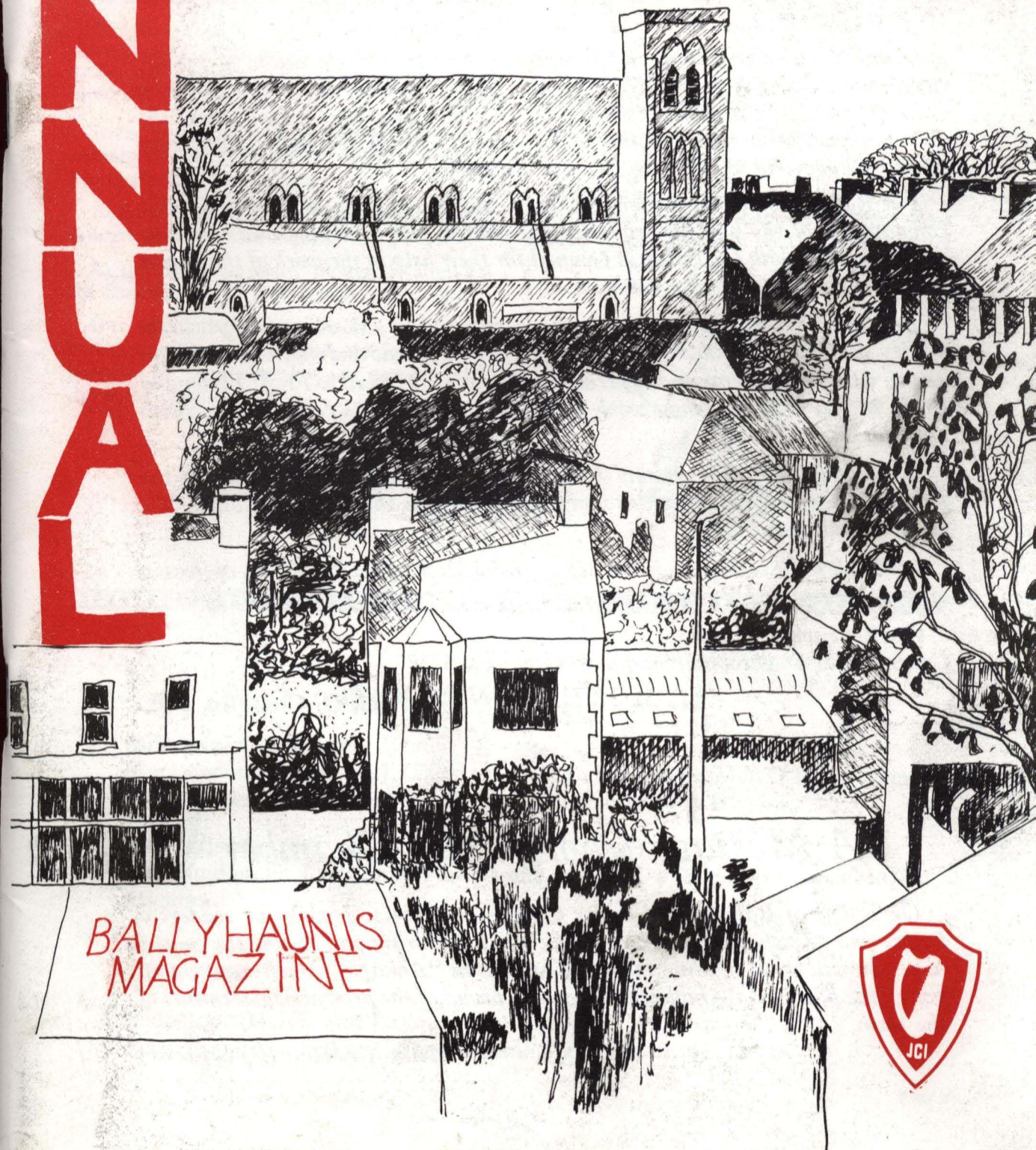


ANNACH 1985

ANNUAL



BALLYHAUNIS
MAGAZINE



Season's Greetings



May I wish all the readers of Annagh Magazine a joyful and blessed Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year. I congratulate our local Junior Chamber in producing the present issue with its reflection on and reporting the events of the passing year.

In the Parish the past year has seen a wonderful manifestation of the co-operation of the people in the Liturgy and Life of the Church - God's people on earth. The Pastoral Assembly provided the Ministries of the Eucharist, the Word of God, Order and Decorum in the Services, culminating in the magnificent Easter Liturgy, in which so many were involved.

The Restoration of the ancient Maundy - the Washing of the Feet, the public commitment of the various grades in the church was a moving and enriching experience. I thank the Pastoral Council for their help in the work of the Parish when their help was really needed.

I welcome Fr. Martin Gleeson to the Parish and Fr. M. King O.S.A. to the Abbey. I know they will come to love Ballyhaunis as I do and they will enrich the parish with their talents and experience. We say God Speed to Fr. J. Flynn and Fr. J. Maher O.S.A., whose work among us albeit short will be remembered with gratitude.

We congratulate Fr. Jimmy Cribbin, Lecarrow on his ordination to the Priesthood and rejoice with his family and friends on that happy occasion. We wish him ad multos annos.

I pray that the coming year will see a continuation of the spirit of co-operation and generosity in self-giving that has marked our parish in the past.

Caith ná coigil do stór:

Caith go fial & gheobhair níos mó! See Luke, 6-38

Patrick O. Costello, P.P.

A Message from Junior Chamber



On behalf of Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber members, I wish our readers a happy and peaceful Christmas. I thank you for your support during the year. I hope you will enjoy reading the many articles in "Annagh" which may remind you of the past in Ballyhaunis or made you proud of the present achievements of the town.

Mary Freeley (President)

Editorial

We have reached the mid-nineteen eighties in our eighth edition of "Annagh" Magazine.

We have tried to record some of the many developments in the area in recent years in the Industrial, Educational, Infrastructural, Recreational and Sporting spheres.

In the Spring of this year we, the Ballyhaunis community, were presented with the Mayo Meitheal Award in Dublin.

At Easter, Ballyhaunis officially twinned with Guilers, Brittany in France.

In the Summer, many thousands attended the Second Annual Ballyhaunis Trade Fair.

Our telephone system also became fully automatic. We wish to thank the former telephonists for their courtesy and patience over the many years.

In Autumn, Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber Debating Team won the National Debating Final in Dublin by defeating Castleknock.

Nearby, the first full flights left the Connaught Regional Airport for Rome and began a new chapter in the development of the area.

We once again thank our advertisers and our contributors for making the magazine feasible.

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



Acknowledgements

Editorial Committee

Jim Lundon (Editor), Fr. J. O'Connor, O.S.A., Joe Greene, Matt O'Dwyer, Donal Ahern, Shea O'Callaghan, Joe Hosty, Mary Freeley, Pat Higgins.

Advertising

Jim Lundon, Fr. J. O'Connor, Joe Greene, Matt O'Dwyer, Shea O'Callaghan, Pat Higgins.

Cover

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Printing, Design and Layout

Seamus and the staff of Cashin Printing Services Ltd., Castlebar

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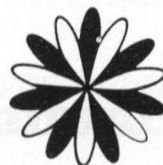
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MEITHEAL



AWARD



PRESENTATION OF THE MEITHEAL AWARD

Pat Higgins (who presented the submission), Mary Freeley (President, Junior Chamber, Ballyhaunis), Gerard McGarry (President, Chamber of Commerce)

Friday, February 8th., 1985 saw the people of Ballyhaunis, past and present, honoured with the prestigious "Mayo Meitheal 1984 Award".

The presentation was made at the Muintir Mhaidh Eo Dinner Dance in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, a gala event of almost one thousand in attendance which makes it one of the biggest and most elegant on the Dublin Dinner Dance scene, something which speaks volumes of the success and standing and indeed of the fraternal spirit of the Mayo emigrants in the capital.

Among the attendance on that memorable and historic night for Ballyhaunis was an official representative of 38 clubs, organisations, associations, and committees along with representatives of business enterprises, well wishers and friends - a party of 60 in all.

The citation was read by Liz Howard of Aer Lingus and G.A.A. fame, who was one of the three adjudicators along with Moss Keane of rugby fame and Frank Feely, Dublin City Manager. The beautiful crystal vase was presented by Muintir Mhaidh Eo, President, Frank Flemming to Pat Higgins who received it on behalf of the Community. Gerry McGarry, President of Chamber of Commerce replied to the presentation.

The adjudicators decided to make the award to the people of Ballyhaunis on the formal proposal of Pat Higgins who compiled and presented, aided by Gerry McGarry, President of Chamber of Commerce; Rita London, President of Junior Chamber; Kathleen Hunt and James Waldron, a volumous submission of the constant co-operative unwillingness to be overwhelmed by major

disadvantages which characterised the people of Ballyhaunis over the previous 14 years and led last November to the Connaught Telegraph editorialising:

"Ballyhaunis, without fanfare or fuss, has emerged to become Mayo's premier industrial centre, a gem in the field, which stands to be admired by other towns not so enterprising or commercially awake."

Liz Howard's explanation of Ballyhaunis' award and why they were awarded it:-

"We have great pleasure in selecting the "People of Ballyhaunis" as Meitheal Award winners for 1984. In the past fourteen years or so, they have brought the town from its knees, as it were, to be a leading light and example to all in Mayo and indeed in the rest of the country."

"The obvious sense of co-operation and community spirit displayed by the townspeople is an example to everybody with regard to what can be achieved when this spirit is harnessed in the correct manner. The determination and pride shown by the community in fighting its case at local and national governmental level has to be commended and admired. Judging from the plans for the future there appears to be no signs of a "let-up" in the cause of improving (a) the lifestyle of the people, and (b) the environment of the town of Ballyhaunis."

"It is something that the people of Ballyhaunis and indeed all Mayo can be proud of."

MIZEN to MALIN



Here we go! Here we go! Here we go!

Maybe the original idea for cycling from Mizen Head in Cork to Malin Head in Donegal came about at the end of a long night in a local hostelry in Ballyhaunis. Suffice it to say that the idea took root and eventually led to 12 mono-maniacs on wheels cycling the length of the country to raise money for Concern. Before such an onerous journey could be considered, exhaustive training had to be undertaken by each of the cyclists; so the sight of a group of riders heading out in the early morning mist was not an unusual one in the months leading up to the trip. Also the fact that Dr. Michael Cleary, a participant in the cycle, had personally witnessed the suffering and deprivation in Ethiopia whilst on a 3 month sojourn there, added a certain gusto to everyone's efforts.

While the training was going ahead, the financial end of the undertaking was not being forgotten. The fund got off to a great start thanks to a very generous contribution from Halal Meat Packers and the organising committee led by Brid Cleary, Peg Byrne and Helen Freeley worked unstintingly to ensure the success of the trip. This success could not be achieved without the support of the townspeople of Ballyhaunis and a measure of their eagerness could be gauged from the enthusiastic send-off given to the cyclists on the day prior to the commencement of the journey. The travelling arrangements involved Robert McNabb, Joe Grogan and Rory O'Connor each taking their own vehicles, with the rest of the participants going with Pat Higgins in "Old Nellie", the Community School mini-bus. The first mechanical failure of the trip

occurred around Coachfort in Cork where Robbie McNabb's car gave up the ghost despite Rory O'Driscoll's inside knowledge of the workings of a diesel engine and the supplication and prayer of the people on the bus who had now arrived on the scene, no spark of life was evident. This necessitated a swift changeover of gear and trailer to the now-crowded mini-bus and "Old Nellie" was to exact her revenge for this extra burden in the days to come. Eventually we set off again, with Pat Higgins driving the bus with great dexterity to reach our final destination at Colla House in Schull at 11.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 3rd July. By this time Pat and Nancy Scanlon had arrived from Dublin so the full compliment of cyclists were now present. It was a measure of the seriousness of the mission that even the most hardened drinkers in the company (who shall be nameless) hit the bed straight after dinner as instructions had been issued for an early call at 6.00 a.m. the following morning.

Thursday, 4th July Roll Call at 6.00 a.m. and Colla House is a bustle of activity. Whilst the 12 cyclists were busy cramming in carbohydrates in preparation for their 400 mile journey, the collectors were donning their Concern sashes and getting their schedule sorted out. All offers of help had been refused by the kitchen staff so without wasting time washing the dishes, the entire convoy headed off to cover the last 12 miles to Mizen Head. There was a certain nervous tension in the air as the cyclists made last minute adjustments and psyched themselves up for the trip ahead. Everyone was buoyed up with the hope that the trip would prove to be a financial

success for Concern and so in an optimistic frame of mind the Deadly Dozen set off from Mizen Head at around 8.30 a.m. Rory O'Connor, carrying the spare equipment, accompanied the cyclists whilst the main body of collectors travelled with Pat Higgins in the mini-bus and Joe Grogan, loudspeakers announcing the mission, acted as intermediary between the two groups. In the first village Margaret O'Connor collected the princely sum of 20p and we all hoped that this was not an omen for the coming 3 days. As the morning passed, the cyclists were separated from each other in three or four different groups and Joe Grogan did trojan work to keep in contact with all of the participants.

Stopping in Bantry for a break, everyone was surprised to hear the loudspeakers blaring away outside. On investigation it turned out to be a Corkonian who, still celebrating the All-Ireland hurling victory nine months previously, was expounding at length on the state of the country, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael and anything else that came into his head, much to the amusement of the locals. In the meantime the alternator went in the mini-bus, which necessitated Pat Higgins waiting behind for two hours whilst the collectors went on ahead. Anna Herr and Mary Tolan caught up with the main body of cyclists having lost their way further back when Anna had a fall off the bike. The entire crew met outside Charleville where members of Concern from Newcastle West had tea and sandwiches ready for everyone (?) to sink their teeth into. While the cyclists made their weary way to Limerick, the collectors drove on ahead to the Crescent Shopping Centre from where they were eventually asked to leave when the loudspeakers began interfering with a Mass nearby. Everyone eventually met up in the New Greenhills Hotel where blisters, sunburn and saddle-sores were the order of the day. One of the cyclists made the discovery that his shorts had been on back to front all day but as yet no permanent damage has been noticed. I think it was Tennyson who said "Pain rises up, old pleasures fall, there is one remedy for all!, but on this night even the old pleasures and the auld remedy could not do the trick. So it was off to bed for nearly everyone, with another early start the following morning and the words of "We are the World" and "Show some Concern" still ringing in our ears.

Friday, 5th July The cyclists, after an early breakfast, began the long trek from Limerick through the Midlands to Carrick-on-Shannon. The collectors, now strengthened by the arrival of Seamus Grogan and Grace O'Connor, headed back into the city where, occupying a great position in O'Connell Street, the money really flowed into the boxes. Not expecting this good response and because the cyclists still needed support en route, we headed off sooner than we would have liked. The

fruits of the Limerick experience bore out the fact that you must go where the density of population makes the collection worthwhile. Unfortunately after this bright start, the rest of the day was a big disappointment with Eugene Collum and Pat Freeley going astray and nearly ending up in Tullamore, a disastrous response to the collection in Athlone, the engine of the mini-bus going on fire and finally receiving word that no collections would be allowed in the North the following day because the permits had not arrived. The one bright spot was the food and hospitality given to the entire group by Matt O'Dwyer in Athlone, inconveniencing him the day before his wedding to Geraldine - magnanimous gesture indeed. Terry Coleman took over the driving of the afflicted mini-bus from Pat Higgins and a further collection was made in Longford before the bad weather finally caught up with us around Ballinamore. The cyclists had to use old 10-10-20 bags supplied by a local farmer to protect them from the rain, which probably didn't do much for their weary limbs but was a great help to the hair on their chests. That night everyone stayed in Carrick-on-Shannon where they were encouraged by supporters from Ballyhaunis including Sean Freyne, Michael Grogan, Ann Curley and Teresa Grogan.

Saturday, 6th July A collection was made in Carrick-on-Shannon by Brid, Nancy and Helen as the cyclists began the "last leg" of their journey up through the North. The weather was beautiful for this last day and as no collections were being made, it meant that the riders got as much support as possible. On we went through Enniskillen to Derry,, where we were delayed due to a bomb scare on the bridge. Contact was made with the hotel in Buncrana to say that our arrival would be later than expected. All of the cyclists having endured a tough 3½ mile ascent to Malin village, met in a local watering hole which they had the cold comfort of no draught beer and where you made your own tea if you required it. At this stage the group were joined by Joe and Rose Freeley who came up specially for the occasion - as of yet there was no sign of Mary Rose, but I'm sure her presence was felt throughout the entire journey. And so finally it was on to Malin Head itself, accompanied by a whole convoy of cars and supporters. There was great rejoicing, mixed with relief, when the end of the journey was finally reached and the cyclists, who could go no further, were either too elated or too sore to notice the bitter cold of the night. Some photographs were taken and then it was straight back to the hotel for a meal and a well deserved celebration. Afterwards, we were treated to Joe Grogan doing his impressions of well known local personalities and fleeing in terror when Rory O'Donnell started to sing. Everyone got to bed pretty late.



Proceeds of Mizen to Malin Cycle Marathon being handed over to Ethiopian Famine Appeal

Sunday, 7th July - Sunday was a day of rest and a well deserved one at that. The person who suggested that the group should cycle back should possibly have been left behind but eventually the journey home got underway, with a stopover in "Donegal's" local on the way down to show them he was still alive if not quite kicking. There was a final get together that night in the hotel, one last chance to savour the atmosphere and camaraderie of a worthwhile undertaking and to hear the news that approximately £9,500 had been collected during the course of the

exercise. Not only had it been a personally satisfying experience for the cyclists but it had turned out to be a major financial success for Concern. At the end of a long 5 days, John Cleary posed the rhetorical question "Is there life after Malin?" Paraphrasing that I should ask is there life DUE to Malin and other promotions like it and knowing the answer is YES, I think the town should be justifiably proud of its chosen sons and daughters and their efforts.

Shea O'Callaghan



Collectors for Mizen to Malin Cycle

Putting up the Shuts



VOCATIONAL SCHOOL 1950

Back Row (l to r): P. Cunnane, M. Tuohy, T. Lavin, M. Hopkins, S. Finn, M. Lee, N. Murphy, V. Salmon, N. Griffin, J. Shields.

Middle Row (l to r): A. Fitzmaurice, S. Frain, S. Doyle, K. Prendergast, M. Moran, T. Healy, G. Waldron, F. Healy, L. Casserly, I. Phillips.

Front Row: A. Grogan, M. Egan, M. Fanning, N. Brett, M. Kelly, M. Kelly, B. Grogan, R. O'Malley.

Photograph courtesy of Joe Greene

Perhaps it would be of interest especially to the older generation to turn the clock back a "few" years and take a look at the simple "Invention" described below, which in its own day, so successfully served its purpose.

"Shuts" or to give them their correct name, Shutters, were in general use in Ballyhaunis at the time I made my initial entry into the world of commerce more than half a century ago.

They have long since gone out of fashion, but were in use in isolated cases up to quite recently. Indeed it could be said with some justification that the "Shuts" were the forerunner to the Roller Blind, the Venetian Blind, and the steel shutter which are in general use at the present time.

Their primary function was the overnight protection of the shop windows from accidental damage or vandalism, although quite recently I heard one local wit describe them as "Wooden Blinds".

It was the duty of a member of the staff to put them up (fit them over the windows) each night and take them down again in the morning.

The "Shuts" were made from heavy timber, and there were three separate sections to each set, a set covered one window, the centre section was the last to be fitted and acted somewhat like the key stone in an arch, in so far as it kept the other two sections firmly in position.

I said earlier that the shuts were normally put up

each night and taken down in the morning, but of course there were some exceptions to that rule, for example, at the first sign of any trouble or disorder in the street outside, the "shuts" were put up immediately, the theory being that "prevention is better than cure".

Another event which necessitated immediate precautionary measures was the political meeting, especially if it was held on a fair day or during a General Election Campaign. Very often the proceedings at some of those meetings were not confined just to verbal exchanges.

Politics was a serious matter in the early thirties as many of the older generation will remember.

When the first speaker began to address the "Party Faithful" the (Shop) emergency plans were put into operation and needless to say part of the plan included putting up the "Shuts". To the casual observer, putting up the "Shuts" would appear to be a simple matter, but for the inexperienced it could be a hazardous operation.

I have to admit that my first introduction to this part of my basic training had a disastrous ending when one of the shuts fell through the window.

Although a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since, I have a vivid recollection of that incident mainly because it almost brought to an end my career as an apprentice to the Bar, Grocery, Provision and light hardware business.

I must go now, it's near closing time again.

Oh, I almost forgot, I must "Put up the Shuts".

Johnny Lyons

Fr. James Cribbin, Lecarrow, Ballyaunis



Fr. James Cribbin gives his first blessing to his parents Joe and Nelly Cribbin.

Sunday, 21st April 1985 was an ordinary day in the lives of many people, but to the people of Lecarrow village it was a day in the lifetime - a day never to be forgotten. It was the day that Fr. James Cribbin was ordained to the Priesthood. It was a special day for his parents and relatives and also to the writer, as we grew up together and worked together for a few years at the Smithwicks Dept.

Having made enquiries I have found that Fr. James and the late Fr. Michael Cribbin were the only priests that were born in the village.

James began work in Durkan's Bottling Depot driving a forklift for a few years. In 1974-'75 he began to work with us in Abbeyquarter. He was a great reader and was as familiar with Ho-Chi Ming and Chairman Maos Tse Tung as he was with the lads at work. James became Shop Steward for the yard and was a capable negotiator with management where he showed dogged determination for the rights of the workers.

It came as a great surprise to us all when he told Tom Freely that he was giving a week's notice and that he could become a priest.

Nine hard years study followed at various locations. He was an excellent student as the Bishop from San Diego verified at his ordination.

Last March I received a phone call from the U.S.A. to say that James was to be ordained in All Hallows on April 21st.

It was a wonderful experience to join with his family and friends at his Ordination in All Hallows. Ordination ceremonies can be a tiring and harrowing experience but James came through with flying colours. It was a moving experience to see Fr. James give his First Blessing to his parents.

Murt Hunt

On Sunday night we organised a reception for Fr. James in his own village. Bonfires blazed and a cavalcade of cars met him at Ballinlough. Joe Hosty went ahead and announced to all the time of his arrival. On arrival, the Community School Band conducted by Mrs. Siobhan Devine, met the cavalcade at Devlis and played some rousing tunes. They marched under the bunting and the banner which said "Welcome Home Fr. James". It was a great honour for me to welcome home Fr. James on behalf of the village.

Fr. James celebrated his First Mass in St. Patrick's Parish Church the next day. There was a huge crowd at it, so big in fact that Fr. Costello must have thought about appointing him C.C. as he had no curate in the parish at the time! All the friends and neighbours then headed for a reception at Churchfield House Hotel, Knock where we were welcomed by the genial owner Jim Duggan. A presentation of a Chalice and set of cruets was made to Fr. James by his well wishing neighbours.

Two weeks later at a reception in the Horse Shoe Inn, Marie Murphy presented Fr. James with the banner she made herself. A short time later Fr. James officiated at Marie's marriage to Michael Brennan in what was to be his first wedding. We were all there that day too so it was an exciting few weeks.

Sometime later, I was especially delighted when Fr. James said Mass at the Depot among his old workmates. There, he met his old boss Tom Freeley. I had the honour to make the presentation to him - the proceeds of a Card Drive, a Social and voluntary donations.



Back Row (1 to r): Joe Coonerty, Mary Walsh, Mary Burke.

Front row: (1 to r): Michael O'Loughlin, Tom Freeley, Fr. James Cribbin.



Fr. James with some of his old workmates in the yard of Irish Ale Breweries, left to right: Gerry Maguire, Fr. James, Michael Hunt, Pat Doyle, Patrick Regan, Seamus Maguire, Tom Egan.

For the next few months Fr. James celebrated Mass in many of our homes and was to go to San Diego before the Mayo/Dublin replay. However, he must have got some divine intervention because he saw the match!

He is now working in San Diego. All I can do is recall the prayer that I recited at Mass in the depot "on behalf of the people of Lecarrow and all his former workmates at I.A.B. I wish Fr. James the best of luck in the future; we also remember Fr. Gerry Gormly his good friend."

Much thanks is due to everybody concerned in any way with the homecoming of Fr. James and the subsequent celebrations and receptions.

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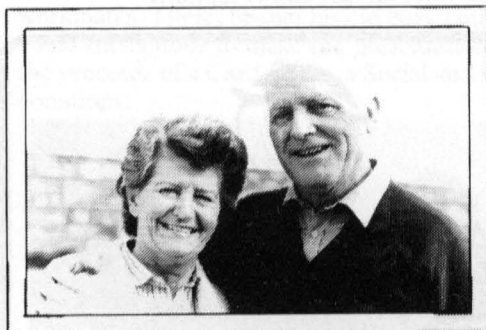
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A GAME OF TWENTY FIVE

Tony Boyle

It is believed that the pack of playing cards was introduced as far back as the twelfth century, and no doubt whoever was responsible for the invention has provided a great source of entertainment (and modest gambling for the most part) over the past hundred of years. In the cities and towns we have the Bridge Clubs, the poker-schools and the solo games, but in rural Ireland the most popular game is "Twenty-Five" (which in some areas is extended to "Forty-Five").

The Idle Times

I can never remember when I learned how to play "twenty-five" - it would appear that it was part of growing up in the country long ago; the time when there were ghosts and banshees, and we had the open turf fire and the double-wick lamp. There was that period of the year when we had the long nights between the digging of the potatoes in October and the start of the ploughing in early February, a period that was known as the "idle times".

That was the time of my life also when a newspaper only came into the village once or twice a week, and country lads rarely went to town on week-nights. So the game of twenty-five was the main form of entertainment in those days, and a penny a game was the usual stake, and people rarely left their own townland or village for a game of cards.

The Stakes

Apart from money, there were other prizes to be won as well, at different times of the year. There was the playing for fowl, for instance - a turkey, a goose or a pair of drakes - and this would bring a serious note to the proceedings. Another was the playing for a pig's head, and when the pig was killed locally this was a very special occasion indeed; and in the course of preparing for the game and fixing the price, the identity of the butcher at the pig-killing was often the deciding factor in deciding whether or not it was worth the nine shillings collected before the game. This meant a shilling a man (very few women played cards in those days), and with partners of three threes we played for the first five games, with three games in the "cross-play" (or final).

Own Language

Then we had our own language for the game of

"twenty-five". The ace of hearts was known as the "bonham", and if the game did not "go-out" in one round, the question was asked "What's the comb?" and when it was being asked whose turn it was to deal the cards, the grammar may not have been perfect at times and one could hear "who dole?".

And woe and betide you, if you fell partner with a contrary player (indeed they still exist). You would get a telling-off if you didn't "go to your place", or let the game out for failing to do so. You would hear such a remark "why the blazes did you not go in with the queen - you knew his mate was robbin?" And there was "signing" amongst partners in some areas, and in other areas you would be disqualified for doing so. But the satisfaction was in playing well; the humiliation was in playing badly. To let somebody else win a game when you had cards in your hand that could stop him, that was a cardinal crime.

Long Memories

And fellows could recall games played years before, and if you had been involved in some of those games, you would know how right they were; if you were not involved, you had to pretend you understood the 'replay' of it.

But basically the game of "twenty-five" changed very little, and the twenty-five player is the same no matter where you meet him. Nowadays there is very little card-playing in country houses - it is practically all done in the pubs, the clubs and the community halls. And within the last decade it is all "progressive" twenty-five, played by six at a table with partners of three pairs.

Ballyhaunis

Ballyhaunis is to be congratulated in leading the field in this line by staging what they call the "All-Ireland 25 Drive". This has been an annual event over the past few years, and has attracted over six hundred players on every occasion. I had the interesting but successful experience of participating on at least two occasions in these competitions, so at least I can always tell my grandchildren that I played in an All-Ireland.

Yes indeed, there is nothing like the old game of "twenty-five".

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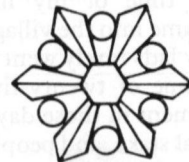
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Memories from the Floods of '85 to the War of '45

Jimmy Cribbin

We have not seen much of the blue sky in these parts lately, but we were continually reminded that it was there, especially during August when we had some very heavy rain. The daily average for August amounted to 36 tons per acre. Some farmers cursed the rain, others prayed for sunshine and the sensible ones made silage! None of them had to install expensive irrigation systems!

A few glorious June days heralded as we thought the coming of a great Summer. On one of those glorious days a hiker passed by the road. He stopped at a spot on the road where much of the countryside can be seen. He was looking into the distance for so long that my curiosity was aroused. When he left I went to look. At first glance there was nothing unusual. The steam was rising in a straight column from Halal factory indicating good weather. Also being indicated was a place where wise men from the East have brought gold to the area in the form of jobs, industrial development, new markets for agricultural produce, but unlike the Biblical wise men no frankincense or myrr. The hiker was probably looking at the spectacular display of white thorn in full bloom, orange blossom furze set in a background of forty shades of green which stretched into the distance with Croagh Patrick providing backgrounds. I feel that justice cannot be done to that scene with the pen, so I may ask Pat Kenny or Chris Pratt to put it on canvas next Spring.

The seasons had changed when Ken Wooton an English visitor on a fishing holiday decided to take a walk around the fields. It was during a downpour, and I told him that he was daft to go out in the rain. Its not often one gets a chance to tell a Professor of Physics at Cambridge University that he is daft. However, it was the waters and the wild that brought him here and he set off looking like "The Complete Angler". The sight of water-logged pastures and homesick barley bending over backwards to get back to roots presented a gloomy scene. There was however, a remote possibility that he would see "the one that got away" floating leisurely among the submerged cocks of hay. He was particularly impressed with the hawthorn in Kevin Eagney's fences for the shelter that they provided.

I read somewhere that a man tried to cross from England to France on a combine harvester! I did not believe that it could be done until I saw Jim Healey working in conditions this year for which the machine was not designed. As the huge machine started its maiden voyage around the field I recalled the "Titanic" and Jim had no lifejacket! Watching with me that day were visitors from Wales, Don and Mary Cook.

Whatever about silver or not so silver clouds it is nice to see the stars again these nights. In my youth I heard many great stories about strange happenings in the night from Derry Kelly and Mrs. Nell Loftus.

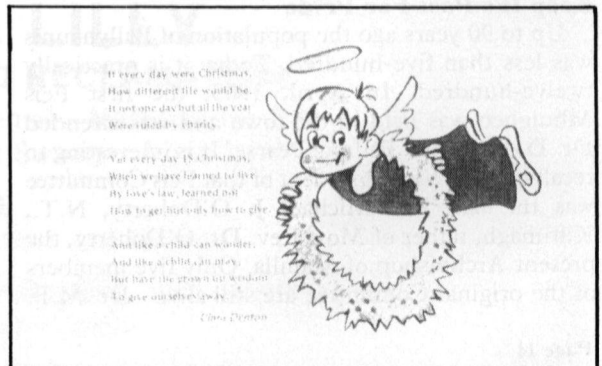
Nell Loftus told me a story which I found out later to be true. It concerned a night when a shower of red hot lumps of iron fell from the sky! She embellished her story with graphic details as why any seanachai could tell it. However, years later in the London Museum I discovered on a map the locations where meteors had fallen. There were several dots on that map south west of Ballyhaunis!

War Memories:-

It is forty years since the end of World War II. I met three people this year with three very different stories to tell. Mrs. Bridie Fitzmaurice a daughter of Nell Loftus also remembers objects falling from the sky. Working in a Munitions Factory in Coventry she saw the raids in the "Blitz". In fact in the living-room of the house where she lives with her daughter Mary and her son-in-law Seamus McGuire is a thermometer which hung in her place of work. Bridie remembers bringing home from England rationed tea in hats specially designed for the task during the war. From her descriptions wartime food can be summed up in one word "Yuck!" It consisted of bread and scrape (the marge was put on then scraped off!) It was the identification of the various meats in the pies that gave rise to the expression "that's cat!"

On Murphy's Micro Quiz recently, Mike asked about the Battle of El-Amain. I knew the answer. I got it from a man who was there. Jim McWalter was a crew member of the tanks as they rolled across the desert, his memories of the Mediterranean beaches are not of sea, sun and sand. He recalls photographs asking soldiers to "die" so that "casualties" could be photographed. He refused to be photographed except when he was standing straight. He was standing straight last year as well when he celebrated his Twenty Fifth Wedding Anniversary with his wife Josie. I remember him getting a great welcome home from my mother who was his sister. It was he second last step in a long journey from Egypt to Muigh near Cloonfad.

There were millions of people from scores of countries that started similar journeys but never made it home.



THIS TOWN IS JUST 600 YEARS OLD

*Excerpt from Irish Press,
dated Wednesday, 29th December 1948*

An American visitor passing through Ballyhaunis some years ago was heard to say of it "No, the town ain't asleep, 'tis just unconscious".....

That was about 1930, but in the span of 18 years that has since gone by, Ballyhaunis has revived from its lethargy, stretched forth its limbs, and has grown into a really healthy, progressive and active place.

Here is a town where history, ancient and modern, is blended into one of the many unique patterns that go to make Mayo's distinctive character....At least twelve authorities on place names, including the Gaelic scholar, Dr. D. Hyde, have attempted to give a satisfactory translation of Beál-atha-hAmhmais, but none of their efforts appear to have had general approval. It is the opinion of Dr. Michael F. Waldron, Ballyhaunis - one of Connaught's leading historians - that it means "The Mouth of the Fort of Slaughter".

The foundation of Ballyhaunis goes back to the fourteenth century. In December, 1348, the Abbey of St. Augustine was founded there by Chieftain Siurdán Dubh Mac Coisdabbha and last June the people with church dignitaries, including Most Rev. Dr. Hickey, O.S.A., Superior-General, Rome, attended the 6th century of the coming of the friars to the town. The Abbey's present Prior is a Dungarvan man, Rev. E. A. Mansfield who over a period of 18 years association with the town has been elected Prior for a fourth term of office. A striking example of architectural beauty is the splendid parish church, dedicated to St. Patrick in 1909 by the late Dr. Healy then Archbishop of Tuam.

In years gone by Ballyhaunis was an important distribution centre, and was noted as one of the most foremost market and fair towns in the West of Ireland. Here there flourished a boot and clog factory, while weaving and furniture industries also helped to give employment to a large section of the inhabitants.

Keep It's Past For Pride

Up to 90 years ago the population of Ballyhaunis was less than five-hundred. Today it is practically twelve-hundred. In April, 1903, the first Feis Mhuigheo was held in the town and was attended Dr. D. Hyde and Pádraig Pearse. It is interesting to recall that the Vice-President of that Feis Committee was the late Mr. Michael J. O'Doherty, N.T., Kiltimagh, father of Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty, the present Archbishop of Manila. Only five members of the original Committee are still alive - Dr. M.F.

Waldron, Phillip Waldron, J.T. Smyth, Michael Murphy and James McGing.

While Ballyhaunis can look with pride to its past it can also face the future with confidence. Primary and Secondary Schools are conducted by the Sisters of Mercy and eight years ago, through the efforts of Right Rev. Mgr. J.G. Chancellor Prendergast, P.P., Chairman of the County Committee, a splendid Vocational School was erected. As yet Ballyhaunis has no secondary school for boys. It is hoped that one will be built there shortly.

Bright Social Life

Amongst the town's proudest possessions is the fine Parochial Hall erected in 1940. Here the resident's gather in social recreation for plays, whist drives, billiards, dances and films. One of the biggest cinemas in the West of Ireland has been recently opened by Mr. P.J. McGarry.

Sixteen years ago the town's first water supply was officially opened. About five years ago a new sewerage scheme was laid down.

Housing is one of the greatest problems, but the position will be somewhat relieved by the erection of eighteen cottages on a site at Tooraree, already acquired by the Board of Health.

There is a boxing club under the chairmanship of Sergeant P. Nally, secretaryship of Larry Freeley, treasurership of Mr. Denis Sweeney, B.D.S., N.U.I.

Under Scoutmaster S. Durcan, the Fourth Mayo Troop, C.B.S., plays no little part in local affairs.

Under the supervision of Lieutenant T. Flatley, T.C.R.G., an active school of dancing exists in the town and many of its pupils have won prizes at National Feiseanna.

A local Archaeological Society has contributed many valuable and ancient 'finds' to the National Museum, Dublin.

Article by: John Anderson, IRISH PRESS)



With hours of hard work in meetings, speech-writing and contemplation, and despite many nerve-wrecking moments, Ballyhaunis Debating Teams have gradually acquired a debating technique, which one can almost feel would beat the best in these islands, provided the team commitment and determination is present. Despite the acquired techniques this present team had to put in the same hard slog, debating up and down the country in hotels, disco-halls, trade-union halls, to the bosom of the legal profession in Blackhall Place. In the first few outings Padraic Lee was third speaker, and on finding a scarcity of time he retired and Chris Pratt put himself at the disposal of the team by attending his first meeting at literally one hour's notice.

It could also be described as an eventful year in other ways - with too fast enthusiasm on the road to debates, and another delay at a crossroads near Tullamore, with a Dublin Team waiting for a semi-final encounter while a stubborn bus-engine refused to recognise the urgency of the occasion. I am sure

that this will not be the last All-Ireland success for Ballyhaunis Debating Teams, and before retirement I look forward to the International Tripartite Competition against Scottish Champions and the British J.C. Champions (representing England and Wales).

Any article on Ballyhaunis Debating would be incomplete without mention of John O'Mahony of Galway J.C. who was to fill the role of formidable opponent, competent adjudicator both at home and abroad (even though decisions were sometimes adverse from a Ballyhaunis viewpoint), and who was a great advisor and avid supporter when not filling the other roles. John invariably described Ballyhaunis as "the Cardiff Arms of Debating", a hard-earned title indeed! To Chapter President, Mary Freeley and to all the past-presidents of Ballyhaunis J.C. who have fostered the spirit of this great self-development organisation which Junior Chamber is, we as a community, and as a debating team, owe a deep debt of gratitude.

John Higgins



BALLYHAUNIS DEBATING TEAM 1985

Back Row (l to r): Jim London, Matt O'Dwyer, John Higgins (Capt.), Chris Pratt.
Front Row (l to r): Rita London, Geraldine O'Dwyer, Mary Higgins, Xanthe Pratt.

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ROLL IN ANOTHER BARREL

In his excellent book "Over The Bar" Brendan Ó hEithir relates many amusing and interesting tales of his association with the G.A.A. He relates one tale concerning a junior hurling match in which a defender took many illegal "pulls" both on and off the ball on his opposite number. At half time his fellow players told him to take it easy as the man he was marking was a priest. When the players lined up for the second half the defender said to the priest: "I'm terribly sorry, Father. I thought you were only a Christian Brother!"

Such amusing tales occur in games the length and breadth of Ireland every Sunday and have urged me to write on a few of my own experiences.

In 1975, Ballyhaunis played Belmullet in a replay of a Mayo Senior Football Championship match in Castlebar. Unfortunately things didn't go too well for us the second day and we were being well beaten when I was put on as a sub. A well known Ballyhaunis supporter - who didn't take too kindly to drinking men playing football - when he saw me coming on uttered aloud:- "Oh No! they're rolling in another barrel". Needless to say this barrel didn't alter the scoreline and we lost.

Many years ago while a student in St. Patrick's College I played in many of the school leagues organised by John Cleary and Jarlath Fahey. On one particular occasion the crossbar was broken and it caused extreme controversy. A diminutive forward playing against my team got the ball on the edge of the square and sent it between the posts. Arguments arose as to whether it was a goal or a point. Jarlath Fahey who was the referee gave a goal.

Some years later Jarlath and I were talking of the incident and he told me he gave a goal because he didn't think that "so and so would have the strength to kick the ball over the bar!"

A couple of years ago, Ballyhaunis played a league match in Carrowmore, Joe Webb was a Ballyhaunis selector at the time. Now Carrowmore play their games in a field owned by Malachy Forde. During the course of the game Joe got into an argument with the referee. The referee ordered Joe out of the field and refused to restart the game until he left. It was then Malachy Forde interjected and said, Malachy, Nobody will put a Ballyhaunis man out of my field, and so Joe saw the rest of the game!

Talking of referees reminds me of a game in which Tony Morley was penalised by the referee. Tony naturally pleaded his innocence to the ref., when the ref. quipped "Morley I knew you 20 years ago."

Tony still doesn't know what he meant by that statement.

The Over-30 Championship is usually played among amalgamated teams. Many of the players who play in it play no other football. Consequently if a team loses its first round match, a player may not get a competitive game of football for another year.

In 1982 Ballyhaunis decided to amalgamate with Ballaghaderreen. In the first round they met a Garrymore/Claremorris selection. During the game which they lost, Willie Cribben received his marching orders for a rather trivial foul by Over-30 standards.

After the game the conversation centred around the length of Willie's suspension. Opinion ranged from two weeks to two months. Christy McCann from Ballaghaderreen joked to Willie "You'll be lucky if you don't get two matches".

I can recall many other incidents such as the day Tom Curran landed an opponent into the drain in the old Town Park.

Or the day when we played in the Canon Henry Cup final & one of our players scored a goal which led to



BALLYHAUNIS TEAM 1973

Back Row (1 to r): Noel Mullarkey, Seamus Forde, Jimmy Egan, Columba Forde, Al Madden, Vinnie Healy, Patsy Jennings, Willie Coyne.

Front Row (1 to r): Tommy Lyons, Tom Cribbin, Frankie Dillon, Tom Fitzgerald, Fr. J.J. Cribbin, Mike Webb, Pat Curley.



BALLYHAUNIS 1967 TEAM

Back Row (1 to r): Fr. Peter Waldron, John Costello, Aiden Kelly, Noel Morley, Robert Kelly, Al Madden, Willie Cribbin.

Front Row (1 to r): John Cleary, Jim Higgins, Tom Cribbin, Tommy Lyons, Tom Fitzgerald, Johnny Biesty, Pat Curley.

Photo courtesy of Eamonn Murren

his pretty wife dancing and shouting on the sideline in a clear American accent "That's my man, that's my man!"

Or the day the late Brod Moran parked his bus outside the house of a fervent Galway supporter and we all sang "The Boys from the County Mayo" after

Mayo had beaten Galway.

I'm sure many people have their own incidents they can recall and which brings a laugh now and again. I'm sure in years to come we will have many more.

Eamonn Murren



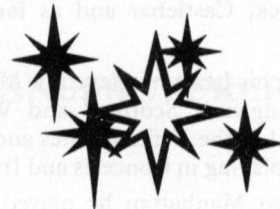
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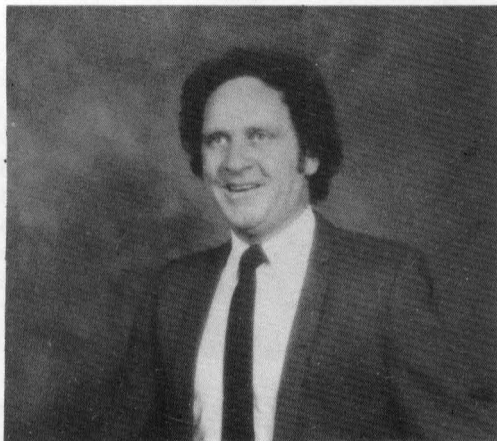
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The Boys from the Co. Mayo



Kevin Prendergast

was a picture of a young man, Jimmy found himself looking at a resplendent Kevin Prendergast! "Of course I know him" said Jimmy "Isn't he neighbour of my own give or take a few miles" was his reply to the nun's question.

To get back from Jimmy's odyssey down under, Kevin Prendergast then made his first L.P. and tape in 1983 for which he received a Silver Disc. He has just finished a new L.P. and hopes to release a single from it for Christmas.

Kevin is especially grateful to Pascal Mooney the R.T.E. disc jockey for his support during his career. Its nice to see this talented and popular Ballyhaunis ballad singer going from success to success.

Joe Greene

The entertainment business for all its glitter and superficial charm, can be a cut throat and competitive one to survive in. Not to mind to succeed in.

So, it is with pleasure and no small measure of pride that we congratulate Kevin Prendergast from Ballyhaunis who has made it to the very top in that very demanding world as one of Ireland's leading Ballad singers.

Kevin from Logboy, near Ballyhaunis began his career as a barman working in Ballyhaunis. He later worked in Knock, Castlebar and as far away as Killarney.

With music in his heart he played in Manchester then all over England, Scotland and Wales. He eventually played in the United States and has been there four times playing in Concerts and Irish Clubs.

On one visit to Manhattan he played in Rosie O'Grady's which is owned by fellow Mayo man Austin Delaney, Kilnock Brickens, a leading Mayo personality in New York's entertainment world.

Kevin recalls that the break which put him on the right track was when he met Bridie Gallagher in the Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis in 1981. Bridie brought one of his tapes to her recording studio in Belfast. As a result his own composition "Lets go back to Mayo" was recorded which was a hit in this country, in Britain and the U.S.A.

This record brings to mind to me a story that Jimmy Cribbin, Grallagh told me. It happened that Jimmy being in Australia decided to "hop over" and visit his aunt, Sister Mary Columbanus at Dunedin Dominican Convent in New Zealand - just like that! Needless to say Jimmy got the full treatment from the community. During the meal one of the sisters approached him with a record sleeve on which there

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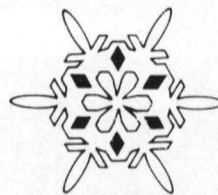
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Memories of a Debating Hat-Trick



Ballyhaunis Debaters and Supporters

On Sunday, 29th September 1985, the Debating Team representing Junior Chamber Ballyhaunis returned home to a heart-warming welcome in the Central Hotel, bearing the Trevor Morrow Debating Trophy to Ballyhaunis for the third time.

It is an understatement to say that one's heart fills with pride at such times, but one certainly could not feel but honoured at having had the honour of being captain of any team with such dedication, commitment and with more than a little debating technique. With fellow-members such as Matt O'Dwyer, Jim Lundon and Chris Pratt one recognised the potential for All-Ireland honours. The joke at the beginning of the year to have the team in dickie-bows, belied the real and actual determination to win.

On arrival in Ballyhaunis I could not but recall with a certain nostalgia when the first All-Ireland victory was gained in the N.I.H.E. Building in Limerick against Drogheda J.C. and the determination that imbued that first team after the scent of near victory in the previous year in Trinity College Dublin against Tralee.

Two of that team - Chris Pratt and the writer - were members of that 1978 team and the 1980 All-Ireland team. Personell changes saw Jim Higgins (Capt.) and Donal Aherne, make way for John Dillon-Leetch and John Mooney who bowed out in favour of Jim Lundon and Matt O'Dwyer, both of whom had contributed in large measure as "back-room boys" for earlier victories. There was nostalgia

too with memories of a great weekend in Sheffield with Tony Flynn as competent organiser, and returning home with International Honours, and recollections of that home-coming, with the late Declan Shields as vivacious cheer-leader of a weary bunch of revellers who could undoubtedly be described as the greatest bunch of supporters that any team could muster.

Memories too of Glasgow in 1980 and the delighted whoops of the home-crowd in the Community School, Ballyhaunis and further international honours against Caulderdale, representing British J.C.

Supporters are undoubtedly the making of a team and I can still visualise the ecstatic faces when victories were announced, best symbolised by Joe Greene's crutch being tossed skyward, when victory in the first All Ireland Final was announced.

Memories too of the practice run for that first All-Ireland in the Parochial Hall, The Neale with Rev. P.V. O'Brien as a tough task-masker.

Memories of the fun at "Think-Tank" meetings, where more than motions were discussed, with in-depth analysis of topics, and the witty comments of such as John Mooney or Donal Aherne and the useful criticisms of Nell Rochford, who were the longest survivors of a long-list of advisors.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

See how many you can recognise in these photographs



Taken in April, 1965



Taken at the Show Dance in 1950

OLD BOYS SCHOOL COMES TUMBLING DOWN



From "The Western People" 1984 - The old school now gone

The old Boy's National School in Abbey-quarter, Ballyhaunis is no more. Last week, the old building, which served the educational needs of most of the boys in the Ballyhaunis parish since 1880, was demolished and as its walls came tumbling down one could not but reflect on the many, who, over the past hundred years, went out into the world with only the education acquired at the National school, because, with the exception of the very few, there were no prospects for second or third level learning up to recent times.

Indeed, one must pay tribute to the teachers at the Boy's National School over the years when one considers the countless numbers who made their way up the ladder of success with the education garnered at the local boy's school.

The condition of the school up to the 'thirties, when renovations were carried out, could only be described as primitive judging by today's standards. And how the teachers taught and the pupils learned in the conditions will always be considered extraordinary, but how the pupils managed to equip themselves with the learning and knowledge to enter the stress and strains of an impoverished economy and still make good, be it in Ireland or elsewhere, will always remain a source of amazement, satisfaction and pride.

A few facts about the origin of the school should not go amiss at this stage. The school was built from funds partly from the State and from local contributions and was opened on the 7th June, 1880. Rev. James Canon Waldron, P.P. was named as the Patron, and Charles Strickland, Loughglynn House, Castlerea, an agent of Lord Dillon, who is credited with the planning and lay-out Charlestown was named as correspondent.

It is interesting to note that in the year 1884 the salary of the principal teacher was £44 per annum paid in quarterly instalment of £11. The assistant teachers received £8-12-6d. per quarter while the monitors received £2 or £1-5-0d. a quarter depending on seniority.

The old school building was purchased some time ago by Patrick Kelly, Furniture Manufacturer, Drimbane, Ballyhaunis. It had been vandalised following the opening of the new modern St. Mary's School further up the road.

Recently the building was used in the AnCo Linc Scheme and was partially restored and renewed in the process.

The principal teachers at the school over the years were as far as can be ascertained: Mr. Martin Fahey, Mr. P.A. Waldron, the well-known poet and playwright, Mr. W.J. Mulligan, who is still hale and hearty; Mr. John Higgins, Mr. Brendan Forde and Mr. Jim Landon who is at present at the new St. Mary's School.

The old school was an all-male school and included infants in the early days. The number on the rolls in 1881 was 1,091 but the attendance was usually 500. Reams could be written about the old National School, the characters that emerged from it, the scheming or mitching that went on, the tricks played on teachers and the tall excuses put forward for not doing homework.

One can look back with nostalgia and a certain tinge of sadness in those days and express the hope that with all the facilities available today the pupils will make equivalent progress and headway into this technological, computerised and dangerous world with its ever-increasing pitfalls which were non-existent in the past.

Mick O'Connell

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PISHOGS

Rev. Austin J. Cribbin

The old people of Ireland were renowned for their faith in God. Their faith in God grew into a fear of God and, in turn, led them to a belief in superstitions or, as they were called, PISHOGS. The fairies, the pookys and the banshees played a large part in the lives of the more superstitious of the "old folks". Who can forget the threat of seven years of bad luck for breaking a mirror or the bad fortune brought on by spilling salt? Some superstitions were native to particular areas. In Kerry, for example, if one farmer had a grudge against another he would put a rotten egg, a "glugger", into his cock of hay. This, he was sure, would cause bad luck in that it would cause his cow to sling her calf. Perhaps this was a way of venting anger without doing any real harm.

It was always considered bad luck to open an umbrella inside the house. If you entered a home while they were churning it was considered bad luck on the house if you didn't take a turn at the churn. This brought good luck to the woman of the house in that you gave her a rest. A superstitious man would never start any project except on Friday. The start had to be on Friday whether it was cutting turf or hay, or moving into a new house etc. How often have you seen a superstitious man get his scythe (the old tysack) and "open the corners" of his meadows on a Friday. In this way he had started the job on a Friday and everything had to be right with the world but no one knew why it was considered lucky to start on Friday.

When I was a lad I caught a hare in a snare. As I proudly headed for home with my trophy I met a neighbour who betrayed me for not removing the tail or 'scut'. On enquiring about the significance of the 'scut' I was informed that I was one lucky lad that I had not met a pregnant woman that day. If I had met a pregnant woman, I was told, while carrying that hare with his tail intact, the child would have been born with a hare lip. I can still remember how ridiculous it sounded to me even at that early age.

My first encounter with PISHOGS was brought back to me recently as I visited my family in the parish. Some of the children were suffering from the whooping cough better known to us as the CHIN COUGH. Various medications were being administered but the disease had to run its course. As I returned home from this house I remembered the time I got the whooping cough. Like Confirmation it imprinted an indelible mark!

By way of preface to this story there are two things that should be known. First of all, neither my father or mother, God rest them both, could be considered a superstitious person. Secondly, as a child I could be considered normal ... as close to normal as any child of my time could be expected to be. I had the usual likes and dislikes. If it was sweet I liked it.

There were two things that I hated with a passion caraways and "stirabout". My hatred for caraways still persists but I have grown to like "stirabout".

At the age of nine or ten I got the whooping cough. Normally, nature takes its course with this childhood disease and not much can be done to hurry mother nature. Many different remedies were tried but mother nature refused to hurry. In the throes of my agony my father was reminded that, according to superstition, a man with a white horse always had the cure for the whooping cough. I thought to myself ... "surely he doesn't believe that. What's the difference between a white horse and a black horse?" Next day my father arrived home with the cure. He had met a man with a white horse who had prescribed the sure-fire cure ... BUTTERMILK GRUEL ... (Oh boy!!) This was to be administered four times a day for a whole week. The cure was worse than the disease. I have never feared Purgatory since then ... it just can't be as bad as that full week of buttermilk gruel. The illness was gone but the course of "medication" had to continue lest some dire consequences should befall the Cribbin household.

I could not help thinking what an evil and sadistic individual this man must have been to prescribe such a vile concoction. Evidently, the power he possessed because he owned a white horse had gone to his head and the whole world would have to sit up and take notice. I cannot forget that four times a day for a whole week I wished that man and his white horse into the hottest corner of the nether regions. I resolved then and there that if I ever owned a white horse and were approached for a cure for the whooping cough I would prescribe ... lashin's of sweet cake with jelly and custard four times a day for a month ... and the heck with the whooping cough. In that way I would make a child happy and perhaps make a friend for life.

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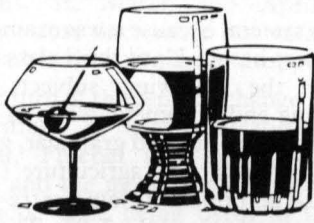
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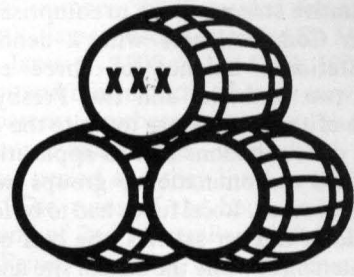
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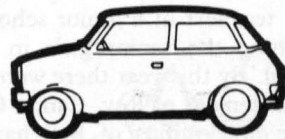
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Schools in the Area (1831-1900)

Pauline Morley

In 1831 a system of National Education was introduced into Ireland by Lord Stanley. Its administrative structure was to comprise of a Board of Seven Commissioners with a denominational representational balance of three established Church, two Catholics and two Presbyterians. A main aim of the system was to unite the children of different denominations and so applications for aid from mixed denominational groups were to be especially favoured. Local funds had to be forthcoming for the aid of teacher salaries, the cost of furniture and maintenance, while the school site and one third of the building costs should also be provided by local sources. Schools were to be open for four or five days each week for literary instruction while separate religious instruction could take place on the remaining one or two days. The Board had complete control over textbooks used and by means of inspection ensured that regulations were enforced.

The first school to apply in the Ballyhaunis area was Brackloon National School, situated about three miles from the town in the parish of Began. Its initial application was in 1832. Between this year and 1869 many new schools mushroomed up in the Ballyhaunis area, but because of not fulfilling their commitments many were struck off the Board's list. Other schools lost pupils to some of the newer schools that were being recognised by the Board in the area and subsequently were closed because of their low numbers.

In 1898 the Sisters of Mercy were granted recognition as teachers of a junior school and they were also teaching the senior girls in St. Mary's National School. By this year there were six schools under the management of Rev. Canon Canning, all within a three mile radius of Ballyhaunis. These schools were:-

1. Coolnafarna (Male and Female).
2. St. Joseph's, Derrylea (Male and Female).
3. Brackloon (Male and Female).
4. St. Mary's National School (Male).
5. Convent Junior School.
6. Senior Girls School.

These schools were being run by the Board of Commissioners under their then current system - payment by results. This scheme had been implemented on a countrywide basis in 1872 and was to remain in usage until 1899. This was a narrow exam based system, concentrating on didactic learning and making maximum use of time and space. It operated under a monitorial system which entailed the monitors teaching the children in the "drafts" i.e. semi-circles which were marked out on the floor. The master meanwhile, taught the other children.

This system was aimed at teaching the maximum number of pupils with the minimum of personnel.

The results system, because it was exam based was also core subject based. Until third class the pupils studied only the following subjects, reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic while in the senior grades the pupils also studied grammar, geography, needlework (for girls) and agriculture (for boys). There was also an option of doing extra-curricular subjects if the pupil passed the 3-R's. The inspector examined the children in all subjects on his annual examination day in that school.

In order to qualify to sit for the exam the pupils had to have a minimum of one hundred days attendance. In Brackloon National School in 1869 the average attendance was 21.5/10.9, during the same period it was 38/25 in Coolnafarna National School. The new attendance law changed the average attendance levels and by the turn of the century attendance was 50% - 70% in all schools.

The number of days that the child attended school declined as he progressed through the system, dropping from one hundred and twelve days in the first year to thirty six days in the final year. Other examples are one hundred and seventy six days to nineteen days, one hundred and thirty five days to thirty one days. These figures encompass the years 1898 to 1910, and consistently the number of attendances fall as the child progresses through the school.

Some pupils did not attend for the minimum amount of days and so were ineligible for the exam. The majority of these children had been "struck off" the roll at some point during the year. This was a common occurrence, with the majority of children being "struck off" at least twice during their term at school. Most were struck off during the month of July, after thirteen weeks of absence. When the child next returned to the school he was readmitted and maintained his old school number on the register.

Many of the children, when struck off never returned to school. Often these children were only half-way through their second class course. In July, 1899, for example, three members of the second class were struck off, one member of the third, two members of the fourth, one of the fifth one, one of fifth two and two members of sixth class. Therefore in one month alone ten members of a local school opted out of the system. In the following month eight more were struck off and in July 1900, nineteen pupils were struck off, four of them being in the infant class.

Attendance was periodically low from April to

July, with an increase in the months of September and October. The trend was for attendances to fall during the Winter months because of bad weather conditions. In March and April the average attendance rose once more but with the arrival of good weather the attendance dropped again.

By the turn of the century change was on the way. The writings of such educational theorists as Rousseau, Froebal and Pestalozzi had reached England and the mood was for a swing away from the didactic style being used, to the more child centred approach being advocated by these educational philosophers. The year 1900 saw the introduction of a new system of education which was completely child centered and thus opened a new chapter in educational history.

Ballyhaunis Winner at the European Special Olympics

Michael Brennan, Lisbane, Ballyhaunis representing the Mayo/Leitrim/Roscommon Spina Bifida Association was second in the Wheelchair Racing at the European Special Olympics held in Dublin on July 5th, 1985. Michael also was 7th in the Softball Throwing Competition. At a Civic Reception held in Castlebar hosted by Mayo Co. Council on November 15th, Michael was presented with a Special Certificate of Merit. Michael replied following the presentation on behalf of the athletes. There then followed a calvacade through the town. We salute this young Ballyhaunis man for his fine achievement!



EDDIE BIESTY REMEMBERS...

It is interesting to note that Private James Joseph Daly of the 1st Battalion, The Connaught Rangers, regimental number 35025 resided for a period in Ballyhaunis. James Joseph attended St. Mary's N.S. from 5th January, 1908 to 1st April, 1909. He was eight years and nine months when he arrived in town with his parents, brothers and sisters. His father who was a journeyman baker worked in Waldron's during this period and they lived in a house in the Lochán. (The ruins of the house still stand). On the morning of 2nd November 1920, in the yard of Dagshai Prison in India, Private James Daly was executed for his part in the mutiny at Solan.



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Ballyhaunis, My Own Place?

I visit Ballyhaunis regularly around the start of each year. 1985 was no exception. Shortly after arriving at my brother's house in Knox Street, I was told that the Parish annual "Annagh" was out and that it contained a large supplement on the G.A.A. 1984 had seen the celebration of the Centenary Year of the G.A.A.

Within a day or so I sat down to have a good read of "Annagh". It was an excellently produced magazine giving wide coverage to the parish, both current and historical. The section on the G.A.A. was large and very comprehensive. One of the items listed was a namelist of Ballyhaunis people who had won All-Ireland G.A.A. medals at all grades. The list was not long, about twelve or thirteen. My name was not included. I had been the only Ballyhaunis person to have won an All Ireland Colleges Hogan Cup medal. I was perturbed by the omission. I said "what matter, probably a mistake; no one will notice; what difference does it make, a parochial magazine. But upset I was. It hurt, because it seemed a denial of my belonging. I knew that no one had set out to omit my name. I knew it, was a genuine mistake. But because I wanted to belong, and had taken some steps over the years to effect that, it seemed almost a betrayal. I had played football for Ballyhaunis at all grades. Though I had not lived in Ballyhaunis for over twenty five years, I visited regularly. I had marched with the club to the Parish Church on the opening day of Centenary Year and participated in the social that night. I had been present in the new park for the celebration of Club Day during the Summer of 1984.

But then it struck me that may be, I was wrong all the time. I did not belong and had not done so for years. Had I been fooling myself? After all, I had the opportunity to return and live and work in Ballyhaunis just a few years previously and had turned it down. I was out of Ballyhaunis effectively since 1955 when I went to St. Jarlath's College as a boarder. Most of my subsequent Summer holidays from Tuam and afterwards St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, were spent working in England. But I still felt I was from Ballyhaunis, that it was my home. Though I had lived in Dublin for nearly twenty years, Ballyhaunis was my place, or so I thought. Was this a moment of truth for me, an opportunity to grow up, to mature, to face facts? Was the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club doing me a service?

A few evenings later I was drinking with some members of my family, when I spotted two stalwarts of the G.A.A. club. I approached them and broached my omission from their list. They were both very apologetic and embarrassed. One of them

even admitted that he was the author of the list. He couldn't understand how nobody had noticed the omission before publication. They had tried to be very careful. One offered to put in a correction in the 1985 annual. I said not to bother, "I will ask myself what does Ballyhaunis mean to me. If I get an answer, I will submit it to the magazine myself".

When eventually I sat down to think about Ballyhaunis, I thought first of all about the places I had known growing up. The Boy's School with its three classrooms and outside dry toilets. I remembered how we used to watch hopefully for the absence of Bill Mulligan's car passing through Devlis. I recalled the gentle femininity of Mrs. Fahey and the whistling of another teacher.

The Scout's Den was a mecca of excitement and activity as, Paddy Forrie, Seamus Durcan and John Morley organised us to visit far away places like Cong, Pontoon, Adare, Killarney, Larch Hill and Muckmore in Kent.

The "Lochán" was our playground, though one always had to be prepared for attack from the high ground of the Fair Green. Annagh Lake was shallow and sandy, a perfect place for a non-swimmer like me during those long hot Summer holidays. The nearby Giant's Hollow was a place of mystery and magic though of practical value too for rolling down sideways. The Woods beside it filled our Autumn needs with blackberries and hazelnuts. Webb's Shed was a target for practising our stone-throwing expertise upon. The adjacent New Road led to Philip Morley's sandpit and river. There among the rabbit warrens and hillocks many games were played. After the October Devotions an amusing diversion was to call to Mike McGreal's shop to admire his expertise in cutting fine ice creams.

Prenty's Field was a harsh training ground. One half was stony, the other marshy. There, we clashed with people from Aughamore, Kiltimagh, Charlestown and even West Mayo. We were never brilliant, but always went down fighting.

I gradually realised that in 1985 many of these places were no more or had changed drastically. If this was what Ballyhaunis meant for me, then it was just a memory and I could not really belong today.

But already among the places, names of people cropped up automatically. Maybe, there was where I should look. Who is Ballyhaunis to me might be a more appropriate question?

The People

It is Archdeacon Prendergast for his magisterial dignity and Fr. Rushe for his vigorous intonation of plain chant at High Masses. It is Tom Leetch who as

Head Server put us through our paces as altar boys. It is Seamus Durcan, the incomparable, who always seemed to be there campaigning away on one issue or the other. It is Tony Greene as we used to play hurling and football on the roadyway between the E.S.B. poles outside our houses on Knox Street. It is Eamon O'Toole who used to holiday from Salthill in Jimmy Byrne's house. It is Eamon's first cousin Teresa Moran, Fiona Baker, Bernadette Concannon and Ann Byrne, on whom I had boyhood crushes. It is Jack Dillon's wife, a gentle and sensitive person. It is going to my Aunt Mary's in Erriff on holidays. It is the Holmes family with whom I shared so much. It is the Golf Links and Kathleen Cassidy, Mrs. Hoare and May Moyles. It is the boys in my class year, Ted and Tommy Moran, Christy Greene, Bertie Dillon, Sean Mulhern and Gerry Culliney.

I stopped the listing, recognising quite clearly that my Ballyhaunis of places and people was alive mostly in my memory. A new place, a new generation, new people had arrived. Part of me had already seen this and acted upon it. I had decided to remain an outsider in the metropolis rather than hold a position in Ballyhaunis. I could not have it both ways.

Yet what I had and have from Ballyhaunis is real. It did exist in time and space. It helped to form me. When I return "home" now, I realise it is not home. But it is a source, it is an authenticity of it's very own. Being close to that on occasion, even from my new stance, is a privilege I intend to hold on to.

Anthony Jordan



John O'Brien

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BALLYHAUNIS Twins With GUILERS



The Official Twinning Ceremony in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis on Easter Monday, 1985

Easter Week of 1985 was a very important week for us all. It was of course the Official Twinning of our town with Guiliers, our Celtic bretheren in Brittany, France.

Many months of work and preparation was done for the week. However, due to adverse weather conditions our visitors were delayed by over 12 hours. Their planned arrival at 7.00 p.m. was delayed until between 5.00 and 7.00 a.m. that eighty very tired Gulerians arrived in Ballyhaunis to be whisked away for a quick breakfast and rest.

Later that day Mr. Louis Ballard, Mayor of Guiliers threw in the ball to start an exhibition hurling game between Tooreen and Kinvara. Afterwards several impromptu sessions were held around the town.

There was a very large attendance on Easter Monday at 3.00 p.m. to witness the Official Twinning Ceremony. Representing Ballyhaunis were Senator Jim Higgins and Dr. Michael Brogan, President of the Twinning Committee. Representing Guiliers were Mr. Louis Ballard, Mayor and John Paul Guyomorch, President du la Comite de jumelage Guiliers. The interpreter was Mrs. Rene Burke while Mr. Kevin Flanagan was a splendid M.C. Gifts were then exchanged - a sun dial from Guilers and an icon from the Book of Kells from Ballyhaunis. There followed a beautiful recital from

Cantóiri Béal Áth hAmhnais.

A large parade through the town was then led by the Army Pipe Band to the opening of Pairc Guilers. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Louis Ballard, Mayor of Guilers and Mr. P.J. Morley T.D. Both Twinning Committees then took part in a tree planting ceremony. Later that night an Official Twinning Reception was held.

The rest of the week was taken up with various activities - fishing at Ballinlough; shooting at the Clay Pigeon Shoot at Cave; sports for the younger visitors at the Community School. Each night there was entertainment of some sort. On Thursday 11th the proposed tour of Connemara had to stop at Westport House due to the rain.

That night there was a Traditional Irish Farewell with a Ceilí Mór in the Scout Den. Departure was to be on Friday but Mr. Wind got up to his usual tricks and the boat was delayed. It was a case of "now we go, now we don't!" Eventually a very tired party of visitors reached Guilers!

I would like to thank on behalf of the Committee all the people of Ballyhaunis and district who welcomed and kept our visitors. It is hoped that the friendship that was born at Easter 1985 will continue to grow in the future.

Bernard Freyne

A Carrownedan Man Remembers...

On one of those drizzly dark October evenings Mike Griffin and Jim Landon visited eighty-seven year old Michael Killeen at Carrownedan, Ballyhaunis.

The timbers logs burned serenely in the fire as Michael began by remembering his schooldays. We were back in 1903 with him in Carrownedan School where there were 86 pupils. The pupils were all barefoot from May 1st to October 1st. When they came to school in the morning they began with Drill and they learned English.

Irish, History, Geography, Nature Study, Catechism and Bible History were also learned. Infants were at school until 3.00 p.m. and senior pupils until 4.00 p.m. The teachers in Michael's time at school were Mrs. Coyne, Lakehill, Knock and Mary Agnes Byrne, Aghamore. Then Michael produced a gem for us - one of his old schoolbooks called "Outlines in Geography for Junior Classes" published by O'Sullivan Bros., Abbey St., Dublin in 1908.

Out in the schoolyard football was played with balls of thread as was the intriguing game called "Spanning". Two boys got a button each. One rolled it so that it bounced off a wall. The other rolled his button. If the second boy's button landed within a hand span of the first button he won it, if it didn't he lost. Michael remembers many of the lads ripping buttons off their trousers to play. Another game they played was "dallóg" or blind man's buff.

Once June came all the stronger children would be kept at home to help with saving the turf and hay.

Many of Michael's classmates emigrated after leaving school mainly to do farmwork in England. Teenagers that remained at home spent Winter evenings at dances in houses in Largan, Annagh, Cave, Forthill etc. They started shortly after dark with music being produced by an accordion or fiddle or both. The dance ended at ten o'clock and was often followed by the family Rosary when people were gone home. Boyfriends and girlfriends sat beside each other at the dances. After the dances were over the girls were escorted home by their brothers!

So where were marriages made? Well according to Michael not in Heaven, but usually in a pub in Ballyhaunis. He remembers the big fairs, the streets thronged, carts in the Ball Alley where the Parochial Hall is now. When deals were done at the fair the women of the house would arrive in town to buy supplies. Later a meeting would take place between the young couple and both sets of parents.

The dowry would be agreed. Half the dowry would be paid on the day of the wedding, and the other half a year later.

On the Wedding Day itself the sidecar would leave the church after the ceremony and go in a roundabout way back to the house usually with a musician playing all the way - perhaps continued today by the honking of cars horns after a wedding?

In the house a few bottles of stout would be available at 6/9 for a barrel of nine gallons. Amazingly, there was no honeymoon and couples moved into the house where the groom lived, with one or both parents alive.

Married couples played cards and visited other houses as pastimes. Visits ended around ten o'clock as in the morning the men had to deal with tillage and pigs while the women had to tend to the hens. Michael remembers men using the flail - where two men would thresh a stack a day. Storytellers conjured up ghosts for all angles and held company enthralled many a night.

Life was crime-free virtually. Now and again a man was up for being drunk. Women were never in pubs - never! There were nine R.I.C. officers in Ballyhaunis who patrolled on bikes. He remembers one lady stuck an unlicensed dog up her shawl. When an R.I.C. officer saw the tail he remarked "Thats a fine baby you have there Mrs. and a fine tail he has too!"

Farming involved physical work with spades, shovels, ploughs, horses, making butter, feeding the pigs. Pigs were killed for Christmas in most homes put 3 weeks in salt, washed and hung over the open fire. Produce was bought to town to Clare Street where Mike Griffin's grandfather Michael Griffin had a weighbridge and scalebridge to weight oats, potatoes, hay and straw. The roads to town of course were all sand roads.

A long way from the computers, Concorde and videos of today. Michael gave us a pen picture of an era long gone which proved a joy to listen to and gave us an insight into part of what we are.

He is truly a remarkable man....

Jim Landon



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May 26th, 1985 in St. Patrick's Parish Church, Ballyhaunis

Front Row (1 to r): Stephen Biesty, Gerard O'Boyle, Vincent Biesty, Edward Webb, Michael McDonagh.
 Second Row (1 to r): Sean Fitzmaurice, Denise Byrne, Imelda Flynn, Tara Higgins, Regina Moran, Julia Cribben, Sinead Byrne, Alma Gallagher, Patrick Curley, Fergus McGuire.
 Third Row (1 to r): Brian Slevin, Shane Hanly, Paul Kelly, Hilary Mooney, Helen Maughan, Caroline McManamon, Barbara Plunkett, Evelyn Murphy, Una Butler, David Conlon, Darren Conlon, Michael Freeley, David Freyne, Brendan Waldron.
 Fourth Row (1 to r): Fr. Flynn, Mrs. B. Regan, Simon Webb, Steven Glynn, John P. Coen, Luke Tighe, Dennis Moroney, John Tighe, David Laffey, Timothy Rabbitt, Michael Coen, Peter Healy, Miss A. Toal, Patrick Maughan, Sr. Mary, Fr. Costelloe.
 Fifth Row (1 to r): John Burke, Sinead Byrne, Sorchá Hannon, Maria McGarry, Angela Flanagan, Sharon Murphy, Aine Fahy, Marie Healy.
 Sixth Row (1 to r): Tony Dockery, Tommy Curran, Brian Flanagan, Pierce Higgins, John Fitzmaurice, Patrick Keane, Bill Flynn, Billy Kedian, Paria Cleary, Kevin Cleary, Mark Patterson, Michael Curley.

Births.....



To Dr. Patrick and Moira Noone, Upper Main
a daughter, Caroline Sharlene

To Eugene and Alma Carney, Scrigg
a daughter, Liza Marie

To Flannan and Serena Moroney, Abbeyquarter
a daughter, Edel Michèle

To Liam and Eileen Gildea
a daughter, Samantha

To Thomas and Fiona Prenty
a son, Ian Michael

To Sean and Statia Ward
a son, Declan Michael Francis

To Martin and Catherine Freeman, Lecarrow
a son, Shane Martin

To Seamus and Mary McGuire, Johnstown
a daughter, Janette Patricia

To Bernard and Jean Gallagher, Knock Road
a daughter, Claire Elizabeth

To Peter and Kathleen Higgins, Ballinphuill
a son, Keith Thomas

To Thomas and Mary McDonagh, Tooraree
a daughter, Ann Geraldine

To Thomas and Mary Ward
a daughter, Geraldine Pauline

To Thomas and Mary McDonagh
a daughter, Ann Marie

To Patrick and Sally Higgins, Devlis
a son, Cian Peter

To Michael and Kathleen Walshe
a son, Fergal Patrick

To James and Bernadette Quinn, Classaroe
a daughter, Siobhán Brigid

To Martin and Winnie McDonagh
a daughter, Brigid Barbara

To John and Maureen Lilly, Johnstown
a daughter, Karen Frances

To Dermot and Maureen O'Sullivan, Station Rise
a son, Derry John

To Anthony and Christina Dockery
a son, James Patrick

To Jarlath and Patricia Heaney, Lecarrow
a son, Patrick Jarlath

To Deirdre and Robert McClancy, Bray
a son, Kevin Robert

To Rory and Margaret O'Connor, Doctor's Road
a daughter, Jane Marie

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

To Joseph and Teresa Grogan, Knockbrack
a daughter, Frances Ann

To Terence and Ellen Maughan, Cherryfield
a son, Peter Paul

To Michael and Rita Carrigan, Epping, Essex
a son, Joseph Andrew

To Thomas and Philomena Webb, Main Street
a son, Thomas James

To William and Justina Lyons, Upper Main St.
a son, Liam Patrick Francis

To Joseph and Rosemary Freeley, Hazelhill
a daughter, Mary

To Thomas and Rose Callaghan, Station Rise
a daughter, Niamh Fiona

To Martin and Martha Gallagher, Station Rise
a son, Colm Martin

To Martin and Mary Finan, Brackloon
a daughter, Aisling Mairéad

To Albert and Ann Madden, Station Rise
a son, Albert Joseph Patrick

To Thomas and Eileen Lynch, Holywell
a son, David Thomas

To Frederick and Siobhán Herr, Doctor's Road
a daughter, Emma Louise

To Pat and Patricia O'Connor, Hazelhill
a daughter, Sarah Anne

To Gabriel and Margaret Prendergast, Irishtown
a son, Patrick

To Dr. Patrick and Moira Noone, Upper Main St.
a daughter, Caroline Sharlene

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Marriages. . .

Marriages 1st November 1984 to 31st October, 1985

Martin O'Malley, Cloonfad
Ann Connell, Devlis

John F. Kelly, Lecarrow
Mary Cribbin, Lecarrow

Michael J. Brennan, Gurteen
Mary C. Murphy, Lecarrow

Luke G. Murray, Began
Celine Curran, Main Street

Seamus Dempsey, Balla
Margaret M. Lyons, Carrowkeel

Noel C. Sloyan, Brackloon
Catherine M. Plunkett

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

Michael W. Hall, Swords
Aine P. Morrissey, Devlis

Elsewhere:

John Walsh, Oughterard
Teresa Regan, Gurteenbeg

Patrick Keane, Knox Street
Edel Quinn-Kelly

Adrian Kennedy, Gort
Patricia Hopkins, Upper Main Street

Noel Folliard, Kiltaboe
Dympna Burke, Granlahan

Thomas G. Wagner, Chicago
Finola Moran, Devlis

Thomas G. Jordan, Knox Street
Josephine McWalter, Feamore

Patrick J. O'Brien, Knox Street
Monica M. Brien, London

Martin O'Brien, Tavanaghmore
Una Jordan, Ballygowan

Matthew O'Dwyer, Abbeyquarter
Geraldine Farrell, Ballymore

Michael J. Lyons, Spaddagh
Bridie White, Clonberne

Geraldine Finn, Bray
John Allen, Limerick

Mark Murphy, Coolnaha
Mrs. Amy White, Upper Main St.

Denis Marrinan, Ennistymon
Joseph Nolan, Milltown



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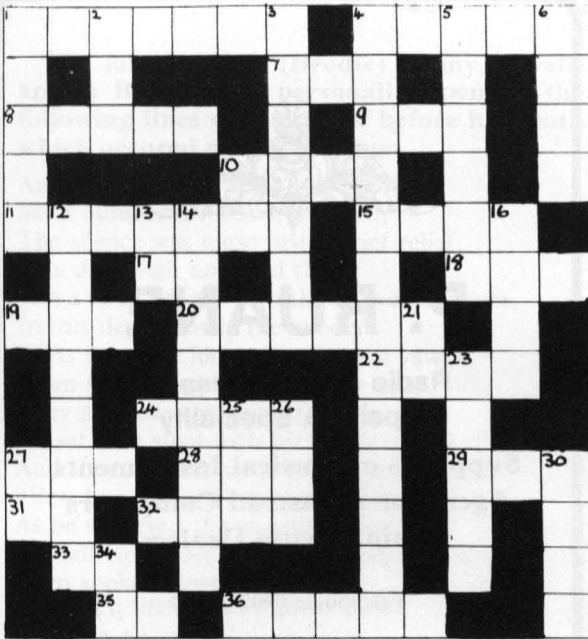
John Ruane, Lurgan
 Oliver Cunningham, Devlis
 Patrick Lyons, Brackloon
 Kathleen Flately, Devlis
 Monica Freeley, Gurteen
 Gerard Dillon, Abbeyquarter
 Michael Duffy, Annagh
 John Phillips, Main Street
 Mrs. Ellen Waldron, Knox Street
 Mrs. Maura O'Dwyer, Athlone
 Adam Pratt, Scrigg
 John Henry, Upper Main Street
 Mrs. Delia Ruane, Lurgan
 Nora Smyth, Brackloon South
 Mrs. Bridie O'Reilly, Woodpark
 Patricia Sheridan, Station House
 Mrs. Shelia Hoare, Upper Main Street
 Thomas Lyons, Classaroe
 Mrs. Nora Kelly, Leow
 Michael Winston, Devlis
 John Grogan, Holywell
 Brian Hunt, Derrynacong,
 Patrick Meath, Clare Street
 Patrick Caulfield, Drimbane
 Austin O'Boyle, Carrarea
 Mrs. Mary O'Malley, Upper Main Street
 Patrick Freeley, Main Street
 Madge Neary, The Square
 William Flately, Devlis
 Agnes Tarpey, Carrowkeel
 Mrs. Nora Hunt, Tullaghane
 John Barrett, Island
 Mrs. Mai Waldron, Abbey Street
 Michael Connolly, Derrynacong
 Mrs. Brigid Costello, Bohogue
 Mark Dillon-Leetch, Caher, Doctor's Road
 Cyril Coyne, Bridge Street
 Joseph Greally, Annagh
 Mrs. Nan Regan, Killinagher
 Francis Waldron, Knox Street
 John O'Connor, Doctor's Road
 William Lyons, Brackloon
 Mrs. Brigid Waldron, Upper Main Street
 Elizabeth Glynn, Tooraree
 John P. Ruane, Drimbane
 Edward Plunkett, Knockbrack
 Mrs. Nora O'Boyle, Carrarea
 Kathleen Grogan, Holywell

Elsewhere:

Tim Kearns, Dublin
 Edward McNulty, Gorthaganny
 Jim Finn, Cullintra
 Rose Murray, Brickens
 James Concannon, Brickens
 Brigid O'Toole, Taughteen
 Mrs. Mary France, Larganboy
 Michael Finn, Mountain

Edward Biesty, Bohogue
 Mrs. Brigid Brinkers, Knox Street
 Mrs. Carmel Mullen, Arva
 Bridie McGuire, St. Gerard's Cr.
 John Healy, Erritt
 Mrs. Jeanie Dwane, Limerick
 Patrick Hanley, Rockfield
 Mrs. Bridie Dolan, Knox Street
 George Maloney, Barrack Street
 Sister Jarlath Drudy, Cootehill
 Mrs. Ann Norbury, Tulrahan
 May Finnegan, Killinagher
 Timothy Murphy, Brackloon
 Canon Michael McEvelly, Kilmaine
 Mrs. Nora Giles, Galway
 John Mulrennan, Gurteen
 Mrs. Ita Mullen, Roscommon
 Mrs. Helen Griffin, Scrigg
 Mrs. Mary Zakewski, Holywell
 Michael Freeman, Knock
 Gerald Fitzmaurice, Togher
 Mrs. Joan Fetherstone, Killinagher
 Joseph Fitzgibbon, Thurles
 John Ruane, Derrintogher
 Mrs. Margaret Mullarkey, Abbeyquarter
 Philomena Hughes, Shrute
 Maeve Nestor, Brownesgrove
 Mrs. Nora Duggan, Skerries
 Michael Crowley, Main Street
 Mrs. Maureen Crinnigan, Tullaghane
 Peter O'Brien, Culleens, Sligo
 Michael Waldron, Derrylahan
 Patrick Flately, Carrowkeel
 Denis Marrinan, Ennistymon
 Joseph Nolan, Milltown
 Mrs. Nora Gavin, Hazelhill
 John Kelly, Derrynacong
 Edward Kenny, Abbeyquarter
 James Ruane, Cloonbrook
 John Vallely, Armagh
 Mrs. Delia Duffy, Tooreen
 Annie Kenny, Upper Main Street
 Robert Lilly, Tully
 Mrs. Annie McGee, Castlebar
 Sister Thomas Hurley, Glenamaddy
 Patrick Moloney, Bekan
 Mon. Hugh Curley, Claremorris
 Mrs. Margaret Morris, Derrylea
 Mrs. Rita Compton, Main Street
 Mrs. Vera Connolly, Williamstown
 Michael Kenny, Dunmore
 Joe Gallagher, Kiltimagh
 Peter Kelly, Ballinlough
 Kevin Moyles, Dunmore
 Tom Meehan, Tulrahan
 John Shaughnessy, Dunmore
 James Forde, Larganboy East
 Mrs. Mary McGovern, Holywell
 Denis Canning, Ballyvary

LOCAL CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD (DOWN):

1. Should it be in Ballyvaughan not Ballyhaunis (5)
2. Graphic Instrument
3. Oldest drinking establishment in town (3, 4)
4. What many kids formerly used to keep their feet dry (8, 5)
5. A dried up publication (6)
6. A magazine in Guillers (4)
10. The beginning of a dreaded organisation (2)
12. Is this the Baron's name (8)
13. Identify subconsciously (2)
14. Sounds like lions were the last to do this in Ballyhaunis (8)
16. Did much cleaning even in this far from the sea (4)
21. Sounds like a party requiring some action (2)
23. See 22 across
25. Alternatively most proximal bid (3)
26. Sounds like the owner of the hill was German (3)
27. They would not drive you to drink (2)
30. Is it the village where our ancestors lived (4)
34. The French note! (2)

ACROSS:-

1. Shades of grey on the hill (7)
2. 1 and 2 for all the action (5)
7. The kind of Summer we have not had (3)
8. It's dry, it's clean, all the telephone's work and so your prayers are heard (5)
9. Bird alone in Connemara (3)
10. In this shop they will take two u's for a h (4)
11. It put all the rest in the shade in the 60's (7)
15. Older readers enjoyed eating their limbs (4)
17. Alter the medicine man
18. We have many examples of this colour in town in

- all shapes and sizes (3)
19. Can you employ sue (3)
20. Does this village get cut off in a storm (6)
- 22 and 23 down. The car connects in the open air (4, 5)
24. How can you make a cat so small (4)
27. We send it all over the place (3)
28. Call in a burning situation, she might answer (3)
31. His hands saved many a day (2)
32. Dún an Óir in Ballyhaunis (4)
33. Song telling the monarch cole to drink
35. What Neil Diamond said he was (2)
36. Had he "been over" (5)



Cantóirí Béal Áth hAmhnais with Monsignor Horan at the Concert in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis in October 1985

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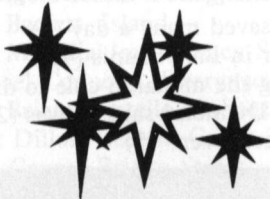


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Knight of the Road...

The late Mr. J.P. (Brodie) Kenny, a well-known Ballyhaunis personality, penned the following lines a short time before his death which occurred some years ago.

Around a fire in a spike one night,
Sat a number of time-worn men,
The silence was tense just a brief relief,
By a deep sigh now and then,
Just a twist of fate with the crowd as pawns,
In this den of lowly life abode.
Sighs from the lot and occasional yawns,
From some tired knights of the road.
They all looked younger than the rest:
He sat on a stool with his hands on his chin,
And they noticed his heaving chest.
"Yes, fate is cruel" the newcomer said,
As he surveyed the gloomy crowd,
He half closed his eyes as he shook his head,
Then spoke his words aloud.
"I started life in a dry goods store.
Like you all, quite full of hope:
But destiny placed a pub next door,
And they certainly gave me the dope.
Love came next with its winsome smile,
And everything looked serene:
But booze and powers that love knew not,
Made me a might have been.
I drank like a fish and she did her best,
To keep me from going wrong,
But my will was weak and I followed the rest,

After wine, women and song.
T'was all very well 'til the funds ran out,
With credit a thing of the past.
T'was then that I knew what a draper should do,
Like a cobbler stick to the last.
The racecourse came next with its gambling roughs,
Evil, sport and wine.
And I got mixed up with a gang of toughs,
Whose morals were equal to swine.
I then pitched the tale to the mug,
He looked such an innocent boy
It resulted in two years hard in the jug,
The equivalent slang for Mountjoy,
So that is the tale of an ill spent life,
Which somehow is nearing the end,
The booze and sport and ceaseless strife.
Hurried me round the bend,
But what does it matter the end is near,
And I go over the top,
I am one of the many like you pals here,
Whose journey through life went flop,
His face was pale and his heart beat fast,
As he gazed at the helpless crowd
T'was plain to see he was nearing the last,
As he sat with his head well bowed,
He died that day at the break of dawn,
And thus life eased its load,
No flowers, no tears, just another yawn,
From another Knight of the Road.

THE CHURCHES

ST. MARY'S AUGUSTINIAN ABBEY

Masses:

- a) Ordinary Weekdays: 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.
- b) First Fridays and Weekdays of Lent
9.00 a.m., 11.00 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.
- 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.
- b) 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.

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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.

Baptisms:

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Weekends in October and May 7.30 p.m.



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DOWN MEMORY LANE



Back Row (1 to r): Paddy Waldron (Abbey Street), John Plunkett (Cherryfield), Paddy Foudy (Clare Street), Joe Griffin (Clare Street), Robert Healy (National Bank).
Third Row (1 to r): Tim Regan (Barrack Street), Stephen Waldron (Knox Street), Mick Judge Micky Jordan (Annagh), Christy Caulfield (Carrowkeel), John Keane (Knox St.).
Second Row (1 to r): Tom O'Boyle (Ballinphuil), Pat Rattigan (Knox Street), James Gibbons (Main Street), Gerry Hyland (Ulster Bank), Brendan Byrne (Main Street).
Front Row (1 to r): (Fr.) Austin Cribbin (Churchpark), John Davitt (Bridge Street), Mick Hopkins (Churchpark), Bernard Forde (The Square), Bertie Curley (Clare Street).



Faces of 1959 - How many do you know?

HOW MANY CAN YOU NAME?



Taken in the 1950's after a Drill Display in Castlebar at which Ballyhaunis Junior and Senior teams won trophies, the Drill Instructress was Mrs. Pat Mahony. How many can you recognise?
Photo courtesy of Frances Caulfield (Westport)



A Choir, trained by Sr. Agnes R.I.P. singing at a Feis in the Convent Ground, conducted by Noreen Caulfield in 1944.
Courtesy of Kathleen Byrne



Back Row (1 to r): Michael Gilligan (who worked in Johnstons), Terence McHugh (Abbey St.), Joe Keane (Knox St.), Stephen Waldron (England).

Front Row (1 to r): Mr. Beatty (Worked in Johnstons), Seamus Waldron R.I.P., Tommy Forde (Galway), Leo Forkan R.I.P.

Taken outside Forkan's, Knox Street (Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. V. Waldron)



Photo courtesy of Jenny and Patsy Glynn



St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Leaving Cert. Class, 1955



St. Joseph's Secondary School, Ballyhaunis 1952
(Photo courtesy of I. O'Hanlon (Manchester))



Photo from the past....

Courtesy George Delaney



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A Song for David



David Fitzgerald with the All-Ireland Minor Trophy at the Square, Ballyhaunis

Into the Roll of Honour's now
Goes Dave Fitzgerald's name,
Who this year to Ballyhaunis
Brought back the cup of fame,
Who with other peerless stalwarts
Lit a new flame in the West
And gave a county cause to cheer
When they vanquished Ireland's best.

So, Dave, this town pays honour
To the sterling part you played
In Mayo's flawless progress
To the crest of this classic grade.

We saw your heart and mastery
Take your game in style along,
You did the name of Fitzgerald proud,
Dave, you gave us cause for song.

So we sing our song of praise to you,
And with you we laud the side
That gave eighty-five a memory
That will live and grow with pride,
While games are played with spirit
While young men like you arise,
To wear the county colours clean
And win glory in Mayo eyes. **John O'Connor O.S.A.**

Best Wishes to 'Annagh' Magazine from....

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POETRY CORNER...

A SONG FOR MICHEAL

Come all, good men and listen,
And, good ladies, lend an ear,
While we raise a song for Michael
For the west to hear.

So our toast is Micheal Finnegan,
Whose name will long go down
For setting Ballyhaunis blest
As Mayo's cleanest town.

For nineteen years has Micheal
Come from Tullaghaune,
Astir before the earliest birds,
Beating the stealthiest dawn.

And up and down the streets he goes
With barrow, broom and care,
Coaxing the town to self-respect
That's seldom found elsewhere.

They say he catches falling leaves,
That he wants no passing star
To spoil the standards of the town
With space-debris from afar.

With pride in work he moves about
Ever -ready with a smile
But as he listens to your talk
He's sweeping all the while.

There's not a scrap of paper, then,
Nor orange peel, nor tin,

But Micheal's barrow carts away-
Here no litter bug can win.

So here in song we say our praise
And we throw the gauntlet down,
And challenge all of Mayo fair
To show us a cleaner town!

So we make our toast to Micheal
And we trail our coat-tail best,
For we think that Micheal's equal
Can't be found in all the West.

And so we join the "Telegraph",
That paper of truth and trust,
In praising Micheal Finnegan
In words well earned and just.

So we owe a debt to Micheal,
With his barrow up and down,
And long may he come from Tullaghaune
To keep our tidy town.

And long may his name be honoured,
For Micheal smiles and goes
About his work with pride and love-
But Ballyhaunis knows.

So our toast in Micheal Finnegan,
And long may his broad smile show
With the streets of Ballyhaunis
With the streets in Mayo.

John O'Connor O.S.A.

BALLYHAUNIS

There's a town far away that I long for each day
Till I go there I'll never find rest
T'was there as a boy that I spent years of joy
In Ballyhaunis the town of the West.

To the Abbey I'll stray as I did every day
T'was there that I first knelt to pray
Where Masses were read and the rosary said
That's the faith that I cherish today.

Then down by the river tis fondly I'll go
And I'll look through my heart at the waters below
Where each ripple and wave that below murmurs on
Seems to echo the words of some Street Singers Song.

Now over the road to the Post Office Well,
O what talk we could have if you only could tell
Of all that you served and all that you've seen
In Ballyhaunis you must be a landmark supreme.

When further afield I see factories grand
With your well-laid Trade Fair and industrial stands
God Bless you the Chamber for your vision and quest

You have made Ballyhaunis the town of the West.

How I long for the day when home I will be
In that town of the West that means so much to me
I see you in dreams and what changes I see
From the station in Devlis to famed Tooraree.

Michael Godfrey, Ballinlough



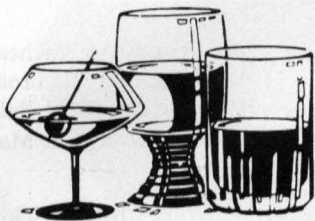
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SOUNDINGS



JUNIOR CHAMBER EXECUTIVE

Back Row (1 to r): Shea O'Callaghan, Robbie McNabb, Eamon Healy.
Front Row (1 to r): Rita Lundon, Mary Freeley, Anne Marrinan.

JUNIOR CHAMBER

The Junior Chamber A.G.M. was held in January 1985 and the following officers were elected to the Executive.

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| President | Mary Freeley |
| Vice President | Robbie McNabb |
| Secretary | Ann Marrinan |
| Treasurer | Shea O'Callaghan |
| Legal Counsel | Rita Lundon |
| P.R.O. | Eamon Healy |

It was decided that the first project would involve fund-raising for Ethiopia. This project was inspired by the general awareness of the famine problems and special interest was felt because of Dr. Michael Cleary's active involvement in Harbo. A well-supported social was held early in February and two raffles - confined entirely to the local community were held (Eileen Jennings won the prize of a weekend sponsored by Corrib Southern, Galway, in the first raffle).

In all a total of £700 was raised to be presented at a later date for Concern to Dr. Cleary.

In February, Junior Chamber was represented at the presentation of the Meitheal Award. This award

was presented to the people of Ballyhaunis by Muintir Maigheo, in Dublin, in recognition of community spirit.

Meanwhile other Junior Chamber projects were underway. Interest was expressed by local traders in having postcards of Ballyhaunis available for sale in the shops. Junior Chamber members involved were Matt O'Dwyer, Jim Lundon, Anne Marrinan, Helen Freeley, Regina and Kathleen Hunt. Local artists were approached. Four black and white etchings were eventually selected, postcards were published and are now available for sale in several shops in Ballyhaunis. We would like to thank the artists who allowed us to print their work - Helena Caulfield, Peter McHugh and Stephen Durcan.

Debating was underway by now too. Two teams were entered in the National Debating competition. The 'A' team consisting of Eamon Healy, Brian Harrington, Eddie Campbell and Michael Grogan - was successful in its first debate against Drogheda. Representing the 'B' team were John Higgins, Matt O'Dwyer, Jim Lundon and initially Pdraic Lee, who due to other commitments was replaced at a later date by Chris Pratt.

SOUNDINGS

On St. Patrick's Day, the second annual Junior Chamber Relay Race was held for the community. Over eighty people participated in teams of three-consisting of a runner, a walker and a cyclist. This project was organised by Robbie McNabb and Helen Freeley, with the much appreciated help of John and Mary Frances Cleary. A social was held that night and prizes were presented to the winning team.

At the end of March a plaque was erected in Pairc Guilliers in memory of Dr. Declan Shields, a former member of Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber. These arrangements were finalised by Rita London.

The Junior Chamber, in conjunction with the Town Twinning Committee, who were very busy preparing for the arrival of the French from Guilliers, decided to run a welcome social for the adults on Easter Sunday night. A second Ethiopian fund-raising raffle was held that night. The main prizes of a bicycle was sponsored by Robbie McNabb. But the main excitement was mid-week when a non-alcoholic disco was organised by J.C. member Kathleen Hunt for French and Irish young people. Eight and nine year olds bopped the night away with their elders of sixteen and seventeen.

Junior Chamber was conscious early in the year of the proposal that the telephone exchange would be

automated. It was seen essential to facilitate this transition from manual to automatic phone by publishing a local directory for business and household use. Members involved in this project were Robbie McNabb - Project Leader; Shea O'Callaghan - Treasurer; also Mike Griffin, Eamon Healy, Rita London and Mary Freeley.

The second annual Trade Fair organised by the Chamber of Commerce and held in May was used as an opportunity to launch the Directory. The main guest of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Pierre Mathijssen, was presented with a copy of the Directory, as was Monsignor Horan. Many past presidents of Junior Chamber included Seamus Forde, Tony Flynn, Alan Delaney, Moira Delaney, Matt O'Dwyer and Rita London.

The Junior Chamber stand at the Trade Fair was organised by members under the leadership of Eamon Healy. It was a celebration of past and present projects run by the Junior Chamber. The stand was visited by most people who attended the fair and was of special interest to past members. A special feature were the sketches of past presidents by Stephen Durkan. A Guess-Who Competition was run for young children and the prize of a camera sponsored by O'Connor's Chemist was won by an excited David Nestor.

The National President of Junior Chamber, Con



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Six Former Presidents at the Trade Fair 1985

O'Neill visited Ballyhaunis members at their June meeting. He addressed members and spoke about J.C. objectives. On this occasion Dr. Michael Cleary was presented with a cheque for £700 on behalf of Concern.

Our 'B' team were meeting with great success on the debating field at this stage. Galway were defeated on the topic of divorce in April and early in June, Drogheda were defeated. Now the National semi-finals loomed ahead, and Junior Chamber Dublin were our opponents. This debate was held in Tullamore and a bus of supporters travelled from Ballyhaunis. The Ballyhaunis team captained by John Higgins won and the team was now into the All-Ireland finals. Congratulations in July to Junior Chamber members, Matt O'Dwyer on the occasion of his marriage to Geraldine, and to Regina Hunt on her 21st birthday.

Towards the end of August, despite the very inclement weather four events were held in the community week. These were mainly for children who were not deterred by the rain which might have marred the occasion for adults. Events were run by Mike Griffin, Regina Hunt, Anne Marrinan and Kathleen Hunt and included swimming, canoeing and a "hunt" around Hazelhill. A special word of thanks here to Stephen Durkan for his help and to our sponsors.

The national Debating Finals were held in the Law Society Premises, Blackhall Place in Dublin in September. The team opposing Ballyhaunis was

Castleknock Junior Chamber. The topic debated was that "The Sacred Cow of Irish Neutrality should be abandoned", and the event was chaired by Deputy Nora Owens. Junior Chamber Ballyhaunis won the debate. Several people attended the finals in Dublin and these included Mrs. Mary Higgins - at her first debating final, Padraic Lee, an original member of the team, Senator Jim Higgins and John Dillon-Leetch who had previously captained a Ballyhaunis team to victory. On the following night a reception was held for their team by Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber in the Central Hotel. This was attended by Fr. Costello, P.P., Fr. Gleeson, C.C., Fr. O'Connor, O.S.A. and many other friends and supporters of the team.

The President of Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber, Mary Freeley, attended the National Convention of J.C. in Limerick and was presented with the trophy on behalf of the debating team. This is the third time the debating trophy has been won by Ballyhaunis.

At the October meeting of Junior Chamber, Helen Freeley, was chosen as Chapter Person of the Year. As a new member of the Chapter from the beginning of the year Helen had been committed in the projects she undertook to become involved in. Congratulations!

Preparations for Annagh Magazine were again underway and thanks are due to Jim Landon as Editor and to his Editorial Committee.

Halloween as a season of mystery was chosen as a suitable time to run a Car Treasure Hunt. Involved

in organising this project were Shea O'Callaghan - Project Leader and Helen Freeley - with thanks due to Mike and Brid Cleary and Imelda O'Callaghan.

At the end of a successful year I would like to thank those members of Junior Chamber who have helped to make the year so worthwhile, especially the members of the executive. I would like to thank you, the public, for supporting us in our projects during the year.

A special word of thanks to John and Mary Frances Cleary, Mike and Brid Cleary, Stephen Durkan for the help they gave to us throughout the year. Without sponsors and advertisers many of our projects would have been impossible - thank you. The Central Hotel is made available to us for meetings and events and we have received every assistance also from Billy's Nite Club and Val's Lounge. Thanks to Mick O'Connell, Michael Commins and to our printers.

Finally I would like to say that if you are aged between 18 and 40 and would like to get involved in your local community, you are welcome to attend any of our meetings. Ask any member to bring you along.

Mary Freeley, President

BALLYHAUNIS RE-HAB

The Ballyhaunis branch was formed in 1978. Since its inception the committee have been very active in raising funds for the National Rehabilitation Institute. These funds go to workshops around the country who train physically and mentally handicapped people towards full employment.

In the past year Ballyhaunis Re-Hab have collected £1,000 through a Pub Quiz. When R.T.E. personality Donncha O'Dulaigh walked throughout the country he got a very warm welcome in Ballyhaunis where he collected £635.

Officers:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------------|
| Chairperson | ..... | Luke Lawlor |
| Secretary | ..... | Una Shields |
| Treasurer | ..... | Breda Burke |
| P.R.O. | ..... | Mary Keane |

Committee Members:

Teresa Keane, Mary Keane, Marie Connell, Nell Rochford, Margie Gallagher, Rita Hannon, Mary Timoney, Mary Dillon-Leetch, Teresa Conway, Sr. Dymrna, Joe Hosty.

Una Shields

Ballyhaunis Handball Club

Ballyhaunis Handball Club has one of the finest courts in the province which is being utilized by the Mayo and Connaught Handball Boards for competitions.

Membership for the coming year is:-

Individual Handball: £20; Family: £25; Primary School Students: 50p; Students (2nd & 3rd Level): £5; Associate Members: £1; Squash/Handball Combined: £25; Family: £30.

Gerry Cribbin provides regular courses for new members who wish to join. The club are in debt to the tune of £13,000 at present. It wishes to thank all those who contribute to the Weekly Tote Draw. A special word of thanks is extended to the publican's and sellers in the draw.

The club extends sympathy to all who suffered any bereavements during the year.

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

| | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Patron | ..... | Very Rev. Fr. Costello P.P. |
| President | ..... | Mick O'Connell |
| Chairman | ..... | Michael Murren |
| Secretary | ..... | Michael Waldron |
| Treasurer | ..... | Michael Byrne |

Ballyhaunis Macra Na Feirme

The club originated on the 19th January, 1984 and has been reasonably active since that date.

A few of the more successful undertakings since the club's formation have been two socials and, taking part in the Trade Fairs.

There are six or seven active members along with the officers. Conference meets weekly in the N.C.F. Mart premises and new members are always welcome.

We held our Annual General Meeting on the 10th September, 1985 and the following officers were elected:-

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|
| President | ..... | Fr. O'Connor |
| Vice President | ..... | Bill Mulligan |
| Chairman | ..... | Walter Waldron |
| Vice Chairman | ..... | Vincent Freeman |
| Secretary | ..... | Alta Regan |
| Vice Secretary | ..... | Pauline Morley |
| Treasurer | ..... | Peter Brown |
| P.R.O. | ..... | Mary Regan |



by Pat Doyle

For the last three decades St. Patrick's Dramatic Society have put on many fine shows, but 1985 must rank as one of their best when over 500 people packed into the Parochial Hall to see John B. Keane's play "Many Young Men of Twenty".

The play, written in the fifties when we had massive emigration from this country rekindled memories for a lot of people present, hardly anyone who hadn't said goodbye to a loved one at sometime or another.

All of the seventeen people on the boards gave excellent portrayals. One could not talk about drama without mentioning names like Jack Greene and Frank Leonard who have contributed so much to drama in Ballyhaunis over the years.

However they were not alone in this production. It is always nice to welcome new talent into a group and last year was no exception in this regard. Shelia Waldron, Padraic Lyons, Jim Donnelly, Paddy Joe Tighe, Jimmy Fleming, Thomas Cribbin and Maureen Towey were performing with our group for the first time. Having performed so well in front of an appreciative audience, we were prompted to enter the Mayo A.D.L. festival to be held in Kiltimagh in early March.

It is here I must single out Jim Donnelly for special mentioning - who with the help of Jack Greene and Michael Daly designed the set. Pat Murphy, courtesy of Dillon Bros., kindly agreed to provide the transport - so we were on our way to Kiltimagh.

Four groups took part - Westport, Garrymore, Castlebar and Ballyhaunis. The adjudicator, Liam

McKenna from Sligo spoke highly of our efforts - saying we had provided a good evening's entertainment and that's what drama is all about.

However there was one performance that would stay with him for a long time to come, Peg Finnerty beautifully portrayed by Frankie O'Malley. Frankie who had in the past played many leading roles in musicals was now mixing it with dialogue delivering it very well.

Liam McKenna in presenting her with a plaque said he had no hesitation in naming her "Best Actress of the Week". Other performances he liked were those of Jim Donnelly, Padraic Lyons, Frank Leonard, Jack Greene and Ann Jordan.

I as Producer would like to thank each member of the cast for the amount of work they put into the production.

Also our back stage crew, namely:-

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Kit Keane | Make-Up |
| Joe Byrne | P.R.O. |
| Liz Jordan | Secretary |
| Ann Hosty | Chairperson |

these people helped me out a lot with the production. Finally I want to thank the people of Ballyhaunis for their support, some of whom travelled to Kiltimagh to support us.

We have decided to stay with John B. for another year and plan to present "The Field" undoubtedly one of his strongest plays in the Parochial Hall on the 5th and 6th January, 1986, more about this later.



Miss Maureen Towey seen here receiving the "Cumiskey Cup" from John Cumiskey on being selected as Lady Gaelic Footballer of the year

Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club

The activities of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club were rather low-key this year compared to the hectic programme of events which were successfully undertaken in the Centenary Year of the Association. The club continues to make excellent progress on the administrative side but fortunes, alas, on the playing fields are now at a low ebb. This is most disappointing when one considers that we scaled the heights in 1984 by winning the County Under-16 title against all the odds.

The highlight of the year from the club's perspective had to be the selection of David Fitzgerald on the successful Mayo All-Ireland Minor winning combination. In the red and green of Mayo he played some inspired football and manned the centre half back position with supreme confidence. The club also congratulates Tommy Grogan on being a member of the county senior panel that annexed the Connaught title in impressive fashion at the expense of Roscommon.

The club commenced its 1985 activities by attending the County Convention at the Beaten Path on the 27th January. A sizeable contingent were present to ensure that local man, John Prenty was nominated for the position of Co. Secretary. Even greater satisfaction was expressed when he was unanimously chosen.

On the playing fields the year was most disappointing culminating in the relegation of our senior team to Division 3 of the league. The team only gained four points out of a possible twenty. They were also knocked out once again in the first round of the championship by a Davitts team that were by no means invincible. Team Manager Tony Morley worked hard but the team never responded. Attendances

at training, even prior to the championship were poor, and the dedication, loyalty and commitment so essential for success were badly missing. The fact that we do not have a good, reliable sharpshooter is not helping our cause.

The Under-21 team were beaten by Swinford in the East semi-final after they scored a good win over Moy Davitts in the previous round. The Minors and 16 side were beaten in the East Mayo semi-finals by Moy Davitts. The U-16s did well to get this far when one takes in to consideration that they lost their first two games in the group proper.

The senior team reached the Canon Henry Cup final before succumbing to Aughamore. They were also beaten by Garrymore in the Ray Prendergast tournament. They have a great deal of work to do if they are ever to get back among the elite of Mayo football.

On behalf of the club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those dedicated members of Re-hab who liaised effectively with the G.A.A. members, Hugh Rudden, Gerry Lyons, Tommy Prenty and Jimmy Fleming in organising the Pub Quiz and raising a considerable sum of money in the process.

The club would also appreciate it if parents became involved in the organising of Junior Scór competitions. Ba mhaith liom ar son Comhaltáí Cumann



County Secretary, John Prenty and his son John proudly hold the Tom Markham Cup after the Mayo Minors All-Ireland victory in Sept., 1985.

Luathchleas Gaedheal iarratad do tuismitheoirí na daoine óga páirteach comórtas Scór a eagrú. Tá sé an tabhachacht ranga Gaelige a fhorhairt agus a chaomhnú i gComórtas Scór.

The A.G.M. of the club takes place on Friday, 22nd November with the Annual Dinner Dance on Friday, 31st January in the Midas Club.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who sponsored various competitions held under the auspices of the club. The Centenary of the club takes place in 1986 and to commemorate the occasion a special centenary calendar is being printed. It will be available on or before the 8th December.

Officers 1985:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Mick O'Connell |
| Chairman | Aidan Kelly |
| Vice Chairman | John Durkan |
| Secretary | William Ryan |
| Treasurer | John O'Neill |
| P.R.O. | Michael Waldron |
| Registrar | Eamonn Murren |
| Oifigeach na Gaeilge | Jim Lundon |
| Fixtures Sec. | Gerry Lyons |

William Ryan, Hon. Secretary

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Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce

Undoubtedly one of the more active and successful Chamber of Commerce groups in the west, the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce has a long list of projects to its credit. It was formed in 1980 with the aim of encouraging community co-operation, and devoted to the improvement of social, environmental and economic conditions in Ballyhaunis town and its hinterland. It's list of projects to date include:

Meeting with the County Manager and County Council officials to discuss local improvements. Meeting with County Planning Office. Involvement with the I.D.A., and bringing Farah Ltd., to Ballyhaunis. Meeting in Ballyhaunis attended by all public representatives. Delegation to Minister for Environment in Dail Eireann. Delegation to Mayo Co. Council. First Shopping Spree, March 1984. First Annual Dress Dance - Guest Speakers, Minister Paddy O'Toole, Michael O'Malley, Mayo Co. Manager. First Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition. Representatives to Mayo Co. Council regarding the following - new footpath to the Community School; barrier at Railway Bridge; the lowering of road at Railway Bridge; new car park; road surfacing at Clare Road; new sewerage treatment system; new water supply; improvements to Galway/Sligo Road, N.83; footpath improvement at St. Mary's National School. Representation to Garda Siochana regarding traffic regulations. Promotion of image of Ballyhaunis, of its industrial activity and export level. Special care for Ballyhaunis - a document which played a major part in a "meiteal award". AnCo Survey, which employed a team of young surveyors. Full meeting of Mayo Co. Council elected members in Ballyhaunis. Christmas lighting at a cost of £11,000. Involvement of winning of "Meiteal of the Year Award". Press Reception for launching of Ballyhaunis Community Survey. Second Annual Ballyhaunis Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition. Second Annual Ballyhaunis Dinner Dance, guest speaker: Professor Michael Cuddy, U.C.G.



**Let's tell them the truth, that
there are no gains without pains.**



Local children seen here enjoying themselves at Ballyhaunis Playgroup

The Ballyhaunis Playgroup

The Ballyhaunis Playgroup had their A.G.M. on 9th September and a new committee was formed. The elected members are as follows:-

Chairperson Mrs. Mary Anne Lyons
Treasurer Mrs. Bridget Lyons
Secretary Mrs. Frances Curley

We have moved into a new room and we thank the Sisters of Mercy for accommodating us. The Playgroup sessions run from 9.15 a.m. - 11.45 a.m. on Monday to Friday. A fund-raising event is being arranged and the proceeds will be used to pay rent, light, heat etc.

We are grateful to the mothers for participating in our sessions and for the support they have given us in the past year.

Eilish Greaney

**Send Articles, Poems,
 Photographs etc. for Annagh
 '86 to the Editor**

I.C.A.

Ballyhaunis Guild of the I.C.A. had a very successful year. Meetings are held in the Horse Shoe Inn on the second Wednesday of each month.

During the year classes were held in Toy-making and Crochet. At present we are arranging cookery demonstrations.

Ballyhaunis took part in various competitions.

Our guild also had an exhibit at the Industrial Exhibition which proved successful.

We were also involved in holding a function in the Parochial Hall for Western Care.

Socials were held and enjoyed by all. At present arrangements are being finalised for a Dinner Dance to be held in Churchfield House on November 15th.

Ballyhaunis I.C.A. are also pleased to host the Mayo Federation Meeting to be held in the Community School on November 26th.

Our 1984/85 Officers are as follows:-

President Delia Coen
Vice President Angela Cribben
Hon. Secretary Mary Rudden
Asst. Treasurer Phyllis Flanagan
Press Rep Helen Byrne

Mary Rudden

Our Scouts Meetings;

We meet every Tuesday in the Scouts' Den at 7.30 p.m. Our leaders are Dr. Michael Cleary and Mr. John Durkan. When we go in we all go into a room. On the walls are a lot of posters of life saving, first aid and pictures of scouts all over the world.

First we say the prayer and then we might have a quiz or a game. If it is a quiz, we sit around a table and we are asked questions. If we get the question right, we get a point. At the end, the person with the highest number of points is the winner and he gets 10 marks. If it is a game we either play Snatch the Bacon or Soccer.

Snatch the Bacon: you get two teams and a referee. Each person has a number and when it is called you run out to a parcel in the middle of the floor. You have to get the bacon and run without your pal crossing the line or touching you.

Soccer: We are split into three teams and we make a competition of it. The winners' team get 10 marks.

Our Scout Master Dr. M. Cleary volunteered to go to Ethiopia at the height of the Famine there. Each week a different patrol sent him a report of our activities in a Newsletter including drawings of Ireland and Ethiopia.

I look forward to the meetings and find all the activities very interesting.

Evan O'Dwyer

Apostolic Work, Ballyhaunis

This organisation is nearing the end of another successful year.

In 1986 we hope to celebrate our Silver Jubilee and are happy to have many of the founder-members still with us.

Our Annual Exhibition held in July was very satisfactory. It was opened by Fr. Flynn, a Columban Priest who was our curate at the time. Many people came to view the work on display and contribute financially the missions.

The highlight of the year was the Silver Jubilee of our Central Office in Castlebar. This was celebrated by a special day of recollection at Knock, which many of our members attended.

Afterwards members from each Branch met in the Orena Hotel and had a most pleasant afternoon.

Our thanks is due to all Honorary Members and Benefactors without whose help the work could not continue.

Officers:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| President | Miss Mary Moyles |
| Vice President | Mrs. K. Finn |
| Secretary | Mrs. B. Brennan |
| Treasurer | Mrs. B. Byrne |

Bridie Brennan

Waldron's SPAR Supermarket

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(Props: Michael and Denise Nolan)

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Squash Club

Officers:

Chairman J. Biesty
Secretary J. Durkan
Treasurer E. Healy
Treasurers of Social Committee:
E. Healy and S. O'Callaghan

Now in its third year the club is still growing and each year has seen improvements.

The 1984/'85 season was the first year in which the club entered a Ladies and Gents team in the Connaught Squash League. Each team had 10 matches (5 home, 5 away). The teams acquitted themselves very well and gained valuable experience.

The Men's panel was Donal Moran, Enda Moran, Garvan Dwane, Tony Henry, Eddie Campbell (capt.) and Pat Noone.

The Ladies panel was Agnes McGee (capt.), Brid Cleary, Geraldine Griffin, Mary Francis Cleary, Maura Noone, Sarah Kelly, Siobhan Henry and Ann Curley.

Famous visitors to the complex included Ireland's No. 1 Willie Hosey (who had his roots in Ballyhaunis), John Kieley (Sligo) a recent quarter-finalist in the World Over-35 Championships held in Canada, the Irish team coach Matt McGuire as well as Connaught top seeded men and women. The club hope to host further exhibition matches in the near future and promise to be well worth seeing.

The Annual Barbeque was held in the Scout

Den/Friary Field again this year and was once again a great success. The organising committee would like to thank the Boy Scouts and the Augustinian Friars for making their facilities available.

The 1985-'86 season started earlier than usual this year due to the poor weather. Already three leagues have been completed with more to come after Christmas. The club suffered a set-back when its leading lady player Agnes McGee was transferred to Galway, we wish Agnes every success in her new appointment in Galway.

Eddie Campbell and Enda Moran taken over the job of coaching for beginners on Thursday afternoons and for more advanced players on Sunday afternoons. Both sessions enjoy a good attendance and many people have decided to take up the game this year.

Mr. Michael Lyons has been appointed caretaker of the Sports Complex and a telephone has been installed the number is 30668 and members can phone in and book a game up to 2.00 p.m. to be stipulated.

MEMBERSHIP 1985/'86

Payable to J. Biesty, J. Durkan, E. Healy.

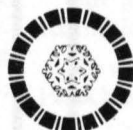
SQUASH:-

Single: £20; Family: £30; Students: £5

SQUASH & HANDBALL:

Single: £30; Family: £40; Students: £6

The meter is 50p per half hour. **J. Durkan**



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Mr. Donal Creed T.D., Minister for State at Department of Education at the opening of the Boys' Under-15 Interprovincial Basketball Competition at the Community School in November 1985. Also in the picture from left: Mr. E. Thornton, School Principal, Miss Aine Whelan, Competition Organiser, Senator Jim Higgins and Mr. Pat Martin, Manager Bank of Ireland, Ballyhaunis (Sponsors).

FINE GAEL Ballyhaunis Branch Area

The main activities of the Branch were concerned with the Local Government Election in June - with Senator Jim Higgins as the party's front-runner of the six candidates in the electoral area. With Senator Higgins confined to the immediate Ballyhaunis area, party workers were able to concentrate in maximising the party vote in the local booths, and were overjoyed with the results when the tally sheets became available.

This successful vote-getting exercise, together with increased attendance at social functions and in the Church Gate Collections has party workers feeling satisfied with their tremendous efforts. The presence of Bill Mulligan - now a nonagenarian - at all party meetings and as a delegate to District and Constituency Executives - adds a great blend of solid cryptic debate to meetings.

The ever-increasing involvement of lady members in the Branch is a changing feature of local politics, and Branch Officers are always at pains to ensure that all those who would like to become involved are made feel welcome.

The death of Mr. William Flatley R.I.P., Commissioner for Oaths, and lifelong party supporter and activist was a cause of sadness to all.

Officers for 1985:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| President | William Mulligan |
| Vice Presidents | Joe Webb/Joe Keane |
| Chairperson | Eamonn Burke |
| Vice Chairperson | John Dillon |
| Secretary | Mrs. Mary Buckley |
| P.R.O. | Mrs. Rita London |
| Treasurers | Tommy Prenty/Mike Webb |

Presentation to Tony O'Boyle

Mr. Tony O'Boyle who went from Tuam to Galway in 1958 as Manager of the Galway Branch of Jack Dolan Ltd., Fruit Importers and Distributors was made presentations by the firm and the staff at a function given in his honour at the Salthill Hotel, Galway on the occasion of his retirement on October 12th last. Many tributes were paid to Mr. Boyle by Mr. Kevin O'Connor and Mr. Ken Dolan, Directors and Mr. Stephen Hosty, Manager of the Galway Branch who presided.

The dinner was attended by Mrs. Mary Boyle (who received a bouquet of flowers) and their seven children. Tony returned thanks to the firm and the staff and his son, Sean also spoke and said this was a great occasion for his parents.

Tony, who is a native Moylough, Co. Galway spent 14 years of his business life in Tuam and also worked in Ballyhaunis from 1941 to 1947. He is a regular contributor to the ANNAGH magazine and we wish him well in his retirement.

4th Mayo Scout Troop

Martin Walsh

Each Monday evening at 7.30 p.m. a meeting of Ballyhaunis Boy Scouts is held in the Scouts' Den. At this meeting, games of soccer etc. are played. After this we have tests and do things like knots, scout laws and going on compass trails. Before the meeting ends, role is called, dues collected and the marks are given out. The scout prayer is then said by one of the scouts and we leave.

Every Saturday canoeing is held - one Saturday for seniors scouts and the next for the juniors. On the Saturday we are not canoeing, we go on hikes. If enough turn up, they might be divided into groups, if not, we all go together. We have hiked to such places as Holywell, Annagh, Urlaur and Granlahan. On these hikes, we build fires and cook a meal for everyone. Then we may have a look round or maybe cut some wood. This is used for making boundaries, gates, altar fires etc.

During the Trade Fair, we picked papers and cleaned up the building and grounds. For this we got paid and put this money towards camp. We also went on the annual big walk getting sponsorship to raise money for the Scout's Den. We collected wood for the Squash Club's bonfire and helped in the club's barbecue. Another way we have of raising money is collecting bottles - we get paid for this as well as getting marks.

In late July we went on camp to Moore Hall. The tents were up for us when we arrived because the cubs had camped there before us but we still had to put up boundaries, a flagpole and the marquee. We went in cars but the seniors cycled. The seniors had one tent while the Beaver patrol had another and Eagle and Badger had another with the leaders beside us. Despite the bad weather, all our cooking was done on an open fire beside the lake. Each took it in turn to cook and collect firewood which was plentiful in the nearby forest. It took an hour or so to get breakfast. After this an inspection of each patrol site was held. The winner was usually decided by the equipment made, tidiness and condition of tent. Marks were given each day and the winners raised the flag. After this, we would probably go canoeing or on trails and treasure hunts. Dinner was prepared around 1.30. After dinner we made equipment and a monkey bridge. We had sports and nature trails. The senior scouts went on an overnight hike to Leenane in groups of four. The first group could not camp out because of the weather and had to stay in one of the hostels. The others did not even get there - instead stayed in Cong. While one group was gone the other

would climb the Reek and on the third day the juniors climbed it. We had drinks and sandwiches on the way and afterwards went shopping in Westport. The next day, the three patrol leaders went on a hike to Ballintubber. We camped beside the church and graveyard. Having only a sleeping bag and fly sheet, it was a bit cold. In the morning, we went to Mass and had breakfast in the local Priest's house. Then we packed our stuff and headed back to the camp. It was one of the hottest days of the year, we were back in time of dinner.

On the second last day of the camp (Saturday) we had sports. The final match of the soccer league was played. After this, we had canoeing races. It was pouring rain but there was no wind and the water was beautiful. When the races were over we had a canoeing relay and then we threw the leaders into the water. When dinner was over, we had races on the bikes and on the obstacle course which the senior scouts had built. In the evening, we went to Mass and after this we got ready for the campfire. We took up the boundaries and took apart all the gadgets we had made and got ready to burn them. The leaders then went into Carnacon to buy some food for the campfire. We started the fire around 12.00 o'clock midnight. We had lots of sweets and drink and told jokes and stories along with singing songs. At about 3.00 o'clock a.m. we went to bed. When we got up we had breakfast and started clearing up, taking down the tents and cleaning the grass and paths. About 2.30 p.m. we left and were back home in time for a good dinner.

Scouts of the Camp:

1st. Martin Walsh, 2nd Enda Murphy

Junior Scouts:

1st Owen Maughan; 2nd David Nestor

Canoeing Races:

1st Lorcan Higgins; 2nd Owen Maughan

Cycling:

1st Andrew Smyth; 2nd Martin Smyth;

3rd James Hunt

Soccer:

1st John McQueeney

Winners of League:

Thomas Coen and John Cleary's team

Best Helper:

James Ansboro

Senior Scouts:

R. Flynn, M. Durcan, D. Delaney, J. Cleary, T. Coen, J. Ford & T. Ford & T. Smyth.

N.C.F.

The past year has been one of which the farming community will have very few happy memories.

In Ballyhaunis the N.C.F. store continues to serve the farmers and the Mart, at last, begins to show signs of taking her rightful place in the nature of things. This was brought about by the concerted actions of a new revitalised advisory committee which held many meetings from the spring onwards planning a programme of commitment and dedication to the success of the mart. The success in the mart this year can be measured by the figures for the month of October which created an all time record for monthly sales of cattle since the Mart opened.

A submission was prepared and put to the N.C.F. Board of Management seeking that a portion of the penning area be roofed. This submission was heard in September and met with a favourable result which now leaves the mart with it's increased roofed area in a position to offer better facilities for farmers

and their stock.

The committee werer impressed not only with the approval of their submission, but also with the speed with which the project was executed.

This year Noel Grogan retired from the Board of Management on his appointment to the Sales Division of "Western Brand Chickens" and in his place Matt Healy, Killylea, was elected to represent the area at Board Level.

In conclusion we must pay tribute to Mr. Jack Barrett of Island who passed away during the year. Jack was involved in local farming organisations down the years being involved with the late Pat Hughes in the Young Farmer Club and the Show Committees. He was a member of the present committee at it's foundation and we shall miss his inspiring presence and his wise counsel.

GOD BLESS THE WORK.

Seamus Mulrennan

Ballyhaunis Rugby Football Club

Ballyhaunis Rugby Club enjoyed its most successful season since it foundation in 1977, last year, competing in "Junior B League" the team gave some classic displays and reached the final taking on the might of Corinthians R.F.C. in the Galway Sportsground. Ballyhaunis lost this final but their performance on the day augured well for the future.

This season the rugby team moved up a grade and now play in Junior A rugby. Although the standard is higher and competition keener, Ballyhaunis are holding their own and hopes are high of fielding a second team in the near future.

The U-16s also had a good run in their league last season but were defeated in the U-16 League final.

The club survives financially by means of a '100 Club' and some socials and would like to take this opportunity to thanks all its supporters. We specially thank Michael and Mary Morris for the use of their premises and Murphy Brothers of Coolnaha for the use of their field.

Training takes place every Tuesday and Thursday night at 8.30 p.m. and new members are always welcome to come along and join us either to play rugby, use the weight machine or just to keep-fit.

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SOUNDINGS

Western Care News



The activities of the Day Centre, which operates on the ground floor of the Priest's House on the Knock Road have continued to be the focal point of of local branch activity during 1985. Under the guidance of the Centre Supervisor Bernie Walsh (assisted for most of this year by Aileen Warde,) local volunteers have continued to provide a comprehensive and expanding service. To horse riding and swimming have been added gardening and woodwork, and the number of trainees has increased to 8. It is expected that the centre will eventually cater for 12 or 13 handicapped adults. Volunteer drivers have continued their sterling work of bringing trainees to and from the centre, though since September most trainees have been getting in and out on regular secondary school transport.

The Day Centre continues to act as a beacon to many Western Care services throughout Mayo and Ballyhaunis can be justly proud of the pioneering enterprise being undertaken. There are few, if any, centres in the country which operate with such a high voluntary input.

The 1984 Annual House to House Collection realised approximately £8,000. Indications so far are that the 1985 figure will be slightly down.

The Annual Social, held in the Central Hotel at the end of May, proved a most enjoyable and popular night as did the recent Social which focussed on Donal Ahern who is running for Western Care in the Dublin City Marathon. Between them the two functions raised approximately £1,000. Our Easter Fast this year brought in a further £1,400.

Our March A.G.M. elected the following officers:-

Chairman Chris Pratt
Secretary Helen Biesty
Treasurer Mary Morris
Asst. Treasurer Hannah O'Dwyer

Delegates to Council:

Chris Pratt and Eamon Healy.

At the June Council Meeting, Chris Pratt was elected onto the Executive of the Western Care Association.

1985 was a very busy year for Ballyhaunis District Gun Club. The first major event was entertaining our French visitors from Guilers at our Clay Target Grounds over the Easter period, a very enjoyable evening was had by all who participated.

The club was also honoured to host the Mayo Clay Pigeon Championship on Sunday, 16th June which drew a large attendance from all over the country. On the 22nd June the club had one of its biggest shoots for many a year with the holding of the Inter-provincial championship which drew a huge crowd from all over the country. The club looks forward to entertaining clay pigeon shooters in the forthcoming year.

Game

In Spring the club entered in the (Mayo Sporting and Wildlife Association) vermin eradication competition for 1985. An inner club competition was also run throughout the Spring. Other activities of the club included the releasing of Mallard ducks to the river at Bridge Street and at other suitable locations in the vicinity. At the time of writing the club is preparing its Winter feeding programme for wild birds which it undertakes every year.

The following are the officers of the club:-

President Tom Waldron
Chairman Fred Herr
Vice Chairman Flan Moroney
Secretary Joe Fitzharris
Treasurer Sarah Kelly

Joe Fitzharris

Heaven is not reached
at a single bound;
But we build the ladder
by which we rise,
From the lowly earth
to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit
round by round.

J.G. Holland



Cantairí Bhéal Átha h-Amhnais

Cantairí Bhéal Átha h-Amhnais, formed four years ago as a Madrigal Group, has a membership of twenty adults singing in four part harmony, for enjoyment of music.

During the past two years we have received much encouragement from our success in Navan Choral Festival and last year's win in Cork International Choral Festival. We have performed at numerous Charity Functions and Concerts, besides our annual Christmas Carol Recital in the Augustinian Abbey, so our repertoire is not confined to Madrigal only.

On St. Valentine's Night last, we travelled to Ballina at the invitation of Ballina Rotary Organisation and presented a Musical Evening to a full house - a most receptive audience. The function was most successful and raised over £1,000 for charity. They have invited us on a return visit!

The highlight of this year was our winning of an Award of a new piano from European Music Year Association. Our application included a dossier on Cantairí Bhéal Átha h-Amhnais, outlining our musical activities and achievements. It was successful, and on November 7th we presented a Variety Concert to inaugurate the new piano. Mr. Frank Casey, Chairman of European Music Year Committee, travelled from Dublin to present the piano to our Group. In making the award, Mr. Casey said they had very many applications and that he was most impressed by the work of Cantairí Bhéal Átha h-Amhnais and the excellence of our submission. There was a full-house attendance for the occasion, and net proceeds went to the Parochial Hall Repair Fund. Our gratitude to Mr. Kevin Flanagan who was a most effective and witty M.C. Cantairí Bhéal Átha h-Amhnais would like to thank the people of Ballyhaunis, who were such an appreciative audience and who helped make the Concert so successful. Our gratitude to Very Rev. P. Costello, P.P., Patron of the Parochial Hall and his committee for affording the piano such an appropriate home in the newly renovated Parochial Hall.

We hope our piano will bring music and joy to our community.

St. Vincent De Paul Society

Conference of St. Patrick, Ballyhaunis

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

Weekly meetings at Parochial House Conference suffered a great loss recently in the death of its longest serving member the late Cyril Coyne R.I.P. A very dedicated man to the work of the society his services will be sadly missed.

The work and the needs of the Society of Vincent de Paul have merited increased publicity at National level in recent times. This has arisen unfortunately due to a high level of unemployment with resultant misery and poverty for many families. Ballyhaunis, has thank God not experienced such serious problems but the need for material help does arise and our conference is always conscious to help in such cases. Apart from this an important feature of our work is visitation - to old people living alone and to hospitals and nursing homes serving patients from this locality. The great generosity of the people of Ballyhaunis and adjoining parishes enables us to continue the good work. Many thanks to all our helpers and every good wish and blessing for Christmas and the coming year.

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Back to the top flight, Ballyhaunis Soccer team who have won Division 1 honours and are present holding their own in the Premier Division.

Ballyhaunis F.C.

The past season has undoubtedly been one of the most memorable in the history of the local soccer club. Having crushed aside all opposition, the team stormed to triumph in the First Division. This achievement was all the more noteworthy in view of the fact that Ballyhaunis became First Division Champions after having been unbeaten in the League throughout the season.

Probably the most memorable outing of the season would have been the away game at Ballyglass last March; a match which, if won, would confirm our passage into the Premier Division. A large and vociferous contingent of supporters travelled on that bitterly cold and windy afternoon to the South Mayo venue to witness what was to be a historic day in the annals of the club. And indeed during the last quarter of the game, as the result became inevitable, Ballyhaunis folk were led in a rousing "side-line sing-song" by Club President Sergt. Curran.

This was just one of the games which paved the way towards the achievement of a three-year ambition which was realised when, at the Mayo League Presentation Dinner in the Beaten Path, players and officials from Ballyhaunis watched team captain Luke Murray being presented with the Kingsbridge Cup.

A most enjoyable and successful Dinner-Dance was held in the Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis, as is traditional, during the St. Patrick's weekend. Guest

of honour was Mayo League Secretary, Mr. Michael Feeney. The annual awards, presented on the night were shared out as follows:

Player of the Year: Ray Folliard

Clubman of the Year: Sergt. Curran

Supporter of the Year: Mr. Sean Ansboro

The Club are most grateful to all the local publicans who have participated in our game-sponsorship scheme, to Hannan Electrical, our main sponsor for our Autumn fund-raising draw. Many thanks also must go to newly acquired sponsors Irish Ale Breweries who have sponsored a complete new strip. (I.A.B. also continue to sponsor our yearly awards). The Club is also in the debt of Mr. Eddie Thornton (Headmaster) and the Community School for placing a playing field, when needed, at the disposal of the Club.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Hon. President | . . . | Sergt. W.A. Curran |
| Vice President | . . . | Mr. Alf Hudson |
| Chairman | . . . | Robert Herr |
| Secretary | . . . | Luke Murray |
| Treasurer | . . . | Mike Daly |
| Team Captain | . . . | Ivan Freeley |

Committee:-

Alf Hudson, Tom Eagney, Clar Grogan, Ivan Freeley, Freddie Herr, Eugene Columm, Nicholas Freyne, Tom Cribbin.

Team Management:

Eugene Colum, Nicholas Freyne, Tom Cribbin.

The Golfer of the Year in the Mens' Section for 1985 is Mr. P. Curley and in the Ladies Section is Mrs. K. Fanning.

One very distinguished visitor to our Club during the early part of the year was Dr. Pierre Mathijsen, Director General for Regional Development of the E.E.C. He played 18 holes of golf with some of the officers of the club and he was very impressed with our course, the setting and the peacefulness and he indicated that he would be back to play here again. "This is one of the nicest courses I have ever played on". (Quote)

Open Week was held this year from June 1st to June 9th. Once again our Sponsors provided a wonderful array of prizes, and as usual the course was in peak condition and the envy of a very large number of visitors who came from all parts of this country and a few from overseas.

We had a good number of new members joining the club in 1985. One of our members distinguished himself during the year. In the national personality of the month which is sponsored jointly by the Evening Press, Smithwicks and Corona Holidays, Tony Flynn was nominated August Personality of the Month in his handicap category. At a function in Newlands Golf Club he was presented with a beautiful cut glass bowl, he also won a Holiday for 2 for two weeks in the Canary Islands in a draw in connection with the same competition. So to Tony and Joan all the members say Bon Voyage on your trip to Gran Canaria.

Our Captain, Jackie Cheevers and another member Mickie Forde each had a Hole in One during 1985.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Annagh Magazine and all responsible for its publication every success.

John G. Forde, P.R.O.



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grow
better
we
meet
better
people.
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true!

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Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil Cumann



P.J. Morley T.D. - Poll Topper!

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Mark Waldron |
| Vice Presidents | Paddy Ryan/Joe Conway |
| Chairman | Joe Greene |
| Vice Chairman | Austin Biesty |
| Hon. Secretary | Kathleen Fox |
| Asst. Hon. Secretary | Frank Lyons |
| Hon. Joint Treas. | John Lyons/Gerard Lyons |
| Delegates to C.C. | M. Keegan/B. Waldron |
| P.R.O. | Jimmy Fleming |
| Youth Officer | Tony Morley |

Judged by any standards it could be said that Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil Cumann had a very active and successful year, meetings were held on a regular basis and the intake of new members was the highest ever.

The first important event of the year was the Party Ard Fheis which was held in the R.D.S. Dublin on the last weekend of March, the Cumann delegates contributed to most of the debates and in particular to the Ballyhaunis Cumann motion regarding the anomalies in the Social Welfare system relevant to Retirement and Old-Age Contributory Pensions.

Thanks to the generous support of the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas the National Collection which was held on the 18th-19th May was an outstanding success, receipts showed a substantial increase over 1984 while the number of subscribers showed a corresponding increase.

Elections appear to be an annual event in recent years, and in this respect 1985 was no exception as we had the Local Election on the 20th June. Once again the Cumann conducted a vigorous campaign in the Ballyhaunis area and was justifiably rewarded by the re-election of local candidate Deputy P.J. Morley on the first count at the head of the poll in the Claremorris Electoral Area.

The victory was duly celebrated afterwards at a well attended social in the Horse Shoe Inn, with the successful candidate as guest of honour. Of course it would be too much to expect that the year would pass without bringing its tribulations and it is with great sadness that the deaths of Patrick (Brod) Caulfield R.I.P. and Oliver Cunningham R.I.P. are recorded, they served both Party and Cumann unsparingly during their lifetime. May they rest in peace.

The latter part of the year saw the completion of an intensive programme of planning and re-organisation and as a result the Cumann can look forward with confidence to 1986.

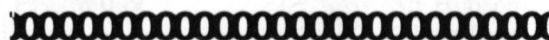
BALLYHAUNIS F.F. COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR OFFICER 1985

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| President | John Hennelly |
| Vice Presidents | Mark Waldron, John Lyons, Jim Duffy, John Mullins |
| Chairman | Michael Grogan |
| Vice Chairman | Anthony O'Malley |
| Hon. Secretary | Jackie Coyne |
| Asst. Hon. Secretary | Seamus O'Boyle |
| P.R.O. | Micéal Smyth |
| Joint Hon. Treasurers | Pado Cunningham/ Paddy Ryan |
| Youth Officer | Kathleen Hunt |

Delegates to Dáil Ceantair:

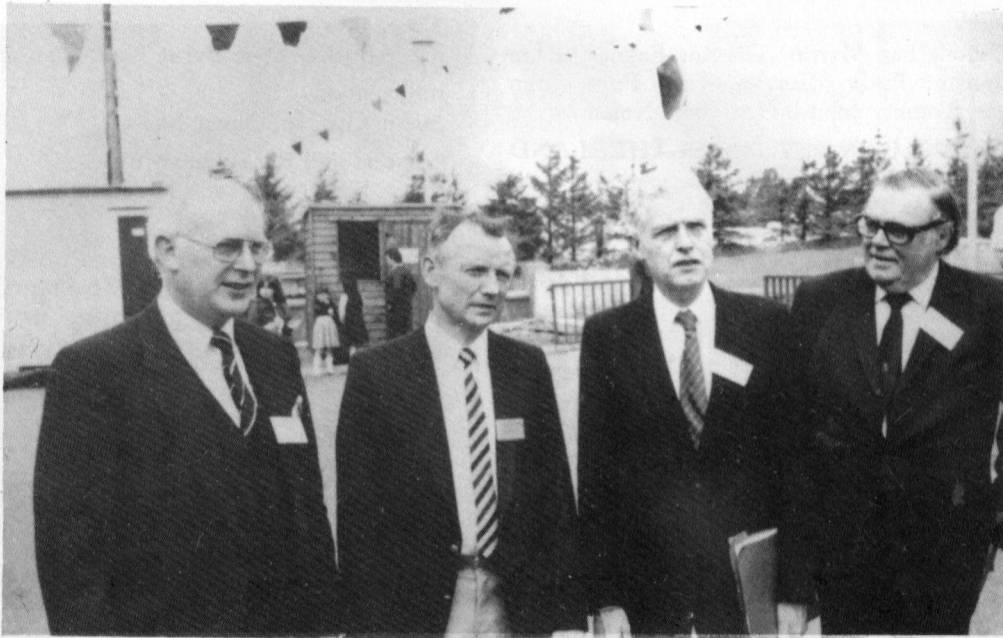
John Carty, Seamus O'Boyle, George Dee, Joe Hosty, Pat O'Brien, John Towey, Kathleen Hunt, Christy Ruane.

Johnny Lyons



**PLEASE KEEP OUR
AREA TIDY!**





From left:- Conor Maguire, Director of EEC Office in Dublin, Dr. Pierre Mathijsen - Director General for Regional Policy in the European Community, Professor Aidan O'Reilly, University of Ulster pictured here with John Dillon.

Ballyhaunis Trade Fair

The outstanding success of the Ballyhaunis Industrial Exhibition and the Conference on Regional Development is a tribute to the members of the Chamber of Commerce who worked tirelessly and with dedication for several weeks before the big event.

All seventy members were fully involved and full attendances were recorded at the preparatory meetings and the several sub-Committee meetings which were held almost every night.

So great was the enthusiasm that Committees worked until 4.00 a.m. on many mornings: golf, gardening and all other forms of recreation were forgotten!

The dedication and hard work certainly paid dividends; the organisation worked perfectly and all events started punctually at the scheduled times.

Great credit is due to the organisers of the Industrial exhibition, the community school authorities, who closed the school early to facilitate the conference, to Ballyhaunis Golf Club, to the Gardaí for security and traffic arrangements, to the members who sponsored the air trip, to Gay and Carmel Nevin who sponsored the use of a Rolls Royce - the bands, including Ceoltoiri Beal Atha Amhnais, who provided entertainment to the exhibitors at the exhibition and to Mayo Co. Manager

who chaired the conference and Professor Michael Cuddy and Tom Boylan of U.C.G. and to Pat O'Brien, Executive Director of I.D.A. for the contribution to the Conference - Sean Smyth of course played a leading part, but the guest of honour, Dr. Mathijsen, Director General for Regional Policy in the E.E.C. will always be remembered in Ballyhaunis.

He brought tidings of hope and encouragement; he gave opportunity to cut through the bureaucracy and centralised officialdom, which has, for so long, ignored and thwarted the efforts of people of Mayo to develop and improve the economic environment of the region.

TEAMS

The Chamber of Commerce organised its members into teams and the co-ordination under Hon. Secretaries John G. Dillon-Leetch and Helen Freeley was a masterpiece of management.

Reception at Dublin Airport-

Val Byrne, Gerald Lyons, John O'Brien, Kieran Folliard, Mona McGarry (Dublin), John A. Murphy.

Reception in Golf Club-

John O'Dwyer, Brian Munroe, Seamus Mulrennan, Helen Freeley, J. McManus.

Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition-

John Dillon, Pat Martin, Dermot Eagney, Pado Cunningham, Enda Murphy, Tom Finn, John O'Dwyer, Tommy Johnson, Michael Nolan.

SEAN FLANAGAN & PETER SUTHERLAND

The Chamber are grateful to Mr. Sean Flanagan, M.E.P., and Mr. Peter Sutherland (Commissioner), who were helpful in arrangements for the visit of Dr. Mathijssen.

Guest to Conference Organisers-

Brian Munroe, John O'Dwyer, Seamus Mulrennan, J. McManus, Padraig Kelly.

Conference-

Eddie Thornton, Mary Kelly, Kathleen Caulfield, Rita Hannon, M.J. Walsh, Hugh Rudden, Tony Millard, Austin Henry, Jim McKermitt, Georgie Hannon, Maria Fitzgerald, Pat Grogan, Mary Murray, Breda Burke, Sr. Assumpta, Laura Finn, Patricia Fitzgerald.

Stewarding-

Fred Herr, Frank Loughran, Mike Griffin, Liam Lyons, Bernard Freyne, Padraig Lee, Bill Nestor, Greg Tiernan, Eugene Lannon.

P.R.O.-

John O'Brien, Chamber P.R.O. was assisted by Oliver Concannon and John G. Dillon-Leetch.

Traffic-

Joe Hosty ensured that there was no traffic problems.

Travel-

Sean Freyne made all travel arrangements and ensured that everybody kept to schedule.

Barry Butler, Mike Byrne, Pado Cunningham.

Information-

Austin Grogan, Oliver Jordan.

Advisers and Researchers-

Kevin Flanagan, Frank Flanagan, Peter Browne.

Industry-

In addition to the seventy-one members involved in industry or in the exhibition were heavily involved in the preparation of their own stands and had opportunity to meet Dr. Mathijssen.

The Future-

Ballyhaunis has now achieved a reputation for efficiency and enterprise thanks to the hard-working Chamber members. The effort will be continued and will result in opportunity and betterment for all in the region.

The Chamber members are delighted and satisfied with the events and the results which are equal to their greatest ambitions. Minister Paddy O'Toole proposed that an "Integrated Development Programme" from the Ballyhaunis area be implemented and Dr. Mathijssen agreed that he would ensure that this would be done.

Ballyhaunis and district now has the "chance of a lifetime" to take a big step forward and the Chamber of Commerce intend to do just that.

The President, Gerald McGarry, and Committee extended their thanks to Chris Pratt, who organised the Children's Art competition and others, not mentioned for their invaluable help and in particular to the many people - both local and from outside who visited the trade fair.



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Photograph taken on the Heritage Association Outing to Castlerea, Sunday 2nd June 1985
Front Row (l to r): Martin Walshe, Mrs. M.Masterson, Michelle Smyth.
Second Row (l to r): Richard Waldron, Mary Leonard, Don Moran, Mrs. D. Moran, Mrs. M. Smyth, Eamonn Gormley, Tony Kitson.
Back Row (l to r): Matt Masterson, Noel Treston, John O'Connor O.S.A., Val Waldron, Mrs. V. Waldron, P. Waldron. Also present was Diarmuid Murray who took the picture.

The Barony of Costello Heritage Society

by Paul Waldron

Now in its second year the Heritage Association is becoming a firm establishment in Ballyhaunis. Since last years report in this magazine 8 meetings, 4 outings and a lecture have taken place. The prominent feature of the meetings was their informality and variation covering many items of interest including historical, archaeological, superstitious and natural topics. The four outings covered a remarkable 18 locations, - Mannin House, Bracklaboy ogham stone, Tullaghaun ogham stone, Currasluista wedge-grave, Gurteen rectangular fort, Kilmannin, Coolnaha ring-barrow, Urlaur abbey, Cappagh double-court-cairn, Aughamore graveyard, Carrownedan souterraine, Raith castle, Clonalis house, the O'Connor Don burial place, and the old Kilkeevan graveyard. The weather on all occasions was good, and the outings in general were enjoyed by all.

In December last, Bernard Waldron of Cave, and John Higgins of Tuam gave a very interesting lecture on wildlife in the area. They answered many

questions asked by some of the 41 in attendance. The aim of the association is to encourage interest and concern in local historical and environmental matters. Many suggestions have been made as to what can be done by the association e.g. the starting of a museum, the restoration of the friary graveyard, the transcription of old local parish registers, the showing of old films of the area, the publishing of a journal, a survey of historical monuments in the area etc., Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings which are usually held on the second Monday of the month and announced at all Masses. We are a small organisation, but we are dedicated too, and interested in our work, and we would welcome who share similar interest.

The officers for 1985 are as follows:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Patron | Rev. Fr. Patrick Costello |
| Chairman | Bernard Freyne |
| Secretary | Paul Waldron |
| Treasurer | Joe Greene |
| P.R.O. | John O'Connor O.S.A. |



At the Personality of the August Awards in the Smithwicks/Evening Press Golf Personality of the Month Award Scheme at Newlands Golf Club were (left to right) Susan Laffey, Lady Captain, Ballyhaunis Golf Club, Tony Flynn, August Golf Personality, Joan Flynn, Paddy Gallagher, Director, Smithwicks and John Forde, President, Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

Ballyhaunis Golf Club

The following is the list of officers and committees of Ballyhaunis Golf Club (Ladies and Gents).

GENTS:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| President | Mr. J. Forde |
| Vice President | Mr. M. Henry |
| Captain | Mr. J. Cheevers |
| Vice Captain | Mr. T. McNicholas |
| Hon. Secretary | Mr. J. Higgins |
| Joint Hon. Treasurers | Mr. C. Coyne & Mr. M. Webb |
| Registrar | Mr. J. Dillon |
| Competition Secretary | Mr. P. Curley |
| Handicap Sec. | Mr. A. Nolan |
| P.R.O. | Mr. J. Forde |

Committee:

M/s. F. Dillon, D. Charlton, M. Dillon-Leetch, M. Gallagher, D. Donnellan, J. Scarry, B. Rattigan, M. Walshe, M. Forde, R. Power, P. Martin, M. Mahony, B. Cunningham, A. Reddington, M. Glynn, A. Mulligan, K. Barry, A. Grogan, T. Keenan, J. Burke, J. Lohan, J. Mooney.

Trustees:

M/s. J. O'Brien, C. Coyne, N. Waldron, J. Forde, J. Dillon.

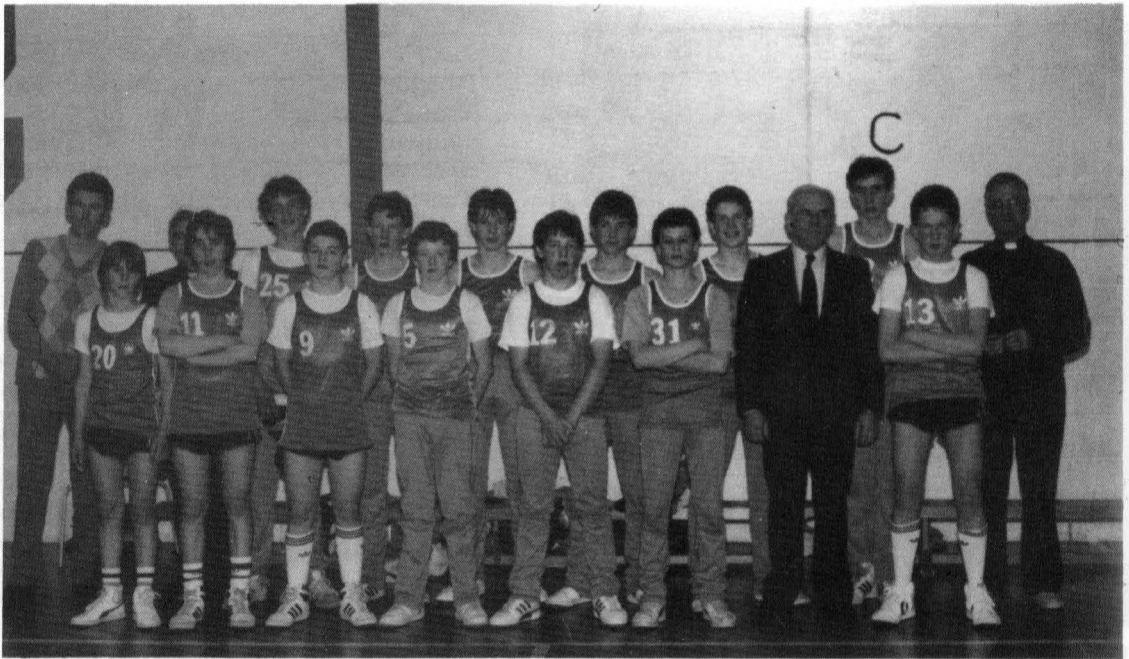
LADIES:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Captain | Mrs. S. Laffey |
| Vice Captain | Mrs. S. Forde |
| Hon. Secretary | Mrs. M.H. O'Connor |
| Hon. Treasurer | Mrs. A. Joyce |
| Handicap Secretary | Miss P. Moyles |
| Executive Member | Mrs. M. Dillon-Leetch |

Committee:

Miss P. Grady, Miss N. Dillon, Mrs. M. Burke, Mrs. M. Dillon, Mrs. P. Henry, Mrs. I. Freyne, Miss P. Waldron.

The Ballyhaunis Golf Club had a very successful year during 1985. We had teams in all grades of competition and the gents succeeded in reaching the finals of the Jimmy Bruen competition. The Ladies succeeded in reaching the quarter-finals of the Lina Black competition. Both teams were narrowly beaten, the Ladies by Westport and the Gents by Tuam.



Connaught Under-15 Basketball Team, including Peter Walsh, Ballyhaunis Community School on the left in the front.

Under-15 Provincial Basketball Competition

Ballyhaunis Community School was the venue in November, for the 1985 U-15 Boy's Inter-provincial Basketball Competition; the first time that this competition was staged in Mayo.

Minister of State, with the responsibility for sport, Mr. Donal Creed, was in attendance on the Saturday afternoon and was loud in his praise of the facilities, standards and organisation, which he described as second to none. The bulk of the organising work was done by Miss Aine Whelan, Community School P.E. teacher, without whose drive and organising abilities the town would not have had the honour. Praise and thanks is also due to the Bank of Ireland and Mr. Pat Martin, Ballyhaunis Branch Manager, for the generous sponsorship and to Mr. Eddie Thornton and Ballyhaunis Community School for making the facilities available.

The teams, their coaches and officials together with representatives of the local community and the sponsors were entertained to a sumptuous meal in the School Gymnasium on Friday evening, prepared and served by Community School students, Sean T. Ruane, Joe Geraghty, Pdraig Culliney and Kieran Finn under the guidance of master-chef Frank Moynihan. Mr. Eddie Thornton, Mr. Pat Martin, Fr. Michael Joyce and Senator Jim Higgins welcomed the guests and officially opened the competition on

behalf of the School management, the sponsors, the Connaught Committee and the local community and the Minister for Sport, respectively. The Bank of Ireland presented beautiful silver mementos to the four team-captains and managers and Miss Whelan, a member of the Mayo International Youth Year Committee presented each team-member with a personalised Youth Year certificate.

In the competition each provincial team played each other of the team and the top two teams played off in the final in which there was an excellent standard of play and sportsmanship - a clear indication of the way the game is developing in the country. The Connaught team despite being the youngest and inexperienced put up a very sporting and credible performance. Large numbers of local supporters turned up to cheer their team and in particular its youngest member, local student, Peadar Walsh.

The competition ended in a nail-biting final between Leinster and Munster. The big Leinstermen dominated right through to the final five minutes when Munster changed to full - court press, stealing the ball on a few vital occasions and snatching the winning scores in the last seconds.

All the visitors were vocal in their praise of the excellent facilities and accommodation that Ballyhaunis can provide and there are promises of re-visits.

Áine Whelan



Tom Cribben and Alex Eaton, Ballyhaunis finalists in the Snooker Handicap in Ballyhaunis.

St. Patrick's Billard and Snooker Club

Since its reorganisation a couple of years ago the club under its very active committee has gone from strength to strength and this year it had a membership in excess of 100 members. A very successful snooker handicap was organised in the Spring and the final between Alex Eaton and Tom Cribben resulted in a 3 frames to 2 cliffhanger with victory going to Alex Eaton.

The club participated in the North West Snooker Championship with other clubs in the North West area and came in a very creditable fifth, at present another handicap is being organised to begin in December.

It will be remembered that to reorganise the club and re-furbish the club room the committee with the approval of the hall committee on their own initiative organised a substantial bank loan to complete the project.

The club is happy to report that this loan has now been closed. For this achievement and for their overall management expertise the club must be congratulated and must serve as an example of what can be achieved by talented and go ahead young people.

Officers:-

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| President | Kevin Barry |
| Vice President | Cyril O'Malley |
| Chairman | Tommy Moran |
| Secretary | Robbie Herr |
| Treasurer | Alex Eaton |

Committee:

Joe Grogan, Tom Cribben

Committee:

Joe Grogan, Tom Cribben, Pat Curley, Frank Flanagan, Rory O'Connor, John O'Connor, Brian Murray.

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POETS CORNER...



A TOAST TO MAYO FOOTBALL

In recent years choice Mayo teams
Have known their leaner days
And some have thought they ever now
Had lost their winning ways
But wiser people always held
That Mayo's skill and heart
Would set things right in better times
And prove the county's worth.

And sure enough in eight-five
Came new days of song and story
When Mayo teams all Connaught lit
In a treble blaze of glory.
And praise came in from every side
And fitting things were said
Of style and steel to further goals
In the summer days ahead.

But what's to come we do not say.
What we know has taken place;
The re-birth of county football here
And fresh confidence to face
With minds in tune and heads held high
Out from Mayo and the West,
To give fine accounts in every game
And keep pace with Ireland's best.

No doubt but we have honest thoughts
On the top most honours three,
And it's right our teams should muscles flex
for the treble victory.
But if they fall short on the given days
The county at least will know
That football again is alive and well
In all Connaught and Mayo.

QUIET CONFIDENCE

We knew we had it in us
To call the Dublin bluff,
And we had been saying in Mayo
Enough is enough!

So we went out with spirit,
With style and steel and song,
And proved again in passing
That the experts got it wrong.
And so we stopped Goliath
On his wishful striding track,
And drew the cheers of Ireland
And won a ticket back.

So now we know full sure
They have their chinks and flaws,
And for nerves next day, we fancy,
They will have the greater cause.

And so we know the home truths,
They have their feet of clay,
And we modestly look forward
To the next Blue Dublin day.

And again we'll play with heart
And give the game our best,
But this time, we somehow sense,
We'll have bonfires in the West.

But win or lose we know now
We have earned an honoured name,
And our art this year brought lustre
And freshness to the game.

Still, we sense the taste of victory,
And our final chances grow,
And we feel the cup, with luck, this year
Will be glistening in Mayo.

SONG FOR THE MINORS

Our young contenders won the day
In a fashion fluid and free
Despite the morning 'papers news
Of a Leinster victory.
But the Mayo lads showed all the skills
And with kick and catch and pass,
And style superb and ease and grace
They proved a team of class.

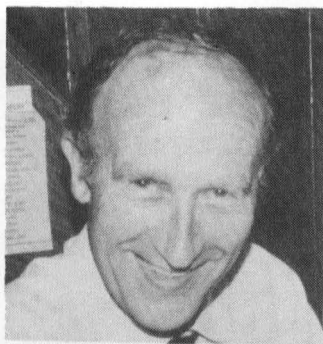
And now they look with confidence
For the first place in the sun,
And they can hear September cheers
When the final day is done.
So, there's a spirit in the West,
And this young Cork must know
They'll need more than Blarney banter
With these minors of Mayo.

But still we say in modesty
May the best team win the day
And it is our hope in Mayo here
That we'll honour the field and play
With a manly game and standards high
And whatever the fate will be
We'll be true sportsman to the end
Which is Mayo's philosophy.

John O'Connor O.S.A.

(The above three first appeared in the Connaught Telegraph in the weeks between the Connaught Final and the All-Ireland semi-final.)

OBITUARIES



Mr. Jack O'Connor R.I.P.

A man who spent much of his life working in the interests of the community has passed to his eternal reward. Jack O'Connor M.P.S.I. of Main Street, and Doctor's Road, Ballyhaunis, whose death occurred at St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin on the 22nd of September, was a person fully committed to sparing no effort in bringing about general betterment within the community.

Born in the U.S.A., the late Jack O'Connor came to live in the Co. Galway area and completed his studies in Ireland, where he qualified as a Chemist in 1953. He opened a Pharmacy in Main Street and built up a thriving business. A man brimful of ideas, he was enterprising in his attitude to new business practices and technology. He brought his talents in this regard to bear when he founded the Ronoco Binoculars Company, of which very successful concern he was Principal up to the time of his death.

He left his mark in the Ballyhaunis area not alone because of his kindness and consideration while carrying out his duties as Chemist, but because of what he did in the interest of all the community. He was, for many years, an officer of the Ballyhaunis Development Association, which capacity he worked long and ardously to bring about much-needed facilities and amenities to the area. He was instrumental in initiating the Clare Street Swimming Pool project and was always to the fore in fund-raising campaigns. The big amounts gained from the Perks Carnivals of the sixties were as a result of much of his dedicated effort.

But there was another side to the character of Jack O'Connor, which was never laid bare and that was his great charity and consideration for the less well-off. Quietly and unobtrusively he did much for the poor and needy and in this regard he could be best described as a "secret and generous giver".

On the sporting scene he was dedicated to the game of golf. He threw himself wholeheartedly into any programme introduced to the purpose of improving the facilities of the Club and over the years at one time or another he held the offices of Captain, President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary of the Club.

Though, for some years he had the dreaded disease of cancer, he was a fighter to the last and bore his illness with courage, resolution and forbearance. It was typical of the man throughout his illness he became very much involved in cancer research and assisted in fund-raising efforts for this purpose.

Indeed it would fit the man if his epitaph would be that in the course of his terminal illness he was concerned with the minimising of the suffering of others from the disease which claimed his own life.

Mick O'Connell



Michael Winston R.I.P.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed"

How true that was of Michael Winston. He was always there whenever he was needed.

Mick, as he was better known, was a native of Carrick, Ballinlough. He worked for many years with Ms. John Gallagher and Sons Ltd., until the tragic and untimely death of his wife, Julia. He then ran his family grocery shop in Devlis where he was known and loved by everyone.

Regretfully my memories of Mick are very short because I have only been a neighbour of Mick's for a mere six years. He was a good friend and neighbour whether it was to share a problem or have a game of cards or share a joke and a laugh over a pint.

As for children, he adored them, I don't believe that a child ever left Mick's shop empty handed, no matter what the child had it always seemed to be enough. He chatted and talked to them as if they were his own. He was known to them as Mick. His shop was known to them as Mick's. I hope that it will always remain so.

So for those of you who think of him today, a little prayer, for him, to Jesus say.

Bernard Freyne



Mark Dillon-Leetch R.I.P.

(5/11/61 - 24/8/85)

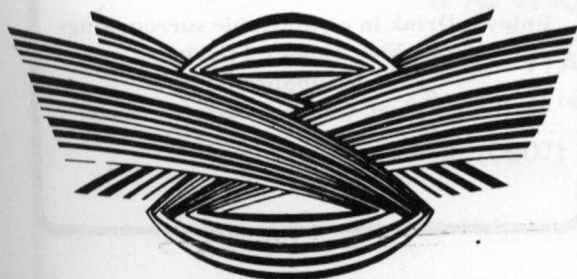
The tragic death of Mark Dillon-Leetch on August 24th, 1985 at 23 years of age robbed Ballyhaunis of one of its most beloved sons. His generous, unassuming and gracious personality struck people even on first encounters.

During his student days both at Ballyhaunis Community School and at Trinity College, Dublin, he distinguished himself both academically and in sport, particularly soccer and golf. In golf, he represented both the above establishments as well as representing Connaught at junior level and Ballyhaunis Golf Club at all levels. His fellow competitors often remarked on his gracious acceptance of defeat as well as his unassuming acceptance of victory.

However, during his long illness he never accepted defeat. His courage was heartening to all as he battled against the odds, without ever complaining. We may be assured that he will be eternally rewarded. Sincere sympathy is extended to his family, fiancée and friends.

Go ndeana Dia trócaire ar a anam oilis.

Noel Henry



CYRIL COYNE R.I.P.

Cyril's sad and sudden death on Saturday 1st September was a great shock to his family and many friends. He will be greatly missed in the community he served with such dedication. He had a long association with the St. Vincent De Paul Society and was very active in helping the less well off. He was also very active in parish work and was a member of the parish council. He was a former member of Ballyhaunis Town Development Association and up to his death an active member of the Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the staff who conducted the last General Election count for East Mayo in the Ballyhaunis Boys' School in the late '40s under the late Austin Crean, County Sheriff.

Cyril having finished at the Boy's National School attended Garbally College, Ballinasloe where he spent four years but due to his late father's failing health he came back to manage the family grocery business at the Square. He gave a personal service and was very courteous to his clientele. He was highly regarded by his colleagues in business.

In his younger days he played football, handball and snooker. He was the longest active member of the Golf Club where he was Trustee, former President and Captain, he was also Hon. Treasurer for forty years.

Cyril was one of those people who was capable of hitting it off with everyone he met and was good company on social occasions. Over a drink he could be relied on to put one at ease and make a most enjoyable evening.

To his wife Bridget, his sons Fergus and David and his sisters, sincere sympathy is extended.



This photograph shows four people whose combined ages at the time was 269 years. They are Mrs. Brigid Moran née Cunnane (89), her husband Andrew Moran (79), her great-grand niece Mary Imelda Waldron (1), and, on the right, Dominick Regan (100). All were living in Cave at the time. Mrs. Moran died in 1959 aged 96½ years; Andrew died in 1963 aged 89½ years, and Dominick died a few months after the picture was taken in 1952.

(Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. V. Waldron)

Mr. Paddy Freeley R.I.P.

Mr. Patrick (Paddy) Freeley, Main Street, Ballyhaunis whose death occurred at the Bon Secours Hospital, Tuam on the 22nd of April was a member of an old and distinguished family, associated with the business life of the town for many years. He was head of a thriving business at Main Street and was considered one of the leading figures in the commercial life of the Province. A man of impeccable integrity, which he applied diligently to all his transactions, he was the personification of goodness and was kind, generous and considerate.

A devoted husband and father he was a man of deep religious convictions and was an upright and sincere Christian. Possessing a fine baritone voice, he was a member at one time or another of the Ballyhaunis Parish Church Choir, St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey Choir and of the Abbey Choral Society. He played leading roles in the operettas, "Pearl, The Fishermiden" and "A County Girl", performed by members of the Abbey Choral Society in Waldron's Hall, in the 'thirties and also broadcast over Radio Eireann with the Ballyhaunis Parish Church Choir and the Abbey Choral Group. His death removes from Ballyhaunis one of its best loved citizens and the town and, indeed, the entire district will be all the poorer without his quiet dignified presence in the community. The very large attendance at the removal of the remains, Mass and funeral was indicative of the popularity of the deceased and the

sorrow and regret occasioned by his demise. Deceased is survived by his wife, Mary; sons, Patrick and Ivan, and daughters, Mary and Helen; brother, Michael and sister, Patricia. May he rest in peace.

Mick O'Connell

Mr. Frank Waldron R.I.P.

When I met Frank on his Annual Holiday last May, he was his usual affable self. His conversation was about Ballyhaunis in bygone days.

Frank had boxed with the local Boxing Club and competed in the National Juvenile Championships in the 'Thirties. He was also a great follower of football and he delighted in Mayo's resurgence at Senior and Minor levels this Summer.

He was always interested in "Annagh" Magazine as it evoked for him memories of the "rare old times".

Frank emigrated to England at an early age. There, with his wife Una he reared his family. He never forgot Ballyhaunis however, and kept an open house for visitors from home.

We were not to realise that his May visit was to be his final one. Within a few months Frank was brought home to the "town he loved so well".

To Frank's wife Una and his family we offer our deepest sympathy.

Joe Greene

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★ MEMORIES ★



Taken in Bundoran on the I.C.A. outing on July 12th, 1962
 Mrs. Holmes R.I.P., Mrs. O'Dwyer, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. Mullins R.I.P., Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Cribben, Mrs. Raftery R.I.P., Kathleen Byrne, Abbeyquarters.



LOGBOY FOOTBALL TEAM 1949

Back Row (1 to r): P. Finnegan, L. Ruane, B. Costello, P. Joyce, E. Judge, P. Moran, D. Godfrey, P. Waldron R.I.P., B. Caulfield.

Front Row (1 to r): J. Fahy, P. Regan, D. Judge, T. Regan, P. Heneghan R.I.P., Ado Kenny Lyons, G. Delaney, S. Ganly.

Brownies and Girl Guides

In October 1984, a Meeting was held in the Scout Den with the purpose of forming a company of Girl Guides and Brownies.

The meeting proved very successful and as a result we now have two active companies of Girl Guides and two packs of Brownies.

The aims of the Irish Girl Guides (to which we are affiliated) is to give girls the opportunity of self training in the development of character and service for others, to foster love of country and to encourage international goodwill and understanding.

The Irish Girl Guides is a voluntary self-governing association and has been a National Movement since 1930.

Membership is open to girls between the ages of 6 and 21 years, who accept the Guide Promise and Law.

In charge of the Ballyhaunis Girl Guides are Shelia Lyons, Chris Warde and Mary Heneghan, while the Brownies are looked after by Maura Patterson, Margaret Byrne, Jenny Glynn, Nell Rochford, Pauline Morley and Judy Regan.

Helping out also as Young Leaders are Catherine Yvonne Morley and Mary Francis Byrne. It is hoped that all Brownies and Girl Guides will be enrolled in January 1986. 1986 is the 75th Anniversary of Guiding in Ireland, so Ballyhaunis will be prepared to enjoy all the celebrations.

Nell Rochford

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Under-14 Poster Competition Winners being presentd with their prizes by Pat O'Connor. 1st - Catherine Henly, 2nd - Derry Cox, 3rd - Martina Freyne. Winning posers are in the background.

Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union

The Credit Union only in its second full year of business has now become firmly established within the local community.

During the past year membership has increased to 250 and shares have almost doubled from £27,000 to £52,000. This big increase in shares enabled us to issue a total of £63,000 in loans to members in varying amounts from £100 to £3,000 during the year. (The interest rate on loans is 1% per month on the decreasing loan balance). The Education Committee ran a Poster Competition in November, 1984 and the winners were:-

Under 18

Joint 1st: M. Power and C. Dee, 3rd: C. Murphy

Under 14:

1st: Catherine Healy, 2nd: D. Cox, 3rd: M. Freyne

We also took a stand at the Trade Fair in May and this was a very good opportunity to let the public know what the Credit Union is.

The officers for the past year were:-

Chairman Peter McCafferty

Treasurer Mary Freyne
Asst. Treasurer Catherine Sloyan
Secretary Pat O'Connor
Membership Officer Terry Coleman
Supervisory Committee:
 Paddy Brennan, Barry Butler, Ina Freyne

Credit Committee:

John Tuohy, Benny Curley, Pat O'Connor

Education Committee:

Peter McCafferty, Terry Coleman, Pat O'Connor, Frank Lyons.

Remember that the Credit Union is a pure co-operative owned by the members, run by the members for the members.

Anyone interested in finding out further information are welcome to call during opening hours as follows:

Parochial Hall:-

Fridays 6.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.
 Saturdays 8.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
 Sundays 12.00 p.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Tooreen School:

Sundays: 12.00 p.m. - 12.30 p.m.



Ballyhaunis Pioneers

Ballyhaunis P.T.A.A.

There was one of the largest groups of people to receive the Gold and Silver pins which took place on 14th December, 1984 with special Mass in the Parish Church and a function in the Parochial Hall

afterwards. The monthly meeting of the pioneers is held in the Parochial Hall on the last Sunday of every month after 1st Mass. Anybody wishing to join is most welcome at any time.

Joseph Byrne



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EXCUSES FOR A CLOSED MIND

'It won't work in our set-up'

1. We tried that out before.
2. Our place is different.
3. It costs too much.
4. That's beyond our responsibility.
5. That's not my job.
6. We're all too busy to do that.
7. It's too radical a change.
8. We don't have the time.
9. Not enough help.
10. That will make other equipment obsolete.
11. Let's make a market research test of it first.
12. Our office is too small for it.
13. Not practical for our level of staff.
14. The men will never buy it.
15. The staff association will scream.
16. We've never done it before.
17. It's against company policy.
18. Runs up our overhead.
19. We don't have the authority.
20. That's too ivory tower.
21. Let's get back to reality.
22. That's not our problem.
23. Why change it, it's still working O.K.
24. I don't like the idea.
25. You're right, but....
26. You're two years ahead of your time.
27. We're not ready for that.
28. We don't have the money, equipment, room etc.
29. It isn't in the budget.
30. Can't teach an old dog new tricks.
31. Good thought, but impractical.
32. Let's hold it in abeyance.
33. Let's give it more thought.
34. Top management would never go for it.
35. Let's put it into writing.
36. We'll be the laughing stock.
37. Not that again.
38. We'd lose money in the long run.
39. Where'd you dig that one up?
40. We did all right without it.

After all these have been answered you may get grudging acceptance: 'We must give the new system a fair trial before we try it out.'

(Courtesy: Walter Waldron)



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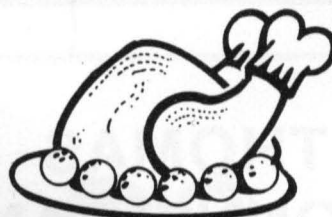
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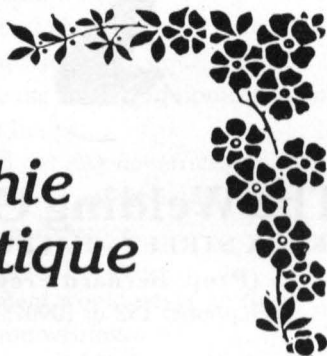
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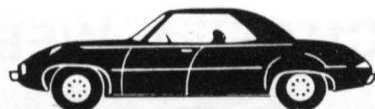


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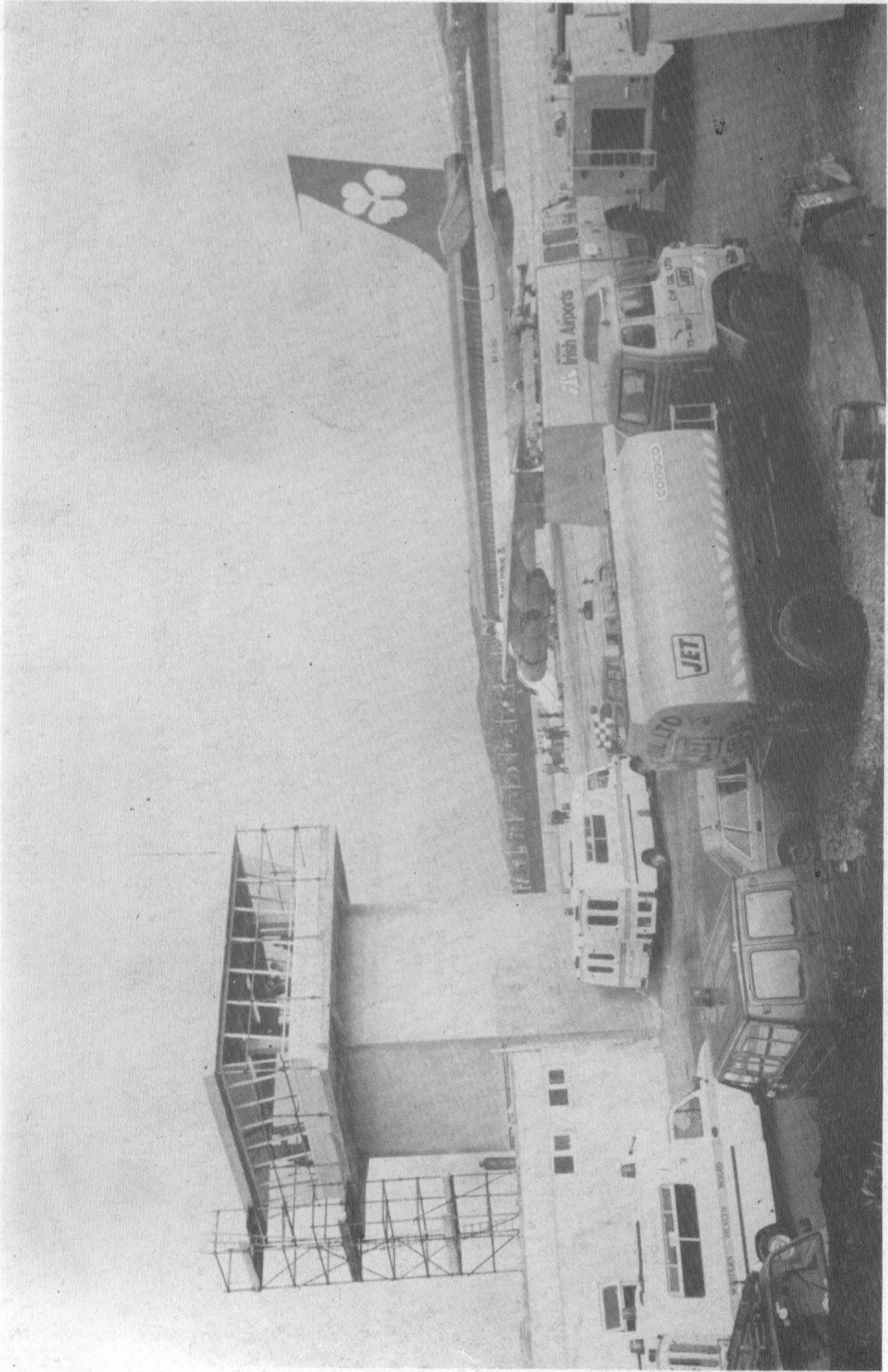
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Monsignor James Horan leaving Connaught Regional Airport on his way to Rome in October 1985.



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