

ANNAGH



1982

ANNAGH

A Ballyhaunis Magazine



Christmas 1982

SEASON'S GREETINGS

"Five years have passed: five summers with the length of five long winters." With the issue of Annagh now in its fifth successive and successful year I greet the people of Ballyhaunis and the surrounding areas with the Blessing of the Son of Mary whose Birth marks the end of Darkness and the dawning of New Life. The Junior Chamber continue to record the events of the past year - its joys and sorrows. For this I thank them and am glad to note the many successes that have blessed us in that time. The visit of our friends from Brittany opened new horizons and established new contacts with the Europe of which we are now a member and it brings us hope that the Brotherhood of the Human Race will be expressed in the prayer of Christ that all may be one in heart, hope, faith and love. Surely this is the longing of us all. Nollaig faoi shona is faoi mhaise dhíbh go léir!

Patrick O. Costelloe, P.P.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank all those who have made this magazine possible by writing articles and supplying photographs. A special word of thanks to our advertisers for their continuing generous support.

We wish to express our appreciation of Anto O'Malley's magnificent work as Editor during our first four years.

We also wish to thank the Secretarial Class of the Community School for typing the manuscripts and their teachers Mr. Michael Smyth

and Sr. Teresina Daly.

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Song for Mayo

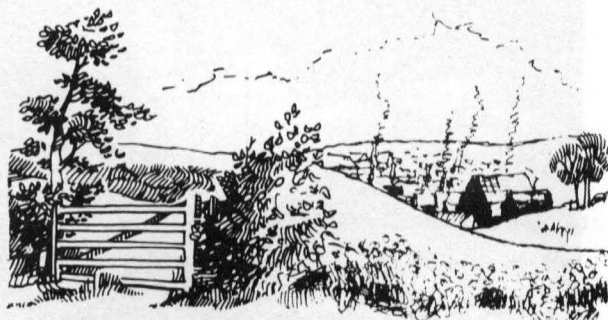


Fair dues to the people of blessed Ballyhaunis
And to all men and women who cherish Mayo!
Small wonder wise Raftery one springtime remembered
And hoisted his sail and took westward the road.

And fair dues again to the blind poet who played
The music of Connacht to penniless pockets,
His tunes brought an easing to a people then downcast
Who could only afford a God-bless-you for it.

But fair dues we sing next to the boys of Killala
The Year of the French when help at last came,
And who rose up again with the camera and the crewmen
To relive a lost chapter and recall a brave name.

Then special fair dues to the great Michael Davitt,
Who fought the Land War, and moreover who won,
But it ought to be said this Fenian's fine victory
Owed nothing that time to the sword and the gun.



But now come fair dues to Mayo sons of our time,
And to daughters as well who merit proud glory,
They are setting rich patterns for writers and such
To praise in new song and to laud in fresh story.

So fair dues then I say to Mayo footballers all
Renowned for their style and sung for the skill
In the year now ahead an All-Ireland is theirs, friend,
If they have only the will, then it will.

Then fair dues go as well to Monsignor in Knock,
And to a kindly Archbishop who is learned and wise,
And to hundreds of others of fame, but alack, friend,
They're too many and many to fit in my rhyme!

So maybe fair dues I should say to this song now
Which, note, you can lengthen with minimum skill,
You can add ten verses about your own townland
Or praise your own village with wonder and will.

So fair dues to this song that still can go on,
And can call for fair dues with no effort or limit,
And fair dues worldwide to Mayo sons and daughters,
And fair dues to all people who say it or sing it.

John O'Connor O.S.A.



Message from Junior Chamber



On behalf of the Junior Chamber we thank our patrons and readers for their generous support during "Annagh's" first five years. It is our special wish that our emigrants will find pleasure in the glimpses of their towns past and pride in the present progress.

John Mooney (President)

Michael Dalgan Lyons Remembers.....



1979, Mr. Dalgan Lyons receiving a Silver Tea Service from Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, Fine Gael Leader at the Scout Den, Ballyhaunis. Dalgan Lyons was a member of the Mayo Co. Council (1950-1979), Dáil Éireann (1965-69) and Seanad Éireann (1969-79). The presentation marked his retirement from Public Life.

(Photo courtesy of John Higgins)

On a dark November's evening Matt O'Dwyer and Jim Landon visited the home of Dalgan Lyons and spent many hours talking about old times as he described them in his own inimitable way - some of which is captured hereunder.....

Dalgan went to school at the Old Began National School built in 1890. At that time children went to school barefooted from April to October with two sods of turf for the fire. The fire was lit with white turf or 'spáid' which came from the top of the turf bank. As secondary schools were available only to the few, many of the children were at national school up to sixteen or seventeen years of age. They called these boys the 'Winter Boys' and at times some of them smoked the clay pipe in the dry closet toilets. 'Scheming' occurred too down in Byrne's field in Lakehill among a group of furze bushes, but ended temporarily when a message was sent home by the teacher to the parents. Another memory Dalgan has was the fights after school were two boys would go into a field after school and hammer each other. He remembers games of kicking a sack (a ball made of rags) which was the most popular game. The school lunch was oatbread and oaten cake which they called backedy. The teachers in the school of which he spoke with fond memories were Mr. Tim Clynes, Mr. Richard Tarpey and Mrs. McDonagh (nee Kelly).

Dalgan's father was a road contractor. That meant in these days 1½-3 miles of road would be put up for tender, with the lowest tender getting the job. Mounds of sand and stone had to be lined up at the side of the road by March 31st. The engineer then measured it to see if the

full complement of sand was there. It was not unknown that clay was put in at the end to boost the load of sand. The stones had to pass through a 3" ring or else had to be broken by hammer. He remembers breaking stones. Work was from morning to dark. The tender scheme lasted for minor roads up to the 1960's.

Farming Memories

Oats was the main crop cut with a scythe, drawn in with an ass and cart or horse and cart, and stacked in eight or nine stacks in the garden. It was threshed with a flail. The flail was made of two sticks joined together by a few inches of straw joined together. The handle was called the colapán, while the other stick has ¾ the size of the colapán. Winnowing was done on a breezy day in a field with the oats riddle and the chaf blew away. Then the sieve sifted the oats. A lot of men went to the Lincoln area in England, to work at farmwork. He remembers two-thirds of the men in the houses in his own village heading off for England. Before they went they would buy cordroy trousers, a sychte, fork etc., on credit from the shops in Ballyhaunis and the first cheque would be sent back to the grocer or hardware shop. When they came home there would be a few drinks in Ballyhaunis as there would be on fair days. The glass of Guinness was 5d and the Medium 6d and the pint 9d. All was on draught and those who drank the bottled stuff were regarded as 'posh'. On those fair days the man of the house would bring the pigs to the station and meet 'herself' in a pub such as Pat Veldin's in Main Street (now Phillips) where the women would go into the 'snug' for a glassin and the men would drink at the bar.

Social Life

Dalgan remembers before the dancehall was popular in 1928. There would be a 'port' in the kitchen on a week night usually until about ten o'clock with a musician. Often the old couple would be gone out. However on a Sunday a 'Spraoi' was held which lasted until all hours with a fiddler playing. Fiddlers were the most sought after musicians and he remembers the great Joe Coyne, Lakehill; Paddy Delaney, Island; and Mikeen Lyons, Greenwood as having played locally. The dances were half-sets, lancers (set) and waltzes.

Public Life

He remember in 1941 going to the Garda Barracks in Ballyhaunis and joining the L.D.F. of which he became group leader. After the Second World War he began to get actively involved in public life and was elected to Mayo Co. Council in 1950. He was a Fine Gael member until he retired in 1979. He considers the most important work done by Mayo Co. Council at the time to be the tarring of the roads. Those were the days too of rates and each year the valuation officer came down from Ely Place, Dublin and valued improvements on properties. Like many other things he maintains that elections themselves have changed dramatically. Selection conventions were always held by the parties but after that it was the Church Gate speeches that mainly counted. Laughingly he told us that although policies existed very different interpretations were put on them by candidates even a few miles apart and in the same party! The main thing to do was to "slag" your opponent and his party as much as possible. Areas were canvassed like today but the new political terminology of swings, percentages, opinion polls and issues were far removed from elections in these days.

Again he remembers when a fellow Co. Councillor canvassed a man working at the side of the road and asked him who did he think would get elected the reply was "no matter who gets in, I'll still be breaking stones!"

Dalgan stood for election to the Dáil in South Mayo in 1954, 1957 and 1961 but was defeated. Those elected were Henry Kenny (F.G.), Mick Moran (F.F.), Tommy O'Hara (F.G.) and Joe Blowick (C. na P.). These defeats he remembers were tiring and draining energy wise and financially.

However in 1965, Dalgan Lyons was elected a Fine Gael T.D. for South Mayo and was welcomed to Dáil Eireann by his friend Party Leader, James Dillon. He laughs now at his first Dáil day as his wife was expecting their daughter Jacqueline on that day.

There was rare panic when Henry Kelly and Tommy O'Hare called for him. However he got the good news when he rang Mullingar so he will never forget his Dáil debut.

In Leinster House his best friends were the late Henry Kenny, Maurice Dockrell, Paddy and Luke Belton and Senator Michael Prendergast. He remembers the amusement Oliver J. Flanagan and Joe Leneghan caused in the Dáil at times with their contributions. In 1969 and 1973 he was elected on the Labour Panel to the Senate which he found much more refined than the cut and thrust of the Dáil. He knew Liam Cosgrave, Jack Lynch and Charles J. Haughey all well and enjoyed their company and has many memories of the late Bill

Loughnane coming to Fine Gael parties with his fiddle and bringing the house down.

One of the things that struck him about membership of the Dáil was the fact that often ones own personal preference on a policy was submerged in the party line. He also felt that if one gave to one sector in the community another suffered so that it often became intolerable with so many seeking a share of the same national cake.

Dalgan is still the great wit and talker, reciter of poems and above all the kind gentle lover of human nature that he always was. We sat there for hours listening and laughing, amazed and amused, with one of the great characters of our area. We wish him many years of happy retirement with his family and there is no doubt that "nì bheidh a leithéad ann arís."

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T'was 50 Years Ago Today



Section of the crowd at Ballyhaunis Gymkhana.

Photo courtesy of John Forde

1932, fifty years ago, more than half a life time, when a penny was a penny and a pound was a pound, when ten Players or a bottle of stout cost six old pence, Ballyhaunis stepped into the modern era of piped water and electricity. It was a memorable year for the people of the town, and to the country at large it will be remembered for the Eucharistic Congress. Though held in Dublin the atmosphere spread throughout the country and every town and village in the land was bedecked with National, Papal and Congress Flags and the plain people of Ireland travelled by numerous special trains to Dublin for the different events.

While to-day we take light at the flick of a switch and water at the turn of a tap, for granted, in 1932 they were major milestones in the life of this community.

In the middle of Congress week at a social for the E.S.B. workers the electricity supply was switched on from McGarry's Hall.

It was said then that we had jumped the queue and were years ahead. It was due to some manouvering and good thinking by the 'city fathers', The Town Improvements Committee who having worked for years on the Water Scheme insisted on Electric Pumps to pump the water to the reservoir.

Ballyhaunis was in line to get its electricity supply through Castlerea, but as Castlerea had its own private plant, it was not proposed to link it up to the national supply for some years. With the waterworks completed and electric pumps, plans had to be changed and a line laid on from Claremorris.

The waterworks were blessed by the parish priest Very Rev. Fr. Colleran on Sunday 5th November before a very large crowd. The Irish Independent published a photograph of the town well from the camera of the late John Halpin.

I remember the date of the water works switch on, my shoes got dirty and Bill Mulligan railroaded me when I turned up for the Scout Investiture in the Vincent de Paul Rooms on the third floor of Lynchs (now over Abbey Cleaners). Records at the C.B.S.I. Headquarters show that on the 5th November, 1932 Jarlath Waldron, Joe Tarpey, Jarlath Smith (R.I.P.), Alec Campbell, Micheal Walsh (R.I.P.), Seamus Durkan, Michael Finn, Luke Freeley and Eddie Webb were invested members of the 4th Mayo Troop.

In August the first carnival ever held in Ballyhaunis, (as distinct from the annual visit of Tofts Amusements to the Square for the St. Patrick's Pattern) was held in the Abbey Grounds. Organised by the late Very Rev. E.A. Mansfield O.S.A. and a local Committee.....the carnival ran just for three days. Tofts Amusements, dancing in McGarry's Hall, Children's fancy dress parade, boxing tournament, the outstanding memory of which was the fight between Jim Cofey and Pat McAlastir in the amphitheatre in the Abbey Grounds. Men worked for weeks building seats into the side of the hill, the steps of which are still there. There was a football match in Morley's field, Cherryfield, again men worked for weeks removing a small hill and levelling the field (without today's bulldozers). There were raffles, greasy pigs, auctions, stalls etc. and probably the crowning glory was the fireworks display. Every man in the district who had a gun

was enlisted. They were stationed in small groups in a circle several hundred yards away from the grounds and after dark they fired round after round of fireworks high into the sky and towards the field. In 1932, it was a spectacle to behold.

An international flavour was added on the final day when John Duffy's Circus (the biggest in the country) came to town. In those far off days they did not perform on a Sunday. Then having pulled their wagons into the fair green, they had a free day and as they mingled with the crowds at the carnival that night it was the first time many of us saw a coloured person in the flesh.

When it came to getting out of the field, there was a free attraction for the locals. Toft had brought his big steam engine and heavy wagons into the low part of the field. As the usual rain quota fell while he was there, the big engine stuck on the side of the hill as it came out. They took the heavy steel cable with which it was equipped and tied it round one of the beech trees in the avenue. The engine by winding the cable, pulled itself out, then positioned itself in the gateway and hauled all the wagons to terra firma one by one.

In 1932 on the Three Day Carnival, the profit was £990 which without my computer, in round figures comes to about £20,000 in today's money.

For those of us old enough to remember, isn't it hard to believe that these events took place all of a half a century ago.

Seamus Durkan



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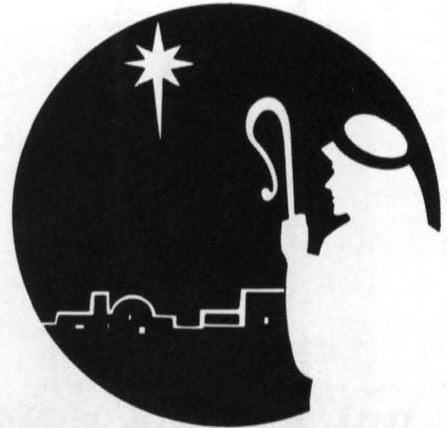
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The Shepherds Joy



See how they leap for blessed joy,
The minders of the sheep,
See how they weep, the brown-faced men,
But it's all for you they weep!
See how they dance and sing the stars,
Hear as they say and say:
Thrice blessed be the God of Abraham
Who brings this blessed day!

But why do they dance, those shepherds,
Why do they sing and shout?
Why, but this Night God's promised plan
And loving secrets out!
Why, but this Night God's angels came
To tell those brown-faced men
The Good News that the Day had dawned
When the world could smile again!

And so the angels came with singing
To tell of a blessed birth,
And Bethlehem's name from out this Night
Would ring across the earth!
And that's why they danced, those shepherds,
And that's why the stars shone bright,
For the time of the long long waiting
Had ended that blessed night.

And that's why the shepherds shouted
And hurried to the Cave,
And that's why they looked with seeing eyes
At the Child who came to save.

And that's why they wondered greatly
At Mary and Joseph there,
And that's why we leave them kneeling
With Mary and Joseph at prayer.
For now their shouting is over,
No longer the skies they ring,
The fields and the stars now are silent,
In their hearts now the shepherds sing!

John O'Connor, O.S.A.

Fleadh Na nGael 1982

by Jim Lunden

(Photo courtesy of Seamus Mulrennan)



St. Patrick's Day, 1903

The Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann "Fleadh na nGael" 1982 was held in Ballyhaunis on the weekend of 21st and 22nd of March 1982. It was officially opened by Mr. Padraig Flynn, T.D., and Minister for the Gaeltacht at Ballyhaunis Community School following a parade from the town centre led by the Kilmovee School Band. The other speakers at the opening were Mr. Labhras Ó Murchú Árd Stiúrthóir C.C.E., Mr. Seosamh Mac Gabhain Cathaoirleach C.C.E. Muigheo; and Mr. Matt O'Dwyer Cathaoirleach C.C.E. Béal Atha hAmhais also welcomed the guests.

On Saturday night a concert was held at the Community School featuring some of the top musicians in the country: Domhall de Barra, Antóin Mac Gabhainn, Deirdre Coillis, Treasa Ní Cheannaigh, Nora Butler, Minnie Kieron and Michael Convey. It was compered by Donnacha Ó Dulaig. A large crowd attended the Seisiún afterwards at the White Horse Inn.

On Sunday the day began with a multi-lingual Mass at St. Patrick's Parish Church in Irish, English and French celebrated by the Very Reverend Fr. P. Costelloe, P.P. Ballyhaunis and sung by the children of St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School and St. Mary's National School. The attendance included people from practically all thirty-two counties of Ireland and a group of visitors from Guiliers in Brittany who visited Ballyhaunis to initiate "twinning" between the towns.

Afterwards the All-Ireland competitions commenced in the Parochial Hall and at the two venues in the Scout's Den. The competitions lasted until seven o'clock in the evening. There were a few impromptu Seisiúns on the outdoor stage in the square. This was erected by Mick Murray. A Concert of Prizewinners, compered by Séamus Ó Dubhthaigh was held on Sunday night, also a Seisiún in the Horse Shoe Inn. The night was rounded off by a very successful Ceili held in the Scout's Den to the music of the Kilmovee Ceili Band.

It was indeed a unique occasion for the area and credit for its success must go to the voluntary help and finance given by local business people; the managements of the Scout's Den, Parochial Hall, Community School and dozens of people who helped in every way. The competitors stressed that it was very well run from their point of view and a special word of thanks is due to the people who kept and fed the visitors on that weekend.

The Ballyhaunis branch members are:

Cathaoirleach	Mr. Matt O'Dwyer
Cisteóir	Mr. Morgan Jennings
Runaí	Mr. Jim Lunden
Fógraíocht	Mr. Augustine Kearns
Coiste:		
Miss Áine Whelan, Mr. Eddie Campbell, Mr. Pat Higgins,		
Mr. Tony Flynn, Mr. Eamon Healy, Mr. Joe Hosty and Mr.		
Mike Grogan.		

The Branch hopes to hold a few informed Seisiúns during the Winter. Anybody and everybody is welcome to come along and enjoy the music.

FLEADH REVIVES FEIS TRADITION:

The first Gaelic League Mayo County Feis was held in the grounds of the Sisters of Mercy, Ballyhaunis from the 15th - 16th April, 1903. It featured competitors from all over the west of Ireland and was organised by Dr. Douglas Hyde, Mr. O'Maille of Maam, and Mr. Fitzhenry.

The attendance included Dr. Douglas Hyde, Miss Agnes O'Farrelly, M.A., Miss Norma Borthwick, Rev. Bewerange, Mr. Patrick H. Pearse, B.A., B.L., Very Rev. Walter Conway, P.P., Very Rev. J.P. Canning, P.P. Ballyhaunis, Rev. Professor M.J. O'Doherty.

The Committee was as follows:

President Dr. Conor Maguire, Claremorris
Vice President Mr. M.J. Doherty, Kiltimagh
Hon. Treasurer Mr. James O'Casey, Ballyhaunis
Hon. Secretary Mr. M.J. Coyne, Ballyhaunis
Messrs: Frank Swift, J.T. Smyth, P.J. Waldron, Frank Dorr, P.A. Waldron, Mr. Michael Waldron, the local playwright was the overall director.

All the ladies of the Ballyhaunis Branch were attired in Foxford tweed. Among the list of subscribers was Mr. George Moore, the Novelist, Rev. Paul McLoughlin, C.C., Castlebar and later P.P. of Islandeady, Rev. E.A. Dalton, C.C., Belcarra later P.P. of Ballinrobe, Dean of the Diocesan and a renowned Historian and uncle of the late Cardinal Dalton.

Prizewinners on that far off day were Mary O'Neill, Shantalla; Michael Timoney, Lahardane; Michael J. Doherty, Kiltimagh; James O'Malley, Ballyhaunis; Michael Walsh, Millpark Cornamona; Michael O'Connell, Knockroon, Headford; Edward Jennings, Claremorris; William Barrett, Ballycross, Hollymount; Philip Waldron, Drimbane, Ballyhaunis; Mary Jordan, Lahardane; Michael Henry, Doohma, Geesala; Dr. Conor Maguire, Claremorris (for his translation of "The Men of the West"); Michael Meagher, South Aran, Galway; John Keane, Kilgarraif; Michael J. Waldron, Ballyhaunis; Brian Kearns, Knock. Prizes were given among other things for: Irish Crochet Lace, Homespun Hank of Flax, Point Lace, Frieze and Cycling Stockings. The Misses Mary Cooney and Bridie Smyth of the Ballyhaunis Convent Schools won prizes for their drawing of an Irish Bard and an Irish Chieftain.

The Play "An Posadh" was performed by the Ballaghadereen Branch and the Claremorris Branch presented "Casadh an T-Sugrain". Dr. Conor Maguire and his son Gerard sang a number of songs. Fr. O'Byrne played the violin and Mr. Owen Lloyd contributed on the Harp.

In conclusion Dr. Hyde delivered an address in Irish expressing his delight with the success of the Feis.



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Home Thoughts from Abroad

Matt O'Dwyer got a cold reception when he called on me on a dreary October evening. I had been away for a few days and having just returned, was in the process of **piling** some dry turf mould on top of a crumbled newspaper with a view to sending up smoke signals announcing my return. I asked Matt to step over a drift of leaves which the October winds had blown against the back door during my absence, but could not ask him to sit by a cosy fire, which was just beginning to 'smile faintly' and needed some time to grow.

On this particular evening Matt was out trying to recruit scribblers like myself to contribute 'something' to the next edition of 'Annagh'. Most people purchase their copy at the church gate, others receive it by post, which was how I received mine, in 1981. It got a warmer reception than Matt O'Dwyer when it was delivered in Cambridge Park, a western suburb of Sydney, a few days after Christmas. There was heat (without smoke) from a golden disc in a blue cloudless sky, as a fairly strong contingent from Annagh was 'celebrating' at the home of Chris and Margaret O'Dowd. The sender Mrs. Betty Regan had marked 'N.B. Page 27' on the cover and because 27 happened to be the centre of the magazine it opened automatically at that page. When the wrapper was removed and a little bending over done it revealed a picture of the 'class of '51' in Derrylea National School. I doubt if the arrival of any magazine was ever timed better, as there were three of the class of '51 present during that opening ceremony, namely Margaret Cribbin, Maureen Bourke and yours truly. The girls have changed their surnames to Margaret O'Dowd and Maureen Kelly, who's husbands Chris O'Dowd and Pat Kelly must have felt a bit left out of our National School Re-union.

Photographs are like peep holes in the past affording us a glimpse down Memory Lane and whether we look at school photographs to see what we were like when we were young or to see who is getting old, we can scarcely put them down without asking "Where are they now?" Before the start our roll call it should be mentioned that there were about sixty pupils attending Derrylea at that time so our 'peep-hole' shows us only half of the class, the rest being hidden from view as if by an overgrown hedge in Memory Lane. Out of sight does not mean out of mind and we will poke a few holes in that thick hedge later on. Our roll call was well on the way with three already accounted for and Tommy Joe Ruane not far away-up the coast in New South Wales. Before we left Australia there were two other Derrylea men called up although not strictly of the '51 class, one having left the year before and the other arriving the year after. It being the season of goodwill we 'cooked' the rollbook and admitted Fr. Pat Ruane from up near the Queensland border and my brother Pat from the Latrobe Valley as Honorary Members. Looking across the Pacific Ocean to the United States, we saw Bridie Cleary, Brian Moore, Mary Fitzmaurice (and though hidden from view), Gabriel Connell, Sean and Imelda Walsh raised their hands and answered "Anseo". Across the Atlantic Mary Cleary, Rita Moore, Angela Finn,

Rita Burke, Eamonn Sullivan and though not in our photograph Mick Kearns, Mary Cribben, Marian Moore and Chris Cleary did likewise in England. Crossing the North Sea to Germany where Christian Feibert is the boy who carved his name underneath the desk we shared in Derrylea.

When a pupil was absent from school an excuse had to be given to a teacher as to why they stayed at home (and some good ones were given) but continuing our roll call we find that the rest of the class of '51 have stayed at home. On this occasion excuses will neither be asked or nor allowed....

With sadness we remember Jimmy Moore, R.I.P. of Gurrane the only one missing from the class of '51. Today the old school stands as a battered and silent landmark with Jonny Rabbit's cattle eating silage in the playground where three generations of school children laughed, played and on rare occasions fought each other.

Mr. and Mrs. Higgins were the teachers who taught in '51. John R.I.P. 'has passed on' but Mrs. Mary Higgins is still with us and in good spirits as, I was happy to tell her ex-pupils, the Ruane brothers and Margaret, Maureen and Pat. When they inquired about her. All of us remember her as a dedicated, helpful and patient teacher.

And now thirty years later, and from halfway around the world lets have a curtain call for the surviving teacher of the two who called the roll in 1951.

Any newcomer to Australia expecting the faraway hills to be green will be disappointed, with the exception of the area known as the 'fertile crescent' green is not the common colour over vast areas of the driest continent on Earth. Mart Hunt who writes lyrics in Lecarrow would find few sympathetic readers of his "Summer '81" in 'the dusty outback'.

Here the poet writes:
If the Lord won't send us water,
then we will get it from the devil
Deeper Down-deeper down.

In favoured areas where water is available either from Man above or Man below, every kind of crop from tea to turnips is successfully cultivated and indeed the greenness there would rival pasture at home. But because irrigation is so costly sights like that are the exception rather than the rule. Strange as it may seem there are regions with a high rainfall that Ireland, but it comes in such a way as to do more harm than good. All in all Australia would survive and prosper with the free irrigation of an Irish climate. Ireland would scarcely survive one long hot Australian summer. When Kangaroos go hungry, livestock and crops never thrive. Fr. Pat Ruane tells me that during a severe drought in the mid "60" nearly a million sheep died in his parish.

As can be expected in a country with a lot of sunshine outdoor activities play a big part in peoples lives and the form of a barbacue at Christmas in Traralgon. Bert

Cribbin from Togher and his guitar kept them 'Waltzing Matilda' and chided the Aussies "I am giving you the airs surely you know the words of your own songs". Later at a barbecue organised by Mr. and Mrs. John Fitzmaurice to celebrate the christening of their daughter, old acquaintances were renewed when three bronzed Ballyhaunis men shook my hand. John and Pat Fitzmaurice who hail from Gurteen Beg and Jack Cribbin who's father Austin R.I.P. was the postman who passed us on his bicycle each morning as we "strolled unwillingly" to Derrylea school. To Jack and his charming wife from Co. Kerry must go some of the credit for the fact that there are more Cribbins on the Melbourne Telephone Directory there is on any Irish Directory as they have raised a family of thirteen!

Later a nip in the air drove us indoors where the festivities continued just like at home, into the early hours. Out door activities cover every range of sport and when the heat gets intense there are hundreds of miles of sandy beaches, at some of which in spite of the intense heat the ladies bathe, wearing ear rings.

At some indoor activities particularly where there was plenty of 'grog' I have noticed some Irish over anxious to show that were children of a fighting race. The point was taken by "Bango" Patterson, who was probably exaggerating a bit when he related how after "Andy Regan's Funeral" There are five and twenty mourners, who had five and twenty fights.

It is very difficult to describe the Australians because no two of them are the same. They have been described as the Yanks of the South Pacific by someone, with perhaps a gain of truth, with their feudal system of government, high standard of living, big cars, divorce, and not much time for the 'Communism' but they have not the same boastfulness of the real yanks.

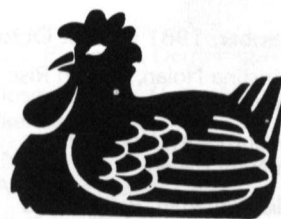
The Aussies refer to their country as *The Lucky Country* and leave it at that.

Today when you open 'The Australian' or the 'Sydney Morning Herald' that of the press in Sydney or a day or two late out at Kelly's Creak, Jordan's Cutting or O'Sullivan's Crossing, you will find familiar reading. Rising unemployment, rising costs, crime, drugs, the 'Moonies', alledged corruption in politics and the police and now and then something new like somebody picking up a nugget or details of a reported Apparition at Castlemaine. (They have a railway station at Castlemaine, I am not sure about the airport!)

Amongst some photographs taken was one of a forge in the Latrobe Valley, which I showed to Brod Boyle and he agreed there were so many similarities with his own forge that it could have been taken 'out the road'. It was decided to hold a 'spot the difference contest'. I have seen Brod with a cut some smooth sales talk and odd agile movement of the wrist successfully 'pass-off' this photograph of himself, his forge, a yank and a horse being shot taken some years back with a good camera by another yankee visitor to Ballinaphuill!

And now that I feel the cold chill of November in my bones. I think I'll be heading off down under again for another warm Christmas. And Betty don't forget to send on my copy of Annagh.

Jimmy Cribbin



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Births.....



BIRTHS. 1st November, 1981 to 31st October, 1982.

To Michael and Christina Nolan, Station Rise
a son, Gary Patrick

To John and Mary Cumiskey, Knox Street
a daughter, Niamh Mary Eileen

To James and Delia Flanagan, Ballindrehid
a daughter, Brigid Maria

To James and Teresa Healy, Johnstown
a daughter, Annette Margaret Mary

To Michael and Geraldine Conlon, Abbey Street
a son, Shane Augustine

To Dermot and Anne Marie Eagney, Doctor's Road
a son, Diarmuid McHugh
To Val and Anne Byrne, Main Street
a daughter, Laura Anne

To Michael and Dolores Murphy, Rathmines
a son, Nathan Micheál

To John and Mary O'Dwyer, Hazelhill
a son, Conor Andrew Noel

To Jarlath and Patricia Heaney, Lecarrow
a daughter, Angela Christina

To Gerard and Pauline Geraghty, Station Rise
a son, Gerard Martin

To Dr. Michael and Bríd Cleary, Clare St.
a son, Oisín.

To John and Pauline O'Hara, Station Rise,
a daughter, Deborah

To Joseph and Bernadette Tighe, Tooraree
a daughter, Delia

To Eugene and Alma Carney, Clare Street
a son, Stephen John

To William and Brigid Lyons, Knock Road
a son, Cathal Padraic

To Eamon and Anne O'Reilly, Dublin
a son, Thomas Noel Patrick

To Joseph and Anne Coyne, Ballyvale
a daughter, Michelle Anne

To Derek and Mary Hubbard, Station Rise
twins, James and Siobhán

To Michael and Mary Naughton, Upper Main Street
a daughter, Caitriona Mary

To Thomas and Mary McDonagh, Tooraree
a daughter, Brigid

To Thomas and Maura O'Dowd, Holywell
a daughter, Caitriona Marie

To Tadhg and Kay Buckley, Knock Road
a son, Tadhg Patrick

To Abdel and Elizabeth Khalek Fhiki, Clare Road
a son, Richard

To David and Mary Jordan, Lecarrow
a son, Colin Thomas

To Jarlath and Ita Fahey, Devlis,
a daughter, Brigid Caitriona

To Denis and Clare Hannan, Bridge Street
a daughter, Emer Mary

To Sean and Helen Biesty, Carrowkeel
a daughter, Audrey Marie

To William and Nell Rochford, Knock Road
a daughter, Maria

To Peter and Rita Hannon, Devlis
a daughter, Sinead Mary Teresa

To Patrick and Connie Gildea, Johnstown
a son, Padraic Joseph

To John and Geraldine O'Neill, Station Rise
a son, Mark Thomas

To John and Carmel Vahey, London
a daughter, Sinead, Theresa

To Walter and Mary Cleary, Pattenspark
a daughter, Louise Marie

To Edward and Nuala Murphy, Main Street
a son, Edward Jarlath

To Joseph and Rosemary Freeley, a son, John Paul

To Seamus and Bridie O'Boyle, Carrarea
a daughter, Aileen Christine Marie

To Tony and Martina Plunkett, Lisbane
a son, Michael Peter Gerard

To Thomas and Fiona Prenty, Knock Road
a son, Paul Arthur

To Michael and Della Webb, Main Street
a son, Mark Anthony Paul

To Dr. Michael and Laura Brogan, Doctor's Road
a son, Darragh Michael

To John and Mary Louise Cleary, Johnstown
a daughter Louise Mary

To Patrick and Kathleen Regan, Killinagher
a daughter, Carmel Maria

To Martin and Winnie Mongan, Station Rise
a son, James

To Seamus and Alice Connell, Whitehall, Dublin
a son, James

To Rory and Margaret O'Connor, Doctor's Road
a daughter, Rachel Louise

To Peter and Noreen Gallagher, Bargarriff
a son, David Allen

To Martin and Josie Cunnane, Carrowkeel
a son, Paul Bernard

To Gerard and Delia Coen, Clagnagh
a daughter, Sarah Assumpta

To Vincent and Agatha Higgins, Devlis
a daughter, Natasha Maria

To Murtagh and Anne Regan, Lecarrow
a son, Murtagh Joseph

To Larry and Kathleen Pelecchia, Station Rise
a son, Loretto Giancarlo

To Barry and Anne Butler, Doctor's Road
a daughter, Josephine Anne

To John Stephen and Dympna Greally, Drimbane
a daughter, Aoife Mary

To John and Kathleen McCrudden, Barrack Street
a son, Christopher Martin

To Padraic and Marian Regan, Killinagher
a daughter, Lora Maria

To John and Philomena Moran, Brackalaghboy
a son, Robert Martin

To Thomas and Maura Curran, Hazelhill
a daughter, Aoife Mary

To Conal and Philomena Boyle, Station Rise
a daughter, Caitriona Mary

To John and Mary Neenan, Coolnafarna
a daughter, Ann Marie

To Patrick and Margaret Byrne, Knox Street
a daughter, Yvonne Margaret

To Christopher and Xanthe Pratt, Scrigg
twin sons, Seth James and Luke Edward Alan

Peter Fox, Carrarrea
Deirdre Murtagh, Dublin

Jarlath Cosgrove, Irishtown
Margaret T. Finnegan, Derrintogher

Patrick Joseph Forde, Upper Main Street
Mary Kilkenney, Knock

Peter O'Neill,
Noreen Antoinette Murray, Devlis

William Rafferty, Birmingham
Ann Marie Luby, Ballindrehid

Sean Prender, Quilty, Co. Clare
Genevieve Morrissey, Devlis

Michael F. O'Brien, Tavanaghmore
Mary C. Bourke, Loughglynn

James P. Kilboyle, Tullaghmore
Mary McGuinness, Crossboyne

Patrick Cuniffe
Mary Conboy, Devlis

Niall Eagney, Clare Street
Pauline Madden, Loughrea

Sean P. Lyons, Johnstown
Christina Geraghty, Cloonfad

Nicholas Freyne, Coolnaha
Eleanor Eaton, Main Street

John T. Smyth, Knox Street
Denise Guiney, Dublin

Vincent Higgins, Irishtown
Agatha Clarke, Devlis

Michael Connolly, Killinagher
Ellen Comer, Moylough

Patrick J. Healy, Holywell
Karen Trevarthen, Plymouth

John A.M. Griffin, Clare Street
Teresa Freyne, Coolnaha

William Lacey, London
Rosemary Morley, Knox Street

Eamon Egan, Clagnagh
Pauline Lynskey, Tooreen

Thomas Hernan, Spiddal
Mary Annunciata Healy, Holywell

Kieran Dyer, Brackloon
Margaret Corcoran, Fairymount

Thomas Dillon
Mona McGarry, Abbey Street

John Ward
Mary Christina Maughan, Castlereagh

Hugh C. Carney, Classaroe
Statia Winston, Ballinlough

John J. Coyne, Ballyhaunis
Mary Cleary, Milltown Malbay

Dr. Donal Hynes, Galway
Clodagh O'Dwyer, Station Road

Marriages. .



Marriages in Parish Church

1st November 1981 to 31st October 1982

Gerard M. Carney, Began
Loretta D. Curran, Main Street

Michael Robert McClancy, Malahide
Deirdre Finn, Bray

Thomas McCormack, Dublin
Mary Nuala Folliard, Kitiboe

Patrick Fergal Goeghegan, Strokestown
Cecily M. Moran, Knox Street

Francis Brogan, Dublin
Mary Thérèse Cleary, Johnstown

Michael T. Kelly, Ballinlough
Rosaleen Keane, Coolnafarna

John J. Carney, Bracklagh
Dolores Melley, Upper Main Street
John P. Featherstone, Birr
Joan Dolores Greally, Birr

Bernard Michael Casserly, Frenchpark
Mary Lyons, Spaddagh

Michael G. Hand, Dublin
Mary P. Griffin, Clare Street

ELSEWHERE

Kevin A. Crewhurst
Marie A.M. Clarke, Scrigg

Joseph Kindregan, Holywell
Patricia Nolan, Kildare

Deaths.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" Apoc. 14:13
1st November 1981 to 31st October 1982

John McDonnell, Lecarrow
Michael Cleary, Johnstown
Mrs. Peg Raftery, St. Gerard's Crescent
Joseph Gantley, Lisbane
Michael A. Keane, Annagh
James Flately, Gurteenmore
William Lyons, Knockbrack
Thomas J. Lyons, Station Rise
Frances Moran, Devlis
Eugene Carney, Holywell
Thomas Melley, Upper Main Street
Michael Flately, Forthill
David Fitzmaurice, Cherryfield
Mrs. Mary Eagney, Carrownedan
John Grealley, Drimbane
Edward Phillips, Abbeyquarter
Mrs. Clara T. Curran, St. Gerard's Crescent
Mrs. Margaret O'Connell, Upper Main Street
Charles Phillips, Main Street
Michael Walsh, Classaroe
Sarah Byrne, Devlis
Michael Grogan, Killinagher
Michael Cribbin, Drimbane
Thomas Mulrennan, Gurteen
Mrs. Máire Forkan, Knox Street
Mrs. Margaret Collins, Island
Máirín Higgins, Bridge Street
Patrick Bailey, Bargarriff
Luke Coen, Lecarrow
Thomas Fitzmaurice, Johnstown
Thomas Murphy, Main Street
Mrs. Mary Rattigan, Lecarrow
James O'Boyle, Carrowkeel

ELSEWHERE....

Monsignor T. Healy, U.S.A.
Matt Healy, Lecarrow, Knock
Fr. C. Langan, C.C., Moore
Patrick A. Gibbons, Main Street
Mrs. Mary K. Henry, Devlis
Mrs. Nora Connell, Redford
Patrick McCafferty, Belfast
Mrs. Ann Taylor, née Maguire, Kiltaboe
Mrs. Nan Cullen, Armagh
Sr. Bonaventure Davitt, Westport
Patrick Waldron, Logboy
Mrs. Mary Smyth, née Connolly, Derrynacong
Mrs. Delia Cunanan, Devlis
Mrs. Mary Winston, Ballinlough
Canon James Gibbons, P.P., Athenry
Mrs. Julia Cameron, Ballinrobe
Mrs. Brigid Hurst, Knock Road
John Commins, Knock
Kathleen Kearns, née Ruane, Knock
Nora Divilly, Kilkerrin and Island
Owen Finn, Raith, Aghamore
Mrs. Delia Berry, née Finnegan, Bohogue
James Judge, Coolnaha
Mrs. Mary Kearns, née Waldron, Derrylahan

Fr. Michael Quinn P.P., Aghamore
Mrs. Máirín Costelloe, née Lyons, Spaddagh
Thomas Murray, Loughrea
Dr. M.P. Worthington, née Smythe, Abbey Street
Ann Heneghan, Tullaghan
Mrs. Mary Coyne, Tonragee
Mrs. June Flanagan
Martin Tully, St. Gerard's Crescent
Patrick Killeen, Carrownedan
Mrs. Stella Fahey, née Morley, Knox Street
Mrs. Nora Grogan, Mannin House
Richard Prendergast, Castlebar
Mrs. Mollie Arnold, née Dyer, Brackloon
Anne Coen, Lecarrow
Brian Moyles, Mullingar
Ivan Curran, Stamullen
Vincent Byrne, Ballyhowley
Michael Hoban, Classroe
Thomas Nestor, Garrafrauns
Joseph Grogan, late of Hazelhill
Thomas Gawley, Ballina
Mrs. Mary Johnston, Coolnaha
Michael Cronin, Lecarrow
William Baker, Bray
Mrs. Celine McManus, Logboy
Mrs. Mary Johnston, Erriff
Mrs. Bridie Boyles
Vincent Kedian, late of Derrynacong
Mrs. Mona Sweeney, née Hilliard
Patrick Hopkins, Larganboy
Fr. Edward O'Donohoe P.P., Kilconly
Patricia O'Donnell, née Roche
Thomas Fitzmaurice, late Cloonfad
Mrs. Margaret Keaveney, Lisduff, Dunmore
John Egan, Knock
Winifred Woodward, née Hely, Holywell
Kathleen O'Brien, Culleens, Co. Sligo
Mrs. G. Colleary, née Flynn, Abbey Street
John Toolan, Knockanara
Mrs. Margaret McNeill, née Murren, Upper Main St.
Mrs. Annie Cassidy, late Tooraree
Mrs. Brigid Kenny, Tulsk, Strokestown
Liam Duffy, Aghamore
Dan Finn, Erriff

May they rest in peace and the Joy of the Lord.



Ballyhaunis in the 40's

by Tony Boyle

It was forty-one years ago this month that I got off my bicycle in the centre of Ballyhaunis to take up a job in a business-house there. I didn't know a sinner in town, but I was glad to get the position. The war was just two years on at the time and Germany was winning. Most items of food and clothing were rationed; tobacco and cigarettes were scarce, it was almost impossible to get a bicycle tyre, and petrol rationing was to be introduced the following May. Although I was then thirty miles away from my Co. Galway home I would be lucky to see my folks at Christmas, Easter and holiday time. But thanks to the kindness, courtesy and consideration of my fellow workers - and indeed of the people of Ballyhaunis in general, I was soon to be in a home-from-home, and I would cry bitterly leaving that town during the snow storm of 1947 - less than six years later.

In the meantime, I became acquainted with many, many people in Ballyhaunis and its hinterland, most of whom I still remember with much respect and affection. Needless to say, most of the personalities of that time have since gone to their reward, but I am glad to know that, as I write, there are still a few old-timers left. Now let me bring the readers down memory lane, as I recall how I remember the town I loved so well, and the very familiar people of those days away back in the forties.

There was a namesake of my own, PAT BOYLE a veteran of the first world war who lived alone in Clare Street beside to the new cinema. He was a man who loved to put a bob each way on a horse. He was, I believe, a native of the Ballina district of North Mayo, and I was extremely sorry when I heard he died some years ago.

Broddie Kenny was a retired draper and a native of the town of Ballyhaunis. A most retired and well-spoken gentleman, Mr. Kenny had seen good days and bad and to say the least of it, it was good to know a man like him. I learned much from Broddie, and I actually cried at his grave following his tragic death during my years in Ballyhaunis.

One of the greatest personalities of all was the late Jim Rattigan, a solicitor's clerk - and from the town. Jim amused (and confused) us all with his imaginary circus, and we almost believed him! and when a newcomer came to town, Jim would have certain difficulty in finding a suitable part in the circus for the new recruit, much to the amusement of the more experienced 'actors'.

Perhaps not in the same category as the last two mentioned above we had Michael Joyce who was better known by his middle name, and he would often stand for hours at Moyletts corner, where Joe Regan's pub is now. I know very little about this individual who appeared to fade from the scene while I was in Ballyhaunis.

And who could forget the town crier of that time, Martin Duignan, whom I can still visualize ringing that bell in great style from Abbey Street to Upper Main Street and from Clare Road to Knox Street. Most suited to his position, he must have been one of the last bell ringers in

the country. It was indeed with much regret I heard of his death many years ago.

Equally foremost in my memory is Pat Killeen and his flute, who I am told was born in Garryredmond near Claremorris. Pat had a rather limited selection of tunes, and when in better humour, he would be remembered for his political speeches, in which he boasted that he fought and died for Ireland. I understand that Pat died some time ago and was buried in Ballyhaunis.

The late Mrs. Biddy Devaney who lived in the Dardanelles in Ballyhaunis also stands out in my memory. She sold boxes of matches in the town on market and fair days, and she must have been the last woman in the town to wear a shawl. She was a native of North East Galway and her husband Joe, and sons, 'Taudy', 'Shirley' and 'Sharkey' were also well-known personalities in those days.

A most lovable and respected citizen of Ballyhaunis, who lived 'till a few years ago was Frank Glynn of Clare St., a member of a well-known victualling family and I remember him with great affection. Frank invariably wore a Dallas type hat. I still have in my possession, a photograph of him outside his premises at Clare Street.

Yes, indeed, Ballyhaunis was full of personalities in the 'forties. There was Paddy Kenny who had a sweet shop in Knox Street where we spent many a half-hour chatting. We also spent many an hour in Don Moran's in the same street, listening to the radio or playing 110. Don was tops as regards hospitality and we never appeared to appreciate fully how we were indebted to him, and I well remember listening to De Valera's reply to Churchill in April, 1945 in Joe McQueeney's kitchen in Main Street. We seldom heard a radio in those days as the transistor was not even invented until 1948.

Getting back to the personalities of those days, I recall such men as Jimmie Noone, who died not long ago, Martin Duffy who was attached to C.I.E., Martin and Jack Mugan, and Tommie Byrne of Barrack Street, who gave us many a laugh. I had occasion also to be a personal friend to the late Father Mansfield and the Rev. P.A. Waldron who both will long be remembered for their wit and humour at local and national level.

The rural area of Ballyhaunis also had its share of personalities in those days. Out in Holywell we had 'Ganger' Lyons, a man with many entertaining stories; and out that road too you found 'Hawker' Waldron, who was gifted with talent, and should be remembered by his stage performances at Golf functions. Out Began way, I knew Pat Morley, a tailor by trade, and in that parish too (which had no pub at the time) we had the Byrne brothers, 'sergeant' Finnegan of Loghboy and Martin Byrne of Island, who all told tall stories.

Listening to an All-Ireland final in Lyon's of Abbey Street or Byrne's of Clare Road are also clear in my memory, as are the election results of 1943 and 1944, and the bye-election of 45 which was won by Bertie Commons of Balla giving three seats to Clann na Talúin in South

Mayo (it was South Mayo that time). The vacancy was caused by Ballyhaunis solicitor, Micheál O'Clereigh who had been appointed Dublin County Registrar. The rapid rise of Dominick Cafferkey of Kilkelly to win a Dáil seat at that time was also a National sensation.

The big dances in McGarry's Hall and the Parochial Hall during the forties were great social occasions indeed, and they only cost three and ninepence or five bob. I was there when Stephen Garvey played for his twenty-fifth time at the Annual Nurses Dance in the Parochial Hall, when he accepted a special gift to mark the occasion with great emotion. I can still visualize Stephen singing "Jeannie with the light brown hair". Ah those were the days - or the nights rather! The Annual Commercial Dance was a great occasion too, especially for those of us engaged in the distributive trades.

Travelling shows played a big part in the social and entertainment life of the town in those days and many remember Bert Patterson and his familiar phrase "You're a right looking Eejit". I remember attending a local production of "Professor Tim" in Waldron's Hall in Clare Street, in late 1941 and amongst the cast on that occasion was a young lad called Seamus Durkan!

One date that sticks in my mind while I was in Ballyhaunis is the 20th April, 1946 when bananas came to

town for the first time since the war - and the children had never seen them before!

Enjoying a game of 25 in Jim Boyle's of Carrowkeel or Michael Keane of Annagh are also amongst my vivid memories of the hospitality of the Ballyhaunis people, and indeed it was with extreme regret I heard of Michael's death in late November, 1981.

The long walks around Hazelhill to keep ourselves warm, the cycling to dances in Claremorris or the Old Hall in Tooreen, the getting home for Christmas and holiday-time, travelling to Tuam to see "Gone with the Wind" and to Kiltimagh to see "The Bells of St. Marys" are other occasions that stand out in my memory when I look back on my years in Ballyhaunis. They were happy days indeed and I enjoyed every one of them. It was hard to get a shilling in those days and there was no talk of Videos, pocket calculators, or the A.I. man.

As I said at the outset, my eyes were not dry when I left Ballyhaunis in 1947, and there's not a day since that I don't think of some little incident regarding that area. Perhaps my little article here in this magazine, may act as a small and well deserved tribute to kindness, courtesy and generosity of the many friends I made in South Mayo.

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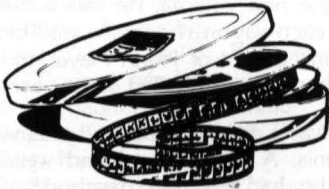
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Aspects of the Abbey



An old illustration of St. Mary's Abbey, Ballyhaunis

(Photo courtesy of Michael Waldron, Cave)

It is generally agreed, I think, that one of the more historically interesting places in Ballyhaunis is St. Mary's Abbey. For one thing, it is numbered among the twenty-two pre-Reformation Augustinian foundations in Ireland, and that certainly gives it a claim to particular notice. But, in fact, it is somewhat more unique than that. Presently, the Augustinians have fifteen main centres in Ireland, but only two of those are in their ancient original sites. One is in Fethard (Co. Tipperary) and the other is the Ballyhaunis Abbey. Among Augustinian houses, then, these two are especially noteworthy.

The Name

Interestingly enough, unlike other Augustinian places, the complex in Fethard and in Ballyhaunis is each called an 'Abbey', and perhaps this merits an explanation. More strictly the title 'Abbey' is reserved for an ecclesiastical establishment that is governed by an abbot, as for instance a Cistercian monastery. But, as it known, the head of an Augustinian house is called a prior, and the community members are known as friars. So more properly, their places should be called 'priors' or 'friaries'. However, for one reason or another, in medieval times some priories and friaries got the titles of Abbeys. This was true not only of the Augustinians but of the other three orders of friars as well (namely the Carmelites, the Dominicans and the Franciscans). The Dominican Black Abbey in Kilkenny is one such, the Franciscan Abbey in Galway is another, and St. Mary's Abbey in Ballyhaunis is a third - although in local conversation the latter can often be referred to as the 'Friary'.

Some Debate

In any case, St. Mary's Abbey in Ballyhaunis was one of the nine Augustinian houses to be found in the West of Ireland before 1500 A.D. The Order had first come to Ireland about 1280, and possibly as early as 1313 (and certainly not later than 1337) it began establishing itself in the West. The first foundation was in Ballinrobe, and then came houses in Ardnaree (Ballina), Burrisearra, Banada, Dunmore, Ballyhaunis, Scurmore, Murrisk (at the foot of Croagh Patrick) and last of all Galway in 1500 A.D. For most of those, historians have fairly certain foundation dates, but for a few the dates are somewhat tentative (although within a given period). In this context, perhaps it is best to say that the foundation in Ballyhaunis stands apart and that there is an historical debate as to when precisely it was first established. Back in 1948, a booklet was issued concerning the Abbey, and drawing on a tradition this gave the foundation date as 1348. However, modern historians would seem to disagree with this and would hold that a more acceptable date is some eight-two years later, namely around 1430 A.D.

This, of course, still makes the roots of St. Mary's Abbey quite ancient. But in any case, some day soon the story of the Abbey will have to be re-written, and undoubtedly particular research will go into determining the more acceptable foundation date of this historic place, which has preserved so much of itself in varying degrees, since those pre-Reformation days when the Catholic faith was such a power in the land among the native Irish and the Normans (who had first brought the orders of friars to

Ireland). Around the Abbey there are certainly venerable relics of the past, in the form of grave slabs, sculptured stone designs, ancient windows and so on. And quite likely part of the present church itself was there in the original buildings. Buried there, too, are holy people and friars, some of whom will have suffered for the faith. It is, then, hallowed ground. So at the present, while the church itself and the house show clear and clean modern faces, the clues of the past lie all around them, like so many pieces of jigsaw puzzle waiting to be put together to form a composite picture. Painstaking work will be needed for this, but such a living place of beauty and antiquity deserves loving attention, and its story, when re-told, will have to show attentive ears.

The Setting

Meanwhile, may I mention some odds and ends connected with the Abbey. And first of all there is its setting. Strangers would be told that it is situated in the market town of Ballyhaunis, in the barony of Costello (which once, at least, was called something like the barony of Ballyhaunis), in the county Mayo. All three are important to the Abbey, and fresh in my mind are the facts and figures mentioned about each, in a new book on the county that was published this year. It is entitled MAYO (edited by Bernard O'Hara) and it is full of good things. For instance, from it I gather that the Irish name for Mayo means 'the plain of yews' and that the county got its name from the one time diocese of Mayo. This diocese took in an area around Castlebar and Westport and Claremorris and it originally evolved from a monastery that was established by St. Colman at Mayo Abbey (near Balla) back in the seventh century. The book also deals with the nine traditional baronies of the county, each one of which has several civil parishes. Altogether in Mayo there are seventy-two civil parishes (but these, of course, are not to be equated with Catholic parishes as such.)

So, we have the town of Ballyhaunis situated in the civil parish of Annagh in the border barony of Costello. Also in the barony are civil parishes like Began, Aghamore and Kilmovee. On one side of the barony of Costello are the baronies of Gallen and Clanmorris and surrounding it on the other side are the counties of Sligo, Roscommon and Galway.

The Abbey

And so in a picturesque setting on a wooded little hill at the edge of the town (on the way in from Galway and Roscommon) we find the Abbey of 1430 in its modern guise. The founders of the Abbey were the local chiefs, the Mac Costellos, who also established the Dominican Friary at Urluar around the same time. It had been much earlier, of course, that the first friars had come to Mayo; these were the Franciscans and they were established at Strade around 1250. Then came the other friars, the Augustinians acquiring Mayo foundations at Ballinrobe, Ardnaree, Burriscarra, Ballyhaunis and Murrisk. Of these, only St. Mary's in Ballyhaunis still survives as a place of worship. In fact, in the whole archdiocese of Tuam, the Abbey is the sole residence of friars that has lived on to the present day. Alongside the present church there is a cemetery and around the house there are some lawns and parking spaces; two fields and some farm buildings complete the property, which is islanded by two streams

and the main road. In former times, it appears that the Abbey lands were much more extensive, stretching out beyond Abbey Quarter. But then tradition has it that the Abbey in those days was not only a religious centre, but a school, a hospital and a model farm as well.

But any further writer of the Abbey story will have to tease out all these matters, and will have to trace the history of the Pattern for instance, and will have to fit into their proper places the three ancient crucifixes preserved in the place. Two are stone carvings, one of which is set near the gate into the cemetery and the other beside the present sacristy. The third is carved from wood and may be seen in the house. Apart from those, there are many inscriptions to be deciphered, there is an altar-tomb (dating back to 1739), now at the end of the church, examined, and there are quite valuable account books in the archives to be studied. From them all, little by little the full story of the Abbey should emerge in time.

Priests

By way of conclusion let me first mention a few words about some priests of note who at some time or another were members of the Abbey community. In the recent past, of course, there has been Fr. Mansfield, whose name was synonymous with the Abbey over a number of years. But just now my mind is further back. For instance, there was the priest, Walter Fulgentius Jordan, who was killed by the Cromwellian forces in 1649. There is no doubt that Fr. Jordan was attached to the Abbey for some period, and his name is on the list of Irish people that was presented to the Holy See early this century, with the hope that they would be declared blessed and martyrs for the faith. However, there is some doubt as to how Fr. Jordan met his death, and we have two versions of the story. One is that he was dragged from the altar and was hanged from one of the trees in the Abbey grounds and later buried in a vault beside the present sacristy. But another version of the story declares that he was shot by the soldiers as he was saying Mass at Redpark in the Began parish, and that he (and others who were killed) were first buried in a nearby field, but that their bodies were later moved to Holywell (between Claremorris and Ballyhaunis) and were buried there in the shade of the gable wall of a ruined church. Here again, the available evidence will have to be sifted, until the more probable of the two stories can be determined.

Another priest at one time associated with the Abbey, but with a somewhat different kind of reputation, was the rakish poet, Tomás Ó Casaide (c. 1705-75). Thomas was a native of Roscommon and is believed to have joined the Abbey community as a young man. It seems he was duly ordained a priest but subsequently discovered that he was not cut out for the life. He tells us himself that he had to leave the order. But in any case, his name is now for ever remembered for some fine poems in Irish which he has left to us. One is the autobiographical 'An Caisideach Bán' and another the greatly praised 'Máire Bhéal Átha hAmhnais'. This 'troubled fair', in fact, became a figure in folklore and the new book MAYO says about him: "in the several recorded versions of his songs, it is difficult to distinguish what is his own from what is the product of defective transmission and sympathetic reconstruction by people who took his drama to their hearts".

Chalices

Perhaps a word should be added about the chalices that are preserved in the Abbey and that are probably its most valuable relics of the past. The oldest is dated 1628, but this was not made originally for an Augustinian priory. The next oldest dates back to 1641, and this was presented to the Augustinians in Dunmore by the famous soldier-archbishop, Malachy O'Queely (whose secretary was the Augustinian, Thaddeus O'Connell). Then comes a chalice which was made in 1648 and presented to the Ballyhaunis Abbey by Roger Skingin. From the same year, the Abbey has a chalice made for the Murrisk Augustinians at the request of a John de Burgo, and from the year 1664, there is a chalice that carries the name of Thomas Flin, O.S.A. and that was made for the Dunmore Augustinians. There are three others that are undated but that look quite old. One of those three is of particular interest in that it was presented to the Abbey in 1875 by the Augustinian, Fr. Anderson, who was a notable priest of his, a friend of the Fenians and a man highly regarded by the forerunners of 1916.

A Resume

As indicated, some day the story of the Abbey will have to be re-told, but here by way of an ending (and a resume) the following dates may be mentioned. The Abbey was founded in 1430 (if not in 1348) and it seems to have escaped suppression under Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, but was confiscated in 1608 under James I. However, the Abbey was re-occupied by the friars around 1641, when the Confederate hopes were in the air. But the stay was short lived and the Cromwellian forces came in 1649 and devastated the place. Still, according to an official report (of John de Burgo, the then Archbishop of Tuam), there were friars in Ballyhaunis in 1658, and we also know that there were some there about one hundred and thirty years later. From then onwards, the records are more exact and revealing. For instance, we know that towards the end of the seventeen hundreds, the local parish priests of Began and Aghamore were living with the friars in Ballyhaunis. This was the era of priests like Myles Prendergast, o.s.a., who was involved in the '98 Rising, and who was eventually captured and shot. The present house was built in 1888 and by 1940 the church had taken its present shape.

That is but the merest summary. Some day, God willing, the full story will be re-captured. And it is right that it should, for here in Ballyhaunis is another county Mayo Abbey that like Ballintober has lived on in its own way to tell its story to modern ears. Its span of life has not been quite as long as that of Ballintober Abbey, but it is still a venerable place of rich memories and has stood there as a beacon on the little hill for a goodly number of years, while the river Clare nearby has made its gentle way to the sea with its treasure of reflections.

John O'Connor, o.s.a.



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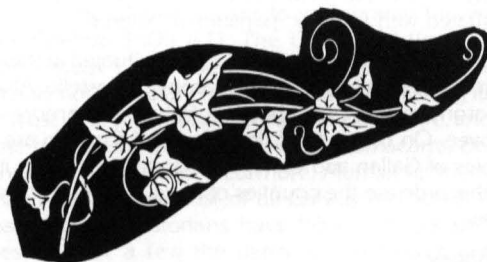
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Athletics in Ballyhaunis

by Michael Joyce in co-operation with Matt O'Dwyer



Marathon Men '82 (Courtesy of the 'Irish Runner)

Back Row (left to right): Pat Freeley, Robbie Herr, Damien Rattigan, John Freyne.

Front Row: John Durkan, Mike Daly and John Cleary

When I was asked to write about 'Athletics in Ballyhaunis' my immediate reaction was that as there is no club in the town now anything I might say about athletics in the past might appear exaggerated. I think it is sad that there is no athletic club in the town. The town has produced many fine athletes and there is a number of people still resident in the town who possess a sufficient interest and knowledge of athletics to help promote the Sport on an organised level.

In 1968, Ballyhaunis Athletic Club under the driving force of Mick Nestor (R.I.P.) hit the headlines for the first time with successes at County Level with athletes like Joe Freeley, a previous All-Ireland Schools Sprint Champion winner along with Pat Cribben (R.I.P.) and Pdraic Keane. The following year there was natural progression to Connacht and All-Ireland medals with Frank Greally, Mick Sherry and Tom Fitzgerald also getting in on the act. It wasn't so much the excitement of seeing a club colleague win an individual title that gave the 'ordinary' athlete, like myself, pleasure in the sport, but rather it was the team cross-country events where everybody was involved.

In the Winter of 1968/'69 I recall the County Novice Cross-Country Championships over four tough miles in the Hollymount mud. Pat Cribben was unable to compete that day and we were badly stuck to fill our team of four. The last minute 'super-sub.' was none other than Michael (Ronnie) Curley. Frank Greally as expected won the race. Frank Mullarkey and I finished 'well-up' but the great excitement the day was caused by Ronnie, out of retirement, coming through the field with a late flourish to clinch the team title for us by one point.

In 1970, Pdraic Keane defeated Eamon Coghlan (among others) to win the All-Ireland Junior Cross-Country title and Frank Greally (who also beat Coghlan in

a 3,000 metres race in Dublin) set an Irish Junior record for the 10,000 metres, and that record still stands after 11 years! In the following year both were in the Irish Senior Cross-Country team at the World Championships.

In 1970, the girls were recruited for the first time. At first the concentration was on the 10-12 age group as it was quite difficult to entice teenage girls into athletics - idea of sport being quite another matter!

Eleanor Eaton, Loretto Curran and Olive Webb made an immediate impact at County Level and in 1971 Antoinette Byrne won an All-Ireland cross-country medal representing Mayo at Under-11. When these championships were changed to inter-club the Ballyhaunis U-11 team of Sandra Hannon, Clodagh Byrne, Carol Webb and Virgina Biesty came second in Connacht and qualified for the All-Ireland in Naas. Great expectations were aroused only to be shattered when the Ballyhaunis girls failed to emerge from the stalls and were left at the start. Coming home on the bus a few of the Club Officials were almost left behind 'on the stools' in Athlone during a 'Tea-break'. In the immortal words of Philip Greene to B.B.C. listeners on the occasion of Athlone Town's first European Games: 'Who cares - the Guinness is good in Athlone!'

These club successes led to the development of athletics in the schools. Tommy Moran, representing St. Patrick's College, scored a remarkable double by winning the Junior Long and Triple Jumps at the All-Ireland Colleges Championships at Santry Stadium. Three years later after returning from St. Jarlath's he again represented St. Pat's in winning the Senior Triple Jump Title at Belfield. Eddie Campbell coached by his uncle brought Irish under-age hammer throwing up to international standard with remarkable records at All-Ireland Intermediate and



FIRST BALLYHAUNIS LADY TO COMPLETE A MARATHON
Miss Anne Davitt (Brackloon) who completed the Dublin City (R.T.E. 2) Marathon in 4 Hours 20 Minutes.

Senior levels for St. Jarlath's. His brother Hugh won an Irish Senior Hurdles Championship and Liam also, was successful at the hammer event. Eamon Smyth and Ted Webb both won All-Ireland Long Jump medals while Declan Forde, Noel Armstrong and Justin Joyce did well at Cross-Country level. One of the training techniques pioneered by St. Patrick's College was the use of a 'furse bush' to encourage long jumpers to gain altitude before reaching the pit! Mr. Jarlath Fahey claims credit for this invention.

The convent girls excelled in Cross-Country. They were the first winners of the Connacht Minor Girls Cross-Country Championships held in Tuam. The team was led by Margaret Forde assisted by Caroline Keane and Mary Carney. These athletes trained so vigorously that they were never allowed to warm-up before a race in the interests of energy conservation. The wisdom of this advice was vividly illustrated in 1975, when a puncture delayed 'lift-off' for the Connacht Championships in Sligo. The team was bumped by a Morris Minor to the sports and a kind official 'held the start' while the team toggled out! Margaret Forde won the race and her team finished second. On the same day Rosaleen Delaney, Chris Travers and Caroline Keane won the Senior Girls title having been second the previous year. On the track Margaret Forde and Patricia Travers won the 800 metres titles. Liz Griffin was successful in the Long Jump and Antoinette Byrne won the Leinster Schools' Long Jump Title.

In the Vocational School, Virginia Biesty and Carol Webb led their team to glory in the Mayo Championships. Brian Keane figured prominently at cross-country championships in Tuam. Many of the boys excelled at field events. In fact one of their members Kieran Dyar has the unique distinction of losing a shot, after putting it 40 foot in the school's newly dug garden. No doubt some future archaeologist will spend many hours pondering the recreational habits of 20th Century 'Ballyhaunis Man'.

Meanwhile the club soldiered on. Meeting were held in member's house. These were very informal affairs - cups of tea interspersed with business and the exploits of the younger 'Ronnie' Curley. Ronnie had received the Ballyhaunis Person of the Year Award for his works as Chairman in 1971. Frank Greally was later awarded the coveted Western People Mayo Athlete of the Year Award. Frank and Eddie Campbell were awarded American Athletic Scholarships and proudly sported their Ballyhaunis Athletic Club singlets in the U.S.

The club also hosted that Mayo cross-country championships using the College facilities kindly provided free of charge by Fr. Costello. In 1974, the Connacht Championships were held in the I.D.A. field at Tooraree. Unfortunately, nobody told the organisers that the last event would be a 7 Mile Race in a 500 yard track. About 10 minutes before this race, J.T. Smyth and Matt O'Dwyer concocted a 'mile lap' using the nuns field and College field which included a large ditch that was significantly lowered during the race. Seamus Forde stood at one of the gaps regulating traffic-only one athlete could pass through this at a time. Margaret Forde made it a great day for the locals winning the U-15 race. One 'fan' ran away with the College Bell - a rare antique - and embarrassed club officials persuaded Liam Smyth (R.I.P.) to donate a home-made one as club funds were (as usual) non-existent. Our most successful venture into the fund-raising scene was made by Rita Webb, Josie Smyth and Lily Winston who raised £63 from a jumble sale. Our entry into the dance business organised by the men reached record levels. Six people turned up to a 'monster social' in the Parochial Hall! Shortly afterwards the club 'folded up'. Another reason for its demise was that the 'volunteers system' of driving cars to sports meetings had almost ended.

Athletics still continues, though in a much reduced form, in the Community School. In 1980, Tony Keane successfully completed the Dublin City R.T.E. 2 Dublin City Marathon, as did several others in 1981 and 1982. Ann Davitt struck a blow for the ladies in 1982.

Running keeps the body healthy and, despite what some people might think, it is the best form of exercise for the human body. Again despite common belief, running is GOOD for the heart, not damaging. Because so many people have to do most of this running on the road, side-effects such as knee injuries are common to runners, but the runner who adopts the sensible approach can guard himself against such side-effects.

I was in New York in 1980 for the Marathon (26.2 miles) where I became aware of the extraordinary jogging boom in America. The organisers told me that they had over 50,000 applicants to run the race but had to impose a limit of 16,000 for safety reasons. I finished in just over 2½ hours (a time that would hardly put me in the top twenty in Ireland), but I was amazed to see people still finishing after 7 hours! It brought home the reality that the running was for all TYPES. Up front, were some of the best marathon runners in the world, back a bit was this Joe Soap from Ballyhaunis and hours back were more 'ordinary' people. The strange thing is that we all got some kind of satisfaction out of finishing the race.

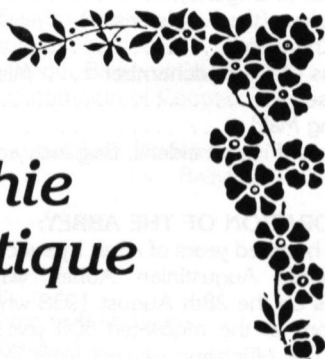
I hope I have pinpointed some of the things which you people of Ballyhaunis miss by not having an Athletic Club in the town. Now its over to you.....

Note:

Michael Joyce, a founder member of Ballyhaunis Athletic Club is currently Chairman of St. Finbarr's Athletic Club in Cork. He is also on the Editorial Board of the 'Irish Runner' a new magazine of which Frank Greally is the Editor.

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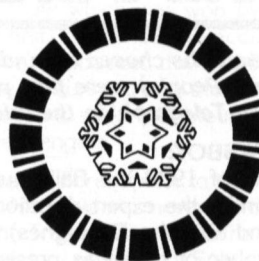
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Random Paragraphs from the Past

The following paragraphs chosen at random by Mick O'Connell (Western People) were first published in the 'Connaught Telegraph' in the mid-fifties.

THE SINGING NEWSBOY:

Towards the end of 1939 the Ballyhaunis Juvenile Operatic Society under the expert direction of Miss D. Eaton, A.L.C.M. (and now Mrs. D. Hughes) was formed. The star of a number of operettas presented by this Society in aid of local charities was Master Tom Gavin who has been described as 'The Singing Newsboy'. Playing the feminine lead in most of the Society's productions was Miss Marie Celine Flatley (now Mrs. Jim Connell) who is endowed with a wonderful soprano voice. The singing of both with ease and confidence of the operatic airs was always excellent and won general acclaim from the hosts of people who thronged to those functions. Operettas like 'The Bohemian Girl', 'Ill Travatore', 'Maritana' and 'Zurika The Gypsy Maiden' were but a few of the pieces presented by this talented Society. Hereunder as a matter of interest is the cast of 'Zurika The Gypsy Maiden' which was presented in 1940, His Majesty King of Kola - Louis His Majesty King of Kola Louis Hyland Prince Dareall Tommy Gavin The Court Jesters Brendan Byrne, Tom Walsh Zurika Miss Marie Celine Flatley Elspeth Miss Bernadette Gunnigan Gypsy Chiefs Albert Lyons Bertie Lynch J. Redmond Dr. Globule J. Dick Rosebud Miss Pat Roche Court Messenger Bernard Forde Two Court Ladies Miss J. Waldron, A. Flanagan Chorus of courtiers, gypsies and fairies.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE - 1930:

Damage estimated at between £4,000 to £5,000 was caused by fire in the three storeyed drapery premises of Mr. John Kenny, Main Street, Ballyhaunis. The town has no water supply and Gardai and a large number of civilians had to carry water in buckets and barrells from a well and a stream 300 yards away. The Athlone Military Fire Brigade was summoned when the outbreak was discovered at 11.30 a.m. and arrived at 2.40 p.m. The main portion of the premises was then gutted but they succeeded in saving extensive warerooms at the rear. (From the Irish Independent).

'PEARL THE FISHERMAIDEN':

The Ballyhaunis Choral Society presented in Waldron's Hall, Ballyhaunis the opera 'Pearl the Fishermaden' in April 1935 to a large and appreciative audience. The cast was as follows:

Daddy Welk (an old fisherman) Paddy Freeley Mistress Whelk Miss Lucy Flynn Pearl (their daughter) Miss Agnes Fitzgerald Fillette (a fishermaden) Miss M.K. Murray King Alphonso (King of Nemo-land) Sean Loftus Lorenzo (Brigand Chief) Neil O'Donnell

Petruach (a Brigand) Mido Freeley Limerickius (the King's Jester) Marty Lyons Lord Chancellor Conor Flynn Mistress of the Bedchamber Miss Maureen Coyne A Messenger Seamus Durkan Dancing Maid Mrs. M. Conway Chorus of Fishermadens, Brigands and Courtiers.

RESTORATION OF THE ABBEY:

One hundred years of effort by successive priors of the Ballyhaunis Augustinian Abbey was crowned with success on the 28th August 1938 when the re-opening ceremony at the renovated 500 years old Abbey took place. The officiating officers were Rev. L. Carr, O.S.A. (celebrant), Very Rev. S. Roche, O.S.A., Prior, Orlagh, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin (deacon); Rev. T. Burke, C.C., Ballyhaunis (sub. deacon). Very Rev. E.A. Mansfield, Prior, Ballyhaunis Abbey, was in charge of the choir.

SPORTS REVIVED:

The Ballyhaunis Cycling and Athletic Sports was revived in the Fairgreen on the same day.

RESULTS:

100 Yards Jack Clarke (1st)
Mickey Griffin (2nd)
Tim O'Malley (3rd)
One Mile Cycle Race W. Hosegood (1st)
P. Morley (2nd)
E. Patton (3rd)
220 Yards Tim O'Malley (1st)
Mickey Griffin (2nd)
T. Hunt (3rd)
2 Miles Cycle Eddie Egan (1st)
P. Morley (2nd)
440 Yards T. Hunt (1st)
Mickey Griffin (2nd)
D. Healy (3rd)
3 Miles Cycle (Open) M. Flannery (1st)
E. Patten (2nd)
W. Hosegood (3rd)
High Jump J. Brett (Mayo Abbey) - 5ft. 4 ins.

REVIVAL OF PATTERN:

The ancient pattern of Ballyhaunis was revived on the 1st September, 1940 in connection with the religious celebration of the Feast of St. Augustine at St. Mary's Abbey. About 6,000 people attended the Pattern and aeridheacht held in the Abbey Grounds....

DETAILS:

Irish Singing (Junior) M. Lyons (Bekan) 1st
Carmel Smyth (Ballyhaunis) 2nd
Irish Singing (Senior) Imelda Tarpey (Bekan) 1st
Eileen Morley (Bekan) 2nd

Irish Dancing:
(Junior Hornpipe, Slip Jig and Double Jig (Under 16)
1st - Helen O'Boyle, Ballyhaunis

2nd - Carrie Webb, Ballyhaunis
 Same (Under 12)
 1st - Kathleen Maguire, Offaly
 2nd - Barbara Roden, Castlereagh
 2nd - Leonie Webb, Ballyhaunis (tied)
 3rd - Leonie Webb, Ballyhaunis
 3rd - Mary Hannan Jordan
 3rd - Kathleen Morley (both Ballyhaunis) tied.
 Special Competition (Champion of County):
 1st - Helen O'Boyle,
 2nd - Carrie Webb and Kathleen Morley (tied)
 Ceilidhe Dancing 1st - Ballyhaunis Group

ATHLETIC EVENTS:

Cycle Race (Aughamore to Ballyhaunis)

1st - J. Waldron (Carrownedan)

2nd - Kevin Carty (Knock)

3rd J. Loftus (Mountain)

Ballinlough to Ballyhaunis:

1st - E. Lee (Clooncrim)

2nd - J. Flanagan (Carrowbehy)

3rd - B. Regan (Brackloon)

Bekan to Ballyhaunis:

1st - J. Forde (Ballyhaunis)

2nd - A. Cavanagh (Cloonbuliban)

3rd - P. Fitzmaurice (Greenwood)

100 Yards Open:

1st - Mickey Griffin (Ballyhaunis)

2nd - Tim O'Malley (Ballyhaunis)

3rd - Des Healy (Ballyhaunis)

880 Yards (Open):

1st - J. Loftus (Aughamore)

2nd - C. Foster (Claremorris)

3rd - P. Morley (Ballyhaunis)

High

High Jump:

1st - John Loftus

2nd - P. Morley

3rd - James Loftus (Aughamore)

Long Jump:

1st - Philip Morley (Ballyhaunis)

2nd - B. McGovern (Holywell)

3rd - P. Sammon (Coogue)

440 Yards:

1st - B. McGovern (Ballyhaunis)

2nd - T. O'Malley (Ballyhaunis)

56lbs:

1st - Detective Garda Glynn (Ballyhaunis)

2nd - P. McGuinness (Castlegar)

Tug o' War Knock No. 1 beat Coolnafarna

the going was also in excellent order, thanks to the trouble taken by the Race Committee two years ago. The first race was the Ladies Plate which was won by Simple Paddy. Henry Prince, at first, looked like the occupying favourite, but Prince Charlie was backed down to 6 to 4 before the flag fell. He made the running until the penultimate hurdle when he was forced to strike his colours to Simple Paddy who won by three lengths.

Starting at a very different price to that when he won at Boyle last week, Negative was never seriously challenged in the race for the Traders Plate which he won in a canter. A very popular victory was that of Spinning Wheel in the race for the Tally Ho Plate as the mare is owned and was ridden by Mr. Jack Coghlan of Brize. Mr. Criggs 'Mayo' was a better favourite in the market, but finished second. The handical for the Commercial Plate set many a puzzle as between the claims of "Accepted" and "Wilkinstown", while "Dear Sonny" was also considered to have some claim to recognition, Algy Anthony sporting Mr. Fitzpatrick's pretty jacket. Towards the close "Wilkinstown" was made a good favourite and it is sufficient to say that making practically the whole of the running, she easily disposed of the challenge in turn of "Accepted" and "Dear Sonny" in the straight to go on and score easily in the end. Mr. McLoughlin led back his second winner during the afternoon when Mr. Leslie Brabazon rode "Lord D" in the race for the Victorious Plate and for the wind up the Town Plate proved too much for "The Master II" which was won by "Keepinicker".

BALLYHAUNIS AND ITS PASTOR:

(From the Irish Catholic, 9th November 1939)

The parish of Annagh (Ballyhaunis) is probably the most completely Catholic in Ireland. There is not living in the parish a single soul who is not a Catholic, though at one time Souperism was apparently strongly entrenched. There is another thing about Ballyhaunis; it had a Parish Priest, who, if he is not go ahead, is nothing at all. When after serving as Chaplain in the Egyptian Campaign in the Great War he returned to his Diocese. He was appointed Curate in Castlebar just in time to show the Black-and-Tans that he could look down the muzzle of a gun without the flicker of an eyelid. Castlebar still remembers Fr. Geoffrey Prendergast and if Ballyhaunis were unfortunate enough to lose him tomorrow, it, too, would have cause to remember him in the renovated church and school in the fine Calvary in the Church grounds and in the project Parochial Hall the money for which is accumulating.

BALLYHAUNIS RACES

(From the Connacht Telegraph, 25th June, 1910)

With a continuance of the delightful summer weather experienced during the week there was a very large attendance at the popular Ballyhaunis meeting on Thursday while no fault could be found with the sport which was well up to the average of other years. The arrangements, thanks to the efforts of the hard-working secretary Mr. Jack Waldron were, as usual, perfect, while

INTERNATIONAL BOXING

Ireland v. Italy, June 5th 1933

In a setting reminiscent of the old prize ring days of the second tournament featuring the Italian International team was staged at Ballyhaunis last evening. The ring was pitched at the bottom of a grassy hollow the sides of which formed a perfect natural grandstand and the glorious sunshine helped to make the scene most picturesque.

RESULTS:

Flyweight - Urbinatti (Italy) beat L. Scally (Ireland) on points
Bantam - Trombetta (Italy) beat L. Boshell (Ireland) on points
Feather - De Martin (Italy) beat W. McKenna (Ire.) on points
Light - T. Kelly (Ireland) beat Questa (Italy) on points
Welter - Pte. Flood (Ireland) beat Benazzi (Italy) on points
Middle - Stozz (Italy) beat Garda Hennelly (Ireland)

EXTRA BOUTS:

Cruiser - Garda Farren (Sligo) beat J. Gaffney (Phoenix)
Juvenile - J. Cooke (Ballyhaunis) beat P. Walsh (do.)
Result; Ireland 2 Italy 4 (*From Irish Independent 6/3/33*)

Ireland v. Germany at Lynch's Stadium November 6th, 1933

Ballyhaunis last evening presented the appearance of a Klondyke mushroom town during a gold rush. Cars poured in from all parts of the West and the town was ablaze with light and the streets were thronged with people. The visit of the German International Team brought a huge crowd to the little Mayo town and the hall was far too small to accommodate the crowds which clamoured for admission.

RESULTS:

Fly - L. Scally (Ireland) beat V. Wenhold (Germany) on points.
Bantam - H. Ziglarski (Germany) beat L. Boshell (Ire.) in 1st
O. Kaestner (Germany) beat T. Byrne (Ireland) on points.
Light - K. Schemedes (Germany) beat T. Kelly (Ire.) on points.
Welter - Garda Flood (Ireland) beat K. Rosner (Germany)
Middle - H. Blum (Ger.) beat Pte. Herlihy (Ireland)
Cruiser - W. Pursh (Germany) beat Garda Farren (Ireland)
Heavy - Garda Andy Sharkey (Ireland) k.o. K. Ramek in 5th.
Result; Germany 5 Ireland 3 (*From the Irish Independent*)

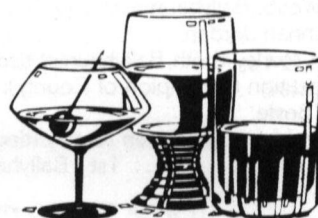
Ireland v. France July 22nd, 1934

In the picturesque Abbey Grounds, Ballyhaunis a natural amphitheatre and one of the best open air arenas I have seen in the country, the first official French team to visit Ireland made its appearance last evening and the Irish team which opposed them was composed mainly of promising young boxers, for the full strength of the home country will not be met until tomorrow night at the Depot, Dublin. The visitors victory by six contests to two was not unexpected and at the same time the Irish side were unlucky, for at least two of the decisions might have gone the other way.

RESULTS:

Fly - G. Fayaud (France) beat Pte. Connolly (Ireland) points
Bantam - Pte. O'Brien (Ireland) beat G. Berger (Fr.) points.
Feather - R. Fritz (France) beat Pte. Evenden (Ire.) points.
Welter - P. Chandelier (Fr.) beat J. Coffey (Ire.) on points.
Middle - E. Granten (France) beat J. Murphy (Ire.) on points
Heavy - A. Pichot (France) beat Andy Sharkey on points.
(*From the Irish Independent 23/7/34*)

Very Rev. E.A. Mansfield O.S.A., Prior of St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey who was President of the Ballyhaunis Boxing Club at the time was instrumental in procuring the above International contests for Ballyhaunis.



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Ballyhaunis and Knock
'Phone: Ballyhaunis 63

Ballyhaunis - 1952



BALLYHAUNIS - MAYO MINOR CHAMPIONS 1952

Back Row (l to r): Frank Fahy, Henry Forde, Andy Smyth, 'Doc' Healy, Paddy Henry, Dennis Curtis, Tommy Jordan, Anthony Robinson, Arthur Foudy, Joe Flatley.

Front Row (l to r): Paddy Benson, John Forde, Bernard Lyons, Mal Nally, Val Byrne, Sean Smyth, William Byrne, Tony Healy.

(Photo courtesy of Mr. Tommy Jordan, Knox St.)

Whatever Ballyhaunis sport lacks in the way of quantity is amply compensated for in quality. For instance, what other town of its size (1,200 pop.) can claim to have housed four International Boxing Tournaments in which the home country has been opposed by Germany, Italy and France (twice).

Ballyhaunis Golf Club, too, is recognised as possessing the best nine hole course in the West, and the local G.A.A. club is one of the most enterprising in the province.

Boxing

Lack of proper training quarters is the reason why Ballyhaunis boxers have not been hitting the high spots of late, but now that new premises have been acquired the other clubs in the West can look forward to their laurels. Over 40 boxers are now in training under former fistic star, Paddy Walshe.

The Ballyhaunis club was originally formed in 1931 by Rev. E.A. Mansfield O.S.A., himself a keen follower of the sport, James Caulfield, William Dillon-Leetch and Harry Dillon.

Prominently connected with the club in later years were Sergt. P.J. Nally, the present Chairman; Denis P. Sweeney, B.D.S. (hon. treasurer), Peter Hannon Jnr. (hon. sec.), and Larry Freeley (hon. treasurer, Connacht Council, I.A.B.A.)

Prominent boxers in the early days of the club included Paddy Walshe, the Kilduff brothers, Johnny Cooke, Jack Anderson, Garda O'Neill, Jimmy Cribben, the Moylette brothers, Tom Phillips, Con McDonagh, Jim Coffey (Tully) and Johnny Warde.

As already stated, the club have sponsored four International tournaments and in 1948 Ballyhaunis was the venue for one of the Olympic Trial Tournaments. The local club have also sponsored Connacht and Mayo Championships on several occasions.

G.A.A.

When one considers that Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club have no secondary school in the town from which to draw 'ready made' talent speaks volumes for the enthusiasm and organising ability of the members to find the club is in a thriving condition.

It is not generally known that Ballyhaunis won a Mayo Senior Championship as far back as 1919. For the few years previous to 1949 the club had to weather a rather lean period, but an all out revival effort made in that year put it back on its feet again.

Chiefly responsible for this 'come back' were the President, Rev. Fr. M. Godwin, C.C., Michael Tarmey (Chairman), also a member of the Mayo County Board, Thomas Buckley, M.R.C.V.S., and Thomas Flatly (Vice Chairman), Mick O'Connell (hon. secretary), Patrick Keane and Patrick Finnegan (joint hon. treasurers) and Committee Members.....L. Freeley, E. Carroll, J. O'Dwyer N.T., P. Jordan, P. Forrie, J. Tarmey and T. Smith.

The club are the present holders of the East Mayo Juvenile Championship. Very promising young players on the championship winning team included J. Tuohy (Tooreen), Sean Smith, Andy Smith, 'Doc' Healy, John Forde and William Byrne.

Ballyhaunis Minors were East Mayo champions in 1950. They beat Castlebar in the Co. semi-final but lost to Ballina in the final.

Leading players in this section of the club were.....Tom Flanagan, a cousin of 'Ireland' forward Mick Flanagan, Tom has played for the Mayo Minors and assisted the Connacht Colleges to defeat Munster in the recent semi-final at Tuam; John Byrne, Henry Forde, Paddy Moran, Seán Frain and John O'Brien (Hollywell).

Prominent junior players in the club are George Delaney, Noel

Waldron, Pdraigh Hannon, Bertie Lynch, Joseph Webb and Mick Murphy.

Ballyhaunis club has produced many a great Mayo county player. Names such as Tom Forde, a former Chairman of the Mayo County Board; Jack Waldron, Jim Forde, Jimmy O'Dwyer, 'Kite' Dillon, George Delaney, the late Jack Moran and the late Rev. Father Martin Hannon are household names in the county.

Seán Flanagan, T.D., present captain of the Mayo team, is a native of Ballyhaunis.

Golf

The fact that over 600 visitors played over the Ballyhaunis course during 1951 is ample proof that the course is recognised as being one of the finest nine holes in the country.

Instrumental in forming the club in 1926 were: Billy Devoy, Tom Forde, the present president, John Roche, John Dillon-Leetch, P.J. Caulfield, Dr. Kirby, John Dillon and Joseph Cooney. The last named was the first honorary secretary.

The club has about 70 members and receives excellent support from the surrounding towns of Kilkelly, Swinford, Ballaghadereen, Kiltimagh and Claremorris. Jack Eaton is at present hon. secretary.

The clubs sponsors two open meetings annually. This year's meetings have been arranged for June 8th (Cairnes Cup) and September 7th (Perry Cup). The club has not had a captain for the past two years, but this year the popular all-rounder Cyril Coyne will act as 'skipper'.

The leading golfers in the club are: John Roche, James Hoey (hon. treasurer), Joe Darcy, Rev. Fr. J. Concannon, Charlie Lydon, Cyril Coyne, Frank McAnena, Rev. Fr. James Horan, John O'Brien, P.J. Fahy, W.L. Hynes and Paddy Reilly.

The ladies' section is also very active. Miss M. Neary, captain for the coming year is assured of good support from such as Miss May Myles (hon. secretary), Miss K. Cunningham (hon. treasurer), Mrs. S. Dillon, Mrs. P. O'Brien and Mrs. D. Sweeney.

Playing off a handicap of eight, Miss Kathleen Cassidy is one of the leading lady golfers in the West.

Table Tennis

Table tennis has made rapid strides in Ballyhaunis over the last few years. Mainly responsible for this advancement has been Limerick-born, Eamonn Dwane, a member of the local Post Office staff.

Eamonn is holder of the County Mayo Singles Championship and was a member of the Connacht team for the recent Inter-provincial Championships at Tramore. Rev. E.A. Mansfield, O.S.A., is president of the club. Fred Dunne is the chairman and Jim Sweeney acts in the dual capacity of secretary and treasurer.

Other leading personalities in the club include: Val Byrne, Sean Griffin, Noel Waldron, John Byrne, Bertie Lynch, Renee Flynn, Mercia Flately, Ina Phillips, Rosaleen Garvey, Molly Loftus and Ethna Waldron.

Billiards

St. Patrick's Catholic Club is the headquarters for the many billiards and snooker players in the town. Father Tom Rushe is the popular chairman of the club. Dr. E. Waldron is the vice-chairman. Cyril Coyne is the hon. secretary and William Smyth N.T. is the hon. treasurer.

Prominent members of the committee include: Eddie Biesty, Liam Smith, Tom Freely, P. Tighe, Noel Waldron, M. Moran and M. Rattigan. A handicap snooker tournament sponsored by the club was won by Milo Henry who beat Pat Kilroy in the final.

Other good players in the club include Paddy Walshe, Willie Murphy, Sean Corcoran, Cyril O'Malley, Cyril Coyne and Michael Rattigan.

I understand that Father Tom Rushe is presenting a perpetual challenge cup for billiards.

Hurling

Hurling has not been catered for in Ballyhaunis in the past, so it came as a surprise to the townspeople to hear the 'clash of the ash' last week when a group of local enthusiasts decided to turn out for a practice. Prominent amongst the 'camán wielders' were: Eamonn Dwane, George Delaney, Des Curtis, Bertie Curley and Val Byrne. Perhaps a hurling club will grow from this modern beginning.

Angling

While there is no organised angling club in the town, there are many keen anglers to be found. Amongst the most prominent are: John Dillon-Leetch, Sergt. P.J. Nally, Patrick Mulligan, P.J. Caulfield and John Gormley.

Swimming

Like the majority of towns in the West, Ballyhaunis could do with a swimming pool. Annagh Lake, which is situated about two miles out, is the most popular spot for a swim, though some of the townspeople swim in the River Dalgan. However, both places are far from ideal.

Camogie

Now that the Sisters of Mercy have opened a new Secondary School for Girls in the town, hopes are high that camogie will be introduced, and that a team will be entered for the thriving County Mayo Championship League.

Spotlight on Ballyhaunis Sport 1952

By kind permission of the Sunday Independent we insert this article from a series by J.F. Lydon entitled 'Spotlight on Connaught Sport' dated April 6th, 1952.

★ Supplied to Annagh '82 by Eamonn Dwane, Clare Street, Ballyhaunis.

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G.K. Chesterton



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First Holy Communion *1982*



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS - 1982

(Photo courtesy of Pat Glynn)

Pupils of St. Mary's National School, Ballyhaunis who received their First Holy Communion in St. Patrick's Parish Church in June 1982. Also included are Very Rev. Fr. P. Costello, P.P., Ballyhaunis, Mrs. Betty Regan, N.T. and Mr. Jimmy Duggan, B.Ed. Front Row (l to r): Sandra Murphy, Sinéad Biesty, Timothy Plunkett, Mary Tighe, Joseph Costello, Nessa Jennings, Cathy Broderick, Colette Dyar, Kieran Kelly.

2nd Row (l to r): Stephanie Tarpey, Angela Cribbin, Tracy Phillips, Jonathan Damron, Austin Biesty, Claire Hunt, Bríd Coen, Vincent Freyne, Jason Morley, Olive McDonnell, Siobhán Caulfield, Rose Ann Regan, Karen Byrne.

3rd Row (l to r): Caitriona Costello, Mary Maughan, Seamus Ruane, Patrick Gallagher, Sinéad McLoughlin, Deirdre McLoughlin, Oliver Davitt, Michael Lyons, Sinéad Cribbin, Sinéad Lyons, Ursula Delaney.

4th Row (l to r): Clodagh Thornton, Orla Keane, Marcella Daly, Olive Greally, Rachel Greally, Muirna Walsh, Sandra O'Dowd, Bernie Patterson, Ann Kedian.

Back Row: John Kelly, John Greally, James Waldron, Roger Ryan, Eamonn Loughran, Joseph Burke, David Nestor, Adrian Brennan, Donal Fahey.



BALLYHAUNIS CONVENT OF MERCY CLASS, 1923

Front Row (l to r): Annie Tighe (unknown), Bridie Fitzmaurice, Mary Drury, Sabina Mulcaire, Delia Judge.

Back Row (l to r): Mary O'Malley, Delia Folliard, Rita Lyons, Julia Lyons, Monica Dillon, Sister Aloysius

(Photo courtesy of Mr. Joe Tighe)



COOLNAFARNA N.S. 1948-'49 (Photo courtesy of Séamus Sloyan)

Back Row (l to r): Mary McGuire, Maureen Comer, Mary Quinn, Maureen Lyons (R.I.P.), Frank Murtagh, Jarlath Jordan, Frank Regan.

2nd Row: Noreen Hennighan, Mary Murtagh, Annie Quinn, Eileen Flynn, Seamus Sloyan, Christy Devany, Bill Comer.

3rd Row: Oliver Jordan, Tony Healy, Monica Lyons, Eileen Lyons, Marguerite Sloyan, Mildred Dyer, Kathleen Ryan, Nina Dyer.

Front: Mickey Lyons, Pakie Folliard, John Mulkeen, Val Lyons, Sean Lyons, Sean Fudy.



SHANVAGHARA N.S. 1959 (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Murphy, Ballinlough)

Top Row (l to r): Enda O'Brien, Jimmy Carney, Johnny Kilduff, Pauric Kenny, Tommy Carney, Joe Loftus, Willie Cunnane, Pauric Cunnane, J.M. Logan.

2nd Row (l to r): Lena Campbell, Bridie Campbell, Nancy Carney, Bridie Kilduff, Marion Kilduff, Margaret McLoughlin, Eileen Morley, Teresa Morley (sisters), Rose Boyle, Peggie Carney, Colette O'Brien, Margaret Nally, Mary Nally (sisters), Mary O'Grady, Mary Cunnane, Noreen Nally.

3rd Row (l to r): Helen Murphy, Philomena Cunnane, Bridie Campbell, Mary Carney, Helen Connelly, Ann Murphy, Eileen Garvey, Kitty Carney, Sally Ann Carney, Imelda Kenny, Kathleen Flynn, Kathleen Nally, Bridie Carney, Bridie Kilduff, Mary Frances Kilduff.

4th Row (l to r): John Ryan, Tommy Campbell, Terry Campbell, William Logan, John O'Brien, Johnny Boyle, Eugene Carney, Michael Cunnane, Bridie Kilduff, Anne Kilduff (sisters), Jimmy Nally, Mary Ryan, Teddy Campbell, Shelia McGinn, Eta McGinn (sisters), Jimmy Boyle, Johnny Boyle (brothers), Brendan Kenny, Jimmy Nally.

Hands Across The Sea



Pictured at the twinning ceremony in the Parochial Hall: Rev. Fr. P. Costelloe P.P. and Mr. John Mooney, President of the Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber receiving gifts from Jean Paul and Yves of the Guiler delegation.

The idea of twinning Ballyhaunis with a Breton town was conceived in the mid-seventies by a Junior Chamber Group under the direction of Gerard McGarry. Their object was to 'twin' or marry a Breton community with our own community so that exchanges relationships and bonds would be developed for the benefit of both communities. The Celtic Breton tradition and background made the Brittany region an ideal focal point for our attention. The emergence in the late seventies of the Ireland Brittany Association enabled the first contacts to be made in 1982 between Guilers and Ballyhaunis.

Twinning came to life in Ballyhaunis during the week of the 20th to the 27th March, 1982 when a group of 19 'Guillerians' braved the high seas and arrived in our town as pioneers of 'Jummellage'.

Jean Paul, Phillipe and Jannine became familiar names in Ballyhaunis' households and greetings such as 'Bonjour' and 'Ca Va' were the starting points of many conversations, exchanges and discussions.

The language barrier was swiftly broken and the comradarie between our visitors and their hosts was quickly established. Initially sign language and hand signals (previously unheard of in Ballyhaunis) came to the

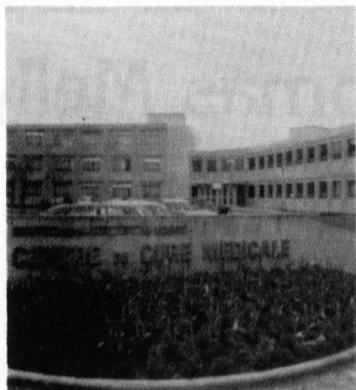
rescue when all else failed. Many of our host families picked up some French and imbued a knowledge of some English on our visitors.

A week of hectic activity graced by beautiful weather ensured that this 'Week of the Bretons' would leave life long pleasant impressions on all who were touched by the exceptional friendship and joy and good spirit which was had. It was a week when the organisations of the town displayed their best abilities to show Irish hospitality as it should be. We are particularly indebted to the Chamber of Commerce, the Golf Club and the Gun Club for their generosity.

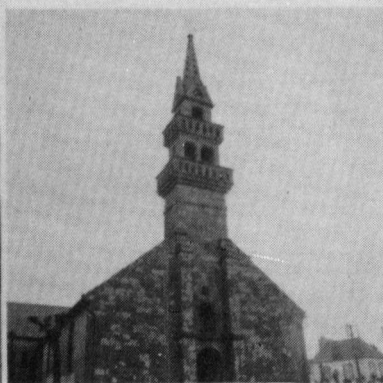
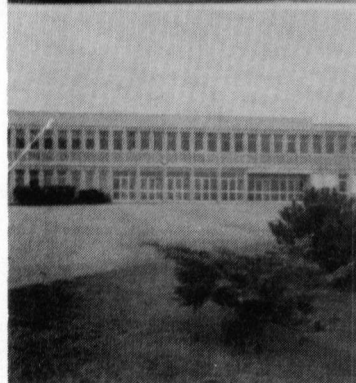
Trips to Galway, Sligo and Connemara followed by visits to our schools, Halal and Archaeological places of interest occupied all of the day time activities. The later hours were spent at concerts, meetings, a banquet, an Irish night and a Farewell Reception.

All of the host families with whom our visitors stayed have made true friends with what are now our neighbours from Guilers. The links and bonds have been FIRMLY established.

A Ballyhaunis 'Contingent' of Twenty-three people



GUILERS



departed for Guilers on Saturday the 4th September, for an unforgettable trip to our new friends in Guilers. We received endless hospitality and warmth from our hosts in Guilers and another hectic week of exchange and comradarie.

Nine of our teachers in the Community School spent a week in Guilers in October again the hospitality knew no bounds. Plans are being made for student exchanges between the two towns which should be of enormous benefit to all our children.

Twinning between Ballyhaunis and Guilers has come to maturity, it is open to all, and if anybody would like to become involved they can contact any member of the Twinning Committee.

Whilst the hectic activity of this year cannot continue the friendship warmth and hospitality will.

John Dillon Leetch

ALCHOLICS ANONYMOUS AND AL-ANON MEETINGS

Sunday Nights: May - Oct. 9 p.m.

Oct. - May 8.30 p.m.

Old Secondary School, Convent of Mercy



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Death of Ex-Garda Thomas Melly

(Courtesy of the Western People)



Pictured at the Retirement of Garda Thomas Melly R.I.P. some years ago were: J.P. Melly, Imelda Melly, Garda Thomas Melly R.I.P., Susan Melly, Pauline Melly, Mrs. Melly R.I.P. and Dolores Melly.

Ex-Garda Thomas Melly, whose death occurred at his residence in Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis on the 9th of January, 1982 spent fifty years of his life in Ballyhaunis, most of which as a member of the Garda Síochána. He was a native of Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh, and was a member of the Old I.R.A. movement in that area. He came south and joined the Garda Force of Saorstát Éireann in 1923 and gave a long and faithful service up to the time of his retirement from the Force. He was one of the Garda Síochána party who opened the first Garda Station in Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim and he

later served in Gurteen, Co. Mayo (Ballina) and Lahardane before arriving in Ballyhaunis in 1932. During his time in the Force the late ex-Garda Thomas Melly was considered a fair and conscientious officer who carried out his duties without fear or favour.

He is survived by five daughters, Mrs. Teresa O'Connell, Limerick; Mrs. Imelda Mahon, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim; Mrs. Pauline Dillon-Kelly, Dublin; Miss Susan Melly, Dublin and Miss Dolores Melly, Ballyhaunis and one son, Mr. John P. Melly, Dublin.

WINTER

The fir trees pine,
The pine trees moan,
The winter is here
To pierce the bone.
The song-birds now
Have taken flight,
And day is elbowed
Out by night.
The tunes we heard
In summer noon
The silver spread
By each quiet moon,

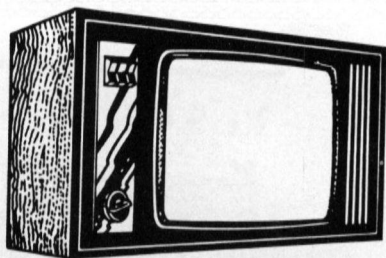
All, all have gone
And in their place
Is silent lip
And frowning face,
And scavenger things,
And north-wind cold,
And frozen fingers
That scarce can hold
The spade or trowel,
The axe or pen,
And fires bare thaw
The bones of men,

And hearts now ponder
If fork and knife
Can hold off long
The chill of life.

The fir trees pine,
The pine trees moan,
And winter is here
To pierce the bone.
But we know full well
That Spring will edge,
Field by field

And hedge by hedge,
Up from the south
In God's good hour
And will waken bird
And open flower,
And start another
Ring on the tree
On a further cycle
To Eternity.

John O'Connor O.S.A.



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SOUNDINGS

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



N.C.F. IN BALLYHAUNIS

In the early part of the last decade with entry into the E.E.C. fast becoming a reality, farm leaders and indeed agriculture as an industry realised that their only secure way forward was to organise and become efficient. The West of Ireland although far removed from the corridors of power did not let this fact escape them. In 1972, some creameries and their branches realised they were all doing the same job, but because in themselves they were too small, and because of this, could not really become more efficient, they decided to amalgamate. The result of the amalgamation was what is now known as the North Connacht Farmers Co-Operation (N.C.F.).

At the same time as this was happening some enterprising and forward looking people (farmers and business people) from Ballyhaunis and its surrounds saw the need to provide a cattle mart for the area and as they put it 'take the fairs in off the street'. In conjunction with a committee from Ballinrobe, of similar outlook, North Western Marts Ltd. was born. The mart in Ballyhaunis opened in 1972 and continued until 1976 when it was taken over by N.C.F. together with Ballinrobe. With the exception of a few minor hiccups, it has continued reasonably successfully since, although, at this juncture one must point out that a hard working committee and manager deserve more local support.

By 1981, with numbers below average the committee and manager, Joe Greene (who had done great work) decided to close the mart for a short period during the summer-June to September. It re-opened in September under the new manager Kevin Leahy and continued successfully until May '82 and re-opened in September under Tom Jordan as manager and Joe Greene as Foreman. It can be said at this point that Ballyhaunis Mart in its facilities both for the buyer and seller is well above average and price wise surpass the national average.

In 1979, in an effort to supply a growing demand N.C.F.

opened a general store in Ballyhaunis and placed it in the capable hands of (Kerry man) Mr. George Dee. Under George's guidance the store has become one of the success stories of N.C.F. In 1981, in the N.C.F. inter-store competition Ballyhaunis secured 1st prize and the Macra na Feirme trophy as the most efficiently run of all 17 N.C.F. Stores, a fitting reward for the efforts of George and his assistant Pierce Kilkenny.

In 1982, the N.C.F. success was tinged with just a little sadness in Ballyhaunis. Jimmy Cribbin who had been Chairman of the Advisory Committee for a number of years and who had given sterling service, decided to step down. However, thankfully, his quick wit and wisdom will not be lost as he continues to serve on the committee. Earlier this year Jimmy fulfilled a life long ambition when he visited his brother in Australia where he enjoyed as he put it "the accumulated holidays of a lifetime" Jimmy's position was filled at the Annual General Meeting by Noel Grogan who is also the Ballyhaunis representative on the N.C.F. Board of Management.

The Members of the Advisory Committee are:

Chairman Noel Grogan
Secretary Seamus Mulrennan
Committee:
Seamus Forde, Matt Healy, Joe McGloughlin, Dick Johnston, Jarlath Walsh, Eddie Cunnane, Noel Kelly, Joe Greene, Paddy Owens, Miko Walsh, John Cleary, Eddie Eagney, John Davitt, Tom Regan, Joe Finn.

The committee meets monthly and problems and suggestions are discussed at length with all opinions taken into consideration. In conjunction with the committee, a local trade display and parade was organised at the Mart, an Open Day at the N.C.F. Laboratory, and new mill at Ballaghadereen. A large number of farmers attended and gained valuable insight into both operations.

From this short synopsis it is hoped that readers will gain some knowledge of N.C.F. involvement in Ballyhaunis an involvement in which all concerned can be justly proud.

Noel Grogan



Some Members of Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club

BALLYHAUNIS AND DISTRICT GUN CLUB

"The wildlife of our country is not ours to dispose of as we wish, we are but guardians for the generations to come."

The abundance of wildfowl this season is a credit to those people who participated in the duck release and pheasant feeding projects of the past year.

Our club has enjoyed quite a bit of success with the various activities of 1982. The development of the Clay Pigeon Shooting grounds are now at an advanced stage. With the financial assistance in the form of the Youth Employment grants we hope to complete our grounds early in 1983.

The club hosted some memorable Clay target shoots in the past twelve months. Our biggest day was on June 13th when we held the First Annual Mayo 100 Bird Championship, a competition worth winning as John Campbell proved when he took away the Jean Kennedy Memorial Trophy.

Our chairman, Tom Waldron succeeded in securing a place on the Connacht team for the provincial and Irish Championships. Even though Connacht were not victorious, Tom and his fellow team members showed that the West is wide awake and will be back fighting next year.

The Connacht Championship, the Annual 100 Bird and the Confined Shoot, were all very enjoyable and

memorable events for all who participated. Our Annual Confined shoot in particular provided an opportunity for the beginners to have a go. Have a go they did and notched up some very impressive scores to win a selection of fine prizes.

All of these shoots throughout the year would not be what they were but for the very generous sponsorship received from the people of Ballyhaunis. To all our sponsors we offer our sincere thanks.

Our Club is once again anxious to control the vermin of the area. We will be very happy to assist anybody who has fox, grey crow or magpie problems on their lands. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the club if you are pestered by vermin.

Our club was honoured by the visit of our friends from Guillier in March. We had a very enjoyable evening and we hope that these nice people return in the future for another visit.

The Officers of the Club for 1982-'83

President	Seamus Cribbin
Chairman	Tom Waldron
Vice Chairman	Flan Moroney
Secretary	John Joe Kelly
Treasurer	Sarah Herr
P.R.O.	Siobhán O'Connor
Grounds Manager	Alec Greene

SOUNDINGS

Why Not Get Involved In Your Community!

IN THESE PAGES YOU WILL READ ABOUT
SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF SOME
ORGANISATIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

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BALLYHAUNIS F.C.

This year the club are playing in the Premier Division, the top division in Mayo. They are playing well and have a strong panel of players. The team is going well in all competitions.

Luke Murray, our 'keeper was on the Mayo Panel and gave some great displays. He also was on the Connacht Panel which won the Junior All-Ireland Cup.

A club from Donegal visited the town, Ballybofey Ltd., played Ballyhaunis in the town park and showed everyone why Donegal is the heart of soccer.

This year we had runners in the Dublin City Marathon. The club would like to thank runners M. Daly (Sec.), R. Herr, P. Freeley, J. Durkin, J. Cleary, D. Rattigan, S. Freyne, and all the sponsors.

The U-15 team which won the Benson Cup last year is top of the league and on course to win it again. The U-17 and U-18 team have won all their games to date. Anyone interested in joining any team contact M. Daly (Sec.). Training is on Sundays and Thursdays.

The club runs the Peter Cup in the off season. Ballyhaunis are the holders. The Past v. Present annual match will be held on New Year's Day. Good entertainment is always provided.

The club would like to thank all sponsors and all who support the '200' Monthly Draw.

The Annual Dinner Dance is also a great success, and is held on 16th March every year.

OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

President Sgt. Curran
Vice President Mike McQueeney
Chairman Luke Murray
Vice Chairman Freddie Herr
Secretary Mike Daly
Treasurer Tom Cribbin

GROUND'S COMMITTEE:

M. McQueeney, James Clarke, Mike Daly, Timmy Ronan, Clar Grogan, Jeremy Dee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

T. Cribbin, R. Herr, A. Hudson, E. Collumb

CLUB MANAGER Alf Hudson

Club Awards

Footballer of the Year:

JOHN WEBB sponsored by DILLON BROS.

Club Member of the Year:

EUGENE COLUMB sponsored by I.A.B.

Supporter of the Year:

VINNIE CAULFIELD sponsored by I.A.B.

U-15 Team Managers M. Daly, V. Caulfield

U-18 Manager Luke Murray

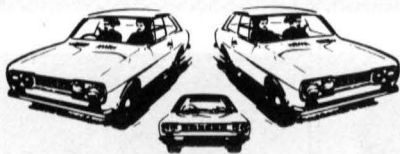
DELEGATES TO MAYO LEAGUE:

E. Columb and M. Daly,

MAYO YOUTHS LEAGUE:

M. Daly and Luke Murray

Mike Daly



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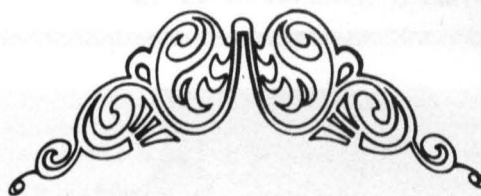
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SOUNDINGS



THE CAST OF 'THE HEIRESS' THE 1982 PRODUCTION BY ST. PATRICK'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Back (l to r): Pat Doyle, John Prenty, Viola Lowrey, Hugh Rudden, Martin Forde.

Front (l to r): Peggy Curran, Frankie O'Malley, Margaret Moran, Eileen Munroe, Ann Jordan. (Photo Courtesy of Miss Kit Keane)

ST. PATRICK'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The society has selected T.C. Murray's excellent play 'Autumn Fire' as their February production. The very experienced actress Mrs. Elizabeth Jordan will produce the play. The society produced this play in 1961 under the direction of Mr. Joe Greene. The cast was as follows: Maisín Meath, Bridie Molloy, Noreen Morley, Katherine

Biesty, Jackie Greene, John Morley R.I.P., Michael Waldron and Vincent Freyne.

The Society would welcome new members. No previous experience required! Please contact any of the following:

Chairperson Ann Hosty
Hon. Secretary Ann Jordan
Treasurer Elizabeth Jordan

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SOUNDINGS

BALLYHAUNIS G.A.A. CLUB

Officers for the year 1981-'82

President	Austin Grogan
Vice President	Mick O'Connell & Paddy Ryan
Chairman	Hugh Rudden
Vice Chairman	John Prenty & Aiden Kelly
Secretary	Gerry Lyons
Treasurer	Tom Prenty
P.R.O.	John Higgins
Registrar	Willie Ryan

Club Representatives at Divisional and County Board

President East Mayo Board	Mick O'Connell
Sec. of Activities Board	John Prenty
Grounds Committee	Johnny Biesty
Minor Board	Austin Grogan

Clubman of the Year	Hugh Rudden
Player of the Year	Michael Webb

GAMES:

Under-age teams in the club acquitted themselves well in their respective competitions during the year. Our only success was at U-14 level, when that team won the East Mayo title for the first time. Later they lost the County final to Ballinrobe.

The club also captured the Canon Henry Cup at the expense of Charlestown. In our Annual Goodfellowship Tournament final Ballina won the cup at the expense of Ballyhaunis.

John Forde sponsored a trophy in honour of his father the late Tom Forde, to be played annually between Ballyhaunis and Bohermeen, Co. Meath. The tournament was run on a home and away basis, the winners this year being Ballyhaunis.

Emmet Keane and Patsy Jennings sponsored a trophy for the U-10 competition which was won by Philip McGoldrick's team. In the U-12 competition the Mick O'Connell Perpetual Trophy was won by Peter Walshe's team.

On the social side the Pub Quiz was again one of the highlights of the year. It was jointly run by between Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club and Re-hab. The eventual winners were a team from Bernie Byrne's Pub, Clare Street. Eamonn McDonnell, Michael Waldron, Michael Murren and John Cleary. The Mastermind final was won by Willie Ryan.

The years Quiz has again started and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Connaught Scaffolding (Mick Murray and Mick Grady) for sponsoring the trophies.

CLUB DRAW:

This coming year's draw started on the 23rd of November. It has the added incentive of extra prizes at

Christmas. Subscriptions are again £20 per year with a guaranteed prize fund of £3,000. I would like to thank all the people who supported last years draw.

GOODFELLOWSHIP TOURNAMENT:

Ballina Stephenites defeated Ballyhaunis in the final. We wish to thank the sponsors - Irish Ale Breweries, Ballyhaunis for their sponsorship. The club took part in Senior and Junior Scór.

Gerry Lyons
Secretary

BASKETBALL CLUB

At a well attended meeting recently held in the White Horse Inn, Ballyhaunis, it was decided to form a local Basketball Club. The following officers were elected:

Chairman	Paul Timoney
Secretary	Cait Webb
Joint Treasurers	James Hunt & Finola Morley
P.R.O.	Aine Whelan

COMMITTEE:-

Joe, Henry, Susan Moffitt, Bernie Regan, Tom Prenty, Mary Heneghan, John O'Malley, Vincent Higgins.

The Club have training sessions in the Community School Gym from 8 to 9 p.m. for men and 9 to 10 p.m. for the ladies every Thursday night.

Paul Timoney

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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

Weekly meetings are held in the Sacristy. Members, as always, are actively concerned in helping the needy, visiting old people living alone, and helping deprived families.

Members of the Society across the world are now preparing to celebrate in 1983 a great event - the 150th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris in April 1983. It will be a time for thanking God for all his blessings and a time of special prayer for the beatification of the founder Frederick Ozanham.

Conference again wishes to thank the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding parishes for their unfailing generosity each year.

Luke Lawler

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber of Commerce was formed some years ago with a view to meeting regularly and trying to improve the way of life in the town and locality.

SOUNDINGS

During the year Mayo County Council officials attended a meeting at which many of the problems were discussed and quite recently P.J. Morley T.D. and Mr. Jim Higgins our two local Councillors attended a meeting and heard the views expressed in regard to the new ring road for Ballyhaunis.

New members would indeed be very welcome and all members are eligible to attend meetings.

Officers:

President	Austin Grogan
Vice President	Gerry McGarry
Secretary	Barry Butler
Treasurer	Oliver Jordan
P.R.O.	John O'Brien

JUNIOR CHAMBER

John Mooney succeeded Eddie Campbell as President last October. The New Years Eve Ball returned to McGarry's Hall and was enjoyed by the large attendance.

Ann O'Dwyer was presented with the Chapter Person of the Year Award by Sean Freyne. Ballyhaunis entered two debating teams this year. Chris Pratt captained the A team support by Jacinta Murray, John Mooney and Fiona Prenty. Michael Grogan, Mary Heneghan, Eamonn Healy and Eddie Campbell performed for the B team. Team A beat Ballina, Team B accounted for Westport before both teams were knocked out by Tullamore.

A big effort in the Tidy Towns competition resulted in big clean up of the river and an assault on the weeds at St. Gerard's Crescent. More volunteers next year, please.

Due to these efforts, the trojan work of Michael Finnegan and other individual efforts the town scored its highest ever mark.

The project of twinning Ballyhaunis with a town of comparable size in France came to fruition this year when a delegation of 23 people travelled from Guilers in Brittany to Ballyhaunis in March, a return visit from Ballyhaunis to Guilers was made this September. Mr. Gerard McGarry led this project from its inception.

Recruitment of new members is our more urgent need. If you would like an opportunity to develop your talent, and make a contribution to any aspect of community life please come along. Membership is open to all in the 18-40 age group.

President	John Mooney
Vice President	Pat Higgins
Treasurer	Ann O'Dwyer
Secretary	Siobhan O'Connor
P.R.O.	Eamonn Healy

John Mooney



Miss May Moyles, President and Founder-Member of the Ballyhaunis Apostolic Workers at the 1982 Exhibition.

APOSTOLIC WORK

President	May Moyles
Vice President	Mrs. K. Finn
Secretary	B. Brennan
Treasurer	Mrs. B. Byrne
Spiritual Director	Fr. P. Costello P.P.

Once again Ballyhaunis Branch of Apostolic Workers had a very successful year. This year was the 20th Anniversary of the branch and to celebrate the occasion a concelebrated Mass was offered in the Parish Church on July 25th. The chief celebrant was Fr. P. Costello P.P., assisted by Fr. Ball, Fr. Delaney and Missionary Priests who came specially for the occasion.

Our annual exhibition was held on the same day and it was a very successful display.

A Mini-Vigil was held in Knock in May, it was conducted by Father Gleeson of Tuam and Father Casey S.V.D. Donamon. All active and some honorary members from Ballyhaunis Branch attended.

Our thanks is due to Honorary members and benefactors without whose help our work could not continue.

We will always welcome any new or Honorary members as the appeals from the Missions are increasing every year.

Bridie Brennan

SOUNDINGS

BADMINTON CLUB

The following are the officers and committee of the Ballyhaunis Badminton Club for 1982/'83.

Chairman Kieran Moran
Secretary Benny Curley
Treasurer Geraldine Garrett
P.R.O. Eamonn Dwane
Committee:
C. Ruane, P. Glynn, Maura Murphy and Breege Cleary.

HILL CLIMBING CLUB

Once a month the climbers take to the hills! So far this year we have climbed The Twelve Bens, the Maunturks, the Sheefry's, Wee Mweelrea, Achill, The Partry Mountains, Nephin, The Maumtrasnas and Ben Bulbin. As few as two members have gone on a climb (in January !!) and our biggest group was eighteen. This year in addition we also had four outings for beginners and families and two endurance climbs for those who were very fit. Since the formation of our club a year and a half ago over fifty people have climbed with us.

People often ask if the sport is dangerous. The answer is NO!, if you obey the rules. So far this year, three people have died on Irish mountains. This is a high figure for a minority sport so therefore it is one that has to be taken seriously. We in the club insist that everyone who comes with us has proper equipment - Boots, Wind/Waterproof Anorak overtrousers, cap, gloves, food, whistle, spare clothing and in winter a survival bag. We try to encourage as many people as possible to learn the use of a map and compass. When on a mountain the group always sticks together and no member or members is allowed to go too far ahead or fall too far behind. If for any reason someone is unable to complete the climb he/she is accompanied off the mountain by an experienced member of the club.

Membership of the club is open to anyone who is over 18 years of age and has left Post-Primary School. Membership costs £2 plus a £2 charge for expenses for every climb you participate in. New members to the club are always welcome. So if you are an average fit adult who would like a day out with a difference why not join us on some wild, remote and most beautiful part of our country.

We hope to have our last climb of this year between Christmas and New Year and to have our first climb in 1983 on 23rd January. Our first Beginners/Family Day will be in March/April.

CLUB OFFICERS:

Chairman Terry Coleman ('Phone: 266)
Secretary Siobhán O'Connor (37)
Treasurer Brid Cleary (123)
P.R.O. John Cleary (154)

BALLYHAUNIS GOLF CLUB

1982 was another very successful year for the club. The officers were as follows:

President Mr. K. Barry
Captain Mr. M. Walshe
Vice Pres. Mr. M. Heneghan
Vice Captain Mr. D. Charlton
Hon. Secretary Mr. T. McNicholas
Joint Hon. Treasurers Mr. John Dillon
Mr. C. Coyne

LADIES:

Captain Mrs. M. Burke
Vice Captain Mrs. A. Johnston
Hon. Secretary Miss N. Dillon
Hon. Treasurer Mrs. A. Joyce

Our teams had a successful year but our most successful team was our Pro-Am team who qualified for the "Carrolls Pro-Am in Portmarnock" the biggest Pro-Am in the country. The Ballyhaunis team consisted of V. Freyne, E. Thornton, and J. Scarry and they had the good fortune to draw as their professional Sam Torrance, the Ballyhaunis team finished joint 7th.

All competitions were well contested this year and at the end of the year Mr. J. Scarry won the Golfer of the Year trophy with Mr. P. Laffey in a very close 2nd place. The Annual Dinner will be held this year in the club-house on a date in December and it is expected to be the usual high success.

With improvements taking place to the course at the moment Ballyhaunis expect its course to be known as the best 9 hole course in Connacht and not one of the best as it is now known.

New members will be very welcome to join the club as playing members and pavilion members and existing golfing members will only be delighted to take a beginner out and show them the game.

In conclusion I wish this magazine every success.

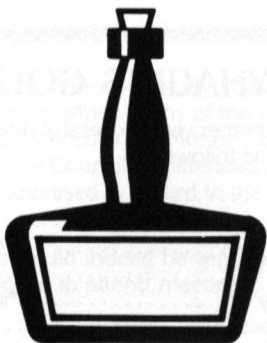
John G. Forde P.R.O.

BALLYHAUNIS P.T.A.A.

The branch continues to attract new members who are always welcome. Meetings are held on the last Sunday of each month in the Sacristy of St. Patrick's Parish Church after 11.30 a.m. Mass.

The Annual Dinner Dance at Churchfield House Hotel was well attended.

Spiritual Director Fr. J. Ball, C.C.
President Mr. Frank Leonard
Vice President Mr. Joe Byrne
Treasurer and P.R.O. Mr. Jim Landon
Secretary Sr. Assumpta

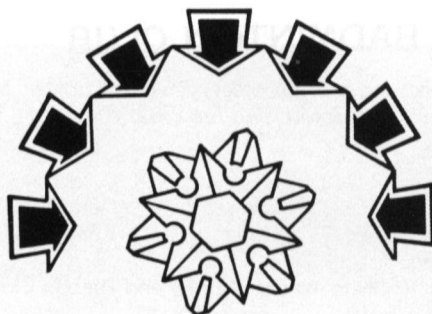


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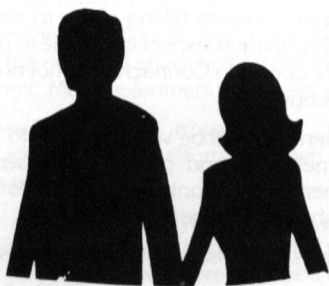
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SOUNDINGS

SQUASH CLUB

A Squash Club was formed in Ballyhaunis on the 28th September, 1982. The Squash Court was opened to the public on Friday 22nd of October under the auspices of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club.

The committee decided that the club facilities should be made available to everybody without obligation to join up to the 4th November. After this date, however, only paid up members could avail of the club facilities. This decision proved to be a resounding success as evidenced by the number of people who visited and subsequently played on the court.

On the opening night Fr. Costello blessed the squash complex. This was followed by an enthralling match between Noel Egan of Castlereagh and well known Tooreen and Mayo hurler, Joe Henry. A number of players from the neighbouring Claremorris club were present. They welcomed the opportunity to play on the court and afterwards were lavish in their praise of it.

Even though the Squash club has been in operation a short time the officers and committee are more than encouraged by the excellent response of the people of the area. At the time of writing we are glad to report that the level of membership is well up to expectations.

We are aware that some people may not know that we have a squash court in Ballyhaunis and that others might like to play but for one reason or another feel inhibited. We would like to allay the fears of the latter by telling them that when the court was opened hardly anybody was acquainted with the rules of the game. The committee decided to place a copy of the rules in the hallway so that particulars could familiarise themselves with them.

On the 5th November each paid up member was given a key to gain access to the court at a time convenient for him or her. There is no roll book left in the hall to allow him or her. There is a roll book left in the hall to allow members to book at a time most suitable to them. Dressing rooms with showers are now provided as well. All members and prospective members must adhere strictly to the rules which states that white soled shoes only are allowed on court. A copy of the club rules is left on the noticeboard, play takes place at half-hourly intervals. The court must be vacated after this in time to facilitate the next group.

The officers and committee sincerely hope that you avail of this opportunity to make use of this club's very fine facilities. The membership fees are as follows:

Single: £15 Family: £25
10 Year Membership - family £175
10 Year Membership - family £175

The officers of the Squash Club are as follows:

Chairman Johnny Biesty
Secretary William Ryan
Treasurer Eamonn Healy

COMMITTEE:

H. Rudden, A. Kelly, J. Prenty, T. Prenty, G. Lyons, J. Durcan and K. Moran

William Ryan

COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE

PAROCHIAL HALL - MAIN STREET - BALLYHAUNIS
(Telephone: Ballyhaunis 212)

Since 1976 the Community Information Centre has been in operation in the Parochial Hall, serving Ballyhaunis, Ballinlough, Castlereagh, Knock surrounding areas.

It provides information, **free and confidentially** about various services and entitlements such as...

P.A.Y.E., HOUSING, REDUNDANCY,
FAMILY LAW, SOCIAL WELFARE

and all the statutory and voluntary services. It also stocks Application Forms for many services. It does not **advise** people it simply gives information. Where it cannot provide the information immediately it will find out the information for you.

The Members of the Community Information Centre are:
Chairman Cyril Coyne
Organiser Kathleen McBride

Sr. Assumpta, Mary Donnelly, Sr. Dymphna, Ina Freyne, Jarlath Fahey, Mary Higgins, Mary Hopkins, Elizabeth Jordan, Harry Lamberth, John Lyons, Monica Lyons, Matt O'Dwyer, Betty Regan, Mary Smyth, Mary Waldron.

OPENING HOURS:

Opening hours for personal callers and queries by phone: (Ballyhaunis 212) are...

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

HANDBALL CLUB

Chairman Michéal Murren
Secretary Michael Waldron
Treasurer Michael Byrne
President Michael (Brod) Moran

The new Handball Alley will be opened by Christmas. During 1982 good progress has been made. The plastering, floor, painting and glass wall have all been completed. The total cost of the completed Alley is in the region of £30,000. I would like to express our gratitude to all those people who support our weekly tote and who contribute to our Church Gate Collection.

Wish all readers a Very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Michéal Murren

SOUNDINGS

BRIDGE CLUB

The A.G.M. was held in the Central Hotel on Wednesday 15th September 1982, at which there was a very large attendance. The following officers were elected for the coming year.

Captain Miss Patricia Waldron
Vice Captain Miss Norrie Dillon
President Mrs. Yvonne Loughran
Secretary Mrs. Corrine Flatley
Treasurer Miss Mae Moyles
Tournamental Director Mrs. Angela Joyce
Asst. Tournament Director Mrs. M.H. O'Connor

The Captain, Miss P. Waldron welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a very enjoyable year of Bridge.

The "Golden Jubilee Trophy" was held in the Scout's Den on Wednesday November 3rd. It was a very enjoyable night with supper provided by the ladies committee. Mrs. Angela Joyce, organised and directed the competition. The winners were 1st. Mr. A. Henry and Mr. B. O'Connell, Charlestown. 2nd Mr. J. Lowry and Mr. A. Killcullen, Ballina. 3rd Mrs. Joe Moran and Miss Helena Moran, Ballina. Mr. Seamus Durkan thanked everyone for coming and hoped that next year the attendance would be bigger.

The first big event of the Club year was the President's Prize which was run over two nights November 12th and November 16th. Mrs. Yvonne Loughran (President) had an individual prize. The winner was Miss Baby Snee, 2nd Mrs. Mary Dillon-Leetch. Miss B. Snee's partner, for the first night, Cyril Coyne got a prize also Mrs. Mary H. O'Connor her partner for the second night. Mrs. M. Dillon-Leetch's partner for the first night - Mrs. Josie Eaton got a prize also Mrs. Dolores Jordan her partner for the second night.

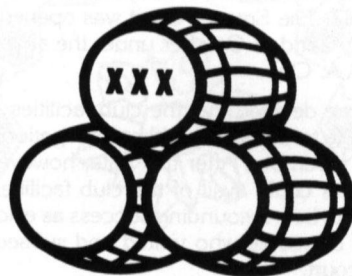
The President's daughter Miss Anne Loughran entertained us on the piano, after the presentation, also singers, Mr. O'Jordan, Mrs. M.H. O'Connor, Mrs. B. Lynch, Mr. M. Naughton. A very enjoyable night was had by all.

The next big events of the Club are the Christmas Prizes and the Captain's Prize which will be played for, early in the New Year.

Connie Flatley,
(Hon. Secretary)

WELL DONE!

To the G.A.A. and Handball Clubs for providing us with excellent new facilities.



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SOUNDINGS

BALLYHAUNIS RE-HAB

This is the fourth year Rehabilitation has been active in Ballyhaunis. It is mainly a fund raising organisation and this has been the activity of the Ballyhaunis members. The money raised has gone towards the establishment of a training centre for the handicapped in Castlebar. The aim of Rehabilitation is to make the handicapped self-sufficient, and help them take their rightful place in society. The present Chairman is Luke Lawlor and the Treasurer is Miss Anne O'Dwyer who with a hard-working committee have raised £2,200 in the passed year. Our Committee are as follows:

Joe Hosty, P.R.O., Una Shields, Breda Burke, Marie Connell, Mary D. Leetch, Teresa Keane, Mary Keane, Nell Rochford, Margie Gallagher, Mary Timoney, Sr. Dymphna and Mary Walshe.

Mary Kelly (Secretary)

FIANNA Fáil CUMANN

1982 was a very successful year for Fianna Fáil in Ballyhaunis with local man, P.J. Morley being returned to Dáil Eireann with an increased majority in the February General Election. His performance was indicative of the wonderful work of the local Fianna Fáil organisation and his success insured that the party held on to two of the three seats in the East Mayo Constituency.

Meetings were held regularly throughout the year and were well attended. Many local matters were dealt with and brought to a successful conclusion. The following officers were elected:

Chairman Joseph Greene
Vice Chairman Jimmy Gilmore
Secretary Michael Grogan
Treasurers Johnny Lyons, Joseph Conway
P.R.O. William Ryan

COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR:

Chairman Seamus Boyle
Vice Chairman Jimmy Gilmore
Secretary Michael Grogan
Treasurers ... Pado Cunningham, Seamus Mulrennan
P.R.O. William Ryan
President Patrick Regan
Vice President Martin Lyons

YOUTH OFFICERS:

Chairman Robbie Herr
Secretary Michael Grogan
Treasurer Tom Eagney
P.R.O. James Hunt

Joe Greene

FINE GAEL BRANCH

The branch began the year with a very successful Annual General Meeting where many new faces were to occupy offices. The officers elected were as follows:

President William Mulligan
Vice Presidents Joe Webb, Joe Keane
Chairman Tommie Prenty
Vice Chairman John Dillon
Secretary Anne Marrinan
Recording Sec. Moira Delaney
Treasurers Mary Buckley, Michael Webb
P.R.O. John Mooney

The branch has held monthly meetings throughout the year and attendances increased significantly with regular discussions on party policy on the agenda. Mr. Maurice Manning T.D. (Dublin) attended a function in the Central Hotel, in June. The highlight of the year, however, was the visit of Dr. Garret Fitzgerald to the town in October. Despite the fact of this being his third visit in so many years, he was accorded a very cordial welcome when he visited the new housing estate at Station Rise where he met residents of the estate and was hosted by Mrs. Tina Kirrane at her home. He then proceeded to the Community School to meet with teachers and pupils there.

The Young Fine Gael Branch was again active in support of the Senior Branch. Officers elected at the A.G.M. were....

Chairman David Jordan (Tooreen)
Secretary John Fitzgerald
Joint Treasurers Pauline Gallagher
Mary Heneghan
P.R.O. John Dillon-Leetch

John Higgins

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LIFE.....



At the end of each year, we take
stock of life,
And wonder if its worth all the struggle
and strife
Our faults and virtues are now
fully grown
But the rich seeds of wisdom have
yet to be sown.

Despite reaching plenty, we still seek
for more
For peace and contentment must we go
back in yore
The future looks gloomy for so it is
said
There'll be repercussions in the dark
days ahead

For our perfect world would be one
of peace
Where wonders and miracles never
would cease
To distribute the surplus would be
the new trend,
And all mankind together would be
his best friend

But a world full of memories is our
chosen lot
Our present and future are blighted
with shot
Our one consolation is we live on
the sod,
Where our forefathers wandered 'ere
going to God.

Murt Hunt



A CONDITION

I could set the stars blazing
And the moon dancing high,
If I only caught a glint of love
In your laughing eye.



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A Tale of Two Characters

There have been various characters who have died in different areas of the country in the past year. They have come from all walks of life, different occupations and backgrounds. I doubt however, if any have caused so much comment and regret as the deaths within the past year (within a few weeks of each other) of two of the greatest characters the village of Lecarrow has ever known.

I am talking of course about the late Michael Cronin and John McDonnell, both of whom will awaken memories of other days in readers both at home and across the sea. Both were in the same age group, went to the same school, walked the roads, played the same games and tested the hardship of their days together. Although they died on opposite sides of the Irish Sea, they are together now and recounting past experiences no doubt.

For Michael Cronin's life was not always a bed of roses. Before he went to England he spent a lot of his adult life looking after his aged and bed ridden mother. He combed her hair, washed her face and fed her meals and still had time to do his jobs and keep up a brave and smiling front.

I stayed up nights many times with his mother when I was a young boy and waited for Cronin to come from town. He always had groceries and things for his mother home with him and he never forgot sweets for me and cigarettes for my father. He would sit down and keep me entranced with tales of the olden days. He had all sorts of gags and funny stories and it had gone to a stage with me that I would not believe what my own father and mother told me but what Cronin said was God's truth. Of course I was not the only one who visited and the house was full night after night with neighbours card-playing, telling stories and listening to Cronin's yarns.

When his mother died and he went to England I thought my young heart would break because now I had no one to confide in and to reassure me in my world of make believe. He was sorely missed by one and all both in the village and outside but life must go on as the saying goes. He did come back on holidays once or twice and renewed old acquaintances, but alas no more.

John McDonnell was from the end of the village and lived on his own for years. He survived some hard times and withstood some severe Winters in a really old house. The Cribbin family from next door were very good to him and gave him hot meals and did his shopping near the end when he was not able to get about.

He was a very witty man and had a funny comment to make about any political or news event. He also was a man who could remember dates of birth and events going back for years and when himself and Cronin got together there was always lots of crack guaranteed.

He had been a messenger in the old I.R.A. during the Black and Tan days and had a very near shave with a Black and Tan patrol, which had a lasting effect on his life. He was kept waiting behind a fence while the Black and Tans sat directly over his head and he was on their wanted list at the time.

There were less genuine men honoured so it was nice to see the Tricolour draped around his coffin when he died as he thoroughly deserved it. He died as he would want it, sitting on a chair by his own hearth stone.

Yes Cronin and McDonnell were unique in many ways and will always be remembered by all of us lucky enough to have known them.

Go ndeántar Dé Trócaire ar a nanam.

Murt Hunt

A THOUGHT

He heard the sound of wings
Passing in the night,
Could it be, he thought, an angel
On some mercy-flight!

A DOOR

At the end of all there is a door
That leads into the sun,
And there we'll sing our ballads
And make music everyone.

A BIOGRAPHY

My only claim to fame
Is verse
I suppose, at best
It could be worse.

A PRAYER:

The ways of men
Are strange and odd,
And who knows better
Than you, God?

A REFRAIN

But as the ancient hermit said-
Severinus of the Wood-
All that makes more than sense to me,
When properly understood!

A REVELATION

They thought him a cad
And a stranger to grace,
Until one day they saw
Compassion on his face.

John O'Connor, O.S.A.



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Second Row: Peter Regan, Oliver Foudey, Michael O'Connell, Seamus Salmon, Bernie Ludden, Sean Regan, Joe Keane, Sean Lambert, Paddy McCormack.

Back Row: James Flatley, Tony Morley, Willie Copinger, James Gannon, Martin Mongan, James Leo Boyle, Paddy Devaney.

(Photo courtesy of Mr. Joe Keane, Knox Street)

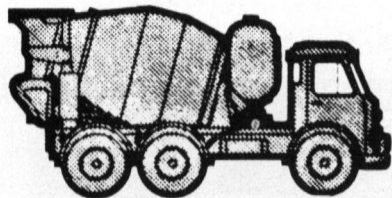


FIRST IRISH ARMY IN BALLYHAUNIS 1922

Front Row: Michael Finn, Jack Nolan, Jack Loyal, Jim Warde, Dan Gorman.

Back Row: Jim Smith, Mick Gorman, Ned McGuire, George Higgins, Jim Martin, Sergeant Jack McGuinnis, Captain Peter Lynch.

(Photo courtesy of Mr. Joe Keane, Knox St.)



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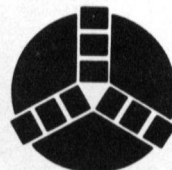
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Publicans from Ballyhaunis and District visit the Home of Guinness at St. James Gate, Dublin in 1966.
£10 prize to the first person that names everyone in the picture to any member of the Committee.
(Photo courtesy of Mr. Jim Smith, Bridge Street)

Ballyhaunis 29/4/1900

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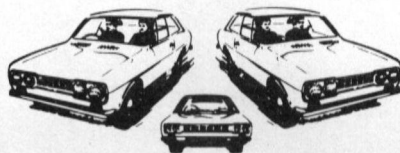
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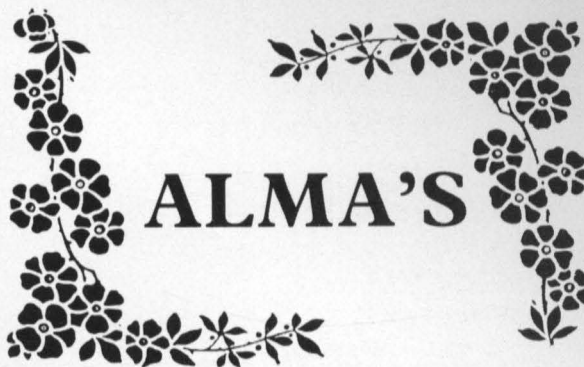
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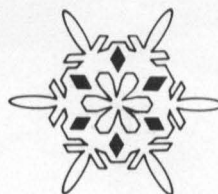
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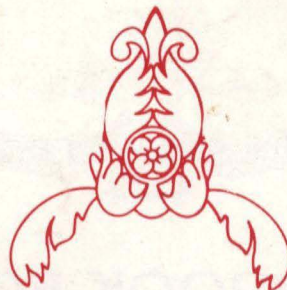
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