

# ANINAGH '86

BALLYHAUNIS  
ANNUAL  
MAGAZINE

GALLAGHER & SONS



**Mr. Anto O'Malley R.I.P.**



**Editor of "Annagh"  
1978-1981**

# Editorial

This is the ninth edition of "Annagh" Magazine.

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of its founding Editor Mr. Anto O'Malley R.I.P. during the past year. He was Editor from 1978 to 1981 and as a tribute to his tremendous contribution to "Annagh" we dedicate this issue to his memory.

We once again would like to thank all our contributors and advertisers for making the magazine feasible.

We wish to thank our readers for their continued support and we hope that



they will find some aspects of this year's magazine which will pleasantly recall the past, or make them proud of the present in Ballyhaunis.



## Acknowledgements

### **Editorial Committee:**

Jim Lunden (Editor), Fr. J. O'Connor O.S.A., Joe Greene, Matt O'Dwyer, Shea O'Callaghan, Joe Hosty, Pat Higgins.

### **Cover:**

Chris Pratt.

### **Typing:**

Marian Cunniffe.

### **Printing Design and Layout:**

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



# SEASONS GREETINGS

The appearance of Annagh Magazine is a joyful reminder of the approach of the Christmas season - a family feast of peace, reunion and above all the feast of the children. Again we thank the editorial team for their zeal and generosity in its production.

The passing year has registered its joys and sorrows and few there are who have not experienced both. We rejoice with the fortunate and we mourn the sorrowful.

We record with joy and pride the ordination of Seán Mac Gearailt, Bridge Street to the Priesthood - a unique event in the life of our parish as it is the first such ceremony since Penal Times. We wish the Augustinian Order, the young priest and his family every blessing on this historic occasion and always. Rath Dé orthú léir.

The passing of Right Rev. Monsignor Horan P.P., Knock, has deprived Ballyhaunis of a sincere and loyal friend. Though he never actually ministered in this parish, his work and example in Cloonfad, Tooreen and Knock had its beneficent effect on our area. We mourn his passing and share in the grief of his family, relatives and faithful parishioners of Knock. We are grateful that his spirit lives on. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis!

May I thank the Pastoral Council for the continued and generous help in the administration of the parish and all our parishioners for their support. I wish one and all ... Nollaig shona agus Aithbhliain faoi mhaise díbh go léir!

**Patrick O. Costelloe, P.P.**



## A Message from Junior Chamber

Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber members wish our readers a happy and peaceful Christmas. We thank you for your support during the year. We 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.



**FR. JOHN FITZGERALD**

# FR. JOHN FITZGERALD O.S.A.

John Fitzgerald and I first met around the time we started school in July 1963 in the Convent. It is unlikely that we met before then, as I lived at the far end of Knox Street, and John lived in Bridge Street "down" at the Square, a far off place in those days! Other unwilling pupils that July day would have included Mike Byrne, Ivan Freeley, John Toolan, Finbar Ruane, Hugh Carney, Mike Brennan, Eamon Eagney and John Lyons. As the years went by there would be additions and subtractions from this group. Three years later we were to leave the girl's behind and make the longer journey to the old Boy's School, where any illusions we may have had about been "grown up and tough" were quickly shattered. We had the privilege of having Bill Mulligan as Headmaster before Johnny Higgins R.I.P. took over. Mrs. O'Dwyer R.I.P., Mrs. Higgins and Johnny Higgins with occasional appearances by Murty Hunt, drilled into us the basics, which many of us would never forget.

Around this time we joined the Servers in the Friary. There, under the guidance of Fr. O'Sullivan (now in Australia) we joined up with Paul and Kieran Tiomany, the Joyces, John Griffin, Noel Armstrong, Dermot Murray, Brendan Morrissey etc. We were put into groups to serve Mass for the Friars. Fr. O'Sullivan was a kind, quiet man and if a bit of discipline was needed, Fr. Delaney was always willing to show us the error of our ways. Fr. Twomey was the Prior at that time.

Later on we joined the Scout Summer Camps in Cong, Stradbally, Co. Waterford and Larch Hill prepare John for the trials of surviving the ups and downs of life. It took more than a soaking sleeping bag or a burnt dinner (or no dinner at all) to make us wish we were home with Mammy!!! Highlights of this era were the trip abroad to Lourdes in 1972 and Rome in 1974. I wonder if John knew that he would be back again to these countries of worship for longer spells? Ted and Sean Webb, Joe Byrne,



**ST. MARY'S NATIONAL SCHOOL 1966, 1st CLASS**

Back Row (l to r): John Fitzgerald, Hugh Carney, Ivan Freeley, Sean Toolan.  
Front Row (l to r): Michael Byrne, John Durkan, Finbarr Ruane, Eamon Egan.

Freddie and Robbie Herr, Pat and Ivan Freeley, Kieran Folliard, Alex Eaton, George Hannon, Liam Connell, Ollie Concannon, Eddie & Hugh Campbell, Mike Cleary and Rory O'Connor etc., would all have been prominent in the Scouts at this time. Our Scout-master was John Cleary.

John entered St. Patrick's College in '71. Following his Leaving Cert. in 1976 he entered Oilagh in Rathfarnham and Good Council, Ballyboden. During that period he obtained a B.A. at U.C.D. From 1980 to 1986 he was in St. Patrick's College, Rome.

He was ordained in Ballyhaunis on the 19th July, 1986 by Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Cunnane. He made history on that occasion as it was the first ever ordination to take place in Ballyhaunis. Fr. Tom Conroy O.S.A. (Fr. Provincial) attended.

After a brief spell in Ballyhaunis, Fr. John spent September of this year helping out Fr. Mickey Kelly in Meath Street, Dublin. Fr. John has now returned to Rome for further studies.

**John Durkan**



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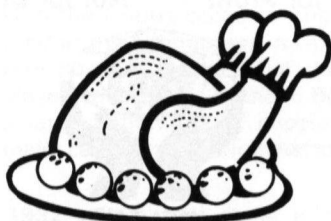
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**CONVENT OF MERCY 1974, FOURTH YEAR**

Back Row (l to r): Breege Regan, Mary Kenny, Mary Teresa O'Reilly, Rosaleen Delaney, Claire McHugh, Mary Waldron, Bernadette Salmon, Joan Hannon, Ann Hannon, Catherine Mulkeen, Sabina Conway, Ann Connell, Jean Finn.

Front row (l to r): Mary Cruise, Mary Teresa Finnegan, Christina Travers.



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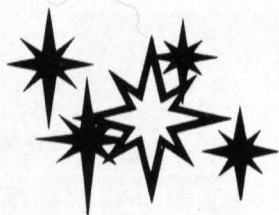
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# 54 Years Ago in Ballyhaunis



**BRACKLOON SCHOOL 1929**

In the above photograph are Bernie Freeley, Jim Mullen, John Finnegan, Willie Carney, Paddy Swift, C. Harrison, Mick McNamara, Miss McNamara, Una Sloyan, Julie Dyer, Chris Fitzgerald, Ann Finn, Joe Freeley, Ellen Carroll, Miss Hoban, Rose McLaughlin, Miss Hoban, Luke Rodgers, Mark Carroll, P. Leonard, John Waldron, P. Hunt. Readers will note that the list is incomplete for the above photo. Photo courtesy of S. Sloyan, Cashel, Ballinlough.

1932 is mostly remembered throughout the land as the year of the Eucharistic Congress. While Ballyhaunis joined in the joyous occasion and was very well represented at the ceremonies in Dublin by the first away from home appearance of the recently formed 4th Mayo Troop of the Catholic Boy Scouts. There was a large contingent of people from the parish at the major ceremonies during that momentous week.

The year 1932 was a mile-stone in the life of Ballyhaunis. An active Towns Improvement Committee over the previous year or more had worked diligently to have a water scheme provided for the town. The source of supply prior to this was the town well (at the Post Office) which is still there today. This is thanks no doubt to the determination and civic spirit of Pete O'Malley, Upper Main Street, who some years ago stood firm against the Co. Council when they sent their men to fill it in. Apart from the fact that it has to be occasionally resorted to, it is a historic link with the past. At the time of the switch on of the water works, the Irish Independent published a photograph of it taken by the late John Halpin, Abbey Street.

The second well was in Dillon's land just behind the sheds opposite the Railway Bridge. Unfortunately this has been covered in with time. These wells supplied a continuous stream of cool, clear water, and indeed the stone work around each was a tribute to a forgotten generation of tradesmen.

I digress from 1932. Town's Improvements Committee's work bore fruit with the laying of the pipes early in 1932. Pick-axes and shovels were the only excavation implements available in those days.

Level headed and far seeing, the Committee had plans for the scheme drawn up by their own consultant. A deputation went to the Council Offices to compare their plans with the Council's ones. On examination they found that the Council plan envisaged having the reservoir sunk in the ground on its present site. The consultant had it raised as it is now is, the sunken reservoir would only send water to the eaves of the Convent and in the event of a fire would be of little avail. So arrangements were made to adopt to the consultants plan.

The actual completion of the scheme was held up because the Committee insisted on electric rather than oil driven pumps. There was apparently a certain amount of scheming on their part in this. Electric pumps needed electricity, but the E.S.B. plans were to supply Ballyhaunis from Castlerea, when that town was connected up. Castlerea had a local supply in operation there, and the policy of the day was to give preference to towns that had no electrical source first, hence, Castlerea was on the long finger.

So Ballyhaunis would be on the end of that long finger. So they had a water scheme almost completed electric pumps and no electricity! So pressure was

on, and eventually it was agreed to run the supply from Claremorris.

The electricity was actually switched on during Congress Week 1932. The ceremony took place at a function in McGarry's old dance hall. A great moment in the life of Ballyhaunis.

1931 had seen the installation as Prior of the Abbey that legendary character the Late Very Rev. E.A. Mansfield O.S.A. The financial position of the Abbey in those days was poor and his Reverence set out to do something about it. So the first carnival ever held in Ballyhaunis. Ture, Toff's Amusements set up for the St. Patrick's Day Pattern each year on the Square, but this was to be a carnival with frills 'n all the tradition of the fairground, something more grandiose, a three day event advertised as The Abbey Bazaar and Pattern.

A football pitch near the Abbey was needed. Morley's field in Cherryfield was handed over. For many weeks volunteers worked days and evenings removing a small hill in the middle and levelling off a pitch what is now known as the Tug-O-War site, had steps and seating arranged like circus tent seating.

There were events in advance, a children's fancy dress parade, several dances etc. The three days were either Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, in any event Sunday was the traditional Pattern Sunday.

Toff's arrived directly from Galway Race Season. Their wagons arrived by road and train. The familiar Big Steam Engine was there polished to a 'T' to drive and light the show. Old fashioned hobby horse with all there gleaming brass, a fairground organ, all the side shows and caravans - a magnificent site set out in the Abbey Grounds.

Each street had its own stall. I remember two bonhams tied to a stake on the side of the hill. These were raffled. A monster boxing tournament, the first ever held in the area was staged on what we call the tug-o-war site.

The top attraction was an exhibition bout by the late Jim Coffey and a man named Pat McAllister. Pat had been employed several weeks earlier to help get things ready and training some local boxers. He was partial to a wee drop. On the night of the tournament he was slightly inebriated. Jim Coffey was a big man and Pat couldn't get near him. Jim played with him like a cat with a mouse. A few taps, then pull back, and even walk away. Can you imagine the scene among the crowd when on one of these occasions McAllister gave Coffey a kick in the backside?

What must have been a highlight of the Carnival was the rocket display. All the gun men of the area fifty or sixty were conscripted and arranged in groups of two or three. So some hundred yards away from the grounds and circling the carnival area. After dark and on a pre-arranged signal they started to fire centering their rockets over the field. In those days a sight to behold.

Small incident. One evening the little steam engine - the hobby horses was primed and ready for starting.

The attendant was asleep on the platform. When one bold or brave youth turned a wheel slightly and the machine started to move slowly round. For a few minutes a wonderful time was had by all. Followed by a chase over the hill by the attendant. We retired to the safety of the Boxing Ring, but shortly after we saw the head appear over the hill. Without further ado we headed for the river, in, boots and stocking and waded through, up to the station, into the waiting room, took off the stockings and rung the water out of them. Then across the railway down the Devlis side, up on the railway again at Buckley's and in the back, safely home!

The carnival was an outstanding success and showed a profit of between £900 and £1,000 a huge sum in those far off days. While the carnival itself lasted for three days, Toffs had permission to stay on for an extra week. On the Sunday, Duffy's Circus arrived. All horse drawn caravans and wagons, a hundred horses or more. Their tradition doesn't allow any Sunday performances so they were free that evening and the performers and staff converged on the amusements, for most it was the first time they rubbed shoulder to shoulder with coloured people.

The water works were blessed and switched on, on the first Sunday in November. The blessing ceremony was performed by the Parish Priest, Fr. Colleran. Surely a memorable year in the life of Ballyhaunis!

Finally, I nearly forgot! After the Blessing and starting of the Water Scheme, there was a Scout Investiture, the third investiture since the formation of the troops. Some of us arrived with soil on our shoes from the other ceremony and Mr. Mulligan nearly had us for supper! By the way the lads invested that day were, Jarlath Waldron, Joe Tarpey, Micky Walsh R.I.P., Alex Campbell, Luke Freeley, Seamus Durkan, Mike Finn and Eddie Webb.

Seamus Durkan

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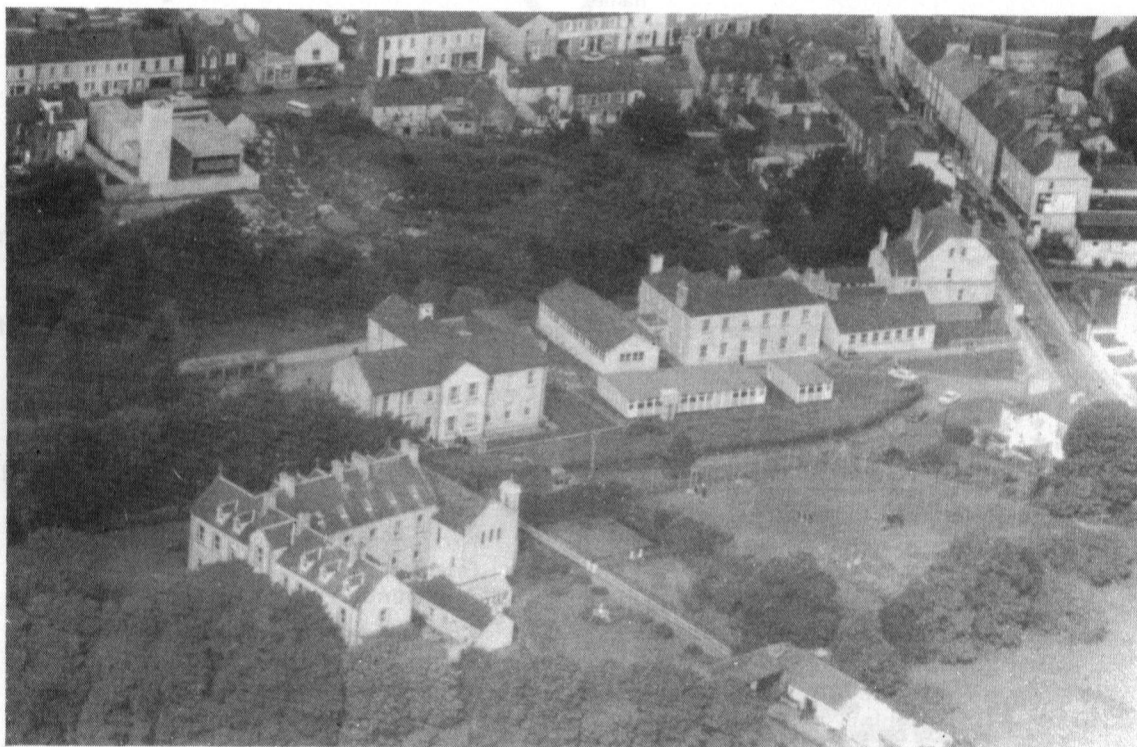
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# PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE PAST



Bridge Street, Ballyhaunis in the 1960s



Aerial view of the Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis in the early 70's

## Crossard, My Own Place

(Sung to the air of the "Hills of Glenswilly")

Come listen a while good people all and I story I will relate  
About the place where I was born I always think its great  
A place so far beyond compare with land so fine and green  
In the parish there of Aghamore a mile up from Tooreen.

Crossard it is my native place I've told you all before  
And all the villages round 'bout, Crossbeg & Tavnaghmore  
There's Shanwalla & Kilbrogan, Cloongoonagh down below  
Derryvackna too and Coolnaha and also Carnmore.

There's Laurelea and Carnbeg and a place called Tooreen  
From Carton North and Boley Hill you have a perfect view  
There's Arderry there & Cappagh too a mile below Tooreen  
Aghatarn, Cummer, Kinnegha too and a village called  
Clooneen.

Now they are the places that's dear to me where I spent  
many a day  
The old dance hall and Tooreen church and shops along  
the way  
There's Kennedy's Hill and the old corn mill where people  
brought their grain  
And Tooreen School where I learned the rule from Stoney  
and Mrs. Freyne.

The old club-house upon a hill t'was built in thirty-four  
And Quarry rd. where people walked on way to Aghamore  
On Flanagan's land there is a hill and Corheen is its name  
Where long ago St. Patrick prayed when to Mayo first he came

On Curley's Hill there stands a cross in fondest memory  
Of a man who died in '21 for the cause of Ireland free  
In a nearby town that man was born, from Kiltimagh he came  
And before you I'll let you know, Sean Corcoran was his  
name.

The countryside is a lovely place in the good old Summer  
time  
It's nice to travel around about when the days are long & fine  
And see the places I'm singing about you may never have  
see before  
Around Crossard my native place in the parish of Aghamore.

Tom Waldron  
(Crossard)



## Ode to Joe

Air: Long, Long Before Your Time

You ask us why, we are so sad, on this February day,  
The reason is-to our regret, our Joe is going away,  
The truth is - he will be missed, both by you and me,  
And by all the friends made through the years, here at I.A.B.

For fifteen years he served us well, down here in the West,  
We had good years and also bad, but still survived the test,  
We've had our rows and arguments, also the odd small fight  
But in every well run business, the boss is always right.

When he came down to be our boss, so many years ago,  
It was a change from city life, to the small towns of Mayo  
He knew no one, but very soon, that problem he overcame  
And in one week sput, I must admit, he knew us all by name.

In every pub, in every town in the County of Mayo,  
The publicans did very soon, take a liking to our Joe  
He fixed their price, gave them advice, how to fill  
that empty room  
In no time at all, in spite of all, the trade began to boom.

But now Tax and V.A.T., has ruined the pint, in fact it is a sight,  
It costs a fortune now alone, just to set a fellow tight,  
But come Summer-time and sunshine, we'll have another go,  
For we should thank God, we have a job, then thank Tom & Joe.

So you ask us why we are so sad, on this February day,  
And why the tears are in our eyes, well Joe is going away  
He has some wealth, he's in good health, in fact he's feeling  
fine,  
Still going from you and me, and I.A.B. long, long before  
his time.

Murt Hunt

## Tony

He'll be missed this year in Ballybrit  
For his horsey knowledge and lovely wit,  
He'll be missed as well in Ballinrobe,  
As well as others on the racing globe.

For he loved indeed, to have a bet,  
And on racing form, he was top set,  
I recall he won a tidy sum,  
When the tank was down on old Red Rum.

He'll be missed at Marts and at Fairs,  
Where, hard he worked for many years,  
He toiled and dealt with a heart and a half  
And sold to the farmers manys the calf.

Down the south, they'll miss him too  
For he was the life and soul of ado  
Always good humoured, happy and kind  
A man to whom, good friendship did bind.

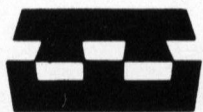
Yes, Tony has left, he's changed stable  
He's eating just now, at the Lord's table,  
Reading the form, present and past  
And wondering, what will win the last.

So to his family, we commiserate,  
For they have lost a one true great.  
Yet in their loss, some consolation,  
Tony has got his final salvation.

E. Murren

In memory of Tony Moran, Hazlehill

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# PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE PAST



**BALLYHAUNIS STAR ORCHESTRA**

Left to right:- Paddy Boland on violin, Sally Fitzmaurice - vocals, Paddy Morley on drums, Jackie Tolan R.I.P. on trumpet, Anne Grogan - vocals, Johnny McGarry (accordion). Photo courtesy of Mrs. Tolan.



**PIONEER OUTING 1952**

Left to right: Bridie Greene, Mary Lyons, Joe Rattigan, Joe Horkan, Ena Finn, Delia Mullarkey, - , Della Byrne, Tom Hunt, Pete Slovan. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Tolan

# TOP DAIRY FARMER FROM BALLYHAUNIS



John Cunnane receiving the top award in the Dairying Section of the National Farm Development Competition from Tom Jago, Managing Director, N.E.T.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN CUNNANE, FROM CASHELS, AGHAMORE, BALLYHAUNIS. JOHN WAS FIRST WINNER OF THE NATIONAL FARM DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION. THE COMPETITION WAS SPONSORED BY A.C.O.T., N.E.T., AND THE IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL. IT WAS DESIGNED TO SELECT THE FARMER WHO HAD MADE GREATEST PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING THEIR FARM BUSINESS OVER THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS.

John's remarkable achievement had a modest beginning. In 1972, after a spell in the U.S.A., he returned with his wife, Kathleen and daughter Tara, to a 35 acre farm purchased the previous year. Development had to start from scratch. In the following six years a dwelling house and basic farm buildings had to be erected. A dairy herd was established, cows were mainly purchased locally. By 1980, he had built up a herd of 22 cows yielding 985 gallons per cow.

The following year he completed an EEC Sponsored Course in Agricultural Education.

## National Farm Development Competition

This competition was announced in 1985 and took into account the development carried out during the previous five years. This five years showed dramatic progress in the development and management of John's resources.

His land farmed increased from 37 adjusted acres to 74.

Cow numbers from 7 livestock units to 28.

Milk yields from 985 gallons per cow to 1,427. This milk was produced with 18cwt meals per cow.

## Other Developments

- 6 acres acquired from the Land Commission.
- 15 acres purchased.
- 17 acres reclaimed.
- 28 acres rented.
- 80,000 gallon slurry tank.
- Slated House for 43 cows over slurry tank.
- Six unit Herring Bone milking parlour.
- Refrigerated bulk milk tank.
- Computerised Automatic Meal Feeding System.

He was selected as a Host Farmer in 1985. Host Farmers are involved in the training of young farmers under the A.C.O.T. Certificate in Farming. He was selected not only because of his farming expertise, but also because of his ability to impart knowledge and teach practical skills to young farmers.

This all resulted in John Cunnane being awarded first prize in the Dairying Section of the National Farm Development Competition.

#### **FarmWalk**

So that farmers from all over the country could see how this outstanding level of production was achieved in Mayo, John kindly agreed to allow a Farm Walk on his farm last July. Five to six hundred people from all over Ireland attended this Farm Walk.

#### **Future Development**

Development on this farm is far from finished. For 1986, John set himself a goal of 1,700 gallons per cow. To date he is well on target towards achieving this goal. This, in an area where the average milk yield is approximately 650 gallons per cow.

This is a remarkable achievement by any standard. I hope it will give example to other farmers in the West to strive towards a similar level of efficiency.

**Tony Flynn, A.C.O.T.**



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# Procession in Ballyhaunis



Procession in Ballyhaunis in the 1930's, any familiar faces?

Processions in Ballyhaunis in the 1930's were big occasions. In the evening whatever band came they would give a recital in the Concert Grounds for the people of the town. From what I hear strokes were pulled in those far off Halcyon days.

It seems there was a football match in Tooraree after the procession. The late Jimmy O'Dwyer approached the Parish Priest, Fr. Prendergast and

suggested that the band might play for the match in the same way that the Artane Boy's Band plays in Croke Park. This was done. However, having led the teams around the pitch the band became so engrossed in the game that they failed to turn up for the Concert in the Convent Grounds. Thus ended the band performances at matches in Ballyhaunis.

Joe Greene



Old photo of Abbey Street, courtesy of Martin Grogan (Foxford)

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# Give us a Smile

by E. Murren



Lester Pigott rarely smiles, horses rarely smile! What odds both happening?

Joe Mulligan, Coolfarna took this photo at the start of 1984 Epsom Derby. Joe has worked in the film lighting of "Beckett" starring Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton, with the Director, Sam Spiegel.

In the modern world of high unemployment, crippling mortgage rates and constant worry of one sort or another, it is good at times to relax and be entertained. One such form of entertainment which has gone on for generations has been that of storytelling or for the purposes of this article the joke-teller.

Jokes are told about all aspects of life be it work, religion, politics, sport, hobbies etc. Indeed, very often jokes help us to look on the bright side of things and to forget our problems for a little while at least.

The poor Kerryman has come under constant attack. No better man, however, to take a joke. These jokes often take the form of question and answer such as:-

- Q. What do call a man who marries another man?  
A. A priest!
- Q. Did you hear about the confused Kerryman?  
A. He couldn't understand how his sister had two brothers and he had only one!
- Q. The Kerryman man who stole the rope?  
A. He skipped it to England!

Religion too gets a hit on a regular basis. "Big Ian" being one of the favourites of a lot of comedians. However, we will ignore "Big Ian" and tell the story of the man who joined an order of monks and took a vow of silence. Every seven years he was allowed to

say two words. At the end of the first seven years he appeared before the Abbot and when asked what he would like to say - he said "Bed hard". Seven more years went by and this time he uttered the words "Grub bad". Finally after 21 years he stated "I'm leaving". To which the Abbot replied "I'm glad, because you've done nothing but complain since you came here.

Many stories too are told about one's place of work and none more so that school. This little story tells of a little boy, Johnny, who was absent a day from school and when he appeared the next day the teacher said:-

"Johnny you were absent yesterday".  
"My Daddy got burned Miss". Johnny replied.  
"Oh, I hope it's not too serious". said the teacher.  
"Well it's like this Miss, they don't mess around in those crematoriums."

Hobbies and sport too take an enormous amount of jokes. For the golfer there is the story about the fellow going for a round who meets with another player who asks if he may join him for a round. This other player has a dog with him and on the first green when he holes a putt the dog gets up on two paws and applauds.

"That's amazing" said the first golfer "Does he always do that when you hole a putt?"  
"Oh yes, he always claps when I hole a putt" said the

stranger.

"And what does he do when you miss a putt?" asked the first golfer.

"Oh he somersaults" was the reply.

"And how many somersaults does he do?"

"It all depends on how hard I kick him!" was the quick reply!

The gambler too often makes the occasional blunder that leaves him open to ridicule as shown in the following story;

An Irishman, Englishman and a Jew were on holidays in Rome. One night when returning to their hotel they discovered a dead body. Automatically, they recognised it as that of the Pope. Together, they carried it to the Vatican, there they were put under oath not to reveal to anyone for 48 hours what they had discovered. The next day on their return flight to London, the Jew posed the question "I wonder what odds would the bookies give me on the Pope being dead within the next 24 hours?". Two weeks later they met again and the Jew declared that he was a wealthy man because he had a good bet at 50/1. The English man was also

happy even though he only got 33/1. Poor Paddy stated "I lost" the others asked "How could you lose?" To which Paddy replied "I put him in a double with the Archbishop of Canterbury!"

Finally, we will tell the story of the Kerryman on Mastermind who took Green Mythology as his chosen subject. However, he was told by Magnus Magnusson "I'm afraid sir, we have no questions on Green Mythology, will Cowboys and Indians do?"

"Anything at all" said the Kerryman.

"Your first question - can you tell me a creature in Greek Mythology that was half man and half animal?" To which the Kerryman replied "Would it be Buffalo Bill?"

Those are just a few little stories which I hope will bring a smile and a laugh to some faces. I will finish with an old Ballyhaunis Proverb "An apple a day keep the Doctor away, but an onion a day keeps everyone away!"

P.S. Apologies to the Editor for the ridicule of his fellow countrymen. But, come next September, they will probably have the last laugh again!

## BÈACÀN / BEKAN

### Portrait of an East Mayo Parish

(Edited by Fr. Michael Comer & Nollaig Ó Muraíle)

During the year, surely one of the most significant local events was the publication of the superb history of Began Parish. This was the brain-child of Fr. Michael Comer, who for a number of years now has been collecting material with care and devotion. And the same is true, of course, of Nollaig Ó Muraíle, the now recognised expert on local Mayo history (whose already published works are the most dependable sources we have.) Happily, both men joined together their impeccable scholarship and, very importantly, an obvious love for their native parish, to produce this model book on Began, a book that now undoubtedly sets a standard for aspiring local historians all over Ireland. In my view it is a classic copy-book that should find its way into every library in the country - school libraries and county libraries, especially now since so many young people are enthusiastic researchers into their local roots.

The intention here is not to produce an exhaustive review, because this has been well and fittingly done in the local papers. There the reviewers hailed the book as a masterpiece, which it truly is. In a sense, what is being written here is more in the nature of a benediction on the book, as it sets off on its journey. There is a danger, of course, that because of its brevity what is being said may sound more like a sales-blurb than a review. In this case, I think that is inevitable, and the reason is that I could not rate the book too highly. Superlatives are all that come to my mind.

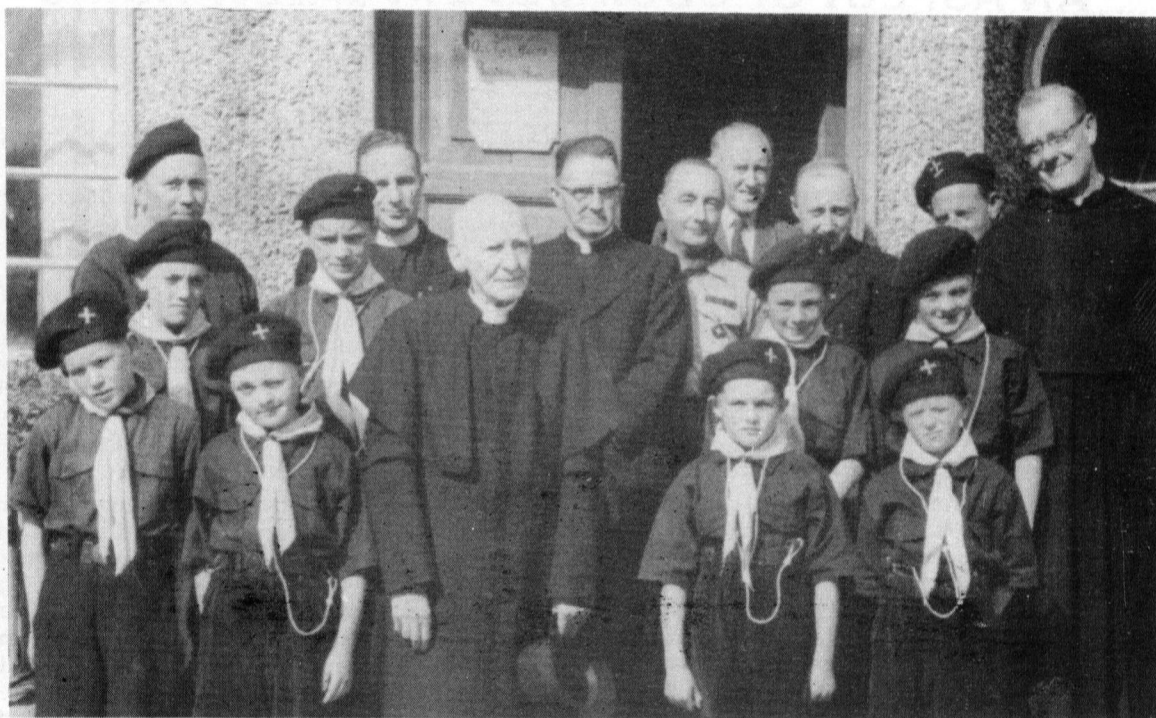
In the opening chapter, Nollaig Ó Muraíle sets the scene with an outline of the story of Began, beginning

in prehistoric times and moving right up to the jet age (which has now literally come to the doorstep of the parish in nearby Knock Airport). And after that the Table of Contents shows how richly the editors have people that scene, using many collaborators (who used their own expertise and love to bring the area to life for us). So we have a chapter on Began's Archaeological Heritage, a rundown on the townlands of the Parish, interesting material on some of the local place-names, and so on with chapters on the schools and churches, on local heroes, on various aspects of Began folklore, on the games and language connection, on Began surnames, and so on and so on.

What can I say but that there in the pages of 'Beacán/Began', an East Mayo Parish comes truly to life in a very fine illustrated production (printed by the Connaught Telegraph). For me, it is an entirely rich book - rich, scholarly and affectionate. So I see it as a real treasure for local people of the Began-Ballyhaunis area, an ideal eye-opener for the 'Pale' people beyond (and ever for those from the south who might have a feeling for such things) and a recommended buy for everyone who likes a work well done and for all who look for true heart and sentiment in a written record.

This is a superb living book of faultless scholarship and of enthusiastic affection. It sells at £5 and may be had at the bookshops in Ballyhaunis and elsewhere, or direct from Fr. Michael Comer, The Presbytery, Ballinrobe. The book is in the "Annagh" format, but has roughly twice as many pages. From that you will be able to judge the relative cost of postage. Gladly we send this book on its way with a blessing on its head. We are conscious that it will do the locality proud.

J. O'C.



PHOTOGRAPHED AFTER A SCOUT INVESTITURE IN THE PAROCHIAL HALL IN THE LATE 50s  
 Front Row (l to r): Billy Lyons (Devlis), John Higgins (Devlis), Archdeacon Prendergast P.P., Colm Durkan (Abbeyquarter), Michael Herr (Knox Street).  
 Middle Row: Christy Morrison (Knox Street), Frank Mulligan (Devlis), Fr. Rushe C.C. (Chaplain), Pat Higgins (Devlis), Jim Higgins (Devlis).  
 Back Row (l to r): Seamus Durkan, Three National Scout Leaders, John Morley R.I.P. (Kilmannin), Fr. Foley O.S.A.  
 In Doorway: Mr. William Mulligan (Former Scoutmaster)

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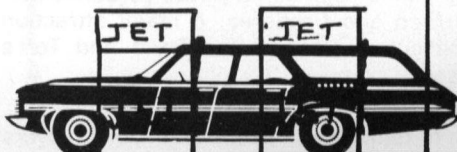
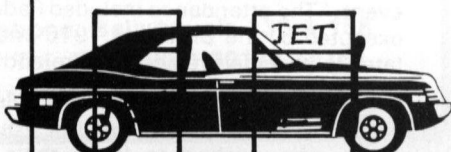
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# AN ASPECT OF SOCIAL LIFE IN BALLYHAUNIS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY

Pauline Morley



Courtesy of Joanna Morley

Nationalistic fever was at a high pitch in Ballyhaunis and was a contributing factor in the formation and preservation of many clubs. The tidal wave of nationalism had spread so far as to inculcate some of its ideas into that most Anglo-Saxon of games, soccer. As we shall see the soccer club was very Irish, but its Irishness was not enough to allow it to continue with the arrival of Peil Gaelach to Ballyhaunis.

The Ballyhaunis Young Ireland Association Football club was the name of the soccer club in the town. Soccer was a very popular game with the gentlemen of the area prior to the formation of the G.A.A. club as it was the only ball game available to the men at the time. Training for the men took place on Sunday afternoons and the majority of time was given over to playing against themselves.

On St. Patrick's Day 1901 a soccer tournament was held on the old race course in Tooraree and was attended by teams from as far away as Ballinrobe, Ballaghaderreen and Castlerea. A major attraction was the Ballaghaderreen Brass Band and Toft's Hobby Horses.

The spirit of nationalism expressed by the players of this alien game was illustrated by the choice of

team names. The Ballyhaunis team illustrated this nationalism in their new banners designed for the day.

"They have a splendid new outfit, also flags and banners with the harp without the crown on a green banner and around the harp is the inscription in Irish letters 'Old Ireland' forever".

Shortly after this date a G.A.A. team was founded in Ballyhaunis, and this, because of the nationalistic fervor in the town had a negative influence on the soccer club and it gradually declined.

"The personnel of the club is a guarantee that the objects of the original promoters will be carried out in a thorough-going and whole-hearted manner, an antidote to the morbid hankering after the remnants and fag-end of a British athletic innovation. The spirit of the Ballyhaunis "Boys" has the right ring of nationality about it and the movement in that lively little town is certain to be a brilliant success. The officers include Messrs. Philip J. Waldron (President), D.J. Raftery (Treasurer), J.F. Smyth (Secretary), Thos. J. Cooney (Asst. Secretary).

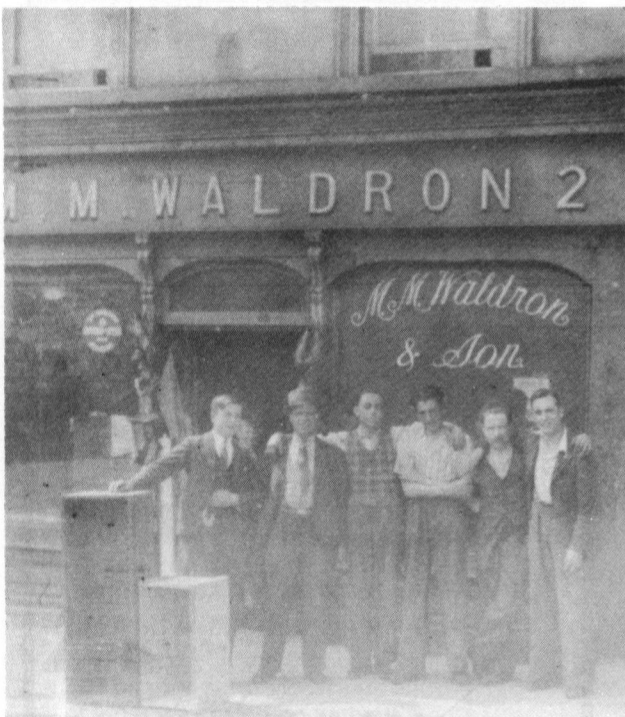
Several of the members of the G.A.A. club had been very active members of the Young Ireland Association Football club but hastily removed themselves from that club with the arrival of the G.A.A. club and the following was to be seen in the next issue of the local paper.

"We are desirous to state that the names of some of these gentlemen were impudently mentioned through the press in connection with another movement. They wish to have it stated that they would not touch with the proverbial 40 ft. pole anything having a flavour of mawkish West Britonism and that is a sufficiently emphatic contradiction of the report put in circulation."

The Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club progressed from that point onwards, winning matches against Ballina, Ballaghaderreen and Charlestown. In the early years the home venue for these matches were Pollnacraoighy Farm and the old race course in Tooraree.

The influence of the gaelic revival movement continued to be strong in Ballyhaunis and on the 15th and 16th March, 1903, Ballyhaunis hosted the first Mayo Feis with the G.A.A. playing their part along with the Gaelic League in the organisation of the event. "The attendance included Pádraig MacPiarais, executed by the British in 1916 and Douglas Hyde, later to become President of Ireland".

The Gaelic League in Ballyhaunis was very well organised and had a teacher, (Mr. Toughy) to teach all those who wished to learn their native tongue.



Taken outside Waldron's in 1939 now Gallaghers Ltd., Main Street. Left to right: Thomas Raftery, Det. J. Farrelly, Luke Scott, Eddie Webb, Billy Lyons R.I.P., Eugene Dolan. Courtesy of Paul Gallagher

During 1901 circulars were sent around advising parents to send their children to the classes for the cultural and intellectual benefits that bi-lingualism would give. The highlight of the year came very early for this group with the arrival of Dr. Douglas Hyde to the town in February 1901. Preparations had been made for months beforehand and the event was well advertised in the local papers. The founder of the Gaelic League arrived in Ballyhaunis on Wednesday, 13th February where he delivered his lecture in aid of the Irish Language Movement to a very large crowd, many of whom had travelled miles to hear him speak. According to newspaper reports the lecture was a great success and it got a splendid review in the local paper the following Saturday.

"It speaks well for the Gaelic Revival Movement that all the speakers spoke in the first instance in the ancient language, and the applause from various portions of the hall showed that the remarks in the melodious tongue of our forefathers were both understood and appreciated. Dr. Hyde spoke for over two and half hours, and during the whole time the audience was captivated by the manner, eloquence and power of the man, and the absorbing interesting character of the subject. We entertain no doubt that the lecture will have lasting effects. Already as a result of his advice, a meeting has been held for the purpose of establishing a branch of the G.A.A. in connection with the Gaelic League.



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# A NIGHT IN 1944

It was night in '44 when German planes were flying  
o'er

O'er our native soil and from the air  
dropped paratroopers in the County Clare.  
A rumour then went far and near  
that not alone in the County Clare  
But in a spot not far from here  
A dozen more had landed  
The exact spot no one could tell  
Some said Scrigg others said Hollywell.

This rumour grin, others rumours breded  
Until all the place more rumours exceeded.  
A youth dashed in from Kiltyboe  
saying German tanks were seen in Leow.  
And another came with tidings grave  
concerning poison gas in Cave.  
A courier on a foam flashed steed  
Dashed into town at lightening speed.  
Saying come quick for Peter's sake  
There are submarines in Annagh Lake.

Now all cosy in the Parochial Hall  
The patrons sat, unconscious all  
of what was going on without  
The scent of Woodbines and of stout  
Mingled with that of chocolate sweets,  
And whiskey; from the dearer seats  
Assailed my nostrils as I sat and viewed  
with deepest interest  
That charming Clark Gable  
was making love to Betty Grable  
And as he was about to grip her,  
A message reached me from the skipper.  
Come at once without delay.  
I groaned, stood up and made my way.  
Cursing my loss of one-and-four  
Went hotly to the Barrack door.  
Outside of which were crowds of men.  
I gasped out 'What's wrong' and then in nervous tones  
by one was told the awful news  
My blood ran cold.

I entered in the day where I noticed a very strained  
Atmosphere. And there at a steel legged bench  
sat the skipper and by his side was Peter Lynch.  
And also standing by the fire  
was Leo Boyle and James Dwyer  
And with them too was Dalgan Lyons  
They all looked grim and all showed signs  
Of inner stress.

Then outside the Barrack door  
We heard a sudden and awe inspiring roar  
It foretold the coming of the Doc Eamonn  
in his antiquated crock.  
He entered the day room in a hurry  
saying where are the Red Cross and  
Where is Murray?  
At which the meeting then began.  
The speaker said let every man listening  
To me here tonight.  
Do his duty, do it right.

Remember that it's not for fun  
We are gathered here each man his gun.  
Get at once without delay  
And on instructions make his way.  
With Godly speed and minus fuss,  
To any given point as designated.  
And this night remember that you cannot  
be killed even though in Buckets full is  
Spilled your lifes blood.

Our gallant Red Cross  
Will swiftly minimise your loss.  
Transfusions from those gallant men  
Will put you on your feet again.  
So now it's up to you and me  
To help to keep old Ireland free.  
By tracking down that enemy  
That threatens our neutrality.  
So I now conclude by wishing you  
Good luck, long life and liberty.

The meeting finished.  
Men were sent to Began Cross  
And others went to man the bridge at Knockna-ra  
And a patrol hastened to Lecarrow  
to man the vital Plunkett Pass  
Whilst men went out Ballyglass  
To watch the hills and to command the air.  
And all unknown air craft landing there.  
Then a number of the older dogs,  
Went down to safeguard "Molly the Bogs".  
And I myself with heavy pack  
And an Enfield rifle on my back  
Was ordered down to Carrowrea  
But in the dark I lost my way.

After which I lost my head  
And got to Aghamore instead.  
By which time my tongue was parched,  
With all I'd cursed and all I'd marched.  
With eager steps I made my way  
Up to the house of Johnny A.  
And as I was knocking on the door  
Around the corner came a score  
of husky fellows.  
And suddenly they laid ungentle hands on me.  
They took my pack, they took my gun.  
The Leader said "Bravo, well done,  
We have caught a bloomin foreign Spy",  
You silly ass, you're wrong said I.  
I'm an L.D.F. man don't you see.  
The leader laughed "You said he".  
Then to his men said "Do you know I think  
We'll shoot the owl so and so".  
Put him up against the wall,  
Well let him have one and all.

My cheeks grew pale  
My senses swam.  
But I stood my ground being the man I am.  
And I shouted "Vile villains, do your worst!  
I fear you not."

Then my shirt front burst with a sense of Valor  
 That filled my breast  
 And a locket with our family crest  
 Was suspended from my neck  
 The leader saw it and shouted "Heck".  
 "Where did you get that locket from?  
 Don't tell me you're my brother Tom  
 Who was stoled by the tinkers long ago."  
 I looked at him, and I know it was so.  
 The manly form, the handsome face.  
 The likeness it was not hard to trace.  
 I took his hand, I kissed his cheek.  
 I felt so full I could not speak.  
 He put his arm my shoulders around  
 Our tears fell swiftly to the ground.

Thus ended the night in '44.  
 When German planes were flying ore.  
 When I found my brother in Aghamore.  
 So I'll finish now and say no more.

Written by George Murray  
 Scoutmaster 4th Mayo Troop  
 Poet, Playwright and Conert Performer

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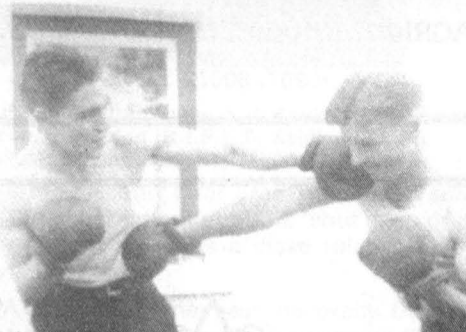
L.D.F. 1945

Back Row (l to r): Leo Boyle, John McCormack, John Tarpey.  
 Middle Row (l to r): Archie Lambert, Jim Flatley, Tony Morley, Jimmy McGreal, Sean Regan.  
 Front Row (l to r): Fred Herr, Seamus Sammon, Jimmy Dwyer, Michael D. Lyons, Jim Gannon

## LOOKING BACK AT THE 1940s

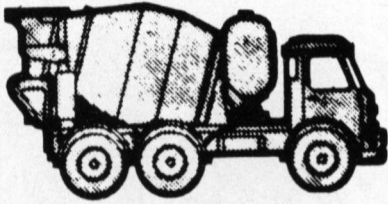
Both boxing photographs  
 courtesy of Shaun Regan Methuen, Mass., U.S.A.

Shaun Regan and John Dyar



John 'Bull' Waldron, Joe Keane and Shaun Regan

Boxers training in the 1940s



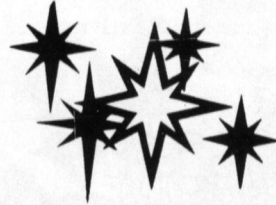
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# LIFE IN BALLYHAUNIS IN THE LATE 20's AND EARLY 30's



**BRACKLOON SCHOOL 1939**

**Top Row (l to r): J. Kelly (U.S.A.), M. Kelly, A. Kelly, H. Kelly, P. Waldron, S. Hannon, V. Keidian (R.I.P.).**

**2nd Row (l to r): J.J. Sloyan, M.J. Nolan, T. Hunt, A. Waldron, J. Hanlon (R.I.P.), E. Keidian (R.I.P.).**

**Bottom Row (l to r): T. McNamara (R.I.P.), M. Flanagan, P. Kelly, P. Sloyan, J.M. McNamara, P.J. Nolan.**

That mine of local knowledge, shopkeeper Mr. Tom Hopkins recalled life in his youth in Ballyhaunis from 'Mam Duggan's to Sarah Brennan's' when he spoke to Jim Lunden recently...

He recalls clearly coming out of the Convent gates with Eamonn Phillips and seeing the black tar on the roads for the first time. The model T van was coming from the meat market driven by Eamonn's father at the time. It must have been between April and October because they were barefooted. Many a time they compared stone bruises as the new tarmac only covered the town. Otherwise the stones for the roads were supplied by a contractor called John Feeney of Erriff, father of Michael. Out in the country areas men broke stones with lump hammers to spread on the roads.

## **LIGHTING**

The street lighting was provided by a Mr. Burke and later Tommy Gavin. These lamplighters lit a lamp on the bridge, one at the square, one fifty yards above the Parish Church gate, one where Mick O'Connell lives now, one in Knox Street and one in Market Street now Clare Street.

Speaking of lights he recalled the lights of funerals coming up the town. A horse drawn hearse with the blooms on the horse's heads. The candlelamps on either side of the hearse. Some funerals even had two carriages. Back along the funeral then were sidecars and traps each with two candlelamps. At the church gate were two lamps lit by Jim Clarke. The sidecars had two people on each side and a driver. It

had a top piece in it for groceries. When someone died the shopkeepers put up a 'shut' sign or indeed three or four if it was a close relative or a good customer.

**WATER** was another basic necessity. Down where the town pumphouse is/was known as a "Big Well" - a great source of water for people from nearby townlands also. It was a main source for Larry O'Brien's Mill later on and the quality of the water was so pure that it was described thus "it bathed our babes and washed our dead."

The cattle and **PIG FAIRS** were great occasions for youngsters at that time. The pig farmers would drive in the pigs the night before. Shopkeepers provided stalls for them often made from American bacon boxes. The jobbers came via the station and stayed in boarding houses the night before. The pigs were brought to the centre of the town the next day with the bonhams in trailers. Forde's hung a huge shirt outside the house during the market. Cheapjacks sold delph, clothes etc. in stalls along the street.

For entertainment there were the **PICTURES**. Tom remembers Johnny Conway's Hall, now Gallagher's Store, particularly a silent film "ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT". He mentioned especially the latted seating with children standing on them. Later in Waldron's Hall films were shown by Leo Caslin from Swinford on Friday and Sunday nights. A serial called "Tailspin Tommy" ran for ages.

### SKATING NEAR BALLYHAUNIS

Incredibly ice skating was common on Annagh Lake (now gone). People from Annagh and Carrow-nedan followed the pike on skates! They tapped the ice with hammers to stun it and were very deft on skates. In recent years similar activities were reported by Jim Fahy on R.T.E. elsewhere.

### THE BALL ALLEY AND SWEETSHOPS

This was a great social centre for young people as they watched games ranging from handball itself to pitch and toss being played behind the alley. Nearby was Mrs. Kileen's sweetshop. Other great children's sweetshops were Miss Mac's, Miss Lyon's and Sarah Brennan, Miss Grogan's where you could buy broken toffee on a tray, and perfume sweets. Near the Ball Alley was the Custom Gap where cattle were weighed. The cart and cattle were weighed first and then the empty cart. Also near the Ball Alley and the Lochán was Taylor's Hill - a great area for children to play in.

### THE BELL MAN

Tommy Gavin was the bell man. He announced films, auctions, dances, shows like McMasters. His great phrase was "come in bare your feet and go home in a motor car."

### AEROPLANE IN TOWN

A huge sensation was when a man landed in an aeroplane and he brought it to Ballyhaunis on a lorry. Philip Morley climbed up on the lorry and into the cockpit amid all the excitement in town. A big fire at Johnny Kenny's, Main Street gutted the three storey building. There was no water supply in the town at that time. The fire started at around 10.00 a.m. The Athlone Fire Brigade arrived that afternoon and pumped water from the river. The house was gutted but no one was hurt.

### ACROSS THE ROAD

Tom recalled that Dr. Crean built the first Ulster Bank in the town now Fr. Gleason's house. The first priest in that house was Fr. Johnny Greally C.C., later Fr. Fergus C.C. lived in it and he later became Bishop Fergus of Achonry. In the 'thirties the Holy Hour drew huge crowds in the Parish Church - it was so crowded that children sat on the side seats between the centre and the side aisles.

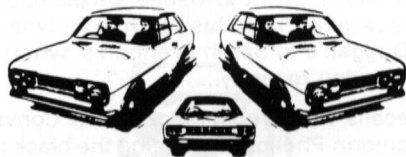
### GREATEST NIGHT OF ALL

The switching on of the Electricity in the town he maintains was the biggest single event that he remembers in that time. The switch on was in McGarry's old hall. People had paid one pound per light to be connected. It was a huge night. The ladies and gents attending were formally dressed in fine clothes and gowns - a switch was pressed the lights were on and thus began a new era in Ballyhaunis. The period coming up to the Second World War will hopefully be dealt with by Tom in future editions of "Annagh".

Jim London



Cyril O'Malley former E.S.B. official, resplendent in "The Red Cross" uniform of the War Years.



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# THE OLD TOWN WELL

by Mick O'Connell

WHEN the late Peter O'Malley of Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis, assumed his right as a citizen of the town and stopped County Council workmen from filling in and doing away with the old town well in Ballyhaunis some years ago, he did the town a service which, many feel, should be appreciated to a greater extent.

The old town well was the only source of water for the town prior to the installation of the waterworks in the early '30s and is located beside the Post Office in the centre of the town.

A gate has been erected at the entrance to the well, and at this time of year, particularly, the well will have its share of Autumn leaves and other refuse.

When our reporter viewed the well last week, the walls needed attention and there were weeds in evidence along the steps leading down to the well.

Mr. Michael Finnegan, the Ballyhaunis Town Ganger, who has been praised over the years for the conscientious manner in which he keeps the town in such a clean condition, has stated that he has no objection to cleaning the well area at regular intervals provided the work is defined as part of his duties by the Mayo County Council. This is typical of the attitude of Mr. Finnegan, who takes a personal pride in keeping the town of Ballyhaunis clean and tidy, and he can take much credit for the high marks attained by Ballyhaunis in the recent Tidy Towns competition. With the well area cleaned regularly and the walls whitewashed about twice a year there is little doubt, but that it would add to the town's rating in the annual Tidy Town's competition and would also enhance the appearance of the centre of the well laid out town of Ballyhaunis.

What prompted me to write those few lines is the following poem and introductory remarks from the pen of the late **Dr. Michael F. Waldron**, the well-known scholar, who resided at Knox St., Ballyhaunis and who was brother of the late Mr. P.A. Waldron N.T., the renowned poet, dramatist and wit.

The poem was sent to me by Ballyhaunis man, **Mr. Mikie Walsh**, now resident in Manchester, to whom I am deeply grateful.

I might add that the well has a special significance for Ballyhaunis emigrants, most of whom when on holiday in the town have indicated how delighted they were at the action of the late Peter O'Malley in preserving the well for posterity, some of them suggesting that the well should now be named "O'Malley's Well".

We publish hereunder the introductory remarks and poem "The Old Town Well" written by Dr. Michael F. Waldron:-

According to tradition, the Ballyhaunis town well is as old as the founding of the town in the 14th century.

Up to the inauguration of the present public water system in 1933, it was the main source of supply for the inhabitants - a free gift of bounteous nature and an incalculable blessing to the community at large.

It has never yet been known to run dry, even in seasons of the most prolonged drought.

Its sparkling water has been analysed and pronounced to be the purest and best to be found anywhere.

Though now regarded mostly as a historical landmark, the old well still serves its original purpose in times of emergency when other sources fail, as happened during the intense frost a couple of years ago.

Such a venerable and faithful old friend deserves a few commemorative lines:-

'Tis known to all both young and old,  
More valu's than a mine of gold,  
With crystal gleam its water swell-  
A precious spot - the Old Town Well.

Its gushing springs for ever flow,  
Thro' storm or sunshine, weal or woe:  
Blessings more rich than tongue can tell,  
Have flowed from out the Old Town Well.

Its icy waters pure and bright,  
Sparkling like jewels in morning light,  
The fiercest thirst would quick dispel,  
Sweet fount of health - the Old Town Well.

No drink so soothing cheap and rare,  
Could with its limpid drops compare,  
A gift from bounteous Heaven that fell,  
Undoubted is the Old Town Well.

What countless years its stream has sped.  
How many generations fed,  
Who lone within the tomb who dwell,  
And need no more the Old Town Well.

Those deep worn steps bear witness strong,  
To constant traffic by the throng,  
That up and down like endless chain,  
Trug'd year by year, sunshine or rain.  
The feet that wore those steps so bare,  
Have passed away from earthly care,  
No more they'll come at morn or noon,  
To seek the free God-given boon.  
They'll loiter round the top no more,  
With brimming buckets dripping o'er,  
To meet old friends to laugh and chat,  
And views exchange 'bout this and that.  
A dear romantic quaint old spot,  
By countless thousands ne'er forgot,  
But tho' the crowds come here no more.  
It smiles and gushes as of vore.  
The exile fore'd perhaps to roam,  
Afar from friends and happy home,  
Might still recall the magic spell.  
That drew him towards the Old Town Well.

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14th September, 1983

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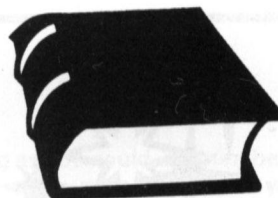
# MEDUGORJE

Where the Cock Crows and the Birds Sing

**I have little doubt that this book on Medugorje by Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A. will be exceptionally welcome and will prove to be a very popular addition to the growing literature in English on the now famous Yugoslavian parish, where Marian apparitions have been alleged since 1981.**

With its poetic title (I presume of didactic intent), the book is written in a gentle attractive style that is entirely persuasive, with happy touches of lyricism in evidence throughout. What I like especially about the writing is that it is never strident in its message or claims. The author makes it quite clear that the alleged apparitions are still under Church investigation and that in the end it is the official ecclesiastical approval that matters. Meanwhile, however, after a week's stay in Medugorje this year, he himself argues for the seeming authenticity of the events having been more affected, it would seem, by the extraordinary faith of the people there than anything else.

The book falls into two sections. Firstly, in a personal essay Fr. O'Connor brings us through his week there, with emphasis on the impact Medugorje had on himself, but also weaving into his impressions the story of the alleged apparitions from the beginning.



Then in the second part of the book, the author gives a long list of informative appendices. This division, I think, works well. Needless to say, one will want to read the personal essay all through, but regarding the appendices, one can pick and choose, omitting some maybe, or reading them in whatever order one wishes. This, I think, is a sensible format.

All in all, then, this is a very attractive and worthwhile book, but its appeal, of course, is not only in the writing and the literary editing. In fact, what will first catch the eye is the sheer beauty of the production, excellence of the lay-out and the abundance of the fine coloured photographs that are fresh and delightful, as well as the generous selection of black and white illustrations.

At £3.00 this is an inexpensive book. Undoubtedly it will be a favourite with everyone who has ever visited Medugorje or who knows about it. But I think too that it will be an excellent introduction to people who have never gone there, or who may not even be interested. Indeed, I could well see that its main merit will be to make converts for this remarkable place, which is now attracting thousands and thousands of pilgrims every year.

M. O'S.



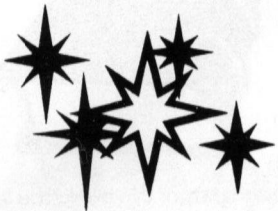
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Second Row (l to r): Brendan McGrath (Knock), Padraig Sloyan (Reiste), John Conway (Ballyhaunis), Dermot Eagney (Ballyhaunis), J. Cunningham (Ballinlough), P. Halpin (Ballyhaunis).

Priests (l to r): Fr. Glennan, Fr. McMyler, Fr. Costello, Fr. Burke, Fr. Kennedy, Fr. Waldron.

Photo Courtesy of Joan McLoughlin, Coogue



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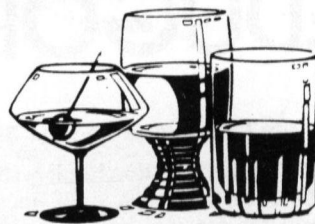
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# THE TIME OF DAY

At one time in our career the telling of the time of the day was a chore that required the utmost concentration together with a lot of luck. Perhaps it was the clock's fault that sometimes it just happened to be half past thirteen, or some such time. The passing of time was mysterious. The division of time into minutes, hours, days, weeks, and so forth was, at best, something that should be left to the educated people. My own struggle to master the face of the clock was not helped by the insistence of my uncle that the clock in Logbooy Church was "a fortnight slow".

There scarcely exists today a child of seven who does not own a watch, and not just a watch but a contraption that also tells you the day of the week and the month as well as the phases of the moon, the tides and the temperature. In addition to all this it is also likely that it is a calculator which can do the most complicated mathematical problems. Whatever happened to long division and the "times tables"?

With the advent of the micro chip and the other miracles of technology anyone who can read numbers can tell the time. Because of this, there are teenagers who are unable to read the face of an 'old-time' clock. Because there are so many watches nowadays it is never "about two o'clock" - it now becomes "three minutes and fifteen seconds past two". How different from the old days!!!

In the olden days the telling of the time of the day was an art. There was no need of a timepiece and very few owned one. There were several criteria that could be used. When you got hungry you knew it must be close to dinner time. A man working in the fields or in the bog had sure-fire ways of telling the time of day. He knew that the train went by every day at a specified time ... the fact that it could be an hour late caused no great excitement. The Angelus Bell from any of the various Churches was considered fairly accurate. Sometimes the sound of the Angelus Bell was a bad omen ... if you could hear the bell from Began Church it was supposed to be a sign of rain approaching. (If you couldn't hear it, it was probably because it was raining.) The 'scholars' going home from School was a sign that it was between three and four o'clock. The postman on his bicycle went by at approximately by the same time every day. A cow in a nearby field always knew it was milking time and gave a signal to all, far and wide. An "Eggler" in his van was fairly accurate in announcing not only the time of the day but also the day of the week. The fresh smoke from the chimney of a family of late risers was a sign that it must be close to ten o'clock. All of these, and many more, together with the location of the sun in the sky, aided us in our calculation of the time of day. Some men in the village were noted for their accuracy in telling the time without the use of a timepiece.

In Summertime the clock was of little use. If the weather was good you worked in the hay field or in

the bog as long as you could. I remember an incident that happened many years ago ... more years ago that many I care to remember. The weather was good and I was footing turf. I was trying to get the job finished that day, and although it was late in the evening nobody cared. In the next bank was a well-known old time fiddler, Mike Brennan, God rest his soul. All who knew him knew that he was the possessor of a fine sense of humour. He too was working late with no regard for time. It must have been close to ten o'clock in the evening and it was getting fairly dark when Mike appeared on his way home. As he got closer he shouted "Hi, A Mac, did the Angelus ring yet!" yet?"

Rev. Austin J. Cribbin

---

## LIVING?

There was a very cautious man who never romped or played. He never smoked, he never drank, nor even kissed a maid. So when he passed away, they say Insurance was denied, for since he never lived, they claim he never died.

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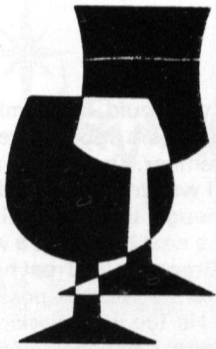


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# What Ballyhaunis Means to Me

My memories have to start in Clare St. - My Street - don't they? My first memory was the 'Big Snow' of '47. I was eight years old. To me at that time it was all very exciting, I didn't think of the hardship or the cold, it was digging my way to the shops, and meeting the neighbours doing the same thing. Everyone was so friendly and so helpful because we had such wonderful neighbours. I remember the time of the bad storm when all the bottom part of our house was flooded. - What fun that caused! Everyone was helping as usual especially Frank Glynn R.I.P. who came up with a bright idea of putting sawdust down to soak up the wet. Well it may have seemed like a good idea at that time, but it literally took us months to get rid of the stuff out of the house. Needless to say Frank kept away for a while, as my mother wasn't too pleased with him!

## Mac's Hill

"Mac's" Hill was a terrific spot at the back of our house. All the children of the street met there. It was there that we held our bonfires. What great times we had. Not to forget Brod Byrne's (R.I.P.) field where we went fishing, or at least we thought we were fishing and were quite happy. It often amazes me looking back how we had the 'run' of the whole town, it was like a great big playground.

In Autumn we would go to Hazelhill, to pick the nuts. The strange thing to me was that no one ever said a word to us about trespassing. Indeed we didn't know the meaning of the word.

I remember well those lovely days in the convent when the weather was warm. The nuns allowed us to have lessons out of doors. I loved the smell of the freshly cut grass, that smell now evokes memories of the convent, in Ballyhaunis. On the way home from school, I always ran down to the Town Well as it always seemed a magical place to me. I used to have a drink of ice cold water.

When my children asked me to describe Ballyhaunis to them I always thought of it as a town surrounded by three churches. The Parish Church, the Friary and of course the Convent Church, where I went to Mass early Sunday mornings, when we expected to be busy in the hotel, waiting on people passing through to Knock.

I was eight years in the Central Hotel. I suppose I grew up there. It was like my second home. That's where I really got to know Ballyhaunis. I was looking after the children at first until they were old enough for school.

## Town Characters

We had some marvellous characters in the town to name but a few. Sonny Dignan the Bell-Ringer. I

always liked to see him. Usually it meant a circus was coming to town.

There was an old lady that came to town, she used to collect bottles and sell them, we always called her Mary Bottles and I never knew any other name for her. I remember the first time I was going home after an absence of fifteen years. My sister Bridie had just been home and she said to me, Ballyhaunis has changed completely, "you can never go back" meaning things and people change. Well, back I went, and yes it had changed but I thought for the better. Bigger businesses, new colleges, a swimming pool - Annagh Lake used to be our swimming pool - new factories, an altogether different town. Yet essentially the same, because to me Ballyhaunis means the people, and thank God they don't change. You still get that lovely warm welcome, that makes you feel you have come home at last. I am so proud of Ballyhaunis and its people, they have done so much for the town and they don't forget their emigrants when they do pay a visit. Long may Ballyhaunis prosper and do please keep up the good work with the "Annagh" magazine. To me and I'm sure to many like me it's a piece of home which I value very highly. It really is a friend from home dropping in and bringing you up to date with all the happenings of the town.

My best visit home I spent in the Central Hotel as a guest of the family, I shall never forget it as I was treated with every kindness by May Horgan R.I.P. and indeed all the Freeley family. So until my next visit God willing I shall look at my copies of "Annagh" whenever I get homesick. They can bring a tear to the eye but they can also bring many a good laugh!

**Mrs. Ita Attawater (née Morrison)**

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# Mayo Harvest-Time Memories



Threshing in 1959 - Mick Keegan's Thresher  
On machine Mick Keegan, Tom Glynn R.I.P., Ned Prenty R.I.P.

There's a cool breeze from the ocean.  
The Summer heat has gone,  
As I set off to earn my daily bread  
Before the streak of dawn.  
With New York all around me,  
My thoughts in fondness go  
To Harvest-time in Ireland  
And my boyhood in Mayo.

O the enchantment all around us  
On a foggy harvest morn.  
Today, the sun will smile on us  
As we cut the golden corn.  
We tie the sheaves and stook it;  
And later we will go...  
To the mill and we'll have oaten bread,  
The best in all Mayo.

Along the briared hedges  
Delicious was the fare:  
The ripe and juicy blackberries...  
A feasting we went there,  
Along the green and mossy banks  
A hunting we would go  
For a 'churn' of wild bee honey  
The sweetest in Mayo.

Sure, we were self-sufficient:  
Industrious! I would say.  
Neighbour helping neighbour  
Along life's bumpy way.  
With happy hearts and busy hands,  
The world, we could show  
Best of all, how to exist  
As we did in Mayo.

Luke Carolan



Mrs. Thomas Murphy, Main Street seen here as a baby with her parents and family outside the family home in Aghamore. This photograph was taken over eighty years ago.

# PROBLEMS...PROBLEMS...PROBLEMS...PROBLEMS...

**DEAR CONCEPTA**

I have a very unusual complaint and I do not know where to turn for help. I realise that you think I'm mad when I tell you that I have become a pair of curtains. Friends are now telling me that I look very drawn, which is not helping my condition at all, at all, and I now find myself draped over a bar counter whenever I go out at night. I was never a very material person in the past but now I'm not so sure. I even made a pair of velvet trousers for myself recently, complete with turn-ups, and find myself aimlessly staring out of windows for no reason. What can I do?

**ANSWER:**

Have a good wash and pull yourself together!

**DEAR CONCEPTA**

Things have started to go wrong recently in my relationship and I hope you can help me with your advice.

My boyfriend, Michael, is a small farmer (about 5ft 6ins) and we have been going out together for the last 11 years. We had hoped to get engaged for Christmas, but in the past few months he has started to act very strangely and now I'm not so sure. The source of all the problems is a canine mutt called Willie, who strayed onto my boyfriend's farm one day. Well, Michael and his pet Willie now go everywhere together and have become soul mates, if not quite bosom buddies, attending everything from Mass to the greyhounds without embarrassment. The three of us now go to football matches together and if Willie's team isn't winning i.e. the team with the colour red on their jersey, he barks and howls until we leave the match.

Last week Michael and I went out to dinner and he insisted on bringing Willie with us. The waiter was very helpful but I felt awkward because the pet's table manners were atrocious; he insisted on sitting with his two paws up on the table, knocked over his prawn cocktail, slobbered into his soup and savaged his bowl of Chum like he hadn't been fed in two weeks. I really got mad when Willie insisted on gnawing at a bone for half an hour after we were finished and then finally running out the door without paying for his share of the bill. You could never call Michael a real Casanova but now, with Willie sitting in between us whilst watching T.V., the situation has become unbearable.

Am I being jealous or am I right in putting my foot down before its too late?

**ANSWER:**

This is a very common problem in the West of Ireland and I have a lot of sympathy for your predicament. I myself, when I was doing a lot of swimming, got very attracted to my pet goldfish at home and took them with me everytime I went to the pool - but when I was ready to leave it would take me hours to catch them. So I can only suggest that the three of you go to either a Guidance Councillor or a Vet and that one of ye gets put down.

**DEAR CONCEPTA**

I hope that a person of your wordly experience will be able to tell me how best to treat my parents in the predicament I now find myself. I have fallen head over heels in love with a gentleman from Senegal, called Okarno Wojingo, who is in Ireland for a year on a cultural exchange visit with a student from Bohola. I told parents about him and they invited him around for dinner. My parents always had a whacky sense of humour but they went too far when they met us at the door of our house wearing no shoes and grass skirts. They communicated in grunts and growls and had a rope suspended from the ceiling on which they would swing from room to room. We had a barbecue in the back consisting of wild boar and grapefruit and on the stereo my parents had playing the record "Great War Chants of the Masai Volume 3". Afterwards, we spent an hour trying to light the fire by rubbing two stones together and my boyfriend, No, as I affectionately call him (or "Go" when I'm mad at him) said he hadn't enjoyed himself so much since he killed a gazelle with a spear three years ago. I have not spoken to my parents since and now my boyfriend wants me to go to Senegal on holidays saying there will be no culture shock as it is just what I am used to at home. How do I refuse him without hurting his feelings and yet get back into my parents good books?

**ANSWER**

*I would suggest that you take up with the student from Bohola and send your parents to Senegal.*



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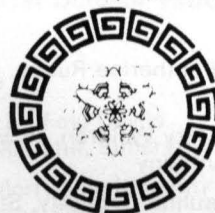


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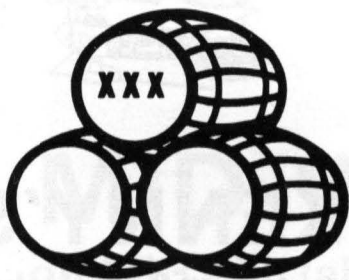
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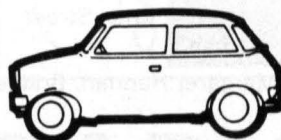
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# BIRTHS

St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis  
BAPTISMS

1st November 1985 - 31st October 1986



To Desmond and Catherine Ruane, Lurgan  
a son, Declan

To Seamas and Mary Waldron, Holyhill  
a son, Damien Anthony

To Gerard and Pauline Geraghty, Station Rise  
a son, Daryl Christopher

To Gabriel and Sally Caulfield, Upper Main Street  
a son, David James

To John and Anne Morley, Lisbane  
a son, David Christopher

To William and Eileen Nestor, Doctor's Road  
a son, William Martin

To John D. and Margaret Finnegan, Bohogue  
a daughter, Ann Marie

To Kieran and Mary Connolly, Lecarrow  
a son, David Gerard

To Barry and Thérèse Cunningham, Clare Street  
a son, Barry Francis

To Laurence and Máire Freyne, Hazelhill  
a daughter, Laura Mary

To John and Mary Kelly, Lecarrow  
a son, Paul Anthony

To Michael and Rosaleen Keane, Kiltaboe  
a daughter, Sarah Colette

To James and Bernadette Keane, Classaroe  
a daughter, Patricia Ann

To Sean and Ann Hanley, Knox Street  
a daughter, Aisling Marie

To George and Margaret Hannan, Bridge Street  
a son, David

To Sean and Statia Ward, Upper Main Street  
a daughter, Jacinta Marie

To John and Mary Cumiskey, Knox Street  
a son, Brian Joseph

To Brian and Jayne Crinnigan, Tullaghane,  
a son, Robert John

To Noel and Dymphna Folliard, Kiltaboe  
a daughter, Michelle

To Thomas and Judith Regan, Killinagher,  
a son, Mark Thomas

To Joseph and Kathleen Healy, Annagh,  
a son, Aidan Michael

To Patrick and Ann Powers, Devlis,  
a daughter, Veneta

To Thomas and Sarah Egan, Clagnagh,  
a son, Graham Thomas

To Patrick and Constance Gildea, Johnstown,  
a daughter, Niamh Elizabeth

To Michael and Maria McNamara, Tullaghane,  
a daughter, Siobhán Rachel

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

To Anthony and Ann Nestor, Island,  
a daughter, Catherine Ann

To Dermot and Jane Freeley, Upper Main Street,  
a son, Simon James

To Michael and Dolores Murphy, Doctor's Road,  
a daughter, Leanne Marie

To Joseph and Teresa Grogan, Knockbrack,  
a son, Robert Clarence

To Joseph and Mary Burke, Tullaghane,  
a daughter, Aileen

## Elsewhere

To Michael and Mary Halpin-O'Brien, Melbourne  
a daughter, Emma Gerardine



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# MARRIAGES

**MARRIAGES:-**

**1st November 1985 - 31st October 1986**



## **St. Patrick's Parish Church**

Louis J. McHugh, Dunmore  
Noreen C.M. O'Boyle

Patrick J. Hett, Dublin  
Marie C. Lyons, Johnstown

Kenneth Lavin, Castlereagh  
Catherine Fox, Cararea

Thomas J. Timlin, Killala  
Patricia Daly, Tooraree

Ciarán A. Casey, Dublin  
Mary C. Ryan, Holywell

## **St. Mary's Abbey Church, O.S.A.**

Peter P. Concannon, Kilconley  
Christine F. Nolan-Ward, Knox Street

Geoffrey D. Wood, Cardiff  
Ethna D. Griffin, Clare Street

## **Elsewhere**

Thomas A.M. Fox, Devlis  
Marcella McCann, Limerick

Brendan Morrissey, Kilkenny  
Ita McNaught, Dublin

Michael A. Flanagan, Spaddagh  
Margaret Tiernan, Castleplunkett

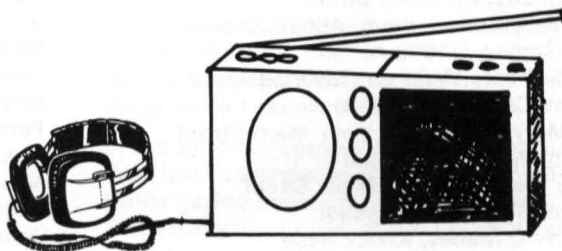
William J. O'Boyle, Carrowkeel  
Marie Cosgrave, Cloonfad

Michael D.M. Laffey, Abbey Street  
Eleanor Giles, Navan

Bernard Waldron, Cave  
Bridie Lavin, Cong

Francis Kenny, Devlis  
Brigid T. Keogh, Drumlish

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# DEATHS

## DEATHS

1 November 1985 - 31 October 1986

John Coyne, Ballyveale  
 Martin Walsh, Clagnagh  
 Martin Hunt, Scrigg  
 Gerard Murphy, Bridge Street  
 Mrs. Mary Niland, Island  
 John A. Fitzmaurice, Mountain  
 Timothy Rabbitt, Derrylea  
 Mrs. Susan Plunkett, Devlis  
 Thomas Biesty, Pattens Park  
 Patrick Muldoon, Annagh  
 Reginald Coen, Clagnagh  
 Mrs. Sarah Lynch, Main Street  
 John Simms, Tooraree  
 Tina McDonagh, Limerick  
 Patrick Kelly, Drimbane  
 Patrick Regan, Killinagher  
 Alan Prenty, Knock Road  
 John Culliney, Upper Main Street  
 Brigid Maughan, Cherryfield  
 Mrs. Catherine Regan, Killinagher  
 Robert Curley, Clare Street  
 Mrs. Sara Gildea, Tullaghane  
 Michael Kerrigan, Station Rise  
 Patrick Fitzmaurice, Togher  
 Michael Jordan, Annagh  
 Mrs. Frances Moran, Main Street  
 William Eagney, Clare Street  
 Mrs. Mary Cunningham, Abbey Street  
 Mary Ganley, Drimbane  
 Mrs. Kathleen Waldron, Tavanaghmore  
 Thomas Carney, Carrowkeel  
 Mrs. Mary J. Jordan, Upper Main Street  
 Anthony Moran, Hazelhill  
 James Freeley, Upper Main Street  
 Michael Smyth, Carrowkeel  
 Anthony O'Malley, Knock Road  
 James Freeley, Upper Main Street

Thomas Johnston, Knox Street  
 Mrs. Mary Caulfield, Holywell  
 Patrick Folliard, Carton South  
 Mrs. Mary K. Mullarkey, Bohogue  
 Brian Hosty, Carton South  
 James Cruise, Knockbrack  
 Hubert Curley, Classaroe  
 Peter Kearns, Gurrane  
 Mrs. Margaret Cribbin, Togher  
 John Freyne, Clare Street  
 John O'Boyle, The Crescent  
 Kate Lyons, Ballindrehid  
 Ann Freeley, Upper Main Street  
 Brian Marrinan, Knock Road  
 John Morley, Carrowkeel  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Griffin, Devlis

### Elsewhere

Mrs. Noreen Finlay, nee Niland, Island  
 Mrs. Nora Cassidy, Raith  
 Mrs. John Freeley, Island  
 Phil Freeley, late Main Street

Anthony Joyce, Leenane  
 Michael Waldron, Irishtown  
 Lilian Johnston, late Erriff  
 Edward Fleming, Scrigg  
 Jack Nestor, late Abbey Street  
 Thomas Hanley, Rockfield, Roscommon  
 Martin Hunt, Scrigg  
 Mrs. Charlotte McLoughlin, nee Coyne,  
 Bridge Street and Newbridge, Co. Galway  
 Martin Lyons, Erriff  
 Mrs. Brigid Buckley, Cork  
 Edward Aherne, Dublin  
 Mrs. Nora McLoughlin nee Mulrennan, Gurteen  
 James Conway, Mannin  
 Patrick Kilduff, Larganboy  
 Elizabeth Kenny, Dunmore  
 Mrs. Margaret Grogan, Ballinlough  
 Patrick Reardon, Dublin  
 Luke Moran, Ballintubber  
 John Sloyan, late Brackloon and Manchester  
 Mrs. Delia Curran, Headford  
 Michael Walsh, Granlahan  
 Denis Dennehy, Tuam  
 Mrs. Ita Healy, Dublin  
 William O'Dwyer, late Barrack Street and Dunmore  
 Elizabeth O'Reilly, late Woodpark  
 Patrick Moran, late of Coolafarna  
 John Ford, Reisk  
 Mother M. de Ricci, Westport Convent of Mercy  
 Mrs. Mary Ellicott, Tuam  
 Mrs. N. Winston, Castlereau  
 Patrick Glennon, Athlone  
 Mrs. Brigid Ruane, Cloonbook  
 Mrs. Kathleen Slattery nee Feeney, Redford  
 John Conroy, Westport  
 John Howley, Tuam  
 John Waldron, late Derrylahan  
 John Cassidy, late of Crossard  
 Charles Connolly, Williamstown  
 Sister Mary Carolan, Knock  
 Aidan Culliney, Lassiney  
 John Waldron, late Main Street  
 Mrs. Mary Fahey, Hollymount  
 Thomas Lyons, Cloonfad  
 Mrs. Nora Haughey, Athleague  
 Mrs. Mary Melia, nee Hunt, Lecarrow  
 John Gallagher, Aghamore  
 Mrs. Nora Cronin, nee McDonagh, Lisbane  
 Mrs. Thecla Flannery, Milltown  
 Thomas Fahey, Kilkerrin  
 Mrs. Mary Corr, Logboy  
 May Horgan, Hazelhill  
 Patrick O'Malley, The Neale  
 Fr. John Mulligan, S.J. late of Swinford  
 John McDermott, Navan  
 Mrs. Eileen Kelly, Castlereau  
 Mrs. T. Smyth, nee Eagney, Drimbane  
 Michael McDonnell, Cloonfad  
 Michael J. Kedian, late of Derrynacong  
 Mrs. Teresa Reddy, Borris

Patrick Browne, Killinagher  
 Joseph Tarmey, late of Holywell  
 Eileen Lyons, late of Main St. and Dunmore  
 Frank Colgan, Lucan  
 Mrs. Kathleen Coyne neé Byrne, Johnstown  
 Mrs. Margaret McHugh, Bekan  
 Michael Moran, Achill Sound  
 Monsignor James Horan, P.P., Knock  
 Jack McEllin, Claremorris  
 Austin Morris, Lissaniska  
 Seamus Mallee, Knock  
 Thomas Finn, Erritt  
 John Regan, late Killinagher  
 Brother Michael Flately, late of Gurteenmore  
 John Dunleavy, Manchester  
 Mrs. Anne Colley, neé Finnegan, Derrintogher  
 Kitty Waldron, late Brackloon  
 John Glynn, Carrownedan and Dublin

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#### Masses:-

#### Sunday and Holydays

8.30 a.m., 10.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

#### Saturday Vigil

7.30 p.m. (Winter) and

#### Holyday Vigil

8.30 p.m. (Summer)

#### Weekdays -

10.00 a.m. daily except during the stations

Mondays and First Fridays-

7.30 p.m.

Otherwise as announced.

#### Confessions:-

Saturdays-

12.30 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. 7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

Otherwise as announced.

Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals as arranged.

### THE ABBEY

#### Masses:

Weekdays: 9 and 11 a.m. (and 7.30 p.m. during Lent)

First Friday: 9 and 11 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Vigil of Sundays and Holy Days: 7.30 p.m.

Sundays & Holy Days: 8.30 a.m., 10 a.m. & 11.30 a.m.

#### Rosary:-

7.30 p.m. (except on evening when Mass is celebrated)

#### Confessions:

Saturdays and Vigils of Holy Days:

12-1, 5.30-6, 7-9 p.m.

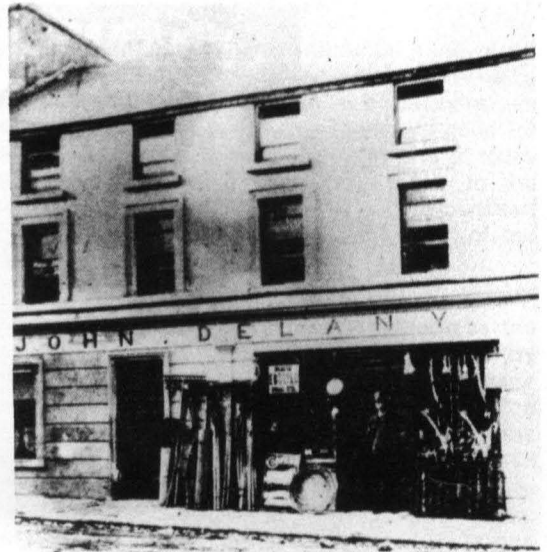
First Fridays: 5.30-6, 7-8 p.m.

Special Times for Christmas and Easter.

At other times if a priest is available.

#### Benediction:-

After Rosary on Sundays and Holy Days and during May and October.



John Delaney Prop. standing in the doorway of his premises. Photograph courtesy of Anne Lyne, Salthill

### THE CONVENT HILL

Sweet Ballyhaunis of ancient grandeur  
 All thy surroundings my memory fill,  
 And where'r I wander my heart grows fonder  
 Of the dear old home by the Convent Hill.

I've roamed in childhood through many a wildwood,  
 Round "Annagh Lake" and "Hazel Hill"  
 But my sweetest hours among fields and flowers,  
 Were those I spent on Convent Hill.

In the Summer season, my boyish reason  
 Was lost in wonder at the Supreme Will-  
 While gazing down on my native town  
 From the grassy slope of the Convent Hill.

Oh ever I'm thinking, my soul is drinking  
 In pleasant memories of the rustic hill  
 The old Abbey Wall, above the waterfall  
 And the lofty beauty of the Convent Hill.

Vain, vain, thee I endeavour, those ties to sever  
 That once so bound me and haunt me still,  
 And ever awaken a love unshaken  
 That once was blythed on the Convent Hill.

In years of sadness that might be gladness  
 I wept o'er my life, with a withering chill  
 Since I sat reclining while fondly twining  
 Rich, golden hair on the Convent Hill.

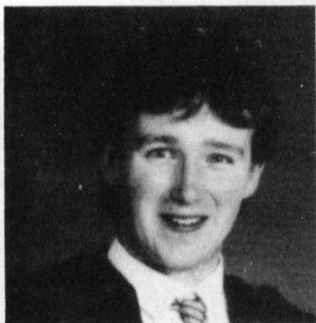
For there's nought but mourning while he so journeying  
 But I bow in meekness to Heaven's High Will,  
 For the hopes have perished, that my young heart  
 cherished

With deep affection on the Convent Hill

Patrick J. Delaney

Written in Chicago in the early part of this century.

# OBITUARIES



**BRIAN MARRINAN R.I.P.**

## An Appreciation

"Gone from us that smiling face,  
The cheerful pleasant way  
The heart that won so many friends  
In happy, happier days."

The tragic and untimely death on September 16th of Brian Marrinan at the age of 21, had an unforgettable effect on his many many friends.

His ever ready smile and greetings revealed his gentle and caring personality. His high standards, his commitment, his dedication achieved for Brian his boyhood ambition because on July 24th, the eve of his 21st Birthday, he was conferred with a B.C.L. degree at University College Dublin.

He loved sport and played at all levels for the local G.A.A. club. He also played and enjoyed the odd game of rugby.

"Alife made beautiful by kindly deeds  
A helping hand for others needs  
To a beautiful life comes a happy end  
He died as he lived, everyone's friend."

To his parents, John and Bea, his sister Anne and his many friends we offer our prayers and heart felt sympathy.

Go ndéanfaidh dia trócoire ar a anam dilis.

**Rita London**

## **GERRY MURPHY R.I.P.** **Died 15th December, 1985**

Although Gerry's time in Ballyhaunis was short, all those who knew him soon came to regard him as their friend.

Widely respected for this sporting abilities, particularly in Gaelic and Rugby, he was a person with a great sense of humour, who always had a joke to share with his friends, and who never hesitated to give a helping hand, he was a great companion.

He will be greatly missed by all, but especially by his family. We share their grief.



**Quiet Tears (for Reggie Coen)**

In the cold of Winter he went  
But he woke in a Land of Spring,  
And while our house is not bereft  
Of causes to laugh and sing,  
Only wisps of memories he left us,  
Like the sun on a butterfly's wing.

How strange that we miss a smile  
In a family where children abound,  
And one voice less at the table  
In the medley of rich young sound,  
As we sit to eat our daily bread  
Or hand some treat around!

It is true that the tears now rise  
When we think of a child at play,  
But we know the Lord has his reasons  
To shorten or lengthen our stay,  
And his love is the cause of our coming  
And makes sense of our going away.

In the cold of Winter he went  
And numb were our hearts and sore,  
But Reg heard the call of his name  
Through the sunlit open door  
That leads to a Mother and Son  
And to song now for ever more.

**John O'Connor O.S.A.**



When we think of Gerry, we will think of the good times and remember above all, someone whom we were glad to call a friend.

**John O'Connor & Stephen Murray**

# Changes and More Changes

by Tony Boyle

It must be almost thirty years now since I called on a friend I had not seen for over a decade and amongst the items we discussed then was how the times had changed since we 'soldiered' together in the nineteen-forties. But as the slogan goes we hadn't seen the half of it, as on reflection now we realize that it is during the last three decades that all the changes have really taken place and in that change whole worlds have been lost. I really think that if there was a prize offered now for something that didn't change in the last forty years, it would never be claimed, as we had changes and more changes in every walk of life.

## Lifestyles

The power of the present is such that we forget even trivial things. We almost forget the war years for instance, when he had scarcity and rationing for breakfast, dinner and tea. We forget too, when there was huge difference between town and country food and this has largely passed away. We have seen major changes in travelling, drinking and even in religious practices, and don't talk of music and entertainment! The ways of working in town and country have been revolutionised and now the farmer has his car, tractor and milking machine and the housewife has her washing machine, dishwasher and deep freeze. Long ago they talked of minding the children and now it is babysitting!

## Shopping

The old-time shopkeeper is a thing of the past. We have the supermarkets which have taken away the social enjoyment from shopping. There is no such thing as 'dealing in a certain establishment now and the supermarket proprietor will never know if the customer has a daughter in America, a sick cow, or when the stations are in the village. The young housewife, with her car keys in one hand and cheque book in the other will fly through the check-out with a trolleyful of disposable nappies, large bottles of minerals, firelighters, tin goods, washing-up liquid and various items she didn't intend to purchase on entering.

In our generation we have seen the advent of the gramophone, the radio and the television and each in turn was a wonder in its time. Now you are old-fashioned if your T.V. is black and white almost every home has a second set with possibly a portable coloured set in junior's room and a video to boot! Oh, God be with the Sundays when you could scarcely get in the door of the crowded kitchen in the house in a village who were modern enough to have radio' - complete with wet and dry battery. Even Michael O'Hehir is gone off the air now, and how we enjoyed his broadcasts on those fine Sunday afternoons long ago!

## Weddings

Gone for good too is the old-fashioned country-house wedding and the 'dragging home' that went with it. Nowadays, the nuptials must include expensive invitation cars, a lavish hotel reception, formal dress, a professional photographer (including

video) and culminating in a continental honeymoon with an album costing more than would marry half a village in my father's time! But in all fairness, we must admit that the wedding of today is good for business, we must admit that the wedding of today puts thousands of pounds in circulation, to the benefit of the draper, the hairdresser, the publican and many others, not to mention the cost of the wedding presents themselves.

## Fairs

Those of us who remember as far back as the Crossroads Dances when not many of the country fellas were yet wearing low shoes and only the major roads in the rural areas were tarred, remember too the introduction of the licensed dance-halls in the 'thirties which closed many village halls where an old fourpence was the normal admission charge. Many of these licensed dance-halls are now closed again to make way for the discos and the rock 'n roll fans of the present day, in an atmosphere where fivers and tenners are as plentiful as shillings were in the old days.

The Fair Day is now almost a thing of the past and the youngsters of today who drive their tractors to the Marts have no idea of the hardship of the early dark morning of the fair day long ago - or indeed not so long ago - when the previous generation were up at all hours and walked miles and miles in very often inclement weather to the fairgreen. The older section must miss the bargaining, the clapping of hands, the 'luck-money' and the 'wetting' of the deal, but the Mart is the modern way nowadays and there's much to be said for it. So there is very little talk of fairs nowadays but we have the odd rumour of 'affairs'!

## Families

We suspect too that we have seen the last of the large families and a family of four or five now is almost considered a large one. Don't talk to me about the names of the children in modern times; we have almost seen the last of the Bridgets, Catherine's, Ellens and Sarahs and they are replaced by names nobody can hardly spell. In the masculine section, the day of calling the children after their grandparents and uncles has also disappeared and we have such first names as Trevor, Allen and Derek. We ever heard of these saints?

## Customs

What about phenomenal changes in our religious customs. Gone for good is the Latin Mass, the fasting from midnight and the old-fashioned Mission Week in the parish and now we have Evening Mass, lay people giving Communion, and many women wearing trousers instead of hats going into church! Even applause in the church was unheard of in the old days, and now it has almost become common. We also have a funeral parlour in every big town nowadays and almost completely eliminated is the wearing of black by the mourners and the year long term of mourning which indeed is a step in the right direction. Another welcome change is the fact that family members can now be from the U.S. or elsewhere in a matter of hours on hearing a parent's death.

I could go on and on listing the changes since my youth - since the days of the open fire, the horse and trap, the half-door and the collar-stud, but thank God, they are all changes of a progressive nature. It is not often from now on you will meet a person of forty who has not been out of the country or one from the remote part of Connaught who has never been to Dublin. The day of wondering is almost gone and television has almost got us accustomed to anything. The past half-century has been a most interesting period to live through and I don't believe one of us would be in favour of turning the clock back.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Due to the zeal and interest of Mr. Tommy O'Malley, Upper Main Street, a fragment of history has been preserved for the Church. In 1880, a Mission was preached in the Parish of Annagh by the Oblate Fathers from Dublin, and in accordance with the custom of the time, a cross was erected in the grounds of the old St. Mary's Church to commemorate the event. When the old Church was demolished the cross disappeared, but the brass plaque was discovered by Tommy O'Malley who presented it to the Church. It is now affixed to the wall inside the Church and on examination bullet marks can be seen. This occurred during an engagement between the Free State Army and The Irregulars.

It is hoped that these marks will be a challenge to all of us to heal wounds of conflict and dedicate ourselves to the work of Peace.



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## The Vintage Inn

'THE FRIENDLY BAR'

Knox Street - Ballyhaunis

S.T.D. (0907) 30214



## COOLNAFARNA SCHOOL

Coolnafarna School was opened in 1888. It stood in the village of Coolnafarna. Coolnafarna is a village half way between Ballyhaunis and Ballinlough. An open fire at the front of the classroom supplied the classrooms heat. A clock hung on the wall. It was renovated in 1916. In 1971 it had to close. Before it closed only eight pupils were attending the school. At one stage five teachers taught there. The last teacher that taught there was the late Mrs. Murphy.

Many other teachers taught there, among them are Miss Welch, Tommy Higgins, Mrs. Forkan, Mrs. Burns R.I.P., Winnie Dalton R.I.P., Mrs. Flatley R.I.P., Tim Flatley R.I.P., Helena Flatley R.I.P., Josephine Flatley R.I.P., Mrs. O'Dwyer R.I.P., Jimmy O'Dwyer R.I.P., Mrs. Mary Higgins, Mr. William Mulligan, Mr. Sean McNicholas, Miss May Murphy and the late Mrs. Jennings. Today the school is knocked down, in its place is a house and garage.

A house now stands upon the spot  
A garage by its side  
Where once a school of renown stood  
It was our forefather's pride  
If we just stop and think of those  
who passed through its great doors  
of those who stayed at home to toil  
or sailed to foreign shores.

The school where children  
laughed and ran  
beside a desk and stool  
Those were the good old days  
in Coolnafarna school.

Sinead Lyons (12)

## Winnie the Witch

Halloween, Halloween, Ha, Ha,  
Halloween,  
We see her self old Winnie the witch  
She's horrid, wicked and mean -  
She's the only one to be seen  
On this Halloween.

She flies around,  
Never touching the ground,  
Not one to be found,  
Not even a sound,  
On this Halloween night  
As she takes flight  
With all her might.

Patrick Gallagher (12)



"It's from our bank — apparently  
we have more of their money than  
they have of ours!"



# YOUTH FORUM

## JOKES...JOKES...JOKES...JOKES

Question:

Why did people build fences around graveyards?

Answer:

Because people were dying to get in to it.

Question:

What has two humps and is found in the North Pole?

Answer:

A lost Camel!!!

Question:

What did the elephant say when he stood on the biscuit?

Answer:

Oh Crumbs!!!

**Rosemary Nestor (11)**

## MY POEM

Oh! to have a modern bungalow,  
To own the cooker, fridge and all,  
The gleaming dresser in the corner,  
Family portraits on the wall.

To have a bedroom all my own,  
Where I can hide and dream all day,  
Or play with dolls in pretty dresses,  
Whilst I pass the time away.

I could be busy all the day,  
Shining and cleaning the hearth  
and floors,  
Or watching my favourite show  
When I've dusted the cobwebs from behind the doors.

At the end of the day,  
When there is no sound,  
Expect the bark of a dog  
or the train as it bounds,  
The glowing fire and the peace it brings  
Makes me thank God for my house and many things.

**Brid Coen (11), Clagnagh**

## MOTHER RABBIT AND HER FAMILY

One morning in Summer,  
I was walking in a wood near by home.  
What a lovely sight it was,  
to see the Mother rabbit and her baby one,  
help themselves to some of Daddy's lettuce.  
Oh! I wish I had a rabbit, they are lovely little things.  
They are so furry and so cuddly.  
Oh! I wish I had a rabbit.

**Sioban Cleary (Johnstown)**

## HE IS A FOOTBALL ACE

He is a football ace

He could show his skill and his pace

Everywhere he played he brought glamour  
to the field.

And he would not give up until he had  
the game quite sealed.

He was a clean player,  
the cleanest you could find.

He wouldn't fight, he wouldn't argue,  
he'd just say, never mind.

He would always hold his head up high  
in victory or defeat,  
and congratulate the opposition no matter  
what the position.

Win or lose he is a football ace.

**Michael Lyons (12), Lecarrow**

## OUR DUCKS

Eight Ducks

All in a row,

Big and beautiful

White as snow.

When morning comes

I let them out

And they thank me

With a little shout  
quack-quack-quack-quack.

Feeding, feeding,

Quacking, quacking

Jack daws stealing

Ducks wings flapping.

**Oliver Jordan (7)**

## THE JOYS OF DISCOVERING THE WORLD

I'd like to discover a big new cave  
Or maybe see a giant new wave  
Or maybe see outer space  
Or maybe just an old suitcase.  
I'd like to discover any new place.

Maybe the sky ... up so high  
or

May a long desert ... so dry.

I'd like to discover ... ME!

**Sinead London (11)**



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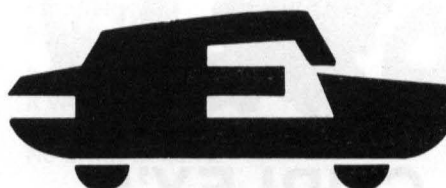
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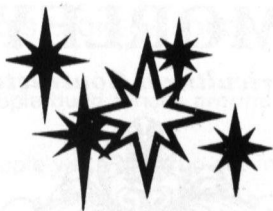
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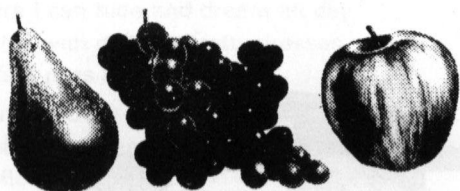
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# YOUTH FORUM



## I WONDER!

I wonder why the grass is green  
And why the sky is blue.  
Why all the birds sing and fly high in the sky.  
Oh! Please tell me why.

I like to sit down in the park and listen to  
Children like me scream... the world is a lovely,  
lovely place.  
Come and look at it with me.

I wonder why the trees are green  
And why the sea is blue  
Why do all fish swim in the sea  
And not walk on the land.  
Oh! Please tell me why.

I like to lie down on my bed and see the moon  
So high up in the sky.

Oh! Why? Oh! Why? Oh! Why?

**Michelle Regan (10)**

## THE PLACE I LIVE IN

I live in Spaddagh, a little village about three miles outside Ballyhaunis. It is a lovely place to live and has lovely scenery. It has a few small rivers. You can find many blackberries there, it's a very peaceful place. There are five families with a total of five children living here.

Spaddagh holds the aerial for 'Mid-West Radio', this can be seen throughout the village. The population of Spaddagh is seventeen people, now you know what I mean when I say it is a 'little' village.

In Spaddagh it is lovely to look up at the bright moon, and when you get a quiet moment to listen ... the feeling is indescribable! It is so lovely to take a stroll on a foggy morning, nothing moves in the stillness and you feel that no one else ever stood on the same spot.

I like living in Spaddagh, I would not live anywhere else.

**Bernadette Flanagan (10)**

## ADULTS

Adults can be bossy!  
Or can be rather nice!  
Adults can be runners  
Cyclists or boxers.

**Seamas London (7)**

## SUMMER '86

The sky grows dark,  
Clouds are grey,  
Rain falls,  
Everyday.

It floods the bog,  
It wets the land,  
Rainfalls,  
No swim or sand.

It helps the crops,  
It ruins the hay,  
Rain falls,  
Everyday.

**John Higgins (11)**



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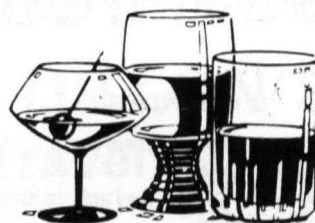
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# YOUTH FORUM

## GROWN UPS...

Grown ups are the funniest things,  
That I have ever seen;  
They think they know it all,  
And that's what baffles me.  
When we children make small mistakes,  
They rant and roar and thunder;  
But a single one of their mistakes,  
Could tear the world asunder.  
Grown ups give me such a pain,  
Of my life they are the very bane;  
Pick up your things and wash your face,  
Must they live at such a pace?"

Conal Higgins (8)

## TEEN CREED

Don't let your parents down,  
they brought you up.  
Be humble enough to obey;  
you may give orders someday.  
Choose companions with care,  
you become what they are.  
Guard your thoughts;  
what you think, you are.  
Choose only a date who  
would make a good mate.  
Be master of your habits,  
or they will master you.  
Don't be a show-off, when you drive,  
drive with safety and arrive.  
Don't let the crowd pressure you;  
stand for something  
or you will fall for anything.

Look around you;  
See what you have,  
That others do not have.  
Be thankful, and Give.

Anon

## GOD CREATED EVERYTHING

Sea and stars,  
And birds that sing.  
God created everything.

Moon and Sun,  
And insects small,  
There's more I'd say,  
But I can't name them all.

Waterfalls and crystal clear,  
Jesus knew when he was here.

THAT GOD CREATED EVERYTHING.

Catherine Healy (11)

## AUTUMN

There are three months in Autumn-  
August, September and October,  
And of all the lovely seasons  
Autumn I prefer.

The third season is Autumn  
and the nicest I would say,  
the season when the leaves fall off and on the  
ground they lay.

In this lovely season of Autumn  
the leaves are turning brown,  
then yellow, red and orange  
and soon they will be down.

The lovely Red Admiral  
soon will hibernate  
and with the painted lady  
others will migrate.

The swallow now has to  
prepare for the Winter  
soon she will leave Ireland  
In the season I prefer.

But the robin doesn't leave  
for foreign lands to roam  
because he knows that  
Ballyhaunis is his only home.

Sinead Lyons (12)

## A CHILD'S LUCK

On the day of the holidays,  
it started to rain.

The thunder and lightning,  
almost drove us insane.

Eighty days off from school,  
Not one for the pool,  
It rained so often,  
We were crying for school.

On September 3rd,  
We went back to school  
To hear baby class cry and shout  
And the minute we got round to doing some work,  
The glorious sun came out.

The Indian Summer of sun-shine  
and warmth came along when we went to school,  
It came weeks too late, we were back at school,  
and by then they had closed up the pool.

Carmel Hunt  
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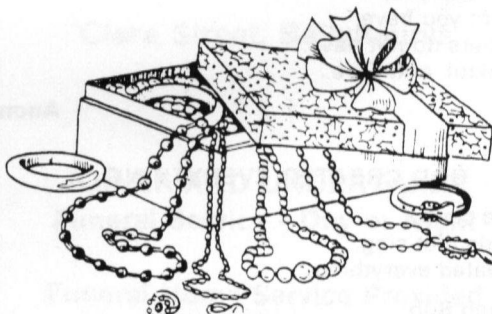
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## AUGUSTINIANS DOWN THE YEARS...

Monks were living near Mannin Lake in 1348, it is said they heard a bell on the hill, they took this as a sign or call to build a monastery there. Mac Jordan Duff gave the Friars 150 acres of land, it stretched from their present farm through the convent land as far as Drimbane. In the early days there were twenty or thirty monks in Ballyhaunis. They taught people medicine, music and painting. The first house built in Ballyhaunis was built where the Convent now stands. When Henry VIII came to power, he tried destroying all the monasteries in Ireland, but for a long time Ballyhaunis escaped, eventually their land was robbed. In 1660 the English destroyed the monastery, but when Charles I came to power in 1641 the Church was rebuilt. But peace did not last long the English soldiers set fire to the church and Fr. Jordan was dragged from the pulpit and hanged from a tree with another Friar.

In 1649 the people and the Friars built the church again. From 1760 the Friars started to travel all over saying Masses. Each Friar gave so much towards the upkeep of the Church and grounds. After an accidental burning of the Church it was rebuilt yet again by Fr. Dore by collecting money from all the locals usually half a crown and the surgeon donated £100.

The present Friary was built in 1888, the bell came from Athlone.

**Olivia Lyons (11)**

## HOW YOUR CHILD LEARNS...

If a child lives with criticism,  
he learns to condemn.  
If a child lives with hostility,  
he learns to fight.  
If a child lives with ridicule,  
he learns to be shy.  
If a child lives with shame,  
he learns to feel guilty.  
If a child lives with tolerance,  
he learns to be patient.  
If a child lives with encouragement,  
he learns confidence.  
If a child lives with praise,  
he learns to appreciate.  
If a child lives with fairness,  
he learns justice.  
If a child lives with security,  
he learns to have faith.  
If a child lives with approval,  
he learns to like himself.  
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
he learns to find love in the world.

## AUTUMN COLOURS

The colour's of Autumn,  
Are red, yellow and brown,  
Ssh! Listen can you hear  
the leaves falling down?

There goes the red one,  
and the brown, there's only  
The yellow one left,  
Oh! it has fallen down.

The tree is bare now.  
There isn't a leaf to be seen,  
But wait 'til next Summer,  
The tree will be green.

**Lorraine Tighe (12) Tooreen**

## THERE GOES MY BOAT

Dark brown is the river  
Golden is the sand  
It flows along forever  
With trees on either hand.

On goes the river  
And out pass the mill  
Away down the valley  
Away down the hill.

Away down the river  
A hundred miles or more  
Other little children  
Shall bring my boat - ashore.

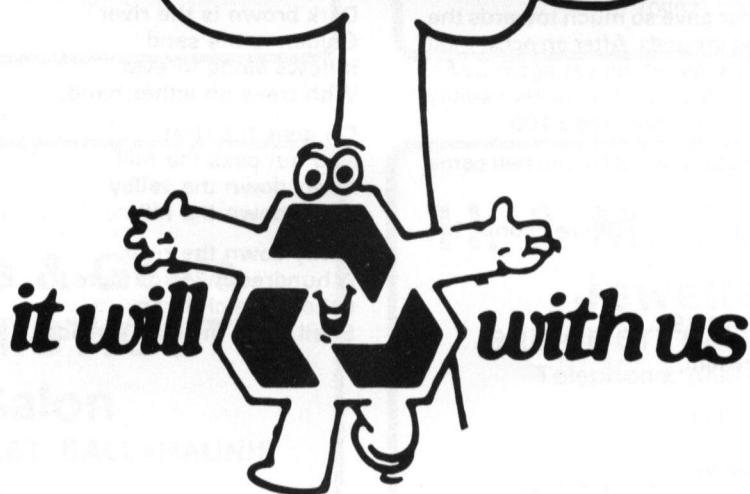
**Olive Greally (11)  
Drimbane**

## THE MOUNTAIN SLEEPING LIES

I fall with a rush  
In the morning hush  
While the mountain sleeping lies .  
There swift I sleep  
Here slow I creep  
Till the sound of my motion dies  
Oh! I rejoice  
In the night wind's voice  
As soft it kisses my stream,  
And dance and glimmer  
And glance and shimmer  
Where moonlight reaches gleam.

**Jason Morley (12)**

**It  
won't  
grow on  
trees**



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**Ballyhaunis Under 10 Footballers**  
Winners of 1986 Blitz held in Ballyhaunis. Standing at the back are Noel Lyons and Jimmy Walsh

## BALLYHAUNIS G.A.A. CLUB

1986 marked the Centenary of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club. It was also a year of mixed fortunes with our Under 21 team annexing the East Mayo title, the intermediate team reaching the last eight of the Championship and the national schools reaching the East Mayo semi-finals. This, however, was overshadowed by the inability of our highly rated Minor team to make an impact in the Championship. At the start of the year expectations were high that they would win the County Minor title, a title last won by Ballyhaunis in 1952.

The Intermediate team won six of their ten league games in Division 3 but alas it wasn't sufficient to win promotion. On reflection, crucial points dropped to Westport and The Neale prevented them from making a speedy return to Division 2. They showed great commitment and character in overcoming Westport in the first round of the Intermediate Championship. Their inability to turn generous possession into scores and the absence of a reliable place-kicker cost them dearly against Swinford in the quarter-final. At the finish there was only one point in it but the team will rue all the missed opportunities after establishing territorial supremacy from an early stage.

On the administrative side, the club continues to make good progress. The club liaised effectively with Re-Hab in organising a highly successful Pub Quiz resulting in the highest ever revenue return to the club since the inception of the competition. The

Squash facility continues to flourish and the committee reports that membership remains high and that the court is in almost constant use each evening.

The club is in the process of completing the construction of a Press Box and hopes to start work on a stand within the next year. Consideration is also being given to the development of the pitch at the front.

To celebrate the centenary a special function was held in the Central Hotel on Sunday 24th August. A special presentation was made to Mick O'Connell to mark his retirement from Journalism by Aidan Kelly Chairman of the club. In a lengthy oration, Club P.R.O., Michael Waldron outlined the achievements of (Mick) Mr. O'Connell and expressed the wish that he would continue to play an active role within the club.

On a sad note, our club lost three former members and two players during the year. We speak of Willie Coppinger R.I.P., Anto O'Malley R.I.P., Bertie Curley R.I.P., Brian Marrinan R.I.P. and Gerry Murphy R.I.P. Willie Coppinger was secretary of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club when domiciled here in the 1940's. He was a native of Moylough, Co. Galway. Anto O'Malley was secretary of the club in 1979 and was one of the principal architects of our club history which was published in 1981. Bertie Curley had a long association with the club and sponsored the much coveted "Player of the Year" award. Gerry Murphy and Brian Marrinan rendered great service to the Ballyhaunis club and were dedicated and unflinching in their loyalty to the club.



Ballyhaunis Ladies Football team with trainer Noel Lyons

CLUB OFFICERS 1986

- Chairman . . . . . Aidan Kelly
- Vice Chairman . . . . . Dennis Hannon
- Secretary . . . . . William Ryan
- Fixtures Secretary . . . . . John Durkan
- Treasurer . . . . . Paddy Brennan
- P.R.O. . . . . Michael Waldron

- President . . . . . Philip Morley
- Vice Presidents . . . . . Mick Tarmey & Austin Grogan
- Registrar . . . . . Michael Murren
- Chairman Bord na nÓg . . . . . James Reidy
- Team Selectors:-  
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Willie Ryan



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The late Mick Morris (back row, on left) with the Ballyhaunis R.F.C. team also in photo (back row, on right) is the late Dr. Declan Shields.

## BALLYHAUNIS R.F.C.

The present season has undoubtedly been one of the most successful for the local Rugby Club. Fielding two teams in the Connacht Leagues is a magnificent achievement and a great credit to the players and officials concerned. The Junior B team, though it may be the club's 'second fiddle', is without doubt the foundation stone on which success is built. Here, new and some not-so-new players, are provided with games every Sunday from September through until April. The Junior B's compete in the Junior B League, the Connacht Junior Cup and the Loughrea Cup. Those who play consistently well are promoted to the Junior A side and it is this competition for places that improves every player.

The Junior A side are by now highly rated in Connacht rugby circles and are a match for the best. The skills, stamina, fitness and spirit of the team have improved considerably and this season alone has only lost one competitive match. The Junior A's are doing well in the Junior A League and are on target to reach the finals. This team will also compete in the Connacht Junior Cup, and the Ard-na-Cregg Cup.

On the social scene the club organises monthly socials which are held in the Horse Shoe Inn. They are well-attended providing music, dancing and refreshments for our friends and supporters without whose support the club could not exist.

Under-age rugby is at present in a healthy state. This season the club is concentrating on mini-rugby for boys between the ages of 10-14 and attendances at these sessions, held on Sunday mornings, are most encouraging.

Financially the club survives on raffles, socials and draws and would like to take this opportunity to thank all its supporters. Our special thanks to the late Michael and Mrs. Mary Morris for the use of the Horse Shoe Inn premises and Murphy Brothers of Coolnaha for the use of their field.

On a sadder note the past season has seen the death of three of our members. Gerry Murphy whose quiet and inoffensive manner and his great loyalty to the club endeared him to all. Brian Marrinan, who played under-age and had just played his first match for the Juniors. His passing caused widespread sorrow. And more recently, Mick Morris whose untimely death evoked wide-spread grief. To their dearest relatives the club conveys its genuine sympathy and its continuous support. "Go ndéana Dia trócaire orthu."

Finally the club is always keen to acquire new members and wishes to welcome all to attend training on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 8.30 p.m.

## CLUB OFFICERS:-

President	Peter Gallagher
Vice President	Padraig Lee
Treasurer	Brendan Morrissey
Fixtures Secretary	Hugh Curley
Secretary & P.R.O.	Billy Phillips
Junior A Captain	Bernard Jennings
Junior B Captain	Jimmy Finn

**Billy Phillips**

## AN APPRECIATION

Those of you who knew Mick, know that any words cannot adequately describe a man such as he. To sit now and try to represent him in written word, I find incredibly difficult, to have experienced him in life was a great pleasure. Mick was a Big Man in every sense of the word. He was a quiet person, and yet in relatively short years in Ballyhaunis his kindness and honesty have been experienced and acknowledged by all sections of the community. His way of living was such, that time and time again, people had to stop and assess their own small lives in the light of Mick Morris's faultless performance. He had very strong views on many topics, but I never heard him get involved in an argument. Having clearly stated his own views, he was content to acknowledge whatever merit there was in the other person's opinion, and then leave it at that. You were in no doubt however at the end of the discussion that Mick's original views still held as strong as ever.

To us in Ballyhaunis Rugby Club he was something special, and the Rugby Club was also something special to him. He adopted us, and shared our success and our failures with the same emotions as the teams. I didn't really know him very well in 1977 when I approached him to ask permission to use his premises as a Clubhouse. He simply replied "anything you want to do out the back there do it. I'd be only delighted." When we would play an important match away from home, Mick would travel in support, and loved it. It was a pleasure to be in his company, and his generosity was as big as the loud laugh which emanated from him when he was happy.

Of all the memories I have of Mick, the one which will always remain with me was the love he had for his children. His love for Mary was between them, but his love for his children was on open display to the world every time they were together. It didn't really matter how busy he would be in the bar, if the children were going to bed Mick would remove himself without apology and lie in beside them until they went to sleep. His acceptance of the terrible sentence imposed on him was remarkable. His only concern was for Mary and the children. As soon as he was able,

after he came home from hospital, he was out again walking with the children and bringing them to school in the morning. The saddest scene that I witnessed was the morning that I saw Mick resting on the crash barrier at the railway bridge, when he was finally unable to walk up the hill to school with Paul. Paul turned to wave many times before he went out of sight, and Mick remained to answer each wave with another. They only had eyes for one another, as the busy morning population of Ballyhaunis passed by.

Two days before he died Mick thanked Mary for being so good to him, and asked her to thank the children, and to thank all the people that had been so kind to him during his last illness. On her behalf I do it here. He loved people to come and see him, but especially he looked forward to the visits of the Priest's and to the peace which prayer gave him in his suffering.

On behalf of the many people who knew and loved him, and the many Clubs and Charitable Organisations that he treated so well over the years, we offer to Mary, Linda, Paul and Karen, his Mother, and Sister, and Brothers, our sincere sympathy on their loss. May he enjoy in Heaven the reward he so deservedly earned on earth. We have never known his like.

---

## KEEP BALLYHAUNIS TIDY

**Well done, Michael Finnegan  
on your work on the  
streets of Ballyhaunis**

---

## MACRA NA FEIRME

1986 has been a lean year for the club due to the emigration of some of the members. The club has had two successful years before this. Anyone wishing to revitalise the club should contact Fr. O'Connor at the Friary Abbey or the undersigned.

**Alta Regan (Secretary)**

---

## CONGRATULATIONS

**to the pupils and staff of the  
Community School on their  
excellent production of  
"Fiddler on the Roof"**

I.C.A.

Veronica Freyne



Mrs. Veronica Freyne with a display of her crochet work at the Mayo I.C.A. Federation hand-craft competition which was held recently in Ballina. She received two excellent Brannrai awards and two Demonstrators Bar's in this craft, was awarded 1st prize for Traditional Irish Lace and received a special award for outstanding work. Veronica has an extensive knowledge of all forms of crochet work, has studied antique lace making and work from times gone by. She is a member of the Ballyhaunis I.C.A. Guild.

Helen Byrne P.R.O.

The Ballyhaunis I.C.A. Guild had another enjoyable and eventful year.

Members took part and were successful in various competitions and craft displays. We travelled to all the Federation Meetings where many new friends were made and ideas exchanged.

Our annual outing to Co. Clare was a great success and further tours are planned. At present we are attending a course of craft classes where there is something to interest everyone.

We would like to thank everyone who supported and sponsored our cakes sales and socials throughout the year.

Our Meetings are held in the Horse Shoe Inn on the second Wednesday of each month. We extend a warm welcome to any of you wishing to become a member, so ladies do come along and bring your friends. We will look forward to meeting you all in the New Year.

Our 1985/'86 Officers are as follows:-

<b>President</b>	Delia Coen
<b>Vice President</b>	Margaret Byrne
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Veronica Freyne
<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>	Phyllis Flanagan
<b>P.R.O.</b>	Helen Byrne

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Manures, Feedstuffs, Farm  
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Veterinary Medicines

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Winners of the 1985 Poster Competition  
 pictured with Paddy Brennan, Mary Freyne, Frank Lyons and Pat O'Connor of the Credit Union  
 (8 - 11 yrs.) 1st. G. Pratt, 2nd. A. Murphy. (12 - 14 yrs.) 1st. S. Greene, 2nd. P. O'Malley, 3rd. T. Leonard  
 (15 - 18 yrs.) 1st. P. Biesty, 2nd. A. Greene, 3rd. A. Walshe)

## BALLYHAUNIS & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION

The past year has been another very successful one for the Credit Union in the Ballyhaunis area. In May 1986 new premises were open at Upper Main Street, just above the Parish Church and since then there has been a steady growth in membership, which has now reached 330.

Members Shares have grown to £80,000 at the end of the financial year to 30th September, 1986. In the same year a total of £101,300 was issued in loans. The size of loan varied from £60 to £3,000 and the purpose of the loan varied from purchase of motor car, car insurance, furniture, holidays, house improvements, clearance of bank overdrafts etc., etc.

The Board of Directors will be recommending a 5% dividend to the Annual General Meeting in early December.

The Officers for the past year were:-

**Chairman** . . . . . John Tuohy  
**Vice Chairman** . . . . . Frank Lyons  
**Secretary** . . . . . Pat O'Connor  
**Treasurer** . . . . . Mary Freyne  
**Asst. Treasurer** . . . . . Fiona McKermitt  
**Membership Officer** . . . . . Terry Coleman

### Credit Committee:

Benny Curley, Pat O'Connor and John Tuohy.

### Education Committee:

Frank Lyons, Peter McCafferty and Pat O'Connor

### Supervisory Committee:

Barry Butler, Paddy Brennan and Ina Freyne

### Other Directors:

Catherine Sloyan, Maura Fitzmaurice and Michael Greally.

Remember the Credit Union motto is...  
 Not for Profit, Not for Charity, But for SERVICE.

### Opening Hours:

(Ballyhaunis)

<b>Fridays</b>	<b>6.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>8.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>12.00 mid. - 1.00 p.m.</b>

(Tooreen School):

<b>Sundays</b>	<b>12.00 mid. - 12.30 p.m.</b>
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The following article written by Pat Fay of the Irish League of Credit Unions gives most of the facts about Credit Unions and why everyone should become regular savers in their own local Credit Union.

**PERSONAL** borrowers, staggered by the interest rate rises of the past few months have an option for getting cheaper loans in their local Credit Union.

"Even at mid-September rates we were offering loans to our members that charged upwards of £366 less interest on a £1,000 loan than other forms of personal borrowing," Pat Fay of the Irish League of Credit Unions tells us.

He describes credit unions which charge a basic one per cent interest monthly on loans, as financial co-operatives primarily designed to promote savings but which can also offer attractive loans to their 750,000 Irish members.

"We have 90 full-time employees but also 8,000 volunteer workers, which means we can survive on a narrower spread of interest rates," he claimed.

Credit unions are run as separate local organisations but all belong to the Irish League of

Credit Unions, which is the central organising body. It in turn, belongs to an international organisation.

"Many of our members have used Credit Union loans to set up small businesses to secure their livelihoods," Mr. Fay explained. "We've had cases of people buying J.C.B. diggers, motorbikes for courier work, even printing presses, photographic studio equipment and in one case a fishing boat."

Loans are also provided for more personal use like home improvements, cars, furniture and even holidays. But applicants must be members and should have been saving for some time. Borrowings are covered by a unique insurance scheme which will repay outstanding borrowings up to a £6,000 maximum in the event of a member's death.

Depositor's in credit unions do not earn interest but instead are entitled to 'dividend' depending on the profitability of their local branch. The average dividend paid last year was 6.2% claims Fay and nobody got less than three per cent in the case of the smaller credit unions.

"Nobody has ever lost money in a credit union," he added. "We have a £5.3 stabilization fund which is there to rescue any credit union that gets into some difficulties.

Last year Irish credit unions had a turnover of £1,200 million and this year Fay expects that total to increase even further thanks to a unique provision in credit union structures.

"There's no deposit retention tax (DIRT) payable in the case of savings with a credit union," he revealed.

Besides their stated low interest rates credit union loans are cheaper to repay for other reasons.

"We operate reducing balance system which means that the interest is calculated on a lower sum of money every month. With some other loans the interest rate is higher and it is also calculated as if no repayments were being made, as though all the money were outstanding for the period of the loan," Pat Fay explained.

The interest rate on some credit cards was almost 30% annually, he warned, and produced figures to show how hire purchase and some personal loans were very expensive forms of credit.

"On a £1,000 loan spread over 3 years the total interest payable on a credit union loan is £195.96, but with other loans the interest can vary between £345.32 and £562.76 and those figures do not take the latest increases into account," he explained.

And the best news of all? "There is no increase planned in credit union interest rates."

## BALLYHAUNIS RE-HAB

The Ballyhaunis Branch was formed in 1978. Since then 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 the Ballyhaunis Branch have collected £2,500 through a Pub Quiz, Church Gate Collection and a Bike Day. We would like to thank the people of Ballyhaunis for their generosity to the Branch down through the years.

### OFFICERS:-

Chairperson	Nell Rochford
Secretary	Teresa Keane
Treasurer	Breda Burke
P.R.O.	Maire Connell

### Committee Members:

Mary Keane, Una Shields, Margie Gallagher, Rita Hannon, Teresa Conway, Mary Timoney, Mary Dillon-Leetch, Sr. Dympna, Joe Hosty, Luke Lawlor, Ann O'Dwyer.

**Teresa Keane**

## ST. PATRICK'S BILLIARD AND SNOOKER CLUB

This year has been another very successful one for this thriving club with increased membership under its very dynamic committee.

The club again participated in the North West Snooker Championships and during the year held both Snooker and Billiard Handicaps.

### Officers:-

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

### Committee:

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

**Mike Byrne**

## BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE Parochial Hall. Tel. (0907) 30212

The year 1986 has been a successful and busy one for the Community Information Centre, the volume of enquiries far exceeded that of previous years, and in addition the staff attended a special training session in the Corrib G.S. Hotel, Galway on the 25th May. We also provided delegates to the National Social Service Board Conference held in Dublin on 11th and 12th October.

A further training session organised by the local centre and conducted by the ever capable Miss Claire Ruddy, Training Officer, (National Social Service Board), was held in the Parochial Hall on the 22nd October.

The centre which caters for an area within a twenty mile radius of Ballyhaunis and is operated by a staff of trained volunteers, and all enquiries and information supplied is free and strictly confidential.

It is open for business on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Information is available on a wide history of subjects including Income Tax, Social Welfare, Health, Housing, Pensions, to name but a few. A comprehensive range of application forms relevant to the above and other matters are also available.

In order to ensure the continued success of this valuable service to the Community, new volunteers would be welcomed. The following operate the Centre at present:-

**Organiser** . . . . . Mary Hopkins  
**Sec./Treasurer** . . . . . Mary Donnelly  
**Training Officer** . . . . . Sr. Assumpta  
Kathleen McBride, Mary Higgins, Bridie Brennan,  
John Lyons, Monica Lyons, Harry Lamberth, Rita  
Murphy, May Murphy, Agnes Ryan, Fiona Prenty,  
Mary Buckley, Fr. O'Connor, Betty Regan.

**Johnny Lyons**

## BALLYHAUNIS LIBRARY

Joining Ballyhaunis Library is a simple procedure of signing a form and paying an annual registration fee of £1.00 per person (adult or child).

## HOURS OF OPENING:

MONDAY	CLOSED	
TUESDAY	12.00 - 2.00	3.00 - 5.00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	3.00 - 5.00	6.00 - 8.00 p.m.
THURSDAY		6.00 - 8.00 p.m.
FRIDAY	2.00 - 5.00	6.00 - 8.00 p.m.
SATURDAY	12.00 - 2.00	3.00 - 6.00 p.m.

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## LEGION OF MARY

The Junior Branch of the Legion of Mary was started in Ballyhaunis in 1972. The name of the Branch is "Our Lady of Good Counsel". The meetings are held in the Parochial Hall on Mondays at 5.00 p.m.

There are 23 members and the ages range from 9 to 13 years. We deliver Catholic papers in the town, visit old and lonely people and do messages for them, collect stamps for the Missions and help our parents at home.

On the first Saturday of each month we say the Angelus and Rosary in the Church at 12 noon. Through this we hope to promote devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. We invite members of our families and others to join us.

Why am I in the Legion? I am in the Legion because some of my friends encouraged me to join because I like helping people, because by being a member of Our Lady's army I am doing her work, because I like saying the Rosary. I now encourage others to join the Legion.

The senior branch of the Legion entitled "Our Lady of Perpetual Succour" was started in 1934 and has been in existence in the town ever since. At present there are 13 members.

The Legion of Mary was founded in Dublin on 7th September 1921 by Frank Duff. It has now spread to every corner of the world and is doing "Great things for God and for the salvation of souls". Many people have given their lives for the Legion especially in the Communist countries. Some too have left their native homes to bring the Legion to far away lands. The best known is Edel Quinn - a young Irish girl - who went as Envoy to establish the Legion in East and Central Africa. After 8 years of labouring for Christ and Mary she died there in 1944 and is buried in Nairobi.

Every year, hundreds of Irish Legionaries go on Peregrinitas Pro Christo or journeying for Christ. This means giving a week or two of their holidays to do Legion work in other countries. England and Scotland are the usual venues but France, Italy, Poland, Iceland, America and Israel are also visited. Here in Ireland we can be proud of the hundreds of young boys and girls who go on this work. We hope that by sharing our faith with others this great gift will increase in us and thus we will be helped to achieve the first aim of the Legion of Mary which is personal sanctification.

**Michelle Keane,  
Orla Keane and Clodagh Thornton**

## APOSTOLIC WORK - BALLYHAUNIS 1986

### Officers:-

President	Miss M. Moyles
Vice President	Mrs. K. Finn
Treasurer	Mrs. Peg Byrne
Secretary	Mrs. B. Brennan

1986 has been a memorable year for the Ballyhaunis Branch of the Apostolic Workers. We celebrated our Silver Jubilee in June and are glad to report that many of our founder-members are still with us. To mark the occasion of the Silver Jubilee a special Mass was concelebrated in the Parochial Hall on the day of the Annual Display.

The Exhibition was very successful and our thanks is due to all active and honorary members without whose help the work could not continue.

A mini-vigil was held in Knock during the year for Apostolic Workers. There was a large attendance of active and honorary members and it was heartening to hear the missionaries speak of the importance of Apostolic Workers & their faithful aid to the missions.

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

**Bridie Brennan**

## BALLYHAUNIS CANCER AID

Ballyhaunis Cancer Aid was formed in April 1986, by a group of concerned people, with it's aim to raise funds to help in the research to prevent cancer and also the treatment of those already affected.

Following a meeting called a committee was formed - members include Seamus Mulrennan, Benny Curley, Grace O'Connor, Cait Webb, Anne Curley, Mary Hannah O'Connor, Mary Rudden, Angela Cribbin, Nell Byrne, Jim Donnelly, Joe Hosty.

Our first venture was a Social held in May and this was an outstanding success, this was followed by Anne Curley participating in the Ladies Mini-Marathon who raised funds through sponsorship. This left us in a position that we were able to present cheques to: Conquer Cancer - £500 St. Luke's Cancer Research - £500 Our Lady's Hospital - £200.

We concluded our fund-raising for 1986 with a Social in October from this we raised a further £500 for St. Luke's Cancer Research and Our Lady's Hospice.

We are pleased with our success to date and wish to thank all those who have supported us in many different ways to make this possible.

We would welcome any persons wishing to join us and also any person who would like to make a donation, this would be gratefully appreciated. Information can be had from any committee member.

**Seamus Mulrennan**

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

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Dr. Pierre Mathijsen, Director General for Regional Development of the E.E.C. receiving his certificate of honorary membership of the club from the Captain, Mr. Tom McNicholas. Also in the picture are Mrs. Sighle Forde, Lady Captain and Mr. Milo Henry, Club President.

## BALLYHAUNIS GOLF CLUB

The following is a list of officers and committees of the Ballyhaunis Golf Club for 1986 (Ladies and Gents).

### Gents:-

<b>President</b>	Mr. M. Henry
<b>Vice President</b>	Mr. J. Dillon
<b>Captain</b>	Mr. T. McNicholas
<b>Vice Captain</b>	Mr. M.J. Webb
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Mr. J. Higgins
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Mr. J. Mooney
<b>Registrar</b>	Mr. J. Burke
<b>Competition Secretary</b>	Mr. P. Martin
<b>Handicap Secretary</b>	Mr. A. Nolan
<b>P.R.O.</b>	Mr. J. Forde

### Committee:

M/s. J. Cheevers, M. Mahony, M. Gallagher, S. Conboy, A. Reddington, M. Walshe, P. Curley, D. Charlton, J. Scarry.

### Trustees:-

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

### Ladies:

<b>Captain</b>	Mrs. S. Forde
<b>Vice Captain</b>	Mrs. P. Henry
<b>Joint Hon. Secs.</b>	Miss N. Dillon, Mrs. P. Henry
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Mrs. A. Joyce
<b>Handicap Secretary</b>	Miss M. Moyles
<b>Executive Member</b>	Mrs. M. Dillon-Leetch

### Committee:

Mrs. S. Laffey, Mrs. M.H. O'Connor, Mrs. H. Cleary, Miss P. Waldron, Mrs. A. Mahony, Mrs. M. Dillon, Mrs. I. Freyne.

1986 was again a very successful year for the Ballyhaunis Golf Club. We had teams in all grades of competition during the year, the most successful team was that which played in the British Airways Golf Team Championship 1986. Having won the Regional final they travelled to the finals in Headford Golf Club in Kells and very unlucky not to win out. The team members were N. Henry, P. Curley, C. Freeman, T. Prenty and J. Lohan.

V. Freyne represented Ballyhaunis on the Mayo team in the Johnnie Walker County Championships. The Golfer of the Year in the Men's Section for 1986 is T. Prenty and in the Ladies section is Mrs. K. Fanning.

Open Week held from May 31st to June 8th was a great success attracting a big entry from all over the country, and as usual our Sponsors provided very generous sponsorship.

We had a good number of new members joining this year. In the Ladies section after an introductory Open Day for beginners organised by the Lady Captain Sighle Forde, approx. 20 new lady members joined.

Dr. Pierre Mathijsen, Director General for Regional Development of the EEC paid us a visit and enjoyed a game of golf. He was very impressed with the condition of the course and our club-house facilities.

Our Captain, Tom McNicholas who started to compile a history of the Club has arranged that all Past President's and Past Captain's have their photographs displayed in the Clubhouse. I would like to congratulate all concerned in the publication of 'Annagh' magazine every year and wish them continued success.

John G. Forde, P.R.O.



Mrs. Audrey Carr, Chief Commissioner of Guiding in Ireland enrolls the young Ballyhaunis Brownie Riona Rochford watched by Mrs. Myra Patterson, Brownie Leader.

## BALLYHAUNIS GUIDES AND BROWNIES

1986 has been a very successful year for Guiding in Ballyhaunis. Numbers have increased and there are now over 100 girls between the ages of 6½ and 15 actively involved in this national organisation.

The first Enrolment Ceremony took place on February 9th when the Chief Commissioner for Guiding in Ireland, Mrs. Audrey Carr, travelled to Ballyhaunis to enrol over 90 girls.

This was, the 75th year of Guiding in Ireland, and Ballyhaunis took part in all the celebrations at Area and National level. The Rathcara Area, to which Ballyhaunis belongs held a thinking way service on February 23th and all Guides and Brownies together with their leaders travelled by bus to Longford to take part.

Later on in June they were on the road again - this time to Galway where they spent a weekend as guests of the Galway Guiders. A memorable day was spent in Leisureland and Ballyhaunis returned home proud winners of the Guide Quiz which had been organised at Regional level.

More recently on October 11th a Concert was held in the National Concert Hall, and even though only four representatives from each District could attend Ballyhaunis was once again involved. Mrs. Chris Concannon (Leader) accompanied two guides and reported a most unique and enjoyable event. A video

recording of this concert will be available shortly and hopefully all Ballyhaunis Guides will be able to see it soon.

Many exciting activities took place on the home front also, and the Guides are indebted to Mr. S. Durkan for the use of the Den, whenever they wish. A very successful bonfire was held in June and everybody enjoyed the Fancy Dress at Halloween.

While the girls have had a very enjoyable year, they have not forgotten about the less well off. Recently a collection for the I.S.P.C.C. was taken up and all contributed generously.

The parents have also contributed of their time and effort. Having formed a Parent's Committee they set about raising funds which have been a great asset in the smooth running of each event.

Training for Leaders have been held at regular intervals within the area, and the Ballyhaunis Guides have made every effort to attend these trainings. This coupled with a belief that anything worth doing is worth doing well has in no small way ensured the success of Guiding in Ballyhaunis has enjoyed in 1986.

### Guide Leaders:-

Mrs. Shelia Lyons, Mrs. Chris Concannon

### Brownie Leaders:-

Mrs. Maura Patterson, Mrs. Margaret Byrne, Mrs. Judy Regan, Miss Pauline Morley, Mrs. Nell Rochford.

**Nell Rochford**

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CONFERENCE ST. PATRICK'S BALLYHAUNIS

Weekly meetings are at 9.00 p.m. held at Parochial House. Our members are actively concerned in helping the needy, visiting old people and helping deprived families. Locating people in need can be a difficult task and conference members would welcome any help people might wish to give regarding needs of individuals or families. Also members regularly visit Nursing Homes - this is very much appreciated by patients from this locality.

New members are especially welcome. Anybody who may wish to become involved in any conference work without the obligation of regular attendance at meetings is also very welcome.

Additional work undertaken over the past year has been the remodelling of an old house in Barrack Street. It is hoped to have the house ready for use by the conference during the coming year.

The unfailing generosity of the people from Ballyhaunis and adjoining parishes is very much appreciated. We wish all a Happy Christmas and many blessings in the coming year.

**Luke Lawlor**



Taken during An Taoiseach, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald's visit to Farah Ltd. Also included are Mr. Austin Henry, Manager, Farah Ltd., Mr. Paddy O'Toole T.D. and Senator Jim Higgins.

## BALLYHAUNIS FINE GAEL

AS elections are generally the main motivators of political activity and as the past year was election-free, the Branch was able to function at the more leisurely routine of having bi-monthly meetings at the Central Hotel. The meetings were well attended and lively. The January Annual General Meeting elected the following:-

<b>President</b>	Bill Mulligan
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Charlie O'Reilly, Joe Webb
<b>Chairman</b>	John Dillon
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Eamonn Burke
<b>Secretary</b>	Mary Buckley
<b>Joint Treasurers</b>	Michael Webb, Tom Prenty
<b>P.R.O.</b>	Ann Marrinan
<b>Organiser</b>	Eugene Morley

The Branch takes a particular pride in the two very successful visits to the U.S. of local Senator Jim Higgins. His two day pre-Christmas trip to Boston was as a guest at the Ireland Fund Dinner. The Fund is a very generous sponsor of Irish Charities and cultural activities. While in Boston, Senator Higgins had the honour of addressing the State Legislature of Massachusetts on Beacon Hill, on the occasion of the signing into law of the McBride Principles, a set of measures designed to ensure certain guarantees to Catholic employees in U.S. enterprises in the North of Ireland. In late August-September, the American Embassy invited Senator Higgins to be the Irish

participant in a sixteen nation programme on Entrepreneurship. While in the States the group studied American business development systems in Washington, Philadelphia, Portland, Phoenix, Chicago New York. He also had some very pleasant leisure time with Ballyhaunis friends Fr. Vincent Keane in Washington and Kevin Joyce in Portland as well as visiting family connections. One of the most fruitful results of his visit was his confirmation of the good news of the Blue Army's intention of including Connacht Airport and Knock Shrine in its European itinerary.

The indomitable courage of our long-serving President Bill Mulligan has once again been demonstrated by his return to active service only months after sustaining a serious hip fracture. Long may he be with us!

Finally we want to record our appreciation to the Central Hotel for providing such nice and comfortable accommodation for our meetings and to the local Press for its generous coverage. We offer sincere congratulations to Mick O'Connell on his retirement and thank him for the marvellous service he has rendered to the Ballyhaunis district in his weekly reports in the 'Western People'.

At this time of year it is fitting that we should remember our deceased members and supporters. Ar dheis de go raibh a n-ainmneacha.

**Mary Buckley**  
(Secretary)



Taken before the International Tripartite Junior Chamber Debate Final. Back row is the winning Glasgow team which defeated Ballyhaunis at the Community School, Ballyhaunis. The Ballyhaunis team had defeated Burton-on-Trent, the English Champions in the semi-final. The team members were (l to r) Jim London, John Higgins (Capt.), Chris Pratt, Matt O'Dwyer.

## JUNIOR CHAMBER

The year began with the publication of the 1985 Annagh Magazine. Over one thousand copies were sold between here in the town and to many places throughout the world.

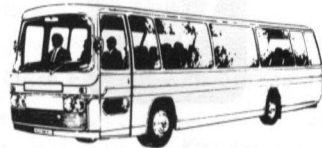
Our debating team representing Junior Chamber Ireland defeated Burton-on-Trent, the English champions in the Comm. School in the International Tripartite semi-final. The organisation of the debate was co-ordinated by Shea O'Callaghan, Helen Freeley, Mary Freeley and Mike Griffin. John Mooney was a very capable M.C.

The International Tripartite Final between Ballyhaunis and Glasgow was held in the Community School in June. Another huge attendance saw Glasgow emerge as winners. The debate was very well organised by the same committee with John Mooney as M.C.

In September work began on the preparation of Annagh 1986 which will be the ninth magazine produced the Junior Chamber Ballyhaunis.

### OFFICERS:

**President** ..... Mike Griffin  
**Treasurer** ..... Shea O'Callaghan  
**Secretary** ..... Anne Henry  
**P.R.O.** ..... Robbie McNabb



## BILL

Bill was a man who was always kind,  
 The sort of man that's hard to find.  
 And now that he's gone to God above,  
 We can think of all the miles he drove.  
 Of all the trains he met in his day  
 A run to Brackloon or Carrowrea.  
 To games we went to in the mini-bus,  
 Overloaded? Sure, he made no fuss.  
 The pictures he showed in the Parochial Hall  
 When a bob would get you into the stall.  
 Some of the memories, we have of Bill,  
 Fond memories that even time can't kill.  
 And, now he's gone to a different shore  
 Things will not be the same as before.

**E. Murren**

- In memory of the late Bill Eagney R.I.P. who in his time brought many a team to a football match.



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## An Irish Fair Day

How happy we would be on the evening before,  
When our sticks we would ready and leave by the door.  
Then the alarm was set for the first light of day,  
When we would hurry along to an Irish Fair Day.

Tis soon we'll be there in our joy and pride  
With the slapping of hands and the way they would  
divide

Then a bargain was made to the pub we're away,  
That's how it was done at an Irish Fair Day.

There the traders - cheapjacks as then they were called  
Would be busy displaying their clothes on their stalls,  
If you stood for to listen you might be asked to fit on  
Tis many were dressed there in days that are gone.

Now the street singers voice in the distance you'll hear  
As he sang at each door tis soon he'll be near.  
What a treasure they have left us without credit or pay,  
Just a coin in their cap at some Irish Fair Day.

The gypsies gay wagons I've not seen for an age  
With that beautiful Piebald and goldfinch in its cage.  
With the greyhound beneath that from them wouldn't  
stray

That's a scene I will cherish from an Irish Fair Day.

Then the friends and relations how grand it was to see  
With the shaking of hands and the great grá mo chroí,  
Then some match would be made and the dowry they  
would pay  
That was a custom that went with an Irish Fair Day.

Now the fair days are over and those customs are gone  
They say its progress and that we must move on  
Perhaps they are right but what of the cost?  
To the youth of tomorrow its a heritage lost.

Michael Godfrey, Ballinlough

## Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil Cumann

1986 was another active and successful year for the Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil Cumann. Monthly meetings were held, and local and national issues were discussed and debated. The cumann was particularly successful in attracting new members during the year. A very successful and enjoyable Grand Social was held in the Midas Night Club in March, and was addressed by Mr. Albert Reynolds T.D., as well as by the two local Fianna Fáil T.D.'s P.J. Morley and Sean Calleary.

In April, a full compliment of local delegates travelled to Dublin to attend the Annual Ard Fheis of the party.

The cumann saw a new Chairman and Secretary installed at its Annual General Meeting in the Autumn. Tributes were paid to the outgoing Chairman, Joe Greene, for his dedicated service over the years, and to the outgoing Secretary, Kathleen Fox, who married during the Summer, and now resides in Castlereagh and also to Johnnie Lyons - outgoing Treasurer. 1986 also saw the departure of the local Ogra Fianna Fáil organiser, Kathleen Hunt, who took a full time position at Fianna Fáil H.Q. in Dublin. Kathleen presided over a strong Ogra presence in the local organisation, and best wishes are extended to her in her new post.

The local National Collection, taken up in May, showed a strong improvement over past years, and gratitude is expressed to all those who donated so generously.

The year was marred by the tragic loss of two young active members, Anto O'Malley, Knock Road and Mick Morris, Abbey Street. Anto had served at all levels of the local organisation, and was at the time of his death Hon. Secretary of the East Mayo Fianna Fáil Ceantair. He was an unrepentant defender of the traditional Fianna Fáil policies and values, and his intelligent, articulate and often vigorous contributions to party meetings will be greatly missed.

Mick Morris had been a member of the cumann for some years, and gave freely of his time and premises

for Fianna Fáil meetings. A big man with a big heart, to use the cliché, Mick's commonsense approach and unswerving loyalty to the party gained him great respect within the organisation.

Anto O'Malley and Mick Morris are losses to the local Fianna Fáil cumann, but to a far greater extent they are losses to their families and the community at large. Anto and Mick had both come to Ballyhaunis as strangers, but their dedicated services to the Ballyhaunis area and its people enriched the lives of very many. To their wives and young families, our deepest sympathy is extended.

Go raibh Dheis Dé ar a hAanamacha.

### Cumann Officers 1986

<b>President</b>	Mark Waldron
<b>Vice President</b>	Joe Conway
<b>Chairman</b>	Brian Hunt
<b>Secretary</b>	Tom Eagney, Curries, Ballyhaunis
<b>Joint Treas.</b>	Hugh Rudden, Seamus O'Boyle
<b>Youth Officer</b>	Marcus Caulfield
<b>P.R.O.</b>	Michael Grogan

### Comhairle Ceantair Officers 1986

<b>President</b>	Austin Tighe
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Johnny Mullens, Jimmy Duffy, Johnny Lyons, John Hennelly
<b>Chairman</b>	Michael Grogan
<b>Secretary</b>	Jackie Coyne, Carn, Aughamore
<b>Vice Chairmen</b>	Seamus O'Boyle, Willie Ryan
<b>Joint Treas.</b>	Paddo Cunningham, John Regan
<b>Youth Officer</b>	Kathleen Hunt
<b>P.R.O.</b>	Michael Waldron

### Ogra Fianna Fáil Officers 1986

<b>Chairman</b>	Stephen Nolan
<b>Secretary</b>	Kathleen Hunt, Larginboy
<b>Joint Treas.</b>	Alan Rattigan, Tom Molloy
<b>P.R.O.</b>	Vincent Caulfield

**Delegates to Comhairle Ceantair:-**  
Seamus Grogan and Stephen Nolan.

**Tommy Eagney**

## JOHN J. LILLY

### PLANT HIRE - LAND RECLAMATION

Public Works Contractor - Water Schemes - Machines for Hire - J.C.B.'s  
Poclain Exacavators - Komatsu Swamp - Track Bulldozers

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**JOHNSTOWN, BALLYHAUNIS, CO. MAYO**

Telephone: (0907) 30352



Sir Matt Busby (ex-Manager of Man. Utd.) and Pat Crerand (ex-Player with Man. Utd.) presenting the Sunshine Coach to Western Care (Ballyhaunis Branch) members May Rattigan and Bernie Walsh

The highlight of our year undoubtedly occurred on June 11th when the Variety Club of Ireland presented the Ballyhaunis Branch with a Sunshine Coach for use in connection with the Day Centre. We were proud to host a delegation which included Sir Matt Busby, ex-Manager & current member of the Directors of Manchester Utd. Football Club. A truly memorable afternoon, on a rare, warm and sunny day began with a flight into Connacht Regional Airport and continued with an open-air reception at the Manor House Hotel. The coach is now in daily use bringing trainees into the centre and taking them home in the evening. It is also in regular use in visits to Claremorris for horse-riding and swimming and for other outings.

The Day Centre continues to be the focus of Branch activity and Centre Supervisor, Bernie Walsh still enjoys the unselfish and practical support of many local volunteers, without whom the centre could not continue.

Other activities included hosting Western Care's first Regional Council Meeting in November 1985; the Easter Fast (which raised £1,500), the Annual Social in the Horse Shoe Inn on April 25th (£340), our first summer social held in celebration of the acquisition of our Sunshine Coach (£134). Part proceeds from the Star Cinema for a number of films during the summer months amounted to £171. The Annual House to House Collection has so far raised approx. £4,000 - about the same as 1985.

On behalf of the Monthly Handicapped of the area

he would like to thank all those who have supported us in many quiet ways during the year.

### Branch Committee:

Chairman	.....	Chris Pratt
Treasurer	.....	Maura Devaney
Delegate to Council	.....	Chris Pratt

Chris Pratt



### JOB SOUND

Good humour in Berties always prevailed  
To cast a great smile, he never once failed  
For even when bad times they did abound  
He always uttered that 'the job was sound'.

Loved by his customers near and afar,  
Long before Miley or Biddy did star,  
Apple or orange, turnip or sprout,  
At the end of the day, all were sold out.

It was sport, of course, he loved the best,  
Be it the Galway Races or a Cricket Test.  
And Croke Park to him it was very dear  
Sure, he made the finals most every year.

Now he is gone to his eternal rest,  
We'll miss him, all, for he was the best,  
But the 'job is sound', he's got his reward,  
Bert is in Heaven, he's with the Lord.

In memory of Bertie Curley.

E. Murren

## BALLYHAUNIS SQUASH CLUB

### Officers:

<b>Chairman</b>	John Biesty
<b>Secretary</b>	John Durkan
<b>Treasurers of</b>	
<b>Local Fund</b>	S. O'Callaghan, John Durkan

This club had yet another very successful year. A record number of competitions were run off thanks to generous sponsorship from firms and institutions in the town. The club once again entered ladies and gents teams into the Connacht Squash League. Pitted against strong clubs such as Ballina and Sligo both teams found the going tough. Enda Moran could always be counted upon to win, with some fine performances by Pat Noone and Eddie Campbell, other members of the men's panel included Barry Butler, John Durkan, Ger Fahy, Tony Henry, Alan Delaney and Pete Higgins. The ladies team included Brid Cleary, Mary Noone, Mary Francis Cleary, Geraldine Griffin and Sarah Kelly.

This year Ballyhaunis, Swinford, Kiltimagh and Killasser clubs started their own league and this proved to be very successful.

Last year saw the newcomers to town, Dr. Pat and Mary Noone, make a big IMPACT on the ladies and gents teams. This year also saw John O'Neill, Manager of Irish Ale Breweries, Ballyhaunis quickly make his way into the mens 'A' team. Another recent addition to the club is A. O'Brien, Claremorris and will be sure to strengthen the ladies team in the future.

Further afield, Donal and Enda Moran and Galway based Garvan Dwane regularly pick up major prizes at Connacht level.

The club attracted the usual quota of new members and Eddie Campbell is always on hand to coach new members.

Due to the poor weather no barbecue was held this year.

At the time of writing, Marjorie Burke, Ireland's No. 1 woman squash player is due to visit the club in the near future to play an exhibition match, and to give coaching to the ladies and gents teams.

The club telephone number is 30668. If you are uncertain of the time you booked or if you want to make a cancellation, please use this number any evening.

### MEMBERSHIP 1986/87

Payable to John Biesty or John Durkan.

#### Squash:-

Single £20      Family £30      Student £5

#### Squash and Handball:

Single £30      Family £40      Student £6

The Meter is 50p per half-hour.

**John Durkan**

## BALLYHAUNIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Attendance at the Chamber Meetings during 1986 has been excellent and the commitment & enthusiasm of the members have added many achievements to those of previous years.

Great success was achieved by our President, Mr. Gerard McGarry, in developing the Enterprise Connacht organisation. On behalf of the Chamber he has given himself totally to this project and future generations will undoubtedly reap the rewards of his efforts. By the time the first full meeting of Enterprise Connacht was held in February 1986 it had affiliated to it 112 organisations stretching from Galway to Donegal.

In the early part of 1986 the Chamber concerned itself principally with local improvements. Progress was achieved in relation to the continuation of the footpaths at Knock Road towards the G.A.A. pitch, approval of the new water scheme and the new sewerage scheme. Approval of £100,000 for the Glentavraun Link Road was reported. The President thanked Senator Jim Higgins, P.J. Morley T.D. our special guests at the March meeting for their support and the representations made by them on our behalf.

Subsequent meetings were dominated by the proposed transfer of the ACOT Office to a new Headquarters in Claremorris. Much concern was expressed by members in relation to this proposal and it was felt that in addition to the inconvenience caused to farmers in this area the considerable inconvenience caused to farmers from Ballaghaderreen and Kilkelly area should be considered.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Chamber in October, well deserved tributes were paid to the outgoing President, Gerard McGarry. The new President John Dillon-Leetch, praised the tenacity of Mr. McGarry and on behalf of the members thanked him for an inspiring period of Office.

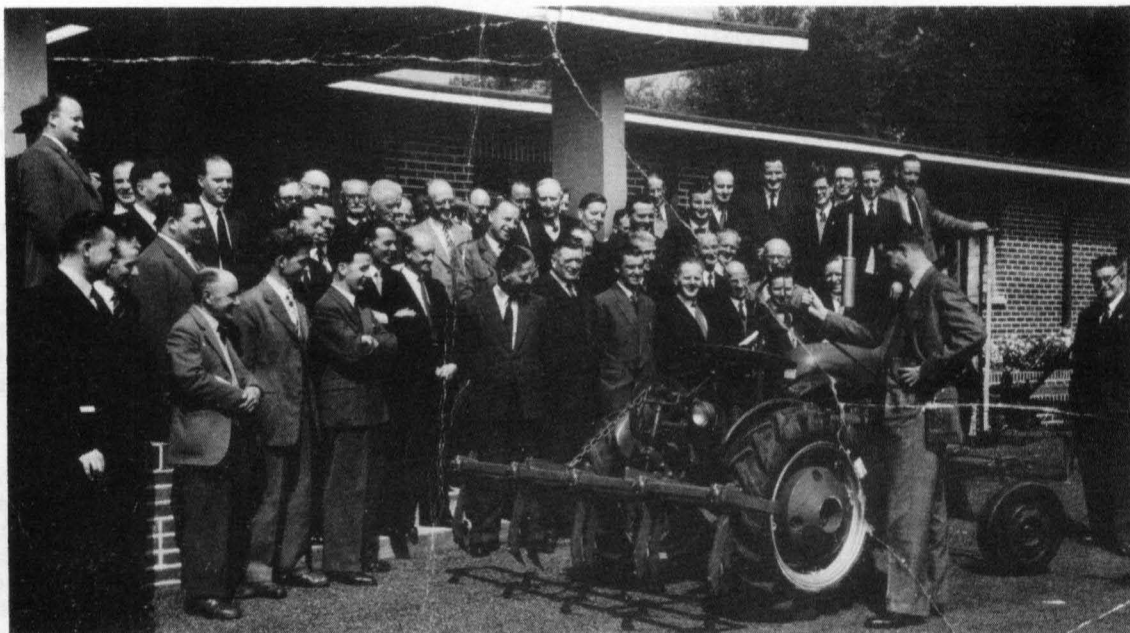
This year ahead is expected to be an exciting one. A major Summer Festival is planned for holidaymakers, visitors and locals alike. Special emphasis will be placed for our youth and newcomers to the area, these are projects we intend to tackle.

The improvement of town facilities and environment are of major concern to us and our efforts will continue in this area.

The following committee was elected at the A.G.M.

<b>President</b>	John Dillon-Leetch
<b>Vice President</b>	Barry Butler
<b>Secretary</b>	Donal Ahern
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pat Martin
<b>Joint P.R.O.'s</b>	Mary Kelly, Kathleen Caulfield

A programme of new projects covering a wide range of interests has been planned for the coming year and new members are welcome.



Mr. Johnston is seen 3rd from left (front row) at launching of the Farm All Cab Rally in the 50s

## BALLYHAUNIS N.C.F.

Ballyhaunis branch of N.C.F. Co-op had a very successful year in 1986, with sales in both Mart and Stores continuing to show substantial increases.

Despite the difficulties faced by cattle producers, due to both the atrocious weather and poor prices for younger cattle, sales more than doubled in the Mart compared to 1985. Prices received in Ballyhaunis were on a par with, and often well exceeded those prevailing in neighbouring Marts. A further section of the Mart was recently roofed, and, with covered accommodation now available for 500 cattle, this greatly enhances the comfort of patrons and stock alike on wet days. The recent very large sales are evidence that more and more farmers are now availing of both first-class facilities of the mart and the excellent service being provided by Tom Jordan and his staff. Weekly sales were held, without interruption, throughout the year, and this is a welcome development.

Congratulations to Martin Boland and his staff in the Store, on receiving joint-third prize in the overall N.C.F. Stores Competition.

Great credit is due to the local Advisory Committee. Meetings were held each month and the very high attendances at their meetings reflects the commitment and dedication of the members, and augurs well for the continued development of the area.

## OFFICERS:-

<b>Chairman</b>	Joe Greene
<b>Secretary</b>	Henry Madden
<b>Member on N.C.F. Board</b>	Matt Healy
	<b>Henry Madden</b>

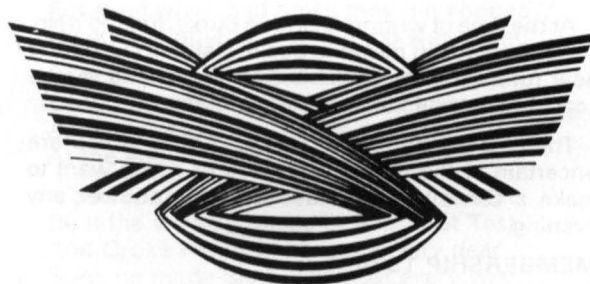
## APPRECIATION

During the year the area lost one of its oldest citizens Mr. Thomas Johnston. His passing was mourned by all especially by the farming community which he had served for nigh on sixty years as founder of Johnston's Machinery.

He often said that when he started work in 1914 a young farmer's first purchase was a pipe and a lid, a knife, an ounce of tobacco and a box of matches.

Today it might be a combine harvester. He sold the first tractor drawn thresher in the West and imported the Pepper's motors which still power the Ballyhaunis Waterworks. He saw his business grow from the infancy of farm machinery to the complex structure it is today. Go ndeanfaidh Dia Trócaire ar a anam dilis.

Joe Greene



## Thomas Johnston Memorial Scholarship

A fitting memorial to this great man is the establishment of the Thomas Johnston Agricultural Memorial Sponsorship which will be awarded to a student in Ballyhaunis Community School each year.



Joe Greene, Mary Angela O'Brien A.D.L. and Ann Hosty at the Opening of the Ballyhaunis Drama Festival

## ST. PATRICK'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY 1986

One could say the last year has been a very busy one for the members of the St. Patrick's Dramatic Society.

Our choice of play was "The Field" by John B. Keane. We performed this play in the Parochial Hall on three nights and each night we had a full house.

From Friday, 28th February to Monday, 3rd March, we held a Festival of Drama with four drama groups participating. St. Patrick's Drama Group opened the festival with "The Field" on the Friday night. On Saturday, 1st March the Garrymore Drama Group, performed "The Black Stranger", on Sunday night, the Castlebar Drama Group performed "Night Must Fall". And on Monday, 3rd March, the Claregalway Drama Group performed "The Country Boy". The adjudicator for the festival was Mr. E. O'Donoghue, director of the A.D.L. Residential Summer Drama School.

At the end of March, we entered, the Kiltyclogher Drama Festival in Co. Leitrim, and we came away with a great amount of success, for Tony Carney won the best actor in the confined section, for his powerful portrayal of the Bull McCabe in "The Field" by John B. Keane, also the Ballyhaunis Drama Group came second in the confined section.

The adjudicator Sean O'Briain described Tony Carney's performance as towering and a lovely piece of theatre work. He also said the production was one

of the finest he had come across, and praised the producer Pat Doyle, for putting this magnificent production on stage.

I would like to thank the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas for their support and look forward to the continued support in the future.

I would like to thank also the board of the Parochial Hall for giving us the Parochial Hall for rehearsals and for our performances.

Finally on behalf of the members of St. Patrick's Drama Group, I wish to offer our deepest sympathy to Frankie O'Malley, one of our finest actresses on the death of her husband, Anton, may he rest in peace.

We hope to perform "Sharon's Grave" soon. I would like to welcome all the new members to the group this year.

### Officers:-

<b>President</b>	Mrs. Ann Hosty
<b>Chairman</b>	Mr. Joe Greene
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr. Jimmy Fleming
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr. Michael Daly
<b>P.R.O.</b>	Mr. Jack Greene
<b>Producer</b>	Mr. Pat Doyle

Stage Managers:-

Messrs. Seamus O'Boyle and Joe Byrne

**Lighting:-**

Mr. Joe Greene

**Set Designer:-**

Mr. Jack Greene

Jimmy Fleming



The Choral Group at the Annual Concert in the Friary

## Cantairí Bheál Átha h-Amhnais

1986 has been a good year for the Ballyhaunis Choral Group, Cantairí Bheál Átha h-Amhnais.

After a very successful concert last year in October for European Music Year, we sang at the Annual Choral Concert in the Friary together with the sixth classes of the Convent and St. Mary's National School. Two boy soprano's Derry Cox and Leonard Connell were the soloists in Pie Jesu.

We have been featured twice on radio. While in Castlrea at a concert before Christmas for the Rehabilitation Institute, Donnacha O'Dulaing saw us and came down a few weeks later to record three songs in Pauline McGarry's house for his radio programme.

In February we performed again for the Ballina Rotary ladies on St. Valentine's Night, various members of the choir and 'The Ballad Group' performed to a very appreciative audience.

In May we made our now annual trip to the Cork Choral Festival and in July we sang at the Ordination Mass in the Friary for Fr. Fitzgerald. Louise O'Connor, Eimer Thornton, Ruth Jordan, Niamh McGarry and Olwyn Johnston joined us for the Masses when Niamh and Olwyn were soloists on Pie Jesu. We are now preparing for a variety concert to be held in November in the Parochial Hall.

The choir now comprises of Noel Henry, Oliver Jordan, Seamus Forde, Chris Pratt, Vincent Healy, Bases. Michael Byrne, Tony Flynn, John O'Neill, Michael Brogan. Tenors. Maureen Thornton, Mary and Hannah O'Connor, Ann Marie Eagney, Laura Brogan, Una Shields, Anna Butler, Ita Fahey, Karina King, Margaret Hannon, Moira Delaney, Mary Quinn, Eva Johnson, Xanthe Pratt.

- In November the Choir received a grant from the Mayo County Council Arts Advisory Committee for the purchase of a filing cabinet.



## PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS

At a meeting in the Central Hotel in June this year chaired by Michael Keane, Claremorris, a branch of the Progressive Democrats was formed.

Officers elected were:-

<b>Chairman</b>	. . .	Anthony Nestor (0907) 30420
<b>Secretary</b>	. . .	Frances Murphy (0907) 30286



Mick Hopkins (Drimbane) left, with John Gallagher with Gallagher's Prize-winning Freisans at the Spring Show 1966

## ANNAGH FOROIGE CLUB

DURING late September and early October several people got together to form a 'Foroige Club' in Ballyhaunis. The response for members was so great that there are two groups with 80 to 90 members.

**Annagh Foroige is one of the two Foroige clubs. In it there are 35 members. The meetings are held in the Parochial Hall on Friday nights from 6.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. We have four leaders to help along with us. The leaders are Mr. Donal Aherne, Mrs. Mary Kelly, Sr. Assumpta and Fr. Gleeson C.C.**

So far we have taken part in a Foroige Quiz in Brickens. We are having a vote in the near future to see what ideas will be put forward for activities.

Foroige clubs are not Youth Clubs. Youth Clubs are run by adults while Foroige is run by the members. Our Committee has been elected by all members, and their names are listed below:-

Chairperson	Evan O'Dwyer
Vice Chairperson	Louise Fitzmaurice
Secretary	May Flatley
Treasurers	David Burke, Lorcan Higgins
P.R.O.	Andrew Smith

Evan O'Dwyer

## Community Alert

All people of the area who are living alone and who wish to avail of an alarm system which they could use in a case of emergency should contact any member of the Ballyhaunis 'Community Alert'. The names of these people who may be contacted are given on a notice board at the door of the Church. These people will gladly give information to anybody who wants it.

Rev. Fr. Gleeson, Rev. Fr. Walsh (Chairman), Nurse Lowery, Seamus Durkan, Nurse Doherty, Seamus O'Boyle, Kathleen McBride, Joe Keane, Mrs. Mary Kelly (Secretary), Pat Higgins, Mrs. Mary Martin, Joe Byrne, Mrs. Mary Smyth.

## COMMUNITY ALERT ON CALL

## 1986 DUBLIN CITY MARATHON

Three runners completed the 1986 Dublin City Marathon. They were Donal Ahern, Jim Donnelly and Harry Thompson.

## BALLYHAUNIS PUB QUIZES (1981-86)

The Pub Quiz as we know it began in 1981 as part of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club plans to raise funds for its first ever trip to the U.S.A.

The first two teams to take part in the Pub Quiz were those who were representing the Central Hotel and Jack Halpins Lounge, with the team from the Central Hotel been victorious.

A Mastermind competition was run with each Pub Quiz and the 1981 winner was Padraic Waldron who chose as his special subject "G.A.A. History and Personalities".

In 1982 the winning team was Bernie Byrne's team and the Mastermind was won by Willie Ryan, who was representing "Freeley's Flashers".

In 1983 it was decided that the money raised from the Quiz, would be divided evenly between the Re-Hab and the G.A.A. The winners this year were Forde's Newsreaders. Kevin Flanagan won the Mastermind section.

In 1984 a team representing the Rugby Club won the Pub Quiz final, which was held in the Golf Club, and the winner of the Mastermind for 1984 was Luke Kenny of Castlerea, who was a member of the Coney Island from Gortaganny. This year saw an increase in the amount of teams entering when teams from Cloonfad, Began and Aughamore were invited to take part in the quiz.

1985 was another successful year for the Pub Quiz, it was decided this year to replace the Mastermind Competition, with a Super Quiz, this was won by Joan Flynn and the winners in the Pub Quiz were Keane's No. 2 team representing Keane's Lounge in Cloonfad. Ballinlough also took part in the Quiz for the first time.

1986 Ballyhaunis Pub Quiz was held in the Midas Club, Ronan's (Bekan) were victorious over George Delaney's team, Bridge Street in an exciting final. Both teams had a large following of supporters, and when Ronan's won the applause from the audience was fantastic. The Mastermind winner this year was Barry Butler.

I would like to thank Connacht Scaffolding Ltd., without whose sponsorship the Pub Quiz would not have been possible. On behalf of the G.A.A. and Re-Hab I would like to say a special thank you to all the people who gave so much of their time in making the quiz such a success - Quizmasters, Scorekeepers, Timekeepers and to all the members of both the G.A.A. and Re-Hab.

**Jimmy Fleming**

## HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Heritage Society continues to do great work in the field of local history. It holds regular meetings throughout the Winter months.

A new wedge tomb was discovered in the lands of Mr. Jim Forde, Largan. The existence of this tomb was brought to our notice by Mr. Jim Forde. The society has also been made aware of the existence of an ancient canoe in a reclaimed bog by Mr. Jim Coyne in Tonragee. The society at present has undertaken the task of designing a crest for Ballyhaunis and have sought entries from students and anyone else who may have any ideas.

### List of Officers:-

<b>President</b>	Fr. Costelloe P.P.
<b>Chairman</b>	B. Freyne
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joe Greene
<b>P.R.O.</b>	Fr. O'Connor O.S.A.
<b>Secretary</b>	Paul Waldron

**Joe Greene**



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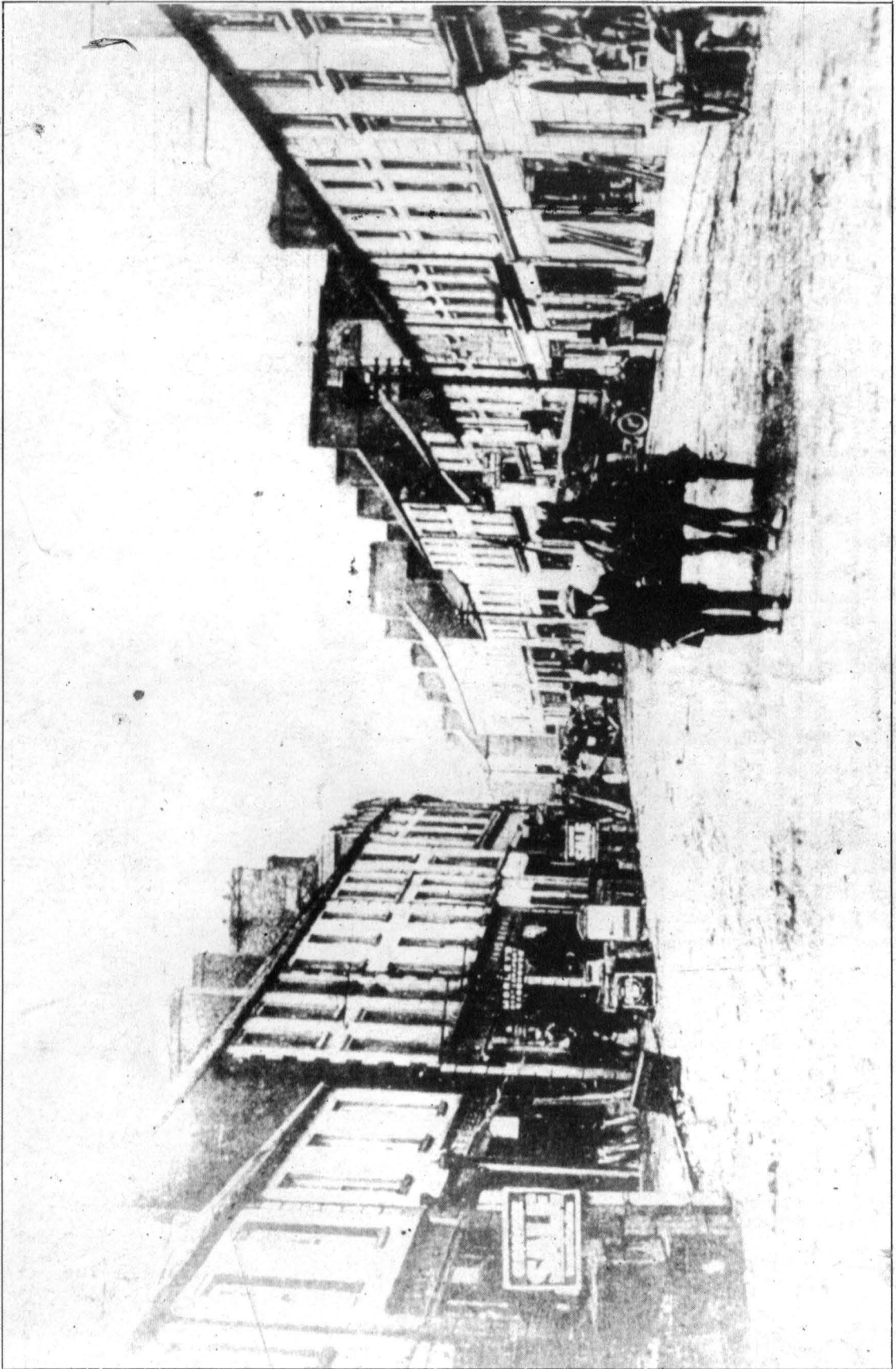
## WORDS OF WIDSOM

- ★ A child's arm around your neck is the warmest scarf you can wear.
- ★ Better an ounce of bread for the living than a ton of sympathy for the dead.
- ★ Be patient with children - God has not finished working on them yet.
- ★ Better to own a little than to want a lot.
- ★ Today is the first day of the rest of your life.
- ★ Many an awkward foal made a fine horse.



# FIRST COMMUNION CLASS 1986 - 18th May 1986

Front Row (l to r): Colm Jordan, James McGarry, Seamus Freyne, Mark Curley, Cormac Cleary.  
 Second Row (l to r): Shirley Keane, Mary Kelly, Kathleen Connell, Clodagh Shields, Ciara Healy, Geraldine Maughan, Veronica Regan, Caroline Camron, Denise Biesty, Noelle Biesty, Patrick Regan, Pauline Madden, Sinead Nevin.  
 Third Row (l to r): Fr. Costello P.P., Clodagh Lyons, Elaine Webb, Deirdre O'Connor, Caroline Barrett, Maire Burke, Alan Delaney, Patrick O'Dwyer, Paul Morris, Gerard Lyons, Oliver Cleary, Mrs. K. Lyons N.T., Mr. J. Duggan, B.Ed.  
 Fourth Row (l to r): Mairead Costello, Katherine Rabbitt, Catherine Higgins, Laura Lyons, Terry Maughan, Thomas Brennan, Eithne Byrne, Ciaran Murphy, Darragh Eagney.  
 Fifth Row (l to r): Sadie Slevins, Eoin Butler, Brendan Moran, Genevieve Flanagan, Sheena Flanagan, Aileen Nestor, Margaret Burke, Sandra Walsh, Noreen Lyons, Miriam Lilly, Eoin McDonagh, Paul Lyons, Simon McCafferty.  
 Sixth Row (l to r): Mark Neenan, Ian Webb, Jonathan Moore, John Nolan, Brian Hannon, Patrick Freyne, Kenneth Kirrane, Conal Higgins, Brian Forde, Conor McManus, Seamas Lunden.



Main Street 1928  
(Photograph courtesy of Anne Lyne, Salthill)