

BALLYHAUNIS MAGAZINE

ANNACH



Season's Greetings



In greeting the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding districts wishing them the peace of which the Angels sang on the First Christmas, I again thank the Junior Chamber for the continued excellence of Annagh Magazine and the opportunity it gives to so many to contribute their thoughts and reflections on the passing scene.

In the parish, Fr. Paddy Williams left us to become P.P. of Achill after an all too short a stay. However in that short stay he has left an indelible mark on the life of our parish. His quiet unassuming approach hid a dynamic personality, a keen perception of work to be done, and the will to complete it. The renovation of the Parochial Hall is but one of his achievements. We congratulate Achill on having such a worthy Pastor.

We welcome Fr. David Fitzgibbon amongst us and will appreciate his experience in England where he had contact with our emigrants. No doubt he will add his personal talents to the life of our parish.

The dark days of winter are not a time for torpor - a "dolce far niente!" but planning for the future. That seems the spirit in Ballyhaunis at the moment and the air is full of vibrant expectancy and the will to continue local community effort to solve our own peculiar needs. "Ní neart go cur le chéile."

Patrick O. Costelloe,
Parish Priest



Acknowledgements

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Editorial

This is the seventh edition of 'Annagh' Magazine. This year we are happy to facilitate the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club in producing for them the supplement inside this magazine in Centenary Year.

We will gladly consider a similar idea for any other local organisation in future years. Clearly the production of Annagh is a community effort as is evident from the ready response we received from so many people with photographs and articles.

Once again this year we thank our faithful advertisers and welcome some new advertisers - a further sign of the confidence that the business community has in the magazine.

Finally, we thank our readers for their continued support and we hope that they will find some aspects of this Magazine which will pleasantly recall the past, or make them proud of the present in Ballyhaunis.



A Message from Junior Chamber

On behalf of Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber, I wish to extend warm Christmas Greetings to you and your family at home and abroad.

I wish to thank you for your support and goodwill during 1984. I hope you will find "Annagh" an enjoyable record of the town's past and present.

Nollaig faoi Shean 'o faoi Mhaire dhaoibh.

**Rita London,
President 1984**

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In The Rare Ould Days



Ted Doyle, England, Pat Hoare, Ellen Wolfe, R.I.P., Paddy Doyle, England, Mrs. Maria Hoare R.I.P. and Eileen Doyle, U.S.A. going to a funeral on the Derrylea Road in 1926.
(Courtesy of Pat Doyle)

If I had called to John B. Keane's pub when I was in Kerry last October, I might have learned something new about how to use a pen. I am half sorry now, but why I did not call is a long story!

In Ardfert

John Joe Lilly and myself were interested in ploughmen rather than penmen, when we went to the National Ploughing Championships in Ardfert. After the trophies were lost and won, very few ploughmen homeward plod their weary way and neither did we. In a hotel that evening, old acquaintances were renewed and new friends made - most of whom were men who consider one imperial gallon to be a decent gargle! It was a Corkman who got the show on the road with a spirited rendition of 'De Banks'. This was followed by 'Cockles and He Mussels' from a Jackeen, who, it was alleged, came down to have a nostalgic look at the Sam Maguire! After 'The Town I Love So Well', it was mentioned that the West was asleep. I remarked to John Joe that if we had Jack Greene with us our troubles would be over. However, John Joe himself rose to the occasion, and as befits a man in the machinery business he did a very smooth job on 'The Fields of Athenry'. Chorus followed chorus with scant regard for anybody trying to sleep. We reflected how nice and quiet Stephen Nolan's twenty-first birthday party had been a few nights previously! An acquaintance of mine was barred from a premises in Melbourne for 99 years for making less of a racket. He successfully appealed against the severity of the order and has a document to show that it was reduced to 75 years!

With eight pints drunk and the songs of four provinces sung, an attempt to get some sleep was a problem in itself. I opted to sleep on a bench. Lilly had a bed, but it was not a bed of roses. He found it occupied by a six foot long rubber plant which had previously occupied a corner in the corridor, until some 'botanist' conceived the idea of cross-breeding a Lilly with a rubber plant! The significance of a large fire extinguisher in still another man's bed I have not yet worked out.

We Head Home

Early the following day we were informed that the venue for the evening session was John B. Keane's in Listowel. But John Joe astutely observed that if we went to John B's, we would never cross the Shannon, or see the 'harbour lights of home' that night - quoting from a song we heard sung the previous night.

You've gotta know when to walk and you have got to know when to run away. We gave Listowel a wide berth and came home via Ballylongford - a town we knew nothing about except that it is the birth place of George Dee.

The sight of a team of horses ploughing, the hum of threshing mill, the smell of T.V.O. at the ploughing championships, all evoked memories of olden days and old ways of doing things. Also the attempt of producing a 'new plant' mentioned earlier, recalled to mind some attempts to grow plants not normally grown in this area that I had heard of.

Olden Times

Paddy Cleary recently recalled for me his

memories of the time flax was last cultivated in Johnstown, by a man by the name of Willie Walsh, who lived where Seamus Walsh now resides. (There is no relationship between the two Walshes - Patrick the father of Seamus having purchased the farm from Willie on his return from the U.S. in the 1930's).

Mr. Cleary's most vivid memories of the crop are the harvesting operations, pulling the flax by hand, tying it into sheaves and carting it to the flax pond where it was steeped for a certain length of time, before being carted away for transport to the scutching hill.

He humorously recalled some of the 'teething troubles' they had at the flax pond. It appears the flax had to be weighed down with stones, so that it would steep properly. Various schemes were tried with little success, when a big man, Martin Connell from Redford, volunteered to go into the pond and place the flax and stones properly. Even by the harsh work practices of the time, it was a tough undertaking, and Connell soon got tired working in four to five feet of water and went on strike. The strike was settled with Connell being given the status of a 'seaman' and in common with all sailors of the time was allowed a 'rum ration' - in his case a half pint of whiskey daily while he was at 'sea'!

More On Planting

The tillage returns for 1903 indicate that 189 acres of flax was grown in Co. Mayo in that year, but I have come across only one other instance of its having been grown locally. About twenty years ago in the home of Andy and Biddy Bailey at Bargarriff, I was shown a linen sheet that was made in the village from flax grown in the village. I was told that the sheet was about eighty years old.

Andy himself never grew flax, but he successfully grew tobacco during the war years. I have noticed in seed catalogues of that period tobacco seed included in the list. In Agloragh there is an orange tree grown from seed and planted over thirty years ago by Paddy Madden. This is a long way from the Mediterranean Sea but it is just across the road from the birthplace of Jack Judge, the man who wrote the marching song 'It's A Long Way To Tipperary'.

Crafts

While it appears that the growing of flax and the weaving of linen were never carried out to any great extent locally, wool and fabrics woven from it played an important part in the lives of the people. Paddy Cleary remembers the last of the local weavers, Pat Byrne who lived in Johnstown, where his grandson and namesake now lives with his wife and family. A daughter of his, Mrs Nora Ruane who is now in her eighties, lives next door. The raw wool was carded and spun at home on a spinning wheel. The yarn was then taken to the weaver who on his loom produced the fabric. There are probably many examples of

Mr. Byrne's work still in existence, but the only one I know of is a blanket in the possession of Jim Culliney.

Next door to Pat Byrne's, Johnny Judge had his carpenter shop. Johnny was a skilled craftsman and the wooden cart wheels which he built were noted for workmanship, strength and durability. He also liked to play a tune on the fiddle. Further up the road towards Cloonfad, passing Derrylea school on the left and the site of Peter Quinn's forge on the right, stood another well known landmark - O'Brien's Mill of Gurrane, which for generations of local people was the most important structure in the area. (Churches, school and police stations will probably lodge a counter claim!).

O'Brien's Mill

I don't have to ask Paddy Cleary anything about this mill, because I remember going there myself about 1967 with grain, and turf to fire the kiln. Shortly afterwards the big wheel stopped, the millstones went silent and the fire in the kiln went out forever. Pa O'Brien was the last man to operate the mill and I always enjoy a conversation with him.

Recently he told me how puzzled he was as a young man by the fact that certain people arrived up with grain of very poor quality, damp and beginning to bud with rootlet attached, no matter how good the harvest was. There were difficulties attached to dealing with this kind of material, and the finished product was, in the opinion he had at the time, unfit for animal feed. However, he was later to find out that before the material was fed to animals it was steeped in a large wooden barrel for about a fortnight, after which, by some obscure process a clear colourless liquid was extracted, which was used for medicinal purposes on both man and beast. It was a very popular cure for colds and flu, and was also used extensively for backache and toothache. And it that's not the truth, then I was told a lie.

Visiting Houses

Lies and tall tales were not unheard of in the visiting houses. Times was when every house was a visiting house, but some were more visited than others. Two come to mind, Willie Feeney's of Redford where there was a leaning towards traditional music and dancing, and Jimmy Gannon's next door to Johnny Judges, where card playing and the crack were the main pastimes on many the long winter's night.

At one time Gannon's housed a 'community radio', one installed on the hire purchase, with one shilling being collected from the boys at regular intervals to pay the instalments. Gannon's remained a visiting house long after Jimmy emigrated to the U.S.A., where he died some years ago. Other types of meetings were held there from time to time.

For example there was the presentation to Fr. Pat

Ruane on the occasion of his ordination. There were also meetings about game rights and a series of lectures by Paddy Laffey one winter shortly after his appointment as Agriculture Advisor in Ballyhaunis.

Buckley's Hall

No look back at the past in these parts would be complete without mention of Buckley's Hall in Redford. Chris Buckley, who is still remembered and often talked about, was by all accounts a colourful and enterprising character. With financial backing from John Givern, a returned 'Yank', he built and promoted a dance hall.

My only memory of it is seeing it being demolished, but I understand that under Buckley's management it went into liquidation and was taken over by Frank Waldron who ran it successfully for a number of years. It was a very popular venue and there are hundreds of people in the parish and surrounding area, and indeed beyond the seas, who have fond memories of the dances and the crack in Buckley's Hall 'in the rare ould days'.....

Jimmy Cribbin



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News from Australia

by Rev. Pat Ruane

When my nephew Padraic brought home a note from school, from Mr. Jim Lundon, requesting me to write something for 'Annagh' about my place in Australia, I felt it could not refuse.

A Lifeline

My mother (bless her) always sends me 'Annagh'. I have been reading it in Papua New Guinea and Australia for many years now. It has always come as a breath of fresh air, a smile bringing me back again to the community in which I was baptised, to a people among whom I once lived very happily and simply, to my home place which gave me values and an ideology and total acceptance.

'Annagh' helps me to conjure up again faces long forgotten and memories almost gone into oblivion. Every item of news is exciting and refreshing. I think I see 'Annagh' as almost the next best thing to a visit to Johnstown and Ballyhaunis, bringing with it a resurrection to the 'little death' of exile. So here is one man's congratulations and thanks to the editor, the contributors and all who make 'Annagh' possible.

My Parish

My parish at present is Coonamble in western New South Wales, Australia. Coonamble in aborigine language means 'dung'. About a hundred and fifty years ago an Irishman called McMahon brought the first cattle into Western South Wales, and he watered his stock at a water-hole in the underground (literally) Castlereagh river (which is a tributary of the Murray-Darling). For obvious reasons, the aborigines called the place Coonamble. However, present-day Coonamble bears no resemblance to (nor in any way reminds one of) the excrement of the male bovine species.

In area, Coonamble (parish) is about half the size of Ireland, with a population of seven thousand. And indeed Coonamble has had a long association with Ireland - the first settlers were Irish and the present-day parishioners are their descendants. Then Irish Brigidine Sisters made their first foundation in the southern hemisphere at Coonamble in 1883. The first four Irish pioneer sisters travelled by bullock-cart from Sydney to Coonamble - a ten day journey in those times. When I made the same journey some weeks ago it took just thirty minutes in a jet!

Noble Exiles

The Brigidines arrived in their Irish serge clothing and all that went with it in those days. They came to a land where sustained temperatures of 110 degrees are not uncommon for six months of the year. When they came there was no air-conditioning, no

refrigeration. Within ten years, the four young sisters were laid to rest 'beneath the Murray Pines' - they died of tuberculosis. But they are not forgotten. Coonamble people cherish their memory and their graves.

Last year we celebrated the centenary of one hundred years of Brigidine presence in Coonamble. The Irish ambassador to Australia attended the celebrations. Incidentally, in 1988 Australia will be celebrating its bicentenary. Ireland's contribution to the formation of Australia will be duly recognised. In preparation for special recognition in the key area of education, Susan Ryan, Federal Minister of Education, has already visited Ireland.

Getting back to the parish, Coonamble has not had a long history. I am the sixth parish priest. But then one priest was pastor for 47 years, another for 27. They were both Irish. If I emulate them in longevity, I will be haunting Bridie and Johnstown for many years to come! Over the years there have been many vocations to the priesthood and religious life at Coonamble. Perhaps they were too smart - they left the home mission to the Irish! (The calling of most of them brought them away from Coonamble.)

Farming

It would be difficult for a Ballyhaunis farmer to imagine the magnitude of Coonamble farming. Farms range from seven thousand acres to forty thousand. The average time to plough an acre of land is less than two minutes and less than three to harvest an acre of wheat. But farming is a hazardous business there all the same. At best, rainfall is marginal and prolonged droughts are common. In addition, there are mice plagues and grasshopper plagues; and any other hazard you can think of, Coonamble has got it!

Luckily Coonamble farmers are philosophical in their losses, and in all vicissitudes they seem to be able to say fairly sincerely "She'll be right, mate."

Thorn Birds

Novel readers might be interested to know that Colleen McCullagh, author of the 'Thorn Birds' once lived in the Coonamble district. Many of the environmental descriptions in 'Thorn Birds' are accurate of Coonamble, but I assure you that any resemblance of the present pastor to Ralph De Bricasart is entirely fictitious!

The more serious student of geology may be more interested to know that the Warrumbungle Ranges are in the Coonamble district. These ranges were first explored by an Irish geologist. He gave the name of an Irish mountain to each of the peaks. One

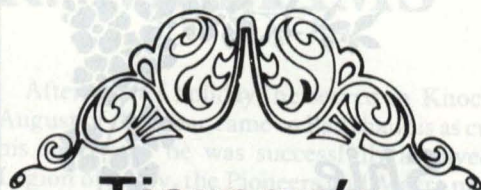
of the largest telescopes in the world rests on Carrauntoohill.

A Welcome

Coonamble is well off the beaten path for the modern Irish migrant to Australia. So it was a great day when Jim and Carmel Cribben of Johnstown visited me. Jim was impressed by the vastness and potential of the waterless country. In Jim's own words: "I'd settle here, if I could only bring the well with me". I notice he has the spuds dug, and anois teacht an geimhreadh, who knows! Knowing the ingenuity of the man, I wouldn't be surprised if he plus the well might be knocking at my door in Coonamble any day!

So if you find yourself in the hinterlands, and passing through Coonamble on the way to Alice Springs or Ayres Rock, you will find a welcome at my place, a spare room, a beer in the fridge - and God knows you'll need it!

Fr. Pat Ruane



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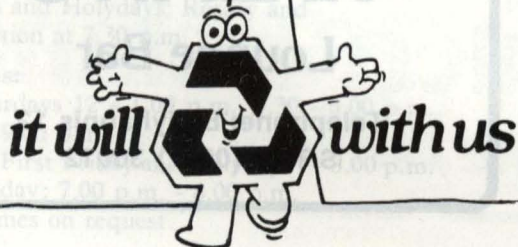
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FAREWELL FR. WILLIAMS

Fr. Patrick Williams was born in Co. Donegal, but his origins were in Co. Clare. His boyhood was spent in Tuam, Co. Galway, where he received his primary education. After his secondary education in St. Jarlath's College he went to Maynooth and was ordained for the Archdiocese of Tuam in 1952.

He obtained the H.Dip. in Education in University College Galway in 1953. He was then appointed to the teaching staff of St. Jarlath's College, Tuam; where he taught Greek and French. He was also active in the sports and games of the college.

In 1973, he was appointed curate to Dunmore where he was interested in social activities, especially the resettlement of Itinerants.

In 1976 he volunteered for service in Zambia in South Africa for three years, when his period was up he volunteered for a further three years and returned home in April, 1983.

After a brief holiday, he served in Knock and in August of that year came to Ballyhaunis as curate. In his short stay he was successfully involved in the Legion of Mary, the Pioneers and Macra na Feirme. He was very much involved with the youth and was very dedicated to the sick and housebound, which he faithfully served. He was very much involved in the work in the Parochial Hall, in collecting funds and doing a share of work himself.

He is a great loss to the Parish of Annagh, and a great gain to the Parish of Achill.

We wish him the very best of luck, health and happiness in his new parish on the western shores.

"Go ndeirigh an bóthar leat".

**Padraic Phillips and
Bridie Lavin**

The Churches

ST. MARY'S AUGUSTINIAN ABBEY

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- b) First Fridays and Weekdays of Lent
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- c) Sundays and Holydays: A Vigil Mass at 7.30 p.m.
with regular Masses on the day at 8.30 a.m.,
10.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

Evening Devotions:

- a) Ordinary Weekdays: Rosary at 7.30 p.m.

- a) Ordinary Weekdays: Rosary at 7.30 p.m.
- b) Weekdays of May and October: Rosary and
Benediction at 7.30 p.m.
- c) Sundays and Holydays: Rosary and
Benediction at 7.30 p.m.

Confessions:

- a) On Saturdays 12 - 1.00 p.m., 5.30 - 6.00 p.m.
and 7 - 9.00 p.m.
- b) Even of First Friday and Holyday: 7 - 8.00 p.m.
- c) First Friday: 7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
- d) Other times on request.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH

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- Daily Mass: 10.00 a.m.
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- Holy Days: 8.30 a.m., 10.00 a.m., 11.30 a.m.
- 7.30 p.m. on the Vigil of all Sundays and Holy Days
- First Fridays 10.00 a.m., 7.30 p.m.

Weekly Novena: Mondays 7.30 p.m.

Confessions:

- Saturday 12.30 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.
- 7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

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Square de Ballyhaunis



A view of Square de Ballyhaunis in Guilers

Every person in Ballyhaunis knows where the 'Square' is - or do they? It will be of interest to many to know that the square of Ballyhaunis was officially opened on the 24th day of April, 1984 in Guilers, Brittany, France. This honour was bestowed by the people of Guilers on the people of Ballyhaunis as a measure of their esteem for the town of Ballyhaunis. For the first time in history, the Community in Guilers had the honour of receiving an official delegation from a town of another country and were anxious to demonstrate the depths of their feelings and friendship for their recently found friends in Ballyhaunis. For our friends in Brittany, this marked culmination of two years of exchanges and planning between the towns.

The International Town Twinning Programme has developed under the auspices of the United Nations and is actively promoted by the Brittany/Ireland Association. There is a strong shared celtic tradition between Brittany and Ireland and this has manifested itself in the successful Twinning Programme between Brittany and Ireland.

The town of Guilers in Brittany has already been visited by about one hundred Ballyhaunis people and Ballyhaunis has in turn received over one hundred and fifty people from Guilers in the past two years. All of these people were prompted to visit each other by the Town Twinning Association which was actively promoted by the two Twinning Committees.

Particularly prominent in the exchanges between the two towns were the students who have discovered

new friends and who have gained enormously from the Twinning experience. Our students and young people had had the great opportunity of attending schools in Guilers and of staying with families and observing at first hand the daily life of people in another country. All have discovered new friends, new horizons and a new language. With the development of the E.E.C. our students are now aware of the importance of developing a proficiency in the French language and the importance of having this language to explore job opportunities in any part of Europe. The advantage of doing this under a twinning programme is that they can visit and stay with friends and families who are well known in Ballyhaunis and who are familiar with the life and style and standards of our people.

Farmers, businessmen and workers alike have the opportunity of seeing first hand how our counterparts in France are operating at this time. New methods of farming can be observed, new methods of enterprise can be observed, exchanges of ideas, information and first hand knowledge of all aspects of another country can all be gathered from this twinning programme.

Sporting contacts have been set up and are now ready for development between the two communities. The people of Guilers have exceptional sport facilities and almost every sporting organisation in the Ballyhaunis area has a counterpart in Guilers with which to make very valuable exchanges.

Guilers is a town with a population of 8,000 people situated four miles from Brest and five miles

from the sea in the North West of Brittany. An Irishman will feel very much at home there today in observing the welcoming signs for the people of Ballyhaunis and the prominent position of the 'Square de Ballyhaunis'. The warmth, hospitality and freshness of the people of Guilers will quickly dispel any notions of being in a foreign and distant place. The hospitality afforded to the Ballyhaunis delegation who visited Guilers for their Twinning Week which commenced on the 22nd April was exceptional. It embraced young and old alike, every organisation of their town was represented and they marked the occasion with ceremony and colour. No effort was spared to make the 'Ballyhaunisiens' feel at home. Longlasting friendships were formed on this occasion.

Those who attended the official delegation from Ballyhaunis were as follows:-

Michael and Laura Brogan, Rene and Tom Burke, Jim and Marian Higgins, Agnes McGee, Geraldine Griffin, Robert McNabb, Mary Staunton, Mary Dillon, Kevin Flanagan, Bernard Freyne, John and Liz Dillon-Leetch, Pat and Sally Higgins, Rita and Jim Lunden, Ann Marrinan, Kathleen Hunt, Mary and Aiden Kelly, Barry and Anna Butler, Teresa Naughton, Connell Higgins, Lorcan Higgins, Sinead Curley, Darragh Loughran, Martina Freyne.

All were treated to magnificent hospitality but left with a memory of simple people marking a great occasion with kindness and friendship.

The week commenced with a special Easter Sunday Mass and proceeded on to a very busy week of tours, exhibitions and official ceremonies. The highlight of the week was the signing of the Town Twinning Charter by Senator Jim Higgins and Doctor Michael Brogan and by M. Balard (Mayor of Guilers) and Jean Paul Guyomarch (President of Guilers Twinning Committee). At this ceremony a painting of a Mayo scene and a copy of the Book of Kells was presented on behalf of the people of Ballyhaunis to the people of Guilers and a Sculptor and a book of Breton Culture were presented by the people of Guilers to the people of Ballyhaunis.

The inauguration of 'Square de Ballyhaunis' in Guilers came as a considerable surprise and honour to the Ballyhaunis delegation and is indicative of the high esteem with which the people of Guilers hold the town of Ballyhaunis. This ceremony and a tree planting ceremony was performed in the presence of a colourful band of the French Navy. A luncheon for 450 people and many exhibitions of interest to the visitors from Ballyhaunis were among other ceremonies during the festive week. The events were closely reported in the local press and radio.

In parting at the end of the week, the Ballyhaunis delegation felt as if they were leaving their own

homes and were assured that Ballyhaunis people will always be welcome to visit their second home, the 'Ballyhaunis of Brittany'. Many bonds between individuals and sporting clubs were formed and it is clear that these bonds will flourish in the years to come.

Next year will mark the official twinning of both towns in Ballyhaunis when a very large party of Breton people from Guilers will travel for official ceremonies in the town. The Twinning Programme is one which must be experienced to be appreciated.

John Dillon-Leetch

Editorial De Monsieur Le Marie

PAQUES 84 restera pour notre cité un évènement de première importance. Pour la première fois de son histoire (connue) notre commune aura l'honneur de recevoir officiellement les représentants d'une cité d'Outre-Mer. Hommes et femmes de BALLYHAUNIS seront en effet chez nous du 22 au 27 avril.

Nous montrerons pendant ce séjour à nos amis irlandais, la chaleur de notre accueil et de notre amitié. Nous devons beaucoup à l'Irlande. Une même pensée nous anime due à nos origines communes. Que chaque guilérien avec ses véritables richesses, celles du coeur, fasse que cette cérémonie exceptionnelle soit pour tous, un acte de foi dans l'amitié entre les Nations.

Merci à chacun d'entre vous et que dure longtemps cette amitié entre BALLYHAUNIS et GUILERS, entre la BRETAGNE et l'IRLANDE.

Editorial Du President Du Comite De Jumelage Guilers Ballyhaunis

Janvier 1982 - Avril 1984 ... deux années qui ont permis aux comités de jumelage de Guilers et Ballyhaunis de tisser des liens d'amitié indissociables et d'entretenir de multiples échanges entre les deux communautés qu'ils représentent. Le moment est venu d'officialiser, en présence des élus des deux cités, cette collaboration.

Cependant, si le chemin parcouru est déjà long et jalonné de nombreux échanges, tant scolaires que familiaux, il reste encore beaucoup à faire pour développer les points d'intérêts communs, tant sur le plan sportif que culturel. Et j'espère que cette semaine sera particulièrement fertile en contacts pour toutes les associations de Guilers avec les représentants de Ballyhaunis. Que tous soient assurés que le comité de jumelage fera son possible pour favoriser les contacts qu'ils souhaitent.

BIENVENUE BALLYHAUNIS - Et maintenant que la fête commence.

J-P GUYOMARCH
Président du Comité de Jumelage

The Friary Graveyard



The Friary Graveyard

The Friary graveyard as we know it today has been used as a burial ground for about three centuries, and the area around it for many centuries. It should be the first stop for all those interested in the history of local families, or in the different surnames which were found in this part of the country over the years.

Field-work

Last Autumn (1983) I undertook to take down all the inscriptions on the tombstones in the Friary graveyard. Of course, there may be some old stones covered over with soil and grass, or briars, and there may be some mistakes made in the actual notes taken, or in the transfer of the notes, but as far as I know the pieces given below are in order. At this stage, I must say that in 1937 a series was printed in the **Connaught Telegraph** that is similar to this project. Dr. M. F. Waldron (Antiquarian) and the old Ballyhaunis Historical and Archaeological Society were associated with the series. It is valuable because it preserved the inscriptions of the few stones that went missing after the 1938 renovation of the Abbey.

Names and Dates

The commonest surnames in the graveyard are:

- (1) Waldron, (2) Lyons, (3) Freely, (4) Folliard, (5) - Caulfield (6) Fitzmaurice (7) Murphy, (8) Greally, (9) Moran, (10) Cribbin, (11) Grogan, (12) Ford, (13) Hopkins, (14) Killeen, (15) Jordan, (16) Hunt, (17) Finn, (18) Morley, (19) Bailey, (20) Carney.

There are approximately 120 other surnames, some of which have died e.g. Ansbory, Begley, Clifford, Hamrock, Lavelle, McGovern, Treston - and some of which just passed through e.g. Dunn, Hacket, Mark, Sheridan and Doan.

The oldest date on a stone in or about the Friary is 1616, but whose it is we will never know, as it consists only of curious letters and a crucifixion scene. It is now covered up by marble. The next oldest is barely legible and reads:

Pray for the Soul of Cristi Dillon. Me Fecit. 1678. IHS. This stone is at present near the sacristy. The next oldest is almost impossible to make out. It reads: **Pray for the Soul of Far. Stephen Hamroc, who helped to repair this chapel 1672.** This stone is inside the proper graveyard and was discovered in 1936 while a grave was being dug for his namesake from Leow.

Some Others

Some other of the oldest stones are over the following: (a) Pat Egan, died 31/12/1788, aged 71, his wife Catherine, alias (née) Burke, erected 1800 by their son Myles Egan, a surgeon (who also erected a magnificent stone to his wife, which is found beside the latter near the sacristy); (b) Fr. James Egan, P.P. of Began and Annagh, died 18/9/1799, aged 80 years, was P.P. for 50 years; he would have lived in the old priory (seen in the 1791 sketch); (c) Denis Dunn of Brittis (or Burris - word hard to read on the stone) died 29/11/1799, aged 36, erected by his wife Mary. Maybe he was someone killed on the run after 1798? He was from either Brittis or Burris in Queen's County (now Laois).

(d) Thomas Waldron, died 30/6/1800, aged 48 years - 'this stone was erected by his orders, for him and posterity.' (e) Neal Reagan, died 1801, (f) John Ford, died 3/1/1808, aged 31, his wife Margaret, died 25/4/1826, aged 58, erected by their son Pat Ford of Ballyhaunis; (g) Michael Loftus, died 12/4/1812, aged 86, his son Rev. James and Thomas erected by son Michael; (h) Caitlín McGreal, alias Finn, died 17/9/1813, and Patrick McGreal 'who caused this stone to be fixed on her grave as a memorial of his sincere regret at the loss of her'. (i) Mary Cassidy, Crossard, died 20/12/1819, aged 80 years, erected by her son Patt Cassidy of Crossard; (j) Rose Mannion, died 18/8/1823. Those, of course, are only a few examples of the older stones. Many more stones, pre-dating 1850, can still be seen.

Ages and Times

The oldest age of a person on a tombstone in the graveyard is 103 years - for Mrs. Maughan of Lisbane. The next oldest ages are as follows: 95 years for Margaret Greally of Kilbrogan, who died in 1941; 92 years for Anthony Carney, who died in 1899 and came from Ballindrehid; 91 years for John Cribbin, Moneymore and 89 years for William Judge of Cloonerim. There may be other older people buried there, but they have either no headstone, or the age is not marked on the headstone.

There are, as far as I know, two army tombstones erected over men who fought, or were involved in World War One. The first reads: **212056, Private A. Hopkins, Labour Corps 1st June 1919.** And the second says: **Michael James Hunt, Eire,**

Vaults

The two vaults presently existing are for the Moran and Conry families. Nobody seems to know to what Moran family the Moran vault belongs. If anybody knows, it would be helpful to hear about it, as all that is on the plaque above the door reads: The Moran Family Vault.

The other vault is more above ground than the first mentioned. It contains Mary Kate Conroy, died 1883, aged 3, her mother Kate Ellen who died in 1891, aged 38 years, her father John M. Conry (Conroy) who died in 1928, aged 78; also Martin D. Conry, died 1969, aged 84, his wife Alice, died 1970, aged 70 years and James Canon Conry, M.A. who died in 1962, aged 64 years. John M. Conroy was a merchant with premises now occupied by P.J. McGarry and Joe Regan's corner bar and Eugene Carney in Bridge Street.

Epitaphs

There are few 'epitaphs' in the graveyard and those few are probably not completely original. The first one can be found on the McGreal flagstone just inside the gate; it reads: "May Angels guard the sleeping dust till Jesus comes to raise the just." Another one, on the Lyons of Tooraree flag (under a tall arched stone that can be seen from the avenue) is now badly worn, but it says: "Beneath this tomb lies a virtuous wife/Cut away in her prime of life". This latter refers to Mary Lyons (née Fitzgerald) wife of Thomas Lyons, Tooraree, she died on January 28th in 1855 aged 35 years.

Another, on the very old, but un-dated flagstone over Dennis Lyons and wife, reads "In the grave you are laid/We shall not deplore you/Tho' grief and sad mourning/Encircle you whose tomb/Your who Saviour died/On the cross to redeem you/Will guide you forever/With the light of his love." This stone is to be found beside the south wall of the Friary. The only stone in Irish in the Friary graveyard reads: "Tá mé sinnte aníudh san cré, Bhídh méa challide air an tsaogal mar thú, Guide oram anois, as onir Dé agus ná leig mé ó flaithnis, ag dul amu, Pray for the soul of Anne Lyons, alias Fitzmaurice who died Dec. 20th, 1837, aged 50 years, erected by her son, Rev. P. Lyons." This flagstone is under the Kilkenny stone at the altar gable of the Friary.

Elaborations

One of the most interesting stones is on the north side of the church. It reads: "May he who is to come to judge the living and the dead, Grant eternal repose to the soul of Valentine Jordan, whose mortal remains await the resurrection beneath this sign of the Redeemer. He was the oldest son of Edmund Jordan, and grandson of Valentine Jordan, of Oldhead in the County of Mayo, and died in

Ballyhaunis, April 19th A.D., 1852. Deservedly loved and respected by all his acquaintances. Erected by his family, as a last sad tribute of their affection for him. Requiescat in pace."

Another long-winded stone, well carved, with coat of arms, reads: "O Lord, have mercy on the soul of Mrs. Bridget Egan, alias Kirwin of Glan who departed this life on the 29th day of April 1855 (33?) aged 38 years. As a token of gratitude for her maternal affection and virtuous conduct, this stone was erected by her husband, Doctor Myles Egan of Tuam, who gave one hundred pounds to the Convent of Ballyhaunis for a weekly mass to be celebrated for him and posterity for ever, may he rest in peace, amen."

Other points

I refer earlier to the two existing vaults in the graveyard, but there were three other vaults there one time. Two belonged to Burke families (one was for the Burkes of Holywell), and the third belonged to the Dillons. All three are not sealed, and I don't know where the Burke vaults were, but the Dillon vault was situated where the present sacristy is (or near it). The last person to be buried therein was Charles Dillon (1745-1813), the 12th Viscount. Charles' father was Henry Dillon (d. 1787), who had the title taken from him during the Williamite wars, and who had tried in vain to have his title recognised. Henry remained Catholic, and married Charlotte Lee, from whose family came Ditchly Hall. Henry died heartbroken because his heir, Charles became a Protestant in 1769 and so had his title as Viscount regained. Charles married Henrietta-Maria Mulgrave and traditionally he is supposed to have gone back to Catholicism on his deathbed. Hence, he was brought from Ditchly Hall, Oxford back to Ballyhaunis to be buried. Most people in Ballyhaunis don't realise that.

There is still a Viscount Dillon. He is Henry Benedict Dillon and is now eleven years old. He is 7th in descent from the 12th Viscount and is grandson of the 20th Viscount (Mactor. Michael E. Dillon) who wrote many letters to the Friary in 1956 and the early 70's, and expressed a wish to be buried in the old vault in the Friary, but changed his mind later on. In one letter he said that the family had once more become Catholic.

To Conclude

Well, those are just some of the interesting things to be found in the Friary graveyard, which can be seen any time. I hope the newly formed Ballyhaunis Historical and Archaeological Society can shed more light on other aspects of the graveyard. I am at present engaged in a similar study of the New Cemetery and have most of it done. So I hope to have a similar article on that in a later issue of this magazine.

Paul Waldron (Cave)



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First Holy Communion 1984



Back Row (l to r): John Coffey, Thomas Lyons, Hugh McKerritt, Daniel Tarpey, Michael Donoghoe, Jimmy O'Boyle, Cormac O'Connor, David Beirne, Derek Walsh, John Neenan, Eugene Brennan, Shane Burke, Padraig Murphy.
 4th Row (l to r): Mr. J. Duggan (B.Ed.), Suzanne Hannon, Noelle Hunt, Tara Caulfield, Collette Waldron, Jennifer Donnelly, Aine Delaney, Martina Freeley, Joan O'Malley, Claire Moore, Gillian Keane, Bernadette Duffy, John Flanagan, Helen Waldron, Glen Freyne.
 3rd Row (l to r): Robert Madden, Seamus McDonagh, Robert Gildea, Sean McNamara, Aine Lynskey, Eddie Allen, Caitriona Kelly, Fr. Costelloe, P.P., Mrs. Lyons (National School Teacher).
 2nd Row (l to r): Emma Dillon-Leetch, Maria Mahon, Declan Byrne, Gabriel Gallagher, Declan Doyle, Ann McManus, Padraig Hanley, Duncan Hannon, Patrick Moore, Fergal Kelly, Eoin Maughan, Terry Maughan, Olive Gavin.
 Front Row (l to r): Gerard Coen, Padraig Kelly, Emer Nestor, Hugh Curley, Siobhan Walsh, Claire O'Dwyer, Caroline Tighe, Cathy Costello, Caitriona Curley, Paula Jordan, Marie Higgins, Ann Murphy, Morgan McDermott, Maria Pellecchia.

Births.....



BAPTISMS

(in the Parish Church, Ballyhaunis
1st November 1983 to 31st October, 1984)

To Bernard and Jean Gallagher, Knock Road
a daughter, Janine Mary

To Eugene and Una Collum, Devlis
a son, Barry

To John and Shelia Forde, Clare Street
a son, Henry Patrick

To Padraic and Thérèse Walkin, Ballinteer, Dublin
a daughter, Genevieve

To Thomas and Margarite Moran, Main Street
a daughter, Jacklyn Elizabeth

To Jarlath and Josephine Nevin, Station Rise
a daughter, Tara Marie

To Martin and Julie Donohoe
a son, Stephen Noel

To Thomas and Mary McDonogh, Tooraree
a son, Simon

To Martin and Winnie McDonogh, Tooraree
a son, Bernard

To Michael J. and Mary Lyons, Lecarrow
a daughter Siobhan Frances

To Patrick and Máire Murphy, Station Rise
a daughter, Laura Patrice

To Michael and Marian McNamara, Tullaghan
a daughter, Bernadette Ann

To Anthony and Ann Nestor, Island
a daughter, Tara Patricia

To James and Bernadette Quinn, Classaroe
a daughter, Catherina

To John and Kathleen Naughton, Upper Main St.
a son, Kieran John

To Larry and Kathleen Pelecchia, Station Rise
a son, Ricardo Piero

To Timothy and Lily Rabbitte, Derrylea
a daughter, Elizabeth Mary Brigid

To Sean and Helen Biesty, Carrowkeel
a daughter, Lorraine Monica

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

To Thomas and Nora Moran, Devlis
a son, Michael Francis

To Dr. Sean and Joan McGuire, Ballindrehid
a daughter, Laura Maria

To Oliver and Alice Ruane, Bargarriff
a daughter, Alison Mary

To Padraig and Veronica O'Dowd, Station Rise
a son, Thomas Joseph

To Kieran and Elizabeth Folliard, Mt. Merrion
a son, Tyrone Thomas

To Derek and Mary Hubberd, Station Rise
a son, Padraic James

To John and Eileen Jordan, Johnstown
a son, Paul Michael

To Patrick and Ann Burke, Hazelhill
a son, Christopher Patrick

To Seamas and Mary Mulrennan, Gurteen
a son, Brian Thomas

To Noel and Pauline Corrigan, Leixlip
a son, Franklyn Thomas

To Brendan and Mary Morrissey, Devlis
a son Gareth John

To Thomas and Breda Waldron, Cave
a son, Patrick Francis

To Anthony and Martina Plunkett, Forthill
a son and daughter, John Anthony
and Ann Marie (twins)

To Joseph and Kay Healy, Annagh
a daughter, Rachel Marie

To John and Mary Prenty, Knock Road
a son, John Arthur

To Thomas and Eileen Lynch, Holywell
a son, Paul Francis

To Hugh and Statia Carney, Main Street
a son, Padraic Tomás

To John and Tina Kirrane, Station Rise
a daughter, Joanna Frances

To Peter and Noreen Gallagher, Bargarriff
a daughter, Elizabeth Joanne

To Michael and Ann Coffey, Station Rise
a son, David Francis

To Eamon and Pauline Egan, Clagnagh
a son, Keith Edward

To Tadhg and Kay Buckley, Knock Road
a son, Shane Michael

Elsewhere:

To Michael and Monica Hoban, Artane, Dublin
a daughter, Janice

To Kevin and Mary Healy, Leixlip
a son, Adrian James

To Patrick and Karen Healy, Handforth
a daughter, Kerensa Anne

Marriages..



(1st November, 1983 to 31st October, 1984)

Parish Church:

Joseph M. Jordan, Johnstown to
Sandra Lynch, Main Street

Martin Fleming, Kilknock, Brickens to
Christine Stacey, Station Rise

Michael J. Foody, Dublin to
Geraldine Finnegan, Knox Street

Gabriel Prendergast, Irishtown to
Margaret J. Carney, Carrowkeel

Martin C. Finan, Castlereas to
Mary C. Morris, Brackloon

John M. Lyons, Holywell to
Cora McGarry, Drimbane

John Brennan, Williamstown to
Bernadette Fitzmaurice, Forthill
Michael Lambe, Blackrock, Co. Dublin to
Rosemary Waldron, Woodpark

John P. Morley, Arderry, Kilkelly to
Anne Hoban, Lisbane

John Kelly, Knox Street to
Sarah Herr, Knox Street

Declan Muldoon, Aghnacloy, Co. Tyrone to
Patricia Biesty, Carrowkeel

Christopher Collins, Belnagare, Castlereas to
Margaret Carney, Holywell

St. Mary's Abbey, O.S.A.

John F. Kelly, Ballaghadereen to
Maria Holian, Swinford

James Woods, Ballaghadereen to
Helen Fitzgerald, Bridge Street

Richard Grogan, Kiltaboe to
Mary Kelly, Upper Main Street

Elsewhere

Robert G. Fox, Carrarea to
Mary McSweeney, Limerick

William Judge, Clooncrim to
Mary Teresa Hopkins, Upper Main Street
John J. Hoban, Lisbane to
Susan Moffatt, Kilmovee

Brian Watson, Galway to
Elizabeth Griffin, Clare Street

Stefano Cassol, Sligo to
Monica Connolly, Devlis

Thomas Lynch, Holywell to
Eileen Nally, Mace, Claremorris

Eamon P. McNamara, Tullaghan to
Alison Threadgold, Stockport

Finbar Ruane, Curries to
Ann Maureen Gallagher, Claregalway

James M. Waldron, Holywell to
Mary Jennings, Knock

Michael P. O'Connell, Upper Main Street to
Anne Tobin, Dunmore

John Connolly, Killinagher to
Geraldine Frayne, Cloonbanff, Castlereas

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Deaths.

(Blessed are the Dead who die in the Lord. Apoc. 14:13)

1st November 1983 to 31st October 1984

Michael Moran (Brod), Main Street
 Michael Sloyan, Forthill
 Mary B. Dyer, St. Gerard's Crescent
 George O'Malley, Barrack Street
 Anne Gilmore, Knox Street
 May Kenny, Abbeyquarter
 John Finnegan, Tavanaghmore
 Bernard McDonagh, Kerry
 Nora Cunningham, Abbey Street
 Patrick Hoban, Lisbane
 Christopher Sloyan, Brackloon
 Austin Moylette, Curries
 Mrs. Mary K. Hunt, Lecarrow
 Mrs. Margaret Finnegan, Tullaghan
 Martin McDonogh, Wales
 Mrs. Mai Greene, Carrarea
 Mrs. Anna O'Boyle, Knox Street
 James Gilmore, Bridge Street
 John Murrin, Upper Main Street
 Dr. Thomas B. Joyce, Doctor's Road
 Ellen Waldron, Knox Street
 Martin Morris, Upper Main Street
 Patrick Barrett, Island
 Richard Grogan, Kiltaboe
 Richard Waldron, Clagnagh
 James Kelly, Holywell
 John Lynskey, Gurteen
 Mrs. Mary Kelly, Tooraree
 Mrs. Delia Glynn, Upper Main Street
 Thomas Hopkins, St. Gerard's Crescent
 Martin Baily, Bargarriff
 Patrick J. Cribbin, Knockbrack
 Luke Lyons, Gurteenmore
 Mildred Dyer, Lurgan
 Frank Finn, Gortaganny
 Patrick Regan, Gurteenbeg
 Mrs. Lily Morley, Abbey Street
 Tony Morley, Abbey Street
 Tony Cribbin, Lecarrow
 Mrs. Nora Biesty, Kilmannin
 James Callely, Upper Main Street
 Mrs. Mary Swift, Cherryfield
 John J. Fitzmaurice, Forthill
 Mrs. Margaret Lyons, Main Street
 Adam Pratt, Scrigg

Elsewhere

Thomas O'Malley, Moycullen
 Patrick Forde, Headford
 Mrs. Brigid Brennan, Carrownedan
 Mrs. Annie Crinnigan, Gorthaganny
 Florrie Morris, St. Gerard's Crescent
 Mrs. Nora T. Delancy, Kilknock
 Mrs. Bridie Walsh, Ballinrobe
 John J. Donnellan, Knock
 Michael Duggan
 Martin Dunleavy, died in England
 John Duffy, Cappagh
 Mary O'Malley, The Neale
 Victor Ruane, Holywell
 Paddy Lyons, Annagh
 Thomas Collins, Glenamaddy
 Katie Jordan, née Clarke, Hazelhill
 Sr. M. de Chantal Gorman, Carrowbehy
 Mrs. Jessie McEllin, Claremorris
 Mary F. Prendergast, née Fitzmaurice, Hazelhill
 John McNamara, Crossmolina
 Mrs. Catherine Donlon, née Byrne, Kiltaboe
 Patrick Comer, Greenwood
 Tom Kennedy, Aghamore
 John Lyons, formerly Knockbrack
 Mrs. Coyne, Tonragee
 John Flately, Lassiney
 Mary Kelly, formerly Holywell
 Mrs. Mary Young, Dun Laoire, née Hunt, Lecarrow
 Richard Casserly, late Tavanaghmore
 Michael Gallagher, Swinford
 Dr. Robert White, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny
 Sr. Carmel Judge, Carrarea, died in Convent, Tuam
 Dr. John F. McHugh, Claremorris
 John Carney, Island
 Patrick S. Walsh, Ballybunion
 Canon John Fitzgerald, P.P. Louisburgh
 Joe Quinn, Ballymote, Co. Sligo
 Vincent Hopkins, Upper Main Street
 Patrick McEllin, Claremorris
 Mrs. Catherine Woods, Abbeyknockmoy
 Philip Cunnane, Clare Street
 Brother Mark Hunt, Moneymore died in U.S.A.
 Edward P. Larkin, Tooraree died in England
 Mrs. Margaret Brennan, Claremorris

Mrs. Nellie Harrington, née Forde, Larganboy
 John Mulryan, Ballymacurley, Roscommon
 Mrs. Gretta Murdoch, née Lyons, Main Street
 Fr. Vincent O'Brien, C.C., Achill
 Mrs. Nora Curley, Abbey Street
 Patrick J. Moran, Frenchpark
 James Tunney, Naas, Co. Kildare
 Mrs. Patricia Galvin, née Finn, Gurrane
 Fr. Richard McLoughlin, died U.S.
 John Foudy, late Clare Street
 John Plunkett, Forthill
 Patrick Molloy, Gurrane
 Fr. Martin J. Heany, P.P. Mayo Abbey
 Mrs. Rita Manning, née Forde, Larganboy
 Garda Frank Handy, Athlone
 Mrs. Bridie Moran, Granlahan
 Frank Finn, Dublin
 Mrs. Bèbe Curran, Stamullen, Co. Meath
 Peter Cumiskey, Co. Donegal
 Mrs. Mary K. Hunt, Lisnagroob, Granlahan
 Thomas McMyler, Louisburgh
 Dr. Michael P. Delaney, Rathcroghan, Co. Rosc.
 Mrs. Mary Finn, Knock
 Michael Cooney, Bargarriff, died in New York
 Mrs. Winifred Kelly, Lissaniska, Bekan
 Patrick Killeen, Annagh died in England
 Hugh (Bunnie) Jones, Tulska, Co. Roscommon



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An Appreciation



Adam Pratt

You have a smile for everyone,
 You had a heart of gold,
 You left us treasured memories,
 Though you were only five years old.

The sudden death of little Adam Pratt on November 12th has caused great shock and sorrow throughout the entire Ballyhaunis district.

Adam, who was a pupil of St. Joseph's Primary School since September had won the hearts of teachers, pupils and of all who knew him. He will be remembered by all as a kind, gentle and unselfish child who had a smile for everyone.

Deepest sympathy is tendered to his parents and family in their tragic loss.

T. Leonard



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October to May 8.30 p.m.
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Convent of Mercy

OBITUARY



The Late Jimmy Gilmore

Mr. Jimmy Gilmore whose death occurred last February was a native of Brickens. He appointed Rate Collector in the Ballyhaunis District in 1950. For the past 36 years he carried out his duties diligently.

He was a past Chairman of Comhairle Ceanntair and past Hon. Secretary of the Ballyhaunis Cumann of Fianna Fáil and over a long span of years performed trojan work in the interests of the Cumann, Comhairle Ceanntair and the Party.

What was it about him that made you always so happy to meet him? He had the quality of making you feel that he was personally concerned for you.

I always remembered him as being good humoured and gracious, always with a ready smile and a lively twinkle in his eyes. In his class and manner also he was a gentleman; yes literally a 'gentleman': at least I can say I never found him in any way abrasive or hurtful.

He was a lively conversationalist, quick and witty with his remarks and riposte so that it was always a pleasure to be in conversation with him.

His popularity throughout the community was evidenced by the large numbers of messages of sympathy received from individuals and public bodies. He will be sadly missed by many. May he rest in peace.

Johnny Lyons

The Lantern Lounge (Props: Michael and Denise Nolan)

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Annagh '84 Wins National Award



The faces behind Annagh....

Ms. Mary Comer, National President Junior Chamber Ireland presenting a Certificate of Merit to Jim Lundon, Editor of 'Annagh 1983' which was won at the National Convention in Galway. Included are members of Annagh 1983 and Annagh 1984 Committees.

Front: Kathleen Hunt, Ann Marrinan, Regina Hunt, Mary Freeley, Peggy Lyons.

Second Row: Matt O'Dwyer, John Mooney, Mary Comer (National President Junior Chamber Ireland), Jim Lundon (Editor), Rita Lundon (President Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber), Fr. O'Connor, O.S.A., Joe Greene.

Back: Eamon Healy, Joe Hosty, Pat Higgins, Mike Griffin, Shea O'Callaghan, Robbie McNabb.

Missing are - Chris Pratt, Paul Waldron, Mary Heneghan and Rita Mooney.

10km. ABBEY PATTERN ROAD RACE RESULTS 1984....

TIME	NAME	POINTS			
			42-58	Jimmy Fleming	20
			42-59	Eamonn Murren	21
			45-33	Padraig Lee	22
33-12	Dave Walsh		45-34	Tony Morley	23
33-12	Padraig Walsh	1	45-49	Jimmy Finn	24
33-12	Tom Flatley	2	45-52	Paul Martin	25
33-47	Noel Armstrong	3	45-53	Tommy Caulfield	26
33-48	Edward Rowntree	4	46-49	Barry Butler	27
34-12	John Cribbin	5	46-57	Noreen O'Reilly	28
34-41	Pat Freeley	6	47-07	John Higgins	29
34-48	Eamonn Healy	7	47-48	Jarlath Fahy	30
36-33	John Durkan	8	48-05	Brid Cleary	31
37-11	Tony Keane	9	48-10	Peg Byrne	32
39-41	T. Moran	10	48-58	Agnes McGee	33
39-42	Alex Greene	12	49-33	Jim Higgins	34
39-45	Robert McNabb	13	49-33	Jim Donnelly	35
40-05	Michael Cleary	14	54-07	Ita Fahy	36
40-13	John Cleary	15	56-05	Sarah Herr	37
40-45	Bernard Jennings	16	57-38	Siobhan Herr	38
41-31	Peter Gallagher	17	60-25	Rita Lundon	39
42-12	Tommy Timlin	18	60-28	Geraldine Griffin	40
42-14	Tom Geraghty	19	63-52	Ann Curley	41

Each person on this list was awarded a medal for completing the six miles. The race was organised by the Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber.

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The Old Parish Mission



Friary Servers in the late 1950's

Back Row : Joe Conboy, John Higgins, James Toolan, John Murphy, Michael Joyce.

Second Row: Billy Toolan, Junior Connolly, Micheal Byrne, Martin Grogan, Austin Boyle.

Front Row: Seamus Connell, Francis Greally, Fr. Buckley.

(Photograph courtesy of Breda Bourke)

by Tony Boyle

"Well, it was like the mission sermon long ago", is an expression we invariably hear nowadays after listening to an impressive homily from the pulpit; so perhaps an article on the subject of the old parish mission might not be out of place in this magazine.

Remembering

I do happen to have a rather vivid recollection of attending a week's Mission in my home parish in Co. Galway away back in 1930. The month was October - or the potato digging time, with which we always associated the tenth month of the year. We lived over three miles from the church and our mode of conveyance to the Mission, morning and evening, was, of course, the donkey and cart, and it was always the task of my brother and myself to have the vehicle in readiness an hour and a half before the Mission bells would ring. (In those days, to 'tackle the ass' was a very common expression in rural Ireland, but is now long lost in modern world of affluence and automation).

And we were not the only ones in our townland travelling to the Mission per donkey and cart. There was the occasional bicycle and the more well-off people in the village had a horse-trap, or side-car, but my mother, brother and I were as satisfied with our mode of transport as the best of them.

The Atmosphere

My mother always believed in being there for the 'first bell' and if we had a few minutes to spare, we always spent it viewing the lovely pious objects in the mission stalls outside the church - or perhaps kneeling and praying at the graves of the priests who had been buried in the churchyard whom my mother appeared to have remembered with considerable reverence and respect. On reflection now, I do believe that the stalls, with the pious pictures, rosary beads, medals, statues etc., are part of the rural Irish mission week that has least changed in the last half-century.

In my early days, the atmosphere of a Mission dominated the whole running of affairs in the parish for that week - everything else was secondary. And when men and women from the parish met at the fair, market, shop or village pump during that week, they invariably talked of the missionary's sermons and morning lectures. Attendance at the Mission in those days was something of a social occasion, and, of course, evening Mass was literally unheard of.

In The Church

Of the two missionaries who usually conducted a Mission in the 1930's, there was always the distinguishing feature - you had the 'cross man' and the 'quiet man', the 'funny man' and the 'serious

man', or perhaps the 'big man' and the 'small man' or the 'young man' and the 'old man'. I remember too all of the fine sermons of those days, which were always preceeded by a text. There were always the subjects of Hell, Sin and Death (which always included a few moving stories).

Wednesday night was usually set aside for a sermon concerning company-keeping, Friday night for a sermon on the Blessed Sacrament, and Saturday night we heard about Our Lady and the family rosary. Another custom in those days was the ringing of the "Sinner's Bell" which was done during the recitation of the Rosary. (This was specially for the odd person who may not be attending the Mission).

The Ending

Towards the end of the week, we would have the blessing of pious objects, the taking of the pledge, the enrolling in the Brown Scapular or Parish Sodality; and the closing of the Mission took place on the Sunday night and was an almost touching occasion, as the Mission Fathers bade farewell to the people of the parish and asked to be remebered in their prayers.

The week's Mission was now over, and in the course of the sermons we were often reminded that this may be our last Mission; and, of course, for a

certain percentage of the congregation this was undoubtedly a fact. And then we had the story of the missionary who had been delighted that he had preached such a fine God-fearing sermon to a crowded church on the subject of Matrimony, and who as he stood outside the church door a few minutes later overhead two old ladies as they left. Says one to her colleague: "Well Mary, wasn't that a fine sermon, doesn't that man know a lot?" "Ah, Bridger", says the other, pulling the shawl up over her head: "I wish I knew as little about marriage as that man."



Ballyhaunis Pioneers at Ashford Castle in 1951

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The Depth and Height of Freedom

by Deirdre Durkin

Splash! Finally, the last child has gone, the door is closed and the dressing rooms are cleaned. The August sun which has been beating down so hotly on the swimmers is now retiring behind the tall fire station tower, and the blue water ripples invitingly in the gentle evening breeze. I take off my tee-shirt and sun hat, which protected my shoulders and head from the burning sun, hang my whistle on a nail and plunge into the cool water.

A welcome feeling of release and freedom flows over me. I swim up the length of the pool - nobody there to block my way; nobody to take from the calmness and peacefulness of the moment. My friend and co-lifeguard steps to the edge of the pool, and with a clean, swift dive, cuts through the water, diving deep and long. I just lie on my back and look up at the sky through half-closed lashes. A swallow is soaring to a height, a little black dot against a vast blue background - freedom.

To be free of responsibilities, even if only for an hour between sessions. Not to be continuously watching for the poor swimmer who braves the deep end; not to be on the alert for the toddler who slips under the surface of the paddling pool; not to be continually reprimanding the boys for ducking the girls - no rules, no regulations to enforce. Just to laze on the surface and relax - a liberated lifeguard!

The mist is clearing and what a view is revealed. The soggiess of the boggy undergrowth; the squelch of the wet socks in the heavy boots; the weight of the rucksack on the shoulders - all is forgotten in the beauty of the scene before our eyes. The gentle curve of the range encircles the peaceful valley. From the range where we stand we can see yet both sides of the mountain - behind us the October sea is turning grey and we can hear it pounding at the base of the cliff, battering the rocks at the base of the mountain. Before us we see The Devil's Mother, Dunbeg - for miles the Twelve Bens rise and fall, their peaks half-hidden in the cloud. The wind tugs at our windcheaters, plays with hair, brushes against our cheeks and the mind is intoxicated by the sense of release derived from the experience.

In a few minutes it would be time to consult maps, check compass bearings, refer to guide books - but right now we just let ourselves be taken over by the moment, legs slightly straddled, wind whipping around us, we forgot everything, were completely free from cares. Below us we could see the men working in the valley, little doll like figures saving the turf in their white shirt sleeves, sheltered from

the sea breeze, to the right a red car was moving down the thread-like silver of the road - it was as if we were apart from the world, yet so close to it; at one with nature, yet gazing on this view, this promised land. We moved along the ridge in single file - free from the worries of urban life.

Exodus 24: 15-18

"Moses went up Mount Sinai and a cloud covered it. The dazzling light of the Lord's presence came down on the mountain" I think that is really what I have been trying to describe. The sense of the Lord's presence to be found up there, on a mountain top, surrounded by the power and beauty of God. Looking down on the Promised Land, as Moses did from Mount Pisgah, east of Jericho.

O.K. so maybe 'east of Jericho' is a far cry from 'west Connemara', but I would imagine that the sense of release, awe and wonder which Moses would have felt up there; the sense of relief, away from the responsibilities of a leader, secure in knowledge that his mission had been fulfilled, at peace with the Lord, would correspond with my feelings. Moses may not have been wearing two pairs of thick knee socks, a water proof windcheater, a rucksack and climbing boots as he stood there gazing on the Promised Land; nor had he the delights of the Connemara climate in October to contend with! - we both have something in common, a sense of the power of God.

Lazing in a Mayo Swimming Pool in 1983 released from the duties of a vigilant lifeguard may not seem to have any relevance to Moses at first, yet to me, the plight of Moses leading his people through the Red Sea is very significant. Both of us were lifeguards, responsible not only for the safety of other people, but their safety in the proximity of water at that! Moses found liberation for himself and his people in leading through 'the Red Sea', each day from June to September, from 2.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., I find liberation in preventing tragedies in the water, in leading people, young children, to a sense of water safety. "Thou shalt not obey any other lifeguards, because I am the one true lifeguard", "Thou shall always honour and obey the lifeguard", etc. are my Ten Commandments, given to me by the boss, my whistle is my staff; the Lord is my help and my strength.

Liberation is a freedom and release, a state of mind attained when I am at one with God, myself and my surroundings.

(Deirdre Durkin is a third year student at St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. This article originally appeared in 'The Irish Cathedrist', December 1983.

Mr. George O'Malley, Barrack Street

He was a good and gentle soul and the full extent of his kindness, because of the discreet manner in which he lent a helping hand and aided others, will never be known. The above is a fair, brief summation of the late Mr. George O'Malley of Barrack Street, Ballyhaunis, one of the most popular residents of the town, whose death occurred recently at the General Hospital, Castlebar.

George was the head of a thriving hackney-car business in Ballyhaunis for a number of years and earned a well-deserved reputation for his punctuality and his prompt and undivided attention to his large clientele. Indeed, the fact that he was never involved in even the most trivial traffic accident over a long number of years is a clear indication of his exceptional driving skill.

He was a friendly man, and there was a legion of people who regarded George as a friend and valued his friendship because of his many fine qualities.

In the early days following the revival of the present G.A.A. Club in the late 'forties, the late George O'Malley lent the infant club every encouragement and support by transporting players to matches and continuing to do so even when funds were not readily available.

This was only one instance of his generosity, goodness and thoughtfulness which were never dormant. His effervescent good humour was never far from the surface, and his friendly manner which was always evident was yet another of his many splendid characteristics.

He was a founding member of the St. Patrick's Catholic Snooker and Billiards Club attached to the Ballyhaunis Parochial Hall and retained a lively interest in the club over the years. His passing leaves a deep void in the Ballyhaunis area where he spent all of his life and in which he took a deep-rooted and abiding pride. The very large attendance at the removal of the remains, Mass and funeral, left no doubt as to the esteem in which the deceased was held and the widespread sorrow occasioned by his demise.

The celebrant of the Funeral Mass in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis was Very Rev. Fr. Costello, P.P., Ballyhaunis, assisted by Rev. Fr. P. Williams C.C., and Rev. Fr. B. Delaney, O.S.A. Deceased is survived by his brothers - Thomas, Cyril (E.S.B.) and James, and by his sister, Maureen, Birmingham, and deepest sympathy is extended to them and to all the other relatives.

Joe Greene

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SOUNDINGS

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



**Winners of the Grocer's Benevolent Fund Perpetual Cup-
Mr. E. Thornton and Mr. J. Forde.**

Left to Right: Mrs. Maureen Thornton, Mr. E. Thornton, Mr. J. Forde, Mrs. S. Forde

The following are the list of officers for both Ladies and Gent's Committees of the Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

Gents:

Captain	Mr. F. Dillon
President	Mr. J. Forde
Vice Captain	Mr. J. Cheevers
Vice President	Mr. M. Henry
Hon. Secretary	Mr. J. Higgins
Joint Hon. Treasurers	Mr. C. Coyne and Mr. M. Webb

Committee:

M/s. D. Charlton, M. Henry, J. Dillon, A. Reddington, M. Mahony, M. Gallagher, M. Walshe, M. Forde, B. Cunningham, S. Swift, M. Glynn, B. Hunt, T. Mulligan, J. Burke.

Competition Sec.	Mr. P. Curley
Handicap Sec.	Mr. A. Nolan
P.R.O.	Mr. J. Forde

Ladies:

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

Committee:

Mrs. M. Burke, Mrs. M. Dillon, Miss P. Waldron, Mrs. S. Forde, Mrs. I. Freyne, Mrs. J. Flynn and Mrs. C. Dillon.

I am glad to report that the Ballyhaunis Golf Club had another very successful year. The club had teams in all grades of competition and were represented by true sportsmen on and off the course. The only team success was in Ballyhaunis winning the Grocer's Benevolent Fund Perpetual Cup. Ballyhaunis were represented in this event which was played for at Rosses Point by Mr. E. Thornton and Mr. J. Forde. 10 other Clubs took part. A ladies team consisting of Miss N. Dillon and Miss B. Snee having first qualified in the Connaught region finals at Roscommon, also took part in the Australian Spoons at Forest Hill. The golfer of the year in the men's section for 1984 is Mr. A. Reddington and in the ladies section is Mrs. S. Laffey.

The Open Week which was held from June 2nd to 10th was a tremendous success. There was a wonderful array of prizes which were sponsored by firms doing business in the town, and players from nearly every County played. Visitors were full of praise for the course especially as during the year water was laid on to all the greens. One visitor was heard to say Ballyhaunis must rank as one of the best 9 hole courses in the country.

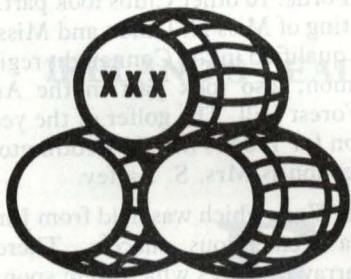
Many new members joined this year and were helped learn the game and the rules by the established members.

In conclusion I would like to wish your magazine every success.

**John G. Forde
(P.R.O.).**



Peter McCafferty pictured with Patrick Tighe and Fintan Byrne at the presentation of prizes in the Poster Competition. In the background are the winning posters.



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BALLYHAUNIS & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION

Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union are pleased to announce a very successful year to 30th September, 1984. We now have 180 members with £27,000 in shares, and £20,000 out in loans. During October and November 1983 we ran a Credit Union Poster Competition at two levels.

At Community School level the winners were 1st. Olive Biesty, 2nd. Martha Grogan, 3rd. J. Murphy.

At National School level the winners were 1st. Olive Biesty, 2nd. Martha Grogan, 3rd. Fintan Byrne

We took a stand at the Trade Exhibition run by the Chamber of Commerce and this proved to be a great boost to our membership.

In July 1984, we had a float in the G.A.A. Centenary Parade. In June, we opened a collection point at Tooreen School after last Mass on Sundays.

At our A.G.M. in January, 1984, our retiring directors were returned to the Board. During the year we were sorry to lose Brendan Glavey as director, but we were glad to welcome Frank Lyons, as an able replacement for him.

The 1984 Officers are as follows:

Chairman Peter McCafferty
Vice Chairman Michael Greally
Treasurer Catherine Plunkett
Asst. Treasurer Pat O'Connor
Membership Officer Terry Coleman

Other Directors

Mary Freyne, Aidan Kelly, John Tuohy, Vincent Freeman and Frank Lyons.

Supervisory Committee:

Paddy Brennan, Pat Fitzgerald and Barry Butler.

Other Committees Are:

Credit Committee:

Aidan Kelly, John Tuohy, Pat O'Connor.

Education Committee:

Mary Freyne, Terry Coleman, Pat O'Connor.

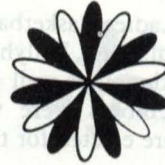
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LADIES BASKETBALL

The Ballyhaunis Ladies Basketball Club held it's A.G.M. in the Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis on August 27th last. The meeting was well attended and a number of new members were welcomed. The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Chairperson Cáit Webb
Secretary Siobhán Coyne
Treasurer Teresa Jordan
P.R.O. Ann Jennings

The team coach is Joe Henry and training sessions are held in the Community School Gym from 8.30 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. every Monday night. Club Membership Fee is £5.00.

The club held a very successful fund-raising Irish night last year and your support for any forthcoming venture will be gratefully appreciated.

We wish Annagh magazine every success in the future.

Siobhán Coyne
(Secretary)

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BALLYHAUNIS SQUASH

Chairman Johnny Biesty
Secretary J. Durkan
Treasurer E. Healy/S. O'Callaghan
Men's Captain E. Campbell
Ladies Captain A. McGee

Squash in Ballyhaunis continues to go from strength to strength. Membership is now at almost 150 individuals. With the ever rising standard an outlet was needed for the top players. This year a men's and a ladies team were entered in the Connaught League.

Membership

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John Durkan



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BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE

The Ballyhaunis Community Information Centre at the Parochial Hall is providing a great service for the general public. Information is given free of charge and confidentially on various services and entitlements.

Information of all kinds is available on such subjects as Taxation, Consumer Services, Housing, Social Welfare, Redunancy.

It has application and claim forms for almost anything.

Where the centre cannot provide information immediately, it will find out for you. The centre has a back-up service of experts in various fields to help with difficult queries.

The Community Information Centre does not advise people. It simply gives information on entitlements and services.

The Ballyhaunis centre at the Parochial Hall, Main Street, Ballyhaunis is open on:-

Tuesday Tuesday and Friday:
11.30 - 12.30 5.00 - 6.00 p.m.
Saturday: 11.30 - 12.30

Call, write or telephone Ballyhaunis 212

Chairperson Mary Donnelly
Organiser Mary Hopkins
P.R.O. Monica Lyons

THE HAPPY ENDING

They closed their doors on the faces
Of a man, and a woman with child,
Yet the man was gracious and humble
And the Lady was patient and mild.
But they shut out the night and returned
To their own private world and way,
Each missing the chance of a lifetime,
When Christ was begging his stay.

But the story, we know, took a turn,
For the man found a sheltered place,
And Mary gave birth to a boy-child
And Joseph looked into Christ's face.
And the angels came, and the shepherds,
And the stars sang in a new day,
And there snug between a donkey and a cow
In a manger a swaddled God lay.

John O'Connor, O.S.A.



Jack O'Connor

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BILLIARDS/SNOOKER CLUB

The 1983/'84 season for the Ballyhaunis Billiards and Snooker club has been one of the most successful seasons for the club since its inception in Ballyaunis in 1940.

Since the removal of the playing table from downstairs to the upstairs section of the Parochial Hall in the mid-seventies, interest in the club began to wane somewhat and membership declined at an alarming rate. As had been feared, but anticipated the Ballyhaunis Billiards/Snooker Club through lack of general interest was closed down.

However in September 1983 a group of people who were genuinely interested in having a Billiard & Snooker Club re-established in the town was formed but with many changes in mind. The group was led by Alex Eaton, Robert Herr, Michael Webb, Tommy Moran, Michael Byrne, Milo Waldron, Micheál Webb arranged a meeting with the then curate Fr. Williams with a view to a club committee obtaining a substantial bank loan to renovate and completely refurbish the rather shabby upstairs clubroom. Following a very favourable reception and every word of encouragement from Fr. Williams it was decided to raise a loan from the bank and immediately go ahead with the renovations of the club room. Quite a lot of the work carried out was done voluntarily by the above named group with help from George Hannon and Tony Howley.

Within six weeks the work had been completed. The new look Billiards/Snooker club room complete with newly fitted carpet, new curtains, re-constructed ceiling, new heating system, modern and more comfortable seating and above all a completely re-covered Billiard table which cost in excess of £800.

On October 31st 1983, the Ballyhaunis Billiard and Snooker club re-opened. An A.G.M. was called the same week and at the meeting the following committee were elected to look after the affairs of the club for the first year:

President	Kevin Barry
Chairman	Tommy Moran
Secretary	Robert Herr
Treasurer	Alex Eaton
P.R.O.	Mike Byrne

Under this committee a very successful season followed, with a membership of more than 130 subscribers. The club secretary arranged Snooker matches with Swinford, Crossmolina and Claremorris with Ballyhaunis being victorious on all three occasions.

At the second A.G.M. of the re-vaunted Billiards and Snooker club held in Parochial Hall on September 1st of this year, Club Treasurer, Alex Eaton gave a very favourable report on the financial position thanks mainly to the large number of members, successful domestic competitions and donations from other quarters. This enabled the Bank Loan to be greatly reduced, giving the club encouragement for the coming year.

It was unanimously agreed that due to their marvellous work rate and immense success the entire outgoing committee be returned for the following year.

Michael Byrne

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HILL CLIMBING CLUB

Highlights of the year included the Whit-weekend trip to Wales by over 20 adults and 8 children.

Three members of the club John Cleary, M. Cleary and P. Freeley cycled to and climbed Connacht's three highest peaks in 36 hours, i.e. Croagh Patrick, Mweeliea and Nephin.

20 members went to Achill for an activities weekend in September. These included surfing, orienteering and climbing.

At the time of writing Bud Cleary is well prepared to run the 1984 Dublin City Marathon becoming the first 'Mammy' in Ballyhaunis to do so.

Mike Cleary and Ivan Freeley plan to cycle to Dublin the day before the Marathon.

Plans next year? Pat Freeley is looking into the possibilities of a Malin to Mizan cycle in three days. Mike Cleary and Stephen Durkan stand to go one better and canoe around Ireland. There is no time limit on this only to survive!!!

After two very successful years in which the highest mountain in Ireland and also the highest mountain in Wales was climbed, the highest mountain in Scotland and/or Northern Ireland is next on the list. Do you realise that for just £2 you too can become a member of this club which already has 50 people in it.

Chairman	Mike Cleary
Vice Chairman	Robbie Herr
President	Mary Smyth
Treasurer	M.F. Cleary
Secretary	Peg Byrne
P.R.O.	John Durkan
Exped. Organiser	Joe Freeley
Climb Organiser	Terry Coleman
John Durkan (P.R.O.)	



Congratulations to....

Ballyhaunis Community School
on their recent production of
"ANNIE GET YOUR GUN"



Second from Left, Paddy Prendergast former Mayo footballer, with Mr. Sean Flanagan M.E.P. and Mr. P.J. Morley T.D. and local supporters

Ballyhaunis Cumann Fianna Fáil

In many respects, it could be said that 1984 was a very successful year for the Cumann. Regular meetings were held, including the A.G.M., during the year. In addition, several sub-committee meetings were held, and the number of new members registered was very encouraging.

The first important matter for consideration was the Party's Ard Fheis which was held on Saturday 31st March and Sunday, April 1st, motions for same were prepared and submitted. The selected delegates attended the Ard Fheis, and it was gratifying to note that some of the Cumann motions were discussed at the Ard Fheis.

The National Collection was held on the 20th May and it resulted in a sizeable increase on the previous year.

With the month of June, came the European Elections and on campaign trail once again the Cumann's "election machine" was in top gear for this event and it is fair to say that the effort of the Cumann members together with the support of numerous voters, in the Ballyhaunis area, not of the Fianna Fail persuasion played a major part in the re-election of Mr. Sean Flanagan.

When the election dust, had finally settled, the Cumann decided on a Victory Social, which was

held on the 3rd August, with Deputy P.J. Morley present and Mr. Sean Flanagan, M.E.P. as guest speaker. The attendance, packed to capacity in the Horse Shoe Inn had a very enjoyable night.

It should be said that much of the credit for the success of the Social was due to the unspairing efforts of the talented Cumann and Ógra Secretaries.

If 1984, had its joys, it also had its sorrows caused by the untimely deaths of four former officers of the Cumann, Mr. Jimmy Gilmore, Dr. Tommy Joyce Mr. Pat Regan and Mr. Paddy Molloy, who were called to their reward. May they Rest in Peace.

OFFICERS:

Cumann Officers 1984

President	Mark Waldron
Vice Presidents	Paddy Ryan & John LYons
Chairman	Joe Greene
Vice Chairman	Seamus Boyle
Hon. Secretary	Kathleen Fox
Hon. Asst. Sec.	Ann Plunkett
Joint Hon. Treas.	John Lyons & John Regan
P.R.O.	Jimmy Fleming
Youth Officer	Hugh Rudden



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Some of the beautiful work made by the Ballyhaunis I.C.A.

I.C.A.

The Irish Countrywomen's Association was first formed in Bree, Co. Wexford in 1910. Based on the co-operative movement as carried out by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

This is a society which every lover of Ireland, country dweller or town dweller should help to encourage. The aims of the Irish Countrywomen's Association include: Promotion of the love of home and the arts of peace. Instruction in handcrafts, home making, poultry keeping and gardening. The Ballyhaunis branch of I.C.A. was re-formed on November, 1983. There were over 40 members present. Our activities include Cookery demonstrations, Crochet, Demonstrations on Handcrafts, Dress-Making and various competitions. In fact members can get together to organise any activity they wish.

During the Winter we organised weekly classes of Dress-making, Crochet and Crafts.

We are also interested in helping out different organisations should the need arise. We were involved with the G.A.A. celebrations and helped to organise the Senior Citizens Party.

A Cake Sale was also held in aid of the Parochial Hall, also a Sale of Work and Flower Arranging Competition for the same purpose.

Ballyhaunis Guild had an Exhibit at the Industrial Exhibition which proved very successful.

We are now back at our Weekly Winter Classes which are held in 'The Horse Shoe Inn' on Wednesday nights. Our classes include Dress-making, Crochet, Handcrafts and Cookery. It is our intention also to start Swimming Classes at a later stage. The 1983/'84 Officers are as follows:

President Delia Coen
Vice-Pres. Angela Cribben
Hon. Secretary Margaret O'Connor
Asst. Sec. Mary Rudden
Hon. Treasurer Bridget Hanley
Press Rep. Kathleen Caulfield

N.C.F.

Christmas is coming and the geese are getting fat, and its time to..... Well its time for 'Annagh' again, seems a very short time since last year, but then thats life.

However, thankfully, N.C.F. can report another successful trading year. The Society's Annual Report issued last May showed turnover up in all divisions. The most important being about an 8%

SOUNDINGS

increase in milk intake for 1983. The stores and most divisions also performed exceptionally well. So far in 1984 another good performance is forecast despite the uncertainty and gloom surrounding the whole agricultural scene. The main cause of uncertainty and gloom surrounding the whole agricultural scene. The main cause of uncertainty being the infamous 'Super-Levy'. In the shareout of the 4.64% national increase N.C.F. got a 1984 increase of 8.75% over 1983. Farmers in the area responded magnificently, but the civil servants got their sums wrong and 13 million gallons of milk went missing. Unfortunately at the present moment nobody knows just how much of an increase is allowed them. We must be the only section of society that would take such body blows and continue on regardless!

In 1983, N.C.F. was 10 years old. The man who steered the society through many difficult and trying periods decided to call it a day. Pat McCarrick retired as Chairman after ten years and was succeeded by Willie Sammon from Castlebar. Pat continues to serve on the board as Vice-Chairman and to him we wish contentment and to Willie success in his new position. During the year, N.C.F. disposed of some of its assets and acquired further ones. Last March, the Society sold its meat factory in Deep Water Quay, Sligo to Halal Meats of Ballyhaunis. Those premises had been leased over the last number of years and have now been refurbished and re-opened.

In September the Society negotiated the purchase of Ballina Milk Co. from Ian Clarke. The company had been completely modernised of late and will continue to trade as Ballina Milk Co. The same efficient service and high quality product is guaranteed under N.C.F., who also own Sligo Dairies. The Society welcomes your support for both labels.

Every year brings its losses as well as its gains. This year, N.C.F. members lost a true friend with the untimely death of Brian O'Neill.

As Drainage Officer, Brian worked constantly to improve the 'lot' of the farmer. He will be sadly missed. To his wife and family we tender our deepest sympathy.

On a local scale however the year has been successful again with both the mart and store consolidating their respective trading positions and throughput and turnover up.

In July, George Dee who was manager of the store since it commenced trading seven years ago retired to concentrate on farming and was succeeded as Manager by Martin Boland.

Noel Grogan

Delaney's Ltd.

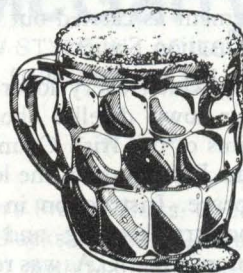
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Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club

CENTENARY



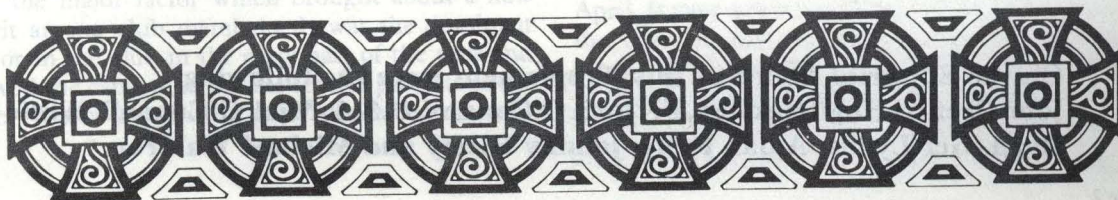
SUPPLEMENT



Ballyhaunis Under-16 Team, County Champions

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

1884 - 1984



A Note from the Chairman

Rath Dé ar Cumann Lúthchleas Gael anois agus ins na blianta le teacht. The birth of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Hayes' Hotel, in Thurles in 1884, gave the people of Ireland a strengthened identity, a new hope and a will to survive in the most difficult of times.

By the year 1886 news of the organisation has spread to every corner of the land. Clubs were formed, matches arranged - and so the G.A.A. found its roots.

The Ballyhaunis Club was among the early promoters of our games and it is believed that matches were played on an organised basis in 1885 - just a few short months after the historic meeting in Thurles.

So on behalf of Ballyhaunis G.A.A., I am very pleased to get this opportunity of greeting our many supporters during this Centenary Year. We wish to thank the **Annagh** Magazine committee for giving us the space to up-date the history of our Club, which was published three years ago. This present publication will cover the important happenings of the last three years, with individual contributions which were unavailable for our first publication. We hope it will complement the very fine **Annagh** Magazine which is treasured in every household in the parish.

I would like to pay special tribute to the officers of the Club, and in particular to the Centenary Committee members for their hard work during the year, as well as to thank all our supporters, especially the sponsors of our special games and activities during 1984.

I also wish to thank our guests who favoured us with the presence during the year: Mayo G.A.A. in New York; Roger Casement G.A.A. in Coventry; Garryowen G.A.A. of London; Bohermeen G.A.A. of Meath and Oran G.A.A. from Co. Roscommon. The gallant spirit evident in these teams, and especially, perhaps, among our exiles, would give great joy to the founders of the G.A.A.

So as Centenary Year draws to a close, I would appeal to our supporters, workers and players to go into the second century with a resolve to improve our organisation, a determination to succeed and a will to foster comradeship, which was the main aim of the founders of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Ar agaidh, Chumann Lúthchleas Gael!

Hugh Rudden
(Cathaoirleach)

FRONT COVER:-

Sitting from Left: John Keane, Tommy Connolly, Tommy Ruane, Tony Cribbin, Martin O'Grady, Eddie McLoughlin.

Middle Row: Tom McDonagh, Ray Sloyan, Vincent McNamara, Brian Murray, Val Byrne (Capt.), Seamus Caulfield, Gerry Winston, Michael Cleary, Tony Morley.

Standing: John Durkan (Selector), Paddy Phillips, Niall Cruise, Dave Fitzgerald, Martin Maughan, Joe Joe Webb, Paul Clarke, Noel Phillips, Joe Tighe, Gerry Lyons (Selector).

Absent from photograph are James Coyne and Kieran Morley.

On the Editorial Board of this Supplement were the following:

John Prenty, Hugh Rudden, Fr. John O'Connor, O.S.A, Mick O'Connell, Willie Ryan, Ger Lyons, Aidan Kelly, Johnny Biesty and Michael Waldron.

The Start of a Brighter Future



BALLYHAUNIS G.A.A. CLUB EXECUTIVE

Front Row (l to r): John Prenty, Jack Greene, Enda Murphy, Tommy Grogan, Fr. P. Williams, Hugh Rudden, M. O'Connell, John O'Neill, Bob Fox, Enda Murphy (Junior).

Back Row (l to r): Michael Murren, Johnny Cribbin, Tom McGuire, Jimmy Toolan, Finbarr Ruane, Willie Ryan, John Durkan, Eamon Healy, Paddy Brennan, Michael Waldron, SEAN Waldron.

Missing: Aidan Kelly, Peadar Moran, Johnny Biesty, Tom McCormack, Jimmy Walsh, Dermot Eagney, Padraig Lee, Jimmy Fleming, Mike Lyons, Jim Lundon, Sean Ward, Austin Grogan.

Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club down throughout the years has been regarded as one of the premier clubs in Mayo. As the Gaelic Athletic Association approached its centenary the club was still to the forefront in games and was still highly respected at Board level and highly feared as a footballing force on the field.

Memorable

When people speak of the feats of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club in years to come, I have no doubt that the deeds of 1981 will be recalled time and time again.

1981 was one of the most eventful years in the history of the club. Highlights of the year were a very successful Pub Quiz, the production of a Club Magazine, a tour to the United States of America, success at Under-Age level and the crowning glory of an Intermediate League title.

The Tour

There can be no doubt that the American Tour was the major factor which brought about a new spirit among club members. It was the dominant factor in the club in the early part of the year and proved the catalyst to initiate several projects in the club. When the touring party departed from the

Square on the 10th April there was a large crowd of well-wishers to see them off on their historical journey. The visitors travelled to New York, Boston, Hartford and New York again and there can be no doubt but the spirit built up amongst the players while in America was the major reason for the success enjoyed when they returned home.

Among the fund-raising projects initiated by the American Tour Committee was a Pub Quiz run in conjunction with Re-Hab and sponsored by Connacht Scaffolding Ltd. The inaugural Pub Quiz was won by a G.A.A. team, Freeley's Flashers representing the Central Hotel. The winning team was John Prenty, Dermot Eagney, Aidan Kelly and Jim Lundon with Eamon Murren as substitute. The Mastermind Final was won by Padraig Waldron.

The Magazine

To coincide with the American trip it was decided to produce a club magazine 'Past and Present'. This was launched by Mr. Paddy Muldoon, County Board Chairman at a function in the Central Hotel in April. It gave a detailed history of the foundations of the club; its past members and its achievements. Great credit is due to Magazine editor, Anto O'Malley and to his committee.

On the Field

In under-age the club enjoyed notable success at East Mayo level by winning the Minor League and Minor Championship titles. At county level luck deserted us as we lost the Minor League semi-final to Burrishoole and the County Minor final to Claremorris.

Teams were entered at National Schools, U-12 and U-14 levels, without success. At U-16 we won the East Mayo title but lost the County semi-final to Westport, while our U-21 team were defeated by the eventual County Champions, Aughamore. Teams were fielded in the East Mayo Junior Championship and the Canon Henry Cup without success.

Successes

In the Intermediate Championship, Ballyhaunis were defeated by a much stronger Tourmakeady side in the first round. However despite our championship defeat the players rallied together and bridged a fourteen year gap by winning the Intermediate League at the expense of Kilmaine.

Other events on the playing fields during 1981 were the Goodfellowship Tournament won by Aughamore, a Parish League won by Des Lyon's team and sponsored by Austin Grogan and Sons, an U-10 tournament won by Tony Cribbin's team and sponsored by Emmet Keane and Patsy Jennings; an U-12 league won by Val Byrne's team and sponsored by Mick O'Connell and the Paddy Ryan V.G. League won by Jimmy Tolan's team.

The club celebrated a most successful year with its Annual Dinner in Churchfield House, Knock at which the Intermediate League winning team members were presented with their County medals by the County Secretary, Mr. Christy Loftus, and Michael Webb was named Player of the Year, and Hugh Rudden, Clubman of the Year.

Honours

During the course of the year the club was represented by the following on county teams:-

J. Leonard and J.J. Morley - Under 16 team
J. Reidy and D. Phillips - Minor team
Micheal Webb - Mayo Senior and Connacht goalie.

In the East Mayo Board and County Board the following acted:

Minor Board	Austin Grogan
Under 21 Board	Aidan Kelly
V/Chair. E. Mayo Board	Mick O'Connell
County Activities Sec.	John Prenty
County Grounds Comm.	Johnny Biesty
Co. Scór Comm.	Aine Whelan
County Board Delegate	Pado Moran

1982

Following the tremendous activity of 1981 the following year threatened to be an anti-climax but this was not to be. Club members carried their enthusiasm forward and 1982 again proved to be a very successful year.

On the development side many years of hard work came to fruition with the opening of the Squash Courts in early Autumn. This new facility in the town has been a resounding success and great credit is due to the Squash Management Committee under the Chairmanship of Johnny Biesty.

Activities

Following its success in its inaugural year the Pub Quiz was continued and was won by a team from Bernie Byrnes representing the Handball Club. The Mastermind Competition was won by Willie Ryan, representing the G.A.A. team.

On the playing fields again there was some notable success. The Under-14 team defeated Shamrocks in the East Mayo final to annex the first ever title in this grade but were defeated by a much bigger and stronger Ballinrobe side in the County final.

At East Mayo level our National School, U-12, U-16 and Minor teams took apart in the various competitions without winning any titles. At U-21 level we reached the East Mayo final but failed to play up to expectations and lost at home to Ballaghaderreen 2-6 to 0-6.

Some Disappointment

Following the success of the Intermediate team in 1981 expectations were high for 1982. Having qualified for the Senior League it was decided to enter the Senior Championship as well. However, after a number of good league wins early in the season the team put up a very disappointing display against Kiltimagh in the first round of the Championship and were defeated 0-10 to 0-4. This defeat left the team completely dispirited and by the end of the season they had been relegated from the Senior League.

A Good Win

There was little success either in the Junior Championship but success was at hand in the Canon Henry Cup following some fine displays in the earlier rounds we qualified for the semi-finals versus Ballaghaderreen and following a splendid second half display qualified for the final by 2-10 to 0-11. The final versus Charlestown was a home game and Ballyhaunis were overwhelming favourites to win. However a youthful Charlestown side made all the running and were leading by two points entering the final couple of minutes. However, Ballyhaunis made a last ditch attack and scored the decisive goal to run out winners 2-5 to 1-7.

In the Goodfellowship Tournament, Ballyhaunis qualified for the final only to lose to Ballina 0-13 to 1-8.

The Forde Cup

A new fixture on the calendar was the Tom Forde Memorial Trophy versus Bohermeen (Meath). This competition is sponsored by John Forde and commemorates his late father who won championship medals with both clubs. It is a two-legged affair and in the first leg in Bohermeen, Ballyhaunis won 1-10 to 1-6, while the second leg at home they ran out easy winners.

Other Events

On the local front, Johnny Cribbin's team won the Parish League; Phillip McGoldrick's team defeated Joe Tighe's team 5-5 to 5-3 in the final of the Mick O'Connell Trophy, while Peter Walshe's team won the U-10 League.

On the Social Scene the club organised a very enjoyable function to celebrate the 50th Anniversary

of the visit of the first Mayo team to America. At a function in the Central Hotel, the 9 surviving members of the trip were made a presentation by the club. There were:- Jack Kenny and Mick Moran (Westport), Dick Hearn (Dublin), Jim Forde (Ballyhaunis), Paddy Quinn and John Egan (Castlebar), Paddy Moclair (Ballina), Seamus O'Malley (Claremorris) and Jimmy Curran (Irishtown).

Bright Future

To conclude the year a very enjoyable Annual Dinner was held in Churchfield House, Knock at which the Canon Henry Cup trophies were presented and Jimmy Ronan and Gerry Lyons were named Player and Clubman of the Year respectively.

In reviewing the feats of 1981 and 1982 one can look forward with confidence in the knowledge that the future of the club is bright and that the seeds for further success have been sown.

J. Prenty

The Roll of Honour

County Championships:

Senior: 1918, 1958

Intermediate: 1967

Junior: 1957

Masters: 1978

Minor: 1952

Under-16: 1984

Other County Wins

Intermediate County League: 1981

Óg Spórt Gael: 1983

East Mayo Championships

Juvenile: 1951

Under-16: 1971, 1979, 1981, 1984

Minor: 1950, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1957,

1958, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1981

Under 21: 1974

Junior: 1956, 1957, 1962, 1964

Óg Spórt Gael: 1983

East Mayo League

Under-16: 1979

Fr. Feeley Cup: 1957

Canon Henry Cup: 1964, 1965, 1979 1982

Goodfellowship: 1969, 1970

Minor League: 1981, 1983

Scór

All Ireland Ballad: 1972

Connaught Recitation: 1972, 1976

County Question Time: 1973

County Ballad: 1982

County Instrumental Group: 1982

County Set Group: 1982

All Ireland Medal Holders

Junior:

Charlie Phillips, John Healy, Johnny Biesty and Mal Nally.

Under-21:

J. J. Cribbin, Tom Fitzgerald, Ted Webb R.I.P., Micheal Webb and Tommy Grogan

Minor:

Frank Fahey and Tom Fitzgerald

Vocational Schools:

Hughie Carney

Chairmen

Paddy McDonagh 1920's

Jim Caulfield 1930's

Fr. Tom Burke 1940's

P. Harty 1940's

P. Walsh 1940's

Mick Tarmey 1948-1956

Paddy Waldron 1957 - 1972

Johnny Biesty 1973 - 1977

John Prenty 1978 - 1980

Hugh Rudden 1981 - 1984

Aiden Kelly 1985

Centenary Year

A Centenary Meeting of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. was held in the Central Hotel on Wednesday, 18th January 1984. Chairman, Hugh Rudden presided. The Meeting was convened to outlined some of the plans for the celebration of the Centenary Year.

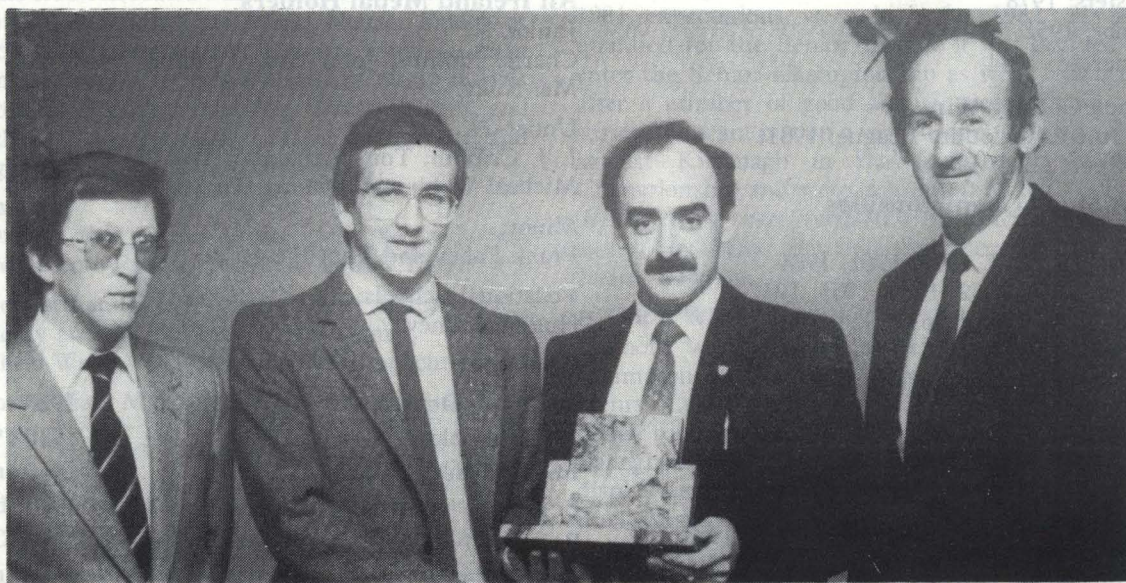
It was decided at the outset that special Masses would be celebrated for the deceased members of the club on the 17th March and the 29th July respectively. The former was to be the official opening of the Centenary Year and the latter the 'Day of the Club'. Those present were reminded of the importance of the above dates in addition to the 'Come Home Week' commencing on the 8th August with the visits of the New York Mayo team, Roger Casements (Coventry) and Garryowen (London) to Ballyhaunis. As a result of the heavy workload involved, it was decided to form a Centenary Committee with John Prenty as Chairman and Gerry Lyons as Secretary. The Committee decided to meet monthly. In February, the Centenary Committee decided to form a Social Committee and a Ladies Committee.

St. Patrick's Day

On St. Patrick's Day evening members of the club gathered at the Square and marched to the Parish Church. The Parade was led by former Ballyhaunis

and Mayo footballers Jim Forde and Eddie Biesty, who carried a banner bearing both county and club colours. The celebrant of the Mass was Rev. Fr. Costello, P.P., assisted by Fr. Paddy Williams, C.C., Patron of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club. The readings were read in Irish by Chairman, Hugh Rudden and Jim Lundon, Oifigeach na Gaelige. In his Homily, Fr. Costello speaking in Irish and English, praised the work of the G.A.A. down through the years and expressed the hope that the association would go from strength to strength over the next one hundred years continuing to uphold the traditions so proudly fostered over the past century.

Upwards of 200 people attended the Social afterwards in the Central Hotel; Ceanntairi Beal Atha hAmhnais and the Ballyhaunis Ballad Group provided excellent entertainment. In addition, Mr. Jackie Greene was at hand to recite 'The Priesting of Fr. John' in his own inimitable style. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the special Centenary Adult and Youth Membership Card and Programme of Events and Fixtures for 1984 by Mr. John Prenty, Chairman of the Centenary Committee to Mr. Patsy Keane of Keane's Kitchens Ltd.,



Raymond Waldron, son of Paddy presenting the Jack Waldron Trophy, to Clubman of the Year, 1983 to John O'Neill.

sponsors of the Booklet.

The Chairman of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club, Mr. Hugh Rudden then addressed the gathering. He traced the founding of the Association and made special reference to the part played by Mayomen, Patrick Nally noted Athletic and Fenian from Balla. He expressed the wish that 1984 would be a year that will 're-awaken the spirit of its founding fathers and imbue our members with a new dedication and commitment'.

Easter time

The Social Committee arranged a Social for Easter Sunday in the Horse Shoe Inn. This was again a great success as indicated by the very large attendance present. Over the Easter Weekend the G.A.A. Centenary Congress was held in Belfast. Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club was represented by its President, Mr. Mick O'Connell. While there, Mr. O'Connell secured commitment from the President Designate of the G.A.A., Dr. Mick Loftus that he would attend the Annual Dinner Dance of the Club on Friday, 30th November. On Monday, 23rd April, the Under-age Committee under the guidance of Michael Murren and Gerry Lyons organised a sponsored walk of under-age players. This venture was very successful as evidenced by the substantial revenue raised. April also saw the finals of the Pub Quiz and Mastermind Competitions brought to a successful conclusion. Our thanks is due to the Rehab Committee that worked effectively with our club to ensure that the competition went off smoothly.

In May, a Ladies Football team was formed with Gerry Lyons as Team Manager and Sean Cribbin as Assistant. The Executive Committee began to make preparations for the Club's participation in the Trade Fair from 18-20 May, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce. Members worked hard to ensure that the stand was ready for the opening. Many of those who viewed the various exhibits were highly impressed by the G.A.A. stand. There is no doubt that the Club has benefitted enormously, in the interim. At the next Executive Meeting, Hugh Rudden thanked all those who had given freely of their time and who had taken turns to man the stand over the three days.

Summertime

On June 10th, Bohermeen from Meath came to Ballyhaunis to play the local side in the Tom Forde Cup. To mark the occasion the Ballyhaunis Ladies team made their debut against their Bohermeen counterparts. Our teams enjoyed a double success. A social was held that evening in Murphy's Arms to present trophies to the four teams. The Executive and Centenary Committees then turned their attention to the most important event of the Centenary Year i.e. 'The Day of the Club'. A number of meetings were held to make the final preparations.

The day began with 10.00 a.m. Mass in St. Patrick's Church. The chief concelebrant was Rev. Fr. Vincent Keane who was on vacation from Washington D.C. He was assisted by Fr. Williams. In his Homily, Fr. Keane traced the history of the association and spoke highly of the national and cultural aspects of the G.A.A.

The Parade, in addition to having a G.A.A. emphasis, incorporated the business life of the area. There were twenty three organisations represented. The Balla Pipe Band, under the direction of the popular Mattie O'Dowd took up their position at ten past one and led the parade out to the local G.A.A. pitch. It was reviewed by (Deputy) P.J. Morley T.D., Senator Jim Higgins and Mr. Mick O'Connell, President of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club. A party for the senior citizens was held in the Parochial Hall in the afternoon. The success of the venture is due in no small way to the I.C.A. under the direction of Mrs. Delia Coen. They were ably assisted by some members of the Ladies Committee. The entertainment was provided by Tony Rattigan who also acted as M.C. An excellent attendance turned up to see the highlight of the day i.e. a friendly between the 1967 team and the present senior side. At half-time with the present team in a commanding position, Michael Webb, the Mayo goalkeeper switched his allegiance and commenced to demonstrate his great talent as an outfield player. His display contributed to the resurgence of the '67 team in that second half. The team received a great boost to their confidence when John Morley appearing for the second half, scored a great goal. The referee for this highly entertaining game was Bob Fox.

Later that evening, a Social was held in the Scout's Den. An overflow attendance witnessed the presentation of Centenary medals to the '67 team and plaques to the Senior team. The biggest cheer of the night was reserved for John Morley who played a heroic's part for the '67 team earlier that day. The Music for the occasion was provided by Canadian Express. A most enjoyable night was had by all. The Social resulted in a most successful culmination of the programme of events organised by the club.

Come Home Week

The Executive and Centenary Committees then focussed their attention on 'Come Home Week'. This commenced on the 8th August with the arrival of the Mayo/New York team. In a highly entertaining game on the local pitch, visitors defeated Ballyhaunis by a two point margin. After a meal in the Hotel they adjourned to Rattigan's Lounge Bar for the presentation. The proprietor, Mr. Val Rattigan, a former New York Mayo player sponsored the special Centenary medallions which he presented to players and officials. The Chairman, Hugh Rudden issued a special welcome to Mr. Tony Greene who



Mr. John Forde presenting the Tom Forde Memorial Trophy to Johnny Cribbin (Capt.) of the Ballyhaunis Senior team which defeated Bohermeen, Co. Meath.

proved most helpful in the arranging of the trip to Ballyhaunis. Mr. Greene was the recipient of a special plaque from the Chairman as a mark of appreciation for his help and co-operation. Mrs. Anne McInerney from Tooreen, a member of the travelling party also received a special plaque for the kindness and assistance which she gave to the Ballyhaunis party on their visit to the U.S. in 1981. The Chairman thanked Austin Grogan for the magnificent trophy which his son, Tommy presented to John Fitzgerald, Secretary of the New York Mayo team. Their Chairman, Pat Gavin reciprocated by presenting a special commemorative trophy to the Chairman of the Ballyhaunis club.

The Roger Casements team and officials arrived in Ballyhaunis on Saturday, 11th August. Their Chairman, Mr. Bernard Keane, a native of Ballyhaunis and his wife Margaret had arrived two weeks previously in order to be present for the 'Day of the Club'. The game between Casements and Ballyhaunis which was played on a Sunday evening attracted a very large attendance. The Ballyhaunis team proved the victors in a game which was much closer than the scoreline of 6-13 to 2-12 suggests. Both teams then adjourned to the Hotel for a meal. The referee for this game was Hugh Rudden.

Later in the evening, Mr. Hugh Rudden in his address outlined the hand of friendship which existed between both clubs. He saw their visit as the highlight of 'Come Home Week' and complimented Mr. Keane on his prompt acceptance of the invitation

to Ballyhaunis, even though they had many other engagements to fulfill. Bernard Keane in his reply said that the members of Roger Casements club were always happy to come to Ballyhaunis where they were always accorded a splendid reception. He thanked Paddy Ryan and Brian Munro for donating the beautiful trophy and centenary medallions respectively. The medallions were presented to both teams by the President of the Ballyhaunis club, Mr. Mick O'Connell. Mr. Keane reciprocated by presenting a magnificent silver cup to Mr. Rudden to be used henceforth for a special under-age competition to be held under the auspices of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club. There then followed a presentation of centenary ties by Mr. Keane to members of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club who had worked assiduously for Roger Casements club while domiciled in Coventry.

When the presentations had concluded a great evenings entertainment began with Mr. Eamonn Murren as M.C. Members and players of the Roger Casements club contributed greatly towards making the evening a tremendous success. It would not be an exaggeration to say that it was probably the most enjoyable event of many in the Centenary Year.

From London

The Garryowen team from London arrived in Ballyhaunis on Thursday, 16th August. As they alighted from their bus they were greeted by Mr. Hugh Rudden. On that evening they contributed greatly to a fine game of football and were rather

unlucky losers in the end on a 2-10 to 2-6 scoreline. Ballyhaunis man, Mr. Malachy Nally had a fine game in goal for the visitors. A reception for the Garryowen party was held afterwards in Murphy's Arms. The Ballyhaunis Chairman, extended a warm welcome to them. Mr. Myles Crummy, Chairman of the Garryowen club rendered special thanks to Mr. Joe Freeley of the Central Hotel and the Chamber of Commerce for donating a fine trophy and medals respectively. He extended an invitation to the Ballyhaunis club to visit London at an appropriate time in the near future. Mr. Rudden then presented a special plaque to Mr. Malachy Nally as a memento of this very special occasion. Mr. Nally replying, tendered sincere thanks to Ballyhaunis and traced his long association with both the Ballyhaunis and Garryowen clubs. He exhorted the Ballyhaunis players to give whole hearted support and co-operation to the club officials in the years ahead. So concluded a very successful week which will forever remain a milestone in the history of the G.A.A. in Ballyhaunis.

Help to Began

In September, the Ballyhaunis club made a substantial donation to the Began Community Centre. It was presented to Fr. McEllin in conjunction with a special function to announce the winner of the 'Rose of Began' contest. In October, the centenary committee commenced preparation for the holding a special social to commemorate the closing of Centenary Year. The Social, which was free took place on Friday, 23rd November. The centenary year closed as it had begun with a marvellous nights entertainment before a capacity crowd. It served to indicate the great appeal which the Gaelic Athletic Association has for its people.

On the Field

On the playing fields the great performance of the U-16 team in annexing the County title overshadowed all else. The evening of August 30th will long be remembered by those present in Claremorris to see the memorable joust with Ballinrobe. Ballyhaunis made the early running and surprised their much vaunted opponents to lead by two points at half time. In the second half, in the midst of tremendous pressure the Ballyhaunis defensive grip held firm and with five minutes to go on a downfield foray, Noel Phillips scored a fine point to leave two points between the sides. This was how it stayed to the end; there were great scenes of jubilation when the trophy was presented to Ballyhaunis captain, Val Byrne.

The team, on their return to Ballyhaunis were feted in the Central Hotel. They were congratulated on their tremendous victory by the Chairman, Hugh Rudden who also paid a special tribute to the great work put in by the team managers, Ger Lyons and John Durkan. The tremendous commitment and determination allied to some flashes of brilliant football were the hallmark of the team's success. There is a great lesson to be learned from this team by their Senior counterparts. The team had to win seven games to become County kingpins. In the East Mayo final against Swinford they absorbed some tremendous pressure before finishing strongly to win on a 5-5 to 2-6 scoreline. It would be wrong to single out any particular individual because this was a team effort. I congratulate all 26 members of the panel on this success.

Other Grades

Our U-14 team did emerge from their group suffering from some heavy defeats in the process.



Below we see two members of the original Goodfellowship Cup Committee which organised this Annual Mayo Tournament that is now a vital part of local football. From left are: Jim Forde, Pat Nally and Patsy Keane (the son of founder member, Micheal A. Keane).

They showed a marked lack of discipline when preparing for these games. They did however, atone to some extent by reaching the semi-final of the Homemaker Tournament held under the auspices of the Castlebar Mitchels club. Moreover, young Tony Cribbin won the free taking competition, defeating a top class field in the process. The U-15 team lost their Ógsport Gaedheal title to Moy Davitts in May. Our Minors reached the East Mayo League final before going under to Aughamore in April. In the Championship, the team reached the East Mayo semi-final before succumbing to Moy Davitts. The Under-21 team received a walkover from Charlestown but were overcome by Swinford in the East Mayo semi-final.

Our Junior team reached the Canon Henry Cup final but were defeated by Swinford by a six point margin. In the Junior Championship they overcame Ballaghaderreen and drew with Aughamore. In the play-off however, the latter proved victorious by a wide margin.

Senior Side

The Senior Team preserved their Division 2 status in the League. The fact that we could not field the same team consistently proved detrimental to our cause. However, good wins were attained at the expense of Louisburgh, Glenamoy and Aughamore respectively in addition to two noteworthy draws with Kiltimagh and Ballinrobe. In the Centenary Cup, on Good Friday, Ballyhaunis played magnificently to oust a fancied Ballaghaderreen team from the competition on a 2-12 to 0-4 scoreline. On the following day, however, the team flattered to deceive going under to Kiltimagh by nine points. On the 15th July, the team went to Castlebar to play Garrymore in the County Championship. While defeat was once again to be our lot the club can take solace from the very fine performances of the younger members, five of whom were making their Senior Championship debut. It could be said that inexperience played a major part of our defeat against such seasoned opposition. Up to the last quarter however our team were in with an excellent chance of victory. At the present time the Senior team is training for the Goodfellowship Competition held under the auspices of the Club. The final of this prestigious competition will be held on Sunday, December 30th. A win here would prove a major boost to the team.

A Word of Thanks

On behalf of the Executive I wish to tender sincere thanks to John Prenty and Gerry Lyons as Chairman and Secretary of the Centenary Committee and for the effective manner in which they liaised with the Executive Committee during the year. To the Social Committee under the guidance of John O'Neill, Jimmy Walsh and John Durkan for the

organising of the successful socials throughout the year. To Breda Burke and to other members of the Ladies Committee who worked well with the I.C.A. in organising the Senior Citizens Party. Finally, I express gratitude to our sponsors and other members who contributed towards making the year a resounding success.

Willie Ryan

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Aughamore Wanderers defeated Annagh Rovers 2-4 to 0-1 on January 19th, 1896. Garvey Bros. were prominent for Aughamore while Muldoon, the Annagh captain was best for the losers.
2. On May 6th 1894, Ballyhaunis Celts entertained Claremorris, P.W. Nally's at the Railway Hotel (Delaney's Bridge Street) after the game.
3. The Club Ballad Group won the All Ireland Senior Scór Competition in 1972. Members of the group were Tony Flynn, Seamus Forde, Vincent Healy, Brian Byrne, Myra Delaney, Miriam Murphy and Mairead Mulhern.
4. Jackie Green won the Connaught Senior Scór Recitation in 1972 and 1976.
5. When the Club was reformed in the late 'forties, the Junior team played twenty two league and championship games without a win.
6. When the club beat Ballina in the Senior Championship in 1958 the Ballina team were hot favourites and included 12 inter-county players, three inter-provincials and two players who were picked to represent Ireland in representative games.
7. J.J. Cribbin and Tom Fitzgerald won National League medals with Mayo.
8. Michael Webb and John Moran (Coolnafarna) played in goal for Connaught in the Railway Cup series.
9. Noel Waldron was treasurer of the club in 1945. A few entries from his records: Membership £2-17-6. Ceili in the Parochial Hall on New Years Night. Dancing from 10 to 4. Admission: 2/6. Fr. Curley, C.C. will present medals to local league winners and the special attraction was an exhibiton of Irish Dancing by the Flatly School of Dancing. Gate from league game in Tooraree was 16/3. Profit from Raffle and Ceili was £23-16-1.

Strong in Stature

For his commitment to the G.A.A. both as a player and on the administrative side over a long period of years, Johnny Biesty, Ballyhaunis must rank as one of the really great G.A.A. figures in Mayo.

On the field of play he was one of the greatest ever to don the Ballyhaunis jersey and he was also to the fore in the green and red of Mayo. His playing career was such as to win for him the respect and admiration of team-mates and opponents alike because of his skill and artistry.

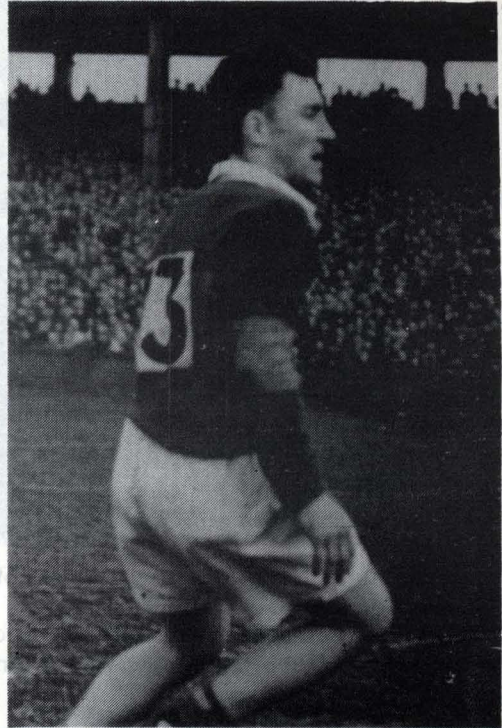
The man

This can be garnered from extracts from an article re-printed hereunder which was written to mark the retirement of Johnny Biesty from competitive football in 1968 and the prediction made then that he would be just as prominent and forceful in his role as administrator as he was on the field of play has well and truly been borne out....

"Johnny Biesty who is now attached to the teaching staff in the Convent of Mercy, Castlerea has devoted much of his spare time since hanging up his boots, to the promotion of gaelic games and is also playing a major role in the provision of better facilities not alone in Ballyhaunis but throughout the county. In his capacity as Honorary Secretary of the Mayo Grounds Committee he has been most helpful to clubs throughout the county who sought his advice in their efforts to improve playing facilities.

The Administrator

The excellent facilities at Ballyhaunis where a squash court and handball alley have been completed would probably not have materialised without the dedication and complete co-operation of Johnny Biesty who since the property was purchased in 1968 spearheaded the development to date and continues to take an abiding interest in its maintenance and further development. It can truthfully be said that Michael Waldron and Johnny Biesty were the prime movers behind the provision of the squash court and ball-alley which was a joint G.A.A. and Handball Club effort. Indeed, Johnny Biesty devotes himself so much to the G.A.A. grounds that he has been privately referred to as 'Honorary Manager and Custodian'. He is, of course, together with Austin Grogan and Mick O'Connell a trustee of the property. Other high points not mentioned elsewhere are his membership of the East Mayo team winners of the Mayo Senior football championship in 1967 when he was the only Ballyhaunis player to provide a link with the East Mayo championship winning side of 1957. He was also selected for the Mayo G.A.A.



Johnny Biesty in action for Mayo

Club in New York in 1964. But to get back to Johnny Biesty's great contribution as an administrator in G.A.A. affairs one has only got to look on his involvement in the 1962-'63 period when he was continuing his studies in Dublin.

Dublin and Mayo

During that period as well as being a player member he was also Hon. Secretary of the prestigious Civil Service G.A.A. Club in Dublin and carried out his duties in this regard with the same expertise as he had demonstrated in the past. On his return to Ballyhaunis he again became involved in the G.A.A. at Club, Divisional and County level and the short list below tells of his continuous involvement in G.A.A. affairs:-

- 1968 - 72 Mayo Senior Selector
- 1969 - 71 Asst. Sec. to Mayo G.A.A. Board
- 1969 - 73 Team Manager of Ballyhaunis Seniors
- 1969 - Hon. Sec. Mayo Grounds Committee
- 1970 As Selector toured U.S. with Mayo
- 1973 - 77 Chairman of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club
- 1977 - 81 In charge of all Under-Age activities in Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club, during which success was achieved at Divisional level.



1951 MINOR TEAM

One of the Greats

Hereunder are some excerpts from the article already referred to which was penned by the same writer in 1968:-

"It doesn't matter how far back over the years you can go to pick out great names of the past, to my mind Johnny Biesty was one of the all-time Ballyhaunis 'greats' not alone for his fire, fervour and dash but for that inevitable touch of superb class that he always brought to bear on his game. Biesty had no time for the mediocre featureless football which spectators have to put up with all too often, he was always at pains to try and raise the standard to classical proportions by introducing bright, attractive and intelligent play, and by initiating and taking part in intricate weaving forward movements designed to outwit even the most closely knit defence. He was a expert tactical player and though he played the game hard, his sportsmanship throughout the long span of his playing career is unquestionable and this can readily be endorsed by the many great players he has played against.

At All Grades

After playing Juvenile football with Ballyhaunis he captained the St. Jarlath's College junior team in 1953-'54 and was on the St. Jarlath's senior side in 1954, 1955 and 1956. He was well to the fore when St. Jarlath's won the Connaught Colleges S.F. title in the 1955/'56 period. He captained the Colleges junior team winners of the Connaught Colleges title in the 1953/'54 period. He was a member of the Connaught Colleges team winners of the Inter-Provincial Championship in 1956 defeating Leinster

in the final. On the Leinster team that day were such fine players as Lar Foley (Dublin) and Frank O'Leary who later assisted Mayo for a period. On the winning Connaught team were Sean Concannon (Galway), John Oliver Moran (Roscommon) and Paddy McMenamon (Mayo).

Though Johnny Biesty was one of Mayo's greatest minors of his era he unfortunately was not chosen for the Mayo Minor football team. He played minor football for Ballyhaunis in 1953, 1954 and 1955 and few will forget the Ballyhaunis v. Castlebar County Minor football final played at Claremorris in 1955 when Castlebar were the victors by the narrowest of margins after one of the best Minor finals witnessed for years. Biesty played a great game that day and had some rare tussles that day with his opposite number Aiden O'Reilly of Ballyvary whom he has always regarded as a fine player.

Winning Record

He helped Ballyhaunis to win three Divisional titles in 1956, 1957 and 1964 but 1957 could be said to be his most outstanding year.

Early in 1957 he was on the East Mayo team winners over Claremorris in the County S.F. League final when he went on a scoring spree scoring four goals and one point of his side's total of 4-3. He was on the Ballyhaunis team winners of the Mayo junior football title defeating Garrymore in the final and also assisted East Mayo in their county senior football championship title win over Crossmolina. He crowned that very successful year when he was on the Mayo junior football team

captained by President-Elect Dr. Mickey Loftus that defeated Warwickshire in Birmingham in the All-Ireland Junior football final.

In the following year he was on the Ballyhaunis team winners of the Mayo Senior football title and added to his long list of successes before winning yet another County title in 1967 when he was on the Ballyhaunis team captained by Tommy Lyons winners of the Mayo Intermediate football title of that year. The next year he decided to call it a day.

Man of Stature

Johnny Biesty is now regarded as something of an institution within the club. He does not stand on ceremony, calls a spade, a spade, and expects the highest standards to be maintained at all times.

When the names of others attached to the G.A.A. in Mayo and in Ballyhaunis are long forgotten the name of Johnny Biesty will be remembered for he has etched his name clearly and distinctly as a standard bearer of the code most particularly in his native area of Ballyhaunis and in a general sense throughout the county of Mayo.

DID YOU KNOW?

10. Ballyhaunis team that beat Aughamore in February 1946:

J. O'Dwyer (R.I.P.)

P. Carney W. Boyle A. Prenty R.I.P. (C)

D. Judge P. McGarry P. Mallee

M. Carty R.I.P. P. Morley

V. Caulfield R.I.P. D. Moran N. Waldron

J. Duffy P. Cunningham J. Glynn

Unable to play: P. O'Connell, J. Waldron & E. Webb

11. Captains of the County Championship winning teams: Senior 1919 - Jack Waldron, Minor 1952 - Val Byrne, Junior 1957 - John Healy, Senior 1958 - P.J. Moran, Intermediate 1968 - Tommy Lyons, Under/15 1983 - Paddy Phillips, Under/16 1984 - Val Byrne.



Club Player of the Year, 1983

The Christian Context

The following is the text of a sermon preached on Club Day - 29th July in the Abbey by Fr. John O'Connor, O.S.A. It is at once a tribute to Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club and briefly sets the Gaelic Athletic Movement in the Christian context.

Since today is a special day in the town and in most towns and villages all over Ireland, I thought that it would be more proper this morning, if we departed a little from the Gospel of the day, and instead if we took a brief look at the Christian concept of leisure - as a tribute to the Gaelic Athletic Association, which this year celebrates the centenary of its foundation, and which today in most places (including Ballyhaunis) is holding its Club Day.

Now, of course, this is not the place to spell out for you the whole story of the G.A.A. and the political and social influence it has had in Irish history. One can say, however, that before the independence of the southern republic became a reality, the Gaelic Athletic Association, together with the Gaelic League, the co-operative movement and the old Sinn Féin ideal of Arthur Griffin, all played their part to form a national consciousness - without which 1916 would not have happened, nor later unilateral declaration of Independence. All that, of course, is part of our history, and as you know scholars even today interpret the events differently. But as I said, this is not the place to discuss the early historical days of the Association.

For myself, in any case, I prefer to dwell on the extraordinary influence the Gaelic Athletic

Association has had on Irish life since our southern independence was achieved, an influence that is still amazingly strong in every parish in the country. As the country knows, the Association has had its growing pains, with questions like the ban on other games and so on (for which members, I think, should never feel ashamed nor apologise, as every society has a right to its own rules). But all that now, in any case, is part of past history, and the Association has emerged in modern times (at least to my mind) as a real phenomenon as a free amateur association - an association that amazingly continues to hold the affection of the people.

Now, if I were speaking solely to a Gaelic Athletic congregation, I could extend my praises of the Association and from social, cultural and sporting angles, spell out my own personal admiration and preference for it, and for associations like Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Conradh na Gaeilge, Muintir na Tire, Macra na Feirme and so on, each of which is concerned with an aspect of Irish life and genuine patriotism that is important. But of course, in a mixed congregation, not everyone is a direct supporter of the G.A.A., because the truth is we are a democracy, and there are also other laudable sporting associations in Ireland that may suit a person's temperament better, and cater better for a person's active leisure needs. I am thinking of Rugby and Soccer and Golf and Tennis, not to mention swimming, mountain climbing and various athletic interests. In my Christian estimation, all in our times are to be advocated (as one of the very basic modern sociological needs in the coping with leisure time; and the filling of it rather than the 'how' is the fundamental need). So, for instance, if a local soccer or rugby team is doing well, or a local golfer is a marked success, this is a matter of civic pride for all.

But today, as it happens, our civic pride is directed to the achievements of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club in the town down the years, and so today the whole town is joining with it in celebrating its existence and contribution to town-life. In its long history, it has had its social and cultural successes in the Winter Scór, and it has had its many victorious teams, and it has given men and youth at all grades to play at county level. This latter is always a great source of local pride to a Club, and to this day Ballyhaunis Club continues to have this pride and achievement.

Today, then, we are praising the Gaelic Athletic Association in general and the Ballyhaunis Club in particular, but since we are in a religious gathering, we are setting their achievements in the context of



However, before the advent of television, people had to amuse themselves with local drama, song and dance, with local games. Perhaps at the present time the television does eat up a great part of leisure time even of active people. That surely is a pity. But one may hope that this will change with the passing of time, and that a more positive return will be made to locally produced entertainment.

But, in any case, the G.A.A. is assured of its place in all this. It is still held in high esteem in the hearts of the people, and it has its large following. So may it go from strength to strength over another century, and may the Ballyhaunis Club continue to prosper, continue to produce players of county calibre and

continue to be such an effective outlet for leisure and local force for good in the town and the surrounding countryside. God speed its good work. And so of course today everyone in the town and locality should make an effort to attend one or more of the events that the Club has arranged for this day of celebration. And one will do this in order to show one's solidarity with a sterling organisation that sprung from the people of Ireland themselves and that now is a source of pride to us all in the sight of the world. We have a native language, we have native singing and music and dance, and we have our native games, and all have contributed to the soul of Ireland. Beannacht Dé ar an obair!



SENIOR TEAM (1916-'20 Era)

Front Row: P. O'Malley, Brodie Kenny.

Middle Row: P. Kenny, A. Kenny, J. Waldron, M. Halliday (Dunmore), J. Reilly (Cloonbrook), J. Hunt (Barneycarroll).

Back Row: G. Delaney, J. Fitzgerald (BallinLough), P. Waldron, M. Finlan (Castlereagh), B. Mulligan (P.O.) J. Gavin, P. Lynskey.



1932 MINOR TEAM

The Terrible War Years

by Willie Coppinger

The years that are most vivid to me in Ballyhaunis were years of scarcity, rationing and a flight for existence for those who remained behind to man the badly paid jobs, and long hours, which were features of all trades in those days. Thursday was the half-day and often my friends and myself would go down to the station to say goodbye to the many fine men and women who were leaving their families and homes to go to England.

The Realities

Against the above background, it was hard for the G.A.A., like all other associations, to make progress. Nevertheless, the G.A.A. always seemed able to attract most young men to the game. Club fundraising was hard, as you could only run ceilidhe. 'Ballroom of Romance' dancing was not allowed as a method, even though it was the most popular way at the time. Petrol was rationed and therefore curbed travelling for matches and club meetings. Even tyres of bicycles (if you possessed one) were like gold dust, and even footballs were hard got. I remember being in a seven-a-side team taking part in a tournament in Brickens, where the prize was a football, which was won by Ballyhaunis beating Knock led by Jimmy Carty in the final.

Men to the Ready

Ballyhaunis like other clubs did the best it could during those years, and names like Michael Tarmey, Austin Prenty, Vinnie Caulfield, Paddy Walsh, Dom Moran, Dan Moran, Tom Dolan, Paddy Carney, Mick O'Connell, Cyril Coyne, Patsy E. Webb, P. Hannon, Paul Meath, John O'Brien, Bertie Curley, Noel Waldron, Joe Greally, Markie Waldron, Jimmy Dwyer were always there to ensure that necessary work would be done, as well as take part in the games.

The records will show that nothing spectacular was won, but against the background mentioned earlier, Ballyhaunis club was as good as most. It was just that we had no Tom Forde, George Delaney, Jim Forde or Martin Hannon, or Sean Flanagan necessary to make the break-through. Mick O'Connell and Jimmy O'Dwyer and Michael Tarmey were tireless workers to foster the game.

A Case of Goalposts

At that time, trees were not allowed to be felled without a licence, and a pair of goalposts were very badly needed in Tooraree for a Sunday game. A band of strapping men armed with hatchets and crosscuts took to the Clare road, to where suitable trees were to be had - on the Wednesday night before

the match. After the felling, the trees were taken to Hazelhill and hidden; they were stripped on Thursday and painted, and were in position for the Sunday match. And thankfully no questions were asked. The incident shows the dedication of the men of those years.

A Delightful Town

Admission charges those years were 6d. old pence and a shilling to most matches - far away from the charges of the G.A.A. today. Street Leagues were great 'crack' amongst the panel of players available, and finals of those created more local enthusiasm than lots of county finals. The Gaelic League was very active in those years in Ballyhaunis and produced some wonderful dancers (both men and women). Mass in the Friary was a delight and the men's choir there was wonderful to hear. All round, Ballyhaunis was a delightful, friendly town to which to live in those years and the G.A.A. was one of the main outlets of activity for the youth of the time.

The Parochial Hall with its billiard and snooker table was a haven of rest on many a cold winter's night, with Paddy Walsh the Steve Davis of the day. If you thought you were a good draught player (and there were many), all you had to do was to test your skill against Dom Moran (Knox St.). After a session you would pack up. I remember too that Joe Carr was a regular caller to Ballyhaunis as a trainee salesman in those days, and he spent every available minute he had in the local golf course.

Those are but a few of the memories of those war years, and indeed of the good friendly people that I met in Ballyhaunis.

Willie Coppinger was a Ballyhaunis player and later an officer in the Club - Editor

DID YOU KNOW?

14. The following is the team which played Knock on June 17th, 1944:

M.J. Byrne R.I.P.

M. O'Connell T. Greally A. Prenty R.I.P.

C. Coyne P. Dolan B. Duggan

T. Callaghan D. Moran

J. O'Brien W. Coppinger P. Hannon

V. Caulfield R.I.P. A. Cotter P. Henry

Intermediate Team



INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE WINNERS 1981

Seated (left to right): E. Murren, T. McGuire, J. Durkan.

Middle Row (left to right): Des Lyons, Tommy Grogan, Billy Phillips, Pat Freeley, Tommy Prenty, John Prenty, Sean Cribbin, Tommy Caulfield, Billy Lyons.

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

INTERMEDIATE TEAM - Bridge 14 Year Gap

Since 1977, Ballyhaunis has been taking part in the Intermediate League without success. The nearest they had been to a win was in 1979/'80 when we failed by one point to qualify for the semi-final stages.

1981 League

The 1981 campaign was to be of 18 games and was run on a double round system, home and away. The top two teams qualified for the league semi-final together with the top two teams from the other section.

The league began on the 8th March with a good win over the Neale at Cong. The score was 3-11 to 1-6. This was followed by two defeats against Kilmaine at home 1-11 to 2-2, and versus Shrulue away, 1-11 to 1-6. Round 4 brought us 2 points when Glencorrib failed to travel to Ballyhaunis. Rounds 5, 6, and 7 v. Swinford, Tourmakeady and Mayo Gaels had to be postponed until after the American trip.

After the States

On the return from the United States there was greater spirit and enthusiasm and despite the retirement of Padraic Prendergast and the non-return of Tommy Moran and Brendan Morrissey, results began to improve. The first game was away to Carramore and the new comradeship and

combination led to a 4-8 to 0-7 victory. Over confidence showed v. Shamrocks and we were lucky to win 1-8 to 1-7 at home.

The second round of the league began on the 24th May and our superiority over the Neale was confirmed with a home win by 1-11 to 0-6. Round 2 v. Kilmaine was played in Kilmaine and in a downpour we defeated the home side, 1-4 to 0-2, but in Shrulue we were defeated away 1-6 to 0-7. There followed wins over Glencorrib away and Swinford at home before we were defeated 1-8 to 0-5 by Tourmakeady away.

We returned to the winning trail with a big win over Mayo Gaels at home 4-6 to 1-4. In the concluding rounds of the league we were given walk-overs by Carramore and Shamrocks.

Progress

At this stage of the league the two semi-final places rested between Kilmaine, Tourmakeady, Swinford and Ballyhaunis and we needed to win two out of three games that had been postponed due to the American Trip. Following a controversial game away to Swinford we emerged victorious 4-8 to 2-8; Tourmakeady were defeated 1-7 to 0-8, leaving the semi-final place secure, while the defeat of Mayo Gaels 4-8 to 0-7 meant that Ballyhaunis had won their section of the league. The second place was

taken by Kilmaine, as Swinford and Tourmakeady fell away in the final stages.

In winning the section, Ballyhaunis played 18 won 15 and lost 3 games. In the other section, the winners were Belmullet with Kilmeena in second place leaving the semi-final pairings Kilmaine v. Belmullet; Ballyhaunis v. Kilmeena

Semi-Finals

The team went into intensive training for the semi-finals. In the first semi-final Kilmaine defeated Belmullet 1-5 to 1-4.

The second semi-final was fixed for Ballinrobe on Sunday, November 8th with Sean Murphy as referee. On a perfect day for football the first half was a rousing competitive affair. Ballyhaunis went into an early lead with 1-3 to 0-0 after 16 minutes. Kilmeena rallied and the half-time score was Ballyhaunis 1-4 to Kilmeena's 1-3.

A Sean Moore goal after 3 minutes of the second half completely shattered Kilmeena and they managed only one point for the rest of the half. While a rampant Ballyhaunis ran out easy winners 4-8 to 1-4.

Top Gear

It was back to serious training again and selectors Hugh Rudden, Pado Moran and Tony Morley certainly put their charges through their paces. A challenge with Ballina, Senior League finalists was arranged and Ballyhaunis won again so everything was in readiness for the Intermediate League Final in Ballinrobe on Sunday 22nd November.

The final was expected to be a close affair as both teams had shared the spoils when they had previously met. Ballyhaunis had won away and lost at home. Kilmaine, the far more experienced side, were bidding for their second title in four years, while the youthful Ballyhaunis side had become one of the most consistent teams in the county over the Summer and hoped to bridge the gap between 1967 and 1981.

The Final

Kilmaine had the assistance of the wind and rain in the first half and All-Star Joe McGrath put them into the lead with a goal after three minutes. This however was to be his last clear chance as he was afterwards kept well marked by Pat Freeley. Ballyhaunis were not down hearted and had two quick points by John Prenty and Tom Prenty. Des McGrath added two further Kilmaine points before Sean Moore scored a Ballyhaunis point, and this was followed by a John Prenty point, after Kilmaine goalkeeper had failed to hold a Tommy Grogan shot. Grogan again had a piledriver stopped by O'Loughlin in the 24th minute but Prenty followed up to score a goal.

At this stage the large Ballyhaunis crowd of supporters were cheering on their team in the hope of ending the famine for success. But by half-time Kilmaine had regained the lead with points by the McGrath brothers. The half-time score was Kilmaine 1-6, Ballyhaunis 1-5.

To Victory

With the aid of a strong wind in the second half Ballyhaunis looked odds on to win. However, Kilmaine took over completely but could not convert their supremacy into scores and all they had to show for the second half was a pointed free from Des McGrath.

In failing light and deteriorating conditions Ballyhaunis failed to score until the 18th minute, when Tommy Prenty pointed a free. With both sets of backs completely on top, Kilmaine looked safe entering the final five minutes. Ballyhaunis was awarded a free which Tommy Prenty floated into the square and Tommy Grogan rose to fist over the equaliser. Ballyhaunis then realised they could win and surged forward into attack, Kilmaine panicked and gave away another free. Again it was floated into the square where it was grabbed by Sean Moore and shot over the bar for the winner.

From the kick out referee Sean Mac Eil blew the final whistle to the delight of Ballyhaunis players, mentors and supporters.

A Gap Bridged

Amid scenes of great excitement, Paddy Muldoon presented the cup to Pat Freeley. Ballyhaunis captain.

As the cup was paraded through the town bonfires blazed and fourteen years in the wilderness were forgotten in a night of celebration. The team and substitutes in action for the final were:

Miceal Webb, Pat Freeley (capt.), Jimmy Ronan, Ivan Freeley, Tommy Caulfield, Des Lyons, Billy Phillips, Tony Morley, Johnny Cribbin, Teddie Webb, Tommy Grogan, Sean Moore, Denis Swift, Tommy Prenty, John Prenty.

Subs:- Billy Lyons, Ger Lyons, Tom McGuire, John Durkan, Sean Cribbin, Eamon Murren, Mike Phillips, James Reidy, Brendan Morrissey, Tommy Moran and Padraic Prendergast.

John Prenty

The Ladies Team



BALLYHAUNIS LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM

THE LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

In the Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis on the 8th April, 1984 there was a meeting of a group of people whose intention was somewhat akin to those of 'Cusack and Cavin' some hundred years earlier. This meeting laid the foundation of a Ladies Gaelic Football Club in Ballyhaunis.

Such was the interest and dedication that within a month the ladies fielded a team to play Kilmovee. The team was moulded under the guidance of Gerry Lyons and Sean Cribbin. These perfect young ladies were not long in dispelling the myths that a woman's place was only in 'the kitchen or the Coombe' and in their first year they reached the County semi-final of the championship when Cong narrowly disposed of them with a score of 2-8 to 1-2. They also reached the semi-final of the Mayo League.

The elected committee, comprising of Maureen Towey (Chairperson), Therese Cribbin (Secretary), Mary Lyons (Treasurer) have been involved not only with the organisation and co-ordination of games, but also have participated in activities such as Lá na gClub (at which they won a prize for the most amusing float) and the Abbey Pattern; they also have arranged social activities in the Club. They won their first game against a highly rated Bohermeen side.

So, a Ladies Club, which is believed by some other clubs to be extra baggage, has proved quite successful in Ballyhaunis. In conclusion I would like to thank the following for their sponsorship: Ryan's V.G., Murphy's Arms, Curley's and Fordes. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Therese Cribbin
(Runai)**

A CLUB CELEBRATING

Here in this fine proud Mayo town
The Gaelic spark was early caught
From the newly-kindled ancient flame,
As men of vision woke and taught
To Irishmen their pride of name,
The beauty of their speech fine-wrought,
The dance and song long handed down,
The native tune, the sport, the game.

When seeing men stirred all the land
That years had slept and wept its share,
Here Ballyhaunis picked up the sound
Of the fresh dawn-music in the air,
And here the Cumann Luthchleas found
A home in hearts and still lives there,
And still is served by the fetching hand,
And youth sure-footed and men abound.

So here again in this golden year
When we sing the ode of an earned glory,
We praise our Club and its Gaelic way
With its own proud chapter in the story;
And we toast the town that hosts our stay,
And the parent Cumann that may ever be
A living presence, an influence here
While other centuries will mark their day.

So when seeing men stirred all the land
That long had slept and wept the night,
Here Ballyhaunis heard the note
That called the dawn into free daylight,
And here the Cumann Luthchleas wrote
Its name in hearts that gained new sight,
And taught a town to understand
That a good seed bears abundant growth.

John O'Connor, O.S.A.

Football in Ballyhaunis Community School

1977/'78

In September 1977, Ballyhaunis Community School opened its door to students for the first time. After the initial settling in period and when the dust had settled on the juggling for sporting recognition, Gaelic Football was clearly established as the main team sport.

The honours were not long in coming and even though the facilities were poor, as the pitches had not been developed, we bagged two cups for the sideboard in the first season.

We fielded teams in Senior (U-18), Junior (U-17), Juvenile (U-15) and First Year Competitions organised by the Connaught Colleges. It fell to the 1st/2nd years to bring home the first trophy when they won the Fr Leonard Cup, a competition organised by the East Mayo Board. This team was captained by Paul Earley. The Fr. Costello Cup (Mayo Juvenile Championship) quickly followed. This team was captained by Michael Phillips. The trainers that year were Senior and Junior - John Cleary, 1st Year - Michael Murren. Players to remember who were Senior then included: Jimmy Ronan, Billy Phillips, Sean Cribbin and Johnny Cunnane.

1978/'79

This proved to be a disappointing season over-all. The only competition we won was again by the Juveniles when they retained the Fr. Costello Cup. The side was captained by Paul Earley. Trainer, Senior and Junior - John Cleary, Juvenile and First Year - Michael Murren and Jarlath Fahy. Players to remember who were Senior that year included Johnny Cribben, Seamus Durkan and Jeremy Dee.

1979/'80

This is the year the floodgates opened. We won nearly everything in sight. The Seniors set the pace, showing a clean pair of heels on their way to winning the first Flanagan Cup (Mayo Colleges) for the school. We then pipped St. Enda's of Galway by a point in a very exciting Connaught Final. But the next match stopped our gallop. We were beaten in the All Ireland semi-final by the eventual winners, De La Salle, Ballyshannon. The team was captained by Sean Moore.

The Juniors came next and steamrolled through Mayo to win the Colleran Cup with considerable ease. They then won the Connaught Final with a tremendous display in Tuam against St. Joseph's of Galway. They were captained by Pat Ryan.



JUVENILE FOOTBALL TEAM, MAYO CHAMPIONS

Front Row (l to r): T. Bailey, P. Comer, P. Leonard, F. Coyne (Capt.), B. Duffy, M. Feeney, E. Cunnane.

Middle Row (l to r): P. Ruane, R. Crinnegan, M. Henry, G. Morley, J. Hession, D. Greally, S. Kelly.

Back Row (l to r): J. Keane, M. Hunt, T. Ruane, B. Rogers, J. Mulkeen, D. Fitzgerald.



MAYO COLLEGES JUVENILE CHAMPIONS

Back: M. Phillips (Captain), S. Moore, J. Duggan, P. Jordan, M. Hunt.

Middle: P. Phillips, P. Flanagan, P. Ryan, P. Webb, M. Morris, C. McColgin, J. Webb, K. Duffy.

Front: V. Caulfield, D. Phillips, T. Ronan, P. Earley, P. Lyons, T. Fanning, C. Carroll, A. Morgan.

The Juveniles again captured the Fr. Leonard Cup but were beaten by Balla in the final of the Fr. Costello Cup. Trainers were Senior - Aidan Kelly, Junior - Hugh Rudden, First Year/Juvenile - Michael Murren. Players to remember who were Senior then included James Reidy, Sean Moore, Mike Phillips, Timmy Ronan, Jarlath O'Connor.

1980/'81

This proved another very successful year with titles coming in nearly every grade. First the Seniors again won in Mayo but this time had to bow the knee to St. Enda's in the Connaught Final in a game we should have won. This team was captained by Paul Earley.

The juniors again proved masters of all in Mayo and Connaught winning the Connaught Final against the famed St. Jarlath's after a replay; they were captained by Declan Phillips.

The Juveniles retained the Fr. Leonard Cup and regained the Father Costello Cup and went on to capture the Connaught Final, captained by Fergus Coyne. Trainers, Senior - Aidan Kelly, Junior - Hugh Rudden, Juvenile/First Year - Michael Murren. Senior players to be remembered included Paul Earley, Andrew Morgan, Declan Phillips, Ciaran Carroll, Padraic Cunnane.

1981/'82

After the thrills of the previous two seasons it was down to earth for this year as we surrendered our three Mayo titles with the Seniors and Juniors losing to Balla Comprehensive and the Juveniles losing to Ballinrobe. The Seniors were captained by John Cox, the Juniors by John Leonard and the Juveniles by John Hession. Our only consolation was that we reached the final in all three competitions. Trainers, Senior - Aidan Kelly, Junior - Hugh Rudden, Juveniles/First Year - Michael Murren. Senior Players to remember included John Morley, John Cox and T.J. Rodgers.

1982/'83

This proved to be a mixed year, with our seniors again coming second best in Mayo, losing to Balla in the final, but our Juniors recaptured the Colleran Cup beating Castlebar, but they lost the Connaught Final to Headford. The captains that year were Senior - Dominick Stanley, trainer: Aidan Kelly, Junior - Michael Hunt, trainer: Hugh Rudden and Juvenile - Val Byrne, trainer: Michael Murren and Patsy Noone. Players to be remembered who were Senior then included John Toolan, John Leonard, Dominic Stanley, Eamonn Waldron, Tony Waldron, Al Madden and Kevin Henry.

1983/'84

This year we are back at the top of the Mayo

Senior Football where we belong. After a tough season we emerged on top again to win the Flanagan Cup for the third time in 5 years. Under captain Brian Duffy we defeated Castlebar in the Mayo Final. Our next hurdle was against Aloysius's of Athlone in the Connaught Final and although we had prepared diligently we were defeated by the better team on the day by 0-11 to 0-5.

The Juniors reached the Mayo semi-finals but were defeated by Castlebar, they were captained by Seamus Kenny.

Our Juveniles again won the Fr. Costello Cup but were defeated in the Connaught Final by Headford. They were captained by Aidan Sloyan. This year we had a very good first year team and although we were eventually knocked out by Westport C.B.S., we beat St. Murdeach's, St. Nathy's and Sumerhill on the way to the fourth round. The team was captained by Kevin Kelly.

The trainers again were Senior - Aidan Kelly, Junior - Hugh Rudden, Juvenile/First Year - Michael Murren and Patsy Noone. Senior players to be remembered from that year included Michael Hunt, Gerry Morley, Eamonn Cunnane, Brian Duffy, Michael Feeney, John Hession and Michael Henry.

This is the school's G.A.A. activities up to date and with players of the calibre of Val Byrne, David Fitzpatrick, Frank Leonard, Seamus Kenny, Jarlath Henry and John Davitt to pick from we expect to be to the forefront again this year.

As well as representing their school a number of our players have represented their counties at different levels.

Mayo County Minors:

Joe Regan, James Reidy, Michael Hunt, Gerry Morley, Declan Phillips, T.J. Rodgers.

Roscommon County Minors:

Paul Earley, Dominic Stanley, Andrew Morgan and Jarlath O'Connor.

Mayo Under-16:

Frank Leonard, John Hession, Val Byrne, David Fitzgerald, John Leonard, Niall Cruise.

Roscommon Under-16:

Aiden Sloyan, Michael Kelly.

Gerry Morley also assisted Connaught Colleges against Leinster in this year Centenary Cup Competition, while Paul Earley has represented Roscommon at every level and is at present playing Australia rules football in Australia.

Aidan Kelly



**BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL,
CONNAUGHT SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1980**

The County Champions



BALLYHAUNIS UNDER 16 TEAM, COUNTY CHAMPIONS

My first association with the present Mayo County Champions in U-16 began in April, 1982, when Sean Cribbin and I were asked to take charge of an U-14 team.

Commitment

We decided that our policy would be commitment to training and discipline in the panel and to the mentors and officers. At the beginning we got a response to training, but at the same time we had sixteen players out training and they made up the team for their first challenge match.

At the next training session we increased our numbers to 28 players and with that response they reached a county final in which Ballinrobe beat them 8-7 to 1-3.

A New Heart

This year the same panel came together again, with John Durkan in place of Sean Cribbin as a mentor. The attitude and commitment of all the panel in relation to training and attendance at matches was terrific, and the aim of the panel was to meet Ballinrobe in the County Final and reverse the result of two years ago in the Under-14 final.

It is now well known that they beat Ballinrobe by 1-5 to 1-3 and recorded the first major under-age title since 1952, when, incidentally, Val Byrne senior was captain of the minor team of that year. It was the

same skill and determination of the Ballyhaunis teams of old that showed on the field of play with the present Under-16 team, and I feel that is a good omen for the future.

All Contributed

We had a panel of 27 players this year, and the whole panel contributed substantially to the final victory. At some stage or other of the competition each played his part, all added up to gain the final honours for the whole panel. Each had a share in bringing the County Championship glory to Ballyhaunis.

They also represented Mayo in a special Centenary Under-16 competition organised by Salthill G.A.A. Club for all winning county teams, and they were successful in reaching the quarter-finals, when they were beaten by the Kerry Champions, Austin Stacks.

Thanks

On behalf of John Durkan and myself, I would like to thank the panel of players for their commitment and dedication throughout the year, and to their parents who allowed them to participate at training and matches and to all the followers who supported the under age teams throughout the year.

Gerry Lyons



Mr. Patsy Jennings and Mr. Emmett Keane presenting the Under-10 Trophy to Mr. Hugh Rudden, Chairman of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club



UNDER 14 BALLYHAUNIS HURLING TEAM 1980-'81

Back Row: Frank Leonard, Enda Lyons, Ciaran Henry, Gerard Ronan, John Davitt.
Middle Row: Ultan Morley, Seamus Mulkeen, Thomas Moran, Ruairi Delaney, Noel Coggins.
Front Row: Gerard Greally, Michael Hession, Richard Crinnigan (Capt.), Brian Rodgers, Aiden Flatley, Brendan Toolan.



1982 - 1983 Community School Team

Front Row (l to r): P. Rogers (Tooreen), S. McGrath (Claremorris), E. McLoughlin (Lakehill), S. Caulfield (Ballyhaunis), Joe Tighe (Ballyhaunis), Joe Bailey (Capt., Granlahan), Kieran Morley (Bekan), Ivan Biesty (Holywell), Tom Ruane (Johnstown), Jonathan Cleary (Clare Street).

Second Row (l to r): Eamonn Gannon (Ballinlough), K. Greally (Tooreen), M. Gallagher (Knock), E. Staunton (Bekan), B. McDermott (Ballinlough), J. Smith (Ballyhaunis), N. Delaney (Tooreen), Donal Delaney (Doctor's Road), Shay Cullinane (Knock), Martin O'Grady (Moate), S. McCrudden (Barrack Street).

Back Row (l to r): T. Connolly (Moate), Patrick Murphy (Ballinlough), T. Leonard (Knockbrack), Seamus Geraghty (Knockbrack), Noel Phillips (ballyhaunis), Donal Coggins (Granlahan), Tony Morley (Knox Street).

Second Back Row (l to r): Liam Crinnigan (Tooreen), S. Keane (Gorthaganny), Patrick Jordan (Gorthaganny), R. McDermott (Ballinlough), Brendan Joyce (Ballinlough).



National School Football Team with trainer, Jim London

BALLYHAUNIS HANDBALL CLUB



All-Ireland Champion handballer Peadar McGee opening the Ballyhaunis Handball Alley with Michael Murren.

BALLYHAUNIS HANDBALL CLUB

Ballyhaunis Handball Alley officially opened last year is now regarded as one of the finest 40 x 20 alleys in the province and is being utilised by the Mayo Handball Board and the Connaught Handball Council for important fixtures including County and Provincial championships.

The central location of Ballyhaunis in the province will, it is expected, make it the ideal venue for provincial fixtures and club members confidently expect that Ballyhaunis will also prove the venue for National Championship encounters in due course. Ballyhaunis Handball Club which held its Annual Meeting recently is a properly affiliated club under the rules of the association.

Officers:

The following officers have been elected for the coming year:-

Patron Very Rev. Fr. P. Costello P.P.
President Mick O'Connell
Vice President Martin Forde
Hon. Treasurer Michael Byrne
Asst. Hon. Treasurer John J. Kelly
Hon. Secretary & P.R.O. .. Michael Waldron
Asst. Hon. Secretary Joe Murphy

Membership fees for the coming year are as follows:-

Individual Handball £15.00
 Family £25.00
 Students (2nd and 3rd Level) £5.00
 Primary School Pupils 50p

Associate Member £1.00
 Squash and Handball Combined £20.00
 Family £30.00
 Student £6.00

Coaching

Coaching sessions for school going players are at present being organised and will commence shortly. The fact that the debt on the new alley has now been reduced from £32,000 initially to £11,600 is in the words of the Honorary Secretary in his annual report:- "A monument to the generosity of the local people".

Thanks

The Club thanks all its supporters for their financial assistance especially those who contribute to the weekly tote and annual collection. A special word of thanks to the publicans and other agents who continue to co-operate in the operation of the weekly tote which is the main source of revenue from the club. The club extends sympathy to all who suffered bereavements during the year.

Finally the club extends best wishes for the future and a Happy Christmas to all supporters especially those from Ballyhaunis now resident overseas for their unqualified support.

Michael Waldron
Hon. Secretary and P.R.O.



Mick O'Connell Under-12 League Winners



Mick O'Connell Under-12 League Runners-Up

National School Football

Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club caters well for the young National School player. In 1983, Ballyhaunis were defeated in the East Mayo National School final by Ballaghaderreen. The club fields an Under-12 team also in the East Mayo Championship each year.

At local level the Emmett Keane/Patsy Jennings U-10 League provides the first contact players have with playing in a full team. The Mick O'Connell League for Under-12 players is the competition in their development as players. Both competitions are

looked forward to by the players with as much zeal as an All Ireland Championship.

The Club has organised coaching sessions for National School players, and many people give of their free time to help the players. Some involved are Hugh Rudden, John Prenty, Jimmy Walshe, Eamonn Burke, Eamonn Murren, Gerry Lyons, Aiden Kelly, Alan Delaney and Michal Lyons.

Finally in 1983, Peter Walsh was selected as the 'East Mayo National School Player of the Year'.

Jim Landon

SCÓR

It is probably true to say that the Scór competitions add up to being the Cinderella of the G.A.A. activities, at least relatively speaking. And yet I think that with a little more overall planning and a restructuring of the adjudication system, the social potential of Scór in the community at large could be very notable. For the initiated, the Scór competitions are run by the Association in the winter time and are concerned with the cultural side of Irish life. There are sections for young people (Scór na nÓg) and for adults, and in each, competitions are held in figure dancing, set dancing recitation, solo singing, group singing, instrumental music, question time and novelty act. In the case of young people, perhaps one could argue about the competitive aspect destroying the sheer joy of Irish singing and dancing and so on, but all that is another question.

Over the years, the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club has consistently taken part on both levels in the Scór competitions, and has also on occasions hosted the events for the Clubs of East Mayo and for the County Finals. For instance, in November of 1983 in the Scout Den, the Club most successfully organised and ran the Scór na nÓg county finals, and was afterwards awarded a prize for the commendable use of Irish at the event. The Club files carry the

details of participation in and hosting Scór, and also the successful highlights in some of the competitions.

For instance, in the Senior Scór section the Instrumental Group has more than once reached the county final (Ita Fahey, Moira Delaney and Tony Flynn), also the Set Dance Group - with dancers like Aine Whelan, Rita Lundon, Jackie Lyons, Fionnuala Morley, Sally Higgins, Billy Phillips, Pat Higgins, Jarlath Fahey, Brian Loughran, Vincent Freeman and John Leonard. Others, too, like Anne Jordan (solo singing) reached the County Final, while others went further still. Most spectacular was the All Ireland victory of the Ballad Group in 1972, with the more recent Ballad Group (Seamus Forde, Tony Flynn, Geraldine Coleman, Ita Fahey and Moira Delaney) reaching the Connaught Final in Scór 1983, as did the Club Question Time team in 1973. And, of course, in the Roll of Honour, Jackie Greene's name is down as the Connaught Final winner for Recitation in 1972 and 1976 - and more often than not he represented the county at provincial finals.

That is but a taste of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club's participation in Scór activities, since the competitions began in 1970. It is hoped that future involvement will be strengthened, that the social enjoyment will be the main motive for participation, but also that the periodic victory will come - so that the Club will have something extra to shout about and to celebrate.

John O'Connor O.S.A.



Annual General Meeting



Paddy Muldoon, Mayo G.A.A. Chairman being presented with the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club production by the Editor, Anto O'Malley in 1981.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club took place in the Central Hotel on Sunday, 4th December 1983. Chairman, Hugh Rudden presided. The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read by the secretary, William Ryan. They were adopted on the proposal of Paddy Brennan and seconded by Bob Fox and subsequently signed by the Chairman, Hugh Rudden. Here follows a brief resume of the night:-

Chairman's Address

Chairman, Hugh Rudden welcomed all present and in particular Fr. Costello and Fr. Williams. He said that the Centenary Year was fast approaching and a great deal still needed to be done for it. He commended the excellent work being done by both the National and Community Schools in promoting Gaelic Games. This was clearly indicated by their excellent performances on the field of play. He congratulated the Ogsport Gaeilheal team on winning the county title and representing the county at Gormanston College last August in the All-Ireland Series. He extended a sincere thanks to all who had sponsored the Club in some way during the year. In addition, he was loud in his praise of the very high workmate of the Squash Management and Committee.

Mr. Rudden expressed disappointment at the senior team during the year. He believed that if we were to attain any semblance of success, great sacrifices would have to be made by the players. He called on both the Executive and team members to work in harmony during the Centenary Year for the betterment of the Club. For the Centenary Year he proposed that the club sponsor a National School, and an U-14 Player of the Year Awards. Like awards should also be sponsored for the Player of the Year awards in each class in the Community School. He reminded all present that the year ahead was an important and historic one for the Club.

Activities

On the development front, the Club has availed of the youth employment scheme to construct a substitutes bench as well as installing a new floodlighting system to enable players to train over the winter months. Work is also at an advanced stage on the erection of a scoreboard. Other plans in the pipeline are the provision of covered accommodation facilities and the erection of a Press Box.

On the cultural side the Ballad Group won the county Scór title and were in the Connaught Final. The Club can also take pride in being the only

runners to make a serious effort for the East Mayo Scór. Thanks is due here to the diligent and assiduous efforts of Hugh Rudden and his dedicated committee. On the 25th November the club hosted the East Mayo Scór na n-Óg finals in the Scouts Den. A capacity crowd had the pleasure of witnessing a very high standard from all the participants.

Preparations were begun for the Centenary Year. Among the many proposals was the organising of visiting teams from Britain and the U.S.A. It was agreed that this should take place during the 'Come Home Week' from the 11 - 19th August. A number of teams were contacted and Mr. Bernard Keane, Chairman of Roger Casements G.A.A. Club in Coventry indicated that they would definitely be coming on the 11th August. It was later confirmed by John Fitzgerald that the New York Mayo Team would also be coming. The members decided that careful attention would also have to be given to the 'Day of the Club' which would be on the 29th July.

President Speaks

The President, Austin Grogan, in his address welcomed Fr. Costello and Fr. Williams to the meeting and thanked the Chairman, Hugh Rudden for his assiduous efforts on behalf of the club. He said that he was a dedicated and hard working Chairman. He complimented the Treasurer and Secretary for their meticulous preparation and earnest endeavours throughout the year. He urged all club members to work as a team to ensure that the

forthcoming year i.e. Centenary Year will be a resounding success.

Elections

There then followed the election of officers for 1984. They are as follows....

Patron	Fr. Paddy Williams
President	Mick O'Connell
Chairman	Hugh Rudden
Vice Chairman	Aiden Kelly
Recording and Corresp.	William Ryan
Fixtures	Gerry Lyons
Treasurer	John O'Neill
P.R.O.	Michael Waldron
Vice Presidents ..	Pado Moran, Johnny Biesty Phillip Morley, Mick Tarmey
Registrar	Aiden Kelly
Trustees	Austin Grogan, Johnny Biesty and Mick O'Connell

Oifigeach na Gaelige Jim Lunden
Executive:

Bob Fox, Paddy Brennan, Sean Waldron, Enda Murphy, Eamon Healy, Michael Murren, Mike Lyons, John Prenty, Austin Grogan, Tommy Grogan, Tom McCormack, John Durkan, Jimmy Fleming, Jack Greene, Padraic Lee, Jimmy Toolan, Sean Ward and Dermot Eagney.

Willie Ryan



1966 Intermediate Championship Finalists

The Great Peg Morris

This article appeared in the 'Western People' shortly before the late Mrs. Raftery's death.

by Mick O'Connell

A few miles from Ballyhaunis in the village of Greenwood in the parish of Began lives Mrs. Raftery, who is now 70 years old and who was formerly Miss Peggy Morris from Headford Co. Galway, who is generally regarded as one of the best, if not THE best, camogie player ever to wield a caman on the playing fields of Ireland. Considering that during her playing days camogie had reached a really high standard - that is high praise indeed.

Her playing career spanned a period of 17 years from 1928 to 1945 and included participation in The Tailteann Gaems of 1928 and 1932.

Her story is a fascinating one and is so full of remarkable incidents and so full of content that it will be only possible in the limited space available to give a brief outline of her amazing life and to pinpoint the more important events, but one salient factor emerges clearly from her story - HER UTTER DEDICATION TO THE GAME OF CAMOGIE!

Not that all her interest was devoted solely to camogie by any means, for her first love was for animals, especially horses and she was rarely happier than when riding a horse or a donkey....in fact, she clearly remembers piloting the winner of a Donkey Derby in Headford in 1922.

It was in the year of 1922 that her love of sport became uppermost, and she became most proficient at handball that she was considered good enough to play with, and against, some of the Free State soldiers who were stationed in Headford at the time.

Jim Houlihan, the great Clare hurler, she recalls, was a Sergeant Major there at the time and she learned many of her camogie skills from him, but she makes no secret of the fact that she modelled her style of play on that of the great Galway hurler, Mick King (R.I.P.).

Peg Morris made her first hurley for herself from oak and not the traditional ash, and continued to practice the game with the soldiers. She recalls that Jim Hynes from Headford also gave her great encouragement and that she played her first camogie match for a Tuam team in 1928.

Her First Match for Tuam

She remembers that this is how it came about: A man named Martin Cooney from Tuam had a daughter, Sadie who was a music pupil of Peg's sister - Sister Furza - in Presentation Convent, Tuam. Mr. Cooney had a boat on Lough Corrib at Greenfield and travelled through Headford every Sunday to fish on the Corrib.

In the evening on the way home he would stop and watch the Headford girls hurling (Peg added: "We knew nothing about camogie in those days"). Mr. Cooney told his daughter Sadie that there were Games of 1928 even though she was still troubled by the knee injury sustained a short time before that. She says that on that occasion her performance was good but that it could not be described as brilliant.

In the next four years Peg practiced diligently and her name became a household word not only in Galway but throughout the land as she continued to give dynamic displays as captain of Galway in Tournmanent and Championship games in all of the four provinces.

It was little wonder then that she was an automatic choice for the Galway team that took part in The Tailteann Games of 1932 and it was in those games that Peg Morris really proved that she was a player with few, if any, equals.

She gave a marvellous display for Galway who represented Connaught in the game against Munster, and it was due in the main to her wholehearted effort and to her brilliance in all facets of play that Connaught created a major surprise by recording a win over Munster on the score 3-4 to 2-0.

Headlines in National Press

In the daily Press the next day she captured the headlines which read 'Miss Peggy Morris in brilliant form' and 'Miss P. Morris outstanding' and from the body of a report which appeared in the National Press at that time we take the following extract which leaves the following extract which leaves no one in any doubt as to the brilliance of Miss Morris:

"Easily the outstanding player on the field was Miss Peggy Morris, three great camogie players in Headford - Peg Morris and her Evelyn and Annie Larkin - and that if Tuam camogie team got them to play for them that they would be well away. When Sister Furza was told this she laughed and said that two of her sisters but all three joined the Tuam team.

In her first game of camogie for Tuam, Peg Morris sustained a knee injury and this necessitated her having to move from outfield to goal. While she was sorely missed from the outfield exchanges, the fact that she had a great 'puck out' from goal was a decided advantage.

She remembers travelling on a bicycle a distance of seven or eight miles at Varden's field at Annabally on the main Galway-Tuam road to the selection of the Galway Camogie team in the same year and Peg's performance was such that her selection was more or less a foregone conclusion. Her performance was all the more praiseworthy when one considers that she cycled from her home to the match on a bicycle fitted with a fixed wheel. Due to the injury sustained in the previous match she could only pedal with her left leg as her right leg was then completely useless as she was unable to bend her heavily-bandaged right knee.

She has great praise of Sean O'Duffy of Dublin who, she says: "Did much great work in the promotion of camogie and early on he presented an All-Ireland Camogie Cup known as the Sean O'Duffy Cup."

Peg Morris was chosen to play for Galway in The Tailteann the Connaught centrefield. Indeed, the match might well be said to have been hers. She got all the scores but one, led all the attacks, and did more than two players' work. Ably wielding her caman, right or left, underarm and overarm, she never missed a ball and had a deadly drive. She must have few equals in Ireland."

No one was surprised when Miss Morris was besieged by autograph hunters after this herculean performance, and many still with us who were

present at that game regard Miss Morris' performance on that occasion as the greatest-ever individual performance by a camogie player.

The report of matches from then to the end of her playing career could not omit the name of the 'great Peg Morris' as she continued to give splendid displays for her home club, Headford and Galway county.

During that time the arrangements for the travelling of teams were often haphazard, due, probably, to lack of funds, and it must be remembered that some of Miss Morris' better displays were given after she had cycled long distances to participate in games.

President of Connaught Camogie Council

While still playing camogie she became interested in the administrative side of the sport and she was duly honoured when she was elected the first President of the Connaught Camogie Council at the inaugural meeting of the Council which was held in Ballinrobe on the 6th August in the early 'Thirties.

She certainly can look back with pride on her massive contribution to the game of camogie and with an amount of nostalgia.

It is only fitting that we conclude this article with her own words which are typical of her unassuming attitude "We had a great run always!"



BALLYHAUNIS CAMOGIE TEAM, 1934

Back Row (l to r): Mary Fitzmaurice, Beattie Campbell, Lucy Greally, Nancy Loftus, Martina Coyne.

Middle Row: Tetta Walsh, Angela Coyne, Teresa Kilduff, Josie Freeley.

Front Row: Patsy Fitzgerald, Lily Byrne, Betty Loftus, Breda Walsh, Monica Greally.

(Photo courtesy of Lucy Waldron, Logboy)

THE G.A.A.

THE G.A.A.

The inauguration of the G.A.A.'s Centenary Year celebrations on March 18 last, undoubtedly focussed widespread public attention on an organisation which has been so much a part of the life of the people of Ireland for the past 100 years. While the seven men who founded it, in Hayes Hotel in Thurles on that November day in 1884 were, undoubtedly, men of vision and idealism, particularly Michael Cusack, who arranged the meeting, not even in their wildest dreams could they have envisaged the spread of the organisation to its present premier position in the sporting, cultural and social life of the nation.

Against the Odds

The G.A.A. came into being in a climate which could hardly be said to be conducive to the establishment of a nationalistic sporting organisation. The Famine of Black was still fresh in the minds of those who survived it, overshadowed all other misfortunes which almost decimated the Irish race in the last century. The national spirit was indeed at a low ebb. Poverty was rife everywhere, the people were disorganised, depressed and oppressed. What sporting activity there was, was at the pleasure of the landlords, with cricket on 'the village green' even in areas where formerly the ancient Irish game of hurling was played. The anglicisation of Ireland was virtually complete.

Rich Ideal

It is clear now that Cusack and his followers had more in mind than the revival of ancient Irish games and pastimes, especially the revival of hurling, when they launched the Gaelic Athletic Association. Events proved that the G.A.A. was to be an important element - perhaps more important than it has ever been given credit for in re-awakening the nationalistic spirit, in giving the people a new outlook and in providing healthy recreational activity for the young men of the day. Its foundation had a social element, filling a void which had existed for decades, giving the people something they could identify with, fostering local pride in the achievements of the club, the parish, the county, and in a wider sense in the country that was rightfully theirs and which they seemed to have lost. In all of these ways the aims of the founders were brought to fruition, and as the G.A.A. spread to every corner of

the land the people of Ireland were given a new hope at a time when it was most needed.

The Association has never since lost its attractions for the masses. It had its difficult times; its teething troubles were such that they might have caused an organisation less solidly based to fold up, but instead it later became a unifying force which brought people together.

Its very success often led to attacks on it which were unjustified or which were made through ignorance of the facts. It was frequently the target for unfounded criticism from those who were 'concerned' about what it did with its finance, but who were not interested in reading annual balance sheets or in looking around them to see the playing fields being acquired and developed to enable the huge programme of games for youth of all ages to be carried through. Its great work for the youth of Ireland, particularly for the under-age groups, as they are labelled, was youth work of the most desirable kind and was a large part of the Association's activity before the present day emphasis on youth work was even thought about. An extension of this youth work is seen today in the many social centres which have been provided in almost every club.

Beir Bua

Deanann an Cumann Lúthchleas Gaedheal iarratas mór an Ghaelige a fhorbairt agus a chothú. Tugann na comhaltai a ndothain tacíocht do aithbheochaint na Gaelige. Tá níos mó Gaelige le cloisint i gcomhlundat baill de Cumann Lúthchleas Gaedheal na beagnach in aon eagrodht náisiúnta eile.

The role of the Association in the lives of the Irish people in its 100 years has been a most important one in the sporting, cultural and social spheres. It can certainly claim to have given a 'century of service' to the Irish people. Being so firmly entrenched as part of our way of life, it is in a unique position once again to give a boost to the national morale which because of economic difficulties and alien influence has been taking a battering in recent years.

Ar ocuid ceileabhradh blian an cheid deanaimid comhgháirdeas le Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, gurbh fada bunn é.

Willie Ryan

Aims of the G.A.A.

Members of the 1981 Ballyhaunis G.A.A. American Tour prior to departure being seen off by relatives and friends



AERLINUS

Aims of the G.A.A.

"The Gaelic Athletic Association today is an organisation which reaches into every corner of the land and has its roots in every Irish parish. Throughout the country, legions of voluntary workers willingly made sacrifices to promote its ideals and carry its daily burdens. Why does the Association receive this unselfish support?

Those who play games, those who organise its activities and those who control its destinies see in the G.A.A. a means of consolidating our Irish identity. The games to them are more than games - they have a national significance and the promotion of native pastimes becomes a part of the full national idea which envisages the speaking of our own language, the buying of Irish goods and the promotion of native music and dances. The primary purpose of the G.A.A. is the organisation of native pastimes and the promotion of athletic fitness as a means to create a disciplined, self-reliant, national-minded manhood which takes conscious pride in its heritage of unrivalled pastimes and splendid cultural traditions, as essential factors in the restoration of full and distinct nationhood. The overall result is the expression of a people's preference for native ways as opposed to imported ones.

Since she has not control over all the national territory, Ireland's claim to nationhood is impaired. It would still more impaired if she were to lose her language, if she failed to provide a decent livelihood for her people at home, or, if she were to forsake her own games and customs in favour of the games and customs of another nation. If pride in the attributes of nationhood dies, something good and distinctive in our race dies with it. Each national quality that is lost makes us so much poorer as a nation.

When the G.A.A. was founded in the last quarter of the 19th century, pride of race has been crushed out of most of our people by famine and by armed oppression. The G.A.A. and the Gaelic League helped to resurrect that pride as these organisations grew in strength, a new spirit which was to influence and affect the subsequent history of Ireland, was born. Today, the native games take on a new significance when it is realised that they have to take part, and still are a part of the nation's desire to live her own life, to govern her own affairs.

To those who are unaware of the conditions that called the G.A.A. into being, and of the national significance that attaches them, one game is as good as another. But those who know our country's history and understand the role that the G.A.A. has

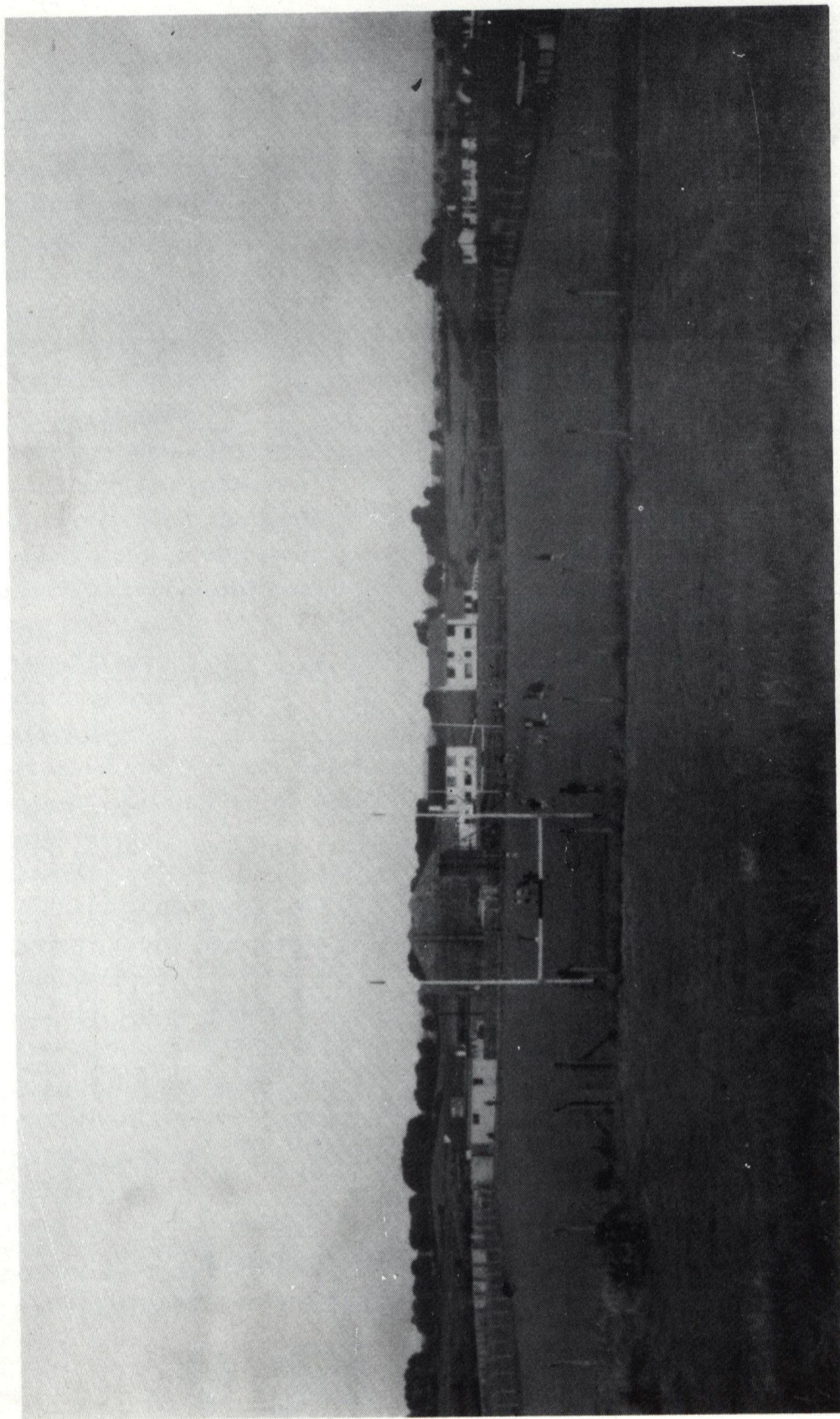
played in it will see that, until complete nationhood is achieved, the Association must continue to maintain all embracing patriotic spirit. To that end its creed represents a simple choice between qualities which are native and characteristic of our land and qualities which are foreign and imported.

This national side of the G.A.A. and its dedication to the ideal of an Irish-Ireland must be kept to the fore-front at all times. To the youth of Ireland, a knowledge of the circumstances in which the G.A.A. was founded, of the part it played in the years before the rising of 1916, of the share its members had in the fight for freedom, is merely knowledge of their own inheritance and should not be withheld from them. Such knowledge would mark out the native games as more than mere games and would show that the Association which promotes them as had and still has, a strong influence for National good."

Reprinted from the "Official Guide of the Gaelic Athletic Association, 1978".

DID YOU KNOW?

15. On 31st July, 1944, the cash on hand was £1-6-1 June 27th, 1948, paid to George O'Malley R.I.P. for Car Hire to Hollymount, Castlebar and Claremorris £6-10-0. Bladder for football (M. Curley R.I.P.) 5-0.
16. Club members to represent Connaught Colleges in inter-provincial series: Tommy Hannon R.I.P., Martin Hannon R.I.P., John Buckley, Joe Salmon, Tom Buckley, Philip Waldron, Tom Flannagan R.I.P., Frank Fahey, Johnny Biesty, Gerry Morley. All attended St. Jarlath's except Phillip Waldron (St. Mary's) and Gerry Morley (Community School).
17. When the club was re-formed in the late 'forties Mick Tarmey was elected Chairman and held office until 1956. Other club chairmen were Paddy Waldron R.I.P., Johnny Biesty, John Prenty and Hugh Rudden.
18. Jimmy O'Dwyer, Jim Forde, John Healy, Tom Fitzgerald, J.J. Cribbin and Johnny Biesty toured the U.S.A. with Mayo teams.



Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Pitch



THE HERITAGE SOCIETY

On 25th January 1984 in the functions room of the Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis Heritage Society was initiated. Now that may come as a surprise even to those who were present! And the reason is that the passing name used for what was being formed was the 'Ballyhaunis Historical and Archaeological Society'. However, it was agreed that an official name would not be adopted for the time being, as all felt that the society, or club, or association, would reach out to other aspects of the locality as well. For instance, there are the geological, botanical and zoological elements, in other words the rocks, the flora, the fauna and their environment. It was thought that all these, together with the social enmeshment of the bare bones of history and archaeology would be of interest to the Society. And so, officially the association was left nameless (though it was not a No-Name Club!). However, in order to get a proper heading for these notes, the officers met recently and on the proposal of Fr. Costello adopted the above name. In due time (most likely early November), all members will have a chance to debate the name and vote on it.

It has to be admitted that to date little more has been done that initiate the Heritage Society. At the inaugural meeting some sixteen people were present and these became the first members (paying a small fee to do so). Fr. Costello was chosen as patron, with Bernard Freyne as Chairman, Fr. O'Connor and Joe Greene as recording secretaries and Joe also as treasurer. Since then other valiant members have joined the club.

Since its foundation, the Heritage Society has had only two general meetings. The first was on 1st March when Bernard Freyne gave an enthusiastic talk on the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age tombs in the Ballyhaunis area. Of particular note is that all the end of the meeting, Paul Waldron of Cave (the youngest member of the Society) presented an invaluable copy of his work on the tombstone inscriptions of the Friary Graveyard. Presently this is being kept at the Abbey. The second meeting was on 4th April, when Professor T.P. O'Neill of University College, Galway addressed the members on Local Historical Sources in general.

Then the Spring came and then the Summer - and the Heritage Society rested. But now the Winter comes and hopes of activity are in the air. The structures are there - with a modest Bank account, up-to-date minutes, officers and a name to carry us by for the moment. Soon, then, we should be

sending out the call for another Meeting. Do come. It will pass a night, and in the process you will be getting to know your town better (as you are now doing through the incomparable 'Annagh'). These notes, of course, are being written in mid-October - so by the time you read them, you may in fact have already tasted a Heritage Society meeting. If so, then you will be reading about yourself in next year's 'Annagh'!

John O'Connor, O.S.A.
(Hon. Secretary)

"FAREWELL BUT NEVER GOODBYE"

I say "Farewell" with heavy heart, till we do but meet again. I will not say "Goodbye" for that word is so cold and final. In my thoughts and in my dreams I shall reflect upon the happy evenings we shared. From them grew the 'plant of friendship', in the first warm handshake and the candid caring eyes. The plant will continue to grow, because it has already roots of loyalty and affection, and it will blossom as the years go by. Think not dear friend on what might have been, but like me your friend, be thankful that it was destiny that we met and for all that has been. For are they not happy memories? There are ships which pass in the night, like dark shadows barely noticeable. There are people who meet and are but insignificant images of front of our faces, meaningless and lacking in impact, no sign of heart or soul does one see. But you dear friend, could never be an image to me, for you are truly a person of caring, love and understanding. For in so short a time I have learnt much about life and people - you always saw the good. I cannot deny an ache in my heart, nor that in the silence and the stillness of the night, I shed my own private tears, unheard, as I lay my weary head upon my pillow, ready once more to face tomorrow, with composure and dignity, for I care too much to ever disgrace you dear friend. Remember me, for the times we laughed and were happy for sadly we can never have the days back again. But what does it cost to tell you dear friend, how much they meant to me, and will always remain an indelible memory-

Never, never change, for you have so much to give from that generous heart, which knows no jealousy, envy or meanness of character. My privileged to have met you and to all you 'my friend'.

"Farewell, but never goodbye....."



Ballyhaunis Macra Na Feirme Members:-

Back Row (1 to r): Joe Fitzharris, Tommy Lynch, Eamonn Healy, Paul Sykes.

Middle Row: Shelia Waldron, Noreen O'Reilly, Rev. Fr. Williams, Therese Cribbin, Micheal McWalter, Walter Waldron.

Front Row: Alta Regan, Mary Regan, Harriet O'Reilly, Fionnuala Morley.

MACRA NA FEIRME

You might well ask: 'What is that organisation?' Well, by the end of 1984 and early 1985 we plan to be reasonably well-known in and around Ballyhaunis, and at least to double our number of members. At the moment, we are approximately twenty in number.

In February of this year, Michael McWalter, the county development officer, set up Macra na Feirme in Ballyhaunis. For this we are indebted to him, as Ballyhaunis like other small communities requires for its youth good organisations like Macra.

Apart from the development of agriculture and knowledge of modern farming, the objectives of Macra are the personal development of members (social, cultural and educational) and leadership training for roles of responsibility in the community.

Macra na Feirme, countrywide, was founded in 1944, when economic conditions in Ireland were depressed and seemed hopeless. It was set up by a small group of farmers, vocational teachers and agricultural advisers, who saw that the forming of a national organisation of young farmers could help improve conditions for everyone. Since then it has

grown rapidly and continues to do so. Macra na Feirme has been responsible for the founding of 'Irish Farmer's Journal' in 1948; the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association in 1950; Macra na Tuaithe (now Foroige) in 1952; the National Farmer's Association (now I.F.A.) in 1955; the Farm Apprenticeship Scheme in 1964; the Farm Partnership Advisory Scheme in 1978; the National Co-Operative Farm Relief Services Ltd. in 1980. It also helped in the re-establishment of Credit Unions in 1949, and initiated the campaign that led to Ireland's membership of the E.E.C. in 1973.

On a local level, and with Rev. Fr. Williams as president, our club was successful at Superstars in Kilmaine last March. Congratulations must be extended to Walter Waldron who won the Mayo Welding Competiton, sponsored and hosted by Bernie Freyne of the Welding Centre, Knox Street, Bernie Freyne presented him with a new welder. Walter then went on to represent Mayo in the All-Ireland finals at the Spring Show. On the 14th April we had a successful social at which we raffled a Hereford bull calf and many other prizes. A word of thanks to everyone who contributed spot-prizes for

the occasion. A team consisting of Tommie Lynch, Walter Waldron and Seamus Waldron participated in a Farm Tasks Competition in Mayo Abbey in June and took second place in Mayo. In May of this year we had a very successful and colourful stand at Ballyhaunis Trade Fair. In August, we had a team in the Junior Chamber competition and we were just beaten out of the finals by the 'Holywell Headers'.

We had our A.G.M. in September, in accord with other Macra clubs. This year we plan to take part in more competitions, including quizzes, drama, light-entertainment, farm tasks and stock-judging. We also intend to organise events in the community to give people a better insight into what Macra is all about. At the moment, the Club members travel to Claremorris swimming pool every Monday evening. After meetings, which are held on a fortnightly basis, we hold a quiz which always proves to be enjoyable. After Christmas we plan to run a soccer league for members.

Although still in its infancy, Macra has had already quite a few remarkable achievements. We also get good help from our County Executive, which meets once a month in Castlebar. Members from every club must attend each County Meeting.

In Macra we will welcome anyone to our meetings, and anyone over the age of 17 is eligible to join. As you will have gathered by now, we have such a wide range of activities that we have something to suit everybody. Come along to our next meeting and see for yourself.

Noreen O'Reilly
(Secretary)

The following officers were elected 1984/'85:

President John O'Connor, O.S.A.
Vice President Mr. Bill Mulligan
Chairperson Tommie Lynch, Holywell
V.-Chairperson Walter Waldron, Holywell
Secretary Noreen O'Reilly, Holywell
Asst. Sec. Martina Finn, Cloontumper
Treasurer Peter Brown, Knox Street
P.R.O. Alta Regan, Agloragh

Committee Members:

Audrey Ryan, Ollie Cribben, Harriet O'Reilly,
Mary Regan, Paul Sykes, Mary Teresa Madden.



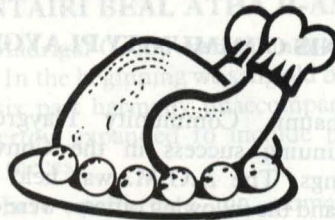
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Ballyhaunis Community Playgroup

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

The Ballyhaunis Community Playgroup is enjoying continuing success in the Convent of Mercy Buildings. The A.G.M. was held on 4th October, 1984 and the following officers were elected:

Officers:

Chairperson Mrs. Ann Shannon
Secretary Mrs. Mary Cumiskey
Treasurer Mrs. Mary Keane
P.R.O. Mrs. Anne Horan

It was decided to hold a fund-raising event to keep and help provide additional educational equipment. Early plans were made for the Annual Christmas Party.

Mr. Colm Byrne, Health Education Officer, Western Health Board is planning a series of talks for the parents of playgroup age children in conjunction with the Mayo Branch of the Irish Pre-School Playgroup Association. Possible topics include Child Development 0-5 years. Dates and venues are yet to be decided and at the moment Ballyhaunis is being considered as a possible venue.



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The Group which won the Competition for Towns not exceeding fifteen thousand population at the Cork International Music and Folk Festival, May 1984

Back Row (l to r): Michael Brogan, Michael Byrne, Martin Naughton, Seamus Forde, Oliver Jordan, (Tony Flynn absent from photograph).

Middle Row: Ann Marie Eagney, Karina King, Moira Delaney, Eva Johnston, Margaret Hannan, Xantha Pratt.

Front Row: Laura Brogan, Una Shields, Pauline McGarry, Anna Butler, Ita Fahey.

ST. PATRICK'S VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE

Weekly meetings are held at Parochial House. As down through the many years of its existence the conference concerned itself over the past year with helping out the needy, visiting old people living alone. Regular visitation to Castlebar Hospitals is another feature of the work and this is much appreciated by all patients from this locality. At National level demands on the Society of St. Vincent De Paul are greater now than at any time since the famine years. This is due to the very high level of unemployment in cities, and other areas of the country with resultant misery and poverty. The demand to help those in such need is great. Our conference again would like to thank the people of Ballyhaunis and adjoining parishes for their great generosity each year and extend Christmas greetings to all.

Officers:

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

CANTAIRÍ BÉAL ÁTHA H-AMHNAIS

The Madrigal Group were founded in the winter of 1981. In the beginning we sang old ballads in four, five or six part harmony unaccompanied but later our repertoire expanded to include many modern popular pieces.

We have performed at numerous charity functions besides our Annual Christmas Carol Recital in the Augustinian Abbey which we hope to have again this year. Prompted by our success at the Navan Music Festival last November, we entered the Cork International Music and Folk Festival at Cork City Hall in May, 1984. The highlight of our existence to date was the honour we brought to our town when we were awarded first place in the section for towns with a population not exceeding 15,000.

With our conductor and musical director, Pauline McGarry the group now is Ann Marie Eagney, Karina King, Moira Delaney, Eva Johnston, Margaret Hannan, Xantha Pratt, Laura Brogan, Una Shields, Anna Butler, Ita Fahey, Maureen Thornton, Mary Quinn, Michael Brogan, Michael Byrne, Ivan Freeley, Martin Naughton, Vincent Healy, Seamus Forde, Oliver Jordan.

Oliver Jordan

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BALLYHAUNIS REHAB
(Photograph by courtesy of Jenny & Pat Glynn)

BALLYHAUNIS RE-HAB INSTITUTE

The Rehabilitation Committee was formed in Ballyhaunis in 1978. The Committee raises funds to have disabled persons for open employment in the Re-Hab centres throughout the country. The Mayo centre is in Castlebar. During the year the committee have had a Sponsored Cycle Pub Quiz, Church Gate Collection and Socials raising £1,700. In October, they invited a group of disabled from Eniskillen and Omagh under the auspices of Co-Op North on arrival they had dinner in the Central Hotel. The Committee members of Ballyhaunis Re-Hab entertained them in their homes and brought them to Ashford Castle and had a very enjoyable Irish night in the Horse Shoe Inn. Many friendships were formed and many of the group hope to re-visit Ballyhaunis. Anyone wishing to join Re-Hab should contact any of the committee members.

OFFICERS:

Chairperson Luke Lawlor
Secretary Una Shields
Treasurer Breda Burke

Committee Members:

Theresa Keane, Mary Keane, Mary Kelly, Mary Timoney, Nell Rochford, Marge Gallagher, Mary Dillon-Leetch, Sr. Dympna, Theresa Conway, Marie Connell, Mary Walsh and Joe Hosty.

Una Shields
(Secretary)

BALLYHAUNIS R.F.C.

Ballyhaunis Rugby Football Club at its Annual General Meeting elected the following officers:-

President Peter Gallagher
Fixtures Sec. Hugh Curley
Hon. Sec. Billy Phillips
Treasurer John Hanley
Team Captain Jim Browne

The club has continued to develop and many new players have joined replacing those who have left the town or retired. It is pleasing to note that the club's youth policy is at last paying dividends with many young players commanding regular places on the junior panel.

The league campaign for 1984/'85 has started successfully with four good wins under our belt. The players are more than anxious to do well in the league this season.

Training for all players takes place on Tuesday and Thursday nights under floodlights with showers afterwards. New players, experienced or not, are always made feel welcome to join us.

The club survives financially by means of a very successful 100 club draw and by holding socials throughout the year.

Finally a word of thanks to the Murphy's for the use of the playing field, to Mick and Mary Morris for the use of their premises and to all our supporters in the Ballyhaunis area for their continued and loyal support.

Billy Phillips (Sec.)

SOUNDINGS

BALLYHAUNIS SWIMMING POOL

The recipe for success for the Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool is a long hot summer and an over abundance of children, and this year the Lord provided the former and the people of Ballyhaunis the latter. So it is with great pleasure that we record 1984 as the most successful year ever in the history of the Swimming Pool.

Success in the pool was more than adequately matched by the success of the youth employment schemes which had the pool in excellent condition, with the provision of a green area for sunbathing, ample seating for patrons, and the upgrading of the dressing rooms which now have lockers etc. All of this laid the foundations for optimum use and augers well for further development in the years ahead.

While it is easy to record success in the material and managerial side of the pool, the real achievement this year was the number of children who learned to swim under the guidance of our lifeguards Deirdre Durkan and Orla Phillips. Of even greater importance is the number of children and young adults who completed the course in life-saving. A total of fifty-seven, the highest figure for Mayo, have by now received their certificates of competence in life-saving. Isn't it nice to record that our children are now trained to save lives and that sometime during their life they may have the opportunity of using their qualification, received on a long hot summer, in a small swimming pool in our town, Ballyhaunis.

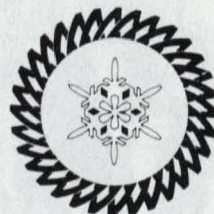
The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have helped by giving of their time, energy and talent and to those who have contributed through sponsorship of public seating, shrubs, flowers and paint.

Hopefully we will continue to enjoy this support and goodwill and that future reports will record even more success in all facets of Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool!

Officers:

Chairman	Stephen Durkan
Treasurers	John Mooney, Eliz. Jordan
Secretary	Margaret Byrne

Margaret Byrne



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ANNAGH '85

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before 1st October 1985

to:

Jim London,
Knock Road, Ballyhaunis,
Co. Mayo.

WESTERN CARE REPORT

1984 has been the most significant year in the history of the Ballyhaunis Branch of Western Care. It has seen the inauguration of a unique Day Centre for a small number of mentally handicapped adults. It is unique within the county and, as far as we know, within the country as it depends almost entirely on the voluntary assistance of local people who provide help in the centre itself and transport for the trainees to and from the centre.

This time last year we were just about to get under way in one room of the Priest's House on the Knock Road. Heather O'Reilly was the full time qualified Centre Supervisor, ably assisted by two volunteers per shift organised on a morning/afternoon basis. One year later the centre operates in much the same way with one or two significant differences: firstly Heather sadly had to leave us shortly after Christmas following a bereavement. She has been replaced by the popular Miss Bernie Walsh from Kiltimagh who has been an inspiration for all; secondly, because of the wonderful commitment of all our volunteers we have convinced the management of Western Care that we are fully deserving of their support. As a result we have now take over the whole of the ground floor of the Priest's House so that the centre now has full kitchen and bathroom facilities as well as spacious work and recreation areas. For this important development we acknowledge the generous co-operation and encouragement of Fr. McMyler and Fr. Walshe. With the increased space now available a second full time qualified supervisor has been appointed and the number of trainees (presently four) will be gradually increased to eight.

The success of the centre and above all the unfailing support of our local volunteers has led Western Care to active consideration of vocational training or workshop facilities for the adult handicapped in the Ballyhaunis area. It would be disappointing if this time next year there was not something concrete to report on this.

In the longer term, Western Care have given a commitment to the development of residential facilities in Ballyhaunis for the handicapped.

Perhaps you might remember the great things quietly going on when it comes to next years Annual Collection. Remember that, largely through voluntary help, these young adults are going horse riding and swimming weekly, are learning domestic skills in the homes of our volunteers, are doing a bit of gardening as well as learning some of the basics of personal hygiene, language development and so on. The more you can show your support by your

financial contribution the more Western Care are likely to invest in us.

The fund-raising work of the Branch has been continuing. John Cleary ran for us in the 1983 Dublin City Marathon and again this year. Just before the '84 Marathon we organised a Social as a means of sponsoring John for his run and we like to think that a most successful and enjoyable event (which raised £539) helped John on his way to complete his fourth successive Dublin City Marathon!

Our Annual Easter Fast in the Square raised a total of £2,057 - this sum includes proceeds from the Social held in conjunction with the Fast.

Our Annual Envelope Collection realised £3,719 in 1984. This sum represents a decline on the figure for the previous three years and it is to be hoped that, when the work of the local Day Centre becomes more widely known, our Annual Collection will more truly reflect the full support of the community.

BRANCH OFFICERS:

Chairman Mrs. Irene Healy
Secretary Mrs. Rita Hannon
Treasurer Mrs. Mary Morris
Delegates to Council:
Mr. Eamon Healy and Mr. Chris Pratt.



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Miss Mary Comer, President Junior Chamber Ireland presents the Sean Freyne Perpetual Trophy to Anne Marrinan 'Chapter Person of the Year'. Also included is Rita London, President Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber.

JUNIOR CHAMBER

On December 7th, 1983 the following officers of the new executive of Junior Chamber were elected

President	Rita London
Secretary	Ann Marrinan
Record Sec.	Padraig Lee
Treasurer	Donal Flynn
Legal Counsel	Eamonn Healy
P.R.O.	Mary Freeley

On that same night projects for the year were discussed and launched.

Soon the Christmas spirit was to be felt and Mike Griffin with Junior Chamber members and town traders erected a Christmas Tree in the Square.

Funds were needed so at a Disco in the Horse Shoe Inn on Friday, 27th January 'The Baby Face Competition' was launched. It was sponsored by Mr. Tadhg Buckley and thanks to the 'once upon a time babies' - Michael Webb, John O'Dwyer, Seamus Durkan, Matt O'Dwyer, John Gallagher, Joe Freeley, Val Byrne, Michael Cleary, Junior Chamber became a vibrant organisation. At a function in the Central on March 18th, Pat Donnellan, Clare Street was presented with £100. Pat was the winner of the competition.

Meanwhile other Junior Chamber members were enjoying a dual debating success, by winning their way through to the second round of National

Debating. Representing the 'A' team were Michael Grogan (capt.), Eddie Campbell, Brian Harrington, Eamon Healy. Representing the 'B' team were Matt O'Dwyer (capt.), Jim London, Pauline Gallagher and Padraig Lee.

At this stage, young and old were in training for the first ever (organised) Junior Chamber Community Relay Race. It was held on Sunday, March 18th. 93 people or 31 teams took part. Each team consisted of a cyclist, a runner and a walker. The cycle route was 8 miles, the walk 2 miles and the run for 4 miles. There were three winning teams:

1. Tommie Moran/Anne Cribbin/Gerald O'Connell.
2. B. Jennings,/M.F. Cleary/Noreen O'Boyle
3. Robbie Herr/Mrs. Pat Grogan/Alan Delaney

Parents with their children were at this stage finishing the relaxing swimming sessions in Claremorris pool.

On Monday night, April 16th. Junior Chamber members with many other qualified people travelled to Glenamaddy to carry out mock interviews. This was indeed much appreciated by the students and the Sisters of Mercy in Glenamaddy.

The good old days in Junior Chamber were talked about on the night of the Regional Meeting. There

were nine past presidents present amongst invited people from Kiltimagh, Galway, Westport, England America and Guilers.

Arrangements and plans were well underway for the forthcoming Community Week. It was a week of sport and crack for children and adults. In excess of seventy children took part in the Monday Leader Hunt. It was won by David Nestor, Donal Delaney, Sinead Lundon and Graham Cleary. On Tuesday one hundred and fifty children took part in canoeing on the river and on Wednesday over eighty children took part in the 'Know Ballyhaunis' Quiz. The winners in the U-10 Section were Brian Freyne, Lorna Higgins, Cormac O'Connor. The U-15 winners were Olivia Higgins, Regina Higgins and Robert Finn.

The adults events got underway on Wednesday when the mixed soccer tournament commenced. Curley's Bar represented by Ann Curley (capt.), Brendan Morrissey, John Durkan, Eamon Murren, Anne Henry, Helen Henry, Gabrielle McGee defeated Holywell Rangers in an exciting final. Holywell Rangers representatives were Noelle Keegan (capt.), Eamon Healy, Alice Freeley, Michael Conway, Gary Conway and Claire Griffin.

Thursday, 23rd was a beautiful August day and all roads led to the Golf Club to discover the undiscovered golf talent in the town. The sights and sounds from the golf club were enough to prove that the one hundred and nine people who played in the Pro-Am enjoyed the day. The winners for the day were Dorothy Durkan, Martin Gavin and Michael Glynn. The best ladies prize was won by Mrs. Peggy Lyons and the best gents was won by Jarlath Fahy. A special prize was awarded to Denny Swift.

Because of the great interest in the six mile road race, the race had to be divided, this year into two sections. The sporting section was won by the Rugby Club whose first three runners were Tom Flatley, Dave Walsh and Tom Flatley, crossing the line hand in hand - Where was the photographer?

The business section was won by the Retailers. Details are situated elsewhere in the magazine.

On Monday morning, September 3rd, Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber was honoured by a visit of the World President of Jaycees International, Mr. Joe Murphy. He was accompanied by Mr. Con O'Neill, Deputy National President.

Once again the Junior Chamber says congratulations to two members, Kathleen Hunt and Ann Marrinan, who celebrated their 21st birthdays during the year.

The Community School was the venue for the Seminar on Drug Abuse and Alcoholism. It was held

on Wednesday night, September 26th. Questionnaires were distributed to all pupils in the Community School. In the region of three hundred adults attended the Seminar and it was addressed by four speakers. The first speaker was the A.A. member and he related his experience with alcohol and his entry into A.A. The Al-Anon speaker emphasised the support she gets from her contact with other members of Al-Anon. The message coming through was that the alcoholic is suffering from a disease and needs understanding. Mr. Chris Pratt (Chairman) encouraged discussion from the floor and many worthwhile observations were made by those in attendance. Detective Hugh Hynes of the Drug Squad addressed the audience about the growing problem of drug abuse in Ireland. He gave information about different types of drugs and explained the role of the drug squad in dealing with the pusher and addict.

Dr. Maeve Powell explained the consequence of drug taking and emphasised the emotional dependance of the addict on the drug. She said that her work in Coolmines had led her to many parts of the country and she stated that she knew that so far in Ireland twenty young people had died from sniffing apparently harmless substances.

She encouraged Ballyhaunis parents to take positive action to protect the teenage members of their families.

Two parent protection groups have been formed since. Their success depends on each one of us.

Wednesday night, November 7th, the National President addresses the meeting. She spoke about the benefits of Junior Chamber as a training and development organisation and how these benefits are related in our work area and in communicating with people. She then presented the Annagh magazine committee with a National Award. The award was for the outstanding entry in the award for External Communications.

Anne Marrinan was voted Chapter Person of the Year and was presented with the Sean Freyne Trophy. Anne was and is a totally dedicated and involved member of Junior Chamber. Congratulations Anne and every happiness in your success.

As a mark of appreciation for support, encouragement and help during the year, Fr. O'Connor was made an honorary member - welcome to the club, you are now 'one of our own'.

The end of the year is drawing to a close so I as President of Junior Chamber would like to thank the members of the organisation for making the past year, lively, entertaining and interesting. A special word of thanks to Anne Marrinan, Secretary; Mary



Visit to Ballyhaunis of World President of Junior Chamber, Mr. Joe Murphy
Left to Right: Senator Jim Higgins, Anne Marrinan, Mr. Vincent McDermott A.I.B., Mr. Joe
Murphy, Mr. Robbie McNabb, Mrs. Rita Lundon, President Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber,
Mr. Con O'Neill, Deputy President Junior Chamber Ireland.

Freeley, P.R.O., Robbie McNabb, Projects Leader; Jim Lundon, Committee; Kathleen Hunt and Regina Hunt.

On behalf of the organisation I would like to thank Seamus Durkan, Stephen Durkan, Fr. J. O'Connor, Dr. Michael Cleary, John Cleary. Our sponsors, Electric and Pump Services Ltd., Hugh and Michael Curley, Halal, Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank and Allied Irish Banks. Special thanks to Mr. Joe Freeley, staff of the Central Hotel, Mary and Mick Morris, the local Gardai, Mr. Mick O'Connell, Western People, Connaught Telegraph and Cashin Printing Services Ltd.

Rita Lundon
President, 1984

BOOKS

The following books by Fr. John O'Connor, O.S.A. (of St. Mary's Abbey, Ballyhaunis) are available from the author:

St. Mary's Abbey - Ballyhaunis (price £2.00)

And The Hills Look On (A Catholic Prayer-Book)
 (Price: £1.50)

(Postage Extra for each: Ireland - 43p and England -

Postage Extra for each: Ireland and England: 43p
 Europe: 70p Elsewhere: 1 dollar.

APOSTOLIC WORK, BALLYHAUNIS

I am happy to report that Ballyhaunis Branch of Apostolic workers had a very successful year.

It was delightful to see all the garments on display at the Annual Exhibition. The Exhibition was held in the Parochial Hall in July and was well supported.

All these garments and church requistes are sent to the Missionaries all over the world. Every year the appeals increase and Ballyhaunis Branch are happy to be able to meet some of them.

A Mini-Vigil was held in Knock in June for Apostolic Workers. It was conducted by Father Harry Bell, S.M.A. and Fr. P. Williams who was Curate in Ballyhaunis at the time. There was a large attendance of Active and Honorary Members present.

We are gr. eful to the teachers and pupils of our Primary School who organise events and give proceeds to Apostolic Work.

The branch meets each Monday night in Parochial House from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. and would be delighted with new members.

Officers:

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

Bridie Brennan
(Secretary)



Some of the organisers and guests at the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair

BALLYHAUNIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Founded some five years ago the members have been very active in promoting improvements in the town and surrounding area. Monthly meetings are well attended and members are always available to act on delegations when asked. This year the Chamber were active and undertook the following.

A Dinner Dance was held in the Eclipse Ballroom in January and this was well attended and regarded as the social event of the year.

A delegation attended a meeting in February in Dublin with Mr. Liam Kavanagh T.D., Minister for the Environment and made a strong case for infrasturural and other improvements in the town.

A Shopping spree in April was well supported by the public. The traders who sponsored this felt it doubled business in the town during that period. A feature of this spree was the draw for a trip to Spain and this was won by a young girl from the parish.

A Trade Fair in May surpassed all expectations with a nationwide attendance of over 5,000 people. The organising committee were grateful to the I.D.A. for the use of their factory at Tooraree, to Mr. Liam Kavanagh T.D., Minister for the Environment for opening the fair and An Taoiseach, Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald for closing the Fair. The display on this occasion was second only to Dublin and was all local enterprise.

The AnCo survey of Ballyhaunis was organised during the Summer and a staff of ten did an excellent job. This is now in book form and launched by the Chamber in conjunction with AnCo on Thursday 1st November. This book is invaluable as a reference for business or personal use.

Arrangements are now being made for the Christmas lighting in the town and the Committee hope to do an elaborate job.

The President, Mr. Gerry McGarry and members compliment the Editor and staff of Annagh Magazine and wish its many readers a Happy Christmas.

John O'Brien



Christmas Lighting

Congratulations to all concerned in providing the lovely Christmas Lighting this year!





*An Taoiseach, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald T.D.
at the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair this year.*

BALLYHAUNIS FINE GAEIL

The focal point of the Branch's activities was the involvement of members in the second direct election to the European Election in June. The well-known spokesman for the cause of Irish fishermen, Mr. Joe Murrin, Killybegs, Co. Donegal became a very popular candidate in the area and in the process endeared himself to local Party workers.

His respectable poll of 25,000 votes for his first outing in politics was regarded by his local supporters in Ballyhaunis as a very respectable showing. Both Murrin and successful candidate, Joe McCartin, Leitrim, were guests at the Annual Branch Social, which was held in the Orena Hotel, Knock and was a highly enjoyable occasion.

In June, the Ballyhaunis Industrial Trade Fair was visited by An Taoiseach, Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, who was welcomed by Senator Jim Higgins and Party supporters who were delighted to provide a cavalcade of cars from the county boundary for the visiting dignitary. Garrett enjoyed the occasion immensely and participated in activities from food sampling to barrel throwing.

In October, the Branch were, as usual, actively involved in the inclusion of Motions for the Party Ard Fheis at the R.D.S., Dublin. One of these Motions was to lobby the Government to continue its support for the Connaught Regional Airport and the second Motion was requesting the Minister for Agriculture to retain 40,000 acres of Land Commission land in order to establish local co-operatives for vegetable growing, thereby providing employment for young people.

Mr. Paul Connaughton, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture attended a lively Branch Meeting and a question and answer session the Central Hotel, in November.

Officers for 1984 are as following:

President	William Mulligan
Vice President	Joe Webb
Chairman	Tommy Prenty
Vice Chairman	Eamonn Burke
Secretary	Mary Buckley
Treasurers	Mike Webb/Mrs. B. Prenty
	Mary Buckley

BALLYHAUNIS P.T.A.A. BRANCH

If you are interested in joining the Pioneers you are welcome to do so on the last Sunday of each month. Meetings are held in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis at 12.15 a.m., all are welcome.

There was a very large attendance at the Annual Dinner Dance held in Churchfield House Hotel, Knock. The Monthly Pioneer Magazine is also available.

President	Joe Byrne
Secretary	Sr. Assumpta
Treasurer	Helen Byrne



The Cast of 'The Black Stranger' produced by St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, Ballyhaunis

ST. PATRICK'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Chairman Anne Hosty

(Anne is also Producer of 'The Black Stranger')

Treasurer Elizabeth Jordan

Secretary Ann Jordan

St. Patrick's Dramatic Society is just after finishing a play called 'The Black Stranger' which was a great success and it was under the able production of Anne Hosty.

The Cast:

Jackie Green, Pat Doyle, Mike Daly, Jimmy Cribbin, Elizabeth Jordan, Finola Morley, Matt O'Dwyer, John Prenty, Ann Jordan.

Kit Keane - Make Up; Jimmy Fleming - Lights

Joe Hosty - Stage Manager



John O'Brien
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TRADITIONAL MUSIC IN BALLYHAUNIS

There is a great upsurge of interest in traditional Irish music in Ballyhaunis. Several bars now boast of regular 'Irish Nights' and young people can be seen, tin-whistle or accordion in hand on their way to weekly tuition.

A major motivating force behind this movement is Mrs. Marian Egan, although Marian herself is very quick to point to the credit also due to the National School teachers of the surrounding areas who foster and teach traditional music to young impressionable ages; and to Ballyhaunis Community School which makes facilities available to Marian herself for in school and after-school tutoring.

Marian came to live in the Ballyhaunis area in June, 1982. She had previously lived and worked in Manchester where she was deeply involved with Cheolthas Ceoltoiri Eireann and where she had tutored hundreds of children in and around the city. She was the force behind the formation of several ceili bands there, some of which have recently visited Ireland to perform at Fleadh Cheoil Na hEireann and other cultural events.

In October 1982, Marian started traditional Irish music classes in the Community School where she further challenged the talents discovered by teachers and awakened talents that had lain dormant for years. Within a year she had presented her bands at Fleadh Cheoil, Mayo. This was intended as an exercise to encourage Fleadh Cheoil participation and to gain valuable experience of playing before an audience. It was indeed a pleasant boost to morale when one of the bands qualified to go forward to the Connaught Fleadh Cheoil, to be held two months later. The endless time and patience that went into practice over those two months was rewarded when the Under-12 Band qualified to compete at the Fleadh Cheoil Na h-Eireann 1983. Although no placing was achieved in Kilkenny, the band gave an excellent performance of traditional Irish music of which everyone associated was proud. Ballyhaunis Community School was on the Fleadh Cheoil Map.

Basic classes continued to thrive so that three ceili bands and two grupa-cheoil participated in this year's Fleadhanna, giving excellent performances at Mayo, Connaught and All-Ireland levels. The high point being the placing, at third, of the 12-15 years Band and the receiving of high praise and encouragement for the other performances at Fleadh Cheoil Na h-Eireann 1984.

September, 1984 saw the new development of in-school tuition, by Marian, at the Community School during the day while she continues her after-school classes on each Wednesday evening as before.

Ballyhaunis, for long the butt of jokes about anglicisation is indeed turning the tables!

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OUR DUBLIN CITY MARATHON RUNNERS

Great local interest was aroused by the running of the 4th Annual R.T.E. Marathon on the 29th October, 1984. Of the 7,500 official starters, the town of Ballyhaunis had 6 representatives in Brid Cleary, Noreen O'Reilly, John Cleary, Jimmy Fleming, Pat Freeley and Robbie McNabb. Indeed Brid and Jimmy had been selected as Mayo's representatives in the Marathon by R.T.E. Radio 2, Brid having a few rousing words to say to the beleaguered housewives of the nation in an interview with R.T.E. Radio 2 on the morning of the run. Hard luck story of the event must belong to Noreen O'Reilly who had to retire after an attack of cramp, having completed 24 of the 26 miles involved. Further local involvement in the event was occasioned by the efforts of Dr. Michael Cleary and Ivan Freeley who cycled from Ballyhaunis to Dublin on the Saturday preceding the race setting the good example for their colleagues. The finishing times for the participants were as follows:-

Brid Cleary	-	4 hours, 58 minutes
John Cleary	-	3 hours, 40 minutes
Jimmy Fleming	-	4 hours, 4 minutes
Pat Freeley	-	3 hours, 30 minutes
Robbie McNabb	-	3 hours, 25 minutes

Congratulations to all concerned!

Shea O'Callaghan

4th MAYO TROOP CUBS

Report from Sept. 1983 - Sept. 1984

In September, 1983 there were many new entrants to the Cub Scouts. After learning the rules, knots etc. we fixed ourselves up with uniforms. Soon we were in full swing.

At a Cub Meeting the rolls are called, dues paid, what we were given to do at the last meeting is examined and our uniforms are looked over. Afterwards we have a game or two. Sometimes we do drill practice.

At Halloween, 1983 we had a Fancy Dress Party. There was every kind of costume there - from ghosts to pirates. I was one of those that got a clout from an orbiting apple during a game of snap apple, and one of those that got drenched while ducking for grapes and apple pieces!

On the 26th April, 1984 we had the Investiture. First the Scouts, then the Cubs, held the flag and made the promise. The caps and neckerchiefs were then put on us by Mr. Durkan. He shook our hands. The event was recorded on video. Mr. Durkan and others made speeches. Food and cups of tea were given to anyone who wanted them. The Guilers Scouts that were there at the time joined in with the sing-song we had. A sketch was performed that had everybody in stitches with laughter.

Shortly afterwards an outing to Knock was arranged. We went to Mass in the Basilica and afterwards had our picture taken by Mr. Durkan. Then we were given fifteen minutes to shop around. Then we had to return to the bus before fifteen minutes were up.

We went on camp to Knock. We had a bonfire one evening. We had a good sing-song. We bought things in shops and went to Mass on Saturday evening. We played football both Gaelic and Soccer. We went to visit Knock Airport (proper name: Connaught Regional Airport), which is still under construction. On Saturday we were tired out by bedtime because just before we went to bed we had a walk. On Sunday it rained almost continually. We departed from Knock (not the airport) at about three in the afternoon. Because of bad weather, a second of these camps for those that couldn't fit on the first was cancelled.

On 12th June, we had the Annual 20 Mile Big Walk. Each person was given a sponsorship card. If



*Mark McCafferty, Jack Halpin his grandfather
(who fifty years ago carried the flag in Rome)
with Shane Mooney.*

anybody filled the card, they could if they wished, take another one. I was one of those to complete the walk.

On July 12th of this year, we gathered at the Scouts Den and soon a mini-bus loaded with cubs, scouts and camping equipment left for a site near Kinvarra, Co. Clare. Once there we unloaded the luggage, set up camp and then played games. In the evening we went exploring and afterwards bought things in a shop. Mr. Durkan set up, in the big white marquee. The next day, we chased the scouts and had treasure hunts. In the evening cubs from Kiltimagh arrived, on Saturday the cubs went to Ailwee Caves and ventured into the caverns and caves there, also on Saturday there was a visit to the beach but nobody entered the water. It was freezing! On Sunday everyone went to Mass in the local Parish Church. In the afternoon everyone went home.

It is now the time of year we take on new cubs. As older cubs move into the scouts. 1984 was a good year for the cubs.

Thanks to Mr. Seamus Durkan, Miss Anne Hopkins, Miss Terese Cribbin, Miss Anne Jennings and Mr. Mike Griffin for all the time spent helping us.

**David O'Connor (aged 10)
and all the other cubs.**

Local Wit & Humour

by Murt Hunt

One is reminded now and again of various funny incidents that happened in the locality and funny stories some new, and others told by the kitchen fire many years ago. I can think of many funny incidents that happened in my time and I have many stories that were handed down to me by my late father. They have all to do with this area so they belong in reality to the 'Annagh' magazine.

School Days

I can think of so many funny incidents that happened in school. I remember one young girl in school in the babies class who seemed to be wetting the floor all the time. The teacher was very annoyed and gave her a bit of a telling off one day. Nevertheless the next day the same thing happened again. The teacher said "Mary didn't I tell you yesterday that if you want to go to the toilet to put your hand up". Mary sobbed back "Sure I did Sister but it came through!

Of course the girls were not all to blame as I remember several incidents involving the lads also. The toilets in the Convent at the time were a fair bit from the school itself and many's the young lad who had a problem with new braces, and buttons on new trousers were a problem also! One young lad used to be waiting for the bell to sound at dinner time and he used to come out the door like a greyhound out of traps and make a beeline for home. Years afterwards, we only began to realise that he must not have been weaned till very late as he never brought a bottle to school like the rest of us!

Talking of bottles I remember the bottles of cocoa and tea being heated around the school fire in Winter time and it was like a game of take your pick everybody waiting and wondering whose bottle or bottles were going to explode today. A few were guaranteed to explode every day or the bottoms fall out of them and then some poor unfortunates were to have no cocoa or tea that day.

We progressed to oil heaters when we graduated to the Boy's School. We discovered in time how to doss the school for the day. It simply entailed putting a plastic comb down the grill of the heaters when the teacher was not looking or gone out for a minute or two. The fumes that ensued were guaranteed to get the classroom evacuated. Oil had to be put in the heaters every few days and a few pints of water through the oil had the same effect as the combs. There were a few who specialised in this

business but were only very moderate at Maths and English etc. Stuffing the chimney pot and filling the keyhole with little stones were also attempted successfully on a few occasions. Also a pinch of fibre glass out of these heaters put down inside the shirt of the boy in front of you was enough to keep him wriggling and scratching for the day.

In the younger classes everybody stood round the fire in a circle and everybody had their own question in Catechism so when the inspector came he started at the beginning and all rattled off their answers. One particular day the teacher had got the word the inspector was coming and had us lined up in order. One poor lad whose name I can't tell here unfortunately was out when the inspector arrived. When he came to the next lad the inspector asked him "Where is the Devil". The young lad blushed up to the gills and said "Please Sir that fellow is at the toilet". The inspector slyly asked "And will the Devil come back", whereupon the young lad replied "Please Sir, he will but the teacher will kill him".

Local Stories

I could keep on recounting school stories for hours and maybe at a later date I will do so but I must press on now with a story of the locality a local man told me lately. It seems a local family received a Christmas parcel every year from a brother of the man of the house who had been in America for years. This parcel was sent out every Christmas year in, year out. It consisted of goodies of every description, including chocolates, biscuits, sweets etc. but always there was the making of a Christmas Cake. There was almonds, sultanas, raisins, seeds and spices of every description. As the years went on the parcels tended to get smaller and smaller until eventually one Christmas all that arrived was a small box containing grains of some grey substance and a note to say "Letter to Follow". The man of the house remarked to the wife that it was such a small package and wondered what the substance was. His wife assured him it was one of those fancy cake mixtures that had all the ingredients together and proceeded to make her usual Christmas Cake. Christmas came and went and the cake was eaten and many comments passed on the quality of the cake mixture. One day shortly after Christmas, the expected letter came from America, but it was not in the usual writing. The note went on to say that Jim had passed away on the first days of December and that his last wishes were to be cremated and his ashes sent to his brother in

Ireland. This had been done and the letter expressed the hope that the ashes had been received okay. So Jim had been eaten for Christmas. This would be the first case of cannibalism in the Lecarrow/Johnstown area or would it? I would like to get Fr. Pat Ruane's viewpoint on this one!!!

Hunting

Hunting and coursing were a great pastime always in our area and it was always a part of our lifestyle. Nowadays there are so many letters to newspapers condoning bloodsports especially coursing but most of these letters appear to come from cranks. At any rate there was one old man in the locality who was a greyhound fanatic. Hounds were his life and he went hunting very often. His wife took bad and was given up for death. One Sunday morning as he was out with his hounds as usual and a neighbour went out the field to meet him. "How's the wife John?" he asked. "She won't make the week" he replied and all in the same mouthful asked "Did you see any hare around here today?"

There was one particular family in the Ballyhaunis area who were very witty and could crack a joke in any situation. There are thousands of jokes about them but perhaps the best are a few I shall relate here. One brother was driving to town one day and met a man on a bike coming from the town. The bike was going all over the road as the driver had a few too many it being Christmas time and all that. Anyways there was a crash and the Guards were called and both finished up in court shortly afterwards. The judge said to our friend "Don't you know my good man you were supposed to give half of the road to this man?" Whereupon our friend replied "I would too your Honour but I didn't know which half he wanted."

He went into a business house in town looking at a new type of stove. The salesman was telling him the benefits of the stove and said "With this stove you only burn half the amount of turf". Our friend replied "Well in that case give me two and I won't burn any at all!". He was cleaning out the backyard of the local priest some years ago and came on a cache of whiskey bottles and wine bottles. The priest said to him "All dead soldiers John" and got the reply "Ah, yes, but thank God more died without the priest!"

Recently we got the telephone installed at our home and the kids were all excited to be able to talk to their mates. One of the girls was doing a project in school in Geography and her mates were ringing her up comparing notes etc. One evening the 'phone rang and she answered it and she hung up almost immediately. I enquired who was on the 'phone and she replied "Just some girl telling me its a long distance from New York and I already know that".

Even at work there are funny incidents happening all the time. Some years ago, at an interview a man

from Dublin nicknamed Major Kelly (on account of his army background) was doing the interviewing. The local Manager was introducing all the men before they entered. One man was named Cribbin and the Manager introduced him thus "Mr. Kelly the next man is Cribbin". Major Kelly was very annoyed and said "What the hell is he cribbing about, send him in here to me and I will deal with him!!!"

The Mission

A Mission was held in the parish years ago and missions at the time were very tough. An old lady was waiting for confessions and it so happened the theme for the evening was that everyone got penance to coincide with their occupation. It also happened there was a circus in town and the person in front of this old lady was a clown from that circus. The clown got 12 cartwheels to do for his penance and proceeded to do them on the way down the aisle. Whereupon the old lady stood up and said to her friend "If this is the sort of penance he's giving, I'm going home to change my pants!". Having been convinced to go in and tell her sins she was an awful long time in the confessional. The priest was summoned out on a sick call and left her there in the box. She put her head out the opening and said to her friend "Where is this man gone to", she answered back "I don't know but if he heard half as much as I did he's gone for the Guards."

At the same mission the missionary was trying to frighten the people about Hell and told the congregation "Tonight then people from this parish will be dead." Most started beating their breasts and went down on their knees all save one man who seemed to be laughing. The priest proceeded "Tonight twenty people will be dead from this parish." At this stage all were on their knees save this one man who was still inclined to laugh. The priest shouted down to him "And what do you think is so funny" and the man replied "Sure I'm not from this parish at all".

The priest started talking about Matrimony and asked the congregation (which were all men on that particular night) if they slept with their wives every night. Most put up their hands in the air. He asked how many slept once a month and all the hands were in the air except of course our friend again who was still inclined to laugh. The priest asked again "Once a year?" and our friend put his hand in the air and laughed out loud. The priest asked him what was so funny about sleeping with his wife once a year and the man replied "Tonight's the Night!"

Finally there was a poor devil who was reared with his Granny and slept in the same bed with her until she died. The neighbours took pity on him and got a wife for him. After the wedding the married was not consummated for some time but when it was his wife praised him and said "I feel twenty years younger".

He replied that he was sorry he didn't know that years ago and his poor granny would still be alive.

The moral of all this article is that there is place for humour in our lives and no matter how down and out we may feel at times the answer is to keep smiling. I sincerely hope nobody takes offence in any way to this article which is a blend of true incidents and fiction handed down through the years.

THE VIRGIN'S VISIT

Mary came on an August evening
As the light was on the wane,
She came as a healer of hurt,
She came as the balm of pain,
She came as a Lady and Mother,
Her just spouse by her side,
And the Apostle John and the angels
And the Lamb of our passionate.

She came to Knock and to Ireland,
She did not speak, some will say;
But surely the Moon lights the dark
And stars sing of a rising day?
In stillness indeed did Mary come,
But her presence spoke to the land,
And was a smile on our Mass and priest,
On her beads in every hand.

And surely with Joseph beside her
They stood there as man and wife
As an eloquent seal of approval set
On our steadfast rich family life!
And surely the eyes of faith will see
John stand there as Mary's son,
And a sign of a Mother's adopted love
For each of us one by one.

In a hush of prayer the Lady came
And looked out from shore to shore,
And the silence of heaven now broken
Will echo over and over and over,
With a blessing on Patrick's people,
Who hold faith with the saints of Rome,
And who meet at Mass in family love,
With Mary's star-guiding them home.

Mary came on an August evening,
As a moon in the darkness of night,
She came as a Star of the morning
To herald in a new Dawnlight.
Mary came with John and the angels
And with Joseph to keep her tryst,
And she left us our Symbol of Living;
The Lamb on the Altar, her Christ.

John O'Connor, O.S.A.



Tom Hopkins

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THE LATE PATRICK REGAN



An Appreciation

Deputy P.J. Morley, T.D., has paid the following tribute to the former member of Mayo Co. Council and Old I.R.A. veteran Patrick Regan, Gurteenbeg, Ballyhaunis, whose death occurred recently.

"I think it is proper that a few lines be written in tribute to a man who gave such a large part of his life to the service of his community and people. For such a man Pat Regan was and if I presume to write rather than one closer to his own generation it is only because in a very real way in my capacity as public representative for the area I feel I now carry the banner that the late Patrick Regan first shouldered many years ago.

Pat Regan belonged to that generation of Irish men and women, now sadly getting fewer in number with each passing year, that organised, fought, and worked for that first measure of freedom which our country won after many years of frustration.

Great sacrifices were demanded then, and made by the men and women of that generation and on the freedom they won rests the progress and prosperity which our country has since achieved, as each successive Government down the years since, sought to improve the country and better the lives of the people.

And despite the present biting recessions and the many other recessions and set-backs we have suffered in the past who can argue that Ballyhaunis, Mayo and Ireland is not much more prosperous now than sixty years ago when those brave men and women took up the valiant fight for freedom.

We, in our generation, owe them a debt of gratitude which we can best repay by taking inspiration from their sacrifices and showing a willingness to sink our

own self and sectional interests; and work together to increase our national prosperity and ensure all will have a share in it.

Patrick Regan played a noble part in that grand scheme of things in the War of Independence and the subsequent turbulent years. He was a Nationalist and a Republican but he was also a Democrat. He believed in the Ballot Box in what is now known as constitutional policies, as does the overwhelming vast majority of Irish people. He played a big part in the founding of Fianna Fáil in these parts and was a prominent life-long member of that party, holding practically all executive posts in the party locally. He was a community man, too, and represented the area for some years as a Fianna Fáil Councillor on the Mayo Co. Council.

Being a farmer himself he had a keen interest in things agricultural and was a prominent member of the Mayo County Committee of Agriculture in these years.

There his grasp and knowledge of agriculture was appreciated by his colleagues who selected him as one of the delegates from the county to the General Council of Committees of Agriculture.

He also contested a Dail Election as a candidate for Fianna Fáil but though an ideal candidate as subsequent events were to prove, he wasn't elected due largely to the emergence and growth of the Clann na Talmhan party at that time.

He was ready to serve....typical of the man....always helpful when called upon. He sought nothing for himself. He was a humble modest man who enjoyed the quiet family life amongst his neighbours and friends.

When I was a youngster his name was a household word and later when I met him I got to know him very well. I found him always a true friend willing to give advice when asked and never resentful if that advice wasn't taken. His advice was always sincere and was worth taking and heeding. He was calm and quiet-spoken, but very persuasive in argument and a tireless defender of the principles in which he believed. I never heard him utter an uncharitable word against anyone regardless of political persuasion. He was a truly Christian gentleman whose death we all mourn. We shall miss him as a friend and adviser and none more so than his wife and family to whom we extend our heart-felt sympathy in their loss.

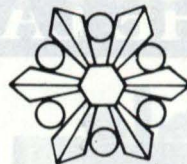
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With Sandals & Staff

In my own progressive odyssey to date, 1984 could possibly be put down, I think, as 'The Year of the Pilgrim'. Altogether, this year year Providence (I suspect) got me visiting, almost with unholy haste, three international Marian shrines. One of these, of course, was Knock, which is only up the road from us, and which one can call to off and on during the year without too much help from heaven (apart maybe from the discreet hint or nudge). But the other two were far away - respectively in Mexico and Portugal - and I would say that getting me to these must have, in the main, been engineered on the other side of the spiritual curtain. In other words, they were manoeuvred. They must have been, as money for such travel would not normally be within my scope.

The Arrangements

To recapitulate, all my life I have been fascinated with the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico city, and I had written articles and a book about it, although I had never seen it in person. This latter fact was regretted by a lady who read the book (a lady who is still a stranger to me, in the sense that we have never met), and who, after the manner of a munificent medieval benefactress took it into her head to give me the first practical push to go out there and see it. The push was in fact a handsome sum of money which came in the form a cheque, but which I'm quite sure would have been in gold sovereigns in the old days. The situation had that kind of lustre and fairytale quality about it. For the most part, I do not accept gifts very easily, but this was so generous that I somehow suspected that heaven had a hand in it (maybe with a view to a conversion or something), and so I was able to take it without too much angst. Later, some relatives and

friends insisted on further sponsorship. The end result was that I was financially ready for almost any eventuality in Mexico, bar the total collapse of the dollar, or my falling into the hands of brigands. Neither happened, and I came home reasonably solvent.

That is the background to my Mexican journey which I made via Spain (a wish I had) on 3/4 June. I was back again in Ireland on 19 June and I considered that for one year I had done enough travelling. But the heavens still did not seem to be quite satisfied. It happened that shortly after I returned a priest friend of mine and a generous travel company put before me a free trip to Fatima in Portugal. And so it came about that I was again outward bound on 8th August on my second holy pilgrimage of the year (outside the country). As it happened, on this occasion the group I was with was joined in London by a local group from the Began-Ballyhaunis-Claremorris area, and together we arrived in Fatima that same evening. We came back home on 16th August - still in time for some of the Knock Novena!

Explanations

If my mention there of Mexico and Portugal seems a bit casual, it is certainly not meant to give the impression that here you have the last of the great travellers. The facts are very different. For me, even making my way from Mayo down to the border of Cork and Kerry is high adventure and it has only been through necessity or for some major reason that I have at any time left the shelter of the island at all (although, mind you, when I think about it, this has happened in the case of Italy, Israel, Spain, Morocco, France, England, Scotland, Wales and this year as indicated, Mexico and Portugal). On the whole, I think, I prefer travel from the safety of the armchair, and anchored there I have, of course, ranged freely around the world with the aid of book or film. In this way, I have wandered along the Amazon, rode across the prairies, climbed Everest, rounded the Horn, went in search of the Grail and so on.

Everyone of course, has a reason for travelling, and especially to foreign places. Some go to find themselves, others to lose themselves, others to seek knowledge, others to impart it; some set out as pilgrims, others to taste the surf or the sun or the bright lights, or to cross a desert, or to assist their brothers and sisters in need, or to make mercy with their cousins in a distant land. In a sense, I suppose I first of all travelled this year as a pilgrim, with metaphorical sandals and staff (but the kind compatible with plane travel and hotel accommodation). However, as I find the word



The Author with Mexico City in the background



The Hill of Apparitions in Mexico

'pilgrim' a bit pretentious on my lips, I prefer to say that I travelled to Mexico and to Portugal to pay my respects. The way I see it is that the word 'pilgrim' denotes a certain degree of intimacy and familiarity - in this case with the Blessed Virgin Mary. My own relationship seems a little different. Reverence, I think, is a keynote for me, and so I keep my place (and perhaps distance), and do not prattle that much, at least not spontaneously. Certainly she washed dishes and scrubbed and cleaned, but I scarcely ever portray her like that. I usually find myself walking with her in a wood, or a stately garden, or some such, with respect uttermost in my mind. The rosary may come relatively easy, but it is in no way a tugging at her gown. At its loftiest it might be something like the fealty of a medieval knight, but most often it is a quiet refrain from the edge of the crowd.

Reflections

Before I say something of my once-off visit to Mexico (and possibly to Portugal), I think it is necessary to insert here some further reflection that may not so easily fit in further on. For instance, clearly concerning my journeyings I am only telling you here what I want to tell. The repetition of the pronoun 'I' may seem to indicate reasonably private comments and revelations. But that is a surface view. No matter how personal an account may seem to be, the writer retains mastery of the heart; and especially in religious areas I think it is better to exercise more rather than less restraint. That is probably a self-evident observation, but I thought I should make it in any case.

Of more interest, perhaps, is the information that this was my first visit to the New World, and for that reason I was glad that Mexico (with its rich Indian heritage) was my destination. Peru would be another choice. Both were major meeting places between European and American cultures. In any case, this being my first journey across the Atlantic, I knew from the start that out of respect I should somehow have to follow the general pattern of Columbus, who re-discovered the American continent for Europe in 1492. So, although the more usual route from Ireland to Mexico is via London and Miami, I knew I should have to go through Spain. And so it was arranged. At around 3.30 on Sunday 3rd June I flew out from Dublin and spent the night in Madrid. The next day I made the ten hour flight to Mexico city.

Preparations

I should not bore you with the preparations for my journey, although believe me they were no small matters. With me they never are. I am not the type (or at least I wasn't) who can throw a few items into a case and dash for a train or a plane and straighten my collar as I fasten my seat-belt. With me it is first a matter of setting all my affairs in order down to the last comma, and of being quite selective about what I take with me. The realisation that I may not return dictates the first, a hankering for simplicity of life inspires the second. So before I go off, I always try to put out all the proverbial cats (particularly those that could later cause trouble among proverbial pigeons), and travel light.

This latter ideal caused a bit of a problem in

preparing for Mexico. Usually I dress in the sober black and collar, but this garb, is technically frowned on in Mexico. So I had to get myself a secular outfit. The actual buying of the items brought some anguish, as I foolishly felt the need to explain to shop assistants who were not over interested - but I always felt glad to get back out into the indifferent Irish street again. As it happened I enjoyed wearing the secular outfit, although it cannot have been a perfect disguise, because twice at least I was asked 'You are a priest, aren't you?'

However, I did travel lightly and brought along only a few out-of-the-ordinary items. For instance, I packed in a few tapes I had made of my favourite Irish musicians and singers (with the sane voice of my friend Mike Murphy here and there). Then I brought along a rosary beads I had got in Jerusalem and I wore a medal of Our Lady of Guadalupe that I had bought in Bethlehem (my place of choice in the Holy Land). And I had another eccentric item. From the Holy Land some years ago I had also brought home a little earth from Mount Tabor (or so the man said). So with this I mixed in a dash of dry Irish summer dust and brought the rich mixture along to the New World. This is now mingled with the Mexican soil on the hill of the apparitions in the capital city. An odd pact, perhaps, but as a symbol it made sense to me.

As I indicated, my purpose in going to Mexico was to pay my respects to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a picture which in my estimation is one of the spiritual wonders of the world. The image is on a piece of very rough cloth that was made from the cactus plant. Normally this cloth lasts no more than thirty years, but this particular piece (which was part of a man's cloak) has lasted now since the year 1531, when the image of Our Lady came to life on it, at the end of some appearances to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian of around fifty-seven years of age. Needless to say, the image is now framed and it hangs in a magnificent new basilica in Mexico (an entirely beautiful city of some sixteen million people). My primary purpose, then, was to pay my respects here and to see the wonder for myself, and if possible, to do some study into the roots of the story.

All I can say just now is that the visit was an experience of my life. I could quite easily mention particular moments that for me were charged with splendour - but there is always a danger (in words or photographs) of boring people to tears, when one tries to share with others one's own personal experiences abroad (or on holidays). Besides, I know that to do justice to this superb Mexican visit (which took in not only Mexico city but places like Puebla, Cuernavaca, Teotihuacan) I would need a much larger canvas. No doubt sometime I will be attempting that canvas and trying to capture in words something of my rich June experience among a people of great

charm who love music and their Virgin Madonna, set in a land of beauty and culture, and also of paradoxes. There are so many images and incidents and episodes and impressions that I still have to get straight in my mind that here I could not do them justice. Suffice it to say, then that I will not easily forget my stay in Mexico in June 1984, when the weather was gentle and the benign Virgin looked down on one contented visitor from a far-off island, where her name is scarcely yet known.

In passing I may say that I brought home from Mexico with me five large enough pictures of Our Lady of Guadalupe (good copies of the original). For the record let me say that one of these I gave to the Presentation Sisters in Dingle, one to the Carmelite Sisters in Knock and one each to the rectors of the shrines in Knock and Fatima. The fifth can be seen in St. Mary's Abbey church in Ballyhaunis. But let me turn to Fatima.

Fatima is very different. For one thing, it is a relatively small country town up in the hills, south of Leiria and north of Lisbon. The hills in question are known as Serra da Aire, and in reality are a petering out towards the sea of the greater Portuguese mountains such as the Serra da Estrela. Up to the present, I think Fatima has very often, or most often, being called a village, but now it is certainly more than that. Right enough, the 1917 parish church of Fatima is still there and around it the village, and nearby (and almost part of it) is, among others, the little hamlet of Aljustrel, where the three children who saw the Blessed Virgin were born. But now, too, there is nearby for instance, the magnificent new basilica and the other buildings and huge square around the scene of the main apparitions; this was once out in the country, now it must be seen as part of Fatima. So as I see it, then, Fatima is now a town. If you like it is made up of a number of little hamlets (or areas) strung together, but with plenty of breathing space in between. At the edges, the town thins out into the hills, and at one point the Stations of the Cross climb upwards into the rugged area where an Angel appeared to the children on two occasions in 1916, and where the Blessed Virgin appeared to them at least once.

The shrine at Fatima, then, is in a country place away in the hills and one gets there by coach from Lisbon. The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on the other hand is now part of a thoroughly modern city to which one can fly directly. Each, however, is a holy place that draws millions of people every year. And both, of course, are similar, because at the head of each stands the same person of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For myself, I have to admit that the shrine in Mexico means more to me personally. Still and all (and maybe because of that) it is much easier to speak about Fatima and its impact. In my estimation Fatima is perhaps the most patently and totally spiritual place I have ever visited. I went there, I

suppose, almost as a slightly reluctant pilgrim, but I came home, if not a better person, at least a convert. I suppose the unsophisticated country setting helps, and it is easier for an ideal and a presence to pervade a small place than a big one, but certainly a visit to Fatima is one uninterrupted spiritual experience - or so most people find.

A Holy Place

As a writer, I have no doubt that there are aspects of the story and message of Fatima that I would need to study further before I could present a rounded personal view over which I would stand. But, happily, here my purpose is not to go into these. The overall event is sufficiently known and it was that an Angel appeared to three children (Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta) in 1916 and that the Blessed Virgin appeared to them on a number of occasions from May to October in 1917. Jacinta and Francisco had died by 1920, but not before they were blessed by other meetings with Our Lady; their causes for beatification are now in progress and their bodies are buried in the basilica at Fatima. Lucia too had other visions; she is still living now in the Carmelite Convent of Coimbra. On a visit to Portugal, one does not meet Lucia, but one can freely visit the remaining brother of Francisco and Jacinta and also Lucia's sister. The families, I should have said, are first cousins.

Of course, one does not have to accept the supernatural character of the above apparitions (nor indeed of any private revelations). All the church says here (and in the case of any approved visions) is that from an historical point of view they are worthy of human acceptance. But be that as it may, the Church has certainly blessed Fatima and one does get the palpable feeling anyway that Fatima is a sacred place. The whole atmosphere seems to be alive with a sense of the spiritual. Personally, I believe it is a place of great destiny for this century, and the Portuguese people are vitally aware of this, as they come there in their thousands and thousands - very often making the journey a real walking pilgrimage and at the end moving down the long square itself on their knees, as they do in Mexico, and continuing so around the small little chapel that is built at the site of the principal apparitions.

Comments

Very often I think the Fatima apparitions are presented from a too devotional angle. Certainly as often as not the statues one sees are overpious, and nowadays it is a difficult thing to present in an unsentimental fashion devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the observing of five first Saturdays in her honour, and even saying of the Rosary. And yet, there is no doubt that these must be taken seriously by men, women and children in this age. True, they ought to be presented with less

sentimentality, so much so that a youth or young man could wear a scapular without thinking that this is something only for nuns and holy women.

A visit to Fatima really brings this home to one. There, the finest of youth are prominent in their devotion to Mary - on their faces there are no signs of bashfulness; one only sees reflections of faith and conviction. The messages of Fatima, of course, were entirely austere (fitting in, aptly enough, with the hardy landscape where a living has to be forced from the brown soil). These messages spoke of hell and of conversion and of penance and of prayer - and one has to admit that there is little of optional devotion about those. It is significant, too, I believe, that the year chosen for the Fatima apparitions was 1917, the precise year when Communism first became more than a theory. At the time, there was certainly enough evil around with the various forms of free-masonry poisoning the souls of many countries. But with Communism (atheistic by profession), one had the beginnings of the major malignant growth of modern times. One can debate, of course, about the origins and inspirations and connections of Communism, but there is no secret or ambiguity about its aims and about its centre of the stage position in the twentieth century. In any case, I believe that for religion vis-a-vis atheism, the year 1917 is of the greatest note. Here in this one year, one had the emergence of the starkest modern evil in Russia and one had its proposed antidote in Portugal.

The Visit

But there I'm interpreting an event, when in fact I should just be telling the story of my visit to this holy place in the hills. So let me simply say that it was good to be there, and particularly to experience at first hand the very patent faith of the people - especially when they came in their great numbers for the 12th - 13th of the month (which from May to October are the big days). Most of them slept under the stars, in temporary shelters or tents whatever, and in under the trees out of the sun they cooked their meals. They were pilgrims indeed, and how they sang and prayed at the night processions and the masses and other devotions. And it was easy to be caught up in the enthusiasm. Right enough, since it was August, out of the shade there was intense heat, and at night one ran the risk of encounters with mosquitos! I had my own problems with them, but then one can score a moral victory over them by fitting them into the pattern of penance that one associates with the place! In any case, they really only attach themselves to some (who may be either hardened sinners, or extremely thin-skinned, or maybe a little blue-blooded.)

At the end of the day, one can say, I believe, that a visit to Fatima is a rounded spiritual experience. There is comfortable and adequate accommodation

there, and perhaps local wine and beer are not a great luxury. However, one can never get far away from the thought that this is primarily a place of pilgrimage, a place of realism where the material world of the senses undoubtedly meets the unseen world of the spirit. There are, of course, highlights, as for instance when two hundred priests, and maybe ten bishops, say Mass together for a square full of people that stretches away further than the eye can see on the night of the 12th or the morning of the 13th; or again when the thousands join in the rosary and lighted procession in the square every night. But the rest of the waking time in Fatima is also profoundly spiritual, and one can only repeat that it was good to be there.

Last Words

I have already gone on too long, so I had better end these wandering thoughts, or if you like these thoughts of a wanderer. In reality here I have given only a resume of my movements and impressions. For personal use I took many notes and many photographs, and I have no doubt that these will keep alive the experiences in far away Mexico and Portugal nearer home. If you ever get an opportunity of going to either, don't let it slip by. I don't expect that providence will again easily supply me with free passages to these holy places. Miraculously it has happened once, and so I shall be eternally grateful. I now have sterling memories and all I can say is 'Thanks be to God', and 'Long Live Our Lady of Guadalupe', 'Long Live the Virgin of Fatima!'

John O'Connor, O.S.A.

PADDY DELANEY

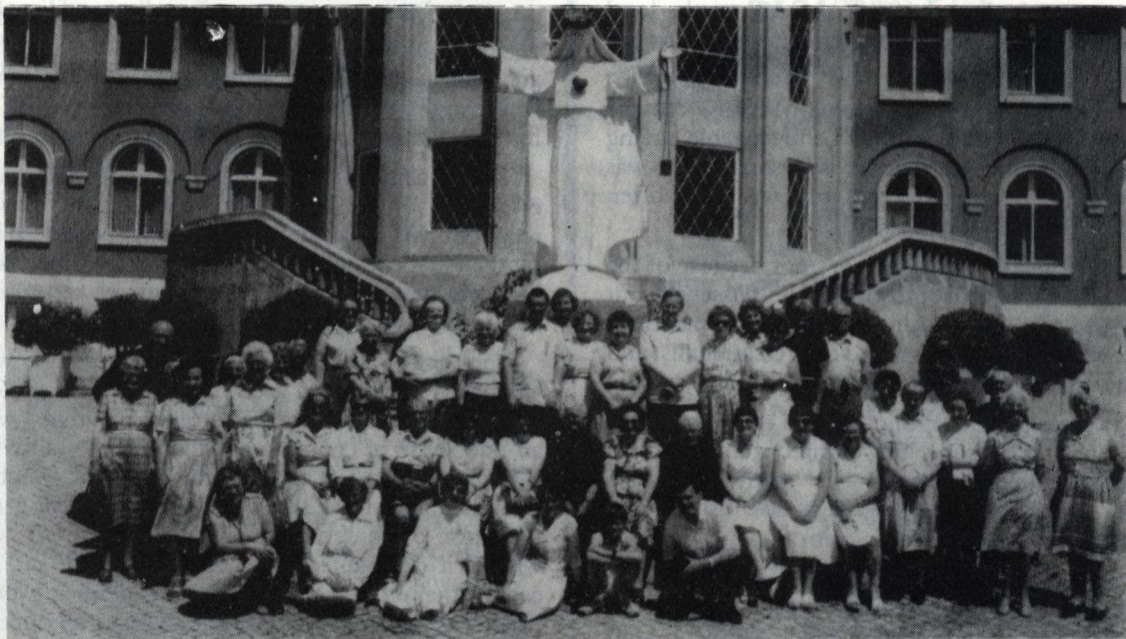
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A TRUE AND GOOD NEIGHBOUR

The Late John Murren, Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis

Working as a Provincial journalist for over 40 years, I have written numerous obituary notices in the ordinary context and during that time I have never departed from the usual standard, but in the reporting of the death of a neighbour who resided across the street from me for a period of thirty years, I feel compelled to make a departure from the usual format.

The death of Mr. John Murren, Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis is for me a matter of deep sorrow and regret because over a span of years he was a good and kind neighbour and we were frequent visitors to each other's homes.

Both our families grew up together and there was that bond of friendship between them forged in friendship and kindness which will never be broken. A native of Tubbertelly, Tubbercurry, Johnny Murren came to reside in Ballyhaunis 45 years ago and was attached to the staff of C.I.E. at the local Railway Station, up to his retirement some years ago during which time he made many lasting friendships.

What kind of a man was John Murren? All the answers to that question must be favourable having regard to the characteristics of a personage who was at home in any company and who was more often than not the life of any party.

He will remain in my memory not because of the many admirable attributes which he possessed but because he was one who enjoyed the simple pleasures of life: who was a great wit and conversationalist and who by his very presence enlivened many an occasion.

A staunch G.A.A. supporter and follower, I had occasion to accompany him to many games and his succinct comments during the many 'after the match' inquests could be regarded as 'cryptic masterpieces'.

I would not like this little piece to be regarded as an obituary or an appreciation but as a miniature assessment and 'send off' of a good friend and kind neighbour whose popularity was unbounded.

Mick O'Connell

AN APPRECIATION Lilly & Tony Morley R.I.P.

Donnellan's Funeral Home was the setting of a unique funeral scene on Saturday, September 8th, as the population of Ballyhaunis gathered to mourn the deaths of Lilly and Tony Morley of Abbey Street.

Lilly became ill as she returned with their nephew John of Clagnagh from the funeral of her brother John in Loughrea on Monday, September 3rd. She was admitted to Galway Regional Hospital and on Thursday as Tony waited anxiously for word about her, he too became ill and was removed to Castlebar General Hospital. Lilly died on Thursday and Tony died on Friday evening, Rest in Peace.

My own memories of Lilly go back to my earliest years when she kept house and reared us, three boys when Mother and Father were at work in Derrylea National School. My brothers and I remember those days as ones of tender loving care, and it was with pride that Lilly would tell, years later, how one parent or the other, had to have recourse to Lilly herself, who had greater sway over three wayward boys, than either parent.

It was with much distress that we moved in 1950 to the house which was to be our home at Devlis, for the next twenty years, because the move meant parting with Lilly. Indeed, she had on a few occasions to send reassuring news that the unheralded trio, having stolen away to visit her, had arrived safely in Abbey Street before panic had set in on their being discovered 'missing' in Devlis. After our departure from Abbey Street, Lilly Casey now Mrs. Morley and her husband, Tony, a quiet easy-going gentleman, established a guest-house in the house where my brothers and I were born and of which we have such happy memories of association with Lilly.

The veracity of my sentiments of appreciation was evidenced by the tears that welled, in the eyes of neighbouring children who had also experienced her motherly affection; in the eyes of grown men who had experienced her great generosity as her guests; and in the eyes of relatives and friends alike.

Tony and Lilly were a very private couple who were very devoted to each other. It was therefore with a deep sense of sorrow, strangely mingled with an odd sense of contentment that one stood by the two open coffins at the funeral home, or watched them being lowered, side by side into the same grave - a sense of contentment that neither would have wished it differently. They had lived with and for each other for many years and neither would experience the terrible loneliness of the absence of the other in death.

'The hand of God moves in mysterious ways, May They Rest In Peace'.

Pat Higgins

The Lime Kiln

A small lime-kiln in the townland of Forthill near Ballyhaunis, (Nat. Grid. Reference; O.S. South Mayo sheet 11-517829), now stands on the land of Mr. Peter Sloyan. It formerly belonged to Mr. John Greally, who, at the beginning of this century supplemented the income of his eighteen acres of land by the sale of lime to other farmers. About 1900, lime was sold for three shillings a barrel. The kiln, which is the subject of this note, was built in 1912. Shaped like a flat bottomed egg, it measured about 3 metres in depth and 2 metres at its greatest width; its shape helped the retention of heat.

The kiln was built by digging a large hole in a sloping part of the field; stones were then set around the walls of the hole. The stones were held together by soil and it was not until the first burning, when the lime itself plastered the stones together, that the walls were secure. A door was built at the bottom of the kiln, opening onto the side of the hill, the purpose of which was to allow the turf at the bottom of the kiln to be lit and also to permit the removal of the burned lime.

Since the area in which this particular kiln was built was not a limestone area, stones had to be brought from a holding of land two miles away by Mr. George Flanagan. The stones were large and had to be broken into smaller sizes with a hammer and sledge. The smaller stones were approximately 2cm. square and it was these small stones that were burned with turf to produce the lime.

The method of burning was fairly simple; a layer of turf usually one sod high was placed on the bottom of the kiln. A larger layer, 15 to 20 cm. in depth of limestone was then placed on the bottom of

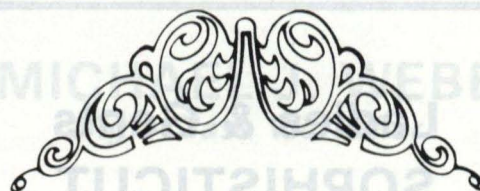
The method of burning was fairly simple, a layer of turf, usually one sod high, was placed on the bottom of the kiln. A larger layer, 15 to 20 cm. in depth of limestone was then placed on top of the turf, another layer was then placed on the latter layer. This layering continued until the kiln was full to the top - the last layer being a layer of turf. The kiln was then lit. This was done by means of hot coals and papers which were put into the 'porcen' and pushed down into the bottom layer of turf. When the bottom layer caught fire the kiln gradually fired and eventually the top layer glowed. After a few hours, the limestone would begin to sink and more layers of turf and stone would be added until the kiln was full of lime. It was possible to tell this when a white powder formed on top of the kiln.

The whole process of firing took about forty hours and it took another forty hours for the lime to cool down. After it had cooled down it was taken out through the door (porcen) by means of a long handled shovel and it was more often than not, used immediately. Sometimes, however, it was stored in barrels or boxes.

The lime was used for making mortar to build houses, for making floors, white-washing and it was also valuable fertiliser for the land. The lime from this particular kiln was always thought to be of good quality since the limestone burned in this kiln originated from a deep blue stone and farmers believed the bluer the stone the better the quality of the lime.

As crushed lime became increasingly available, the kiln gradually went out of use, being last fired in 1930.

(This article was published originally in the Galway Archeological and Historical Society Magazine when Christina Nolan was a student at the Regional Technical College, Galway).



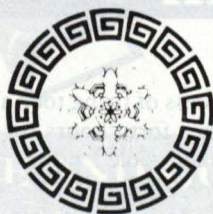
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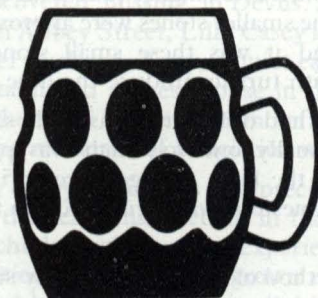
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Doctor Tommie Joyce

Dr. Joyce died in Merlin Park Hospital, Galway on the 27th February, 1984. Born in Ballinrobe in 1917 he was a son of the late Mr. Bernard Joyce who was a Member of Mayo Co. Council for a period of 42 years and of the late Mrs. Bridget Joyce, sister of the late Mr. Dick Walsh who represented South Mayo as a Fianna Fáil candidate for many years.

Educated at Ballinrobe C.B.S. and at U.C.D. he qualified as a Medical Practitioner in 1940. He practised in Ormskirk in England for a time and it was there he met Angela Swarbrick and they were married in 1946.

Returning to Ireland he served as Medical Officer on Arranmore Island off the Donegal coast until 1951 when he was appointed Medical Officer of Health in Ballyhaunis.

Despite a very busy professional life he became very active in the community and was a former Chairman of Ballyhaunis Western Care and Captain of the Ballyhaunis Bridge Club. He was also President, for a time, of the Golf Club. He also served for some time as Chairman of Fianna Fáil Cumann.

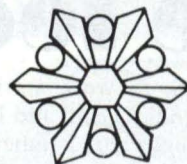
Throughout his years in Ballyhaunis Dr. Tommie built up a fine practice and earned a reputation as a painstaking and devoted Doctor who gave his full and undivided attention to each of his patients.

This cataloguing of his career and achievements gives an incomplete and somewhat cold statistical picture of the man. He was far from being cold or detached, he was an open, friendly man who remained close to the people and his many acts of kindness, most of which were carried out unobtrusively will probably never be fully evaluated.

And so when Spring comes round again and the days are 'ag dul cun sin eadh' as Raftery put it, there will be talk of Cheltenham in the air - we will think of him and miss him and then later on there will be talk of May flies rising on Lough Mask and we will think of him again and miss him. He will be missed at Ballinrobe Races which his late father helped to establish and from Galway and other racing venues throughout Ireland.

For a long time to come we will miss his outrageous yarns and his bubbling laughter.

Seán Freyne



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'The Tech'

On my way back to work at the Community School, I pass 'The Old Tech' and it makes me sad to see it being so neglected. I remember the pride that was taken in the appearance of the school and the garden. I watched the change of seasons in all the lonely shrubs, plants and flowers; the beautiful cherry trees, the wallflowers and godetia, then the white and purple lilacs, the smell of the lawn being cut and later the blaze of colour of this Autumn dahlias and gladioli.

When I joined the staff of the Vocational School, the Headmaster was Padraic O Gabhláin, R.I.P. He was one of nature's gentlemen, a fine Irish scholar who had a fund of knowledge and stories which he shared with us as he cut his plug tobacco into an old black tin box and smoked his pipe. He was the proud possessor of a rather old 'Baby Ford' - one of the two cars outside the school in those days. Another colleague with Padraic was Kathleen Cunningham R.I.P. who discussed with Padraic the topics of the day over their lunch which they had sitting at a black Stanley range in the kitchen.

Padraic Hughes R.I.P. and Sean Cleary R.I.P. were also members of the staff when I joined them. Padraic Hughes later replaced Padraic O Gabhláin as Headmaster and Sean Cleary became Headmaster in the Vocational School in Claremorris. Some time afterwards we were joined by Paddy Moran, Colm Carter and Tony Molloy who also became a Headmaster in Ballinrobe. With this advent of free transport when our numbers increased quite considerably we were joined by other teachers including Christy Ruane, Theresa Lynch (Lynskey), and later by Eddie Thornton, Michael Smyth, Patsy Noone, Michael Murren, Aiden Kelly Pat and Jim Higgins.

Originally the courses in 'The Tech' were two-year post-primary courses and were mainly practical. The only exam done was Group Cert., students taking exams in Woodwork, Rural Science, English, Irish, Maths, Domestic Science and Commerce. All classes lasted one hour, we had lots of double classes which gave plenty of time for practical work. Class numbers were small; this meant that every student got a lot of individual teaching. Most of our students cycled in from the country every morning. I remember reprimanding a student for being late one morning and then I discovered that she had cycled nine miles to school. They often came in very wet and had to sit around in wet clothes all day.

The kitchen, where I spent most of my teaching years had very little equipment in the early days I had one oil cooker and one four plate 'Moffat' cooker in which we cooked hundreds of Christmas cakes

etc. We even heated the 'Flat-Irons' on this cooker for Group Cert. Practical Exams. Our second year students reached a high standard of efficiency for this exam - perhaps some of our past students will confirm this. In this same kitchen we did most of the preparation for all kinds of functions.

This reminds me of our late Parish Priest, Rev. Chancellor Geoffrey Prendergast R.I.P. who was Chairman of the Mayo V.E.C. (someone should write an article on him sometime). It was he who suggested that I should apply for the post of Domestic Science Teacher in Ballyhaunis Vocational School to replace Maura Jordan (Cunningham). It was he who said to me when I was a very young teacher "You will prepare a 'Luncheon' for over a hundred priests and Bishops for the consecration of our Parish Church". I had many sleepless nights figuring out how it could be done. It went well, but now I cannot remember where I got White Damask Tablecloths and the Kingshead Cutlery!!!

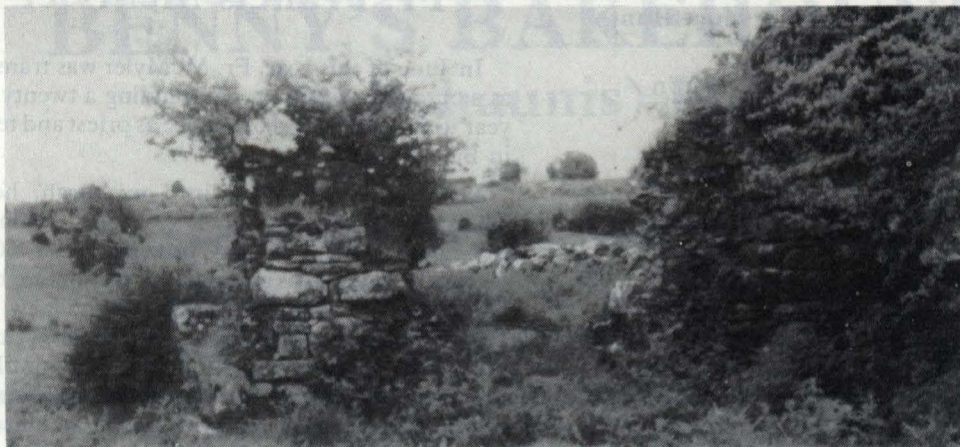
In my early years of teaching I always had two night classes each week from October until Easter and some years I had three night classes each week. I also gave night 'Craft Classes' in outside centres like Began, Tooreen and Aughamore. There were also night classes in Woodwork, and Macra na Feirme had all their meetings and lectures etc. in the Rural Science Room. Padraic Hughes was very involved with this group and they held a very successful Annual Horticultural Show at the school. There was great local interest in this show and getting 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize for cakes, knitwear, flowers, vegetables or an animal was a much sought after award.

The caretakers played a very important role in the running of the school, first I remember Tom Forry, R.I.P. then Paddy Cassidy was with us for many years and in the last few years Paddy Kelly carried on the good work. Paddy Cassidy was like a father figure to all our students and he knew all their joys and troubles. He 'nursed' our temperamental solid fuel heating system, and cared for the garden as if it was his own. He always had whatever vegetables we needed for our cookery classes. On our Annual School Outing he always sang 'Burlington Bertie' and was cheered by all. These school tours were something to remember!! For days beforehand we baked cakes and made sandwiches and I can still see boxes and boxes of these disappear. We lit fires and made tea for all the students and we always had a great if exhausting day.

Looking back on my teaching years in 'The Tech' has made me realise that I have always enjoyed teaching and still like being with young people in our Community School which was opened in 1977 and was an amalgamation of the Vocational School, St. Patrick's School and the Convent of Mercy Secondary School.

Patricia Waldron

CHURCHPARK

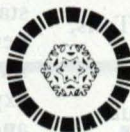


Ruins of Church in Churchpark



Graveyard for babies in Churchpark

(Photos courtesy of Joe Horkan)



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GOLDEN MEMORIES

Murt Hunt

An old man sat alone on a lawn
His tired old face was haggard and drawn
His age now being four score and ten
All he had left was his memories.

He thought about days long ago,
Near Ballyhaunis in County Mayo.
How happy those days, when he was a lad,
He thought about, his Mam and his Dad.

He was his parents only boy,
Their one and only, their pride and joy.
With them in Summer he would roam,
Through the woods and valleys near their home.

Oh how he loved to climb Conway's Hill,
And gaze across to Plunkett's Mill.
Where many a bag of oats was rolled,
And many a famous yarn was told.

He could see in the distance the old Friary grounds,
Where once the monks did their holy rounds.
On very fine days, he could see the Reek,
Whilst still a gasún, he'd climbed the peak.

How he loved to go to the bog,
With the horse and cart and little brown dog.
He yearned to get a hold of the sleam,
He laughed at the day, he fell into a drain.

He remembered the meadows, the smell of the hay,
His Mam at the gate calling him to the tay,
At ploughing time, the screech of the gull,
And reaping the corn when it was quite full.

He thought about his first day at school,
His bag on his back with pencil and rule.
He thought about the games and the fun,
And reading and writing along with the nun.

He remembered so clearly the night that the Tans,
Pulled outside the door in two mighty vans.
His parents had sheltered a man on the run,
Now they paid their price at the point of a gun.

To stop the slaughter God how he tried,
He remembered also how bitter he cried.
For evermore, he'd have this great hate,
He swore he'd revenge them, however late.

The doctor said he would always be shocked,
For the butt of a rifle his head it had knocked.
A few days later to a 'home' he was sent,
'Twas here the rest of his life he had spent.

So he slept on the lawn outside this 'home',
He dreamt of his parents and also HIS home,
Although he was weary tired and old,
To him his memories were precious as gold.

Fr. Francis McMyler

In June of this year, Fr. McMyler was transferred as a curate to Westport, thus ending a twenty three year unbroken period of service as priest and teacher in Ballyhaunis.

Fr. Francis was born in Louisburgh, he was educated in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam and Maynooth where he was ordained in 1960. He served for one year as a curate in Finny before he was appointed as founder-member of the new Post-Primary School in Ballyhaunis, St. Patrick's College. He was a gifted teacher and taught there until 1977 when he became vice-principal of the newly formed Community School. In both cases, he made an enormous contribution in helping to get the new schools on their feet, with his initiative, ideas and organisational skills.

During his time in Ballyhaunis, he was involved in the life of the community. In the early years he was directly involved in parish work. He was a member of Junior Chamber and helped to make it the force it is in the town today. He is a gifted musician and was musical director of parish choirs during which time Mass was broadcast from the Parish Church. He also directed and assisted in school choirs and musical productions. He coached ballad groups for Scór competitions and in 1972 the Group won the All-Ireland final.

This short summary does scant justice to his work. However, I believe his greatest contribution is the work he did quietly, silently and unobtrusively. He has a deep understanding of the dignity and goodness of every person and their ability to rise above themselves. For that reason, he expected high standards and got the best out of people. He is a person in whom one can instinctively trust. The many people he has helped will know from experience exactly what I mean - his understanding and acceptance of our weaknesses, his ability to affirm, generate a new confidence and hope in life. His special care is always for those who are handicapped or deprived in any way.

His inspiration, his caring and his gentle presence has enriched us. His departure to Westport leaves a vacuum, but we hope he will have the same fruitful and fulfilling life among the people of Westport.

Jarlath Fahey

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ABBEY PLAYERS ABOUT 1926

Back Row: Seamus Fitzmaurice (Devlis), Fr. Peppard, Eddie Heneghan, Eddie Ryan.
Middle Row: Johnnie Gilmore, Michael McGreal, Eddie Biesty, Tom O'Malley, Michael Waldron, J.J. Murray.
Front Row: Willie O'Dwyer, Lily Campbell, Mrs. Foudy, Lily Smith (Mrs. Wilson), Dick Waldron, Kathleen Connolly, (Mrs. Kearns), Jim Caulfield.



Road Race, Abbey Street 1927



St. Mary's Boy's National School 1965



First Houses, Friary Ground 1930



Corpus Christi Procession 1936

Included in the front are Mr. Bernard Byrne R.I.P., Bridge Street and Mr. Thomas Coyne R.I.P. (The Square) with armband. How many do you recognise?

(Photo courtesy of Seamas Durkan)



Mr. Gus Lanigan and Mr. Paddy Naughton, two well-known band leaders of the 'Ballroom of Romance' era return to the scene of their former triumph on the occasion of Mr. Lanigan's Annual Summer Holidays.



The Men from Annagh



Left to right: Helen Henry, Marie Connell (née Flatley), Teresa Lyons (née Waldron).

Derrylea School



BALLYHAUNIS ST. MARY'S NATIONAL SCHOOL 1948/'49

Back Row (l to r): S. Roach, O. Levins, D. Lyons, J. Hunt, S. Barrett, M. Caulfield, M. Curley, P. Waldron, F. Connican.

2nd Row: T. Foudy, L. Hynes, P. Waldron, C. Mannion, M. Nally, M. Kelly, K. McGuire, M. Lyons.

3rd Row: S. Smyth, T. Johnstone, C. Freyne, P.J. O'Connell, P. Moran, M. Lyons, F. Glynn, G. Lyons, M. Coen, A. Johnstone.

Front Row: T. Leetch, M. Biesty, M. Byrne, S. Hannon R.I.P., N. Kelly, J. Biesty, J. Dillon.



Benediction during the Eucharistic Procession in the Abbey in 1926. Fr. O'Leary O.S.A. and Brother Peppard O.S.A. can't be seen.
(Courtesy of Mrs. T. Greally, Devlis)

CAST FOR BOHEMIAN GIRL taken on the back steps of Waldron's Hall in Clare Street was Dillon's Shop.

Front Row: Bill Roache R.I.P., Brendan Byrne, Tommy Walshe, Bernard and Doreen Forde.

Second Row: Pat Roache R.I.P., Lorna Roache, Maura Hyland, Audrey Healy.

Third Row: Denis Hyland, Tommy Gavin and Marie Flately (Principals), Ned Roache, Bertie Lynch.

Fourth Row: Maddie Healy, Imelda Waldron, Eithne Waldron, Bernie Gunnigan, Martha Walshe.

Fifth Row: Anna O'Boyle, Mary Flately, Theresa Griffin, Enda Lyons.

Top Row: Joe Griffin R.I.P., Paddy Waldron R.I.P., Joe Lynch R.I.P.



Parochial Hall, 1950

Ballyhaunis P.T.A.A. 1925



Inter. Cert. Class 1965, Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis

Front Row: Evelyn, Caulfield, Noreen Murphy, Mary Jane Mulrennan, Eileen Freeley, Helen Cruise, Margaret McGuire, Marie Staunton, Bridie Kneafsey.

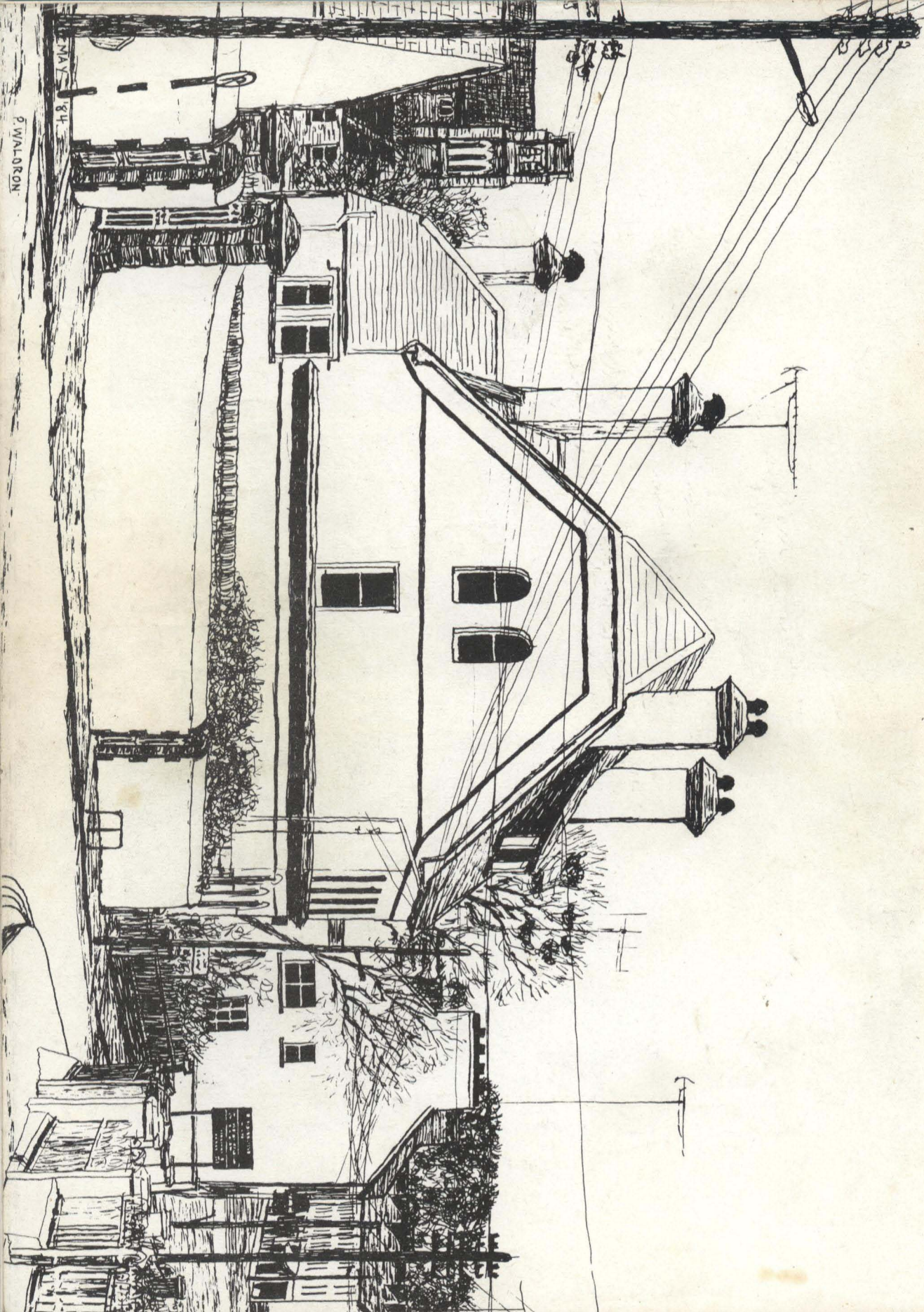
Middle Row: Joan Coyne, Denise Earley, Elizabeth Moran, Margaret Conboy, Maureen Keane, Mary Freyne, Una Cribbin, Eileen Morris, Mary Regan.

Back Row: Mary Caulfield, Marie Mulrennan, Mary Byrne, Maeve Lyons, Mary Hopkins, Jenny Burke, Noreca McNieve, Mary Plunkett.



BALLINDREHID STATIONS IN JOE FREELEY'S

Agnes Freeley, Helen Freeley, Michael Freeley, Annie Freeley, Cait Freeley, Mrs. Sullivan R.I.P., Mrs. Greeley R.I.P., Mrs. Freeman R.I.P., Baby Glynn, Annie Glynn R.I.P., Mrs. Regan, Mickie Barrett, Mrs. Phil Power, Margaret Donnelly, Mrs. Waldron, Kate Lyons, Miss Moran, Mrs. Cunnane R.I.P., Mrs. Flanagan R.I.P., Mrs. Healy R.I.P., Rev. Fr. Fitzgerald. (Photo courtesy Mrs. Regan)



P. WALDRON