



SEASON'S GREETINGS

"Three winters cold have from the forest shook three summers pride;
Three beauteous springs to yellow autumn turned-
....Three April perfumes in three hot Junes burned."

Shakespeare's calendar may not, alas, have been reflected in the cold and damp of the dying year, yet the appearance of "Annagh" now in its third year, can bring hope and comfort to our area that there are still worthwhile events and thoughts to be recorded and published. The Junior Chamber have shown again in this issue and their success in the recent National Debating Final that they deserve our esteem and gratitude for the way in which they have served our community. As I greet the people of Ballyhaunis and the environs and wish them the blessing of the Son of Mary, I trust that the New Year will progress from beauteous Spring and scented April to a golden and prosperous Harvest. Cuirtear san Earrach le go mbainfear sa
bfhoghmar!

Patrick O. Costello. 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.

Siobhan O'Connor, President 1979/80

Eddie Campbell, President 1980/81

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 also wish to thank for typing manuscripts: Sister Teresina Daley & Mrs. Kay Buckley.

Editor: Anto O'Malley

Cover: Chris Pratt

Committee: John Higgins, Jim London, Joe Hosty, Matt O'Dwyer.

ANAGH

A Ballyhaunis Magazine



Christmas 1980

Stepping Forward.....

For people who have lived in a number of seemingly similar towns in the West of Ireland it is a matter of constant interest that there should be such marked difference of outlook and attitude between one another. Each town has its own character, its own atmosphere, its own consciousness - an intangible thing which cannot be pinned down but which can be felt at all times. Each town has its own amusements, preoccupations and entertainments and these are, by and large, reflected in the nature of the voluntary organisations which are to be found there.

It is hardly possible to over estimate the importance of such organisations. And it is undeniably true that the character of any town is moulded by the degree to which its people are involved in that town's affairs or, perhaps more importantly, feel themselves to be. The list of active organisations in Ballyhaunis is long and quite impressive but possibly because their number is disproportionately high in relation to its population it is sometimes said that many clubs and organisations are "run by one or two people". Excepting perhaps a few untypical instances, a little experience shows that this is not at all the case - but the persistence of the belief is such that it may act as a deterrent to those who wish to become actively involved in the organisations which reflect their interests. To counteract this largely unfounded though widespread belief it is essential that the democratic nature of our organisations

be amply demonstrated by their members; dwindling membership and slackening interest is the inevitable result of too close an identification between an organisation and an individual or a small group. It is obviously in the interests of everyone that an "open door" policy should prevail - and be seen to prevail - throughout our organisations.

And it is now a particularly fruitful time to become socially involved. Many organisations seem to be experiencing something of a golden age. Certainly there can have been few periods in the history of the town when so many far-reaching and ambitious schemes have been undertaken by people in voluntary organisations - whose only reward will be the satisfaction of a job well done. As 1980 draws to a close Ballyhaunis is within sight of possessing the most modern Handball Court in the country; a Squash Court is in the course of construction and the long-awaited Children's Playground is now, at last, well within the realms of reality. A future generation, taking those facilities for granted, will little understand the effort required in providing them. But such, of course, is the nature of progress.

And it is a sense of progress, shared by all through their involvement in community affairs, that establishes the kind of atmosphere in a town that acts as a source of inspiration for its people and makes that town stand out among its neighbours.

Editor

Review 1980

The 9th Annual Junior Chamber New Year's Ball began the new year and decade in festive style for Ballyhaunis people at the Scout Den. At the Ball the Keane Trophy for Voluntary work was presented to Mr. John Higgins by Mr. Emmett Keane. The Dillon Trophy for Commercial Endeavour was presented to Mr. S.M. Khalid General Manager of Halal Meat Packers Ltd., by Mr. John Dillon.

The winner of the 1979 "Player of the Year" Award was Mr. Willie Coyne, was presented with the Bertie Curley Perpetual Trophy at the 18th Annual Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club's Dinner.

Community School pupil, Nicholas Devaney, won the 1916 Memorial Prize annually given by the G.A.A. Club for the pupil with the highest total marks in the Intermediate Certificate Examination.

Very well attended lectures in Land Drainage were held weekly in the Michael Davitt room of the N.C.F. Mart Complex during January and February

St. Patrick's Dramatic Society staged "The Absentminded Bridegroom" by Larry E. Johnson - a three act comedy in the Parochial Hall in mid February. It was produced by Mr. Hugh Rudden.

The pupils and staff of the Community School staged the musical "Calamity Jane" in the school from February 21st to February 24th.

Each Monday night during the Winter, 25 drive were held in the Scouts Den.

The Community School Senior Footballers won the Flanagan Cup (Mayo Colleges Title) and went on to win the Connacht Colleges "B" Title by defeating St. Enda's College, Galway before being narrowly defeated in the All Ireland Semi-Final. The Junior Footballers also won the Mayo Colleges Junior Title and the Connacht Title.

Mr. Jack Greene representing Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club won the Mayo Senior Scor Recitation title and represented Mayo in the Connacht Scor Final.

Castlerea Musical Society staged "Lilac Time" with Mrs. Frankie O'Malley as leading lady. It was produced by Mr. Anto O'Malley.

On St. Patrick's the people of Tooreen staged a very impressive St. Patrick's Parade. Mr. John Burton T.D. Fine Gael Spokesman on Agriculture visited Ballyhaunis and spent a day speaking to farming interests in the area.

For the third successive year "Val's Bar" was a National Hygiene Award organised by the Irish Quality Control Organisation.

In Mid-May the highlight of the Community Week was the Industrial Parade reflecting the growth of Ballyhaunis industrially, commercially and recreationally. Many will remember May also for the beautiful sunny weather.

Not so, June, July, and August. They were the most miserable wet months for many a year. Some



Winners of the Carrolls Pro-Am Tournament.

(Left to Right:) Vincent Freyne, John Forde, Nick Faldo, John Dillon and Oliver Jordan.

were lucky with hay and silage but others saw it rot into the ground as never before. Efforts to save hay were still being made in September!!!

In July twenty three students came to Ballyhaunis to improve their English and stayed for one month. The funerals of Garda Henry Byrne, and Garda John Morley who were shot dead near Loughglynn were escorted through the town by members of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club on their way to Knock.

In August work commenced on the new handball Alley at the G.A.A. pitch. Miss Siobhan O'Connor was elected "Mayoress of Ballyhaunis". Ballyhaunis golfers Vincent Freyne, John Dillon and John Forde combined with gold pro. Nick Faldo to win the first ever Carroll's Pro-Am. Tournament in Portmarnock. The non-playing Captain was Oliver Jordan.

On August 15th a huge crowd from Ballyhaunis and district attended the Starland Ballroom to pay tribute to Dr. E. Waldron on his retirement after four decades of service in the area.

On August 19th the death took place at St. Mary's Abbey of Rev. Fr. T. Hand O.S.A. Prior. The Abbey Pattern and Sports proved once again to be a family occasion.

The best ever Show and Sale to be held in the N.C.F. Mart in Septembers; the supreme Champion was won by Mr. Noel Kilgannon, Beltra, Co. Sligo. The outstanding price was obtained by Mr. Eddie Cunningham who got £940.00 for a 840 kgs. bullock.

A "Festival of Prayer" on the first anniversary of the visit of his Holiness Pope John Paul 11 to Ireland was held in St. Patricks Parish Church, Ballyhaunis from September 28th to October 5th 1980. It included a Novena in honour of Our Lady and Mass for Married People at which Dr. Vincent Moloney Eastern Health Board spoke from the pulpit on the Christian Family; a mini-vigil featured a film on the "Way of the Cross". The final day included a Folk Mass presented by the Rathmines Folk Group which drew spontaneous applause from the congregation. A Holy Prayer concluded the festival of Prayer.

On the last weekend in September An Taoiseach Mr. C. J. Haughey, T.D. visited Ballyhaunis. While here, he visited the Community School and Halal Meat Packers Ltd.

In October the Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber Debating Team won the National Debating Competition when they defeated Leopardstown in Waterford. The team was John Dillon-Leetch, (Captain); Chris Pratt; John Mooney and John Higgins.

Thirty - two new houses in Cherryfield were completed. Major work on the Scouts Den was undertaken during the year. New houses continued to be built in the area. Nearly 1,000 children are attending Ballyhaunis Schools.

All in a year of expansion and growth in the area despite the poor weather conditions during the so called Summer. So, as we look forward to a brand new 1981 let us say Go mbeirimid go leir beo ag an am seo aris.....

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PADDY WALDRON

A BALLYHAUNIS G.A.A. TRIBUTE

**Mick O'Connell (Western People Staff Reporter)
Writes about his friend and G.A.A. Associate**

"He was one of the greatest Mayo G.A.A. personalities ever."

This might seem a rather sweeping statement having regard to the great Mayo figures of the past but when applied to the late Paddy Waldron of Knock Rd., Ballyhaunis, who passed to his eternal reward at the age of 51 years on the 5th September 1980, it is just a plain simple statement of fact.

Those outside G.A.A. could never even begin to comprehend his dedication and complete involvement in G.A.A. affairs, while few within the Association itself, while being aware of his loyalty and wholehearted commitment to the code, never could really fathom the depth and intensity of his feeling for the National games.

Paddy Waldron was of course a member of a family which was steeped in Gaelic tradition - he was the son of Jack Waldron a former captain of the Mayo Senior Football team who played in the All Ireland Final in 1916 against Wexford - and it was little wonder then that some of that Gaelic lore to which he listened with avid interest as a child would rub off on him and leave such an indelible imprint on his mind.

Being some years younger than myself, he could hardly be described as a contemporary of mine during our school going days, but I had such a long and close association with Paddy Waldron over a span of some 30 years that during our frequent conversations many tit-bits of his footballing exploits even during

his period as a National pupil often filtered through.

He spent some time as a pupil in Coolnafarna National School some three miles east of Ballyhaunis where under the coaching and supervision of the principal teacher, the late Jimmy Dwyer who was a former Mayo Senior Footballer, his interest in the game and in the Association broadened considerably. It was, however, as a student in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam - described quite rightly so often a nursery of Gaelic football in Connaught that the phrase has now become well and truly hackneyed - that Paddy Waldron, together with other students from many parts of the Province, was taught the finer points of the game by the dedicated priest trainers to such an extent that team performances were geared to almost clinical precision.

It was in 1948 that I really came into contact with Paddy Waldron and this was brought by our mutual interest in G.A.A.

For some time before that Paddy was actively engaged in organising juvenile football in the area and when it was proposed to re-establish the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club on solid and secure foundations he was one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the undertaking.

It was decided at the inaugural meeting to apply for membership of the East Mayo G.A.A. Board because of the fact that incidents following a match in the South Mayo Football Championship in 1946 sounded the death knell in G.A.A. in Ballyhaunis for over 2 years.



The Late Paddy Waldron & his wife, Geraldine photographed with neighbour Tom Prenty on the day their son Niall was confirmed.

It was a firmly held view at that time that if the newly formed club was to succeed it was desirable to break all links with the past and to endeavour to make a new break through in a new direction.

It is well I remember the Sunday afternoon in January 1949 travelling to Swinford with the Ballyhaunis delegation - of which Paddy Waldron was a member - to attend the East Mayo G.A.A. Convention held in Miss Martin's Cafe in the Main St., and being warmly welcomed by the then Chairman of the Board the Rev. Fr. Feeley who was later Parish Priest of Killasser, whose regretted death occurred only recently.

STERLING SERVICE

From then on Paddy Waldron gave sterling service to the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. as a player and as an administrator; to the East Mayo G.A.A. Board; to the Mayo G.A.A. Board and in his capacity as Mayo representative on the Central Council of the Association, he studied the labyrinth of documentation regarding policy, management, fixtures, general purposes, etc. mastered the intricacies of same, contributed to debates, and on his return was able to furnish first hand accounts to the Mayo G.A.A. Board of the operations of the Association at the highest level.

He served as Hon. Secretary of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club for some years and was elected Chairman in 1956 which position he held until 1973. During that period the name Ballyhaunis was inscribed more than once in the record books.

He was the Chairman of the Mayo Minor Board in the 'sixties and early 'seventies and it was in no small measure due to his resolute leadership and guidance that Mayo Minor Football teams triumphed in All-Ireland finals in 1966 and 1971.

He was the inspiration behind the formation of the Ballyhaunis Handball Club a few years ago, and in his capacity as chairman of the club, his was the guiding hand which paved the way for the progress made so far in the erection of the new Ball-Alley.

A LONG CHERISHED DREAM

He was a firm believer in the democratic process within the G.A.A. and his often expressed clear cut opinions on various matters had the effect of steering a Convention or G.A.A. Board towards making right decisions regarding the many fundamental issues within the Association.

His long cherished ambition was for the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club to acquire its own playing ground under his chairmanship and he worked long and ardously with that end in view. His fondest dream was realised in the '60s when the ground was purchased and in later years some of his proudest moments were when showing G.A.A. dignitaries the extent of the development work which had been carried out. It was also a proud day for him when Mayo played Antrim there in 1976 in the National Football League which was the first major G.A.A. fixture at the new pitch.

He was outspoken and fearless in the expression of his opinions, but his greatest attribute was his generous forgiving nature, as he was incapable of bearing a grudge against anyone.

It was this lack of enmity together with his willingness to forgive and forget which contributed so much to his undoubted popularity.

ESSENTIALLY A CLUB MAN

While Paddy Waldron attained high office in the Association and was at the time of his death Public Relations Officer for the Mayo G.A.A. Board, he was essentially a club man and this was clearly demonstrated earlier this year when he and I were chosen as spokesman for the club on an important matter which came before the East Mayo G.A.A. Board. Paddy Waldron, on this, his last public appearance in a Board room excelled himself as he used all the skill in debate acquired over the years on behalf of the club he loved so well and the fact that he was entirely successful is indeed a happy note on which to bring this inadequate tribute to a great G.A.A. personality to a close.

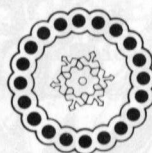
The ball has been thrown in for the last time, and for Paddy Waldron the final whistle has been sounded, but the imprint he left on the G.A.A. in general and on the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club in particular will never be erased.

His memory will endure within the annals of the Gaelic Athletic Association to which his contribution over a long span of years reach magnificent proportions.

Deepest sympathy to his widow, sons, daughter, brother and sister and to all the other relatives.

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The Lost Leader

By Father Colm Kilcoyne

I'm firmly convinced that the wrong people are running this country. Not just in politics but in industry, sport and the church. I've come across a few characters who are out and out geniuses and who would get this country back on its feet in no time. Unfortunately, they use their mighty talents in a very quiet, humble kind of way so that very few get to know about them. They are especially anxious that the guards wouldn't hear about them.

Let me tell you about one of them or it may be two of them, I just don't know. You see this one is so brilliant that I don't know whether there is one or two of him!

I met him when I was working up in Dublin. Normally, I can smell a touch a mile off but this time Kilcoyne was taken in. He looked and sounded genuine. Told me he was up from the country like myself. No home, no job, no money. Homesick for Tipperary where the living was clean and simple. A countryman like myself, God bless you Father, but he was sure I'd know what it was to be homesick. Normally he wouldn't dream of begging but if only he could put the fare together.....

The whole cut of the man fooled me. He spoke and acted like a simpleton. So help me, I gave him £2. He left showering God's blessing's on me.

Act 2. A phone call. A cultured voice telling me that I had been a very good Christian to that poor man earlier. My cultured friend at the other end of the phone then went into phase two of the operation. He too had a visit from my country friend. Has taken pity on him, had rung up his contact and fixed up a night watchman job for him out in Shankhill.

There was just one small matter and he was embarrassed to even bring it up, seeing that I had been so generous earlier. My friend on the phone had even gone so far as to arrange digs for the new nightwatchman but the snag was that the landlady needed an advance of a week's rent. And would I credit but the cultured one hadn't any spare notes on him and his private secretary had gone out to get her hair done (it was Friday evening) and the banks were closed and would I ever be a dear.....? Of course, I have the money by cheque first thing Monday morning. Dashed embarrassing and all that but he knew I'd understand.

After the rearing my mother gave me, I still heard myself saying that he should send my fellow country man along and I'd see him right. He came, in minutes. I gave him the money and he left kissing my shoes and asking God to give me all the graces a decent and kind man like me deserved.

I thought no more about it until I was coming home on Saturday morning. Outside Lucan I saw this guy thumbing. Normally if I'm in the mood I pull up and give a lift. This morning I wasn't so I just took a swift

look at the thumber. Then I did a double take. It was my Tipperary man. The homesick country boy. Except he was no country boy. A flashy suit. Hair combed to perfection - yesterday he was in rags and had a head like a hedge hog. Instead of the stupid look on his face this morning he had a cold look of a man who knew his way about. Rings danced on his fingers.

Why didn't I stop and challenge him? I'll never know except that no one likes to have it proved to him that he was taken for a ride and I knew without stopping. I said a few silent prayers that God would give him a long and happy life, that he'd never be visited by a outbreak of boils and that he'd die a serene death with a smile on his face.

The following Monday I checked out the story with a Guard. He gave me that look you give children who still believe in Santa. So I'd been taken in by the Great Houdini. No, I said by the Two Great Houdinis. My Guard gently corrected me. It was the Great Houdini. There was only one of them. The gawky slinger was one and the same man as the well bred voice on the phone. The very, exact same.

My point is this. Should a genius like that be reduced to wandering the roads cadging an odd pound from the occasional simple-minded priest? Shouldn't he be in Brussels or somewhere? It's a terrible waste of talent. What's even more aggravating, I bet you know a few more like him. If only they weren't so humble and shy about coming forward and giving us their names.....

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COMMUNITY WEEK

Rita Lunden looks back on one of Junior Chamber's most successful projects.....

At a general meeting in January 1980 Junior Chamber, Ballyhaunis decided to hold a Community week - a week to interest every man, woman and child in Community activities.

Following discussions it was decided to centre the week around May 14th. as this was the date on which the Horse Fair was held in Ballyhaunis some years ago. Thursday, May 14th was not a suitable day on which to hold the Community week's main event the town's Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Parade. This was held on May 18th. Details of the Community Week were made Public by the President of the Junior Chamber, Miss Siobhan O'Connor, in the Central Hotel on Tuesday May 7th.

On Sunday, 11th May the Superstars Competition was held in the Community School. The town found its own version of Brian Budd, the Canadian giant who won the World Superstars Competition when Jeremy Dee won the Ballyhaunis Superstars. It was a tremendously exciting event. Two representatives from each of sporting clubs in the locality competed. The Competition reached a magnificent climax as the competitors stretched themselves to the limit but Jeremy narrowly defeated Tony Morley and Seamus McGing to win the title Ballyhaunis Superstar. This was sponsored by Bluebell Ireland Ltd., and included 100 metres, 800 metres, obstacle race, shot putt, basketball, high and long jump. The Competition was

organised by Matt O'Dwyer, Chris Pratt, Brian Munro, Michael Curley and Joe Ryan.

On Wednesday, May 14th at a dance in the Scouts Den, Miss Aine Whelan was chosen as "Miss Community Week" and Mr. Tommy Hopkins was chosen as "Batchelor of the Week". This was sponsored by Bluebell Ireland. There was also a waltzing competition, a jiving competition and balloon blowing competition. Mr. & Mrs. Pat Kenny gave a wonderful display of old time waltzing, while Mrs. P. Cunningham and Mr. Billy Nestor set a new standard of jiving and Mr. Austin Henry and Mr. John Hoban proved to be the best blowers when they won the balloon blowing competition. These were sponsored by Jack O'Connor. This dance was organised by Nell Rochford, Mary Higgins, Ann O'Dwyer and Joe Hosty.

On Thursday, May 15th there was a Bicycle Treasure Hunt. It covered a radius of 10 miles and there was three categories: 12-15 year olds; 15-18 year olds and 18 plus. Here again Miss Community Week shone but she was pipped at the post by Miss Eileen Munroe. This was sponsored by the "Western People" and organised by Tony Flynn, John Higgins and John Mooney. Later that evening there was a "Sports For All" in the Community School. This was sponsored by Bluebell Ireland. On Friday, May 16th there was a paper chase which covered a radius of 2 mls. - and was sponsored by "Western Journal". This was organised by Bernard Freyne. A disco was held that night in the Scouts Den.



The Tidy Towns' entry in the Community Week Parade. John Higgins is driving the tractor.

Towards a Tidier Town' was the theme for Saturday May 17th. The young people of the town began their Annual Campaign to keep Ballyhaunis tidy and we all know now this has paid off because this year the Ballyhaunis mark of 104 was the highest ever received. This was organised by John Higgins.

On Sunday, May 18th. - One of the finest days of the Summer - the Agricultural, Industrial and Commercial life of the area was reflected in a huge parade through the town. The town, decorated by bunting which was sponsored by Halal Meat Packers, was dotted by people eager to enjoy the festive atmosphere and excitement. Led by the Westport Brass Band the parade wound its way from the N.C.F. Mart grounds to the Knock Road and back again. Hundreds of spectators were waiting to watch it and later visited the N.C.F. complex where a great variety of interesting stands were on view. Taking part in the parade itself were N.C.F., Milbrook Eggs, Hazelhill Eggs, A. Grogan and Sons Ltd., Keane Kitchens, Irish Ales Ltd., John Dillon & Sons, Gallaghers Ltd., George Delaney's, Bluebell Ireland Ltd., Johnstons Machinery, Major Steel Products, Electrical & Pump Services Ltd., Ballyhaunis & District Gun Club, Town Improvement Committee, The Rehabilitation Institute, Murphy's Garage, Boland's Bakery and Durkan Bottlers. The G.A.A. club displayed a bullock which was later raffled.

Stands in the N.C.F. included Mrs. Jackie Green (Celtic Design Work), Hannan Electrical, I.I.G., Kelly's Furniture, Dillons Travel Agency, Electrical & Pump Services Ltd., N.C.F. and projects from St. Mary's National School.

A display of Irish dancing was staged by the Forde School of Dancing and local musicians including Paddy Forde entertained the crowd. Amusements kept the children happy throughout the afternoon. This was organised by Rita Lundon and Joe Greene. All during the Community Week, Impsub Week was held in Ballyhaunis. Impsub is an effort to focus attention on guaranteed Irish Goods, Ballyhaunis responded by featuring Irish Made Goods on their shop windows. Mr. Joe Hosty added to the excitement by sponsoring a prize for the best dressed window. A guaranteed Irish Product Painting Competition was organised for National School children and a guaranteed Irish Slogan Competition was organised for the students of the Community School.

All in all, Guaranteed Irish Products were to the fore in Ballyhaunis during Community Week. Impsub was organised by Mary King.

During the week six candidates seeking the chain of office in the Mayor Election were announced. The six candidates are:- Mrs. Mary Walsh; Miss Siobhan O'Connor; Mr. John Gallagher; Mr. Jack Greene; Mr. Michael Waldron and Mr. Joe Hosty. This project was jointly run by the Junior Chamber and the G.A.A. Club. The organisers were Mrs. Rita Mooney, Mr. John Higgins, Mr. Paddy Waldron (R.I.P.), Mr. Pat Doyle and Mr. Matt O'Dwyer.

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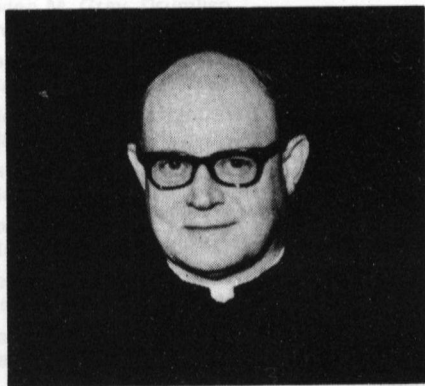
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An Appreciation

of Fr. T.A. Hand O.S.A.



Father Thomas Alipius Hand R.I.P.

On August 19th people of Ballyhaunis learned of the death of Fr. Hand with deep sorrow. He is a great loss to our community.

Fr. Hand was born in Drogheda on July 6th 1915, educated in C.B.S. Drogheda and O'Connell Schools Dublin. He was ordained in Rome in 1939. In 1942 he was stationed in Limerick where he distinguished himself as a preacher. Indeed such was his gift that he joined the preaching apostolate in England and Scotland, and later back in Ireland where he preached in every county. On the pulpit he was articulate, persuasive, fired with zeal for the Gospel, a born preacher.

Fr. Tom was a man of many parts and many interests. In his youth he was All-Ireland under fourteen 100 metres champion and that early love of sport and athletics stayed with him all through his life. He took great interest in the Abbey Pattern realising its value in uniting a community.

Without ever losing the "common touch" he showed great intellectual and cultural gifts. He wrote many books; including one on St. Augustine and Prayer. He loved music and was a fine musician excelling on the flute and accordion. He also liked painting with a special interest in religious pictures.

Fr. Hand was an impressive man in every sense. He had a great gift for friendship and was a real extrovert. He made very many friends especially in Cork where he was stationed for quite a time. He was a close friend of Tom Barry and also of the Collins family. He regularly led the saying of the rosary at Beal na Blath. A former Lord Mayor of Cork, Mr. Goldberg presented Fr. Hand with a stained glass window containing the Augustinian coat of arms and motto.

Fr. Hand came to Ballyhaunis in 1977 where he spent a very happy apostolate. Indeed when he was ill in Cork he expressed a wish to return home to Ballyhaunis where he felt he would recover. He was

most appreciative of the letters, cards and good wishes he received from a people whom he held in high regard.

I feel honoured that Fr. Tom was my friend. He was always so grateful for any work done for the Friary. Indeed he often jokingly referred to me as "Fr. Connolly". He spoke very highly of his two colleagues Fr. Delaney and Fr. Berrill saying 'I am very lucky to have them'.

We all miss him sorely. May his gentle soul Rest In Peace.

Frank Connolly.

RITA HOPKINS R.I.P.



The sudden passing of Rita left our community and those who loved her in tears and grief. Rita, to all who knew her, was a jolly, kind and lovable person, she had a smile and hello for the person on the street and her jolly ways did one good. To me Rita was dear and precious friend. "Gone are the days we shared together and the chats we so enjoyed but those treasured memories will always remain." As we mourn her passing from this life we know that Rita is at peace.

"MAY THE ANGELS LEAD HER TO PARADISE"

Mary



BIRTHS *FAILTE*

November 1st 1979 to October 31st 1980

To Tim and Lily Rabitte, Derrylea,
a son, Michael Patrick.

To John and Kathleen McDonagh,
a daughter Mary Teresa.

To Patrick and Veronica O'Dowd, Clare St.
a daughter Sharon Hilary.

To Michael and Betty Regan, Lecarrow,
twin boys, Michael Patrick & Dominick Gerard

To John and Mary Neenan, Coolnafarna
a son Thomas Gerard

To Aidan and Mary Kelly, Hazelhill,
a son Aidan Paul.

To James and Teresa Healy, Johnstown,
a son, James Thomas.

To Patrick and Moira Delaney, Abbey St.,
a son Patrick Gareth John.

To Patrick and Mary Keane, Doctors Rd.,
a daughter Ann Marie.

To Barry and Therese Cunningham, Galway,
a daughter Lorraine Kathleen.

To Michael and Marian McNamara, Tullaghane,
a son Brendan James.

To Sean and Helen Biesty, Carrowkeel,
a son, Gordon Michael

To John and Patricia Davitt, Brackloon,
a son, Michael Garret.

To John and Mary Ryan, Coolnafarna,
a daughter, Siobhan Bernadette.

To Morgan and Kathleen Jennings, Knock Rd.,
a son, Ronan John.

To Dominick and Mairead Murphy, Brackloon,
a daughter Emily Mairead.

To Thomas and Sara Egan, Cherryfield,
a son, Alan Martin.

To John G. and Elizabeth Dillon - Leetch, Annagh,
a son, William Evan.

To Padraic and Kathleen Kelly, Drimbane,
a son, Alan James.

To William and Shiela Broderick, Brackloon,
a daughter, Sharon Ann.

To John and Geraldine O'Neill, Main St.,
a daughter Mary Catherine.

To Michael and Brid Cleary, Clare St.,
A son Diarmaid.

To Seamus and Mary Maguire, Johnstown,
a son, James John.

To John and Catherine Kirrane, Abbey St.,
a daughter, Lisa Anne.

To Thomas and Ann Murphy, Knockbrac,
a daughter, Lorraine Catherine.

To Owen and Anne McDonagh,
a son, Simon Gerard.

To Kieran and Doreen Healy, Holywell,
a daughter, Siobhan Teresa.

To Charles and Ann Doherty, Knox St.
a son Pearse Paul.

To Tony and Joan Flynn, Abbeyquarter,
a daughter, Deirdre Claire

To Michael and Rosaleen Keavney, Devlis,
a daughter Helene Ita

To Jim and Alacoque McManus, Holywell,
a son Karl Joseph.

To Joseph and Mary Burke, Tullaghane,
a son Micheal

To Thomas and Ann Jennings, a son,
Raymond Thomas.

To Padraic and Marian Regan, Killinagher,
a son, Allen Michael.

To Patrick and Kathleen Regan, Killinagher
a son Brendan Michael.

To Jarlath and Ita Fahey, Devlis,
a son, Thomas Francis.

To Patrick and Mary Murphy, Abbey St.
a son David Patrick.

To Padraic and Therese Walkin, Dundrum,
a daughter Andr  e

To Frankie and Mary Dillon, Doctors Rd.
a son, Michael Edward.

To Brian and Phyllis Flanagan, Ballindrehid,
a daughter, Tracey Anne.

To Gerard and Delia Coen, Clagnagh
a son, Reginald Edward Owen.

To James and Mary Donnelly, Ballinphuil,
a daughter, Carol Margaret.

To Thomas and Mary McDonagh,
a son, Thomas Francis.

To Patrick & Anne Biesty, Carrowkeel,
a son, Paul Thomas.

To Michael and Maureen Caulfield, Knock Rd.,
a son, Alan.

To Myles and Nancy Walsh, Bridge St.
a daughter, Maria Ann

To Edward and Francis Mulhern, Clare St.
a daughter, Patricia Maria

To Daniel and Margaret Tarpey, Carrowkeel
a daughter, Shirley.

To Eamon and Anne O'Reilly, Dublin
a son, Cathal Edward.

To Larry and Kathleen Pelecchia, Main St.,
a daughter, Natasha Lisa.

To Declan and Una Shields, Devlis,
a son, Declan Paul.

To Kieran and Elizabeth Folliard, Dublin,
a daughter, Vienna Mary.

To Michael and Geraldine Conlon, Abbey St.
a daughter, Michelle Maria.

To Vincent and Irene Healy, Ballindrehid,
a son Rodger Vincent.

To Thomas and Angela Wallace, Killinagher,
a son, Thomas Patrick.

To Peter and Helena McCafferty, Ballindrehid,
a daughter, Jennifer B.M.

To Seamus and Eileen Sloyan, Bridge St.
a son, David Eamon Martin.

..MARRIAGES TRAOSLU.....

November 1st 1979 to October 31st 1980

Marriages in Parish Church

Aiden M. Gray, Drumlish
Philomena Waldron, Holywell
James J. Daly, Chapelizod
Maria M. Webb, Main St.
Michael Hunt, Derrynacong
Mary B. Carney, Holywell
James M. Mulrennan, Gurteen
Mary A. Waldron, Holywell
John D. Brennan, Carrowmore
Mary T. O'Reilly, Holywell
John J. Cull, Mohill
Gertrude McGuire, Redford
Patrick G. Brennan, Castlemagarret
Barbara E. Dyer, Brackloon.

Marriages in St. Mary's Abbey

Martin P. Kilkelly, Drogheda
Heather J.D. Conway, Abbey St.
James E. M. O'Hara, Sligo
Noelle Sweeney, Abbey St.
Matthew Linehan, Malahide
Patricia Murray, Bridge St.

Marriages Elsewhere

Thomas Egan, Clagnagh
Sara Moloney, Crossboyne
Thomas O'Dowd, Galway
Teresa Fitzharris, Derrynacong
John Brennan, Curry
Marian O'Connell, Up. Main St.
Brendan Hoban, Gurteenmore
Bridie Allen, Tooreen
Thomas Webb, Main St.
Philomena Cribbin, Up. Main St.
Thomas Mongan, Abbeyquarter
Ellen Maughan, Castlerear
Thomas Moran, Abbeyknockmoy
Marian Donohue, St. Gerard's Crescent
Gerard Lyons, Abbey St.
Peggy McEvaddy, Swinford
Michael Naughton, Galway
Mary T. Finnegan, Tavanaghmore
Michael Waldron, Ballindrehid
Bernadette Jennings, Knock
Rita Murphy, Main St.
Gerard O'Malley, Oughterard
Thomas Waldron, Cave
Breedra O'Brien, Loughglynn
Bernard Gallagher, Main St.
Jean Finn, Bekan
Martin Morley, Island
Shelia Hanlon, Carlingford
Edward Murphy, Main St.
Fionuala Kenny, Lavallyroe
Rory O'Connor, Doctor's Rd.
Margaret McDonagh, Swinford
Liam Connell, Devlis
Mary Gallagher, Lanesborough
William Toolan, Devlis
Maria R. Davey, Salford

Patrick Moran, Main St.
Susan Mucha, Halifax
John Plunkett, Curries
Kathleen McGuinness, New York
Michael Herr, Knox St.
Christina Leonard, Crossmolina
David Dwane, Clare St.
Mary H. Waters, Lahardane
Julia M. Moran, Up. Main St.
Christopher Flatley, Mayo Abbey
Sean F. Finn, Hazelhill
Joan Kennedy, New York

DEATHS.....

Ar Shli Na Firinne

November 1st 1979 to October 31st 1980

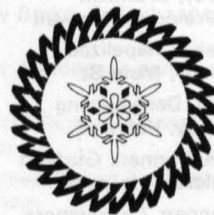
Mrs. Margaret Hopkins, Larganboy,
Patrick Judge, Aghloragh
Dominick Flatley, Leowe
Mary Kelly, Bargarriff
Francis Flanagan, Ballindrehid
Mrs. Monica Flood, Abbey Street
Michael Gildea, Tullaghane
Mrs. Rosemary Waldron, Ardee
Mrs. Brigid Loftus, Johnstown
Martin Caulfield, Drimbane
Joseph Moylette, Curries
Thomas Flatley, Main Street
Anthony Fitzpatrick, Tooraree
Patrick Waldron, Derrylahan
Mary Coyne, Carrowkeel
Mrs. Delia Glynn, Clare St.
Mrs. Mary Ganley, Devlis
David Mulligan, Barrack St.
Margaret Fitzpatrick, Toraree
Martin Morley, Larganboy
Mrs. Brigid McGann, Castlerear
Mrs. Ann Keane, Knox St.
James P. Cruise, Knockbrack
Mrs. Mary K. Coyne, Cherryfield House
Seamus Ruane, Johnstown
Mrs. Agnes Finn, Hazelhill
Thomas Maughan, Cherryfield
Catherine Culliney, Bekan
Catherine Doherty, Derrintogher
Karen Marie Buckley, Knock Rd.
Very Rev. Thomas Hand, O.S.A.
The Prior, St. Mary's Abbey
Patrick Regan, Derrynacong
Mrs. Stella de Loughrey, Dublin
Patrick Waldron, Knock Rd.
Anthony Caulfield, Kilgariff
James Sloyan, Brackloon
Mrs. Brigid Healy, Ballindrehid
Mrs. Kathleen Waldron, Cherryfield
Elizabeth Freeley, Dublin

Deaths (cont).

Deaths Elsewhere

Mrs Anne Mullen, nee Jordan, Annagh
 Mrs. J. McWalter, Knox St.
 John Waldron, Knox St.
 Katherine Ganley, Derrynacong
 Michael Webb, Tooraree
 James Gannon, Johnstown
 Thomas Flynn, late Ulster Bank
 Mrs. N. Faughan, nee Waldron, Redford
 Thomas Biesty, Carrowkeel
 Sister Celine Waldron, Holywell
 Mrs. Martina Cunningham, nee Walsh, Main St.
 Anthony Waldron, Moneymore
 Dr. Edward Waldron, died in England
 Sr. Acquin O'Dea, Convent of Mercy
 Patrick Phillips, Abbeyquarter
 Michael Rodgers, Derrynacong
 Mrs. Margaret Fahey, nee Hunt, Lecarrow
 Mrs. Bina Stone, nee Diskin, Killinagher
 William Greally, Killinagher

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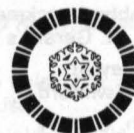


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May They Rest In Peace



JAMES CRUISE R.I.P.

What is Death?

A wondrous Mercy-

A coming home-

A divine welcome to a well loved child-

A putting out of the light because dawn has come-

The death took place in the Bon Secours Hospital, Tuam, of James Patrick Cruise "Ard Aoibhinn" Knockbrack, Ballyhaunis on May 7th 1980.

James who was fifteen years and attended St. Mary's Boy's National School, St. Jarlaths College, Tuam, and Ballyhaunis Community School, where he was about to sit for the Intermediate Certificate Examination.

Anybody's death is a sad occasion, but the death of one so young is particularly tragic. As James who was such a kind, open and gentle boy was popular with young and old alike. He had a jovial personality, was an obedient and diligent student and had a keen interest in Music and Art. He was also an accomplished swimmer and had done many tests in life saving.

A Requiem Mass held in St. Patrick's Parish Church was concelebrated by Very Rev. Fr. P. Costello, P.P. Ballyhaunis; Very Rev. Fr. John Egan P.P. Kilrooskey; Very Rev. Fr. Enda Lyons P.P. Milltown; Very Rev. Fr. Joseph Moran P.P. Coolarna; Rev. Fr. Francis McMyler, Community School; Rev. Fr. Desmond Walsh Community School; and Rev. Fr. Michael Kenny Recess. The Master of Ceremonies was Rev. Fr. John Ball C.C. Ballyhaunis.

The pupils and staff of the Community School sung beautifully during the Mass.

James is survived by his heartbroken parents Peggy and John, sister Patricia and brothers Neil and Ultan, Uncles, Aunts, Relatives and friends.

Ar dheis Iaimh De go bfuil a anam dilis.

Jim London



MARGARET FAHEY R.I.P.

One reads in the death columns of each day's papers of various people to have died of various ages and probably of various diseases. That is why when the death of Margaret Fahey of Hollymount appeared on the 12th. September 1980 it had no significance to many people but to many more including myself it had a special significance.

To the people of her adopted Hollymount she is remembered as a kind and gentle person who was the local N.T. a diligent teacher a good neighbour and a fond and loving wife and mother to her husband Joe and eight kids. More specially as a very religious person who spent much of her time at prayer meetings, retreats, vigils and Legion of Mary work.

To the people of her native Ballyhaunis she is remembered as a kind and gentle young girl whom the nuns in the local Convent described as a model student and who emigrated to America after leaving school to return some years later to marry her childhood sweetheart.

To the rest of my family, she was the best person in the world, kind and thoughtful to every one of us and after she went to America, as the saying goes "Often kept the wolf from the door"

A local priest summed it all up for me in a few words when he said "We are all like square pegs going into a round hole, the corners have to be knocked off at first. Margaret had no corners to knock off"

The way she bore her suffering in the last few weeks and the throngs who attended her funeral are further proofs of this. Perhaps in her corner up there she thinks of us and forgives us for our transgressions.

**Murt Hunt
Lecarrow**

The B.B.C.

By Jim Higgins.

Many of our younger readers reading this article will be suprised to learn that we had B.B.C. in Ballyhaunis as far back as the early 1930s. Yet despite the fact that it was in black and white we were the envy of many of our larger and more colourful provincial centres. The B.B.C. was of course the convenient abbreviation for Ballyhaunis Boxing Club which in the 30's and 40's answered the bell in the famed black and white singlet.

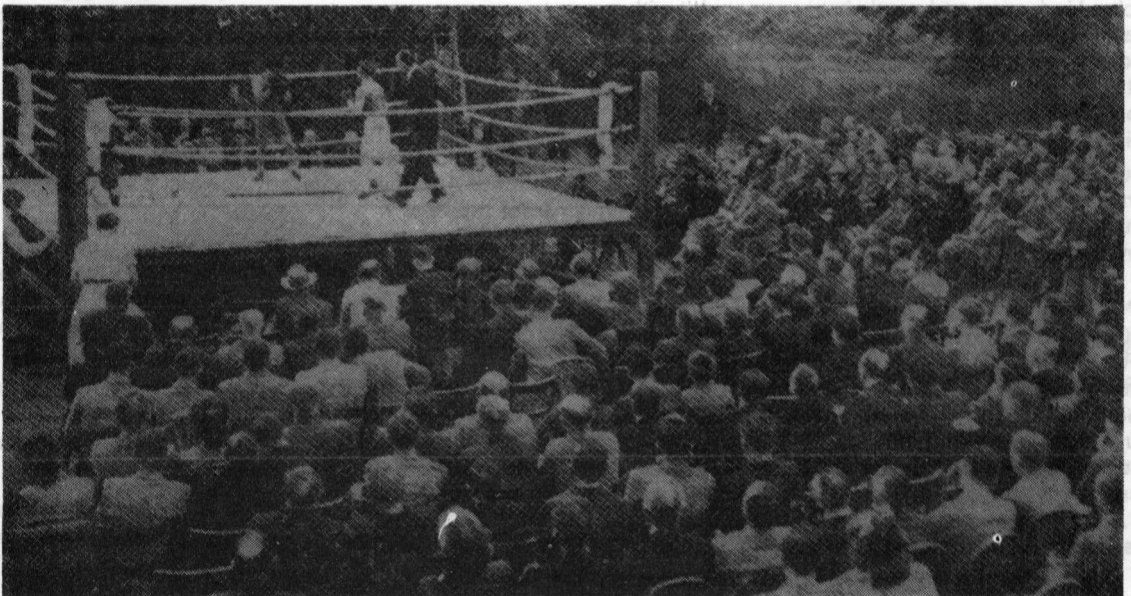
The year is 1934, the venue is the natural amphitheatre that is the Friary Field, and Ballyhaunis is agog with excitement in anticipation of hosting its first International Boxing Tournament. A comprehensive Irish victory over the Italians made it a night to remember. Ballyhaunis had proved its ability to cope.

1935 saw the Germans here. The excitement of the previous year was even surpassed. Crowds thronged to the Railway Station to see the visitors arrive. However, the official ceremonies and addresses of welcome are longer than expected and the pupils of the Boys' School who had been allowed down to the 'Bridge' to catch a glimpse of the visitors passing through the town, have to troop dejectedly back up the hill - it is the day of the 'Catechism Exam' and the examiner is to arrive any minute. The match takes place in Lynch's Garage and the outstanding memory of the night was the first round knockout of the previously unbeaten and much vaunted European Champion, Rommock. Five days later Rommock won his Heavyweight Bout in Belfast and the "Irish Independent" billboard runs the heading "Rommock Avenges Ballyhaunis".

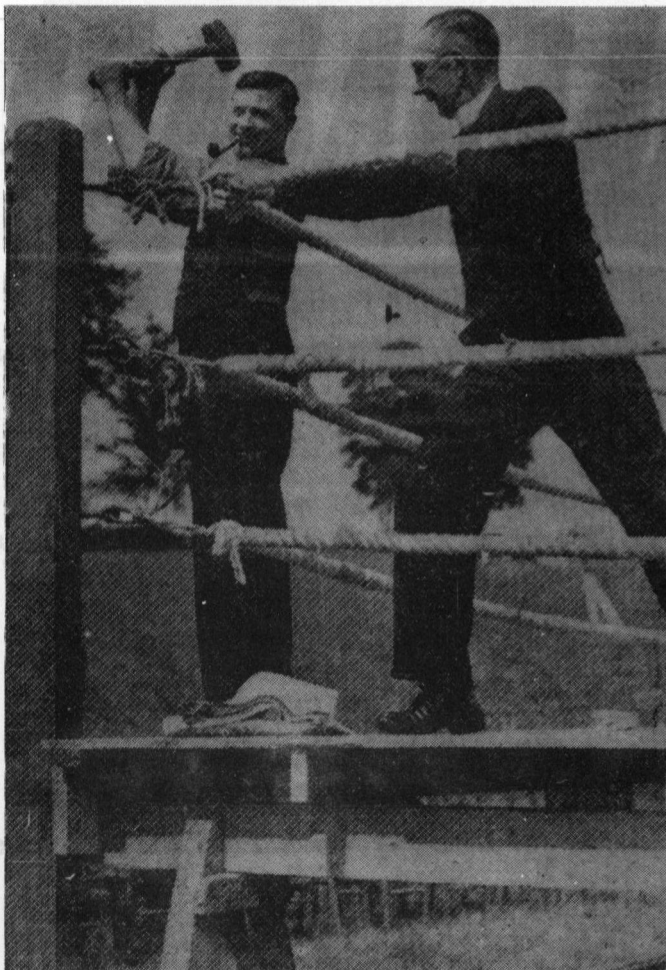
Ballyhaunis is fast becoming a Mecca and 1936 sees the arrival of the French Team. By now it had become the established itinerary that visiting international teams box at three venues - Dublin, Ballyhaunis and either Cork or Belfast. Unfortunately the War temporarily nipped this phenomenal growth and all International Competition is suspended.

By 1947 however International Competition is resumed with the visit of the English Team and a new venue has emerged. The more spacious McGarry's New Cinema, now in the final stages of completion, is packed to capacity. Unfortunately Ballyhaunis was to witness only one further International - held in conjunction with a week long carnival and celebrations to mark the sixth centenary of the founding of the Abbey - that was against the French in 1948.

No modern - day crowd scene in Ballyhaunis should compare with the night of the big boxing match. In the days before Arab Oil flowed freely - when the motor-car was a luxury - crowds thronged the roads to Ballyhaunis by every conceivable mode of transport. Those were the days of the Bona Fide Concessions in the then Licensing Laws and by 6 a.m. the bar attendants were literally walking on four inches of cork. Obviously a small town is not accorded such status and prominence without good reason and justification in this instance was the determination and dedication of three people in particular, Fr. Mansfield, O.S.A., Chairman, Jim Caulfield, Abbey Street, Treasurer and Harry Dillon, The Square, Secretary. It all began in 1932 when



Bout in progress during France - Ireland International Contest. France won by eight bouts to one.



The Rev. Fr. Mansfield, O.S.A. & Sergeant Nally (left) erected the ring for the Ireland - France International Boxing Contest in Ballyhaunis in August 1942.

the three aforementioned set up a Boxing Club with a view to staging a boxing tournament as part of the carnival on the 26th., 27., and 28th. of August in the Friary Field. The highlight of the tournament, which was one of the first in the West of Ireland, was an exhibition bout between two former professionals, Jim Coffey and Pat McAllister. Those who were present at the 'fight' still vividly recollect the blow that was delivered not by the glove but the boot by the much smaller McAllister on the seat of the giant - like Coffey's trunks. The huge and enthusiastic crowd bore ample testimony to the belief that boxing would have a keen following and a bright future in the area. Soon the members of the club were establishing themselves at county, provincial and even national level. In 1935, for example the Kilduff brothers Jackie and Jimmy both fought their way through the Paperweight division of the Schoolboy's Championships at the National Stadium, only to confront each other in the final. The natural reluctance to 'mix-it' was censured by the referee who called both brothers to the centre of the ring and

warned that unless they obeyed his instructions to 'box' they would both be disqualified. The following year Johnny Cooke, Paddy Walsh, and Jackie and Jimmy Kilduff all won through to the National Finals. However a dispute arose when the officials in charge of the Championships ordered a second 'weight in' of Jimmy Kilduff. Making the point that this was without precedent, Fr. Mansfield felt he had no option but to withdraw the entire Ballyhaunis Team.

As already mentioned International Competition and indeed domestic competition was consigned to cold storage during the 1939-'45 period. In 1946 therefore a Public meeting was called with a view to reviving the club and over 150 people attended. A whole new generation of boxers now came to the fore and the administration of the club was in the capable hands of the everpresent Fr. Mansfield, Sgt. Pat Nally, Larry Freeley, Denis Sweeney, Seamus Durkan, and Petie Hannon. Soon the B.B.C. was back as one of the best in the country and it would be simply too hazardous to even start listening achievements in such a short article. Suffice to say that a former member of the Club, Johnny Warde from Castlerea, later won the British Professional Bantamweight Title. Another Clubman Tom Moylette of Curries became Professional Champion of the State of Ontario. Names such as the O'Shea's and Bensons would rank with the modern day Christles. Former officers of the club always prided themselves on the fact that the discipline of the club moulded its members into exemplary citizens well fitted to meet the challenge of life. sheer dominance of Ballyhaunis Boxers is illustrated by the preponderance of Ballyhaunis names on the Mayo Team which soundly thrashed Galway at the Town Hall, Galway on the 18th. November 1946. Perhaps those who can recall those days will identify the Ballyhaunis members of the Mayo Team which is as follows:- J. Forde (4 st.); T. Regan (Bantam); H. Forde (5 st.); S. Kennedy (Feather); J. McArdle (5st. 7lbs); J. Dyar (Lightweight) J.J. McArdle (6 st. 7lbs); J. Regan (Welterweight); J. Morrison (7st. 7lbs); S. Sweeney (Welterweight); P. Regan (8 st.); P. Vahy (Middle); J. Vahy (Cruiser); and A. Comney (Heavy).

Such a pity that such a brief but glorious history will not be commemorated by a glorious jubilee in 1982.....

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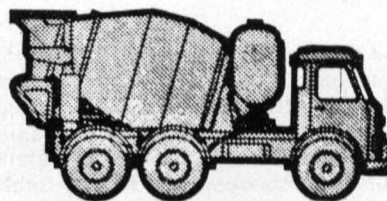
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Ballyhaunis' First Play

Some time ago while rummaging about old newspapers and documents of various kinds, what should I pick up only a programme of the very first amateur dramatic and variety entertainment given in Ballyhaunis. Before this Ballyhaunis was dependent on travelling companies for its plays and concerts. But a new note was struck when, under the supervision of the then curate Fr. Murphy, local talent was organised and trained. Very many of those whose names figure prominently on the programme have long since passed away from earth; others have withdrawn from contact with worldly concern; For obvious reasons I do not give the exact year. Ladies are sensitive on the point of past dates. Those interested in matters musical and dramatic may compare these programmes of the first Ballyhaunis effort with their successors of today.

Saturday, December 26th, 18--

"ROBERT EMMET"

Characters:

Robert Emmet (An Irish Patriot)	J. Delany
D. O'Gaff (Sprig of the Emerald Isle)	T. Ruttigan
O'Leary (An old soldier)	Jas Treston
Dowdall (A friend to Emmet)	P. Waldron
Kernan (A traitor)	E. Kileen
Sergeant Topfall	P. Daly
Corporal Thomas	J. Murphy
Lord Norbury (The Judge)	T. Sne
Connor (Jailer)	P. Biesty
Maria (Emmets wife)	H. McConville
Judy O'Doherty	J. McDermott.

Peasants, Soldiers, Constables and the Jury

(Then follows a synopsis of the play)

THE BRASS BAND

"Marseillaise," "The Men of Harlech."

The side - splitting farce:

PADDY MILES

Characters:

Paddy Miles (The Limerick boy)	J. McDermott
Dr. Coates	T. Sne
Henry (his son)	P. Daly
Job (the gardener)	J. Murphy
Reuben	P. Biesty
Mrs. Fidget	F. McDermott
Jane (her daughter)	H. McConville

Conclusion

Omens - The National Anthem with Brass Band Accompaniment

Then on the following Monday, 28th Dec. 18-- there was given---

A GRAND CONCERT

1. Chorus, "There is no land like Ireland" (Gmur), Misses O'Malley, Flynn, Kate Lavan, Nora Waldron, Maggie N. Waldron, D. Levicock, and Messrs P. Daly, Jas Treston, T. Rattigan, P. Delany, J. McDermot, and J. Murphy

- Solo, "Uncle John" (Weatherly), Miss K. Flynn.
- Solo, "You'll Soon Forget, Kathleen" (Williams), Miss E. O'Malley.
- Solo, "Let Erin Remember" (Glover) Mr. Jas Treston.
- Comic item, Messrs Daly, McDermott, Rattigan, Murphy and Biesty.
- Selection, Brass Band.
- Piano solo, "Sweet Hearts' Waltz" (Albert), Miss K. Delany.
- Comic song, Mr. P. Daly
- Solo, "The Wearing of the Green," Mr J.W. Murphy
- Solo, "Give an Irish Lad a chance," Mr. J. McDermott.
- Solo, "Dear Land," Mr. T. Rattigan.
- Solo, "Aileen Alannah" (Thomas), Miss E. O'Malley.
- Solo, "A Money," Mr. P. Daly.
- Solo, "Home again Kathleen," Mr. P. Delany.
- Solo, "Tidy Fol Lol," Mr. Jas Treston.
- Solo, "Kerry Dance" (Molloy), Miss K. Flynn.
- Comic song, Mr. P. Biesty.
- Duet, Bagpipes and violin, Messrs O'Rourke & Biesty.
- Solo, "Father O'Flynn," Mr. P. Delany.
- Duet, Miss O'Malley and Mr. McDermott.
- Comic Song, Mr. T. Rattigan.
- Comic Song, Mr. J. Murphy.
- Solo, "She's far from the Land" (Glover) Miss E. O'Malley.
- Comic Item, Mr. P. Daly.
- Solo, "I saw from the Beach" (Glover) Miss E. O'Malley.
- Solo, "The Convent Hill," Mr. McDermott.
- Duet, Miss Flynn and Mr. Treston.
- Comic Item, Messrs Biesty, Rattigan, Daly and Flatley.
- Chorus, "Evening Echoes" (Carpenter) Misses Flynn, O'Malley, Lavan, Leviocock, Waldron and Neary.

To be followed by the amusing farce:

"BARNEY THE BARON"

Orchestra by brass band each evening.

Now making all due allowances for the conditions of the times and the difficulties surrounding an attempt to organise local talent, I think the above programme was a very creditable beginning. Anyhow, it led the way for subsequent developments and established some sort of a precedent. Taking it in bulk, I am not sure that there has been an advance on it in excellence proportioned to the number of years that have elapsed and the opportunities for educational improvement that have been afforded to the youth. A good deal of water has flowed under the bridge since

then, and music teachers and others have been at work, but I doubt if such excellent combination of artistes could be gathered together today. The intervening years have not revealed any local singer to equal much less surpass Miss O'Malley (Mrs. Farragher). Nor have Messrs Rattigan and McDermott ever been eclipsed as humourists or vocalists by their successors on the amateur stage. The piper Jim O'Rourke (or Grouke) was undoubtedly a versatile musical genius, and a competent performer on several instruments including the violin, flute and bagpipes. I have heard the number of tunes he could play from memory but forget the exact total just now. It was something wonderful. Mr. John McNamara is the only one I know at whose fingertips are all the particulars relating to the famous Jim, about whom he can reel off anecdotes by the score. Most of his musical MSS., Jim, when dying bequeathed to Mr. McNamara, the only one of his acquaintances most likely to appreciate the gift. Mr. James Treston, too, has never lost the old keen interest in all things musical, literary and dramatic.

M. F. Waldron

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Test Your Wits....

Twenty Cryptic Clues to local people and places compiled By Michael Glynn

1. Weighty addition to pointed principal. (8)
2. Mother not outside lead street. (4)
3. Might Lady Godiva take some refreshment here..(3), (5), (5), (3)
4. You might be charged with manslaughter for announcing your intention of going there. (8)
5. A small trip to there by the sound of it. (7)
6. Chinese moved quickly; he was in Knock to greet the Pope. (5)
7. A little sparkler in the town. (3), (3)
8. The quality of this is not strained up the hill. (5)
9. The girls gets an exclamation for the Magazine. (5)
10. Good meat producing area by the sound of it. (5)
11. Two man partnership in the Meat-Business. (5)
12. Sounds like they might have greasy fingers. (6)
13. Used to own a donkey in song; he now provides alternative energy. (7)
14. A relaxing place to spend you metal greenback. (6), (6)
15. No orchards there but a fruity place just the same. (11)
16. A location fit for an Irish King. (8)
17. Argumentative chap; making clothes in 17. (8)
18. Lucky place to enjoy a drink; might even find a farrier there. (9)
19. Does it brighten up Knox St.? (7)
20. MORE LAY DIFFERENTLY FOR EDITOR. (7)

(Answers on Page 47)

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Some people are thrifty by natural instinct, some by habit and upbringing and others, no doubt, by environment. Nobody could call the people of Ballyhaunis niggardly or parsimonious, but there can be no doubt about their thriftiness, in which they can claim to hold something of a record.

For half a century the town has had a reputation for thrift, backed by facts and figures that has marked it out among the towns of Ireland. More than 40 years ago questions were asked in the British House of Commons about the savings habit in Ballyhaunis. Members of Parliament, anxious to encourage Post Office Savings accounts, wanted to know why a little Irish town of which they had never heard before, should show bigger deposits for its size than any other town in His Majesty's realm.

If the then Chancellor of the Exchequer was able to give a satisfactory explanation, no one can remember it. Probably our own Minister for Finance would be unable to go beyond a plain statement of fact today, for Ballyhaunis, if it has since dropped behind somewhat still shows itself to be a firm believer of the slogan "Save for Security".

Why the town should be more thrifty than others has always been something of a puzzle for bankers, businessmen and Post Office accountants. There are plausible theories aplenty, but no single one of them provides the complete answer.

"It is a matter of general interest to them," is a punsters explanation which is as good as any other. The people of Ballyhaunis and the area around it have found out at any rate that pennies make pounds, and if the secrets of ordinary bank accounts are locked in Bank Managers bosoms, there is no secret about the fact that prudent depositors still give the town a leading and respected place in the ledgers of the Post Office Savings Bank.

Mr. John Dillon-Leetch, solicitor, told me something of how Ballyhaunis first earned its reputation. In an abstract of Post Office savings accounts in the county for 1907, he pointed out where the town had 875 accounts for the local P.O. in that year, representing a total of £39,193 on deposit.

The amount was many thousands of pounds greater, I saw than the corresponding figures for much bigger towns like Castlebar, Ballina and Westport, and represented in proportion to population figures, the highest saving rate in Ireland. It was noted that in the course of 25 years, the amount on deposit had jumped from a mere £3,177.

Those were the years, according to Mr. Dillon-Leetch, when the real peak of prosperity was reached in the town and neighbourhood. The Land League, launched in nearby Irishtown, had at last given the people fixity of tenure and fair rents and the new security was reflected in a prosperity that had not

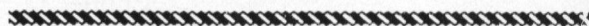
been known before. Possibly it was the remembrance of evil times, coupled with a certain anxiety for the future, that made so many people acquire their savings habits then.

A man who thinks his native town has not made the progress it might during the past 50 years is Dr. Michael F. Waldron, B.A., D.Litt., one of Connachts leading historians and distinguished authority on all matters antiquarian.

"Fifty years ago," he recalls, "the town had a boot and clog factory and there was also weaving and furniture making. We had five bakeries flourishing in the town then, apart from three or four confectionery shops." It is a curious fact that we have not a single bakery in the town today and have to depend on the neighbouring towns for our supplies. There have been many changes in the town and many of the old firms have gone out of business.

The town's social life, according to Dr. Waldron, is not to be compared with that of a half-century ago. He recalls with pride that the first Mayo County Feis which was attended by Dr. Douglas Hyde and Padraic Pearse, was held there in 1903, and that he himself is one of the few surviving members of its organising committee.

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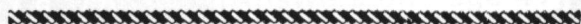
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Front: John McQueeney, Mae Flatley, Samantha Webb, Vincent Levins, Louise Fitzmaurice,
 Andrew Smyth, Sinead Freyne, James Coen, Niamh McGarry.
 2nd Row: Margaret Freyne, Roisin Shields, Pauline Tarpey, Olwyn Johnston, Assumpta Biesty,
 Ruth Jordan, Michael Coen, Brid Webb.
 3rd Row: James Hunt, Dora Forde, Arfan Rafique, Gavin McDermott, Martin Walsh, Sean
 Lenehan, Keith Delaney, Declan Donohue, David Burke, Padraig Ruane, Martina Daly.
 4th Row: Yvonne Ryan, Joanne Coyne, Sandra Keane, Liesel Mooney, Ann Greally, Hilary
 Madden.
 5th Row: Catherine Sweeney, Caroline Murphy, Louise Nally, Breda Byrne, and Mrs. Leonard, their
 teacher.

DOTH FOLLOW ANOTHER...



COOLNAFARNA N.S. CLASS PHOTO c. 1945

(Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Joe Webb)

Front Row: L. to R. Padraic Folliard, Vincent Brennen, Josie Grennan, Francis Murtagh.
 Second Row: L. to R. Mick Quinn, Noel Dalton, John Flynn, Joe Webb, George Delaney, Dom Regan.
 Third Row L. to R. Eddie Quinn, Mick Quinn, Michael Murphy, Paddy Waldron (R.I.P.)
 Back Row L. to R: Michael Regan, Mick Kelly, Jim O'Dwyer R.I.P. (Principal), Billy Comer, Martin Kelly.

SOUNDINGS

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

BALLYHAUNIS F.C.

Pride of place in the Ballyhaunis Soccer Club, on the 1979-'80 season goes to our Youths side who won the Quigley Cup for the first time ever. They beat Swinford in the final 2-1. Jeremy Dee scored both goals. The Senior side had a mediocre season finishing midway up the table. They again kept their best displays for the Tuohy Cup and were unlucky to go out in the Semi-Final beaten 2-1 by Crusaders.

Training is every Tuesday and Thursday night in the Community School and new members are always welcome.

The Clubs Officers are:-

President: Sgt. W. Curran

Vice-Pres. Alf Hudson

Chairman: Tom Cribbin

Secretary: Michael Daly

Treasurer: Joe Greene

Captain: Clarence Grogan

Manager: Eugene Cullum.

APOSTOLIC WORKERS

President: Miss Mae Moyles

Vice-Pres. Mrs. T. Finn.

Secretary: Mrs. Bridie Brennan

Treasurer: Mrs. B. Byrne

The Apostolic Workers had a very successful year during which they made several sets of vestments and lots of other missionary requirements. All members attended the vigil at Knock on June 13th. which was specially organised for Apostolic Workers. The vigil was given by Fr. Martin O'Connor C.C., Castlebar and Fr. Joyce, a missionary priest home on holidays.

This was followed by a very successful exhibition in July. The apostolic workers would like new active and honorary members and anybody can become an honorary member by contributing £1.00 per annum.

Bridie Brennan



Recipients of the Golden & Silver Pioneer Pins presented by Fr. Costelloe in St. Patrick's Parish Church earlier this year.

Back: James McLoughlin, Ann Lynch, Tom Finn, Fr. P.O. Costelloe, P.P., Paddy Connell, Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Philips, Michael McLoughlin.

Front: Nora Biesty, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Byrne, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Fitzmorris, Bridgit McLoughlin.

BOY SCOUTS 1979-'80 4th. MAYO

For the Scouts, the big event of 1979 was the trip to Rome and Switzerland in July. But that trip left its problems, not the least of which was that it cost the troop almost twice as much as was projected. But by means of the usual activities - weekly 25 drives, the Silver Circle, Sale of Work, Christmas Raffle, Bob-a-Job and the Big Walk, the lost money was regained by Easter 1980. This, of course would have been impossible without the generosity of you, the people of the area. Go raibh mile mhaith agaibh.

On 5th June this year building on the new sections of the Den began, under the Governments' Youth Employment Scheme. A new dining hall at the back, which will be used to seat people for the various dinners that take place throughout the year and a new three storey front which will include a meeting room for the various organisations which use the Den to hold meetings and a Scout room for the Scout Meetings, are both nearing completion. Work on the extension, though it was held back due to bad weather during the summer, is now progressing rapidly.

Another activity hampered by the bad weather was the summer camp. The troop camped for a fortnight in Derrynane, Kerry, next to the home of Daniel O'Connell. For the first week it poured rain almost non-stop. We had a few fine trails and hare and hounds, but not much could be done and generally it was depressing. The second week was much better. The weather cleared up, and the sun finally shone through. We went swimming, hill climbing, and trekking. Three scouts, Seamus McGing, Dominick Stanley, along with Hugh Campbell climbed the three highest peaks in Ireland. Carrauntohill, Beenberagh and Cahar. A patrol from Ballinlough and one from Castlerea camped with us. We had inter-patrol competitions in sport and cooking. Ballinlough to our disgust won the sport while one of our patrols won the cooking. We visited the house where Daniel O'Connell lived - Derrynane House. It is full of mementoes and facts about the 'Liberator'. But a trip to Killarney had to be cancelled when the bus broke down. We came home on Saturday 26th July, after a fortnight which couldn't be described as the greatest camp the 4th Mayo ever had.

Meetings restart in September. New leaders were appointed, and we plan to have more hikes, weekend camps, overnight hikes and other activities than it was possible to have this year

LEADERS:

Unit Leader: Seamus Durkan
Scout Master: Hugh Campbell
Assistant S.M. Michael Laffey
Senior Patrol Leaders:
Brian Loughrane
Brian Marrinan
Seamus McGing
John Fitzgerald (Writer of this Article)

BALLYHAUNIS G.A.A. CLUB 1980

1980 has not been the most successful for the club. Our Junior team reached the final of the Canon Henry Cup but lost by one point to Kiltimagh. In the Junior Championship they were defeated in a play off by Aughamore.

The Intermediate side promised much but were beaten in the first round of the Championship but seems assured of a place in the league semi-final.

Again we were successful in underage fields. We fielded under 10, under 12, National School, U 13, U 14, U 15, U 16, U 18 and U 21; reaching the U-14 National Schools final and U-18 final as well as U-12, U-14, and U-16 semi-finals.

Major development has taken place to our grounds, with the help of the Temporary Youth Employment Scheme. At present preparations have been made to provide a base for covered accommodation on the sideline. A site had been made available to the local Handball Club for a handball alley and the G.A.A. Club has also made provisions for the building of Squash Courts which will add to the sporting facilities available to the youth and adults of the area.

A major undertaking by the Club in the coming year will be the trip to America in April 1981. The club hopes to visit New York, Boston and Philadelphia. As an added attraction for the town, Ballyhaunis has been selected as the venue for the Mayo-Antrim National Football League game in February.

Officers

President: Austin Grogan
Vice-President: Mick O'Connell
Chairman: John Prenty
Secretary: Anto O'Malley
Vice-Chairman: Aidan Kelly
Treasurer: Paddy Ryan.

John Prenty

BRIDGE CLUB 1980/81

The A.G.M. was held in the Central Hotel on the 12th of September, 1980.
The following were the officers elected for 1980/81:

President: Mrs. Rosaleen Dwane
Captain: Mrs. Cait Dillon
Vice Captain: Mr. Leo Fitzpatrick
Hon. Sec. Mrs. Corrairie Flatley
Treasurer: Mr. Frank Loughran
Tournament Director: Mrs. Angela Joyce
Ass. Tournament Dir. Mrs. Mary H. O'Connor
Committee: Mrs. M. Higgins, Miss Mae Moyles, Mrs. T. Laughran, Mrs. Dolorous Jordan

By unanimous consent Dr. Waldron was made an honorary member of the club.

The Captain Mrs. C. Dillon wished Dr. Waldron a long and happy retirement

SOUNDINGS

JUNIOR CHAMBER BALLYHAUNIS

An eventful year for Junior Chamber began with the Annual New Year's Ball in the Scouts Den.

"Annagh Magazine 1979" was officially launched in the Central Hotel and featured on R.T.E. television.

A Community Week was held in May, this included an industrial parade and several other events which proved to be very successful.

In a joint effort with the G.A.A. Junior Chamber organised a fund-raising project - 'The Ballyhaunis Mayor'.

In October, the debating team were once again successful in winning the All-Ireland Debating Final in Waterford.

Officers

President: Siobhain O'Connor

Vice Pres. Michael Griffin

Treasurer: Ann O'Dwyer

P.R.O. Rita London

Secretary: Geraldine Garrett (Knock Rd.)

WESTERN CARE - OUR SPECIAL PEOPLE

The Association of the Mentally Handicapped is now eleven years in existence. In that time a total of 16 centres have been opened in the County to provide a wide range of specialist services covering all age groups. The Annual county collection goes towards the upkeep of those centres - last year the figure was £5,266.00, this year, thanks to the magnificent response of the people of Ballyhaunis, Aughamore, Bekan and Toreen, we hope to exceed the £6,000 mark. In addition to the annual collection, Aughamore and Tooreen have contributed £1,050.46 - proceeds of socials, raffles etc. which shows the growing awareness of the great need there is to help the plight of those in our community who cannot speak for themselves - our mentally handicapped.

The local M. H. Social has now become a very special occasion, when collectors, workers and friends can meet for a social evening. Here I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those people and also the public who have contributed so generously to the collection.

However, we would like to see some effort being made to make our younger people - at primary and secondary school level - more aware of the mentally handicapped and perhaps in the coming year it may be possible to show a film dealing with this subject - our special people.

Officers:

Chairman: Dr. T.B. Joyce

V. Chairman: Joe Byrne

Secretary: Mrs. H. O'Dwyer

Treasurer: Rev. D. Walsh

Delegates to Western Care Council:

Bernard Freyne, Eamonn Healy

H. O'Dwyer

BALLYHAUNIS & DISTRICT GUN CLUB

The 6th of January, 1980 was indeed a cold yet dry day; but the large attendance at the New Year Clay Bird shoot was certainly an indication that the shooting kin are not afraid to brave the elements on occasions such as this. On the 11th. January, 1980 Clay Bird enthusiasts from all over Connacht gathered at the Scout Hall, Ballyhaunis and as a result of this gathering the Connacht Clay Bird Association was born. One of the decisions of that meeting was that Ballyhaunis be the central D.T.L. grounds in Connacht for championship shoots. This decision was very much to the satisfaction of our club members but involved enormous expenses in the purchase of electric traps etc. Members of our club rose to the occasion and made generous financial contributions. This, together with proceeds of the raffle, rendered it possible to purchase No. 2 automatic High Flier Traps. The club also built new trap houses and plan to build toilets and shelters during the coming year.

On the 9th March the club held its first 100 bird shoot; in April the inter club team shoot and Novice shoot; in August the Annual shoot; 100 bird and tema shoot is planned for November. The club dinner dance took place on 29th October in Churchfield House Hotel. Other activities of the club during 1980 included the rearing and release of pheasant, the winter feeding of wild birds and control of vermin. Despite the busy schedule of events members found time to prepare a float for the Junior Chamber May Parade. We hope that the clubs Motto painted on the float left no-one in doubt that Ballyhaunis & District Gun Club are guardians of Wildlife for generations to come.

Officers

President: Eamonn Burke

Chairman: Joe Nolan

Secretary: Liam Lyons

Treasurer: John Kilduff

P.R.O. Patrick B. Waldron

Grounds Managers: Martin Cunnane & G. Coyne

Vice Chairman: Tom Waldron

Liam Lyons

YOUNG FINE GAEL

Evidence of the variety of the Branch was contained in the large number who attended the Ard Fheis in April. The branch was active in securing signatures locally for a national petition on the repeal of the law on illegitimacy and in assisting the Local Branch with its activities.

Officers

President: Andrew Morgan

V/ President: Martina Grogan

Chairperson: Mary Heneghan

V/ Chairperson: Margaret Waldron

Secretary: John Fitzgerald

Recording Sec. Marie Ruane

Treasurers: Michael Daly & John Dillon-Leetch

Organiser & P.R.O. Pauline Gallagher

SOUNDINGS



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SOUNDINGS



People turned out in their hundreds to welcome An Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, during his recent visit to Ballyhaunis. Here we see him being greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cuniffe and Mrs. Nuala Murphy.

FIANNA FAIL

1980 was a busy and eventful year for the party in Ballyhaunis. It began with a Special Presentations Function held in the Horse Shoe Inn, to celebrate the elevation of Mr. Sean Calleary to Minister of State at the Department of Labour and the Public Service and to mark the retirement of Mr. Pat Regan as the Chairman of the Comhairle Ceanntair. This was followed by the Annual Dinner held in Churchfield House, guest speaker being Mr. Tom Hussey, Minister of State for Agriculture. In June a farewell social was held in the Horse Shoe Inn for former Cumman Chairman, Dr. E.A. Waldron. Happily, this function was attended by many people of a different political persuasion!

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the visit of An Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, to Ballyhaunis. Accompanied by Mr. P.J. Morley T.D. and other high ranking Fianna Fail representatives Mr. Haughey visited the Community School where, before being conducted through the school by the principal, Mr. Eddie Thornton, he was presented with a specially bound and inscribed volume of the school year book publications to date. Mr. Haughey also visited Halal Meat Packers where he was shown elaborate plans for future expansion and was conducted through the plant by the Managing Director of the firm, Mr. Rafique. At a special party meeting in the Central Hotel Mr. Haughey addressed a capacity crowd of election workers and supporters and this was followed by a walk around on Main Street.

Interest and activity continued at a high level among youth members in Coiste Ogra. January saw the culmination of their successful Essay Competition, the Senior Section being won by Miss Mary Guilfoyle and the Junior Section by Miss Maria Campbell. The Chairman and secretary

attended the Ard Fheis in February; the former also attending the National Youth Conference held in Limerick in April. Coiste Ogra members were also actively involved in making preparations for the Taoiseach's visit to Ballyhaunis.

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. Treas. Paddo Cunningham
P.R.O. Michael Waldron
Delegates to Dail Ceanntair: John T. O'Dwyer, Seamus O'Boyle, Austin Biesty, Anto O'Malley, Hugh Rudden.

BALLYHAUNIS CUMANN F.F.

President: Dr. E.A. Waldron
Chairman: Paddy Ryan
V/Chairman: Jimmy Gilmore
Hon. Sec. Hugh Rudden, Doctors Rd.
Joint Hon. Treas. Paddy Ryan & Paddo Cunningham

Joint Hon. Treasurers: J. Lyons & J. Conway.
P.R.O. Willie Ryan
Delegates to Comhairle Ceanntair: Paddo Cunningham & Tom Curran.

BALLYHAUNIS COISTE OGRA FIANNA FAIL

OFFICERS:

Chairman: Michael Grogan
Vice Chairman: Clarence Grogan
Secretary: Mrs. Nuala Murphy
P.R.O. Tommie Eagney
Treasurer: James Hunt
Delegates to Comhairle Ceanntair - Robert Herr and Willie Ryan.
Anto O'Malley

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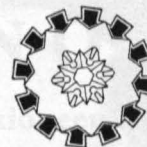
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SOUNDINGS

BILLARDS & SNOOKER IN BALLYHAUNIS

1980 is the 40th Anniversary of the foundation of St. Patrick's Snooker and Billiards Club. An outline of the development of Billiards and Snooker in Ballyhaunis was given to Jim Landon by Willie Murphy and Kevin Barry....

The first Billiards room was in front of the Old Parish Church on the left hand side of the present St. Patricks Parish Church. The second was in the Dudley Arms Hotel, Bridge Street, where George Delaney's is now. The leading players were the late Willie Smyth N.T., Murty Farragher, Val McGreal, Bertie Dillon, "Blue" Gavin, John Dillon-Leetch, Jim Ratigan, Brodie Kenny, Jim Flatley, Main Street, Jerry Dillon, Abbeyquarter and Jimmy Regan who worked in the Central Hotel. That was the 1910 era. Then Peter Lynch started a room with two tables in Abbey Street where Abbey Cleaners are now. Fifteen minutes cost 3d or 1½p. Handicaps for 64 members were held each winter.

Later P.J. McGarry had a Billiard Room over the shop. A lot of travellers who came to town by train played; a hundred of Billiards cost 6d or 2½p. Playing was a serious business; silence was maintained for every game.

In 1940 under the Presidency of Archdeacon Prendergast the St. Patricks Billiards & Snooker Club was formed in the Parochial Hall in a room on the grand floor on the left hand side. The first secretary was Mr. Paddy Freeley, Main St. Membership was between 120-130. 64 Member Handicaps were played each Winter. On the previous Sunday an auction of players was held by Mr. Caulfield the buyer

of the winning player getting a percentage of the winnings. The caretakers of the club are Eddie Morley, Michael Gibbons, Mick Freeley and Jim Cox.

Outstanding players of that era included Jim Flatley, Jimmy Regan, Willie Murphy, Cyril O'Malley, Cyril Coyne, Kevin Barry, Mickey Webb, Jack Moran, Paddy Walsh.

In the early 1960s a Mayo League was organised. Ballyhaunis competed against Ballina, Castlebar, Ballaghadrreen, Swinford and Westport. There were five players on each team and a points system was used to determine the winners. Many outstanding players emerged in this era namely Joe Webb, Michael Curley, Frank Webb, Vincent Freyne and Neil McGillicuddy to join with those already mentioned earlier. Success came when Ballyhaunis won the Mayo League in three successive occasions namely 1964, '65 and '66. The successful panel of players were Willie Murphy, Cyril O'Malley, Michael Webb, Jack Moran, Kevin Barry, Cyril Coyne, Michael Curley and Vincent Freyne.

A few years later the Fr. Rushe Perpetual Cup was narrowly won by Kevin Barry when he defeated John Dillon in the Final. The trophy was presented by the late Canon J.G. McGarry, P.P. Ballyhaunis.

Following an easing of interest, the club was very successfully revived in 1976. Older Members continued to support and play. The new room venue was now upstairs in Parochial Hall, seven nights a week from October to Easter each year. Snooker Handicaps have been held each Winter since.

New outstanding players emerged namely Rory O'Connor, Mike Webb, Alec Eaton, Michael Webb, Michael Byrne, Tommy Moran.

The Patron is Rev. J. Ball C.C. Ballyhaunis.



Members of the successful Mayo Billiards League Team,

Back: Cyril Coyne, Michael Webb, Jack Moran. Front: Cyril O'Malley, Willie Murphy, Kevin Barry.

SOUNDINGS

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE

Would you like to become involved in your local community? Ballyhaunis Community Information Centre, at the Parochial Hall, is run by a voluntary community group and would welcome new members.

The centre is a place to which a person can go to obtain free of charge and confidential, information about various services and entitlements. The centre is provided with a comprehensive information system by the National Social Service Council. Information of all kinds is available on such subjects as :

Taxation - Consumer Services - Housing - Social Welfare - Redundancy

It has application and claim forms for almost anything.

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

A Community Information Centre does not advise people, it simply gives information on entitlements and services.

The Ballyhaunis Centre at the Parochial Hall, Upr. Main St., is open:

Tuesday 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Thursday 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

It can also be contacted by phoning Ballyhaunis 212 during opening hours. Postal queries are also dealt with.

The 1980 members of the Community Information Centre are:

Chairman: Cyril Coyne

Organiser: Kathleen McBride

Operators: Sr. Assumpta - Elizabeth Jordan
Mary Donnelly - Harry Lamberth
Sr. Dympna - Matthew O'Dwyer
Jarlath Fahey - Betty Regan
Ina Freyne - Mary Smyth
Mary Higgins - Mary Waldron
Rita Webb.

The centre is always anxious to recruit new members. If interested please call to the centre during opening hours, write, or contact any of the operators.

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BALLYHAUNIS FINE GAEL BRANCH

The branch held a number of very successful socials throughout 1980. Speakers at those included Deputy Paddy O'Toole (Spokesman on Industry & Commerce), Enda Kenny (Spokesman on Youth & Employment), Councillor Frank Durcan, Chairman of the Mayo County Council, Martin Hopkins - a native of Langanboy and a long serving member of the Castlebar Urban District Council, Councillors Martin Finn & Jim Higgins.

The highlight of the year was the visit to Ballyhaunis of John Burton T.D., Spokesman on Agriculture who spent a day in the area visiting Halal Meat Packers and meeting members of the press and members of the local N.C.F. Mart Committee. Mr. Burton concluded his visit by addressing a Branch meeting and subsequently addressing a well - attended Public Meeting in the Boy Scouts Den. In October, Mr. Michael Darcey, Junior Spokesman on Agriculture visited the town and was particularly interested in the success of the Halal Meat Packers venture and the problems they are facing.

Officers

President: William Mulligan

Chairman: Patsy Keane

V/ Chairman: Joe Keane

Secretary: John Higgins (Knock Rd.)

Ass. Sec. Dr. S. Ryan

Treasurers: John Mooney & Bea Prenty

P.R.O. Jimmy Cribbin

John Higgins

SOUNDINGS

ST. PATRICKS DRAMATIC SOCIETY

During the 1978/79 season the Groups production of "The Green Boxeen" a comedy in three acts by Patrick Kelly was received with great enthusiasm by supporters of amateur drama in Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas. This prompted the group under their new producer Mr. Hugh Rudden to stage another Comedy - The Absent Minded Bridegroom by Larry E. Johnson which was staged on the 16th, 17th and 18th of February 1980.

There have been many changes in personnel over the years. Popular personalities of previous productions included:

Joe Green, Jack Green, Elanor Kelly, Jack Kelly, Gus Kearns, Sally Fergus, Aidan Kelly, Michael Glynn, John Cleary, Jimmy Cribben, Gerry Cribben, Gerry Lyons, John Morley, Tom Curran, Matt O'Dwyer, Joe Grogan, Michael Byrne, Marie Tighe, Ann Hosty, Frank Leonard, Jimmy Higgins, Noel Armstrong, Elizabeth Jordan and Martin Forde.

The present cast preparing for another comedy include Producer Hugh Rudden, Elizabeth Jordan, Frank Leonard, Pat Doyle, John Prenty, Eileen Munro, Peggy Curran, Viola Lowry and Martin Forde.

Previous producers included the late Canon J.G. McGarry Rev. Fr. Des Walsh, Elizabeth Jordan and Joe Green.

Last but not least the person who has struck with the group through the thick and thin and acted as producer did the make-up and looked after costume and props for many years need I mention Miss Kit Keane.

Below are a list of officers and cast who were responsible for the staging of "The Absent Minded Bridegroom" by Larry E. Johnson.

TIMOTHY SHEA	-PAT DOYLE
PATRICK ROONEY	-JIMMY CRIBBIN
JIMMIE ROONEY	-JOHN PRENTY
FRED GRADY	-GERARD CARNEY
SLADE	-MICHAEL GLYNN
YONNIE	-CATHIE JORDAN
DAPHNEY ROONEY	-LIZ JORDAN
NORA SHEA	-MARGARET MAGUIRE
KATHLEEN O'CONNOR	-EILEEN MUNROE
TESSIE CONNORS	-VIOLA LOWRY
YANEY	-STELLA KEANE
YENNIE	-ROISIN SHIELDS
PRODUCER	-HUGH RUDDEN
MAKE UP	-ANNE HOSTY, KIT KEANE
LIGHTING	-MARTIN FORDE
STAGE MANAGER	-PAT KENNY

OFFICER

PRESIDENT	-REV. FR. COSTELLO
CHAIRPERSON	-MRS. ANNE HOSTY
TREASURER	-ELIZABETH JORDAN
SECRETARY	-MARGARET MAGUIRE

Next production "Friends and Neighbours" by Austin Steele



The cast of "The Absent Minded Professor". Standing, we have Gerard Kearney, Pat Doyle, Jimmy Cribbin, John Prenty. Sitting, Eileen Munroe, Viola Lowry, Margaret Maguire, Elizabeth Jordan. Children, Roisin Shields, Stella Keane, Cathy Jordan. Absent from photo: Michael Glynn, Hugh Rudden (producer), Kit Keane (make up-costumes)

SOUNDINGS

COMHAIRLE - LIATHROID LAIMHE NA h-EIREANN BALLYHAUNIS HANDBALL CLUB

The present club formed three years ago and has made some steady progress since. We are now affiliated to the Handball Council of Ireland which in turn is affiliated to the Gaelic Athletic Association of Ireland.

Since the foundation of the club I am very sorry to have to record the deaths of two of our founder members, that of our first President, Michael Rattigan, whose name will always be remembered when the older people speak of the great handballers who played in the old alley which stood where the Parochial Hall still stands. Michael was a great source of encouragement to the present club and will be sadly missed by all.

Since our last Annual General Meeting the death took place of our Chairman Mr. Paddy Waldron, one of the great Gaels of Mayo, whose experience in the position of Chairman was invaluable. At the inaugural meeting of the club Paddy set a standard which I hope will always be upheld.

To the families of Michael Rattigan and Paddy Waldron and to the family of all deceased members of the club our deepest sympathy. Last June we commenced work on a new ball alley on a site provided free of charge by the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. on their grounds on the Knock Road. The main features of the building will be as follows:- the whole building will measure 65 feet by 22 feet with slated roof and teak windows and doors; the main wall will be 1' 4" insulated cavity block with a special plaster inside and outside; the playing area will be the modern type 40 x 20 ft. court complete with maple floor, special flush lighting in ceiling, and it will also have the latest type glass back-wall. There will be a spectator area to seat around 160. It will include changing rooms with hot and cold water and Ladies and Gents toilets. When completed it will be second to none in the country and will be capable of hosting National and International Competitions but the main reason for the erection of the alley is to provide this much needed amenity for the youth of the area. The total cost is expected to be in the region of £25,000. We had a church gate collection during the year which was a great success and the club is deeply indebted to all who contributed. Their financial show of support is of great encouragement to us. At the time of writing we are appealing for financial help from the local Banks, Factories, Business premises etc., and we are confident that the response will be equally good as that of the General Public. The Ballyhaunis Handball Club would like to thank all those who have

helped in any way since its foundation. We would like to wish all our members and all the readers especially our exiles a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

We will be keeping in touch during 1981.

President: Michael (Brod) Moran
V/President: Michael O'Connell
Patron: Very Rev. Fr. P. Costello P.P.
Chairman: Michael Murren
V/Chairman: Jack Greene
Hon. Treasurer: Michael Byrne
Hon. Secretary: Michael Waldron.

All Correspondence to - Michael Waldron (Hon. Sec.)
Handball Club,
Ballyhaunis,
'Phone: Ballyhaunis 208

IRISH ALE BREWERIES - BALLYHAUNIS Sports & Social Club

A very successful Social and Sports Club has been in operation for the past few years at the depot in Ballyhaunis.

The outstanding highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Annual Dinner Dance which was held in Churchfield House and was as usual an outstanding success.

The Annual Christmas Party for the workers children was again a very successful and a good time was had by all and sundry. Santa arrived with his presents at the Scouts Den on the Sunday before Christmas and top quality entertainment was provided as well as refreshments and presents all around.

The annual tour of the main breweries at Kilkenny and Dundalk was once again well attended. Half the work force went one day and the other half the next by coach and there were no complaints from anyone about the days outing.

There were many more highlights including the visit of Gaelic Football and Soccer Teams from other depots to play our teams, the float from the Depot in the Ballyhaunis Agricultural and Industrial Parade which was very appropriate to the occasion, and the winning of a major darts Competition by a team from Irish Ales.

Then there were the presentations to retiring members plus a provision of wreaths etc., for the family of members who have died to be provided from the fund.

Taken in all a very successful year by the Social and Sports Club at the I.A.B.

Murt Hunt

Chairman, Social Committee



Ballyhaunis Re-hab Committee pictured with Fr. Michael Cleary, after their very successful concert which raised £500.

Back Row left to right:

Mrs. Margie Gallagher; Mrs. Mary Higgins; Mrs. Dillon-Leetch; Mr. Joe Hosty; Mrs. Teresa Keane; Mrs. Mary Keane; Mr. Kevin Bourke; (Area Organiser) Mrs. Mary Kelly.

Front Row:

Mother Dymrna; Fr. Michael Cleary; Mrs. Una Shields; Mrs. Nell Rochford; Mrs. Mary Timoney.

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Prehistoric Ballyhaunis

The history of human settlement in the Ballyhaunis area is a long one; probably going back to the first people who came to Ireland about 8,000 years ago. Those people crossed the narrow straight of water from Scotland to Antrim. Ireland by this time had been cut off from Britain by the melt-waters of the retreating ice. Those people were hunters, gatherers and fishers and only a tiny group could be sustained in a very large area so they spread out widely through the country and it is reasonable to conjecture that they came to this area, which would have been heavily wooded and rich in fishing. This, however, is conjecture because, as those people did not know how to farm and had developed only crude stone implements which they used for cleaning and skinning, they did not affect the landscape through agriculture, forest clearance or durable building. So, probably, passed unmarked a long span of life around the Ballyhaunis area.

Then about 3,000 B.C. came a significant step forward; man's ability to control his environment (farming) spread to Ireland with the Neolithic (New Stone Age) Revolution. This meant that man was not so much at the mercy of nature and was capable of leaving his mark on the landscape. From that time, while some of the characteristics of each succeeding period disappeared, some important features remain. A former pupil of mine, Tommy Brennan of Curry, uncovered, about 2 years ago, near Charlestown, a stone spear-head dating from this period. This may now be viewed in the National Museum and is proof that Neolithic people inhabited this general area. There are however, further proofs. These Neolithic people also introduced the custom of collective burial in Megalithic (big stone) tombs. The oldest Megaliths are a hillock-like structure, elongated in shape, and called 'Court Cairns'; because each incorporated a court (for a worship and cremation function) and burial chambers. The relatively untouched Cappagh Cairns are believed to be of this type and period. It seems likely from the distribution of their sites that their builders entered Ireland along the Mayo-Sligo coast.

Megaliths are not uniform in type however. Variations are thought to be due to the fact that they were built by separate groups of people who arrived at different times and different places. Two examples of a later type - Wedge Shaped Gallery Grave - exist in our area; at Altoir, Granlahan and at Greenwood. Scientific excavation would be necessary to classify these exactly; the Altoir grave has been described as one of the finest in the country and excavations will probably be done some time in the future when personnel and funds are available. There are certain consistencies about the situations of these sites. They are usually at intermediate heights and in the areas of the more easily worked soil, where forests would have been light or practically non-existent. While there are 3,000 such tombs in Ireland, builders

houses have not survived, but Archaeological excavations have shown that they were round or rectangular, built of timber and clay, and probably roofed with rushes.

Metal workers would seem to have arrived in our area about 2,000 B.C. and for a long time progressively more expertly worked stone implements existed alongside the growing number of metal ones. A very fine example such stone implement has been uncovered by Community School Pupil, Tommy Carney, on his fathers farm in Shanvaghara. This is a very fine worked, barbed and tanged stone (flint) arrowhead and has been dated by the museum at between 2,000 and 2,500 B.C. These early Bronze Age people were the builders of the Altoir/Greenwood type of grave. These two graves are thought to be of the 'Northern' type, which was introduced to Ireland at the same time as the 'Southern' type but by different people. The source of the 'Northern' would seem to have been France.

The more usual burial rite of our Megolithic people was cremation. But as the Early Bronze Age progressed (Cir. 2,000 - 1,200 B.C.) more simple burial was the practice. The tombs were of simpler construction and characterised by a varying number of uprights supporting a large capstone. Two fine examples of the work of these people are known to have existed in the area; at Kiloveen and Tullaughane, both have been destroyed. It is most likely that many others also existed. These were impressive because of their immense capstones (weighing up to 100 tons). The method by which they raised these capstones is a source of much speculation and wonder.

About 1,200 B.C. there seems to have been a lot of coming and going, to and from Ireland. It was probably a fairly peaceful time as is reflected in the wealth of gold objects of the period, which have been found. The people were living in dispersed settlements of the 'fort' (lios, rath, dun, caher, cashel) type. In lake districts they often used the water as a protective barrier by building artificial islands near the shores. These were usually circular in shape and get their name "Crannog" from 'Crann' (tree), by virtue of the amount of this material used in construction. The Ballyhaunis area is 'littered' with such 'ring-forts'. Archaeologists think that this feature is native to Ireland as there is no evidence of a prototype abroad. They vary in size from 50 to 200 feet in diameter. Many of them possess underground chambers known as 'Souterrains'. These Souterrains had both a storage and defence function. A characteristic implement of this period is the double-edged 'Claidheamh Soluis' type of sword. Again our area has produced its evidence of these people in the 'Annagh Sword' which was uncovered in the riverbank near Annagh Lake about five years ago and is presently in the possession of Mr. O'Neill of Limerick. As would be expected the occupants of this area also constructed 'Crannogs' - the lakes being

numerous and relatively shallow. The island in the middle of the White Lake is believed to be one as were the two island like structures (Which were destroyed by dredgers) in Annagh Lake. With the confines of Crannogs and forts they built their circular timber houses and out- houses and from them farmed the surrounding land.

About 600 B.C. a new group of people arrived in the area from central Europe. These were iron-using people and are known today as the 'Celts'. They were an Indo-European race. The term 'Celtic' is primarily linguistic and 'Celtic' like 'Sanskrit' is a branch of the Indo-European family of languages. Gaelic Irish is a dialectic derivative from Celtic and 'Urdu', the language of our latest inflow of people (our Pakistan citizens) is a dialectic derivative from Sanskrit. So, somewhere, away back, some of our oldest and newest language and population ingredients had a common ancestry.

These iron - wielding people had a social structure and comprehensive body of laws known today as the 'Brehon Laws'. These early Irish Laws find their closest parallel in traditional Hindu Law. The Brehon Laws teach us much about early Irish Society - institutions such as fosterage of children, distraint of cattle to recover damages, ritual fasting to assert ones rights. There are tracts on bee-keeping, marriage and the position of women. The two pivotal institutions were the fine or joint family - the social unit, and the 'tuath' or petty kingdom - the political unit. The individual had no rights as such - these depended on his membership of the 'fine'. The Greeks and Romans spoke of the Celts as wearing trousers. But in Ireland only the lower class seem to have worn them. They were tight fitting and could be short or long. They were usually worn with a short jacket. The aristocracy, both men and women, both wore a voluminous cloak called a 'brat' over a short shirt or tunic - the leine - which varied in length. The 'brat' was often secured with a beautiful brooch.

The earlier, non-Indo European population had survived in a subservient way under a Celtic overlordship. One group in particular, known as 'Cruithni' survived into historic times as the 'Picts'. These Cruithni were numerous in Ulster, and as the 'Loisis' of Leinster and the 'Ciarraige' of Connaught and North Kerry. In MacGeoghan's "History of Ireland" published about 1740 we read:

"Kierrige of Lough-Nairn, a territory in the County of Mayo, now the Barony of Costello, the country of Mac Costelo's this territory is sometimes called the Barony of Belahaunes"

The next time you are thinking of telling a 'Kerry Joke' you should ponder on this point! Again we find a tangible link with those earlier inhabitants - an iron spear-head uncovered on the shoreline of Cullentragh Lake by Tommy Fahy of Coogue has been dated by the National Museum to about the first century A.D. Another possible link is the metal object

similar in shape and size and found in the same location by Sean O'Boyle of Coogue. This is at present being examined by the Museum.

By the time Irish History properly begins, about 500 A.D., these peoples had become completely Celticised - sharing a common culture and a common Celtic language and the people of the West were known as the 'Connachta'. One of the princes of Connachta, Niall (of the Nine Hostages) reversed the movement of British Celts to Ireland with raids on Roman Britain and through these activities was responsible for the coming of Christianity - by seizing the young St. Patrick as a slave. From two of Nialls brothers, Brion and Fiachra, have descended the great ruling families of Connaught. By the end of the fifth century the 'Heroic Age' of the great warlords and their chariot driving fort occupying people as immortalised in the great Irish folklore sagas, was at an end. The great Ulster Kingdom of Emain Macha and Ireland's only city was destroyed by Connachta probably about 450 A.D. When documentary evidence becomes fuller in the 7th and 8th centuries we see that Ireland had settled down to become an agricultural country. The Irish Noblemen was now primarily a farmer and the battles which figure prominently in the annals rarely lasted longer than a Summer's afternoon. So it must have been in the area of Lough Nairn when St. Patrick visited in the late Fifth Century.

Pat Higgins

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Bill Mulligan Remembers



I came to the Ballyhaunis area fifty eight years ago. I served with the newly formed Irish Army after the Treaty. I started teaching in Coolnafarna N.S., in 1926 and moved to the Ballyhaunis Boys' School in the early 1930s.

Originally I was an only child from near Lanesboro, Co. Roscommon. My father was killed by a stallion, when I was very young. I left N.S. at the age of 15 and was back teaching there at the age of 20, having been educated in Mountrath College. That time many of the people of 15 and 16 years of age returned to the National School for the Winter months.

Beal Atha hAmhnais means the town of ford of the river island because the town is surrounded by rivers. Where I live, Coolnafarna, means the bend of alder trees. When I came to Ballyhaunis, Canon McHugh was the parish priest and the Curate was Fr. Brett. My salary in 1917/18 was £63 a year. Teachers were granted an increase by the British Government but the new Provisional Government took some of this from teachers, again.

The centre of the town was much the same then as now. Forde's shop was the same size as it is now. The first Vocational School in the town was at the back of Forde's. Padraic Forkan, Tooreen, was the Principal Teacher. Maura Cunningham and Miss Lockney, from Killala, taught there. The Boys' School had about 100 pupils then and three teachers, including my late wife and Mrs. Cooney. Fr. Geoffrey (later Archdeacon Prendergast) as we knew him, would play cards, particularly 110, until morning. Fr. Tom Egan was the Cathetical Examiner for schools for a while.

I recall a pupil, whose name I shall not mention, who loved "schaming" from school. On one occasion he led the local curate and a garda over bogs and ditches, but like the hare he circled for home and went up an ash tree and out on a thin branch where he knew these two stoutly built men could not go and he negotiated his terms from his safe perch. As one who could "scheme" from school myself I had to congratulate him on his ingenuity and I gave him five shillings instead of what he expected.

I remember my last day at school when I caught Kieran McGrath jumping across the wall on to the road. I gave him a few clips and when the children were going home in the evening I was concealed in a place where I could hear all the comments and Kieran wasn't blessing me on my last day. We became good friends after and he visited me a few years ago. I think that a teacher and a pupil should be willing to forget an incident as soon as it is over.

My first car was a Studybaker and I had it for eight years. Ford cars were very popular then and later came the bullnosed Morris. The only petrol pumps in town were Johnny Murrays, Devlis and Lynch's.

I became very interested in prime breeding cattle at about the age of twenty. This interest has lived on and I am the President of the Prime Breeders Association for the last few years. I still go to the Mart every day of the week, and help with the writing of farming columns for the 'Irish Independent'.

When I came to Coolfarna first we used to meet in the local 'Rambling House' which was Murt McHale's. That was the local Dail where all contentious matters were discussed such as the introduction of T.B. testing for cattle which caused some fierce debates. Feats of strength were also discussed and the most vocal would have to prove themselves against opponents sitting on the kitchen floor using the handle of a brush to pull one another up. Questions such as who would cut the widest swarth and who could put the longest whet on the blade of the scythe were also debated. In olden times there was a Landlord's estate in Logboy and a tenant was entitled to all he could cut in a day. One fellow was good and he knew it - but the local lads gave him a purgative which caused him a lot of problems the following day until he eventually had to discard his trousers as it slowed him down too much. Some of these at our local rambling house were Peter (Alec) McDonnell, Pat Keane, Jimmy (Andy) McGarry, Red Lyons and Brian Maguire (all deceased). The place of honour at the fire was given to the oldest. People found the new idea of Certificates for cattle testing an awful cod. I bought my first cow for eight pounds and ten shillings. The local farms were very small and I often wonder how people existed at all. With few exceptions the men went to England while their wives looked after the farms. The men generally cut the turf and put down the crops before they left every year.

The farm homes were self supporting units and tea and sugar were the only things that were bought. They had their own wheat for wheaten meal. Pigs were reared and sweetened with linseed meal for killing. The offals did the neighbours for a week. The puddings and hams were lovely and were not premeated by salt as in the present day. The usual dinner was bacon and cabbage. When visitors came the chicken was caught I often saw my Mother have the chicken in the pot within an hour of killing. Farmers grew plenty of cabbage, potatoes and turnips and

made their own jams from crab apples, blackberries and sloes. The made sloe gin by pouring gin on sloes and allowing them to ferment. The blood of a chicken was mixed with flour, butter, onions and nutmeg and boiled. These dumplings would be put around the half boiled chicken and the taste would take cockles off your heart.

Repair work was done at the forge and to this day the best welding is done there. The length of cloth was bought in the shops which had their own cutters. There were no clothes off the peg. I have a photograph of myself in a suit which my mother made costing 10 pence ha'penny.

The eggs and butter were sold in town and the money used to buy luxuries. The money from the sale of cattle was lodged in the bank and was only withdrawn for a dowry, a funeral or the purchase of land. One Bank Manager in town told me there was more money on deposit in Ballyhaunis Branch than any other in the country.

Everyone went to the market in Ballyhaunis on a Tuesday. Butter was sold in firkins and brought to Dublin and other cities. The young women never smoked and the older women and men smoked the pipe or Woodbine cigarettes.

I saw the hook being used to cut crops in Scrigg. The local Mill was at Judge's house. Later the farmers got scythes and a "meitheal" of men worked in one field with the best men to wet the scythe being fully employed sharpening scythes at one end of it.

Then came the mowing machines pulled by horses and these would work for twenty-four hours a day with a change of horses. Jim Lyons R.I.P. was one of the first to have a mowing machine in the area. These were later replaced by the tractor and mower.

During the war of Independence I was supposed to be the head of I.R.B. Intelligence in Roscommon.

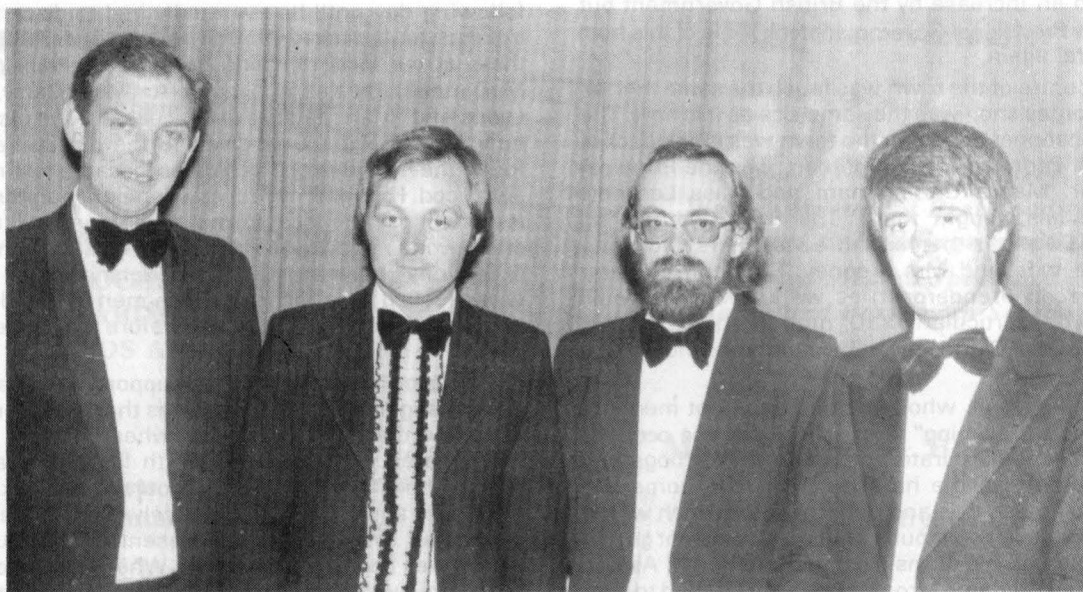
We had to cut the roads to deter the British and this was hard work. I remember advising some volunteer s not to cut a particular road but my warning went unheeded and the four men were blown up but luckily three of them survived the blast.

For recreation the local lads would throw in a few bob and have a "join party". The women did the cooking, and porter was served to the men and claret to the women, by two non - drinkers. The clergy banned those and I recall Canon McHugh raiding one of them with a stick. This eventually led to the establishment of the four penny dance halls and today's disco's with all their inherent dangers.

Fr. Moan and myself started the Catholic Boy Scouts in 1931. The main activity was drilling and going on camp. We went to Rome in 1932. I was Commissioner for the Diocese at one stage. The other Scouts used to stage plays and concerts. Pat Kirby R.I.P. was a great singer. Eamon Murray was great on the violin, Oliver Cunningham was one of the best actors we ever had. I remember him acting the part of an old woman in Pearse's Play "The Mother" and his own mother didn't know him! The same night he played the part of a Belfast urchin at a football match and George Fitzmaurice and himself acted as two street girls. Patsy Cunningham was a good actor also. The first Scout den was in Ruane's where Peter Lynch later lived and over the present day Abbey Dry Cleaners premises.

There was no vandalism in those days. The Scouts kept the young boys occupied. In my whole time in the Boy's School - only 4 panes of glass were broken and these had to be replaced by parents of the offender and cost around 10 shillings.

We had no proper playing facilities and little progress was made in any form of athletic training. Unfortunately the boys had to be content with rough and tumble games in the playground.



The Junior Chamber Debating Team which won the National Debating Competition:
Left to Right: John Mooney, John Higgins, Chris Pratt, John Dillon-Leetch.

Dr. E. A. Waldron

By Seamus Durkan



DR. WALDRON

To write an article on one such as Dr. Waldron is a daunting prospect and to try to compress it into a few hundred words is a task which can only be faced with diffidence if not trepidation; for Dr. Waldron's 41 yrs. of dedication and diligent service to the Community has made his name synonymous with that of Ballyhaunis. However, brevity does not mean lack of esteem and affection: *bionn blas ar an mbeagan!*"

Born in Ballaghadreen sixty-nine years ago, he qualified as a medical doctor in U.C.G. in 1934. He was a brilliant student and he has remained a student all his life: his rich experience was enhanced by further study and he kept up with every modern advance in medicine. After a period as house surgeon in the old Central Hospital - now replaced by the Regional Hospital - Galway, he practised medicine at the Derby Royal Infirmary, then returned to Ireland and set up practice in Ballyhaunis in 1939.

For a Waldron, to come to Ballyhaunis was to return to his own, a return to his roots, for the origins of his family lie deeply embedded in Ballyhaunis history. In common with many old established Ballyhaunis families he was surrounded by relatives of varying degree of kinship, and with such a wide connection his future prospects were bright from the very beginning.

Like many a young doctor his material possessions were slight, and in a wartime - or emergency - situation his calls had to be made on a bicycle but these drawbacks were overcome by the wealth of his professional talents...his personality...his sense of appreciation and understanding...these built up a reputation and practice that challenged his indomitable goodwill, stamina, and bicycle! Thirty miles radius would be a fair estimate of his normal working district, but he had clients even further a field. Today, or in the not too distant future, such a range of activity would seem to demand the service of a helicopter!

As a man his most outstanding attribute must be his simplicity and humility: to his immediate friends - and they are many - he was "Eamon" to others he was Dr. Eamon - a title of affection as well as respect.

As a young doctor he worked a full day - indeed in those early days he could be called on at any time of the day or night on any day of the week. Though the financial reward for his labour was a mere pittance when his ability and professional qualifications are taken in to account yet his service to both rich and poor, was of the high standard that has made the name of Irish G.P.'s honoured throughout the medical world. He was especially kind to women and children and they thronged his waiting-room with hope and trust.

He was blessed in his family life with the help of his wife, Ann, who could be said to be his first receptionist. With her help, the happiness of his daughters, and the blessing of robust health, he threw himself wholeheartedly into his work and the service of the Community.

At his home, St. Anne's, on the aptly named "Doctors Rd.," he interested himself in raising purebred cattle, and ponies. His interest in the latter made him a keen follower of Racing and later he became a racehorse owner.

He was what we call in Ireland, a "sportsman" and the game of cards was high on his recreational list of pastimes. He was a skilled Bridge player, but 110 and Poker also occupied him. There was a ritual card game which went on every Sunday night for years; it had a regular "school", but the venue alternated between Dr. Waldron's and Dr. Joyce's. There was an unwritten rule that if a sick call came the host doctor stayed with the guests, while the visitor took to the road.

Eamon had to answer many calls that did not require his medical skill, but demanded his talents of prudence and tact: over the years he was called on to handle many local problems - problems that were big in the life of a small community. Inevitably he was asked to take on the difficult task of chairing controversial meetings and arbitrate on or solve some dispute. His courtesy, ability and urbanity in these thorny fields were unsurpassed.

My first contact with Dr. Eamon was when I was a young Scout Leader during the early years of the Emergency. He kindly gave a course in First Aid to the senior Scouts. It is interesting to recall that the examination at the end of this course took place in the Old Vocational School, then situated at the back of Forde's, on the Square.

I don't know how many organisations he was involved in, but his longest membership must have been that of the Golf Club. I understand he has been a member ever since his arrival in Ballyhaunis and has filled many of its offices, including that of being the incoming President. He was a founder member of the Bridge Club: he belonged to the Billiard and Snooker Club and is a keen fisherman. In all these pursuits he excelled.

From its inception he was a very active member of the Ballyhaunis Town Improvements Committee,

which later became the Development Association. During my years as Honourary Secretary, he did his stint as Chairman. The Development Association endeavoured to attract Industry to the town, but not all its efforts were crowned with success - Dr. Eamon may have delivered half the babies in Ballyhaunis district, but one "baby" he failed to deliver was the "Liga Baby!"

The Development Committee spent years at meetings, discussions, in travelling and entertaining..... all in an effort to secure this factory for Ballyhaunis. Eamon Waldron was very much involved in these negotiations. In 1954 we flew to Holland, for a few days. We had lengthy discussions with the founder, and his son, the Manager. We were confident of success, as the Dutch principals had made a return visit to Ballyhaunis. A site was purchased, plans were drawn up, a sizable government grant was allocated, and packing of the product was actually done in Ballyhaunis. But the project never materialised and as to why...it seems we will never know!

On that trip to Holland, Eamon caused near consternation in one of the most high class stores in Amsterdam: he went to purchase an Easter Bonnet for Ann, but began his business in Irish! The store prided itself on its ability to conduct its business in a wide range of foreign languages, and immediately called on all their linguists...however none could even recognise the strange tongue. Finally he put an end to their embarrassment by graciously turning to English!

Raw Herring...A Dutch delicacy that was recommended to us...is not to everyone's taste! Our host in Amsterdam was a connoisseur in food and he persuaded Eamon to have a go. Being a man of simple taste I went for the very attractive Ice Cream. That night Eamon did not feel too well...his comment to our travelling companion was "Don't tell Durkan!"

Among his medical colleagues he was highly respected and for many years was a member of the Irish Medical Association.

Only someone who was closely associated with him in his many and varied activities could do full justice in a short article to man of such stature as Eamon Waldron...he was involved in so many activities that one wonders where he got the time, but then, isn't the old proverb proved to be true. "Only a busy man can make time!"

The following is the text of the inscription on the illuminated scroll which was presented to Dr. E.A. Waldron by the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding area on August 15th 1980 to mark his retirement.

Don Dhochtuir Eamon A. de Bhaldraithe ona chairde, muintir Bheal Atha h-Amhnais agus an ceannntar maguaird, beannahct agus buiochas.

Practice, the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding districts take this opportunity to express to you, Dr. Eamon A. Waldron, their gratitude, esteem and affectionate good wishes for a long, happy and serene retirement.

We recall with a special affection your healing skill as a physican when you brought relief and health to so many stricken on a bed of pain: your strengthening presence, counsel and friendship in the homes of sick and your ever present humour and wit that reassured and brought consolation to so many. In the social and economic life of our community you were ever ready to support and further the development of schemes to improve the quality of life, and in the field of charity, only God can know the full extent of your kindness to the less fortunate, the lonely, the handicapped, those in hidden need.

As a doctor you were aware of the value of leisure and you promoted the games and pastimes that not only amuse but develop the physical body: the pursuits that develop too the sturdiness of spirit that enriches the whole man in his spiritual destiny. In such varied recreations as Golf and Bridge you showed that you were no mean exponent of these activities which you so generously fostered. As a follower of the Sport of Kings you brought lustre to our area and we all shared in your triumphs on the turf.

Finally, we thank God, for your witness as a truly committed Christian Gentleman, an Irishman who was proud of his heritage and has deeply carved an unfading place in our affections.

In this testimonial you will find scenes of your beloved and loving Ballyhaunis: like Virgil you will perhaps say:

"Forsan at haec olim meminisse juvabit" - "Perhaps it will be joy to remember these things one day." Aen. Bk. 1.

Beannacht De, na Maighdene glormhaire is ar do bhealach do bhothar is do chasan.

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BALLYHAUNIS REVISITED

Patrick Joseph Dyer produced the following poem in 1933 on a visit to Ballyhaunis with his war experiences in France in 1918 still engraven in his mind. Mr. Dyer is still alive and well in the U.S.A. (Reprinted by courtesy of the 'Western People')

'Tis nigh 40 years since I left Ballyhaunis
And crossed the wild ocean, a living to make
When saying farewell to my friends and companions
My heart so sad, that I thought it would break.

I remember that morning - it was in the Gay
Springtime,

The sun shone out bright and the merry bird sang.
The primrose peeped shyly from under the hedgerow
While loud in clear air, the cuckoo's note sang.

Tho' many the years passed, it seems but a day since,
My Mother and Father I kissed o'er and o'er.

It was little, I thought, when they murmured "God
speed you."

My best friends on earth I'd never see more.

In the Churchyard beyond, they are calmly reposing,
Their life's toil is o'er and their spirits at rest,
And I often wonder when thinking about them,
If they e'er think me in the Land of the Blest!

O dear Ballyhaunis, the day that we parted
A stout strapping gosoon, I was, straight and tall,
My hair raven black and my laugh light and hearty,
But nobody's left now to know me at all.

I search for old faces, I seek out old friends,
Where, where are they gone to - where can they be
found?

Ah! some like the swallows have wandered far away,
And some **worn** out, have sunk into the ground.

I lean o'er the bridge and I watch the stream
flowing

Its music is soothing and pleasant to hear;
I gaze on the hillside and see the old Abbey,
Like sentinel looking afar and anear.

Forlorn and lonely I stroll all the main streets round
The Main St., and Knox St., Bridge St., as well;
The church and fairgreen, the square and ball-alley,
Each place calls up memories, to many to tell.

The saintly old Canon is long gone to glory,
I kneel o'er the spot where now sleeping he lies,
A kiss I imprint on the cold ground above him,
And pray for his soul with soft tears in my eyes.

I saunter along towards the field where the races,
Where held in the old times, once famed Tooraree,
But no trace of the horses, the tents or the
grandstand,
Nor merry crowds jostling at all can I see.

With ghosts of the past in my memory haunted
And sad recollection come thronging around,
Deserted and empty my heart feels within me,
When things loved of yore can never be found.

The fair and market, the 'Pattern' and races
Were days of delight, for the young and old;
The sports on the fairgreen, the football on Sundays
Oh! thoughts of my Boyhood more precious than
I miss Dr. Creán and likewise John No Neary, gold!
The "Big" and "Small" Waldron's and stout Conor

Flynn,
Tom Caulfield, John Charles and bold Pat
McConville,
James Greally, Pat Smyth and some more decent
men.

John Mac, Thomas Neary and honest James Lyons,
Mike Murphy, 'Strong Board' as we used to call him
then,

And jolly Tom Glavey, who lived down in Knox Street,
With Gallaghers sermons held up to his chin.

To name all the friends, and the kindly old people,
Whose faces and manners, I clearly recall,
Would take a long day from Sunrise to Sundown,
Gods Blessing be with them, I pray one and all.

The changes are many I see all about me,
And strange are the faces I gaze on today;
Familiar old names from the signboards are vanished
The new pushing old ever out of the way.

O dear Ballyhaunis, the first time we parted,
A fine hardy lad, 'troth I was to be sure;
I roughed it some since, and though tough was the
struggle,

I can hold my head high-I was honest tho' poor.

My locks are now white, and the years weigh upon
me,

This brow is all wrinkled and furrowed with care;
Like a trojan I've fought in the thick of life's battle,
And won all the rewards a poor lad could get there.

To no one on earth do I now owe a dollar,
For whom the sun shone out I tried to make hay,
And this is no brag, tho' I say it as shouldn't,
A trifle I saved for the dark rainy day.

Farewell, Ballyhaunis, I now must be going,
But maybe God willing, some day I'll come back
To glide like a ghost thro' your streets, lanes and
alleys,

To see how you like and what things you still lack.
My blessing be with you every night, noon and
morning,

You hold all that's dearest to me upon earth-
The dust of my people and home of fondest
memories,

Adieu Ballyhaunis, the land of my birth.

Patrick Joseph Dyer.

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

Mike Jennings was born in February of 1904 and lives in Logboy. Jim Landon spent a few hours talking to him about his life and times.

MEMORIES OF THE PAST:

We began talking about school days. Mike attended Logboy National School and left in 1919 or so. Over 130 pupils attended. Each scholar brought a crib of turf and made a reek in the school yard. School began at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 3.30 p.m. except for the 'drilling'. He remembers an R.I.C. Sergeant from Redpark coming into the school to ask the Principal to get the 5th, 6th and 7th class boys to drill and be ready for conscription. They used to drill in the church yard. The subjects included Arithmetic, English, History, Singing and Catechism. There was no Irish.

MARRIAGE

People got married at a very young age, he continued - many at eighteen and nineteen. The boy would work for a farmer at 2/6 per day. He stayed with the farmer and she stayed with her father. After a time they got a cottage - built with stones. A cwt. of cement cost 2 shillings and £2.00 would buy timber for the house. Elopements were also fairly common. Matchmaking was also fairly common, often done in a Ballyhaunis pub - a girl would be expected to have £300 - £400 of a dowry. His grandfather told him of a girl who had a dowry of only four bundles of rods for thatching.

FAIRS

Mike's stories about fairs were fascinating. On the fair day he was up at 5.00 a.m., had breakfast and left for the fairgreen at 6.30 a.m. Springing cows were £20.00. springing heifers were between £15.00 and £19.00. The town was crowded with 'cheapjacks' who sold tools, buckets, clothes etc., were weighed. People bought year old calves for £8.00 to £9.00.

One day when he was in 6th class, his father bought a few pigs into Ballyhaunis to house them for the fair. He met a cousin who helped him. They went for a drink and had two pints; he had a bottle of lemonade and chocolate - costing the large sum of 5d or 2½p in today's money. That was in 1919.

DAYS OUT

St. Patrick's Day was the big day in Ballyhaunis. The Galway Bagpipe Band came in horse drawn carriages. The Bohola Band also came. A cattle fair was from 6.00 a.m. to dark. Thousands crowded into the town including men selling ash - plants for the fights that often took place in the evening. People walked, came by donkey, came by carts or traps into the town. Another big day was the Day of the Races at the Racecourse on the Knock Rd. The horses were stalled at Farragher's "Dudley Arms Hotel" - now George Delaney's. The day after the Galway Races the races were held in Ballyhaunis. There was a Grandstand, tents selling various wares and of course drink. Admission was one shilling for adults and sixpence for children.

WAKES

Wakes were a big occasion. If a man died at 2.00 a.m. he was waked all day. Two barrels of stout were bought in Ballyhaunis, a few bottles of whiskey, various wines and nearly half a bullock. Crowds gathered in the dead house and the more crying done by the old women the more whiskey they got. He remembers one eighty-two year old as being the best of the lot. When a person knew he was dying he got two bundles of straw to be burned in the kitchen to remind him of Jesus in the crib. When people died they were laid out on two tables with three sheets around them in a crib style. There was no journey to the church only to the cemetery and at 3.00 p.m.

THE U.S.A. CONNECTION

In the Jennings family in Logboy there were three sons and two daughters. Michael and Mary reside in the home place. Patrick, now deceased, has two sons, William and John. John Jennings is married in the U.S.A. and has four daughters. Finally there was Nora Jennings and her story is interesting. Nora Jennings married Mr. George Joseph Bates who was later to become Mayor of Boston and be elected a Republican Congressman. In 1947 after the war, Congressman Bates and Nora visited Logboy before



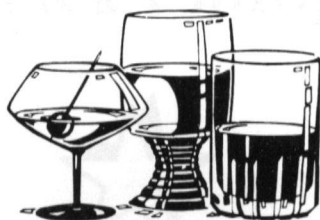
U.S. Congressman George Joseph Bates with his wife, Nora (nee Jennings).

going on to meet President De Valera and the Irish Government to arrange for Marshall Aid to be granted to Ireland. This was duly done and they departed to visit sixteen other countries regarding the granting of Marshall Aid to them from the U.S. Government. Three years later Congressman Bates was killed in a plane crash with 46 others in Washington. He was granted a full state funeral. He was survived by his sons William who was also elected Congressman; George Joseph now an airline executive; and Raymond who visited Logboy in 1980, and two daughters, Carolyn and Kay, now Mrs. Ginnty, who visited Logboy in 1978.

TEST YOUR WITS

ANSWERS:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Thornton | 11. Halal |
| 2. Main | 12. Friars |
| 3. The White Horse Inn | 13. Delaney |
| 4. Kilkelly | 14. Silver Dollar |
| 5. Tooreen | 15. Cherryfield |
| 6. Horan | 16. Tooraree |
| 7. The Gem | 17. Wrangler |
| 8. Mercy | 18. Horseshoe |
| 9. Annagh | 19. Lantern |
| 10. Bekan | 20. O'Malley |



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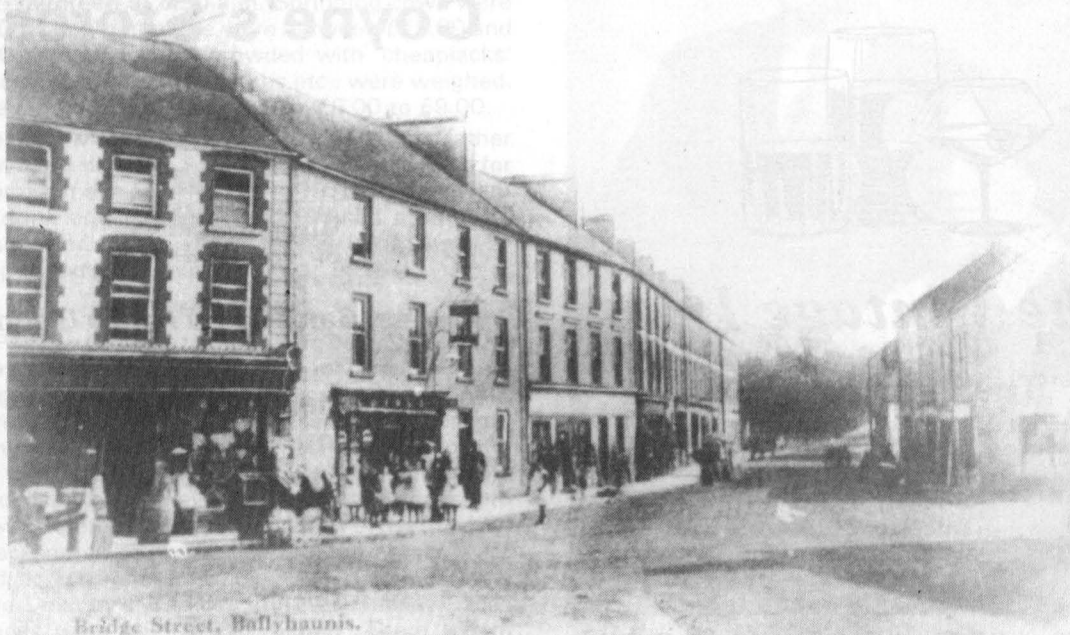
Memory Lane



Guard Michel Duggan, one of the first Civic Guards to be stationed in Ballyhaunis, photographed with Mr. Luke O'Dwyer & Mrs. Margaret Halpin in 1922.



T. Flatley, T.C.R.G. Ballyhaunis, with his winning three-hand 'reel' group at Sligo Feis in 1948. Members of the group were left to right: Ann O'Boyle, Seamus Forde & Helen Henry.



Bridge Street, Ballyhaunis.
This rare view of the town is taken from a postcard printed by Coyne's, The Square, before the First World War.

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