

ANNAGH '83

BALLYHAUNIS MAGAZINE



ANNAGH

A Ballyhaunis Magazine

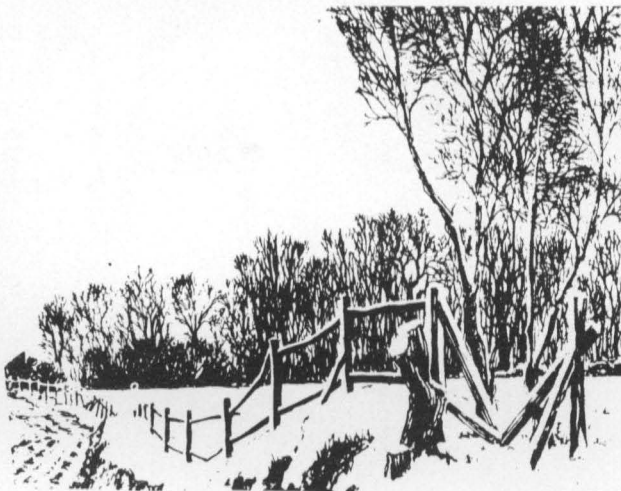


Christmas 1983

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The pages of "Annagh" in giving us an opportunity to review the past also enable us to take in hand the writing of the future. This we can happily do in the wake of a glorious summer and the memory of many fortunate events. This year we take leave of Fr. John Ball who has served in the Parish with signal success but our sadness in saying farewell to him is tempered by the satisfaction that he has been promoted to serve the warm-hearted people of Kiltullagh, the parish that includes Ballinlough, Granlahan and Cloonfad. Added to that he is not far from us and will remain in close contact with us. His work and generosity of spirit is too well known for me to dwell on it: suffice to say "Well Done!"

We welcome Fr. Paddy Williams in his place. The latter has rich experience in education and pastoral work, experience that has been deepened and widened on the Mission Fields of Africa. I am confident that he too will find happiness among us and we in turn will benefit from him. To him we say: "Sé do bheatha



abhaile - go mba fada buan do réim!"

And so once again I greet the people of Ballyhaunis and its environs with the age-old wish: "Beannacht lósa Críost, Mac Dé is mac na Maighdne ar bhur mbealach, mbhur mbothar, is bhur gcasán.

Patrick Costello, P.P.

Message from Junior Chamber



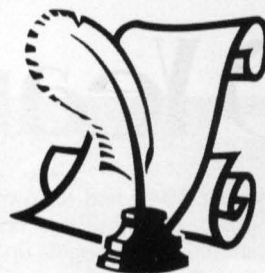
On behalf of Junior Chamber, Ballyhaunis, I wish to thank all the people who have made this Magazine a reality.

It is my special wish that readers at home and abroad will enjoy the glimpses of the town's past and pride in its progress.

Eamonn Healy (President)

EDITORIAL

Our Community's Magazine.....



This is the sixth edition of "Annagh" Magazine. In our first edition in 1978 we expressed the hope that "Annagh" would become a 'long running series of annual editions'. We hoped also that its survival would 'depend on the peoples' interest and support'. We entrusted its future 'to the people of Ballyhaunis.

We need not have worried. Like Ballyhaunis itself "Annagh" has grown and developed. Our policy has been to recall the positive developments and achievements in the area, to put them on record for our readers here in the Parish and for our many readers in different parts of the world.

You have contributed to the success of the Magazine. Below we print the names of those who have written in "Annagh" 1978-'83. Elsewhere in the issue is a list of the people who contributed photographs.

Our increased advertisements is a testimony of the support we have got not only from our faithful advertisers, but from new advertisers as well. Long may it all continue.

Seamus Durkan	Joe Greene	Mick O'Connell	Eddie Biesty
Donal Ahern	Bernard Freyne	Dr. Alan Delaney	Seamus Forde
Anto O'Malley	Gerard McGarry	Sr. Teresina	Áine McEvoy (R.T.E.)
Jim Lunden	Tony Flynn	Cyril Coyne	Eddie Thornton
John Fitzgerald	Cait Dillon	Nell Rochford	Linda Scott
Sean Flanagan, M.E.P.	Mary Morris	Mrs. McNicholas	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ADVERTISING:

Mary Heneghan, Peggy Lyons, Máiréad Flynn, Mike Griffin and Rita Mooney.

SALES:

Joe Hosty.

TYPING:

Anne Marrinan. The pupils of the Secretarial class of Ballyhaunis Community School with the help of their teachers, Mr. Michael Smyth and Sister Teresina Daly.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

Jim Lunden (Editor), Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A., John Mooney, Matt O'Dwyer, Joe Greene, Pat Higgins, Joe Hosty and Eamonn Healy.

COVER DESIGN:

Chris Pratt.

PRINTING AND LAYOUT:

Cashin Printing Services Ltd., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

40 Years AgoIN THE SUN

Like every year 1943 had its own things to say. In Kiltimagh a group of enthusiasts had decided that the local pitch should be brought up to championship standard and work was well enough advanced for the venue to be given the first round tie between Mayo and Galway. In the two weeks prior to the game heavy and persistent rain caused the adjoining river to overflow its banks, turning the pitch into a quagmire.

In normal times the match would certainly have been abandoned. These were not normal times, since there was a war going on and restrictions and shortages applied. In particular, petrol was very scarce, so having got the players together the match had to go on.

The mud and water marks on our stockings were nearer knee than ankle. The irony of it was that the weather then cleared and we had the driest summer I can recall until this year. It was so dry, that there was no water in Ned Greally's turlough and thus came about the Crossard G.A.A. Club. I went to Ned to ask him if we could play football on the newly dry ground and Ned, a kindly neighbour, was only too delighted to say yes. There were a lot of farming men around and we were soon in action, playing practice matches and training. We had Jack

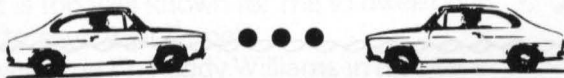
Folliard of Aughamore, then a clerical student and Aibhistin Waldron of Drimbane as additional players. All the rest were from the Tooreen side of the parish. After a while we thought we might be good enough to take on an established club and Ballyhaunis very kindly agreed to play us.

Jimmy O'Dwyer, Tom and Jim Forde helped with the arrangements and the Ballyhaunis players themselves were enthusiastic. We used the Old Tooraree pitch and I think Jimmy O'Dwyer was referee.

We won by a few points and after a brief celebration (in which the Ballyhaunis lads joined) set off home on our bicycles happy to have won our first match. It was also our last. Come the next summer and most of our team were in England and many to settle permanently there. These included Kevin Finn, an outstanding player, fast, strong, two-sided and accurate. Anyway, 1944 also had its own things to say, for Ned's fields were a turlough again, our pitch submerged.

But for Ballyhaunis our team would never had a competitive match. We thank them for giving us a happy day in the sun forty years ago.

Sean Flanagan, M.E.P.



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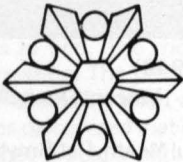
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Ballyhaunis Publicans visit MacCardle, Moore and Co. Ltd. the Brewery, Dundalk taken in the 1970's

(Courtesy of Eddie Mulhern)



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The Pattern at Holywell in August, 1939

(Courtesy of Joe Finn)



Investiture of the 4th Mayo Troop, Ballyhaunis (November 1940)

Front Row (l to r): Paddy Mulligan, Joe Griffin, Bernard Forde, Kevin Greene, - Raftery, -, Vincent Donnellan, Bertie Curley, Richard Prendergast.

2nd Row (l to r): Seamus Durkin, -, Paddy Delaney, -, Paddy Forie, Louis Hyland, Paul Meath, Pat Smyth, -, John O'Brien, Noel Waldron, -, Tommy Byrne, -, Aiden Waldron.

Seated Centre (l to r): Redemptionist Rev. J. G. Prendergast, P.P. Redemptionist during a mission and Mr. James Cunningham.

Back Row (l to r): Albert Madden, -, John Gilmore, Mickey Gavin, Gussie Forrie, - Raftery, -, Tommy Donnellan, Eddie Phillips, Tom Hopkins, Billy Hayden, Mr. Dynes (Postmaster)

(Courtesy of Kevin Greene)

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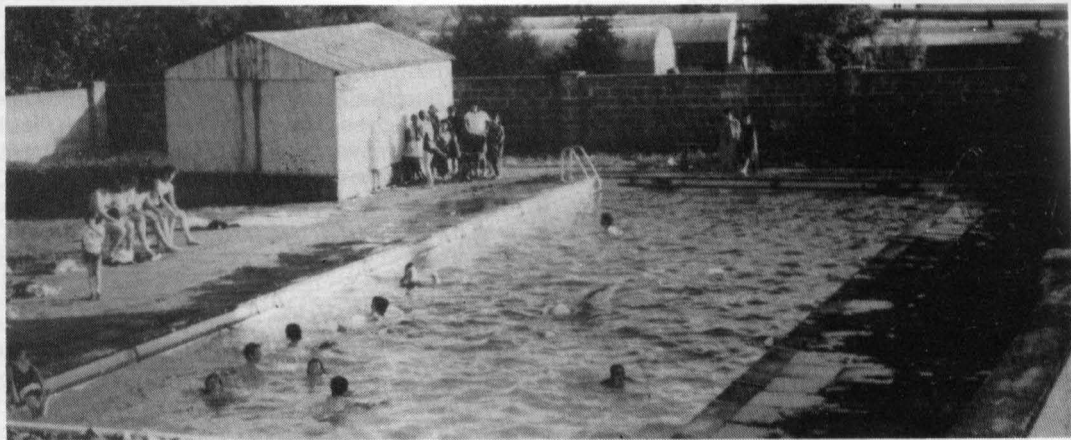
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Sink. . . .or Swim!



Swimming Pool, 1982

If you stood on the river bridge in the centre of Ballyhaunis and looked into the glistening water of the river on a Summer's evening in 1983 you could have heard the shrill laughter, the excited yells, the humorous applause, or the mock groans of the many children enjoying the amenity of our modern pool. Even sceptics acknowledge 'we have a pool'.

It all began in 1965/'66 when William Campbell, Jack O'Connor, Michael A. Keane R.I.P., Seamus Durkan and Jim Higgins opened a Swimming Pool Account with £300. As might have been expected problems were the easiest things to find. The most obvious one then was Planning Permission. The proximity of the pool site to the river was the obstacle. When digging into the act for a loophole it was discovered that if they dug into the ground for a pool, they would avoid the planning restrictions which referred to structures above the ground.

The next obstacle was the 'lack of precedent' and neither the local nor National authorities quite knew how to deal with the situation. A good omen was the fact that subscriptions continued to come in and within the first three months £3,000 had been collected. At this stage various forms of fund-raising were devised and one of the more adventurous was that of Pat Higgins and John O'Dwyer. They made several trips to Dublin, promoting a committee in the Grosvenor Hotel. A purpose of the committee was to run dances catering mainly for people from the West, with a view to raise funds. This effort however, did not achieve its target but it is very indicative of the effort individuals were prepared to extend.

With fund-raising in good hands a committee to deal with the work on the site was formed and the idea of inviting students from the continent to a Summer Work Camp was proposed and accepted. Student Summer Work Camps were very popular at that time. Students gave their labour to a Community project on a voluntary basis. The community provided accommodation, food

and hospitality. The old Boy's National School was made available for living quarters and O'Haras of Swinford made the magnificent gesture of providing mattresses for the comfort of the students. They also supplied gas for cooking. This gesture from a neighbouring town has not been forgotten with the passage of time.

During this period the Ladies Committee added to the substantial bouquets they had already earned by catering for the students on a magnificent scale.

Three students to the fore in the group were Malachy Lawless and Maura Higgins of Trinity College and Mark Adams of Bolton Street College. Mark's family were brewers whose business was purchased by Guinness. The remainder of the students were foreign and those who knew them spoke highly of them.

Before work started on the pool, a meeting of the people of the town was called by Jack O'Connor and Malachy Lawless. Malachy who had come to Ballyhaunis for the first time just two days prior to the meeting arrived half an hour late, and asked to be excused on the grounds that he had to see a Bank Manager about a loan. He was pleased to report that his petition was successful and the stage was now set to begin.

Prior to this, the County Council had indicated that a contribution towards the construction of the pool was available, but tied in with that was a condition that the Council would not provide staff or funds towards running expenses when the pool came into operation. The committee had declined the Council's offer, so the agreement of the Bank of Ireland to provide funds in the amount of £3,000 was opportune.

With pick, shovel, barrow and enthusiasm the students 'dug a hole'. That seemingly cynical statement describes the months of preparation, committees, funds, deputations, individual and collective effort.

It was the time when Fr. McDyer of Glencolmkillie

awakened the West with his programme. 'Defence of the West'. A monster meeting packed the Star Cinema and was addressed by Fr. McDyer. His message was 'do it yourself', 'buy Irish', 'sell Irish'. The 'hard core' of enthusiasts who worked for the pool and other town projects were inspired by his example and took on additional projects such as the founding of Mayo Handcrafts Centre now located in Knock. Jim Higgins and John O'Dwyer were prominent in this project and their efforts included a trip to Kilburn in London to meet Fr. Dore P.P., who donated £250 to start the project.

A new committee under the chairmanship of Jack Eaton, with Pat Higgins and John O'Dwyer as joint secretaries, took up the continuing burden of development, and awareness of the health aspect of swimming was enhanced by the presence of Dr. Eamonn Waldron, R.I.P., and Dr. T.B. Joyce. People active in the work at that time are loud of their praise of the late Sean Cleary whose talent and ability and sheer hard work were outstanding and inspirational. The late Jack Eaton had many meetings in Dublin with Bobby Molloy, Minister for the Environment at that time, and a grant for £10,000 was sanctioned. This would have been sufficient in those days to build a first-class heated pool. This was a new dimension in Government assistance, and again, lack of precedent held up the scheme. Unfortunately the grant never materialised.

A re-think was necessary and finally a type of pool designed by Neil Blaney and known as the Blaney Pool was agreed upon.

It was relatively cheap to construct, consisting of 9" cavity blocks with reinforced concrete. The pool which was the standard 25 metres in length was only 7 metres wide as against the more usual 10 metre. It was not intended to heat the pool, initially but provisions were made for eventual heating. This type of pool became very popular throughout the country. Sean Flanagan sought a grant on Health grounds but was unsuccessful. Ned Power of the Bank of Ireland was extremely helpful, and again this has not been forgotten by those involved.

Constant struggle frequently overcomes enthusiasm and there was a long pause while new blood developed. Junior Chamber under the chairmanship of Tony Flynn, and Sean Freyne took up the struggle. Negotiations with the County Council were re-opened with a view to (a) having the Council take over the pool and (b) to complete it. The negotiations were successful, the Council awarded a contract to 'A con' to fit piping and filter equipment and through the harmonious efforts of the Junior Chamber, people of the town, and a most co-operative County Council the swimming pool was finally opened to the public in the Summer of 1974.

The Committee in charge of operations at this stage were John Mooney - Chairman, John O'Dwyer - Secretary, Bertie Curley - Treasurer, and members Elizabeth Jordan, Seamus Durkan and Eamonn Dwane. A vast quantity of water had passed under the adjoining river bridge since the friendly foreign students dug a hole in the ground. For those who had stayed with the project from the beginning, there must have been rejoicing. For some, it was the end of the beginning, for others it was the beginning of the end.

The dressing rooms were a caravan in that first year,

timber huts the following year and the commencement of permanent structures the next year. Again, money problems, again fund-raising, again success.

Alongside all this effort saw a shoal of children. The competent swimmers took tests in Water Safety and Lifesaving and soon local youth gained certs as lifeguards. In the mid-70s the wonderful summers ensured daily throngs. The poor swimmers at the end of the decade saw a diminished attendance and a slight debt was incurred. It was a time for action! In the Spring of 1982 the Pool Project was given yet another transfusion with the election of a new committee. Yet again the name of John Mooney comes up. It was he who called a meeting in the Central Hotel to discuss 'the future of the pool'. Officers elected at that meeting were Stephen Durkan - Chairman, John Mooney and Mrs. Margaret Byrne - Joint Treasurers, Michael Griffin - Secretary, and twelve committee members.

The immediate object was to raise funds (i) to clear the existing debt of almost £1,000 and (ii) a further £5,000 to add to the existing amenities. To date most of the current objectives have been achieved. The debt has been cleared and a healthier financial climate exists. A Youth Employment Scheme for six young men under Foreman, Tim Byrne has done, and is continuing to do, useful work to improve the existing facilities in the vicinity of the pool and the surrounding area. Work on the pool grounds involving drainage, elevated lawns, shrubs and park benches are complete, as are fully furnished dressing rooms. The Children's playground has been surfaced with asphalt and all its equipment maintained. The Riverside walk adjacent to the pool has been beautified with shrubs, rockeries, paving, park benches and railings. The Town Well which must be centuries old judging by the hollowed stone steps leading down to it from the street where once again restored. (Material being donated by George Delaney, Bridge Street). The Car Parks were not neglected. Negotiations with the County Council are presently at an advanced stage to spend money on the completion of fitting the dressing rooms with electricity and heated showers.

We have reached the stage where the community can look with pride on their achievement and express appreciation of the individuals who were active over the years. Twenty years ago, when the concept of building a pool was almost before its time the founders thought in terms of a heated indoor swimming pool, THAT was the aim - THAT IS THE AIM!

The Aim

We could leave the pool as it is, but that would be achieving nothing. It would also leave the pool under utilised. So what has to be done? Well the first thing we can do is cover the pool. A simple operation you might say, all we have to do is put up four walls and a roof. Well, its not that simple as all that. The walls along the roof will have to be insulated to conserve heat. The roof will have to be designed in such a way that it will attract as much solar heat as possible, (See opposite page)

The heating of the pool can be achieved by a few different ways:

(i) Oil fuel, (ii) Solid fuel, (iii) Solar Heat, (iv) Latent Heat Pumps, (v) Wind.

(i) Oil Fuel:

Oil fuel is probably the most versatile fuel. It can be stored easily and modern boilers can take the maximum amount of heat from the oil fire, but it is very expensive.

(ii) Solid Fuel

Who wants to shovel coal, turf or timber each day?

(iii) Solar Heat (iv) Latent Heat (v) Wind

I have taken these three together simply because all of the energy sources are free. The main cost is the harmonising of these energy sources, after that the cost is minimal.

In the case of Solar energy the pool can be heated both directly and indirectly by the sun. If as in the diagram (fig. 1) there is a window of perspex glass left in the roof of the pool this will taken on a glasshouse effect and the water will absorb heat directly from the sun. The water will be heated indirectly by the solar panels on the roof. These are radiator panels made out of either copper or steel, linked together and painted black. These panels will in turn be covered by glass. Because the panels are covered in glass and painted black they absorb the maximum amount of heat they can get. It takes very little sunshine to boil the water in the panels. This coupled with a thermostat switch circulates the hot water to a panel in the pool. This is a minimal cost heating unit.

The same system could be used but using a heat pump and exchanging the water for a gas called Freon 12. Freon 12 boils at a very low temperature. When heated by the sun in the solar panels it forms a gas. This gas is pushed through the system by the cooler liquid Freon 12 being pumped out of the radiator panels in the pool. As the warm gas is cooled by the panels in the pool it forms a liquid again and is pumped back up through the system to the solar panels.

The same system i.e. Freon 12 can be used in another operation. We have a river flowing by our pool. If there is an average mean temperature of 6 - 8 degrees centigrade, using Freon 12 the pool could be heated to an average temperature of 80 degrees. This would extend the annual opening time of the pool and the only cost of running the system after installation is the cost of running an electric



Swimming Pool, August, 1967

motor.

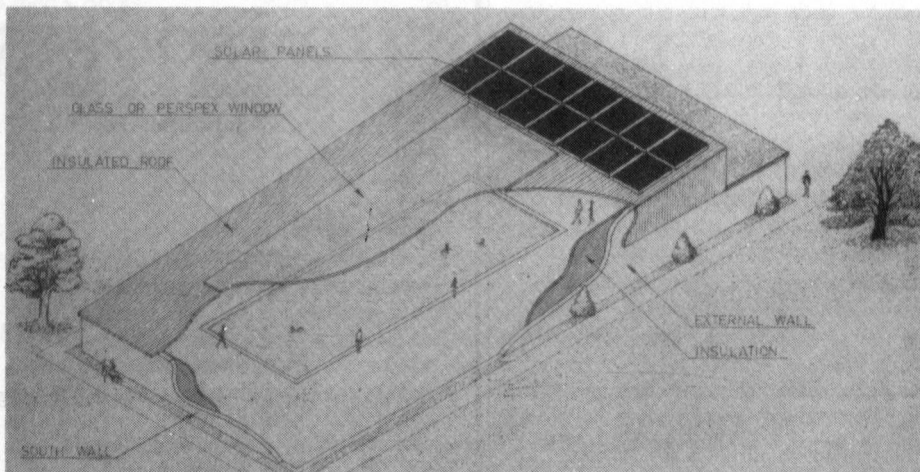
As a boost to the last two systems, a wind generator could be erected and after installation costs, no further costs would be involved except maybe for minor maintenance cost each year.

We have a pool. In order to make any of the above mentioned heating systems work an awful lot of voluntary work is necessary. Local contribution is essential, but most of all what is really needed is pride in what we have, and a will to make it better!

Finally

No article on the pool would be complete without special mention to the late Dr. E.A. Waldron. He culminated a life time of service to the community by his involvement in various development projects not least of which was the Swimming Pool. He donated the proceeds of a fund subscribed to by the people of the area, to mark the occasion of his retirement, to Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool.

Stephen Durkan





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18lbs Bacon	9/9
Pt Whiskey	2/4
4lb Raisins	2/-
1 Bag Potato Manure (2st.)	14/-
3 Grose Pipes	10/6
6lbs Tobacco	1/4
2 qt Whiskey	9/4
1 Bottle Port Wine	2/-
2lbs Candles	10d
1 Bag Flour	11/3
1st Maysead	3/-
2oz Tobbaco	7d
2 gallons of Beer	4/-
1 Cwt. 1 Meal	7/-
1 Cwt. 1 Meal (1904)	6/3
6lbs Red Clover	3/6
2cwt Bag Super	25/- or 27/-

October 2nd, 1893

1 Pair Boy's Boots	4/6
1 Pair Gent's Boots	10/-
1 Pair Boots Soles & Heels	2/6
1 Pair Gent's Boots Pegged	10/-
Soling and Tip on 1 boot	1/-
Heels on 1 Pair of Ladies Boots	8d
1oz Tobacco, 1 Pipe Lid, 1 Box of Matches and 1 Knife	6½d

July, 1893

Soles and Heels and Toe Cap	2/-
Soling and Stitching Boots	2/9

6th March, 1900

1 Pair of Ladies Boots	7/-
Soling and Heels, Toe Cap	2/-
To Repair 1 Boot	6d
Soling and Toe Cap on Child's Boot	1/6
Tip on Lift of Men's Boots	2d
Repairs to Boot and Soles	2½d

1910 Price List

2lb Raisins	1/2
2lb Currants	10d
17lb Bacon	12/9
1 Bag Flour	12/-
4 Gallons of Ale	8/-
2oz Tobbaco	7d
1st Oatenmeal	1/9
1lb Turnips	1/-
½lb Tea, 4lb Sugar	2/2
1 gallon Pariffin Oil	8d
1 Keg Porter	7/6

1914 Price List

½lb Tea, 4lb Sugar	2/8
1lb Best Tea	3/6
1½ gallon of Beer	3/6
1 Pint Whiskey	3/-

4lb Bacon	2/6
1 gallon Oil	10d
1 dozen Cider	2/-
1 stone Oats	3/-
1lb Treacle	9d
3 pints of Porter	9d
1 stone Bread	2/-
1 gallon of Whiskey	14/-
1 Bottle of Ginger Wine	2/-
1lb Candles	4d
1 Pint Sim	3/-
1 Box of Starch	1d
1 cwt. 1 Meal	8/-
1 Pint of Stout	4d

Courtesy of Joe Greene

CONGRATULATIONS

We recall here two notable events that took place in Rome on 2nd September 1983, and that had connections with Ballyhaunis and district. On that day, two Irish priests were elected Generals of their respective orders. One was Very Rev. Fr. Damian Byrne, O.P., who was the second Irishman ever to be called on to lead the Dominican Order. Father Byrne is a native of Galway city and has devoted some of his extensive learning to the missions. The second priest is Very Rev. Fr. Martin Nolan, O.S.A., and he was the first Irishman in the long history of the order to be chosen as the head of the Augustinian Friars. Father Nolan is also a well-known scholar, who was born in Dublin but has Mayo roots. He has lectured widely in the United States, Rome and Nigeria, as well as Ireland and England.

The local Ballyhaunis interest in these two men lies, of course, in the fact that they are now the respective Generals of the two orders which had pre-Reformation houses in the area. Urluar Friary was founded for the Dominicans in 1434 by Edmund Mac Costello and his wife Fionnuala (daughter of O'Connor Don), while around the same time (or a little earlier), St. Mary's Abbey in Ballyhaunis was founded for the Augustinians by the Mac Jordan Duff branch of the Mac Costello family. Sadly, with the persecutions, the Dominicans were forced permanently from Urlaur Friary (which today, however, is still an impressive ruin). The Augustinians were more fortunate, they succeeded in sustaining a living link with their Abbey in Ballyhaunis, with the result that today St. Mary's is one of the very few pre-Reformation religious sites that is still occupied by the same order. Long may it continue to be so. But here, in any case, we wish well to Father Nolan and Father Byrne and to their respective orders.

Christmas long ago.....

by Tony O'Boyle

'Sure they have Christmas everyday now' is an expression we often hear nowadays, and those of us who can look back on the Yuletide of the 'Twenties and 'Thirties can well appreciate what is meant by this.

I am writing about the times when Christmas was Christmas and the days a fiver would probably buy the greater part of the extras which were enjoyed during the great annual festival.

My memories of the Christmas of those days are many and varied. There are memories of the 'Big Market Day' the Tuesday before Christmas week, and long lines of carts, horse-drawn and ass-drawn, converging on the town, with old sacking stretched from sideboard to sideboard, so that the turkeys and geese could not escape. It was a day husbands and wives travelled in style together, sitting with dignity on a seatboard at the front of the cart, and the Christmas things would be purchased from the market proceeds.

I have memories too of travelling in the ass and cart on a cold frosty morning about three days before Christmas, and meeting the postman on the way to town who had a welcome letter from America, which helped unamously to put a few extra items in my mothers' shopping basket for the great occasion. There was also the excitement of getting the Christmas box where a family 'dealt', and though it never altered from the traditional bottle of wine and barn brack, it was always infinitely mysterious.

I have memories of mother plucking a goose in the middle of the kitchen cement floor, while I went back in the room to steal a few large raisins from the box of groceries, as in those days we only saw raisins, currants and treacle at Christmas time.

There are memories of candles in the windows, and a grate in a seldom used parlour coming to a warm fire. My memories also include getting up early on Christmas morning, lighting the double-wick lamp, and kindling the fire from the nights 'rakings' and cycling in the dark to the church. I can visualise a whole congregation going to Holy Communion, the Christmas collection at the Church door and happy voices exchanging the season's greeting.

I can well remember going for a game of '25' to a neighbours house on Christmas night - a night when visiting was somewhat restricted, and looking for the wren in the thatch with a lantern or flash-lamp (which was quite a novelty at the time). I recall too, arising early on St. Stephen's morning and going around with the wren with a school-pal of my own age, and the generous housewife who would give us a lovely cut of treacle bread and jam, as well as a few pence.

In my apprenticeship days in the distributive trade, I can remember working 'till well after midnight the week or two before Christmas, weighing currants and raisins and packing shelves or bottling large bottles of stout which would sell across the counter at a shilling a time. There is also the memory of filling jars of porter of various sizes for

those in the rural areas - containers which after bore names of firms long out of business.

I can remember too, that there was nothing in the world like going home for Christmas and having to cycle thirty miles on Christmas Eve was merely child's play. And St. Stephen's night was a very special occasion in those days as dancing always resumed one that night following a complete close-down of dancehalls during Advent. There was something very satisfying in being welcomed home by your parents at Christmas time or getting a hand shake from an old friend or neighbour on Christmas morning.

And although Christmas is now commercialised to a large extent, and the exchange of presents and Christmas cards must have increased a hundred-fold by way of cost, when the festivities are all over, we invariably hear it said 'Sure it wasn't like Christmas at all'.

PASSING FRIAR



In Ballyhaunis I pitched my tent
Some two years ago now or three
But still I'm inclined to linger on
For the place now has grown on me.

I find the air holds goodness here,
There's friendliness in the eye,
So why should I fold my tent and go
With my song and the open sky?

So yet awhile I will savour friends
And a people by nature kind,
And tears, I know will come with going
And a heart that will look behind.

But now I banish all doleful thoughts
And instead I'll sing of my stay,
And thank the Lord for this shelter-belt
That I found for my tent that day.

In Ballyhaunis I pitched my tent
Three years now ago it may be,
But yet I bide, and will cherish still,
Friends here and fine company.

John O'Connor, O.S.A.

HUNTING, COURSING *and other old Pastimes*



HUNTING, COURSING AND OTHER OLD PASTIMES

A newspaper article on a daily paper the other day about blood sports and particularly coursing and the cruelty etc., involved therein, brought pleasant memories back to my mind about the times I spent years ago at my favourite pastime. My favourite pastime was as we called it hunting, and this involved not only hares and rabbits, but foxes as well. Before I recollect some of the memories, however, I would like to get the picture straight about coursing.

The letters one reads in the newspapers about the cruelty involved are to be seen nearly every day of the week and mostly are written not only by cranks, but by people who know absolutely nothing about the subject. (These same people would turn a blind eye to cattle and sheep being killed without a humane killer, to fishing lying on the banks for hours, to sheep and lambs being mauled by their very own pet dogs and to little rabbits going around sightless and in agony from myxomatosis. Most important of all they would turn a blind eye to all the human misery and suffering all around them, most especially in the North).

The fact of the matter is that hares do not suffer unduly when caught by the hound. They go into a state of shock or trance and do not feel the pain. It can be compared to the humane killer gun that is used to stun animals before killing them. This is nature's own way of giving them a painless death.

When my mates and I were out hunting, about 25 years ago we were doing our own little bit for the hares, because we were keeping them exercised and used them to the chase. As there aren't many youths now save the odd few to keep up the pastime, the hares are gradually growing lazy and unable to put up a chase when asked to. That's why so many hares are being killed at coursing meetings now besides onetime when they led many a good greyhound a merry dance and escaped unharmed at the end of the day.

My hunting career started at a very early age when the Moylett brothers Jim and Tom came home from America. A lot of local lads assembled every Sunday after 8.30 Mass and the long trek began. The lads included the Moyletts, Oliver Ruane and Tom Ruane from Curries, John and Tom Lyons, Joe Kelly and yours truly. We were the backbone of the party but several other young fellows joined us on our travels each Sunday at various stages.

We did a different route each Sunday but usually walked about twenty miles in all in our pursuit of game. The first Sunday was usually the worst and it became easier after that. The funny part of it was that most of us after returning home about four on a Summer's evening would (after eating a hearty dinner) go off again with football boots and kick football for another two to three hours. That was fitness, and they talk now about taking part in a ten mile walk for charity and all the effort involved! Most of us would have to do a full day at the hay or in the bog the next day and still felt no after effects because as the saying goes we were 'as fit as fiddles'.

Some old men (including my late father) would go part of the way with us and view the hunt from a good vantage point. I vividly remember my father and Michael Lyons on top of Tullaghaune hill and they viewed most of the days hunting from there all day without moving one inch. They smoked a few cigarettes and listened to a football match on a transistor radio and watched the hunt at the same time. To them that was happiness at its best.

Most of us had a greyhound of our own and fed them better than ourselves with oatmeal cakes and meat. The few that had not a greyhound brought along some class of mongrel good for nothing only knocking stone walls. Tommy Ruane specialised in fox terriers and the fox department was his speciality.

He had one special terrier which was called Darkie, and which had many foxes scalps under its belt as they say. He killed hundred of foxes in his day, and still lived to be a ripe old age for a dog. He used to smell foxes a mile away and would go into the den and kill them within and drag them out. There was a 10/- bounty for the foxes tongues that time so we used to make a few bob out of it as well. Alan Dukes was not around that time fortunately!! We always gave the fox as much chance as we could and I remember Tom Moylett many a time putting his hand into the den and pulling the fox out by the tail, swinging him around and letting him off with every chance to escape.

I had a half-bred greyhound myself which I named 'Beauty' and she was the cleverest bitch one could find anywhere. I remember one day getting caught up in barbed wire and unable to walk and she scrambled to the corner of the field as if her sixth sense told her the hare would come that way, and as the hare came over the ditch at the corner she pounced. Invalid or not she still had the best kill of the day!

We killed many a hare, rabbit and fox in our travels in those years and the odd badger but we did not like killing badgers as they really are more of a help to the farmer than a burden and don't do all that much damage in the long run. I remember catching a tagged fox once down in John McDonnell's hills. The Regional Game Council had tagged some foxes as cubs and let them off to see about their breeding habits and to see how far they would go away from base.

I will never forget all the excitement and rúaille-búaille as we gagged and bound the fox live and put him in a bag

and laid him in Tom Moylett's car. We went to the Chairman of the Game Council to collect our bounty as they had put a £20 bounty on each tagged fox. We were bitterly disappointed when we were refused our money as the reason given was that the fox had not gone far enough away from where he had been released even though that was two years previous to this date. I can tell you there were tears in our house that night and many more houses as well, I would imagine, as £20 would be worth about £120 now.

I could not finish without paying tribute to a grand old man who was a dedicated greyhound follower. I refer, of course, to the late Frank Glynn, R.I.P., who kept greyhounds until he reached a ripe old age and in fact, when he broke a leg a few years before he died, he happened to be exercising a greyhound at the time. I remember going to coursing meetings with him and Pat Moylett to courses all over the West but especially to Westport and I remember the excitement of the chase, the slippers, the judges and partaking of hot soup and sandwiches to shake off the effects of the cold.

There were many more dedicated and expert dog trainers in the area and still are a few to keep the tradition going. One has only to mention Ned Fitzgerald, Brod Moran, Bob Fox and many others but perhaps the most famous of all was Ned Egan who really knew how to get the last ounce of racing out of a hound. He is still doing a bit at his trade.

In conclusion I will finish with a story about a dog, my father once trained which was practically unbeatable on the track or coursing. He had done some great times in

Galway track and Pat Moylett who was based over in Manchester at the time arranged to have him brought over to Manchester's track (Belle Vue) and trained there and was expecting him to do great things there - maybe to even get into the Greyhound Derby final at White City. All the arrangements were made, papers signed ect. and a box fitted up for transport to England. He arrived safely and a few nights later made his debut at Belle Vue. He led straight from the traps and was about five lengths in front at the first bend where he unfortunately slipped up and broke a foreleg and had to be put down. All the hopes and dreams of success were shattered in one go and there was great disappointment in the area for some time afterwards.

Gradually as the years passed our gang split up and went their own separate ways and I am sorry to say the hunting and the football came to an end as all the other hobbies and pastimes did also. In the meantime, the hare, the rabbit and fox populations increased profoundly, even though local Game Council have kept the fox population down in the last few years. So in our own little way we were the Game Council of that era and kept the wild game population at a normal level and as I said before only the fittest and cutest hares survived to be thrown in at the deep end at coursing meetings.

There were no letter writers to newspapers at that time complaining about cruelty at coursing meetings which is what gave me the idea in the first place for this little trip down memory lane.

Murt Hunt

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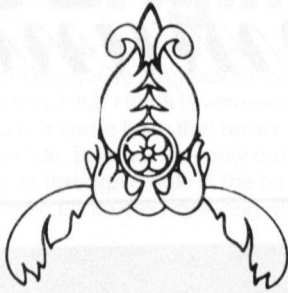
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First Holy Communion *1983*



1983 First Holy Communionists

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS, ST. MARY'S NATIONAL SCHOOL, BALLYHAUNIS ON SUNDAY 22nd MAY, 1983

Front Row (l to r): Michael Cameron, Bernadette Flanagan, Tanya Collum, Sandra Laffey, Norma Fitzgerald, Shiona Curran, Helena Plunkett, Catherine Doherty, Yvonne Flynn, Noreen Freyne, Marie Naughton.

2nd Row: Shelia Byrne, Noreen Flanagan, Rose Mary Nestor, Catherine Healy, Olivia Lyons, Samantha Glynn, Michelle Regan, Grainne Ryan, SORCHA Ó Loughlin, Michelle Coffee, Marie Coffee, Irene Byrne, Sinead Lundon, Claire O'Malley.

3rd Row: John Cribbin, Ruari Caulfield, Ronan Byrne, Mark McCafferty, Martin Donoghue, Shane Mooney, Thomas Heneghan, John Costello, Sean Duffy, Michael Regan, Graham Clery.

4th Row: Siobhan Clery, Mary Kedian, Patricia Finn, Ciara Shields, Nuala Higgins, Claire McDonnell, Oliva Gallagher, Collette Byrne, Ruth Gafney, Mark Gallagher.

5th Row: Declan Lyons, James Walsh, Tommy Moran, Joseph Healy, Enda McQuinley, Fintan Byrne, Brendan Higgins, Declan Mulhern, Thomas Lyons, Michael Lyons, Richard Tighe, Thomas Murphy.

Parish Priest: Fr. Costello, Teachers; Mrs. Lyons and Mr. Duggan.

The Original Community Radio

Our old Mullard was the first wireless set to come to the village. It was in the house long before I was, so I naturally took it for granted. I don't think I ever associated the voices and sounds which came from that brown box with people and places outside, because the only outside connection was a wire going through a hole in the back wall up to the chimney and then connected by a long wire to a tree in the garden.

This 'brown box' contained a mass of valves and wires, a 'dry' and 'wet' battery. The heavy 'dry' battery would last about a year, depending on use, but the 'wet' battery was a smaller, acid-filled container which had to be handled very carefully and re-charged every few weeks. This meant carrying it to town, at first to Johnny Murray's garage, later we took it to Lynch's.

Our wireless had many transplants in its time and often underwent Open Heart Surgery on the kitchen table - mostly performed on by my brother Austin, but much to the relief of my mother he always got all the bits back together again.

Being the only set in the area meant we had regular visitors for certain programmes. Mike Hopkins R.I.P. never missed Sunday night for Question Time and the Play, if by chance he heard his favourite pop star of the time, Delia Murphy it really made his night. Ceilidh music was sure to bring Paddy Waldron, R.I.P. from next door. He loved the Irish music and would 'Di-diddle-di' all his favourite tunes - The Geese in the Bog, Pidgeon on the Gate, and the Boys of Blue Hill. My poor mother, God rest her, often had trouble convincing him that she couldn't ask them to 'play it again'. Jimmy Johnston occasionally came late at night to 'Hear Knock' egged on, we believed by some of the 'boys'. On occasions like that the battery was gone down.

At that time there was rarely anything of local interest on the wireless, but there were a few exceptions which caused a stir. Fr. John Buckley greeting his family from Rome after his Ordination, the Boy Scouts recorded at Camp and later Joe Mannion, R.I.P. playing his fiddle, as only he could. Of course in 1948 Mass was broadcast from our beloved Abbey. About that time also Question Time came from Ballyhaunis. The Wartime news must surely have headed the TAM ratings in our house, particularly with my father. But news, political broadcasts and election results all meant having to keep quiet, so I hated them all.

As I have already mentioned Question Time and Joe Linnane were great favourites. So were Round the Fire, Maura Laverty's Cookery Programme, Peadar O'Connor, Making and Mending, G.O. Sherrard's Gardening and Sean O'Ceallachain's Sports Results. Not forgetting Marion King and her exciting stories of 'Sean Bunny and Gliceen Bui'.

Without a doubt the occasions which brought the biggest crowd were the football and hurling matches. For days before hand plans were made, batteries were re-charged and the fans from Lisduff, Agloragh, Drimbane and Churchpark arranged to gather in Cribbin's for the match. The kitchen was full and the 'crack' was good, but

as soon as Micheál O'Hehir said 'Bal O Dhia oribh go lear' there wasn't a sound. Maybe that is where I got my love for Gaelic games, I couldn't help knowing the teams and players. That historic broadcast of the 1947 All-Ireland from New York, with Micheál O'Hehir pleading to be left on the air, can only be surpassed by the excitement when Mayo won the 1950-'51 finals with local boy, Sean Flanagan as captain. Ah! those were the days!! Although we always tried to have a fresh battery for a match there were times when we took a chance and were caught out. A 'wet' battery going down during a match was about the greatest tragedy that could happen, but a quick dash to a bike outside for the twincell battery from a bicycle lamp usually saved the day.

Our poor old Mullard finally died in 1954 with the coming of electricity. While we no longer had to carry the battery to town for re-charging the new set was never the same. By that time our older visitors had passed away, the younger ones had either emigrated or had sets of their own and stayed at home on Sunday to hear the match.

Technology has advanced and the world changes daily, but Micheál O'Hehir's 'Bal O Dhia oribh' still brings me back to that crowded kitchen in Bush Island and our faithful old Mullard.

Agnes McNicholas (née Cribbin)



THE WELCOME

Now Mary moves in through Mayo
And is gladdened by the sight,
And Joseph walks with his lantern
And the stars make holy the night.

And Ballyhaunis bids them welcome
For again the Child is here,
And angels and shepherds are singing
The Good Tidings of the year.

So, joy runs over the frosted fields
And a happy heaven looks down,
And a Star that lights up Mayo stands
Above Ballyhaunis town.

And the new child blesses every home
For miles and miles around,
And smiles again on Bethlehem here
Where peace and goodwill abound.

So no wonder the streets are laughing now,
And Ballyhaunis hears angels' wings,
For all hearts and doors are open wide
To the blessings that Christmas brings.

John O'Connor, O.S.A.



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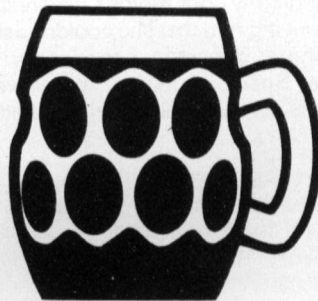
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Births.....



BAPTISMS in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis 1st November, 1982 to 6th November, 1983

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

To Francis and Mary Dillon, Ballindrehid
a daughter, Martina Cecelia

To Tony and Anne Nestor, Island
a son, Enda Michael

To Henry and Kathleen Madden, Gurteen
a daughter, Anne Maria

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

To Eugene and Katherine Morley, Station Rise
a daughter, Karen

To Myles and Mary Walshe, Bridge Street
a daughter, Elaine Mary

To Gerard and Margaret Lyons, Ballinphuill
a son, Anthony Michael Mary

To John and Tina Kirrane, Station Rise
a daughter, Sheena Maria

To Joseph and Deidre Diskin, Killinagher
a son, John

To Joseph and Kathleen Healy, Annagh
a son, Alan Joseph

To Thomas and Rose Callaghan, Station Rise
a daughter, Michelle Valerie

To Gerard and Pauline McGarry, Devlis
a daughter, Orla Eithne

To Vincent and Irene Healy, Ballindrehid
a son, Ronan Joseph

To John and Mary Cumiskey, Knox Street
a daughter, Eimer Mary Patricia

To Timothy and Lily Rabbitte, Derrylea
a son, Andrew Francisco Anthony Mary

To Peter and Imelda Murphy, Rochestown, Co. Cork
a son, Niall Oliver

To Dermot and Jane Freeley, Upper Main Street
a son, Alan Patrick

To William and Catherine Frayne, Baragariff
a daughter, Rose Anne

To Thomas and Sara Egan, Cherryfield
a daughter, Jennifer Margaret

To Michael and Anne Coffey, Station Rise
twin sons, Martin and Jason

To John and Mary Ryan, Coolnafarna
a daughter Orla Josephine

To Padraic and Veronica O'Dowd, Station Rise
a daughter, Lisa Veronica

To Con and Bridie Sheridan, Station Rise
a daughter, Kare

To Michael and Mary Naughton, Upper Main Street
a daughter, Caroline Ann

To Tadhg and Kay Buckley, Knock Road
a daughter, Ciara Anne

To Thomas and Martha Walsh, Knox Street
a son, Craig Alan

To Thomas and Judith Regan, Killinagher
a daughter, Caroline

To William and Marina Coyne, Ballinadrehid
a son, Robert John

To Hugh and Statia Carney, Knox Street
a son, Hugh

To Martin and Catherine Freeman, Lecarrow
a son, Paul Joseph

To Anthony and Anne Cribbin, Bridge Street
a daughter, Aine Maria

To Thomas and Anne Murphy, Knockbrack
a daughter, Fiona Bernadette

To Joseph and Helen Byrne, Johnstown
a daughter, Laura Helen Mary

To John and Helena Barrett, Devlis
a daughter, Noelle Daniel

To John and Nora Lyons, Leow
a son, John Francis

To Vincent and Mary Kedian, Derrynacong
a son, Vincent William

To Terence and Ann Maughan, Cherryfield
a son, Thomas

To James and Mary Donnelly, Ballinphuill
a daughter, Orla Patricia

To Dan and Margaret Tarpey, Carrowkeel
a daughter, Shelia Mary

To Thomas and Anne Murphy, Station Rise
a son, Jonathan Stephen

To James and Mary Mulrennan, Gurteen
a daughter, Orla Marie

To Thomas and Fiona Prenty, Knock Road
a daughter, Sara Marie

To Liam and Eileen Gildea, Johnstown
a son, William Paul

To John and Maureen Lilly, Johnstown
a daughter, Louise

To Thomas and Joan McGuire, Tooraree
a daughter, Michelle Sharon

To Joseph and Bernadette Tighe, Tooraree
a daughter, Ann

To Joseph and Rosemary Freeley, Upper Main Street
a son, Patrick

To David and Mary Jordan, Lecarrow
a daughter, Karen Mary

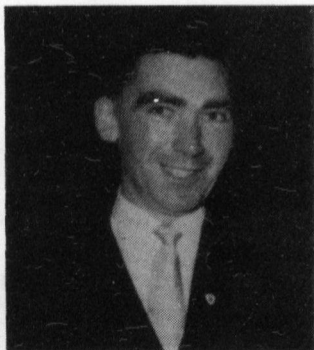
To Padraic and Mabel Finan, Bridge Street
a daughter, Selena Mary

To Seamus and Mary McGuire, Johnstown
a son, Noel Bernard

To James and Alacogue McManus, Churchpark
a son, Eoin Patrick

To Michael and Mary B. Waldron, Ballinadrehid
a son, Kenneth Michael

To John and Mary Brennan
a daughter, Lorraine Deborah Mary



THE LATE CHARLIE PHILIPS

Mr. Charles Philips, Main Street, Ballyhaunis whose death occurred on Sunday, February 21st 1983 was a prominent Ballyhaunis businessman being head of the Drapery and Boot and Shoe firm of Charles Philips and Sons Ltd. He was a native of Cloonternane, Knock.

Charlie is remembered as being very involved in community affairs and sport. He was a member of the Boards of Managements of St. Mary's National School and Ballyhaunis Community School. He was a member of the old Ballyhaunis Development Association. A splendid gaelic footballer in his youth, he was a member of the Ballyhaunis junior and senior teams that won Mayo titles in 1957 and 1958. He also won a Junior All-Ireland medal with Mayo in 1957.

Charlie was also involved with the I.F.A. and N.C.F. A founder member of the Ballyhaunis I.F.A., Charlie was later a keen supporter of Ballyhaunis Mart and was a buyer at it.

Charlie is survived by his loving wife, Phyllis, seven sons, Billy, Tom, Michael, Cathal, Richard, Brian and Noel and three daughters, Philomena, Cathy and Tracy. He is also survived by his brothers Rev. Fr. Richard Philips, Mr. Paddy Philips, Main Street, Mr. Joseph Philips, Rathfarnham, Mr. John Philips and by his sisters Sr. M. Clare, Convent of Mercy, Claremorris, Mrs. Mary Murphy, Clonmel and Mrs. Gertie Carr, Dun Laoire. Deepest sympathy is extended to all Charlies family and his relatives. He will be deeply missed in the community.

Marriages.



MARRIAGES in the Parish of Annagh, 1st November 1982 to 31st October 1983

Martin Haverty, Clooncan, Ballinlough
Rita A. Crowley, Ballyhaunis

John J. Ward, Ballyhaunis
Anastatia Cunnane, Carrowkeel

Patrick J. Naughton, Grange, Ballinlough
Lisa C. McNamara, Ballinlough

Michael J. O'Brien, Old Kilcullen, Co. Kildare
Mary M. Halpin, Ballyhaunis

Freddie M.B. Herr, Ballyhaunis
Siobhán M. O'Connor, Ballyhaunis

St. Mary's Abbey

Timothy B. Ryan, 332 S.C.R., Dublin
Rose Marie Gallagher, Derrintogher, Ballyhaunis

Elsewhere

Brendan Morrissey, Devils
Mary King, Aghagower

John Prenty, Ballyhaunis
Mary Newell, Kilbenan, Tuam

Justin Joyce, Ballyhaunis
Joan Dillon, Listowel

Helen Attracta Kenny, Ballyhaunis
Patrick Farrell, Baltinglass

Joseph Coyne, Ballyveale
Mary Cleary, Milltown, Malbay

John Byrne, Ballyhaunis
Brigid McGee, Letterkenny

George Hannan, Ballyhaunis
Margaret Murray, Lissaniska, Began

Martin McDonagh, Ballyhaunis
Kathleen McDonagh, Ballyhaunis

John Jordan, Johnstown
Eileen Ward, Co. Tyrone

John Lyons, Skeaghard
Shelia O'Rourke, Dublin

Thomas Moran, Ballyhaunis
Margurite Toolan, Knockanarra

Eamon Hussey, Granlahan
Angela Ruane, Derrintogher

James Quinn, Classaroe
Bernadette Keane, Westport

Hugh Campbell, Ballyhaunis
Una Tierney, Milltown

Desmond Ruane, Lurgan
Catherine Duffy, Kilmovee

Joseph Grogan, Ballyhaunis
Teresa Garvey, Ballinlough

Deaths.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" Apoc. 14:13
1st November 1982 to 31st October, 1983

'Blessed are the Dead who die in the Lord' **1st November, 1982 to 31st October, 1983.**

John McDonnell, Lecarrow
Patrick Curran, Upper Main Street
George Delaney, Abbey Street
Mrs. Delia Ganley, Lisbane
Nellie Flynn, Barrack Street
Mary Doorey, Killinagher
Ellen Fitzmaurice, Tullaghane
John P. Jordan, Derrymore
Mrs. Mary O'Brien, Holywell
Mrs. Brigid Judge, Ballinphuill
Bernard Ruane, Lurgan
Catherine Grogan, Upper Main Street
James Grogan, Classroe
Martin Grogan, Hazelhill
Denis P. Hannan, Bridge Street
James Murray, Tullaghane
James Waldron, Derrylahan
Edward Harte, Lisbane
John M. McGuire, Lisbane
Patrick Mongan, Infant
James Cruise, Johnstown
Anthony Waldron, Derreens
Patrick Moran, Annagh
Terence Sweeney, Drimbane
Thomas Stenson, Upper Main Street
Martin Comer, Bargariff
Michael Mullarkey, Tullaghane
Delia McNamara, Annagh
Mrs. Bridie Mulrennan, Gurteen
Mary O'Malley, Knox Street
Patrick Nolan, Knox Street
Mrs. Mary K. Lyons, Skehard
John Devaney, Brackloon North

Elsewhere

James O'Brien, Clare Street
Peter Lynch, St. Gerard's Crescent
John Hunt, Tooraree
Mary E. Dyer, St. Gerard's Crescent
Brod Moran, Main Street
Michael Sloyan, Forthill
George O'Malley, Barrack Street
Liam Duffy, Aghamore
Dan Finn, Erriff
Sara Gorman, Lassinney
James Cruise, Spaddagh, d. U.S.
Mrs. K. Curran, Letterkenny
Very Rev. D. Corcoran, Clifden
Mrs. S. Coyne, Gurteen, d. England
John Fox, Kiltimagh
Mrs. A. Patterson, Ballinlough
Patrick Grogan, Devlis, d. Canada
Sean Corcoran, Main Street, d. Galway
Brian Egan, Knock
Mother John Lyons, Kiltaboe, d. Malahide
Bridie Glavey, Castlereas
Tommy Egan, Knock

Michael Muldoon, Annagh
Brian O'Malley, Barrack Street, d. England
Mrs. B. Conway, née Tarpey, Tuam
Mrs. K. Burke, Ballinlough
John Healy, Hollymount
M. Ward, Station Rise
Fr. J. Egan, Kilrooskey
M. Folliard, Coolnaha
John McGuire, Johnstown, d. U.S.
Peadar Earley, Gorthaganny
Nora Mulkeen, Ballinlough
Mrs. K. Cattigan, Achill
Mrs. K. Johnson, d. U.S.
John Freeley, Island, d. England
Mrs. A. Corcoran, Bekan
Martin Crinnigan, Tullaghane
Sr. N. Plunkett, Curries d. U.S.
Mrs. M. Mullen, née Corcoran, d. U.S.
John Walsh, Classaroe, d. England
M. Waldron, Carton South
John Robinson, Huntsfield, d. U.S.
Mrs. A. Finn, Erriff
P. Ward, Kilknock, Bekan
Tommie Lynskey, Gurteen
Padraic Garvey, Kilmaine
Mrs. M. Kelly, Kiltimagh
Mrs. K. McCloskey, née Meehan, Curries
Eddie Gallagher, Kiltimagh
Sr. Marie Dolores O'Malley, Upper Main Street
Thomas Towey, Erriff
Mrs. M. Feeley, Coogue
Ann Rattigan, Bridge Street
Mrs. B. Hebron, Granlahan
Anthony Fleming, Scrigg, d. U.S.
P. Brennan, Carrownedan
Ed Coffey, Tully, Castlereas
Mrs. M. Morley, Larganboy
John Roche, Devlis
Nora King, Station Rise
Thomas Gibson, Lahardane
John McLoughlin, Tavanaghmore, d. England
Mother Columba Lavin, Convent of Mercy, Ballinamore
Bill McGuire, Ballykillen
Jimmy Leo, Upper Main Street, d. England
Mrs. Margaret Feeley, Kiltimagh
Dick Murray, Loughrea, d. England
Patrick McDermott, Limerick
Mrs. Julie Cullinane, Knock
Ed O'Connor, Fairymount
Mrs. Isabel Treston, Cloontreston
Michael Keane, Cloonfad
Mrs. Julie Keane, née Waldron, Tavanaghmore, d. U.S.
G. McNamara, Tullaghane, d. U.S.
Thomas O'Loughlin, Dunmore
Joe Lynch, Athlone
Dom Jordan, late Lecarrow
Peter Lavin, Cross
John Folliard, Kiltaboe, d. England
Sean Hopkins, Larganboy

The Late John P. Jordan



Mr. John P. Jordan, Chief Steward, Knock Shrine (centre of front row) pictured in the 1950's with other stewards,

Most of us remember the late John P. Jordan as a quiet reserved man of deep religious conviction. That quiet reserve however, belied the turbulent history of his early days and the active role he played in the foundation of this country.

It might on the other hand hint at the deep love he had for history and culture of this country and of its native language.

He was born in Cummer, Aghamore in 1891. His mother Bridget Curley died when he was an infant and he was reared by his grandfather Johnnie Jordan in Aghamore. He went to school to be taught, and prepared for a scholarship to the De La Salle Training College in Waterford by his cousin, Johnnie Carey.

On qualifying as a teacher he spent a year at University College Dublin and during the Easter Vacation of that year while attending the funeral of his aunt, the 1916 Rising took place. On his return to Dublin he saw the aftermath of the Rising, and this had a profound effect on him.

His first appointment on being qualified was an assistant in Crossard School. This school was just across the road from where the Sean Corcoran Monument is now, and the remains of it can still be seen. The field by the way is still known as the Schoolfield.

The principal in Crossard at that time was Monsignor Hugh Curley's father. After a while as Principal in Carrowedan he became Principal in Aghamore and taught there until his retirement.

Mr. Jordan had been a member of the Volunteers from their inception and in May 1921 during the War of Independence he was interned by the British. He was interned again shortly after his release at the outbreak of the Civil War.

After the Civil War he devoted his life to the Church and in 1935 he was a co-founder with District Judge Coyne of the Knock Shrine Society. Shortly afterwards he was appointed Chief Steward by Canon John Greally. For over forty years he filled this role with distinction.

Later on having returned from this post for some years, he was re-appointed Chief Steward on the occasion of the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1979. This to him was the highlight of his life.

Mr. Jordan was a member of the Knights of Columbanus and in appreciation of his devotion to Knock Shrine he was decorated by three Popes - Pius XIII, John XXIII and John VI.

Aside from his work for the church he was also deeply involved in the early days of the Gaelic League in Ballyhaunis in which he founded an outlet for his deep love of Irish Literature and History and especially his dedication to the Irish language.

The town is the poorer at the loss of such a cultured Christian Gentleman.

A mhaighin Chroic Mhuire, Banríon na h-Eireann, ghui ar a shon.

Joe Greene

Random Paragraphs from the Past

Mick O'Connell (Western People) October 12th, 1968

Came across the other day some random paragraphs from the past relating to important happenings which occurred in Ballyhaunis in the distant and not so distant past which should make interesting reading for both young and old.

Everybody takes a particular interest in the history of ones local district, and while the paragraphs listed below are chosen at random they will nevertheless bring back memories in some cases to the now not so young and as well should prove interesting to the younger readers.

It is interesting to note that the Friars have been in Ballyhaunis since the 14th century. The Augustinian Abbey of St. Mary the Virgin was founded in Ballyhaunis by MacJordan Duff MacCostelloe in 1348 and has withstood centuries of persecution testifying by its very survival to the steadfastness of the faith of the people of the area down through the years.

St. Patrick's Parish Church, Ballyhaunis was built on the site of the old Parish Church at the beginning of this century. The first meeting in connection with the building of the new St. Patrick's Parish Church was held on May 27th, 1900, with Very Rev. Fr. Canning P.P., presiding. The new church was dedicated by Most Rev. Dr. John Healy, Archbishop of Tuam on 10th October, 1909.

Railway Station Opened

On Monday, September 9th 1861, the railway station at Ballyhaunis was opened, and the first train left the station in the presence of a huge crowd, reaching Dublin six hours later. The single fare was 11/4. 1,600 men were employed on the construction of the line.

Ball's map of 1809 shows that there were 38 houses in the village of Ballyhaunis.

The Post Office in Ballyhaunis opened in Clare Street in 1838. The Courthouse and Dispensary were then in the Polnacroughy area, and the population of the town at that time was 353.

The first County Feis was held in Ballyhaunis on April 10th, 1903, and was attended by Padraic Pearse.

The public electric lighting system was formally opened in Ballyhaunis on the 5th August, 1932. The 'talkies' made their first appearance in Ballyhaunis per Carron Brothers on the 27th November, 1930.

The first wireless concert was held in Ballyhaunis on May 27th, 1924. Mr. Phil Hayes, electrician built the set himself.

The first G.A.A. football and athletic club was formed in Ballyhaunis in 1887 superseding soccer and cricket as outdoor games.

Ballyhaunis water supply system was blessed and formally opened by Rev. M. Collieran, P.P. on Sunday, March 12th, 1933. The work on the project commenced

on June 18th, 1931.

The first steeplechase Races over the old Tooraree Course were held on June 4th, 1866. The last races held there were on the 4th September, 1916.

The Civic Guards arrived in Ballyhaunis on the 8th March, 1923 under Sergeant O'Leary.

The Tooraree farm (Race Course) was acquired by the Congested Districts Board in 1916 and was divided up amongst the tenants in the following year.

The gramophone was introduced in Ballyhaunis about 1901 when it was introduced by James A. Cavanagh, Duke of Swaziland, who used to give recitals while riding around the street in a jaunting car.

The first silent cinema pictures in Ballyhaunis were shown in a booth erected in the Friars Ground by Johnny Toft in April, 1911. The pictures were 'The Christus', a Pathe film, depicting the life of Our Lord, 'Napoleon and Josephine', depicting the Rise and Fall of Napoleon, showing some of his great battles including Waterloo. Johnny Toft was the well-known amusements caterer.

Tom English of Swinford, built the bridge over the river near the present Post Office, and Pat Freeney of Ballaghaderreen, built the Boy's National School in 1879. Pat English (Tom's son) from Swinford, built the teacher's residence in 1887. Before that the National School was a thatched house in Abbeyquarter, opposite the cemetery, and it was officially opened on July 12th, 1865. John Grogan was the principal teacher. The dimensions of the school were 32 feet by 11 feet 6 inches and the furniture consisted of 4 desks and 4 forms, 8 feet long.

The present Boy's National School was opened on the 1st January, 1880. Mr. P.J. Heavey was appointed Principal Teacher and Canon Waldron was School Manager. In July 1875 the school staff was P.J. Heavey (Principal), Andrew Forde, Assistant and Michael Coen, Monitor. In 1876 the school had 228 on roll, in 1878 - 242, in 1888 - 228, and in 1889 - 310. The average attendance at that time was 60 per cent.

The boundaries of the present parish of Annagh, Ballyhaunis, were defined by a Commission appointed by Most Rev. Dr. McEvilly, Archbishop of Tuam in 1893, Cave, Togher, Carrowrea, Brackloon North, Brackloon South, Classaroe, Kilmannin and approximately half the town area Knox Street, Bridge Street and Main Street, formerly in Began Parish, were included in Annagh Parish. Logboy was added to Began Parish.

For the facts and figures listed above I am indebted to Mr. Joseph Waldron, The Moy Hotel, Foxford son of the late Mr. P.J. Waldron, P.C., former member of the Mayo Co. Council and the late Mrs. Waldron, Knox Street, Ballyhaunis.

(Article courtesy of Frank Connolly, Devlis)

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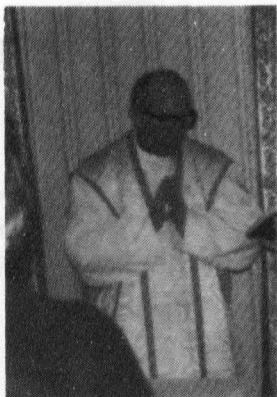
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Farewell, Fr. Ball



Fr. John Ball,

It was with a feeling of deep regret that we, the parishioners of Annagh, learned last August of the impending transfer of our curate, Father John Ball, to the post of Parish Priest of Ballinlough. It could not be denied that rumours of his 'elevation' to various parishes in the Diocese had indeed been rife in the town during the previous 12 months, but the news seems to have caught us unawares just the same. When you have a priest in a parish for nine years, administering to the needs of the faithful, he tends to be regarded locally as something of a permanent fixture. There was, however, a general feeling of satisfaction amongst parishioners that Fr. Ball was getting well-deserved promotion and, more especially, that he would be administering in an adjoining parish, just 'down the road'.

Father Ball, a native of Lousiburgh, was educated at local National School, St. Jarlath's College, Tuam and later at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, where he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Tuam in 1949. Whilst a student in Maynooth, he distinguished himself in theology, and graduated with an Honours Degree in Celtic Studies. He volunteered for work in U.S.A. and laboured for 5 years in the Diocese of Seattle, Washington, where he took a great interest in youth affairs and accomplished notable work in that field. Having made many friends there, especially amongst Irish exiles and their descendants, he was recalled to his native diocese in 1954, and served as curate in Cornamona, and was responsible for the construction, renovation and maintenance of the local primary schools. In this way, he gained valuable experience in dealing with the Dept. of Education and Board of Works regarding school-building and how to handle the many complex problems of their up-keep. Whilst in Cornamona, his fluency in the Irish language proved invaluable.

In 1974, Fr. Ball came to Ballyhaunis as assistant to the late Canon J.G. McGarry, P.P. His keen insight and wide practicable experience in parochial matters were often acknowledged by Canon McGarry, who held Fr. Ball in high esteem. On the untimely and tragic death of Canon McGarry, Fr. Ball took charge of the parish. We saw

evidence of his administrative ability in the manner in which the numerous details of the Canon's funeral arrangements were handled, a fact that was favourably commented upon by visiting church dignitaries. Later, when the present parish priest, Very Rev. P. Costello was appointed, the experience of Fr. Ball was a great asset to the incoming cleric in getting acquainted with parochial matters.

From the commencement of his curacy in Ballyhaunis, Fr. Ball took a keen interest in education and, on the introduction of the new administration for primary schools, was elected Chairman of the Board of Management of St. Joseph's Convent, N.S., a position he held until his departure from the parish. Once again, the experience in school management in previous parishes, proved most helpful, especially where matters of administration and correspondence with the Dept. of Education were concerned. He often confided that there were two areas of parochial work in which he felt very much at home (a) in the class room with primary school children and (b) amongst the senior citizens of the parish whom he met and chatted with on the regular sick calls. Perhaps he will be most remembered for the clarity and brevity of his sermons on Sunday mornings. He was very much in demand for preaching at retreats and seminars throughout the Diocese of Tuam. During his stay at Ballyhaunis, Fr. Ball had occasion to be summoned to the scene of some bad accidents, and he proved a tower of strength in consoling relatives and next-of-kin, although he himself often humbly stated his lack of suitability for such errands of consolation. The very large attendance at the social, held prior to his departure, was, in itself, sufficient evidence of the appreciation by the faithful of Fr. Ball's work in the parish and his committed dedication to Church matters, during the nine years in Ballyhaunis.

All parishioners join in wishing Fr. Ball many happy and fruitful years in his new parish, and sincerely hope that, even though he may enjoy many hours of fishing on the placid waters of Lake O'Flynn, he will also continue to be 'fishers of men'.

P.J.B.

St. Patrick's Dramatic Society
-presents-

"THE BLACK STRANGER"

Thursday, 8th December and
Sunday, 11th December, 1983
at 9.00 p.m. sharp
in the Parochial Hall

Memories to Bless & Burn

Joe Greene

In the Spring of 1961 while I was preparing a programme for a production of 'Autumn Fire' I decided to incorporate in it the programme for the last production of the play in the town.

This proved to be more difficult than I first imagined. I went to the late John Gilmore, Monumental Sculptor, of Knox Street and told him of my dilemma. He told me that he would have some searching to do, so when I returned a few days later he had a pleasant surprise in store. Mr. Gilmore had unearthed a wooden shield on which he had engraved the words 'Memories that bless and burn'. In an arc at the top and underneath in two rows were the names of all the members of the Abbey Dramatic Society of that period. Then, with the help of these names and after consulting Mr. Jerry Dillon, Eddie Biesty, Miss Anne Kennedy and Mr. Gilmore, I established the line up of the players and the year of production.

I had not as yet the original 1927 programme. That production in Moylett's Hall, a small hall, must have taken up most of the night when one sees all the items on the Programme as well as 'Autumn Fire'. Nobody must have been in a hurry home!

The play was next produced in the Star Cinema in 1961. The late John Morley played Owen Keegan which had been played in 1927 by Eddie Biesty. He was shortly to become John's father-in-law through his marriage to Catherine Biesty who played Molly Hurley in that Production. We took part in a few Festivals with this production and had the honour of being adjudicated by the late great Anew McMaster, the Shakespearian Actor/Manager.

Then in March 1983 St. Patrick's Dramatic Society performed the play in the Parochial Hall for the third time in over half a century. In the audience that night was Gerry Dillon who had played Mrs. Desmond (with great distinction I hear), Miss Annie Kennedy and Eddie Biesty all members of the 1927 cast. I was delighted with the performance of the younger and newer players in the society, in this difficult play. My old acting partners Jack Greene as Owen Keegan and Frank Leonard as Uncle Morgan were very impressive. Amazingly, as I looked across at Gerry Dillon I could see his total recall of every actor's lines in the play, for constantly during the performance Gerry gave out the lines in a full blooded action replay of over fifty years previously. I have heard of people under hypnosis achieving total recall of long past events - but whatever about Gerry being hypnotised, he certainly had me in a trance with his performance that night.

All in all it was a night for memories and it gave me an insight into the words the late Johnnie Gilmore so painstakingly and artistically carved on a piece of timber so long ago 'Memories that Bless and Burn'.

AN ACTOR RAKES THE FIRE

By dying embers,
With mantle and mask,
Thrown off.
All pose and pretence shed
He broodingly marks time
And awaits
The re-kindling.

'AUTUMN FIRE'

CAST

	1927	1961	1983
Owen Keegan	Edward Biesty	John Morley	Jack Greene
Ellen	Annie Kennedy	Bridie Mulloy	Ann Jordan
Michael	Ed. Heneghan	Jack Greene	Pat Doyle
Morgan	John Gilmore	Michael Waldron	Frank Leonard
Mrs. Desmond	Gerald Dillon	Maisin Meath	Gina Biesty
Nance	Lily Campbell	Noreen Morley	Pat Bermingham
Tom Furlong	Thomas Maguire	Vincent Freyne	John Prenty
Molly Hurley	Bridie Fitzmaurice	Catherine Biesty	Finuala Morley
Producers	Fr. Peppard	Joe Greene	Elizabeth Jordan



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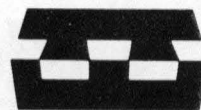
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Memory Lane



The organising committee of the Mayo County Feis held on the 16th April, 1903 at the Convent of Mercy, National School, Ballyhaunis. The attendance included Padraic Pearse and Dr. Douglas Hyde. Included in the photograph are Dr. Michael Waldron, Michael Murphy (Kiltimagh), Frank Swift, J.T. Smyth, Philip Waldron and Mr. O'Doherty (bearded man in front) and other unidentified people.

(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Laffey, Foxford)



Mr. Edward O'Malley,
Stonecutter in the building of
St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis
(Photo courtesy Frank Waldron)



Gardaí in the 1929 Procession

Left to Right: Garda Ryan, Garda Barclay, Sergeant Conway and Garda Foley

(Photo courtesy of Michael Morley, Knox Street)



Houses in Upper Main Street at the turn of the Century
 Right hand side upwards Miss B. Lyons, J.T. McNicholas, Patrick Reilly, Edward Murphy, Michael Tighe (Aughamore), P.E. Veldon, Miss Gilmore, Dominic Byrne, Patrick Tighe, William Gilmore, Thomas Moran, Tom Keane (Grocer), Henry Mulligan (Baker), Martin Devine.
 Left Hand Side owners - R.I.C. Barracks, Thomas Dillon-Leetch, Thomas Kenny (furniture maker), John Freeley and the Parish Church.

(Courtesy of Mr. Cyril Coyne)



This photograph appeared in the 'Irish Press' on September 14th, 1931. It shows postman, Austin Cribbin, R.I.P. late of Tooraree, Ballyhaunis delivering the first copy of the Irish Press to Mr. Michael O Cleirigh, the then Fianna Fáil T.D. for North Mayo. The photograph was taken at Mr. O Cleirigh's home at Logboy, Ballyhaunis.

(Photo courtesy of Gerry Cribbin)



Pictured (left) is a view of the Railway Station in the 1960's. Photograph courtesy of Frank Connolly.



Pictured (right) is a view of Bridge St., Ballyhaunis in the 1960's. Photo courtesy of Tommy O'Malley



Annagh Lake, Ballyhaunis
(Courtesy of Mike Griffin)



The Welding Centre

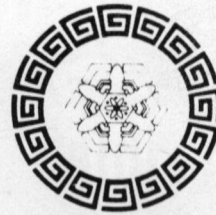
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Taken at the Augustinian Abbey in 1938. Included are Fr. Mansfield, Fr. Carr, Billy Burke, Mr. Cunnane, Knock, Contractor and father of the Archbishop of Tuam, Tony Griffin, Martin Lyons, Tony Morley, John Byrne, Johnstown, Martin Marrison, Jack Walsh, Brian O'Malley.

The above names are in random order as we were unable to identify a number of people. Perhaps you can?

(Photo courtesy of Fr. J. O'Connor, O.S.A.)



In last year's issue of 'Annagh' we published an article by Tony Boyle (now living in Galway city) entitled 'Ballyhaunis in the '40's' in which he mentioned Michael Joyce, who was a familiar fixture at Moylette's corner in those days. This picture (left) was taken on Good Friday, 1942.

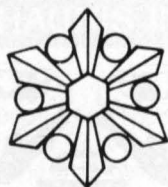


At Ballyhaunis Mill are Mr. Doyle, Derrylea and Eddie Finn on the right

(Photo courtesy of Mr. Joe Finn)

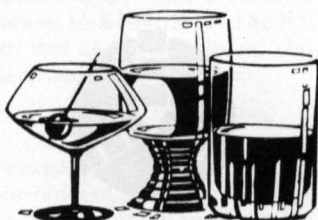
Pictured (l to r): Fr. Delaney, O.S.A., Fr. P. Brennan, O.S.A., Fr. Mansfield, O.S.A. and Fr. P. Killian, O.S.A.





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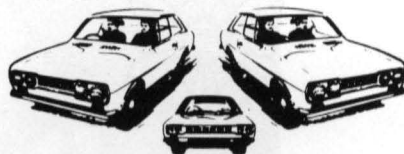
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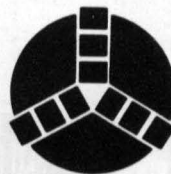
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BALLYHAUNIS IN 1837

Samuel Lewis published his 'Topographical Dictionary of Ireland' in 1837. This work was a continuation of a similar work he had done on England, Wales and Scotland. He worked under the patronage of the then British Monarchy and publication was facilitated by generous private subscriptions. He used the census of 1831. Down to this time the first and best known set of administrative divisions used in Irish historical records is that which divides the country into 32 counties, subdivided in 327 baronies, 2,428 parishes and 60,642 townlands. Lewis used this divisioning. Lewis used the Church of Ireland parish unit, but he also refers to the (Roman) Catholic parish unit.

Annagh, a parish in the barony of Costello in the County of Mayo and province of Connaught on the road to Castlebar from Frenchpark, containing with the post town of Ballyhaunis, 6,885 inhabitants. This place was chiefly distinguished for a cell of Franciscan Friars, though by some writers said to have been founded by Walter de Burgh for brethren of the order of St. Augustine, as a cell to the Abbey of Cong, and to have been the burial place of Walter, Lord Mac Wellan Oughter, who was interred here in 1440. The parish is comprised of 16,325 acre statute as apportioned under the tithe act: it is principally under tillage, and there is a sufficient quantity of bog. Logboy is the residence of E. Nolan, Esq., and Holywell of J. Bourke, Esq. A weekly market and annual fairs are held at Ballyhaunis, which see. It is a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Tuam: and forms part of the union of Kiltullagh: the tithes amount to £194.19.11. The R.C. parish is co-extensive with that of the established church: there are chapels at Ballyhaunis and Tulrahan.

Annagh

The Old Monastery at the former place is still occupied by priors of the order of St. Augustine. There are eight parochial schools in the parish in which are about 390 boys and 230 girls.

Becan or Began

A parish in the Barony of Costello in the county of Mayo, in the province of Connaught 4 miles (W by N) from Ballyhaunis: containing 5,659 inhabitants.

The river Robe has its source within the limits of the parish. It is a rectory and vicarage on the diocese of Tuam and is part of the union of Kiltullagh: the tithes amount to £127.85½.

The Roman Catholic parish is co-extensive with that of the Established Church, the chapel is a plain thatched building. At Brackloon is a school of about 60 boys and 50 girls: and there are five private schools in the parish in which there are about 300 boys and 100 girls. There are some ruins of an old church with a burial-place annexed which is still used.

Jim London



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BOYS WILL BE BOYS

I often think that one of the reasons for the popularity of stories like Huckleberry Finn is that we all had someone in our schooldays with whom we could identify such characters.

We had one such character in my time - Robert Healy by name. Looking back, he was Huckleberry Finn and Jimin Mháire Thaigh all rolled into one.

One story about him will illustrate what I mean.

It is said that every morning he got up his parents gave him a good 'leathering' in the hope that it would last him for the day I suppose on the principle often advocated that when you meet a young fellow you should give him a kick in the back-side because he is either coming from some misdemeanour or proceeding to one.

Once his breakfast was over Robert would not appear on the Home-front again until it was time for him to retire. He knew every truck going out of the town to fairs etc. and had an assorted selection each day from which to choose.

One evening he happened to be in the late Johnny Gilmore's yard when he heard Mr. Gilmore telling his men to prepare a coffin for delivery. Robert offered to accompany Mr. Gilmore but was told to clear off home as it was time for him to get his tea. Some time later, Mr. Gilmore got into his hearse which by then was loaded with the coffin and went to deliver it. When he arrived at the house some of the neighbours helped to unload it and when they brought it into the house there were the usual remarks in praise of the coffin and some even remarked 'isn't it a fine heavy one!'. On leaving it on the floor the lid was taken off and up sprang Robert!

Some shot out the door and in the consternation that followed we only presume what Robert had to endure before he went to bed, that which he had received before his breakfast!!!

Joe Greene

DID YOU KNOW?

'Before the railway line came to Ballyhaunis the road from Ballinlough did not follow its present course through Devils but turned North at Knockbrack then through Claggagh and Cherryfield. The road then skirted the Friary by the river on the northern boundary i.e. Pollnacraogha and came as far as the present Knox Street or the Square. One could expect that the original approach to the church was from this direction. It is probable that the traditional Friary pattern and sports was held in the area in front of the Friary and not in the station field where the pattern is presently held. As this field would have been at the back of the church at that time the fact that the church faces Knox Street reinforces this opinion. There was also a Pughill behind Knox Street. The above information was obtained from an old resident and we also understand that this was the route followed by the British Army in 1798. Subsequently they camped at Carrow-Luggaun and killed a man on 'Cnoccaun Hackett'.

OLD SCHOOLMATES

One thinks so often of old schoolmates,
Who stood with us outside the gates,
Who shared with us our joys and hates,
And joined in the fun on various dates.

Some classed as good, some classed as bold,
With Bill Mulligan's cow sums, some bought and some sold.
Of other subjects some grasped a good hold,
Whilst others foundered in those days of old.

Those for some were the golden days,
Whilst others viewed them in other ways,
The highlights for more were the holidays,
But for all the memories will remain always.

On leaving school some shed sad tears,
Some carried through life their hates and fears.
But all reminisce as old age nears,
On the various highlights of childhood years.

Some toiling now in foreign lands,
More pumping oil from Arabian sands,
Some making a living with their hands,
Whilst a few are musicians and play with bands.

Some went to the top and the power it wields,
More became missionaries on pagan fields.
An odd big rancher who talks about yields,
A few got recognition for work on their fields.

Some teachers, some preachers and more office jobs,
Doctors, lawyers and other big knobs.
Relatives died and left some big lobs,
Who sat back and relaxed and counted their bobs.

Home on the land more they did stay,
Sowing the crops and saving the hay.
A real healthy living whatever the pay,
They are really the winners at the end of the day.

Alas to our sorrow an odd one has died,
We stood by a few of their gravesides and cried.
Some were injured and sick but death they defied,
No they all didn't die but surely some tried.

Sheltering inside from lightning and thunder,
Whilst the storm nearly tears the old school asunder.
We think back on our schooldays and ponder,
Where is such a one now at all we wonder.

Yes we think so often of old schoolmates,
Who stood with us outside the gates.
Who shared with us our joys and hates,
'Till the end of time we'll still be mates.

Murt Hunt

★ Dedicated to the classes of the 1950's in St. Mary's Boys National School and to Mr. Bill Mulligan, ex-N.T. who is still hale and hearty.



St. Mary's Boy's National School, Ballyhaunis, 1924

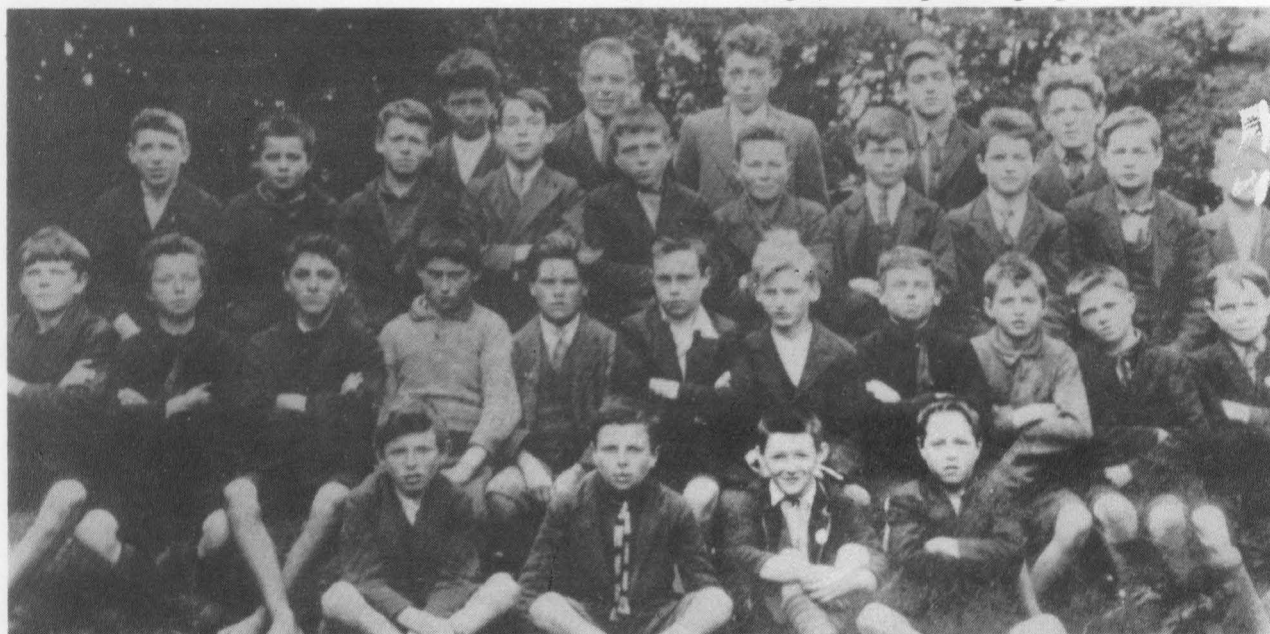
Back Row (l to r): Michael Tarmey, Tom Morley, Austin Lyons, James Kelly, Michael Duffy, Tom Hunt, Denis Cribbin.

Third Row (l to r): Anto Campbell, Brian McGovern, Seamus Delaney, Seán Loftus, Joe Lyons, Philip Morley, John Connolly, John McHugh.

Second Row (l to r): Tony Waldron, Eddie Egan, James Cribbin, Pete Finn, Clarence Grogan, Bob Waldron, Luke Tighe, Pat Joe Lyons.

Front Row (l to r): Austin Moylett, Mick Mulrennan, John Moylette, George O'Malley, Stephen Tarmey, Micko Finn.

(Photo courtesy of Eddie Egan, Clagnagh)



St. Mary's Boy's National School, in Circa 1929

Front (l to r): Eddie Mulligan, Martin Lyons, Georgie Murray, Seamus Flatley.

Second Row (l to r): James Grogan, Patrick Lyons, Val Waldron, Arthur Prenty, Sean Jordan, Billy Flatley, Jack Ganley, John Henry, Joe Smyth, Joe Moylett, Tim O'Malley.

Third Row (l to r): Mickie Walshe, Joe Waldron, Michael Mulrennan, Peter Gilmore, Tony Waldron, Miko Finn, Pat Hunt, Brod Moran, Eddie Fitzgerald, Martin Freeley.

Back Row (l to r): John Lynskey, Sean Loftus, Micksie Greally, Andy Forde, Luke Tighe.

(Courtesy of Frank Waldron, Knox Street)



Seventh Class 1948/'49 Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis
How many pupils do you recognise?

(Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Bernadette Thomson (née Greene))



Derrylea National School, Senior Class 1951

Back Row (left to right): Ann Gildea, Maureen Griffin, Pat Byrne, Toby Merrick R.I.P., Oliver Sullivan, Christian Lieber, Tom Cribbin.

Second Row (left to right): Celia Gildea, Mary Ruane, Gabriel Connell, Brian Moore, Michael Kearns, Paddy Lyons (Redford), Nora T. Byrne, Eileen Cleary, Myra Fitzgerald.

Front Row (left to right): Pat Gildea, Marion Moore, Teresa Cribbin, Emelda Walsh, Mary Cribbin, Waldron, Ella Waldron (Redford), Sean Walsh.

(Courtesy of Mrs. Mary Higgins)



St. Mary's National School 1958/'59
 Back Row (left to right): S. Cassidy, P. Freyne, B. Byrne, B. Freyne, M. Greally, F. Glynn.
 Centre: T. Cribbin, P. Waldron, E. Healy, P. Cassidy, E. Mulhern, M. McQuerney.
 Front: M. Regan, T. Larkin, W. Cribbin, T. Morley, T. Glynn.



St. Patrick's College, June 1964
 Front Row (left to right): M. Regan, J. Robinson, K. McLaughlin, P. Sloyne, P. Halpin, D. Eagney.
 Back (left to right): J. Hoban, D. Salmon, B. Lyons, E. Greeman, E. Mulhern, J. Kelly, J. Cunningham, P. Sweeney.
 Missing were B. McGrath, M. McQueeney and J. Freeman.

(Courtesy of Eddie Mulhern)



*Mary Maguire,
Ballindrehid
with Bernadette
Greene taken in
front of the Ball
Alley, Main Street in
the 1930's.*

*The referee is Mike Benson.
The winner is Edmond Murray,
who is the man on the deck?
(Photo courtesy of T. Smith)*

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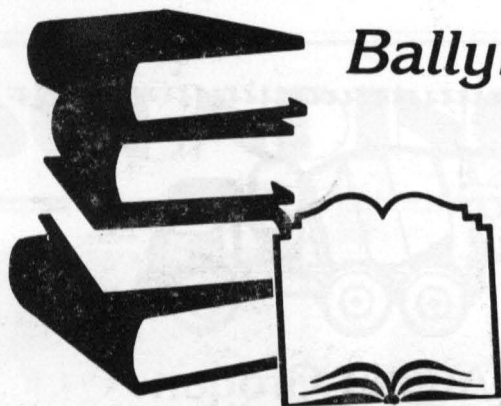
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Ballyhaunis Public Library

Also on exhibition were...

An Exhibition of Posters from the National Gallery
(Entries in Nationwide Competition - Post-Primary Schools)

An Exhibition of Posters on Astronomy

The Exhibition facilities are available to organisations, clubs in the Ballyhaunis area. We would welcome enquiries in this regard - just contact the Co. Library Headquarters, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. There is no charge for the service, but we would like a reasonable amount of notice.

In addition to exhibitions, other activities have been carried on, particularly with children. A very successful Junior Quiz was held earlier in the year; and at the moment a story reading session for the younger children is held every Tuesday at 3.30 p.m. A 'Children's Book Week' is planned for early December and further activities are envisaged for this.

Users of the Library, and indeed intending users, should remember that Ballyhaunis Library is not an isolated independent institution, but part of a system covering all of Co. Mayo, and thus there is access to a far greater range of resources than is immediately apparent. For instance for those interested in local history there is a large collection of material in the Headquarters in Castlebar.

This collection, which includes microfilm copies of back numbers of the local newspapers, may be used by any member of the Public who wishes to do so. It is necessary, however, to keep most of this collection permanently at Headquarters. Photocopies of material may be supplied, subject to the usual copyright restrictions. A guide to local history sources can be had, free of charge.

There is also a sizeable collection of material on Small Businesses, and an annotated guide to this collection may be acquired free of charge.

Finally, if anyone still has the notion that a library is a sacrosanct institution presided over by a man-eating, myopic ogre, with a nose sharp enough to take a thorn out, please forget it. Public Libraries are for the public, i.e. everyone, and we like to provide a friendly and personal service. Ballyhaunis Library is no exception.

Ballyhaunis Public Library

CLARE STREET - BALLYHAUNIS

Telephone: Ballyhaunis 161

Librarian:

Mrs. Maureen Cleary

Opening Hours:

Monday	CLOSED	
Tuesday	12.00 - 2.00	3.00 - 5.00 p.m.
Wednes.	3.00 - 5.00	6.00 - 8.00 p.m.
Thursday		6.00 - 8.00 p.m.
Friday	2.00 - 5.00	6.00 - 8.00 p.m.
Saturday	12.00 - 2.00	3.00 - 6.00 p.m.

Ballyhaunis Public Library, which is one of three purpose built Libraries in the Mayo County Library Service, (the others being - Ballina and Westport), was opened to the public in May, 1972, and is part of a Co. Council complex which includes Fire Stations and Swimming Pool. Prior to the opening of the new Library, the Library Service was run by Mrs. Mary Hunt, in a section of her house rented for the purpose by Mayo Co. Council. The first Librarian appointed to the new premises was Mrs. Margaret Byrne. She was succeeded by the present Librarian, Mrs. Maureen Cleary in December 1975.

The Library carries a bookstock of about 10,500 volumes, 7,500 adult and 3,000 juvenile. There is also a reference collection (encyclopedias, dictionaries etc.) which are for consultation on the premises only. In the non-fiction area a wide selection of subjects are covered - Psychology, Philosophy, Religion, Sociology, Economics, Education, Languages, Sciences, Technology, Gardening, Cookery, Business Studies, Building Construction, Arts and Crafts, Sport, Music, Literature, Geography, Travel, Biographies and History. Any book on any subject which is not available in Ballyhaunis may be supplied through the request service, from other libraries in the county, it may be purchased, or supplied through Inter-Library Loan. The latter is a system whereby books may be obtained from any Library in the British Isles.

It must be remembered however, that a public library is more than just a building containing books. U.N.E.S.C.O. in its manifesto on Public Libraries states that the Library should be a cultural centre for the community. In an effort to go some way towards fulfilling this ideal, Mayo Co. Library has in recent years broadened its cultural scope by putting on exhibitions of various kinds - Art, Photographic, Historical, etc. particularly in the Libraries in Ballina and Westport. In 1983, this facility has been extended to Ballyhaunis with the installment of display boards. So far this year, the following exhibitions have been shown in Ballyhaunis Library and have aroused an encouraging amount of public interest...

'The Contemporary French Novel 1945 - Present Day'
(Exhibition from French Embassy)

'Ireland from Stereophotographs and the 1700's'
(Both from the National Library of Ireland)

'The Living Art'
(Exhibition from the Arts Council)

'The Prints for Schools'
(Exhibition from the Arts Council)

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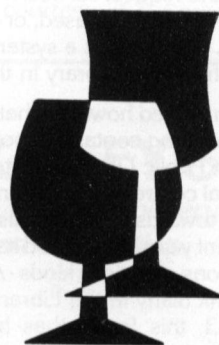
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SOUNDINGS

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



ANNUAL BALLYHAUNIS RE-HAB SOCIAL, 1983

Mrs. Breda Burke (Treasurer) presenting a £2,000 cheque to Mr. Kevin Bourke on behalf of the Ballyhaunis Branch. Included also are some of the Ballyhaunis members.

St. Vincent De Paul Society St. Patrick's Conference, Ballyhaunis

Spiritual Director	Fr. P. Costello, P.P.
President	Oliver Levins
Vice President	Luke Lawler
Treasurer	Sr. Mary Dympna
Secretary	Matt O'Dwyer

Weekly meetings are held each Wednesday at 9.00 p.m. in Parochial House, over the past year the Society has been in the news more often than usual. One reason for this has been the massive increase in unemployment with its shattering effects on individuals and especially families. The Society has become very much involved in helping with this difficult situation in which so many are caught. Demands on Society are greater now than at anytime in this century. Recent publicity for the Society concerned the joyous occasion at R.D.S. on Sunday October 23rd when 5,000 members from all parts of Ireland came together to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Society in Paris in 1833.

The cause for the Beatification of its founder, Frederick Ozanam (a Frenchman) is now being pursued. The current World President of the Society, also a Frenchman Mr. Amin de Tarrazi addressed the huge R.D.S. gathering.

The Society needs help to give help, and our Conference are very grateful for the generosity of all in Ballyhaunis and the surrounding parishes. Equally if not more important is getting new members especially youthful ones to ensure the continuity of the good work.

This 150th Anniversary year would be a memorable one to join the Society. Best wishes and many blessings for Christmas and the coming year.

Luke Lawler

BALLYHAUNIS REHABILITATION

The Ballyhaunis branch was formed in 1978. Since its inception the committee have been very active in raising funds for the National Rehabilitation Institute. These funds go to workshops around the country who train physically and mentally handicapped people towards full employment. In the past year Ballyhaunis Rehab have collected £2,000 through Pub Quiz, National Bike Day, Social and Church Gate Collection.

The Ballyhaunis committee wish to express their appreciation to the people in the Ballyhaunis area for their generous support throughout the year.

Officers:

Chairperson	Luke Lawler
Secretary	Una Shields
Treasurer	Breda Burke
P.R.O.	Mary Keane

Committee Members:

Teresa Keane, Mary Kelly, Maria Connell, Ann O'Dwyer, Joe Hosty, Nell Rochford, Margie Gallagher, Mary Dillon-Leetch, Sr. Dympna, Mary Walsh and Mary Higgins.

Breda Burke



Peter McHugh, Main Street, receiving his award for achieving third place in a National Junior Chamber Art Competition from Mr. Henry O'Dwyer, Managing Director of the Educational Building Society, sponsors of the competition. Left to right: Mr. Eamonn Healy (President, Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber), Mr. Seamus Cleve (National President, Junior Chamber of Ireland). Peter McHugh and Henry O'Dwyer, F.C.A., F.I.I.S., Managing Director of the E.B.S.

December 1982, saw the launch of the 5th edition of 'Annagh' magazine which had wide and popular appeal to readers both at home and abroad.

The Debating Team under the management of Nell Rochford reached the quarter-finals of the All-Ireland Competition losing to the eventual winners, Drogheda, the chapter was represented by John Mooney (Capt.), Eddie Campbell, Mary Heneghan and Eamonn Healy.

The Art Masters competition which was an outstanding success had entries from all the schools in the area. Peter McHugh secured 3rd place in the National Competition. Paul Waldron who has contributed to this edition of 'Annagh' also distinguished himself receiving a Certificate of Merit in the Under-17 section. Both of these entries were displayed at a special stand in the R.D.S. Spring Show.

In April, mock interviews were conducted by members of the Chapter for the Leaving Cert. class in Glenamaddy Convent of Mercy.

Early in August, some pupils from the Community School under the supervision of Helena Caulfield completed a wall mural in Knox Street, many hardware shops in the town donated materials which helped reduce the costs of the project considerably.

Community Week got underway in August 24th, with an Open Golf Competition, many new faces showed up for the outing even though it was a 'hit and miss affair', it was enjoyable occasion. An Irish Night, Bicycle Treasure

Hunt and Children's Disco were also organised.

On Sunday 2nd August, the day of the Abbey Pattern a 10km. Race attracted over 60 entries. The individual event was won by Michael Travers, Brickens and the team event was won by a team representing the Rugby Club, much of the credit for the success of this event must be given to John and Mary Cleary who helped organise the race, with the continued interest in running in the district it is roped to stage the race again next year.

The National President, Mr. Seamus Cleere visited the chapter in September. The 'Buy Irish Week' had limited success. This Job Creation Project is worthy of greater public support. Now plans are underway to erect a Christmas tree at the Square in co-operation with the local traders.

OFFICERS:

President	Eamonn Healy
Secretary	Mary Heneghan
Treasurer	Rita Mooney
P.R.O.	Nell Rochford

Eamonn Healy



Group taken at the launching of the Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union 1983

BALLYHAUNIS AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LTD.

The Credit Union movement goes back many years beginning with the creation of 'people's banks' in Germany during an acute economic depression and then spreading to Italy, Canada and the United States.

Credit Unions were first introduced to Ireland in the 50's and since then have spread throughout the entire country.

Following a public meeting in October, 1982 a study group of 20 people was formed. It was quickly established that with the large population and employment in the area, a Credit Union was required.

The study group met on a weekly basis to learn the rules and regulations of running a Credit Union and were accepted by the Irish League of Credit Unions and the Registrar of Friendly Societies. As a result Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union opened for business on Sunday, May 29th, 1983. Membership has grown steadily and there is now almost 100 members (October 1983) from all sections of the community and Credit Unions have already given out its first loans.

What is a Credit Union?

A Credit Union is a mutual aid organisation whose purpose is to encourage thrift and to extend loans to its members. Credit unions are organised for people with a common bond i.e. all the people living and working in a particular area.

By the accumulation of the regular savings of its members, and because of the voluntary nature of its operation, Credit Unions can give loans to members at very low rates - as low as one per cent per month.

With the current economic climate and the need to budget even more carefully, Credit Unions have really come into their own and Ballyhaunis is fully poised to take advantage of this and will provide a really valuable service to its community.

A Pure Co-operative

"A Credit Union is....pure co-operative. The organisation is within the membership of a specific group wherein the one-man, one-vote prevails; the money is accumulated exclusively from the members and is used for loans made exclusively to members. The management is elected from the membership and all profits are divided among the members in interest and dividends.

A Credit Union supplies its members with three primary services (a) an easy and convenient system for accumulating savings; (b) a source of credit at normal interest rates and (c) and most important, a school wherein the members are educated in the management and control of their own money.

Roy F. Bergengren (1879-1955)

Who can become a member of the Credit Union?

Anyone living or employed within the area of Ballyhaunis and the surrounding districts.

Who owns and controls the Credit Union?

A Credit Union is a registered, bonded, non-profit making organisation which is owned, operated and controlled by its members, who elect a Supervisory Committee and a board of Directors.

Insurance

At no extra cost the Credit Union provides members with a Life Savings and Loan Protection Insurance Cover.

SOUNDINGS

What interest rate is charged on Credit Union Loans?

The maximum rate is 1% per month on the unpaid balance. This represents £29.72 (or less than 6%) charge on a £500 loan repaid in 50 regular weekly instalments.

What Interest is paid on Savings?

The rate of interest on savings is controlled by the Credit Union Act to a maximum of 8%; interest in excess of this is divided among the members as bonus shares.

Are Members Affairs Kept Confidential?

Yes. All officers of the Credit Union take a pledge of secrecy which is displayed at the office. Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union is run by a board of directors consisting of 11 members and a supervising committee of three.

The 1983 Officers are as follows:

Chairman	Peter McCafferty
Vice Chairman	Michael Grealley
Treasurer	Katherine Plunkett
Asst. Treasurer	Maura Fitzmaurice
Secretary	Pat O'Connor

Other Directors:

Mary Freyne, Aidan Kelly, John Tuohy, Vincent Freeman, Brendan Glavey, Terry Coleman.

Supervisory Committee:

Paddy Brennan, Pat Fitzgerald, Barry Butler.

Hours of Business in Parochial Hall

Friday	6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Saturday	9.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.
Sunday	12.00 mid. to 1.00 p.m.

BALLYHAUNIS SWIMMING POOL

Officers:

Chairman	Stephen Durkan
Secretary	Margaret Byrne
Treasurers	John Mooney, Elizabeth Jordan
Recording Secretary	Anne Marrinan

1983 was the most successful year in the history of the pool due to the excellence of the weather.

Improvements to the pool complex are being carried out over this Winter with the aid of a Youth Employment Scheme.

John Mooney

BALLYHAUNIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Officers from May 1983 to May 1984

President	Gerard McGarry
Secretary	Mike Griffin
Treasurer	Oliver Jordan
P.R.O.	John O'Brien
Vice President	Barry Butler

Meeting with the local Garda Senior Officers to try and relieve traffic congestion. Meetings with local representatives to try and improve the infrastructure of the town.

Mike Griffin



BALLYHAUNIS PIONEERS

Monthly Meeting - Parochial Hall

Last Sunday of each month - 12.15 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Spiritual Director	Fr. Williams C.C.
President	Frank Leonard
Vice President	Joe Byrne
Treasurer	Jim Lundon
Secretary	Sr. Assumpta

Annual Dinner: February 1984



Thomas Moran
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WESTERN CARE (Ballyhaunis Branch)

1983 has been a momentous year for the local branch of Western Care. At the time of writing a Day Centre for the training of four mentally handicapped adults is about to open in town. Much of our energy this past year has gone into the planning and organising of this unique venture. It is no exaggeration to call this operation 'unique', as it will, in every sense of the term, be a community based centre. Whilst Western Care have appointed a permanent, full time trained supervisor, the success of the centre will rest entirely with the volunteers from the town and surrounding districts who have committed their services to the centre on a weekly rota basis. A great deal of effort has gone into the training and preparation of our volunteers over the past weeks, and meetings have been regularly addressed by the Chief Psychologist with Western Care, Mr. Sé O'Hagan, by a Western Care Social Worker, Miss Ingrid O'Dowd and by the Centre Supervisor herself, Miss Heather O'Reilly. Transport to and from the Centre for the trainees will also be provided by local people volunteering their services, reminding us of local efforts ten years or so ago taking children to and from Claremorris.

Gone are the days when the mentally handicapped were incarcerated in institutions. The windows have been opened, the light and fresh air have been let in and, as a result, the local community is taking upon itself the responsibility of providing a small scale, homely, caring environment. We will need your constant support and encouragement for, whilst our task is an invigorating one, it is also difficult and demanding.

We have every confidence that the support will be forthcoming and we look for evidence to the marvellous Annual Collection from the Ballyhaunis district, including Began, Aughamore and Tooreen. In 1982, the collection amounted to over £9,000 which makes Ballyhaunis the third best Western Care Collection in the county. All the indications are that the 1983 collection will comfortably maintain that standard. As a committee we are truly proud of this commitment and it is a genuine honour to represent the Ballyhaunis Branch at Council meetings in Castlebar where we are looked upon as active, vigorous and very healthy!

Our Social on Easter Monday raised £470 and this followed an Easter Weekend Fast in the Square. The collection in the Square together with sponsorship raised approximately £2,010. Another packed and enjoyable Social was held in Aughamore on August Bank Holiday and it raised a further £268. Both the Aughamore and Ballyhaunis Socials were attended by Mr. Jude Ainsworth, newly appointed Development Officer for Western Care. Mr. Tom Higgins, Western Care's Fund Raiser, also attended the Aughamore Social.

Last, but by no means least, John Cleary was Western Care's sponsored local runner in the Dublin City Marathon. Our thanks to him and to everyone who helped make 1983 such a fruitful year.

Committee Members

Chairman	Fr. Des Walsh
Secretary	Mrs. Nell Byrne, Began
Treasurer	Mrs. Cerene Moroney
Delegates to Council:	
Mr. Chris Pratt and Mr. Eamonn Healy	

Chris Pratt

BALLYHAUNIS FIANNA Fáil CUMANN

1983 provided the local Fianna Fáil branch with a welcome respite from the frenzied electoral activities of the past few years. The Cumann held regular meetings throughout the year, during which the policies of the party were discussed, and submissions made to the Ard Fheis in February were debated and passed.

During 1983, several well attended social functions were held, and in June the Cumann was complimented by party H.Q. for the largest percentage increase in it's National Collection takings.

At the annual East Mayo Dail Ceanntair A.G.M., local party member John O'Dwyer was re-elected Director of Elections and Constituency Organiser. This year's A.G.M. will be held at the end of November.

On a sad note, the local party members will always remember with great affection and gratitude the late John Bolingbrooke of Swinford who died tragically at the beginning of November. During his life, Mr. Bolingbrooke brought to the many organisations of which he was a member, a sense of dedication, hard work and genuine concern which will be remembered for a great many years to come.

Cumann Officers:

Chairman	Joseph Greene
Vice Chairman	Jimmy Gilmore
Secretary	Robert Herr
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, Jackie Coyne
P.R.O.	Joe Greene
President	Patrick Regan
Vice President	Martin Lyons

Youth Officers:

Chairman	Robert Herr
Secretary	Michael Grogan
Treasurer	Tom Eagnay
P.R.O.	James Hunt

Michael Grogan



Ballyhaunis Community Pre-School Playgroup, 1983 (Photograph courtesy of Eilish Glavey)

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

The Ballyhaunis Community Pre-School Playgroup under its leader, Eilish Glavey was opened at the Scout Den in September, 1982. It is partially funded by the Western Health Board and supported by a Parent's Fund-Raising Committee.

Playgroups exist because it is recognised that play is vital to the mental and social development of the Pre-School child. At this age children need the opportunity to play with other children of their own age in small groups. The Play Group also provides the setting for the child's first steps from the family into the community. Play is nature's way of preparing the young for adult life. Safe, satisfying play builds the foundation for learning. A wide range of equipment is provided to give opportunities for all kinds of play, creative, imaginative, social and constructive. Basic essentials are sand, water, paint, dough, bricks, jigsaws, books, music etc. Parents are welcome to visit the Playgroup during Playgroup hours and participate.

In September of this year we acquired more permanent premises in the science building in the Convent of Mercy grounds. This was necessary in order to have a room where we could leave the children's art work and equipment on display.

We would like to thank Mr. Seamus Durkan for his help and co-operation when he was first approached for accommodation and during our stay at the Scout Den.

Because of the large number of children enrolled, Mrs. Nora Kelly was employed and a second afternoon session operates from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

The 1983 Committee are as follows:

Chairperson	Mrs. Maura Cunnane
Treasurer	Mrs. Eithne Lannon
Secretary	Mrs. Mary Burke
P.R.O.	Mrs. Tina Kirrane

Eilish Glavey



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Picutre shows An Taoiseach, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald, Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, Paddy O'Toole and newly elected Senator Jim Higgins discussing Senate Election Results at the Community Centre in Molesworth St., Dublin.

BALLYHAUNIS FINE GAEIL BRANCH

John Mooney

When the Annagh Magazine 'went to bed' last November the Branch members were actively engaged in canvassing votes in the General Election campaign on behalf of local candidate Councillor Jim Higgins, which resulted in a significant increase in his previously recorded vote of February 1982.

Throughout the Christmas period the canvassing in a most gruelling campaign was intensified as members assisted Cllr. Higgins in his Senate Election campaign gained the second highest vote of any of the party candidates in that election, and seat for a Ballyhaunis man in the Upper House. This is the sixth election campaign in which the branch was to be in the vanguard on behalf of Jim Higgins in just three and a half years, which included one Local Government Election, three General Elections, and two Senate Elections.

The regular monthly meeting of local branches has continued during the year and Mr. Paddy O'Toole T.D., Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. John Donnellan, T.D., Minister for State at the Dept. of Transport and Telecommunications, and Mr. Paul Connaughton, T.D., Minister for State at the Dept. of Agriculture were present at a very successful victory social in April. The Branch had three motions on the official Clár for the party Ard Fheis in the R.D.S. Dublin in October. The officers for 1983 are:

President	William Mulligan
Vice Presidents	Joe Webb, Joe Keane
Chairman	Tommy Prenty
Vice Chairman	John Dillon
Secretary	Moirá Delaney
Recording Sec.	Mary Heneghan
Treasurers	Mary Buckley, Michael Webb
Organiser	John Higgins
P.R.O.	John Mooney

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Fordes Ltd., The Square, Ballyhaunis winners of the 1983 'Most Attractive Shop Front Award' in the Cleaner Community Campaign, the sponsors were Ireland West Tourism Ltd. It is the first time a Mayo premises has won this particular award.

Congratulations also go to 'Val's Lounge' who won a Certificate of Merit in the Pub Section of the competition. It was 'Vals' fifth award in this competition in which over one hundred and fifty pubs were entered.

Congratulations to Mrs. Noreen Biesty's Irish Craft Centre who won a Certificate of Merit in the Homecraft's Section of the Competition.

SOUNDINGS

ST. PATRICK'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Chairperson Ann Hosty
Honorary Secretary Ann Jordan
Treasurer Elizabeth Jordan

At the moment we are in the process of staging a popular play called 'The Black Stranger'. The following are starring in the play:

Pat Doyle, John Prenty, Mike Daly, Jim Cribben, Matt O'Dwyer, Elizabeth Jordan, Ann Jordan and Finola Morley. It is hoped to stage 'The Black Stranger' before Christmas.

Ann Hosty

BALLYHAUNIS KARATE CLUB

This very active club has been in existence in the town for the last six years and is under the management of the three Morris brothers, Patrick, Paul and Donal. Pat and Donal are black belts and Paul will soon receive his.

The club is affiliated to the Irish Karate Union and classes are being held in the Scouts Den every Tuesday and Thursday night at 8.30 p.m. These classes last from 1½ to 2 hours and are very well attended by members of both sexes, adults and juveniles.

Special emphasis is paid to self discipline as vigorous physical training is also in the training.

Two or three times a year a Japanese instructor comes to the West and grades all students from the beginners to the advanced stages.

BALLYHAUNIS BRIDGE CLUB

Officers:

Captain Miss P. Waldron
Vice Captain Miss N. Dillon
President Mrs. Y. Loughran
Hon. Secretary Mrs. C. Flatley
Hon. Treasurer Miss M. Moyles
Tournament Director Mrs. A. Joyce
Asst. Tournament Director . . . Mrs. M.H. O'Connor

Committee:

Mrs. D. Durkan, Mrs. M. Burke, Mrs. D. Jordan, Mr. Frank Loughran and Dr. T. Joyce.

In the numerous tournaments held during the year the Captain's prize was won by Mr. M. Cameron and also the President's prize by Miss B. Snee. Also our own Mrs. A. Joyce was the non-playing Captain in the victorious Inter-Provincial team this year.

Mary H. O'Connor

APOSTOLIC WORK, BALLYHAUNIS 1983

Officers:

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

Once again a very successful year has just ended for the Apostolic Work.

Our Annual Display held in the Parochial Hall on Sunday, September 25th was well supported.

The displays are held every year to show the Honorary Members and Benefactors the work completed and how the money is spent.

The Exhibition was opened by Father Costello, and a special welcome was extended to Father Williams our new Curate who has spent some time working as a Missionary in Africa. Also present at the display were Fr. Delaney and Fr. O'Connor, O.S.A. and Sisters from the Convent of Mercy.

The raffle was won by Miss A. Farrell, Doctors Road and second prize was won by Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald, Bridge Street.

Our thanks to the children and teachers from our Primary Schools who held a Sponsored Fast and Sale of Work during the year for the missions.

A special pilgrimage was held in Knock in June for Apostolic Workers and most members attended.

Our branch meets every Monday night in the Parochial Hall from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. and new members are always welcome.

Bridie Brennan, Secretary

N.C.F.

Another day older and....so the old phrase goes. Another successful trading year for N.C.F. in all divisions.

Milk intake is significantly up, store sales up and mill production above target. On a more local scale, Ballyhaunis Mart is also having another good trading season with increased stock numbers and also an increase in local and outside buyers. The N.C.F. store can also report a significant increase in turnover in all sectors. However, as everybody knows success is not achieved without effort. You will recall that earlier in the year a little skirmish took place between N.C.F. and an outside Co-op., whose main aim was to break the solidarity of the Western Co-operation Movement. This solidarity can be measured by the fact

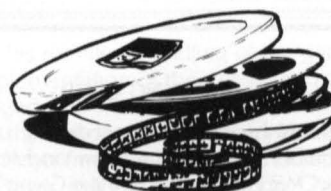
that the three major Co-ops' in Connaught - N.C.F., Mid-West and Kiltoghert Milk Products Ltd., who now own and control Shannonside Milk Products Ltd., a unique achievement in the Co-op. movement. It stands as a warning to all that the solidarity of the Western Co-op. Movement will not, now or never, be broken.

On the international scene, N.C.F., together with Donegal Creameries are actively pursuing the case for the re-classification of the West of Ireland, as a hill area. The main fight for this re-classification has to be fought in Brussels. This is being efficiently waged by Senior Management and hopefully their efforts will meet with success.

Well thats it for another year. Thank you, one and all for your support and loyalty during the past year. Continue success and prosperity to all in the future.

Committee:

Chairman	Noel Grogan
Secretary	Seamus Mulrennan
Committee:	
Seamus Forde, John Cleary, Matt Healy, Dick Johnston,	
Jarlath Walsh, Miko Walsh, Joe McLoughlin, Austin	
Biesty, Joe Finn, Murt Hunt, Pete Sloyan and John Davitt	
Store Manager	George Dee
Mart Manager	Tommy Jordan
N.C.F. Board Member	Noel Grogan
	Noel Grogan



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SOUNDINGS

HILL CLIMBING CLUB

The first climb of the year was most daring - up the steep sides of Benbulbin covered in snow and ice with two new members - Mary Freeley and Mike Glynn - and down the gentler on our backsides.

Our Catering Manager - Joe Freeley - characteristically braved the February gales to scale the precipitous slopes to the west of Patrick's Well. We think he came back! At the end of February some of the more experienced members of the club underwent a very taxing weekend training in mountain safety in Leenane (and the surrounding hills). They were greatly assisted by an efficient back up team of Sherpas.

Remember the June bank holiday which the club spent in Killarney it seems to have been one long party for adults and kids in which Ireland's highest peak - Carrauntoohil - was climbed.

Coming into the Autumn, our next mass participation event was the outdoor pursuits weekend in the V.E.C.'s Centre in Achill (about 25 people involved)!!!

Successful family outings included a day in and around Tourmakeady Forst, Patrick/Bertra Strand, Ben Levy/Cong Wood.

Notable climbs - Mweelrea, Maam Turks Walk, Nephin, Devil's Mother, Purple Mountain in Killarney, sponsored climb of three highest peaks in Connaught in 24 hours in aid of the local boy scouts.

International connection - included two New Zealanders Kim and Shirley, and David Rochford, New Jersey, a native of Kilkelly.

Marriages - congratulations to Siobhan and Freddie Herr and also to Teresa and Joe Grogan.

Deaths - none reported.

New climbers in 1983 - Mike Glynn, Mary Freeley, Joe Grogan, Sean Waldron, Alex Eaton, Pat Donnellan, Michael Grogan, Tommy Eagney, Clarence Grogan, Ivan Freeley, Agnes McGee, Mary and Ann Connelly.

All in all a very active and enjoyable year and we are looking forward to an exciting and adventurous year in 1984. Climbs take place every fourth Sunday, meeting at the Square at 10.30 a.m. New members always welcome.

President	Mary Smyth
Chairman	Terry Coleman
Vice Chairman	Michael Glynn
Secretary	Peg Byrne
Treasurer	Brid Cleary
P.R.O.	John Durkan

Expedition Organiser	J. Freeley
Family Climb Planner	Brian Byrne

John Durkan

COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE

Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis

Telephone: Ballyhaunis 212

Ballyhaunis Community Information Centre is part of the network of Community Information Centres controlled by the National Social Service Board.

Finance is provided mainly by Government Grants. Each centre is run and manned by a voluntary community group.

The National Social Service Board provide a comprehensive information system. Each centre has a back up service of experts in various fields to help with difficult queries.

The service, which is free and confidential is open to everyone. You may call or phone (Ballyhaunis 212) during opening hours and postal queries are also welcome.

How can your Community Information Centre help you?

If you do not understand your Income Tax Forms or any other forms you can have them explained at your Community Information Centre.

If you do not know your entitlements or do not know how to go about getting them your local Community Information Centre will be able to help you.

Application forms for Grants, Pension Allowances, Motor Taxation, Driver's Licences etc. are stocked.

The members of the centre are:

Chairman	Cyril Coyne
Organiser	Betty Regan
Deputy Organiser	Mary Donnelly

Sr. Assumpta, Sr. Dympna, Ina Freyne, Jarlath Fahey, Mary Higgins, Mary Hopkins, Harry Lamberth, John Lyons, Monica Lyons, Kathleen McBride, Matt O'Dwyer, Mary Smyth and Mary Waldron.

From January 1984 hours of business are as follows:

NEW HOURS OF BUSINESS:

Tuesday	
Friday	11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Saturday	
Thursday	5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.
and also on Fridays at the same time.	

BALLYHAUNIS G.A.A. CLUB

Officers 1982-'83

Chairman	Hugh Rudden
Vice Chairman	Paddy Brennan
Secretary	William Ryan
Treasurer	John O'Neill
Fixtures Secretary	Aiden Kelly
President	Austin Grogan

Trustees:

Austin Grogan, John Biesty, Mick O'Connell.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the year in Ballyhaunis G.A.A. circles was the winning of the Mayo U-15 Ógsport Gaelic title by the local team. This victory gained even more significance when one realises that Ballyhaunis foiled Claremorris in their attempt to win five Ógsport titles in a row.

As a result of this victory the Ballyhaunis team won the right to represent Mayo in the All-Ireland Ógsport Gael finals in Gormanston College, Co. Meath in August last. The team was accompanied by Mr. Michael Murren and Mr. Noel Lyons. While there the team acquitted themselves well and won two games in the process.

Our minor team annexed the East Minor League title by beating Aughamore and were considerably unlucky to succumb to Davitts by a solitary point in the county semi-final.

In the championship our minors reached the East Mayo final before going under to Swinford, the holders. The under 16 team reached the semi-finals of the East Mayo Championship before losing out to Kiltimagh. Again the team let victory slip by their inability to finish off good scoring chances.

At the time of writing, our Senior team is due to play Westport in the final game of the 1983 Senior League. A win would make sure that Ballyhaunis remain in Division 2 for another year. The team registered good victories over Louisburgh and Burrishoole respectively. The showed some character against a strong Aughamore team before succumbing by two points. However, the side suffered some heavy defeats notably at the hands of Parke and Kiltimagh.

In the championship the team played with tremendous determination and will to win. However, victory over Claremorris was not to be, as we had, what seemed a very good goal disallowed. Indeed many respected Gaelic observers say that we were robbed on that day. It was felt with some justification that had the team won, it could have gone on to better things as the championship progressed.

A town league was run in the summer months under the auspices of the club and sponsored by Austin Grogan. A team captained by Johnny Cribben proved victorious and were presented with trophies at a function in September in Murphy's Arms. Many thanks is also due to

Bob Fox for his excellent handling of the games and his excellent implementation of the rules. Congratulations to Tommy Grogan who won an All-Ireland U-21 medal with Mayo and to the National School team which was beaten in the East Mayo final. Peter Walshe, Knock Road was voted 'Best Player' in the East Mayo N.S. Championship.

On the administrative side, a committee was set up to make arrangements for the centenary. At the time of writing excellent progress has been made. Important dates to remember in 1984 are 29th July and August 11th to 29th. The former makes the 'Day of the Club' while the latter will see the visit of clubs outside Ballyhaunis to the town to engage in a number of challenge games. A team from New York and Coventry have already kindly consented to fulfil fixtures on these dates.

A number of very successful functions were organised by the club this year to raise much needed revenue to finance the activities of the year ahead. A sub-committee was also set up to explore avenues of raising finance. It decided to try the personal loan scheme to which there was also an excellent response.

The officers and members would like to thank all those who have subscribed to the very successful club draw down through the years. Many thanks is due to club treasurer, John O'Neill for his very efficient handling of the draw.

The curtain on 1983 will come down for Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club on the 30th December, when the Annual Dinner which is one of the great occasions of the year, will take place in Churchfield House Hotel, Knock.

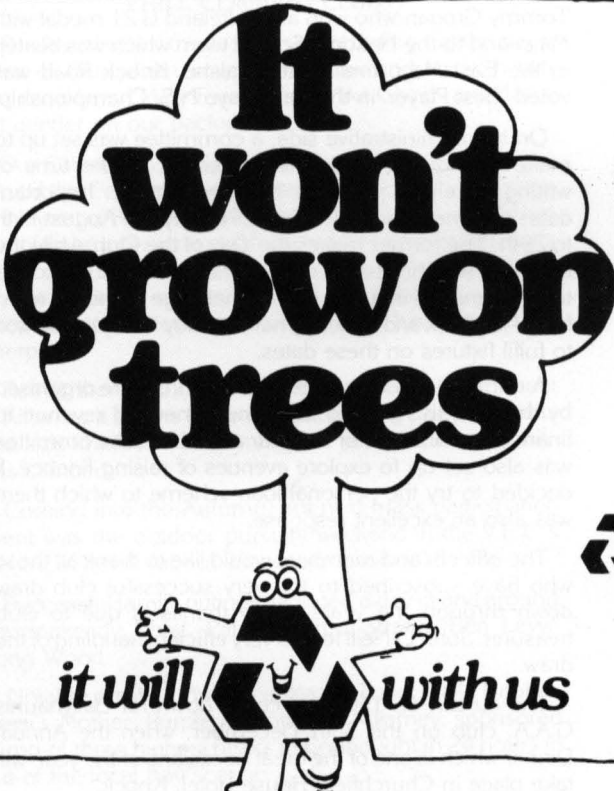
William Ryan

SET IN LOVELINESS

Around beautiful Ballyhaunis
There are some scenic places.
With Tooreen of the hurling-fame
And the lovely lake-lands of Began.
And there is sainted Holywell
And then Coogue of high renown
And there's Bricken with Cloonlee.
Barnycarroll with Cloonflower.
There's Cloonfad with Ballinlough.
Tulrohaun and Cloonfallagh.
There's Kilkelly with Aghamore.
And Addergoole with Knockanarra.
But on and on we cannot go now
With townslend, street and hamlet.
So some other day we'll ring them
In another fine song or ballad.

A Ballyhaunis Bard

SOUNDINGS



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it will with us

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KNOX STREET - BALLYHAUNIS



Ballyhaunis R.F.C. Junior 'B' Team, 1982-'83

BALLYHAUNIS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Officers for 1983/'84

President	Peter Gallagher
Treasurer	John Hanley
Secretary	Mary Morrissey
Fixture Secretary	Hugh Curley
Captain	Davy Walsh

The 1982/'83 season was one of the most successful in the seven year history of the club.

The club's Junior B team won the 'Loughrea Cup' beating Corrib the Headford based club by 15pts to 9pts in a very thrilling match which left the Ballyhaunis supporters hoarse and footsore but delighted to be associated with such a hard trying team. They also reached the semi-finals of the 'Ard na Cregg' Cup where they drew and lost to Galwegians in the replay.

Last season also saw the fielding of two under-age teams (U-19 and U-15 who were unbeaten in all of their matches. The club would like to take this opportunity to ask anybody from Ballyhaunis and the surrounding area, interested in playing Rugby to join the training on Tuesday or Thursday night at 8.00 p.m. in the Horse Shoe Inn, Abbey Street and to also thank Mick and Mary Morris for the use of their premises and their help during the year.

Mary Morrissey

THE SQUASH CLUB

A Squash Club was formed in Ballyhaunis in September, 1982. The Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club members were instrumental in the erection of a squash court beside the football pitch.

The court was opened on 22nd October, 1982. Since then it is no exaggeration to say that the club has been a phenomenal success. The progress achieved has been beyond one's wildest dreams.

The popularity of the sport was demonstrated by the

huge influx of members to the club membership totalled 137 paid units compiled as follows:
69 single units, 36 family memberships and 32 student.

In addition there are also five 10 year memberships. The club is now in a very healthy position and with the assistance of the G.A.A. is well prepared for the years ahead.

A number of competitions were organised by the committee. In February there was a team competition with eight teams of nine participants. The excitement was xemplified by the very close contests between the teams right up to the final night. In April and May there were two other competitions run on an individual basis.

The officers and committee sincerely thank the sponsors - Oliver Concannon, Bank of Ireland; The Central Hotel and Dillon Brothers respectively. During the summer season the club secured excellent sponsorship for 1984. The club also engaged in inter-club challenges against Galway and Claremorris respectively. These were very informative as they served to indicate the standard the club must reach when entering Inter-Club competitions in the years ahead.

Thanks is also expressed to all those who refereed matches during the year, particularly Sean Waldron, Hugh Campbell and Barry Cunningham, who gave so generously of their time.

As the club continues to thrive a number of committees have been set up to ensure the smooth running of its comprehensive programme of events. These are:

1. Activities
2. Inter-Club
3. Youth Committee

In setting up the latter the officers and committee feel that cognizance, must be taken of the youth by helping to develop their skills. Undoubtedly, the decision of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. to erect a Squash Court has been unequivocally vindicated as evidenced by the success of the past year.

SOUNDINGS

Membership Rates:

Single	£15
Family	£25
Student	£5

It should be noted that the ten year membership is no longer being accepted by the club.

Officers for 1982/'83

Chairman	John Biesty
Secretary	William Ryan
Treasurer	Eamonn Healy

Officers for 1983/'84

Chairman	John Biesty
Secretary	John Durkan
Treasurer	Eamonn Healy

Committee

Hugh Rudden, Aidan Kelly, John Prenty, Tom Prenty, William Ryan, Ger Lyons, John Durkan, Kieran Moran.

William Ryan

ST. PATRICK'S BILLARD & SNOOKER CLUB

A group of young men came to this year's A.G.M. armed with a dynamic proposition for the revitalization of the club.

They proposed to completely refurnish and refurbish the club-room, get a new cloth for the table, and install a separate heating and lighting system. To do all this it was proposed to get a Bank Loan to cover the expenditure involved. The proposal was accepted and put to the Hall Committee who gave the go ahead.

Within three weeks the complete programme was achieved all through the voluntary hard work and dedication of the committee.

The club is very appreciative of all the financial help they have received from the local banks, business people and private individuals.

Officers:

President	K. Barry
Vice President	J. Greene
Chairman	T. Moran
Secretary	R. Herr
Treasurer	A. Eaton

Standing Committee:

William Murphy, Cyril O'Malley, Val Rattigan, Mike Webb, Tony Morley, Mike Byrne, Michael Webb, John O'Connor, Joseph Grogan, Milo Henry, Miko Waldron, Michael Walsh, Tom Cribben.

The present club was formed at the opening of the Hall and prior to that there was a table in McGarry's old hall. Before that the late Peter Lynch had two tables and facilities for card playing at is premises in Abbey Street. Finally at the turn of the century, it moved to Farragher's Hotel, also known as the Dudley Arms Hotel (now Georgie Delaney's) of Bridge Street where there was a table in use.

Joe Greene

BALLYHAUNIS SOCCER CLUB

Despite an inauspicious opening to the new season, the footballers of the Ballyhaunis F.C. have come through a "transition-period" which proved to be a test of character and courage, and can now look to the season and seasons ahead with every confidence. Not since the "glory days" of the late 'seventies, when the club won the Tuohy Cup (County Championship) has any silver come the way of the most eastern outpost of soccer in the Mayo League.

Plying their trade from their Town Park base, the present squad need not be reminded of this, but are quick to point to the fact that a superb run in last season's Connaught Cup augurs well for the future. Beaten one-nil in a 5th round replay in that competition (by Roscommon's Premier Champions), Ballyhaunis had by then collected the scalps of some of the more highly vaunted names in the provinces footballing circles.

Fired by the experience of seasoned campaigners like Tommy Moran, Ivan Freeley, Ted Webb, Luke Murray, Clar Grogan and Robbie Herr, the dash and flair of Tom Prenty, John Webb, Michael Webb, Padraic Waldron and Mike Philips, success would appear to lie not far ahead - especially when the above blend can be harnessed with the determination of Brendan and Padraic Niland, Sean Webb, Sean Byrne and Jeremy Dee and the youthful zest and vigour of John Morley, James Clarke and Kevin Henry.

So far this season two local players, Clar Grogan and Luke Murray have featured prominently in Mayo County Trials. The Club also takes pride in the fact that the latter player has turned out for his county three times this season. Nor would it be just to complete any article on the fortunes of Ballyhaunis F.C. without mention of the club's 'eager-beaver', Secretary Mike Daly, who plays a multiplicity of roles off the field. Were it not for his glutton-like appetite for work, life would be difficult if not nigh impossible in the Mayo First Division.

Finally, surely there must never have been a more pronounced example of astuteness married to cunning than in the joint Team Managership of Tom Cribbin and Nicholas Freyne!

Financially, the Club is indebted to the patrons of the 200 Draw, Game Sponsors, Ticket-Sellers and Ticket Buyers.

Officers:

Hon. President	Sergt. W.A. Curran
Chairman	Luke Murray
Hon. Secretary	Michael Daly
Treasurer	Tom Prenty

Team Managers: Tom Cribbin, Nicholas Freyne

Delegates to the Mayo League: Michael Daly, Jeremy Dee.

Luke Murray

BALLYHAUNIS HANDBALL CLUB

President	Mr. Michael Moran R.I.P.
Vice-President	Mr. Michael O'Connell
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. Michael Byrne
Patron	Rev. P. Costello, P.P.
Chairman	Mr. Michael Murren
Hon. Secretary	Mr. Michael Waldron

1983 was indeed a historic year for Handball in Ballyhaunis for it saw the rebirth of the game after a lapse of over forty years, for on September 11th, our new alley was officially opened by ten times All-Ireland senior singles champion, Peadar McGee.

It was a day to be remembered by all not just because it was the fulfillment of a dream, but also it was a great day for the game of Handball where we watched a great display of the game from Tony Ryan, Tipperary; Mickey Walsh, Roscommon; Paddy Delaney, Galway and Peadar McGee of Mayo.

This was indeed a great day for Handball in Ballyhaunis but most of all it was a great day for Ballyhaunis and its people for it was they who through their generosity and good will that made this day possible.

It just goes to show that if genuine people see you doing something constructive, particularly something for the youth they will give you their full backing both morally and financially, for this we are deeply grateful.

We are now entering a new year, indeed a historical year, 1984 the centenary of the founding of the Gaelic Athletic Association in which Handball plays a very large part. The best way we can commemorate this great event is by laying the foundation for the future of Handball in Ballyhaunis. This we intend to do by concentrating on our youth particularly in the line of coaching and competitions.

Handball is one of the oldest of our National games and as such it should be cherished and fostered in both homes and schools.

As Christmas draws near we know that another year passes and with it some good things and some bad. Christmas is also a time when we think of our friends, some who cannot be at home, we think especially of Ballyhaunis exiles scattered throughout the world. To them we wish a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year and hope that many as possible will be able to visit Ballyhaunis for the special G.A.A. celebrations in August of 1984.

It would not be proper to finish this article without remembering our Ballyhaunis friends who have died since last years edition of this fine magazine. To the families of all we offer our sincere sympathy.

An Appreciation

I would like to record our appreciation of our late and great President, Michael Moran whose untimely death on November 1st has robbed our club of a great friend and has left our town with a loss that can never be replaced. My



Michael Moran, R.I.P.

humble pen could never do his memory justice. Brod (his nickname) was an affectionate man, a man of great character, a man of fine wit, he was a friend to all, was loved by all, both young and old, indeed their attendance on his last journey bore testimony to this.

Brod belonged to a great family, he was racey of the soil of his native Annagh and Ballyhaunis, he was a keen sportsman, be it football, dogs or horses. A very good footballer in his youth, he won a minor medal with Ballyhaunis way back in the '30s. His particular joy up to the time of his untimely death was to watch the young lads of Ballyhaunis playing the game he loved so well.

With horses, too, he seemed to have an affinity all his own. His love of the flapper meetings was well known, but it was being with the greyhounds he loved best. His knowledge of hound, their moods and habits was that of an expert. He had an expert eye for breeding and quality and his reputation as a fine trainer was widespread.

In his role of bus driver he seemed to hold a very special and unique place affections and esteem of young and old alike. Brod was always there, wet or cold, Winter or Summer. It would be no exaggeration to say that his passing has evoked a deep sorrow and regret throughout the town and country. All who knew him and it was many seemed to feel his loss with a sense of personal bereavement.

I will always remember as his funeral wound its way to the cemetery a stiffness as of death prevailed throughout the streets, we all knew Brod was on his last journey, as we crossed the bridge he had so often crossed our memories went back to the many times we had travelled with him. When the steering wheel was in his hands you knew you were safe. As we passed under the railway bridge we thought of the great years of unflinching service he gave to C.I.E. and from those whose early retirement he sadly did not live long to enjoy. As his mortal remains were lowered into the grave and his gentle soul passed over the great divide and we said farewell for the last time to a fine son of Ballyhaunis, a great husband, father and friend we could not help but think, "Well Brod, you lived life to its fullest, you were kind, honest and sincere, you had no enemies, you had many friends in whose memory you will ever abide."

Go ndéanadh Dia trocaire ar an anam.

Michael Waldron

SOUNDINGS

BALLYHAUNIS GOLF CLUB

The following is a list of officers and committees of the Ballyhaunis Golf Club:

Gents

Captain	Mr. D. Charlton
President	Mr. M. Heneghan
Vice Captain	Mr. F. Dillon
Vice President	Mr. J. Forde
Secretary	Mr. T. McNicholas
Joint Treasurers	Mr. J. Higgins, Mr. C. Coyne
Comp. Secretary	Mr. M. Mahony
Honorary Secretary	Mr. A. Nolan

Committee Members:

M. Walshe, C. Freeman, M. Webb, M. Gallagher, T. Fanning Snr., M. Forde, B. Cunningham, J. Scarry, P. Curley, V. Freyne and T. Jordan, Snr.

Ladies

Captain	Mrs. A. Johnston
Vice Captain	Miss P. Grady
Hon. Secretary	Miss N. Dillon
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs. A. Joyce
Handicap Secretary	Miss M. Moyles
Executive Member	Mrs. M. Dillon Leetch

Committee Members

Mrs. M. Burke, Mrs. S. Forde, Mrs. M. Dillon, Miss P. Waldron, Mrs. S. Laffey, Mrs. M.H. O'Connor, Mrs. Cleary.

I am glad to report that the Ballyhaunis Golf Club had a very successful year. The club did not win any major competition but teams took part in all grades of competition and were able ambassadors of our club.

The Ladies, however, brought glory to the club when the team of Mrs. M. Burke, Mrs. A. Mahony and Mrs. H. Cleary won the Connaught Cup for the first time in the history of the club against a field of 156 ladies from the other clubs in Connaught.

The Golfer of the Year in the men's section for 1983 is Mr. John Dillon and in the ladies section is Miss Norrie Dillon.

The number of visitors to our club during the past year was a record and with the course in such great condition received wonderful praise and is still regarded as one of the best 9 hole courses in the country.

Improvements are being carried out all the time and the club is in a very healthy state. New members are always welcome and special rates apply for beginners. A member will always be glad to take a potential new member for an introductory game of golf. In conclusion I would like to wish your magazine every success.

John G. Forde, P.R.O.

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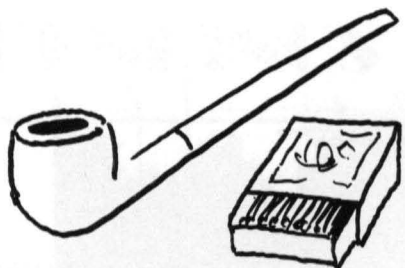
A race for the line at the Abbey Pattern Sports, 1983

(Photo courtesy Dr. Michael Cleary)



Ballyhaunis, Mayo 1983 U-15 Óg Sport Co. Champions

Back (l to r): J. Keane (Knox Street), V. Byrne (Main Street), N. Cruise (Knockbrack), J.J. Webb (Devlis), J. Henry (Upper Main Street), N. Phillips (Main Street).
 Front Row (left to right): J. Gale, G. Winstone (Devlis), P. Phillips (Main Street), R. Sloyan (Brackloon), B. Murray (Doctor's Road), V. McNamara (Brackloon).



Dalgan's Pipe

About the time I started going to the National School, Hitler was proceeding with his plans to rule as much of the World as he could. The Parochial Hall opened up with a regular supply of Hollywood Culture and I joined the Boy Scouts. Sufficient you might say to keep a fellow's mind occupied. The War or the 'Emergency' as we called it did not impinge much on our thinking as such but we had everyday reminders with reports on the radio and the maps everyday in the newspapers charting the progress of the war in Europe. There was however, one very concrete sign of the times in the establishment of the Local Defence Forces in the area. At first they were called the L.S.F. or Local Security Force. This force wore chocolate coloured uniforms and a forage cap. Later they became known as the L.D.F. or Local Defence Force and wore a green uniform of heavy material more or less similar to the present F.C.A. one though not as well cut. I can remember them parading after Mass on Sundays with a drill session fully armed with 303 rifles outside the Barracks. There were also manouvres and on some days sections of the Regular Army came in to join them. There were also sessions of rifle shooting. One of them I recall at the back of Brod Byrne's little hill on the Clare Road with the targets at the bottom of Grogan's Hill as we called it at the time. I can still see the ground rutted with bullets after a practice and a crowd of us rooting in the hill to recover the lead bullets. However, my moment of glory was yet to come. It happened like this.

On one occasion a manouver was designed whereby the Ballyhaunis Company were to attack and capture if possible Kilkelly. Word got to the Boy Scouts that there was an urgent need for despatch riders. So, unheeding the first unwritten law observed by soldiers everywhere which states 'Volunteer for nothing', I duly offered my services. There were about five of us altogether, sadly I can remember only Gerry Glynn, Tommy Gavin and our leader, Paddy Forrie. The big day arrived and mounted on our trusty bicycles armed with pen knives, a whistle and carrying emergency rations of sandwiches and water in Paddy Forrie's water bottle we set forth for Kilkelly a voice from on high ordered us to stop and looking to our left on a hill at the side of the road we saw appearing from the thorn bushes a group of eight or nine uniformed and armed men who began to approach us. Our first instinct was that these were 'our fellas' and we began to feel elated at the prospect of having made contact and at last being part of the action.

Our elation was short lived. When the men jumped onto the road in front of us and demanded to know what we were up to, we realised that we had fallen into enemy hands, as they were complete strangers to us. Crestfallen

we made up some story or other but they were having none of it. They promptly put us under armed guard and three of them were delegated to march us to Kilkelly. When we got there we were marched through the town and out to the Courthouse on the Swinford side. Oh, the ignomy of it all! Inside the Courthouse on the judges bench sat an officer in charge surrounded by maps and other officers. He listened to the report from our escort and promptly said "Lock them up". We were thankful he did not say "Shoot them". Behind the judges bench was a small room and we were locked in there. We began to think of the slugging we would get if we were to go back to Ballyhaunis. There was another door leading out of the room. Naturally it was locked, so by way of diversion, to cover up any noise some started to sing, or whistle, while the lock was unscrewed. The door opened, we hit a yard, and scaled the surrounding wall only to be confronted by a crowd of young fellows from Kilkelly, who had jeered our progress under guard through Kilkelly. This time however, there was going to be no stopping, and with a few threatening and fierce gestures with knives we made for the hills. We went in the direction of Ballyhaunis Road, and reaching it at a spot just outside the town, we continued on to the hills on the other side of it. Somewhere in that hilly area we heard another shout to stop and more uniformed figures began to appear dimly through the Furze bushes 'Oh my God', someone said 'not again'. Then someone said 'They're ours' and so they were. Some of them came to meet us and brought us to a large clump of furze, and entering it we found ourselves in a large tent shaped area, clear in the centre but completely covered by the furze.

A smiling officer surrounded by the mandatory maps came forward to greet us. 'How are ye, lads?' he said, 'what the hell have you been up to then?' We instantly and delightedly recognised the smiling pipe smoking officer in charge as our own Dalgan Lyons and as we related to him our adventures I'm sure he could have been heard laughing all the way to Greenwood!

That evening, when manouvres were over we marched triumphantly behind the Ballyhaunis Company led by Dalgan Lyons through Kilkelly. This time there was no slugging.

A couple of years ago, Dalgan and I were having a drink and out of the blue I thought of that incident and asked him did he remember it. He did indeed and the one thing he asked me about was the pipe smoking bit. "What kind of a pipe was it?" he asked. I told him it had struck me as being an unusual one at the time.

He told me that it was a pipe that he had got from America, of which he was very fond, and said that he had lost it sometime during the war and never could tell what happened to it.

Someday now a J.C.B. will be clearing the hill of furze bushes outside Kilkelly town and someone will come across an unusual pipe. It's Dalgan's!



MEMORIAL

I

Come all true men from vale and glen,
Who fought both far and near.
To free our land from the Black and Tans,
And all that life holds dear.
God rest those men, who never gave in
But died our land to save.
And sleep today in hallowed clay
Within their silent graves.

II

Paddy Boland too, a soldier true
Would never bend the knee
At Eire's call he gave up all
That yet she might be free
By the Shannon's wave, he fought so brave
And at Tourmakeady too,
With sword and gun, he fought the Hun,
Like a gallant soldier true.

III

This hero true, no fear he knew
As he made his last brave stand
That our flag on high, again would fly,
Victorious over our land.
Yet when he died, within his stride
Lay bayonet blade and ball
But God did say, a reckoning day
Will come for one and all.

IV

Brave Boland stood for Ireland's good
With a heart both brave and true.
To free our land, from the tyrants hand
No fear of death he knew.
So let him rest amongst the blest
Who fought by hill and dale
Who fought the fight of Ireland's right
And died our land to save.

V

God rest your soul dear Paddy
You are gone for ever more
To take your sleep, your long lost sleep,
In the Churchyard - Aghamore.
May you rest in peace in that hallowed ground
Until the Judgement Day.
Neath the flag so dear, that is always near,
Brave Boland's dauntless clay.

To Captain Paddy Boland, R.I.P. East Mayo Brigade Old I.R.A. who was shot by the Crown Forces on 27th May, 1921.

John Morley, Tooreen

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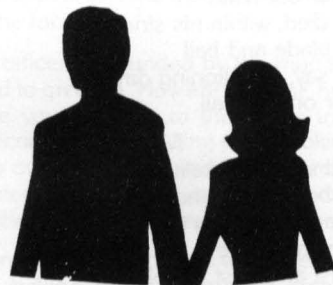
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A CHRISTMAS WISH

On sons and daughters of Mayo scattered,
When leaven the world with heart and grace,
Here in your western county homeland
We miss you from your proper place.

Lost are your faces to our church and meeting,
But your memory fresh we keep within,
And you, in turn, remember your raising,
Nor ever forget your kith and kin.

Travelling out, you have taken with you
High ideals that will stand your proud,
Fear no one and despise no other,
Speak the truth and your faith aloud.

Love your neighbours as you find them,
At home or away it is ever the same,
All Mary's people have this life's secret
And take each day day in her Son's name.

Sons and daughters, we here salute you,
So ever keep your heads held high,
This Season our prayers and blessings fold you,
So set your sights with the star in the sky.

O sons and daughters of Mayo pondering,
Here at home we mourn your exile's part,
And we pray you ever in a Mother's keeping,
And forever cherished in her Son's heart.

John O'Connor, O.S.A.



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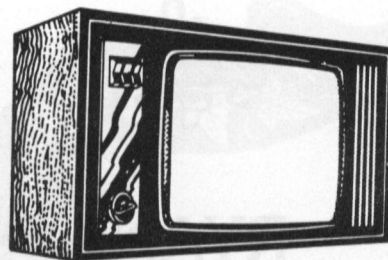
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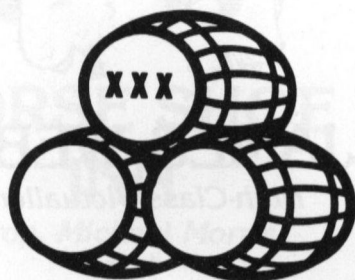
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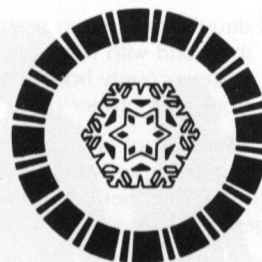
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ANNAGH - IT'S UNPUBLISHED CONTRIBUTIONS

To the people the world over, who for one reason or another have settled in a land which is not of their birth or origin, there remains in their hearts consciously or otherwise a bond that will link them forever to the place of their birth, or to the place of their ancestors. A great percentage of the population of the United States can readily trace without difficulty their origins to various countries throughout the world, the number that can equalled only by the number of reasons why they left in the first place. Whether they had been dispossessed of their lands, driven out by war and strife, forced through hunger and lack of employment the reasons are many. I do not know yet, if anyone ever counted the number of people that left each country to come to the New World, but I feel that Ireland, and breaking it down to parishes, the parish of Ballyhaunis must surely come close to heading this poll. As John Loke of Callan, Co. Kilkenny wrote over a hundred years ago "I'd venture another flight, there is so much joy in returning". Today it is still true, because home has a greater meaning for the Irish emigrant than those at home. To the emigrant, it is a place he has left where he experienced all the first happiness of love and essential warmth of the intimacy of the family circle. It is this that invests the hills and valleys of his native place, with a warmth that those who have never left Ireland cannot experience. The same bears true for the exiles of your ancient and historic past. An ancient parish that can stand tall and be proud of its native sons and daughters and the unpublished contributions they have made to every country, that bid them a new home and more so the contributions that have made to the host country of the United States and not forgetting their native land.

An ancient parish that has contributed so much to the New World - America as well as the countless countries its sons and daughters settled in. Many today, as in the past, are leaders in the field of industry, labour organisations, politics, the professions, sport and most important spreading the Good News of the Word of God throughout

LETTER FROM



the World. They have been coming to the New World since the early part of the eighteenth century the era of the Famine, the ruthless landlords. When they arrived here, their suffering far from being over. Our immigrants at that time especially the famine years, became with rare exceptions, what their transatlantic environment had made them, children of the slum, rebuffed, scorned by respectable citizens and exploited by the less respectable. The Irish were the most fortunate and the poorest emigrants.

They took longer to be accepted, longer to become genuinely affiliated. They waited longer before the opportunity of the United States were freely available to them. The story of the Irish in the New World is not a romantic story of liberty and success. Its a story or history of a bitter struggle, as bitter and as painful, though not as long drawn out struggle of which the Irish at last won the right to be a nation.

Today, they stand tall among the citizens of this great nation and possess all of the characteristics that makes them leaders, honesty, Christian concern for their fellow citizens, hard workers, and a people that know who they are, where they came from. They know how to share their wealth both in the New World and to the many demands thats made on them by their beloved land of their ancestors.

Times have changed drastically, but our people be they at home, or in the New World - United States - do not change. It has always been less than fashionable at home to recognize the greatness of our people that went to America, the contributions they have made and are making to the host country as well as to their native land. In this World of change we can, for instance, be less than enthusiastic for the New World, because of the closer ties and links that with Europe now. Still, through all the adverse comments, our people who are descendants of the million of emigrants that left the shores of Ireland, know who they are, where they came from, and how to share with the less fortunate.

The people of the parish of 'Annagh' - Ballyhaunis can be proud of its noble history and of the contributions of its countless sons and daughters that left their country. Their links with 'home' are still strong and valuable. Never forget to greet them with kindness on their return visit and keep pushing your headlands out with kindly greetings.

John Fitzgerald (New York)
Formerly of Knockadon, Irishtown
Parish of Kilvine

Was that the Fire Siren?



Some members of the old Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade

It is true to say that Ballyhaunis has a modern compact Fire Station incorporating a drill yard, and training tower. Housed in this station is a very modern fire appliance of the class B type outfitted with the very latest in Rescue Equipment which includes positive pressure, breathing apparatus, and gas tight suits. The crew of eight men are ranked Station Officer, Sub Officer and six firemen, three of whom are fully trained in the use and wearing of breathing apparatus. This fire appliance and its equipment cost up on £65,000, a far cry from the days when men like Eddie Biesty, Liam Smyth and Tommie Byrne to name but a few, extinguished fires with only a few basic pieces of equipment, all on a voluntary basis. Late 1958 saw the formation of a new eight man crew. The Officer in charge was Clarence Grogan with crew men Liam Smyth, Jim Toolan, Dan Moran, Kevin Moran, Jim Gilmore, Michael Moran and John McGuire. The following January, the first mobile fire appliance was delivered to the officer in charge of Ballyhaunis fire brigade. Shortly afterwards the brand new Land Rover fire appliance was blessed by the Rev. Tom Rushe. Attending that ceremony was the then County Fire Chief Captain C. Garvey, the man who organised the fire service in Mayo. Subsequent retirements brought the enlistment of two others to the crew namely Michael Mulhern and the author of this article. The present crew consists of Station Officer, Sean Freyne; Sub Officer, Edward Mulhern; Michael Griffin, Ivan Freeley, Michael J. Lyons, Patrick Ryan, John Finnegan and John Kilduff.

Now that Fire Prevention Week, promoted by the National Fire Prevention Council is over it should not mean that that's all we are going to hear on the subject until next year when its time to do our weekly promotion once again. Fire, it's prevention, and its extinguishing concerns us all every day of our lives. It is the duty of every person within the age of reason, to ensure that they do not in anyway appreciate the outbreak of fire, which would endanger their own lives, or property, or that of their neighbours, including State Forests and buildings.

Causes of Fire

1. The most frequent cause of outbreak of fire is faulty and/or overloaded electrical equipment. This accounts for 30% of fires.
2. The second most frequent cause which is responsible for 20% of fires is the carelessness by smokers, whose anti-social habit is responsible for so many deaths quite apart from those occurring through bodily diseases. The total number of fires caused by those sources is probably much higher as causes cannot be precisely determined in a large number of cases.

Fires begun deliberately are an increasing cause of concern in many countries. Here in Ireland an increasing number of property owners are failing to insure their property to any degree, so everytime a fire occurs and damages their property a malicious injury claim is lodged



Some members of the new Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade

with the Local Authority in whose area the fire occurred. This has led to an alarming increase in the number of claims received by the Local Authorities and because of the difficulty in determining the precise cause the plaintiff is almost always awarded his full claim plus all legal fees incurred on the basis of what is legally termed as the balance of probability. Further recent changes in the law in relation to such matters have made the situation even more ludicrous. It will be interesting to observe how much longer the insured ratepayers of Ireland will endure this galling situation of having to pay out hard-earned money because of irresponsibility of others, who will not take out insurance cover and who must now be saying "Oh what the hell, sure I'll get a malicious claim anyway".

How Can I Prevent Fires?

Before retiring at night unplug electrical appliances especially the T.V., switch off gas appliances. Check that the fire is not unguarded if it is place a spark guard. If you are cursed with a smoker in the house be extra vigilant check the ashtrays and furniture for smouldering cigarettes. If all doors are closed the spread of fire and

smoke will be considerably reduced should fire break-out after you have retired to bed.

What should you do in the case of fire in the home? Each family should have a prepared plan so that everyone in the family knows what to do:

1. Get everyone out of the house - plan escape routes now.
2. Call your nearest Fire Brigade
3. You could try to extinguish the fire, but only if you can do so without endangering life.

Remember water is not suitable as a fire extinguisher for electrical or chip pan fires.

The purchase of a suitably sized dry powdered fire extinguisher and fire blanket for the home is a wise investment. So always treat fire with respect and care and remember the aged and infirmed in your area. As for children and matches - this can be a most unholy alliance indeed!

Sean Freyne

"ANNAGH" Needs your Help!

**Send articles, poems, photographs to Jim London,
Knock Road, Ballyhaunis before 1st October, 1984**

Un Sejour en Bretagne



Front Row: Mary Morris, Mary Freyne, Rita Mooney, Aine Loughran, Deirdre Harte.
Second Row: Paul Waldron, Bernie Freyne, Martin Waldron, Louise O'Connor, Finola Harte, Mary Hunt, Yvonne Doherty, Geraldine Garrett
Third Row: Martin Durkan, Stella Morley. Photographer: John Mooney.

Now that Ireland is in its tenth year of membership of the European Economic Community, it is surely more important than ever that as members of the same community, we should get to know our European neighbours, in an effort to achieve understanding of each others hopes and aspirations as in this way only, can we hope to realise our full potential. The exchange of ideas with our European neighbours will lead to great understanding of the unique circumstances which sometimes influence our demands and in this way we can hope to avoid controversies such as that which at present surrounds the introduction of the super-levy. The Ballyhaunis Twinning Committee has taken a very constructive step towards achieving this worthwhile goal of mutual understanding by arranging the twinning of Ballyhaunis with a small town in Brittany called Guilers.

Guilers which has a population of approximately 8,000 is situated about 10kms. from the city of Brest. The town has no industry and very few shops as most of its inhabitants work in Brest. The surrounding countryside is similar to that in the south of Ireland with many large dairy farms. The main crops grown are maize and artichokes. The concept of twinning requires that people from both communities should exchange visits and ideas in an effort to learn the respective customs and languages of each community. One very important benefit of this scheme is that it provides ideal opportunities for exchanges to take place between students who are studying French and English respectively. The fact that members of each community are well known to each other removes much of the anxiety from parents who are apprehensive about allowing their children abroad for the first time. Now that the emphasis at Leaving Cert. Examination level is on

ability to communicate in French. It is very important that the student should achieve oral proficiency in the language and the most satisfactory and effective way to achieve this is by spending some time in France.

The first of these exchanges took place recently when ten students from Ballyhaunis Community School accompanied by their teacher, Geraldine Garret and I spent one week in France. We arrived in Roscoff at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. We were given a very warm welcome by members of the Guilers Community including Mrs. Jannien Dorell, the leader of the Guilers Twinning Committee. The students were overjoyed to meet their French friends many of whom had previously made visits to Ballyhaunis. The students spent that evening with the respective families getting acquainted with everyday French life.

On Monday and Tuesday mornings the students attended second-level schools in Guilers the non-denominational school 'Croas ar Pennoc' there the Irish students attended classes in French and English and answered questions about their life in Ireland.

The French students showed great interest in their Irish counterparts and invited them to join in many school activities. After having lunch in the school canteen where they sampled everyday French Cuisine, the students were taken on a tour of Guilers. They visited the local sports complex and were impressed by the range of facilities provided for young people which included an extensive judo training gymnasium a sport which is very popular in France. They visited the local primary and kindergarten and were fascinated that most French children attend a state-run kindergarten from the age of two years old. The

Parish Priest showed the students around the catholic church of St. Valentine. The priest explained that the original church had been destroyed and subsequently rebuilt several centuries later. He then explained the origin of the name of the town Guilers which was originally a Roman fortification called 'Villaris' and was scathingly referred to by the natives as 'La cite des voleurs' or the City of Robbers. Later that evening the students attended a reception in the Town Hall given by Monsieur Ballard the Mayor Guilers. Afterwards M. Ballard welcomed the students to Guilers and expressed the wish that the relationship between Guilers and Ballyhaunis would continue to grow and develop into something lasting and worthwhile and that many such exchanges between students should take place in the future.

On Tuesday afternoon we were taken on a tour of the coast and we visited the picturesque resorts of Trez-Hir and St. Mathiu and also the village of Le Conquet which is famous for crab-fishing. We learned that the village of St. Mathiu which it developed, although now virtually deserted was once a thriving town with eighteen thousand inhabitants. The ruins of the abbey can still be seen and include some fine examples of Gothic and Roman architecture. In the nearby chapel of 'Notre Dame de la grace' we were privileged to see the ancient statue of 'Notre Dame de la grace' we were privileged to see the statue because it dates back to the sixteenth century. This area is rich in folklore and history and attracts many tourists. Later that evening the Irish students were invited to play in a basketball match between Guilers and Ballyhaunis.

On Wednesday and Thursday mornings the Irish students attended the local radio station 'Radio Albatross' to take part in a radio programme. Yvonne Doherty and Deidre Harte answered questions on their life in Ireland, their interests and hobbies, they also made their singing debut on French radio with a heart-warming rendering of an old Irish folk song! John Mooney explained the reasons which motivated the Ballyhaunis committee to become involved in the twinning. Bernie Freyne described the archaeological and fishing amenities which the French

tourist could hope to enjoy in the Ballyhaunis area. Geraldine Garrett discussed her views on the differences she saw between teaching methods in France and in Ireland. However, the climax of the show occurred when Bernie Freyne gave an emotional reading of the old favourite 'Danny Boy'.

On Thursday afternoon the Irish students were shown a film-slide on places of interest in Brittany including a detailed study of the terrible effects of the Amoco Cadiz disaster. The disco proved to be a great success and happened to be one of the first teenage disco to be held in the town. The organisers were impressed by the young people's enthusiasm and mature behaviour, and as a result they hope to organise many such discos for the young people of the town in the future. This reflects the fact that even in small ways we can learn from each other.

On Friday the Irish students were free to stay with individual families most of whom took the students to the nearby city of Brest where they did some last minute shopping. On Friday night we left Guilers with some regret, yet looking forward to some future visits.

During our stay we were impressed by the warmth and hospitality of the people from Guilers who welcomed us into their homes and treated us as friends. The hospitality of the Bretons which might be compared to the 'Flaithiulacht' of the Irish people, serves to remind us of the common heritage between the Irish and the Bretons, that of their Celtic origin. The Breton attitude to hospitality might best be summed up in the words of one of their poems.

'Qui arrive en ami, arrive trop tard et part trop vite' means 'Whoever arrives as a friend comes to late and leaves too soon.'

Let us hope that this hospitality will continue to be reciprocated by the Ballyhaunis people, so that we grow in mutual understanding and friendship. Finally, as a member of the party who travelled to Guilers, I wish to express our thanks to Mr. Pat Higgins who was responsible for organising the trip.

Mary Morris

Contributors of Photographs to "Annagh" 1978 to 1983 inclusive

"One picture is better than a thousand words - The McGuire family, Dr. Seamus Ryan, Joe Ryan, Paddy Waldron, R.I.P., Michael Waldron, Michael Smyth, Joe Greene, Maria Cribbin, Eddie McHugh, Una Shields, John Biesty, Cyril Coyne, Seamus Durkan, Annie Kennedy, Rev. T. Hand R.I.P., Fr. Austin Cribbin, Oliver Jordan, Tom Hopkins, Cruise family, Fahy family, 'Irish Times' Pictorial 1946, Joe Webb, Patsy Glynn, Hannon family, Moran family, Caulfield family, Mary Forkan, John Cleary, Mary Higgins, Nolan family, Kilgariff; Thomas Donnellan, John Higgins, John Forde, Seamus Mulrennan, 'Irish Runner 1982', Anne Davitt, Tommy Jordan, Seamus Sloyan, Joe Tighe, Mrs. Murphy, Ballinlough; John Joe Kelly, Kit Keane, Joe Keane, Pat Higgins, Fr. John O'Connor, O.S.A., Eddie Egan, Tommy Smith, Tommy O'Malley, Frank Connolly, Joe Finn, Frank Waldron, Mike Griffin, Dr. Michael Cleary, Tony Boyle, Bernadette Thompson, Gerry Cribbin, Michael Marley, Phillips family, Máire Murphy, Dermot Eagney, Gerry Dillon, Fr. Colm Kilcoyne, Rita

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Diarmuid and Grainne's Bed (Green Wood)



At the Diarmuid and Grainne Bed, Greenwood. The photograph shows Bernard Freyne, Professor Etienne Rynne, Dept. of Archaeology, U.C.G., Mr. Colm O Hócha, President U.C.G. and Chairman of the All-Ireland Forum, Mr. Jim Flatley, Lakehill, Knock and Mr. Gerard McGarry, B.E.

Diarmuid and Grainne's bed is a magalithic tomb dating back to the Bronze Age about 3,500-4000 years old. It's proper title is a wedge shaped gallery grave. It is in Mr. Jim Flatley's field on the top of Green Wood hill. Because of land reclamation in the adjoining field, Diarmuid and Grainne's bed was accidentally destroyed by a bull-dozer. All that was left of it was the front chamber which was already part of the fence which ran alongside the road.

The fact that this accident happened was the greatest bit of luck that happened in modern time, because when that happened the wheels were set in motion to save the tomb.

Mr. Flatley was contacted and he readily agreed to give the site to the nation. With that first step over, the way was clear for the reconstruction of the grave. Two archaeologists were employed by the office of public works, to do the job, namely John Meehan - Athlone and Alan Hayden - Wexford. They worked under the guidance of Professor Etienne Rynne, Department of Archaeology, U.C.G. The work was carried out and the result was a job well done.

A special word of thanks must go to Mr. Jim Flatley, Lakehill Avenue - owner of the land, local neighbours John and May Hennelly, Jim Mulkeen, the Ronan and Carney families. All I'm going to say about the grave is that it is very nice and well worth seeing.

Bernard Freyne

Ballyhaunis Madrigal Group



BALLYHAUNIS MADRIGAL GROUP: Runners-up at the recent Navan Choral Festival
Left to Right: Ita Fahy, Xanthe Pratt, Eva Johnston, Tony Flynn, Moira Delaney, Mick Brogan, Pauline McGarry (Musical Director), Seamus Forde, Anna Butler, Una Shields, Martin Naughton, Laura Brogan, Oliver Jordan, Anne-Marie Eagney.

The Town's Setting

Fr. John O'Connor, O.S.A.

Introduction

This is now the sixth issue of 'Annagh' and once again through the 'Soundings' and the Advertisements, you will see that the town is keenly alive and thriving. This, one feels, should be kept very much in mind by the reader who travels back in time through the material that tells about the town in earlier days. In short, I suppose the message of 'Annagh' is that 'This living town has roots'. And presenting both aspects is important - both the present vitality and the past history.

So once again, then, together with the modern material, you have been treated to some memories of the recent past that still linger on in living human minds and in photographs and other records. Here indeed there is a rich vein in the town, with records and memories of events like the coming of the railway, or the new roads, or the water supply, or the electricity, with remembrance too, of the fairs and markets, of the early societies, of the town characters, of the Abbey Pattern (revived in 1940), of the foundation of the schools and of the older industries, of the local races, of the eminent people the town has known, and so on. One of the purposes of 'Annagh' is to present and preserve these memories and records.

The magazine of course, is also interested in the more distant past, into which we can get a glimpse, for instance, through the Parish, or Convent, or Augustinian archives. In the latter, among other items one can see a penny-post letter from 1838 and a bill dated 1798. The Abbey has also penal reminders and chalices from the 17th century and all around are relics in stone of times long past, the most noteworthy, perhaps, being the stone cross inside the cemetery gate (and which certainly predates the church). But Ballyhaunis and the surrounding area can go back further still, through ruins of churches, and ring-forts, and discoveries like the 'Annagh Sword' and so on, until we find ourselves back in 2,000 B.C. and beyond.

The County

Every item that you read, then, is set against the history of the town, which itself is set against the history of the parish and of the barony and of the county (and indeed every item will also reflect the overall history of the country). Mayo, therefore, is the local county and as such it would have come into being in 1570 (together with the other counties of Connacht). Prior to that the area was part of the province of Connacht which was divided up into small local Irish kingdoms - the roots of which go back far into the times of the peoples of pre-history, that certainly knew this part of Ireland.

When Mayo as a county, was brought into being under Queen Elizabeth I, it got its name from the small diocese of Mayo that had sprung up around Mayo Abbey (of the 7th century) near Balla. The new county was divided into nine baronies which are represented by nine yew trees on the Mayo crest. The use of the yew tree expresses the understanding of the county's name. In Irish it is 'Maigh Eo', which means 'plain of the yews'. Apart from the nine yew trees, the crest carries a Patriarchal Cross (a cross

with two bars) and this refers to the Catholic Archdiocese of Tuam and there are three ordinary crosses, which refer to the other three Catholic dioceses in Mayo, namely Achonry, Killala and Galway. Since Mayo is a maritime county, the crest also carries a ship on the waves.

The Barony

The town of Ballyhaunis is set in the barony of Costello, which borders Sligo and Roscommon. In the earliest maps (of 1585 and 1685) the barony gets little attention, but even then its boundaries would have been clear enough. Interestingly, in the State Papers of 1570, the first recorded name of the barony was 'Bellahaunes' (which is near enough to the sound of Ballyhaunis). We are also told there that the Mac Costello family ruled the barony and that it had five main castles - respectively at Bellagharee, Tulrohaun, Annagh (presumably beside Lake Mannin) and Ballyhaunis (otherwise known as Cashlaun na Drancaddha).

Other early recorded names for the barony are: Mac Costula, Castell-more, Clancostillo, Bellahawnesse, Mac Costillo. But the name that has stood the test of time has been 'Costello'. And that is as it should be, because eventually it was the Norman family of Mac Costelloe that ruled the barony (with, perhaps, the Fitzgeralds around Ballyhaunis and Lake Mannin up to possibly 1282). It would have been 1235, of course, before the Anglo-Normans got their grip on Connacht and so ending the O'Connor rule. The de Burgos (Burkes) became the dominant family, but lesser families also carved out places for themselves. One of these was the de Angulos (or Nangles). The oldest of these that we know about was named Jocelyn de Angulo, and he had a son, William (mentioned in records for around 1176). In Irish this William would have been known as Liam Mac Jocelyn (sometimes spelt 'Gocelin'). In any case, it was this William's descendants that got Mayo territory and who soon called themselves by the Irish name 'Mac Goisdelo' (instead of Mac Jocelyn). In time (in transliteration) this Irish name became Mac Costelloe. And so in the middle of the 13th century there were three Mac Costelloe brothers, Hugo, Philip and Gilbert Mór. It was from Gilbert's branch of the family that the Mac Costelloe chiefs came, and these had their main castle at Castlemore (beyond Kilmovee). But the descendants of Philip are of more interest around Ballyhaunis and Lake Mannin. From Philip came one Jordan Dubh (Duff) and so the Mac Jordan (Mac Costello) family that built St. Mary's Abbey and that had a chief castle at Rathnaguppan (Rath Castle north of Aghamore). But from Philip, too, came the Baldraithe (Waldron) and Mac Philips families.

So before the Mac Jordan Duff family ruled around Ballyhaunis, it is possible that the Fitzgeralds did so for a while (before whom were the Irish O'Ceirins). But in any case, from possibly 1282, the Mac Jordans were to go on to rule the district until 1586. Then Sir Theobald Dillon took over, and from then onwards to modern times, the Dillons were the local lords.

The Parish

Today the town of Ballyhaunis is in the Catholic parish of Annagh, which took its present geographical shape in 1894, when Archbishop McEvilly re-drew the boundaries of the parishes of Began and Annagh. Prior to that more than half the town was in the Began parish. So, while it is believed that the present parish of Annagh (or of Ballyhaunis) can trace its origins back to the 5th century (through the church at Kilmullen and through the two earlier oratories, and the holy well at Churchpark), yet the parish that we know today took its geographical form in 1894. The present magnificent church of St. Mary and St. Patrick was blessed in 1909 (and so replaced the earlier post-Emancipation church of St. Mary that had served the town in the latter half of the last century).

Now, there we were speaking of the Catholic parish of Annagh. But from 1570 onwards there have also existed civil parishes, which most often carry the names of respective Catholic parishes, but which scarcely ever cover the same geographical areas. These civil parishes still exist, and indeed they are used by the Church of Ireland as the basic ecclesiastical units. So, for instance, the civil parish of Annagh is not the same as the Catholic parish, that is with regard to territory. Of course, the concept of the parish is fundamentally a Catholic one, and is thought to have its origin in the fifth or sixth century - and may have been based on a tribal or monastic area. Certainly later on, ecclesiastical parishes were formally constituted - this was in the twelfth century, after the Synod of Rath Breasail in 1111, and the Synod of Kells in 1152.

Annagh

Altogether, seventy-two civil parishes have developed in Mayo since 1570, and down the years until 1898 the areas they covered remained unchanged. However, in 1898 the county councils came into being and here and there the boundaries of civil parishes were altered. So for instance, prior to that year, there were five complete parishes (civil) in the barony of Costello (one being Annagh), and parts of another four, but since 1898 the barony has been made up of the complete civil parishes of Annagh, Aghamore, Began and Kilmovee, and parts of the civil parishes of Knock, Kilbeagh and Kilturra.

Our interest here, of course, is in the civil parish of Annagh, which at Ballyhaunis meets the civil parish of Began. The first thing that one notices about the civil parish of Annagh is that it mostly lies to the south-east of the town, so it does not take in the townland of Annagh (beside Mannin Lake), which was the site of an old castle (as we saw), and which has always been in the northern civil parish of Aghamore, just as it was in the Aghamore-Knock Catholic parish before 1894. From these facts, perhaps a deduction could be drawn that the parish of Annagh (both Catholic and civil) did not derive its name from the townland of Annagh, but possibly from the other Annagh, which in some old maps is marked as a church site beyond Kilmullen on the other side of Ballyhaunis. But indeed, for completeness it must be said that Sir William Petty's map of 1685 (which is a bit blurred) seems to give a third Annagh nearer to the Roscommon border. However, all that is something that needs more research. In any case, in the oldest Catholic documents the name used for Annagh is 'Enagh', and this was

derived from the Irish word 'Eanach' meaning marsh. But the anglicised version i.e. Annagh was well established by the 17th century. Incidentally, the population of the civil parish of Annagh in 1841 was 7,904 which in 1979 it was down to 2,175.

Ballyhaunis

Finally we come to the town itself. Today, Ballyhaunis has its convent and two churches, its two fine primary schools and community school, its clubs and societies and industries and thriving social and economic life. In the 1971 census, the Ballyhaunis population was 1,093. In the 1911 census the population stood at 1,149 and so back along with 911 (1891), 542 (1871), 378 (1851), 353 (1841). The name Ballyhaunis is an anglicised version of 'Beal Átha hAmhnais', which literally means the 'ford-mouth of strife'. The Irish name is preserved in the popular song 'Máire Bheal Átha hAmhnais' (of which there are different versions, but the original coming, it is thought, from the vagabond poet and Augustinian friar, Tomás Ó Caiside - An Caisideach Bán). In another song by the friar the name is slightly different - it is 'Beul Áth hAmhnais'.

There is one interesting description of the town that is worth recording. It is taken from Lewis' 'Topographical Dictionary of Ireland', which was published in 1837. It says: 'Ballyhaunis is a market town in the parish of Annagh, Barony of Costello, County Mayo and Province of Connacht, 9 miles (W. by N.) from Dublin on the road from Castlereagh to Castlebar.....A Monastery was founded there for friars of the Order of St. Augustine, and largely endowed by the family of Nangle, who afterward took the name of Costello, it subsisted till the reign of Jas. 1., and at the commencement of the insurrection of 1641 was restored by some of the friars of the same Order. The remains of the ancient buildings consist only of the walls of the church, with two small wings connected with it by arches, on the site of the conventional buildings a modern house has been erected (which can be seen in the 1791 sketch) which is at present (1837) occupied by Augustinian friars. The market is on Tuesday and fairs are held on June 1st., July 2nd, September 22nd and October 29th., chiefly for horses and cattle. The town contains a constabulary police station, and has a penny post to Clare and Frenchpark.'

The Name

Today, the name of Ballyhaunis sounds sweet on the tongue, but down the centuries, it must be admitted, the word has had a rough passage. One can read in a newspaper cutting of 1932 that in the 13th century the name of the hamlet was changed from Lough-a-Narney to Belaownes (or Belanawnis), but the existence of a hamlet would surely have to be backed up today with some sound sources.

More certain is the name 'Bellahanasse' which is found in the historical documents known as the 'Faints of Elizabeth', this is in number 3386 and is very like a Latin name that we find in Augustinian sources in Rome for the year 1432. In the Augustinian source, the name is 'Hanahannassa', which is certainly an Irish place name, and is thought by scholars to refer to Ballyhaunis. The famous Mayo historian H.T. Knox, quoting a 1570 document gives the word 'Ballyhaunis' just as it is, but one

suspects that he modernised the spelling (and earlier in the quotation he gives the spelling 'Bellahaunes' for the name of the barony, which at that time would most likely be also the spelling for the name of the town).

But whatever about 1570, a little later (in 1586) another document gives the name of the town as 'Bealahawnish' which sounds remarkably close to the Irish name. Forty years later (in 1635) there is again, a little more difficulty with the word, and we get the version 'Bealahaunes'. By 1791 (as we know from a man called Grose), the name was being written as 'Ballyhaunes' or 'Bealahaunes'. However, certainly by 1833 (as we know from house-books preserved in St. Mary's Abbey), the name is definitely Ballyhaunis. And so it has remained to this day (as the old story teller would go).

The Beginnings

Now, despite reference in documents and so on, it is difficult to pin-point when exactly the town of Ballyhaunis was founded. What one usually reads is that it grew up around the Augustinian Abbey (which was begun either in 1348 or 1430 or thereabouts). That would seem to be the accepted view and without a doubt, if no town or hamlet existed before that, the foundation of an Abbey would have created one. However, perhaps a case could be made that a town, or at least a hamlet, did exist before coming of the Augustinians, and so that the roots of Ballyhaunis go back beyond the 15th or the 14th century. Proving that, of course, would be the problem. One productive avenue of investigation might be the actual take-over from the Irish by the Normans in this area

around Ballyhaunis. In the paper cutting (of 1932) that has already been mentioned, there is a reference to a Fitzgerald fortress and manor on the Friary Hill. I understand that this was a tradition, and it was expressed in writing in the 17th century (as a preparation for the map that was published in 1685). Well, if that manor existed in fact, there would almost certainly have been some kind of town, as the barons encouraged trade around their places. And where there is trade, there is a town. And all that would have been the case, before the Abbey was founded.

Another argument, for a pre-existing town before the Abbey was built, could be drawn from the usual practice of the friars themselves. Unlike the older orders of monks, who built in remote places far from people, the friars usually came to where settled communities already existed (or where people passed in goodly numbers as for instance on pilgrimages). So one could deduce from that that Ballyhaunis may have existed before the friars came, but if it did, their coming of course gave it a new lease of life - so much so that in later years they could be seen with some justification as having brought the town into real being and as giving it a more splendid purpose and fame.

But there we had better end. Perhaps, it ought to be pointed out that Ballyhaunis is not mentioned in the earlier maps of Mayo (for the years 1585 and 1685). The main reason for this is that in fact in these the whole barony of Costello was not very thoroughly covered. At the time, however, we know that both a castle and an abbey existed there. It was thus no mean place. Today of course, it is big on the map, it holds its head high and all Mayo knows it!

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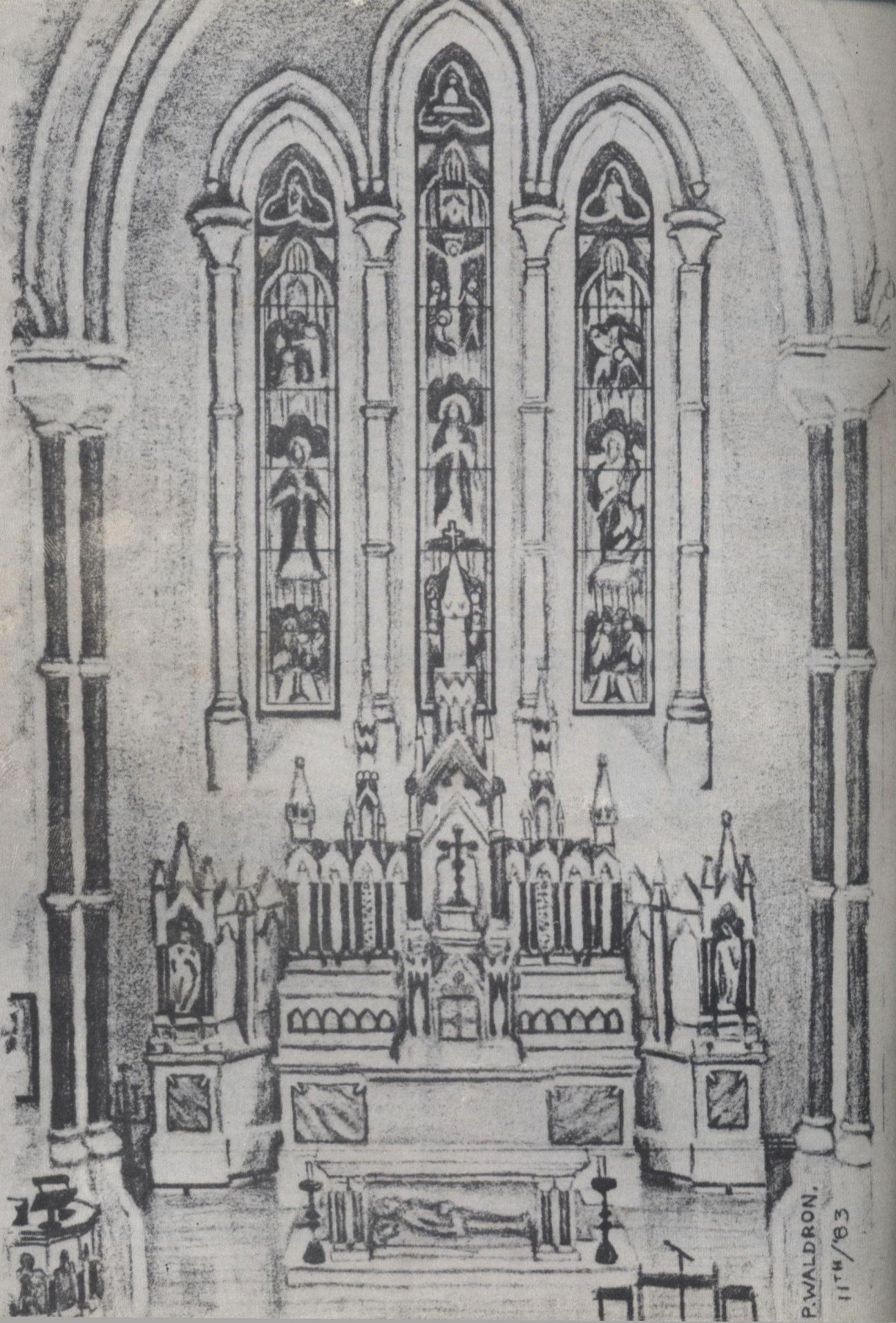
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