was an active and successful year for the Fianna Fáil party in Ballyhaunis. In February, a full contingent of delegates travelled to Dublin for the 50th Ard Fheis of the party, which, because of the Stardust tragedy, was deferred to a later date. When the reconvened Ard Fheis met in April, Ballyhaunis was again represented by its full complement of delegates.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the year for the local branch was the General Election, which saw the return of local Deputy, P.J. Morley to Dail Eireann. The constituency campaign was under the management of John O'Dwyer, Clare Road, who was chosen to be director of elections after the decision of the former director of elections, John Bolingbroke of Swinford, to go forward as a candidate in the campaign. This was the first time in the history of the party that a Ballyhaunis man directed the constituency campaign, and the local cumann was honoured that one of its members was so chosen. At a victory social held in the Orena Hotel, Knock, after the election, both P.J. Morley and John O'Dwyer were made suitable presentations, and Mr. Morley thanked all those who had helped in any way during his campaign.

The Party Leader, and then Taoiseach, Charles J. Haughey visited Ballyhaunis during his countrywide election campaign tour. This was his second visit to the town since he assumed both positions in December 1979.

The local cumann held two very successful socials in Morris' Lounge, Abbey Street, during the year. These were addressed by the two local T.D.'s Messrs: P.J. Morley and Seán Calleary, and by local Euro Deputy, Mr. Seán Flanagan.

In November, four members of the Ballyhaunis branch of Ogra Fianna Fáil travelled to Waterford for the seventh Annual Youth Conference, which was the culmination of a year of contribution to and participation in the local party's activities.

OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair

President _____ **Pat Regan**
Chairman _____ **Micheál Smyth**
Vice Chairman _____ **J. Carty**
Hon. Sec. _____ **Anto O'Malley**
Joint Hon. Treas. **P. Ryan & P. Cunningham**
P.R.O. _____ **Micheál Waldron**
Delegates to Dail Ceanntair:
John O'Dwyer, Seamus O'Boyle, Anto O'Malley,
Hugh Rudden, Austin Biesty

Ballyhaunis Coiste Ogra

Chairman **Willie Ryan**
Vice Chairman **Robert Herr**
Secretary **Mrs. N. Murphy, Main St.**
P.R.O. **Michael Grogan**
Treasurer **James Hunt**
Delegates to Comhairle Ceanntair:
Willie Ryan, Michael Grogan

Ballyhaunis Cumann

Chairman **Hugh Rudden**
Vice Chairman **Jimmy Gilmore**
Hon. Sec. **Michael Grogan**
Joint Treas. **J. Conway & J. Lyons**
P.R.O. **Willie Ryan**
Delegates to Comhairle Ceanntair:
Tommy Curran, Paddo Cunningham

Michael Grogan

RE-HAB COMMITTEE

The Ballyhaunis Re-habilitation Committee was formed in 1978, under the Chairmanship of the late Dr. Declan Shields. The original committee was comprised of 13 members - the aim of the committee being to raise funds to make life easier for the physically and mentally handicapped people in the county.

Over the years the Committee has raised much money for this purpose; the past year we raised approx. £1,000. This money has been raised through Socials, Annual Church Gate Collection & National Bike Day.

The committee saw the full fruits of their efforts earlier this year, when they visited Castlebar, for the opening of the 'Castlebar Workshop'. The Workshop was opened by the Minister for the Gaeltacht, Mr. Paddy O'Toole T.D. and now employs 80 disabled people all in full time employment. This work consists of knitting and making cardboard boxes.

Our last A.G.M. was held in October 8th '81 and the following Officers were elected:

Chairman **Luke Lawler**
Mary Kelly **Secretary**
Anne O'Dwyer **Treasurer**
Joe Hosty **P.R.O.**

THE COMMITTEE IS COMPRISED OF: Sr. Dympna, Mary Dillon-Leetch, Mrs. Conway, Marie Connell, Mary Timoney, Una Shields, Mary Higgins, Nell Rochford, Mary Rochford, Margie Gallagher, Teresa Keane, Mary Keane, Breda Burke, Mary Walsh, Matt O'Dwyer and Nora Sweeney.

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SOUNDINGS

Community Information Centre

**Parochial Hall, Upp. Main Street,
Ballyhaunis ('Phone 212)**

A Community Information Centre is a place where a person can go to get information on statutory services and on services available within the local community. The service is free and confidential.

Ballyhaunis Community Information Centre, established in 1976, is one of 79 Community Information Centres in operation at present. They are controlled by the National Social Service Council which sets down registration standards and provides the initial training of the Volunteers who operate the centres.

It also provides a set of comprehensive information files to each Community Information Centre and a back up information service for queries which local centre volunteers are unable to sort out.

Ballyhaunis Community Information Centre located at the Parochial Hall, has information and Application Forms on such subjects as:

Income Tax
Consumer Services
Housing
Social Welfare

OPENING HOURS:

Opening Hours for personal callers and queries by 'phone - Ballyhaunis 212 are:

Tuesday	
Wednesday	5 - 6 p.m.
Friday	5 - 6 p.m.
Saturday	5 - 6 p.m.

Postal queries are also welcome

St. Patrick's Drama Society

Officers:

President	Fr. P. Costello P.P.
Chairperson	Anne Hosty
Treasurer	Elizabeth Jordan
Secretary	Eileen Munroe
Producer	Martin Forde
Make Up	Kit Keane

St. Patrick's Dramatic Society staged the very popular comedy 'Friends and Neighbours' by Austin Steele in Feb. 1981. The play was produced by Hugh Rudden and the cast was as follows:

Doris Holmes	Peggy Curran
Lilly Grimshaw	Elizabeth Jordan

Albert Grimshaw	Frank Leonard
Will Holmes	Pat Doyle
Sebastian Green	John Prenty
Vladimir Previtch	Martin Forde
Retri Garamakdva	Eileen Munroe
Make Up	Kit Kean & Ann Hosty
Stage Manager	Aiden Kelly

This season the group are preparing to stage 'The Heiress' by Ruth and Augustus Goetz which is being produced by Martin Forde. The play is based on the novel 'Washington Square' by Henry James. The action of the play passes in the front parlour of Dr. Sloper's house in Washington Square in the year 1850. This play should prove a welcome change from previous productions and both producer and cast will be working hard in the coming months to maintain the high standard set in previous productions. The cast will be as follows:

Maria (the parlour maid)	Anne Jordan
Dr. Austin Sloper	Hugh Rudden
Mrs. Lavinca Pennicman	Eileen Munroe
Catherine (his daughter)	Viola Lowery
Mrs. Elizabeth Almond	Frankie O'Malley
Marian Almond (his niece)	Margaret Moran
Arthur Townsend	Pat Doyle
Morris Townsend	John Prenty
Mrs. Montgomery	Peggy Curran
Make Up and Costumes	Kit Keane and Ann Hosty

It is expected to stage this play in early February 1982.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

(Conference of St. Patrick's, Ballyhaunis)

Spiritual Director	Rev. P. Costello P.P.
President	Columbus Jordan
Vice President	Sr. Mary Dympna
Treasurer	Mrs. Mary Higgins
Secretary	Luke Lawler

Weekly meetings are held in the Parochial Hall. Members are actively concerned in helping the needy, visiting old people living alone, and deprived families is a major part of their duties. Help has been provided in getting old people settled into new or improved homes. This has involved, decorating, furnishing and the provision of radio and T.V. sets. Fuel requirements get special attention and food items, footwear and clothing are also provided. Inflation has increased demands on conference and is reflected in the problems arising from increased E.S.B. demands etc.

Regular visitations to hospitals in Castlebar by members is very much appreciated by patients from this locality. Conference again wishes to thank the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding parishes for their unfailing generosity each year. New members are always very welcome.

The Health Inn

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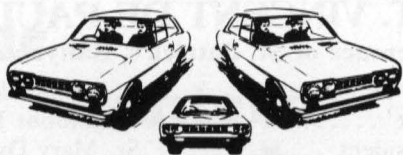
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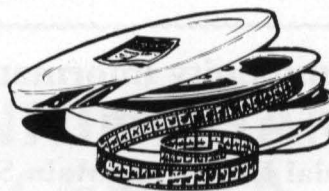
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Then Opposition Leader, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald and Deputy Paddy O'Toole (partly hidden) talking to Fine Gael's youngest member Edward Webb who is being held by Padraig Phillips. Also in the photograph are: Mrs. Judy Regan, Seamus Forde, Padraig Regan, Jim Brennan, Paddy Boyle, John O'Connor, Mrs. Frances Murphy, Joe Keane, Kathleen Jordan

FINE GAE

The morale of the Branch received a considerable boost in the dying days of 1980, when it was honoured with a visit by Party Leader, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald as the prelude to his tour of the East Mayo Const.

During his visit the Leader of the Opposition accompanied by Deputy Paddy O'Toole was officially welcomed by Councillor Jim Higgins and was then introduced to members of the general public at a reception in the Central Hotel. At a meeting with party workers Dr. Fitzgerald expressed keen interest in a submission of proposals from a working party comprised of members of local branches seeking changes and improvements of Party policy which he discussed in depth with the authors. This visit concluded with a brief visit to the offices and abattoirs of Halal Meat Suppliers.

The usual lull in Party activity during the early months of the year were followed by the excitement of the General Election on June 11th.

When the dust began to settle in the weeks following, the Branch were to receive a further boost to morale with the appointment of local Councillor Jim Higgins as one of the Taoiseach's eleven nominees to Seanad Eireann.

The Young Fine Gael Branch were involved with visits to the Party Ard Fheis in Ballsbridge, in every aspect of Election procedure, in the Regional Youth

Conference in Kilkenny, and in the Young Fine Gael Sports Day in Cashel. Their organisational abilities were also apparent in the many successful fund-raising functions during the year.

BALLYHAUNIS FINE GAE

Branch Officers:

President	William Mulligan
Chairman	Patsy Keane
Vice Chairman	Joseph Keane
Joint Treasurers	Mr. John Mooney
	Mrs. Bea Prenty
Secretary	John Higgins
Assistant Sec.	Mrs. Moira Delaney
P.R.O.	Jimmy Cribbin

YOUNG FINE GAE

President	Marie Forde
Chairperson	Michael Daly
Vice President	Martin Mulkeen
Vice Chairperson	Mary Heneghan
Recording Sec.	Marie Ruane
Secretary	John Fitzgerald
Treasurers	P. Gallagher, S. McGing
P.R.O.	Seamus Ruane
Organisers	T. Prenty, P. Daly

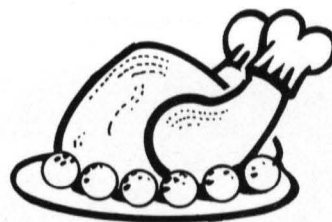
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The Manager of Limerick Utd., presents a Trophy to Chairman of the Ballyhaunis Soccer Club, Luke Murray. Also in the picture are Michael Daly and Sergeant Curran

SOCCKER CLUB

Secretary Michael Daly
Chairman Luke Murray
Treasurer Sean Byrne

Ballyhaunis this year are playing in Division One of the Mayo League and at the time of writing are holding a mid-table position. The Club are hoping to be promoted to the Premier Division.

Pride of place so far this season goes to our Under 15 team who won the Mayo U-15 Title.

On route to victory we beat Castlebar, Westport, Straide, Enniscrone and Kiltimagh before having a great win in the final, beating Ballina 3-0. Jarlath Henry, Gerry Morley and Frankie Leonard were the scorers.

The Club are also fielding an Under 18 team this year. Anybody interested in becoming a member can do so by contacting any of the Committee Members.

The Club take this opportunity to thank all the people who support their monthly '200 Club Draw'.

OFFICERS:

President Sgt. Curran
Chairman Luke Murray

Secretary Michael Daly
Treasurer Sean Byrne

COMMITTEE:

Eugene Colum, Tom Cribbin, Mike Nolan, Clar Grogan, Vinnie Caulfield.

A GREAT SUPPORTER:

The loss of Vinnie Caulfield R.I.P. will never be forgotten. He was a great supporter of the Club. He never missed home games and attended many of the away matches.

CLUB AWARDS:

Footballer of the Year (sponsored by Dillon Bros.)
Luke Murray

Clubman of the Year (sponsored by I.A.B.)
Michael Daly (Secretary)

Supporter of the Year (sponsored by I.A.B.)
Tommy Curran.

SOUNDINGS

GOLF CLUB

MEN OFFICERS:

Captain	Mr. P. Curley
Vice Captain	Mrs. M. Walsh
President	Mr. K. Bowman
Vice President	Mr. K. Barry
Hon. Secretary	Mr. T. McNicholas
Joint Hon. Treasurers	J. Dillon C. Coyne

LADY OFFICERS:

Captain	Mrs. K. Flynn
Vice Captain	Mrs. M. Burke
Hon. Sec.	Miss N. Dillon
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs. A. Joyce
Competition Sec.	Miss. M. Moyles
Ex. Member	Mrs. M. Dillon-Leetch

MENS WINNERS OF CAPTAIN'S PRIZE

1. Mr. D. Charlton
2. Mr. T. Fanning

President's Prize

1. Mr. Coyne
2. Mr. Henry

LADIES CAPTAIN'S PRIZE

1. Mrs. B. Coyne
2. Mrs. N. Kilkenny

MENS CAPTAIN'S PRIZE (for ladies)

1. Mrs. B. Coyne
- Joint 2nd:

Mrs. L. Fitzpatrick &
Mrs. S. P. Tighe

The Outstanding team performance was in the Barton Shield Competition. Ballyhaunis reached the Connaught Final but were narrowly beaten by Rosses Point.

The team consisted of:
P. Curley, V. Freyne, M. Dillon-Leetch and P. Charlton.

The Ladies' team qualified for the final of the Senior Cup at Rosses Point.

This team consisted of: Mrs. J. Johnson, Miss B. Snee, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Miss Burke and Mrs. E. Cleary.

Mrs. Hoare, who presented Silver Cups to the ladies, preserved her association with the club. Those were won by Mrs. M. Burke and Miss Pat Grady.

MOUNTAINEERING

On Sunday 8th November our little group of climbers added another stone to the cairn on top of their eighth mountain. They then found a sheltered spot, sat down and had their snack and contemplated the magnificent views below them.

Living in Ballyhaunis and not having mountains in the immediate area you probably would not look to them for recreation on a Sunday. Yet most of you would not think twice of driving forty or fifty miles on a Sunday to a sporting fixture. All of the mountains we have climbed in Mayo/Galway and Sligo are only about one and half hours away, by car.

The word 'Mountaineering' is very descriptive and conjures up images of ropes, clamps, spikes, hammers etc. However, our climbs are much more modest. Our gear consists of a good strong pair of boots, water proof anoraks and pull-ups.

You do not have to be super-fit to climb mountains. A person of average fitness can easily cope. A good guide line is if you can walk 5 miles in an hour and a half you will have no bother.

We climb once a month, leave at 10 o'clock on Sunday mornings (11 o'clock in the Summer) and return between seven and eight hours later. Our first climb in 1982 will be on Sunday 3rd January D.V. If you think you would like a day's vigorous exercise, and to experience the tranquility, beauty and majesty of Nature why not join us some Sunday? Our only requirements are that you have the proper gear and are over eighteen years of age or have left school.

For further information contact any of the following:

Mrs. Ina Freyne ('Phone: 233)

Mr. Terry Coleman ('Phone: 266)

Dr. Michael Cleary ('Phone: 123)

Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon Meetings

Sunday Nights - 9 p.m.

Old Secondary School, Convent of Mercy

SOUNDINGS

RUGBY CLUB

At the Annual General Meeting of the Ballyhaunis Rugby Football Club, the following officers were elected for the 1981/'82 season.

Chairman Junior Geraghty
Secretary John Ryan
Fixture's Secretary Hugh Curley
Treasurer George Hannon
Team Captain Jimmy Finn
Team Coach Dr. John Dillon

The team is currently enjoying its best season in the Connacht Junior League, and with the necessary bit of luck could capture the first provincial title for Ballyhaunis.

The team was successful in retaining the Mick Morris Cup for the second year in succession, against a strong Creggs team. The Club also reached the Semi-Finals of the Ard-Na Cregg Cup only to be just beaten by Sligo.

Members travelled to Edinburgh for the international against Scotland, and it is hoped to go to Paris for the international against France at the end of the current season.

New members and players are always welcome to join the club.

John Ryan

BADMINTON

Ballyhaunis Badminton Club has enjoyed some success over the last few years. In 1980, the Division Three teams got to the quarter-finals but were beaten by Foxford. In 1981, Enda Moran and Garvin Dwane won the under 18's championship which were held in Kiltimagh. They were also on the Division Three team that reached the semi-finals of the Mayo League, but were narrowly beaten by Aughagower who went on to win the League.

This year the club has a good membership and are delighted with all the interest of the beginners, so much so that the committee entered a team in Division Four to cater for them. Garvin Dwane won the Men's Singles under 18's and was partnered by Enda Moran in the Men's Doubles.

At the A.G.M. the following officers were elected:

Chairperson Mrs. Máire Murphy
Secretary Miss Mary King

Treasurer Miss Geraldine Garrett
P.R.O. Mr. Eamon Dwane

Committee:

Mrs. M. Murphy, Miss M. Ring, Miss G. Garrett,
Miss Benny Curley and Mrs. Carmel Murphy

HANDBALL CLUB

Patron Rev. P. Costello
Chairman Michael Murren
Treasurer Michael Byrne
Secretary Michael Waldron
President Michael Moran
Vice President Michael O'Connell
Vice Chairman Jack Greene

The club continued to make progress on the building of the alley. We have all the outside work completed and are now concentrating on the inside which includes plastering, lighting, plumbing, ceiling and marble floor. The total cost for inside work is expected to be in the region of £12,000.

Our annual church gate collection was once again a great success. Receipts exceeded £500 for which I would like to thank all subscribers.

We will have to continue our fund raising in the coming year and I hope that the people of Ballyhaunis will be generous as they have been in the past.

Indeed since the club was reformed we have had great support from the people of Ballyhaunis. Some of them are no longer with us and within recent weeks a man who was a great driving force behind the reforming of the club, Vinnie Caulfield, passed away. Vinnie Caulfield belonged to those whose commitment to everything Gaelic was beyond question.

The lads will always remember you, Vinnie.

Michael Waldron

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL Starland Ballroom

Hot Meal, Dress Formal

GUN CLUB

1981 was a very busy year for Ballyhaunis District Gun Club. The following Clay Target Shoots were held:- Sunday 4th January, D.T.L. (Turkey) shoot, Sunday 29th March 100 Bird D.T.L. Shoot, Sunday 2nd August - Annual Flapper Shoot.

Extensive grounds development were in progress for the Summer and Autumn months which included the completion of the most modern 4 Trap Shooting Layout. Unfortunately sufficient funds were not available to do all the extras planned due to the enormous expense of the Trap Shooting Layout, but enough money was raised to build Ladies and Gents' Toilets.

The 18th October was a memorable day for the Club, as the first 100 Bird D.T.L. Registered Shoot was held. There was a large attendance of competitors from the four provinces. Though conditions were blustery the standards were high. The Club looks optimistically to the future in the hope that coming years will see many other ground improvements. The grounds are suitable for many other forms of sport and it is intended by members of the Club that between the busy schedule of shooting events planned for the coming year, there will be time for an Archery Contest.

GAME:

A lot of work has been done by the Club for Game Promotion during the year, and the abundance of game birds in the area is evidence of this. A very extensive game programme has been planned for the coming year.

The following are the Officers of the Club....

Presidents Eamon Burke
Chairman Joe Nolan
Vice-Chairman Thomas Waldron
Secretary Liam Lyons
Treasurer John Kilduff
P.R.O. Patrick B. Waldron
Grounds Mangers Martin Cunnane
Gerard Coyne

Liam Lyons (Secretary)

ANNAGH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**Send your literary Contribution
(Type - written) to the Editor**

JUNIOR CHAMBER

Officers:

President Eddie Campbell
Vice President Rita Mooney
Secretary Mary King
Treasurer Michael Grogan
P.R.O. Rita London

'J.C. Ballyhaunis v Calderdale J.C. in Community School on Saturday April 4th,' undoubtedly every man, woman and teenager spoke or heard these words many times in the new year.

Yes, the Ballyhaunis J.C. Debating team, John Dillon Leetch, Chris Pratt, John Mooney and John Higgins won the Tri-Partite debating final for the second time and this was the highlight of the 1981 J.C. year.

At the New Year's Eve Ball, Bernard Freyne was nominated 'Person of the Year' and was presented with the Dillon Trophy while Mr. Austin Grogan won the Keane's Kitchen Trophy.

The Christmas Tree and lighting gave the town a cheerful and warm look during the cold season.

During the summer cars were made available to take people on outings and arrangements were made to visit people in the Rehabilitation Centres to mark 'The Year of the Disabled'.

May 29th, all roads led to Knock where the J.C. celebrated its 10th Anniversary. Mr. Sean Freyne presented the Freyne Trophy to Mrs. Rita Mooney for being nominated 'Chapter Person of the Year'.

'Annagh Magazine' was published and read by many people at home and abroad. **Rita London**

P.T.A.A.

The Annual Dinner Dance at Churchfield House Hotel, Knock was a great success. Members of the branch took part in basketball, volleyball, table-tennis, debates, quizzes, dancing competitions and singing competitions. Claremorris Regional P.T.A.A. meetings were also held in Ballyhaunis.

The Spiritual Director is Rev. Fr. J. Ball.

President Mr. Frank Leonard
Vice President Mr. Joe Byrne
Treasurer and P.R.O. Mr. Jim London
Secretary Sr. Assumpta

New members always welcome.



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BALLYHAUNIS GAELIC FOOTBALL TEAM INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE WINNERS 1981

Back Row (1 to r) Sean Moore, Tony Morley, Ivan Freeley, Denis Swift, Miceal Webb, Teddy Webb, Jimmy Ronan, Johnny Cribben, Ger Lyons.

Front Row (1 to r): Des Lyons, Tommy Grogan, Billy Phillips, Pat Freeley (Capt.), Tom Prenty, John Prenty, Sean Cribben, Tommy Caulfield, Billy Lyons.

Sitting (1 to r) Eamon Murren, Tom McGuire, John Durkan

Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club

President Austin Grogan
Vice President Mick O'Connell
Chairman Hugh Rudden
Vice Chairmen Aiden Kelly & John Prenty
Secretary Gerry Lyons
Treasurer Paddy Ryan

Club Representatives at County Level

Austin Grogan Chairman of Minor Board
John Prenty ... Secretary of the Activities Board
John Biesty Grounds Committee
Pado Moran Delegate to the County Board
Aiden Kelly U-21 Selector

CLUB MAN OF THE YEAR ... John Prenty
PLAYER OF THE YEAR Pat Freeley

Games:

Under-age teams in the club acquitted themselves well in their respective competitions during the year. The National School U-12 and U-14 teams competed in their respective competitions but were not successful in winning any titles.

The U-16 team won the East Mayo Title but lost in the County Semi-Final to Westport.

The U-18 Team won the East Mayo Minor League Title, they also won the Minor Championship in East Mayo, but lost in the County Semi-Final to Claremorris.

The U-21 Team lost to Aughamore, the eventual winners, in the first round of the Championship.

The success of the Under-age teams was mainly due to the various committees who contributed much time and effort in the training and transportation of players in their respective competitions.

We fielded teams in the Junior Championship and the Canon Henry Cup but failed in the closing stages of the competition.

In the Intermediate Championship we lost to Tourmakeady, but we were successful in winning the Intermediate League, we have also reached the final of the Kilmaine Tournament.

On the local scene Emmett Keane and Patsy Jennings sponsored a trophy for the U-10 competition.

In the U-12 Competition, the Mick O'Connell

Perpetual Trophy was won by Val Byrne's team. Austin Grogan has sponsored a set of trophies for a parish league, which is near completion, Ivan Freeley's team are to meet Des Lyon's team in the final.

Paddy Ryan sponsored a set of trophies for a V.G. League which has been won by Jimmy Tolan's team. James Reidy and Declan Philips represented Ballyhaunis at County Level in the Minor Grade. At Senior Level, Michael Webb won a Connacht Medal with Mayo.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

The highlight of the social year was the Club's first tour to America which was a tremendous success. The tour itself generated a great team spirit in the Club and on the playing fields and it also brought players and officials closer together, which is important for the success of the Club. Other events were contributed to the success of the tour were the Lord Mayor Project, the Pub Quiz, Mastermind, Raffles and the generous sponsorship of the Ballyhaunis people. The

editing of a magazine by Anto O'Malley which was launched by Paddy Muldoon, Chairman of the Mayo County Board also contributed towards the success of the tour.

SCOR:

The Club entered into the under-age and Adult Competitions. The figure dancers won in East Mayo and Jack Greene in the Recitation, but we were not successful at County Level.

HANDBALL AND SQUASH COURT:

Development of the Handball and Squash Court has now reached an advanced stage with the completion of the roof. Work on the interior of the building will commence shortly.

DRAW:

This coming year's Draw has the added incentive of a draw every two weeks. Unfortunately subscription has increased from £10 to £20 per year. This is due to the rising costs of running a club, and the development of the Handball and Squash Courts.

Gerry Lyons

Freedom's Sons



OGLAIGH NA H-EIREANN 1921

Back Row (1 to r): Pat McNieve, Lurgan, Brickens; Austin Tarpey, Patten Park, Ballyhaunis; Patrick Kenny, Cloonbrook, Brickens; Joe Taylor, Clooncagh, Aughamore; John Forde, Larganboy, Knock; Luke Taylor, Clooncagh, Aughamore; Sonny Biesty, Holywell, Ballyhaunis; Dom Byrne, Derrymore, Ballyhaunis.

Front Row (1 to r): Jack Kilduff, Island, Ballyhaunis; Austin Kenny, Cloonbrook, Brickens; Michael Devaney, Clooncan; Jim Kilkenny, Crossbeg, Tooreen; Michael Nolan, Kilgarraf, Ballyhaunis.

(Photo courtesy of the Nolan family, Kilgarraf)

In Pensive Mood.....

SUMMER '80

Each day I clambered through my fields,
That were covered o'er with muck.
I thought about atrocious yields,
And paused to curse my luck.

This had to be the year of years
When all the crops were lost
I gently wiped away the tears
And tried to count the cost.

The radio sounded with the lark,
I heard each mornings news,
I stood there lonely in the dark
And heard men give their views.

The weathermen would do their best,
But I knew I prayed in vain,
To hear: 'Mist spreading from the West,
Gradually turning to rain'.

I gazed upon my fields of grass
And watched them try to grow
Would I wait and let this weather pass?
Would I wait or would I mow?

I gazed upon my winter wheat
Each day, each night and morn,
If it didn't get a little heat,
It would never turn to corn.

The turf was ricked up in the bog,
But by now 'twas well afloat,
This year I'd write down in my log,
That I bought it home by boat.

The prices at the marts had dropped,
As the price of leather;
The intervention price was chopped,
T'was all blamed on the weather.

Other farmers as well did wonder,
As they struggled with silage and hay
But did they ever stop and ponder
On those much worse than they?

*So many fine people were dying,
So many in terrible pain,
They would not be complaining or crying
If their only burden was rain!*

So as I look back at the Summer of '80
As I sit with my children and wife
Although our problems were weighty
Our one big advantage was - LIFE.

Grey Areas

by Rev. John O'Connor O.S.A

FIRST VIEW

The cat sprang,
Lean and long,
And for ever silenced
A life of song.
There's the question:
This or that?
A singing bird
Or a grinning cat?

SECOND VIEW

There's more to life
That black and white,
See the stars mellow
The dark of night,
And across the fields
See the shadows run,
When a cloud veils
The face of the sun.
So, often in life
There's compromise
And truth is born
From many eyes.
So life's not simply
This or that,
There are ways to save
Both bird and cat.

MOMENTS IN TIME

by Ms. Lorna Roche
(formerly of National Bank, Ballyhaunis)

The 'phone never rings,
The silence is ominous;
Why cannot someone call
And say come around to tea
Or for a glass of wine
Or just, perhaps a chat?
Of reminiscences of things past....

CHILDHOOD YEARS

Playing beneath the trees,
Summers long gone by
Those glorious days when...
Barefooted and brownlegged,
We sojourn gaily
To Annagh Lake and back.

MAN OF MANY PARTS

A Profile of Patsy Cunningham

BY MICK O'CONNELL

(Staff Reporter 'Western People')

Those of us who are getting on a bit and who are now more or less natives of Ballyhaunis, will remember Patsy Cunningham, one of my contemporaries, who was a native of Bridge Street, Ballyhaunis and who resided in Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis for several years.

He and his wife, Eileen, now own 'The Carpenter's Inn', a licensed premises in King's Cross, London, which is a popular meeting place for emigrants from the Ballyhaunis area and further afield.

I have always been convinced that if Patsy decided to make a career in showbusiness he would have proved eminently successful, as he possessed histrionic ability well above the ordinary and had a talent mimicry which could only be described as superb.

It was, however, as a humourist, that he really excelled and he wrote material for a number of first-class comedians, including I understand, Hal Roach.

Most of his writings were of local and topical interest and his election manifesto for a local character, Pat Killeen, who had a mythical aspiration with an eye for the 'few shillings' was a masterpiece.

Patsy Cunningham often delivered in perfection imitation of Pat Killeen, the election address of 'the bould Pat' and we listened enthralled all the times he told us about 'pushing the houses back and putting tramlines out to Knock'.

Incidentally, when Pat Killeen died in Castlebar Hospital in the 'fifties. I remember travelling with Patsy Cunningham to Claremorris to meet the remains to the catafalque or table in the church before a sparse funeral attendance.

He was a founder member of a local talent group called 'United Artists' which presented several variety shows, all of which were produced by Patsy himself, in conjunction sometimes with Seamus Durkan. Patsy wrote most of the material and on top of all that he found time to play the lead in most productions.

One of those shows presented in the local Parochial Hall in Ballyhaunis, longer than I care to remember, proved so enjoyable that the overflow attendance remained seated from 9 p.m. until 1.15 a.m. and such was the quality of the entertainment that they were inclined to ask for more.

One of the verses penned by Patsy Cunningham for this show commenced thus: 'He escaped from Gurteen prison this prisoner of renown; He made his way through Hazlehill and came into the town'. The verses then went on to include local people in humorous episodes but stopped short of satire or buffonery because P. Cunningham always believed in the old adage that sarcasm was a cheap form of wit.

Later Patsy Cunningham played a leading part in the mammoth production of 'City of Kings', produced by the late Very Rev. E.A. Mansfield, O.S.A., long time Prior of Ballyhaunis Augustian Abbey, who proved a legend in his own lifetime.

The many off-stage utterances of Patsy Cunningham 'taking off' Fr. Mansfield issuing instructions to the massive cast, kept everyone in good humour and even the tall clergyman himself appreciated the talent of P. Cunningham in this regard, though it was never made known whether or not the Rev. Mansfield was ever aware that he, himself was the subject of Patsy Cunningham's special expertise.

Everybody, and none more so than Patsy Cunningham had a deep personal regard for Fr. Mansfield and the main reason that I have taken the time to write this cameo about Patsy Cunningham is because we reproduce here the following verses to the memory of the genial 'Fr. Ned' penned by Patsy Cunningham following Fr. Mansfield's death in London in 1958, far away from his Mayo and Galway friends, and typifies without morbidity in brief outline, the life of a well-loved priest touching on his involvement in the abbey choir, the production of plays and musical comedies, and his bringing of international boxing to a small western town - Ballyhaunis.

**To the Memory of Rev. E.A. Mansfield O.S.A.,
R.I.P.
(who is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery,
London)**

What memories are conjured up,
This cold December day
Where they have laid you down to rest
Beneath the English clay.
They take me back across the sea
To days of long ago
In the Abbey, Ballyhaunis,
In the County of Mayo.

We served your Mass devoutly
And you tutored us with care
And we were 'saintly' altar boys
Because we wouldn't dare.

To come around the Friary
'Til we were spick and span,
With shining face and parted hair,
Neat surplice and soutane.

But the choir was your masterpiece,
I see you standing there,
Conducting at Devotion
With results beyond compare.

The operas you organised,
Which set our hearts awirl,
Like 'Pearls the Fishermaden'
And of course 'The Country Girl'.

The Boxing Club you started
Which to the boys appealed,
And the International contests
Held in 'The Friary Field'.

How oft we watched enchanted
As we practised for a play
When you put us through our paces,
In your own special way.

Your productions they are many,
Each one better than the last
As you coaxed the hidden talent,
From your self-selected cast.

The nights you travelled with us,
When we played 'City of Kings'
And you were proudly beaming
From your corner in the 'wings'.

I see a lighted window
Facing in the River Clare
Where you spent so many hours
In solitude and prayer.

Where people came from far and wide
With troubles great and small
And you gave a kindly hearing
And a comfort to them all

We will miss you now you've left us
But we will not lose the tie
You'll be watching all the callers
From your 'Window in the Sky'.

And kneeling here in Kensal Green.
'Tis hard to think your dead,
I'd better be on my way
God rest you - Father Ned.

P.J. Cunningham

London 1/12/'58

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Debating Success

by Nell Rochford

In October 1980 Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber Debating Team became National Champions for the second time, the team members were:

John Dillon Leetch (Capt.), John Higgins, John Mooney and Chris Pratt. This meant that Ballyhaunis was once again through to the General Tripartite Competition which would mean debating against the finalists in other countries in England or Scotland or both.

A challenge of this nature was welcomed by the Ballyhaunis team, was indeed looked forward to with confidence.

After the initial euphoria which followed their success there was a period of speculation before it finally became known that they had been drawn to debate in the semi-final against Scotland in Glasgow. They would oppose the motion that 'This house believes that best things in life are free'. Having received and discussed the motion the team members settled down to their usual in depth preparation.

Preparation for the trip was undertaken by the less articulate members of the J.C., but all involved worked hard to ensure the success of the visit. The debate was arranged for January 29th and on Friday 28th a well prepared confident team together with a party of about 20 proud, faithful supporters set forth for the city of Glasgow travelling by air from Dublin Airport, we arrived in Edinburgh about 1 p.m. Here we visited Hollyrod Castle and did some shopping before boarding a coach which took us to our destination Glasgow.

That night, the local J.C. had arranged for us to attend a Robbie Burns commemoration dinner where we tasted the traditional Scottish dish, haggis and listened to recitations from Burns. It proved to be an enjoyable if a somewhat unexpectedly expensive evening!

The debate - the highlight of our trip took place next day at 4 p.m.

We were rather surprised to see that the Ballyhaunis supporters made up approximately 40% of the audience. Two of the adjudicators were Scottish - well-known men, one was a Lord; and the Irish adjudicator was Mr. John O'Mahony, Galway J.C.

From the start it was evident that Ballyhaunis had the edge on the Scottish team but the tension mounted and continued until the result was

announced. Ballyhaunis were the winners and Chris Pratt was voted best speaker. A victory indeed!

They would now go through to the final against England in Ballyhaunis.

But for the present few worried about that, as the celebrations got under way. Despite the fact that the Scotland hospitality left much to be desired success would be enjoyed and a pleasant dinner and evening followed. The team and supporters returned to Ballyhaunis on Sunday night and were given a wonderful reception.

Shortly preparations must begin again, this time for the ultimate event and practically immediately all J.C. members set to work to host the first international debating event ever held in Ballyhaunis. Again some time elapsed before we were informed of the name of the English team and the motion. Finally the information arrived, Ballyhaunis would propose the motion 'That this house believes the freedom of the press should not be challenged' debating against a team from Calderdale in Yorkshire. Now the team preparation began in earnest, frequent lengthy meetings were held. Speeches were discussed, written and re-written. If Ballyhaunis lost it wouldn't be for the want of preparation.

Side by side with the teams' preparation went the intense preparation of all J.C. members who wished that this weekend would be remembered by the Ballyhaunis Community but also by our visitors from England.

The would arrive on April 3rd and the debate would take place on April 4th.

An informal Irish night was arranged for the 3rd and the best of Ballyhaunis talent entertained all present, while they partook of the traditional Irish diet - Irish Stew.

The visitors were free to spend next day as they wished while the local J.C. members worked behind the scenes to ensure the success of the debate which took place at 6 p.m.

The debate was held in Assembly Hall in the Community School which was packed to capacity.

Two of the adjudicators were Irish - Senator Jim Doolan a professor in U.C.G. and Mr. Sean Hillery, a chemist in Shannon, and a member of Toastmasters' International. The third adjudicator travelled with the Calderdale team. He broadcasts for the B.B.C. and lectures in English in Yorkshire.

The debate proved to be very interesting Ballyhaunis taking the subject far more seriously than the other team. It was evident that Ballyhaunis had researched the subject far more deeply and this stood them in good stead.

As one can expect at a competition of this type the tension mounted when the adjudicators left to tot up their marks before announcing the result.

Finally the Chairman, came on stage and eventually (or as it seemed) declared Ballyhaunis once again the victors. Naturally the excitement was fantastic as John Dillon Leetch was presented with the trophy.

The Calderdale team had proved to be an excellent second and they also proved to be good losers, too and were ready and willing to join in the celebrations with Ballyhaunis. The night a very enjoyable dinner and dance was held in the Golf Links.

The next day, Sunday, the local team and some other members of J.C. took the visitors on a trip to Westport and Leenane which was much enjoyed and appreciated. They left Ballyhaunis on Monday morning having lost the debate but having gained friends and a taste of Irish hospitality at its best.

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All In The Cooking



Denise Sweeney

Sally Higgins spoke to Denise Sweeney during her recent visit home.....

With the Scout's Den £20,000 in debt Seamus Durkan's fund-raising capacity has been given full rein. With unfailing eye and good instinct for the painless extraction of money from the public for his pet charities, in November he hit on a novel fund-raising venture. He invited Denise Sweeney of T.V.'s 'Whats Cooking?' fame to give a cookery demonstration in the refurbished Den. The evening which included a Wine and Cheese Reception was very enjoyable. The success of the evening which was attributable to no small measure to Denise's easy charm and professional skill. She confessed to be very nervous facing her home town audience. Television viewers were not nearly so disconcerting; but whatever her innermost feelings Denise's composure never faltered.

That occasion was my first meeting with Denise and I wondered about her career and how it developed to the point where her name is known to every housewife and cooking enthusiast in the country. Daughter of Nora and the late Denis Sweeney of Abbey St., Denise had a short hop, skip and jump across the road to the Convent of Mercy Primary School and later to the Secondary.

Her ambition at school was to be a Hotel Manageress. She laughingly says her mental picture of such was a smiling lady with an elegant black dress and wearing a string of pearls, pleasantly enquiring of hotel guests if every thing was to their satisfaction. Fired with her youthful ideas she embarked on her Hotel Management course at Cathal Brugh St., in Dublin, and found out that the smiling lady worked very hard indeed.

On completing her training course Denise worked abroad to gain experience. She spent some time in Sweden, which she did not particularly like, finding the Swedes rather cold. On leaving Sweden she worked in Holland and loved the Dutch who were very much like the Irish in temperament.

Back in Ireland, Denise took up employment in Ballinaclynch Castle, left there a year later to work for Sir John and Lady Gavin of Loughlinstown House, which now houses the E.E.C. foundation. She was recommended for the post by her former tutor in Cathal Brugh St. This was a dream job. Sir John's kitchen knew no financial restraints. While working in Loughlinstown House, Denise developed her flair for cooking and she discovered it was her particular forte. It is hard to imagine anyone tiring of such a post but once Denise her job and skill she felt the urge to try a new challenge and moved to Bangor, Co. Down where she worked in the Royal Hotel.

From Bangor, Denise next joined Sheila Cunningham of Ranks' Home Baking Advisory Service. She spent six years with Ranks and got a good grounding on doing cookery demonstrations all over the country. Two and half years ago found Denise accepting a new challenge with the National Dairy Council. As senior cookery advisor to the N.D.C. she gives lectures and cookery demonstrations as well as dreaming up new recipes for the N.D.C.'s T.V. advertisements and leaflets. As in most experimental work Denise finds it's often the small mistakes that produce the best masterpieces.

Miss Sweeney knows a lot about nutrition and as a employee of the N.D.C. is particularly anxious to extoll the virtues of cheese and dairy produce generally. In the past, we Irish have not been among the world's biggest cheese eaters but thanks to people like Denise the picture is gradually changing. Some Irish men will now even exchange the Bacon and Cabbage for a tasty cheese dish. But we all know how difficult it is to change the eating habits of the Irish male. How many I wonder were converted by Denise's charming personality?

Of course it was 'What's Cooking' on R.T.E. that made Denise a household name. The series was sponsored by the N.D.C. and directed by Rory O'Farrell. She was a reluctant star at first, not at all keen on looking at herself on screen and being followed around by a camera. In spite of her original hesitation she enjoyed working on the show and was very encouraged by the public's response. The 'assistant cooks' were a great help, being very much at ease in the public eye. Gay Byrne performed with 'style and panache'. Donnacha O Dulaing's asides

were hilarious and Denise had difficulty stifling the giggles. Brian Budd offered words of wisdom on rustling up hamburgers and milk-shakes. Song writer extraordinary Shay Healy demonstrated his skill at icing a Black Forest Gateaux.

Surprisingly there were no real disasters while the series was being filmed. Even the souffles, the Waterloo of many an experienced cook, worked well. Denise had high praise for Rory O'Farrell's patience and direction. The show was geared to the situation of the Irish Housewife, demonstrating good food which was not too fearfully exotic and not requiring spices found only in the Orient, not taking the day to prepare and not costing the earth. It was filmed in the N.D.C.'s test kitchen in Grattan House, so at least Denise was working in familiar surroundings.

It's easy to forget that the T.V. series is only a small part of Denise's working life that every day offers a fresh variety. There are visitors to be entertained, photographic sessions to labour over, food is notoriously difficult to photograph at its best.

Attending to Cook Line in the 'Sunday Journal' and her Radio 2 spot with Paul Clark on Thursdays at 10.30 a.m. also takes time. Trips abroad on N.D.C. business frequently crop up. Denise has been in London and New York in the past few months.

Alas for school leavers who think they might like to follow in Denise's demonstrating footsteps! The career prospects are not too bright just now. Jobs like hers are mainly Public Relations posts and these are frequently cut back when firms feel the pinch and what organisation does not suffer nowadays?

Does Denise plan for the future? Not really, perhaps one day capital permitting she would like to open her own restaurant, small enough to run herself and offering good wholesome well-presented food and value for money.

She feels restaurant fare is far too expensive, there doesn't seem to be anything between fast food fare and the really expensive restaurants, which don't offer good value for money.

It is often said that no prophet is recognised in his own country, but Denise's reception when she came among her own to 'do her thing' certainly scotched that cliché, her reception was warm and genuine and we wish her every success. Go mbeith rath Dé ar a hobair.

Mushroom Pan Pizza is one of Denise's favourite recipes.

MUSHROOM PAN PIZZA

Base-

175g/6 ozs. plain flour

pinch of salt

50g/2ozs. butter

1 egg

a little milk

oil for frying

Topping:

1 onion finely chopped

50g/2ozs. mushrooms, sliced

396g/14ozs. can tomatoes

1 teaspoon oregano or rosemary

salt and pepper

100g/4 ozs. white cheddar cheese, shredded

Method:

Sieve flour and salt into a bowl. Rub in the butter until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add egg and sufficient milk to make a soft dough. Knead dough lightly - Roll out to a 22cm./9" round and press into an oiled non-stick frying pan. Prick with a fork.

Cook over a low heat for 10-15 minutes.

Meanwhile put the onion, mushrooms, drained tomatoes, oregano and salt and pepper into a suacepan Cook for approximately 5 minutes.

Remove from heat. Spread mixture on top of cooked dough and sprinkle with shredded cheese.

Place pan under a hot grill until cheese is bubbling and golden brown.

Serve with a mixed salad.

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ST MARY'S BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL 1968

Back Row (1 to r): Gerard Cleary, George Hannon, Niall Eagney, Kieran Healy, John O'Brien

Front Row (1 to r): Michael Griffin, Dan Byrne, Tom Curran, Martin Joyce, Fintan McGrath, Donal Moran, John Murphy.

Photo courtesy of John Cleary



BALLYHAUNIS SPORTS COMMITTEE 1938

Back Row: Mark Taaffe, Willie Lyons (R.I.P.), John Jennings, Martin Curry, Joe McLoughlin (R.I.P.)

Front Row: Jack Halpin, Michael Waldron, Phillip Morley, Tim O'Malley (R.I.P.), Eugene Dolan.

(Photo courtesy of John Biesty)



ABBEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY 1929

Back Row (l to r) Tony Griffin, Ned Heneghan, Fr. Peppard O.S.A. Gerry Dillon
 Second Row: Lucy Flynn, Johnny Gilmore, Mary Galvin, Tom Maguire, Annie Kennedy,
 Bawn Rattigan, Jessie Fitzmaurice.

Front Row:

Front Row: P. Kenny, Mary Fleming, Eddie Byrne, Lily Campbell, Mr. Hogg (Station Master)

(Photo courtesy of Miss Jessie Fitzmaurice, of Commercial Hotel, Bridge St., now living in London with her sister Bridie, a daughter of John Charles Fitzmaurice (1850-1917), the Clerk of Works on the building of St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, the Parochial House, the Convent National School and many of the houses in Knox St., she is the niece of the late James Waldron of Main St.)



Photo of Ballyhaunis 4th Mayo Troop Boy Scouts taken in St. Patrick's Parish Church 1940
 Back (left to right): Séamus Durkan, Billy Hayden R.I.P., Mickey Gavin, Tom Hopkins,
 Paddy Furrie, George Murray.

4th Row (left to right): Gussy Forrie, Eddie Phillips R.I.P., Aiden Waldron, Donal Rafferty

3rd Row (left to right): Joe Griffin R.I.P., Tommy Donnellan, Noel Waldron, Tommy Byrne,
 John O'Brien.

2nd Row (left to right): Kevin Greene, Paddy Mulligan R.I.P., Dinny Foudy, Louis Hyland,
 Eamon Meade, Pat Smith

Front (left to right) John Davitt, Richie Prendergast, Vincent Donnellan, Bernard Forde,
 Paddy Delaney, Bertie Curley.

(Photo courtesy of: Mr. Thomas Donnellan, Photographer: Halpin's Photographers' (Ballyhaunis))

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