

Annagh '89



Ballyhaunis Annual Magazine

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Bail ó Dhia orraibh! Though "Summer's Lease hath all too short a date," the summer of 1989 was so pleasant that its brevity makes the past year all the more memorable. October 10 marked the eightieth anniversary of the opening of our Parish Church for public worship and the occasion was marked by the repainting and embellishing of the interior, the relaying of the forecourt with tarmacadam and the revamping of the heating system. These improvements were made possible by the generosity of the parishioners whose vibrant and loyal faith demonstrates that they are worthy inheritors of the sturdy confidence and dauntless courage of their forbears who built this beautiful church. The old post-Penal Laws Church which preceded it has now disappeared and it would be very much appreciated if anyone – at home or abroad has still any photograph, picture or drawing that might be available for reproduction in "Annagh".

The Years slip away all too quickly: the remaining years of this century are slipping away faster. Let us hold on to our values and traditions and preserve them for those who come after us.

One tradition still remains firmly with us – the Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. May He who still lives among us bless and guide you all.

Go gcúmhdagh Dia sibh.
Patrick O. Costelloe, P.P.

EDITORIAL

In keeping with the past editions of "ANNAGH" this year we again record the positive events of the current year and recall the past – People, Places and Events. It is a celebration of all that we are proud of in our community.

This year we introduce two innovations. For the first time we are featuring a village in our parish and giving it pride of place in the magazine. It is our intention to feature a village or area each year. Appropriately we start with the village of Annagh. In response to the suggestions of the Dalton Sisters last year we published for the first time our Emigrants Directory. It is hoped that this will help to re-establish long lost relationships and perhaps start some new friendships. Its future in the magazine depends on our emigrants requesting to be included.

With this our last edition of the 80's we can truly say that "Annagh Magazine" has well recorded that decade. We look to the 90's with the hope that future editions will do the same.

Finally we would like to thank our contributors and patrons for their continued support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Back and Front Cover Pictures

Front Cover (Clockwise):

SWIMMERS: Edward Mulhern, Barry Butler, Robert Potter-Coogan, Joe Freeley and Nuala Fitzgerald.

GALWAY BLAZERS: at Festival Parade

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNTY HURLING CHAMPIONS 1989: (l. to r.) John Neenan, Dan Tarpey, Simon Webb, John Burke, Michael Curley, Mark Neenan, Pierce Higgins (Capt. with Cup), Derek Walsh, Cormac O'Connor, Robert Gilder, Peter Higgins and John Joe Hoban (trainers), Supporters Shay Walsh, Ian Webb, Hugh McKermitt, Declan Byrne.

IN THE RING: Sean Fitzmaurice and Shane Hanley.

STUDYING FORM: Mr. Bill Mulligan, retired National School Teacher.

BERNARD WALDRON at the bow, during the stocking of White Lake.

Back Cover (Clockwise):

UP FOR THE MATCH: Daragh Eagney, Mike Byrne, Vinnie Healy, Pat Donnellan, Patrick Keane, Diarmid Eagney.

EAST MEETS WEST: The dome of the Mosque with the Parish Church in background.

NED MURREN: shows his colours.

CLARE STREET: by night.

BROTHER AND SISTER STEP IT OUT: Tom Morley and Peg Byrne.

FRIARY SERVERS: Taken in 1926 by Rev. Fr. O'Leary OSA - Back Row: (l. to r.) Andy Forde, Tom Swift, Mikey Smyth, Jimmy Byrne; Front Row: Jimmy Cunningham, Oliver Cunningham, Georgie Murray, John Ganley, Joe Smyth, Paddy McDonnell. (Photo courtesy Jimmy Byrne).

ANNAGH ROSE '89: Caroline Jennings, with Mens Cycle Race winner and Mary Cleary of Ladies Cycle Team.

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**Annagh Wishes it's
Readers and Patrons
a Very Happy
Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year**



ANNAGH



Front Row: Mary Brady, Carmel Johnston, Mary C. Byrne, Attracta Smyth, Catherine Biesty; 2nd Row: Patsy Dalton, Mary McGuire, Imelda Melley, Mary T. Ruane, Maureen Lyons (decd.), Kathleen McBride; Back Row: Anne Hunter, Helen Hoban, Geraldine Costello, Dorothy Morley, Nina Dyer, Carmel Hunt. - (Photo courtesy Kathleen McBride).

THE village of Annagh is situated at the Northern end of the Parish surrounded by Cartron South on the North and the river Glorre on the South, East and West. It is in the barony of Costelloe District Union of Swinford and Electoral Division of Coolnaha. It formed part of the Aghamore Parish which in turn formed part of the Knock Parish up to the closing years of the last century.

It is a closely knit community. Ten houses have closed within the past ten years four being our immediate neighbours but in that period five new families have moved in. They have integrated very well with the "old Annaghs" and are always prepared to give a helping hand whenever required to do so and to drop in for the chat.

In the olden days the village was divided into six areas having forty-two residential houses – now there are only thirteen – there were sixteen houses in Balloor (John Walsh's part of the village), seven houses in Currabehy (Jim Duffy's part of the village), seven houses in Baile Soir (where John Henry now resides), nine houses in Annagh na Coile in our part of the village, two houses known as "the Bog Houses" on the Golf Links road and two houses on the lake strand.

One of the houses on the lake strand was built in one day by the Fenians. A family named O'Rourke were evicted from their home in Cartron South where Hosty's house is now and hundreds of men came from the surrounding villages to assist in the building of the house and all the materials including stones were carried by the men on their shoulders from as far away as Crossard and Leow.

Some years later the O'Rourkes were reinstated to their house at Cartron South when Maude Gonne MacBride paid the rent.

In the second house an old lady named Mary Davin lived. She was a widow her husband, Thaddy Duffy, having died early in life. Mary was always known by her maiden name and the sharp bend on the road beside where the house stood is still known as "Davin's Corner".

She had no land or means of livelihood and depended for her maintenance on the generosity of the local people. She never had to make a request for assistance. Food and fuel were given to her discreetly and voluntarily by the neighbours.

It was a great joy to Mary when the Old Age Pension was introduced. She was to get money, a thing she never had. To qualify for the Old Age Pension when it was introduced in January 1909, a person had to be 70 years on or before 1st January 1909. As some of the records for the middle of the last century were destroyed some people were unable to trace their Birth Certificates and it was sufficient for a person to produce evidence that he or she was born before the Big Storm of 1839. The story goes Mary applied for the Old Age Pension stating "I remember the big storm I was nine months and my brother Pat was three months." She wanted to ensure that they both would be entitled to draw the Old Age Pension.

At the end of the last century Patrick Tyrell was the Landlord for the villages of Annagh and Cartron South. He lived in the house known as "An Tí Mór" now in a dilapidated state on Sean Waldron's lands. He was known to the tenants as Master Pat. He was very strict and once the Rent was in arrears he would proceed immediately to evict. In our part of the village there were eight tenants and only one receipt would be issued for the eight. If one tenant was unable to pay the Rent all eight would be evicted.

The tenants had to do all the work for the Landlord (without pay) such as cultivating the land, sowing the seeds and reaping the corn etc. There were no ploughs at that time and the cultivation was done by turning the sod with a spade.

When the Landlord required help he would go out to Dillon's Hill (now known locally as Kennedy's) and whistle. The men went immediately to his assistance as if they did not they were afraid of the consequences. They would work from dawn to sunset and in the evening when they were tired and hungry Master Pat would come out to inspect the work and he would run about ten yards and put down a mark and would insist that they would not leave until they completed the work to the mark.



Tom Jordan and Michael (Frank) Lyons at the Lough which was in Annagh in 1940. (Photo: Kathleen McGowan).

The Landlord would visit his tenants and would inspect their farms and if required anything such as milk, eggs, vegetables or chickens he would point to what he required and again the tenants were afraid to refuse.

His daughter married Curran who was a solicitor and adopted the name Tyrell Curran. He held his practice at his home. He travelled on foot to Courts as far away as Swinford. He did not have a big practice.

Their family emigrated to England and their son Sonny returned to Ireland in the 1950's and the lands were sold to the Land Commission and divided amongst the local farmers.

During the latter part of the last century there was an enormous amount of emigration from the village of Annagh. The men usually went to England each Spring returning in the late Autumn. The women remained at home doing all the farmwork, looking after the children and their housework.

The first time my grandfather went to England he and all the men from the village walked to Drogheda to catch the boat for England. Their wives escorted them as far as Cooloughra where they changed to their working clothes. On his return later that year he travelled by train but got off the train while it was still moving at Coolnafarna as he would be ashamed for anybody to see him getting off the train at Ballyhaunis Railway Station.

There were some small industries in the village. There was a "Clog Factory" owned by McNamaras where John Meehan's barn now is. There were fifteen people employed. The soles were made from Ash timber from trees grown locally. They had a machine which would cut out a large number of soles by pressing one lever. This machine is in Knock Museum. The clogs were sold locally and some were exported to England. McNamaras moved into Ballyhaunis and continued their work on a bigger scale in Main Street where the Man's Shop and Eatons are now. In Ballyhaunis they expanded their business

and made ordinary shoes also. A person could order a pair of shoes in the morning to be made to their measure and they would be ready in the evening.

The McNamaras were the predecessors of the Dalton sisters formerly of Clare Street now in the U.S. who are regular subscribers of the Annagh Magazine.

Morans had a carpentry shop and this was still going strong until the early 1950's. They made carts, barrows, handles for spades and shovels and kitchen furniture. They had to travel long distances, as far as Castlereagh and Barnalyra, for the trees which they cut with a saw known as a cross cut worked by two people,

transport the trees by horse and cart to Annagh and convert them into timber suitable for their needs on a limited amount of tools. They also made the spokes and felloes for the wheels which took some time. Jimmy Moran often told me that they got most of the timber in the Barnalyra Wood just beside the Horan International Airport. He would ride the horse and cart to Barnalyra in the morning cut the trees and load up and he would walk back in the evening with the horse and cart would be too heavy for the horse to allow him to have a seat in the cart.

They would travel to the markets in the springtime in the local towns, Ballaghaderreen, Kilkelly, Castlereagh to sell the tool handles and barrows.

There was a shop owned by Keanes where John Henry's Barn now is. In this shop groceries and animal feed were sold. This was a great house for cardplaying at night.

Then there was the Shebeen in another house – selling intoxicating liquor in an unlicensed house. This was going on for some time but eventually news of it got to the ears of the police. Local lads would visit this house nightly as at that time country boys would not dream of going into town pubs at night and they were very disheartened when the Shebeen was closed down.

During the Winter the women were busy spinning and knitting. They would card and spin the wool, then knit stockings and vests for the men and bring some of the wool to the Weaver to make blankets and frieze for men's overcoats.

They also grew flax, cut and saved it, then they would card and spin, making it into thread. They would bring this thread to the weaver to make sheets, towels and tablecloths. There were two types of weavers, one for linen and one for wool. There was a weaver for linen living in Padraic Forde's lands (known locally as Ruane's) named Tighe. The weaver for wool lived in Ballindrehid. The women would bring the linen thread to the weaver and stay to attend on him perhaps a few days. We have a tablecloth the flax was grown where John Dillon-Leetch's house now is and it was carded and spun by my grandmother and woven by Tommie Tighe the local weaver.

Annagh had its various ways of entertainment. Annagh was noted for its Gaelic Football team, The Annagh Rovers. The majority of the team consisted of Annagh members but some were from Carrownedan and Mountain. In the last team there were three members of the Garvey family from Mountain, one being the father of the ex Garda Commissioner. The Annagh Rovers was the first local team to be affiliated to the national G.A.A. Organisation. This team played several matches and were only known to have been defeated in one match by Charlestown – this was due to over-confidence and on replay they won the match.

Annagh Lake unfortunately is no longer with us due to the drainage in the 1960's. It was a place of recreation in Summer and Winter. It was a lovely shallow lake with a strand running along the road. In summer children and parents would come out to paddle and bathe in the lake and then have a picnic on the strand. It was very safe for children and there was the odd boat around and it would be a big treat if you were brought for a ride on a boat.

In Winter we were always longing for the hard frosts – the lake would freeze up and if the school was closed we would spend

our days on the ice. The older men had skates and we would love to watch them skating on the ice. If the ice was clear the fish in the lake would be visible through the ice and the skaters would follow the fish and stun them then break the ice and snare the fish, many heavy fish were caught in this way.

Another lovely sight was to watch the sun on a Summer's evening go down over the lake. Even with the lake gone it is still a lovely sight to see the Sun go down over Mannin Wood.

In 1930, and 1940 dog racing was held on the lake strand and again this drew crowds of people. Racing would be held on Sunday afternoons. We would stand all day watching the people pass by to the races and would then try to get into the course by the "back door" to avoid payment for entry.

in the olden days people went visiting at night during the Winter. Certain houses were venues for cardplaying and in other houses the old men would tell ghost stories and the children would listen attentively. At the beginning of the century if a newspaper came into the house that house would be filled that night to hear the paper being read. Later with the advent of radio people went to hear the news or listen to a football match and likewise when television came in the early sixties.

Despite all the means of entertainment Annagh residents still enjoy visiting each others houses and long may it last.



Agnes Lyons (Meehan), Kit Walsh (decd.), Dom Moran, Michael Lyons (twin), John D. Meehan, Jenny Duffy, Jimmy Moran, Pake Muldoon (decd.), Children: Mickie Lyons (jnr.), Martin Lyons. Man in background with spade MI Lyons (decd.) – (photo Kathleen McBride).

SQUASH CLUB

Officers elected at this year's Squash Club A.G.M. were:- Chairperson and Secretary: John Durcan, Treasurer: Alan Henry; Ladies Captain: Della Webb.

Because of a decline in membership the incoming committee decided to amalgamate with Kiltimagh and Claremorris who also found themselves in a similar position. The Chairperson said the highlight of the year was the great success of the underage members of the club. A number of competitions were run during the year.

The Chairman thanked the Club Sponsors for their continued support. Tributes were paid to Enda Moran, Donal Moran and Pat Noone on their success during the season.

John Durcan

SNOOKER CLUB

The St. Patrick's Billiards and Snooker Club was reformed having been inactive for a couple of years. At the Clubs General Meeting on Friday, 10th November a number of trustees were appointed to take charge of the Club for the coming year.

They are:- Alex Eaton, Paddy Phillips (jnr.), Kevin Barry and Cyril O'Malley.

The membership fee for the newly founded Club was set at £10 (adults) and £5 (Students).

A Handicap for the members commenced in November and is sponsored by The Bank of Ireland.

Mike Byrne

Oh What Changes in Fifty Years'

THE reminder during the first week of last September of the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War brought us all – or at least the few of us who are left – back to the times of a half-century ago, and gave us all reason to reflect on the many, many changes since 1939.

Fifty years ago, if you lived in the country at that time, television was unthinkable of course, and you would be lucky to hear a radio a day of a big match (the transistor did not come until the late forties). If you had a job in town, you would be lucky to be earning £3 a week. Digs might cost you 30 shillings (or £1.50) a week. Of course you could buy a pint in 1939 at an old ninepence (four new pence) a packet of 10 cigarettes for 7d (3 new pence) and a gallon of petrol for one and six (7½ new pence). Of course cars were scarce in 1939, and private motoring was suspended completely from 1942 for about four years.

THE THIRTIES

Although money was scarce in 1939, the dance-hall was much in demand for the youth, and to cycle twelve or fourteen miles on a night-out was no bother. The "short" dance, as we called it, ended at one o'clock, and cost about 7 new pence, and the "all night" went on till four and was usually three shillings and nine pence (or about 19 new pence). Stephen Garvey's, Castlebar, Jack Ruane, Ballina, Bert Flynn, Roscommon and Jack Power's Ballinrobe were then the leading bands in the West and always attracted large attendances. "South of the Border" was first heard in 1939, and the password "That shook you" was also new. There was little inflation during that decade, we had four general elections during the thirties, a complete change of Government in 1932, the Economic War in the mid thirties, a new Constitution in 1937 and our first President in 1938 was Dr. Douglas Hyde.

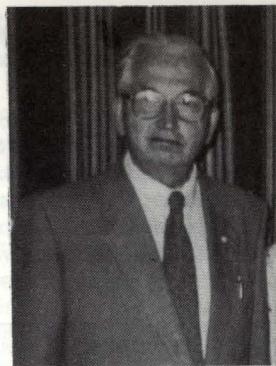
THE FORTIES

As the war raged through Europe during the forties, we gradually became accustomed to changes: - scarcities and rationing, although life went on in Ireland almost as usual. In 1940, the Emergency, as we called it, was in full swing, and politicians of different persuasions came on the one platform to appeal for volunteers for the new Voluntary Defence Forces, to which there was a generous response. This formation of the new reserve army in Ireland was quite a novelty, but still taken in all seriousness by the thousands from town and country who joined up. The occasion was subsequently looked back on as the first occasion for the country lad to come into town and take his place, side by side, with his urban counterpart. There were huge step-together parades in many towns and the new army was known as the L.D.F., later to become the F.C.A.

We also became accustomed to the scarcities and rationing - and the term **BLACK MARKET** - during the forties and although the war, in which over fifty million people were killed, ended in 1945, rationing of petrol and most food items continued almost to the end of the decade. De Valera's reply to Churchill in April, 1945 and the defeat of his Government and the Churchill Government in Britain were other sensational features of that decade. The forming of the Inter-Party Government in Ireland in February, 1948 was also quite a novelty, with the election of a hitherto ordinary T.D. as Taoiseach.

THE FIFTIES

The Fifties will be remembered as the decade of increased emigration, the introduction of Rock and Roll and Mayo winning the All-Ireland Football Final, captained by Sean Flanagan who was later to become a Government Minister and M.E.P. There was little inflation during the fifties. We had three



Tony Boyle, who has contributed regularly to the Annagh Magazine, worked in Ballyhaunis from 1941 to 1947. He is now retired and lives in Galway City. Six of his seven children are married and he has eleven grandchildren. He is a native of Moylough, Co. Galway and he and his wife May (who is from Dunmore) celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last June.

changes of Government, and the first Self-Service shop in Ireland opened in Henry Street, Dublin in 1955. During that decade too, I remember being in the only singing pub in Dublin - it was in Wexford Street - and today the vast majority of the pubs in Ireland are singing pubs, many of them having licences for dancing also. We also attended the first ever evening Mass in the fifties.

THE SIXTIES

In the sixties, the tide appeared to turn for the better in Ireland. We had the Second Vatican Council in 1962, which appeared to have been responsible for many changes. Pope John's brief reign ended the following year and we also had the Kennedy visit and assassination the same year. Of course the major change in this decade was the advent of Telefís Éireann. Things would never be the same again - our way of living was to alter considerably.

Life in the country changed too, and the good will and neighbourliness which prevailed in rural Ireland for many generations was about to disappear. The day of the visiting houses and the gifts of pork and pudding to the neighbours, following the annual killing of the pig had now long gone. Wakes have been replaced by the funeral parlour - there are now twenty eight funeral parlours in Co. Galway alone, and probably as many in Mayo.

FARMING CHANGED TOO

For the farmer, the extreme hardship of the early-morning journey to the monthly fair has been now replaced by the commercialised dealings of the Mart which is usually held weekly in the larger towns. Although the Mart system is much more convenient and involves less hardship, many must miss the challenge of the approach of "Dealing Man" and the "Tangler", the bargaining, the luck penny and the handclapping. With the exception of the occasional fixture, such as the October fair in Ballinasloe, there is no talk of fairs nowadays but we hear the occasional whisper of "affairs".

New too, is the regular Saturday evening Mass which is in the language we all understand, with the priest facing the congregation and the laity giving out Holy Communion.

NEW CURRENCY

One of the greatest changes in the past half-century was the change to decimal currency in February, 1971, a change which brought many increases in its wake. Even now it is difficult to believe that petrol was less than 75p a gallon in the early seventies. Now, it is almost £3, and the house selling for six or seven thousand in the early seventies, would now fetch over £40,000.

All in all the changes in the last half-century are phenomenal. Who would forecast in 1939 that in 1989 we would pay twelve shillings for our daily, Sunday or local paper or almost thirty shillings for the pint? Travel has been made easy and there is no remoteness in the country now. You'll see a car or two outside houses. Holidays abroad are common and class distinction is a thing of the past - well almost. Of course the greatest revolution of all was in the educational system, and it

has been a source of considerable satisfaction to us all to see our children receive a much higher standard of education than we enjoyed ourselves.

Along with the many changes mentioned above, we, in 1989, now take for granted the many things we witness and live with, and would not have dreamt of in 1939, such as the Ban Gardai, Womens Football, Local Radio, Sunday Racing, Soccer Clubs in almost every parish, the disappearance of the G.A.A. Ban, Knock Airport, RoundABOUTs, Traffic Wardens, One-Way Streets, Breathalysers, Driving Tests, Five-Day Week,

Sponsored Walks, Group Water Schemes, Credit Unions, Rose Festivals, Heart and Liver Transplants, Hijacking, the E.E.C. and P.D's. the Huge Supermarkets, Direct Telephone Dialling Worldwide, plus all the many facilities that the Rural Electrification Scheme of the fifties brought. In 1939 there was no talk of Silage, Artificial Insemination, Walkmans, Videos, Planning Permission or Rod Licences.

The list is almost endless

Nellie Mugan Remembers

Before World War One Mary Flannery lived in Moran's Lane, Ballyhaunis with her husband and family. In those days the lane consisted of small, two roomed houses, most houses had families of three or four, plus a dog. In the very cold winter nights any of them who had a donkey took it in from the severe frost or snow. People were poor but happy.

Those days the lane was nicknamed the Dardanelles. I think the reason being a lot of the men folk were out in Flanders and there were a few wives or mothers who liked a Guinness too many. And on allowance day there would be a lot of shouting and singing and sometimes fighting. But come the next morning everything was peace and quiet.

I was born in the lane and lived a very happy childhood there with my Gran until I was six. At the very end of the lane there was a big house, and the family there kept a couple of cows, and had a garden. The family's name was Rattigan and we thought they were ever so posh because they had a big house. I used to go there once a week when they churned, to buy the fresh buttermilk and butter. Some of the names that come to mind who lived there when I was a child were Bid Plunkett, Mary Devaney, Kate Molloy, Ned Daly and the Rattigans, and of course Mary and James Flannery my grandparents.

(Mrs.) Ellen Lyons nee Nellie Mugan.

Old lady's daughter, also Mary, married Jack Mugan, had family Ellie, Beatrice, Madeline, Sean, Agnes. Mary died and Jack married again and had one daughter Christine.

Mary Flannery with her youngest grandchild Agnes Mugan (decd.).



MEMORIES OF YESTERYEAR

As I sit and gaze at the above picture, I wonder where each of my class mates are today, and how many of them remember the day this photo was taken by Michael Flanagan (Brickens). It was Spring of '48 – Fourth Class at the Convent. Poor Sr. De Recci was so flustered and red in the face, trying to get us lined up and seated for the big event. She refused to stand in to have her picture taken with us.

I remember shortly after that happy day, tragedy struck our class. Pauline Prendergast (R.I.P.) was killed as she was walking through a trench where the new water pipes were being laid. Pauline and her best friend, Kitty Kelly, were on their way home at lunch time, when the accident happened. It was the first time death had touched most of us. It cast gloom over our class for some time.

I wonder if Helen Lynch remembers the day she walked out to Pattens Park with me after school. I had promised her she could ride my pony if she lent me her "Our Girls Annual", that she had received for Christmas. Helen did not tell her mother where she was going, as a result, half of Ballyhaunis were out looking for her, as it was almost nightfall when she arrived home.

I wonder if Joan Fahy remembers the day she wrote a note in Sr. De Recci's class and passed it along via Rita Byrne, Mary Biesty, myself, Mary Waldron and Deidre Wall. Sr. De Recci intercepted the note and needless to say she was not amused with the contents.

I wonder if Eileen Dalton remembers the day her Aunt arrived home from America and brought her bubble gum. We were all her "best friend" that day hoping she would share the gum with us (she did and Thank You Eileen). I chewed my piece for hours, maybe days, as it was the first time I had ever had gum.

I wonder if Rita Byrne (my first cousin) remembers the lunch

hours in her house (The Bridge Bar now the Silver Dollar). Poor Mary McHugh (R.I.P.) always had an errand for me. Also, the fair days, when the men would be coming into the bar for a pint, we would be upstairs looking out the window with a glass of water in our hands. As they came in the door, we would drop some water on their heads and they would think it was raining. Aunty Nell (R.I.P.) did not think it was funny.

I wonder how many of the girls remember the highlight of our lunch hour. It was going to Jack Halpins for ice cream and Maura McGreal always had a smile and a kind word for each of us. The ice cream cost two pennies then. Lunchtime on Tuesday was also special. That was the day we went to Mrs. Waldron's Book Shop for the Beano and Dandy, usually they were passed around so all could have a quick read.

This was the year white nylon ribbon was the style. Most of us in the photo are sporting one. It was also the year that the "Biro" made its appearance in Ballyhaunis. I was lucky to get one for my birthday. It was my Prized possession for many years.

Those were some of my many memories of my class mates and the class of '48.

For the past 30 years, I have resided in Boston, with my husband Johnnie (a Kerryman), and our 3 sons and 2 daughters. We have had many Ballyhaunis people come and visit us. We are always delighted to have them come and stay for a while. We enjoy the "Western People," the "Connaught Telegraph" and "Ireland's Own" every week. It's a great way to keep up to date with the current events in Ballyhaunis. The Annagh magazine is a special treat at Christmas time. I have been fortunate to have had 24 trips back home to visit my parents while they were both in good health. May they rest in peace. I miss them both so much.



Convent School - Fourth Class '48 – Front row (l. to r.) Helen Lynch, Joan Fahey, Kathleen Higgins, Patsy Biesty, Angela Tarpey, Deirdre Wall, Bernadette Jordan, Pauline Prendergast (R.I.P.), Kitty Kelly, Mary Lyons and Eileen Dalton. Back Row Angela Brennan, Bernadette Freyne (R.I.P.), Mary Biesty, Rita Byrne, Nora Greene, Mary Waldron, Madeleine Rattigan and Theresa Mulkeen. – (Photo: Patsy Biesty).

Contd. from previous page

I would like to send greetings and best wishes to all my kind neighbours and friends in Ballyhaunis, also to all my classmates wherever they may be. I hope they all have happy and healthy lives and that they too get back to visit Ballyhaunis on a regular basis.

Maybe we could have a reunion during the festival next year. I nominate Rita Byrne to start the ball rolling. How about it girls?

I will be very happy to send a copy of the above photo to any of my classmates that would like one.

Best Wishes, Patsy Biesty Teahan, 3 Alaric Street, West Roxbury Ma 02132.

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE

Parochial Hall. Telephone: (0907) 30212

"If in doubt check it out." And no better place to do just that than at Ballyhaunis Community Information Centre.

Staffed by trained volunteers, the centre provides free and confidential information on a wide variety of subjects such as Income-tax, Social Welfare Entitlements, Health Services, Pensions, Housings, etc. A comprehensive range of application forms for various entitlements is also available.

Anyone wishing to avail of these services may do so either by post, telephone, or by calling personally to the centre.

Opening hours are as follows:-

Tuesday and Friday: 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The centre is currently operated by these volunteers:

Sr. Assumpta, Co-Organisor and Training Officer:

Kathleen McBride, Co-Organiser; Bridie Brennan,

Co-Deputy Organisor; Mai Murphy, Co-Deputy Organisor and Secretary; Mary Donnelly,

Publicity Officer; Johnny Lyons, Chairman; Betty Regan, Nora Sweeney, Noreen Lyons, Kathleen

Waldron, Rita Murphy, Harry Lamberth, Frances Maye, Delia Regan, Mary Folliard and Mary Hopkins.

New volunteers are always welcome.

Johnny Lyons.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AND AL-ANON MEETINGS

are held in Old Secondary School, Convent of Mercy, on Sunday nights - at 8.30 p.m. during Winter time and 9.00 p.m. in Summer time.

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The Committee requested All Clubs and Associations to forward reports. If your club's report is not published it is because it was not received in time for publication.

## APOSTOLIC WORKERS 1989

OFFICERS: President: Miss May Moyles; Vice-President: Mrs. K. Finn; Secretary: Mrs. B. Brennan; Treasurer: Mrs. Peg Byrne.

During the past year work of the Apostolic Workers progressed satisfactorily. Our year started in September and ended in June when we held our Annual Exhibition.

The importance of the Annual Display cannot be stressed enough, this is where the work done during the year is shown to the public. It gives viewers an opportunity of seeing the work done by a small group of ladies, and also how money is being spent. On the day of the Exhibition a raffle was held and donations accepted from Honorary members and benefactors.

A mini-vigil was held in June, it was conducted by Father Neary, from Maynooth, there was a large attendance of active and honorary members from the diocese.

Each month, the Branch receives several letters of appreciation and gratitude from those missionaries who have benefitted from Apostolic work.

The Ballyhaunis ladies meet every Monday night in the Parochial Hall from 8 p.m. to 11p.m. and new members would be greatly appreciated.

Bridie Brennan



**Boston: August 1989 - (l. to r.) Margaret Conboy, Bronagh McKermitt, Sally Higgins. Bronagh McKermitt, Treasurer of Annagh Magazine Committee, with fellow emigrant Margaret Conboy; Sally Higgins in background.**



# BALLYHAUNIS AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LTD.

The Credit Union has shown continued growth through 1989 with shares growing by 30% to £230,000 and a total of £196,000 was issued in loans to members in the twelve months to 30th September 1989.

A big milestone was reached in September with the signing of our 500th Senior member Mr. Paddy Delaney of Abbey Street (see photograph).

Some activities run by the Education Committee were the holding of a poster competition last winter, the sponsorship of a set of jerseys for the Youths Soccer Club, and the presentation of an Educational Video on Credit Union to the Community School.



**Maura Fitzmaurice presenting Paddy Delaney with a cheque on becoming the 500th Senior member of Ballyhaunis Credit Union.**

The Board of Directors for the past year was:-

John Tuohy - Chairman, Martin Caulfield - Vice-Chairman, Peter McCafferty - Secretary, Pat O'Connor - Treasurer, Rita London and Paddy Brennan - Assistant Treasurers, Catherine Sloyan and Benny McCarrick - Credit Committee, Maura Fitzmaurice - P.R.O., Fiona Tarpey and Mary Caulfield - Directors, Barry Butler, Mary Freyne and Ina Freyne - Supervisory Committee.

Hours of Business at Upper Main Street are:-

Friday's 1.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Saturday's 8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Sunday's 12 o'clock to 1 p.m. also Tooreen School Sunday after last Mass.

Remember a Credit Union is owned by the members and run for the members by a Board of Directors elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. So please attend.



**DUAL HONOURS FOR P.J. – P.J. Morley T.D. M.C.C. has been successful on the double this year with his re-election to Dail Eireann in the recent General Election and his selection by his fellow Councillors as Chairman of Mayo County Council, both of which positions reflect his continuing popularity with his constituents and his fellow councillors alike.**



# THE MAGIC OF KNOX STREET



By JOE KENNY

**IT isn't easy to see how there could have been magic in Knox Street, but magic there certainly was.** A long narrow street, it ran North/South from the sandpit to the Market Square. Our side got very little sun in the morning even in summer, and the three-storey houses cut out the evening sun early enough, unless you lived at the lower end opposite Gilmore's garden. In Winter you could always tell if the snow would stick. If it came from the Square it melted early. But when it came from the sandpit it would last and if there was enough of it there might be no school – maybe.

In its entire length there was hardly a building of any architectural significance, but the construction of three-storey houses surely was a feat of masonry in the early 1900's.

Knox Street had no public building of any kind, no church, no Friary, no school except for a brief period when Mayo Vocational Committee rented rooms for classes at the back of Forde's. When these burned down the school on the Knock Road was built. Knox Street had no place of public entertainment. It had no chemist shop, no barber, no doctor. Indeed there was very little reason why any person from any other part of the town should venture in – unless it was to release some straying animal from the pound in Pat Tarpey's yard. Not that it was cut off from other parts of the town. It was, still is I suppose, in fact a shorter journey to either house of worship from Knox Street than from the centre of town. That is, as the crow flies, or as long as the crow could find a plank to cross the Friary River, or take a short cut from the lower end of the street up the back of Main Street.

There were areas too of common ground – such as the Lochán where Knox Street met Main Street and the river between

*Knox Street, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. (photo: Eddie Biesty).*

P.A.'s field and the friary field, where occasional outbreaks of war were as fiercely contested as those raging farther afield at that time on the banks of the Vistula.

Ballyhaunis, then as now, was a small town and it's no use pretending that any part of it was foreign territory to anybody else. There were, however, strange divisions in such a small community. For instance, it is hard to imagine that in a town of roughly a thousand inhabitants, all Catholics, you could pass a year without going to the same church as your neighbour.

Even in such a context Knox Street had a touch of individuality. Indeed when there was no Ballyhaunis G.A.A. team there was a Knox Street Rovers team! At one stage in the late forties Joe Waldron, almost single-handed, kept the G.A.A. alive in Ballyhaunis and has never really got credit for it. Ach sin scéal eile do lá eile.

There were thirty to forty children in Knox Street at most times. Usually we played in P.A.'s field, in the Lochán in the sandpit and – I'm talking now about the forties – mainly on the street itself. Without traffic it was an ample playground. The fastest vehicle – the only one doing over fifteen miles an hour was the mail car from Kilkelly. The only time the street was occupied was on fair days, when carts lined both sides of the street, and on Sunday when a row of traps and side-cars, shafts raised heavenwards, lined one side of Knox Street, while the horses were tended in the yards at the rear and the drivers and passengers observed the cocktail hour in any of the street's fourteen public houses.

The real magic of the street was in the people and the amazing variety of activities that were carried on – trades and crafts that have since died and that, had we only known it, were dying then.



Next door to me was Pat Tarpey, among other things, custodian of the Pound. Pat's daughter, Nora (happily still alive) mother of Neil and Myra, was married to George (Denis) McGillicuddy of Killarney, and what memories these few lines bring back for me. Tarpeys meant horses – not common beasts of burden that drew turf carts or sidecars or ploughs – but thoroughbred animals – racehorses, highly bred, fragile and beautiful. They represented to us another world – a world of glamour and excitement. They ran at Ballinrobe and at Galway and we saw their names in the daily papers – Perpetual, Lord of Appeal and others. Nobody ever got rich on them, but they ran profitably in other places as far away as Dingle and won, albeit in less exalted company and without benefit of Rules of Racing.

There were two coachbuilding concerns in the street. First there was Johnny Gilmore's. Johnny also had a stone-cutting business where headstones for graves, as well as other monuments, were dressed and designed. The dressing was usually done by one of the journeymen stonecutters who spent a term, often many years, with Johnny. These were characters straight from Seamas Murphy's great book on the trade "Stone Mad" – 'the wise and silent men who learned their silence from the stones'. I hope they were all wise for they certainly weren't all silent. The one I remember most was silent – Owen Murray of Stradbally, Co. Laois – his family is mentioned by Seamas Murphy as one of the stonecutting families. Owen stayed in Tarpey's and worked with Gilmore's for many years in the forties. The design work on the headstones was done by Johnny Gilmore himself. We watched – and he allowed us to watch – as he cut out the intricate Celtic interlacing, the floral work and the lettering. Limestone was the most common material and his work can be seen in many cemeteries around and in many monuments such as the Land League memorial at Irishtown. Needless to say almost all of the work was done by hand.

Next to Gilmore's was J.T. Smyth, saddler and harness-maker. Here we were watching the end of a craft.

The work of course was limited to the era of horse and donkey, which was fast dying as the car took over. As often happens in the case of humans, the harnessmaker's trade had a sudden resurgence just before it began to die. The petrol shortage of the war years gave it a new lease of life, but we didn't realise as we sat there watching J. T. and his son, Liam, stuffing collars and straddles, stitching bridles and britching, that this was the end of an era – and poignantly in the fifties Liam had, as it were gone over to the enemy as he plied his hackney car.

Further down the street was the second coachbuilding establishment – that of Pakie Waldron (Golly), one of Knox Street's great originals. Pakie was in fact a public figure – a Peace Commissioner and a former Chairman of Mayo Co. Council. Though by then he had long since passed from public life, it was he who read the 1916 Proclamation in the Square at Easter, 1949 after the Government had passed the Republic of Ireland Act, and it was a measure of his importance that the first news I had of his death some years later when I had left Knox Street, was in a Radio Eireann News Bulletin.

We saw in Knox Street too the end of the coachbuilding era and the end of its skills and secrets. Of that, my main memory is of the ritual – and it had that sort of ceremonial solemnity – attached to the shoeing of a wheel when the iron rim was fastened around the assembled spokes, felloes and nave of the wooden cart wheel.

The iron wheel was laid flat and a fire built around it. Naturally the heat caused the rim to expand and when it had expanded sufficiently it was lifted from the fire and carefully placed in position around the wooden wheel which was placed nearby on the ground or on a special circular concrete platform as

Waldron's had in the alley between Brodie Morley's and O'Malley's.

When this had been set in position it was drenched with buckets of water, which caused the rim to contract again fastening the wheel securely together. We did not know that there were principles of physics being applied there. We were hardly aware of the timing needed for the operation or the skills involved. The combination of fire and heat and feverish activity, smoke and sizzling steam, excited and fascinated our youthful senses.

Across from Waldron's, Tom Forde and his family mended shoes, a crucial trade at a time when leather was scarce and shoes were comparatively expensive. Further up Michael Loftus tailored, while on either side Mrs. Forrie and Nonie Carney carried on dressmaking. Pat Keane was further down as he and Joe and Kitty had not yet moved into their present premises. For some reason or other used spools were important to our childhood activities, so all these people were called on from time to time.

It is most trying to work in front of an audience and it must have been doubly trying to do a job while being subject to the interfering, meddling, inquisitive audience that we must have been! Still I can never recall a cross word or any time when we were given the impression that we were not wanted.

There were other people and places of interest in the street too, but I have concentrated on places where people worked with their hands. We had no television, we listened very little to the Radio. We really lived life in the slow lane. Maybe it was that, that made these tradesmen and craftsmen and women so interesting. I have confined myself too, to the 1940's. Eddie Biesty and his bicycle repair shop came later (I think).

Of course there was also Michael A. Keane's joinery. But that somehow was different. It was big – a major workshop, a factory in fact – there was no time there for hanging about or talking to youngsters and the constant hum of machinery sent out these signals.

There then is part of what I recall as the magic of Knox Street. It is a look back over almost half a century. It is exactly as if somebody at that time was looking back to the end of the 1900's. We're getting on. And of course it all seems so pleasant and carefree. Nostalgia tends to be like that. There was a darker side to Knox Street. I know that and I knew it then.

Our memories are inclined to be selective. We discard what we do not wish to recall. I don't see anything wrong with that. In spite of everything there was a lot of happiness around. Since then so much has changed. So much has improved. Maybe the big change is that we have more and more of everything except happiness.

When things were bad you could always hope. Even in Winter when it snowed, when you looked out the window at night maybe you saw that the snow came up from the sandpit – Maybe it would stick and maybe there would be no school tomorrow – Maybe!

Born and reared in Knox Street. Formal education at local National School by Mrs. Cooney, Messrs. McNicholas and Mulligan whom he remembers with gratitude and affection. Attended Sec. School at Garbally Park, Ballinasloe. Graduate of University College, Galway.

Informal, but immeasurably valuable education continued at Pat 'Sonny' Keane's shoemaker's shop at Kilroy's, Lower Main Street. Here the resident professors were 'Sonny' Keane, Pat and Laurence Kilroy with visiting philosophers such as Michael Tarmey and an assortment of Bank Officials, vagrants, merchant seamen and men of much, little or no property. - Has had articles published in various places and four plays broadcast on Radio Eireann.

Is Vice Principal in Tullamore Vocational School.



# BALLYHAUNIS SIXTY YEARS AGO

By CHARLES O'CONNOR

**TO a raw lad from Dublin at a time when very few people travelled far afield, Mullingar, to which I was posted on leaving school in 1928, seemed to be a strange place.** Banks, offices and shops had only gaslights, houses only paraffin oil lamps and candles, the toilets were outdoors, and few houses had bathrooms.

My transfer to the Post Office in Ballyhaunis in January 1930, also revealed a novel scene. There was neither electricity nor gaslight or even piped water. There were gas stoves in Dublin, coal fires in Mullingar, but only turf fires in Ballyhaunis. The water had to be carried in buckets from the well beside the Post Office, and there were only dry closets in the back yards and gardens. The main roads alone were tarred, and the footpaths paved with flagstones. There were not many cars. Nearly all of us travelled by train or on the I.O.C. (Irish Omnibus Company) Dublin Bus, which stopped outside Tom Lyon's shop in Bridge Street. In the cities trams provided the chief means of transport. A photograph taken as late as 1945 shows tramcars as the only vehicles in O'Connell Street in Dublin.

Nevertheless, I quickly adapted myself to my new surroundings, one reason perhaps being that I was only one generation removed from the land, my father having been reared on a farm outside Tubbercurry, and another that I was fortunate enough to obtain a room in the guest-house in Upper Main Street painstakingly run by the late Kathleen Connolly, who afterwards married Paddy Kearns, whom I had the pleasure of seeing again during my visit in 1988.

Pat Jennings was the Postmaster. There were two clerks besides myself, John Francis Byrne, who resided with his widowed father and his brother Eddie in their pub in Bridge Street. He availed himself of Article X of the Anglo-Irish Treaty to retire early. He was replaced by George Kennedy, a Clareman. The other clerk was Jim O'Gorman, who later resigned to return to his widowed mother in Tralee.

There were two established postmen with full-time pensionable posts, Martin Grogan, the Tulrahan postman, who also retired under Article X and was succeeded by Austin Cribben, and Pat Henry, the Cloonfad postman. Both survived till their nineties. All the postmen did their deliveries on foot or by cycle, and despite the rains and the winds to which they were exposed, theirs was a healthy occupation.

**The only motor vehicle was that driven by Dick Prendergast, who conveyed the mails to and from Aughamore and Kilkelly under contract.**

There were eight auxiliary postmen with part-time, unpensionable jobs, for which they were paid a mere pittance of thirty shillings a week.

John Cribben, a white-haired, patriarchal widower in his sixties, was the doyen of them all. He was the father of Austin, Tommy, and Philip, his youngest son, the telegraph messenger. He also had sons in the Post Office in the United States. Other auxiliary postmen I remember were Jim and Joe Byrne and Tommy Caulfield.

Tommy Cribben was the town postman and also did the Errill route. He started work at 7.40 every morning and worked till after 2 p.m. every day, including Saturdays. To buy a small holding he borrowed £300 from a local bank, which by means of hard work and thrift he soon repaid.

On his return from his delivery one afternoon he told me a strange story. Arriving at a farmhouse he saw the farmer dragging a dead fox with a rope around it. He had caught it, killed it and dragged it through the fields for a mile or so. They left it in the yard and went inside for a cuppa. When they came out again, they found that the fox had flitted, rope and all!

One of my duties in Mullingar was to dispatch about a dozen postmen, all much older than myself, between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. They seldom came on duty on time, and I never marked them late until Mr. P. J. Keating, the Postmaster, a kindly Kilkenny widower in late middle age, made a surprise visit. As each postman came in late he shook his walking stick and reprimanded me.

**"You are only a young man," he said, "You are only starting out in life. I strongly advise you never to give a damn about any man."**

After that I marked them late, with the result that I became unpopular, but they became good timekeepers!

I was not looking forward to this distasteful duty in Ballyhaunis. When I approached the Post Office at 7.40 on my first morning, I was surprised to see Tommy Cribben, Jim Grogan and Tommy O'Malley marching up and down the road, smoking their pipes, and waiting for me on the cold dark January morning. Their conduct in every other respect was also exemplary.

I have never forgotten the greatest example of devotion to duty I myself have ever personally experienced. It was the custom to take on casual postmen for a week at Christmas time for which they received only thirty shillings. Jim Molloy was one of those taken on. He was dispatched one morning, but failed to return in the afternoon and the Civic Guards were alerted. As I was sorting the night mail I heard a knock in the small hours and opened the back door. It was Jim. A mile or so outside the town on his outward journey the chain of his bicycle broke. He carried or pushed the bicycle on all the roads and fields till he had delivered the last letter. He did not receive a penny in overtime or any thanks, but he did not complain. He was a member of the band which used to parade on the streets before midnight to usher in the New Year.

Every year scores of small farmers migrated to England and Scotland for the potatoe picking. They saved every penny except the few pence they spent on tobacco. I used to receive well over a hundred registered letters on the Monday morning mail for their families. One Christmas the Post Office paid over £30,000 in money orders remitted by American emigrants. The figure did not include the amounts paid by the local banks.

On Fridays the Post Office used to be crowded with old age pensioners who came all the way in from the countryside in all weathers to collect their pensions, which were subject to a means test, but Paddy Harty, the esteemed Customs and Excise Officer applied it as considerably as the regulations would allow. A few years before, Ernest Blythe, the Minister for Finance, reduced the maximum sum payable from 10s. to 9s. It was one of the factors that contributed to the defeat of the Cumann na nGaedheal Government in the election in 1932 after ten years in office. Coming as he did from Tipperary, Paddy Harty was naturally a very good hurler and, together with Peter Hannon of Abbey Street, revived the game in the district.



We were also kept very busy on fair days. Before dawn farmers driving their cattle, sheep and pigs, augmented by jobbers from all over the country, began to flock to the town, making it as animated as it was quiet on other days and rendering the streets impassable. If prices were good, the shopkeepers did a roaring trade. By evening all the livestock sold had been dispatched by lorry or goods train, and the drovers, farmers and jobbers departed, leaving only a few stragglers, who hung about until the last pub closed.

We had, of course, ties with the banks. Mr. Grennell, the Manager of the National Bank, had a staff of three – Theo Kelly, who won £4,000, a very large sum then, in the Irish Hospitals Trust Sweepstake, John Roche, the best local golfer, and Jim O'Connor, the Kerry secretary of the Golf Club, which he invited me to join. Jim Cunningham, who had the drapery shop opposite the Post Office and who was known as "the Bishop" for his services to the Church, gave me an almost new golf bag containing a full set of clubs for only £1. I left them behind me in the Golf House, too lazy to take them with me to Dublin.

Mr. McNelis was the Manager of the Ulster Bank. A young, meticulous official employed there used to tell a story about his father, whose work as an Inspector of Schools brought him all over the country. He went to confession in a very small town one Saturday. His confession was over in a jiffy. Recognising him, the priest asked him to use his good offices to have a certain young lady given a vacancy in the local National School. When the Inspector emerged twenty minutes later, the waiting penitents gaped at the "hardened" sinner. He went to the top of the Church to say his penance. As he was passing by on his way out the priest popped his head out of the box.

"Now, don't forget," he said, "do the right thing by that girl!"

Card games were a popular pastime on the long winter evenings. There was a late night card school for a small coterie in the sitting room of the little pub run by Mr. Freeley, an elderly bachelor, near the Church. I sometimes played in Tommy Flatley's house beside the Court House off the Main

Street, a former lieutenant in the Free State Army with a taxi business.

Cards were also played in some of the pubs. A stable-lad home on holidays from a racing establishment in England was playing cards in a pub in Knox Street one Winter's night. There was a very large kitty on the table. He picked it up and walked out. Thinking he was only joking, the others waited for him to come back, but he didn't do so, they went to the furthest pub in vain. As a last resort they went to the pub next door, where they found him well-oiled and the money spent!

Another story concerns a recruiting sergeant, a well-known character, at or about the time the Great War broke out in 1914. He went into a room behind Byrne's Bar in Bridge Street, where six young men were sitting at a large table, drinking and playing cards. He asked them to enlist, but only one of them volunteered. He gave him the King's shilling, with which he ordered six pints of Guinness.

**"Well," he said when they had finished their drinks, "it's time you came up to the barracks to sign the necessary forms."**

The recruit stooped down and picked up his crutches from beneath the table. He had only one leg!

Appendicitis seemed to be endemic. After an attack I got out of bed to take part in the Corpus Christi procession, which ended in the Convent Grounds, Dr. Andy Smyth, ever solicitous, came over to me to assure himself that I was all right. He eventually referred me to Mr. Pringle, a member of a well-known medical family, who operated on me in a small hospital in Drumcondra, Dublin, for a nominal fee.

I was not prepared for my reception on my return. I left the Post Office at 1 p.m. for my forty-minute meal break. Shopkeeper after shopkeeper called me over from one side of

**L. To R. Ann Freeley R.I.P. , Paddy Freeley R.I.P., Larry Freeley R.I.P., Deirdre Walsh, Patrick Freeley Snr. R.I.P., Patricia Freeley.**





the street to the other to ask me how I was and to welcome me back. I had little time left for my meal!

Not so fortunate was Miss Walters, a tall, good-looking National Teacher in her twenties, who elected to go by car to the Royal City of Dublin Hospital in Baggot Street rather than to Castlebar Hospital. On the way her appendix burst and, to our shock and grief, she died.

TB killed thousands throughout the country. A well-made girl much admired for her beauty, Ena Dillon, belonged to an old, and, therefore, respected, family. She went up to Dublin to see Mayo playing in Croke Park. It rained heavily throughout the day, and she was drenched. Sitting in damp clothes in the train all the way back, she caught a cold, which developed into TB, and she died. The number of people of all classes who escorted her remains from her humble home off Clare Street to St. Patrick's Church was easily the largest I have ever seen anywhere on such a sad occasion. They stretched from one side of the wide Main Street to the other for a distance of fifty yards or more. It was a tribute not only to her but also to her old-established family and showed how democratic the people of Ballyhaunis were in those days, as I am sure they still are, and how true their values were.

Few people had wireless sets. On the Square Tom Forde used to place his near an open window, so that people standing on the pavement could listen in to the commentaries on the Railway Cup in Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day and to the All-Ireland Finals in September and such events as the Grand National, in which the Irish Hospitals Trust held a sweepstake, in which we all had a small financial interest and high hopes, which were always dashed!

Our main source of news were the locals, Dublin and English newspapers in Mick Flatley's well-stocked stationery shop in Main Street, where we had many a chin-wag. One of the habitués there was Johnny Goonery, a railway signalman who elected to spend his retirement in Ballyhaunis rather than return to his native Dublin. Other Dublinmen were Brother Connolly, who spent most of his religious life in the Abbey, a taxi owner named Behan, who lived in a new, spacious three-bedroomed house in Upper Main Street costing only £250, and Pat Meath, who had the barber-shop in Clare Street, where Mr. Campbell, our only bookmaker, also lived. A dapper little man from Portsmouth who had once worked on the Cunard Liners, he was a convert to Catholicism and a daily Mass-goer. Despite the Post Office rule prohibiting betting, I had many a clandestine flutter with him. He was so discreet I knew he would never spill the beans.

During the 1932 General Election, the first at which I was old enough to vote, Eamon de Valera addressed a huge meeting in the Square. He defeated President William T. Cosgrove and held power for sixteen years.

In sharp contrast was the sparse attendance at the meeting addressed by Sean Lemass, Dev's able lieutenant and successor, outside Waldron's, now the Central Hotel, after Mass one Sunday a couple of years before.

Three major events marked my stay in Ballyhaunis, the arrival of the Very Rev. E. A. Mansfield, O.S.A., as successor to Father Crowe as Prior of the Augustinian Abbey, the Eucharistic Congress in 1932, and the international boxing tournament in 1933.

Father Mansfield had a great reputation as a confessor. Penitents came to him from all over the county and even from further afield, particularly at Easter, when he spent long sessions in the confessional till late at night. He also had a gift of healing, and was sometimes called out to pray over sick cattle. He revived the Dramatic Society and produced several plays in McGarry's Hall to crowded houses.

With the help of a large, active, influential committee under the chairmanship of William Dillon-Leetch, a partner with his elder brother, John, in the old-established legal practice of Thomas Dillon-Leetch and Sons, Father Mansfield in the glorious summer of 1933 organized the greatest single sporting event in Ballyhaunis, the International Amateur Boxing Tournament featuring the Irish and the Italian national teams. Visitors and newspaper correspondents from all over the country and abroad thronged the town. We were impressed by the dignity and general behaviour of the Italians, except that of a little romantic flyweight, who openly attempted to flirt with the local girls, much to our amusement.

The Post Office was kept busy wiring the journalists' reports, each hastily written in pencil and taking up several pages, but many of them saved us much time by phoning their messages to their offices. A graphic description was penned by J. A. Power, a well-known sportswriter for the "Irish Independent", who described the Abbey grounds in which the tournament was held as "a natural amphitheatre", which indeed it was, an animated, exciting, spectacular scene, with tents, and marquees for the use of boxers, trainers, seconds, referees and officials.

The third major event was the 1932 Eucharistic Congress, which culminated in the Solemn High Mass in the Fifteen Acres, in the beautiful Phoenix Park, the largest city park in Europe. We arrived at the station shortly after dawn to catch the Dublin train, which was a few hours late. We got out of the train at Blanchardstown and scrambled on foot to the Fifteen Acres, where the Mass had already started. During the consecration on the raised altar encircled by a quarter of a million kneeling men, women and children, a solemn silence filled the glorious summer air and even the birds ceased to chant, as Count John McCormack's unforgettable rendering of Panis Angelicus, in which he put all his heart and soul, soared as clear as a bell to the furthest limits of the Park. The train was late leaving Broadstone, it stopped at every station and we did not get back to Ballyhaunis till the small hours.

It was in perhaps the same year that the Redemptorist Fathers came to conduct a Parish Mission for a fortnight. Every evening, every house and every street were empty and silent as I made my way from the Post Office belatedly to join the congregation packed in the Church for the Rosary, Sermon and Benediction.

A year before I left, Eddie Biesty, now the grand old man of Ballyhaunis, revived Gaelic football. Under his captaincy I played several games at right half-forward. In our first away match at Aughamore, whom we beat, he called upon me to take the free kicks, which I did from that day onwards. In a subsequent home match in or near the Abbey grounds against a heavily-built rural team from another part of the country I nearly missed a penalty kick. If I had not converted it, our supporters might have lynched me, so disappointed were they with our performance. We were eventually beaten by two goals and two points to a goal. Jim Byrne, the egg merchant in Main Street, a former Mayo footballer and a very good friend of mine, told me after the match that he guessed the average weight of our opponents was 13 stone. Although he had then reached early middle age, Jim was still a good exponent of handball, which was played on summer evenings in the ball alley opposite the Church. It has since disappeared.

At about the same time Martin Coffey, a Clare colleague, and I joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We used to volunteer to make the visits to our country clients every Sunday – we were both fond of long walks. Among those we supported was a carter with a wife and little daughter. We contributed 3s. 6d. every week to eke out his weekly wage of £1, which, together with his dinner, was all he received for a long working day. One morning, he started work at 8 o'clock as usual, but he had so



many deliveries to make he could not return to the stable till very late. His employer was waiting up for him.

**"Good night, Mr. A", he said, when the carter was going home. "Good midnight, Mr. B", the carter retorted.**

They addressed each other as Mr., politeness being yet another endearing trait of the Ballyhaunis people. It was there I was first addressed by the title, although I was only nineteen years old. Six years later some senior officials in Dublin called me "Boy"!

Archdeacon G. J. Prendergast, our Parish Priest, took a keen interest in the Society and attended our meetings. He succeeded Father Colleran, whose predecessor was Canon McHugh, a leading member of Cumman na nGaedheal. Very old men told me that they had seen Parnellite supporters beating him with ashplants when he was a very young Curate.

## MRS PERKS REMEMBERS

**OF all the towns on our West of Ireland tour, it would have been impossible to choose a favourite one, other than Ballyhaunis, because right from our very first visit it was something special to all of us, more so, if anything, to my dear, late husband, Ros.**

I'm not sure exactly what caused this to happen, I think it was the people rather than the place. I say this because now anytime we reminisce about Ballyhaunis, it's always the people that come first to mind. To name just a few: Mrs. Cribben, Denis and E. Hannon, Seamus Durkan, May Moyles, Mrs. Wilson and her handsome son, Ian, the Freyne family. I could go on and on and on. We invariably move from there to the pleasure it was in knowing all these people and their kindness to us (Blow-ins).

We will never forget the whole town's goodness to us during and after that dreadful hurricane when, thanks to all the help we got we were able to open the show the following night. We feel it could not have happened anywhere else but in Ballyhaunis.

I wonder, 20 years on, do the people still remember, as we do, those marvellous teas Mrs. Cribben and her ladies committee produced under very difficult circumstances. How welcome they were and always dead on time.

Does anyone remember the fact that we raffled Fr. Cribben's car the night before he left on his travels again. That happened up in the friary field – or was it the Boy Scouts' field?

So many things have changed in these last 20 years, I hope sincerely that Ballyhaunis and its people never do.

(Mrs.) Rosemary Perks.



## NEXT YEAR!!

**AT 7.15 a.m. on the morning of September 17th we set off for the All-**

**Ireland Football Final.** Our party consisted of Mike Byrne, Alec Eaton, Pat Donnellan, Vinnie Healy and your's truly. Mike being a publican, it was assumed that he did not partake in any preliminary festivities, and so he was elected to drive.

"What is the Gaelic word for music?" he once asked me.

"Ceol", I replied.

"No", he said, "it's fothrom – noise!"

He was wrong then, but he would be right now.

Martin Coffey had a good tenor voice. He was a member of the Church choir, as were Jack Halpin, whose parents in Abbey Street were good friends of mine, Albert Madden who worked for John Gallagher and later opened his own business in Bridge Street, and Paddy Gill, yet another Clare man, who succeeded me when in April, 1934, I was transferred on promotion to the Secretary's Office in the G.P.O. in Dublin, where I later became Private Secretary to Dr. Noel Browne, the Minister for Health, until ill-health drove me abroad to a dry, hot climate

Our first impression as we drove along was that there must be an awful lot of Mayo people living between Ballyhaunis and Dublin, as we encountered nothing but Red and Green flags and banners. Indeed the Castlereagh and Roscommon Gaels Clubs had huge banners erected wishing luck to Mayo.

On arrival in Dublin, as we walked the busy streets we were met with the familiar sounds of the hawkers "Get your hats and flags". The touts too were busy as they were "buying and selling match tickets". Prices quoted were as high as £80 for a Hogan Stand ticket and £25 for a Canal end ticket.

Having savoured the atmosphere of the streets it was time for a little aperitif before the serious business began. The pubs were full of "experts" giving their views. Rumours circulated too that "T.J. wasn't playing" and that "Tompkins was injured". There was also the odd blast of "Far away from the land" and indeed the sound of "De banks". However, it was approaching 1 p.m. and it was time to be hitting for Croke Park.

The minor final was a good game of football with a very good and skilful Derry team overcoming a spirited Offaly side. By the end of this game the canal end was a sea of red and green. Never have I seen such colour in Croke Park, not even in the heyday of the Dubs. The whole county was united as one. Players and officials of clubs who had fought and argued in times gone by joined together to cheer Mayo to the full. As the grand parade passed by the Canal end thousands of flags and banners were raised and the sound of "Mayo! Mayo!" was deafening.

Having been to several All-Ireland Finals I always feel something special when the Artane Boys band plays "Amhrán na bhFiann". It makes me proud to be Irish. However, to hear the band playing the National Anthem with Mayo involved for me was unique. It was an experience that I will never forget. As my heart swelled and tears of joy filled my eyes, I was not only proud to be an Irishman but also proud to be a Mayoman.

With the preliminaries over, the ball was in and the game was on. Mayo made a poor start, but soon Willie Joe scored a great point and our team settled down. At half-time we were only two points behind. Then early into the second half Finnerty crashed home a great goal and we were ahead! My heart was racing. Sam was there for the taking! Finnerty raced through again but this time he was inches wide. Cork rallied again and when the final whistle came they led 0-17 1-11.

The aftermath talk was one of "IFS". "If Finnerty's shot had gone in", "If we hadn't hit the post twice", "If T.J. was fully fit" and so on.

As we drove home that evening none of us in the car were too despondent. We were proud of our team. They had played in one of the best games of football seen in Croke Park for years. As we approached Ballyhaunis Pat Donnellan uttered "Next year" to which Mike Byrne replied "If we get out of Connaught".

Eamonn Murren



# PAT HUGHES

**IT was a cold, snowy day in February 1969 when we carried the remains of Pat Hughes to his last resting place in the New Cemetery Ballyhaunis.** The grey miserable day fitted in with our thoughts as we remembered this larger-than-life man who did so much for his adopted town and district.

Padraic Hughes B.Agr.Sc. came to Ballyhaunis in the early forties and was appointed principal of the Vocational School on the retirement of Padraig Forkan R.I.P. in 1952. He came from a family that had been involved in the business and farming life of Westport for generations.

The forties and fifties were a lean time for farming and Pat put three objectives before him. Firstly – to instil into his pupils a love of the land and the country. Secondly – to start a young farmer's club and thirdly – to start a show as a window for the agricultural produce in the district.

He placed the Vocational School at our disposal to start a Young Farmers' Club, a forerunner of Macra Na Feirme.

He organised lectures, talks, film shows, debates, question-times etc., every Friday night. These were invariably very well attended.

We had talks and debates on diverse subjects from poultry-keeping to a talk given one night by the late Fr. O'Donoghue O.S.A. on the theme "A little learning is a dangerous thing", from a lecture on calf-rearing to an illustrated cine-show on Astronomy by the late Dr. Brurick, Director of Dunsink Observatory.

He produced and directed us in a couple of plays. We did not obtain Abbey standards but we enjoyed doing them.

He started the Agricultural Show which became one of the leading shows in the West, with the quality and quantity of its exhibits improving yearly.

He introduced cattle - judging and weight - judging in conjunction with the show. He did not forget the social side and ran card games, dances etc., for funds to keep the club and the show going, culminating in the Annual Show dance, which brought the best bands in Ireland to Ballyhaunis, and attracted hundreds of patrons.

Pat was a great judge of a greyhound, and was a familiar figure exercising his dogs on the roads of the district.

He was also a great wit and storyteller and occasionally after a meeting we would adjourn to Concannon's hostelry in Main St. and in the warmth of their comfortable kitchen the crack and the tales went on until Tom Concannon realising the time it was, would tell us to go home, and I can tell you the language he used on some of those occasions was not the King's English.

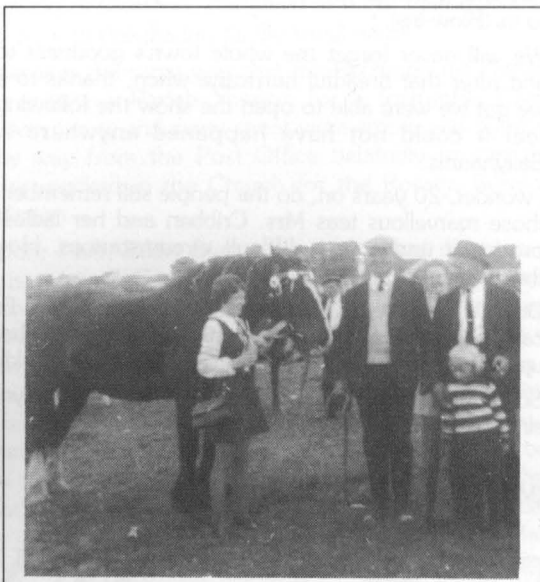
I would like to pay tribute to his wife Dill who is enjoying retirement in Galway, and to his daughters of whom he was very proud, all of whom were so upset by his untimely death.

On behalf of the many farming friends and the hundreds of pupils he put through his hands I am proud to pen these few unworthy lines. Go ndéana Día trócaire ar a anam.

John Cruise



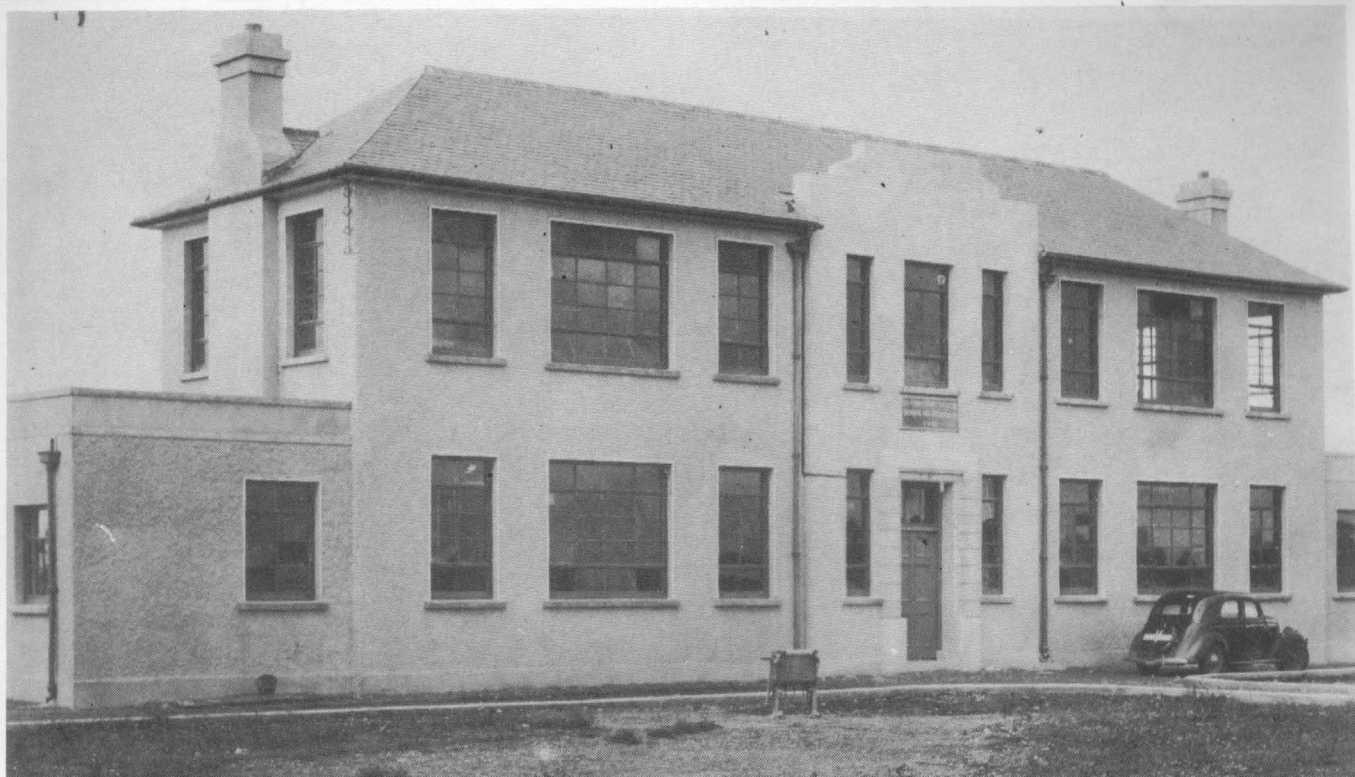
*Philip Morley with Dr. Waldron's pony at a show. – (Photo, Vincent Healy).*



*AT THE SHOW – Breege Morley, Mick Morley, Tom 'Bob' Biesty and Margaret Finnegan.*



# REVISITING THE 1941 "NEW TECH" BALLYHAUNIS



**ON the 12th August this year 1989, I drove from Knock to Ballyhaunis to see some old friends.** On the way into the town I pulled up at a large building on the right hand side of the road and gazed at it for some considerable time. A pathway led from the road to the front hall door through a lawn where many trees and shrubs grew. Over the hall door was a sign showing that the building was a hotel – the "Manor House Hotel". As I walked into the hotel I remembered another walk in the same pathway. I remembered the first time I walked that same path from that same road. It was on the 3rd September 1941 almost fifty years ago – 48 years to be exact. I was accompanied on that occasion by two gentlemen whom I later grew to admire greatly, namely the late Padraic O'Loughlin the then Chief Executive Officer of the Mayo Vocational Educational Committee, and Fr. Geoffrey Prendergast its chairman and local parish priest. Fr. Geoffrey was an outstanding cleric by any standard. The building in front of me was on that day 48 years ago a newly erected Vocational School and I, then a young man, was about to take up my first job there as a teacher of Rural Science and I was being introduced to the school by my two employers.

As I walked into the now Manor Hotel on my recent visit I figured that I must have set quite a lot of the trees still growing on the hotel grounds, and some of them bowed in the breeze as if to welcome me back. I proceeded through the front hall, opened a door to the left and entered a large room. This was the room where I had taught, and its main outline was exactly the same as when I had left it many years before. A man at the counter at the lower end of the room asked me was I alright and did I want something. I told him I was just looking around and that many years ago I had taught Rural Science in that room. "We have had several ex-students visiting this place, but you are the first ex -teacher of this place to visit us," he said. The probable reason for such a situation is, I presume, that most if not all of the staff who taught in that building are now reaping their reward in the land beyond the skies.

The head-master in my time there was Padraic Forkan or Padraic O'Gabhlan as he was more usually called. He, I believe, was married to a sister of Stanley Flannagan – Sean Flanagan's

**Ballyhaunis Vocational School - day before official opening Oct. 1st '41**

father and Dermot Flanagan's grandfather. The woodwork teacher was Sean Cleary. As we were both unmarried and of about the same age we generally worked and played together and lived with Mrs. Peg Mullins in a large boarding house almost opposite the convent gate. The Commerce teacher then was the late Miss Kathleen Cunningham and the Domestic Economy teacher was Mary O'Connor, while Tom Forry was the most obliging of caretakers. Because of the existence of some rooms in Knock Street where some classes of a technical nature were previously held, the building on the Knock Road was always known as "the New Tech".

The two years or so I spent working in the "New Tech" were very happy ones. I was happy in the job and got on well with students, staff and employers. It was a time however when agricultural graduates were in great demand in the country and they could pick and choose their job with ease and so I moved on to take up employment as an agricultural adviser with the Irish Sugar Company.

After visiting my old academy I proceeded to view the town. It was obvious to me that Ballyhaunis was now a bright, active and flourishing business town, so different from the quiet country town of the war years in which I remembered it. As I moved around it was so good to meet and talk to many old friends and acquaintances. While in the Cleary home I met such people as Mrs. Maureen Cleary, nee Griffin, her sister Theresa, her sister-in-law, Mrs. Maura Griffin and her son and his wife. I also spoke with Mrs. Ann Walsh nee Hopkins. Upper Main St., who was also visiting the town, and Mrs. Lavin, another nee Hopkins who is doing a fantastic job in the amenity side of Knock's development.

It was so good to talk to old friends and acquaintances again after such a lapse of time. And so ended a very enjoyable day visiting the old "New Tech" and the town and its pleasant people.

May Ballyhaunis and its people continue to thrive and grow.



# Confirmation Snaps



**Sixth Class 1988/1989 Confirmation Day, 11th June, 1989, St. Patrick's Parish Church – Front Row (l. to r.)** Padraic Murphy, Michael Donahue, Sean McNamara, Shane Burke, Robert Gildea, Jimmy O'Boyle, Padraic Hanley, Peter Kilcourse, John Coffey; **2nd Row:** Canon Costello, Gabriel Gallagher, Declan Doyle, Michael O'Connor, Brendan Higgins, Terry Maughan, Eddie Allen, Dereck Walsh, Patrick; **Moore, Andrew McNamara, Enda McQueeney, Gerard Coen, Glynn Freyne, Dr. Cassidy;** **Middle Row:** Mr. London, Tommy Moran, Eugene Brennan, Hugh Curley, Cormac O'Connor, Duncan Hannon, John Neehan, Declan Beirne, Daniel Tarpey; **Top:** Robert Madden, Shane Tighe, Padraig Kelly, Declan Lyons, Martin Mahon, Declan Mulhern, Thomas Lyons, Michael Regan, Fergal Kelly. – (Photo courtesy Pat Glynn).



**Fifth Class St. Mary's Primary School Confirmation Class, 11th June, 1989 – Front Row (l. to r.):** Paul Kelly, Padraic Cleary, Pierce Higgins, Dennis Moroney, Patrick Curley, Vincent Biesty, Michael Curley, John Burke, David Laffey, David Freyne. **Second Row:** Canon Costelloe, Mark Patterson, Patrick Kaene, Steven Biesty, David Conlon, Billy Kedian, Timothy Rabbittie, John Fitzmaurice, Brendan Waldron, Darren Conlon, Michael John Kilcourse, Dr. Joseph Cassidy, Archbishop of Tuam, Luke Tighe, Brian Flannagan. **Third Row:** Mr. Kearns, Shane Hanley, Noel O'Connor, Michael Freeley, Kevin Cleary, Tommy Curran, Gerald O'Boyle, David Beirne, John Paul Coen, Fergus McGuire. **Fourth Row:** Michael McDonagh, Michael Coen, Patrick Maughan, Simon Webb, Hugh McKerritt, Peter Healy, Steven Glynn, Edward Webb. – (Photo courtesy Pat Glynn).



# Confirmation Snaps



**Fifth Class, St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Primary School – Front Row (i. to r.)** Alma Gallagher, Aine Fahy, Una Butler, Tara Higgins, E. Murphy, Barbara Plunkett, Caroline McNamara; **Middle Row:** Julie Cribbin, Josephine Waldron, Tara Caulfield, Imelda Flynn, Sorcha Hannon, Nathalie Collum, Angela Flanagan, Sharon Murphy. **Back Row:** Olga O'Connor, Maria McGarry, Denise Byrne, Moiree Healy, Helen Maughan, Sinead Byrne, Hilary Mooney. Also included in the photograph are Archbishop Joseph Cassidy and Mrs. Mary Mulvihill on the right with Canon Costello on the left. – (Photo courtesy Pat Glynn).



**Sixth Class, St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis – Front Row (i. to r.)** Helen Waldron, Siobhan Walsh, Emer Nestor, Claire O'Dwyer, Suzanne Hannon, Caitriona Curley, Colette Waldron, Anne McManus; **2nd Row:** Gillian Keane, Yvonne Murphy, Claire Moore, Noelle Hunt, Anne Murphy, Emma Dillon-Leetch, Gillian Ahern; **3rd Row:** Joan O'Malley, Bernadette Duffy, Joan Flanagan, Niamh Doherty, Olive Gavin, Jennifer Donnelly, Caitriona Kelly, Martina Freeley; **Back Row:** Aine Delaney, Paula Jordan, Maria Higgins, Caroline Tighe, Moria Mahon, Cathy Costello, Suzanne Kilcourse. Also included in the photograph are Archbishop Joseph Cassidy, Sr. Rosario, Canon Costello. – (Photo courtesy Pat Glynn).



# My Daddy has No Tickets

**Looking back on 1989 from my own point of view as County Secretary I suppose it would be an understatement to describe it as anything other than busy.**

From the point of view of many people it was a very successful year for the GAA in Mayo but for my own part and that of all those involved with the Mayo Senior Team it can only be described as disappointing. There were many high points, most notably the retention of the Connacht Championship for the first time in 38 years, the winning of the All-Ireland semi-final v Tyrone, and the participation in a memorable All-Ireland final

against Cork but at the end of the day we failed in our sole objective. We set about all our plans and preparations with one aim in mind – to bring back "Sam" for the first time since 1951. All of our 95 training sessions were geared to this end, we firmly believed that we would win the All-Ireland playing football as it should be played and while we went very close we ultimately failed and were disappointed.

**The glamour part of my work was as Secretary to the Senior Team Management. This meant that I was a member of the Selection Committee and often had to play the role of Devil's Advocate at the selection meetings.**

As County Secretary I had a busy schedule for the year. Apart from normal minute taking at meetings my job also involved such tasks as Draw Co-Ordinator for County Board Draw, responsibility for dealing with fixtures, notifications, affiliations, transfers for all of the 52 clubs in the County. I was link man between Croke Park and the County Board in all matters.

The glamour part of my work was as Secretary to the Senior Team Management. This meant that I was a member of the Selection Committee and often had to play the role of Devil's Advocate at the selection meetings. It meant giving up every Tuesday and Thursday nights, Saturday mornings and Sunday to the Mayo Senior Team, in addition to other nights on ordinary County Board Business, from March to September. I enjoyed a very good working relationship with Team Manager John O'Mahony and I often wondered why the phone did not

automatically dial 60287 when I lifted the receiver.

There has always been a good support for all Mayo Teams from the Ballyhaunis area. However, there is a regular hard core of supporters like "The Minister," Mick O'Connell, Tommy and Bernard Waldron and the Glynn's who have followed the team through thin and thinner all over the Country. It was not unusual to arrive at a venue like Dundalk, Armagh, Clones, Ballinascreen, Killarney or Dingle and the Ballyhaunis crew there before us. I was glad for people like these that eventually Mayo was to get its day of glory at an All-Ireland final. It is easy to support the team when things are going well – then we have many followers, but it is on the bad days that the real supporters come forth.

I think that the Ballyhaunis Club got an insight into what is required, if one is to be a successful Inter County Team, last May, at the opening of the new stand in Dingle, Co. Kerry. Ballyhaunis and Mayo teams were invited to play challenge games v West Kerry and Kerry respectively. After being showered with typical Kerry hospitality on the evening before the game both teams met at a disco on the Saturday night. I think that a few eyebrows were raised in amazement by the Ballyhaunis contingent when a well disciplined, dedicated and committed Mayo panel left the disco at midnight to go to bed – and this before a challenge game!

The major task during the year was the distribution of tickets. While almost everybody was satisfied with the semi-final allocation the final allocation was another matter altogether. I was almost afraid to go down town in the fortnight before the game. Many long-lost friends and relations surfaced looking for tickets which I did not have. I never realised there were so many former Mayo footballers, so many must have played for Mayo that there must have been a different team going out for each game. At this time a typical day was: get up at 7 a.m. to answer the phone which usually was going non-stop until 2 am to 3 am the next morning. Several times it took me 3 hours to finish my dinner – standing up! It was usually a relief to go to Castlebar to training and relax while driving there. Once there the hassle started again. If I opened the boot of the car I was instantly surrounded. A great help to me on the phone was my



**"Up at the match" - John Biesty, Tom Cribben, James Waldron, Mike Mc Queeney, Michéal Murren. Front; Helen Biesty, Teresa Grogan, Tommy Moran.**



**"Home from Coventry" - Martin Grogan, Brendan Keane.**



son John who often was first to the phone and answered by saying, "My Daddy has no tickets", before slamming the phone back down again. Himself and cousin Paul having attended every Mayo game together in the past year were really excited about going to Croke Park for All-Ireland semi-final and final. They did not care who was to be in Croke Park as long as they were. An amusing moment came when they interviewed a former prominent county player at the door one day and I appeared on the scene just in time to hear Paul say to him, "I'm sorry my uncle John would not have any tickets for you, he needs them for me, little John, Mary and Nanny." Talk about getting their priorities right!

The couple of days before the final were hectic about the house. I'm sure that passers-by must have wondered whether somebody was dead in our house with a continuous stream of cars coming and going. I got great assistance from Johnny Biesty who was at my beck and call doing messages for me. He even arranged a haircut for me which led to one of the most amusing incidents of the year. I had never been to this barber before and he asked me was I going to the match. I told him I could not get a ticket and he said, "there is some Prenty fellow in town with tickets, but it is very hard to get any from him." I told him that I knew the man in question but that it would be a waste of time asking him.

**Other highlights of the year for me was the appearance on the RTE programme "The Final Prospects" although it was a little unnerving to await backstage and not know what the format was.**

Another amusing event came when I was being interviewed at the Square by Tommy Gorman of RTE. A certain Knox St. businessman and Roscommon supporter decided to have his jest and blow the horn of the car everytime we began to speak. Eventually after some 'unparliamentary language' being used by the cameraman he decided to clear off.

Other highlights of the year for me was the appearance on the RTE programme "The Final Prospects" although it was a little unnerving to await backstage and not know what the format was. It came as a shock when the floor manager stuck his head around the partition and said, "OK Mr. Prenty you're first."

After the final, the team was given a huge reception on coming back into Knock Airport and on the tour of the County. All of the players and officials were amazed at the wonderful reception afforded in Ballyhaunis. To see the huge crowd of people in the Square, made me realise the great pity it had been that everybody there, especially the young children, had not been able to get to see the game in Croke Park. The response of the people throughout the County to the homecoming made the resolve of the team greater to come back again as winners.

On behalf of the Board, Team Management and Players, I wish to thank the people of Ballyhaunis and the surrounding areas for all their support, both financial and vocal in the past year. I feel that this team is only coming to the crest of the wave and I look forward to the coming years being even more successful than to date.

John Prenty

## Recalling Conway's Hall

It may come as a surprise to many people especially members of the younger generations, to learn that Ballyhaunis had a cinema more than sixty years ago. The unpretentious building which served in that capacity didn't have any of the fancy names one would normally associate with a cinema, but was simply known as Conway's Hall, so named after it's owner John (Johnny) Conway, who at the time was also the proprietor of a thriving business in Bridge Street.

Situated just off Barrack Street, directly opposite the rear of what is now Paddy Ryan's shop, it was also the venue for plays, variety shows and the occasional concert. The plays were staged by touring theatrical companies or the "Fit-ups" as they were sometimes called. I can remember the days when their motor transport and caravans, conveniently parked in Pat O'Brien's yard, was a familiar sight.

Most of the companies visiting the hall from time to time were household names, and numbered among their personnel many notable members of the acting profession, who excelled both in the field comedy and drama.

In later years the building was partly demolished to make way for a store which is now occupied by John Gallagher & Sons Ltd., but sections of the original structure which still survive, stand out as a reminder of days long past, and the hall which was once the entertainment centre for the local population.

In common with similar buildings at the time, furniture and fittings throughout the hall could be described as mediocre, front seats consisted of strong wooden benches (the fourpenny seats) while patrons occupying the more expensive seats "enjoyed the luxury" of ordinary chairs!

My first visits to Conway's Hall were in the early thirties, shortly before Ballyhaunis was connected to The National Electricity Grid. Silent films which were then the order of the day, were shown by the proprietor of a travelling cinema who had to provide the necessary power by means of a generator mounted on a lorry parked in front of the hall.

Admission charges ranged from four old pence (1½ p) for a seat in the front benches, to eighteen old pence (7½ p) for a seat in the balcony. Compared with today's prices these charges may not seem very much, but in those days of limited "cash flow" finding even such a small sum was always a problem.

Mind you, there were warmer places than Conway's Hall especially on a Winters night when the outside temperature was approaching zero. There was no heating system, and the cold air filtered through at door and window openings, and between the floor boards. Needless to say a visit to the hall on such a night could be a "chilling" experience irrespective of the film on view. A far cry from the plush seating, air conditioning, and luxurious atmosphere of today's cinema.

Of course, in those early years of the motion picture industry producers didn't have the benefit of current film-making technology, nevertheless, there was a wide variety of excellent films on offer, ranging from the Biblical spectacular, to comedy, shorts and news reels. Always sure to attract a wide audience were the romantic films, some of them real "tear-jerkers", in particular those made in the early twenties featuring Rudolph Valentino who was the reigning "Heart-throb" at the time. As a matter of interest Rudolph Valentino died in 1926 at an early age. Then there was the serial. Usually a fast-moving action-packed thriller, it had a simple plot and was easy to follow. Each episode came to an end just as the "clean cut" hero seemed destined to make his exit from this life, but as happens in the world of fantasy, he always managed to outwit his enemies and live to fight another day.

Although the first sound film ("The Jazz Singer") was made in 1927 it was some years later when the first "Talkies" as they were called, made their appearance in Ballyhaunis. From the outset the new medium received massive publicity in newspapers, magazines, etc. Nevertheless, there were many who found it difficult to accept the idea of talking pictures. Little wonder then that the coming of the first "Talkie" was an event eagerly awaited by young and old alike.



Even though the silent version was shown some years earlier, i think it would be true to say that few, if any, of the early "talkies" captured the public imagination like Lewis Milestone's classic "All Quiet on the Western Front". Claiming to be the greatest war film ever made (a claim that few would dispute) it depicted with realism and without bias, the major battles of World War One, as well as the sufferings and hardships endured by those who took part in them.

But all things come to an end, and Conway's Hall was no exception. Like the rural dance halls (Ballrooms of Romance) in later years, it too became a casualty of what we like to call modern progress. Sadly, the owners, and others closely associated with its operation, like so many of its patrons, are no longer with us. But for those who are still around, memories of Conway's Hall are almost sure to evoke a strong sense of nostalgia as they recall the days of the "Fit-ups", the silent films, early "Talkies", and perhaps most of all, the occasion of their first visit to a cinema.

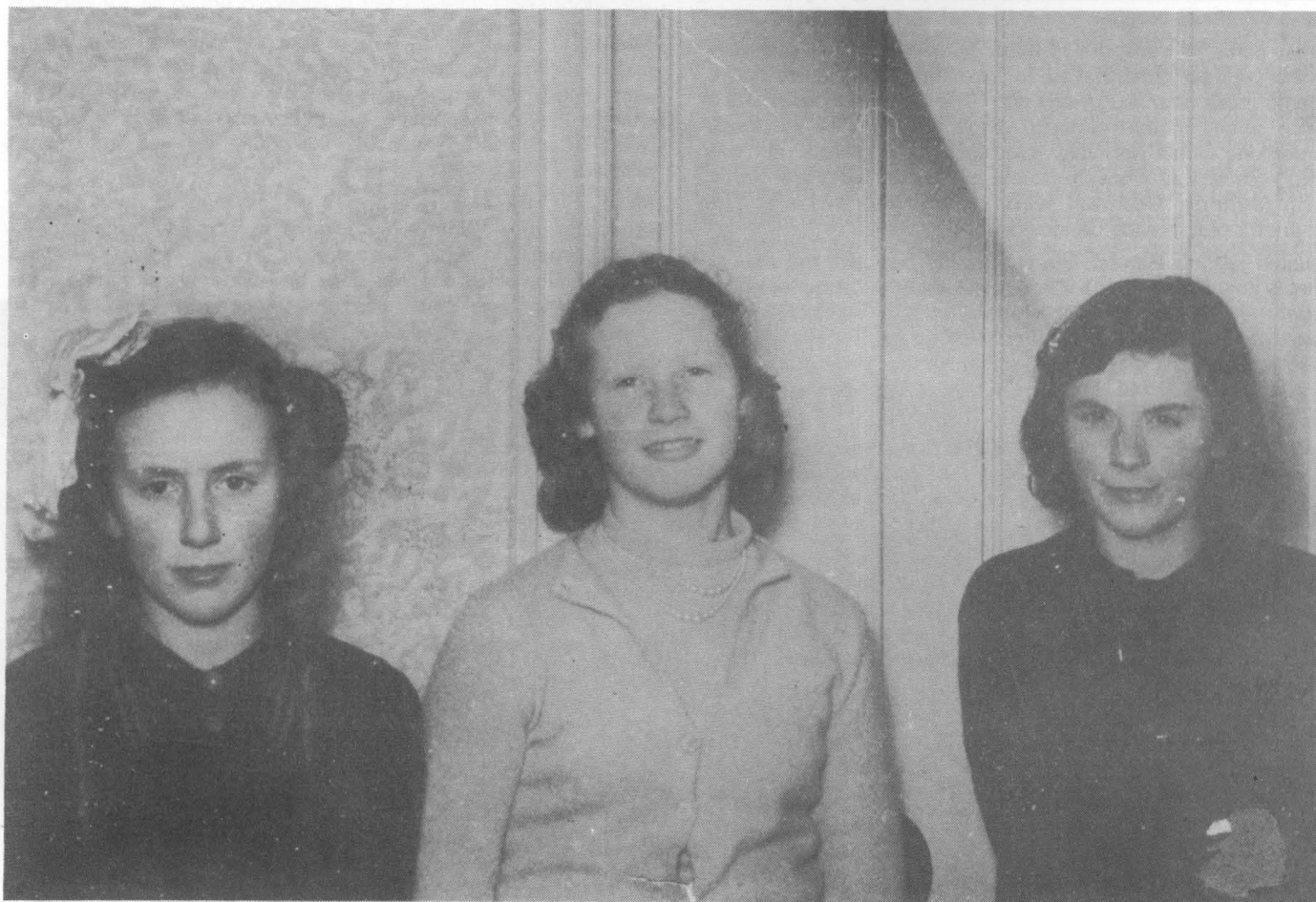
Of course, change is inevitable. Gone is the modest little office where youngsters (the writer included) exchanged their precious four old pence for a seat in the front benches, to be thrilled by the exploits of their "ice cool and fast on the draw" heroes who starred in the Western films. Gone, too, is the generator which provided the power – and the occasional breakdown – it's once familiar sound is heard no more, and as already mentioned, the hall itself has long since vanished, but like the song the memory lingers on.

Johnny Lyons.



***Dress Dance in the Eclipse Ballroom in the late 50's – (l. to r.) Teresa Melly, Mai Collins, Mary Mulligan, Mary Ronan, Phyllis Neary.***

***Neighbours Children in the 50s - L to R . Cora McGarry, Francis Moran, Ann Hynes .***





# COMMUNION 'PHOTOS



*First Communion Class, St. Mary's Primary School, Ballyhaunis, May, 1989 – Front Row: Elizabeth Lyons, Siobhán Kedian, Angela Heaney, Annette Healy, Yvonne Fitzmaurice, Catriona Biesty, Catriona Fahey, Aileen Gallagher, Sandra Walsh, Aileen O'Boyle. Second Row: Michael Webb, James Mulrennan, Breda Flanagan, Gillian Nestor, Louise M. Cleary, Gary Nolan, Audrey Keane, Darragh Brogan, Laurann Byrne, Oisín Cleary, Joanne Butler, Marrita Byrne. Third Row: David Lyons, Kathryn Denery, Louise Cleary, Paul Kilcourse, Patrick Higgins, Nathan Murphy, Terry McDonagh, Audrey Biesty, Selina Gallagher, Lorraine Moroney, Catriona O'Dowd, Shane Conlon, Sinéad Hannon. Back Row: Niall Hanly, Geoffrey Dillon-Leetch, Eoin Maughan, Diarmid Eagney, Anthony Curley, Christopher Lyons, Stephen Carney, James Waldron, Colin Jordan, Adrian Lilly, Damien Byrne, Conor O'Dwyer. Canon Patrick Costelloe, Teachers: Mrs. Margaret O'Flaherty, Mrs. Kathleen Lyons. (Photo courtesy Pat Glynn).*



*September 1963 – Back Row, L to R - Evelyn Fitzmaurice, Audrey Wall, Triona Mulhern, Catherine Mulkeen, Margaret Forde, Helen Forde, Bridgie Glynn, Maureen Nolan, Bernadette Hette, Front Row; Mary Angela Moran, Mary Dempsey, Brenda Moran, Margot Fitzgerald, Patricia Grogan, Patricia Cregg, Mary Keane, Dolores Meehan, Sarah Greene. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Ellie Forde).*



# SIOS BOTHAIRIN NA SMAOINTE

## Treasa Ni Loinscigh (ni Lynch)

On the first Tuesday in September 1963 I arrived in Ballyhaunis to replace Mr. Tony Molloy as teacher of Irish and General Subjects in the Vocational School, or "Old Tech" as it was more familiarly known. I find it difficult to believe that I've spent over a quarter of a century in the town.

I think it's time I took a trip down memory lane. The school had a staff of five teachers. The late Mr. Pat Hughes was Headmaster and teacher of Agricultural Science. Somehow I could never call him "Pat" – he was always Mr. Hughes to me in spite of his insistence to the contrary: "Don't call me Mister Hughes, call me Pat". He was a great character. Miss Kathleen Cunningham, deceased too, taught Shorthand, Typing and Commerce to the girls and Miss Patricia Waldron taught them Domestic Science. Mr. Paddy Moran taught Woodwork to the boys. I had the three R's. Our spiritual welfare was very adequately taken care of by the then local P.P. Fr. T. Rushe. I always looked forward to his visits to the school – it was a pleasure to listen to his many interesting tales about his boyish exploits in his native Dunmore or his missionary adventures in darkest Africa, where he spent some time after his ordination. Fr. Rushe is now Canon Rushe, still thankfully hale and hearty and keeping a weather eye out to make sure I stay on the "straight and narrow" here in my own parish of Kilmaine!! The late genial Paddy Cassidy from Upper Main Street saw to it that the school was kept in good shape at all times. We worked five one-hour classes starting at 10 a.m., with an hour for lunch from 1 to 2, and finished at 4 p.m. The pupils cycled to school, sometimes eight or even ten miles. Mr. Hughes held the theory that consequently there was no need for games, and football or any of the other activities that pupils have today were not part of the school's extra curricular programme – nevertheless I am proud of the fact that the great Mayo stalwart of 1989, Jimmy Burke, had "The Tech" for his alma mater. That first teaching month of 1963 was the longest September of my life – "would the 30th ever come?" I wondered, for that was pay-day – my first. Well it did, was I thrilled as I opened my first salary, £39/14/3 net. I paid £4/10/9 tax – I've still got that pay slip!

I stayed from September 1963-1964 in the house of a very kind, motherly lady, who, only last year, alas, passed to her eternal reward – the late Mrs. Brenda Moran, Abbey Street. In September '64 I went to a bedsitter in Clare Street and remained there until 1984 – twenty wonderful years.

I can vividly recall what the town was like in the early sixties – typical West of Ireland, quiet, peaceful, slow paced, where nothing very exciting happened. The "Save The West" campaign tried to spur people to be a little more active. A friend of mine who used to spend her Summer holidays in Dublin complained of becoming utterly depressed as she came west of the Shannon to return to Ballyhaunis in September – to quote, "the place is dead; my goodness in the East people are all up and so full of ambition, it's a hive of activity." She upped and left. Every Summer she pays a visit here and is amazed that the once sleepy drowsy town is now "a hive of activity" – the West was saved!!

From an educational point of view things have changed drastically. There were five Primary Schools; Brackloon, Derrylea, Coolnafarna, and the two town schools. Post Primary had three schools; The Convent, The Tech, and St. Patrick's College. Today the whole system is centralised – 'amalgamation' became the magic word over the years and Ballyhaunis and its environs are now served by three educational institutions based in the town. Big is wonderful!! or is it? When I see the yellow "busanna scoile" or the line of cars taking pupils to school, my mind flashes back to the days of "shanks mare" or the Raleigh and the B.S.A. or the various

other makes of bicycles that were used in the old days. It took me fifteen minutes to walk to school, unless I got a lift in Paddy Moran's Morris Minor or Patricia Waldron's Volkswagen. As time passed my financial situation improved slightly and with a little help from home I purchased a second-hand Ford Anglia from Bertie Lynch for the princely sum of £200.

The town itself has changed beyond recognition. People talked then of having a drink in "Rhodesia's". There was a "take-away" in Clare Street, where the late Mrs. Glynn sold the tastiest of chips for 4d a bag. The library was also in Clare Street in the house where "Alma's Hair Salon" now stands. The late Mrs. "Mammy" Hunt was the "custodian," who saw to it that the morals of her readers were kept to the highest standards. Such was her concern that her scissors or sometimes, if the case required it, her fire saw to it that no pornographic material left her care. When I see what's on display today I wonder can her good soul be resting peacefully? Every September Perks Amusements paid a visit to the town to where the Guilers playground is today. In Main Street I recall a "Sale" sign in Fahey's big shop window; children gathered round "Padhraic's" and bought "bullseyes" and "conversation lozenges"; there was another shop bearing the name of Lucy Flynn. Keegan's Pub was further up the street. I used to buy the paper in Flatley's and beside it was a very popular cafe, run very efficiently by Mrs. Kate Flatley (Brian Munro now owns both places). I had my lunch in Corcoran's Cafe (Patterson's shop is now there).

I think Ballyhaunis can lay claim to a lot of firsts. There were two "Eight-till-Late" shops there long before the modern "Late 'n Early" multinationals were thought of. I'm referring to Tom Hopkins' at Upper Main Street and Fitzgeralds of Bridge Street, more affectionately known as Danny's – we never had to worry that there would be no milk for the porridge or the morning cuppa as an early morning trip to either shop solved the problem. I'm open to correction but I think the first Supermarket in the West was opened by Paddy Ryan in 1967. And, of course, what town outside Dublin can boast of having a Mosque and just last July Ballyhaunis scored a first again with the opening of Mid West Radio, the first Provincial one in the country.

The recent recession seems to have by-passed the town – no factory closures and no redundancies. If the early bumper to bumper traffic converging on the town from all directions is anything to go by then it is a boom and bloom town – a far cry from the days when the morning silence was broken only by the sound of cattle lorries as the local livestock dealers rattled off to the fairs in places like Dunmore or Castlereagh or, maybe, further afield, or that of Moran's turf lorries, trundling off to Longford, to keep the home fires burning. It was easy to cross the streets in those days!

How the town has expanded since then. Clare Street ended at Robinson's house. Beyond that there was a tree lined road, a rolling hillside where cattle grazed contentedly. There was no Knock Road then – yes! the road to Knock was there but the late Bernie Tarpey had no letters in his post bag addressed to people on Knock Road. He had very few either for people down Doctor's Road. Devlis ended at Noel Waldron's house or the newly erected Garda houses. The same situation prevailed on the Tuam Road, the Graveyard Road and Knox Street. Witness the industrial expansion that has taken place – the Halal complex, Keanes Kitchens, Welding Centre, E.P.S., the industrial estate at Tooraree. I saw all of those come into existence, as well as the housing estates in Station Rise, St. Gerard's Crescent, and Aisling Drive.

Part and parcel of life in the town till the early seventies were the monthly cattle, sheep, and pig fairs. October 30th was the big one as horses and foals were on display then. I remember one "equine beauty" used to lord it over all the others.



Colourfully decorated from mane to tail, with bells a-tinkling, it presented a great 'macho' image as it strode "like a Colossus" up and down the town, led by its proud owner, the late Bob Biesty of Hollywell. Trying to wend one's way to school on such days was not a pleasant experience. The streets were covered with slushy organic matter that squelched under one's feet unless one treaded very gingerly. The footpaths were enclosed by cribs where calves, sheep or lambs were displayed – every street in the town endured the same fate. Carts of pigs and bonhams were parked along Main Street. The deals between vendor and buyer were sealed with spit on the palm, a loud clap and a handshake!! The Fair Day started at 5 or 6 a.m. and lingered till late in the afternoon when the shopkeepers started the big clean up. Buckets, mops, hoses, and lashings of water emerged from shop doors. Torrents of effluent gushed into every gully and crevice in the place, all non-toxic, ozone and environmentally friendly!! – even Padhraic Flynn's or Roger Garland's "green" sensitive nostrils would not have objected!! – no talk of pollution then!

Our social life centred round the Eclipse Ballroom where we tripped the light fantastic to the music of The Melody Aces, Brendan Bowyer & The Big Eight, or The Clipper Carlton. Goodness! do I remember the tenuous efforts at communication. "Do you come here often?" "What do you think of the band?" "Would you care for a mineral?" Sometimes the acceptance of that invitation led to "wedding bells"! Of course, alcohol played no part in our social life then. A "lady" would not be seen in a bar, much less "caring" for a pint of Harp or a Vodka & White – How times have changed!!

As I have already mentioned I spent twenty wonderful years in Clare Street. The fact that they were wonderful is in no small

way due to my having the privilege of staying in the house of the late and great Mrs. Smyth. She was a very special person to me, a second mother and a nanny to my children. They loved her and still speak very fondly of her. I cannot speak highly enough of her – she was the epitome of charity, honesty and discretion. Many a heavy heart was consoled by her caring words and her prayers. May her dear soul rest in peace. I think Clare Street must have been the nursery of the town. No less than forty plus children grew into adulthood there in those years. There was always a great sense of caring and neighbourliness among the people. I cannot imagine anybody being hungry there – the bowl of soup or the lunch was sure to be provided for anybody who for one reason or another was unable to care for him or herself – a great place to have lived in. It is ironic that as I write this my last link with the house that was home to me for more than twenty years has just been broken. Passing there now is a poignant experience. I'm reminded of John McCormack's "The Old House", "no light in the window, no welcome at the door."

**Before I finish I want to pay a very special tribute to the wonderful people from Clare Street who, alas, are no longer on this side of the Divide. I shall not mention names because unfortunately, they are too numerous – ar dheis De go raibh a n-anamnacha dilse. Ni bheidh a leitheid ann aris, ach tá suil agam go gcasfar go leir le cheile sinn aris in Iothlann De.**

*The late Thomas Biesty with his stallion "Cloonloo Prince" at the R.D.S. Horse Show.*





## MARRIAGES IN THE PARISH CHURCH BALLYHAUNIS

**1 Nov. 1988 to 31 Oct. 1989**

1. Patrick C. McIntyre, Aghamore and Cecilia Caulfield, Bohogue.
2. Peter A. Loftus, Ballina and Joan Connell, Devlis.
3. Patrick J. Corrigan, Ballagherreen and Anne Maria Carroll, Abbotquarter.
4. Hugh Sweeney, Dublin and Mary Gilmore, Johnstown.
5. Thomas McDermott, Cloonlough and Linda O'Boyle, Carrowkeel.
6. John P. Fahey, Ballymoe and Noreen O'Reilly, Holywell.
7. Thomas Morrissey, Dublin and Bernadette Curran, Doctors' Road.
8. Michael Walsh, Dublin and Patricia Sweeney, Drimbane.
9. Morgan McNicholas, London and Brigid Bernadette Carney, Carrowkeel.

## MARRIAGES IN St. Mary's Abbey Church BALLYHAUNIS

1. Edward Campion, Castlerea and Marina Levins, Clare St.
2. Kenneth Denny, Knock and Deirdre Durkan, Abbey St.
3. Raoul Masterson, Dublin and Elaine Hanly, Knock Road.
4. Eamon Gallagher, Rooskey and Barbara Fitzgerald, Bridge St.
5. Michael Byrne, Clare St., and Helena Biesty, Pattenspark.
6. Gerard Moran, Dublin and Mary K. Cribben, Knockbrack.
7. Cearbhall O Meadhra, Bray and Anna Herr, Knox St.
8. John Fitzgerald, New York and Margaret Waldron, Scrigg.
9. Thomas McCarrick, Enniscrone and Benny Curley, Clare St.

## MARRIAGES ELSEWHERE

1. Noel Henry, Upper Main St. and Elizabeth Gethins, Ballisadare.
2. Liam Smyth, Knox St. and Esther Morrison, Manchester.
3. John Webb, Devlis and Della Carroll, Balinlough.
4. Pat Ryan, Holywell and Margaret Glynn, Brickens.
5. Michael Regan, Clare St. and Helen McGrath, Devlin.
6. Helen Brennan, Upper Main St. and John Power, Dublin.
7. Bernadette Regan, Gurteenbeg and Gerard Reid, Devlin.
8. Thomas C. Nolan, Upper Main St. and Bernadette Gallagher, London.
9. Edward Paul, Gallagher and Geraldine Treacey, Ballintubber.
10. Val Byrne, Main St. and Biddy O'Carroll, Kilkenny.
11. Oliver Lyons, Brownstown and Olivia Hughes, London.
12. Donald Moran, Knox St. and Orla Loftus, Crossmolina.

## BAPTISMS

1. To Christopher and Johanna Hampett, Station Rise, a daughter, Emma Louise.
2. To Thomas and Rose Callaghan, Station Rise, a daughter, Louise Maria.
3. To Patrick and Shannon Webb, Main St., a son, Ryan Thomas.
4. To John and Sarah Kelly, Knox St., a son, Patrick Maurice.
5. To Seamas and Mary Mulrennan, Gurteen, a son, Conor Michael.
6. To Declan and Michelle Swannick, Erritt, a son, John Edward.
7. To Bernard and Jean Gallagher, Knock Rd., a son, Brian Edward Patrick.
8. To John J. and Gabrielle Lyons, Knockbrack, a son, William Joseph.
9. To John and Sheila Lyons, Abbey St., a daughter, Marie Una.
10. To Laurence and Máire Freyne, Hazelhill, a daughter, Lisa Ann.
11. To Thomas and Judy Regan, Killinaugher, a daughter, Lisa Marie.
12. To Joseph and Helen Byrne, Johnstown, a daughter, Clare Josie.
13. To Dominic and Geraldine Murphy, Dublin Rd., a son, Declan Jonathan.
14. To John and Eileen Jordan, Johnstown, a son, John Joseph.
15. To Eugene and Martina Freeley, Clagnagh, a son, Jeremy Patrick.
16. To Matthew and Geraldine O'Dwyer, Ballindrehid, a son, Seamas Joseph.
17. To Gerard and Patricia Plunkett, Forthill, a son, Jason Daniel.
18. To Francis and Mary Lyons, Aisling Drive, a daughter, Kathleen Majella.
19. To Gerard and Elizabeth Kilbride, Aisling Drive, a son, Ruaidhri Patrick.
20. To Edward and Rita Mooney, Scrigg, a son, Ian Patrick.
21. To Thomas and Philomena Webb, Main St., a son, James Michael.
22. To Oliver and Mary Cribben, Togher, a daughter, Margaret Mary.
23. To Kieran and Mary Connally, Lecarrow, a daughter, Maria Margaret.
24. To Liam and Bernadette Lyons, London, a daughter, Ciara Maria.
25. To Gabriel and Sally Caulfield, Aisling Drive, a daughter, Samantha Jane.
26. To Bernard and Bernadette Lyons, Skeaghard, a daughter, Siobhan Marie.
27. To Luke and Celine Murray, Hazelhill, a daughter, Dearbhla Maria.
28. To John and Susan Hoban, Lisbane, a son, Stephen John.
29. To John and Gabrielle Ruane, Devlis, a daughter, Jessica Maria.
30. To James and Geraldine Waldron, Tavanaghmore, a son, Barry Christopher.
31. To James and Bernadette Quinn, Classaroe, a son, James Patrick.
32. To Michael and Bridie Lyons, Spaddagh, a daughter, Catherine.
33. To Kieran and Teresa Fitzmaurice, Gurteenbeg, a son, Aidan Thomas.
34. To Desmond and Catherine Ruane, Lurgan, a son, Kevin.
35. To Seamas and Tina Waldron, Station Rise, a daughter, Colleen Ann.
36. To Brendan and Mary Morrissey, Cave, a daughter, Isobel Honoria.



## DEATHS

This is the official Death List of natives and residents of the Parish. It covers the period November 3rd., 1988 – November 22nd., 1989.

Mrs. Mary Diskin, Killinaugher.  
Mrs. Vera Gilmore, Waldron's Terrace.  
Mr. Thomas Freeley, Ballindrehid.  
Mrs. Una Byrne, Upper Main Street.  
Mrs. Delia Flaherty, Devils.  
Mr. Mark Fitzmaurice, Brackloon South.  
Mr. Donald Moran, Knox Street.  
Mr. James Freeley, Gurteen.  
Mr. Michael Moran, Upper Main Street.  
Mrs. Julia Kelly, Lecarrow.  
Mr. Peter Gallagher, Derrintogher.  
Mrs. Brigid Cribbin, Drimbane.  
Mr. Michael Biesty, Carrowkeel.  
Mrs. Kate Waldron, Carrowkeel.  
Mr. Thomas McGuire, Lisbane,  
Mr. John Conway, Upper Main Street.  
Mr. John Fitzmaurice, Tullaghane.  
Mrs. Annie Murphy, Knox Street.  
Mr. John Neenan, Coolnafarna.  
Mrs. Lena Byrne, Johnstown.  
Mrs. Mary Byrne, Abbeyquarter.  
Mr. James Forde, Upper Main Street.

Mrs. Hilda Gildea, Lecarrow.  
Mrs. Brigid Gilmore, Bridge Street.  
Mrs. Mary E. Fleming, Scrigg.  
Mrs. Mary Brennan, England (formerly Clare Street).  
Mr. Patrick Cleary, Johnstown.  
Mrs. Noreen Webb, Lower Main Street.  
Mr. John Fitzmaurice, Derrynacong.  
Mr. John Tarpey, Knockroe, Carrowkeel.  
Mrs. Frances Webb, Tooraree.  
Mr. Patrick Sullivan, Ballindrehid.  
Mr. Tom Carney, Island.  
Mrs. Mona Molloy, Gurrane.  
Ms. Carmel Webb, Ennis (formerly Main Street).  
Mr. Luke McWalter, Knox Street.  
Mr. Jim Finnegan, England (formerly Bohogue).  
Mr. John Ryan, Derrylahan.  
Mr. Michael Waldron, Brackloon.  
Mrs. Mary Fallon, England (formerly Tarmey Holywell).  
Mr. Thomas Mears, Coolnafarna.  
Mr. Ignatius Davitt, Foynes, Co. Limerick (formerly Bridge Street).  
Mrs. Margaret Molloy, Dublin (formerly Margaret Webb, Main Street).  
Ms. Josephine Fitzmaurice, Forthill.  
Mr. Joe Egan, U.S.A. (formerly Clanagh).  
Mr. Joseph Meehan, Annagh.  
Mrs. Rosaleen Eagney, Clare Street.  
Mrs. Monica Morley, Redhill (Formerly Eagney, Churchpark).  
Fr. Paul Costello P.P., Leenane (formerly Abbey Street).

## BALLYHAUNIS I.C.A.

**The Ballyhaunis I.C.A. meets on the second Wednesday of the month in the "Horse She Inn" at 9 p.m. During the year members like to involve themselves on "Community Work" such as organising the Blood Transfusion Service and collecting for the Irish Kidney Association.**

This year our Guild was host to the Mayo Federation meeting which was held in the Community School in June. It was a great success and we wish to thank most sincerely all who helped us to achieve this.

The members attend all Federation Meetings which give them many new ideas and a chance to make new friends around the country.

This Autumn members, who are ever health-conscious, are attending keep-fit courses and swimming sessions.

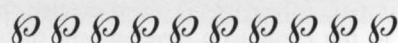
The I.C.A. has developed in many areas and we are always happy to welcome new members.



**Members of Ballyhaunis I.C.A. enjoying a Federation Meeting held in Beleek Castle, Ballina – (l. to r.) Mrs. Maura Fitzmaurice, Mrs. Margaret Kenny (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Veronica Freyne (President), Mrs. Celia Dowdall.**

**OFFICERS** – President: Mrs. Veronica Freyne; Secretary: Mrs. Ann McHugh; Treasurer: Mrs. Margaret Kenny; P.R.O.: Mrs. Catherine Carney.

Catherine Carney.





# BALLYHAUNIS PIONEERS

**Secretary: Sr. Assumpta; Treasurer: Joe Byrne.**

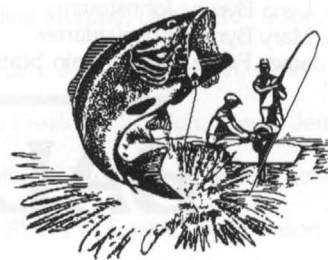
We often think of how things have changed in recent times. Elderly people are always aware of the changes that have taken place since they were young. They often find it difficult to adjust to new ways, and they often cling tenaciously to old fashions and ways.

In modern times the speed and extent of change can be staggering. Everything seems to have changed drastically in a relatively short time. One change that must concern us is the reduction in the number of Pioneer emblems in evidence here in Ireland today. Compared with, say, the fifties, very few people are wearing Pioneer emblems. This applies particularly to younger people.

Underlying this general change is the change in people's attitudes and outlook. Attitudes to alcoholic drink have changed; attitudes to pledges, to commitment have changed; attitudes to religious practices and devotions have changed; attitudes to the Church, even to God have changed. Whether these changes of attitudes are good or otherwise is not our purpose to decide or judge. We must, however, take the fact into consideration. We must strive to adjust our apostolate of temperance to meet these changes.

If we are to promote temperance successfully in present day conditions we must approach our apostolate in a way that will appeal to today's citizens. That does not mean that we abandon the spiritual motives of the "heroic Offering". Perhaps it does mean that we also stress the natural advantages of a temperate life, and the appalling consequences of the abuse of God's gift of alcohol.

## BALLYHAUNIS AND DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB



**Officers, 1989 -**  
**President: Tom Buckley;**  
**Chairman: Bernard**  
**Waldron; Secretary:**  
**Michael Grogan,**  
**Doctor's Road;**  
**Treasurer: Michael**  
**Nolan.**

The Angling Club, though only two years in existence, has introduced the delights of fishing to a large number of young people in the district, and has created in The White Lake a convenient and rich angling facility for our more experienced fishermen.

The lake was stocked with over 2000 trout at the start of the season, and these fish augmented the excellent quality wild stock in the lake to make for excellent fishing throughout the season.



**Prize winners at Festival Fishing Competition - Back Row: Bernie Freyne, Martin Forde, John Nolan; Centre: Declan Byrne, Hugh Martin, Mark McCafferty, Michael J. Nolan; Front: Fintan Byrne, Robert Madden.**

A number of competitions were held during the year, and these attracted strong interest, with some excellent fish being landed. A number of new fishing stands were erected, and the club is committed to the continuing development of facilities at the lake.

The Club would like to thank the various sponsors who helped out with donations, prizes and materials during the year.



# BRIDGES

By Jimmy Cribben

Wherever a few people are gathered there is sure to be a personage amongst them with heavyweight wit and (not always) featherweight wisdom. Latin name unknown, but commonly known as "the slag". Mention a problem and, quick as a flash, you have the solution, usually impracticable. Dropping a hint that material was being sought for "the magazine" (or as people from Cork would say "de Magazine") invokes a genuine question. What kind of material, with usual speed 'the slag' responds – "pictures for page three and articles about women". Ladies too can excel in the art of slagging, this being the age of equal opportunity. Some lady-acquaintances of mine have accused me of being a Male Chauvinist in that I never mention them in anything I write. Were they joking or were they jealous? – that is the question.

Smuggling spicy articles about ladies on to the pages of this magazine is out of the question. The Editorial Committee is comprised mostly of men, and they are a cautious lot! I was at one of their meetings. There was one lady present. She came late and left early – ask Joe Hosty he was there!

## **BROOKLYN BRIDGE AND BALLYHAUNIS BRIDGE**

There are difficulties involved in calling the slags bluff, but we will try. Thumbing through the pages of last year's edition gave me a 'buzz'. I came across a picture of two ladies on Brooklyn Bridge Una Shields and Breda Burke. There are many ladies I can recall meeting on bridges whom I would have no qualms writing about, so why not. Staying on bridges might help me avoid getting into deep water!

Turning the key on memory's locker clearly brings to mind a meeting on the bridge in Ballyhaunis with my only surviving teacher, Mrs. Higgins. We met there just before Christmas last year. After exchanging season's greetings, she paid me the compliment of saying she enjoyed reading my piece about men (of letters) and gave me some advice about women – marry one of them!

Meeting an actress is always an occasion, meeting two who had just won All Ireland awards was a unique occasion. It was in the same place, about the same time that I met Frankie O'Malley and Fionuala Morley. There is something magical about the camaraderie that exists amongst people involved in Drama. I met those two ladies separately and on both occasions the conversation extended far beyond congratulations – thank you. If all the world's a stage', then bridges are some of its many props. I mention those two ladies because they walked on that stage and stood near the prop that the spotlight is now focused on. They are two of many fine people I have met while putting on the greasepaint.

## **WESTMINSTER BRIDGE**

From bridges over the water to bridges across the water and Charlie Mac's Club near Westminster Bridge. It was there one Saturday night that I met a red headed Scottish lass. She belonged to Glasgow and she and her sister were down for the weekend. Her sister had a man and the bonnie lass was on the lookout for a guide of her own to show her the sights of London town,

Westminster Bridge was strangely quiet and foggy as we waited for Big Ben to strike one o'clock. We met, as arranged, the following day at Marble Arch, which is really a beautiful bridge built in the wrong place. Across the road from speakers corner where all the world was on stage and soapboxes! "Flowerpower" – "Ban the Bomb" – "Make love not war" – "The End is Nigh"! It was – it started raining! I had come unprepared and I thought she was in the same boat until she reached into a small carrier bag and fetched out a plastic coat and a collapsible umbrella. It's the guide who should have

everything prepared and accepting an umbrella dampened my vanity but kept my head dry. I mentioned a long list of places where one (or two) could spend a wet afternoon in London. She opted for museums and would like to see the Tower. Good girl – just up my alley! She was a lady of modest expectations and I a man of modest means. We dined in a small cafe. Afterwards – a profound history lesson in the Tower of London. I had never heard of Lady Jane Grey. On the spot where she was beheaded, a Scottish lass told an Irish lad how an English girl was put on the throne, had it and her life taken from her, when she was all of sixteen years of age.

What do people mean when they use the expression "as long as a wet Sunday"? Our expedition into the past quickly devoured the present. We thought we had seen everything until in a Museum in Kensington we came across a section devoted to, of all things, beds. There were beds from palaces and crofter's cottages, and everywhere in between. One bed in particular fascinated me. It had belonged to Queen Ann (as far as I can recall) and contained some of the most wonderful wood carving I have ever seen. There were silks and satins also but the legs of the bed carved in the form of rampant lions held my attention. "Beautiful," said I, my mind still on the legs of the bed. "Yes," said she, "pity there is a crowd here!"

## **SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE**

Time for a change of scenery. Come fly with me, there is somebody I would like you to meet on Sydney Harbour Bridge.

When I was reading an extract from Lewis Carroll in the English reader in Derrylea School I never thought that one day, in a far-off land I would meet Alice in Wonderland and that she would invite me to the Mad Hatters Tea Party, but it came to pass on what the people of N.S.W. refer to as the "coathanger".

Alice had adopted well to her adopted country. She is like any "fair dinkum Aussie Shellagh" and talks like Kylie Minogue. The Mad Hatter is still mad, but in a likeable kind of way. As to his jumping off the parapet, no worries. They were both earning a crust when I met them promoting a newly opened restaurant in the city. They gave me two complimentary tickets. One for myself and one for my sister Monica. I enjoyed my chat with them but Alice's last words puzzled me "Have a nice 'die' " she said. I don't know what gave her the impression that I was going to jump off the parapet.

Maybe this is my cue to "hop off". There are other bridges I have crossed and ones I have burned. Some of the stories are printable but I would run the risk of some "slag" or the editor having the last word. – That's a bridge too far!

– Photo taken by my sister Monica.



**Jimmy Cribbins with Alice and The Mad Hatter on Sydney Harbour Bridge.**





**St. Patrick's College Class 3A 1964 – Back Row (l. to r.): Tommy Kelly, Christy Freyne, Tommie Lyons, Eugene Caulfield, Peter Gallagher, Martin Murphy; Middle Row: John Murphy, Val Rattigan, Brian Byrne, John Higgins, Michael Travers, Michael Herr, Bernard Glavey, Tommy Judge; Bottom Row: Desmond Lyons, Eamon Curley, Enda O'Brien, Tommy Glynn, Mack Jordan, Paddy Judge. (Photo Val Rattigan).**



**Pupils, Larganboy National School 1924 – Front Row: (l. to r.) Mary Helen Raney, Helen Mulkeen, Margaret Finnegan, Rose Hopkins, Delia Carney; Second Row: Mrs. Mullins (Principal), Mary Waldron, Delia Murphy, Annie Hopkins, Mary Hopkins, Margaret Kilduff, Nora Forde, Mary Kate MacNamara, Margaret Grogan, Sarah Hopkins; Back Row: Kathleen Hopkins, Delia Hopkins, Celia O'Boyle, Margarit Helen MacNamara, Helen Hopkins. (Photo Tom Murphy).**



# THE SHOP

By Tom Finn

From the dizzy heights of the Cusack Stand I gazed out at the sea of red and green which unfolded beneath me on that historic and memorable September day. My young son and I were making our very first trip to Croke Park, and as I watched the mighty men from Mayo storm out on to the pitch, my little son said "Dad, where were you when Mayo won the Sam Maguire in 1951?" "At The Shop," I replied. He said "What Shop, Dad?"

To all of us growing up in the village of Carrowkeel in the forties and fifties, "The Shop" (owned by the Caulfield family) was our Croke Park, our disco, our community centre. It was the place where you went with the bucket of eggs, at any time, day or night, and came home with your groceries and some change. Now, how do I explain all this to a young child in the eighties? Through the sea of red and green my mind flips back to the shop on the other All Ireland Day in 1951.

Everybody in the village was there, because that's where the only radio was. The older men of the village sat on chairs and stairs while we, small-fry, sat on the footpath outside under threat of permanent disability should any of us as much as whisper. In short, the shop was our centre of entertainment, where all the villagers, young and old, gathered to pass the time, where else would the men of the village be on All Ireland day?

What did this place look like? It was a shop unlike any other shop, a big two-storey house surrounded by green fields. There was no counter or display, or any of the paraphernalia associated with modern retailing. You just walked in the front door, there was a woodstained dresser on the right hand side where everybody normally stood, a big radio in the corner, a table from which you were always offered a cup of tea and a slice of bread, whether you were shopping or visiting. Kathleen normally took your order and went to the room behind the stairs where all the perishables were stored.

Of course, if you were going there at night to visit, it was different. Let's talk about some of the characters we used to meet there, most of whom have passed on to the big shop in the sky. Sitting in the corner beside the radio was Joe Lynskey, and whatever power God took from his legs, he certainly had it in his huge hands, which he used to demonstrate a various assortment of tricks, one of which was his infamous "asses bite". He was also the acknowledged law enforcer of the gathering.

On Fair nights, we had Martin Byrne, this was a well-travelled well-read man, who could recite Emmets "speech from the Dock," word perfect, whilst severely under the weather. He also gave lectures and demonstration on a thing called breeze-blocking, which entailed erecting and plastering an imaginary wall across the kitchen floor. It was a sight to behold as the wall was invisible and the builder was 'legless'.

Jim Fitzmaurice was a regular card-player. I remember being told by a wit, who is still living, to sit behind him and watch his ears, which he assured me would move whenever Jim had a good hand of cards.

While the older men played cards, or engaged in conversation

we young fellas pitched in with Kathleen and normally spent the night filling and weighing sugar, tea, bread soda etc. And oh, how we loved Christmas! Just imagine a bunch of young lads being let loose among cartons of biscuits, sweets and fruits. We weighed all we could and we ate all we could and if someone's packet of Kimberley biscuits was short a few, I humbly apologise, but I enjoyed them!

Later on in the year, one of our pet hates was the onset of blight time when we had to leave all those nice things and go to a place called the "Far Store". There we weighed a noxious substance called bluestone and washing soda which was used for spraying potatoes. All of these jobs were done just for fun and the odd big bottle of Cidona.

A few firsts in my life happened at "The Shop". It was there that I saw my first real leather football, brought from England by a man called David Taylor, and I watched as he showed us the art of the game of Soccer. No hands, all foot and head-stuff, which we would not do, you see your man was bald and we were all convinced that this was due to him heading the ball. So we just continued with our brand of Football. We played in the little field called "Mooneen" to no set code or rules.

On Sunday morning "The Shop" became the bus stop. In the early days everyone gathered there to go to mass in the old side-car. This vehicle was designed to carry about 4 people, but Gus was not a man to leave anyone walking and if there was an inch of space you just climbed on. In later years he acquired a lorry which served as a travelling shop and of course as the village bus on a Sunday morning. However this Carrowkeel bus was never known for its punctuality! If there was a prize for being last to mass on a Sunday morning we would have got it as our driver had a great fondness for his bed, and his good mother would not allow him to leave until every last passenger had arrived. Those could include Mary Coyne, who prefixed everything with the words, "on me oath", and her brother Martin, Mike Lyons whose famous greeting was "On me jumping sod sonny". All of whom are long since dead may God have mercy on their souls.

Thrashing time at "the Shop" was a major occasion, everybody went, regardless of whether there was work for him or not. You were always sure of a feed and a good laugh; in fact, what was meant to be a days work usually turned out to be one huge, continuous party.

As the years went by, unfortunately, emigration took most of our numbers away. Ireland was then as it is now like limbo "a place or state of rest where some poor souls suffer for a time before they go to England." As for myself I went to McGarry's as an apprentice to Footwear and Drapery or a "Counter-Jumper" as we were called.

And then along came the modern world with its television, its nightclubs, its supermarkets, its fast cars and that was the end of the shop and its innocent fun, its conversation and its friendly family atmosphere.

Oh, I wish I could take my little son back in time to "The Shop" with its warm welcome and good conversation, and to work for an hour just for the fun.

**Beside me, I hear the words "Daddy! Willie-Joe's scored a point" and I'm back again in Croke Parke 1989.**



# The Heritage Society

**Hereunder we draw attention to a number of archeological finds made in the area recently which have been brought to the attention of the Heritage Society.**

The most significant of those is a spearhead, dating from the late Bronze Age. The discovery was made by Mr. Austin Lyons of Carrowmack on property which he owns at Johnstown. Mr. Lyons tells us that shortly after he acquired the property he noticed what he thought was a piece of brass piping driven into the wall of a stable. It was only after the wall began to crumble that the spearhead came to light by coming loose and actually falling to the ground of its own accord. This spearhead has been examined both by the Archeology Department of U.C.G. and the National Museum, Dublin.

For a description of the spearhead we quote from a letter to Mr. Lyons from Professor Rynne of U.C.G.:

"The spearhead is unusually though not uniquely slender. It is of a type which we can confidently date to the Bronze Age, that is to say to the period about 1200 to 400 B.C. I feel however that a date between about 900 B.C. and 600 B.C. would perhaps be more probable than the five centuries."

Another very fine Stone Age artifact was found by young Community School student Tony Murphy of Tulrahan. It is a 3000 B.C. stone axehead which has been described by the National Museum as being typical of a type associated with the eastern part of Mayo and western Roscommon, in that it is of a type of slate. Tony is presenting his find to the Community School collection. Tony is also the finder of the timber-arm of a horizontal-wheel "gig-mill" dating from 600 A.D.

This type of mill existed in this area because the water flow was not sufficient to drive the vertical-wheel type. They died out but were re-introduced about 1600. The ruins of Flatley's and Gannon's Mills are local examples.

Another interesting find was made by Mr. Robert Lilly during land reclamation work on his land at Tully, Carrowbehy. This consisted of a hoard of coins, sixteen in number, all of the same denomination and period 1689-90. They are copper about the size of our present two-pence piece, and have two heads, William and Mary.

Less unusual, but not insignificant in that it gives us some idea of what our countryside looked like in the distant past was the discovery of a very large trunk of bog deal on Mr. Pat Murray's land at Derrintogher. This ancient tree trunk came to light during the recent hot dry Summer when a strip of grass about a foot wide and fifty feet long yellowed and died. This occurred on ground from which turf had been taken during the earlier part of this century. Preliminary measurements and comparisons made would suggest that when growing this tree would have exceeded in height and diameter any tree growing in the area at the present time. Like the artifacts mentioned above The Heritage Society has been keeping a low profile for some time past. Hopefully the onset of long winter evenings will herald an end to this period of hibernation.

Jimmy Cribben

**Officers: Patron Canon P. Costello; Chairman: Joe Greene; Secretary: Paul Waldron; Treasurer: Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A.; P.R.O. Gerry Cribben.**

By Jim McDonnell



**Mick Meehan, Billy Rochford, Paddy Folliard (decd.).** (Courtesy Kathleen McBride).

## S.V.P.

### St. Patricks Conference

**President: Oliver Levins; Spiritual Adviser: Rev. Canon Costello P.P.; Vice President: Luke Lawlor; Treasurer: Sr. M. Dympna; Secretary: M. O'Dwyer.**

Weekly meetings held at Presbytery each Wednesday at 9 p.m.

The St. Vincent De Paul Society, now a widespread international organisation, was founded in Paris in 1833. Its founder Frederick Ozanam and fellow students made contact with poor people in an effort to meet their needs for good clothing and friendship. It is this same work which occupies S.V.P. conferences ever since.

New members are always very welcome. The conference is very grateful to all who support them so generously each year. Very best wishes to all for Christmas and coming year.

Luke Lawlor



# MEMORIES OF COOLNAFARNA

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a Prey  
where wealth accumulates and men decay.  
("The Deserted Village":- O. Goldsmith).

The old Schoolhouse at Coolnafarna was demolished some years ago. What a change in the name of progress! When the writer of this short note was attending school, there were 120 pupils on the rolls. The school was divided into three different sections, boys from the third class upwards were in one section, the same applied to the girls. Infants up to the third class were all in one section. There were three teachers on the Staff.

When the old School Master retired he was replaced by J. W. Mulligan and he taught there for several years and was later transferred to Ballyhaunis Boys National School.

Mr. Timothy Flatley, the old School Master, was a good Irish teacher and instilled a love of the language into all his pupils.

Many years afterwards when I was living in England, there were about twelve Connemara men on the same section of the job I was working on. They conversed in Irish. (My own knowledge was very limited). They were very warm and friendly and more so when I spoke a few words to them in their native tongue. When the gang was broken up and the men transferred to other sections one young lad was left with me. He was from Clifden where the Irish language was the "Beal Beo". This young man was very quiet. One day I said to him that I thought he was sad and lonely "An bhfuil Uaigneas Ort?" He smiled and said "O ta Uaigneas mor orm **i na dhiaidh mo Cháirde**" and after that we were very good friends. He was happy that a stranger, he did not know, could speak a few words to him when his comrades were gone.

Colin was my workmate for over a year. His brother was with a gang in London so one day he told me he was going to his brother. I was sorry to see him go. We corresponded for a few years. I got a surprise visit from him one evening. He came to bid me farewell as he was going to Australia where he had a married sister. He got married in Australia and made his home in Melbourne.

During the war years, Coolnafarna organised a dramatic society, the driving force behind it being the late Pat Keane of

Kiltboe. He selected and produced the plays.

His motto was to get a play with a small cast. A play was produced every year at Christmas. It was all local talent and people gave their time with goodwill. Pat always had concert items before the play started. We got great support for "Troubled Batchelors" in Byrne's Hall in Lakehill, Tooreen old Hall, Cloonfad, Ballyhaunis and of course the first performance was in Coolnafarna School. All the proceeds went to charity. The widening and resurfacing of the Dublin to Westport road got underway in 1927. It was done in sections by Mayo County Council. Money was very scarce. The Council workers were paid at the rate of four shillings and two pence per day. Work started at 8 a.m. and finished at 6.15 p.m.; and Saturday at 1 o'clock. Farmers who had stones on their land were requested by the County Council to stock-pile them on the side of the road in such a way as not to obstruct traffic. The crushing plant was hired out by the County Council. The crusher and roller and watering cart were supplied by George Gregg and Sons, Larne, County Antrim.

When our school day was over, like all children, we hurried to the spot where the crusher was working. It took ten men to operate the crusher which had a through-put of 60 tons per day. Four horse carts were employed to cart the stones from the crusher, another gang was spreading and levelling the stones, there were no bulldozers then; it was all done by workmen. The men were paid every two weeks. A man was engaged to cart water to the steam engine from the nearby river. Usually a teenage lad with a donkey and cart and a 40 gallon barrel did the drawing of the water. The workmen then had to do their own farm work when they got home in the evening and worked while there was daylight. It was a hard job to keep everything in order. We are all pilgrims in this World, as Goldsmith put it when he said:

**"Pilgrim let thy cares forego,  
All earthborn cares are wrong,  
Man wants but little here below,  
Nor wants that little long."**

## BALLYHAUNIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**The Officers of the Chamber of Commerce for 1989 are as follows:-**

President: Barry Butler; Vice-President: Thomas Finn;  
Treasurer: Patrick Martin; P.R.O.: Mary Kelly; Secretary:  
Robert Potter-Cogan.

The Chamber of Commerce has continued its efforts during the year to improve conditions for the conduct of business of its members. The Chamber has continued to exert pressure on the appropriate government authorities in relation to parking, town lighting, road maintenance, and water supply and has met with the local authorities and with the Gardai Sióchana in this regard. The Chamber also successfully organised the third Annual Summer Festival in 1989 for the benefit of those at home, visitors and commercial people alike.

At the same time, the Chamber continues to oversee organisation of Christmas lighting and is hoping this year to organise collective advertising of the town for Christmas shopping purposes.

**All activities of the Chamber are of course entirely voluntary and nothing can be achieved without the goodwill of the members and the commercial interests in the town. The Chamber is always anxious to increase its membership and its representation amongst all spheres within the town and all persons are actively encouraged to make an approach to the Secretary or any other person in the Chamber with a view to joining.**

Robert Potter-Cogan,  
Secretary.



# THE EIGHTIES –

## (A Personal Reflection)

**By Micheal Smyth**

On the world stage, particularly the European one the eighties will be known as the age of Eastern European Democratization, with Lech Walesa's efforts in that regard in Poland monopolising the earlier years and Mikhail Gorbachev's leadership dominating the latter half. Here in Ireland this last decade might be referred to as the GUBU years earlier on and the time since 1987 as that of the rehabilitation (with the National Press anyway) of Charles Haughey. Many, of course, will, sadly, remember it because of the big increase in emigration of our young people. Connacht, and especially Mayo will identify Monsignor Horan, Connacht/Horan Airport and Mayo's three appearances in the final stages of the All-Ireland Football Championship, with the decade about to close.

Our own parish continued to thrive even though the local chapter of Junior Chamber Ireland became defunct, notwithstanding the fact that as late as 1986 a team made up of John Higgins, Chris Pratt, Matt O'Dwyer and Jim Lundon reached the final of the International Tripartite Debating Competition, having beaten England in the Semi-Final, and losing to Glasgow, representing Scotland, in the Final. Fortunately, the Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1980, continued the very worthwhile community development work which Junior Chamber had set in train. This new Chamber has been very active in making representations to the County Council, Government Departments and State Agencies and with others can claim credit for the provision of Lochan Car Park, new Knox St./Main St. link road, Christmas Lighting, two Trade Fairs ('84 and '85), and initiating formation of Guiler Twinning Committee and of Enterprise-Connacht. When Wrangler closed they negotiated with I.D.A. and this led to re-opening of the factory by Farah. The Chamber would also claim some small involvement in the provision of County Council houses at Aisling Drive, in the renovation and revival of the Parochial Hall and in the work resulting in Muinteoir Mhuigheo awarding our community their annual Meitheal Award for 1984. They are unsparing in their efforts to eliminate the foul smell which pollutes the town at times. For me the highlight of this new group's effort was the Summer Festivals of '87, '88 and '89. It was most heartening to see the people co-operating with each other and having so much fun, at all hours of the day and night!! The sheer joy of it all must have rejuvenated the morale of everybody, young and old, and it was great that so many clubs and organisations rowed in to ensure that there was something for everybody during those marvellous ten carefree days. Many local emigrants made it their holiday and certainly added to it all.



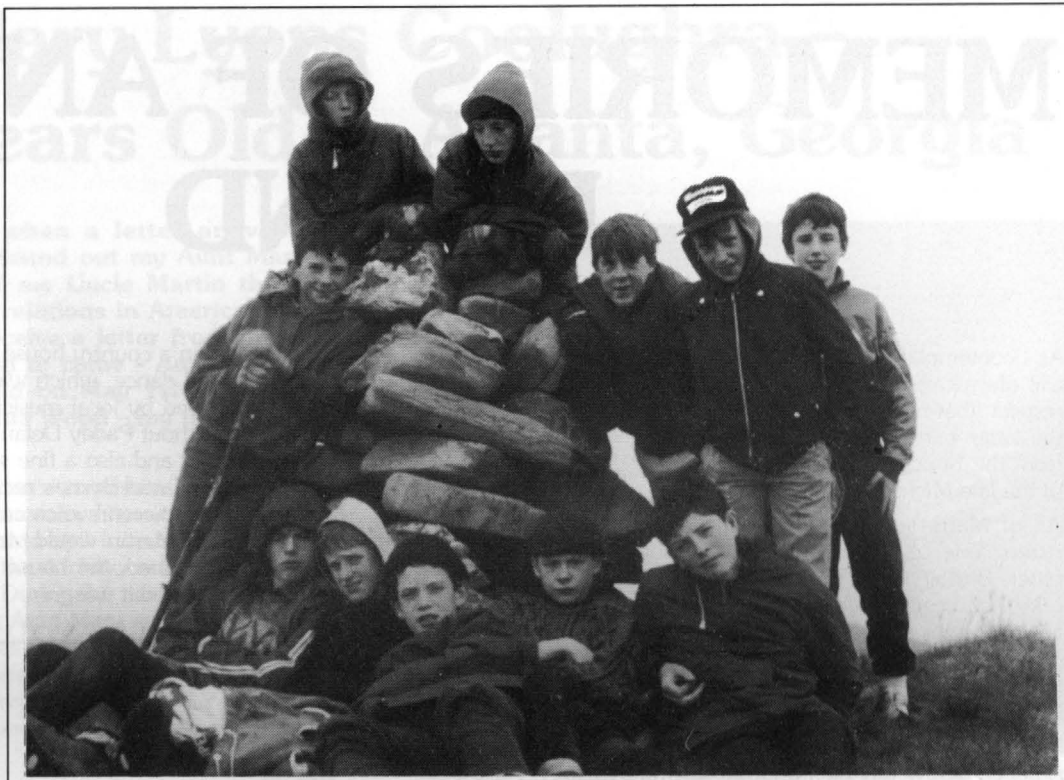
**1989 Festival – (l. to r.) John "Doc" Healy, Johnnie Biesty, Eddie Webb, Sean Waldron – "What were they talking about?"**

The Parish of Annagh has many sporting organisations and much success attended them these past ten years. The G.A.A. celebrated Under-Age and Intermediate County Title wins whilst one of their members, David Fitzgerald, won an All-Ireland Minor medal. The Golf Club had its successes with John Forde, John Dillon and Vincent Freyne joining Nick Faldo in 1980 to win the National Pro-Am and in 1989 Michael O'Mahoney, Pat Curley, and Anthony McNicholas joining Gordon Brand to do likewise. Happily, Ballyhaunis involvement in the Community Games was renewed last year with major successes at County and National level. It's good to see the Boxing Club revived too – we have a proud history in Amateur Boxing. The Squash Club, Rugby Club, Ladies Basketball Club and Bridge Club are very active but interest in the Badminton Club, Athletic Club and Soccer Club seems to have declined, though the latter, recently, may have got a new lease of life. The local Gun Club has developed its grounds in Cave and holds lots of shoots each year whilst nearby the Angling Club has made tremendous strides in developing the White Lake and surrounds to facilitate the many anglers, children and adults, who enjoy this pastime. The Mountaineering Club are still scaling the heights – I nearly forgot them (the editor would never forgive me!).

Those with a leaning to more cultural pursuits are well catered for by the St. Patrick's Dramatic Society which still flourishes, and since '87 stages a play during the Festival as well as their usual Winter production, and by Cantairi Bheal Atha Amnais, which has enjoyed notable successes at Festivals and Feiseanna, and by the Heritage Society which, though not in its infancy, has not really got airborne yet. The North-Connacht Farmers still keep the co-operative spirit alive.



On a more altruistic note it's great to see those in Western Care Committee, Rehab, Apostolic Workers, Legion of Mary and St. Vincent de Paul still giving of their time and commitment. The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association still carries on its good work. Another welcome revival this decade is that of the I.C.A. For youngsters Foroige provides interesting activity while the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Brownies were very active in the middle of the decade but recently have not been that prominent. The new showers and the noise of children enjoying themselves during the summer months bear testimony to the Swimming Pool Committee's work.



Politics and Ballyhaunis have always been synonymous and for Fine Gael the jewel in their crown was the election to the Dail of Jim Higgins in 1987. This party and Fianna Fail have commanded the most influence in these parts for years. Two breakaways from the latter, Independent Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats showed their colours in the recent election – a sign of things to come!!

Personally, the eighties rang many changes – my three children became teenagers, two of them graduating from the local Community School and the youngest is in this year's Leaving Cert. Class. I celebrated my fiftieth birthday (I count that an achievement), my mother died. In '85 I was in America and Canada and renewed many old acquaintances and in '88 I was in America again. My eldest son celebrated his 21st birthday last October while his younger brother in '88 involved himself as a drummer with a Rock Group, "The Aftermath," (both great experiences for my wife and me as well as for them). Most significantly (some would say traumatically) for me I resigned from the political party I had been weaned on and grown up with and joined the P.D.s in 1986.

Some things stand out in my memory from the last ten years: The warmth of the welcome my wife and I got in America and the overall "flaithfhiuilness" of everybody we met, not just the Irish Americans. Coupled with that was an awareness, it may be misplaced, that America is surely the land of opportunity. The absolute sense of pride in being a Mayo man on that beautiful warm August Sunday, in 1985, in Croke Park, when our Seniors drew with Dublin and went so very, very near to beating them. The wonderful feeling of well-being created by the first Summer Festival in '87 – the crack in the pubs at night, Tom Dillon Leetch and his photos, dancing and music in the Square, the parade on the closing day – all those and more seemed to imbue everybody with a spirit of goodwill and joy. Very recently, in the last month, in fact, two products of the modern media heartened me enormously – Gay Byrne's interview on the Late Late Show of Johnny Carroll and a gentleman from Limerick about their wives' deaths was the most absorbing and sensitive 15 or 20 minutes of television I'd

**The Boy Scouts on the summit of Nephin Beg, the "high point" of an adventure weekend spent at the An 'Oige Youth Hostel in Treenlaur, Newport during early Oct. – Standing: Patrick Gallagher, Fintan Byrne, Mark McCafferky, Joe Burke, Mark Gallagher, David Ahern; Stretched: Paul Nolan, Brian Byrne, Grahame Cleary, Kieran Flynn, Niall Kelly.**

ever seen and I think it'll stay with me for a long time. The following night In Midas Night Club I was enthralled by Christy Moore's cabaret show. Surely he must be the most social-conscious entertainer around as well as being outrageously funny, tender and thought-provoking – certainly a man to watch for the nineties. As I conclude this journey back over the last ten years the thought strikes me, "will I be alive this time ten years?" – I know ten years ago when I did something like this that thought never entered my head – there's a message there somewhere!! For the nineties my hopes are ideally that the festival continues, that our pollution problem will be solved, and that a Ring Road will be built around our marvellous little town (more and more I'm becoming aware of the great need for this), countywise I'd love to see Mayo win at least one All-Ireland Football Final, while nationally wouldn't it be wonderful if the scourge of emigration was finally ended.



**Mrs. Regan and son Tim (Tooraree) home after 40 years.**



# MEMORIES OF AN OLD FRIEND

As I contemplate on times long past there is one man whom I will always cherish in my memory with deep affection and respect, that man is Martin Byrne. Martin was born in Island in the latter part of the last century. His father Domnick hailed from the Knock area. His mother was Bridget Freeley an aunt of the late Michael Freeley also of Island.

All of Martin's family emigrated, with the exception of two sisters, one of whom settled in the south of Ireland and the other, Bridget, lived with Martin in the family home at Island. Like her brother Martin, Bridget was highly intelligent and could discuss current affairs, or past history. It gave her great pleasure to debate on the life and times of that great Irish woman Maud Gonne McBride and many other notables of that period.

Martin grew up in hard times. He went to America at an early age, and found employment with a very wealthy family, surnamed Rylander. He became a great favourite of the family, due to his ready wit which they enjoyed immensely. After a few years he came home and his homecoming brought new life to his native village that he loved so well.

There was no machinery to cultivate the land, so it was done by physical strength with spade, shovel and pick. His motto was "there is no such thing as it 'can't be done'." So with Martin, failure was out of the question. The flax crop was regarded as a profitable venture, so Martin joined those giving it a try. However the returns were not as good as expected, so the flax-growing eventually became a thing of the past.

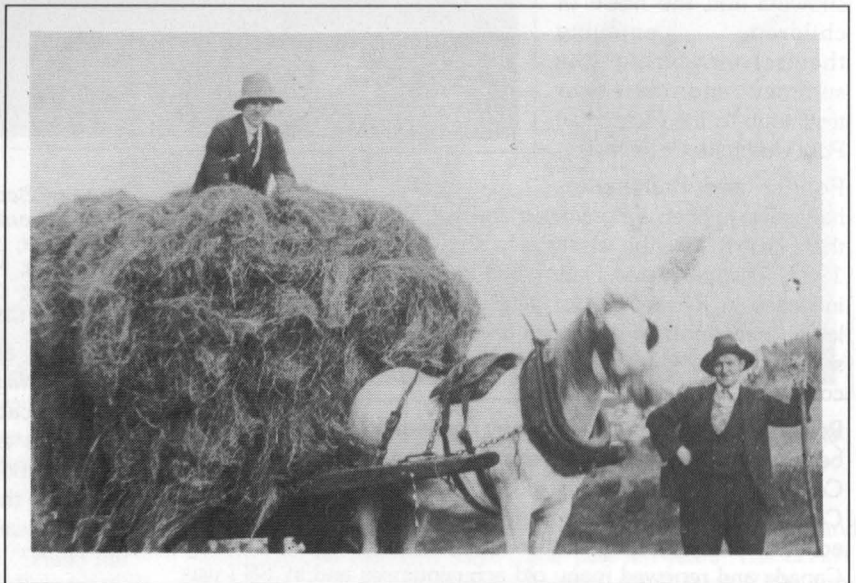
In those days many of the menfolk emigrated to England, in order to subsidise the income at home. The wife had to look after the farm and the family; and often help was required in an emergency. It did not matter what hour of the day or night Martin was called out he was always ready and willing to lend a helping-hand. Sometimes a cow had difficulty in calving but with Martin's skilful hands, and the prayers of the woman of the house the problem was soon solved and everybody was happy.

## 1916 RISING

In 1916 the peaceful atmosphere of the Irish countryside was disturbed. The young men of the time were requested to volunteer for training and active service. Martin offered his services in defence of his country against a foreign power. He became an active member of the volunteers. The four years that followed were rough for everybody. Martin's whole concern was for his comrades in arms; men like Captain Martin Forde, Lieut. Paddy Delaney and many others. One night he was ready for bed and he opened the door and heard the sound of the Crosley Tenders carrying the British soldiers coming in the distance. He lost no time and as fast as he could he headed for Forde's and Delaney's. When he arrived both men had fled. He headed straight for the dug out, which was a rough shelter below the surface of the ground. To his delight he was greeted by the two men he had gone to alert. From that time on Martin took no chance by staying in his own house, especially during the night.

The troubled years passed, the countryside got back to normal and some of the old traditions of Irish life returned. People

used to gather in a country house for a night's entertainment of music, song and dance, which was called "a spree". The music would be supplied by local musicians and the night would not be complete without Paddy Delaney an accomplished melodian and fiddle player and also a fine singer, but the highlight of the night would be Martin Byrne's recital of Emmett's "Speech from the Dock". His powerful voice certainly did justice to that very lengthy speech. Martin would stand with his back to the fire and when he finished, the house shook with the applause and indeed well-deserved it was.



*Martin Byrne and Ownie Kilduff Photo Jimmy Sloyan, Brackloon).*

There is one thing I regret and that is that these local men who participated in the War of Independence did not sit down and relate to us in detail the harrowing experiences they had during those troubled times. What a wealth of local history we would have at first hand. I was in the company of all those men many times, as they were neighbours of mine but they preferred to forget that it ever happened and tried to start their lives over again.

Go ndeanaidh Dia Triocaire ar a n-anamacha.

## MEMORIES OF AN OLD FRIEND

By Tommy Murphy

So a fond farewell to you Martin,  
Your memory still lives on  
In the hearts and souls of all you knew  
Some of which are now dead and gone  
But those of us who still remain  
For how long no one can tell  
Pray that your spirit shines like the Morning Star  
On the village you loved so well.

Tommy Murphy.



# Mary Lyons Coolughra – 100 Years Old in Atlanta, Georgia

It was in April 1988, when a letter arrived from Atlanta, Georgia, that I found out my Aunt Mary was alive. After the death of my Uncle Martin the family had no contact with our relations in America and so it came as a surprise to receive a letter from the U.S.A. A bigger surprise was still to come – Aunt Mary would be one hundred years old on May 1st. All this news came in a letter from Melba Wood – my first cousin.

On May 1st I telephoned Atlanta to wish a happy birthday to my Aunt only to find that she was in a home for elderly people. At this time I had made plans to visit friends of mine in Alaska and from there go South to the Archdiocese of Seattle where I worked after my ordination. During the next few days I thought that it would be nice to visit Aunt Mary and her family and so went to my travel agent. I was delighted to find that there were regular flights from Seattle, Wash. to Atlanta, Georgia and with my ramblers ticket, would cost very little. The long journey to meet my Aunt Mary was to begin.

On June 19th I flew from Shannon to New York and after two days I flew from there via Salt Lake City, Utah to Anchorage, Alaska. The flight was unbelievable. The clear skies over the States gave me a great aerial view of the Prairies, the Mid-West, the Grand Canyon and Salt Lake City. The flight from there to Anchorage was awe-inspiring. As the plane flew over the North West of America and Canada it seemed as if the snow-capped mountains were sentinels protecting this beautiful land of Alaska. The glaciers, even though they looked magnificent made one realise that if there was any plane trouble – well there was no place to land!

After two weeks in Alaska I flew South where I met former parishioners and had a most enjoyable time. Then it was on to Atlanta, Georgia. On the telephone I had arranged for Melba Wood (my cousin) to meet me at the Airport. To identify herself she said she would be wearing a green blouse. On arrival I made my way to the terminal building and there waiting was the "lady in green." She did not need 'green' – she was a Lyons – like my Aunt Katie Waldron. The meeting was rather formal, and for a time the Irish accent and the Southern Drawl caused many a "pardon me, what did you say?" With her were her two daughters and their children. After the lovely weather of Alaska and Seattle the temperature and humidity (84° & 90%) of Atlanta were terrible but were soon forgot when we got to their air-conditioned home. As it was past visiting time we did not see Aunt Mary that evening and spent many hours talking "family".

On Saturday morning we drove to the 'home' to meet Aunt Mary. When I entered the door I saw her in a wheel-chair and knew her immediately – she was like my grandmother in Coolughra. The meeting was touching and moving. She gave me a wonderful welcome and straight away started asking questions about the family, Coolughra and Ballyhaunis. Then she told me her own story in a very clear and coherent way.

She was born in 1889, went to the local school, Coolnafarna with the children from the village. The teacher was a Mrs. Burns and the Monitor a Miss Dalton. After school she worked in the fields and took care of the other children – my father Hubert included, 11 years younger. Her eyes filled with tears as she told me of the death of her sister at the age of six – Bridie came home from school sick, and died next day.



**Mrs Mary Tucker with her daughter Melisa Wood and her nephew Fr. Albert Lyons.**

Then with dancing eyes she talked about the visits to town, the Church, the Abbey, and the highlight – the Ballyhaunis Races. In her teens she saw her friends going away and after several refusals by her parents she finally persuaded them to let her travel with a Cissy Murphy to the United States. With sadness in her eyes and voice, she relived the trip by horse and trap with her parents to the station in Ballyhaunis. From there by train to Queenstown and then by boat – "The Cedric" to America. The sailing in November 1910 was terrible – storms, high seas etc., and made her very sick, which she said was one of the reasons she never came home.

In New York she stayed with Cissy Murphy, got work eventually with S.H. Kress – the five and dime magnate. Later she met her husband Clive Tucker a returned G.I. in Ashbury Park and later married him and moved to Georgia. The heat and humidity was too much for an Irish girl and they moved to Florida. Melba was their only child but they did adopt a boy who died some years ago. After the death of her husband, Aunt Mary moved back to Georgia to her daughter Melba. The years had taken their toll and when regular attention became necessary she moved to a residential home for the elderly where she now lives. It is only ten minutes drive from her daughter Melba who sees her every day.

I had to smile when the woman from Coolughra talked about the Masters in Augusta and suggested I go there – a long way from Coolnaha and the Cassidy Cup to Augusta and the Masters – but Mary Lyons had done it. Because of Aunt Mary I stood on the hallowed grounds of Augusta and remembered Coolnaha.

A few days later I left for Boston after Aunt Mary and myself had bridged the generation gap. It was a wonderful visit and I can still remember her as she held me before going to the Airport. Her last words to me were simple but very sincere – please come back to see me next year – all said in an Irish accent. I felt that the goal of my journey was over – Aunt Mary and myself had bridged almost eighty years. Mary Lyons from Cooloughra had met her nephew and both found their roots.



### Cont'd from previous page

To link up with Aunt Mary had taken many miles through Alaska and Seattle and almost 80 years. As I flew home and looked down at the Atlantic Ocean I remembered her story of Ellis Island, where her name is inscribed with many others and compared her story to that of the Glenamaddy boys and girls I stayed with in the Boston/New York area. In 1910 Mary left with very little hope of returning, in the 1980's the boys and girls of Glenamaddy and every village in Ireland left too, but always with a hope of returning. They are only five hours away, she and many like her went for ever. The telephone of today brings families closer – but not so in 1910. But yet the story is the same, the New World calls and the hills are still green far away. The homes of Ireland still miss their exiles just as much today in 1989 as they did in Nov. 1910 when Mary Lyons left Cooloughra.

Let us hope that the exiles of the eighties will some day come back to the towns and villages of Ireland where they are missed, because Mary Lyons will only return in spirit as many of her contemporaries could only do. They did us proud and their names on the walls of Ellis Island will always be a reminder of the hard times in Ireland. Mary and her likes had so little but gave so much, to the land of their adoption. I was lucky to have got that letter from Atlanta in April 1989 telling me Aunt Mary was alive and wanted to meet me. Thousands have not been so lucky.

I hope that my visit with her brought a little taste of Cooloughra, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo and Ireland to a wonderful person. For her the years were long – 80 of them, for me the miles were long, thousands of them, but thank God we had found one another.

## ANNAGH LAKE

Those of us who were around in the 60's will remember Annagh Lake. Approximately 70 acres was under water with a lovely strand running along the road. The strand was very flat along the lake and nearer the road there was an embankment which gave some shelter and privacy from the road. The strand was open to the public road and motor vehicles could drive in to the lake edge. This lake was situated about 1 mile from Ballyhaunis.

In 1969 as part of the Moy drainage the Glone River was drained and deepened and this resulted in draining away the water from the lake. This drainage benefited the farming community. The lake strand as it was owned by the local farmers was fenced in and reclaimed. They did not own the lake bed.

Since 1969 to date the lake bed has been left untouched, but now the news is good. A committee has been formed under the auspices of the Local Chamber of Commerce. The Committee has worked hard since its inception. It has made enquiries through the various channels to see what Grants are available for such development. Various Engineers and reclamation Contractors have inspected the site to see if it is possible to develop the site and all are in agreement that such development is possible. Access has been acquired, Tom Meehan of Annagh has made available a site of approximately 70 yards which will make an ideal entrance and the Committee are very grateful to him. I know that Tom is happy to be associated with the lake development. The Committee has in mind first to construct a road from the main roads to the centre of the lake bed then raise the centre and make a park, which would be developed as a recreational amenity. The area surrounding the Park would be planted and the area surrounding this again would be lowered and the water would seep in from the river and create a lake. Nearer the shore would be suitable for children bathing and farther out would be deeper and suitable for boating and if the frost comes in winter suitable for skating.

The Committee should be congratulated for all the work and effort put into this enterprise. They would like to hear from anybody with suggestions or financial help so that they can proceed with the development.

It would be my earnest wish that in the not too distant future I will be able to go on my evening walks around the developed lake bed where I spent many happy days in my childhood and I will be able to stand on Carrownedan Hill and look down on the lake below surrounded by trees with people out there enjoying themselves.

Suggestions as to the development would be greatly appreciated and can be made to the following:

Tom Eagney, Coolnaha, Ballyhaunis. Tom Meehan (at present in Warsaw) who can be contacted at Annagh, Ballyhaunis.

Austin Grogan, Myles Henry, Gerard McGarry and John

## BALLYHAUNIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ballyhaunis Public Library has been opened over seventeen years and in 1988 it had 850 borrowers on the register, while over 21,500 books were issued. The Library bookstock contains some 3,000 non-fiction titles and a large number of subjects are covered. These include – Literature, History, Religion, Music, Biographies, Sport and many more. The fiction stock includes – general novels as well as the Classics, Romances and Westerns. In the Childrens Section there are over 3,500 books. Here you will find anything from the most simple books for babies to fiction and knowledge books for children finishing school.

The realization of the benefits to be derived from using the library is well appreciated by the people of Ballyhaunis. The encouragement given by the local teachers to the children has brought about an increase in the number of children using the library from 187 in 1985 to 425 in 1988. The highlight of the week for us at Ballyhaunis Library is the visit by some 30 pupils from Scoil Naisiunta Mhuire with their teacher, Mr. Jim London. We hope that the Library will be of some benefit to their education. It is also hoped that the use of the library at this early age will encourage a continued benefit from books for life. If some lonely hour could be filled by visiting a library, be it in New York or London, then the service we provide is more than worthwhile.

If you require any assistance when you visit Ballyhaunis Library, Ann is always available and ready to help.

Branch Librarian – Ann Coyne, Telephone – (0907) 30161.

### Branch Opening Hours

|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>– Closed</b>            |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>– 12.00 - 5.00 p.m.</b> |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>– 3.00 - 8.00 p.m.</b>  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>– Closed</b>            |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>– 3.00 - 8.00 p.m.</b>  |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>– 12.00 - 5.00 p.m.</b> |



# BALLYHAUNIS WIN CARROLLS PRO-AM TOURNAMENT IN PORTMARNOCK AGAIN



The highlight of the golfing year was the tremendous win by Ballyhaunis golfers Michael Mahoney, Pat Curley and Anthony McNicholas with Gordon J. Brand in the Carrolls Pro-Am in Portmarnock in June when Ballyhaunis beat all other clubs in the country.

Gerry Thornley in the "Irish Times" described the win as follows:-

"Ballyhaunis bridged a nine year gap in Portmarnock yesterday, repeating their victory of the inaugural Carrolls Pro-Am in 1980. On that occasion they played with Nick Faldo (Vinnie Freyne, John Dillom, John Forde) and a key element in their latest triumph was the influence of Yorkshireman Gordan J. Brand.

The winning margin for the Mayo team could hardly have been closer. Star performer Pat Curley, with a handicap of nine, club captain Michael Mahony, 12, and Anthony McNicholas, 18, posted a round of 128 - 16 under par as did Forrest Little who were partnered with Barry Lane. The Westerners claimed first place on a countback.

Given the closeness of the outcome, a key factor in the Ballyhaunis victory was a splendid birdie four by Mahony at the long 16th. As it happened, they eventually triumphed by only one stroke on the breakdown of the cards, with a back nine of 65 against 66 from the Dublin club.

It was highly appropriate that Mahony should have made such a valuable contribution. Ballyhaunis qualified for this highly prized event through a six yard putt by Mahony at the last hole of their Connacht qualifying section.

In the overall context however, their outstanding performer was Curley, who scored an approximate 78 gross, including two gross birdies. This represented splendid play on a demanding championship links which was swept by fresh north-east winds making the fourth, sixth, seventh and 11th holes particularly daunting."

A delighted Michael Mahony said: "This was the culmination of a lot of hard work. We came down for a practice round here



**Ballyhaunis Carroll's Pro-Am Winners 1989 receive their prizes in Portmarnock. (l. to r.) Pat Curley, Gordan J. Brand, Michael Mahoney, Anthony McNicholas.**

and practised on the Island yesterday which has similar terrain. We were hanging on by the skin of our teeth, but Pat (Curley) was magnificent."

## GOLF CLUB OFFICERS:-

President: Mr. John Dillon; Vice-President: Mr. Stephen Tarpey; Captain: Mr. Michael Mahoney; Vice-Captain: Mr. Vincent Freyne; Hon. Sec.: Mr. John Forde; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. John Mooney; Competition sec.: Mr. Tom Prenty; Handicap Sec.: Mr. Michael Glynn; P.R.O.: Mr. Jim Landon; Registrar: Mr. Joe Burke; Trustees: Mr. John Dillon, Mr. John Forde, Mr. Milo Henry, Mr. Noel Waldron, Mr. John O'Brien; Lady Captain: Mrs. Mary Dillon; Vice-Captain: Breege Coyne; Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Miss Norrie Dillon; Treasurer: Mrs. Angela Joyce; Handicap Sec.: Miss May Moyles.

Captain's Prize Winner: Pat Martin; Lady Captain's Prize winner: Fiona Prenty.

Jim Landon



**Ballyhaunis Carroll's Pro-Am Winners 1989 receive their prizes in Portmarnock. (l. to r.) Pat Curley, Gordan J. Brand, Michael Mahoney, Anthony McNicholas.**



# Wedding



*Cecilia Caulfield, Bohogue and Christopher McIntyre, Aughamore.*



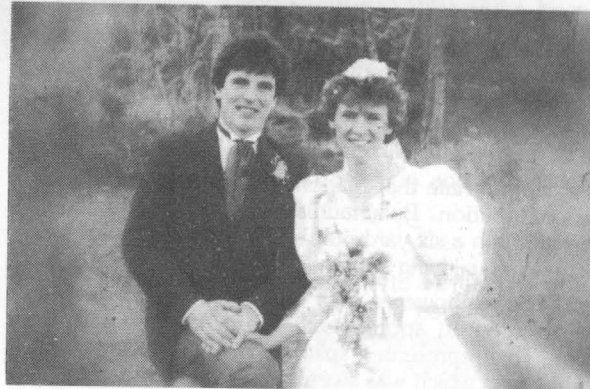
*Patricia Sweeney, Drimbane and Michael Walsh, Dublin.*



*Thomas Moran, Lecarrow, and Pauline Carty, Strandhill.*



*Gerry Moran, Lecarrow, and Katherina Cribben, Knockbrack.*



*Mary Gilmore, Johnstown and Hugh Sweeney, Templemore.*



*Noreen O'Reilly, Holywell.*



*Joan Connell, Devils and Peter Loftus, Ballina.*



*Marina Levins, Clare Str.*  
*Cas*



# Pictures



**Carney, Carrowkeel and  
McNicholas, Athlone.**



**Il and John P. Fahey, Ballymoe.**



**Mike Byrne, Clare Street, and Helen Biesty,  
Pattens Park.**



**Benny Curley, Clare St., and T.J. McCarrick, Enniscrone.**  
– (Photo courtesy Pat Glynn).



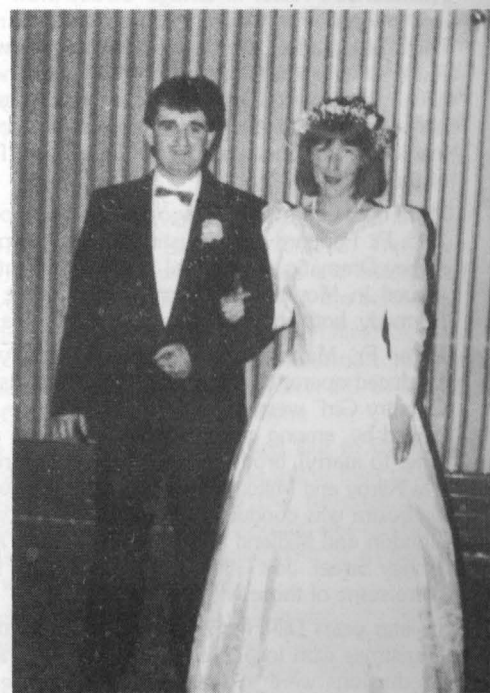
**Anna Herr, Knox St, and Cearbhall O'Meadhra, Bray.**



**Street and Edward Campion,  
Castlereagh.**



**Deirdre Durkan, Abbey St. and Kenneth Dennedy,  
Knock.**



**John Flatley, Clare Street and Mary Horan,  
Ballinafad, Co. Sligo.**



# ENTERTAINMENT THROUGH THE YEARS

By Jack Halpin

Fifty, sixty or seventy years ago Ballyhaunis, like many other small Irish towns, knew nothing of Television, Discos, or Singing Pubs. But unlike other places Ballyhaunis was able to provide a good deal of entertainment for its residents and any others who might like to avail of it.

Over Mike Byrne's pub (then owned by Donnellans) was a Hall where silent films were shown. The projectionist was Phil Hayes, who owned a Ford Model-T Yellow Open Touring Car. These films were the earliest shown in this area, as far as I recall. I was lucky that my father brought me to see some of them.

Later on, Johnny Conway, who owned a large Hardware and General Provision store, where Eugene's and J. Walsh's Bookie office are now, built a hall in "Thè Backway" where Gallagher's old store is. Here Bill Hearne projected the films and here the first talkie in these parts was shown. The late Mrs. Dalton (Clare St.) played the piano for the silent movies. As well, two companies, Carrons and Caslins, brought their travelling cinema here and put on some talkies.

Over McGarry's shop there was a dance hall, once owned by Moyletts (connected to the Ballina, people of that name) and films could be seen there too.

Where Dillons had their shop in Clare Street, Donnellans and Foudys once had a Wool Store on the ground floor. The late James Waldron, Noel's father, bought these premises and here in the upstairs section Carrons and Caslins, at different times, showed films, mostly talkies.

Around 1940 the Parochial Hall was built and it had films two or three nights a week with a matinee for children some weekends which was often a cowboy film – Hopalong Cassidy was a great favourite!

In the late 40s McGarry's built the Star Cinema, with modern decor – it is still happily with us, now Cinema 1 and 2.

All those halls I have mentioned catered for their patrons with live shows as well. Anew McMaster, with his Shakespearean Company, were regular visitors – and he himself stayed in Fitzmaurice's Hotel in Bridge Street (now Georgie Hannons) and he drove a magnificent Renault car. Other travelling companies such as Daniels, Harry Lynton, Blacks, and Pattersons favoured us with their tremendous shows. They gave great entertainment – for a week they put on a different play each night and some variety acts with comedians, jugglers, magicians and dancers (Eugene Dolan and I got to know some of those girls!!).

More than seventy years ago we also had local Drama Groups. With Fr. Peppard an Augustinian Friar, as producer, St. Mary's Abbey Dramatic and Choral Society presented variety acts and played in Moyletts/McGarrys Hall. Eddie Biesty and Annie Kennedy, both still alive, were among the casts.

Later Fr. Mansfield, Prior at the Friary for some years, produced operettas and plays. "Pearl the Fishermid" and "The Country Girl" were two of these musicals – leading roles were played by, among others, Agnes Fitzgerald and Neil O'Donnell (later to marry), brothers Paddy and Mido Freeley, Gerry Dillon, Pat Kilroy and Miko Conway's (Johnie Conway's son) wife. The orchestra was conducted by a Corkonian, Willie Comerford, a London and Midland and Scottish Railway Agent, who lived in Abbey Street. Joe Gilmore (Brickens), and Francis Fitzmaurice were some of those who played in it.

In later years Dill Hughes (nee Eaton) produced operettas each Christmas with local children making up the casts. Her earlier productions were in Waldrons Hall but the Parochial was the



**Jack Halpin in Australia with family friends – (l. to r.) J. Halpin, Marcy Flatley, Mary Halpin-O'Brien, Mary Flatley.**

venue for most of them. Nelly Roche, Louis Hyland, Marie Connell (nee Flatley), Mary Hannah O'Connor (nee Jordan), Tom Gavin, brothers Bertie and Joe Lynch and Bertie Curley took leading parts in earlier shows of hers and later Mary Morley (nee O'Boyle), P.J.'s wife and Tommy Johnston (he once filled in for Mary!!) were among those with leading roles. The practices in Eaton's sitting room, the rehearsals and the shows themselves gave children a lot to look forward to then.

The first dances I remember were in McGarry's/Moylett's Hall in the late 20s. As a child I watched people, all dressed up for the occasion, going in to the Nurse's Dance – Nurse Whiteside was the Jubilee Nurse and a dance was held for the Jubilee Nurses' Fund each year. Men wore evening dress with white gloves and the ladies were attired in beautiful long evening gowns. These dances went on from 9 in the evening till 6 the following morning and supper was included. Bands came from Dublin to play at them. Tommy Hannon, Eugene Dolan and myself subleased this hall from the Race Committee, who held the dance Licence and ran 'hops' there once a week or so. These were informal dances and were on from 8 to 12, and admission was 1/6 (if you had it!). P. J. Murtagh, Kiltimagh supplied the music for £6. Both the Golf Club and Race Committee ran dances here annually – the former was formal with supper supplied.

I count myself lucky to have grown up and grown old in the warm little town of Ballyhaunis. As well as all the aforementioned we could boast a very active Boy Scouts Troop – I was lucky to be a member under its first master, Bill Mulligan, when we went to the 1932 Eucharistic Congress and to Rome. As well I was in the first Parish Choir to broadcast, conducted by Professor Atherton and Brother Pat Kennedy (Annie Kennedy's brother).

So Ballyhaunis and the last 60 years or so hold many memories for me – I'm very grateful for the opportunity to share some of them and hope they might bring a smile and maybe a tear to some of your faces.



# BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY GAMES

By whatever yardstick success is measured 1989 was a great year for the Ballyhaunis Community Games.

This success was due to all the help and assistance from the various sports clubs, parents, individuals but most of all from the teachers of St. Mary's National School and the Convent of Mercy National School.

The teachers organisational skills were seen "in full flight" on a beautiful June Thursday when approximately 500 children descended on the G.A.A. grounds for the local athletics finals at 10 a.m. By 1 p.m, the students were back in their classrooms having competed in over forty events. There is just one area where we would like to see more people take part, that is in the athletics and cycling under 17 years, under 16 years and under 14 years.

Local competitions took place as follows:

**ART:** Most students in the National; Schools entered this competition which was judged by Chris Pratt.

Conor O'Dwyer went on to win a Silver Medal at the County Finals.

## ATHLETICS;

As previously mentioned approximately 500 children took part in the local finals organised by Michael Cleary, Breege Cleary, Peg Byrne and the teachers of both National Schools.

Thanks to the G.A.A. for the use of the pitch which was like a carpet underfoot.

In the Under 12 Boys Long Puck Peter Healy won a Gold Medal at County level and went on to the finals in Mosney. Simon Webb won a County Silver Medal at 100 metres and Bronze Medals were won by Caroline Madden and Michael Webb.

## CYCLING:

Michael Cleary arranged training for those interested during June and the result was that Brian Freyne went on to win a Bronze Medal in the County Final in Westport.

## DRAUGHTS:

A Large crowd of children descended on the Scouts Den for the Local competition to pick teams to compete at County Level. The Under-10 team won the Silver Medals in the County Finals in Crossmolina. The team was Amar Javid, James Healy, Elis Murphy, Claire Flynn, Karl McManus, Paul Finn, Michael Regan.

## PITCH & PUTT:

Pat and Kay Curley took approximately 30 children over to Kiltimagh on a few occasions and as a result both boys and girls under 16 teams competed at County Level. The boys team were narrowly beaten. The girls team were County Champions and went on to finish 6th in the All Ireland Finals. Managers: Pat Curley, Kay Curley and Rita London.

## TEAM GAMES:

Under 12 Boys Soccer Team retained the county title by beating Swinford 8 - 0, Ballina 2 - 0, Westport 3 - 0 and the Quay Ballina in the final 10 - 0. They won the Connacht Semi Final 2 - 1 against Maheraboy from Sligo and were narrowly beaten by 2 goals to 1 by Mervue of Galway in the final.

The panel was:- Simon Webb (Captain), Brian Flanagan, Eoin Butler, Peter Healy, Stephen Glynn, John Fahey, P.C. Curley, John Burke, Pierce Higgins, Mark Curley, Paul Finn, Ian Webb, Patrick Keane, Nial Tighe, Seamus London and Edward Webb.

Selectors were: Jim London, Michael Webb and Pat O'Connor.

## Gaelic Football Under 13:

The team had two great wins over Swinford and Castlebar by 2 - 8 to 3 - 1, and 3 - 8 to 2 - 4 respectively before being well



**The Ballyhaunis U-16 Girls Pitch and Putt team which represented Mayo in the Community Games Finals in Mosney 1989 - Front (l. top r.) Caroline Tighe, Catriona Curley; Back: Hilary Mooney, Sinéad London, Lorraine Tighe, Rita London (manager). Missing from picture is Team Coach Pat Curley.**

beaten by a combined Claremorris/Mayo Gaels Team in the County Final.

Selectors: Jimmy Walsh, Michael Webb and Pat O'Connor.

## HURLING:

Considering that under age hurling only started in November, 1988 it was a great achievement in itself to field a team of 15 to contest the County Final against Ballina and even though the team was well beaten, they will be back again in 1990 as they were nearly all a year younger than their opponents. The team was managed by Peter Higgins.

## BASKETBALL:

The Girls Under 13 Team were narrowly beaten in the first round by Ballinrobe. They had been trained by Mrs. Mary Mulvihill and Miss Aine Whelan.

Girls Under 16 Team trained by Mr. Ray Charles won the County title and were narrowly beaten in The Connacht Semi-Final. The panel consisted of: Tracy Phillips, Ursula Delaney, Muirna Walsh, Dolores Waldron, Fiona Sloyan, Yvonne Byrne, Stephanie Tarpey, Mary Maughan, Karen Byrne and Sinead Biesty.

## RUGBY:

The boys Under 11 Rugby team coached by Dr. Alan Delaney won the County Final beating Ballina by 28 - 8. They won their preliminary round in the Connacht Finals and lost out in a close tussle to a very strong Ballinasloe Team in the Semi-final.

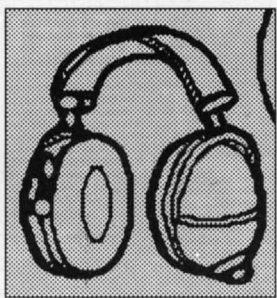
The panel consisted of: Alan Delaney Jnr., Oliver Jordan, Patrick Freyne, Marcus Murphy, Brian Hannan, Ciaran Murphy, Cormac Cleary, Simon McCafferty, M. J. Nolan, Seamus Freyne, Colm Jordan and Noel Freyne.

The Community Games Committee would like to thank the Community School and the G.A.A. for the use of their grounds for training and competitions, also the parents of the contestants, particularly those who transported the children to the various events, as this kept the running costs to a minimum and anyone else who assisted in any way.

This years officers were: Jim London, Chairman; Dr. Michael Cleary, Secretary; Rita London and Sister Teresa Fahy, Joint Treasurers; Pat O'Connor, P.R.O.; Michael Webb and Pat Curley, Delegates to County.



# MID WEST



Monday, July 24th of this year, was a historic day for the county and the region, and it was especially important for Ballyhaunis as it marked the legal rebirth of Mid West Radio, MWR FM, for the town and for Connaught. For many in the town area, the official opening transmitted live from Breaffy House in Castlebar was the end of a long wait for the return of a station they felt was a part of them and which had been forced off the air as a pirate.

But it was more than the return of a friend, a twirling anew of country sounds. Whether one liked it or not, it was bigger than that. MWR was the first regional radio station on air, being months ahead of others, and being pioneers in a whole new broadcasting era. And whether one liked it or not, it could not be exactly the same. Everything was legal now, royalties and commissions would have to be paid, and strict regulations adhered to.

By planning or not, Ballyhaunis was a good choice to have one's headquarters. The station is working on fulltime studios in Castlebar, where the news will come from with a news editor, and in Ballina, but Ballyhaunis will remain the centre of operations. It was a good choice because it is within a few miles of the Galway and Roscommon borders. It has thus meant that rather than just being a county radio, Mid West has become very much a regional radio, broadcasting with conviction into Roscommon, Galway, not to mention Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal and even further afield.

This has meant that MWR has actually taken on a national importance, even though it is a regional station. Just as a very large regional paper, such as the Cork Examiner, has a national significance, so also a regional station. that has good penetration in a pretty big area, has to be taken into account on a national scale. And that cannot be doing the town of Ballyhaunis any harm at all.

The stories are growing about the new station just as in pirate days. For example when Paul Claffey on his show had a competition for animal noises, one gent went down to the local phone booth to ring in and demonstrate his ability. Such were the sounds from the man that the local squad car pulled in alongside to know what was going on! Or the housewife who was stretched on the floor doing her exercises with the radio when a surprised postman looked in through the window!

However there had to be some changes and on the music front Paul Claffey is the first to say that they are no longer a straight-forward country and western station. "We are more a middle-of-the-road station with an emphasis on Irish artistes. If the local artiste does not get airplay then live music will die," he adds.

Gerry Glennon would be of the same opinion as his boss. "With legality then we had to open up more. There used to be three pirate stations and there was a choice of music. With one

we have a broader appeal – a lot of young people and people working in the county from outside listen to us also.

Paul Claffey has also been pleased with the response that the station has got: "The general reaction has been terrific. We have been overwhelmed by the goodwill of the people. I think that people tended to associate the success of our coming on air with the footballing success of the Mayo team, and they viewed both as a major boost for the county."

He also has been delighted with the broadcasting talent he has found in the area and says that he believes this to be one of the functions of local radio – to give local voices airplay on various topics.

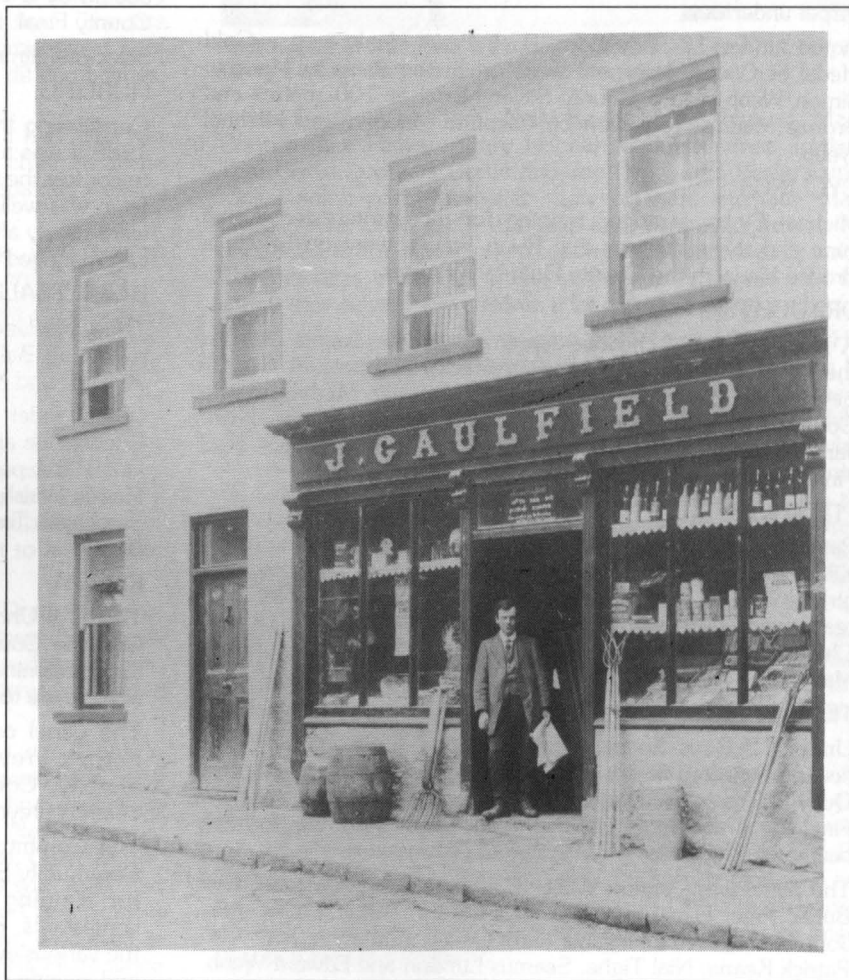
The latest figures show that the station employs about 53 people on a full or part-time basis – some of those may be people with other jobs who produce a programme a week. There are about seven fulltime presenters, the Production Manager Chris Carroll, three fulltime sales representatives on the road, and about ten office staff, working in reception, on the switchboard, accounts, and so on.

"This is probably the most competitive business that anyone could be in at the moment. I think that only half of the stations that they have given licences to will last the pace," says Paul Claffey.

"However, I'm confident that if we can monitor what the people want, we will survive," he adds.

Séan 'O Donmhaill.

"Western People" Reporter



**Jim Caulfield outside his own shop in Abbey Street (now housing M.W.R. FM Radio). – (Photo courtesy Mrs. T. McGarry).**



# FINE GAEL - TWO GOOD RACES

The Ballyhaunis Branch and indeed all the Branches in the area were on full alert from that day in April, when the Taoiseach returned from a State visit to Japan, and in front of Fine Gael Chief Whip, Jim Higgins threatened a General Election unless Fine Gael and the other opposition parties backed down from their demands for funds for Haemophilic sufferers who had contracted Aids from State-supplied blood. Needless to say, there was no such backdown; and so, June 25th, brought the second General Election in two years. The organisation more than "did its business" and when the ballot boxes were opened in the Swinford Count Centre, local man Jim Higgins had romped home again in another poll-topping finish, with 8463 first preference votes; a surplus of 1684; and the third highest percentage vote in the entire country.

Jim, in his victory address in the Square, thanked "one of the finest political machines in Ireland, and particularly those stalwarts who stood by me through thick and thin."

### John Prenty - praise and congratulations

While the result was the work of a wonderful team, no praise would be too high for Director of Elections John Prenty, ably assisted by Tony Cribben. The Branch wishes to register its congratulations to John for his success as a king-pin in the Mayo Senior Football triumphs of 1989 and its wishes for even greater success in 1990.

The Branch organised very successful functions throughout the year with M.E.P. Joe McCartin attending one; and Front Bench Spokesman on Agriculture, Paul Connaughton T.D., present at another, as guest speakers.

### Millennium Marathon

The accompanying photograph celebrates Jim's second great race-achievement. Noted from his youth for his unselfish work on behalf of the handicapped Jim "voted for them once again with his feet" in completing the Radio 2 Dublin City Millennium Marathon. Bedrooms in the O'Dwyer Cheshire Home are sporting new furniture thanks to his raising £1305 in sponsorship. The enormity of his achievement is only in focus in the light of his gruelling work-schedule.



*Jim Higgins T.D. presenting cheque for £1305 which he raised on his marathon '89 run, to Angela Campbell, Chairperson, O'Dwyer-Cheshire Home, and residents.*

### Ballyhaunis Regional Executive

Noel Armstrong, Chairman; John Comer, Vice- Chairman; John O'Connell and John Clancy, Joint Treasurers; Mary Buckley, Secretary; John Flanagan, P.R.O.

Mary Buckley, Secretary.



# BALLYHAUNIS RE-HAB

**The Ballyhaunis branch was formed in 1978, since then we have been involved in fund-raising for the National Rehabilitation Institute, the money raised goes to workshops around the country to train people with disabilities in the skills required to work in industries.**

This year we saw the completion of our £1 million centre in Castlebar which was officially opened on the 18th October by Mr. Padraic Flynn T.D. This workshop will incorporate training services in Headwear, Weaving, Catering and Confectionery. It caters for 100 trainees.

which is sponsored by Connacht Scaffolding and Ryan Air. The competition is going extremely well. The Committee would like to thank the Sponsors, the Contestants and Pubs for participating.

**Officers:- Chairperson: Una Shields; Secretary: Teresa Keane; Treasurer: Rita Hannon; P.R.O. Maire Connell; Committee: Breda Burke, Mary Keane, Luke Lawlor, Joe Hosty, Margie Gallagher, Mary Dillon-Leetch, Sr. Dympna, Mary Walshe, Mary Higgins, Ann O'Dwyer.**

Teresa Keane

At the moment we are running a Pub Talent Competition





# STUDYING IN THE USA

by Peter McHugh

**The transatlantic crossing is an experience common to many Irish. All, I'm sure, remember the first time they landed at JFK or Logan airport in Boston and walked out into the fast moving and noisy atmosphere of an American city.**

I travelled over for the first time in August 1987. I was struck by the heat and almost suffocating humidity as I walked into the terminal building at Logan. I couldn't imagine how I would get used to these conditions. I felt drained of energy; the luggage seemed heavier than it did at Shannon. However the sense of being in a foreign land gave me a strong feeling of excitement. This made the discomforts seem minor and I couldn't wait to get out and experience the place at first hand. I was, to use a common American expression, "really psyched" about the whole thing. The questions of the immigration official, laden with suspicion, were offputting to say the least. It was as if I had to apologise for my presence here. I had hoped for a more hospitable welcome to the country that was to be my home for the next four years. My discussion with the said official did end on a light note however. He was obviously a student of the book of the Apocalypse because when he had written down the first three numbers of my birth date (6-6-6 . . .) he stopped dead, looked at me and said "I don't think we can let you into this country with these numbers Peter." The following seconds were filled with an anxious silence that was broken, to my relief, by his laughter. However it left me wondering about my destiny in life!

**I wanted to postpone having to get a job for another few years and anyway I still considered myself too ignorant!**

I stepped out of the terminal building into the very bright afternoon sun. The airport was very busy and noisy and there was a strong smell of exhaust fumes. I got my first glimpse of the Boston skyline from a large grimy taxi with a fast-talking driver who kept going on about how the city was full of Irish while periodically swearing at the rush-hour traffic jams. I stayed in Boston with James and Paul Waldron, two fellow Ballyhaunismen, for a few days. I got used to the heat and discovered that Boston tap water tastes terrible. Everything around me was fast, large and loud. Huge Chevy's and Cadillacs, designed by people with no taste, roared around.

The purpose of my trip to the US was to study, not having had enough of it in secondary school or four years in UCG! I wanted to postpone having to get a job for another few years and anyway I still considered myself too ignorant! I had been accepted into the Engineering Graduate School of Brown University, Rhode Island and it was there that I set out on the morning of my fourth day in the US with another Irishman, Noel O'Dowd from Oranmore, who was equally intent on studying Engineering at Brown.

Rhode Island is the smallest state in the US and is squeezed in between Massachusetts to the north and east and Connecticut to the west. Providence is the state capital; a coastal city of modest size by American standards. Brown University, one of the eight Ivy League schools, is located on a hill-top overlooking downtown Providence. The University campus is comprised of a collection of red brick buildings in various architectural styles. Trees and green areas are plentiful which make for some really beautiful Autumn scenery.

When we arrived we sought out the apartment that we had rented with the help of another Irish student who was just about to finish at Brown. A third Irishman arrived, David Reynolds from Ballinasloe, and our apartment was full. We got ourselves set up quite quickly. To my delight, Providence tap water tasted great. The initial period of adjustment was made

easier due to the fact that I had the companionship of these two fine men. Support in such times of change is always appreciated.

On conversing with Americans I found that they like the way we speak. I have heard comments ranging from how "cute" to how "cool" it is. I thought I knew how Americans spoke having had so much exposure to the accent in the media. I found that the Rhode Island accent was close enough to what I expected, however I wasn't prepared for some of the expressions. For instance, the greetings – I did not know the answer to "What's up?" Later I found that it was acceptable to say "Not much". I found it strange when shop assistants told me to "Have a good night" when it was only three in the afternoon!

**The beginning of the academic year in September brought with it my first exposure to the American educational system.**

I encountered more than Americans however. A large percentage of the post-graduate students in Brown are from outside the US; everywhere from Greece to Argentina, from Russia to Nigeria. There are many from India and a very large number from China and Korea. Many know little or nothing about Ireland. Some have asked me if I am English and others have commented that I speak English very well for an Irishman. Chinese and Indians laugh when they hear that our population is under four million. There are as many people in one good sized Chinese city. This gives one great perspective on how we fit into the world. The Irish are a rare species. Indians feel a certain affinity for the Irish due to the fact that both have had problems with Britain in the past. Some of them are very interested in the Northern Ireland question. I felt fortunate that I didn't have a large cultural barrier to overcome. It is really tough for the Chinese; the western world is so different to anything they know or can identify with.

The beginning of the academic year in September brought with it my first exposure to the American educational system. This was accompanied by feelings of insecurity about the thoroughness and extent of my Irish education. After a few weeks of courses and interaction with other students I and my fellow countrymen realised that we were very well prepared for what lay before us. However at first we were deprived. People of different nationalities have different attitudes to academic success and to the extent to which they reveal their abilities to others. The orientals work hard and say very little about it. They are just too reserved to conceive of being haughty. This is not true for many of the Greeks and Italians I have met, it is acceptable for them to have a high opinion of themselves. It is difficult for an Irishman, with his self-effacing quality, to accept this arrogance. However, one soon realises that it is good natured and not to be taken seriously. In Universities in the US the emphasis is on a balanced education. For instance in Brown, students in the Sciences and Engineering must study some literature or languages to get their degree. It makes for a more interesting educational experience and leaves one less one-sided in outlook when one graduates.

Social life centers around the University. There is no real tendency for students to mix with locals. The latter frequent the downtown area of Providence which is often not very pleasant at night. In and around the University there are coffee shops, diners, various types of ethnic restaurants and a number of cinemas to cater for the students. The ethnic restaurants were a novelty for me; I developed a liking for Indian pastas and pizza and also for Chinese food. To be honest, I find them more interesting than Irish food which can often be quite bland. However, I must say that it is very difficult to find a decent cup of tea.



With such a selection of post-graduate students from all over the world one might imagine that the social scene would be interesting and eventful. Unfortunately, this is only partly true. A large percentage of the people come with extremely competitive attitudes and are very serious about their work. They consider social interaction of very little importance. Consequently, they give very little and gain almost nothing from the University experience. The same is true for a lot of the Professors, they themselves being products of the same mentality. Fortunately, there are a good number of post-graduate students with balanced approaches to life. These groups make parties, barbecues and other events most enjoyable. The undergraduate students are not subject to the same academic pressures so they live lives that are somewhat

more eventful.

Many get heavily involved in extra-curricular activities. The undergraduates are predominantly Americans and from wealthy backgrounds. I have done some work teaching undergraduate engineering courses and I find the students more vocal and less complacent than their Irish counterparts. In general Browne students are very health conscious and they devote much of their spare time to exercise. Browne is noted for having plenty of fine looking young women – I must say that I cannot dispute this reputation!

I have been here for just over two years and I have enjoyed the experience immensely. Academic life, in an environment as charming as Browne, can be really good fun.

## BALLYHAUNIS TRAINING CENTRE 1989

Apart from the hard graft of daily work, this year has also had its highlights in Ballyhaunis Training Centre. Our trainees had a great year participating in Olympics : bringing back many awards from the special events held in Castlebar in December, the Connaught Olympics held in Roscommon in April and four people qualified for the National games held in Dublin in June. We were also represented by Michael Drudy in the National Belgian Games, who celebrated his 21st birthday in the swimming by winning a gold medal.

When we reached the glorious summer weather and as the work in the garden and tunnel continued, the conversation turned towards our summer holidays. This year we went to Dublin. We were accompanied by some of our friends and family members while we sampled the lot of our city cousins for a week. We were loth to leave the bright lights, the shops and the nightlife, but we returned to our work with a new sense of purposefulness. Indeed you will find us now, in the weeks before Christmas, selling our logs, candles, Christmas socks and jewellery on Market Days in Ballyhaunis, or, please feel free to call to the centre to make your purchase.

Visitors to our Centre in the Knock Road, are very welcome. We would like to encourage more people to get to know us and become involved in our activities. At the moment we have a number of volunteer workers in our centre who attend on a rota basis. We are truly indebted to them for their help with all our projects – gardening, woodwork, cookery, swimming, sport and outings, to mention but a few. We are, however, in urgent need of more help, and would ask anyone interested to contact us. You may telephone Kathryn or Mary at the Centre 0907 - 30502, or talk to any of our volunteers. We will be pleased to arrange a visit to the centre and further information for you.

Our Dinner Dance this year is on December 13th, 1989 and we look forward to seeing our friends for a night of celebration. At this annual event we remember our friends who are no longer with us this year. We have in particular fond memories of Sarah Keadin, whose untimely death occurred last Easter. We remember her constantly in our daily routine.

This September we were joined by a new trainee Joseph Brennan, who is our youngest man. For three of our twelve trainees this was a special year as Maura Mooney, Michael Drudy and Carmel Delaney celebrated their 21st birthdays.



***"Waiting for the train" en route to Dublin on holidays. Left to right: Mary Rattigan (Staff), Paul Carney, Mary Jordan, Mae Murphy, Michael Drudy, Paddy Diskin.***

Finally the trainees and staff would like to thank all whose help and support for the centre was greatly appreciated in the last year. Together we look forward to the future



# BALLYHAUANIS YOUTHS' AMATEUR SOCCER CLUB

When the Ballyhaunis Community Games Under 12 soccer team won the All-Ireland final in Mosney in 1988, it was obvious that there was a great depth of soccer talent in the youth of Ballyhaunis.

In order to develop that talent a meeting was held in June last when the above club was formed. The immediate objective was competition for the Under 13 team in the 1989 season. The long term aim is the entry of other age group teams into competition in future years, provided enough interest can be generated to that end.

Success has been almost instantaneous with the under 13 team remaining unbeaten to date in four competitions. They are now Mayo League Division One Champions. The results of their league matches were wins over Ballina at home 2-0, Castlebar at home 4-1, Castlebar away 4-1, Manulla at home 4-0, Westport away 4-0. Draws with Ballina away 1-1, Manulla away 1-1 and a walk over Westport at home.

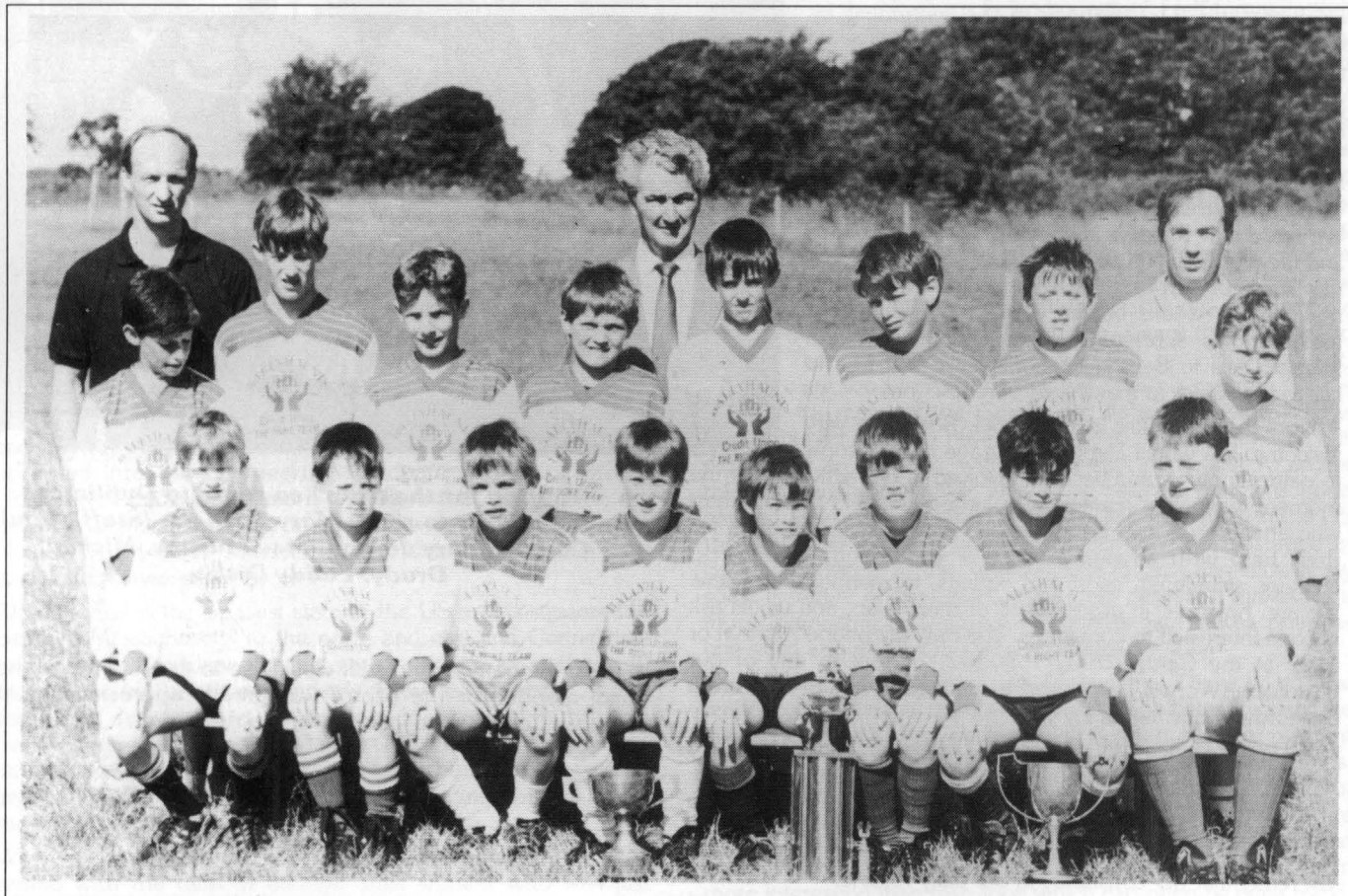
In the Connacht Cup, the team beat Mervue in Galway 3-0, drew with Manulla at home 1-1, beat them away 1-0 in the replay and beat Straide/Foxford at home 1-0 to reach the semi-final. This competition now does not resume until February 1990.

The panel of players used today in alphabetical order are: David Beirne, John Burke, Shane Burke, Michael Curley, Brian Flanagan, Stephen Glynn, Pierce Higgins, Paul Hunt, Patrick

Keane, Tom Lyons, Limmy O'Boyle, Cormac O'Connor, Mark Patterson, Daniel Tarpey, Derek Walsh, Ian Webb, and Simon Webb.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped the club in anyway particularly the Ballyhaunis Credit Union who sponsored a set of jerseys and the committee who ran a social and passed on the proceeds to us.

Club Chairman: Chris Pratt; Club Treasurer: Mike Daly; Club Secretary: Pat O'Connor; Team Manager: Michael Webb.



*Ballyhaunis U-12 Soccer Team County Community Games Champions and Connacht Finalists 1989 – Front: Pierce Higgins, Paul Finn, Niall Tighe, Ian Webb, P. C. Curley, Séamas London, Patrick Keane, Peter Healy; Back: Simon McCafferty, Simon Webb, Eoin Butler, John Burke, Brian Flanagan, James McGarry, Edward Webb, Mark Curley; Back: Micheál Webb (Trainer), John Towey (Ballyhaunis Credit Union) and Pat O'Connor (Trainer).*



# ST. JOSEPH'S N.S. CHOIR

## 1988 - '89

**Cór na n'Og** was founded in 1985 by Mr. Sean Creamer, music inspector for the Department of Education. Choirs from all parts of the country take part every two years. These choirs are divided into regional groups. This year St. Josephs N.S. choir took part with choirs from St. Angelas N.S. Castlebar, Sacred Heart N.S. Westport and St. Johns N.S. Breaffy, in the Mayo region.

The Ballyhaunis choir was trained and conducted by Sr. Rosario Waldron. We prepared twenty-six songs for the regional concert in Westport. The songs were divided into two sections "The Cycle of Life" and "The World of Opera".

In the "Cycle of Life" section, the songs were about childhood love, old age and death. For childhood, we sang lullabies like "Do Chuirfinse Fein". Love was represented by ballads. My favourite song from the old age section was "When I'm sixty-four", and in the death section, we sang songs from requiems like "Pie Jesu" by A. Lloyd Weber.

In the world of opera section, we prepared songs from many famous operas including the "Pilgrim's Chorus" from "Tannhauser" by Wagner. "I dreamt that I dwelt" from Balfes, "Bohemian Girl", "The Hunters Chorus" from "Der Frechütz"

composed by C.M. Von Weber and "Speed Your Journey" from "Nabucco" by Verdi.

On the 8th May, the Regional Concert was held in the Sacred Heart School, Westport and was a great success. Over 320 children on stage were conducted by Sean Creamer, and performed all twenty-six songs.

During the intervals a piano recital was given by Niamh McGarry.

There were a number of children selected to sing at the final performance of Cór na n'Og in the National Concert Hall in Dublin. We were delighted when Joan O'Malley and Paula Jordan were chosen to represent our school.

St. Joseph's Convent N.S. Choir also took part in a Christmas Carol Recital in the Abbey with Cantairi Béal 'Atha hAmhnais. The choir went to Athlone in June for the annual Corfheile and participated in a classical evening held in the Abbey during the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival with the "Intermezzo Quartet" and Cantairi Beal Atha hAhnais. The choir enjoyed taking part in Cór na n'Og and appreciate the great work done by Sr. Rosario for it.

Maria McGarry



*Members of Ballyhaunis "Cor na n'Og" (1988-1989) with their teacher Sr. Rosario Waldron and Mr. Seán Creamer, Music Inspector of the Department of Education – Top Row: (l. to r.) Helena Plunkett, Olive Gavin, Caroline Tighe, Ann Murphy, Suzanne Kilcourse, Maria Mahon, Naheed Mansha, Paula Jordan, Catriona Curley, Bernadette Duffy, Gillian Ahern; 2nd Row: Ruth Gaffrey, Fiona Rabbittie, Cathy Costello, Joan Flanagan, Mary Kiedan, Martine Freeley, Aine Delaney, Emma Dillon-Leetch, Emer Nestor, Gillian Keane; 3rd Row: Jennifer Donnelly, Catriona Kelly, Collette Waldron, Ann-Marie Coffey, Patricia Finn, Claire Moore, Helen Waldron, Suzanne Hannon, Niamh Doherty, Michele Coffey; Front Row: Ann McManus, Joan O'Malley, Noelle Hunt, Siobhán Walsh, Maria McGarry, Claire O'Dwyer.*



# A Walk Around Your Parish Church

## Patrick O. Costelloe P.P. Origin

1989 marks the eightieth anniversary of the opening of the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Patrick, Ballyhaunis. It replaced an older church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, but the Archbishop of Tuam, Most Rev. John Healy, who blessed and opened the new church added St. Patrick to its title. Dr. Healy in his sermon on the occasion pointed out that the new Church was the lineal and legitimate inheritor of the church St. Patrick himself had built near the Holy Well on the Claremorris Road.

## The Parish of Annagh

Just as it is difficult to localise and indeed translate the name "Ballyhaunis", so it is difficult to localise the district of Annagh from which the parish takes its name. The modern village of Annagh which is within the present parish used to belong to the parish of Knock-Aghamore till the reorganisation of last century. In an old seventeenth century map there is an Annagh adjacent to the site of the Holy Well – perhaps this is the one.

The Reformation of the sixteenth century saw the destruction of the parochial and diocesan system of the Irish Catholic Church, and it was only towards the end of the eighteenth century that churches were built – in many cases mud thatched cabins which were replaced by slated "barn type" churches of the nineteenth century. The old church of St. Mary was of that type: it had no steeple or spire, was cruciform, had few seats, little ornamentation. It was however suited to serve the growing town of Ballyhaunis, although situated on the edge of the parish, with the parish of Began on the other side of the street. The church at Logboy was also at the extremity of the parish. Indeed it was the only church that the parish could boast of.

## Reorganisation

This imbalance of church and population was awkward and unrealistic, and when Canon James Waldron died in 1892, and Canon Peter Geraghty in the following year, Archbishop McEvilly established a commission to redraw the boundaries of Annagh and Began. The basic change made was that the whole town area of Ballyhaunis was given to Annagh with some rural areas transferred from Began. Among the villages from Began given to Annagh were: Bracklaghboy, Carrarea, Carrownaluggaun, Pollnacraoaghy, Cherryfield, Devlis, Island, Bunnadubber, Ballynaphuil, Skeaghard, Cooloughra, Clagnagh, Spaddagh, Cave, Togher, Forthill, Barheen, Gurteenmore, Gurteenbeg, Brackloon, Derrylahan, Mountain, Tavanaghmore, Lisbane, part of Bohogue, Kilmannin. Among the villages given to Began from Annagh were: Logboy with its church, Cloontumper, Belahawney, Belaveal, Redhill, Moate, Cosslogh, Carrowmore, Ballybane, Pollachappal, Gurrane, Ballynastockagh, Knockanarra, Agloragh, Drimaderry, Culnacleha, Cottage, Tulrahan, Farnane. The spellings of these places may have changed but they are easily identifiable.

## Parish Priests of Annagh

We have only scanty records of the priests who served in Annagh in early centuries. A tombstone in the Abbey cemetery records that Fr. James Egan was parish priest of the united parishes of Began and Annagh 1749 to his death aged 80

Saint Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis



Early photograph of Parish Church . (Photo: Anthony Toughey, Castlereaa).

years. Fr. Michael McManus was parish priest of Annagh around 1836; he is buried in Tulrahan. Fr. Eugene Coyne 1846 to 1849, Fr. Patrick Horan 1850 to 1870, Canon James Waldron 1870 to 1892. Canon Canning was appointed to the newly arranged parish of Annagh in 1894. He built the Parochial House in Hazelhill in 1894, the Convent of Mercy in 1898, and the new church in 1903-9. The first sod of the new church was turned 4 May 1903, the day of the election of Pope St. Pius X. The foundation stone was blessed and laid by Archbishop Healy 27 September 1903. The architects of the church were Messrs Burne of Suffolk St. Dublin. It is in the neo-Gothic style. The site of the new building was immediately behind the old one – indeed the front door was only eight or ten feet behind the back wall of the old. The new St. Patrick's was opened for public worship by Archbishop Healy on 10 October 1909. The church was solemnly consecrated by Archbishop Walsh of Tuam on 24 October 1950 – the only parish church in the Archdiocese of Tuam that is so privileged.

## The Building

The walls of the church are sandstone from Leowe, faced with limestone from Hazelhill. Unfortunately some limestone came from Cong and was the cause of dampness which has caused so many problems down the years. The pillars of polished red granite came from Scotland: the white marble from Italy, the coloured marble from Connemara, France, and Belgium. The panels are Brazilian onyx. Many people were involved in the actual construction. Canon Canning was the direct employer but he was assisted by John Charles Fitzmaurice. It is said that the first payment was 200 gold sovereigns counted into a bowler hat!! Among other names of those who were employed by Canon Canning we find four O'Malley brothers from Kilmeena, craftsmen in stone: Peter O'Malley of Upper Main St., the Gilmores of Brickens, skilled joiners and workers in timber. The nails were handmade by Thomas Byrne of Castlereaa. Thomas had a secret solution for coating nails which was much admired by the Dublin architects.

## The Interior

On the right hand inside the church we notice a brass plate recording the first parish mission preached in the parish in 1880. This is the gift of Thomas O'Malley of Upper Main St.,



who discovered it and restored it to the Church. The mahogany base was made by Thomas Donnellan of Clare St. The pitmarks on the brass are said to be bullet marks caused by cross fire during the Civil War. A bullet also entered the Rose Window over the organ gallery and struck the trumpet of an angel over the High Altar. There is a large wooden Crucifix which is a reminder that the church is a place of sacrifice – the Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Baptismal Font used to be in a railed off space here but it is now transferred to the altar area in accord with the mind of the Second Vatican Council. The red and gold crosses painted on the walls on either side mark the places where the anointing with Chrism took place on the occasion of the Consecration in 1950. The three pitch pine Confessionals are designed to harmonise with the overall Gothic style of the edifice. The oleograph Stations of the Cross are also in the Gothic mode.

### Stained glass

The first window represents St. Columba or Colmcille, one of the three principal patrons of Ireland. It was made by J. Clark, Nth. Frederick St., Dublin, and is inscribed: "Have mercy O Lord on the soul of Michael Lavan who died 4 April 1895. Gift of his affectionate children 1903." The second is of St. Paul Apostle: "Pray for the donors, the nuns of the Mercy Convent Westport 1908." The third shows St. Brigid also patroness of Ireland, inscribed: "Lord have mercy on the soul of Patrick McConville who died 5 June 1909. Gift of daughter Mrs. E. Webb." The great window over the High Altar has three panels; the side panels were donated by the Children of Mary and the Sacred Heart Sodality 1908, and the centre panel was donated by Mrs Sara Waldron née Flanagan in memory of her husband Michael, 1908. The ring windows over the altars of St. Joseph and the B.V.M. were given by John Charles Fitzmaurice already mentioned. On the east wall the fifth window shows St. Patrick and the Holy Well: it is the gift of the children of the Convent School 1909. The sixth window shows St. Rose of Lima, Peru. It is inscribed: "Pray for our American Benefactors 1908." The seventh window shows St. Peter Apostle, inscribed: "Have mercy O Lord on the soul of Thomas Neary who died 26 December 1901. R.I.P. Gift of his widow Celia née Noone 1908." The eighth window shows St. Dominic, inscribed: "Lord have mercy on the soul of Martin Lyons who died 6 February 1908 aged 80 years. Also of his wife Brigid who died 18 March 1861 aged 29 years. R.I.P." The ninth and last stained glass window shows the Angel Victor, probably St. Michael, Archangel inscribed: "Lord have mercy on the souls of John and Mary Freeley, Carrara. Gift of their son, Rev. B. G. Freeley, P.P. Bekan, 1901." The other windows are in what is called Cathedral glass, the one over the organ gallery being particularly elegant. It has a rose shape over two lancet type lights and is a fine copy of the mediaeval style.

### Altars

The High Altar composed of Carara marble set off with coloured sections of French, Belgian and Connemara marble is handsomely set off by a magnificent reredos of statues and pinnacles. It was the gift of the parishioners and friends 1914. Our Lady's altar was donated by Florence Hunt and others.

That of St. Joseph was donated by Maria and Brigid Kilkenny. The statue of St. Thérèse was presented by Dr. Andrew Smythe. Many other articles of devotion were given by the Sacred Heart Sodality.

### Other objects of Interest

The fine organ was installed by Canon McHugh in 1930 and inaugurated by the distinguished musician E. McGee, Mus. D. It was presented by Patrick Morley of Knox Street. Mr. Morley also presented the Calvary, which was the work of a noted artist Michael J. Shortall, 58 Phibsborough, Dublin. Mr. Shortall also carved the Statue of Christ the King which is to the left of the main door outside. The polished cedar floor was put down by Canon Thomas Rushe Adm. in 1960. The pulpit of Italian marble and berestone was given by John M. Conry J.P.

Some other items of interest: the church has 100 pitch pine seats, 100 in number and can seat some 1000 worshippers. They are of pitch pine and cost £865 in 1921-2. The Holy Water font at the door was given by Miss Mary Canning in memory of her brother, Canon Canning, who died in 1921: it cost £350.

### Sacred Vessels and Ornaments

Among the many chalices three date from the Georgian period. The first was made for Thade O'Rourke and Margaret in 1719. It was given to Canon James Waldron by his uncle Fr. Edward Waldron of the Neale, in 1865. Another chalice

requests prayers for Andrew Browne and posterity 1727. Dr. Charles Crean, Ballinville in 1911 donated a chalice inscribed: "D. Andrew O'Rourke had this made for the greater glory of God 1760. "A fourth chalice was donated by E. P. Nolan of Logbooy in 1840. More modern times chalices were presented in memory of Canon McHugh, Tomás Breathnach, Thomas Hoban, Derrynacon. John Meehan, Brookline. U.S.A. Many ciboria are also in the Sacristy which have no inscriptions but the names of the donors are known to God. The



*First Communion, May 23rd 1926 – Front Row: (l. to r.) Desmond Fitzgerald, Jack Kilduff, Mary Flatley, Maureen Tarpey, Dreda Walshe, Mickey Griffin; 2nd Row: Jack Ganly, Angela Buckley, Brigid Freeley, Mary Caulfield, Mary Cooney, Robin Delaney, Gus Lanigan, Joe Walshe; Back Row: George Fitzmaurice, Sr. Benedict, Sr. Benignus, Jack Halpin, Sr. Vincent Caulfield, Sr. Ita, Sr. Aquin. (Photo Jack Halpin).*

beautiful silver Sanctuary Lamp was given anonymously in 1934. Six large brass candlesticks and four vases were the gift of the Sacred Heart Sodality in 1916. A gilt Reliquary containing a fragment of the True Cross was presented by Canon James P. Conry, St. Mark's Basilica Rome in 1911. The Statue of St. Valentine in the Sacristy was presented by the Mayor and people of Guiliers, Brittany, France to mark the twinning of Ballyhaunis with that city.

And so we stand at the door of the Sacristy, before the altar of St. Joseph. Here are interred Canon Waldron and Canon Canning whose devotion and expertise led to the building and furnishing of our church. Outside in the church grounds rest the remains of Fr. Martin Collieran, Archdeacon Geoffrey Prendergast, Canon J. G. McGarry who carried out the maintenance and further embellishment of the edifice. Canon McHugh rests in Claremorris to which he was transferred in 1930. Canon Rushe is happily retired in Kilmaine – but still giving devoted service to the Archdiocese. The Faithful people of the old and new Annagh who have passed away rest in the Abbey or the new cemeteries, but their spirit remains on in their descendants and inheritors whom the present writer is privileged to serve.



# G.A.A. CLUB

Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club has had a very busy year both on and off the field of play. In Football, the club fielded teams in all age groups from under 10's right through to senior level and once again with a fair share of success. This year also saw the revival of hurling within the club and great credit is due to the efforts being made by players and selectors in promoting the game. There were scenes of great jubilation in McHale Park, Castlebar when the National School hurling team won the "Bord Bunscoileanna Mhuigheo", National School County final in their first year taking part in the competition. The National School football team completed a great double when they also won the County Final in Kiltimagh. The under 14 team which had a wonderful championship campaign were very unlucky when they failed narrowly in the County final. The under 16's minor and under 21's were all beaten at East Mayo level but the senior team had a very good season both in division 1 of the League and in the senior championship. This team also have two very nice trophies to show for their efforts, the P.J. Moran Memorial Trophy and the Sean Columb Memorial Trophy (Shrúle).

During the year, the club organised two very successful trips for players and members. Over the Easter weekend 40 people flew out from Horan International Airport for what was to be one of the most enjoyable trips ever made to our friends and colleagues in Coventry, as guests of the Roger Casements G.A.A. Club.

Later on in the year another party of 40 people spent an exciting weekend in Dingle when Ballyhaunis played a West Kerry selection and Mayo played Kerry to mark the opening of new grounds in Dingle.

Speaking of new grounds, Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club are very proud of the new underage pitch which was opened a few months ago and should be of great benefit to the youth of the parish. Development work at our grounds is on-going and the



*Coventry, Easter 1989 – Front (l. to r.): R. Folliard, G. Winston, T. Waldron, B. Murray, J. Walsh, B. Hagan, G. Lyons, S. Caulfield, P. Phillips, J. Durkan; Middle: E. Murren; Back: T. Morley, J. Cribben, B. Phillips, T. McGuire, P. Webb, E. Cunnane.*

*Dingle, May 21st, 1989 – Front: C. Phillips, T. McFaine, E. Cunnane, J. Durkan, J. Cribbin, M. Phillips, K. Henry; Back: G. Lyons, T. Caulfield, P. Webb, R. Phillips, T. Waldron, E. Moran, P. Phillips, B. Phillips, T. Monley, J. Reidy.*



next few months should see the erection of covered accommodation completed.

Finally, the club are undertaking another major trip to the United States in March 1991 D.V.. and hopefully there will be a large number travelling.

Anybody wishing to go on this trip and interested in joining a savings scheme should contact any member of the G.A.A., club for further information.

On behalf of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club, I would like to thank



all players, selectors, committees, sponsors, supporters and parents for their efforts during the year and to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Officers 1989:- Chairman: Gerry Lyons; Secretary: Jimmy Walsh; Treasurer: John Durkan; President: Paddy Brennan;

Patron: Fr. Greaney; P.R.O.: Therese Cribbin; Vice-Chairman: Hugh Rudden; Assistant Secretary: Tony Morley (Jnr.); assistant Treasurer: Brian Philips; Oifigeach na Gaéilge: Jim London.

Jimmy Walsh, Secretary

# BALLYHAUNIS BOXING CLUB

By Joe Gre

At a public meeting in The Horseshoe Inn on 16th February, 1989, the Ballyhaunis Boxing Club was reformed.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. Joe Hannigan, President of Connacht Council I.A.B.A. who said he was delighted to be of assistance to this great club. A committee was formed with Mr. Tom Glynn as President. Tom said that he had boxed in Ballyhaunis under the late great Jim Coffey in the twenties before going to America and now here he was sixty years later President of the club.

Arrangements were made to purchase equipment and with the help of a very generous donation from the rugby club and the donation of a complete set of togs from Mrs. Geraldine Conlon of Abbey Cleaners – a very good start was made.

Training began in the Rugby Club Gym in the Horseshoe Inn and later in the scouts Den. The club made its debut when on March 18th two young boxers from the club, Brian Hannon and Darren Conlon both had very decisive wins at the tournament in Aughagower. For the big tournament in Midas on April 14th, 1989 a special souvenir programme was printed and the club are grateful to their main sponsors, Kevin McNamara of McNamara Car Dismantlers and other sponsors.

For the first time in over forty years, Ballyhaunis put on a tournament in a packed to capacity Midas Nite Club where the scene was set by piper, Sean Egan of the Midfield Pipers Band who played "The National Anthem" and then "piped in" the first two contestants into the ring.

The club put twelve young boxers into action and had the pleasure of seeing nine of them victorious. The local winners were Brian Hannon, John Burke, Peter Kilcourse, Patrick Maughan, Shane Hanley, David Conlon, Darren Conlon, Padraic Hanley and John Waldron. Local boxers who were

narrowly defeated were Brian Hannon, John Coffey and J.P. Kilcourse.

The club finished off the season in the Scouts Den with an open day for parents and friends in the gym with a tournament for boxers who had not yet featured. A packed gym was treated to 26 bouts with all of the boxers receiving trophies.

The club came out of 'Summer recess' during the Summer Festival, and faced a very formidable Antrim team. This very popular club under its Chairman, Sidney McCombe; Secretary, Michael McClosky and Trainer, John Joe Waldron (local man now domiciled in Antrim), may make this an annual event.

Ballyhaunis won this six bouts to five. This tournament was attended by Mr. Brendan O'Conacre, Vice President of I.A.B.A.

For the current season training re-commenced in mid-September and already five of our young boxers have been in the ring. On 8th November they took part in a tournament –

Mayo v. Leitrim in Dromahaire. Darren Conlon and John Coffey were decisive winners and Sean Fitzmaurice, Brian Hannon and Patrick Maughan lost very close decisions. At present all systems are go for our big tournament in Midas Nite Club on Friday, December 1st.

A sincere thanks to all our sponsors, supporters and officials and boxers from all over Connacht for helping us get on the road again.

Club Officers:- President: Tom Glynn; Chairman: Michael Conlon; Vice-Chairman: Dennis Hannon; Sec/Pro: Joe Greene; Treasurer: Jim McKermitt; Chaplain: Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A.; Medical Officer: Dr. Alan Delaney; Trainer: Peadar Kilcourse; Assistant Trainer: Kevin Hunt. Committee: Michael Nolan, Paddy Fitzmaurice, Harry Thompson, Thomas Lyons, Kieran Ruane, Seamus Waldron.

By William Ryan

**New Years Eve Ball - Eclipse Ballroom. L to R; Mrs N Sweeney, Mr. T. Forde R.I.P., Mr. J. McGarry, Mrs. T McGarry, Miss M. Neary R.I.P. Mr. P. McGarry R.I.P. Foreground Mrs. B. Webb.** Photo courtesy Mrs. T. Mc Garry





# GREETINGS FROM NEW YORK

**By Anthony Cunnane**

To my lovely relatives, friends, teachers and classmates in Ballyhaunis. I extend my warmest wishes for a joyful Christmas season and a hearty welcome to the decade of the Nineties.

I wish to congratulate the Committee on the success of the Annual Ballyhaunis Magazine "Annagh". My mother brought it to my attention a few years ago. I relive my memories of Ballyhaunis from age 3 to 8 years old when I read it. I enjoy the many articles of interest.

Your 10th Annivarsary edition last year was very special. After I read it I decided that we Americans should contribute our share of interest from this side of the ocean to show our love and appreciation for the time and effort you put in to communicate with us through Annagh.

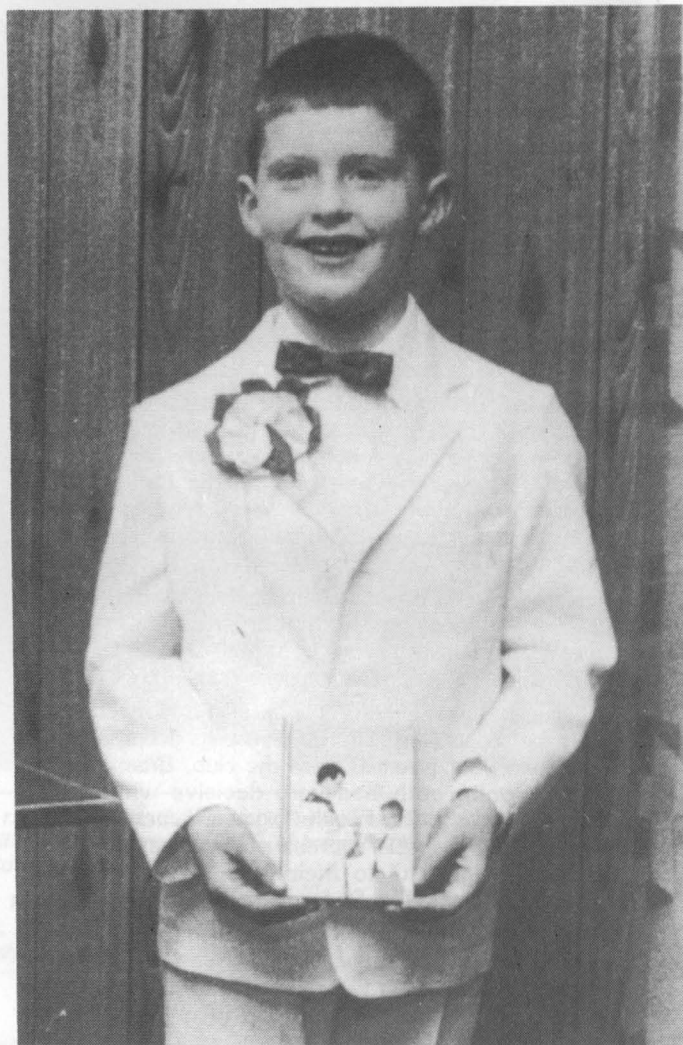
I hope many of your exiles abroad respond to the request for a U.S.A. address directory to be placed in the future editions of the Annagh. I sure would like mine added to the list. Who knows what unity it may bring forth some time down the road.

I'm enclosing my 1st Communion picture for the Class of '69 (and the lovely nuns who prepared me for this memorable occasion). If some of my classmates are still around perhaps they may exchange good wishes for our 21st Annivarsary reunion. I regret some of them are already gone to the Lord! Mark Leech, Raymand Hannon and Caroline Finnegan R.I.P. I extend my sincere sympathy to their families.

Most of the others: Antoinette byrne, Ann Conlon, Marie Caulfield, Clarence Grogan, Michael Morley, Michael Regan and Majella Hurst are probably settled in foreign shores or in dear old Ireland. To those I mentioned and those I can't remember I send my greetings from New York.

To my Auntie Chris Flatley, Auntie Monica Biesty and Uncles John and Dan Regan, The McGuires and Eugene Carney and Dinjo and all my lovely cousins and friends who were a special part of my youth in Ballyhaunis in the 60's . . . I love you all and I'm looking forward to our meeting again in the 90's. Happy New Year!

Anthony Cunnane Jnr.,  
4851 43rd Street,  
Woodside,  
New York 11377.



**Anthony Cunnane, son of Mary and Tony Cunnane, formerly of 'the Eagle' Bridge Street. Pictured on his First Communion Day at St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, May 16, 1969, aged seven and a half years.**



**The Class of the Mary's with Sr. Angela, 1958 - 1960 – Standing: Mary McGrath, Kathleen Boyle, Rosary Waldron, Mary Joyce, Noreen Flannigan, Bridie Folliard, Marita Rush, Mary Toolin; Sitting: Norrie Lanigan, Mary Dillon, Mary Grogan, Mary O'Dwyer, Mary E. Leetch, Cyrene Connolly, Philamena Biesty; Front: Mary O'Dwyer, Yvonne McGarry, Mary Halpin, Mary Cunningham, Margaret Boyle. Missing: Mary Webb, Breege Gilmore. (Photo: Mary Joyce).**



# BALLYHAUNIS EXILES

## "Call Me Sometimes List"

Marion (Morley) Kemme (Knox St.) (502)-459.5288  
1914 Rutherford Avenue,  
Louisville, Kentucky.

Josephine (Higgins) Beirne (Clare St.) (201)-664.4570  
174 Walnut Street,  
Westwood, New Jersey.

Muriel (Higgins) Sweeney (Clare St.) (516)-661.0424  
95 Evergreen Street,  
W.Babylon, Long Island, N.Y. 11704.

Tommy Rattigan (Knox St.) (516)-766.2854  
488 Links Drive East,  
Oceanside, New York 11572.

Niall McGillicuddy (Knox St.) (413)-788.9232  
83 Governor Street,  
Springfield, Mass. 01104.

Patricia (Dalton) Gibbons (Clare St.) (718)-934.8303  
2019 Haring Street,  
Brooklyn, New York 11229.

Eileen (Dalton) Faber (Clare St.) (813)-629.6189  
234 Fort Charlotte Blvd.,  
Port Charlotte, Florida 33952.

Mary Frances Dalton (Clare St.) (914)-428.2684  
18 Wilson Avenue,  
Valhalla, New York 10595.

Anita (Dalton) Quarry (Clare St.) (516)-499.6431  
9 Stagg Lane,  
Commack, Long Island, N.Y. 11769.

Rosemary (Dalton) Keck (Clare St.) (914)-428.2684  
18 Wilson Avenue,  
Valhalla, New York 10595.

Mr. Sean Finn (Hazelhill) (718)-458.0246  
30-53-83rd Street,  
Jackson Heights, New York 11370.

Mrs. Bridie (Fleming) Smith (Knox St.) (201)-652.6783  
807 Godwin Road,  
Paramus, New Jersey 07652.

Mr. Billy Fleming (Knox St.) (718)-899.4904  
41-63-64th Street,

Woodside, New York 11103.

Mr. Tom Fleming (Knox St.) (718)-626.7734  
32-18-43rd Street,  
Astoria, New York 11103.

Mrs. Michael Fleming (Knox St.) (212)-882.1498  
3145 Decatur Avenue,  
Bronx, New York 10467.

Hannah (Bryne) Campbell (Bridge St.) (203)-646.6085  
30 Country Club Road,  
Manchester, Conn. 06040.

Ann (Higgins) Carron (Curries) (718)-336.6891  
3316 Fillmore Avenue,  
Brooklyn, New York 11234.

Bernadette (Mulligan) Matignon (Hazelhill)  
65 Ascog Terrace,  
Toowong 4066,  
Queensland, Australia.

Anthony Cunnane Jr.  
4851 43rd Street,  
Woodside,  
New York 11377.

Mr. Francis M. Glynn (Clare St.)  
E306-1919 University Drive N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta. T.2N4K7,  
Canada.

Patricia Fela (nee Glynn),  
1131 Sanders Drive,  
Moraga, CA.94556, 415-376.7220

The Ballyhaunis Exiles would like to invite anyone who has emigrated from Ireland to join our mailing list. The purpose of this list is twofold.

- (1) You may see names of people you remember and have said on occasion "whatever happened to . . . ?"
- (2) Our thoughts are to form a Ballyhaunis Organization which would be based in New York - We would like to get this off the ground in 1990. A mailing list would enable us to let you know of development of the above. If you have any suggestions or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact one of the Daltons.

## BERLIN '89

By Daire Loughan

In a word I found Berlin Cosmopolitan. It is divided into four sectors and a visitor to Berlin can experience anything from French crepes to American hot-dogs, and all within the space of a divided city.

I passed the Summer of '89 in Berlin working although for many Europeans it is regarded as the "hip hop" place to live. Fortunately my reason for going there was more practical. I had the advantage of having a sister living and studying there, so the usual accommodation and job-hunting problems that most students face were non-existent for me.

**Work:** I worked in a stationery factory from 6.30 a.m. to 3.15 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. This meant rising at 4.45 a.m. in order to get to work on time. The Germans were horrific to work for. Ten-minute breaks were exactly ten-minutes long. They are work-alcoholics, and as far as I could see did not enjoy any form of relaxation. They're a very aggressive race and seem to dislike most foreigners - of course, this may only apply to Berliners. The difference between them and their

attitudes, especially at work, was striking, compared to the "easy-going" Irish. It is hard to know which nationality has its priorities right, but in my opinion, I favour the Irish way of life.

**Irish Pubs:** I discovered only one uncommercialised Irish pub in the small Irish Community over there - i.e. the only one without shamrocks and Leprechauns in the windows. When myself and other Irish students had some spare time, we paid a visit to Prague which was fascinating and of course into East Berlin. For us, it is as if both places have stood still in time.

**East Berlin:** East Berlin had an air of despondency about it, mainly due to the intervention of the Military Forces there. The experiences we had with people wanting one or two West Marks were just sad. Of course the Wall cannot go unmentioned. It is a weird experience standing beside it knowing you're free and only a few metres away they are not. One of the many slogans on the wall struck me - "If Communism works, why is the wall here?"

Berlin is a fabulous city to visit, and I'm glad I experienced it and it's history, as it now seems inevitable that it will soon no longer be the "divided city".





**St. Mary's Primary School, Ballyhaunis County Primary School Hurling Champions 1989 – Front: Daniel Tarpey, Jimmy O'Boyle, Pierce Higgins, Keith Higgins (Mascot), Cormac O'Connor, John Burke, Fergal Kelly; Back: Declan Byrne, Tommy Moran, Simon Webb, Derek Walsh, Robert Madden, John Neenan, Peter Healy; Back: Trainers John Joe Hoban, John Joe Kelly and Peter Higgins.**



**St. Mary's Primary School Ballyhaunis, Division One County Primary School Champions, 1989 – Front: Ian Webb, David Beirne, Terry Maughan, Jimmy O'Boyle (Capt.), Hugh Curley, Cormac O'Connor, Peter Healy, Michael Donahue; Row 2: Michael Freely, Pierce Higgins, John Burke, Derek Walsh, Declan Beirne, Brian Flanagan, Simon Webb, Paddy Waldron (selector); Back: Pat O'Connor (selector), Micheal Webb (selector), Fergal Kelly, Shane Tighe, Declan Doyle, Tommy Moran, Daniel Tarpey, Gerard Coen, Tom Lyons.**





**Legion of Mary – Our Lady of Good Counsel Junior Praesidium – Christmas 1988 – Seated: Patricia Mulhern, Joanna O'Connor, Margaret Nestor, Aileen Nestor, Clare Flynn, Regina Moran, Eibhlin O'Connor, Deidre O'Connor, Aine Fahey, Orla Doherty; Standing: Niamh Doherty, Imelda Flynn, Eimer Nestor, Aine Delaney, Patricia Finn, Eibhlin Murphy, SORcha Hannon, OLga O'Connor, Elaine Webb, Clodagh Shields, Ellis Murphy; Back Row: Mrs. Mary Dillon-Leetch (President), Helen Hoban (Vice President).**



**Leaving Cert Class 1968, St. Patrick's College – Back Row: Kieran Byrne (Knock), Thomas Caulfield (Granlahan), Dermot Lyons (Ballina Costello), John Feeley (Curhaunagh, Aghamore); Front Row: Michael Hawthorn (Castlereagh), Patrick (Junior) Connolly, BRendán Cregg (Ballinlough), Joe Byrne (Aghamore). (Photo courtesy Dermot Lyons).**



**Back Row: (l. to r.) Sr. Etna, Kit Freeley, Maisin Meath, Maureen Comber, Carmel Johnstone in Lourdes.**



# MARRIAGE INDENTURE

An Indenture of a marriage settlement between Honora Waldron widow of Devlis parish of Beken on the one part, and Pat Waldron of Lisduff of the other in behalf of John Waldron & Mary Waldron their children respectively

Pat Waldron of Lisduff in the parish of Annagh Co. Mayo promises and engages to give his son John Waldron ~~three~~ <sup>twenty</sup> pounds sterling as a marriage portion, ~~which~~ <sup>twenty</sup> pounds are to be paid immediately before his marriage, and ~~thirteen~~ <sup>thirteen</sup> pounds more on the first day of November next.

Honora Waldron widow of Devlis in the parish of Beken & Co. Mayo promises & hereby makes over on her daughter Mary Waldron the one half of all the land now in her possession both in Devlis & Clagna also that room of her house next to the public road and the barn and garden street between west of her house (reserving to herself the right of passage to & from the public road to the door of her house in the West) Honora Waldron having her rents paid in the same way as the tenants on Lord Dillon's property yet engages to pay wholly the next half year's rent to be called for but all rents & taxes to be called for in future (except this one half year's rent above mentioned) are to be borne equally by her & her son-in-law John Waldron. Honora Waldron also settles on her daughter one in-calf cow.

In case Mary Waldron should not survive the next two years after her marriage all and every dispute arising out of such an undesirable event to be settled by the parish priests of Pat Waldron & Honora Waldron above mentioned: to which settlement and agreement we add our names in the presence of us This 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1852

Present

Pat Waldron

Pat<sup>r</sup> McGarry

An Indenture of a marriage settlement between Honora Waldron, widow of Devlis Parish of Beken on the one part, and Pat Waldron of Lisduff of the other on behalf of John Waldron and Mary Waldron their children respectively.

Pat Waldron of Lisduff, Parish of Annagh, Co. Mayo promises and engages to give his son, John Waldron thirty three pounds sterling as a marriage portion, twenty pounds of which are to be paid immediately before his marriage, and thirteen pounds more on the first day of November next.

Honora Waldron, widow, of Devlis in the Parish of Beken in Co. Mayo promises and hereby makes over on her daughter, Mary Waldron the one half of all the land now in her possession both in Devlis and Clagnagh also that room of her house next to the public road and the barn and yard and street to the west of her house (Reserving to herself the right of passage to and from the public road to the door of her house to the west) Honora Waldron having her rents paid as the tenants on Lord

Dillon's property yet engages to pay wholly the next half year rent to be called for but all rents and taxes to be called for in future (excepting one half years rent above mentioned) are to be borne equally by her and her son-in-law John Waldron. Honora Waldron also settles on her daughter one in-calf cow.

In case Mary Waldron should not survive the next two years after her marriage all and every dispute arising out of such an undesirable event to be settled by the Parish Priests of Pat Waldron and Honora Waldron above mentioned: to which settlement and agreement we sign our names in the presence of us this 2nd March 1852.

Present

Pat Waldron

Pat McGarry.

Courtesy of Mr. Noel Waldron, Devlis.

(The Pat and John Waldron mentioned in the Indenture are Noel's Great Grandfather and his Grandfather).



# AN EVENING AT THE MWR SPORTS DESK

It's Sunday again and I look forward to another action-packed evening at the sportsdesk. On MWR we have a Sports programme from 5 to 7 and a Sports round-up at 9.15. I decide each Thursday what reports we will have on the programme and then contact the journalists concerned giving them a time to ring in at on Sunday. I discuss the content of the programme with presenter Tommy Marren prior to his going on air.

## The Typical Show Begins

At 5.10 Michael Commins ("Connaught Telegraph") rings in. I have a brief word with him prior to giving the signal to Tommy. Michael is now on air to report on eastern Gaels v Kilmaine Junior Semi-Final at Claremorris. He also has details of the Claremorris 10 km. Road Race. He is followed at 5.20 by Vincent Cribbin ("Western People") with a report on the second Semi-Final between Glenamoy and Louisburgh. At 5.30 it's Ivan Neill ("Western People") on the Knockmore and Crossmolina County Senior Semi-Final. Ivan has just finished when Liam Horan ("Western People") reports on the Intermediate Semi-Final between Hollymount and Burrishoole. He is followed by his colleague, Sean O Domhnaill, who gives details of the second Semi-Final.

## Soccer and Hurling

At 5.45 Tom Kelly ("Telegraph"), who prepares all the soccer material for the programme, is contacted and he issues a report on Connaught Cup games and follows it up with an interview with the successful manager. He then gives the results of the other games which he has to hand. At 5.55, Francis Farragher ("Tribune") gives a comprehensive report on the

Galway Senior Hurling Final between Athenry and Sarsfields. The next report is scheduled for 6.05 and Paul Healy ("Champion") rings punctually to tell us that Clan Na Gael have won their sixth consecutive Roscommon title, demolishing the St. Brigid's challenge. At 6.10, I contact Terry Reilly ("Western People") for a report on the Senior Semi-Final between Castlebar and Kiltane. Terry is standing by and reports at 6.15, telling us of the shock defeat of the Mitchels in an entertaining game. A number of people then ring in requesting air-time to publicise their clubs' activities and are interviewed by Tommy. The programme concludes at 7.

## Final Round-Up

Once the programme is over, I start preparing for the results round-up which I present myself at 9.15. John Powel rings me at 7.10 with the Galway G.A.A. results and is closely followed by John Dennehy with the Roscommon scorelines. Kevin O'Toole, P.R.O. faxes in the Mayo details at 7.30. I then contact the Leitrim and Sligo Public Relations Officers for their results. I now turn my attention to soccer and ring for the Galway and Roscommon results. Tom Kelly ("Telegraph") and Brian Johnston get the Mayo Soccer details for me. It is now almost 8.00. I have all the National and International results that I require as well as most of the local details. My next task is to put some semblance of order into them by compiling in an organised and systematic fashion. This I complete by 8.45 and then check with Helena at reception to see if she got any other local results. At 9.15 approximately I go on air with a round-up of local, national and international results. I conclude the broadcast at 9.30 and listeners are informed that I will give a reprise of the results at 9.30 on Monday morning.



*Canon Costello meets Pope John Paul on his recent Vatican visit.*



# BALLYHAUNIS OF OLD . . . AS SEEN THROUGH THE WESTERN PEOPLE

BY DAVID DWANE

Yes, The **Western People**, with its millions of words that have chronicled the good, the bad, and the ugly about rural and small-time life in 107 years, is now preserved on the most modern facility available – microfilm! No longer the much clichéd 'dusty old files'; now the eye-wearying and often frustrating task of screen-searching and button pressing. The research for news of Ballyhaunis in the olden days was carried out by my colleague Ann Bourke, who presented me with reams of text, from which I have extracted some interesting material from past decades, all ending with a '9'.

**1939 FEBRUARY:** Union matters were on the agenda at the second annual general meeting of the Ballyhaunis branch of the Irish Distributive Workers and Clerks Union, held in the Hall on the 3rd. The meeting requested that commercial travellers stop making calls to the town on the statutory half-day. The Minister For Industry and Commerce, Sean Lemass, was thanked for his efforts on behalf of workers. A vote of sympathy was passed to the sisters and brothers of the late Katie Morley, Knox St. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Martin Brennan; Vice-Chairman, Patrick Greally; Treasurer, Andrew Forde; Secretary, Michael J. Waldron; Committee: Misses Delia Morley, B. Johnston, R. Cribben, and Messrs. Michael Holland, Joe Regan, William Lyons, and L. Scott.

**MARCH:** A dispute about the standard of house construction at the Cherryfield Council scheme was raised at a county council meeting. The County Surveyor was unhappy with the work, and ordered construction to be stopped, until certain defects were rectified. These defects related to foundation work, and the type of timber used on roofs. The matter remained unresolved.

**APRIL:** Extra guards had to be drafted into the town as trouble threatened once again at Ballyveal, where a land war had been raging. Twenty land Commission personnel had to be protected as they carried out fencing work.

**MAY:** The vexed issue of how some of the 150 unemployed men in Ballyhaunis had been penalised by the State for not assisting the Land Commission in making fences during the Ballyveal Land War was raised at a meeting of Mayo County Council. "The men had their dole withdrawn for a month, and were starving." Before the council was a motion to appoint Miss Lyons to the position of Rate Collector in the area. Miss Lyons had taken over temporarily from her deceased father. However the Council voted in favour of advertising the job, and splitting the area so as to make work for two people.

**JUNE:** The County Council discussed the appointment of a new rate collector for the area at its monthly meeting. As a result of a vote taken Mrs. Mullen (Hazelhill) was appointed.

**1949 JANUARY:** No phone call could be made in Ballyhaunis at night, except through the local Garda Station, it was pointed out at a meeting of the Local Improvements Committee. But Chairman Michael Curley had good news – a night service was to be provided at the local exchange.

**MARCH:** Jack Eaton arrived in Ballyhaunis to take over the running of the family business. His colleagues at Tuam Sugar Factory, where he worked since the opening of the factory, expressed their sadness at his departure, and reminded Mayo people of Jack's involvement in Tuam Choral Society Productions like "The Mikado" (playing the lead role), "Lilac Time" and "Desert Song". He was active in the Boxing Club and was a lieutenant in the LDF.

**MAY:** And local travel agent, Thomas Lyons, Bridge St., and his wife were looking forward to a two months holiday in the

United States. They were booked on the ship the "Mauritania", departing from Cobh. Mrs. Thomas Forde, the Square, was also booked on the same cruise.

**JUNE:** Domestic Economy teacher Maura Cunningham tendered her resignation from the Vocational School, due to her impending marriage. After three years completed service her gratuity was fixed at £75, 10 shillings, and 8 pence.

**JUNE:** Work on the erection of new council houses at Tooraree commenced, and it was expected that they would be ready for tenants by the end of the year.

**1959 JANUARY:** The refusal by An ForasTionside to sanction a grant for the locally based Western Pottery Company was discussed at a meeting of the Ballyhaunis Development Association, at which Mr. J. O'Connor presided. The factory had been established by a group of 13 local people, manufacturing an article that was never before manufactured West of the Shannon. The factory employed 8 people from the start, whereas a firm called Studio Pottery which employed one gentleman and his wife received a £1000 grant. ForasTionside did not give any reason for refusing the grant. Speakers on the subject included Messrs. Keane, Durkan, Flanagan and Robinson.

**JANUARY:** After the blessing of the new Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade by Fr. T.; Rushe, C.C. County Fire Chief, Capt. C. Garvey expressed disappointment at the poor turn-out of local people for the function in the Central Hotel. He paid tribute to the interest and work of Cllr. D. Lyons, and regretted that they had but a few children as an audience. Fire personnel present included Station officer Clarence Grogan, who thanked Sgt. P. Nally for attending, and Messrs. James Toolan, Ml. Moran, Donald Moran, Liam Smyth, John McGuire and Ml. Mulhern.

**FEBRUARY:** Mr. J. Webb, who had set up a meat factory in Ballyhaunis two years previously, criticised farmers for not bringing their lambs to him, and giving his factory support. After exhibiting four livers and a wasted-looking carcass of a lamb, Mr. Webb told NFA and Macra Na Feirme members "This is the kind of thing you are sending me in, to try and hold the name of Ireland in the lamb trade. He urged farmers to keep the fairs going, wondering how many people behind the cattle marts served their time in the trade. Mr. Webb referred to the reports that the local development Society had promised a site to the first industry to be established in Ballyhaunis. Mr. Durkan, for the Society, denied this had been the arrangement. The site that had been purchased was bought for the Liga Food Company – a Dutch firm. Mr. Webb went on to criticise the development group for not offering the site to him. "If it was offered to a foreigner, it should have been offered to a native," he stated.

**1969 JULY:** during the visit of the Blood Transfusion Unit to Ballyhaunis, the following were awarded gold pelicans for donating 15 pints of blood: Messrs. Seamus Durkan, Anthony Waldron, Bertie Curley, M. J. Horkan, John O'Brien, John J. Fox, Sean Cleary and Columba Jordan.

**AUGUST:** The first President's prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club was won by Columba Jordan, while Norrie Dillon returned the best ladies score.

**AUGUST:** It was decided that the annual Ballyhaunis Agricultural Show should be held on the third Thursday of the month this year, rather than on the last Thursday, as was traditional for twenty six years. The show would coincide with the opening of the Ballyhaunis Harvest Festival, and music on the Show night would be by the Riviera.

**SEPTEMBER:** Representing Ballyhaunis at the Connaught Finals of the Macra na Feirme Quiz, held in Ballyhaunis, were Myra Fitzgerald, Monica Cribben, James Cribben, Noel Dalton, Tom Henry, Jim Egan, and Brendan Hopkins.



**1979 MARCH:** And two Ballyhaunis singers were taking the lead roles in the Castlereagh Musical Society's production of the musical "Viva Mexico". They were Frankie O'Malley and Oliver Jordan.

**JULY:** James and Bridget Sloyan, Brackloon celebrated the

fiftieth anniversary of their marriage with a family reunion.

**SEPTEMBER:** And the Junior Chamber debating team of Donal Ahern, John Dillon-Leetch, John Mooney and Chris Pratt go forward to the National Debating Finals after defeating Tullamore.

# Eddie Egan – Champion Of The Track

By Mike Byrne

The village of Coolnaha in the Parish of Aughamore was the venue for the first competitive cycling event in which Clanagh's Eddie Egan ever competed. He did so with a bicycle which he "relieved" Johnny Higgins of earlier that morning: This event which Eddie duly won took place in the summer of 1937. It was the first of numerous which he would win until he finally hung up the bicycle clips in 1942. Eddie's exploits on the saddle took him to many parish sports' events in the intervening years, places such as Ballinrobe, Knock, Hollymount, Partry, Ballyheane, Ballaghaderreen and Moylough to mention but a few. The gigantic sum of £3 prize money for first past the post attracted Eddie to the cycle race at Belcarra sports in 1937. Eddie easily won the prizemoney, having pedalled on his own from Ballyhaunis, much to the anger of the local participants. As he mounted his bicycle to get away from the hostile crowd he met up with a couple of his own 'townies' who were driving towards Belcarra for the race meeting which traditionally followed the sports on that same evening. The crew was made up of Packie 'THE CAT' Morley, Tom Sharkey and Taudy and Sherald 'THE MONK' Devaney. Also on board was a horse – THE JACKDAW, which was to be ridden by Packie in one of the featured races. Packie requested Eddie to lay a £10 bet on his horse at the best available price on the track, insisting that The Jackdaw was "Home and Dry". Eddie agreed, so he set out to seek a victim. The £10 bet was struck at odds of 8 to 1 and Eddie, careful not to lose his entire winnings decided to place £2 out of his prize winning money on the Ballyhaunis horse. Packie, who had the horse prepared to perfection, rode an impeccable race to defeat the locally bred favourite into second place. When the winning jockey dismounted, together with the champion cyclist they hit for the nearest watering hole to celebrate their winnings. Before very long however word spread throughout the village of the whereabouts of the two outsiders and before long a number of disgruntled punters and cyclists ganged up on the invaders and the village pub became similar to a scene of the old wild west.

All of the cycling venues Eddie Egan participated at were reached on the saddle. He once won a five mile road race at Ballyheane near Castlebar, cycled home afterwards and that night cycled down to Ballaghaderreen where he danced to the Dick Prendergast showband before pedalling home to Ballyhaunis in the early hours of the morning. Eddie's training was done by cycling 5 miles every morning on a specially designed track on his father's farm at the rear of their farmhouse.

The last cycling contest Eddie would take part in was in Moylough in the County Galway. The event was the Co. Galway 6 mile road race championship. The Co. Galway championship was supposedly confined to participants from within the county. Eddie entered the race however, giving his

name and address as Eddie Egan, Carramanagh, Dunmore, Co. Galway. Nobody knew him and neither did anybody doubt him. The race included the hot favourite, Peter Mannion, the All Ireland Champion. Eddie set a blistering pace and broke away from the pack at the early stages. The remainder of the field expected this unknown quantity to tire after a mile or two but the longer the race went on the greater distance Eddie put between himself and his rivals. Eddie won the race by what they call in racing jargon "half the track".



**Eddie Egan with Alfie at the Shelbourne Park Sales in 1961.**

Pat Hughes first introduced Eddie to the sport of greyhound racing. Honest Bill, a greyhound pup which Pat bred was given to Eddie to train. The dog won seven races on the trot before being sold for £300 in 1956 at the Shelbourne Park Sales. Honest Bill subsequently went on to greater heights holding a two year record for the fastest time recorded at London's famed White City. This partnership between Pat and Eddie was to last until Pat was called to his eternal reward 20 years ago.

The well worn cycling track in Clanagh was now converted to a 375 yd private greyhound track. This private track had all the mod cons: starting "stalls", a fully fenced off course, and the "hare" which was the skin of a goat tied on to a string which in turn was attached to the rim of a bicycle turned upside down to set the "hare" in motion.

Ballyhaunis was at this time the mecca of the county for the sport of greyhound racing. Racing enthusiasts came from all over the county to use the racing track at Clanagh for private trials at 5 shillings a time. As well as Pat Hughes and Eddie Egan a number of people from the town were involved in the sport in one way or another. People such as Bill Baker, Tony Molloy, Eddie Fitzgerald, Vinny Caulfield, and Brod Moran to mentioned but a few.

A dog by the name of Alfie, owned by Pat Hughes and Bob Fox and trained by Eddie was being prepared for her first major race. The word amongst the racing fraternity was that Alfie was a "good thing". So naturally enough every 'doggie' man in the area checked morning papers every morning to find out if Alfie was down to run. Of course Bob, Pat and the trainer were well aware of this. When the time came for the dog to run she was entered in two meetings, one at Longford and the other in Galway. A rival greyhound owner and trainer seeing this instructed one of his daughters to stand over at Devils to watch for Bob Fox's car and see which road he took. But Bob heading for Longford was instantly shouted at by Pat who smelt a rat to "turn right". They then proceeded to Cloonfad where they turned off and headed for Longford. Alfie won easily in Longford at the generous odds of 5/1 while the town of Ballyhaunis was up in Galway to back a dog that wasn't there at all!



# RETIREMENTS

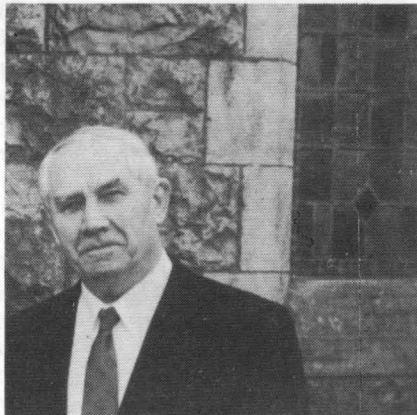


*Mr. Eddie Thornton making a presentation to Miss Patricia Waldron who retired after many years of teaching.*



*Postman Michael Lyons on his last day at work after 42 years in the Postal Service.*

*Taken outside the Parish Church is Mr. Joe Keane, recently retired sacristan.*



*Garda John Marrinan on the occasion of his retirement from the Force with his wife Bea*



*Mr. John Dillon-Leetch, Chamber of Commerce, making a presentation to Mr. John Fitzgerald on his retirement from the E.S.B. Also included in the photograph is Mrs Kitty Fitzgerald.*



# HURLING IN BALLYHAUNIS

By Pete Higgins

In an enlightened gesture – in their desire to see the spread of hurling in the county – the Tooreen Hurling Club offered their assistance to Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club to start hurling training in Ballyhaunis at under age level.

I remember clearly getting a phone call from the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Secretary, Jimmy Walsh, who in turn had been contacted by Michael Nolan of Torreen. As an ex-Galway man I could hardly refuse his offer to take charge of hurling. So on a beautiful Sunday morning in October approximately forty five boys and girls graced Ballyhaunis G.A.A. pitch eager to learn to wield the "camán". Over the subsequent weeks there were a number of "drop-outs" but enthusiasm remained high with the majority.

## County Champions

Two people in particular, John Joe Hoban & John Joe Kelly, both with great hurling traditions have helped to form a hurling panel which is second to none in the county at their age. The patience and commitment of these two people was an inspiration to the youngsters. Add in then, the excellent coaching and encouragement from people such as Jackie Coyne, Dom Greally, Dave McConn and Peter Lynskey and the foundation of future successes was established. As a result of the strides forward in skill and ability, the Ballyhaunis boys became Mayo Primary Schools Hurling Champions at their first attempt.

**Connacht Skills:** As a result of winning the County Mayo Primary School hurling title Ballyhaunis were elected to represent Mayo in the Connacht 7 a side in Oran, Co. Roscommon: the I.N.T.O. mini sevens. They emerged as Connacht Champions with a massive total score of 14-13 and conceded only 4-3 in the games.

**Croke Park:** Three Ballyhaunis players Pierce Higgins, Michael Curley and Simon Webb were selected to play for Connacht in the All-Ireland mini-sevens. The rules stipulated that only three players from each county could play, otherwise I believe that Ballyhaunis could fill all positions. Who would have thought that in less than 12 months Ballyhaunis youths would play hurling in the hallowed ground of Croke Park. It certainly was a marvellous year.

**Safety:** An aspect of the game of hurling last year is that we



**Ballyhaunis Hurlers representing Mayo in the I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Skills Competition in Croke Park before the Tipperary v Galway Semi-Final – Left to right: Pierce Higgins, Simon Webb and Michael Curley.**

have had no injuries. This is due to the fact that proper coaching concentrates on protecting players. Each child must wear a helmet, with full facial guard and hurlers are also encouraged to wear shin guards. A special thanks must be extended to the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club and the enlightened approach of Committee members in their moral and financial support, which made it all possible so far. If their goodwill to hurling was adopted by other clubs then the G.A.A. would surely prosper. A special thanks also to Mr. Jim London Principal of St. Mary's N.S. for his co-operation and support.

The boys hurling panel included: Derek Walshe, Cormac O'Connor, Fergal Kelly, Dan Tarpey, Pierce Higgins, Simon Webb, John Burke, Michael Curley, Jimmy O'Boyle, John Neenan, Declan Byrne, Robert Gildea, Peter Healy, Robert Madden, Mark Neenan, Tom Moran, Shane Burke, Sean Fitzmaurice, Hugh McKermitt, Michael Regan.

The girls included: Gillian Keane, Deirdre O'Connor, Evelyn O'Connor, Denise Byrne, Yvonne Murphy, Catriona Curley, Evelyn Murphy.

A special word of congratulations to Peter Healy who represented Mayo in the Community Games in Puc Fada and who performed admirably. Long may the success be continued.



Richard Hopkins a 3rd year diploma (accountancy) student at Galway R.T.C. was a member of a team of four which submitted a project for a business idea to the 1989 I.D.A. Student Enterprise Award Scheme.

The project won the Craig Gardner award for financial excellence. The prize was £1000 and a specially commissioned silver sculpture, presented by Mr. Billy McCann senior partner with Craig Gardner on 13th October at Trinity College, Dublin.

This was the first time the award was won by any college outside U.C.D. They are, at time of writing, in the process of patenting the idea with a view to realising its commercial potential. Richard is son of Michael and Margaret Hopkins of Island and a past-pupil of Began N.S. and Ballyhaunis Community School.



# PHOTO MEMORIES



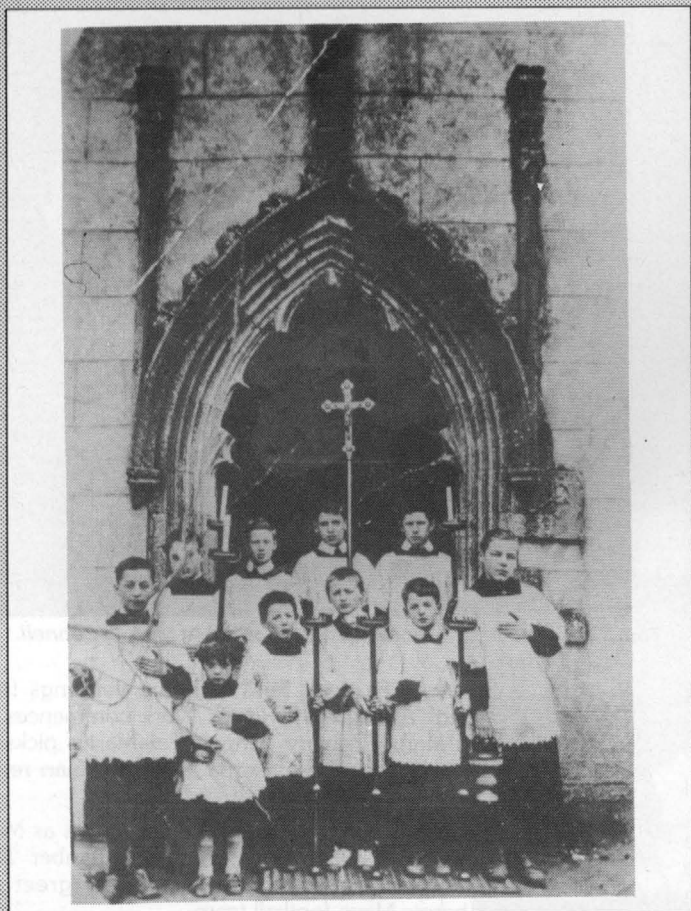
*St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School (First Clas 1938) – Front (l. to r.): John Henry, Joe Kenny, Kevin Barry, Tommie O'Malley, Sean Griffin, Austin Biesty, Margaret Rattigan (R.I.P.); Second Row: Mary Hannah Jordan, Maura Hyland, Kathleen Morley, Phyllis Neary, Mickie Barret, Davie Mulligan (R.I.P.), Tommie Grogan, James Lyons, Freddie Greene; Third Row: Bridget Freeman, Christina Mugan, Jenny Foody, Margie Donnellan, Philomena Barry, Annie Ganley, Ann O'Brien, Leona Webb, Noreen Campbell; Back Row: Maureen Hunt, Josie Carroll, Florence Eagney (R.I.P.), Maura Kelly, Doreen Forde, Teresa Sullivan (R.I.P.), Bridie Freeley, Delia Healy. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Barry).*



*Larganboy National School, June 1948 – Front Row: (l. to r.) Paddy Forde, Tom Grogan (R.I.P.), Paddy Ganley, Christy Ganley, Mary Forde, Noreen Hopkins, Kitty Moran, Monica Kelly, Pat Moran, Tom McLoughlin, John Mullarkey, John McGrath; Second Rpw: Mick Morley, Tom Cunnane, Mick Moran, Austin Bones, Aidan Grogan, Kevin Boyle, Tom Culkeen, Sean Prendergast, Martin Hopkins, Mick Niland, Michael Kelly, J. J. Forde, Martha Grogan, Tina Grogan, Anne Kelly; Back Row: Nora Kelly, Vera Hopkins, Brigid Kelly, Tresa Cunnane (R.I.P.), Phillimena Cunnane, Mary Moran, Ena Finn, Delia Mullarkey, Bridie Moran, Mary C. Grogan, Vera Bones, Josie Cunnane. (Photo – Michael Hopkins).*



# SNAPS FROM THE PAST



**Friary Servers:** Taken in 1926 by Rev. Fr. O'Leary OSA – Back Row: (l. to r.) Andy forde, Tom Swift, Mikey Smyth, Jimmy Byrne; Front Row: Jimmy Cunningham, Oliver Cunningham, Georgie Murray, Jihn Ganley, Joe Smyth, Paddy McDonnell. (Photo courtesy Jimmy Byrne).



**Timmy Finn, Treasa Tarpey, Dan Tarpey**  
Carrowkeel.



**Lucy Flynn, Main Street, with her "mascot" Collette Concannon** on the occasion of her winning £600 on "Spot the Ball". Also included are wellwishers (l. to r.) Tom Concannon, Conor Flynn, Lucy Collette, Larry Freeley, Molly Concannon c. 1955. (Phot courtesy Rita Mooney).



# WHERE DID THE YEAR GO TO AT ALL

By Mike Byrne

**JANUARY:** Many radios went silent in the month of January when Mid West radio went off the air on Friday, December 30th, 1988. Martina Cummins fund launched. Trust fund is set up at Ballyhaunis Bank of Ireland in an effort to raise £100,000 for the Clooncan schoolgirl. 22 widows from the town get together for a night on the town. Special function is held in Manor House. Barry Butler is elected new "Chamber" President.

**FEBRUARY:** On February 6th Fr. Martin Greaney is awarded his most important assignment since his arrival in Ballyhaunis, when he becomes Director of Festival 1989 after a closely fought contest! Ballyhaunis famed Boxing Club is reformed having ceased to exist for over 20 years.

**MARCH:** Best news of the month is the announcement that Mid West Radio is granted license for Mayo. Upwards of 50 people from the locality take off for Guilers for the Easter holidays. Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club decide to go to Coventry instead. Rugby Club turn on the style with their 2nd annual fashion show in Midas.

**APRIL:** Newly promoted Ballyhaunis G.A.A. team pick up their first league points in Senior Football. John Cleary is the popular choice as Editor of "Annagh" 1989. Ballyhaunis Boxing Club stage their first Boxing tournament at Midas.

**MAY:** Ballyhaunis National school brings first county hurling title to town. 48 children receive Holy Communion at St. Patrick's Church.

**JUNE:** Election fever grips the county. Euro and local politicians take to the streets in a month of sizzling sunshine. Community school teacher Patricia Waldron retires. On the longest day of the year 21st June Ballyhaunis Golf Club make history by becoming the first club to win the Carrolls Pro-Am for the 2nd time. Postman Michael Lyons retires after 42 years of service. Jim Higgins is elected to the 26th Dail.

**JULY:** Rev. Fr. Matt Cooney, O.S.A. is appointed New Prior at the Abbey. Best wishes to Fr. King in his new position. Minister Ray Burke officially opens M.W.R. FM while Charlie opens talks with the P.Ds. Popular Bank of Ireland man Shea O'Callaghan departs to Mullingar. Moira Delaney takes up position as Principal of Began National School.

**AUGUST:** August 4th sees the opening of the 3rd annual



Tom Fleming, home from New York, chatting to Mick O'Connell.

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival. Miss Caroline Jennings from Knock is crowned "Annagh '89 Rose". Work commences on extension to St. Mary's Primary School. Pat Martin picks up Captain's Prize at the local links. Garda John Marrinan retires having served the town for 29 years.

**SEPTEMBER:** Ballyhaunis is a sea of red and green as Mayo reach All Ireland Final. On Monday night September 18th hundreds of people crowd onto the Square to greet the vanquished but heroic Mayo football team.

**OCTOBER:** Train derailment at Ballygowan minutes after departure from Ballyhaunis grabs national headlines. Community School students embark on historic trip to the Soviet Union. E.S.B. man John Fitzgerald retires.

**NOVEMBER:** Ballyhaunis Rehab launch pub talent competition in place of "questions and answers". Special showing of the award winning film "Rainman" in the Star Cinema in aid of Mayo Autistic Society. Friary choir is revived.

## CANTAIRI – B. A. Hamhnais

This year, 1989, has seen our choir expand in repertoire to the point where we are now tackling pieces of a high standard for competition and for entertainment. Our numbers have swelled too and we are now a choir comprising some thirty members, ten sopranos, seven altos, six tenors, seven basses. This year we have entered more competitions and learnt many new pieces, this demands a tremendous commitment from our musical director Pauline McGarry and all the members of the choir. As a result our standard has improved tremendously.

We began the year with our now annual Christmas Recital in the Abbey with the National School Choirs and we attended the Sligo Feis in the Spring where we received a certificate of excellence. We were at the Cork Choral Festival in May where we entered the higher category, the National Open Competition for mixed voice choirs and the Madrigal Competition where we came fourth in both categories. During the Summer Festival Mass was sung in the Friary and a Classical Evening was held on Wednesday 9th August. A Dublin Quartet, the Intermezzo performed with Cantairi and the National School choirs together and individually in a very varied programme which was greatly enjoyed by all.

One of the highlights of the year was our visit to the Sligo Choral Festival where we came second in the Church CFhoir Section and joint third in the mixed voice competition against sixteen other choirs of a very high standard.

The Sopranos: Frankie O'Malley, Karina King, Margaret Hannon, Ita Fahey, Claire Kelly, Mary Quinn, Eva Johnson, Moira Delaney, Grainne Morris, Xanthe Pratt.

Altos: Nuala Fitzgerald, Mary-Hannah O'Connor, Una Shields, Maureen Thornton, Anne-marie Eagney, Laura Brogan, Anna Butler.

Tenors: John O'Neill, Luke Murray, Donal Ahern, Pat Noone, Tony Flynn, Michael Brogan.

Basses: Padraic Forde, Seamus Forde, Olivier Jordan, Martin Casey, Terry Coleman, Chris Pratt, Noel Waldron.





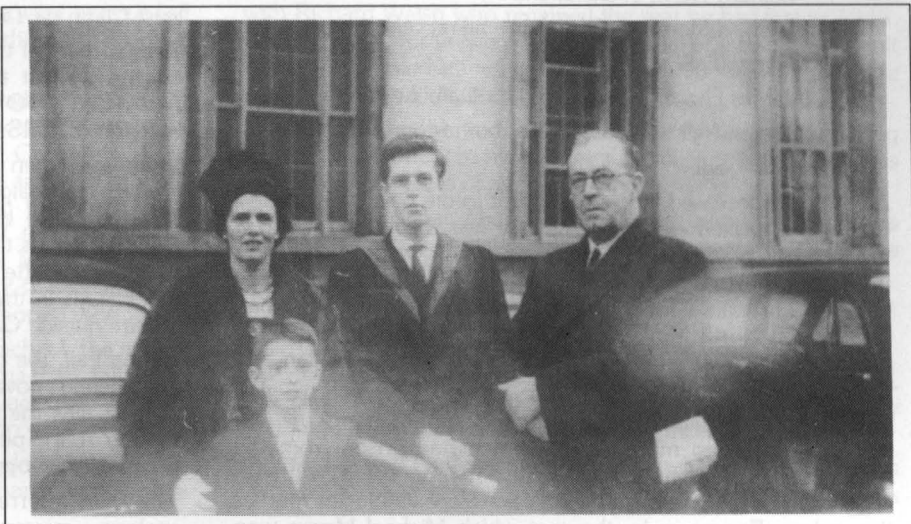
**The Brennan Sisters, Clare Street, with their mother Mary (R.I.P.) – Back Row (l. to r.) Angela, Ita, Kathleen; Front Row: Patricia, Mrs. Mary Brennan, Chris. (Phot courtesy Kathleen Gallagher (Brennan), Castlebar).**



**Back Row: Laurence Kilroy, Miko Freeley, Gerry Dillon; Front: Paddy Freeley. (Photo courtesy Teresa McGarry).**



**Two Generations of Dillon-Leetches. This Year the firm celebrates its centenary. To p 'Photo Back L to R; William, Rita, Mrs. Margaret, John. Front; Mr. Thomas, Flo, Molly. Botom 'Photo Back; L to R Mrs Mary, Tom, Mr. John. Front; John George**





# MEMORIES OF ELECTIONS IN THE FORTIES

By JOE KENNY

**IN the 1940's, Mayo consisted of two constituencies for Dail elections – North Mayo and South Mayo.**

Ballyhaunis was in South Mayo, which was roughly that part of the county south of a line from Westport to Charlestown. Prior to that, Ballyhaunis was part of the East Mayo constituency for the House of Commons. This was the constituency which returned John Dillon, M.P., from 1885 to 1918, when he was ousted by Eamonn de Valera.

South Mayo too was in many ways an historic constituency. In 1923 one of its elected representatives was Tom Maguire, legendary guerilla fighter and at present the only surviving member of the second Dail.

It had in 1927 returned Irish National Teachers Organisation leader, T. J. O'Connell of Began, as a Labour deputy, one of the few successful Labour candidates west of the Shannon.

In 1927 it also returned James Fitzgerald-Kenny, who succeeded Kevin O'Higgins as Minister for Justice in the Cumann na nGael Government. Fitzgerald Kenney was a frail distinguished looking figure. He was a King's Counsel who had been educated at a Catholic public school in England. He had been the main speaker at a Blueshirt meeting in Mayo when the leader, O'Duffy, had been prevented from speaking.

As the 1940's began, the sitting T.D.'s returned at the General Election of 1938 were:

Micheál 'O Cléirigh of Ballyhaunis  
Richard Walsh of Balla, and  
Michael Moran of Castlebar – all representing  
Fianna Fail.  
James Fitzgerald Kenney of Ballintubber and  
Martin Nally of Claremorris, both representing  
Fine Gael.

All are now deceased, the most recent to die being Micheál 'O Cléirigh, who died early in 1988. He was a solicitor – part of the firm of Crean and 'O Cléirigh as it then was – and lived in the house the town side of the old National School in Abbey Quarter. He was a founder member of Fianna Fail and had represented North Mayo in the Dail from 1927 to 1937. My picture is of a tall, fine-looking man. His sons, Brendan and Owen, attended school with us.

The political situation seemed to be stable, if not in fact stagnant. The two main parties which had arisen from the Anglo-Irish Treaty held five seats between them, with no suggestion of change in that pattern except within the parties themselves. For example, the seat which Michael Moran won

in 1938 had previously been held by a Fianna Fail colleague, Moore.

It was wartime in Britain and labour was in demand. A notice in a window in Bridge Street announced that McAlpine's agent attended there every Tuesday. Life at subsistence level was the order of the day, supplemented by emigrants' remittances from Britain and the United States. There did not appear to be any political activity, except that one night an army lorry came and took a neighbour away to the internment camp in the Curragh. Still against that dull background there were elections in the 1940's which upset completely the political situation in South Mayo and contributed in some way to the first change in the government of the State in sixteen years.

Local Government elections were due to be held in August 1942 and did not seem to arouse much interest. Legislation just passed had introduced the new system of County Managers with a severe diminution in the power of County Councillors.

In Mayo there was agreement between Fianna Fail and Fine Gael to avoid a poll in the Co. Council elections by nominating between them just sufficient candidates to fill the seats. The Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Walsh, issued a statement approving of this arrangement, but in the event the election took place. An advertisement in the "Western People" appeared as follows:

"Sons and daughters of the soil, stand firmly together.  
Unity is your only solution. Vote for the farmers'  
candidates."

and in the elections in the Swinford and Castlebar areas, farmers' candidates did exceptionally well at the expense of the established parties.

A General Election was due within a year and it promised to be interesting. Local papers of the time show that candidates were early into the fray. In January, 1943, Micheál 'O Cléirigh addressed a meeting in Kiltimagh and Martin Nally one in Irishtown. In Castlebar the Irish Labour Party held a convention addressed by the National Organiser, Captain Peadar Cowan. Later in April Michael Donnellan of Dunmore spoke in Castlebar at a meeting of South Mayo farmers.

Donnellan was founder of a new party of small farmers called Clann na Talmhan (It would now be called Clann na Talun). Its policies were in no way identical with those of the Farmers' Organisation which existed among the bigger farmers of Leinster, although there were occasional cases where they shared common ground and members.

Clann na Talmhan attacked existing policies in relation to agriculture. It advocated more land division, allocation of land to landless men, more state spending on land drainage and afforestation. These policies were attractive in an area of small holdings, and where wartime rationing with its attendant black market seemed to hurt the rural dwellers more, a party devoted to rural sectional interests was bound to appeal. When a General Election was called for June, 1943, in South Mayo at least Clann na Talmhan seemed to be setting the pace.

The tempers of the times can be gauged from a slogan painted on the wall at the river bridge in Ballyhaunis: "FARMERS AWAKE. DOWN WITH BLACKMARKETEERING SHOPKEEPERS. UP CAFFERKEY".

In an age when neither radio nor television were part of the election campaign, the mass meeting on a fair day or after Mass was the chief means by which candidates got their message across to the electorate or the electorate got a chance to evaluate the candidates. All parties held meetings in Ballyhaunis in the Market Square beside Dillon's, or facing the Square outside Gallagher's.

Fianna Fail, the government party, advised people to stand by the existing government for peace, stability and security. This at least was the official policy. In reality the exchanges were slightly more personal, as when one Fianna Fail candidate referred to an opponent as being "a mere spaleen".

The man referred to as a mere spaleen had indeed been a spaleen – migrant farmworker, a man who went to England to



do seasonal work on the land. He was Dominick Cafferkey, the most colourful and dynamic candidate of that election in South Mayo and possibly of South Mayo politics in the 1940's.

A native of Carrowbeg, Kilkelly, he was organiser for Clann na Talmhan in the constituency. I would say he was in his early thirties. Physically he was not a tall man, but a head of fiery red hair made him conspicuous and recognisable, and even now I can see and hear him in full spate of impassioned oratory, carried away in a description of what he saw as injustice or abuse of power. He did not seem to object to the term 'spaleen' – in fact he capitalised on it. He said he had been a Fianna Fail supporter until their policies forced him to emigrate. At home he had been offered fifteen shillings a week (75 pence) and his first week's earnings in England was three pounds.

At his final rally in Swinford he had an escort of horsemen. In Ballyhaunis on the Sunday prior to the election he was led by a pipe band. His meetings were usually chaired by Martin Henry of Crossard. To the government plea that only de Valera could protect the country, he said: "If Ireland can only produce one man to protect her, she is not worth protecting" and "If Dev is so indispensable what will happen us all when he dies"? Cafferkey promised that his party would become the government of the country, if not at this election, then at the next – but he did not explain how this aspiration could be fulfilled by a party which had only seventeen candidates in the field!

But Cafferkey and his colleagues, Joseph Blowick and Bernard Commons, were setting the pace in South Mayo and apart from the government plea for stability, the rest of the campaign was a reaction to Clann na Talmhan.

The Labour Party ran three candidates in the constituency but I have no recollection of their meeting in Ballyhaunis, although the "Western People" records that there was one on the Saturday before the election. Whatever policies that party put forward in urban centres such as Dublin or Cork, in South Mayo they advocated loans for farmers at not more than one percent interest, as well as economic prices for farm produce. They attacked Clann na Talmhan which, they said, was linked to the big ranchers of Leinster. On the other hand, Fitzgerald Kenney also attacked Clann na Talmhan who were, he said, preaching policies akin to those of Saor Eire, a left wing group which had been banned by the Church a decade earlier. Fine Gael proposed interest-free loans for farmers repayable over twenty-five years at one shilling (5p) in the £1 per year.

The election was held on Wednesday, 22nd June, and from all the excitement the main thing I remember is that we got a week off from school. This arose because the counting of the votes took place in the Boys' National School. The late Austin Crean, Solicitor and Sheriff, who lived in the town, was Returning Officer, assisted by Mr. Tynan of Clare Street.

It is hard to imagine how a count could proceed in what was really a small classroom, with officials, candidates, tallymen, press and general hangers-on. I can recall the excitement outside the school as the results of each count were announced and displayed in the window for the benefit of the public outside.

In 1943 as in 1938, Micheál 'O Cléirigh headed the poll but with a reduced vote and although first elected he was not elected until the fifth count. Blowick and Cafferkey were elected on the sixth count. Fitzgerald Kenney and Moran were elected on the eighth count without reaching the quota. The final count did not finish until the end of the week as a devastated Martin Nally with a few friends left the school, having lost the seat he had first won in 1923. Defeated too was Richard Walsh who had been in the Dail since 1927.

Clann na Talmhan had won a seat from each of the major parties. The first preference vote for Fianna Fail fell from 25,109 in 1938 to 16,809 in 1943. Fine Gael from 16,819 to 6,768. The actual poll down from 43,518 to 42,473.

In July the Dail assembled and de Valera was elected Taoiseach of a minority government. Clann na Talmhan did not vote

against him. Later the "Connaught Telegraph" reported that Cafferkey's maiden speech was generally commended as being incisive and forthright without any pretence to rhetorical flourishes!

Quidnunc in his "Irish Times" column said: "Deputy Cafferkey seems to be the most effective speaker in the Farmers' benches, whenever he speaks he can always be heard unlike some other members.

The Dail Debates of the time report that when Deputy Cafferkey found himself mystified by some of the rules of the House, he was advised by Deputy Dillon: "The best way to learn the rules of the Dail is to keep breaking them".

The minority government lasted barely a year and in June, 1944, we had another General Election, with another week off school. I can see Tommy Donnellan of Clare Street coming in to measure the schoolroom for the erection of rails and barriers. This happened in the forenoon on Monday and from lunch time we were free for that week.

The issue which brought down the government on that occasion was the Transport Bill which dealt, among other things, with the setting up of Coras Tompar Eireann – a new transport authority.

I would not have been conscious of the issues involved in the election, but I do remember Cafferkey attacking Fianna Fail over alleged speculative dealing in stocks and shares of the old transport company, with a memorable reference to 'the sharks that bought the shares'. He also showed prophetic vision when he said that the new Transport Service would be run by dictators who would take over private transport and that the taxpayer would foot the bill. The theme of the campaign from the government point of view was "give Fianna Fail an overall majority".

Polling day was Wednesday, 7th June and the campaign, as far as Ballyhaunis was concerned, reached its peak on the bog fair day, Monday, 15th May. (Actually the 14th was the proper day for the fair but since the 14th fell on Sunday the fair was put off until Monday. This of course was a holiday from school at the time.) Each of the parties held big meetings in Ballyhaunis that day.

This time there were no Independent candidates, nor indeed Labour candidates. Apart from other expenses, the deposit of £100 was a very daunting figure in those days. There were nine candidates, four Fianna fail, three Clann na Talmhan and two Fine Gael. Fine Gael plans received a severe set-back when one of its candidates Sean T. Ruane of Kiltimagh, withdrew due to a tragic fire in which his brother, brother's wife, three children and three employees died.

The poll was down from 42,473 to 39,644, due more perhaps to emigration than to apathy. Fianna Fail polled 19,587 to 19,532 for the combined opposition.

Again 'O Cléirigh headed the poll and was elected on the first count. Cafferkey was the next man in, elected on the 5th count with Richard Walsh who regained the seat he had lost in 1943. Blowick and Moran were elected on the 6th count. This left James Fitzgerald-Kenney without a seat and meant that there was no Fine Gael deputy in South Mayo.

A gentleman to the end, Fitzgerald-Kenney bowed out saying he had contentment in his mind and a smile on his lips. He was almost seventy years of age at the time.

The following year Micheál 'O Cléirigh went to Dublin as County Registrar and in the ensuing by-election Clann na Talmhan took the seat.

Bernard Commons polled 16,977 votes.

Charles Gilmartin polled 14,861.

The new situation was indeed strange – no seat for Fine Gael, two seats for Fianna Fail and a party which nobody knew anything about two years before holding three seats.

Before the next election South Mayo became a four-seat constituency and in the General Election of 1948 Dominick



Cafferkey lost his seat.

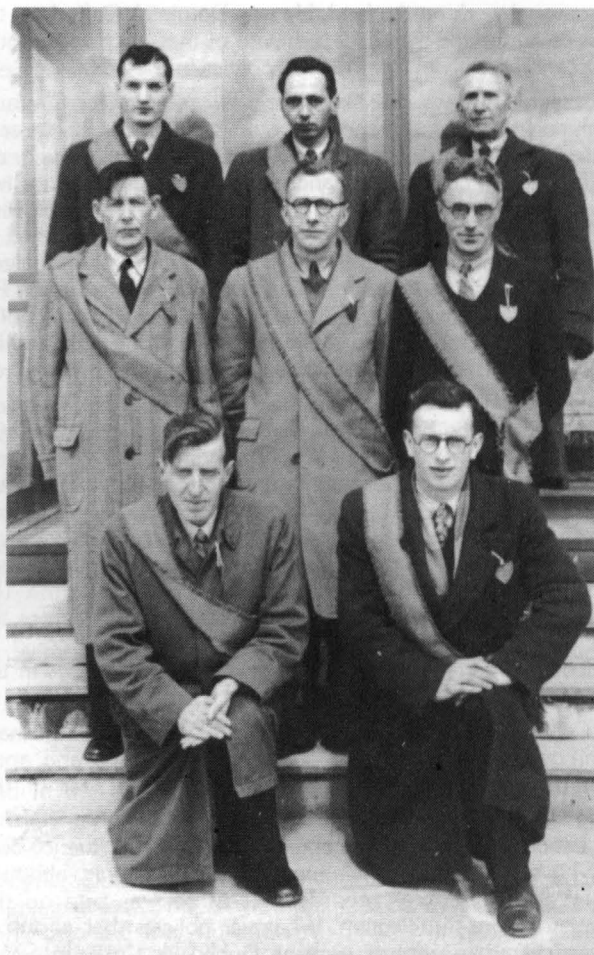
The impetus gained in the by-election campaign was still sufficient to carry Commons through and the entry of Clann na Poblachta, a new republican party led by Sean McBride, also upset the voting pattern, although this party did not poll well in South Mayo.

As a result of this General Election, the first Inter-Party Government came to power and Joseph Blowick, by now leader of Clann na Talmhan, became Minister for Lands. It was ironic and sad that in this victory Dominick Cafferkey was a loser.

When I began to write this piece I was thinking of my own memories of these bygone elections, with assistance from old newspaper files and some reference books. As I proceeded the exercise became dominated by the personality of one man, Dominick Cafferkey. This is strange because while I remember him clearly I do not think I ever spoke to the man or he to me. As I was a 'townie', the tribalism of the time would have left me out of sympathy with his politics, but with maturity I can see that here was a man of fine qualities with a great desire to bring about a more equitable society and willing to put his trust in democratic politics.

At the same time, however, he ran foul of the law and faced imprisonment over land agitation. He also rejected an increase in Dail salaries. Neither act gained him any political advantage – a cynic expressed the view that a man that would not look after himself would not look after his constituents.

While the general picture of the elections of the 1940's given above is accurate, it must be obvious that my knowledge of Dominick Cafferkey is sketchy enough. I know that he regained his seat in 1951 and I heard him speak in the Dail in the 1950's. I also recollect that he, at one stage, took up the study of law and that he died at a comparatively early age. Perhaps this article will prompt somebody else with a better knowledge of the man to add to the record because I feel that Dominick Cafferkey deserves to be remembered.



**Back Row: (l. to r.) Sean Griffin, Cyril Coyne, James Cunningham; Centre Row: Mr. Raftery (Station Master), Tom Rattigan, Mike McGreal; Bottom: Albert Madden, Tommy Joe Forde. Taken in the Forties. (Photo: Val Rattigan).**

# DRAMA 89

**By Frankie O'Malley**

The three act play for '89 was "In Wild earth" by O'Donnell Cassidy. Two performances in Ballyhaunis were followed by participation in three Drama Festivals. Aisling Toal was awarded best actress at Kilticlougher Drama Festival for her compelling performance as Dorothy Hammond. Finola Morley received best supporting actress from Claremorris festival for her sensitive portrayal of Deirdre Hammond. Other members of the cast were: Tony Carney (Mark Hammond), Noel Armstrong (Paul Hammond), John Gunnigan (Larry), Jack Green (Fr. Deverroe), Patrick O'Malley (Dr. John Burke), Stella Morley (Eibhlin), Set by: Joe Henry, Stage Managers: Seamus O'Boyle assisted by Chris O'Neill, Director: Pat Doyle.

We regret our summer production had to be cancelled. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused to our patrons.

Autumn brought us to our '89 one act play. "Bedtime Story" a comedy by Sean O'Casey. Competing in two Drama festivals (open section) Bundoran and Shannon brought excellent adjudications. Margaret Niland as Miss Mossie was a gem right out of O'Casey. Frank Herraghty as John Joe Mulligan captured his character with perfect underplaying. Frankie O'Malley was vivacious in her role of Angela. Noel Armstrong brought conviction and humour to his part of Dan Hallibet. Perfectly in character were Pat Doyle: the Doctor, Finola Morley: the Nurse, Seamas O'Boyle: the Garda, Directed by Margaret Niland.

**Plans for the future has "The Year of the Hiker" by J. B. Keane all ready to roll.**

**Thank you to our audiences past and future.**



# OLD FOLKS PARTY



*Mrs. Mary Flannery, Mrs. Bridie Gilmore, Mrs. Byrne (Derrymore), Mrs. Murray (Clare Street), Miss Kathleen Carney..*



*Mrs. Lohan, Mrs. Regan.*



*Mrs. Mary Hunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Hunt Mrs. Margaret Toolan.*



*Mrs. Dymphna Moran, Mrs. Annie Fleming, Mrs. Nora Kelly.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie O'Connell (Ashling Drive), Mr. Diskin.*



*Johnnie Meehan, Agnes Meehan (Annagh), Mrs. Doreen Lyons (Doctors Road).*





# THE BLANEY ORGANISATION

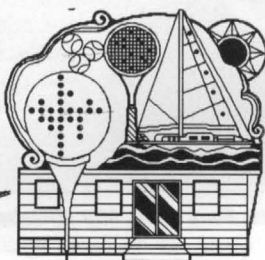
On a cold grey Sunday evening in 1984 after his defeat in the European Election of that year Neil Blaney passed through Ballyhaunis in his Peugeot estate with a message booming from his loudspeaker: "This is Blaney saying thanks to those who supported me in the European Election, and keeping a promise to come back win, lose or draw. Please God we'll meet in better times!" The better times are here and his organisation was never as strong in Connacht-Ulster after his storming victory in this years European Election.

Born into a deep republican tradition at Rosnakill, Co. Donegal, 67 years ago, Blaney entered politics in a by-election in 1948 on taking the seat of his late father, also Neil, who died leaving a large family on a small Donegal hill-farm. Blaney is now a record 41 years in Dail Eireann, was nine years a County Councillor, fourteen years a Minister.

Neil Blaney inspires tremendous loyalty in his supporters. He is a man of the people. He is involved in the catering and licensed trades. He is President of Portsalon Golf Club in Donegal, is a former Chairman of the Football Association of Ireland, and holds a nomination in the Irish Cup, coursing's premier trophy. A forceful speaker of colourful turn of phrase he can be fiery to his supporters when the pressure is on, impatient when things are not done to his expressed wish in double quick time. He is married to a Mayo woman, Eva Corduff of Rosspport, and has a large family. He is a wonderful constituency worker. He has performed minor miracles for his constituency, as for example the breathtaking Knockalla coast road in Donegal, overlooking the beautiful Lough Swilly three hundred feet below, and hewn out of solid rock . . . he has a dream . . . he does it his way.

Ballyhaunis Branch of Blaney Organisation

## BALLYHAUNIS SUMMER FESTIVAL



|                        |                  |                     |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| B . . . allyhoo        | S . . . pirital  | F . . . amily       |
| A . . . coustics       | U . . . pourside | E . . . vocative    |
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| N . . . eighbourliness |                  | L . . . ove         |
| I . . . mbibing        |                  |                     |
| S . . . pirit          |                  |                     |

Fr. M. Greaney, Festival Director 1989.

## BALLYHAUNIS BRIDGE CLUB

The game of Bridge is growing in popularity as every year more new members are joining the club. Presently, Bridge is played every Tuesday night at 8 o'clock in "Freeley's" of Main St. The officers elected for 1989/90 are as follows:-

Captain: Mrs. Sheila Forde; Vice-Captain: Miss Marie Sharkey; President: Mrs. Cait Dillon; Hon. Treasurer: Miss May Moyles; Tournament Director: Mrs. Angela Joyce; Secretary: Mrs. Joan Flynn.

The Captain's Prize for 1989 was won by Mrs. Maura Burke and the President's Prize by Mrs. Yvonne Loughrane.

Joan Flynn (Sec.)

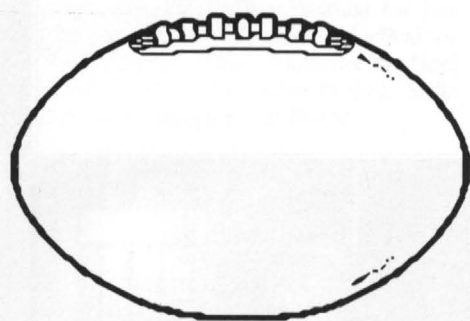
## BALLYHAUNIS R.F.C.

Like other Junior Clubs in Connacht, Ballyhaunis Rugby Club are still waiting for the stated upturn in the economy to show itself on the field of play. Having lost some heavy forwards from a very formidable pack last year, we are not winning enough good ball to supply our backline.

We have picked up some new players this year, but we still need more, so this is in the form of an open invitation to all those men in their early or late 20's who might have retired prematurely from active sport, and who would like to get themselves back into shapoe and get a lot of pleasure out of it at the same time. James Patterson of Ballybane has been elected Captain and would be very happy to help.

Our Draw was very successful last year, and plans are advanced for the development of our grounds at Doctor's Road which should be an asset to the entire community. Our Under-Age Teams are going well, and our Under-11 Team won the Mayo Community Games Championship.

**Officers for the year: Chairperson: Peter Gallagher; Secretary: Eamon Healy; Treasurer: Alan Delaney; Fixture Secretary: Bernie Jennings; Branch Rep.: Hugh Curley.**







**Left to right: Jim Mullarkey, John Costello, John Mullarkey (Bohogue) taken in Altingham, 1914. (Photo courtesy John Mullarkey, Bohogue).**



**At the Annagh stations . . . who would bother about television?**

**Martin Lyons, Johnnie Walshe at back, John Meehan, Canon Costello, Agnes Meehan, John Meehan (Jun.).**





# Annagh Crossword

## ACROSS

1. The only player to be sent off in an F.A. Cup final at

Wembley (5)

4. The clash of the ash. (7)

7. This cup is presented to winners of Munster Senior Colleges Champions (5)

8. Brazilian Formula I Driver (5)

9. Only negro to win Men's Singles Title at Wimbledon.

10. - - - - Blanchfield led Spurs to 60's double (5)

14. Ian Botham is a good one (6)

17. Mayo's first All Star Footballer (5)

21. Only left-handers can play this game (4)

22. There is an Annual Formula I Grand Prix held here (5)

23. Did this professional caddy for Pat Curley in the Carrolls

Pro Am? (5)

24. U.S. Quarterbacks don't like to get this (3, 4)

25. The nationality of downhill skier Peter Mueller (5)

## DOWN

2. Name of G.A.A. pitch in Charlestown (5)

3. - - - - Villa famous soccer club (5)

4. He scored a hat-trick for England in 1966 World Cup Final (5)

5. The slang term "stiff" is often given to this type of player (7)

6. The number of Epsom Derby winners Lester Pigott has ridden (4)

10. The play at the Baseball ground (5)

11. this athlete now intends running for Election (3)

12. Winners of this years All Ireland minor title in football (5)

13. An eagle is this under par (3)

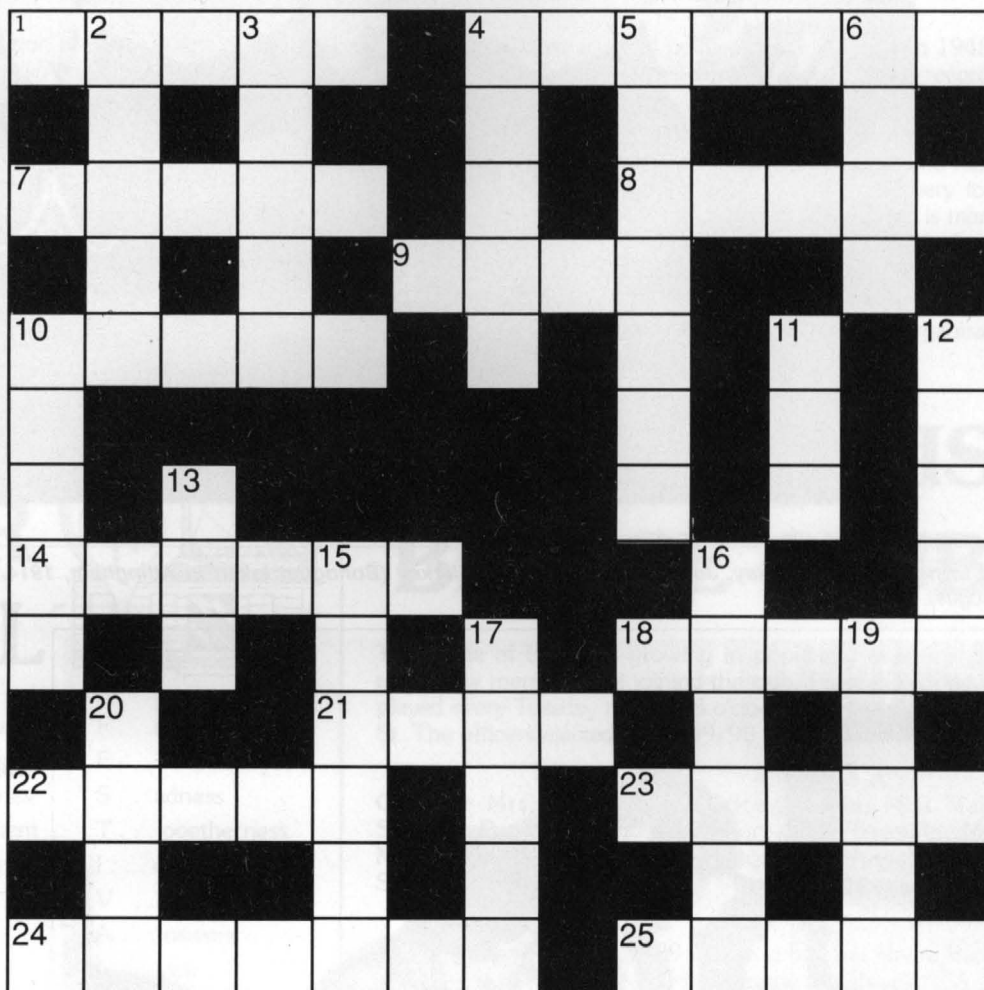
15. OLE! They were in Ireland's World Cup soccer group? (6)

16. - - - - Road home of Norwich (6)

17. This goes with amber in Kilkenny (5)

19. There is a Cusack Park G.A.A. ground in this town (5)

20. Yannick - - - - popular tennis player (4)



## Ballyhaunis Community Pre-School Playgroup

The Ballyhaunis Community Pre-School Playgroup under its leader Eileen Prendergast operates from the Scouts Den (Monday - Friday) 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Parents are always welcome to see our group in action, also note you are free to send your child later, collect earlier if you so wish.

It is recognised that play groups are vital to the mental and social development of the pre-school child.

A wide range of equipment is provided to give opportunities for all kinds of play, creative, imaginative, social and constructive.

The Playgroup held their A.G.M. in the Scouts Den on Monday September 18th 1989. The following Officers were elected for the coming year.

Chairperson: Patricia Heaney; Treasurer: Mary Ann Lyons; Secretary: Kay Healy.

Many thanks to the outgoing committee for their fundraising and support last year



# CRITICS

**By Jimmy Cribben**

What this magazine needs is a panel of good critics. The present team is fifth division. They don't like this – they don't like that – they don't ever put pen to paper and voice their criticism according to the rules of the game. Every piece of scribbling should have critical views. If it does not merit criticism it should not be printed.

No special training or skills are required to become a critic. Less skill being required by demolition workers than by blocklayers or "brickies".

I have been criticised myself now and then and have enjoyed and got good mileage out of some of it, granted some of it need a bit of tuning up. Critics fascinate me so much that I will have a go at being one myself, for the next few paragraphs at any rate. Aspiring critics may learn something – and so may I!

For the purpose of criticism one needs something to criticise. After due consideration I have selected a sentence written by Oscar Wilde. He will have a right to reply if he can contrive a means of doing so.

In the past Mr. Wilde has made wild statements but Mr. Wilde was talking through his hat when he said "the appreciation of literature was a matter of temperament not of teaching." Would he have us believe that a temperamental illiterate has a better chance of appreciating literature than a person who can read. It takes more than an ability to read literature as I shall endeavour to prove.

When Tom Burke, the vet, had his arm in a plaster some years ago many of his wide circle of friends wrote messages of good will on the plaster casting. This piece of literature deserves a closer look. For Mr. Burke it was a piece of compulsive reading and the many writers were given a favourable review by a large number of critics. It was interesting because there was no extravagant use of words or paper and it was completely immune to censorship.

One of the messages read "Break a leg". Let us imagine that the arm belonged to someone with a prickly temperament and who was unacquainted with the parlance of the stage. What would their appreciation of this piece of writing be like? The phrase "break a leg" had its origins on the stage and is still used by actors as a message of good will. Now if we teach this person the meaning of the phrase; good chance (if he is still half normal) that we will get him or her to laugh like the rest of us.

I would like to ask M. Wilde a question "What tickled him or her – temperament or teaching?" Trying to have the last word,

as always, he may very well argue that teaching merely changed the temperament but the "appreciation of literature was a matter of temperament not of teaching". I will not pursue this any further unless I hear from him.

I have one question to ask Mr. Burke, who owns the copyright of the manuscript, himself or the writers who number in the region of two hundred?

Aspiring critics will note that I took just two sentences from two writers and finished up where I started. This proves that a critic can make a mountain out of a molehill and still have material left over. I would not mind if somebody did a critical review on this piece: as I have learned nothing by writing it I may learn something by having it criticised. I have dealt only with literary critics. There are many branches of the art specialising in all areas of activity but that is for another day.

On a cold grey Sunday evening in 1984 after his defeat in the European Election of that year Neil Blaney passed through Ballyhaunis in his Peugeot estate with a message booming from his loudspeaker: "This is Blaney saying thanks to those who supported me in the European Election, and keeping a promise to come back win, lose or draw. Please God we'll meet in better times!" The better times are here and his organisation was never as strong in Connacht-Ulster after his storming victory in this years European Election.

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Ballyhaunis Branch of Blaney Organisation

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## BALLYHAUNIS I.C.A.

The Ballyhaunis I.C.A. meets on the second Wednesday of the month in the "Horse She Inn" at 9 p.m. During the year members like to involve themselves on "Community Work" such as organising the Blood Transfusion Service and collecting for the Irish Kidney Association.

This year our Guild was host to the Mayo Federation meeting which was held in the Community School in June. It was a great success and we wish to thank most sincerely all who helped us to achieve this.

The members attend all Federation Meetings which give them many new ideas and a chance to make new friends around the

country.

This Autumn members, who are ever health-conscious, are attending keep-fit courses and swimming sessions.

The I.C.A. has developed in many areas and we are always happy to welcome new members.

OFFICERS – President: Mrs. Veronica Freyne; Secretary: Mrs. Ann McHugh; Treasurer: Mrs. Margaret Kenny; P.R.O.: Mrs. Catherine Carney.

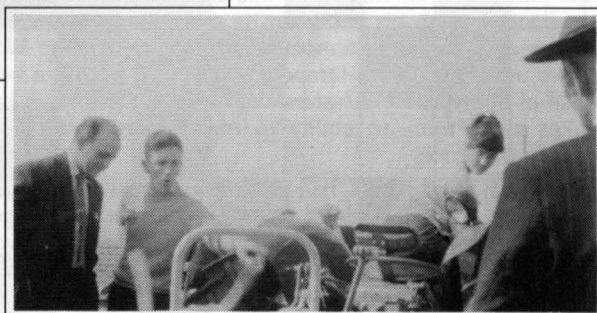
Catherine Carney.

# A Glance at the Past



*The Abbey Soccer Team, 1925 (l. to r.) Paddy McDonnell, Mick Benson, Martin Hanna, Mikey Smyth, Tom Swift, Jimmy Byrne. (Photo courtesy Jimmy Byrne).*

*Tommy Johnston of Johnston Agricultural Machinery, Ballyhaunis, and his sister Carmel, demonstrating a potatoe digging machine to David Ruane at the Agricultural Show, Timmy Finn, Teresa Tarpey, Dan Tarpey (Carrowkeel).*



*Front Row: Willie Connell (Jim Connell's brother), Vincent Horkan, To m Carney, Paddy Lyons , Mickie Jordan (Decd.), Miceál Smyth, Sylvester McBride, Mike McGreal (Decd.), Pat Flatley, Gus Caulfield, Martin Moran; 2nd Row: Mary Flatley, Della Byrne, Agbes Cribbin, Reena O'Malley, Annie Kirrane (Decd.), Mary Biesty, Mrs. Fitzmaurice, Kevin Gordon, Michael Sullivan (Decd.); 3rd Row: Mary Fitzgerald, Annie Kennely, Frances (Comer) Feeney, Mrs. McGreal, Bridie Feeley; Back Row: Michael Freeley (Decd.), To m Caulfield, Oliver Foudy, Kitty Freeley, Mrs. Biesty (Decd.), Fr. Godwin, the Bus Contractor, Albert Madden (Decd.), Mike Tarmey, Tom Fitzmaurice.*







**Ballyhaunis schoolmates from Mt. St. Joseph, Roscrea, left to right: Hugh Curley, Ger McGarry.**



**Jim Dyer, Brackloon, and Willie Lyons (R.I.P.), also of Brackloon, taking a stroll in O'Connell Street, Dublin (C. 1938). (Photo courtesy Jim Dyer, Devlis).**



**I.C.A. Dinner Dance "some" years ago – left to right: Mrs. Teresa McGarry, Mrs. Hannah O'Dwyer, Mrs. Kathleen Byrne, Mrs. Kathleen Morley, Mrs. Noreen Hopkins. (Photo courtesy Mrs. T. McGarry).**



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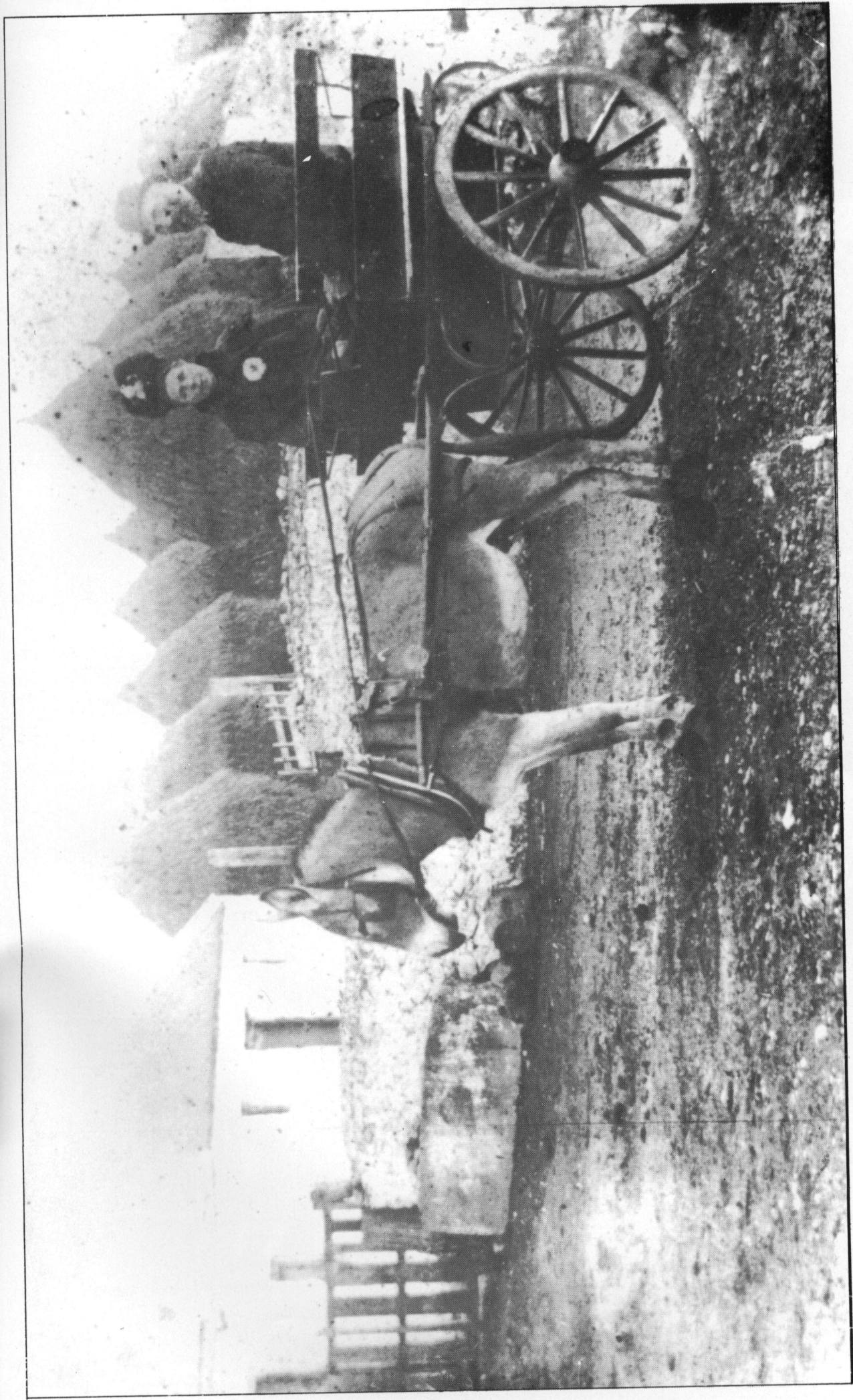
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*Pat and Anne Henry Crosard. (Mrs. McGowan, Tuam. Photo taken 1915)*



