

**ANNAGH
1979**



SEASON'S GREETINGS

"The moving finger writes; and having writ, moves on." Another year in the cycle of birth, marriage and death is recorded in the present issue of "Annagh". Again we take the opportunity of greeting the people of Ballyhaunis and its environs. We thank and congratulate the Junior Chamber on a year of success and look forward to their continuing efforts to improve the quality of life in our area. The season of Christmas reminds us of the importance of the Family and the bonds of family life. It is our prayer that the Family of Nazareth will bless each and every one of you and lead you to value your own home mar nil aon tintean mar do thintean fein agus is docha nach mbeidh.

Patrick O. Costelloe, P.P.

A Message From Junior Chamber

On behalf of Junior Chamber we thank our patrons and readers for their generous support. It is our special wish that our emigrants will find pleasure in the glimpses of their town's past and pride in her present progress.

Nollaig faoi shean 's faoi mhaise dhaoib.

Matt O'Dwyer, President 1978/79
Siobhan O'Connor, President 1979/80

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank all those who have made this magazine possible by writing articles and supplying photographs. It is essential that such material be forthcoming if the magazine is to remain in existence, as its survival depends upon people's interest and support.

We wish to thank the following for typing manuscripts: Miss Patricia Curley, Mrs. Rosaleen Curley, Mrs. Anne Marie Eagney, Miss Rita Hopkins, Sister Teresina Daley.

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Committee: John Higgins, Jim London, Donal Ahern, Fr. Des Walsh.

ANNAGH

a Ballyhaunis Magazine



Christmas 1979

RESPONSIBILITIES

In many respects the closing of a decade marks the end of an era or at least with the benefit of hindsight this often appears to be the case. It is certainly true that, after the experience of the seventies, the country, each town and area, presents a different appearance to that of ten years ago. The physical changes, here in town as elsewhere, are obvious: new houses and shops, new schools and factories, more cars and tractors; the psychological changes, though less apparent, are no less real: a new confidence abounds and there is a greater sense of freedom in the air. Well might it be said that after a long slumber and the slow arousal of the previous decade the West awakened in the 1970's.

"We are the most privileged generation of Irish people," an Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, reminded us in recent weeks and a rudimentary knowledge of our history tells us that this is so: past generations suffered brutal evictions, forced emigration and unbearable poverty but through their endurance and self-sacrifice miraculous changes have taken place, bringing us the political and economic freedoms of the Republic and placing us in a strong position to deal with our present-day problems and rid this island of violence and fear - provided we have the will to do so.

As a nation, we must become aware that privileges ought to impose obligations as well as carry rights; as a community we must remember that we, too, have a part to play, however small, in the creation of the new Ireland, which, under the leadership of the next generation, will enter the 21st century. It would be wrong of us to think that we in East Mayo in some way lie outside the mainstream of national life. The Knock Apparition and the formation of the Land League prove otherwise, as does the fact that three of

the men who did most to make our now privileged position possible, Pearse, De Valera and Michael Collins, at various stages visited this town. And, of course, the triumph and joy of the recent Papal visit placed us at the very centre of events.

There is much to be done: throughout the whole of the country we, as a united people, must be prepared to accept that not alone our attitudes but our institutions should be flexible enough to cater for the greater social, cultural and religious diversity which changing times and greater population movement must inevitably bring. "We must all be ministers of reconciliation," Pope John Paul told us at Drogheda and laid down very clear guidelines for us to follow: "Never think that you are betraying your own community by seeking to understand and respect and accept those of a different tradition. You will be serving your own tradition best by working for reconciliation with others."

So in this historic year of celebration, whilst we proudly contemplate our past achievements we should also be mindful that the decisions we are making and the attitudes we now adopt will, together, determine the shape of our future. Only a scrupulous regard for the rights of others, a dedication to justice for all, justifies us in the assertion of our own rights. This is true of all our problems, political, social and industrial, but it is particularly true in regard to the supposedly intractable problem of Northern Ireland. We enter the eighties with Pope John Paul's great call for generosity, courage and imagination ringing in our ears: it is a call that we, the privileged generation, cannot afford to ignore as what may prove to be a new era of peace and reconciliation opens before us.

Editor

REVIEW 1979

by Jim Landon

Seo linn deire le blian eile - 1979 agus is fiu feachaint siar ar roinnt de na rudai a tharla lena linn.

The 8th Annual Junior Chamber's New Year's Eve ushered in 1979 in style. The "Person of the Year" award went to the late Doctor Declan Shields. The Keane's Kitchen Perpetual Trophy was presented by Mr. Emmett Keane and the replica donated by Jack Dillon and Sons Ltd. was presented by Mr. John Dillon. A forewarning of the harsh months ahead was given on New Year's Eve night when a temperature of -14C was recorded in the town centre.

January saw the reforming of a Branch of Conradh na Gaeilge in Ballyhaunis, and a Public Meeting to seek action to improve the town's water supply - which seems to have had the desired effect.

February saw an investiture of new Cubs and Scouts by Mr. Pat Lally at the Scout Den. Garrymore won their fifth successive grand-fellowship Senior Football Title at Ballyhaunis, while the Connacht Senior Football Team trial was also held in Ballyhaunis. Ballyhaunis Rugby Club continued to expand - playing weekly games while Ballyhaunis Boxing club was reformed again. The Karate Club gained new members while Mr. Jack O'Connor was elected President of Ballyhaunis Golf Club with Mr. Sean P. Tighe as Captain.

St. Patrick's Dramatic Society Ballyhaunis staged a three act comedy "The Green Boxen" by Patrick Kelly at the Parochial Hall in April. Ballyhaunis driver John O'Dwyer and navigator Niall Eagney took part in the Circuit of Ireland Rally. Dr. E.A. Waldron and Mrs. A. Joyce won the Captains Prize at Bridge while the Tidy Towns Improvements Committee representing all voluntary organisations in the town was set up. Mrs. Frankie O'Malley and Mr. Oliver Jordan featured as leads in the Castlerea Musical Society's production "Viva Mexico".

Winning was the theme for the month of May. Ballyhaunis Gaelic Footballers won the Canon Henry Cup after a lapse of fourteen years with Tom Cribbin as captain. Meanwhile Ballyhaunis Soccer Team won the Tuohy Cup after seven seasons of trying with Mike Webb as captain. In Dunlaoghaire Ballyhaunis Community School Dancers came second in the All-Ireland Slogadh Naisiunta. They were Tom Phillips, Vincent Freeman, Brian Loughran, Michael Maguire, Mary Leonard, Finola Morley, Elizabeth Davitt and Deirdre Forde. Ballyhaunis Handball Club announced that they had acquired a site for an alley.

Nearly forty members of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club visited the Roger Casement Club in Coventry in June. Eighty-four children from the Parish were confirmed at Knock in a unique ceremony in which ten Bishops confirmed 2500 children from the Diocese. In June also

acute petrol shortages caused early morning queues in the area. "Val's Bar" won another National Hygiene Award for Bar Food, while Ballyhaunis P.T.A.A. Debating team representing the Claremorris Region won the Connacht Debating Final. In the Local Elections Fianna Fail's Mr. P.J. Morley T.D. was re-elected to Mayo County Council while Mr. Jim Higgins Fine Gael was elected to Mayo Co. Council for the first time.

July was children's month in reality. Coupled with their holidays they enjoyed a week's activities entitled "The week of the Child" run by Junior Chamber. Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool was fully operational and Began Feis was an outstanding success. Thirty four members of the 4th Mayo Troop Boy Scouts enjoyed a two week trip to Switzerland and Rome which included a Papal Audience. They were accompanied by Seamus Durkan, Stephen Durkan, Hugh Campbell and Michael Laffy. The weekly 25 Drives were held to help defray the massive expenses involved in the ambitious trip.

In August Ballyhaunis U-16 Footballers who earlier won the East Mayo Championship were defeated in the County Final by Claremorris. Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club held their Annual Shoot at the Club's grounds. In golf Mr. Eamonn Curley won the Captain's Prize while Mrs. Anne Johnston won the Ladies Captain's Prize. The Abbey Pattern and Sports was a resounding success while thousands attended the Centenary Celebrations at Knock at the end of August.



Mrs. Maria Cribbin, Main Street, Ballyhaunis - representing the Social Services Council of the Archdiocese of Tuam - receives Holy Communion from Pope John Paul during the Mass at Knock on Sunday 30th. September 1979.

September opened with the most successful ever Ballyhaunis Cattle Show held at the N.C.F. Mart where the overall champion was owned by Mr. William Comer

Killinagher. Much effort went into the preparations for the highlight of the year - the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul to Ireland and Knock. At the Papal Mass on Sunday September 30th Ballyhaunis people were involved in stewarding, the Diocesan Choir, the Boy Scouts and the bearing of gifts to the altar at the Offertory of the Mass. For twenty four hours there was non-stop traffic through the town as over 300,000 people came and went from Knock. Never has the town looked so well festooned with Papal Flags, and bunting.

October began with the opening of the new St. Mary's National School Abbeyquarter. Mayo and Galway met in a Senior Football Challenge in the newly renovated G.A.A. pitch.

And so with these few memories we must bid farewell to 1979. Not alone to 1979 but indeed the seventies - a decade that has brought growth, expansion and progress to Ballyhaunis. We must note the many new arrivals in the area during the last year in what is, a vibrant and thriving Ballyhaunis on the threshold of a new decade - the eighties. *Slan mar sin agus go mbeirimid beo ag an am seo arís!*



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Cérbh as Thú nó Cérbh Díobh Thu

Gerard McGarry traces some of the formative influences on the town of Ballyhaunis and its people

This is not a "History of Ballyhaunis": such a task would demand the work of a fully qualified historian - not the efforts of an amateur which the writer claims merely to be. It is an attempt to summarise some of the proven facts relating to the Barony of Costello, in which the parish lies, from early times, through the 16th century to modern times. The last 130 years are especially rich in local information which is available to fill out, confirm, or alter some of the theories or propositions outlined here. The author would be well rewarded if his writing would elicit such information to be recorded and studied scientifically, or stimulate an interest that would make that research possible.

But why do we start here - why are we here in Ballyhaunis at all? Because the "ford" at the river was a natural meeting and trading place, because an Augustinian monastery was built here c. 1348, overlooking the ford, because in earlier times primitive tribes sought refuge and safety in islands in Annagh Lake. Such natural advantages for community living undoubtedly attracted settlers traces of whom excite our interest as to who they were, their life style, their progress in civilization, the events that shaped their lives and influenced other peoples or were they content to live in a quiet backwater, snug and isolated, "insulated" from the rest of the world?

The pre-historic period gives undisputed evidence of very early human settlement here - perhaps centuries before the Christian era. The Neolithic age has left its mark in the numerous Ogham stones, souterrains (tunnels), cranogai which have been dealt with in other published articles by Bernie Freyne. The Tuatha De Danann have left their names in such places as Loughglynn and Mannin. In more definite times the area was peopled by the Ciarraigh Uachtair. Traces of one of their castles may be seen in Aileach Mor Ciarraidhe at Castlemore, near Ballaghaderreen. A strong tradition credits them with having travelled to Clontarf to support Brian Boru against the Danes. Perhaps this explains their affinity with the Ciarraigh of the south - modern Kerry!!

The name of the parish, Annagh, creates a problem. It is unlikely that it is drawn from the present village of Annagh, which originally belonged to Aughamore and did not become part of the present parish till 1895. Annach is the Irish for low lying ground and there is a strong tradition that Patrick personally evangelised the district. The holy well and the ruins of churches in the area are pointed out as being undoubtedly his. In any case the organisation of the Church up to the 12th century was mainly on a tribal basis, and it was only in the time of St. Malachy, a short time before the Norman invasion, that the Church was organised on the local diocesan and parochial system with which we are familiar today.

In Norman times the plains of Mayo were attractive to the invaders; Hugh de Lacy brought with him Jocelyn de Angulo who proceeded West to the territory then occupied by the McDermotts. His sons Phillip and Gilbert rapidly adopted the speech and ways of their new vassals and took the name MacJocelyn, later corrupted to Mac Goisdéilbh, finally Costello and Costelloe. Other descendants became Phillips, Jordan and Waldron. This family was much given to war and conquest and did not hesitate to rebel against their liege, King John. They joined with the Irish King Cathal Craobh Dearg: Phillip MacCostello received the O'Kelly lands of Ui Maine in Co. Galway. A reconciliation with King John restored to them the lands lost in that revolt.

As the family possessions increased stone castles were built to defend the estates and provide locations for the various branches of the family; Tulrahan, Rath na gCuppan or Raith, Caislean na Crancaide, Annagh, and Castlemore, the chief residence. The Costellos in spite of their adoption of Gaelic speech and customs and periodic alliances with local Irish chieftains were always "King's Men" as witnessed by their holding office under the Crown, e.g. Phillip Mc Costello was Sherriff of Connacht in 1227. During the early part of the 15th century many deaths of the name - Edmund, John Dubh, David, John, Walter, Pius Jordan Bui, Thomas Giolla Dubh, William, Edmond and Anthony - are recorded on the field of battle.

The surnames Waldron, Phillips and Jordan are still numerous in the locality. The Waldrons of Cave, Devilis and Derrymore are undoubtedly direct descendants of Baldrathe or Walter McCostelloe of Logboy. There are Jordans still on the family lands of Raith.

Others (including Rev. Fr. Patrick Costelloe, P.P.) can trace their descent to Shane McCostelloe of Castlemore, latterly of Edmondstown. The house at Edmondstown, built c. 1860, was acquired by the diocese and is now the residence of the Bishop of Achonry.

Continuous war was waged between the MacCostello and the McDermotts of Coolavin, whose Castle was situated on an island in Lough Key. Frequent skirmishes are recorded in the Irish annals from 1547 to 1580. There is a charming song - "Una Bhan" - which records the tragic love of Tomas Laidir MacCostelloe and Una Ni Dhiarmada, who like, Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, were parted by family feuding!! Details of these feuds are available from the author.

In 1587 the Costellos ceased their connection with the southern portion of the Barony in which Ballyhaunis lies. The then McCostello, "called to him out of the English Pale, this gentleman, Mr. Theobald Dillon to join with him in the name of kinsman and with the consent of all of his family gave him the free gift of Castlemore". It is more likely that these lands centred on Ballyhaunis were sold to Dillon in accordance with feudal law: technically the owner was the King, and the local Norman Barons were

tenants under him. In any case the transfer was peaceful for we find many instances of marriage between the two families. In 1587 the Dillons were in possession of Mainnin, Annagh, Belagar, Tullrahane, Bekan, Coogue, Ciarraidhe Iochtar and Kilgarriff; also they held castles at Ballindoo and Ballindaingean in Kilgarriff. The only castle which Dillon did not acquire was MacJordan's at Raith.

The Dillons were fair and kindly in their administration and introduced English Law in place of the Brehon Law adopted by the McCostello. They were able to extend their property and became one of the larger and successful landowners in Mayo. Their chief seat was Gallagh Castle on the shores of Loughglynn, though in more recent times they rarely lived there.

Few traces of the McCostello now remain in the Ballyhaunis end of the Barony called after them. The two most important are the Abbey, or Friary, of the Dominicans at Urlaur, now alas, a ruin, and the Monastery of Augustinian Friars still happily flourishing. The latter was founded c. 1348 by Sliocht McJordan Duff who is buried there. The friars were given land at Abbeyquarter, 150 acres stretching out to Drimbane. The friars ministered to the people in the locality, conducted a school and provided an infirmary. Subsequently the village began to grow and the first houses appeared in Abbey Street, near the present Mercy Convent. In 1641 there were 30 friars in the Friary. Even when Cromwellian soldiers burned the church the people still attended Mass there under a thatched roof, but by 1788 there were only 4 friars left, and they remained proscribed by law, and often on the run.

In 1833 a rebuilding programme was interrupted by the Great Famine which began in 1845 to reach its peak in Black '47. Fr. Anderson was appointed Prior in 1874 and found the Abbey in a poverty stricken state. However, with the help of the people and the Diocesan Clergy the modern period of renovation has continued with remarkable success to the present day.

The present town has fanned out from the bridge which replaced the ancient ford and the approaches to the area have changed considerably with the passage of the years, especially in the last 200: a link with Ballina-Costello and also a link with Loughglynn, the headquarters of the Dillon Estate administration were then regarded as important. The main road through Cave and Coolnaha appears to be of recent origin, and before the railway cut its way through Ballyhaunis the road from Ballinlough turned north at Knockbrack to go through Clagnagh and Cherryfield instead of following its present course through Devlis. The road then skirted the Friary by the river on the northern boundary, that is Pollnacrogga and came as far as the present Knox St. or the Square. The annual Pattern on St. Augustine's day was probably held on this northern side. (A pugmill was located behind Knox St.)

This was the route followed by part of the British Army in 1798 as they pressed ahead to Castlebar. They camped at Carrowanluggaun, on the north side of Main St. There they killed a rebel called Hackett from Tipperary by

causing him to be tied to a horse by the feet and dragged up the hill. He gave his name to this hill - "Cnocan hAiceid". Communication with Loughglynn through Gorthaganny is unlikely as the ground was then undrained, at best a bogland. Perhaps someone could add to our knowledge of these early routes!

Anois ta sceal faoi chailin darbh ainim Maire - Maire Bheal Atha hAmhnais - a bhfuil amhran scríofa fuithi. Bhi beirt abhar sagart ag freastal ar an Mainistear, Mac Ui Neill agus Mac Ui Fhinn. Cuireadh chun na Roimhe iad le barr feabhais a chur ar a gcuid scolariochta. Thall sa Roimh chumadar amhran gradha fan gcailin seo, a h-ailleacht is a beilin binn. Is docha go bhfuil baint idir abhar and dain seo agus an Caisdeach Ban. Ta tuilleadh ag udar an ailt seo faoi an dan alainn seo.

In the 1850's John Dillon of Ballaghadereen came to live in a house which still stands near the railway bridge. The house was the focal point for the linen industry. Flax was collected here and the field presently owned by Gerard Dillon is still known as the "Flax Pond." The Post Office opened in Clare St. in 1838.

September 9 1861 was marked by the opening of the railway station. Its construction provided employment for about 1600 men and trade expanded, houses were built, shops opened and the village of 350 souls soon became a town. It is alleged that the railway junction was lost by Ballyhaunis to Claremorris because of fears that it would lead to increased valuation on property, or perhaps the newly prosperous traders of Ballyhaunis feared that such a junction would attract the crowds of "Spalpeens" waiting for trains. Objectors are met with in every place and Ballyhaunis is no exception.

Ironically the loss of the railway junction may have contributed indirectly to Ballyhaunis losing its prominence on the national road system a century later.

A big social event in the town was the St. Patrick's Day Pattern on the 17th March. St. Patrick has strong and well defined connections with the parish. The town attracted great crowds and inevitably faction fights and other disorders marred the occasion. The Parish Priest was forced to intervene and the pattern lapsed. The old Parish Church of St. Mary was erected c 1850 and the beautiful new church of St. Mary and St. Patrick was set in train by Canon Canning in 1900; it was blessed and opened by Archbishop Healy on 10 October 1909. The Church was solemnly consecrated by Archbishop Walsh on 24th October 1950.

The parish is rich in ecclesiastical history and would provide a major project for a competent historian. It is remarkable however that Ballyhaunis has never had a Protestant church.

Economic progress in the second half of the 19th century is reflected in the expansion into Knox St. and Upper Main St. Small craft industries were to be found in Devlis, a pugmill, clog factory, weaving, joinery, linen making and 5 bakeries. Such was the thrift of the people that questions were asked in the House of Commons as to why a small Irish town like Ballyhaunis could show bigger deposits in its Post Office than any other town of its size in

the then British Isles. In 1906 a total of 875 accounts in Ballyhaunis P.O. came to £39,193, much greater than Castlebar, Ballina or Westport. In the late 19th century it enjoyed a population of wealthy but conservative people with some notable exceptions. Few great national leaders or politicians emerged from the town though James McGarry of Clagnagh was Chairman of Mayo Co. Council in 1907 and 1908. Nor were the majority of the townspeople involved in the War of Independence; many of the Republicans came from the rural areas.

In spite of apparent wealth and stability there is little evidence of progress in the first half of the 20th century. Emigration drained the locality of artisans and working men to England: there were no factories, no local investment in the town to keep these at home. P.A. Waldron's dream, "When I am Mayor of Ballyhaunis, I'll plant the Dardanelles with flowers", went unfulfilled. However the monotony of this stagnant period was to some extent relieved by the charm of life in a small town. There is an area well worth investigating in the writings of characters such as M.A. or P.A. Waldron.

The parish picnic travelled to Bekan Lake in 1902 on horse drawn drays: the first moving films were shown by John Toft in 1911; the first Cinema was Conway's Hall which stood near Gallagher's present store. Strangers - perhaps because of their rarity - found the town a friendly place and recorded their impressions in writing.

By 1970 the decay appears to have been halted due perhaps to external forces. Industrialisation has restored confidence and brought in new residents. Names as varied as those from Kanturk to Coventry or Karachi have appeared on the scene to match the old familiar ones which have returned. Most important of all is the sense of growth, with new ideas, new investments, new enterprises.

The writer freely acknowledges the limitations of his information and would be glad to receive corrections, additions or local memories. Such men as M.A. Waldron, John Gilmore and others have already traced much of the history of the last 130 years but there must be others who can contribute their share too.

The period 1600 to 1850 is rather obscure probably because of:

1. The rejection of the Irish language as the speech of culture.
2. The influx of people at the time of the railways.
3. The poverty occasioned by the Famine.

Finally, would it not be interesting and worthwhile to hold a seminar of those who still have unrecorded traditions, memories, or writings, in order to preserve the past history of the parish of Annagh and its environs? Information about the past is essential to those who wish to progress in the future.

If you are interested please contact the writer who will be glad to help.

Grateful acknowledgements to the following who helped the writer in this article.

Fr. Patrick O. Costelloe, P.P. Ballyhaunis; Fr. Jarlath Waldron, P.P. Cornamona; Fr. Kieran Waldron, Louisburgh; the relatives of the late Phillip Waldron; John Casey, P.J. McGarry.

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Farming in Ballyhaunis

Agricultural Instructors, Tony Flynn and Paddy Laffey describe recent developments and examine future trends

The Parish of Annagh covers an area of almost 10,000 acres, approximately half of which is arable. The type of land varies from light limestone land on the outskirts of the parish to cut-away peat in the vicinity of Ballyhaunis town. It is an area of small farmers with a farming population of about 360 in the parish. This gives an average size of less than 30 acres per farm. The following is a breakdown of farm sizes.

Size of farms	Under 30 acres	30 - 50 acres	Over 50 acres
No. of farms	237	87	36

This shows that 65% of farmers in the parish own less than 30 acres.

Type of Farming:

Traditionally the type of farming carried out around Ballyhaunis has been mixed farming, with rearing store cattle as the main enterprise. Sheep farming was carried out on a small scale with very little tillage and very few farm yard enterprises i.e. Pigs and Poultry.

DAIRYING:

8th April 1957 marked the beginning of a new era of farming in Ballyhaunis. This was the date on which the first milk was accepted into a creamery separating station in Claremorris. The gradual increase in dairy cows resulted in a further swing away from sheep and farm yard enterprises.

A survey carried out in 1966 showed:

1098 - Ewes
413 - Other sheep
41 - Sows
314 - Other pigs.

To-day very few farmers rear any sheep and there are practically no pigs. This drop, however, has been counteracted by a substantial increase in the number of dairy cows.

To see the effect of this swing towards dairying one must look at a larger area than the parish of Annagh. The Ballyhaunis farming area takes in a radius of approximately 6 - 7 miles from the town. This includes approximately 1200 farmers. In this area there has not been a dramatic increase in the number of farmers supplying milk to the creamery since the 1966 survey. The existing suppliers have, however, considerably increased their cow numbers and the number of gallons of milk produced.

Entry into the E.E.C. brought an accelerated increase in milk production in the area when the price per gallon increased from 9.4 p in 1971 to 15.7 p per gallon in 1972. Since then there has been a gradual increase in the price of milk to approximately 50p per gallon in 1978.

The 1966 survey also showed the average number of Creamery Cows per farmer was 4-5. Most of these were hand milked. Now the average number per milk supplier is approximately 11 and there are many herds of up to and over 30 cows. In 1966 who would have thought that many of to-day's cows would be milked in elaborate milking parlours with added facilities for housing for 6 months of the year plus self-feed silage layout?

MILK YIELD:

The average milk supplied to the creamery per cow per annum in 1978 was 470 gallons. This is the figure generally quoted and is regarded as very low. It is, however, misleading in that it does not take into account the milk used for family consumption or milk fed to calves. The latter can be quite high as in this part of the country far more than the 40 gallons required to feed a calf is used. This would bring the average milk yield per cow closer to 550 gallons per year. This is still low when we realise that many of the better farmers in the area can produce up to and over 1000 gallons per cow per annum.

Even though the better financial gains from dairying have been proven beyond doubt, there are still only 25% of farmers in the area supplying milk to the creamery. The following are some of the reasons:

1. Fragmentation of holdings: Approximately 50% of the holdings in the area are in two or more portions. This is a major constraint to development in dairying as it means driving cows on the road twice daily.
2. Reluctance of some farmers to work a seven-day week.
3. Reluctance of farmers to use credit for expansion that would be required in buildings and equipment.

STORE CATTLE:

The traditional system of rearing store cattle still remains the major enterprise. While this system of farming is not as financially rewarding, appreciable developments have occurred. A bulk lime campaign in 1970 resulted in over 4000 tons ground limestone being spread in the area. This and the increased use of fertilisers and better grassland management has increased stocking rates considerably. Better cattle are also being produced because of more and better quality winterfeed in the form of hay and silage.

SILAGE:

In 1969 of the 1200 farmers in the area only sixteen made silage. By 1972 sixty-seven farmers had silage as their main source of Winter-feed. To-day silage pits are

quite a common feature of farming in the area. This has resulted in two things:

1. More Winter Feed. While a shortage of winterfeed is still one of the main problems in the area the increase in silage-making has allowed farmers produce better crops through the increased use of Nitrogen. It also means that farmers who are heavily stocked can reserve their land for two or more cuts.

2. Better quality feed. While good quality hay has comparable feeding value to silage, our climatic conditions in the West of Ireland does not lend itself to top quality hay making. Bad summers like that of 1979 has left many acres of poor quality feed. Good silage on the other hand can be made independently of weather conditions.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT:

The co-operative movement has played a major role in the development of farming in this area, as it has in the rest of the country. The setting up of a creamery separating station in Claremorris in 1957, as already mentioned, has been the means of keeping many farms in the area viable. A great number of these would not be able to survive had they remained in the old traditional system of farming. This separating station was a branch of Gurteen Co-op which was set up by the initiative of local farming organisations. Later Gurteen and a number of other co-ops were amalgamated and taken over by North Connacht Farmers Association.

CATTLE MART:

In January 1971 a meeting of farmers in the area was held in the Scouts' Den, Ballyhaunis with a view to setting up a cattle mart. The eventful outcome of this was the first sale at a new cattle mart in Cave on 6th February 1973. This meant that once again farmers could sell their cattle close to home as the fairs were already dying. In 1974 the mart was taken over by the still growing North Connacht Farmers Association. Since then a store has been added on in which farmers can purchase foodstuffs, fertilisers, Veterinary Medicines, Weedkillers etc.

Proof of the quality of cattle produced in the area was seen at the Annual Cattle show and sale held at Ballyhaunis Mart on September 4th. The overall champion of the show was a Simmental Bullock weighing 840 Kgs. (16¼ cwt.). This bullock was later sold for £700.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE

Any future development in Agriculture in the area will demand a more businesslike approach to farming. Farmers must now realise that farming is no longer a way of life, it must be treated as a business and will therefore require a better knowledge and understanding of the following:

1. Relative merits of different farm enterprises, with particular reference to farm size.
2. Farm account keeping and analysis.
3. Manurial programme with particular reference to grassland management.
4. Livestock feeding and management.
5. Proper use of credit.



FAIRDAY IN BALLYHAUNIS 1962

Photo: Courtesy of Eddie McHugh

No matter what the farm enterprise the basic raw material for development is land, so the first necessity in the years ahead is to make the limited arable land we have more productive. This means more lime and fertilisers and adequate conservation of Winterfeed.

Reclamation of the wetter land must also play a major part in development. This can be carried out with the extra machinery available and the 70% reclamation grant obtainable from the E.E.C.

FUTURE OF THE DAIRYING INDUSTRY

We read many articles about the butter mountain in the E.E.C. and so farmers ask the question "Why develop in dairying when the industry is in danger of collapsing?"

There are two answers to this.

1. Ireland produces 3% of the total E.E.C. milk supply and County Mayo produces 1.5% of total milk production in Ireland. From this it can be seen that any increase in milk produced in the Ballyhaunis area will have very little effect on the butter mountain in the E.E.C.
2. It has already been shown that 65% of farmers in the area own less than 30 acres of land. To remain viable on this size farm, farmers must intensify and the most financially rewarding enterprise now and for the foreseeable future is Dairying.

Dairy farmers and those contemplating going into dairying must remember that the big milk price increases enjoyed since entry into E.E.C. is now over. Costs of production, however, will continue to increase. To counteract these and to make profit, farmers must become more efficient. This basically means increasing cow numbers and producing more gallons of milk per cow.

This can be done by:

1. Up-grading of the dairy herd.
2. Having cows calving earlier i.e. February or March.
3. More and better Winter feed, supplemented with meal feeding in the first 6 - 8 weeks after calving.

Dairy farmers should continue to expand their milk output. They should not be overly concerned by structural surpluses in the E.E.C. At farm level milk is the most profitable enterprises and it is in the national interest that further expansion and development in the industry takes place.

Unfortunately an error appeared in the advertisement on the right, in last years issue. It must also be said that the Waldron family accepted the slip-up with characteristic good humour.

Editor

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Dr. Declan Shields - An Appreciation

The death of Dr. Declan Shields on August 2nd 1979 had a profound effect on the town of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas. Sudden death is always tragic, and the loss of a young parent in the prime of life even more so, but his death seemed to be felt by people as a great personal loss, as if losing someone dear in their own family. I am cynical enough to acknowledge that often after death one's value and the number of one's friends seem to multiply, but this factor did not apply in Declan's death. In my years in Ballyhaunis I recall only two other deaths where the grief expressed was as sincere and as widespread.

What kind of man was this who could be such a complete family man, and yet be so involved in his work and in so many organisations and charities?

We all knew of people who become so involved in one organization that their work and family are neglected. Declan's boundless energy, his deep love for his wife and children, and his concern for the physically and mentally retarded and under-privileged ensured that nothing was neglected. If I were to be confined to two words to apply to Declan's personality I would choose **DIRECT** and **HONEST**. It was his directness which struck one on first meeting him, and unquestionably you knew where you stood immediately with Declan. He was not capable of saying one thing and meaning another. Wherever he met people, either socially or as patients, they soon felt his genuine concern for them or their problem. I can not recall a single act of deceit or dishonesty from Declan in his dealings with me or with any other person. I do not think that this could be said about many others.

His loss to our patients was immense. "TOO KIND" "TOO GOOD TO LIVE" "A MAN FOR GOD" were some of the remarks from old people in remote areas who could not recall his death without open tears of true heart-felt grief. He cured much without medicine. He was very free with light-hearted remarks to these same old people which cheered them up, and gave them something to retell until his next visit.

All of us who knew him, knew the penalty of having a particular mannerism which he could mercilessly mimic at a time, and in a manner to cause maximum embarrassment! We would take it from him now if we could get it.



Dr. Declan Shields R.I.P

The nature of our working relationship was such, that we did not often get together socially, but I have witnessed enough to know that he gave great pleasure and was totally unrestrained when the singing started and at no time more so than when he would solemnly entone "An Poc ar Buile".

If our loss is so deep - what of his wife Una and children whom he loved so much? I speak for everyone who knew Declan when I say that as long as we have the capacity to think and remember, the memory of Declan Shields will be forever deep in our hearts.

All we can do is assure Una of our prayers and help forever. May Declan enjoy in Heaven his just reward.

Alan Delaney

BIRTHS - FAILTE

1st November 1978 to 31st October 1979

It is regretted that an error occurred in last year's list of births. The correct entries should read:

**To James & Alacoque McManus, Churchpark
a son - Conor Luke.**

**To Albert & Anne Madden, Hazelhill
a daughter - Denise Pauline**

To Sean & Helen Biesty, Carrowkeel
a daughter - Denise Carmel

To Thomas & Philomena Lyons, Lecarrow
a daughter - Laura

To William & Eileen Nestor, Abbey St.
a daughter - Aileen

To William & Justine Lyons, Upper Main Street
a daughter - Clodagh Marie Majella

To Bernard & Mary Freyne, Devlis
a son - Seamas Patrick

To Columba & Elizabeth Jordan, Upper Main St.
a son - James Columba Sabbas

To Patrick & Catherine Regan, Killinagher
a daughter - Veronica

To Thomas & Maureen Finnegan, Ballybeg
a daughter - Regina Mary

To Brian & Phyllis Flanagan, Ballindrehid
a daughter - Sheena Irene

To Gerard & Pauline McGarry, Devlis
a son - James Gerard

To John & Kathleen McCrudden, Barrack St.
a daughter - Sine Brigid

To Thomas & Kathleen Connell, Redford
a daughter - Kathleen Josephine

To William & Nell Rochford, Knock Road
a daughter - Caitriona Marie

To James & Mary Walsh, Knockbrack
a daughter - Sandra Marie

To Peter & Helene McCafferty, Ballindrehid
a son - Simon David

To James & Rita Lundon, Knock Road,
a son - Seamas

To Anthony & Ann Moran, Hazelhill
a son - Brendan Michael

To John & Mary O'Dwyer, Hazelhill
a son - Patrick Adrian John

To Oliver & Dolores Jordan, Upper Main St.
a son - Oliver Phillip

To Patrick & Mary McDonagh
a daughter - Kathleen Maria

To Martin & Brigid Maughan, Tooraree
a daughter - Annie

To John & Philomena Moran, Bracklaboy
a son - Padraic

To John & Catherine Kिरrane, Abbey St.
a daughter - Emma Catherine

To Martin & Ellie McDonagh
a son - Michael Stephen

To Declan & Una Shields
a daughter - Clodagh Anne

To Michael & Rosalie Keaveney, Devlis
a daughter - Rose Maria

To John & Helen Biesty, Hazelhill
a son - Noel Mary

To Noel & Teresa Armstrong, Hazelhill
a son - Liam Patrick

To Emmett & Teresa Keane, Knock Road
a daughter - Shirley Ann

To William & Bridie Lyons, Knock Road
a son - Paul Fergus

To Seamas & Marita Ryan, Knock Road
a son - Fergal Seamas

To Thomas & Gertrude Donnellan, Clare St.
a son - Thomas Mark Mary

To Joseph & Mary Rochford, Knock Road
a son - Joseph Martin

To John & Mary Cleary, Johnstown
a son - Aiden Martin

To Thomas & Mary McDonagh, Tooraree
a daughter - Mary Teresa

To Martin & Winnie Mongan, Foxhill
a daughter - Martina

To Owen & Ellen Collins
a son - John Joseph

To Michael & Della Webb, Upper Main St.
a son - Ian Michael Patrick

To Michael & Mary Morris, Abbey St.
a daughter - Karen Anne

To John P. & Brigid Murphy, Upper Main St.
a daughter - Yvonne Maria

To Jarlath & Patricia Heaney, Lecarrow
a daughter - Pamela Mary

To Peter & Valerie Sweeney, Abbey St. & Galway
a daughter - Niamh Aine

To John & Mary Gallagher, Knock Road
a son - John Gerard

To Padraic & Eileen Folliard, Carton South
a daughter - Ethel Maria

To Chris & Xanthe Pratt, Scrigg
a son - Adam David

To Terence & Ellen Maughan, Cherryfield
a daughter - Winifred

To Thomas & Maura O'Dowd, Holywell
a daughter - Colette

To Thomas & Christina Finn, Main St.
a son - John Paul Mary

To Michael & Cait Webb, Main St.
a daughter - Elaine Marie

To William & Eileen Nestor, Abbey St.
a daughter - Margaret Christina

MARRIAGES

TRAOSLU

Marriages in the Parish Church from 1st November 1978 to 31st
October 1979

Thomas M. McGuire, Cloonfad
Joan C.M. Folliard, Carton South
Thomas G. McDonagh, Ballyhaunis
Ellen W. McDonagh, Ballyhaunis
Thomas G. Casby, Knock
Marian M. Meehan, Annagh
Gerard M. Hughes, Killoe
Carmel McGuire, Redford
Kevin J. Potter, Abbeyknockmoy
Bernadette Donohue, Ballyhaunis
Michael B. Ward, Ballyhaunis
Christine Nolan, Ballyhaunis
Martin J. Regan, Charlestown
Kathleen P. Gavin, Ballyhaunis

Marriages elsewhere

David J. Jordan, Lecarrow
Mary M. Mannion, Granlahan
Barry T. Cunningham, Sligo
Therese M. Freeley, Ballyhaunis
Patrick David M. Jordan, Johnstown
Kathleen O'Donnell, Loughlynn
Padraic M.J. Regan, Killinagher
Marian Horan, Tooreen
John Conway, Ballyhaunis
Mary O'Sullivan, Cork
Michael J.C. Nolan, Ballyhaunis
Christina Gaffney, Ballinlough
Eugene Morley, Woodpark
Catherine Mulkeen, Greenwood
Michael Corrigan, Leitrim
Rita Forde, Ballyhaunis
Joseph Coyne, Ballyveale
Ann Lyons, Tulrahan
John M. FitzMaurice, Gurteenbeg
Teresa Doherty, Melbourne
Joseph Moran, Bracklaboy
Mary T. Canning, Clifton, U.S.A.

DEATHS

Ar Shli Na Firinne

1st November 1978 to 31st October 1979

James Cox, Upper Main St.
Sean Rattigan, Tooraree
James T. Curran, Annagh
Mary Waldron, Clagnagh
Mary E. Moran, Annagh
Patrick Brennan, Gurteen
Larry Moran, Upper Main St.
Michael Healy, Ballindrehid
Joseph Lynskey, Gurteen
Patrick Waldron, Brackloon
John Comer, Killinagher
Timothy Rabbite, Derrylea
Thomas O'Reilly, Woodpark
Thomas Melvin, Ballindrehid
Thomas Murphy, Devlis
John Dillon, The Square
Mrs. Winnie O'Toole, Main St.
Thomas Forde, The Square
Patrick Cruise, Spaddagh
Mrs. Brigid Clarke, Devlis
Mrs. Agnes Henry, Annagh
James Caulfield, Woodpark
Thomas Glynn, Upper Main St.
David Lyons, Carrowkeel
Anne Freeley, Main St.
John Coyne, Knockroe
Patrick Mongan, (infant)
Mrs. Maureen McGuire, Ballindrehid
Edward McGuire, Cherryfield
Thomas Lowry, Gurteenmore
Michael Rattigan, Upper Main St.
John Ganley, Lisbane
William Burke, Abbey St.
Margaret Walsh, Barrack St.
Margaret Johnston, Holywell
John Eaton, Main St.
Robert J. Clarke, Brackloon
Thomas Cooney, Bargarriff
Mrs. Rita Waldron, Main St. & Devlis
Thomas Fleming, Bohogue
James Mullarkey, Bohogue
James Ruane, Curries
Mrs. Delia Freeley, Gurteen
Anne M. McNamara, Knox St.
John McBride, Annagh
Mrs. Noreen Campbell, Devlis
Dr. Declan Shields, Devlis
James FitzMaurice, Abbeyquarter
Patrick Kilroy, Main St.
Francis Waldron, Redford
Mrs. Anne Morissey, Devlis
Patrick Quinn, Classaroe
John FitzMaurice, Lisbane
Charles Smythe, Abbey St.
John Buckley, Devlis

Michael J. Mulhern, Clare St.
Mrs. Elizabeth Geraghty
Mrs. Margaret Gilmore, Devlis
Francis McDonagh, (infant)
Mrs. Nora Meleady, Devlis
Thomas Moran, Coolnafarna
Mrs. Delia Morley, Knox St.
Myles Waldron, Brackloon
John Connolly, Holywell

also

Fr. Patrick Foley O.S.A., formerly Prior of the Abbey
Mrs. Frances McNamara, nee Rattigan, Main St. died in U.S.A.
Mrs. Della Brady, nee O'Reilly, Woodpark, died in U.S.A.
Mrs. Margaret O'Reilly, nee Judge, Curries, died in U.S.A.
John Joe Murphy, Killinagher, buried in Granlahan
William Murphy, Lurgan
Fr. Martin Kenny S.M.A., Skreaghard, died in Cork
Joseph Byrne, Devlis, died in Bristol
Mrs. Helen Mulrennan, nee Plunkett, Forthill, died in U.S.A.
John Lyons, Classaroe, died in U.S.A.
Brother Thomas Raymond Freeley, Gurteen died in Dublin
Dr. Sean Mullins, Hazelhill, died in England
Luke Regan, Dublin
Jim Freyne, Dublin
Mrs. Mary Finnegan, Ballybeg, buried in Granlahan
Donal FitPatrick, P.O. Staff, Ballyhaunis, died in England
Thomas Waldron, Scrigg, died in U.S.A.
Patrick Culliney, Tavanaghmore, died in England
Mrs. Kathleen Jacoby, nee Judge, Curries, died in U.S.A.
Mrs. Mary Grady, late Tavanaghmore, buried in Tooreen
Catherine Connolly, Derrynacong, died in England.

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Tommy Moran

A Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Tribute

By Mick O'Connell

"His wholehearted efforts on the field of play, his lionhearted displays when pitted against the strongest odds, his undeniable sportsmanship, his gentlemanly conduct at all times and his dedicated loyalty to the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club and to the G.A.A. at all levels were attributes which the adjudicators had in mind when selecting Tommy Moran of Coolnafarna as "Ballyhaunis Footballer of the Year" in 1975. This extract from the citation when Tommy Moran was named as the outstanding Ballyhaunis gaelic footballer of the year just four years ago pin-points some of Tommy Moran's splendid characteristics, but do not complete the full picture. Tommy Moran's dedication to the G.A.A. was not just a passing phase, but was a total commitment which was a heritage of a family long steeped in G.A.A. history and tradition.

The Moran family over the years, were from an early age, in every branch of the family, immersed in Irish culture and the sounds of Irish music, song and dance frequently wafted from their homesteads. They were a family with strong deep-rooted convictions, never believing in half-measures. They were not the kind of people to swing from every tree, so to speak, or to attach themselves to anything which might evoke popular but

short-lived acclaim. They nailed their standard firmly to the G.A.A. mast and there it forever remained.

Tommy Moran whose tragic death in a traffic accident near his home on Sunday the 30th September at the youthful age of 28 years, which cast a pall of gloom over the entire district, was a firm upholder of the Moran family tradition, and his allegiance to the G.A.A. code never wavered but was strong and steadfast. It can truthfully be said that Tommy Moran was the personification of goodness as rancour or bitterness were foreign to his nature, and this was reflected in a very special way in his relationship with his team-mates and club officials which was always cordial and good humoured.

His dependability and reliability as regards match times and training sessions set a headline for his team mates all of whom could not but show their genuine sorrow and regret at the tragic passing of a friend, companion and colleague who wore the red and black jersey of the Ballyhaunis gaelic football team with distinction and honour and with a deep sense of pride.

Deepest sympathy to his parents, sister, brother and the other relatives. *Go ndeanaidh Dia trocaire ar a anam.*



The late Tommy Moran being presented with the "Player of the Year Award 1975" by Bertie Curley. Also in picture are Johnny Biesty (left) and Dermot Eagney.

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Golfing in Ballyhaunis

By Cyril Coyne

As far as can be ascertained the Golf Club was founded at Coolnaha, Ballyhaunis in 1929. The first captain was the late John Dillon-Leetch. Some of the founder members were Mr. Dillon-Leetch, Messrs. William Devoy, Frank McNeilis, Tom Forde, Thomas Johnson, P.J. Caulfield, P.J. Fahy, Dr. Kirby, P. Murphy, Dr. Tony Waldron, J.J. Walsh, P. O'Brien, P. Jennings, J. Dillon, B. Hoare, J. Roache, P.J. Kenny, W. Dillon-Leetch. Some of the earlier lady members were Miss K. Treiston, Loughboy, Misses G. & B. Fitzmaurice, Mrs. P. O'Brien, Miss Lally (Mrs. P.J. Fahy), Miss E. Delaney, Miss T. Phillips, the Misses M. & E. Lyons, Misses J. & L. Campbell, Mrs. B. Hoare, Miss A. Freeley, Mrs. McNeilis. One of the first lady captains was Mrs. Hoare who also held the post of Men's Secretary at a later date.

An amusing item taken from one of the early minute-books was a proposition which was passed and I quote: "Any member who had a locker in clubhouse and having paid rent on same could accommodate any other member by allowing him put his clubs or other articles therein, provided there was no unoccupied locker in the clubhouse."

The club owed and continues to owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Cassidy family for putting their land at its disposal at a very reasonable rent. Mr. Pat Cassidy was a great help in preparing the course, clearing stones, building greens etc., and before long it had become one of the best nine hole courses in Ireland.

Mrs. Cassidy was entirely unselfish in her work for the club and many of the present members (including the writer) have happy memories of her dedication and help in the day-to-day running of club affairs. Her memory is perpetuated by the lady members who have their major match play competition each year named after her.

Their daughter Kathleen has also given long and faithful service to the club and has for years been the leading lady golfer; indeed, not alone in the club, but further afield, her talent is applauded. She is an extremely popular person with members and visitors alike and is always willing to give advice to less talented players who may be having "problems".

Among some of the professionals who gave lessons at the course were Eddie Bradshaw, Gus Murphy and the famous Christy O'Connor. Some of the past greensmen who helped to preserve the excellence of course were Dom Jordan, Tony Morley, Abbey Street, T. Hannon, J. Meehan, T. Lyons, P. Brennan, and our present man Jimmy Healy.

The Dillon-Leetch family was always very deeply involved in the affairs of the club. The late John was first Captain and afterwards held the honour on at least five occasions. He devoted a lot of time to course-planning and was especially interested in the putting greens. He was also

a more than competent golfer. His wife Mary has been a member of the club since she came to Ballyhaunis, is a past captain and is executive member to Connaught Union for a number of years.

Their son Tom was Captain of the Club during a critical year in its development namely when the final decision was taken to build the present club-house. He played a major role in the onerous task of getting the project off the ground and without his help and organisation it might never have materialised. His son Mark has emerged as one of the young golfers who should keep Ballyhaunis Golf to the forefront in the future. The late John Dillon-Leetch memory is perpetuated by one of the club's major competitions, "The Dillon-Leetch Cup."

The club progressed favourably until the middle 40's, when, because of transport and other difficulties resulting from the world war, a lot of members fell away. Crisis point was reached around 1945 when there were only eight to twelve regular members. However, the few who were there were enthusiastic and Jack Eaton, J. O'Brien, T. Forde, J. Costello, J. Hoey, Patsy Hannon, N. Waldron and S. Flood kept the flag flying. Gradually year by year a few new members emerged from various places: Joe Darcy and a fair Ballaghaderreen contingent, Dr. T. Gleeson and players from Charlestown, J.P. Roughneen and others from Kiltimagh. As will be noticed they were coming from the catchment area but not from Ballyhaunis itself. This situation changed when a few new people moved into town. I can recall the arrival of J. Connell, Con O'Brien, Vincent O'Brien, Garda J. Byrne and membership was again building up. The most significant influx from Ballyhaunis occurred around 1961 when a group of new players were introduced by J. O'Brien and they included M. Henry, J. Moran, P.J. Moran and the Mulligan Brothers, Bertie and Tony. This proved to be a breakthrough in the advance of the club's membership and since then membership has continued to grow.

The old clubhouse was extended in 1967 and this was a milestone in the life of the club. Ten years later, however, there was a major advance in the club's affairs: the opening by the late Very Rev. Canon G. McGarry of a completely new clubhouse. This was really progress as apart from the modern accommodation it provided, it has an excellent view of parts of the course, especially the last hole, and this can be very exciting for on-lookers on days of major competitions.

I have no records of success at club level in the early days before the victories in the Mayo County cup in 1957 and 1967.

The club also won the Connaught Section of Pierce Purcell Shield under the captaincy of Rev. Father Rafferty in 1971 and were narrowly beaten in The All-Ireland Section. It was also runner-up in Connaught Shield

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Competition in both 1968 and 1972. The course record, 67, is held by Vincent Freyne who is the club's best player. Of the earlier members the name of John Roche is remembered as a player of the highest quality.

The Ballaghadereen members who were such an essential part of the club in the early 50's gradually fell in number, as they were being provided with improved facilities at home. However, as already mentioned, the club received support from other areas such as Kiltimagh, which had been associated with the club in its early days. I can name many Kiltimagh players: Dr. Kirby, J.J. Walsh, J. Laffey and later J. P. Roughneen and they provided a cup to bear witness to this association with Ballyhaunis which is still played for and bears their place name "The Kiltimagh Cup." Kilkelly also has been associated with the club and some of the earlier members to come from there were: C. Lydon, B. Durkan, Dr. J. Lyons and M. Tarpey; they were a very enthusiastic group. Charlie Lydon was a most popular member and a past captain. I cannot remember any man who got so much pleasure out of the game itself. The fact that he is remembered by the "Charlie Lydon Cup" speaks for itself. It is nice to see Kilkelly still represented by Stephen Tarpey. Charlestown also has associations with the club and still provides a few very keen and successful golfers.

Dunmore is the latest place to supply members and from there a new captain, Fr. G. Rafferty, and a nice stable of very useful golfers have emerged. They are excellent club members and committee members and they have provided two excellent competition secretaries namely R. Charles and J. Cheevers. The "Dunmore Day" which after only two or three years in existence has become a major attraction is evidence of their generosity and club spirit. The sponsorship for this event comes from some non-golfers in Dunmore.

As there is a new Captain every year, their various achievements would be far too numerous to mention, but the club owes all of them its gratitude. The comparatively new office of President has also produced very worthy people, who have carried out their duties in their year of office with honour and dignity.

The position of Hon. Secretary, which can be an arduous one, was carried out for a record number of years by the late J.P. Eaton, who in his time was a household name in Ballyhaunis Golf business. He was later Captain and President and later still was elected an honorary member of the club. Others to carry out this job competently for more than one year were Milo Henry (who also did competition secretary for a long period), and Pat Curley. A few other Hon. Secretaries who did their job



Enjoying the Golf Club's Annual Dinner in 1960

Back Row (l. to r.): Cyril Coyne, Miss M. Moyles, Mrs. B. Spellman, Miss H. Flynn, J.P. Eaton (R.I.P.), Miss P. Waldron, Mrs. A. Higgins (R.I.P.), Mrs. K. Flynn and Jim Connell.
Front (l. to r.): Miss K. Cunningham (R.I.P.), Mrs. J. Conroy (R.I.P.), Mrs. M. Dillon-Leetch and Mrs. Flannery.

(Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Cyril Coyne)

very well for one year were J. Connell, J. O'Brien, T. Buckley, C. Jordan, S. Tarpey, R. Charles, and M. Glynn and the current Hon. Secretary Jimmy Walsh. The position of Hon. Secretary was carried out by the writer for twenty years or so. This seemed to be a job with no takers until 1971 when Oliver Jordan came forward. Oliver continued in the established tradition and proved an excellent executive member. In 1978 J. Dillon and C. Coyne did the job on a joint basis but 1979 saw Oliver Jordan back again not alone as treasurer but also as Vice-Captain.

The associate (ladies) members of the club have played a significant part in its development and have always worked in full co-operation with the men. They were at all times ready to help when asked and the Ballyhaunis Club is well known for its catering prowess especially where visitors are concerned. The Lady Captains and Lady Officers are to be complimented on the way they have always carried out their duties with dignity and graciousness.

In writing an account such as this, which spans such a long period, it is inevitable that someone who should be mentioned is omitted. If this has happened here I hope no one will be offended as the omission is entirely accidental.

The officers and committee of the club for 1979 are:

Captain: S.P. Tighe
Vice-Captain: O. Jordan
President: J. O'Connor
Vice-president: Dr. T. Joyce
Hon. Secretary J. Walsh
Hon. Treasurer O. Jordan
Competition Secretaries: ... J. Cheevers & Milo Henry
Committee: A. Grogan, N. Waldron, C. Coyne, K. Barry, R. Charles, T. Fahy, S. Cox, P. Curley, B. Lynch and T. Mulligan.

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The 4th Mayo Scout Troop

Approaching the 50th Anniversary of its formation John Fitzgerald, Scout Secretary, looks back on its history

The Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland (C.B.S.I.) was started in Dublin in 1927 by two brothers, Fathers Tom and Ernest Farrell. Gradually the movement spread all over the country, coming to Mayo and the Archdiocese of Tuam in 1931. The main organising force in the west was in the person of Fr. Geoffrey Prendergast C.C. Castlebar (later P.P. of Ballyhaunis, then Chancellor and finally Archdeacon of the diocese.)

The first C.B.S.I. troop in the county was in Fr. Prendergast's native Castlebar. The second was at Robeen, the third at Ballinrobe, and the fourth here in Ballyhaunis. This was followed by the formation of nine more troops, at Ballina, Westport, Swinford, Kiltimagh, Claremorris, Charlestown, Foxford, Belmullet and Crossmolina.

All the pre-war troops in Connaught disbanded in the mid-thirties with the notable exception of Ballyhaunis, which is the only troop west of the Shannon to have an uninterrupted existence since its formation, forty-eight years ago. Sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul and founded by Rev. Fr. Moore C.C. (chaplain), J.W. Mulligan (Scoutmaster) and Michael O'Malley (Scoutmaster's Assistant), the 4th Mayo's first meetings were held in the Spring of 1931. Their first public appearance was at that year's Corpus Christi procession. The first investiture took place on the last Wednesday of June 1931 in the St. Vincent de Paul rooms on the third floor of Peter Lynch's in Abbey Street, when the following were invested: Petie and Tommy Hannon, Edward and Danny Fitzgerald, Billy and Seamus Flatley, Jack Halpin, Joe Cooney, George Murray, George Fitzmaurice, John Buckley, Joe Smyth, Tim O'Malley, Mickey Griffin, John Henry and Jack Ganley. On the last weekend of the following July, the troop had its first camp at Murrisk. There they climbed the Reek and did duty on the summit.

The Eucharistic Congress in 1932 was the scouting highlight of those early days. By that time the 4th Mayo had doubled in number and was strongly represented at the Congress.

In 1933, the troop had its first summer camp in Mulranny. Down through the years it has camped all over Ireland, from Killarney to Bray to Spiddal, including in its travels most of Ireland's good campsites. It has also gone abroad many times: to Rome in 1934, 1950, 1954, 1975 and 1979; to Kandersteg, Switzerland in 1950, 1975, and 1979; Lourdes in 1958 and 1973; San Sebastian in Spain 1973; and Buchmore Park, Essex, England in 1957. No mean achievement for a troop from the "Backward West" and possibly a record for a rural troop in Ireland.

The C.B.S.I. organised a pilgrimage to Rome for the special Holy Year of 1933/34. At that time, even the hope of going to Rome was deemed an inordinately ambitious one and the prohibitive cost of £11 made parents think at least twice about it. But eventually Ballyhaunis completed its quota and even filled a vacant place left by Castlebar. The pilgrims sailed from Dublin on the "Lancastria" to Civitavecchia, the port of Rome. The ship being used as an hotel during their stay in Rome. Members of the party were Scoutmaster J.W. Mulligan, Scouts Jack Halpin, Danny Fitzgerald, Dermot Waldron, Micky Griffin and Eddie Webb. The highlight of the trip occurred during the Papal Audience when (while Jack Halpin was holding the troop flag) Pius XI took it in his hands and admiring it said: "Magnificent". This hand-embroidered flag had been made by the Franciscan Sisters of the Loughlynn Convent for £13. The same flag would not be made today for £250.

In the summer of 1934 the troop had its formal flag blessing. In those days the blessing of the troop flag was one of the main events in the history of a troop, and many other troops convened for the occasion. More than 1,000 scouts gathered on a glorious Sunday in July for the ceremony which was held in the convent grounds. The Chief Scout Master Professor J.B. Whelehan, and the National Commissioner were both in attendance. The flag was blessed by the then Parish Priest, Very Rev. G.J. Prendergast who, as we have already seen, was involved in the introduction of Scouting to the west. That evening, as the Chief Scout was leaving for Dublin, he drove through the town in an open car between two lines of Scouts stretching from the Parochial House to the railway bridge.

Throughout the 1930's the outstanding annual event on the local calendar was the Scout Concert, then the sole fund-raising effort of the troops. During the war years, many of the troops which had not disbanded in the thirties fell away, but the 4th Mayo troop hung on doggedly, surviving without even an annual camp, which could not be held due to rationing and transport problems.

In 1947 the Very Rev. Fr. Redmond O.S.A. and the Augustinian community gave a site for a Scout den on the corner of their lands. A small building, twenty feet by sixteen feet by nine feet high was erected at a cost of £70 without any plastering or a ceiling. Later the Very Rev. M.B. O'Sullivan gave further ground on which a larger Nissoon hut was erected - the forerunner of the present building which is one of the finest, if not the finest, Scout hall in Ireland. Apart from the service the den provides for Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Guides, it has also provided accommodation for Junior Vincent de Paul, Junior Athletic Club, Junior wings of both Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, the Gun Club, Swimming Club, Boxing Club,



In Bern 1950

**Back (l. to r.): Joe Greene, Bertie Curley, John Morley (R.I.P.), Seamus Durkan.
Front (l. to r.): S. M. McKillian (London), Johnny Biesty, Rev. Fr. Tom Rushe.**

(Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Seamus Durkan)

Badminton Club, Group Water Schemes, Turf cutting projects, Mart Meetings, and controversial parochial meetings; indeed it has been used by practically every group and organisation in the parish at one time or another completely free of charge. Groups which have the use of the Den on a nominal hire charge are the Karate and Badminton Clubs and the Pre-school group. The Den has also provided much needed accommodation for dinner dances and other social functions. It was in the Scout Den Ballyhaunis that the idea of regular "25 Drives" was conceived and these have grown into the biggest card games in Ireland. In short the Den provides a vital community service.

In its forty eight years the 4th Mayo has provided its own leaders with one exception when Mr. Jim Devine, former S.M. Ballinasloe, moved to Ballyhaunis and was Scoutmaster here for two years. Leaders down through the years have been J.W. Mulligan S.M., Michael O'Malley A.S., Conor Flynn A.S.M., Sid Ruddy A.S.M., George Murray S.M., Seamus Durkan S.M., Paddy Forrie S.M., John Morley S.M., Bertie Curley S.M., Joe Byrne S.M., Pat Higgins S.M., Hugh Campbell S.M. David Dwane C.M., John Durkan A.S.M., Stephen Durkan C.M., Des Burke A.C.M., Michael Laffey A.S.M. and John Cleary S.M.

The 4th Mayo is well known all over Ireland and have very strong ties with scouting in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Belfast. For a number of years it brought groups of Scouts and Cubs from troubled areas in Belfast to Ballyhaunis for a holiday and also it has taken groups from those areas on camp in Ireland and abroad.

The services which the 4th Mayo as a unit has rendered to C.B.S.I. are not easily measured; while acting as leader in Ballyhaunis Seamus Durkan served eleven years on the

National Executive Board, seven years as National Commissioner, has been Director of Camping and Director of Venturers and was a founder member of the National Training Team as well as Field Commissioner for Connaught. In 1970 he was awarded the Silver Wolfhound the highest award in the organisation and which in the forty-odd years up to that time had not been awarded to more than twenty people.

From the mid-fifties onwards the fourth Mayo played a vital role in the re-organisation of Scouting in Connaught. Ballina, Galway, Castlebar, Ballinrobe, Castlereagh, Kiltimagh, Swinford, Tuam, and Ballinasloe were old troops revived by the 4th Mayo. Charlestown, Foxford, Ballinlough, Claremorris, Ballaghaderreen were started off by the 4th Mayo.

The 4th Mayo has always been a strong dynamic unit; it has for many years led scouting in Connaught and has set a fair headline for scouting in Ireland. As we go to press we learn that a year-long haggle between N.H.Q. C.B.S.I. and Ballyhaunis could end shortly with the withdrawal of the 4th Mayo from C.B.S.I. But this would in no way effect the 4th Mayo: if this decision is reached the troop will be acting as an independent scout unit, the only one in Ireland.

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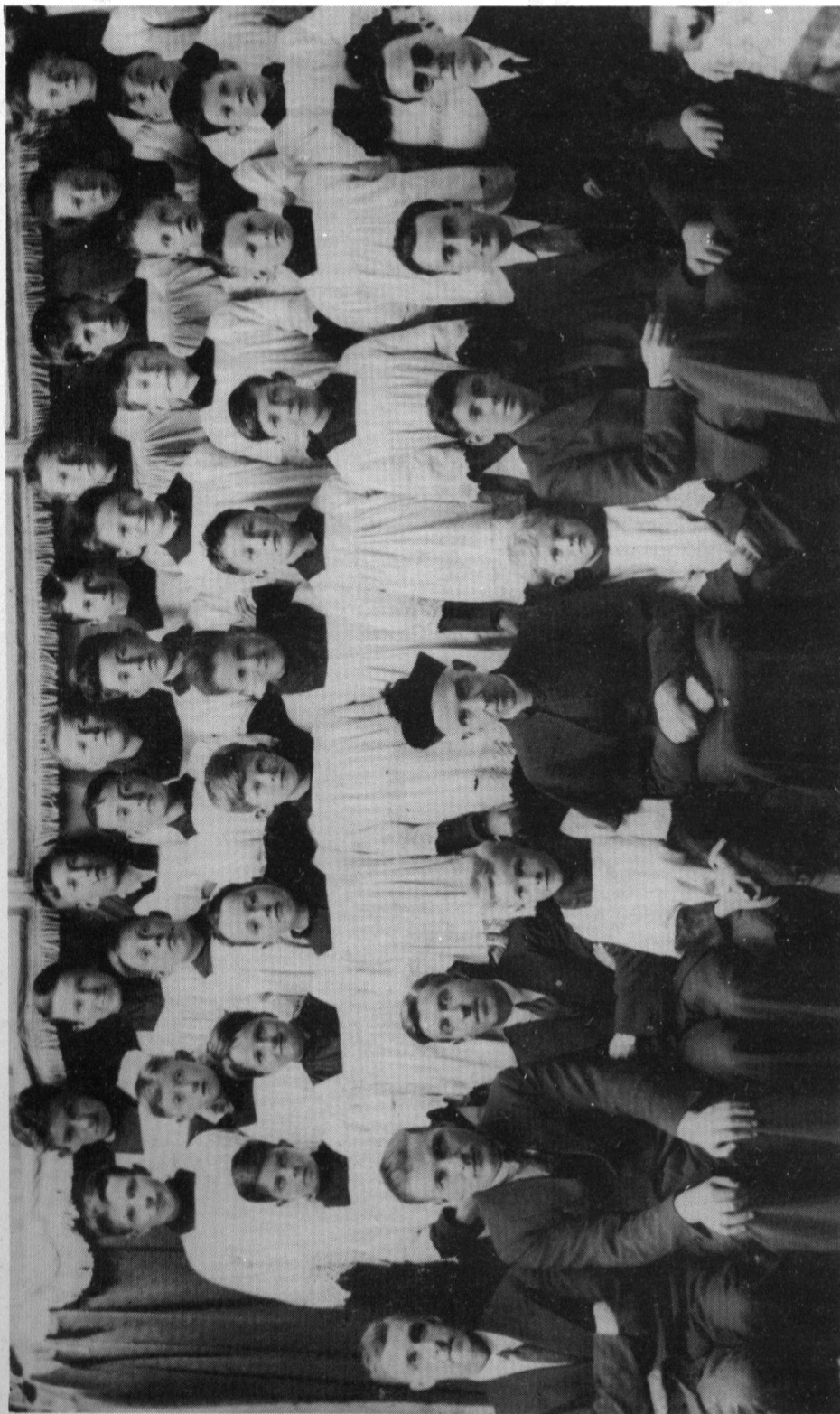
On the Air



On the 31st May 1950 the Radio Eireann Light Orchestra, conducted by Dermot O'Hara, gave a concert in the Star Cinema, Ballyhaunis. This was the first public appearance of the orchestra outside Dublin and was arranged in pursuit of the Radio Eireann policy of bringing orchestral music direct to the people. The concert was given as a result of an invitation extended to the orchestra by the Ballyhaunis Town Improvements Committee, members of which are pictured here outside the Star Cinema prior to the performance. Front (l. to r.): Jack Halpin, Jack Dillon, Miss May Moyle, Miss Eithne Waldron, Denis Sweeney (chairman), Miss Maura Durkan, Miss Rosaleen Garvey and Petie Hannon.

Back: Pat Margett, Galway, Seamus Durkan, Jack Eaton, Fred Dunne, P.J. Nally, and Larry Freecley.

(Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Seamus Durkan)



The Choir of St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis on their first broadcast 1934

Boys

Back Row (l. to r.): Joe Tighe, Paddy Henry, J. O'Boyle, J. Kilduff, S. O'Connell, T. Buckley, Liam Smyth (R.I.P.), M. Gavin, John Hunt.

Middle Row: Michael O'Connell, T. Conboy (R.I.P.), B. Hayden, Joe Tarpey, M. Walsh (R.I.P.), J. Cruise, Jarleth Jennings, O. Foudy, T. Fitzmaurice.

Front Row: Tommie Donnellan, T. O'Boyle, Cyril Coyne, P. Jennings, E. Phillips, P. Gibbons, G. Forrie, Austin Gibbons, A. Jennings, S. Hunt, Jackie Jennings (now a priest on the missions)

Men

Mr. Atherton (R.I.P.) (Organist), Paddy Gill (R.I.P.), Albert Madden (R.I.P.), Canon Prendergast P.P. (R.I.P.), Jack Halpin, Dan McGonigle, Patrick Kennedy (R.I.P.) who was in charge of the choir.

(Photo: Courtesy of Miss Annie Kennedy)

Soundings

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

Ballyhaunis Soccer Club

By Eamonn Murren

Soccer in Ballyhaunis began in the season 1972/73. The team entered the Mayo second division which they won at the very first attempt. Among the founder members of the club were: Alf Hudson, Tom Cribben, Freddie Herr and Tommy A. Tighe. Indeed it was Tom Aught Tighe who scored the club's first ever goal in an historic victory over Croy Harps.

Since those early days Ballyhaunis soccer has come a long way and the club is now one of the premier clubs in the county. Last season was the club's best one to date, it finished well up in the league, reached the quarter final of the Connacht Cup 6th round of the F.A.I. Junior Cup and completed the season with a great 3-0 victory over Westport Crusaders in the final of the Tuohy Cup. Those three golden goals came from Clar Grogan, Mike Webb and Adrian Moran.

The club also fielded under-12, under-13, under-15 and under-18 teams in the various youth competitions and all teams in these grades gave a good account of themselves.

Financially the club survives by means of their monthly 200 club draw. For this they are deeply indebted to the people of Ballyhaunis for their continuous support.

Club Officers:

President:	Sergeant W. Curran
Vice-presidents:	Alf Hudson, Joe Green
Chairman:	Eamonn Murren
Secretary:	Robbie Herr
Treasurer:	Frank Dillon
Committee:	Tom Curran, Mike McQueeney, Ivan Freeley, Val Rattigan, Mike Webb.
Team Manager:	Eugene Collum
Club Captain:	Adrian Moran



BALLYHAUNIS SOCCER TEAM

Back Row (l. to r.): Eugene Collum (Team Manager), Tommy Caulfield, Teddy Webb, Tommy Moran, Luke Murray, Jeremy Dee, Clar Grogan, Eamonn Murren (Chairman), Jimmy Fleming.
Front Row (l. to r.): Pat Freeley, Ray Folliard, Adrian Moran, Michael Webb, Capt. Tom Fitzgerald, Jimmy Ring, Ivan Freeley.

Bridge Club

The following are the officers and committee of the Ballyhaunis Bridge Club for 1979/79

Captain:	Mrs. C. Coyne
Vice-captain:	Dr. T.B. Joyce
President:	Miss M. Moyles
Secretary:	Mrs. J. Dillon
Treasurer:	Miss May Moyles
Tournament Director:	Mrs. T.B. Joyce
Asst. Tour. Director:	Mrs. S. Durcan

Committee: Dr. E.A. Waldron, Mr. F. Loughran, Mrs. F. Loughran, Mrs. O. Jordan, Miss P. Waldron, Mr. B. Lynch.

RESULTS 1978/79

Murphy Cup:

1st - Mr. & Mrs. B. Lynch
2nd - Mr. M. Cameron & Mrs. P. Laffey
Best Gross: Mrs. D. Kilkeny & Mrs. Coyne

President's Prize: (Miss M. Moyles)

1st - Mrs. P. Laffey & Mr. Cameron
2nd - J. Burke & Patricia Waldron
3rd - Mrs. Durkan & Mrs. Burke
4th - Mr. & Mrs. Fitzpatrick

Captain's Prize (Mrs. C. Coyne)

1st - Dr. Waldron & Mrs. Joyce
2nd - Fr. P. Costello & Mrs. McGarry
3rd - Mr. M. Cameron & Mrs. P. Laffey

Mrs. J. Dillon

Ballyhaunis Branch Apostolic Workers

Officers:

President:	Miss May Moyles
Vice-president:	Mrs. K. Finn
Secretary:	Mrs. P. Brennan
Treasurer:	Mrs. B. Byrne

Annual exhibition of Sunday 29th July.

We had the great privilege this year of sharing with the other branches in the diocese in the making of 200 sets of Vestments to be worn by the dignitaries concelebrating Mass with the Holy Father on his visit to Knock on the 30th September as well as lining 1000 baskets to be used as Cebories.

Mrs. P. Brennan

The Rehabilitation Institute

A branch of the Rehabilitation Institute was set up in Ballyhaunis in March 1978. This organisation aims to help handicapped people find their rightful place in Society, by training them for the work most suited to them. Special officers are employed by the Organisation to assess their place in training and finally find employment for handicapped people.

During this year a training centre was opened in Castlebar and a second is being opened in Castlerea. It is hoped that there will be a third in the near future, probably at Ballina.

The Ballyhaunis Committee, saw its role for the first year as mainly one of fund raising and to date they have raised approx. £1,500. This money came from a very successful Bike Rally held on National Bike Day, which realised over £900 and from a few socials.

The Chairman, Dr. Declan Shields, was during the year elected as Chairman of the co. Committee, but this did not lessen the work done by him at local level. He was helped by a very hardworking committee:

Secretary: N. Rochford, Knock Rd. B/haunis
Treasurer: M. Higgins

Committee: Mrs. M. Keane, Mrs. T. Keane, Mrs. M. Rochford, Mrs. M. Gallagher, Mrs. Dillon-Leetch, Mr. L. Lawlor, Mrs. Conway, Sr. Dympna, Mrs. M. Kelly, Mrs. M. Ryan, Mrs. U. Shields, Mrs. A. Cribben, Mrs. M. O'Connell.

Mrs. N. Rochford

Wrangler Sports and Social Club

The club originated on the 8th October 1978 and has been active since that date.

A few of the more successful undertakings since the club's formation have been:

- an outing to Scotland, Christmas shopping trips to Galway plus numerous sporting events including indoor soccer, basketball and table-tennis in the winter.

In the social sphere the club organises outings and a very successful Christmas Dinner Dance which this year takes place on December 15th.

The purpose of the club is to allow employees to become acquainted in a social context.

Chairperson: Kathleen Burke
Secretary: Linda Scott
Treasurers: Susan Moffatt & Mary Sweeney
Committee: Marian Conboy, Mary King, Ruby Brett, John Keane, Michael Conboy, Shaun McLaughlin.

Miss Linda Scott

Ballyhaunis Social Services Council

President: Very Rev. Fr. P. Costelloe, P.P.

Treasurer: Fr. Desmond Walsh

Secretary: Sr. Teresina, Convent of Mercy

Manageress: Miss Kit Keane

The Ballyhaunis Social Services Council is a voluntary body involving the people of the locality irrespective of class or religion, in the promotion of the social development of the whole community. The Council is responsible to the Western Health Board which gives a grant towards the provision of the following services:

Provision of Meals: to the elderly and those who are incapable of providing themselves with a hot meal each day.

Laundry Services: A washing and ironing service is provided for a large number of clients each week, including families and nursing cases in the area.

Old Folk's Centre: There is a heated T.V. Sitting room in the Centre at the Parochial Hall where card games are held on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 - 12 p.m. A tea party is arranged at Shrove, Halloween, Christmas and on other occasions throughout the year.

Chiropody Service: on the First Thursday of the month.

Hairdressing Service: is made available to clients in their homes.

Community Information Service: Situated in the Parochial Hall, opening hours are 5 - 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday. Saturday 2 - 3 p.m. Information on all Social Welfare Benefits, Taxation, Education, Health and Housing matters are dealt with in a confidential manner.

ALL THE WORK OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL IS VOLUNTARY SO HELP AND CO-OPERATION ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED.

Sr. Teresina



Some of the old folks on their annual trip to Knock organised by the Social Service Council last July.
Front Row (left to right): Mrs. Greene, Miss A. Freeley, Mr. J. McDonnell, Mrs. B. Lyons, Mrs. Loftus, Miss F. Morris, Miss Mary E. Dyer, Miss M. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Jimmy Noone.
Back Row: Mrs. Mary Smyth, Sr. Eithne, Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. Aggie Kelly, Mrs. Peg Raftery, Mrs. E. Hunt, Sr. Paschal.

(Photo by Rev. T. Hand O.S.A.)

Junior Chamber

By Anne Cribbin

1979 proved to be a successful year for Junior Chamber with the highlight undoubtedly being the success of the debating team in the Tri-Partite Competition in Sheffield, a trip which was enjoyed by many of the chapter members.

"Annagh Magazine" was launched and it was widely read by Ballyhaunis people at home and abroad. The past year saw the completion of many successful ventures including the erection of Christmas lighting in the town and the arrival of Santa laden with goodies for the children. The adults were adequately catered for with The Annual New Year's Eve Ball at which the late Doctor Declan Shields was nominated as "Person of the Year". In April mock interviews were arranged for the students of the Community School by arrangement with careers guidance teacher Sr. Joan Fahey.

In July headed by Declan Shields, the children were entertained with a "Week of the Child" which included several events and amusements, including the presence of Walt Disney characters.

A tourist leaflet was issued outlining amenities and facilities in the area.

The year also saw the new debating team getting off to a flying start by winning The Plate Trophy in the National Competition.

Finally, with the involvement of the Community this year saw an increase in the Tidy Towns marking giving Ballyhaunis its highest rating in 10 years.

OFFICERS:

President:	Matthew O'Dwyer
Vice-president:	Seamus Ryan
P.R.O.:	Joe Ryan
Treasurer:	Anne O'Dwyer
Secretary:	Anne Cribbin

Ballyhaunis Fine Gael

By John Higgins

1979 was a year of change for the Fine Gael Party in Ballyhaunis. At the Branch A.G.M. in January eighty-two year old Mr. William Mulligan retired after seven years as Branch Chairman and was elected Branch President. Bill has been a loyal supporter of Fine Gael since the foundation of the party. The same meeting also witnessed the end of an era when a letter from Senator M.D. Lyons was read, indicating his intention of retiring from Mayo County Council because of ill-health.

On 30th May Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald attended a Public Meeting in the town together with the candidate for the European Local Elections. Later at a dinner in honour of Senator Lyons the Party Leader presented a silver tray tea service to Dalgan on behalf of the local Fine Gael branches. On June 7th the local elections saw Jim Higgins elected to represent the town in Mayo County Council.

The tragic death of Tommie Moran (Coolnafarna) in a road accident deprived the party of one of its first workers. The young Fine Gael branch were involved in support of the Senior Branch activities and also in the Tidy Towns effort. The Branch undertook to get a signed petition to present to Mayo County Council in demand for a heated indoor swimming pool for the town.

Ballyhaunis Branch:

President:	William Mulligan
Chairman:	Patsy Keane
Vice-chairman:	Joe Keane
Secretary:	John Higgins, Knock Rd.
Assistant Sec.:	Dr. S. Ryan
Treasurers:	Peter Hannon & Mrs. B. Prenty
P.R.O.:	Tony Cribbin

Young Fine Gael Branch:

Chairperson:	Siobhan O'Connor
Vice-chairperson:	Joan Connell
Secretary:	Tony Keane, Knox St.
P.R.O.:	John Fitzgerald
Treasurers:	Michael Daly & James Waldron

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N.C.F. Ballyhaunis

This year has been one of development in N.C.F. Ballyhaunis. For the first time the area has had an Advisory Committee with a member on the Board of Management.

In Spring the new store was opened beside the Mart to supply the agricultural needs of the local farming Community. This has proved very successful under the management of George Dee.

A large meeting room on the Mart Premises was renovated and during the Winter months a series of lectures on farming were held. So successful were the lectures in fact that another series has been planned for the coming months. The Meeting Room is also available to any local organisation for Meetings.

The Mart under the management of Mr. Tim Byrne is going ahead with growing success and a number of alterations have been carried out recently to give greater comfort to sellers and buyers.

OFFICERS:

Chairman: James Cribben, Johnstown
Secretary: Seamus Mulrennan, Carrowkeel
Member of the Board of Management: Joe Greene, Ballyhaunis.

Joe Greene

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Ballyhaunis Fianna Fail

An eventful year for the Party in Ballyhaunis began with the Annual Dinner Dance, held in the Scout's Den, the Guest Speaker being Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D., Minister for Health and Social Welfare. In January, during the freeze-up, the Cumann called a public meeting to discuss the Public Water Supply System and this was attended by all interested parties. At the July A.G.M. Mr. Pat Regan resigned as Comhairle Ceanntair Chairman, after long and distinguished service, and was elected to the newly-created honorary position of President of the Comhairle

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the June elections with Mr. Sean Flanagan being elected to the European Parliament and Mr. P.J. Morley, T.D. being returned to the Mayo Co. Council. At a Victory Social held in the Horse Shoe Inn Mr. Flanagan was presented with a silver bowl engraved with the names of the nine E.E.C. member states, together with a currency note from each state, to mark the occasion.

Throughout the year Coiste Ogra ran several successful Youth Discos, while contributing ably to Party work and discussions. A number of Coiste members travelled to Galway to attend the National Youth Conference, which was addressed by Michael Grogan. Outgoing Coiste officers who took up employment in Dublin during the year were: Miss Mary Ryan, who was appointed as Executive Officer in the Dept. of Tourism and Transport; Mr. Joe Grogan, who obtained a position in Dockrell's and Miss Deirdre Curran, who is now nursing in the Meath Hospital.

Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair F.F.

President: Pat Regan
Chairman: Michael Smyth
Vice-chairman: J. Carty
Hon. Sec.: Anto O'Malley
Knock Rd., Ballyhaunis
Joint Hon. Treasurers: Paddy Ryan
and Paddo Cunningham
P.R.O.: Michael Waldron
Delegates to Dail Ceanntair: John T. O'Dwyer, Seamus O'Boyle, Austin Biesty, Michael Smyth, Hugh Rudden.

Ballyhaunis Cumann F.F.

Chairman: Dr. E.A. Waldron
Vice-chairman: Paddy Ryan
Hon. Sec.: Hugh Rudden, Doctor's Road
Joint Hon. Treas.: Johnny Lyons & Joe Conway
P.R.O.: Willie Ryan
Delegates to Comhairle Ceanntair: Paddo Cunningham & Paddo Moran.

Coiste Ogra F.F.

Chairman: Michael Grogan
Vice-chairman: Clar Grogan
Hon. Sec.: Miss Nuala Kenny, Carrowmore
Joint Hon. Treas.: Denis Swift & James Hunt
P.R.O.: Tommy Eagney
Delegates to Comhairle Ceanntair: Robbie Herr & Willie Ryan.

Anto O'Malley

Ballyhaunis P.T.A.A. Branch

The Branch's Annual General Dinner was held at Churchfield House Hotel, Knock and there was a capacity attendance. Brose Walshe supplied the music, as he did again at the Pioneer Social held in the Scout Den in June.

The branch was strongly represented at the International Pioneer Rally at Knock and the Annual outing to Salthill was a most enjoyable occasion.

Ballyhaunis representing the Claremorris Region won the Connacht Pioneer Debating Final during the year. The members of the team were Donal Ahern, Mary Guilfoyle and Jim Lunden. The Ballyhaunis Junior Quiz team were beaten in the Connacht Final. Their members were Frankie Henry, Richard Phillips, John Fitzgerald and Kevin Henry.

A large number of young people joined the Branch at each monthly meeting during the year.

Officers:

President: Mr. Jim Lunden
Vice-president: Mr. Joe Fitzmaurice
Treasurer: Mr. Tom Phillips
P.R.O.: Mr. Joe Byrne
Secretary: Miss Mary Fitzmaurice
Spiritual Director: Rev. Fr. J. Ball C.C.
Assistant Secretary: Sister Assumpta

Committee: Mr. Tom Finn, Mr. Frank Leonard, Miss Nuala Fitzgerald, Miss Noreen O'Reilly and Mrs. Frances Mulhern.

Jim Lunden

Ballyhaunis & District Gun Club

By Liam Lyons

The Club banged in the New Year with 2nd Annual Turkey Shoot held on the well-equipped grounds at Cave attracting competitors from the whole of Connacht. The annual Summer Shoot held on the 5th August was as usual a tremendous success as were numerous confined and

practice shoots. A special word of thanks to our sponsors who rendered it possible. Ballyhaunis were host for the Inter-club team shoot on 14th October, as nominated by the Mayo/Sligo Association.

GAME

Pheasants and Mallard were released and food crop for winter feed provided. Special feeders were mounted at suitable locations to feed pheasants and duck particularly during the cold hard weather.

PREDATOR CONTROL

Sunday shoots are very successful in the control of Vermin and in particular the Grey Crow. The Club expressed concern at the indiscriminate extermination of foxes at night by non-club members who were attracted by the increased value of fox-fur.

The Annual Dance & Buffet was well attended and a very enjoyable night was had by all.

President:	Thomas Buckley
Chairman:	Eamonn Burke
Vice-chairman:	Joe Nolan
Secretary:	Liam Lyons
Treasurer:	John Robinson
Ass. Sec.:	Seamus Cribbin
Grounds Manager:	Patrick Murphy

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Karate Club

By Paul Gallagher

Before going into the details regarding the happenings in the club over the last year I would like to give those readers who may be unfamiliar with Karate a little information regarding the origins and background of the sport itself.

Karate is the Japanese Art of self-defence dating back to the old Chinese Buddhist Monks whose physical training aimed at harmony of body and mind. "Kara-Te" means empty hands or the art of fighting with empty hands.

Karate came via Okinawa to Japan where different styles have developed (The style which Ballyhaunis Club practice is known as "Shotokau").

To-day Karate is a method of self-defence, a sport for all and a way to keep physically and mentally fit.

The Karate Club in Ballyhaunis held its first session on the 5th May 1978 in the Scout Den, instruction being under the supervision of George Reilly 3rd. Dan Black Belt instructor I.K.U. These sessions are carried out every four weeks usually at week-ends and the weekly instruction held at 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday night is attended by a high ranking member of the Tuam Karate Club with which the Ballyhaunis Club works closely.

In the early sessions conducted by the club a very large number of people presented themselves for training. Unfortunately very many of these had misconceptions regarding the nature of Karate and the level of training and discipline required to acquire its skills. Consequently a drop in attendances resulted until we were left with a hard-core of highly enthusiastic and dedicated members, approximately twenty in number. Sad to say, but the

majority of these were "out-of-towners" coming from Kiltimagh, Castlereagh, Irishtown, Castlebar and a small band from Ballyhaunis itself.

After six months, following a rigorous two-day training session under Mr. George Reilly (Dublin) held in the Scout Den, the club members took part in their first grading sessions and happily all secured their first grading sessions and happily all secured their first white belts.

Since then with regular training sessions supplemented with two-day training sessions held at intervals, slowly but surely members have found themselves becoming more skilled at the complex art of Karate and as each grading comes up members appear at times to be insatiable - no matter how rigorous the training sessions may be. Such is the effect on people who come to know and appreciate Karate.

The club is deeply indebted to Tuam Karate Club whose members have often, regardless of personal inconvenience, come down to help us. To them we are extremely grateful.

Of course the club has also picked up new members since it started and some of these new members are now going for their first grading in December, while many of our earlier members are now hoping to get their green belts.

Thus we are hoping that a tradition of Karate will develop with the result that this fledgling club of ours will, with time, grow in strength and come a permanent fixture in the sporting scene of Ballyhaunis.

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Ballyhaunis Rugby Football Club

Ballyhaunis R.F.C. at its A.G.M. elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Dr. Alan Delaney
Secretary:	Hugh Curley, Bridge St.
Treasurer:	George Hannon
Coach:	Dr. John Dillon
Team Captain:	Peter Walshe

The Club has continued to develop since its formation, with many new players coming in to replace those who have ceased to play.

The League Campaign for 1979/80 was started with a very respectable 4-4 draw against a strong Tuam Side and it is hoped to have many successes this year and finish well up the League table.

We have fielded an under-15 team against Ballina and Sligo and have learned that we must move back to under 13 next season because most of our players are in the 11-13 age group.

We are fortunate indeed that the new owners of our pitch John and Mark Murphy of Major Steel Products have indicated their willingness to grant a long lease on Forkan's Field which would allow us to proceed with levelling the hill. I am pleased to report that Tom Forkan is in good health in England. Ballyhaunis R.F.C. are very grateful to all the people who have given them help and support over the year.

Alan Delaney

Ballyhaunis Conference of St. Vincent de Paul

Officers:

President:	Columba Jordan
Vice-president:	Sr. M. Dymrna
Hon. Secretary:	Luke Lalor
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs. Mary Higgins
Spiritual Director:	Rev. Fr. P. Costelloe P.P.

There are six or seven active members along with officers and associate members. Conference meets weekly, and its main work is visitation of the old and needy. New members are always most welcome into the conference.

Hospital Visitation is also practised and last year a major project was the voluntary payout of Social Welfare during the postal strike.

In spite of the enormous task this unforeseen duty was carried out successfully and the Conference wishes to thank all volunteers outside the Society for their valued help.

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St. Patrick's Dramatic Society

The Society is now in its twenty-first year.

OFFICERS:

President:	Rev. Fr. P. Costelloe P.P.
Chairperson:	Anne Hosty
Treasurer:	Elizabeth Jordan
Secretary:	Margaret Maguire
Producer:	Hugh Rudden
Asst. Producer:	Kit Keane
Stage Manager:	Pat Kenny

From April 7th - 9th 1979 St. Patrick's Dramatic Society staged "The Green Boxeen" a three-act comedy by Patrick Kelly at the Parochial Hall with the following cast:

Lar Brophy	- Aiden Kelly
Catherine Brophy	- Elizabeth Jordan
Jack Lannigan	- Michael Glynn
Paul Rattigan	- John Prenty
Auld Rattigan	- Pat Doyle
Mick Varley	- Hugh Rudden
Joe Fussett	- John Morley
Mrs. O'Carroll	- Una Shields
Miss Nesbitt	- Marie Tighe
Mr. Sarsfield	- Jim Higgins
Lucy Leary	- Eileen Munroe
Make-up	- Frankie O'Malley & Kit Keane
Costumes	- Ann Hosty
Producer	- Hugh Rudden
Prompters	- Margaret Maguire, Sally Fergus and Kit Keane

The next production will be "The Absent Minded Bridegroom" by Larry E. Johnson.

Margaret Maguire

Cumann Luth-Cleas Gaedheal

During the year the Club fielded teams in every competition. Our under age Committee, as always, was particularly active. The under sixteen team won the East Mayo Final to be defeated by Claremorris in the final. Local leagues were run off, sponsored by local businessmen. The Junior team won the Canon Henry Cup for the first time in many years, while the Under 21 and Intermediate teams gave a good account of themselves in the various competitions.

Major developments to our grounds were undertaken during the Summer under the Temporary Youth Employment Scheme.

The Club continued to run its very successful "200 Club" draw over the year.

While major victories on the field did not come to the Club during the year, one feels that as a result of the enthusiasm shown that it will not be too long before the tide turns in our favour.

Michael Waldron was voted Club "Man of the Year" while Des Lyons received the "Player of the Year" award.

President:	Austin Grogan
Vice-president:	Mick O'Connell
Chairman:	John Prenty
Vice-chairmen:	Emmett Keane & Tom McCormack
Treasurer:	Paddy Ryan
Secretary:	Dermot Eagney, Main St.

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Ballyhaunis Badminton Club '78 - '79

Officers:

Chairman:	Christy Ruane
Secretary:	Mrs. Maire Murphy
Treasurer:	Miss Mary Newell
P.R.O.:	Eamon Dwane

Committee: Ann O'Dwyer, Carmel McManus, Mary Newell, G. Garrett, M. Murphy.

We moved to the new gym for two nights per week. With four courts going it wasn't hard to get a game. Membership was 48 persons. As a result we entered three teams for the Mayo League, Division 11 and two Division 111 teams. All teams did well Division 3B got to the semi-finals, but were beaten by a very strong Foxford team. Next time they will make it to the final.

Mrs. Maire Murphy

Ancient Graves of Ballyhaunis B.C.

By *Bernie Freyne*

As a follow-up to my essay in the first issue of "Annagh" I would like to devote this article to an account of a number of the many ancient graves that are to be found throughout our area. I will nominate the various burial sites under separate headings and then attempt to define, describe and date them to the best of my knowledge. I am open to correction on points of detail and will be glad to accept whatever additional information anyone has to offer. I may at times stray from the subject matter; please bear with me.

BELLESKER BURIAL MOUND OR BARROW

On top of the esker ridge which runs parallel to the main road at Duffy's Crossroads, on the Ballyhaunis/Claremorris Road, there is a burial mound which is conical in shape. The type of burial that took place in the cone was crematorial, or in other words, the burial of the ashes of a cremated body in an urn. Generally, a burial mound contained more than one burial; a possibility to be considered is the likelihood that underneath the mound in the virgin soil there could be a whole burial (i.e. a body which was not cremated) and the mound and crematorial burials came later. The mound itself probably dates back to around 1450 b.c. to 1200 b.c.

GREENWOOD WEDGE GRAVE

This grave can be found on the side of the road about one hundred yards on the Ballyhaunis side of the Greenwood crossroads. It is locally known as Diramuid and Grainne's bed though it is also referred to as the Massrock. It consists of two chambers, one in the field and one embedded in the roadside fence. The one in the field has been completely destroyed. The chamber embedded in the roadside fence is still in relatively good condition. I may add that it, too, is in danger because it may get in the way of future road improvements. Special care must be taken to ensure that this does not happen. The type of burial carried out here was either crematorial or alternatively, the body was buried on its side in the foetal position. Sometimes an urn containing food was buried along with the remains. The grave itself probably dates back to circa 1900 - 1400 b.c.

ISLAND OGHAM STONE

Island Ogham Stone is set in the middle of a Barrow or Burial Mound. (The site is known locally as Island Ogham Stone, hence the title.)

The Barrow or Burial Mound contains the cremated remains of people who died in the Middle Bronze Age circa 1450 - 1200 B.C. The Ogham Stone came as a much later addition to the site. It was probably put there during the early Christian period 0 - 400 A.D.

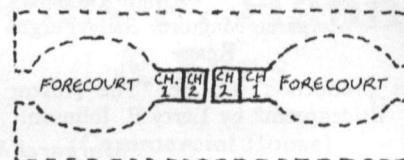
Note: On this particular hillside that sweeps down to the valley which consists of Mannin Lake, the bog and what was Annagh or Island lake, there are several Barrows of all shapes and sizes. Those are to be found in the townlands of island, Larganboy West and Larganboy East. I consider those numerous Barrows as evidence in support of my belief that this area, i.e. all around the lakes, was once a very heavily populated one. There is the further proof of habitation dwelling sites to substantiate my views.

FAIRYHILL MOUND AT ISLAND LAKE

On the north western shore of Island lake there is a mound of earth called Fairyhill. Although I have no proof to substantiate my opinion I believe it is not in fact a large burial mound. It is, in my view, more likely to be a cemetery cairn dating to the Early Bronze Age circa 1900 - 1400 B.C.

THE DUAL COURT GRAVE AT CAPPAGH TOOREEN

This I believe is the oldest Grave known to us in our area. The reason it is called a Dual Court Grave is because it has two pairs of Burial Chambers situated back to back with a forecourt at each end reaching out in opposite directions to the east and to the west, as illustrated below:



Generally the type of burial carried out here was that of the whole body being interred on its side in the foetal position. This grave is situated on the northern slopes of the big hill on top of which the Water Tower for the Aghamore Group Scheme has been erected. It can be reached from either the jRaith Road side or from the Tooreen side, the Tooreen side being a much easier approach. It is to be found two fields in on the right hand side of the road about one hundred and fifty yards beyond Cassidy's house in Cappagh and is known locally as the Giant's Grave. It probably dates back to the Neolithic period circa 3400 - 1800 B.C.

RAITH WEDGE GRAVE

While we are in the area I may as well mention Raith Wedge Grave. Only quite recently has it been definitely identified as a wedge grave. It can be found on the flatland at the bottom of the hill down from Aghamore graveyard. It is in the second field from the graveyard road. It looks just like a heap of stones in the middle of the field but on closer inspection the definite pattern of a wedge tomb can be seen.

Again I would say it probably dates to the Early Bronze Age circa 1900 - 1400 B.C. As a matter of interest Mass was said locally in a hidden valley on Mr. Jordan's land close to this site during the Penal days.

ALTOIR WEDGE GRAVE

If you go the townland of Altoir near Granlahan and ask for the big grave that Bro. Eunan Bannon discovered, you won't have any trouble in finding this.

By comparison with the other tombs in the area this one is absolutely huge. In floor area it would take up as much space as a fair sized bungalow whereas the normal wedge tomb such as Greenwood or jRaith would only cover about half of the size of a normal bedroom.

As well as being the largest it is also the finest example of an undisturbed wedge tomb there is in this part of the country. It is certain that this monument contains more than one burial: there could be as many as six or even ten burials, quite possibly even more.

Because of the fact that this grave is so big and had evolved to this extent I would date it roughly at the end of the early Bronze Age or at the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age circa 1550 - 1300 B.C.

You may have noted one factor which most of the graves mentioned have in common: there is a Water reservoir close by. This means that most of the graves are near the highest ground levels in the locality. Altoir is no exception. Nor is my next monument - Cnocan na gCeainn - Tulrahan. In fact all the major rivers of Connaught rise within a four mile radius of Ballyahunis. A tributary of the Moy rises just off the Tooreen Road near Mr. Flanagan's house, it flows northwards. The Suck river rises out the Ballinlough Road and flows east. The Dalgan of the Clare-Dalgan river rises in the Black lake in Morley's land at Carrowreagh and flows southwards and the Robe rises in Began lake and flows south-southwest. All this goes to show that Ballyhaunis must be one of the highest areas in Connaught. These high land levels resulted in an abundance of Megalithic tombs.

CNOCAN NA gCEANN TULRAHAN

Again, beside the water tower at Tulrahan you will see a high hillfort. South or southwest of this you will see the mound of earth called Cnocan an gCeainn. It is quite possible that it is a cemetery cairn dating back to the middle Bronze Age and it may have a direct link with the fort on top of the hill as both probably come from the same period, circa 1450 - 1200 B.C.

However, there is some slight evidence against that. There are some locals who maintain that access to the mound was gained in order to store an illicit brew during times of intense police activities. One man has also said he remembers his father saying that on one occasion he heard "the finest Irish dance music coming from the mound." If this was the case and if those two stories are true then we have not got a cemetery cairn but a passage grave.

A Passage Grave is normally a mound of earth with an



Altoir - one of the finest examples of a Wedge Grave in Ireland.

entrance leading to an inner passage inside, hence the name passage grave. Normally the burial chambers inside are in a cruciform position. The remains generally were cremated. If it is a passage tomb then the monument would date to the Neolithic Period roughly 3400 - 1800 B.C.

There are several other graves in the locality some small and some fairly large but if you go and see all that I have mentioned in this article you will have seen a very good cross section of the ancient tombs of Ireland. They are on your own doorstep so why not?

This is the sad part of my article. Two graves that I know of, one of them before my time, and one which I knew very well, have been destroyed knowingly or otherwise by certain individuals.

The first one, which I never saw, was bulldozed into a sandpit to clear the land of rubble. The second was a beautiful Cist Grave or Pitgrave, and this one, I'm afraid, was destroyed deliberately and knowingly by the people involved.

To describe the Cist grave: imagine a hole dug in the ground roughly 14" x 14" in size and around the edges four small stone slabs of roughly the same dimensions. On top of these four slabs was placed a huge rock weighing between four and five tons and in the hole underneath all this rested the cremated remains of some poor individual. Now I want you to sit back and think about the engineering feat involved in the making of this tomb. This massive rock or capstone was placed and balanced on top of those four small stone slabs and it had stayed in that position until twentieth century man decided to destroy it. If it had to be destroyed and I for one do not believe it had, the people concerned in its destruction should have contacted the National Museum or the Department of Archaeology at any of the universities. Then it could have been excavated under controlled conditions and any information obtained properly recorded. But the way in which it was done prevented anyone from learning anything from it and it is doubtful now, given its present condition, if anyone ever will.

The Gun Club has a very good motto which could be equally well applied to our ancient tombs:

The wildlife of our country is not ours to dispose of as we wish, we are but guardians for the generations to come."

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(Gerry Dillon was born in Ballyhaunis, was once a Publican in the town and still remembers many happenings of 70 years ago)

To own a horse and cart was something special, but the donkey and cart was fairly common. Side-cars were rare, but many people in town had side-cars for hire. My own family, Larry Kilroy, Donnellans, Farraghers, Morleys and O'Malleys were people in the town who used to have side-cars for hire. Outside the town in the same business were Grogans of Kiltiboe, Pat (the King) Waldron, Leo and Ned Brennan of Scrigg. Farraghers and James Lyons had bigger carriages called Breaks. The Break could carry

When we are all good happy, sit down and have your fill,
And the best of strong new oaten meal,
From Jamsie Plunkett's Mill.

Now the miller he's an early bird,
He's up before the dawn,
And sure he would argue politics
With Mick Brennan from Drimbane.

Chorus

People were very poor and the chief industry was pigs and eggs. The pig fairs were in town on every second Tuesday. All the stables around the town would be full with pigs belonging to the farmers. They would have brought the pigs to town on the night before the fair. Gerry Dillon of the Square used to call the fairs "The Pig Concert". Where Delaney's of Abbey St. is now was once owned by Foody's. Before Foody's came there "The Yardman" used to come from Tuam to this yard. He used to buy eggs and he used to pay more than the local traders. I remember the traders discussing how they would get this man out of the town.

I was in the Boy Scouts around 1915 - 1916. Felix Murray was in charge then and he lived where Curley's Jewellers is now. Most of the time was spent at drill. We used to be drilled out the Clare Road to Holywell, across to Adgloragh and in by Abbeyquarter. Nearly every young lad in town was a member. The Hibernians were drilling in the Nun's Field at the same time, where the new school is now built.

I remember the people coming to town on the eve of St. Augustine's Day for the Abbey Pattern. They would come on a pilgrimage and pray all night. People had great faith in the Friary. They came on carts from Dunmore, Glenamaddy and other towns around. That was seventy years ago. I remember the donkeys tied along the streets during the night.

Patrick's Day was an awful day. We used to be busy as young lads running from row to row. I remember a hard case from England being mad that it was twelve o'clock and not a blow struck yet. "Come on down town", he said. People were always afraid of the men from Kilvine. Matchmaking was a great hobby on that day. The young men and girls used to be dressed-up - the lads with the cap on the side of the head and the curls sticking out underneath. The lads would buy their girl-friends "Conversation Lozenges". These were the sweets with the love messages on them. There used to be hobby-horses in the Square. The cheap-jacks used to be there selling clothes and tools. One of these traders was called Freyne, and he came from Ballaghaderreen.

I was at the last races at Tooraree Race Course in 1916. I backed a few winners. My friend, the late Jimmy Kerins was with me. I had two bob. I got one shilling from my grandmother, and another shilling from an Augustinian Provincial, Dr. Bone, who was visiting the Abbey. I had served Mass for him and he gave me the money that morning. The race horses were stabled in various stables around the town. One such stable was at Johnston's of Abbeyquarter. "Hocker" Waldron used to be chatting to the jockeys and getting tips. The winners I backed that day were Dooley-Ooly; Vain Jane; Princely O'Neill; Nellie Mac; and Happy Moments.

The jockeys used to stay at Jim Caulfield's of Abbey St., and there used to be a dance there on the night of the races. "Happy Moments" was owned by Dr. Coen father of Desmond Coen, who was later official in the National Bank. The main stand was opposite where King's Garage is today.

There was a forge, which was owned by Carney's, up where the Carrowkeel Statue is on the Knock Road. I remember the poem about it used to go:

My name is Billy Carney,
I come from Tooraree,
My father is a blacksmith,
My brother is the same,
I work on the railway
And still keep up the game.

Tommie is in England,
To earn a couple of pounds,
To send them home to Johnnie
To help him feed the hounds.

Letter to the Editor

18 Wilson Avenue,
Valhalla N.Y. 10595

October 5th 1979

Dear Mr. O'Malley,

I really enjoyed my borrowed copy of "Ballyhaunis Magazine, 1978" and wondered if it is possible to have the 1979 issue mailed to us here in the United States this year.

There are 5 "Dalton sisters" and we all loved the wonderful effort all concerned put into the '78 issue.

Could you please quote by return what the charge including postage would be?

Make it in dollars as I've lost track of Irish currency over the years.

Thank You

Rosemary Dalton Keck

Editor's Note

(The Daltons emigrated to the U.S.A. in the 40's. They lived on Clare St. and their father, Tom, was the first E.S.B. employee in the town. I discovered when I mentioned this letter that there are many people in Ballyhaunis who have fond memories of the Dalton Sisters).

A Man Of Humour

Mick O'Connell, "Western People" staff reporter, recalls the wit and poetic talents of an outstanding Ballyhaunis personality, the late P.A. Waldron, N.T.

I remember one cold December morning either in the late forties or early fifties walking down Knox St., Ballyhaunis to elicit the help of Dr. Michael Waldron L.L.D., regarding the writing of an article about his brother the late P.A. Waldron long time principal teacher of the Ballyhaunis Boy's National School who retired in 1932.

It was with some trepidation that I knocked on the door of his house. I need not have worried because I was graciously received without fuss or bother by Dr. Waldron, who was a literary genius in his own right, and who was a member of the Governing Body of University College, Galway.

After I explained to him the purpose of my visit he thanked me sincerely for selecting his brother as a subject for a special article.

The late Dr. Waldron assisted me in every way possible in the next couple of hours by unlocking cabinets and putting in front of me for my perusal several works of "the great P.A." which he jealously guarded and most of which had never been published.

He told me that the wit and humour of P.A. Waldron was the side of his character which should be emphasised and he stressed that while "P.A." was a man of very high intellectual capacity able to hold his own with the great academics of his day he was essentially a man of humour and he advised that that should be the central theme of the article which I proposed to write.

Now well into my fifties I now more than ever fully appreciate the kindness shown to me on that occasion by Dr. Waldron and at later times when he was called upon he was always courteous, kind, considerate and helpful.

In later years a younger relative of those Waldron brothers, Paddy "Bub" Waldron, who also is no longer with us and who was for many years resident in Dublin, exemplified his relatives in their regard for Ballyhaunis by constantly referring to Ballyhaunis when meeting his fellow townspeople in the metropolis as "Our Town".

I would like the re-print of this article first penned all of thirty years ago to revere the memory of all the Waldron family - a name which is synonymous with the town of Ballyhaunis.

The article is as follows:

"When writing about old personalities in Ballyhaunis, one springs to mind instantly, for his wit, humour literary



Mr. P.A. Waldron, N.T.

genius and numerous other traits. I refer of course to the late P.A. Waldron ex N.T., whose memory will never be forgotten by his hosts of friends and admirers, and whose death in 1942 cast a gloomy shadow not alone over the Ballyhaunis district, but over the whole Irish literary sphere.

I do not propose to give here a full account of P.A.'s literary achievements, as space would not permit, but I will delve here and there and reproduce some of his most light-hearted works as well as give some interesting glimpses into his character.

PRESENTATION BY PUPILS

I, myself, had the honour and privilege of being a pupil, even though it was only for a short time, of the late P.A., in the Ballyhaunis Boys N.S. Clearly I remember the day when one of the older pupils, George Fitzmaurice, standing on a chair, addressed us, and told us in halting tones that our beloved teacher was resigning, and that the pupils should make a suitable presentation.

That was in September 1932 and on the day of the presentation of a fountain pen inscribed thus: "To P.A. Waldron from his pupils September 1932", the following address signed by George Fitzmaurice on behalf of the pupils was read: Dear Mr. Waldron, We the undersigned on behalf of the pupils of the school in which you have been principal teacher for so many years, beg to congratulate you on completing your long term of office and retiring to enjoy a well earned rest. We feel that we owe you a big debt for what you have done for us in the past and for which we beg to thank you. We also ask your kind forgiveness for our many faults. In order to show our appreciation we wish to offer you a small gift which we beg you to accept. We hope that in the days to come it will help to remind you of the boys who once thronged around you to imbibe from your lips the knowledge that flowed so fully

and so cheerfully, often into unwilling channels. We pray that you may be given many long years to enjoy the rest you have so nobly won. With all good wishes for your future welfare we remain your obedient pupils."

The address testified in full measure to the esteem in which P.A. was held by all his pupils and remained, together with the fountain pen, amongst his most treasured possessions to the end.

While his achievements in other literary spheres commanded the admiration of the greatest in the land, to my mind his chief characteristics were his wit and humour. His humorous poems and ditties were sought after by all and sundry, and remain to this day masterpieces in their own particular class.

"A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men" is an old adage which, I am sure, P.A. thoroughly agreed with, and I would say that he did more than most to uphold the adage, for P.A. was one of the wisest men of his generation and yet a great sense of humour was always uppermost in his brilliant mind.

At Christmas time in 1928 Fr. Peppard, O.S.A., was organising a concert in aid of the Augustinian Abbey. He went to P.A. and asked him for a few verses to the air of "The Vicar of Bray". He was hardly back at the Abbey when the following roistering poem was through the letter-box after him.

THE MAYOR OF BALLYHAUNIS

Most anxious thoughts our bosoms fill,
And trouble pile upon us;
But these will fade when I am made
Mayor of Ballyhaunis.
For things will then assume a state of comfort and
profusion,
And certainly I'll dissipate
The very last illusion.

Chorus

Then let the world wag as it will,
for now the roseate dawn is,
You'll have no care when I'm the Mayor,
The Mayor of Ballyhaunis.

It is my purpose most profound,
For I'll the goods deliver,
To make the land go far around -
In fact, I'll damn the river,
And light will beam in every place -
We'll only have it one way;
Projected by the dynamo
Possessed by Johnny Conway.

Chorus

I'll carpet all the leading streets,
And then revive the races,
And water send from Larry's mill
To thirty thousand places.
I'll plant the Dardenelles with flowers
Where all can see and feel them,
And Joe Devaney with a gun
To chase the kids that steal them.

Chorus

You'll find me full of energy,
Industrious and tireless
For every house in every street,
Will have its private wireless,
And telephone in all the rooms -
So useful and amusing -
To make the people careful
In the language that they're using.

Chorus

I'll write the County Councillors,
And bring them all together,
To make improved arrangements
In the matter of the weather;
The sun must shine when'er we like;
We'll pass a resolution
And make of Moylett's concert hall
A weather institution.

Chorus

In every way, and night and day,
I'll be the careful shepherd
We'll keep the playboys in their place -
Myself and Fr. Peppard.
I'll make the market square a green
With pretty bowers of roses,
And fountains pumping out perfumes
To gratify our noses.

Chorus

We'll have a gorgeous pageant
In the middle of the Summer,
Preceded by a Tango Band -
I'm going to be the drummer.
We'll play the most fantastic airs
With many thrills invested,
And raise the town to concert pitch -
Unless we're all arrested.

Chorus

The fairgreen will be roofed with glass;
To make it fit for sporting;
The Courthouse will then be designed
(As all Courts should) for courting,
And when my days on earth are spent,
I'll think it rather shabby,
Unless they build my monument
Adjacent to the Abbey.

Chorus

When in 1941 the Government announced that the tea ration would be reduced to a half ounce per person each week P.A. was prompted to pen the lines of the poem given hereunder. The poem which was subsequently published was featured in music halls throughout the country, and was rendered with great success by prominent Irish artists from the stages of leading Dublin theatres.

THE HALF OUNCE OF TAY

I'm stuck in a hole and I'm muddled and vexed;
I'm flummoxed and puzzled and also perplexed;
I looked at the papers, and what did they say?
"You'll do every week with a half ounce o' tay."

A half ounce o' tay,
A half ounce o' tay,
The devil may shrivel their half ounce o' tay!

Arrah, what is the raison o' this thing at all,
That such a disaster upon us should fall?
Our small share o' comfort they've taken away
And sent us to booze with their half ounce o' tay.
Their half ounce o' tay
Their half ounce o' tay
We don't care a damn for their half ounce o' tay.

The ould times wor splendid, the ould times wor grand,
With herself at the table - a mug in her hand;
With mischevious glances the lady would say;
"Musha, ate up your bread with a saucepan o' tay"
A saucepan o' tay,
A saucepan o' tay,
Oh, lashins and laivins and buckets o' tay.

No sign and no snuffle, no snort and no sob,
The tay-pot was there like a king on the hob;
And the kittle kept cheerfully singin' all day,
And never a doubt about plinty o' tay.
Oh plinty o' tay
Oh plinty o' tay
Delightful and sthrong was the saucepan o' tay.

The lambs are all happy and so are the pigs;
No taxes to pay - they're secure in their digs;
The cows and the horses have plinty o' hay,
But look-id ourselves and our supeen o' tay.
Our dhropeen o' tay
Our dhropeen o' tay
To blazes with them and their half ounce o' tay.

I can't ax the neighbours to come anymore;
To thramps and to tinkers I'm closin' the door,
And all the poor beggers I'm sindin' away,
Bekaise I'm reduced to a half ounce o' tay.
A half ounce o' tay,
A half ounce o' tay,
I'll soon be a sight with the half ounce o' tay.

I'm mad as a hatter. No wonder, I think,
That most of the people are takin' to drink;
And when from this earth we are whirled away,
'Tis all on account of their graineen o' tay.

The graineen o' tay,
The graineen o' tay,
The curse of the crows on themselves and their tay.

The Rural Electrification Scheme is now bringing the electric light to every nook and corner of the land and oil lamps no longer hold pride of place in the country house. This is a far cry from the time when P.A. wrote a poem entitled "The Electric Light". He wrote in in 1903 and it was published in "The Connaught Telegraph" on

September 26th 1903. The Peter Burke referred to in this poem was, I understand, the lamplighter in Ballyhaunis at the time it was written.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT

No more will he talk of "a gallon of oil",
But a sort of electrical meter;
He'll speak of the dynamo, circuit and coil
And batteries too; won't you Peter?
The bridges of wheatstone he'll have on the brain
And methods of safe installation -
He'll not use the ladders or brushes again,
The can is a gift to the Nation.
H2AO4 will work wonders for Pete,
With formula equally shocking,
And thick rubber soles he will bind to his feet,
With similar bands for a stocking
He'll fix up his fingers in tight rubber gloves -
His paw might become like a talon,
For dangers attending the person who shoves
His hand mid inventions of Callan.
And Edison, Bunsen and Swan and the rest
Will be names on his tongue every minnit -
There's awful disturbance in Burke's noble breast
To know when the deuce they'll begin it.
He's testing the thing in the Backway Hotel -
This evening he's certain to try one;
He can't fix his mind on the kind of a cell,
Or will it be wet or a dry one.
The amperes and volts and farads as well,
Have his mind and his brain nearly burnt;
He wants to discover the one that will tell
The length and the strength of the current.
Since Galvani worked with the limbs of the frogs
There's nothing so fine or completer
Than the way he discarded the lamp-lighting clogs -
The clogs that were clattered by Peter.

When it has happened

And now, when he looks at a derelict post,
And gazes on those which are neater,
He fancies he sees a diminutive ghost -
The ghost of a moribund Peter.
He sighs for the nights when the moon was in bed,
And the stars didn't polish their faces -
He thinks that he'll purchase a ticket instead
And sail for uncivilised places.

These are but a sample of P.A.'s poetic works that will make enjoyable reading and will prompt many to remember P.A. around their Christmas firesides and maybe offer a prayer for the repose of a soul of a kind and gentle character; a fine gentleman and a personality whose memory will never fade.

May he rest in peace.



Down Memory Lane



KNOX STREET AND THE SQUARE IN THE 1890'S

(Photo: National Library)



A Fancy Dress Parade during a Scout Carnival in the early 50's, the first time Jones' Amusements were brought to town.

The prizewinners "Our Gang" on the right are:

(L. to R.): Michael McQuinney, Tony Cribben, Eileen Lyons and J.J. Cribben. Adults in photo are Miss Lucy Flynn (R.I.P.) and Michael Quinn who was a butcher in Cribben's. The little boy on the extreme left is Peter Sweeney.

(Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Seamus Durkan)



ST. MARY'S B.N.S., BALLYHAUNIS CLASS PHOTOGRAPH c.1935

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

(Photo presented by Fr. Austin Cribbin, St. Augustine Church, Merrill, Oregon 97633)

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The Sheffield Connection

The International Tripartite Debating Competition in Sheffield was the major event in Junior Chamber's Calendar for 1979. Donal Ahern describes the trip

Following our success in winning the Junior Chamber Ireland National Debating Competition in 1978 Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber's Debating Team represented Ireland in the International Tripartite Debating Competition at Sheffield in March of this year. This annual competition for the General Accident Assurance Company Trophy is contested by the National Champions of Ireland, England and Scotland. In January Sheffield Junior Chamber had qualified to meet Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber in the final by defeating Junior Chamber Kircaldie, the Scottish Champions. The prospect of a trip to Sheffield appealed to the team but the problem of financing the venture was of major proportions. A limited amount of finance was available to cover the teams travel expenses from the General Accident Assurance Company, who sponsor the competition, and from Junior Chamber Ireland. But it was the problem of subsidising the expenses of our supporters which provided the major headache. Thanks to the generosity of S.M. Rafique of Halal Meat Packers Limited this problem was overcome. The local manager, of Irish Ale Breweries, Michael O'Loughlin, also made a contribution on behalf of his company towards our fund. The formidable task of arranging a complex package of travel and accommodation plans was undertaken by Tony Flynn assisted by Matt O'Dwyer, Seamus Ryan and John Mooney.

On March 2nd 1979 the party departed from Ballyhaunis by coach at what several of the supporters considered an unnaturally early hour. The party consisted of Jim and Marion Higgins, Chris Pratt, John Higgins, Donal and Eleanor Ahern, Matt O'Dwyer, Tony Flynn, Moira Delaney, Sean Freyne, Dr. Seamus Ryan, Dr. Declan and Una Shields, Pat and Sally Higgins, Tony and Anne Cribbin, Joe and Ann Hosty, Anne O'Dwyer, Mary Cunningham, Mary Timoney, Joe Kenny and Nora Cunningham. Xanthe Pratt had departed the day before to avoid the air journey.

When the coach approached Dublin Airport a stern Tony Flynn requested the party to produce their air tickets. Deafening sighs of relief followed when Tony smilingly announced that he had held the air tickets to avoid any possible problems with absentminded professors. At Dublin Airport the party was joined by Christy McDonagh the National Debating Officer, and Sean Hillery, President of Shannon Branch of Toastmasters International and his wife Paula.

The party, armed with a small quantity of duty-free 'minerals', boarded the aircraft without incident. All

except me that is. As I was about to take my seat Joe Hosty in his finest 'M.C.' voice requested the entire plane to give me a round of applause informing them that I was just married and was departing on my honeymoon. Needless to say the believed him and obliged. After Mr. Hosty had belted up, the pilot succeeded in making the aircraft defy the law of gravity and within thirty minutes we were back on dry land again, this time at Manchester Airport.

We were loud in our praise for Dillon's Travel Agency when we found that the coach to convey the party to Sheffield was waiting for us. A fast hair-raising journey across the picturesque snow-bound Pennines ensued. All agreed that our driver deserved an appearance on "The Thrill-Seekers T.V. Programme!" The team and supporters were welcomed at the Hallam Tower Hotel, Sheffield by Tony Pratt (no relation of the Scrigg Pratts). Tony, who is an Inspector of Police in Sheffield, was organiser of Sheffield Junior Chamber's hosting arrangements. We were introduced to Sheffield President Peter Bruce and The Sheffield Debating team who were obviously anxious to "size up" their opponents. We were pleasantly surprised by the warmth of the welcome extended to us and arrangements were made for an early morning shopping tour of Sheffield.

True to his word Tony Pratt was at our hotel early in the morning ensuring that the visitors were directed to the particular type of shops they were interested in. The centre of Sheffield combined old and new architecture very tastefully and certainly did not conform to our preconceived expectation of a dull industrial city. The city centre, Fargate, which was demolished during the Second World War bombing raids is now a beautiful traffic-free shopping area.

Having completed the mandatory shopping ritual it was down to business in the afternoon. The debate was scheduled for six o'clock in Sheffield University, which we had been told was a mere ten minutes walk from our hotel. Fortunately someone had ordered a taxi because I do not believe that even that well known Sheffield commuter Sebastian Coe could have covered the distance in that time.

The motion for debate was "That This House Believes That Democracy is Dying." The debate was chaired by Sheffield President, Peter Bruce. The judges were Keith Heath from Derby (immediate Past President of British J.C. Midland Group), Roger Cooke from Maltby former British National Debating Organiser and Sean Hillery from Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare, President Shannon Toastmasters International. The Sheffield team was Chris Farris (Captain), Tony Gregory, Terry Barker and Tony Pratt. Ballyhaunis was represented by Jim Higgins (Captain), Chris Pratt, John Higgins and yours truly. It was most heartening to see so many friendly Ballyhaunis faces in the audience. We also enjoyed the support of Chris

Pratt's parents, Mr. & Mrs. A.H. Pratt, and his brother Stephen who travelled from Nottingham for the event; Xanthe Pratt's sister Aletheia Halperin and her husband, Jeff who travelled from Leeds; Sally Higgin's cousin Lorraine Cumiskey who travelled from Manchester with Aidan Towey. We were conscious as a team of the fact that we were representing not only Ballyhaunis but Ireland.

A difference in debating style was discernible between the teams and it was felt that our approach was more flexible and spontaneous. Jim Higgins produced the virtuoso oratorical performance that has twice won him the Irish Outstanding Speaker Award. The research and preparation which had been effected with the assistance of our "Think Tank" of Matt O'Dwyer, Seamus Ryan, Tony Flynn, John Mooney and Michael Smyth paid off. The adjudicators verdict was a win for Ballyhaunis and to say that it was greeted with pleasure by the Ballyhaunis contingent would probably be the understatement of the year.

While the adjudicators were arriving at their decision the audience was most impressed by a slide presentation from Seamus Ryan showing the many features of Ballyhaunis and its environs.

After the debate we were guests at a special banquet held at Sheffield University. The proceedings opened with a group of dancers attired in traditional Yorkshire performing the "clogging in" of a gigantic Yorkshire Pudding. After the magnificent meal our President Matt O'Dwyer contributed to the after dinner speeches with a most eloquent and witty address. He concluded by presenting to the President of Sheffield J.C. an inscribed Waterford Silver Tankard prepared by Dillon's Travel Agency to commemorate the visit. Matt received a set of Sheffield Silver Goblets presented by Peter Bruce the Sheffield president. The members of both teams each presented a gift to their counterparts. The Ballyhaunis team presented Waterford Glass Vases and received Sheffield Steel penknives, a traditional gift in Yorkshire. Each of the ladies in our party received a miniature penknife as a souvenir of their visit.

A discotheque followed during which Una Shields, Mary Timoney and Nora Cunningham gave a dazzling display of Irish dancing. We then retired to our hotel where Sheffield J.C. had organised a free bar for us which opened at 2 a.m. During the small hours of the morning a Boat Race was organised. (It involved a relay race with the competitors rapidly imbibing pints.) The race was won by Sheffield but the Ballyhaunis sailors attributed their defeat to the fact that they were carrying too many passengers.

A fine sing-song followed with each of the rival factions trying to outdo the other. Terry Barker, "The Musicman" starred for Sheffield but the late Declan Shields ensured that the Irish would not be out-sung with a beautiful rendering of "An Poc ar Buile" which rocked the Sheffield songsters. Words cannot express our sorrow at Declan's subsequent untimely passing. Tony Flynn, Moira Delaney and Nora Cunningham kept the Irish flag flying with ballads well into the small hours of the morning.

After a rather short period between the sheets we rose on Sunday morning and prepared to depart. All of the Sheffield Jaycees and their wives and children came to say goodbye. This gesture was typical of the extraordinary hospitality we enjoyed and it is our hope that we can reciprocate next year when Sheffield Junior Chamber visits Ballyhaunis.

As our contingent, which had (thanks to the tuition of Declan Shields) mastered the intricacies of the Yorkshire traditional song "Ilkley Moor Bar T'at" during our homeward journey, neared Ballinlough we were joined by a cavalcade of cars escorting us to Ballyhaunis. So, thanks to the marvellous organisation of Tony Flynn we were back again without a hitch.

The memory of the warm reception from the people of Ballyhaunis as we arrived at The Central Hotel is one which the team members will cherish forever.

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"Of Davitt, Brass Bands and Boycott."

By Joe Greene

In this the centenary year of the foundation of the Land League in Irishtown it is fitting that we should honour its founder Michael Davitt from Straide. As his life and works have been chronicled adequately elsewhere throughout the year, I would like here to record a few small items of interest about the period which might be of interest to people of this area.

1879 was a year of economic crisis as well as being one of political development in the West. The Meath graziers who used to support Western Fairs to get young stock did not appear. This coupled with a slack demand for harvest labour in England was to make things very difficult for the tenant farmers. In 1878 £22,000 had been sent home from England through the Ballyhaunis Post Office. In the Ballyhaunis area the emigrants expected to double their annual income in Ireland by what they could earn for a few weeks in England.

Attending the first Anniversary meeting of the meeting in Irishtown was a Brass band from Ballyhaunis which was formed by Fr. Anderson of the Augustinian Abbey, a noted Fenian supporter of a friend of John Boyle O'Reilly the famous Irish American Fenian writer. (At his funeral it is said that Maud Gonne wept over his coffin.) It is also recorded that one Sunday during Fr. Anderson's time a hundred masked and armed men marched into the Abbey for communion.

This connection with Michael Davitt brings to mind a more tenuous connection with Captain Boycott, but it is probable that this connection played a big part in his eventual downfall. In 1879 Captain Boycott purchased the estate of Kildarra which consisted of 95 acres one rood 11 perches for £1,125. This would seem to be a very high price for land at that time. He paid £525 pounds to the Bank of Ireland taking a mortgage of £600 on the rest. The effect of the burden of this deal probably contributed to his reaction when he became the first victim of the Land League campaign 18 months later.

Ballyhaunis also came into the Boycott saga on Thursday November 11th 1880 when the Orange volunteers from Monaghan and Cavan passed through the station on their way to Claremorris (and thence by foot to Ballinlough). At Ballyhaunis station a crowd had gathered and in no uncertain manner they expressed their disapproval of the men on board on their way to save Boycott's crops. One man was particularly noisy complaining he wanted to see the Orangemen because he hadn't slept for four nights in anticipation of their arrival.

When Boycott finally left Ireland he retained the Kildara estate and he was fond of returning there on holiday.

After his death in 1897 as a result of legal proceedings instituted in Dublin, the estate was sold to meet his debts and thus was severed his last link with this area.



Mr. Joe Greene presents a cheque to Miss Helena Caulfield on completion of a portrait of Michael Davitt, which was commissioned by the N.C.F. to mark the centenary of the foundation of the Land League. Miss Caulfield has also completed an oil painting on canvas of Canon J.G. McGarry, which was commissioned by the Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

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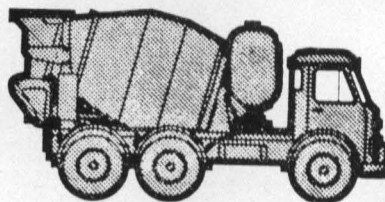
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