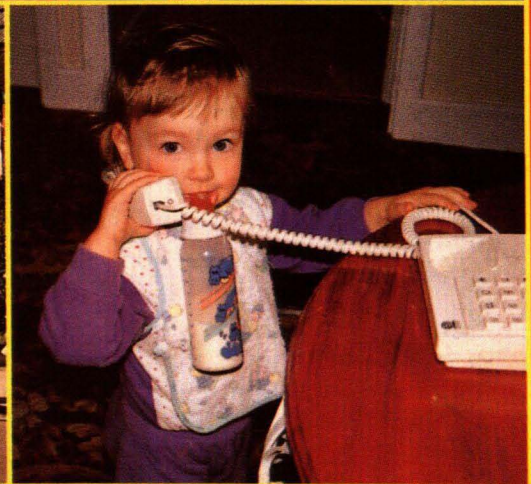
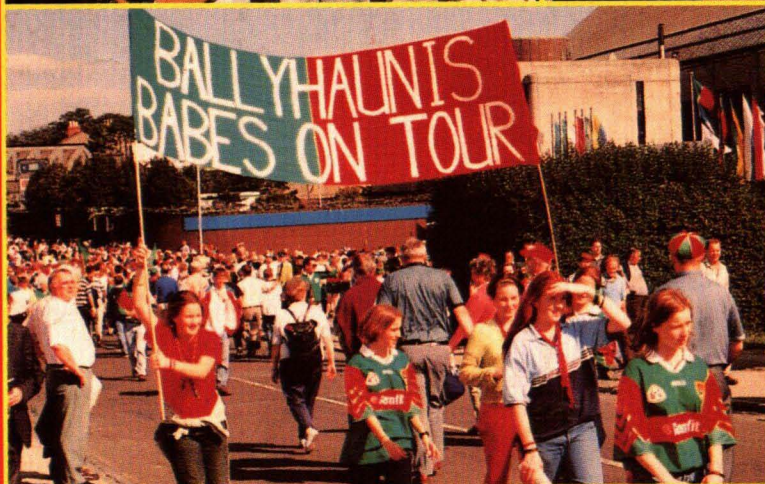
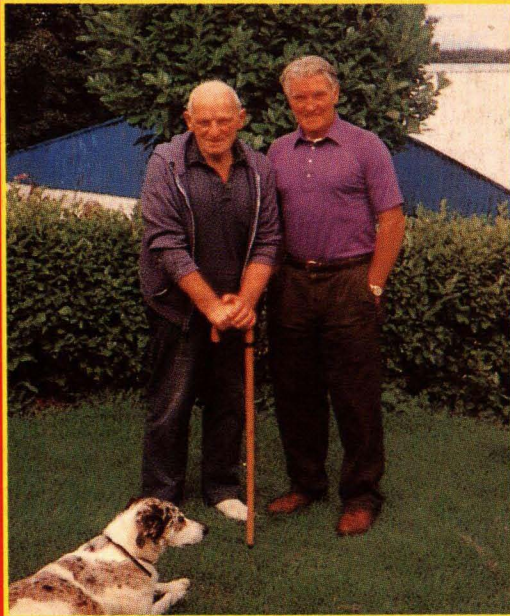


# Annagh '96



**Ballyhaunnis Annual Magazine**



# Christmas Greetings

**T**HE arrival of the Annagh Magazine heralds the arrival of Christmas and, once again, may I wish all the people of the parish a very happy and holy Christmas and may Christ, the new-born child of Bethlehem, be your guiding light during the coming year.

*I extend a hearty Céad Míle Failte to all who will be home for the Christmas festivities, and it is my earnest prayer that nothing will happen, during Christmas or the New Year, to dampen the happiness of any family.*

*As we, at home in Ballyhaunis, prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ, we remember with love and affection those who will not be coming home and we assure them through the pages of Annagh Magazine that they are not forgotten and will have a special place in our Masses on Christmas day.*

*For most people, Christmas is a time of joy and happiness but for some it is lonely and sad. It can be lonely for people who are living alone and may not have anyone to visit them, and sad for those who lost a loved one since last Christmas, but we want them to know that they will not be forgotten on Christmas morning.*

*On behalf of Father O'Grady and myself, I pray God's blessing on you and your families and wish you every blessing in 1997.*

**Fr. Joseph Cooney,**  
P.P., Ballyhaunis.





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*Editorial - 1996*

# *Welcome to this, the nineteenth issue of Annagh Magazine*

**T**HIS year marks the tenth anniversary of the death of Anto O'Malley, the founding Editor of the Annagh Magazine. In the first Annagh in 1978, Anto closed his editorial by expressing the hope that it would be the first of a long-running series. Thankfully, his hopes have been borne out as the magazine is about to complete its first two decades as an Annual Publication, by and for the people of the parish of Annagh. Its regular appearance every year since 1978 is due entirely to the generosity of those who contribute articles, photographs and other items for publication each year, and the hard work of a dedicated and selfless Committee. Of course, the whole thing would be impossible without our Patrons to whom we issue sincere thanks for their support over the years.

For some time now, the Annagh Magazine

has retailed at £2. This year, because of a significant increase in printing costs, it has become necessary to raise the price to £3. I am sure that most of its readers will think this is still good value.

John P. Healy a regular and popular contributor to the Annagh magazine died in 1995. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

In conclusion, I hope you, the readers and supporters of the Annagh will enjoy this issue of the Annagh magazine. I hope you find something familiar amongst its pages that you can identify with from your past, and also that you will discover something, or a lot more about the present, progressive local community that comprises Ballyhaunis and the parish of Annagh.

*Paul Waldron, Editor.*

## *Cover Photographs 1996*

**FRONT COVER**, clockwise, from top left: Jim Moylette (Curries) and Sean Regan (Tooraree and U.S.A.); Albert Madden, Brian Mulrennan and Martin Brennan (Gurteen); Station in Drimbane, left to right, Mrs Drudy, Mrs. Angela Cribbin, Mrs. Noreen Horkan and Mrs. Sarah McGarry; Louise O'Toole, granddaughter of Henry and Kathleen Madden (Gurteen); "Ballyhaunis Babes on Tour" on the way to Croke Park, Autumn 1996; David Nestor, county footballer with his parents, Billy and Eileen, and brother, William.

**BACK COVER**, clockwise, from top left: The Hogan Stand, Croke Park, included are Denise Madden (Gurteen), Dee Dee and Mary Hosty (Levallyroe), and Peter Hannon (Devlis); Apostolic Workers, back, left to right - Kitty Corless, Kathleen Coyne and Kathleen Finn; front, left to right - May Moyles and Bridie Brennan; Johnny McGarry (Drimbane) on violin and Jimmy Walsh (Knockbrack) singing; the Biesty family of Carrowkeel, clockwise - Mrs. Anne, Stephen, Pat, Paul and Lydia, with bog butter in the foreground; left to right - Bernie McDonagh, Seamus Mongan and Simon McDonagh; Award winners, left to right; Pierce Higgins, Darren Conlon, Keith Higgins, Tim Shanley and David Conlon; Ballyhaunis natives meet at the Mayo World Convention in Philadelphia, left to right - Bridie and Cyril Foudy (Toronto), Walter Waldron (Chicago), Sean Finn (New York), Debbie and James Toolan (Allentown, P.A.); All-Ireland Community Games silver medallist, Yvonne Byrne, with her parents, Margaret and Pat Byrne (Knox Street).

## **Officers and Committee**

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Chairperson	Maura Griffin
Editor	Paul Waldron
Asst. Editor	Jim Lundon
Secretary	Agnes Heaney
P.R.O.	Máísín Meath
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Jim Cribbin, Martin Forde, Murt Hunt, Michael Godfrey, Peter McCafferty, Joe Hosty, Matt O'Dwyer, Josephine Ganley.



# Grallagh

ON a T.V. quiz show recently a viewers' question was flashed across the screen. It read "Johnstown in South Africa?" No doubt many viewers in the locality had no difficulty in answering "Johannesburgh." If the question had read "Grallagh in Annagh?" would it be answered with the same ease? Although Grallagh is the official name of a large townland in the parish of Annagh and located about a mile and a half from Ballyhaunis, the placename seldom crops up in everyday conversation. The name comes into use mainly in legal matters relating to the sale or transfer of property, and on election day when the name comes to the fore. In the register of electors for the Ballyhaunis Electoral Division, Grallagh is well endowed with voters and is conveniently located for picking up stragglers as the booths are about to close. It is easily located on the Ordnance Survey map, south of Ballyhaunis along the N83. If you are driving or hiking along the N83 from Ballyhaunis you could be forgiven for thinking that you are on the road to nowhere, at any rate the Dutch back packers thought so when they stopped to ask whether they had misread their map or was this the way to Galway? They had found the road to be so narrow, crooked and dangerous that they were considering

*By Jim Cribbin*

turning back until they were told to keep going, the first mile is the worst and you'll find things improving as you approach Grallagh. That, of course, is not the only road leading to the place: you can get there via the straighter Log-boy road if you wish.

## Placenames

When the Ordnance Survey was carried out in the 1830's, in addition to map-making, notes were also made on the names of townlands, their location, acreage and sites of historical interest. Those notes relating to the locality can be referred to in the local Library and are of considerable interest. Here are some abstracts dealing with the townland of Grallagh:

"Grallagh or Johnstown - In the central part of the Parish of Annagh, bounded on the North by Abbeyquarter and Lecarrow; on the East by Adarrig and Gortnageeragh; on the South by Derryleagh and Corraun; on the West by Agloragh and Drumbaun. The property of Lord Dillon, containing 611 acres, 2 roods, 1 perch statute measure, of which 10 acres are bog. There is a road running North to South through the central part



Joseph Cribbin and his wife Margaret (R.I.P.), Johnstown. Taken in 1937.

of the townland. There is also an old burial ground on the North side of the townland."

Many of these details remain unchanged, but there are some changes and some of the details are debatable. The title to the place is no longer held by one man. To say it is in the centre of the parish is confusing until we reflect on the fact that the parish referred to here is the civil parish of Annagh, much larger in area than the church parish. It is also implied that Grallagh and Johnstown are one and the same place. It is as incorrect to say that Johnstown is Grallagh as it is incorrect to say Northern Ireland is Ulster! Johnstown is a part of Grallagh (granted a substantial part), but there are two places in the West of the townland where the name Johnstown never applied: Churchpark and Bushisland. In addition, there are two areas in the South where the names Clossagh and Ballinamona were used as placenames. Clossagh, as a placename, is still used; Ballinamona has not been used in living memory, but gives us a clue as to where the ten acres of bog mentioned earlier on were located.

All placenames give us a clue about something and are an interesting area of



On their way to John Joe and Mary Cleary's Wedding. L-R: Mick Lyons (R.I.P.), his wife Bridie, Shelia and Pat Byrne. The child in front is Mary Francis Byrne.



study. The name Grallagh is interpreted by the Ordnance Survey people as a "mirey place" and they give other variations of the name as Grallaghnadmaddy and quote Strafford's Survey of Mayo (1635) for the name Gralla na madra. Churchpark, as a placename, is self explanatory. The ruins of the Church are still there: it is known as Kilmullen and the old cemetery is beside it. Bald's Map (surveyed c.1807-20) seems to indicate its existence with a Cross. Bushisland also speaks for itself: Joe Glynn is its only inhabitant now. Clossagh is of interest as a placename in that many variations of the name are known: in the early roll books of Derrylea National School the name is variously recorded as Clossagh, Glossagh, Glossagunneen etc., while Clossaghnaconneen was the only long version of the name that was used in living memory. Excluding Churchpark and reflecting on the place-names we can only conclude that our ancient ancestors found this to be a mirey place of bushes, bogs, dogs and rabbits.

Like Churchpark, Johnstown is not an ancient name. We have no knowledge as to when it was adopted or imposed. The earliest date available just now is 1796. The only information I have about its origin was given to me years ago by Andy Bailey, a great local historian and folklorist who lived in Bargariff. His information was that the place is named after one John Eakins who started trading, buying corn and other farm produce. I can recall that Andy stressed that the man had the only weighing scales in the locality. It is well documented that a family of Eakins lived in the townland for a considerable part of the nineteenth century. They were not landowners and were tenants of the landlord like everybody else. We also know that they resided where Seamus Walsh now lives. About ten years ago when Seamus was repairing a building, which was at one time a dwelling house, he came across as old 56lb weight of unusual design. We do not know whether there is a connection between Andy Bailey's story and the old weight. Steps are being taken to have the weight dated.

## Population

Staying with the nineteenth century, we find a very densely populated townland. In an article in last year's Annagh magazine, Paul Waldron writes that according to the census of 1841 there were eighty-five occupied houses in Grallagh which was fifteen houses more than there were in the entire town of Ballyhaunis at the time. However, there were dark clouds on the horizon. "Black '47" was only a few years away and when we consult Griffith's Valuation of



Three generations from Johnstown: Ellen Loftus (R.I.P.), her daughter Bridie Fitzmaurice and her children Mary, John and Micheál (R.I.P.). Taken in 1955.

1856, we find there were forty-six houses occupied. The decline continued until the early 1970s when there were twenty-one occupied houses. There has been a steady increase over the past two decades mainly as a result of the place becoming a residential area. The number of occupied houses just now is twenty-nine.

Indeed it is more urban than rural early each morning as many of its residents get into their cars and "commute to the city," while across the road the revving of engines and the clatter of steel against steel comes from a spot where just two decades ago the only noise heard was the call of the corn-crake. We are rapidly becoming a Southern suburb of Ballyhaunis.



Joe Horkan (R.I.P.) and his brother Willie, Churchpark.

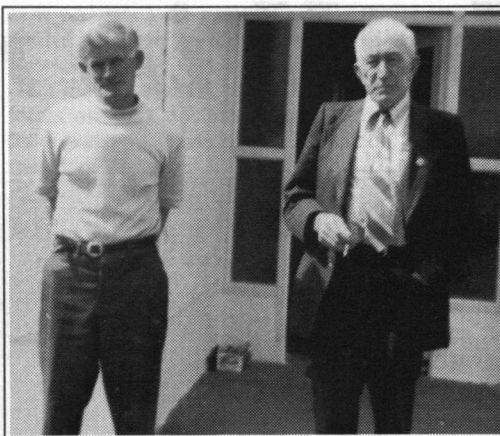


## Boundaries

When the boundaries of the townland were fixed it looked compact enough on the map but it never functioned as a tightly-knit community. This was not because of the people but because of Geography. The townland is served by two roads: one running close to the Eastern boundary and the other just outside the Western boundary in Drumbane. Along those two roads the houses of Grallagh are located and between them almost the entire land mass of the townland. "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet." We did not meet in school at any rate. Because of convenience children from Churchpark and Bushisland went to school in Ballyhaunis. Derrylea school was located twenty yards from the Johnstown boundary. So from an early age we went different roads. Now, when we meet in town and head for home, we still make, what one man of wit described as, "a pincer movement" at the railway bridge and go home by different roads.

It could also be said that the place was partitioned along religious lines: Johnstown was always a separate station area, while Churchpark, Bushisland and Drumbane form a united station area. We even drink different water: Johnstown gets its supply from Levallyroe while Churchpark and Bushisland get theirs from what is still called Jack Lyons' well. Having said all that (for the craic) there are more things that unite us than divide us. There never was an Iron Curtain between Eastern and Western Grallagh.

Apart from the ruined Church there is little now to be seen from the past. The only ancient traces in abundance are what are known as fulachta fiadh. These are ancient cooking sites where a pit was dug in a damp spot, allowed to fill with



Luke McGuire and Jimmy Gannon, both deceased.

water, into which hot stones were thrown, heating the water to cook meat. They are recognised by the burnt broken stone scattered around the site. The most exciting archaeological find in recent times was made in 1985 by Austin Lyons when he discovered a bronze spearhead which was dated by the Archaeological Department of U.C.G. at between 1200 and 400 BC.

Now it will be useful to add an abstract from Griffith's Valuation compiled in 1856. It gives the names of tenants in Grallagh in that year. Some of the surnames are spelled differently than they are today, even that in itself should prove interesting:

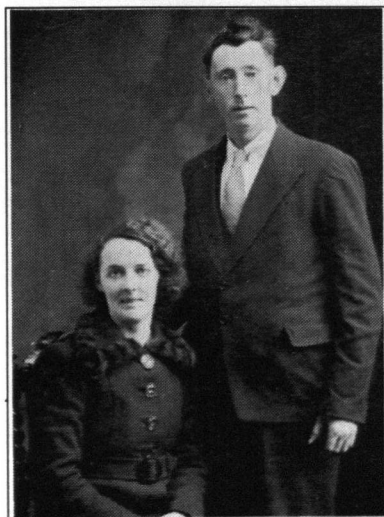
James Durr, James Lyons, Andrew Forde, Patrick Haigney, Edward Molloy, Margaret Lyons, James Kennion, Thomas Glinn, Bryan Lyons, Bridget McGrail, John Dillon, Michael Waldron (forge), Martin Boyle, Owen Reilly, Bridget Logan, Thomas Murphy, Thomas Loftus, Patrick Reilly, Michael Loftus, Bridget Kelly, John Fitzgerald, Michael McDonnell, Hubert Jordan, James Walsh, James Clyney, Lawrence



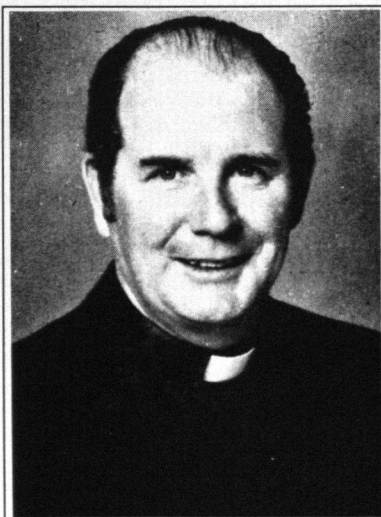
Sarah Grouke (R.I.P.), Johnstown. Taken c. 1920.

Murphy, Patrick Ruane, Michael Dillon, John Ruane, John Walsh, James Eakins, Patrick Moore, Patrick Jennings, David Lyons, John Ruane, Timothy Byrne, Thomas Byrne, John Jennings, Patrick Cruise, James Cruise and John Cunniffe.

All those named, with the exception of Bridget McGreal and Bridget Logan, had land rented directly from the Landlord. Many of the family names survive and many more of the names have changed even though the farms are still occupied by the descendants of those named in the 1856 list. The name changes have taken place as a result of the farm being inherited by a female and the name having changed with her marriage. The following list gives the "old name" first, followed by the present occupiers name: Reilly to Cribbin, Loftus first to Fitzmaurice then to McGuire, Coughlan to Jordan, Moore to Gildea, Jennings to Cleary, Cunniffe to Gilmore, Molloy to Horkan, Fitzgerald to Healy, Delaney to Lyons. Grallagh in the past was, it seems, an attractive place for men on the "look out" for women with land.



Wedding photograph of Paddy and Mary Cleary (R.I.P.), Johnstown.



Fr. Austin Cribbin, Churchpark. Ordained 1956.



Catherine Morris Drury. Photograph taken in the U.S. prior to 1860. She is a great-grandmother of Seamus Walsh, Johnstown.



# Football in my life

**M**Y first taste of success was at the tender age of ten. The pride that I felt lifting the "Mick O'Connell Cup" was just equal to that of any County footballer raising the "Sam Maguire Cup" aloft. It was always my ambition to do that and, twelve years on, that dream nearly came true.

*By David Nestor*

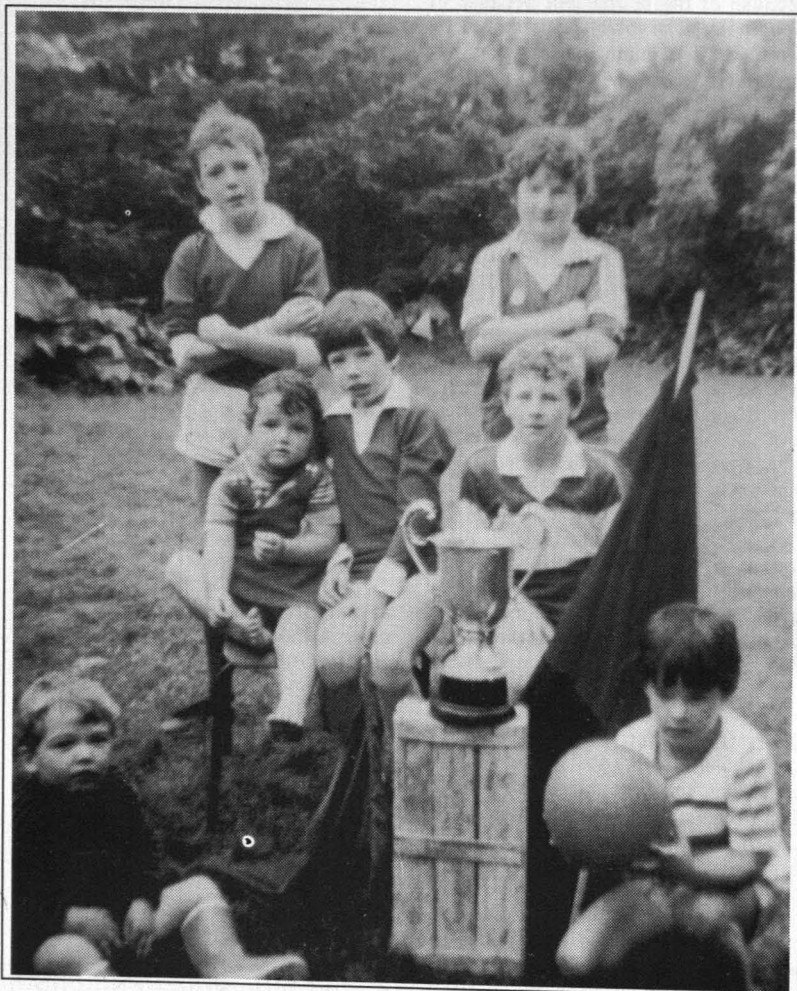
My memories as a child bring me back to famous stadia such as "The Paddock" and "Thornton's back garden" where All-Ireland Finals took place every day of the week. The picture above shows some of the great stalwarts of those glory days: the towering Eamonn Thornton who was a hard man in those days, and the legendary Andrew Smyth whose running commentaries still echo loudly in my ears. We all wanted to play football, to win and to play for Mayo. We played in all sorts of weather just so that we could play for Mayo. Looking back, it was the determination and skill that I learned during those years that surely enabled me to don the red and green jersey for the first time for the Mayo Under-16 team in 1990. Since then, my football career has taken a roller-coaster ride.

I joined the Mayo Senior panel in October 1995 and made my debut against Galway in the National League. We battled our way to the semi-finals of the League where we were defeated by Derry in Croke Park.

"Yes, I did It, I've played in Croke Park! All my dreams have come true," I thought, but, they were only starting.

In case you haven't heard, Mayo reached the All-Ireland Final this year. In fact, they reached two, and I was one of those lucky men to be part of it. After over-coming the challenges of London, Roscommon, Galway and Kerry I found myself with the prospect of playing again in Croke Park, but, this time in an All-Ireland final.

The excitement and build-up to the final was unreal. The talk, the songs, the nutters painting cars, houses, telephone poles, kerbs, sheep and anything else they could find, was just amazing. My Dad's pub was like a shrine, and the shop windows in town gave a great atmosphere to the occasion. It was brilliant to see young people walking around wearing the Mayo jersey and,



Back, L-R: Eamon Thornton and Andrew Smyth. Middle, L-R: Roisín Thornton, Shane Mooney and David Nestor. Front, L-R: Darragh Eagney and Patrick Keane.

even more so, to see them get tickets to see the Final (God Bless the Prenty family and the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Committee for their dedication and hard work, I hope it'll be easier next year!)

My journey to Dublin on Saturday, September 14th was one of the most memorable journeys ever. The send-off I got from the people of Ballyhaunis when our captain Noel Connolly, picked me up, was superb. I was dumbfounded on the journey to see the amount of support behind us. It was wonderful to see banners of good luck in places like Castlerea, Oran and Roscommon, and all the way up to Dublin. Every cross-over on the motorway into Dublin had a Mayo banner with captions such as "With Casey and McHale Mayo won't fail."

## MORNING OF THE ALL-IRELAND

I woke up at around 8 am after a sound night's sleep, and headed off for breakfast at 8.30 where everyone looked fresh and in high spirits. After breakfast, we had mass and I went with two or three of the lads for a light run along Finnstown golf course. One of the most hurtful things I've ever seen occurred during that little run, when my friend and colleague Tony McGarry failed a fitness test, and was thus ruled-out of the big match. It was a blow for the team but we had to keep focused and concentrate on the game. The next one and a half hours were hard to kill. Some of the lads chatted, others went for a walk, while I watched some T.V., which kept my nerves at



bay. We departed for Westmenstown at 12 noon where we had a light lunch. Afterwards we had a short team talk, most of which had been said the previous night. At 1 pm we left Westmenstown and headed for "Sam!"

For me, this is where it all started; family, friends, loved ones and supporters all went out of my mind. I had a job to do, and I had to be completely dedicated to it. I remember now the great trip into Croke Park: the police escort, the thousands of supporters, the red and green flags, the euphoria that had grabbed Dublin, but which I couldn't let grab me. I enjoyed the journey, but at the time I was afraid to think about what was going on. I knew that if I thought about it I would get nervous, so, I just smiled at everyone while I just kept thinking about the game.

When we got to Croke Park we left our gear in the dressing room and went out to see some of the minor match. It was great to soak up the atmosphere, before we had the daunting task of running out in front of that crowd. The training was now done, the talk was over, and I ran out onto that pitch with all the passion and pride that I always knew it would engender in me.

The roar when we ran out was so loud that the ground was vibrating. We took the team photo and had a warm-up before our meeting with the President, which was a great honour. The roar when she greeted us was exhilarating,

as it was when we paraded around the stadium. One incident which still amuses me now, was when we stood to meet the President, I said that I would focus on the Cup, but, to my horror there was no Cup on display, someone must have forgotten it?

## THE GAME

Well, standing in front of Hill 16 in front of 65,000 supporters, looking up at the tricolours above the Nally Stand, was simply out of this world. Yes, just the same as I watched it as a kid on T.V., listening to Amhrán Na Bhfiann, and telling my Mum: "that'll be me some day." That day had come, the tears rolled down my cheeks as thoughts of beloved ones who had sadly passed away; those who had faith in me but never got the chance to see me in Croke Park, crept into my mind.

The whistle sounded, the game began, but it was half-time before I knew it. It was amazing how quickly it went by. The game ended in a draw after we let slip a six-point advantage. I had to watch the last twenty minutes from the bench after being substituted. When Meath equalised and the referee blew the final whistle. It was a huge anticlimax. I didn't know where to turn. The atmosphere was conveyed by a strong murmur; no one knew what was happening, least of all the players. When we got back to the dressing room, the boss resurrected his army

and we turned our thoughts to the future. The game was still there to be won and we knew we could do it.

After the match, I felt sorrier for our supporters than for myself. We let it slip but we still weren't out. The two weeks prior to the replay were very strange. The atmosphere around the county was pretty quiet, I think mainly because people thought we had blown it. However, we knew we hadn't, it was only half-time for us.

Sadly, I was omitted from the team for the replay. It was extremely hard to cope with, but as the game approached, I had to be ready in case I was called upon. I didn't get to play that day but I felt just as important as the team selected. We were always told "there's no 'one' in a team" and this was justified when a proper panel, rather than team photo was taken. The game ended in defeat for Mayo. I wanted the earth to open up and swallow me. The rest of the lads were also devastated. However, we had to pick ourselves up again that evening and begin to look forward to next year.

## COMING HOME

On Monday evening, we made the long journey home by train. It brought tears to my eyes to see the huge crowds at the stations on the way to Castlebar. When we arrived there, about 20,000 people greeted us. I actually felt pretty bad, as if we had short-changed out loyal supporters. We had nothing to offer them - no silverware, absolutely nothing. But, that reception we received was typical of Mayo people.

## THANKING YOU

Reminiscing on the year gone by, it was tremendous for me personally; I also think it was for the supporters too. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and there was a great feeling throughout the county.

I would like to thank the people of Ballyhaunis and Mayo for their encouragement and support throughout the year. I would also like to thank my great family and friends from the bottom of my heart, for their undying love and support which enabled me to achieve some of my greatest ambitions in life. For every young lad with aspirations to play for Mayo and win an All-Ireland Medal, it is truly possible. It just takes a little hard work and practice and a lot of pride and self belief. If you want it badly enough, you can do it!

Go raibh míle maith agaibh de bharr an taca a thug sibh dúinn agus, ta súil agam, go dtabharfaimid "Sam" díbh an bhliain seo chugainn.

## *It's Final Day - we're on our way*



15th September 1996, under the watchful eye of Fr. James O' Grady (right front). Front, L-R: Padraic Carney, Classaroe, Shane Buckley, Knock Road and Brian Mulrennan, Gurteen. Middle L-R: Liam Lyons, Upper Main Street, Keith Higgins, Ballinphuil, Ciarán Griffin, Knock Road and John Prenty, Knock Road. Back L-R: Fergal Walsh, Knock Road, Kimberly Moran, Main Street, Paul Jordan, Johnstown and Ian Prenty, Knock Road.



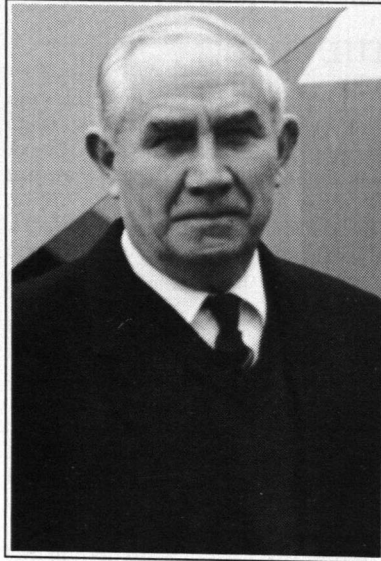
# Tailor Made

**B**ROWSING amongst the clothes racks of a large department store, no one gives a second thought as to where it all began. We are accustomed to "hand-picking" our garments, trying on several in a bid to get our correct size. The fashion moguls dictate our style and the latest fashion trend, while we desperately seek to satisfy them. But it is a far cry from how it used to be when the word "fashion" was still in the future. Going back to an era in the forties and fifties when people lived different lives, clothing themselves was not so simple. While they played at making their own clothes from scraps of material as best they could, the need arose for a more expert craftsman. And so it was here that the skill and expertise of the "tailor" became a vital necessity to the lives of the people in those times.

*By Josephine Ganley  
First published in  
"Profile", June, 1996.*

Joe Keane, a courteous, distinguished gentleman from Knox Street in Ballyhaunis is more than just an ordinary tailor. He is the proud owner of the grand title of "Master Tailor" which will be explained later, and which has earned him the respect and popularity he deserves both in his local community and surrounding areas.

Coming from a family of four (a brother John and a sister Mary now residing in the USA, and a sister Kit in Ballyhaunis) the business, almost one-hundred years old now, was handed down to him by his father Pat Keane, he himself being a master craftsman. Originally from Crossbeg in Tooreen, his father's business had many locations before he finally settled in Ballyhaunis, and this is where Joe remembers as the place he first took an interest in his father's trade. After his father retired, Joe found himself quite confident and happy to take it over, making everything as he says from "a bishop's robe to a clown's pyjamas!" Being a "Master Tailor" Joe explains was a step up from being an ordinary tailor. Apart from repairing clothes the "Master Tailor" could "make" any type of garment from start to finish. It was not a simple task - it required a lot of skills, precision and a keen eye for detail. It had to be right first time. Joe was well used to the routine, and,



Joe Keane.

although he does not make outfits as such now, he remembers how it was.

To make an outfit, Joe would first determine the type and style of the garment the customer required. He would then take the all-important measurements, making a note of each one, and then transferring these measurements to the cloth, allowing for style features here and there. These features were, of course, at the customer's request. When this job was done, Joe would then cut out the garment using a paper pattern. This being done, he was ready to sew. The customer was then "fitted" once more, with the outfit on, to ensure that everything was as it should be, and that they felt comfortable in it. It also allowed him to finalise any changes the customer might want. Once satisfied, Joe got on with the job and had no trouble completing a suit from start to finish, in two days! For this he earned the grand sum of twenty two pounds. He had a special day for "fitting" clothes and also a special day for delivering clothes. This way, he was able to maintain an efficient business at all times.

Remembering how it used to be in the forties and fifties, Joe describes the workshop where he worked and also the people he employed. The tailors were known as "journeymen tailors", the reason being that, after the three years which it took for them to learn the trade, they moved from one tailoring workshop to another. They could spend six months with him and then move on

to another one, in maybe a different area altogether. It wasn't an ideal situation as he could find himself without any one tailor at very short notice. It was in these workshops that the basic trade was learned, but Joe reminds us that, along with this, flair and imagination was something that was needed, it being the most important part of becoming a skilled tailor.

Learning the cutting system Master Tailors were able to cut out the various styles. There were five basic styles: Civilian, Military, Clerical, Soutanes and Habits. Habits were a common garment. There were many monks in the various monasteries, and, not only were the habits worn throughout their lives, the monks were also buried in them. The cloth that Joe used to make the various garments from was quite heavy. It was usually "serge" which was a heavy material - twenty-four ounces of pure wool compared to our fourteen ounces now, which is a mixture of synthetic fibre and wool. It was available in three colours, plain, striped or check. The reason for the cloth being so heavy was because of the weather situation, and basically the lack of our comfortable lifestyles! Travelling to the market or to church those days was a cold experience. The side-car had very little insulation, and the bicycle and 'shanks mare' had less! The people did not return to centrally heated houses either, so heavy clothes were an essential item indeed! Nowadays, Joe agrees, we are not as much at the mercy of the elements as our ancestors, and as a result lighter materials have become more popular. It is indeed advanced technology and changing times that have kept Joe and his counterparts less busy, but that being so, there is no machine invented to replace them yet! The tailor still plays a very important part in the clothing industry and Joe, although semi-retired, is still kept busy, using his skill and expertise for local clothing shops as well as the ordinary people.

Getting back to the workshop, Joe describes the tools of his trade which he still uses. The "tailors goose" doesn't have any feathers! It is a heavy "iron" used for pressing. It could weigh anything from fourteen to sixteen pounds, essential for pressing the heavy cloth in times past. The "tailors donkey" is a pressing board, but it does not stand alone as our modern ones do, it rests on a table and has both a narrow side and a wide one. The "weasel" is also an iron



but a narrower one that the "goose", and is used for opening seams. Then of course there is the "tailor's thimble", famous for being bottomless along with the heavy "tailor shears", and lastly the sewing machine.

The workshop itself was a bit more than what its name implies. It was also a place where people met, and where anything from the next fair day to "foreign rule" was discussed. Joe fondly remembers to constant flow of customers, along with the regular visitors, and the discussions they had while Joe measured and cut, and sometimes joined in the easy banter of his companions.

Comparing the tailors workshop to the "superstitious" forge, Joe does not recall any particular superstition attached to it! He does recall that some married couples coming to him for outfits together would not let him measure them in the spare room! They had to be measured separately, otherwise it was "bad luck"! Whether this strange custom was confined just to a tailor's workshop, Joe did not know, perhaps undressing in front of one another was not common practice amongst some people, or then again was it something to do with the "devil amongst the tailors?" Joe assures us he has not had the pleasure of the gentleman's company so far!

He recalls some unusual requests: for instance, his secret-pocket business!

These were put in the garments of certain people, e.g. cattle dealers. Now we know where he keeps his money! Also, he put them in priests' garments, particularly those who were going abroad and wanted to bring passports or maybe food, for instance, unnoticed. Perhaps Joe will become inundated with requests for secret pockets when this becomes known - they would certainly be an invaluable asset.

Tailoring, according to Joe, was a full-time occupation, although he made a point of not working on Sundays. Those days he spent at his favourite pastime: training youngsters with the Local Defence Force of which he was Central Leader. During the rest of the week he was kept busy from morning to night with his customers. With the arrival of the first ready made garments, which were ladies coats, Joe noticed a slow decline in business as other garments joined the ever extending rail. Factories were taking over the production of suits and costumes, as they were then known. Casual wear became more and more popular, and the handmade suit was replaced by jeans and pullovers. There are now firms of tailors, each specialising in their own skills.

Living in Ballyhaunis all this time, Joe has become almost the last master tailor in Mayo. Out of twelve tailor shops in Ballyhaunis he is now the sole expert of the trade. His family,

although very talented and successful, have no interest in tailoring. Although retired now, Joe still has a keen eye for detail and enjoys working amongst the local people. He likes to keep busy at all times, getting up early, getting on with his daily duties whilst stopping now and then to chat to his many friends. A pleasure to meet and to chat to, I'm sure I speak for his many friends down through the years, and indeed all the people who know him, in wishing him many years of part time tailoring - long may it continue.

## Readóirí Winners

THE children pictured below represented St. Joseph's National School, Ballyhaunis, at the P.T.A.A. Readóirí 1996 event held in Taugheen Community Centre, Claremorris on Sunday 17th November 1996. They were the overall winners in the "Novelty Act" (junior section). Elaine Cregg was the winner in the "Recitation" Section. Bernadette McNamara, sixth class, took second place in the "solo singing" section.

All of the children will take part in the Connaught Finals which will be held in Ballaghaderreen on Saturday December 7th 1996.



Back, L-R: Ms. Maria Campbell, Catherine Nestor, Bernadette McNamara, Roisin Flanagan and Sinéad Mulrennan. Front, L-R: Elaine Cregg, Sarah Buckley, Cindy Warde, Maura O'Dwyer and Eilish Nevin.

# The Waldron Clan Association

**T**HE Waldron Clan Association was formed in January 1994 by a number of individuals sharing a common interest in the history of the Waldron family. Several informal meetings were held, and it emerged in conversation that quite a number of people had collected a sizeable amount of information on each of our own families. We decided it would be useful and constructive to meet regularly and discuss, in an informal manner, different aspects of the history of our own and the many Waldron families in Connacht and throughout the rest of Ireland.

It emerged that, while most of the Waldron families in Ireland have long-established roots in the general Ballyhaunis area, there were families of the surname in other locations throughout the country over the past four hundred years. The exact origins of the Waldrons of Connacht is unclear: the general local opinion is that they were a branch of the Norman MacCostello family; but, their descent from a Waldron family of more recent English origin can not be ruled out.

In early 1994 the Waldron Clan Association was formed, and was registered with the Clans of Ireland Office. The objectives of the Waldron Clan Association are:

1. To collect and preserve as much

information as possible on the history of all Waldron families from all available sources and to try and rescue whatever details may be still available towards establishing connections between the many Waldron families in East Mayo, Ireland and the rest of the World.

2. To encourage research into the early history of all families of the surname, with the ultimate aim of trying to establish for certain the true origins of all the Waldrons in Ireland, whether Anglo-Norman, New-English, or Continental.
3. To organise a re-union and gathering of all Waldrons, and those with Waldron ancestry, to be held in Ballyhaunis in the near future.
4. To publish a journal, twice yearly, containing articles of interest to those with Waldron connections.

All with the surname Waldron, with any Waldron connections, or simply with an interest in the history of the family are cordially invited to join the Waldron Clan Association, and please tell any of your relatives and friends whom you know that may share a similar interest.

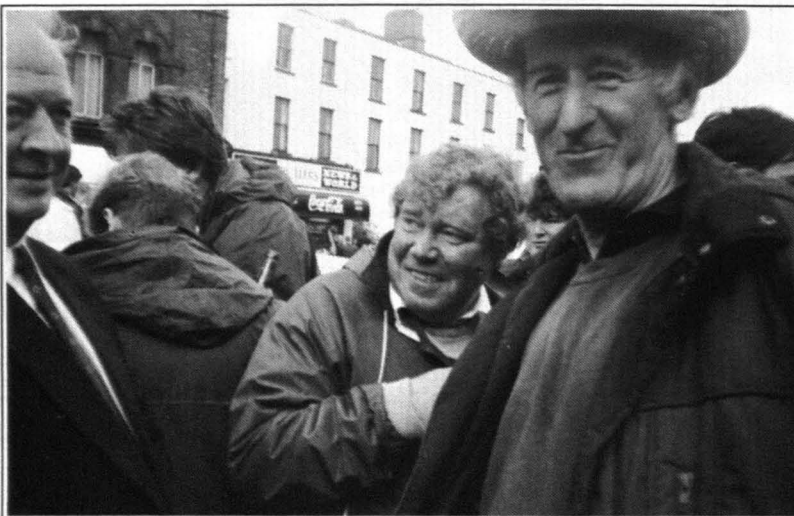
Membership of the Waldron Clan Association entitles the member to the twice yearly Journal, which contains articles and photographs relevant to the history of the Waldrons, and will be an

invaluable publication to anybody interested in the history of their Waldron heritage. The annual membership subscription is £5 or \$10. All those applying before the end of 1996 will receive both of this year's publications.

The first issue of the Waldron Journal was published in October, some months later than anticipated. It contains a number of very interesting items relating to the surname including articles on the Waldron Priests, the artist William Waldron of Dublin, a Message of welcome from the eminent historian Mrs. Waldron-Barker, members' enquiries, Fr. John Waldron of Cloontumper and Chicago, the Waldron family of Ballyroe, Knock, notices of current interest and several obituaries. The Journal has been posted out and delivered to over 130 paid-up members all over the World. The second issue of the Journal is due out before Christmas and will include articles on the origins of the surname Waldron, the distribution of Waldron families in Ireland in the mid-nineteenth century, the amazing story of the Waldron Sword, George Waldron the infamous eighteenth century pickpocket from Maynooth and a three-hundred year history of the Waldrons of Crossard.

The first ever Waldron Clan Gathering will be held in Ballyhaunis over the last weekend in August, the traditional Augustinian Friary Pattern Weekend. It will open on Friday night 29th August with an informal get-together in Ballyhaunis, at which a lecture on the history of the surname and family will be delivered. On Saturday night 30th August, the Function will take place in the Central Hotel: tickets will be available in advance from the local tourist office and at the door on the night. On Sunday 30th a special mass will be celebrated for all members of the family. The full programme of events for this unique occasion will be made known as the year progresses.

Officers: Chairman: Thomas Waldron, Ballinastanford, Claremorris; Treasurer: Tom (Philip) Waldron, Crossard, Tooreen, Ballyhaunis; PRO: Michael Waldron, Cave, Ballyhaunis; Secretary: Paul Waldron, Cave, Ballyhaunis; Dublin Delegate: Liam Waldron, Castlebar and Ballsbridge, Dublin.



Mayo v. Meath All-Ireland Replay - Three Supporters from Ballyhaunis, L-R: Michael Waldron, Michéal Murren and Hugh Rudden.



# Notes on the Friary

A local tradition gives 1348 as the foundation date of the Friary (Augustinian Abbey) in Ballyhaunis; many recent historians have deduced from a somewhat obscure Roman reference in 1432 that the Friary was founded shortly before that year; others, on the strength of another 15th century Augustinian document, would hold that a surer (though less specific) view is that the Friary may have existed before 1419, and certainly before 1460; the considered opinion of H. T. Knox, the Mayo historian, was that the Friary was founded a "little before or after 1400 probably."

## A NORMAN SITE

From a study made by Knox in 1911, and from other historians, we learn that the Friary was built on the site of a Norman manor house and fortification. (There are also some recent indications emerging that the locality was significant in earlier pre-Norman times.) Norman names associated with the manor are Fitzgerald, Roche, Barry and Jordan. On a buttress in the lower car park, in a wall running out from the church, we find the date 1245. This was added in modern times to suggest the possible date of the Norman foundation. Perhaps a little closer to 1300 would be more realistic.

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

## THE ORIGINAL FRIARY

Of the original Friary structure, all that now remains are (a) the west wall (with two exquisite lower windows and most of the doorway); (b) the north wall (excluding the porch and sacristy), with at least parts of the windows (the date of the present east wall is uncertain); (c) the recently discovered window from the south wall, together with some of the museum items on display inside. The origins of the present cemetery, of course, would date back to the foundation of the Friary. It is hoped sometime to do a proper archaeological survey of the site. Meanwhile, for possible fuller models of what the Friary may have originally looked like (though it was perhaps more modest), one may draw attention to the Franciscan ruins of Moyne Abbey and Rosserk Abbey, both off the road to Killala, the Augustinian Abbey in Adare, Co. Limerick, which is still in use as an Anglican parish church, and the ruined Augustinian Abbey at Murrisk at the foot of Croagh Patrick.

Documents mention extensive Friary lands at the time of the foundation (150 acres or more), but just as the buildings suffered during the persecu-

tions (from the time of King James 1), so too most of the land was confiscated. Around the Friary now there are about 15 acres (taking in the graveyard, gardens, car parks and two fields) and these make up a separate townland called Friarsground, with the main road as one boundary and rivers the other.

## THE HISTORY

After Ballintubber Abbey, the Friary in Ballyhaunis holds a special place in Mayo's ecclesiastical history. Despite the persecutions and penal times, from around 1400 to the present day the Friary has continued to live as a religious centre, with the same order of Augustinians serving the Catholic parish of Annagh (which was in existence before the foundation of the Friary and was recorded in history as far back as 1302), and the surrounding parishes of Began and Aghamore and Knock, and places beyond.

Some of the Friars suffered for the faith, for instance the Venerable Fr. Fulgentius (Walter) Jordan in 1649; others were notable patriots, like Fr. Myles Prendergast (of the 1798 rebellion), and Fr. James Anderson in more recent times; others are remembered as scholars, like the poet Friar Cassidy in the 18th century, and Fr. A. E. Foran and Fr. Louis Carr in this century.



The oldest known sketch of the Friary in Ballyhaunis. It was published in 1791 by Francis Grose in his invaluable book *The Antiquities of Ireland*. We read: "This view was drawn by T. Cocking, Anno 1791." The caption to the sketch reads: "Abbey of Ballyhaunis." One notes the three-storey priory, the passage-way to the ruined church, the presence of an east window, the west doorway, the gables of two side-chapels, the gateway into the graveyard, the pathway up from the river on the Knox Street side, and the two gentlemen of leisure.

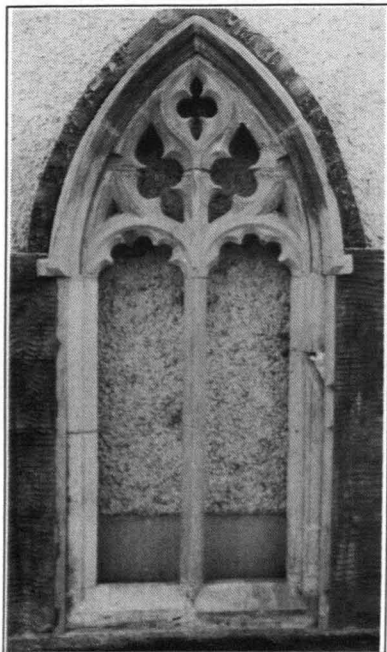
## THE PRESENT CHURCH

The present Friary church is special in that it has been a living place of unbroken prayer and worship since around 1400. At the Friary, the paintings of Fr. Foran are noteworthy, also the museum pieces and the collection of historic chalices. Under the church and around it are some sealed vaults: those of the Lords Dillon, the Burkes of Holywell and Began, one allegedly for the Friars, one possible for the O'Gara family and some others.

## A NOTE ON FR. JORDAN

One of the most notable Augustinians of the past was surely Fr. Fulgentius (or Walter) Jordan, who may be called Venerable, since his name appeared in the early part of the century on a list of Irish martyrs whose causes were then accepted by Rome as worthy of assessment. In the first year of Cromwellian times (1649) Fr. Jordan, like many other priests, was on the run. "Venerable Fulgentius went about the Ballyhaunis area travelling with a group of horse dealers ... When encamped in any place, he ministered to the people, Confessions, Masses, Baptisms" (from a typed account by John Patrick Jordan). But eventually he was tracked down. There are four versions of his capture and death.

The more commonly known account (which we know gained cre-



The stone window rescued by Mr. Johnny Gilmore in the 1930s and recently rediscovered in a shed in Knox Street.



The Augustinian Priory, Ballyhaunis, with its stone work exposed, during its recent refurbishment.

dence not long after his death) is found in the centenary booklet of 1948, and tells how he was taken while preaching in the Friary, and was hanged from one of the trees in the grounds and buried in the Friary cemetery.

The second version is given by John Patrick Jordan, and tells how Fr. Jordan attended a Dillon wedding at Hazelhill and while there, that he arranged to say Mass for the people in a disused sand-pit in Cloontumper (presumably on a subsequent day) but that this plan was made known to the authorities. "Before the Priest was finished Mass, the place was surrounded by soldiers. Fr. Jordan was put to death there and then, as to the disposal of his body, I heard various tellings.

One was that he was buried in the field where he was slain. Another that he was not killed where he was saying Mass but taken into the Friary grounds in Ballyhaunis and hanged from a tree."

A third version is given (among other places) in an article in the Western People (28th Oct. 1961): "Word was passed round, that Fr. Jordan would be offering Mass the following day, Sunday, at Redpark. The next

morning he began to offer Mass at the appointed place, a sand quarry, set in the side of a high ridge, over which ran a road. From the ridge one can see the countryside, unobstructed, for miles around. Neither Fr. Jordan nor the congregation suspected that the soldiers were forewarned and were secretly in the nearby thickets. Suddenly soldiers appeared on the scene. Fr. Jordan was shot there and then, as also were some Catholics trying to escape. Both Fr.



Part of the remaining ruins of the ancient church in Holywell (Annagh) - one of the early Christian sites of Annagh parish church, from which the parish got its name. Photograph taken courtesy of Jim and Alocoque McManus.

In hands at the present time, are three studies of the Ballyhaunis Friary. (1) Due out before Christmas is a collection of old photographs, that show how the appearance of the Friary has gradually changed since the famous 1791 sketch (reproduced here) up to the early nineties, when the present car park was set down. (2) In the new year there will be a handbook on the Abbey - with notes: (a) on the buildings, (b) on all the memorial inscriptions (in church and cemetery) and (c) on the early chalices and other treasures of the past that are preserved. This would be seen as a detailed guide for tourists. (3) Thirdly, the story of the Friary (and as far as possible of the parish and town) is being researched and put on computer.



Jordan and those shot with him were buried in a field nearby. The mound with a black stone at one end (to mark where Fr. Jordan lay) was visible up to some decades ago. The remains of Fr. Jordan and those of the other Catholics were later carried to Holywell, and buried there in the shade of the gable wall of the old church."

The author of the article (Eugene Jordan) gives credit to Very Rev. Canon Patrick Moane, P.P. Began, and Dr. George Maguire of Claremorris, for making known to him this version of the local tradition.

In the present state of research, perhaps it is the fourth version that seems more historically reliable (while there is difficulty identifying the location given). This version is based on a dependable contemporary source. Philip Elssen, a Belgian Augustinian, who wrote in Brussels in 1654: "Walter Jordan, an Irishman of noble and respectable family, Prior of Ballyhaunis, pierced by a bullet fired by the heretics in a place called Racrohan. He was martyred for Christ's sake in the year 1649."

Fr. Elssen also tells of the martyrdom of another Augustinian, Fr. Thomas Tully, who was killed at Cloughkillibeg, Co. Galway, and



View of Rosserk Abbey (near Ballina). Originally Ballyhaunis Friary may have looked somewhat similar.

quotes as his source of information: "Irish Fathers who were eyewitnesses." This seems to indicate that Fr. Elssen was in contact with the Irish Augustinians who were in exile at Brussels during the years after Cromwell's coming to Ireland. The identification of Racrohan around Ballyhaunis is a present problem. (We hope that further research into the story of this venerable priest will establish how his death came about. Any wisp of a local tradition will be welcome.)

This year three items of note connected with the Friary were discovered:

*A part of a quernstone;  
One of the original south windows;  
And the flag of the Ballyhaunis  
Band of St. Nicholas of Tolentine.*

These were recorded in the local press and will be noted in the guide in 1997.



The inside of the church as it structurally looked from 1833 to 1908. Note the present east window erected by Fr. Anderson in 1878; the south wall, that was knocked in 1937 to make room for the present Lady-Chapel; and the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes which still seems to be the one that is venerated in the church. On the walls are gas lamp brackets. The two altars are still in the present church.

# The Wearing of the Red and Green

**N**OW that the flags have been folded and put aside for another day and new dreams replace old ones that never came true, we can quietly reflect on exciting days not long ago when all shades of everything were coloured green and red. There are exceptions to every rule and there was a part of Mayo, where the sun goes down, that had ewes and lambs frisking about, sporting the green and gold.

Even those who were not normally followers of the sport became passive supporters as if swept along by a tide. Nothing else was talked about: songs were composed and men came home from Coventry. Exciting days indeed, days of great expectations, even though the "hurly burly's done, the battles lost and won", there are still a few Mayo flags flying defiantly in the Winter breeze and ripples of green and red still floating about.

The subject no longer dominates conversation, but crops up now and then, even outside the County boundary. When the Leitrim man glanced at the sticker Ger Winston had put on the back window of my car in early September: "Ye were very unlucky with the football", says he. Trying to be philosophic about the whole thing I replied: "Yes, Meath were very lucky." "The understatement of the year", laughed the man from near Mohill.

As well as being a time of looking forward, it was also a time for looking back. While local hero David Nestor was always in the public mind and his name seldom absent from conversation, other names that had worn the County Jersey, and names that had excelled at local level were mentioned in the many conversations and

*By Jim Cribbin*

discussions that took place in all locations and at all hours. It was as if the local Hall of Fame had its doors thrown open after a long closure and names now fading from memory were once again the talk of the town. To do justice to all the names in this hall of fame is far beyond the scope of one short article. Even if Johnny Biesty were left out, and it was insisted that he write his own book, it would still be a venture as difficult as the task of getting the Sam McGuire back to Mayo.

There is however one name from the hall of fame I must devote a few paragraphs to, principally because of a photograph I was handed recently. It shows the man's final resting place thousands of miles away under an African sky. When Noel Waldron was asked about the man he described him as a "great footballer and a grand lad", no need to make further inquirers, when Noel Waldron said it, that's good enough for me. Martin Hannon togged out in the County colours of Mayo, for the Senior Connaught Finals in 1937, 1938 and 1939, and for the All-Ireland semi-finals of 1937 and 1939. In 1940 he took off the football boots and jersey and put on the alb and stole. In November of the same year, leaving behind family, friends, and all the popularity and respect that his sporting feats had earned, he left for Africa as a Missionary Priest. Less than four years later, he became yet another example of the good dying young - the victim of a tropical disease for which there was no

cure at the time. Very few of his fellow Country men pass by his resting place in Nigeria, but we like to think that now and again one of the locals pauses at the spot and ponders: "There's a white man buried there who did not come to enslave or plunder and pillage but came to show us a better and peaceful way of life."

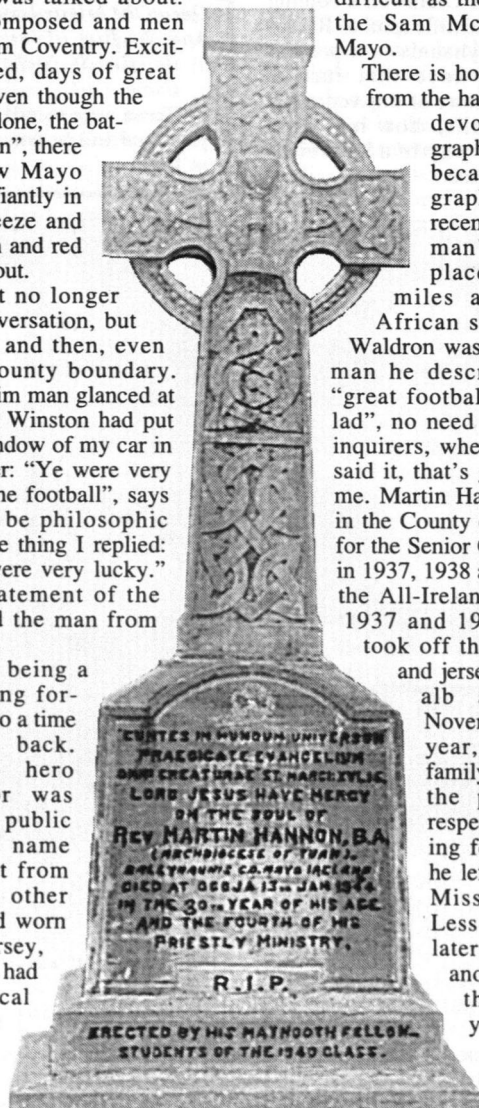
In his native town Fr. Martin Hannon is still remembered by many, sixty years after he wore the green and red.

## Did You Know . . . ?

**T**HE Taaffe family of Killedan (Kiltimagh), owned a considerable property in the Ballyhaunis area prior to its purchase by the Congested Districts Board in the early years of this century. In the nineteenth century, the following townlands comprised the Ballyhaunis Taaffe Estate: Carrowkeel, Knockroe and Gurteen in Annagh civil parish; Pollnacraoghy, Carrownluggaun, Tooraree, Bohogerawer, Bracklaghboy, Larganboy East and West in Began civil parish.

One of the last members of the Taaffe family made a generous provision in his will for the building of a Catholic church on any part of his lands in County Mayo. His executors decided that the town of Ballyhaunis would be the most worthy recipient of this gift and they proceeded to make arrangements for it to be built there. However, Ballyhaunis town was, at the time, divided between the parishes of Annagh and Began, and each claimed that the church should be theirs. Open warfare broke out between the two parishes; and, as neither would relax its claim, the executors were forced to withdraw their proposals and decided that the village of Bohola instead would be the beneficiary of the provision. The result was that Bohola got the church which should have been built in Ballyhaunis!

Source: MacDonagh, J.C., *Counsellor Terence MacDonagh*, in "Studies", March 1948, p. 66.





# Closure of Farah

Some said it would never happen, others hoped and prayed that it wouldn't happen, but happen it did, on August 30th 1996, when Farah (Exports), Ballyhaunis, closed its doors for the last time. As you entered the factory on that morning it might be any other day until the silence of the machines engulfed you. There they stood unmanned and mute. An eerie feeling hung all over the factory floor as groups of people gathered together, talking, laughing, crying, taking photographs in the hope of hanging onto a little of the past as all moved off in different directions into the future. It was all like a dream from which you felt you would suddenly awaken and everyone would resume their usual stations and the frenzied clatter of machines would once again fill the four walls. But it wasn't a dream and realism was firmly stamped on the scene as, at the end of the day, two lines of people were formed. One line comprised of those who opted to transfer to Kiltimagh and were queuing for their usual payslip. The other line contained those who, for various reasons, were signing for their redundancy cheques.

When the former occupiers of the building - Wrangler - decided to make its one-hundred and twenty employees (between Ballyhaunis and Galway) redundant, the I.D.A. began canvassing alternative textile companies to replace the industry. It became apparent that Farah, a multinational company, was interested in taking over Galway only.

*By Mary Duffy and  
Ann Peyton*

However, through the combined efforts of the then Manager - Austin Henry - and the impressive work force in Ballyhaunis, it was decided that they would take over both plants.

Farah Ballyhaunis opened on August 9th 1981 with three people. By the end of September the work force had grown to eighty with three supervisors. Over the next fifteen years the numbers fluctuated, reaching an all time high in 1990 with one-hundred and fifty people on the Ballyhaunis pay-roll. Likewise, production units varied, peaking in 1990 when 18,000 units were being produced each week. Over the years, fifteen different styles were introduced. In March 1991 it became apparent that there were clouds on the horizon. Fifty-one people were laid off and the remaining work force went on a three-day week. After about eighteen months the market improved and full time work was resumed and additional people were recruited. However the rag-trade has always been a fickle industry and at no time could the employees feel secure. Rumours and counter rumours abounded. Then, in February 1996, the employees once again opted for a three-day week as an alternative to lay-offs. The three-day week went in operation for a short time. Then one day in May the bombshell was dropped when the employees were informed that Farah

Ballyhaunis was to close its doors for the last time in August, 1996.

Over the years many people came and went through the Farah work-force. Quite a few left school and went straight into the factory. Their lives changed with the years, some married and had children and still continued to work. Work was hard, but always a great camaraderie prevailed. Many fine friendships were formed and some even resulted in marriage. There was always time for a laugh, always someone willing to listen to you and share your problems. There was always shared sorrow when someone suffered a bereavement and the memory of Mary Jordan R.I.P. is still fresh in the minds of many. The town of Ballyhaunis derived great benefit from the factory. Most of the employees passed through the town and did a lot of shopping there. Every evening at 5.05 p.m. there was a traffic jam in the town as the workers descended on the shops. It was hard to understand then why the town showed so little reaction when the closure was announced.

As has already been said, the rag-trade is fickle, and one must accept that market forces always dictate. Anyone who works for Farah works hard. Time is money and every minute counts. Quality is the name of the game and the quality of the garments produced in Ballyhaunis excelled. Surely there is a resource here which needs to be tapped and that terrible silence in the building in Tooraree needs to be broken.



Sixth Class, St. Mary's Primary School Ballyhaunis, visit Farah, Ballyhaunis which closed in August 1996. L-R: Margaret Tevnan (Farah), Colm Rudden, Patrick Freeley, John Lyons, Eoin McManus, Jonathan Murphy, Robert Coyne, Kenneth Waldron, Liam Gildea, Christopher McCrudden, Vincent Kedian, Jason Powers, Stephen Gately, Barry Collum, Jonathan McNamara, Hughie Carney, Alan Freeley, Stephen Donahue, Alan Lucey and Susan Hoban (Farah).

# The Foster Mother

**S**HE has been described as "the foster-mother of the human family." She plays the role more discreetly today than in former times. Long gone are the days when she made a twice daily appearance in town. Many of us still without pension books can remember her strolling along the streets, swishing her tail as she went.

Many of us, both young and old, were surprised at the great number of townspeople who were credited with keeping a cow on a list which was on display recently in George Delaney's Lounge Bar. The list was compiled by George Delaney and Tom Johnston of Lurgan, and is now on loan to Annagh Magazine. Jack Halpin, Gerry Cribbin and Maisín Meath have cast their eagle eyes over the list and added a few more names. The caption on the document reads "Kept Cows 1940." Somebody else looked at the long list and commented: "It would be easier to write a list of those who didn't keep cows!"

The animals were accommodated at the rear of the various premises and driven to and from fields close to the town morning and evening for milking. There were instances where the cow was driven in the side door of a shop and along a hallway and out the back to the milking shed. In the 1950s the health authorities began to disapprove of the practice of keeping animals at the rear of the business premises and private houses in towns. Economic changes and the increasing motor traf-

*By James Cribbin*

fic all heralded the demise of the shop-keeper's cow.

## Kept Cows - 1940

Most of the cows were kept to supply milk for private requirements. An asterisk\* denotes people who had supplied milk for sale.

Abbey Street: Peter Hannon, John Durkan,\* George Delaney, Gerry Dillon,\* The Convent and The Abbey.

Bridge Street: M.J. Webb and M. Higgins.

Knox Street: Tommy Johnston, Jack Morley,\* P. Byrne, Mrs. Waldron, T. Forde, Tommy Jordan,\* Willie Forkan,\* Johnny Gilmore\* and M. Cunnane.

Main Street: Austin Jordan,\* Dr. E. Waldron, J. Dillon, M. Webb, L. Kilroy, T. Lyons, T. Phillips,\* T. Murphy,\* P. Phillips, P. Tighe, M. Greally, T. Glynn, Alex Greene, C. Flynn, John Gallagher,\* J. Waldron, W. Neary and J. Caulfield.

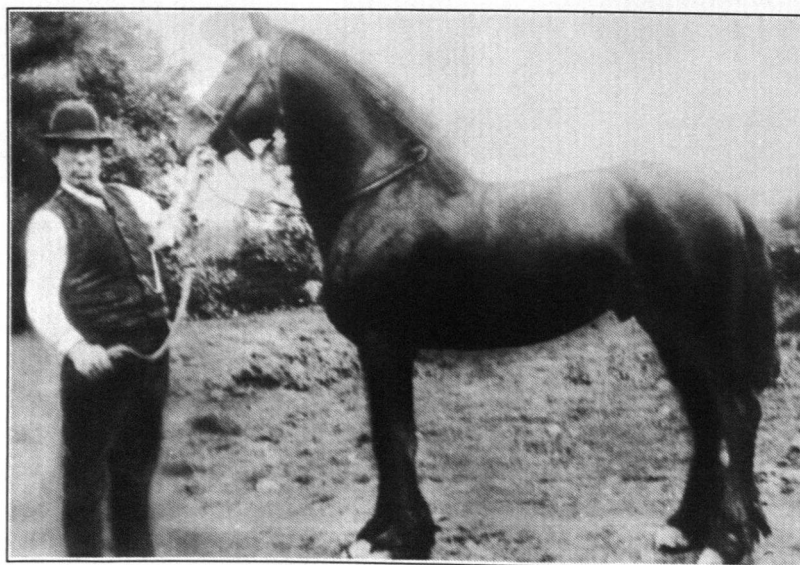
Clare Street: B. Byrne, P. Donnellan, Brod Byrne, Tim Robinson, Mrs. Haugh.

When that list was compiled and the introductory notes penned in the Autumn of 1995 nobody foresaw how often the cow would feature in the news, both at home and abroad, in the months that followed. Just a year ago

the cow was quietly going about her business, and if she had any inkling of the storm ahead she kept it to herself. There was an air of normality about that Autumn, at least as far as the farming community was concerned. The Beef Tribunal was fading from memory, those involved had received and found inside their pay packets wads of notes "beyond the dreams of avarice" and there were few as happy as Larry looking forward to accepting a beef export award from "The lady who never laughs." Suddenly, in March the cow is back in the news. A statement is read in the house concerning her health and B.S.E. and C.J.D. became part of every newscast on T.V., in addition to front page coverage in the Press, National and International. The consequences of all this bad publicity are still ongoing and need not be highlighted here.

Now the cow must be completely exonerated from all blame in this affair. Scientific argument is still raging on the connection (if any) between B.S.E. and C.J.D., but there seems to be agreement that the root of the problem lies in the cow being used to satisfy man's greed rather than his need.

I have read so much depressing news about the cow over the past few months that, for a change, I have decided to read a piece where the old girl was paid a few well deserved compliments. I have ferreted out an old school book from under the staircase. It is a tattered manuscript with my name written in ink on the fly leaf, the date says 12th July 1950. Starting at page seventy-two are two and a half pages of refreshing reading about the cow, well worth reading and some of the sentences I will transcribe for you: "I have wondered for a long time why men choose to make the dog their best friend for the dog is neither beautiful in himself nor is he particularly virtuous. But the cow - there is a thing of beauty, like a poem, and she has the Christian virtues as well. She embodies the maternal impulse to the Nth degree. In return for a few turnips and a handful of straw she gives streams of lovely milk, rich and health, giving the very elixir of life." We pause here to consider the implications of feeding a cow a few turnips and a handful of straw. This could be described as a bovine low-fat diet and would keep the old girl slim and trim, with such rations there would be no problems with milk lakes, butter and beef mountains and probably



Michael Robinson, Huntsfield, grandfather of Gabriel Forkan, Knox Street. Photo taken at the turn of the century, famous stallion called Sir Wilkinson.



no B.S.E. either.

Of course, if a man added a supplement to the above ration in the form of angel dust, he could still find himself standing before a judge and listening to him pronounce with great dignity and demeanour: "I'm going to give you six months." My final quotation from the old school book is to sum up: "The cow is a contented beast and spreads her contentment about her. She is beautiful in her life and in her death she can be yet more beautiful when properly divided." The animal rights lobby would not be too keen on that last paragraph but, back when that was written empty stomachs and ration-books made people allergic to this kinds of nonsense.

It is not surprising that in rural Ireland fifty years ago the cow should find a place in the school curriculum; more surprising is the fact that in England during the Industrial Revolution the welfare of the cow was taken into account especially in the matter of railways. The famous inventor and railway engineer George Stevenson was giving

evidence to a parliamentary committee in 1825 when he was asked, "If the train was going at eight or nine miles an hour and a cow were to stray onto the line in front of the engine would that not be a very awkward circumstance?" In his country accent, Stevenson replied: "Very awkward indeed - for the cow." The problem of cows on the line pales into insignificance compared with the many problems agriculture is facing over there now. Because many of us worked on English farms we need no interpreter to translate when they speak of their present difficulties. There is a greater understanding of these difficulties amongst Irish farmers than is to be found elsewhere in Europe.

From under the staircase I have pulled out another book, a history book though not one from my school days. It shows that the cow, like her adopted family, has had a troubled history too. The first great expansion in cattle production in Ireland took place in the 17th century: for a short time there was an export boom but it was short lived.

Alarmed by the arrival of large numbers of cattle from Ireland, English landowners using their muscle had parliament enact measures, first to curtail and finally to ban the importation of cattle from Ireland. The cattle act of 1663 banned imports between 1st July and 20th Dec. An Act of 1666 went further, it states: "The continuance of any importation of either lean or fat cattle is not only unnecessary but very destructive to the welfare of this Kingdom and is a public and common nuisance." While, as indicated earlier we do not wish to gloat over present difficulties, we cannot but notice that, when drafting the directive banning British beef, had the boys in Brussels wished to take a short cut, all they had to do was take the Cattle Act of 1666, change a few words and there was a piece of legislation that would work. The Precedent is there, it worked 330 years ago.

And finally from the old tattered school book: "My blessing on the patient cows, long life and gentle death - and then may they on heavenly meadows browse."



6th Class: Convent of Mercy - 1947 - Back, L-R: Miss Staunton (teacher), Margaret Hunt, Teresa Barret, Lorna Roche, Una Higgins (?) and Margaret Greene (R.I.P.). Middle, L-R: Josephine Jordan, Rosaleen Caulfield, Eileen Judge (or Margaret Shiels), Bernadette Mulligan, Margaret Gilmore, Margie Donnellan and Mary Kelly. Front, L-R: Hazel Rattigan, Teresa Melley, Bridie Swift, Noreen Cribbin (R.I.P.), Rena O'Malley, Patsy Prendergast, Josephine Higgins, Noreen Byrne and Rosemary Dalton. (Photo Courtesy of Josephine Higgins-Beirne, New Jersey)

# St. Patrick's Dramatic Society 1995/'96

The 1995-96 season was a busy and successful one for St. Patrick's Dramatic Society. We started the year with Brian Friel's highly acclaimed "Dancing at Lughnasa." This difficult play was very ably directed by Frankie Ralph. Audiences were delighted with the superb, poignant performances of the cast which included Noel Armstrong, Tony Carney, Leo Forkan, Sheila McInerny, Stella O'Neill, Anne Greally, Martina O'Rourke and Mary Caulfield. Of course our thanks must be extended to the backstage crew especially Enda Caulfield, Patricia Hunt and Frank Heraghty.

*By Anna Henry.*

For this year's "M.W.R. Radio Drama Awards", Martin Forde produced "The Bear" by Anton Chekov. We received four nominations: Anna Henry (best actress), Jack Greene (best actor), Martin Forde (best producer) and a nomination for the best overall play. We were delighted when Martin Forde won the award for best producer - congrats again Martin!

This year Kit Keane retired as caretaker of the Parochial Hall. Kit has been a stalwart member of our society for many years and we extend our best wishes on her retirement.



Anne Greally, Sheila McInerny, Tony Carney, Stella O'Neill, Leo Forkan, Mary Caulfield and Noel Armstrong. Front: Martina O'Rourke.

The A.G.M. was held in October and the officers for the incoming year are: President: Jack Greene; Chairman:

Martin Forde; Secretary: Martina O'Rourke; Treasurer: Stella O'Neill and P.R.O.: Patricia Hunt.



Robert Carrickford (Adjudicator, Stephen Brennan of "Glenroe"), Anna Henry, Martin Forde and Jack Greene.



# Fr. Jarlath Waldron celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his Ordination

**F**R. Jarlath Waldron, a native of Main Street, Ballyhaunis, celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood by a special Mass and family celebration in Knock Shrine on 24th June 1996. Now retired and living in Claremorris, Fr. Jarlath spent twenty-one years teaching in St. Colman's, Claremorris, followed by fifteen years in Cornamona until he was appointed Parish Priest of Partry in 1982. He retired in 1993 and was appointed Diocesan Historian by Archbishop Cassidy.

Fr. Jarlath's special interest in history began as a teacher in St. Colman's. As early as 1957, he began to publish a major series of articles in the *Western People* from 26th October 1957 to 30th August 1958 on items of the 19th century history of Mayo entitled: "One Hundred Years Ago". Since then, he has written and lectured widely on local history matters and latterly on general Irish history topics.

His special field of research was the period of Parnell and the Land War. In the early seventies, he began researching the story of a landlord of the Cornamona area, Lord Mountmorres, who was murdered on the roadside on 25th September 1880. This led him into a much wider field of the Land War in the Joyce Country on which he has amassed an abundance of research material. Inevitably, the study led him to the half-familiar and much spoken-of murders of the Joyce family at Maamtrasna on the night of 17th



August 1882.

The story of Maamtrasna, as researched and told by Fr. Waldron, was published as "Maamtrasna: The Murders and the Mystery" in 1992. Immediately, it went into the Irish best-seller lists where it remained for twenty-two weeks. It ran to four editions and is now out of print. It has been widely praised by scholars, lawyers, the ordinary reader who likes a good tale - but most of all, by people with a yen for local history. Originally

written as a book of 900 pages, it had to be edited to 330 for publication.

Among the many letters, tributes and favourable views Fr. Waldron received, he especially treasured a review in *The Sunday Times* which said: "this is a wonderful book, full of honour, contrast and explanation, driven with translucent compassion. The author has done something more than resurrect the ghosts of the misjudged. He has projected lantern slides of a past culture, the last of Europe's Iron Age race, the cottage poor of the West of Ireland."

During his life, Fr. Waldron has had many other interests besides history. In his work as a teacher in St. Colman's he did much to build a tradition which eventually brought the football teams of the College to become Hogan Cup winners. For a number of years he served as Chairman of the Mayo Minor Board. His interest in

the G.A.A. is undimmed and he still travels to County and local matches on a Sunday afternoon. He has a special love for the Irish language and his interest in music, art, literature and travel has made him a person of many sides. In the parishes in which he served he will be remembered for his Church renovations and other things, but especially his affection for his people. We congratulate him on reaching his jubilee and wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

# The Scout Den – Fifty Years a Growing

**D**OES anyone in Ballyhaunis but myself remember the original Scout Den or "Scout Hut" as might be more appropriate. It measured 20 ft by 16 ft. It had one door to the front, two small windows, a fireplace and an asbestos roof. Of great interest to the young people who were glad to frequent it for meetings or cards, was the small "basement" (a hole in the floor measuring about 3 ft x 3ft x 4ft deep) in which we stored the turf for the fire that made the Hut homely, and the favoured gathering place for many in the town and district. The cart of turf we would often buy on its return journey from Devlis. You would be asked 1s 6p on the outward journey, but if a Devlis sale had failed you would buy it for 1s 3p on the return. With shillings scarce, a sale in Devlis often failed and a bargain fire was obtained for the Hut. The Hut was built in 1946, half a century ago and the building still goes on.

Thanks for this modest beginning goes to the Augustinian Fathers, and particularly to the Very Rev. E.A. Mansfield, O.S.A., Prior at that time, who gave the permission to build the small Hut on a piece of ground known as the "Stationmaster's Garden." From that humble beginning has grown today's imposing Continental-type building; a complex that serves, on average, ten community groups weekly over the year.

The cost, without a ceiling or outside plastering was £70; a sizeable sum in those far-off days. Fund-raising was also somewhat different to today. I remember we put on a play/concert in Coolnafarna School. We brought the stage and scenery out on a pony and

*By Seamus Durkan*

cart. It was a delighted cast that counted the £3 takings at the end of the show.

The following Spring (1947) was the year of the big blizzard. Everything had to close down, the electricity was off for a full week; no trains, shops, banks and post office - all closed. I collected a lot of tea chests, took them down to the Den, took them apart and with them, I made a ceiling at night working with the light of a candle. There would be very few years out of the last fifty that there haven't been improvements, additions and, on two occasions, complete rebuilding.

The first step was buying a large Nissan Hut from the contractors who were building Merlin Hospital, Galway. We had it dismantled and brought to Ballyhaunis, to discover that, because of the triangular shape of the plot, there wasn't enough space. Another visit to the Abbey was made (this time the Prior was Very Rev. Fr. Michael O'Sullivan O.S.A.) looking for permission to run it from the back of the Hut (Den) into the field. Again, permission was granted - no problem.

We put a few stakes down the field, strung lights on them and dug a number of base holes, about 6 ft deep and three ft square. Because the ground was as low as the adjoining river, they filled with water to within a foot of the top. On Winter nights we would mix sand and cement in the hut, team most of the water from the holes and fill them up with dry cement and stones. On these bases we built a 3 ft wall around, and

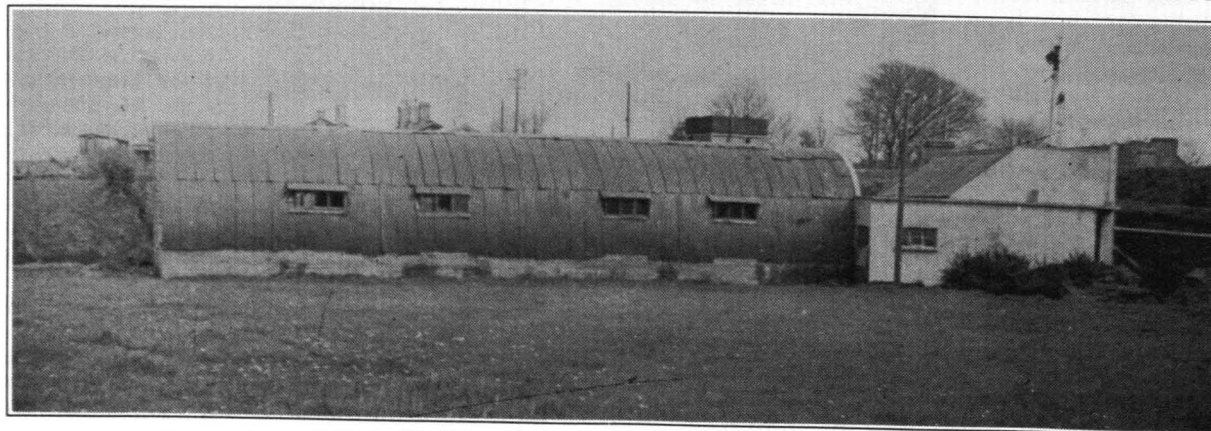
on this, erected the Nissan Hut.

There was a Mission about this time and I remember Sean Smyth and myself doing an hour or more on the roof after early Mass before going to work. It served its purpose for a number of years and, taking our courage in our hands, we approached Don Moran, Knox St., for a new building. Building on the old walls, it was 10 ft side-wall high, 60 ft long, 24 ft wide, with a concrete floor. At last we had a solid, functional building. About this time it became known as the "Boy Scout Little Theatre" and was being used for plays, concerts, indoor carnivals etc.

Then came the era of the 25 drives. First in the field with regular weekly 25 Drives, we built them up from a prize fund of £100 to, on occasions, as high as £5,000. We had a few good years with little or no competition; patrons came from as far away as Donegal, Cavan, Leitrim, Roscommon, etc., and on one occasion a bus load (twenty-four) from south of Tralee. Eventually the bottom fell out of 25 Drives; they were now being held at every crossroads in the West and died the death.

The Gun Club were the first to organise a supper dance, complete with bar and it became an annual event for years. Among the personalities who have been in the Scout Den over the years for one function or another were: Jack Lynch, Charlie Haughey, Garrett Fitzgerald, John Bruton, Chief Scouts Prof J. B. Whelahan, Kit Murphy and Jim Halley.

The second contingent of Scouts to leave Ballyhaunis for Rome left from the Scout Den in August 1950 for Holy Year ceremonies, with the late Fr.



The Nissan Hut, at the rear of the old Scouts Den



Rushe C.C. as Chaplain. We travelled with an English Catholic Scout Pilgrimage Party, spent the week-end in London with Scouts who had camped in Ballyhaunis the previous year, then, two trains took the group to Newhaven where a special boat took us to Dieppe. Two special trains were there to take us to Rome, with a short break in Turin for Mass on 15th August and we arrived in Rome that night. Apart from the break in Turin, forty hours non-stop travelling.

For many years it was the headquarters of the 'Good Council Players', whose portfolio included the well-worn favourite "Prof. Tim", "Knocknagow", "Daughter From Over The Water", several John B. Keane plays and the outstanding final three productions of "City of Kings" to mark the canonisation of St. Martin de Porres. In passing, I would add that the Good Council Players staged twenty-six performances of this play with a cast of twenty-one, in places as far away as Roscommon, Galway, Castlebar and Sligo to mention a few. Some years ago we ran successful Christmas Sales of Work and on two memorable occasions we had Santa Claus arrive by helicopter and land in the Friary field.

In more recent times we introduced the Big Bingo Session, starting with £3,000 Bingos and rising to five, six and one ten-thousand pounds; but again, as with the 25 Drives which we established and proved a success, every Bingo in the West reached for their share of the cake and the share got less and less. Of late, the Scout Den has hosted the Ballyhaunis Musical Society's annual one week performance.



The new Scouts Den.

Two years ago, the Gay Byrne Show was broadcast live from the Scout Den. For many, many years it has been the base for Mrs. Byrne's School of Irish Dancing with at least one big Feis each year.

As of now, among its uses, we have Karate, Art Classes, Drama Classes, Aerobics, Irish Classes and Badminton weekly; Blood Donors four days in the

year; an indoor circus for children once a year. Down through the years it has been the base for the annual St. Augustine's Day Pattern. During the worst days of the trouble in the North, groups of Belfast Cub Scouts were brought to the Scout Den at Easter for a number of years.

It can be said without contradiction that the Scout Den has been, and continues to be, a major asset to Ballyhaunis. The records show that it is used on average throughout the year by ten or more groups weekly. There is no facility that could or would cater for all groups mentioned. What has to be the final restructuring is at present under way at an estimated cost of over £15,000. Two big fund raising efforts will be made in December: in the first week, a Monster Sale of Work and, on the third Sunday, the usual big £5,000 bingo. Apart from the annual Sale of Work we have made no approach to the people of the area for support, but have relied on hall hire and bingos. The success of the two major fund raising functions being held in December would be taken as an indication from the general public of appreciation for the service provided from the Scout Den for fifty years. To conclude, by way of information, the Augustinian Order have offered the ground on which the Den is built and a Trusteeship is being set up to hold the property in Trust for Ballyhaunis.



The original Scouts Hut..

# Ballyhaunis Foróige Club

**B**ALLYHAUNIS Foróige Club '95-'96 was, to say the least, a very challenging and uplifting experience for all involved in this very prestigious club, meetings of which were held in The Scouts' Den between the hours of eight o'clock and nine o'clock every Friday night for the majority of the year. We started our '95/'96 club on a warm evening in September. We were pleased to see loads of new excited faces joining our club ranging from first years to third years. The Committee was elected as follows: Chairperson: Joanne Butler; Vice-Chairperson: Bridann Halpin; Secretary: Caithriona Fahey; Treasurers: Aileen Gallagher and Nathan Murphy; P.R.O.: Maria Rochford; Photographer: Stephen Carney.

We decided to keep hold of the prestigious reputation which we had earned in the town over the years by getting active in the parish. We discussed many events and activities we might want to take on as projects during the course of the year. Some of the projects suggested were, let's just say, a little unrealistic. So we put our heads together and put things into perspective and from there on things really got moving. Hallowe'en was to be our first main project and we celebrated this in a traditional, spooky way by having a ghostly Hallowe'en party on Hallowe'en night. This proved to be a success when everyone went home shaking in their boots, filled with grueling tales of ghosts, witches, goblins and other haunting happenings!

Christmas came around and, with

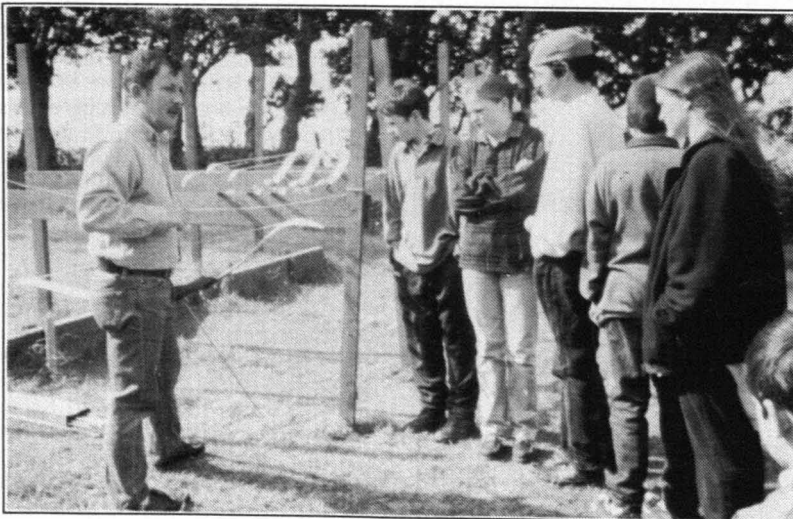
*By Maria Rochford P.R.O.*

everyone in good seasonal spirits, we decided to carry on a traditional annual event held by Foróige: a Kiddies' Disco in the Parochial Hall. Everyone agreed that all the children had a brilliant time, not to mention the club members who willingly got dressed up much to the delight of the little children. Santa was a big hit when he made his appearance with a big "Ho, Ho, Ho." We had many dubious winners of our competitions such as "The best Elvis Impersonator" and "The Best Dancer" and much more. In February we were invited to a disco and table quiz by Kiltimagh Foróige Club, in Kiltimagh Town Hall. The quiz really put our brains to the test but, however well we did, we failed to be victorious and our chance of holding that fine trophy of triumph was but a passing dream. The disco was another story and Ballyhaunis Foróige certainly made their mark on Kiltimagh during those few hours of fun back in February of last year. In March we had a Cake and Jumble sale after twelve o'clock Mass on St. Patrick's Day. This was very successful as we raised over £200 for the church restoration fund. Our next project was a sponsored walk where over twenty members got out their walking shoes and braved the treacherous conditions outside. However, our efforts were by no means in vain and it was worth it when we somehow managed to raise over £100. We decided to spend this money on a well deserved

tour to Atlantic Adventure Centre in Lecanvey outside Westport. Our physical abilities were thoroughly tested both in the water and out. Some of the strenuous activities we undertook included surfing, abseiling, hill walking, boogie boarding, rock climbing, canoeing, mountaineering and kayaking. It was a day to remember for all who went. Finally, to finish off the year, we had a party in the Scouts Den: the "craic" was mighty and a great time was had by all. We think Ballyhaunis Foróige Club '95/'96 was a credit to the town and to everyone in the club. But it all couldn't have been possible without the constant watchful eyes of our leaders: Fr. James O'Grady, Cáit Webb and Justina Lyons. On behalf of the club we would like to extend sincere thanks to our three leaders of Foróige '95/'96.

On the 4th of October this year we were all back with a bang even more eager than last year to make Foróige '96/'97 a great success. This year we have loads more new members and a multitude of new leaders which include: Micheál Murphy, John Halpin, Anne Phillips and, for the second year in power, Fr. O'Grady. A whole new Committee was elected as follows: Chairperson: Michelle Conlon; Secretary: Bridann Halpin; P.R.O.: Maria Rochford; Treasurers: Lorraine Moroney and Steven Carney; Project Manager: Oisín Cleary.

This year we have new surroundings as our weekly meetings now take place in the Parochial Hall. As usual, we wasted no time and already we have had an extremely successful teenage disco held in conjunction with the town's Soccer Club. We invited many different Foróige Clubs from throughout the County. We held a Table Quiz beforehand, where a team from Ballyhaunis Club had the pleasure of each bringing home a trophy, sponsored by Kay Buckley, Knock Road. We would also like to thank Nico's for sponsoring our "Blind Date." In the very near future we will be attending a Blind Workshop which teaches us about the difficulties a visually impaired person has to cope with. We also hope to have another Cake Sale after the success of last year's. With the continued support of the Community, the Club Members and of course, the Club Leaders, we hope to keep Ballyhaunis Foróige the successful club it is today, for a very long time and we look forward to a bright future for the club.



Photograph form some Foroige members in the Atlantic Adventure Centre being taught Archery.  
(Courtesy of Joe Hosty)



# Deacy's Wedding

A song I heard recently on radio brought me back in memory to a wedding which took place in Derrynacong many years ago. It was celebrated, as the song said, "In the good old country way." The contracting parties were Mary Katherine Deacy (daughter of John Deacy, a sketch of whose life was given in a previous issue of the Parish Newsletter) and Eddie Hanlon from Louth. The couple met in America and came to Ireland to be married, and have lived most of their lives here since. The wedding took place in January 1931 in an age when time was not so much our master, and commercial exploitation, and this latest innovation 'wedding consultants' had not yet invaded the rural wedding scene by creating so many artificial needs, and dictating what was proper decorum to be observed on the great

*By Mrs. Kathleen Flanagan,  
R.I.P., first published in the  
Ballyhaunis Parish Newsletter,  
Hallowe'en, 1971*

day.

The reason this wedding deserves mention is that it was on a par with the one at Cana in that it lasted seven days. Like Cana, they came short of wine. But it was not by request or through the intercession of our Blessed Lady that the miracle of renewal of the beverage was performed. But the miracle happened and the cost was not counted. Those were the days when the neighbours counted kindly, giving half the pride and joy of living.

Together with all this, there was a feast of music, singing, and dancing - all provided by local talent, most of



Mrs. Kathleen Flanagan, Spaddagh, with her granddaughter, Bernadette Flanagan, in 1976.

which was more than above average. It was there community singing could be heard at its best - and not a matter of "the young contending while the old surveyed", everybody joined in with "Deacy" as host and M.C. standing on the floor and calling on all for help with the chorus. Those who were never known to sing a note made musical history on that occasion. It was a true picture of the "Good old country way", free from all the shackles of dictated convention which often depresses rather than stimulates good fellowship, and free from the speech-making of "the best of heraldry and the pomp of power" of the opposing camps.

Readers may ask: "How could it last seven days - It would be more correct to say seven nights?" Well, we all went home in the early hours of the morning, had a sleep and attended to the more pressing chores. We returned at nightfall to take up where we left off the previous night, to watch and wait but not to pray for the second and subsequent "miracles." During all this merry-making not one incident occurred that even the most prim and proper could point a finger at. To quote " - The pleasures were of the crimeless kind that does not taint the soul." Viewed from the sophistication of the 1970s we would be considered mad.

Many who were at the wedding are long since gone to their reward. Those who survive and who may happen to read this will look back with pleasure and perhaps with a little regret on a way of life that is gone forever. Maybe they will say. Those were the days. But gone alas like our youth too soon, and so say all of us.

## Mrs. Mary Freeley retires

MRS. Mary Freeley retired in June this year, ending a long career of teaching in Ballyhaunis. She started teaching in the Convent of Mercy Secondary School and transferred to the Community School when that school opened in 1977.

Mrs. Freeley is a gifted linguist who taught English, French and German, but her first love was Leaving Certificate Honours English. Her wide knowledge and appreciation of English literature is reflected in the high marks achieved by the students in her classes. Many boys and girls will tell you that their A and B grades were due to her hard work and detailed knowledge of her subject. Added to that, she had an incisive understanding of their difficulties and she taught with a delightful sense of humour.

We all wish her a long and happy retirement.



Mrs Mary Freeley, Derrynacong who retired from her teaching post in the Ballyhaunis Community School, in June, 1996.

# History of B.E.

## *(Beginning Experience)*

**T**HE evolution of the Beginning Experience (B.E.) began in October 1973 when Sister Josephine Stewart and Ms. Jo Lamia attended a family enrichment programme. During that programme Ms. Lamia, who was divorced, wrote a letter of closure to her former husband. Both Sister Josephine, a professional family counsellor, and Ms. Lamia immediately perceived the impact of the closure experience and the sense of beginning which followed. With the people at the Catholic Renewal Centre of North Texas, Sister Josephine and Ms. Lamia perfected plans for B.E.

In October 1974 they piloted the first B.E. weekend. Requests for the programme immediately began to flow in from various parts of the country. The manual was copyrighted early in 1976. By July, B.E. was in motion on the East and West coasts and in many points in between. The enthusiastic reception indicates the very real need in the Church for this type of a programme.

By 1984 B.E. had become well established in Britain and Ireland. It came to Northern Ireland first and is now based in many centres in Ireland including the West. Boyle, Sligo and Ballinrobe would spring to mind. There is no B.E. programme or team as such in Mayo but, with God's help, this will be rectified in the not too distant future.

Anyone out there interested in the B.E. movement can get information by phoning Máire Paul at (079) 63000 or Catherine Gannon at (0903) 25858.

There are five stages between Death - Resurrection, between Grief - Health: (1) Denial, (2) Anger, (3) Bargaining, (4) Depression and (5) Acceptance. B.E. tries to help by reaching out with (6) Peace and Hope and (7) New Beginning.

### THE BEGINNING EXPERIENCE (B.E.)

The grief journey is a lonely one, and those who mourn deeply will feel that their friends and maybe even family do not understand what they are going through. The trauma of grief applies whether you have lost your spouse through death or separation.

*By Murt Hunt*

Beginning Experience is not like anything you have ever been involved in before. It provides you with a way to work through your grief. It encourages you to recognise the stages of grief and know where you are on your journey. It leads you to let go of your pain and to look outward once again. It helps you to reach out, and to grow.

Beginning Experience is not a social club, rather it is a programme of peer-ministry. The B.E. team themselves are a group of bereaved/separated people who have taken part in the programme and gained much from it. They wish to share their gains with you, if you are about one year or more bereaved or separated.

### MURT HUNT B.E.

No, Murt Hunt has not been conferred with a Bachelor of Education, neither have I been conferred with any honours for literary skills. The reality is that Murt Hunt has become a member of B.E. (Beginning Experience). I have been called back for Team Training and look forward to being a facilitator on the West of Ireland B.E. team.

As Anne (R.I.P.) had died in 1994, I was devastated and was not coping too well. I was near to desperation when my sister, who is a nun, mentioned B.E. to me. When I was told about B.E. and given a date to go to Esker for a weekend my feelings were mixed. Would I go or would I not, or how could I go and leave the kids behind or how would they feel about me going? I had notified Paddy, my best friend, about going and he was as undecided as I was. He had lost his wife also about the same time. Anne was a good friend of Kathleen (R.I.P.) However, we headed off for Esker that Friday evening in February 1995 and took a chance, as it were.

We finally arrived at the Monastery at Esker. We got fixed up with room numbers and identification tags, and it was a bit new to both of us. When we saw all the team members hugging and kissing we thought we were in for a very romantic weekend as there was only one man more except for Paddy

and myself and the rest were women.

We were put sitting in a big circle and we had to find out about the person sitting next to us and introduce each other to the crowd. Lucky enough, Paddy and I sat beside each other and we had no problem introducing each other. But we were split up when the groups were divided into sixes and sent to separate rooms.

There were two facilitators sent to each room with every four people. The facilitators would have been trained in previous years to deal with grief and loss. One would be a separated person and the other a widowed person. For the life of me I could not understand the significance of the lighted candle in the room and only afterwards came to realise it stood for confidentiality and that nothing that was said in that room would pass the four walls.

We would come to visit that room many times in the coming two days all for different stages of the process. These would be the principal parts of "Encounter with Self" as it is called.

1. Grief Journey - a journey through the grief of death or separation.
2. Trust - trusting others and trusting God.
3. Guilt - both real guilt and unreal guilt.
4. Reconciliation and acceptance.
5. Reaching out to others (in the same predicament).
6. Closing the door on the past.

We would come to hear the stories of the facilitators about their own personal tragedies in life and how they learned to cope with them. There would be some tears shed during the weekend, but that is only natural in the healing process. There would be also many light-hearted moments and a social get together on the Saturday night. By going home time on Sunday, the members would have become like one family having shared so much sorrow and love over the weekend. Many good friends would have been made on that weekend in Esker. Unfortunately my friend Paddy (R.I.P.) died the evening I was to do my training weekend in September 1995. I went to post a letter on my way to the weekend and



was told of his death at the Post Office by our local Postman. Having had him with me on the previous February for a weekend I can tell you I was once again devastated. That is why I did not get the opportunity again to go on a training weekend until 8th - 10th November, 1996.

That is why, on account of the deaths of my wife Anne (R.I.P.) and good friends Paddy and Kathleen (R.I.P.), I want to become seriously involved in the B.E. movement and try and give some peace and comfort to others who are in the same boat as me. Prior to going to Esker, I really had no time for divorced or separated people and could not class them in the same boat as widowed people. Now I realise that they go through the same stages of pain, loss and grief as widowed people.

I have made many good friends, both men and women, and both wid-

owed, divorced and separated through my dealing with B.E. All I can say to the many people out there who are suffering at this moment, be it either from the death of a loved one, or through separation/divorce, is to get talking to a B.E. member and get away to Esker for a weekend. When you have met those people who are in the same grieving process as yourself, and have heard their stories, you will come home a better, more loving and more caring person. You may not be fully healed, but you will have gone a long way down that road.

Self Inventory for these new beginning days.

1. I believe in me, my worth as a human being, created and loved by God. I am unique. There is only one of me.
2. Intellectually I have abilities. I can open my mind to new ideas. I can make decisions. I can read and absorb what I read. I can judge, think and act.

3. I have inward strength. I can face life and I can face death. I refused to give up before when the going was rough. I can keep on going now.
4. I care about other people. I can love. I can show concern outside myself. I can entertain other people for a meal or share a cup of coffee. I can be a friend. I can reach out to others. I can love my family and be loved by them in return.
5. I can believe enough in myself that "what other people think" need not frighten me. I can be me without fear. I do not need to meet the standards set for me by other people. I am capable of setting standards for myself, of honesty, of social living, of personal life.
6. I believe in my ideas, symbolised in the cross of wear. I can accept myself as lovable by others, for who and what I am.

## Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they  
sometimes will  
When the road you're trudging  
seems all uphill  
When the funds are low and the  
debts are high  
And you want to smile, but you  
have to sigh  
When care is pressing you down a  
bit  
Rest if you must, but don't you quit

Life is queer with its twists and  
turns  
As everyone of us sometimes learns,  
And many a person turns about  
When they might have won had they  
stuck it out  
Don't give up though the pace  
seems slow  
You may succeed with another blow

Often the struggler has given up  
When he might have captured the  
Victor's cup  
And he learned too late, when the  
night came down  
How close he was to the golden  
crown  
Success is failure turned inside out  
So stick to the fight when you're  
hardest hit  
Its when things seem worst that you  
must not quit

### FOOTNOTE

Those who bear the mark of pain are  
never really free,  
They owe a debt to the ones who  
still suffer.



Above : Ballyhaunis Under age players with Tommy Moran in a supervisory role and below with Fr. James O'Grady.



# The Ballyhaunis Manuscripts

WHEN John Biesty requests you to do something, it is usually wise to comply, for he is a serious man and given to matters well worth doing, especially when related to Ballyhaunis. He has been mentioning to me for a couple of years now, that I should endeavour to locate and report upon, certain manuscripts, which he knew to be in the National Library of Ireland.

When I was a youth and living in Lower Knox St., the dominant names were of the Biestys, Greenes, Morleys, Forkans, Smiths, Gilmores, Rattigans and Dillons. The present premises of Margaret and Pat Byrne, was composed of two separate houses. Nora and Eddie Biesty ran a popular ice-cream shop on the side nearer Pollnacraoaghy, while the Waldrons lived on the other side. Tom and Sarah Waldron, who are buried in the Friary graveyard, had three children P. A., Kate and M. F. P. A. Waldron was the local National Teacher until 1932, when Bill Mulligan took over, just before the advent of the first Fianna Fáil government. The field at the rear of Knox St., towards the river, was known as 'P. A.'s field.' P. A. Waldron, who died in 1942, is described as 'poet, wit and literateur' on his tombstone in the New Cemetery. His younger brother M. F., who died in 1954, was a most learned gentleman, and a man I remember giving me several books of historical interest. According to John Biesty, materials relating to this M. F. Waldron were in the National Library. My task was to seek them out and report on them. Unfortunately there was no reference number available, so several visits to the library proved fruitless. However, this Summer I deemed it wise, before I made my first trip to Knox Street, to be in a position to report positive progress. Hence this article.

"Brief Glimpses of Political, Social, Literary and Cultural Activities in one small spot of the West from 1887 to Present Day 7th March 1935" was written on the cardboard cover of the first manuscript, the official placed on the soft book-holder on the table at which I sat expectantly. I unknotted the twine which bound the cover and looked at the first page.

The materials are in the Manuscript Section of the National Library, which is at number 3 Kildare Street, Dublin,

*By Tony Jordan.*

through the Heraldic Museum. A ticket is required from the National Library itself. The reference numbers for the manuscripts are 16605 and 16417. Number 16605 is the one I referred to above. Also written on the cover is: "Random Recollections, Fenians, Martyrs, Politicians and Poets. Some Western Playboys and Glorious Liars."

The manuscripts consist of two scrapbooks of writings (poetry, plays, articles, letters) by Michael F. Waldron. It also includes many programmes of cultural events held in Ballyhaunis, newspaper cuttings and photographs. Though most of the materials relate to the interest of one man, they form an exciting view of Ballyhaunis through the decades and some have an importance of National interest. The oldest programme, printed at the Western People, relates to the "Ballyhaunis Amateur Dramatic and Variety Entertainment's Presentation of 'The Whiteboys' on the 14th of April 1887." All the programmes carry the names of the participants, which still echo familiar Ballyhaunis surnames e.g. Snee, McNamara, Waldron, Coyne, Delaney, Caulfield, Cassidy, Devine, Flatley, Swift, O'Connell, Killeen, Dillon, Rattigan, Higgins and Biesty. Music was by the Ballyhaunis Brass Band. Several concerts in the early years of the century were in aid of 'The New Church Fund.' One report of 2nd June 1900 details the return from America of Fr. Stephen Walsh C.C. who collected £1,500 for the New Church Fund. A reception was offered to him at Coyne's Hotel and bonfires blazed. On the 10th March 1916 "The Shaughran" was performed in aid of the Abbey Restoration Fund. Two years later at the New Hall, the Ballyhaunis Roger Casement Dramatic Society performed "Sentenced To Death" for the 'Ashe Memorial Fund.'

At Feis Muigheo in 1903, among the Ballyhaunis winners were John O'Dwyer, The Convent Choir, Maggie Waldron, Mrs. Swift of Kincora Villa, James O'Mulloy and Philip Waldron of Drimbane. Patrick Pearse and Douglas Hyde, whom M. F. Waldron knew, were prominent visitors to the Feis in Ballyhaunis. The Feis saw a profit of £90. On 8th of January 1904 'An

Craobh Bheal Atha hAmhnais' held a Cuirm Ceoil in aid of the New Church. There is a letter to M. F. Waldron from Douglas de Híde from Ratra in Frenchpark. (In June of 1996 I staged an event at Ratra House in Dublin. At the official opening, under the portrait of our first Uachtarán, as both Jim Higgins, Minister of State at Defence, and myself spoke as Gaeilge, I could not help but recall an incident that happened in Ballyhaunis while Douglas Hyde was President: as his official car passed over the bridge, Hyde saw a teenager standing there. He decided to engage the youth in conversation, as Gaeilge. To Hyde's consternation the youth replied in gibberish, mocking Hyde. The official with Hyde later reported the incident to the local Gardaí, who interviewed the youth who said he did not realise to whom he had been speaking!)

Matters Political are also contained in the manuscripts. A meeting of the Ballyhaunis Branch of the United Irish League was held in 1904. A December 1910 meeting of same, held after mass in the chapel yard, was presided over by Mr. D. Jordan, Vice-President. There are several newspaper cuttings from 'The Troubles' concerning events I remember my mother speaking of: Public meeting on martyred Lord Mayor of Cork (30th Oct. 1920); attack at Holywell on soldiers guarding military vehicle in bog; Constable Stephenson shot on Knox Street in November 1921; the death of young Michael Coen at Johnstown; the death of Commandant Sean Corcoran shot at Crossard; court-martial of Mr. Mullins N.T. Ballyhaunis in Galway; the death of Patrick Boland of Cloongoonagh, Aghamore in May 1921. There is a photograph of the late Tom McGuire unveiling a Memorial to Captain Patrick Boland I.R.A. on Easter Sunday 1928 in Aghamore cemetery.

Mr. Waldron has a fascinating record of his personal, though unwelcome, involvement as President of the South Mayo District Courts, as part of the Republican Courts which superseded the British system initially. He writes of the renewal of drink licences to Peter Hannon and Patrick Healy on the 6th May 1922 at the Parish Court of Justice under Dáil Eireann authority. The Treaty Election fund saw a parish collection on 6th May 1922: "It was for



the true patriots', said Canon M. J. McHugh P.P. Mr Liam D. Coyne B.A. Solicitor also spoke.

The first Annual Dance of the Ballyhaunis Pioneers was held in Moylett's Hall on a Sunday in April 1922. In 1919 Mr. Waldron writes about his experiences of organising local events, noting that such work usually falls on one or two people. He lists organisations he has been instrumental in starting in Ballyhaunis: 1. G.A.A. (Soccer was the common game, he says, until he got a copy of the G.A.A rules and began to interest the youth in this new game); 2. Literary and Debating Society; 3. Annual Dramatics for the Church; 4. Cycling Club; 5. Gaelic League; 6. Industrial Development Company; 7. Jim Coffey Carnival and Boxing show.

In November 1929 there is a piece posing the question: "Are we over-organised?" He lists local organisations:

1. Political: United Irish League, Sinn Fein (pre-war type), Ancient Order of Hibernians, Town Tenants League, Sinn Fein (republican type), National Defence League, Fianna Fail, Cumann na nGael, Sinn Fein (split section of older body), Labour and Cumann na mBan.
2. Linguistic: Gaelic League, Fáiinne.
3. Athletic: G.A.A - football, Rugby - football, Golf, Tennis, Dance.
4. Economic: Egg Buyers, Town Improvements, Licensed Traders', Blacksmiths' Union, I.T.W.U.
5. Artistic: Two Dramatic Societies.
6. Military: Boy Scouts (a war development), Volunteers, I.R.A., Ex-Servicemen's Associations (British and I.R.A.).
7. Religious and Charitable: Sodality of The Sacred Heart, Children of Mary, Confraternity, Two Church Choirs, Catholic Truth Society, Vincent de Paul, Total Abstinence, Pioneers, White Cross, Red Cross.

Among the subjects covered in his Letters and Articles in the papers are: Home Rule, Emigration, Whiskey Duty, Women's Education (very politically correct), obituary on James Greally, N.U.I. Graduates, the Mexican Crisis, a possible tactical loyal address to visiting King and Queen (1911), Manual Training, Margaret Burke Sheridan, Teaching of History, Recognition of Schools, Cruelty to Animals, open letters to A. J. Balfour and Edward Carson, Black Bigotry, Dangers to Health of Book Borrowing, 1913 Strike, Obituary on Tommy Freely, visit of Bishop of North Queensland, obituary on John Fergus Coyne (20th Mar. 1920), his favourite reading list from Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe" to



Ratra House Phoenix Park June 1996. Sean Dublin - Bay Loftus, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Jim Higgins T.D., Anthony Jordan at the opening of exhibition on "Winston Churchill's Dublin Childhood", organised by Anthony Jordan.

"Essays" by Thomas Davis.

Mr. Waldron applied to Mayo County Council for the position of County Secretary. His Curriculum Vitae consists of a glossy brochure with his graduation photograph and details of his career. He graduated in Arts at the Royal University majoring in Classics, Mental and Moral Science and Political Economy. He also studied at the London School of Economics, later taking an LL.B.

For myself the most exciting pieces in the manuscripts are his personal reminiscences of famous people he knew. Some of the names are unknown to me but many are those who helped to shape modern Ireland. He stood beside John O'Leary as he gave the oration in Glasnevin at the grave of James Stephens. He met P.H. Pearse first as a student at the Royal University: "A pale, thoughtful looking young student with a soft round face..... I always thought Pearse a deeply sincere student, wholly wrapped up in things literary and intellectual and not worrying much about political matters. He was moody, taciturn, though now and then a fine smile would brighten his rather solemn countenance." Francis Sheehy-Skeffington: ".....could not see the sense of conforming to ordinary conventions." Arthur Griffith: ".....as a politician he showed none of the elasticity or malleability of the ordinary type....." Of John MacBride he writes: "a thoughtful, prudent gentleman, broadminded and ready to make allowances for differences of opinions.....mild mannered, courteous and

unassuming, the famous soldier gave the impression of having abundant force of character in reserve.....he kept to the point at issue.....clean shaven, about middle height, rather sallow complexion, a keen dark lively eye that seemed to penetrate one with a glance....." He also has pen pictures of John Dillon, Edward Martyn, T. D. Sullivan, Father O'Growney, Edward O'Meagher Condon, Cathal McGarvey, John O'Leary, James Stephens, George Clancy, Edward Hogan S.J., William O'Brien, J. Gilhooly M.P., J. L. Carew M.P., John O'Donnell M.P. and Darby Glavey.

Mr. Waldron also has a beautiful memoir of meeting Michael Davitt. He writes that during his few days visit to the constituency he was the guest of his friend Canon Canning P.P. of Ballyhaunis (whose housekeeper was my own mother's aunt, Bridget Kilkenny): "A number of us set out for the parochial house intent on seeing the famous Davitt and presenting him with an address. Fr. Canning introduced us individually as we entered the reception and I shall not forget how I felt on grasping the lone left hand of the great patriot; or the warmth and vigour of his grasp. Tall, of striking physique, a thick, well trimmed grey beard and strong grey hair, Davitt looked every inch of what he was - a gladiator....."

I hope that some other Ballyhaunis people, who see fit to peruse these two manuscripts, and like myself admire the diversity of the cultural life of a bygone age made possible by the foresight of a scion of Lower Knox Street.

# The Unsung Heroes of Ballyhaunis in 1930

I can still vividly recall the Summer morning in 1930 when fire broke out in John Kenny's home in Main Street, Ballyhaunis. Nowadays, the house is owned by the Phillips family, but looking at the fine three storey building today, one could scarcely believe that it was a scene of high drama and great courage all those years ago.

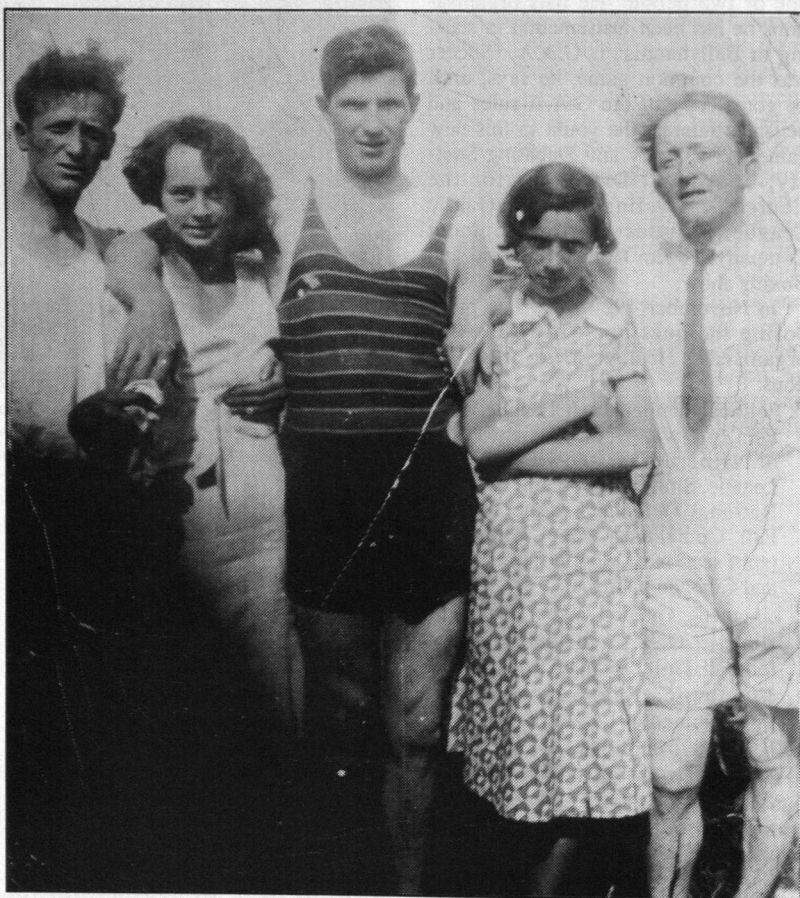
*By John P. Healy*

The seriousness of the fire can be gauged by the extent of coverage it received in the local papers at the time. Fortunately, there were no major injuries. In my opinion, this was due to a combination of good luck, alertness of the locals, and, in particular, the valiant efforts of two brothers - John and Tom Greene from Carrowreagh. More of their story later.

The approach to fire-fighting in the 1930s was very different to what we are accustomed to nowadays. There was no running water in Ballyhaunis at the time. The only water supply, apart from the Clare River, was a deep well beside the Post Office. From here, water had to be drawn in buckets. As luck would have it, heavy rain the night before left tanks and barrels in adjoining yards full of water. This helped to avert what would have been certain disaster.

Not surprisingly for 1930, there was no fire service in Ballyhaunis. However, I remember being astounded at the time to hear that even Castlebar did not have a fire station. The military Fire Brigade from Athlone was sent for and, although the fire broke out in early morning, they made good time to arrive by afternoon. They were able to run a hose along the Street to the Clare River.

The Guards from Swinford and Kilkelly helped to contain the flames until the Athlone Fire Brigade arrived. The Chief Superintendent from Castlebar supervised their operations. The local Sergeant in Ballyhaunis at the time was Sergeant Conway, who together with his men did trojan work containing the fire. There was initially great confusion when the fire broke out but Sergeant Conway brought some order to the scene, organising the fire-fighting effort and maintaining a steady flow of water from the well, from nearby barrels



Left to right: Jack Morley, Knox Street; \_\_\_\_\_; Tom Greene, Knox Street; \_\_\_\_\_; and Larry Moran, Upper Main Street.

and tanks and from any other available source. Incidentally, I would like to mention the fact that Sergeant Conway was a fine looking man who went about his duties in a quiet and dignified manner until his retirement from the force many years later.

It was Sergeant Conway who rescued John Kenny, his wife, their daughter and her young baby. The whole family was trapped in the upper rooms of the three storey house. It was rather unfortunate that the daughter of Mr. Kenny, Mrs. Higgins, arrived from America on the very night the fire broke out at her father's shop in the town. It must have been a traumatic experience for a mother with a young baby, having travelled thousands of miles without incident over land and sea, to be rescued from a fire in her home town of Ballyhaunis. In 1930 the jet age was still a

long way into the future. Needless to say, the enterprising dreams of Monsignor Horan's Knock Airport were another fifty years from reality. The birds and singing skylarks had the monopoly of the skies in those days, and America was a long distance from "that little old mud cabin on the hill." Time and patience were important in the old days, when a slower pace was the norm.

When Mrs. Higgins arrived in Ballyhaunis she was, no doubt, looking forward to a good night's rest after such a long journey. But this was not to be, instead, she had to meet the challenge of being rescued from a blazing building. Doubtless, God and His angels must have been watching over her and she survived her terrible experience. Despite the almost serious consequences, mother and child suffered no ill effects,

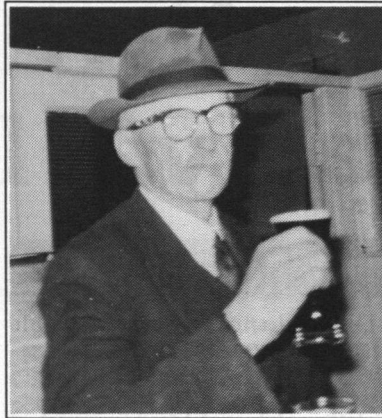


and we were told that the baby slept throughout the whole ordeal.

When Mr. Higgins returned from America some time later, they purchased John M. Conroy's premises known as "The Corner Bar", where they carried on a successful business for a number of years. Their two daughters went to the Convent school in Ballyhaunis.

Later on, the two sisters emigrated to New York where they have made their permanent home. Nevertheless, they still find time to take that old nostalgic trip to the old home town where they are warmly welcomed by their many school friends and relations. No doubt, after such trips they return to America with up-to-date details of Ballyhaunis and rekindled memories of past events. Memories which for many a lonely emigrant would awaken in the mind lingering dreams of whin-clad hills and white houses of their homeland. As an emigrant myself for many years, I can admit with a little sentiment to having felt that nibble at the heartstrings. The old saying "a broken heart for every light on Broadway" may still be true for far too many today.

On the day of the fire Mr. Gallagher sent most of his staff, including myself,



John Greene, Carrowreagh.

to help remove stock from the shop to adjoining residents' houses, who were willing to co-operate in storing the goods. As an eye-witness, with an opportunity to see the fire from close proximity, I remember being impressed with the courage and determination of John and Tom Greene. In my mind, they were the true unsung heroes of Ballyhaunis on the day of the fire. They were fearless in their efforts. I watched, awestruck, as they climbed double and three section ladders with buckets of water. It was an effort well beyond the normal

call of duty. They were responsible in no small measure for keeping the fierce flames at bay until the Fire Brigade arrived many hours later.

One outstanding feature was the dignified manner in which the unsung heroes left the scene when the fire was brought under control. They did not hang around to have their names inscribed in the roll of honour compiled by a journalist covering the story. Nor did they wait around to partake of the 'goodies' that were laid on in the Hotel for the Fire Brigade as many of the onlookers did. They rode away on bicycles into the afternoon sunshine, reminiscent of the old movie star heroes riding into the sunset in well rehearsed Hollywood style after saving the little town and its people from the terrors of desperadoes and gun-slingers.

Today, the families of John and Tom Greene and their children's children are committed members of the Ballyhaunis community. They are hard at work, both at home and abroad, many of them in the religious and educational fields. I hope that they will accept my belated tribute and take a bow on behalf of Tom and John for their courageous endeavours on that summer morning in Ballyhaunis in 1930.

## The Abbey Male Choir

HAVING lost the services in recent years of Dermot Eagney and John O'Neill (both in fact due to promotion in their respective jobs), our numbers were thankfully increased in the past twelve months when Jimmy Mulligan, Alan Delaney and Fintan O'Leary joined the "band." Also, since the departure of Darragh Eagney, our organist, we have been blessed with the services of Una Butler and Aine Fahey who generally alternate the Sundays between them.

In December of last year, the group got together and donated (with the help of the generosity of the local people) an organ to the Abbey. Thankfully, through various types of fund raising - concerts, wren-boys and a golf classic, the debt incurred on its purchase has now been almost wiped out. Our appearances this year included variety concerts in

*By Michael Byrne*

Bekan parish church and also, combined with the parish choir, we performed

at the Annual Novena in Knock in August. Thanks mainly to the dedication and encouragement of conductress, Moira Delaney, the commitment shown, and the

enjoyment received by the lads, seems to increase with each passing year.

The Choir is, of course, always open to new members at any time. The Abbey Male Choir performs each Sunday at 11am Mass, with a short practise afterwards, lasting no more than half an



Photo taken in 1995 to mark the departure of Dermot and Darragh Eagney from the choir. Back, L-R: Brendan Morrissey, Paul Donnellan and Jimmy Walsh. Centre, L-R: George Hannan, Fr. V. McCarthy O.S.A., Moira Delaney (Conductress), Mike Grogan, Vinnie Healy, Darragh Eagney and Mick O'Connell. Front, L-R: T. J. McCarrick, Mike Byrne, Eamon Murren, Dermot Eagney, Luke Murray, Frankie Dillon and Denis Hannan.

# The Legion of Mary

**T**HE Legion of Mary has now completed sixty-two years of its existence in Ballyhaunis. We have senior and junior praesidia in this parish. Some of our Legion work involves visiting the sick, lonely and bereaved in their homes, hospitals and nursing homes, promotion of the Rosary through the travelling virgin, church work and the sale of Catholic papers and magazines.

This year our annual outing was a particularly special occasion. In July, a large number of active and auxiliary members, accompanied by Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A., went to visit the birthplace of the Venerable Edel Quinn near Kanturk, Co. Cork. Edel was Legion Envoy in Africa 1936 - 1944. During her eight years in that continent, she worked ceaselessly in promoting the Legion and set up thousands of Praesidia that still exist there. She died in Kenya in 1944. On December 25th 1994, Edel Quinn was solemnly recognised by the church and she was given the title "Venerable." On arrival in Kanturk, local legionnaires welcomed us and brought us to the Parish Church at Castlemagner, where Edel had been baptised eighty-nine years ago. The baptismal font is still used today. After Fr. O'Connor offered a Mass of thanksgiving in that Church we went to visit the lovely old house where Edel was born and which is still occupied by her relations. It was a memorable day, a truly joyous and spiritual experience for all of us.

*By Agnes Heaney*

We had another very enjoyable event recently, when the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Legion of Mary was commemorated with a special Concelebrated Mass in a packed Blessed Sacrament Church in Knock. The Legion was founded by Frank Duff on September 7th 1921. The principal Celebrant was Dr. Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, assisted by fifteen Spiritual Directors. In his homily, Dr. Neary paid tribute to the work of the Legion members in their continuous commitment to Prayer and Apostolic action in the diocese. Speaking about the Legion's miraculous growth and development in the last seventy-five years, he said that when Frank Duff gathered fifteen people together to set up the first Legion meeting in Dublin, little did he know how successful and effective it was to become. Today, there are more than ten million members world-wide. He said that in 1996 we need the Legion of Mary and people like Frank Duff and Edel Quinn more than ever before. He concluded his address by reminding us to pray for those inspired people who launched the Legion and to thank God and his Blessed Mother for all the countless graces and blessings that they have bestowed upon us through our Legion membership. After the Church Ceremony we retired to the Belmont Hotel to our celebration dinner and dance.

## The Famine

*By Michael Godfrey*

What a sad year was black '47  
For thousands how cruel was their plight  
When the humble potato had failed them  
When struck by the ravaging blight

For that was the year of the famine  
You can see that wherever you go  
By the dikes and the ridges they turned  
For the humble potato to sow

Many sailed to reach a new World  
With hope and God's prayer on their lips  
But sadly for them they ne'er made it  
For they died in the cruel coffin ships

The landlords they had no mercy  
No compassion or justice prevailed  
And sad was the fate of our people  
When the humble potato had failed

They died by the highways and the byways  
And many were buried at sea  
With no mark to show where they are resting  
No headstone or fond effigy

How sad that today in this World  
The famine is with us today  
While the food mountain grows ever larger  
While millions go hungry each day.



A Legion of Mary group photographed at the Edel Quinn Pilgrimage at Castlemagner Church, Kanturk, County Cork, on July 4th, 1996.



# Séamus wins National Award

**T**HE Coca-Cola National Enterprise Awards competition is a prestigious competition which is sponsored by Coca-Cola and co-ordinated by Dundalk Regional Technical College. This year was the inaugural year of the competition and attracted 800 entries from graduates from all over Ireland. A total of over 800 graduates applied and from these applicants 35 were selected to attend a series of seven one-day (Saturdays) training courses and seminars in Dublin.

Following these intensive training courses, I was awarded a NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) in Enterprise Development accredited by Dundalk R.T.C.

Having completed the training course, the 35 participants were obliged to prepare a Business Plan for their business proposal.

My submission was later selected among the last six finalists which were adjudicated by Senator Fergal Quinn; Mr. Dan Flinter, Chief Executive, Forbairt; Dr. Patricia Carr, University College, Cork; Mr. Aidan Brady, Chief Executive, Citibank, and Mr. Martin Murdock, Financial Director, Norbrook Laboratories.

## *By Séamus Caulfield.*

On the 30th October, I was awarded second place in Ireland in the Coca-Cola National Enterprise Awards Competition. The awards ceremony was held in the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham, and my cheque for £5,000 was presented by the Minister for Enterprise & Employment, Mr. Richard Bruton. My business plan was based on the "Animal Bye-Products" sector and its under-utilisation in Ireland. Large quantities of animal bye-products are inefficiently disposed of in Irish abattoirs. My proposal concentrated on the edible use of a range of animal by-products for which there is a ready export market.

An abundant supply of animal bye-products is available at Irish abattoirs and operatives experienced in closely related products and processes are in position to commence trading in the very near future.

I researched the market for these products and found that there was a firm existing demand for such products throughout the Middle East and among Muslim communities in Europe. A fur-

ther market is available in France, where processing and presentation techniques have ensured that these natural foods continue to be very popular among health and nutrition-conscious consumers.

My business proposal involves a number of existing businesses in related industries and distribution chains in France, Spain, Portugal and the Middle East.

Negotiations have taken place and continue to take place between the various business interests and structures for the business operation are being finalised.

I believe that a major food export business can be built on this West of Ireland resource which has, up to now, been under-utilised.

My proposal also suggested that the fledgling business be supported by technical back-up and expertise which may come from an Animal Bye-Products Resource Centre which would provide market and product information.

This venture has the full support of the Department of Enterprise and Employment, the State Development Agencies (Forbairt, FAS, County Enterprise Board), and the all-important European Commission, who were early enthusiasts of this proposal.

Back in 1994, through my work with Enterprise Connacht/Ulster, we made the European Commission aware of this under-utilised resource and the Commission supported a seminar on the topic which was held in Mayo in 1995. This Seminar was attended by industries from Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany and the Middle-East, and by European Commission representatives and Irish Development Agencies.

It is now time to call back to the European Commission with this business proposal and tell them of my success in the Coca-Cola National Enterprise Awards Competition.

## **Pat Killeen's Election Rhyme**

*Written by P. A. Waldron, N.T.  
and recited at election time by  
Pat Killeen*

"I'm the deputy deputation,  
The proper deputation was arrested  
Suffering from drink,  
Of the amalgamated society of  
itinerant street singers  
Which is incorporated with the  
benevolent society  
For the suppression of cock-crowing  
and other diabolical noises."



East Mayo Final - Champions Ballyhaunis. Hugh Rudden, East Mayo Chairman, presenting the East Mayo Cup to the Ballyhaunis Captain, Séamus Caulfield.

# From an American Diary

By Áine Hunt, *Lecarrow* (9).

APRIL 1996

**W**HEN I came home from school there was a letter on the kitchen table. I opened it, and there was a note from my Aunt Carmel and Uncle Pat, it said, "We hope you like your First Communion Present." I certainly did! It was tickets for me, my big brother Murty, my Aunt Kathleen and my Grandmother to go to stay with them in Boston for six weeks, including a week's trip to Disneyworld, Orlando, Florida! Here is my Diary:

**JULY**

**Thursday 11th** – Today we're going to Boston. The aeroplane is quite large. While on the plane, the air-hostess gave me a sticker book. Immediately I switched on the headphones and listened to some music. My favourites were Alanis Morissette with "One hand in my pocket", and The Fugees with "Killing me softly." It was like Heaven overlooking the clouds. I was half-crying when leaving Dad. We had to leave at five o'clock in the morning to get here. Only another two and a half hours until we land.

**Friday 12th** – I went with Aunt Carmel to work today, she works as an auctioneer. We sold an apartment to an old couple called Bernie and Miriam and they asked us to come for a cup of coffee in "Friendly's." My Sister Noelle came all the way from Cape Cod today. My Sister Carmel's boyfriend hasn't sent her a birthday card I wonder if he will???

**Saturday 13th** – Today it was raining very heavily. We went out to rent videos to keep ourselves amused. We rented "All dogs go to Heaven", "Dumb and Dumber" and "Fried Green Tomatoes" in The Whistlestop cafe.

**Sunday 14th** – Uncle Pat brought us to an Irish Rugby Match. We didn't get home until nine o'clock and we left at two o'clock! We deserved a treat on



Áine Hunt and Murty Hunt with Goofy at Magic Kingdom, Orlando, Florida.

the hot day! We met Tom Kenny (Uncles Pat's friend) and his two kids, Ronald and Oisín.

**Monday 15th** – I slept in until eleven o'clock. We are going to see the twins, (the twins my sister babysits) on Tuesday next. Today we walked past their house: it was big, beautiful and they had a swimming pool.

**Tuesday 16th** – Today we waited for the twins' mother (Beth) to call us. That afternoon we saw them! Their names are Theo and Alex, I wanted to take one home. Uncle Pat bought Murty a basketball.

**Thursday 18th** – Today Carmel brought me to the city. We searched for sandals to wear to Orlando. Murty got his ones already. I couldn't see any nice ones, we will get them tomorrow.

**Friday 19th** – Carmel, my Aunt Kathleen and I went to get my sandals. I found a pretty nice pair in "Kid-s'R'us", they are brown, leather and they fit perfectly. I'm getting a new denim dress tomorrow.

**Saturday 20th** – We went shopping today and I bought a denim dress. We were invited to see a neighbour's Chinese fish worth at least \$5,000 each.

**Sunday 21st** – It is Grandad's anniversary tomorrow: Aunty Carmel and Uncle Pat are holding a huge bar-

becue outside. I met all Dad's cousins that I didn't even know he had. It's my brother Murty's birthday tomorrow, we're having a surprise birthday party.

**Monday 22th** – Today's Murty's birthday! Aunt Carmel is taking him golfing for a treat. She is buying him a new pair of jeans. We've already bought him an ice-cream cake.

I can't wait!

**Thursday 25th** – Today I got new shorts as Aunt Kathleen ruined my other ones by putting bleach on them by mistake. Went swimming in the afternoon. Watched "Babe" after supper.

**Saturday 27th** – Today we are going to Orlando. Uncle Pat left already as he couldn't get on the same plane as us. He met us at Orlando International Airport. Got a bit lost but found our way all right. The place is lovely.

**Sunday 28th** – We went to "The Magic Kingdom" today, we actually spent nine hours there, I loved "Thunder Mountain." We didn't go on "Splash Mountain", which is a pity but we are going there again so I don't mind.

**Monday 29th** – Today we went to "Epcat Centre", the rides were boring but I loved, "Honey, I shrunk the audience." Aunt Kathleen didn't approve of that one.



**Tuesday 30th** – Today we went to “River Country”, I went on slides, but the lifeguard gave out to me, saying “you’re too big for the slides!” Why didn’t he tell me that in the first place? My cousin Patty, is coming tomorrow.

**Wednesday 31st** – We went for a swim while waiting for Patty to arrive. When we came back, she was there. Uncle Pat has to go back tomorrow. I got a tan and a burn today.

## AUGUST

**Thursday 1st** – We all went to M.G.M. Studios today, we went to the “Tower of Terror” first. I met Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Tigger, Lurch and Goofy and I got their autographs!

**Friday 2nd** – Today Patty left. She sneaked \$40 into my pocket. Today I went on “Splash Mountain”, it was great. I saw Pete’s garage, Mickey’s house, Minnie’s house and Donald’s boat.

**Saturday 3rd** – Today we came home. We are going on a duck tour tomorrow. Our luggage didn’t arrive for half an hour.

**Sunday 4th** – All the tickets for the duck tour are sold out. We went to “Cheers” (T.V. programme) pub instead, had a great time!

**Wednesday 7th** – Today we are going to Cape Cod to see Aunt Carmel’s new house, it is beautiful. We are going to stay in Cape Cod on Saturday.

**Saturday 10th** – We went to Cape Cod today. We also went to Hyannis to have a meal in the place where my sister works, with her serving us. Aunt Carmel rented a house beside the sea, we will go for a swim every day.

**Sunday 11th** – We went to Aunt Carmel’s friend’s house after Mass in the Holy Trinity Church. I played with their dogs Fred and Barney to pass the time: they are well-built Golden Labradors, their owners are called Kay and Mike. Mike took Murty fishing on the sea.

**Wednesday 14th** – We met Peggy and Mrs. Manning (Aunt Carmel’s friends) in a restaurant called “Captain Parker’s.” The “Captain” is Mrs. Manning’s son so we got starters free.

When we got home we had a swim.

**Thursday 15th** – It is a Holy Day so we went to Mass. There was some commotion at the church because an ambulance, police car and fire-engine arrived. My Cousin Kathleen Carroll and her friend Estelle came, Uncle Pat and my sister Noelle came, and then my sister Carmel and Carmel’s friend, Bridie came up later. We had a great evening. We left for Ireland the next day.

# If I can do it so can you!

**A**S a full-time house-wife and mother with four hectic children under my belt, I saw an advertisement for a course in University College, Galway - Adult Education, a certificate in Social Care - an area in which I had a great interest. So, I decided to jump head-first with both feet and applied for it: the application forms were the first of what there was to come, I hadn’t written a letter, never mind an essay in the last ten or fifteen years. But, I got over that; then there was the interview. I got all dressed up, had what I wanted to say off by heart in my head and, before I knew where I was, I was outside the door waiting to be called. I never knew what it was to be nervous until then. I had a washing machine in my stomach on spin cycle, a basket ball in my throat and my mouth had turned into a desert. Well, I got in there and decided this is me, like it or not and they must have, because three weeks later I got a letter of acceptance for a place in U.C.G.; I was now a fully fledged student.

My course was part-time, one day a week with a seminar every month. On arrival I was stunned by the sheer size of the place and thousands of people running around, most of them not even half my age.

Our first few lectures introduced us to the course, the University and to each other. There were twenty-five in my set, all in similar situations to my own and we all got on like a house on fire. Firstly, we had to re-learn how to study, how to write essays and to take lecture notes. It was a long time since I left the books and it was a big culture shock to return to them.

College life was great: new people, new experiences and new challenges every day, and then home in the evening, sit down with my children and do our homework.

We covered a lot on self-awareness, self esteem, assertiveness. I became a lot more confident; there were lectures, seminars, exams, essays, deadlines to be met and, at times, I wondered was it all worthwhile and many a cold, rainy morning went by as I drove to Galway after packing the kids off to school.

Time flew by and before I knew it the year was over, our finals done and



*By Eileen Folliard*

we waited for results. We all passed, and I said: “I lasted one year, I’ll do another.” The second year went by even more quickly than the first and, on Wednesday 23rd October 1996, I went up with twenty-four others with my cap and gown to receive my Diploma in Social Care - one of the proudest days of my life. Next year, I hope to go on to do my Degree.

Returning to College was one of the hardest things I have ever undertaken and when I look back on it all, juggling everything together, there were times when I was tempted to go home and return to my former role of housewife and mother, thinking it was all too much for me. But I kept going and now am so glad that I did because it has been one of the most challenging and rewarding things I have ever done. Not only did I learn about the course, but I learned about myself. It gave me a new outlook on life as well as a qualification. I would recommend to anyone. If I did it so can you.

# Ballyhaunis as seen through the eyes of the "Western People"

**T**HE years, even the decades, roll by as we comb the microfilm pages of *The Western People* for random, yet fascinating stories from the Ballyhaunis of another generation. We uncover some interesting events and names that will bring memories to so many people.

Many thanks to my colleague Ann Bourke - now Ann Grimes - for her research work with this project.

## 1986

**JANUARY:** Large crowds attended the St. Patrick's Society production of "The Field" in The Parochial Hall, produced and directed by Pat Doyle. The cast included Darragh Shields, John Gunnigan, Frank Leonard, Finola Morley, Anne Jordan, Tony Carney, Pdraig Lyons, Jim Donnelly, Michael Daly, Gerry Carney, Maureen Caulfield, Joe Fitzmaurice, and Jack Greene.

**MARCH:** In the local Squash League, the following were the results of the competition sponsored by Farah: Division 1, Section A - Vincent Henry; Section B - Barry Hanly. Runners-up - Tadgh Buckley and E. Healy.

The Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber Debating team - John Higgins, Matt O'Dwyer, Jim Lundon and Chris Pratt - defeated a team from Burton-on-Trent, in the England v Ireland semi-final of the International Trevor Morrow Trophy held at Ballyhaunis Community School.

**APRIL:** The Ballyhaunis Under-21 GAA team defeated Davitts in the East Mayo final held in Aughamore. Team members were Paddy Phillips, Richard Phillips, Tony Waldron, George Delaney, David Fitzgerald, Joe Webb, Eamon Cunnane (Capt.), Albert Madden, Val Byrne, Seamus Kenny, James Clarke, Noel Phillips and Paul Webb. Subs were John Leonard and Brian Murray.

**JULY:** Prizewinners in the Lady Captain's (Síle Forde) prize at the Ballyhaunis Golf Club included Mrs. K. Fanning, Mrs. M. Burke, Mrs. M. F. Cleary, Mrs. S. Laffey, Mrs. K. Nolan,

By

David  
Dwane



Miss N. Dillon, Miss K. Keane, and Miss M. Webb.

**SEPTEMBER:** Retired "Western People" reporter Mick O'Connell was made a presentation of a five-year All-Ireland ticket at a meeting of Connacht G.A.A. Council in Castlerea.

## 1976

**JANUARY:** Paddy Waldron was congratulated on being elected as Mayo delegate to the Central Council of the G.A.A.

Eamonn Meath and Mick Winston were the winners of the first prize in the 25-drive held in The Scout Den.

Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber announced Rita Webb as Ballyhaunis Person of the Year for 1975.

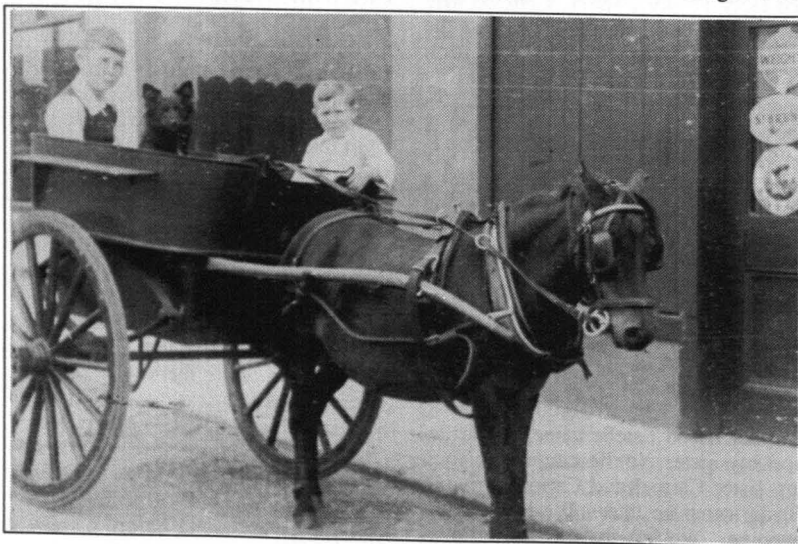
Work commenced on the construction of the new Community School,

under the direction of contractors, Faragher and Co., Tuam.

In Round Two of the Mayo Badminton Championships, Ballyhaunis beat Crossmolina. Winners for Ballyhaunis were Phil Hughes, Mrs E. Kelly, Donal Moran, Christy Ruane, Kieran Moran and P. Glynn. The games took place in Crossmolina.

**FEBRUARY:** 18-year old Eddie Campbell received a Western People Sports Star award for his considerable achievements in International Hammer Throwing.

At a Cub Investiture in the Scout Den, Seamus Durkan referred to the plans to reconstruct the Ballyhaunis Den, and to make it the largest Scout Den in the country. Canon J. G. McGarry performed the ceremony, in the presence of Cub Leader David Dwane and Unit Chairman Patrick Kelly. Making his first public appearance was new Diocesan Commissioner, Anthony McNulty, Ballina. Cubs invested were Raymond Waldron, Michael Maguire, Kevin Henry, Paul G. Waldron, Michael Rattigan, Cathal Freeley, Joseph Webb, Derek Byrne and Val Byrne. Cub of the Year was John Fitzgerald, with Frank Henry as runner-up. Bronze Arrow badges were



Leo and Gabriel Forkan, 1940s.



presented to Frank Henry, Brian Loughran, Brian Marrinan, John Fitzgerald, James Waldron, Damien Rattigan and Alan Rattigan. Thanks was also paid to Assistant Cub Leaders John Toolan, Ivan Freeley and Rory O'Connor.

## 1966

**JANUARY:** The house at Upper Main St., the gable of which was convenient to the side of the main road and which was formerly the property of the late William Morley, was demolished by Mayo County Council to make way for road widening.

Cork native, Gerry Butler was appointed Veterinary Inspector of the Department of Agriculture, based in Ballyhaunis.

Table Tennis was revived in Ballyhaunis, with the election of the following committee: Chairman, Fr. T. Hegarty; Hon. Secretary, Norrie Dillon; Hon. Treasurer, Cora McGarry; Committee Members: Mercy Flatley, Mary Nally, Rita Concannon, Eamon Dwane, Iris Lynch and Bertie Lynch.

**FEBRUARY:** Big prizewinners in Ballyhaunis Bingo were Paddy Kearns, Kilgarraff (£20), Miss M. Roddy, Castlereagh (£13), Mrs. J. Higgins, Devlis (£10) and Mrs. B. Egan, Knock (£10).

**MARCH:** Playing in The Star Cinema were "President's Lady", starring Suzan Hayward and Charlton Heston, and "This Earth Is Mine", starring Rock Hudson and Dorothy McGuire.

**JUNE:** Our reporter expressed surprise at the defeat by the Ballyhaunis Intermediate Football team of an up and coming Swinford team. Playing for Ballyhaunis were P. Regan, P. Mullarkey, M. Byrne, M. Cameron, M. Forde, P. Curley, J. Lyons, T. Morley, M. McQueeney, T. Cribbin, B. Moran, S. Waldron, M. Curley, E. Keane and P. Dillon.

**SEPTEMBER:** A Carnival in aid of the local G.A.A. Club featured top

dance bands like The Ohio, Riviera, Cadets, Debonaires, Kevin Flynn and The Editors, Patricia and The Hilton, and The Royal Blues, all playing in The Eclipse Ballroom. The Carnival was to raise funds towards the purchase price of £1700, and development price of £500, for a new 14-acre permanent Club ground on the Knock Road.

**NOVEMBER:** There was an overflow attendance at The Parochial Hall for the meeting, under the auspices of the Defence of the West Committee, organised for the purpose of launching a tourist drive in the area. The meeting was presided over by John Dillon.

## 1956

**MARCH:** The Stardusters Orchestra from Belfast featuring Jon Darra, Ireland's Dickie Valentine, were scheduled to play at the Easter Sunday Night Dance in the Eclipse Ballroom.

This year's Lady officers in the Golf Club were President, Mrs. L. Coughlan, Swinford; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. J. Dillon-Leetch; Asst. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss M. Moyle; Committee members: Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Cormickan, Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. Darcy and Mrs. Coffey, and Misses Waldron, Cassidy and Gilmore.

**APRIL:** Final arrangements were being made for the Ballyhaunis Pioneers outing by non-stop train to Dublin, to be led by their Spiritual Director, Fr. M. Goodwin.

**MAY:** Sister Mary Assumpta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Lyons, Devlis, was professed in the Convent of La Sante Union, London.

Scenes in connection with An Tostal celebrations, transmitted by the BBC, were clearly received by holders of TV sets in Ballyhaunis.

**JUNE:** Fr. A. Cribbin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cribbin, Bushisland, Ballyhaunis, was ordained to the priesthood in Kilkenny Cathedral. He will be posted to the USA.

At Ballyhaunis Fair, bullocks and heifers, three to four years old, fetched between £50 and £60; calves, from £8 to £14; lambs, from £4 ten shillings to £6 ten shillings; and springers, £45 to £60.

## 1946

**JANUARY:** After an opera and concert by the Junior Operatic Society in the Parochial Hall, special tributes were paid to Marie Flatley, David Mulligan, Enda Lyons, Fintan Lynch, John Byrne and John Foudy for the parts they played. The cast was prepared by Mrs. Dill Hughes, A.L.C.M.

Seamus O'Dwyer, N.T. presided at the AGM of the Ballyhaunis GAA Club at which the following officers

were elected: Chairman, P. Walsh; Vice-Chairman, E. Biesty; Secretary, W. Coppinger; Treasurer, W. Waldron. Committee: V. Caulfield, M. J. Boyle, Peter Regan, J. O'Dwyer, M. Tarmey, Mark Waldron, M. Tully and A. Prenty.

**FEBRUARY:** The annual general meeting of the Ballyhaunis branch of the Irish Distributive Workers and Clerks, held in Mrs. Mullins' Hotel, Abbey St., was chaired by Willie Coppinger. The Secretary, Tony Boyle, referred to the end of the war as the happiest feature of 1945, and paid tribute to the members who carried out their duties and maintained their positions through such a long period of shocks and disappointments.

**MARCH:** Albert Madden, Draper, was announcing an "Irish Week" at his shop, with ladies' neat floral design washing-frocks in a lovely range of shades at the remarkably low prices of 12 and 6, and 14 shillings.

**APRIL:** It was announced that Rev D. B. Redmond, Prior would deliver a special sermon in the Abbey to mark the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. The replica of the beautiful original picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel, which had been lying in the Abbey for centuries, was being restored in Dublin, and would be on view that day.

**MAY:** The new Scout Den was opened at a ceremony performed by the Chief Scout Professor, J. B. Whelehan.

**AUGUST:** An international Boxing Tournament and Carnival was announced, with competitors from various international clubs, amusements by McMahon's, and music in McGarry's Hall.

## 1936

**JANUARY:** The review of the Ballyhaunis Historical and Archaeological Society reported that John Maguire had found a finely preserved wooden tray of a rare type in Annagh bog, and that E. Henry had discovered some red deer skeletons at the bottom of Loughanlea Lake, Derryvackna.

**JULY:** Mr. T. Forde presided at a meeting of Ballyhaunis Old Age Pensions sub-committee, received and passed claims at 10 shillings each, while existing pensioners had their claims increased from 8 to 10 shillings per week.

**OCTOBER:** A dance in aid of the Lady Dudley Nursing Scheme was announced for McGarry's Hall, with dancing to Stephen Garvey's band from 9 pm to 4 am.

**DECEMBER:** At a meeting of Mayo Vocational Education Committee, Chairman G. J. Prendergast, P.P., Ballyhaunis proposed that a school be erected in Ballyhaunis.



Rosemary and Anita Dalton, Clare Street, with Rosaleen Caulfield (centre) Upper Main Street (1952)

# Ballyhaunis Soccer Club

**B**ALLYHAUNIS Soccer Club continues to offer competition to children of all ages, from Under-12 through to Under-18 level, with Leagues at the even age groups and cup competitions at all ages. The last year has been successful as the Club fielded teams in over twenty different competitions, at Mayo, Connaught and All-Ireland level.

We entered a Girls Under-14 team in the new Mayo Girls League with Gillian Keane as Manager and Coach. It was great to see up to thirty-five girls out training three evenings a week and all the hard work paid off when they won the first ever Blackfort Machinery Under-14 Girls Cup on 5th October last in an epic match against Straide and Foxford United, finally coming through on sudden death penalties, having fin-

*By Pat O'Connor, Hon. Sec.*

ished 2 - 2 after extra time and 3 - 3 after 5 penalties each. Tara Nevin was the Hero when she coolly struck the ball to the back of the net to set off some great celebrations. All bar two of this panel are eligible again next season to try and retain the cup. Scorers for Ballyhaunis in the match were Karen Lilly and Orla Casby with the penalties being scored by Karen Lilly, Avril Robinson, Orla Casby and Tara Nevin. Ballyhaunis Team: Louise Byrne, Laura Murphy, Lora Regan, Karen Morley, Tara Nevin, Avril Robinson, Karen Lilly, Yvonne Byrne, Lisa O'Dowd, Capt. Celina Travers and Jennifer Egan. Subs used: Orla Casby and Sarah Prenty; not used Sinead Grealley,

Caroline Regan and Ciara Buckley. Other girls who played throughout the season were: Anne-Marie Neenan, Eilish Nevin, Claire Gallagher, Janine Gallagher, Sarah O'Connor, Sinead Vahey, Lisa Carney, Louise Lilly, Aoife Curran, Anne-Marie Mullarkey, Rebecca McCormack, Sinead Lyons, Orla Mulrennan, Joanne Butler and Cathriona Fahy.

The Club continues to supply players to the County Teams. Last year the players were:

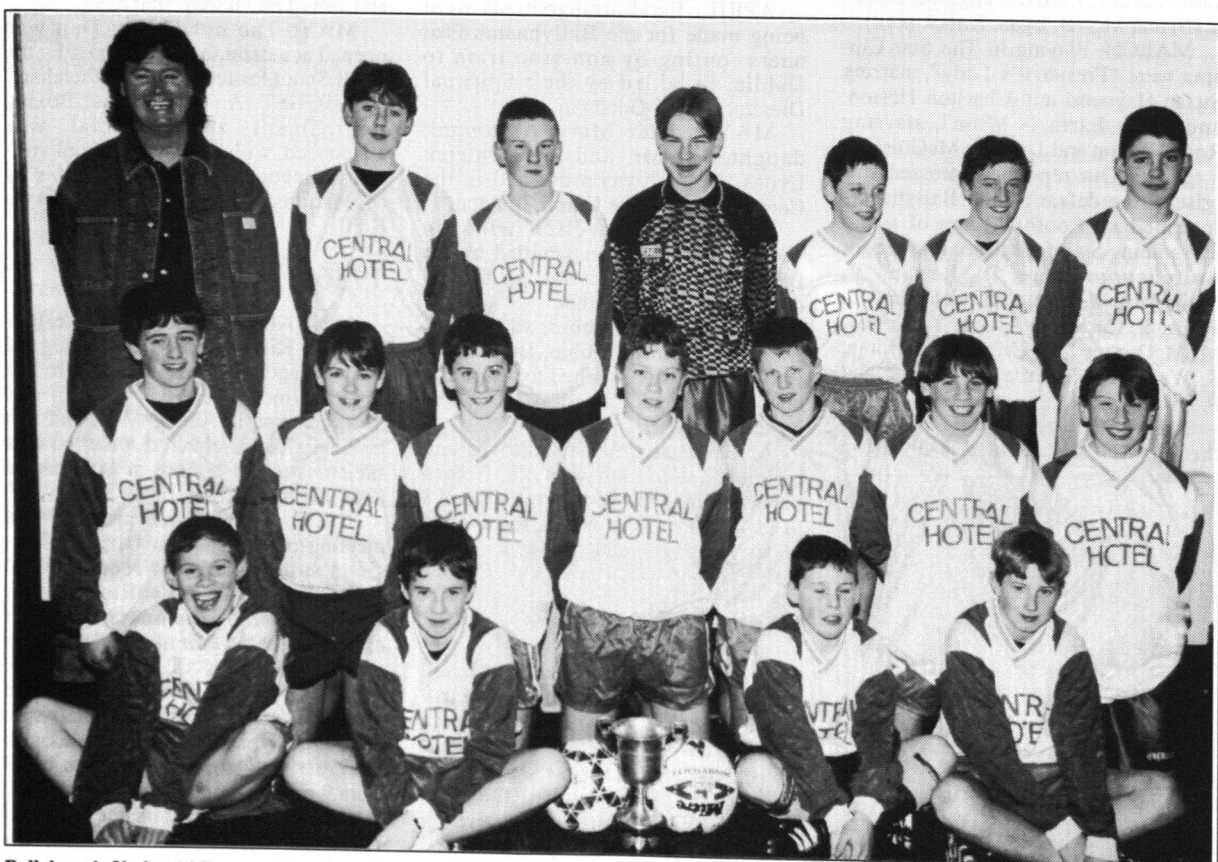
Under-13: Christopher McCrudden, Cathal Heneghan, Derek Glynn and Sean Mallee.

Under-14: Sean Mallee and Michael Webb.

Under-16: Paul Finn, Declan Connaughton, Brian Keane and Alan Regan.

Under-18: Paul Finn and Michael Keane.

Our Under-14 Team were guests of Galway United for their game against Shamrock Rovers in The National League last Winter at Terryland Park. They had a training session with the Galway Trainer, had their photo in the match programme, and were treated to



Ballyhaunis Under-14 Team at Terryland Park, Back, L-R: Michéal Walsh, Nathan Murphy, Gary Nolan, Pat Sharkey, John Paul Comber, Rossa Higgins and James Mulrennan. Middle, L-R: Dermot Duffy, Padraic Ring, Paul Prenty, Derek McConn, Christy McCrudden, Shane Mallee and Cathal Heneghan. Front, L-R: Alan Healy, Oisín Cleary, Derek Glynn and Paul McNicholas.





**Ballyhaunis Under-14 Girls - Mayo Cup Winners.** Back, L-R: Gillian Keane (Manager), Caroline Regan, Ciara Buckley, Laura Regan, Yvonne Byrne, Louise Byrne, Sinead Grealley, Jennifer Egan, Tara Nevin and Laura Murphy. Front, L-R: Sarah Prenty, Celina Travers, Karen Lilly, Lisa O'Dowd (Captain), Avril Robinson, Karen Morley and Orla Casby.

food at McDonalds. A good day all round.

Former Ballyhaunis player Adrian Cregg played with Home Farm/Everton for the past year and had trials with Queenspark Rangers.

Adrian Cregg and Paul Finn guested with Home Farm/Everton in the Under-16 Milk Cup in Northern Ireland in July when they played against the best in the world including Manchester United, Borussia Dortmund, Ajax Amsterdam and Bronby. Michael Keane went over to Manchester City in the summer and is due to return there shortly.

Former Ballyhaunis player Simon Webb is currently playing on the left side of midfield for Tottenham Hotspur FC reserve team. He has also played for Ireland's Under-18 Team in the European Cup Finals in France in July after having scored the goal against Iceland that qualified Ireland for the Finals. Ian Webb, Simon's Brother, is currently a professional with U.C.D. playing in the National League, alongside none other than Jason Sherlock, where he is playing very good football and if that continues he should have a very good chance of making next years Irish Under-18 squad.

Most of the players in our club attend Ballyhaunis Community School and now with the ability and experience of the likes of Adrian Cregg, Paul Finn, Declan Connaughton, Brian Keane, Alan Regan and other younger

players, it should not be long before the school gets representation on the Connaught and Irish Schools Squad.

It is hoped that the Club will supply a player to the Irish Under-15 panel in the new year as Mr. Vincent Butler, the Manager, is known to be very impressed with one of our players. The Premier clubs in Dublin like Home Farm/Everton, Stella Maris and Belvedere Boys are continuously in contact with us looking for top class players and it is hoped to hold a number of challenges against them over Christmas.

## JUNIORS

The Junior team competed in Division two this year but found it hard to get any consistency going throughout the summer and found themselves way down the league table. However, since August they have got a good run going and finally finished in fourth place. Johnny Kelly remains the top scorer with seventeen goals so far. We still have the Connaught Cup, Mayo (Kilkelly) Cup and Division two Tonra Cup to be played for.

The Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all who helped in any way over the past year especially our sponsors; Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union, The Clock Tavern, Eddie Murphy's, Finn's Footwear, Nico's Restaurant, Curley's Chemists, Mike Byrne's Bar etc. Please support them.

## Life's Clock

*By Annie Hussey*

*The clock of life is wound but once  
And no man has the power  
To tell just where the hands will  
stop*

*At late or early hour.  
To lose one's health is sad indeed  
To lose one's wealth is more  
To lose one's soul is such a loss  
And no man can restore  
The present is our only life  
Love and toil with a will  
Place no faith in tomorrow  
For the clock may then be still.*

## Life

*The essence of life  
Is the struggle to get on  
When the struggle is over  
The essence is gone.*

**(A true saying of Joe Winston  
R.I.P., Carrick, Ballinlough.)**

# Munster Award for Ballyhaunis Nun

A special school for disabled children, whose director is a Ballyhaunis native, has been announced as the winner of the 1996 "The Examiner/TSB Bank Munster Community Award."

*By Séan Ó Domhnaill.*

The Sacred Heart Developmental Pre-School and Educational Centre at Lady Lane, Waterford, received £2,000. The director of the centre for the last twelve years is Sr. Imelda Waldron, a native of Main Street, Ballyhaunis, and a regular visitor to the town. Her parents were the late James and Rita Waldron (née Freely).

"Everyone here was thrilled to bits to win the monthly award. Coming away with the overall award is even better. It's nice to have the good work and sacrifices made by so many staff, as well as the courage and dedication of the parents, recognised after so many years; most of the credit must go to the children themselves," she said. "We're constantly amazed at their determination and love for life - they've touched all our lives," she added.

Thanks to the work done by Sr. Imelda and the full-time nurses, teachers and care assistants working at the Centre, the children get an opportunity to go on to primary and secondary edu-



Pictured at the presentation were, from left: Anne Kearney, Brand Manager, The Examiner; Harry Lorton, Chief Executive, TSB Bank; and Sr. Imelda, Sacred Heart Centre, with Ciara Dowling and Evelyn Bell.

cation and even the most severely disabled show great improvement in com-

munication and physical skills.

The school caters for a wide age group; from toddlers undergoing pre-school training to eighteen year olds in need of constant care and attention. "After so long, I still sometimes find it hard to believe that our centre is such a joyous place. Just come in through the doorway and you're in another world. There is such a deep profound happiness here which is, I believe, one of the greatest gifts we can give to children who come here: the ability to be happy", she said. "When working here one comes to think less and less of the handicaps and just sees the child," notes Sr. Imelda. Those who visit the centre get a new awareness of the child's dignity. "The children generate their own warmth and affection. It is wonderful to witness the interaction between the staff, our young people and the children. The pupils know instinctively who loves and cares from them and everybody coming in contact with them responds, in turn, to this affection," she added.

## Remarks Heard Here And There

Contributed by Tom Keane

A group of Cork supporters were heading for Croke on their way to watch Cork play Kilkenny in the Hurling Final. Passing Arran Quay Chapel, one said: "We'll go in and say a prayer that we win", an old man who heard them said: "We'll do no such thing boy, we'll go ahead and bate 'em fair!"

Tipperary man's description of their top goalkeeper: "He'd stop turnip seed!"

Michael O'Hehir's (R.I.P.) description of Christy Ring taking a free: "He bends, he lifts, he strikes straight and true and over the bar for another point for Cork and Christy

Ring."

One Hurler to another: "Did you ever mark Christy Ring?" "I did that, boy, and he marked me!"

Armagh supporters leaving Croke having been well beaten by Mayo: "We'll be back next year"; old Dublin man in reply: "If yez do, bring a team with yez."

Offaly supporter munching bacon sandwiches at half-time describing his cousin's football skills: "When a cousin of me own, little Georgie Lynam went up for a ball you could ate a sangwitch before he came down"; some height for some sandwich!



# Tom, Dick and Harry

**T**HESE are three famous characters in Irish lore who have survived down through the ages. Many a farmer has been persuaded to buy a new item of machinery because every Tom, Dick and Harry had one. It also worked in the other extreme in certain cases. Young Johnny would not be allowed buy a certain suit or jacket etc., because every Tom, Dick and Harry had one. So Tom, Dick and Harry have been used to describe an everyday run-of-the-mill individual who was quite ordinary really in style and appearance.

However, there has been nothing ordinary about the Tom, Dick and Harry I have been privileged to have been associated with for the past few years. They are winners all, and have a grace and movement which is quite unique. No,

*By Murt Hunt*

these are no ordinary Tom, Dick and Harry's.

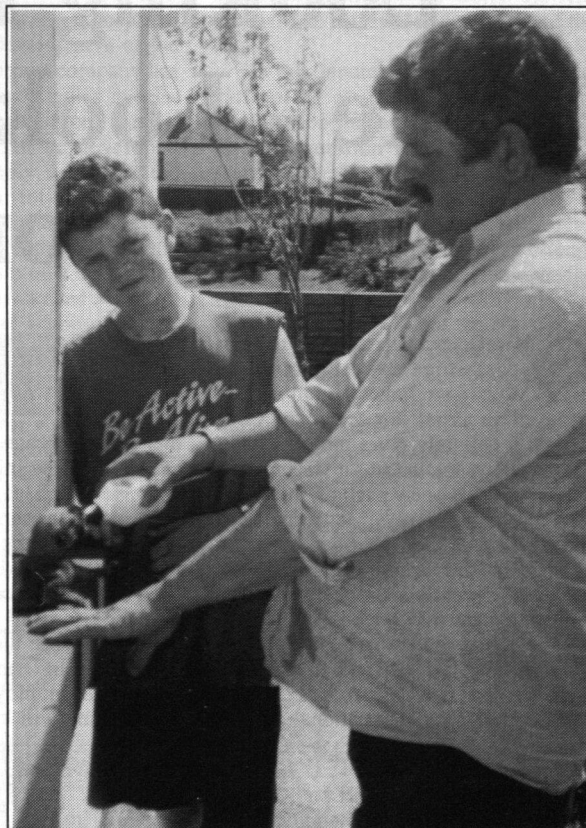
What I am talking about, if you have not already guessed, are three greyhounds that have been racing at Galway and Longford Greyhound Tracks for the past year or two. Tom and Harry are brothers which I own and train but, unfortunately, Dick is not owned by me although he is a half-brother of the other pair. Dick is in fact "Master Dick" and is owned and trained by a good friend of mine, Seamus Connaughton in Claremorris. Harry is Harry Will and Tom is Mayfield Tom, two of the best sprinting greyhounds I have ever been privileged to own and, God knows, I have owned quite a few in the past few years.

The story started in 1992 when Tom Gallagher from Swinford (another good friend) brought over a brilliantly bred greyhound bitch from England on one of his many visits over there. He mated her to "Harry's Tico", a stud dog owned by Seamus Connaughton and so Tom and Harry were born. The relationship to Dick happened as "Harry's Tico" is his sire as well. Tom Gallagher reared Tom and Harry until they were eight months old and nearly ready to sell, then I did a deal with Tom Gallagher and they became mine.

The first time I knew Harry Will was to be an outstanding dog was when I entered him at a coursing meeting at Tubbercurry, just to sharpen him up a bit. Although he was not coursing-bred at all, he won his way through to the last four, putting out very fancied dogs in the process. Unfortunately, he injured a disc in his back in the semi-final and was beaten just-up, which in ordinary terms means about a short head.

He was not able to negotiate the bends at the race-track so I rested him for six months against all advice as everybody reckoned I should put him down and take him out of his misery. After six months I brought him back and did he defy the experts or not? He continued to win night after night over the sprint distance and, the funny thing about it was his back had to be put back in place after every race. But he was so brave he defied the pain barrier and kept winning. He has won twenty-two races so far and is not finished yet. In September he won four races on consecutive nights and is strongly tipped to be the "Greyhound of the Year" at Galway track. It does not matter a bit to him what trap he gets as he is off like a bullet out of the box and he makes light of his injury. Harry is such a timid character, never gets excited before or after a race and never breaks into a sweat. He is what they call a talking dog.

Tom is a completely different character and is very



Is there a potential Darby winner here?? Murt Hunt and Son Sean, bottle feed a little greyhound puppy orphaned aged two weeks old.

excitable. He barks in his kennel and has to get the outside track in all his races. However, he has won many, many races for me and has earned his keep.

Dick is consistently winning races for Seamus Connaughton and he has won many fast races at Longford coming within one length of the track record.

So it has been a good year for Ballyhaunis greyhounds as Peadar Kilcourse has won many races all year at Galway and Longford, and I must have won thirty races this year already. So greyhound racing is still alive and well in this area although there are not as many involved as in the past. The characters are all gone to the big Greyhound Stadium in the sky. There are no more Ned Fitzgeralds, Brod Morans, Philip Morleys, John Eddie Hobans, Tom Moyletts, Pat Hughes, etc. And Ned Egan is long since retired. But as long as there is a Tom, Dick or Harry to be trained, I will do my best to keep the Ballyhaunis flag flying at Longford and Galway tracks.

Finally, gave me great pleasure this summer to present the Anne Hunt Memorial Trophy to a Ballyhaunis native, Tom Fitzgerald, now based in Galway. I was delighted to see him win this trophy with his dog especially as he is a very good friend of mine. Also, Tom was the gifted Mayo forward who tormented so many defences back in the seventies.

P.S. Once again Harry Will has been to the races and won again on Friday 15th November at Longford Track.

# Knock International Airport Looking Back with Pride – Looking Forward with Confidence

**O**N reflecting back over the ten years since the realisation of Monsignor James Horan's great dream of an airport for Mayo and Connaught, it certainly gives me personally a tremendous amount of satisfaction and pride to have been part of the team which became involved with the birth and development of what has been one of the most important and significant industrial developments of our generation, within our own region.

The great reality of bringing our Irish emigrants in Britain to within a mere two hours away from their own hall door. Knock International Airport

## *John Dillon in conversation with Mike Byrne*

this year celebrates its tenth anniversary and, despite the initial ridicule and pessimism, which, it must be said, came from many quarters. The Mayo Airport base can look back on a decade of commercial trading which has confounded even its most bitter opponents and can now look forward to the next ten years with confidence that the Airport Region will benefit in terms of industrial development and employment.

As many will know, the first decade

wasn't exactly all sunshine. The first six years, from 1986 -1992 were indeed difficult. With continuous scepticism and negative publicity (mainly from the national media), it became increasingly difficult to gain public confidence in the operation. However, due to the persistence and determination of my fellow directors, business did continue to increase ever so steadily and the major breakthrough came in 1993 when passenger numbers increased to 120,000. Since then, over the past three years, thankfully, passenger numbers at the Airport have steadily increased and moreover are expected to grow at a rate



Knock International Airport - 10th Anniversary Celebration: Front, L-R: Nancy Horan (Director), Cathal Duffy (Chairman), Enda Kenny T.D. Minister for Tourism and Trade, Monsignor Dominick Greally (Director), John Dillor (Director). Back, L-R: Michael McGrath (Manager Knock International Airport), John Mahon (Director) and Des Mahon (Director).



of 18% over the next four years. All going well and presuming that this spiralling growth will continue we are hopeful that the passenger through put will have reached the 500,00 by the year 2000. So, having managed to overcome the early turbulence and ride out the initial difficulties experienced during those early years, Knock International Airport is at last growing in confidence and evidently there is a tremendous amount of confidence out there among the public in the airport and its future. The figures for the last years accounts, up to June of this year show a profit of £403,000.

The airport has at present a full time staff of up to seventy people, while another thirty-five are employed there as part time workers. Only recently, in October of this year, another milestone was reached when, for the first time, a charter flight departed from Knock to Israel. It is expected that this will be the first of many such charters from Mayo to the Holy Land. However, with the groundwork now in place, much remains to be done in order to complete the second phase of the late Monsignor's dream plan. The first phase of

that dream was to create a base that would be attractive to tourists and pilgrims to land in the West of Ireland and also, of course, to provide our emigrants with a more convenient means of returning to their "roots" with greater regularity. These objectives have now been achieved looking ahead to phase two - the industrial development of the airport region. The airport company has recently carried out two studies in relation to this phase of the airport: firstly, on how the area might be developed industrially and secondly, a study on the creation and development of tourism as an industry itself throughout the airport region. The findings on this latter study on the future of tourism on a developing industry in the region, showed a distinct lack of adequate hotel accommodation in the surrounding district and this is one very definite area that requires urgent attention.

The overall plan for Knock International Airport as we look towards the next ten years and a new century is as follows: 1. To increase passenger numbers, both charter and schedule; 2. To create industrial employment and 3. To

carry out overseas marketing to increase a greater awareness aboard of (a) the accessibility of, and (b) the advantages of holidaying in the West of Ireland. Early next year the board will install an Instrument Landing System (I.L.S.), costing £1.8 million, of which the Airport will be required to fund 50% of the cost.

At this juncture, it must be said and can not be overstated, that the major contribution made to the success of the airport operation was by the management and staff on the ground. I would like to add a special word of thanks to my fellow airport directors who have striven to make this airport concept work, and in particular to acknowledge the magnificent work done by our Chairman, Mr. Cathal Duffy whose belief, dedication and commitment to the entire operation has been a mega factor in the great success story of the International Airport.

Knock Airport has a great future. I believe that, with government assistance, it will be the most important development that this region will experience throughout the next decade.

## Ballyhaunis Boxing Club

**T**HE Ballyhaunis Boxing trains two nights a week in the Parochial Hall on Monday and Thursday nights at 7 pm and has a squad of eighteen young boxers.

The Club trains with equipment lent to them by the County Board and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them,

*By Tina Waldron*

and Connaught Council, for their support and help, and to Mr. Aiden Hill (Care-taker) and Committee of the Parochial Hall for providing the Club with a premises. Last but not least, a big thank

you to the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas for their letters of encouragement and financial support. Because of your support and help, the Club is now in full swing, and it is our intention to make it one of the best clubs in Connaught. This is your club and a club we know you will be proud of in the future.



Nicolas Cruz, (Irish National Coach) on a visit to St. Mary's Primary School, with members of Ballyhaunis Boxing Club and county officials, back row, L-R: Mr. Augustine Kearns (Vice-Principal), Mr. Jim Lundon (Principal), Mr. Horkan (I.A.B.A.), Nicholas Cruz (Irish Coach), Seamus Waldron and Mr. Jimmy Duggan. Front Row, L-R: Peader Kilcourse (Coach), Tina Waldron (Secretary), Joe Hennigan (President County Board and Connaught Council), Maura Fitzmaurice (Treasurer) and Jim Waldron (Official).

# Young Fine Gael

**A**FTER a gap of several years, the Ballyhaunis branch of Young Fine Gael was reorganised last April. The inaugural meeting was very well attended. A committee was elected: Mark Godfrey was elected as chairperson; Bríd Coen was elected secretary while Alma Gallagher and John Paul Coen, as treasurers, were given the onerous task of keeping the branch's finances in order; Kevin Cleary was chosen as P.R.O.; Pat Higgins became our Senior Organiser and Adviser.

Our second meeting was an important one. Ethel Power, Fine Gael's National Youth Officer, outlined the structure, policies and objectives of the Young Fine Gael organisation. Brian Byrne, National Executive Member,

*By Mark Godfrey*

light-heartedly outlined the social aspects of the organisation while Minister Jim Higgins enthused about the national context of the organisation.

Since the inauguration of the branch, we have held our meetings on a monthly basis. At the meetings, many issues are raised and arguments developed. During the summer meetings, attendances understandably dropped, but have now picked up again. At the moment we are organising, in co-ordination with the senior branch, our first annual social and fund-raiser. A large group from the branch travelled down to Waterford to the annual Young Fine Gael conference on the 15th to 16th of

November, which An Taoiseach, John Bruton will address. The senior party Mayo constituency convention will be held on December 2nd and our branch will be represented there. We plan to visit and work with the Castlebar branch in the near future. We've found that it's often a case of too much to do in too little time.

Ballyhaunis Young Fine Gael always welcomes new members. We meet regularly in the Central Hotel. We believe in acting out the maxim of National Young Fine Gael - "Politically and socially - unbeatable."

More information about the branch can be had from any of the committee or by contacting Bríd at Jim Higgins' office, Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis, telephone (0907) 30052.



Derrylea, Tulrahan and Logboy Members of Fine Gael photographed with Jim Higgins, Minister of State and Government Chief Whip visiting the "Corridors of Power."



Up for the final, left to right: Nicky Kelly, Helena Kelly, Denis Hannan and Frank Grealley.



Michael Donahue presenting the Julia Donahue Memorial Cup for Gaelic Football to Jim Lundon, Principal St. Mary's Primary School, Ballyhaunis. L-R: Jim Lundon, Michael Donahue, Stephen Donahue and Augustine Kearns (Vice-Principal).



# Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union

**B**ALLYHAUNIS and District Credit Union is a very efficient and go-ahead Credit Union. From a very humble beginning in 1983 to its present day share capital of over £1,500,000, it is a great credit to its Board of Directors, President, Chairperson, Treasurers and Secretaries past and present, and to all its Committees and Office Staff who so capably deal with membership and the public in general.

With a membership of over 2,400, and rapidly increasing, providing all that is best in Credit Union is the motto of all concerned. The Credit Union management is of a voluntary nature and all Board and Committee members must sign a pledge of secrecy concerning all Credit Union matters.

Any member who saves regularly with the Credit Union can borrow money for any useful or productive purpose regardless of their occupation or role in life, provided they can show they have the need and can prove their ability and intent to repay.

The Credit Union provides free life saving and loan protection insurance cover on all eligible saving and borrowing at no extra cost to the member. So, why not give credit where credit is due and if you are not already a member, come along and join a Credit Union which has been very successful in helping members gain a greater measure in the control of their own finances.

Opening hours are Monday 10 am - 5 pm; Tuesday 10 am - 5 pm; Wednesday

day 10 am - 5 pm; Thursday - Closed; Friday 10 am - 6 pm; Saturday 11 am - 1 pm and 8 pm - 9 pm.

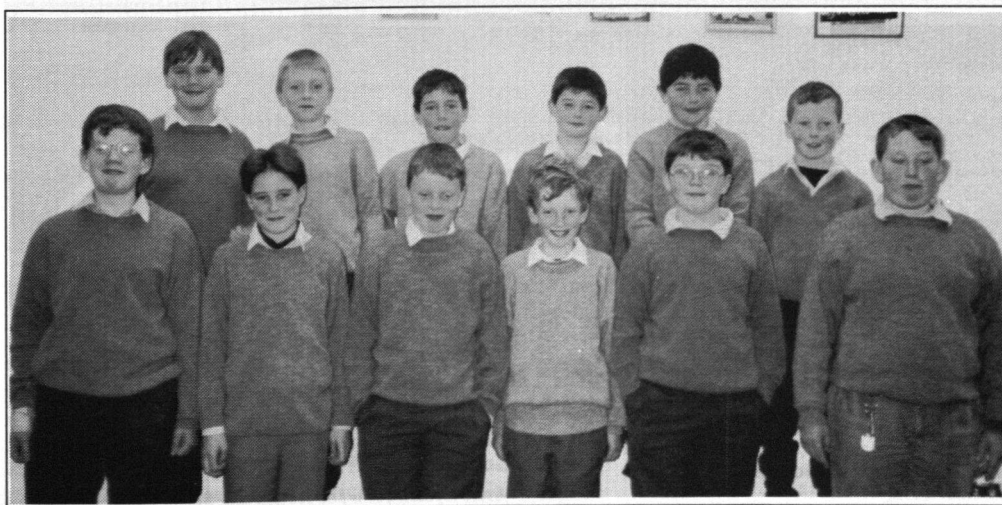
The Present Board Of Directors are: President: Paddy Brennan; Chairperson: Rita Lundon; Hon. Treasurer: Helen Lyons; Assistant Treasurer: Pat O'Connor; Hon. Secretary: Pat Fitzgerald; Credit Committee: Pat Fitzgerald, Aiden Kelly, Rita Lundon, Justina Lyons; Credit Controls: John Tuohy, Frances Mulhern, Eileen O'Brien;

Insurance: Maura Murphy; Membership Officer: Helene McCafferty; Supervisors: Barry Butler, Mark Byrne, Mary Rudden; Office Administration: Kathleen Meenan; Tellers: Katherine Kilbride, Cynthia Fitzgerald and Martin Keane.

The Board of Directors and members of Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union wish Fr. Des Walsh, a founder member, happiness and success in his work in Cloonfad.



Runners-Up of Chapter 18 Table Quiz from Began National School with their Principal Moira Delaney. Back row, from left: Rita Lundon, Chairperson, Ballyhaunis Credit Union; Moira Delaney, Principal, Began N.S.; Helene McCafferty, Quiz Organiser; Frank Scott, Chapter Secretary; John Tuohy, Chapter Chairperson; Aiden Kelly, Quizmaster; Vincent Kelly, Teacher; Maura Murphy, Chapter Treasurer; and Paddy Brennan.



Friary Servers 1996/1997 - Back, L-R: Darren Doyle, William Nestor, Cian Higgins, David Connolly, David Hannan and Colm Gallagher. Front, L-R: Christopher Morley, Henry Forde, Ciaran Griffin, Michael Mullarkey, Michael Jordan and Gareth Morrissey.

# Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil Comhairle Ceanntair

**B**ALLYHAUNIS Fianna Fáil Comhairle Ceanntair is one of the eighteen units of the party which comprise the new constituency of County Mayo. It is an old and historical unit dating back to the foundation of the party in 1926. It has an unbroken history since then and hosted receptions for all Fianna Fáil leaders from Eamonn De Valera to the present leader Bertie Ahern. The Comhairle Ceanntair is composed of approximately twenty Cumann stretching from Tooreen in the East to Knock in the

*By Margaret Owens*

West, and from Tulrahan in the South to Kilkelly in the North.

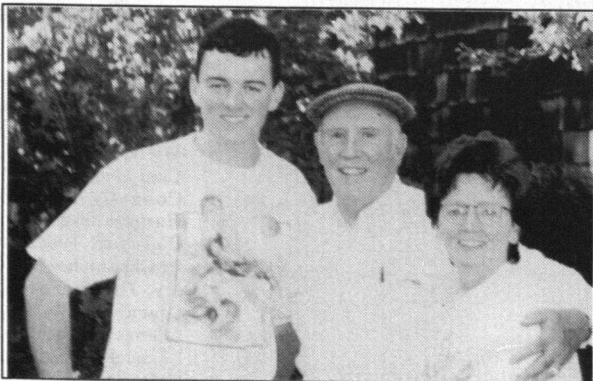
Michael O'Cleirigh R.I.P., one of the first T.D.s to represent the area in the Dáil after the foundation of the Party, was a member of the Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair, as was the late Sean Flanagan who succeeded him. The present incumbent, P. J. Morley T.D. is also a member, so the Comhairle Ceanntair has an unbroken

line of Fianna Fáil representation in the Dáil since the foundation of the party.

Meetings are held approximately once a month and discuss matters of local and topical interest in the area. The Comhairle Ceanntair attends the Árd Fheis annually and participated this year in the celebrations of the 70th Anniversary of the party. The present officer board of the Comhairle Ceanntair is: Chairman: Brian Hunt; Secretary: Michael Grogan; Treasurer: Seamus O'Boyle; P.R.O.: Margaret Owens.



Fianna Fáil members pictured with the Party Leader, Mr. Bertie Ahern, during his visit to the constituency this year.



Friends and Neighbours in Long Island, New York are Eugene Dolan Centre: (popular member of Gallaghers (Main Street) Staff in the Forties) with Mary Finnegan, Lee from Bohogue, Ballyhaunis and her son Edward. September 1996.



Anne Lyons, John Joe Hoban and Susan Hoban.



# Community Alert Brickens/Logboy/ Tulrahan Area

**W**HAT began as a response to vicious attacks on elderly people has now led to the revival of the spirit of neighbourliness. Community alert is a nation-wide campaign designed to operate in the rural parts of Ireland. The Community Alert slogan is "A caring Community means that 'you' are your neighbours keeper."

Community Alert was set up by Muintir na Tíre with the aid of sponsorship by the P.M.P.A. Insurance Company. In 1994 a branch was set up in the Brickens/Logboy/Tulrahan area, the Co-ordinator is Margaret Owens, the liaison Officer is Garda Commins from the Ballyhaunis station, and the Committee members are Domhnall Wal-

dron, John McNieve and John Roy-nane.

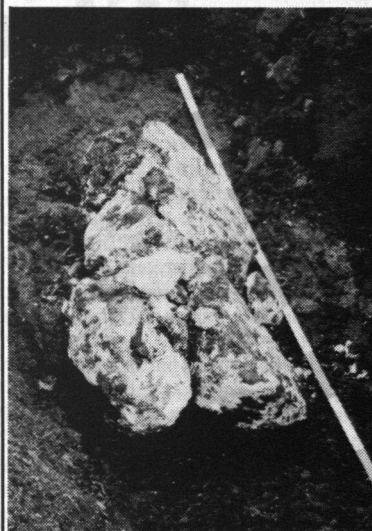
A church gate collection was held to raise money (as it is a voluntary organisation with no financial support from any quarter). Road signs were made and erected at agreed points on the perimeter. All expenses incurred were paid with the help of the local I.R.D. and the proceeds of the church gate collection.

Regular meetings are held and a member of the Drug Squad attended a special meeting giving a very informed talk. We also issued a submission to the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and indicated our interest in being involved in the ongoing consultative process.



Garda J. J. Commins, John Ronayne, Donal Waldron, Margaret Owens and Bina Melvin.

## Holywell Bog Butter



**B**UTTER found in a Mayo bog has become the latest national treasure at the National Museum in Dublin, the "Connaught Telegraph" has reported. The butter, which was encased in a wicker basket, dates back more than 2,000 years, according to the report.

The man who found the basket of butter, Pat Biesty, was cutting turf with his granddaughter in a bog outside Ballyhaunis. "A number of birds had begun to circle a particular area of the bog, and we suspected there was something there," Biesty said.

The site was excavated and the basket was removed intact by technical officers from the National Museum of Ireland. The find was described as "most interesting and of great importance." A spokesperson from the museum said the custom of burying butter in a bog, in order to preserve excess supplies, dates back to the Iron Age.

(Published in "The Irish Echo", U.S.A., August 1996)

## Maria wins major Piano Award

**M**ARIA McGarry, daughter of Gerry and Pauline McGarry, Devlis, Ballyhaunis, was winner of the Morris Grant Cup and Bursary at the recent Dublin Feis Ceoil. The bursary, valued at £2,500, is awarded annually

to the most outstanding pianist of the Feis and is one of Ireland's most prestigious piano awards. As winner also of the "John Piggott Cup" for senior advanced piano playing. Maria went on to perform Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition"

to secure the bursary and cup. She has also been invited to compete in the R.D.S. Centenary Bursary in June, and will represent Ireland in the European Music Competition for Youth next October.

Maria is currently study-

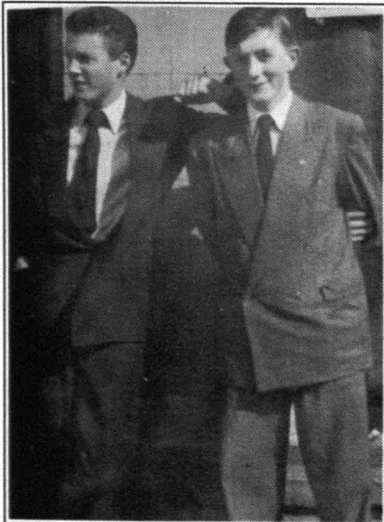
ing for a B.A. in Music Performance with Professor Therese Fahy at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin. She was a piano finalist in the recent Musician of the Future, and has given many recitals at venues throughout Dublin.

# The Irish Diaspora – Then and Now!

## THEN

WITH startling familiarity, the names leap off the pages; names we associate with places like Ballindrehid, Brackloon, Holywell, Derrintogher, and the town of Ballyhaunis itself. Names like Healy, Davitt, Grogan, Ruane, O'Connell and Glynn, too. When you visit the great American Civil War battlefield sites at Gettysburg, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, it does not take long to find the familiar names in the Books of Remembrance. Many fought with Thomas Francis Meagher's Irish Brigade from New York or the 69th Regiment. Lieutenant James Glynn was killed in action fighting with Meagher at Fredericksburg. One could not but wonder if he was related somehow, as perhaps the Ruane and Grogans are related. Nevertheless, it is profoundly moving that these sons of Irish immigrants fought and died so valiantly, as Lincoln said, "giving their last full measure of devotion", when it is remembered that many of these families had recently fled the horrors of the Great Famine.

So too, it is sobering to visit the former quarantine island of Grosse Ile, the 'Big Island', in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, near Quebec City in Canada. Here you will find names like O'Reilly, Tolan, Ryan, Brennan and McGuire, but this time they are names of immigrants



Summer 1955 - Franko Glynn and Aiden Nally, Clare Street. (Courtesy of Eddie Mulhern)

By F. M. Glynn

who did not quite make it to the new island. In recent times, Irish residents of Canada have raised a great Celtic cross in memory of those who were held on Grosse Ile, while they attempted to recover from illness and disease they brought with them or found on the ships on the way over. Many children were left as orphans; many were taken into French-Canadian families, but allowed to retain their own family names. Today, you will find French-Canadian families with the names Ryan, Ruane, Johnson and others like Morin, from the Irish Moran. They do have a decidedly Quebecois twist to the pronunciation though.

## NOW

The visit in 1995 of President Clinton to Ireland both north and south produced a spate of magazine and newspaper articles about Ireland and the Irish Diaspora. It is currently estimated that over seventy million people worldwide claim Irish ancestry, over forty million in the United States alone. It is an extraordinary phenomenon but one that continues to perpetuate certain stereotypes. An article in Time Magazine mentioned that the Irish are now getting into business and the professions while previously "they were more associated with the barroom than the boardroom." This comment was alleged to come from an Irish immigrant, who is successful in business and obviously thinks he is the only one.

The modern Irish immigration, if we can call it that, began in the post-World War II era. Some readers will recall how bleak a time that was, and younger readers will be surprised to learn that war-time rationing of food in England lasted until 1955. Some will recall how we packaged up turkeys at Christmas time to send to relatives in England. We sent them in little wooden boxes that you had to nail together after you got the turkey inside and somehow they remained alright until they could be cooked on the other side of 'The Pond'.

In 1955, when I finished High or Secondary School at Saint Colman's in Claremorris, there was nothing for me to do but decide which country I wished to immigrate to. But let it not be forgotten that many of us wanted to go, it was

a great adventure and we were young. My journey took me through England for ten months and I still recall the excitement I felt when I boarded the train in London for Southampton, to board the ship for Montreal. This was no coffin ship, in fact it was a Greek Liner with lots of food and entertainment on board. I was relieved to be leaving London and found Quebec City, Montreal and Toronto to be marvellous places when I arrived there.

The notion that Irish immigrants spent their time crying into their beer in pubs in Toronto or New York is ridiculous; it was then and is now.

Less than three months after I arrived in Canada, I was admitted to the RCMP Academy, in Rockcliffe Park, near Ottawa. Upon my arrival there I found two other Irish-born candidates, representing Wexford and Dublin, while I represented Mayo. Of course, there were many candidates there of Irish Heritage too. That was in 1956, and twenty-seven years later in 1983, having finished my police career, I was admitted to the University of Western Ontario, to complete a Masters Degree in Business Administration. There I found many classmates of Irish descent, two O'Briens, two Kennedys and a lovely O'Neill named Molly. But there were four of us who were Irish-born, representing Mayo, Cork, Tipperary and Antrim. The opportunities were there and we took advantage of them.

It has been my experience that the Irish assimilated well wherever they went and availed themselves of the opportunities that were there for everyone. I have met business people, doctors, nurses, policemen, even pub owners of Irish descent wherever I have travelled. Most recently, an Irish doctor from Donegal in Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories of Canada. Take a look at the map and see where that is but he loves it there and has a booming practice. It would be a disgrace if we did not honour the names of the people who died or suffered greatly paving the way for us in many countries where the Irish Diaspora is so widely represented. They met, faced and dealt with the really tough times and it was up to us to honour their contribution by behaving ably and nobly as their followers. As the poet Lawrence Binyon wrote about others who sacrificed - "at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."



# Memories of Barrack Street

I was born in Barrack Street, Ballyhaunis. I had four brothers Michael, Ginger, Paddy, Kevin and one sister Una. I left home in the late thirties. In comparison with modern standards, we had a very deprived upbringing. There was no running water; everyone had to get water from the well in Bridge Street. In our homes we used oil lamps and candles for lighting. We had very good neighbours and happy families: the Kilduffs, Mulligans, O'Malleys, O'Dwyers, McHughes, Lanigans and Kearns.

I went back to Ballyhaunis on holidays during the war and everything had begun to change for the better: homes had running water and electricity and there was street lighting. When war was declared the British building contractor, 'McAlpines', set up recruiting offices across Ireland, recruiting young men to build airports and roads, and to repair bomb damaged buildings in Britain.

I have returned to my home town of Ballyhaunis every year for the past forty years and I have seen many changes, beautiful houses, supermarkets. People are more affluent today than in the thirties. There are better care services for the old and the young, employment prospects are better and the standard of education has greatly improved. On my visit to Ballyhaunis this summer, I went to visit old neighbours in Barrack Street. My old house

*By Kathleen Walsh-Finneran.*

is now a material shop and a private house, there is also a hairdresser's, a launderette and an extended supermarket nearby.

When I lived in Ballyhaunis there were quite a few characters whom I am sure a lot of people my age will remember, old Michael Joyce, Ellen Finnegan and Pat Killeen. He used to play the tin whistle. I remember the names of everyone from those days: the Caulfields, Byrnes, Freeleys, Waldrons, Dillons, Halpins, McQueenys,

Flynns, Murphys and Miss Grogan's sweet shop.

My husband Jack Finneran came from Skreen Co. Sligo and we met during the war. We celebrated our Golden Wedding earlier this year (1996). We had a wonderful party at the Irish Club in Chorlton, Manchester.

My brother Paddy died in 1994; people will remember him as an all-round sportsman. My other brother Kevin died in 1995. When we visit Ballyhaunis we stay with Steve Waldron in Knox Street. My sister Una was married to Steve's brother Frank Waldron who died some years ago; they are first cousins of Joe Keane.

Before I came to England, they held three big dances in McGarry's Old Hall above the shop, the Nurses Dance, the Golf Dance and the Guards' Dance. The ladies were all dressed in ball gowns and the men in dress suits. The bands were Steven Garvey's, Jack Ruane's and Bert Flynn's. They were wonderful times.



L-R: Jack Halpin, Mona Walsh, Steven Waldron and Mrs. Kathleen Finneran (née Walsh).

## Junior Saint Vincent De Paul

IT was November last when Father Cooney approached me, and some other members of the society, to get the meetings back in action for 1996. It was to be as per usual, Wednesday nights from 7.30 - 8.00 pm in the Church.

The meetings commenced with a prayer led by Father Cooney, minutes would be read, signed, proposed and seconded.

Our first idea for the year was to visit St. Mary's with the senior society, so we did. We entertained them with

*By Laura Nestor  
Secretary*

music, talked to them, and had a Christmas party; they were delighted to see us and a great time was had by all.

Next on our agenda was a "nite time disco" which was held at Parochial Hall on March the 8th. We were hoping that the money raised would go towards the cost of the windows in the church which were in the process of being repaired. We had a great outcome and raised

about £385. We were then asked by hospice to sell bonnets around the town, which we did and raised a great deal of money. We also took part in smaller events during the year: collecting at the church doors, organising folk group for Saturday evening mass, helping out on Holy Thursday for the washing of the feet.

Then, the Senior Citizen's party was to take place in the Manor House. We sang on stage accompanied by "Tempo" a well known, popular band in our town.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Also, in May last, we led the procession in Knock, and that was to be our last event for 1996.

Our Summer holidays began and it was another year over. We were all very proud of our achievements and are all looking forward to another successful year.

Our special thanks to Father Cooney and Father O'Grady who made it possible for all of us to meet each week, and to our Chairperson, Karen Muldowney and fellow members for being so dedicated through out the year.

# Nuns Depart – Sisters Rosario and Teresa

**A**UTUMN 1996 saw the departure from Ballyhaunis of Sr. Rosario Waldron and Sr. Teresa Fahy. The Sisters taught at St. Joseph's National School and gave thirty-seven years of dedicated service between them.

## Sr. Rosario

Sr. Rosario came to Ballyhaunis in 1970. The town offered familiar surroundings as she is a native of Aghamore.

The early 1970s was a period of rapid evolution in Irish education. Free secondary education for all fuelled the aspirations of parents and provided a challenging environment for all teachers. Sr. Rosario met this challenge with great enthusiasm. She committed herself unreservedly to her teaching career, developing her skills as each year passed. Her natural instinct insisted on 100% commitment from herself, a trait she passed on to many of her students. Time is very precious to her. It is a scarce resource which should not be wasted. She is a perfectionist by nature.

*By Anne Nestor*

She has a keen sense of history, a passionate love for the Irish language and a very personal relationship with God. These aspects of her character enrich her personality and contributed significantly to making her an excellent teacher, and a sincere friend to all who knew her well.

She worked unceasingly with the Church Choir, encouraging young people to take part. Her work with the St. Vincent de Paul was a natural extension of her desire to share her talents. Sr. Rosario is now in Cork doing a pastoral course.

## Sr. Teresa

Sr. Teresa spent eleven years in Ballyhaunis. She was appointed principal of St. Joseph's National School in 1985.

She proved herself to be an excellent administrator and teacher, always noting progress and encouraging effort in her pupils. She has natural leadership qualities, a sharp enquiring mind and

the ability to achieve her goals in the best diplomatic tradition.

Her warm cheerful personality was always expressed in an effortless smile whenever I met her. She is philosophical in her approach, accepting things she cannot change while working hard on the little things. The little things did make a difference, to the school, the children she taught, and to the community in general.

She is now living in Sligo, teaching during the day and working with the less privileged in society when she is not in school.

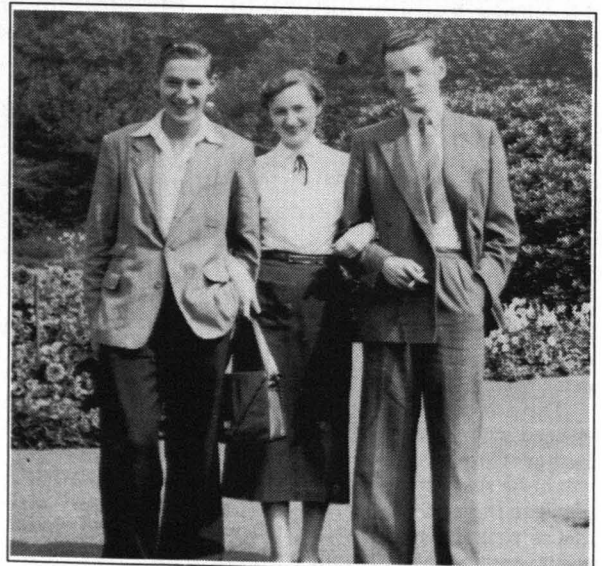
The Sisters have given much to our community. Their unselfish dedication to duty is an inspiration to everyone. The children who passed through their classrooms will bring something worthwhile into adulthood. Both Sr. Teresa and Sr. Rosario have left their mark in Ballyhaunis. They can be justifiably proud of their achievements.

## New Principal

**I**N September 1996, Miss Maria Campbell B.Ed. was appointed Principal of St. Joseph's Primary School Ballyhaunis. She succeeded Sister Teresa Fahy. A former past pupil of St. Joseph's Primary School and Ballyhaunis Community School, Miss Campbell was a member of the teaching staff of St. Angela's Primary School in Castlebar. She is wished every success in the future.



Photograph taken in Moneymore - Back: Veronica Waldron (R.I.P.). Front, L-R: Anne Waldron (Mrs. Bowman), (R.I.P.), Olive Waldron, (Mrs. Waldron), Mary Hopkins, Knox Street and Ellie Waldron (R.I.P.).



Michael, Jenny and John Foudy, Clare Street 1953.

(Courtesy Josephine Higgins - Beirne, New Jersey)



# Parish Priests of Annagh

**E**NEAS Killeen, c.1704. He is listed in the earliest comprehensive listing of Parish Priests in Ireland, dating from 1704. In that year, as part of ongoing Penal legislation designed to check and eventually eliminate Catholicism, an Act was passed which required every Catholic P.P. to register. They had to enter into a bond or agreement with two sureties, usually local Catholic gentry, to remain in their own parish and to refrain from keeping curates. In all, 1,089 clergy registered in Ireland and their names were published in 1705 in Dublin, in a document called "A list of the names of the Popish Priests throughout the several counties in the Kingdom of Ireland." This list, which was reprinted in the Catholic Directory of 1838, contain quite an amount of information, and give the following details on Fr. Killeen: Age in 1704: 44 years; place of abode: Brackloone; year and place of ordination: 1686, Galway; Ordaining Bishop: Dr. Lynch, Archbishop of

Tuam; Sureties: Valentine Brown, Kinturke and Miles McDonnell, Moyower.

How long Fr. Killeen remained in Annagh is not known, but the next known P.P. started his term here in 1749.

**James Egan**, 1749-99. He was P.P. of the combined parishes of Annagh and Began. He died 18th Sept. 1799 aged 80 years and is buried in the Friary.

**Peter Waldron**, P.P. of Annagh and Began 1799-1814. He was previously P.P. of Burrishoole, and returned to his native parish to succeed Fr. Egan. He was appointed Bishop of Killala in 1814 and was there until his death at an advanced age on 22nd May 1834.

**Michael McManus**, 1814-36. He was ordained in 1804, after which he was appointed C.C. of his native parish of Annagh. He succeeded Fr. Waldron in 1814 and served as PP of Annagh for twenty-two years until his death on the 8th of May 1836 aged 66 years. He is buried in Tulrahan cemetery.

**Owen Coyne**, 1836-52. He was C.C. in Ballintubber before being transferred to Annagh on the death of Fr. McManus. In 1852 he was appointed P.P. of Aghamore where he died in 1866 aged 68 years.

## *From the notes of Fr. Costelloe*

**Patrick Horan**, 1852-70. He was previously C.C. in Killeen, Connemara. He died in Ballyhaunis 15th of May 1870 aged 70 years. No details of his burial place have, as yet, come to light.

**James Waldron** (Canon), 1871-92. He transferred to his native parish of Annagh from Aghagower where he had been P.P. for four years. He died in Ballyhaunis 18th Dec. 1892 aged 75 years, and was buried under the high altar of the old church.

*The parishes of Annagh and Began were reorganised in the year after Canon Waldron's death and Canon Canning became P.P. of the new parish of Annagh in 1894.*

**Bernard McDermott** was Administrator in the parish of Annagh for the two years between the death of Canon Waldron and the arrival of Canon Canning. Fr. McDermott died here on the 23rd of October 1894 aged 38 years, and is buried in the New Cemetery.

**John Canning** (Canon), 1894-1921. He was previously Administrator in Westport. He is mostly remembered for having built the new Parish Church and Convent of Mercy. He died on the 4th of March 1921 and is buried beside the present parish Church.

**Michael McHugh** (Canon), 1921-30. He was appointed to the parish of Annagh having previously been P.P. of Crossboyne. In 1930 he was

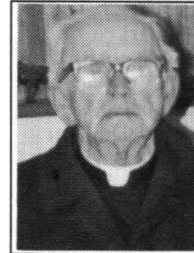
transferred to Claremorris where he served as P.P. until his death in 1942 aged 83 years.

**Martin Colleran**, 1930-33. He was previously P.P. of Achill. He died 23rd June 1933 aged 73 years.

**Geoffrey J. Prendergast** (Archdeacon), 1933-1960. Previously C.C. in Castlebar, he served in the parish of Annagh for twenty-seven years until his death on the 29th of May 1960 aged 81 years.



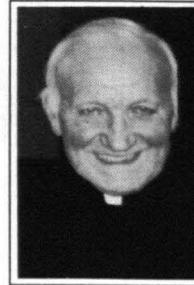
**Thomas Rushe** was Administrator in the parish of Annagh 1960-69. He was previously C.C. of Annagh, and in 1969 was appointed P.P. of Leenane.



**James Gerard McGarry** (Canon), 1969-77. He was previously a Professor in Maynooth College. He was tragically killed in a car accident on the 4th of August 1977 aged 72 years.



**Patrick Owen Costelloe** (Canon), 1977-93. Founder of St. Patrick's College, Ballyhaunis, Fr. Costelloe served as P.P. of Annagh for sixteen years until his retirement in 1993. He is now



C.C. in Kilcoona, Headford, Co. Galway.

**Joseph Cooney**, appointed P.P. of Annagh in 1993. He was previously Administrator in Tuam.

# The Summer of '96 in France

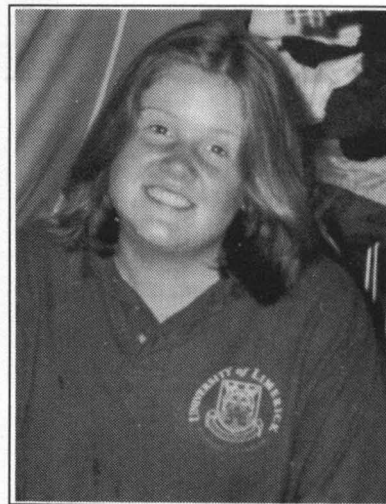
**B**EING a student of Languages at the University of Limerick, I am expected to spend two six-month periods abroad. So, after all my previous American, Canadian and European travels, it was time for me to leave my mark in France.

My placement was given to me last October - Keycamp holidays. I really didn't know what to expect, but I knew it would be an experience worth having! I left for France on Easter Sunday 1996 a bit tearful and apprehensive about what was to come over the following six months. To start, we had a week of intensive training at the campsite at Dol de Bretagne in Brittany, where we were given our first taste of "camp" life - mobile homes! If we only knew what was to follow, we would have enjoyed the "luxury" more.

From there, we embarked on the long journey down South to Biarritz. For the next four weeks I put up tents, cleaned, scrubbed and counted the blisters! My campsite was called "Camp-ing le Vieux Port", Messenges, and was just north of the Spanish Border. It is the second largest in Europe and the task of running seventy-five units

for Keycamp seemed pretty daunting at first. Our main activities for the first few weeks before we opened was cleaning and preparing the fifty mobile homes and twenty-five tents. Working with me was one English girl, four English lads and a Dutch girl. The work was very hard and a bit of a shock to the system, so I would ask that anyone who does go on this type of holiday would appreciate their very hard-working couriers!

We opened on May 10th and were bombarded with English families. Between cleans, reception and visits, our days were full. The weather was beautiful and with the beach within two minutes walk; it was heaven! We had our first storm in June - heaven changed pretty quickly! Our beautiful homes (four year-old tents) became flooded. Our customer tents suffered also, and the happy English families turned sour all too suddenly. Weathering that storm (excuse the pun) wasn't easy, but we survived. It was the start of the worst Summer in France since 1957! By July, I felt like a change of jobs so, when my area manager offered me the position of Children's Courier, I



*By Dee Dee Hosty*

jumped at the chance! No more cleaning; it was great. I was in charge of organising five hours of activities each day for the children on site. Some days during high season I could have up to thirty-five children by myself. The entertainment that only young children can give is priceless, and I'll never forget some of the laughs I had!

All in all, the Summer was fantastic, travelling around France, meeting different people, experiencing different cultures and above all, living in a tent for six months is definitely unforgettable! Today, I have an interview for Buenos Aires in Argentina; maybe next year I'll have a few more stories to tell!



**First Communion Class 1996.** First Row (L-R): Paul Fitzmaurice, Killan McDonagh, Lorcan Finan, Joseph Neenan, Eamonn Shanley, Mark Kelly and Barry Byrne. Second Row (L-R): John Christopher Halpin, Tara McGuire, Janice Brogan, Neil Jordan, Charlene Nolan, Tomás Concannon, Alma Broderick, Áine Hunt, Elaine Donnelly and Marian McNamara. Third Row (L-R): Derna Collum, Pádraig Cribbin, Carol Quinn, Jarlath Mellett, Kimberley Moran, Kieran Lucey, Séan O'Keane, Claire Kilcourse and David Healy. Fourth Row (L-R): Eithne Tighe, Lorna Korrane, Lisa Webb, Sandra Hora, Nicola Kilbride, Joseph Waldron and Mark Madden. Priests: Very Rev. Father Joseph Cooney P.P. and Rev. James O'Grady C.C. Teachers: Laura Finn and Kathleen Lyons.



# Notes on a Skeleton of Red Deer found in Tooraree

**T**HE complete skeleton of a red deer was retrieved by Mr. Gerry Cribbin from the banks of the River Glore in the townland of Tooraree, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, lodged at a depth of c. 120 cm, at the interface of peat and calcareous marls. The animal was lying on its left side and appeared to have died a natural death, since signs of butchery cannot be detected on any of the bones. The antlers remain attached by the pedicles to the upper skull, which has intact frontal, parietal and occipital elements. Both antlers

*By David W. Shimwell*

have complete brow, bez and trez tines, but the terminals of the left antler are missing, perhaps lost in a fight for herd supremacy. The crown spread, i.e. the distance between terminal tines of the two antlers, suggests that the animal was of the royal type, of an age of seven or eight years old at death. An analysis of the antler characteristics is shown below.

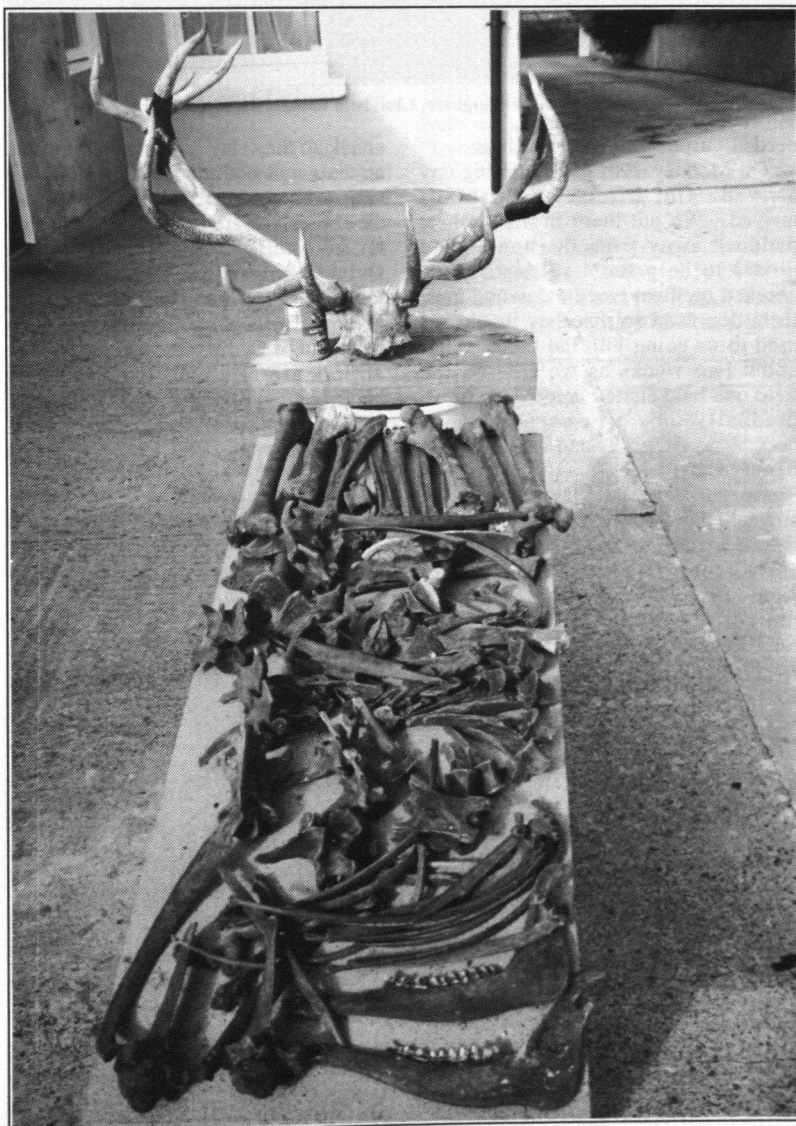
A comparison of the Tooraree

antlers with fossil and recent antlers from Grimes Graves, Norfolk, Denmark and Sweden (Clutton-Brock 1984) indicates that the antlers are typical of the size of those used for the mining of flint at Grimes Graves, Norfolk, in the late-Neolithic period, and towards the upper end of the size range for recent antlers from Sweden and Denmark (figure 1). In comparison with an antler assemblage from Gatewarth Farm, Warrington, Cheshire, dated to 2660  $\pm$  60BP (cal BC 910-780) from Shimwell (1996), the Tooraree antlers fall within the range recorded. The size of the animal, as indicated by the circumference of the burr, suggests grazing and browsing in a forest environment, rather than one of open heathland and scrub, in which the numbers of predators, either natural or human, were relatively small. Loss of a precise context and the absence of stratigraphical details precludes an accurate date, but there are strong indications that the skeleton is definitely prehistoric and most probably of a Bronze Age date.

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Shimwell, D.W. (1996) A note on the animal bones and deer antlers retrieved from excavations at Gatewarth Farm, Sankey Bridges, Warrington. A report to Cheshire County Council. University of Manchester, Palaeoecological Research Unit.



Deer bones found in Ballindrehid (Tooraree townland) by Gerry Cribbin.

Measurements (mm)	Left	Right
Circumference of burr	220	218
Length of brow tine	282	278
Length of bez tine	248	248
Length of trez tine	380	378
Diameter above bez tine	140	135
Distance from burr to crown base	x	470
Distance from burr to trez tine	240	220
Number of terminal tines	x	4

# Deer Farming

**W**E started to talk about an alternative farm enterprise a few years ago. We looked at a list of different farms and we decided we would like Deer Farming. We visited farms from Monaghan to Cork. In our research we discovered that there were two groups of deer farmers - Galtee Deer Farms and Irish Deer Farming - also, that there were three types of Deer farmed in Ireland.

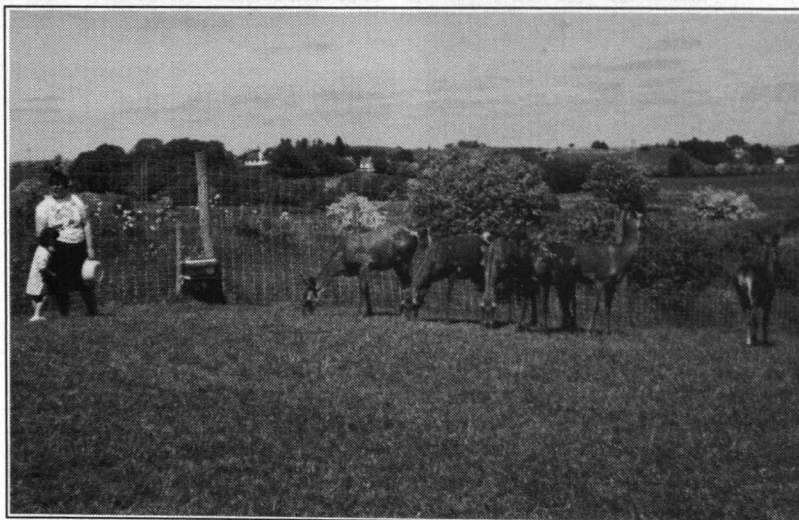
*By Marie Jordan*

(1) Fallow Deer are small and remain very wild. They vary in colour: white, black and brown. Calves usually have a spotted back. Males are called bucks and females are called does.

(2) Red Deer are larger than Fallow, and are mainly a reddish-brown colour becoming darker in winter. Calves are also spotted. Males are called stags, females are called hinds.

(3) Sika Deer are the smallest species found in Ireland. They are a chestnut colour with spots on their backs in summer. Calves are spotted. Males are called stags, females are called does.

Only male deer have antlers. After looking at all the different types we decided to go into Red Deer farming. So, in March 1995, we contacted The Irish Deer Association to get information about buying stock and fencing our land. It was too late to start for that season so we said we would be ready for Spring 1996. In March 1996, we started. We fenced four acres into two paddocks. The fencing has to be six feet high as deer are extremely agile animals and are high jumpers. Pressure points are required, special fencing is



Mrs. Marie Jordan and her daughter, Lisa, tend to their deer herd at Lecarrow.

needed - usually six inch spacings.

On Monday 29th April, the big day arrived. Our fifteen in-calf hinds arrived. We put them in the furthest paddock away from the house (and noise) to help them settle in. We checked on them twice a day and gave them deer feed so that they would get used to us going into the field. After about two weeks as we entered the field one hind started coming up to us, gradually they all came up. Two became very friendly and would eat out of our hands.

On Tuesday 21st May - a very wet and cold day - our first calf was born; it was very early, as they usually calve in early June. Gradually, throughout June, July and August, the calves arrived. Usually for the first few days the calves stay hidden, it comes from being in the wild. For the first few weeks the calves have no sense of

smell, so they stay hidden so other wild animals will not attack them. Our last calf was born on the 12th September.

The calves are housed for the Winter from the end of September, early October until April. The calves are taken from the hinds before the mating season starts. The mating season is from end of October to December. The antlers are removed from the stag before he is allowed in with the hinds. He is a very possessive male and does not like anyone entering his territory during the mating season. Deer are treated the same as cattle, regarding dosing etc. They are dosed twice a year: March/April, September/October. T.B. is very rare in deer, so there is no compulsory testing, but all stock are tested before they leave the farm.

So far we have no regrets, regarding starting our deer farming. Hopefully it will continue that way.



Ballyhaunis under-age players in Dublin for the All-Ireland final.



More Ballyhaunis under-age players up for the final



# Celebrated 50th Anniversary of his Ordination

**F**ATHER John F. Lyons, who was born on June 4th 1921 in Skeaghard, Ballyhaunis, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood on June 2nd 1996 in St. Joseph's Church, Austintown, Ohio, U.S.A.

He is the youngest of six children of Catherine and John Lyons. He attended St. Mary's Boys National School, Ballyhaunis and later St. Jarlath's College, Tuam. Fr. Lyons entered St. Patrick's Seminary in Carlow and was ordained there by Bishop Thomas Keogh, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin in 1946.

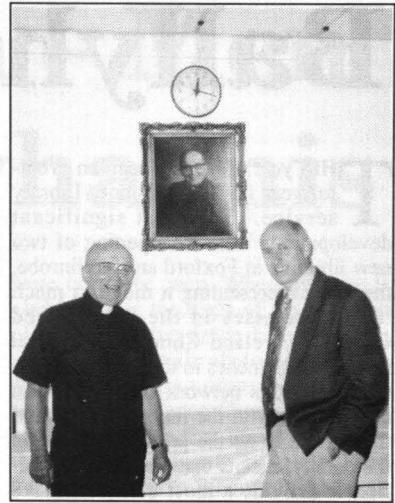
In 1967, he crossed the Atlantic to Youngstown and worked as associate pastor to the old St. Anne's Church in Briar Hill. In 1954 he transferred to St. Aloysius Church in East Liverpool. In 1956 he transferred to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Austintown. He was a religious education instructor

*By Jim Landon*

in Ursuline High School. In 1959 he accepted his first pastoral to Immaculate Conception Church in Wellsville Ohio. On the 4th August 1961 he was transferred to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in McDonald.

On June 17th 1966 Fr. Lyons was appointed the first pastor in St. Joseph's Parish Church in Austintown. Under his leadership a church, school, social hall and rectory were built. In 1980 a meeting hall and kindergarten were added. The meeting hall is called "Lyons Hall" in his honour.

On July 15th 1990, a Eucharistic Celebration was held, followed by a reception, at St. Joseph's Parish to honour Fr. Lyons on the occasion of his retirement. Fr. Lyons still lives in Austintown and serves as Pastor Emeritus of St. Joseph's Parish. Four of his



Fr. Johnny Lyons with his nephew Mike Webb.

siblings Nellie, Patrick, Richard and Noreen are now deceased while his sister Mollie is still alive and well. Among the attendance at the Celebration Mass on June 2nd 1996 were Michael and Cáit Webb who travelled from Ballyhaunis for the occasion, carrying the wishes of young and old from Ballyhaunis to Fr. Johnny. On his visits to Ballyhaunis Fr. Johnny has kept and made many friends - young and old - with his good humour and stories. He is wished many happy years in his retirement.



Parish Church Altar Servers - Back, L-R: Fr. J. Cooney, P.P., Liam Lyons, William Lynskey, Alan Lyons, Patrick Waldron, Paul Jordan, Delcan Ward, Adriano Lieghio and Paul Lynch. Middle, L-R: Padraic Carney, Michael Cunningham, Niall Richardson, Fergal Walsh, Brian Mulrennan, Ciaran Waldron, Aidan Healy and Phelim Carroll. Front, L-R: Patrick Heaney, Ian Byrne, Kevin Curley, David Lynch, Daniel Carroll, Robert Potter-Cogan and Colm Egan. Missing from photo: Anthony Murphy.

# Ballyhaunis Library

**T**HIS year, 1996 has been an eventful year for Mayo County Library service. The most significant developments were the opening of two new libraries in Foxford and Ballinrobe, the latter representing a move to much larger premises in the refurbished Church of Ireland Church. The total number of branches in the county is now twelve, so this network of branches, in conjunction with the mobile library and the service to all the primary schools in the county, means that we are in a position to provide a most comprehensive service to the people of County Mayo.

During the year, about 20,000 books have been added to library stock, which has helped considerably with achieving our objective of providing an up-to-date and wide-ranging bookstock. Also, advances have been made in the provision of materials in other media such as audio, video and, in some of our larger branches, CD-ROM. It is hoped to extend these services further in the coming year.

The interest in local history has continued apace during the year and has resulted in very heavy use of the facilities in the Central Library in Castlebar. Material relevant to each area is available in local branches, including Ballyhaunis. Sources which it is not possible to duplicate, are kept centrally, in Castlebar, and foremost among these is the microfilm collection, which includes the local newspapers from the dates of first publication, the 1901 Census, the

*By Eleanor Freyne*

Tithe Applotment Books, and the collection of folklore collected by schoolchildren in the 1930s. Use of the microfilm collection is open to everybody, but in view of the demands on use of the microfilm readers, it is advisable to book in advance. This can be done by ringing (094) 24444 and asking for the reference section of the library.

With financial assistance from the County Enterprise Board and the EU, a special Business Library was recently inaugurated in Castlebar Central Library. The library comprises a large collection of books on all business subjects, directories of company information, business information on CD-ROM and business magazines. This collection is a very valuable addition to the service and is available to all business interests in the county. It should also prove most useful to students. Any enquiries welcome at Castlebar Central Library, (094) 24444.

A feature of 1996 was the commemoration of the Great Famine. To mark this commemoration, a special exhibition was prepared by Mayo County Library from its archival sources. The exhibition was on display in many centres throughout the county including Ballyhaunis and aroused much interest in all areas.

A writer-in-residence scheme was initiated in Mayo some years ago in

conjunction with Mayo County Council's Arts Committee and the Arts Council. The seventh writer in the scheme, Vincent Woods, has recently been appointed. Vincent is a native of County Leitrim and is author of the award-winning and highly successful play, "At the Black Pig's Dyke." He will be available to talk to writer's groups and schools over a period of six months on all aspects of writing. He has already spoken to students in Ballyhaunis and contact has been made with Ballyhaunis writers' group.

If any group, school or individual wishes to contact Vincent, they can do so at Mayo County Library, (094) 24444 and asking for either himself or Arts Officer, John Coll.

Opening hours of Ballyhaunis Library are as follows:

Tuesday: 12 am - 5 pm; Wednesday: 3 pm - 8 pm; Friday: 3 pm - 8 pm; Saturday 12 am - 5 pm. Phone (0907) 30161.

Ballyhaunis Library has a stock of 10,000 books covering all ages and subjects. If you cannot find the book of information you require, the librarian Eleanor Freyne will gladly be of assistance. Through Ballyhaunis library, access can be had to the entire collection of the County Library service. More obscure material, which may not be in stock, may be requested through the inter-library loans system which links libraries in Ireland, the U.K. and other parts of the world.



Flan Moroney presenting the Frank Connolly Memorial Trophy to Tommy Webb, winner of the mens race at the Abbey Pattern, 1996, back, left to right: Dennis Moroney, Noel Corrigan, Lorraine Moroney, Serena Moroney, Fr. MacCarthy and Stephen Cassol. Front, L-R: Stephaine Cassol, Tommy Webb, Molly Connolly, Monica Cassol, Noel (jnr) Corrigan, Flan Moroney and Pauline Corrigan. (Courtesy of J. Hosty)



# Making a town – Men who built Ballyhaunis

A cursory look over the town of Ballyhaunis will be sufficient to convince the least observant that it is of very modern construction as it stands to-day. With the exception of the Augustinian Abbey, there are no old houses or buildings of any kind worth mentioning; none of the older type of architecture and more solid stone-work such as you may find in almost any other town of note in the county. Its rapid growth and extension is a matter of comparatively recent times. Most of those who contributed to making it what it is to-day, with all its faults and shortcomings, are gone from our midst, but some are still in the land of the living, I am happy to say. Not many years ago Ballyhaunis was an insignificant little hamlet, nestling snugly among the surrounding hills, but in the course of time men of enterprise, imagination and energy sprang up, and the thatched hovels began to disappear one by one. Waste places were fitted for the work of building, hills were levelled and hollows filled. It was the brains and imagination of a few courageous spirits that caused houses to spring up where there was nothing but dreariness and desolation, heaps of sand and rubbish, or decayed hovels – an eyesore to the onlooker.

## Availing of Opportunities

These men, comparatively few in number, were not blessed, in the majority of cases, with capital, but nature compensated them for this drawback by endowing them with constructive gifts of enterprise, foresight, and public spirit. They saw possibilities where others might see only weeds and puddles. They caused houses to appear, and so conferred benefits on the community which they themselves never dreamt of at the moment. They needed no incentive to do things beyond the happiness and satisfaction of doing them. They had the creative spirit strong in them, and needed not the spur of external encouragement or inducement. They anticipated, by their individual initiative, the clamourings for more houses in days when building grants were unknown. Though gone, their work remains to perpetuate their memory and serve as a model to this

*By Michael P. Waldron L.L.D.,  
(This article first appeared in the  
"Western People" March 12th, 1927*

and future generations. Their names deserve to be mentioned with honour and gratitude.

It is an incontrovertible fact that the present town of Ballyhaunis (1927) owes little or nothing to the landlord class. It is built on four different estates – Dillon, Knox, O'Grady, and Taaffe. How many houses did either of these landlords build? Very few indeed. If Ballyhaunis had been trusting to this type of benefactor it would be wiped off the map to-day, archaeologists might be digging in the heaps of sand to discover its hidden foundations and location. One John C. Fitzmaurice was worth more to Ballyhaunis than all the landlords that ever drained the purses of the poor, or swept them out on the roadside when they were unable to meet their calls.

## Canon Canning

Look at the magnificent Church of St. Patrick, the Parochial House, the Convent and Schools of the Mercy Sisters and other schools in the parish. Who built them? Need I mention his name? They are familiar objects now to the view, but only a few years ago they

were not to be seen. Where the eye is gladdened by the sight of the Convent pile only a bare green hill, with not even a tree or shrub to relieve the monotony of its contour, was to be seen. The late Canon Canning spent the final years of his fine life in advancing the town and adding to its spiritual and intellectual store. When you pause to consider the amount and variety of his achievements you wonder how could he have done it all! Where could he have found the means to accomplish what he did in such a poor and impoverished parish? Yet he did it because he had faith and courage, and a calm, persistent energy that worked its way on steadily, persistently towards its objectives. He was one who seemed to do things by just thinking about them. A calm, steady, unobtrusive worker with angelic faith in the goodness of God. And had God spared him in the health and vigour of mind he would have accomplished even more. On several occasions he discussed with me the project of building a Town Hall, pointing out how and where we could get the material, once the site was secured. His scheme was quite feasible and would cost little or nothing beyond the wages of workmanship. But his health failed, and the great old builder was stricken down before his ideas could be carried to fruition. Take away from Ballyhaunis the buildings he set up and



Tom Morley, Clagnagh, uncle to John Morley.

think what glorious features would disappear from the picture. What has landlordism to show in comparison, after all the money it drained from the pockets of the poor? Has it even a decent pigsty to serve as a reminder and monument of its civic virtues and public philanthropy? Even a tree or a shrub to act as evidence of its utility or beneficence? The landlords splashed and squandered their thousands on their own selfish pleasures. Poor Canon Canning put his pence and half pence into works of public value that will last for thousands of years. His was no life of luxury or ease. He had no money to squander on worldly vanities. Contrast what this saintly priest did in a few years for Ballyhaunis with what the four landlords did in centuries. Compare his resources with theirs.

### John Charles Fitzmaurice

And through the force of association, when Canon Canning's name is mentioned I cannot resist recalling that of his leading adviser and right-hand man, the late John Charles Fitzmaurice - the man who was directly responsible for the buildings devised by Canon Canning. If there were ever such a thing as a real genius in this world, I

would set down John C. Fitzmaurice as an example. The fact that he was entrusted by Canon Canning with supervision of all the plans and designs of St. Patrick's Church was proof enough in itself of the trust he reposed in his ability. In addition to his phenomenal knowledge of building construction in all its details and varieties, he displayed versatility in other directions. His keen interest in naval architecture he owed to the fact that in the lusty days of his youth he travelled around the world as a ship's carpenter. All sorts of plans and designs for buildings either on land or water fascinated him. He would not rest satisfied till he had mastered them in every detail. And his active mind had an inventive turn in it as well. I remember meeting him one breezy Sunday evening in the late autumn going along the road towards a hill. He was carrying a peculiarly shaped object made of light laths and tissue paper and a large roll of twine. He invited me to accompany him. So we got to the top of a hill, and then he explained to me that he had some hazy ideas about a flying-machine, and was going to make experiments. We had no aeroplanes then, but he had got the idea, you see. We spent hours on the top of the hill trying to get the contrap-

tion to work. To what extent we succeeded I do not clearly remember, but I don't forget that the evening's experiments on the hill-top with the fantastic box-kite and its curious propellers left me stretched for some days in bed. He always maintained that machines could be constructed to fly in the air, just as ships could be made to sail. Had he lived some years later he might have seen aeroplanes wheeling like rooks over Ballyhaunis. What a fine intellectual, well-informed artisan was John Charles! His active mind was ever teeming with ideas and plans. All books dealing with technological subjects attracted him. He was always learning, reading up the latest inventions and discoveries. Had he the necessary capital to carry out his many projects it is hard to say where he would have stopped. But he extended the bounds of Ballyhaunis and built many houses as well as superintending the building of public institutions, such as the church and schools. Ballyhaunis owes much to John C. Fitzmaurice.

### Michael M. Waldron

Another spirited builder was the late M. M. Waldron of Main Street. As a commercial figure, a draper and general merchant, he was well known throughout the province, but as a builder - a man of courage and enterprise who invested much in house property - he too helped materially to extend Ballyhaunis, and provided many comfortable houses for the poor. His son also, the late J. J. Waldron, following the example of his respected father, added considerably to the housing facilities. A fine row of decent dwellings stand to his credit as a builder and benefactor. I cannot help describing as a benefactor one who puts up something of public use or beauty where nothing was before. A man who builds a 'house for his own use or benefit' does well, but a man already provided with his own house who invests his money in providing houses for others does great service to the community, and we ought to appreciate it. If people were content with just providing for their own immediate necessities (like the old landlords) how many houses would there be in Ballyhaunis to-day? The person who causes something of use to be created which before was not in existence, as, for instance, a dwelling-house, adds to the wealth and happiness of the community. If there weren't such men as those I have mentioned - J.C. Fitzmaurice, M.M. Waldron and Son, and others, I intend referring to later on - where would the poor get shelter or lodging? Why, they would have to live in caves



Annagh Group; Back (L-R): Pat Killeen and Pake Muldoon. Front (L-R): Michael Lyons (twin), Nora Kenny (née Walsh), Michael F. Waldron ("Ebb"), Margaret Mary Waldron (née Lyons) and John Lyons (twin).



or dug-outs. Would Ballyhaunis be what it is to-day had the old landlords still remained in possession?

## Michael Cusack

I would not be far wrong in describing the late Michael Cusack as one of the pioneer builders in Ballyhaunis. His imaginative outlook is evidence in the site he selected for development - just at the cross-roads, the angle between Clare Street and Bridge Street, where Mr. Paul Waldron has his splendid chemist shop now. Poor Cusack! The last time I saw him he was fairly down and out. Yet he must be a man of vision and courage when he undertook to build the block of houses at the corner. He was an omnivorous reader too, was poor Michael, and a fine tradesman. Often he would set me problems in geometry when my knowledge of the subject was fresher than it is now. I believe there was not a proposition in the six books of Euclid that he could not solve, and, I fancy, some of the seventh as well. With the principles of trigonometry and mensuration he also seemed to be familiar, and certainly he had read several of the leading works of literature. Like many a better man he fell, poor fellow, down, down to the depths. And yet he did his share nobly in helping the growth of Ballyhaunis - infinitely more, anyway, than the landlord gang, poor tradesman and unfortunate as he was. Michael was gifted in many ways, had ample ability, and a rare desire for knowledge. He contributed his little bit to the building of Ballyhaunis as we know it.

## Thomas F. Moran

Still living amongst us, and still in harness, is Thomas F. Moran, to whose initiative and enterprise many houses owe their origin. In proportion to his resources, a greater builder than Mr. Moran would be difficult to find. He seemed to be consumed by the spirit for construction. No sooner would one house be completed and disposed of than he would have another on the stocks. If there were many men of his type abroad in the land the housing shortage would be rapidly solved. And in each of his undertakings he took a direct personal interest. His mind and finger pointed the way from the foundation to roof. Let him but see a waste spot, and he wanted a house to grow on it forthwith; and it generally happened so. He has lengthened streets and populated waste corners.

## Other Helpers

The late John Judge too, and the late

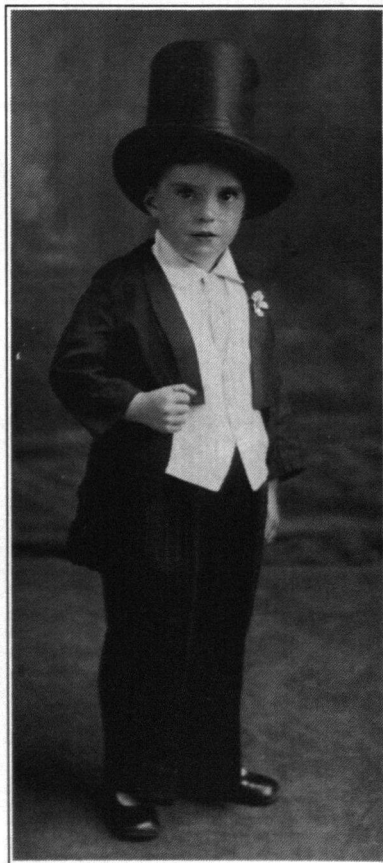
Thomas Glavey were men whose endeavours contributed not a little to extending the town. Some blocks of houses stand to their credit - a proof that they had enterprise and constructive ideas. Mrs. Anne Gilmore has also to her credit several fine residences, including the picturesque bungalow, the only building of its kind in the district. It stands on its own as a specimen of improved design and fresh architecture. Sir Henry Doran has also been responsible for several houses over in Abbeyquarter, and it is to be regretted that he did not see his way to allowing his spirit of enterprise more openings for exercise. But every little tells in the building up of a town; every stone put upon a stone has value not only in the present but for the future. A house does not pass away with the passing of him who built it; it stands to serve others after him. He who builds a house does a public service. Others who, in a lesser degree perhaps than some of those named, have helped to make Ballyhaunis, include the late David Morley, Henry McConville, J. Dillon, James Greally, Mark Waldron, Mrs. O'Grady and Michael A. Waldron. They added houses to those already built - houses for the use of others than themselves - and therein lay the benefit to the community.

I did not include in the category of builders those who merely speculated in houses already built. I only included those who actually built them, who cleared away hills or filled in hollows, and then had houses erected on the sites. Such are the men to whom Ballyhaunis owes its origin and growth. The present generation (1927) are reaping the fruits of their labours and enterprise, and when this generation passes out others will likewise enjoy the shelters they provided. It is well to remind ourselves now and then of such facts, lest we drift into the habit of thinking that Ballyhaunis and other such towns sprung up like a field of mushrooms and that the human element, enterprise, and courage had nothing to do with its existence.

## More Recently

Writing on the above subject as I did wholly from memory, and in the absence of notes or memoranda of any kind bearing on the matter discussed, I fear I have been guilty of some glaring omissions in the list of those who in quite recent times helped to build up Ballyhaunis and make it what it is today. I should have included the late Mr. A. Blake, to whose commendable enterprise we are indebted for several fine dwelling houses and other buildings. Also the late Mr. Thomas M.

Neary, one of the most progressive and energetic business men of his day. Some fine houses in Abbeyquarter owe their existence to Mr. Pat Gildea. The late Mr. John T. Ruane too, displayed, during his regrettably too short life, a keen zest for building. A fine block of houses was built by Dr. Crean also, and did limitations of building ground permit, in all probability the community would be indebted to him for still more. Mr. James Lyons, of Commercial Hotel fame, also lent a hand in providing housing accommodation and extending the town. For any other omissions due to lapse of memory or want of information I hope to be excused. It would be a pity to overlook names deserving of honourable mention in this connection. It is to be hoped that the spirit which animated men of progressive ideas in the past will continue to influence others now and in the future. They set a worthy example, and without their work it would be easy to count the houses or population of Ballyhaunis. Were the provision of dwellings left to the landlords - the Dillons, Knoxes, Taaffes or O'Grady or to the plutocrats, Ballyhaunis would be a poor show indeed.



Fancy Dress time in 1936, Bertie Curley (R.I.P.), Clare Street.

# Ballyhaunis Apostolic Work – 1996

**A**S 1996 is coming to an end, we look back with pride on our year's work. Although we are small in number, a lot was achieved by our branch during the year. We have supported missionaries both financially and materially and it is very gratifying to read the letters we receive from missionaries who have been aided by our organisation. We were very saddened during the year, when one of our long serving members passed away suddenly: Mrs. Peg Boyle of Ballinphuill who was a faithful member of our organisation. Even in later years when she wasn't able to attend meetings, she quietly worked at home and always arrived for the exhibition with her work. I am sure she will be rewarded for all her generosity to the mission.

*By Bridie Brennan*

Our exhibition held in June was very successful. Many more people



Apostolic workers' exhibition (June, 1996).

came to view our work than in previous years and we are very grateful to all who supported us. A very special thanks to the Priests of the Parish, the Augustinian Fathers and Sisters of Mercy for their continued support. We were happy to have Sister Helen

Regan, who is a missionary in South America, speak at our display and give us an insight into her work and she was very grateful for help from Apostolic Work. Many thanks to the Golf and Bridge Clubs for their support of our organisation.



St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy 1968. Back, L-R: Mary B. McDonnell, Patricia Hopkins, Noreen Murphy, Margaret Morris, Peggy Morley, Mary Duggan and Margaret Earley. Middle, L-R: Mary Fitzmaurice, Bernadette Knight, Catherine Hopkins, Monica Connolly, Catherine Finn, Mary Tully (R.I.P.), Teresa Cunniffe and Bridie Healy. Front, L-R: Ann Cribbin, Eithne Curran, Noreen Folliard, Kathleen Finn, Dolores Freyne, Heather Conway, Audrey Cunnane and Nora Niland.



# Going to the Pictures

**G**OING to the Pictures, or the Cinema as we know it, conjures up images of semi-darkness, muffled whispers, rattling paper bags and favourite on-screen characters. We do not wonder at the big screen, being accustomed to our T.V. screens and hi-fi videos, and see it only as an 'escape' from our small screens at home.

*By Josephine Ganley*

As this is the year in which we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first public film show, it is difficult to understand what 'Going to the Pictures' meant all those years ago. As we have no method of reaching back to that era, apart from contacting the supernatural, I thought it be more appropriate to take a leap forward, and enquire from the somewhat younger generation who remember the cinema scene from the 1920s onwards!

## FIRST FILMS

The first film show in Ballyhaunis in the 1920's would have been from the 'Travelling Shows.' As there were very few dances or social events at the time, these shows were the first of their kind to visit different areas and 'put on' shows, entertaining people from the oldest to the youngest and creating a huge excitement in their wake.

At that time, the word 'Film' was unknown; it was always 'The Pictures', and the first of these were shown from a 'booth' in the Friars' Ground. This booth was erected by Johnny Toft in early 1911. The pictures of the time were "Napoleon & Josephine" which depicted the rise and fall of Napoleon, and "The Christus", a Pathe film depicting the life of Christ. Jack Halpin from Main Street, recalls memories of McFadden's travelling show visiting Ballyhaunis and putting on their show in the Fair Green under a huge tent. They were 'silent' movies, and were mostly Westerns. McFadden's circus, with which we are familiar these days, is owned by a direct descendant of this family. Also, at the time, another famous duo put on shows in Ballyhaunis: Turnbull and Toft's,

who were renowned for their 'Amusements', projected their picture shows onto the gable wall of Dillon's shop.

## EARLY CINEMA

Jack recalls the first indoor cinema. It was situated over what is now Mike Byrne's Public House in Clare Street and was owned by the Donnellan family who had a wool store there. Phil Hayes, a travelling showman, put on his shows here and, although they were silent movies, they captured the imagination of the audiences to great effect. Jack remembers being taken there by his father, and even though he was too young to remember the actual films, he can well remember the mystery and the magic of that dark and fascinating place. He did not know at the time that he would grow up and make films of his own in later life; such was the impression the 'pictures' must have made on the young lad's mind.

He recalls the shows being advertised by the local 'Bellman' who would go around the town ringing a bell and shouting out the name of the film to be shown. The entrance fee at the time would have been around four pence, and Jack remembers he and his friends pestering their parents for the money which they did not always get! He remembers a local man Val Fitzgerald (R.I.P.), adding some special effects to some of the films, to create a greater atmosphere. Val had a sheet of tin, and every time the cannon would appear to fire, he would bend the sheet backwards and forwards thus simulating the sound. This would have made a deep impression on the minds of the children and indeed the adults as well!

Another cinema at the time was located over McGarry's shop in Main Street. It was run by the Moylett family whose descendants are owners of the well established 'Downhill Hotel' in Ballina. A man by the name of Johnny Conway showed films in this hall in the late 1920s. The 'Matinees' were very popular amongst the younger generation and were a special treat for them on occasions. It would have been cheaper to go to these shows and, as a result, they were almost always packed.

In the early 1930s, Johnny Conway

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THE STAR

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CINEMA  
BALLYHAUNIS

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PROGRAMME

for

Sept. 6 - Oct. 15, 1964

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ALL FILMS SHOWN ON  
WIDE SCREEN OR CINEMASCOPE.

Doors Open, 8 p.m.

Performances Commence, 8.30.

ADMISSION:

BALCONY ... .. 2/3.

PARTERRE ... .. 1/6 & 10d.

PATHE AND GAIL-LINN NEWS.

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Harold, Tonn.

A Star Cinema programme of 1964.

bought his own premises in Barrack Street. It was originally owned by the Neary family from Tooreen who had a general store there. Indeed some direct descendants of this family still reside in the Tooreen area. Johnny Conway set up his film business here, putting in wooden benches or 'forms' as they were then known. These were made by local carpenter Pat O'Rourke. Johnny had his own generator and was the first person to bring electricity to the town. The films would arrive on the mail boat from England, produced by well known names such as J. Arthur Ranks, Pinewood Studios in London, as well as the Ellstree studios, in London also. Jack remembers some Shakespearean films shown there with well known actor of the time Anew McMaster playing some lead roles. McMaster was later to act with such famous Irish actors as Michael McLiammoir and Hilton Edwards in many films. As 'special effects' were becoming more popular at this stage, music was being introduced steadily. This was added to increase the dramatic effects on stage. In Conway's, a lady by the name of Mrs. Dalton (née McNamara from Clare Street) played the piano with a flourish, adding an emotion and a sense of occasion to the scenes; the music would be soft and dreamy for a romantic scene, and would build to a crescendo of clashing cymbals and a thunderous rolling of drums as the film became more dramatic! One of the films shown here was "The Sign of the Cross" and is well remembered by the antics of a local jester who added his own impressions to the film. The story goes that at a certain part of the film



Venerable Archdeacon G. J. Prendergast, P.P., blessing the cup after the minor final of 1952, when Ballyhaunis beat Claremorris in Prenty's Field. Included are, from left: Val Byrne, Main Street; Fr. Towey, Mayo County Board G.A.A.; Ann Byrne, Main Street; Frances Moran, Abbey Street; Celine Webb, Main Street; and Michael O'Connell, Upper Main Street.

where 'Our Lord' tells Peter: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times"; this person, who shall remain nameless, would stand up and 'crow', thus simulating the said cockerel! This would send the audience into fits of uncontrolled laughter, while arousing the wrath of the local clergy and the operator in turn! It was to be remembered for many a day, and brought a smile to many faces over the ensuing years. The film may be long forgotten, but the memory remains as comical as ever.

Another film was "The Wife's Sister"; this too had its own story! In order to draw a large crowd to the film the local Bellman invented his own brand of advertising! While he was ringing his bell to all and sundry, he shouted at the top of his voice, "The wife's sister will be 'showing' in the hall to-night!" What she would be showing he did not tell, nor did we find out, but I have it on high authority that there was a packed house that night! Changes? .....Never!

The gentleman who showed the films for Johnny Conway was George Ormsby. Conway's also held variety

shows in the hall and they also travelled out of town showing their films to packed audiences.

### WALDRON'S HALL

Towards the late 1930s the Waldron family took over Donnellan's Woolstore in Clare Street. They were the parents of Noel Waldron, Devlis, and they ran a very successful Cinema/Concert Hall there for many years. The cinema was located upstairs whilst the meal store operated downstairs. This was one of the more modern cinemas that we are familiar with, it had tip-up seating, three exits, which up to now were an unfamiliar sight, and also had a canopy reaching out onto the street from where the films were projected. As the film material was highly flammable, there was an ever present fear of fire sweeping through the darkness, as the projectors up to then were standing on the middle of the floor within the small confines of the hall. The canopy was erected to combat this danger and it was to prove a major advantage in securing the safety of the earnest cinema-goers.

Noel remembers the 'Gods' as they were called, at the back of the hall. They were so called because they would be standing on the seats instead of sitting on them, thus looking down on everyone else. He recalls some of the Travelling Shows who showed films here; at this stage they were known as 'talkies' because sound had been added. There was 'Leo Caslin' from Strokestown, 'Carron's' from Monaghan, as well as many others. There were also Opera Shows held here such as "The Country Girl" and "Pearl the Fishermid." Many plays and concerts were held here also, including the local orchestra: Willie Comerford, Joe Gilmore and Kevin Flanagan were some of the musicians at the time and they always had a receptive audience. Well known singer Delia Murphy appeared here also on occasions. He also remembers the 'Operattas': these were opera singers who would arrive on a special train to put on a show. The first film that Noel remembers is the "Song of Bernadette", other films were "Ben Hur", "Beau Geste" and "Marie Antoinette." Then there were the seri-



als; these would arouse a great excitement amongst the children and they yearned for the following evening to come so they could continue to follow the story to the end. He remembers with amusement the night when a local prankster took some sneezing powder into the cinema. As the audience began to collapse into fits of sneezing, much to the amusement of the youngsters, the Archdeacon, who was present on the night, raised his voice a few octaves and enquired: "Who's throwing the Cayenne Pepper?" It is doubtful if he got an answer to that one! The films at this time were advertised by posters and the entrance fee would have been around five pence.

## THE PAROCHIAL HALL

Sometime in 1941 Waldron's Hall closed its doors for the last time. A new Community Hall was being built - the Parochial Hall - and, rather than enter into opposition with this new building James Waldron decided to close. It was a mark of personal integrity, as it was a costly decision, and showed the family's consideration for the community at large. The Parochial Hall was built on the site of the Ball Alley, which in turn was supposed to be rebuilt but unfortunately that plan did not come to fruition. Funds were collected locally in an effort to complete the hall. It was built by P. Dyer and Son and was used as a cinema-cum-dancehall from 1941. The cinema had two projectors and all modern equipment, and had regular shows. The films were still arriving regularly from England and with the aid of posters and film programmes the people were able to choose from a list as to what films they preferred to see. Gerry Cribbin remembers going to the pictures there vividly, and recalls the queues of people waiting to get in. He can still remember his impatience at having to wait in these queues, and the constant fear that he would be hauled



Ballyhaunis Wren-boys in Knox Street, 1903. (Photographers note states that the sashes were blue) (Courtesy of The Department of Archaeology, U.C.G.)

out of it altogether to make room for another. Apparently this was common practice at the time, but nevertheless Gerry saw his fair share of them all the same. Some of his favourites included "The Robe", "Roy Rogers" and the old cohort himself - "Hopalong Cassidy", the most elegant of all cowboys with his black outfit and magnificent horse 'Silver.' He remembers John Wayne starring in a film "Reap the Wild Wind" and other films such as "Boys-town", "Th San Francisco Earthquake", and a whole lot more. Tommy Byrne was the operator at the time and he projected films from a small room at the back of the hall. Some members of the committee were: Joe Flatley, Paddy Freeley, Laurence Kilroy, P. J. Caulfield, Albert Madden and James Cunningham, all of whom are deceased, R.I.P. The man at the ticket desk was Paddy Tighe R.I.P., while the caretaker was a man by the name of Michael Gibbons R.I.P. Bridget Mary Halpin R.I.P., wife of Jack, was one of the set-designers at the time and was an expert on painting the props to blend-in with the various scenes.

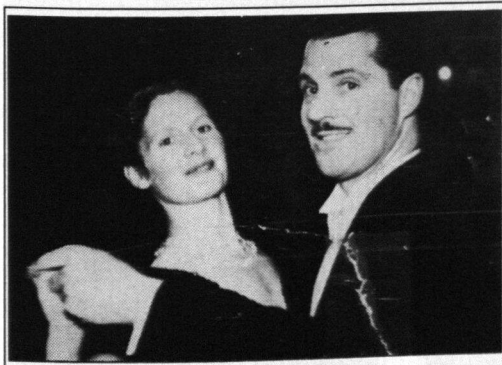
Many Dances were held in the Parochial Hall and Gerry fondly remembers, as a young gasún, how, along with his friends, he used to peep in through an opening in the door to watch the dancers looking so fine and elegant in their evening dress. Apparently, this opening was the work of a local man, who, unable to afford the price of the ticket, chipped away at the timber, until the aperture was complete. Then settling himself comfortably on his dependable 'orange-box' he proceeded to observe the scenes

unfolding before him at his leisure.

## McGARRY'S

Around the middle of 1948, McGarry's opened their first cinema. It was a very modern cinema and entertained the local community for many years right up to the mid-1980s. Films were brought in on a regular basis and it became so successful that, in 1975, a second cinema was added and became known as the first 'twinned' cinema in the area. The films were advertised by giant posters and regular programmes were drawn up. Unfortunately, due to a theft last year, all this material, which had become Collectors' Items, were stolen, and remain unrecovered at the present time. Gerry McGarry remembers the good times when people would leave the pubs and lounge bars at a decent time and go to see the late shows. It would be a pity if the numbers attending the Cinema declined, depriving the future generations, who may never experience the mystery and the fascination of the Cinema, it being one of the constituent initiation rites of youth.

Over the years, stretching from the 1920s onwards, 'Going to the Pictures' was part and parcel of social entertainment, creating an intense enthusiasm and fuelling the imaginations in an effort to find out more. From 'Silent Movies' to 'Talkies' they transported people away from their unsophisticated lifestyles to a hamlet of fantasy and enchantment. Memories remain of bygone days, cinemas echoing with shouts of laughter, childish pranks, wonder, curiosity and the magical element of surprise - all priceless components in what was definitely one of the greatest traditions of all times. My thanks to Jack Halpin, Noel Waldron, Gerry Cribbin and Joe Tighe for sharing their memories with me.



Tripping the light fantastic: Agnes (Fitzgerald) and Neil O'Donnell, Abbey Street at a dance in Cork in 1943, (Courtesy Seán Regan, Boston)

# Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

Well, we didn't get the Summer the weather man forecasted; nevertheless, it didn't stop our young up-and-coming Michelle Smiths from enjoying the pool. They were there in great numbers. The official opening took place on Saturday 15th June, kindly blessed by Fr. Cooney.

The two safety courses given in the pool were a great success. One took

*By Agatha Higgins*

place in June and the other in August with all the children participating passing with colours.

The committee wish to thank Sheila Dowell who collected the children from the school and returned with them to the school when their courses were finished.

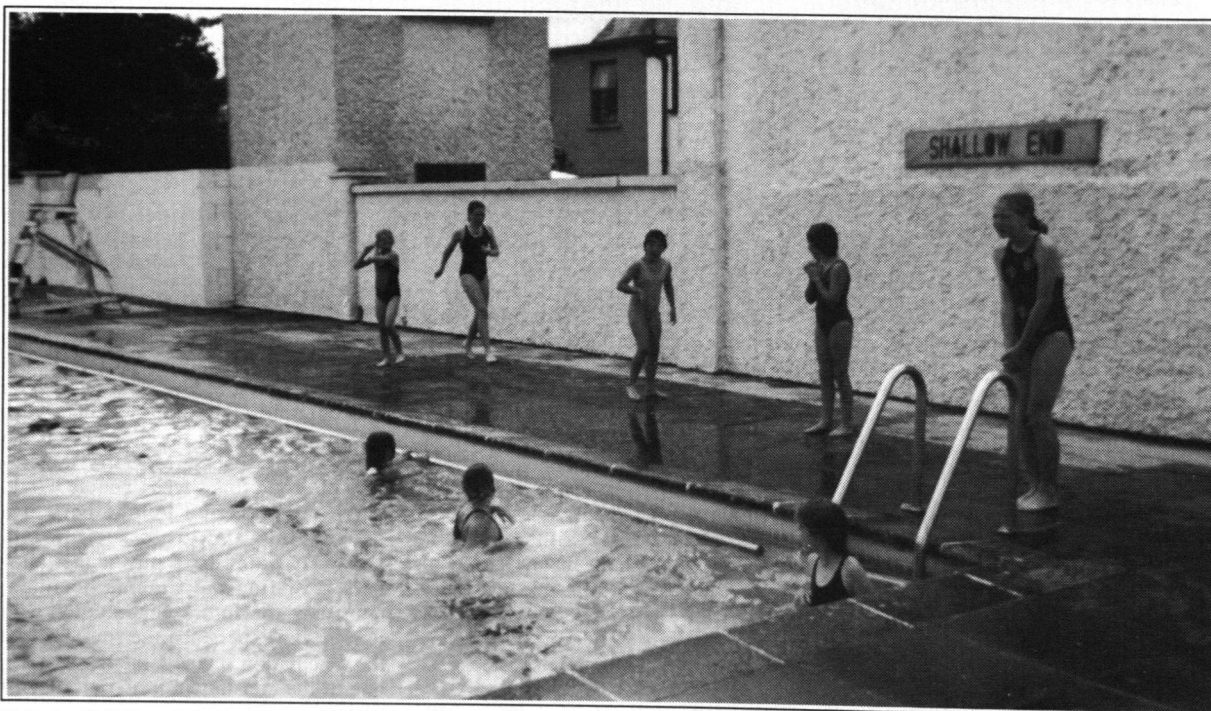
Again this year, we wish to thank Mary Donnelly for organising both courses.

We wish to congratulate Deirdre O'Connor, Paticia Mulhern and John Coffey who passed their Senior Exams and are now qualified Lifeguards.

This year, the two lifeguards were Gillian Keane and Deirdre O'Connor, who kept an eye on all swimmers and made sure that everything ran very smoothly in the pool area.

As every year, without the help of the parents, the pool would not be able to open. As we were unfortunate not to get a college student, it meant that parents had to man the door as well as keep order in the pool area, and dressing rooms.

Looking forward to more success and enjoyment next year.



Enjoying Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool this Summer.

(Courtesy P. O'Connor)



Taken in Moneymore - Luke Cribbin and Jim Waldron, taken in 1932.



Winifred Regan, Clare Street and Maisie Levins, Barrack Street. Taken in the 1940s.



Mrs. Byrne, Derrymore, grandmother of Jean Butler (Riverdance).



# Tales from the County Mearing

**M**RS. Mary Boyle was born in 1902 in the townland of Coolnafarna, where she has lived all her life and where she currently enjoys an active retirement. The place where she first saw the light of day - a fine nineteenth century, two-storeyed dwelling - is the first house in County Mayo and in the parish of Annagh, as you approach from the East. The River Suck (only a few hundred yards from its source in a field called Bun Suc) flows close to the northern gable of this house and forms the boundary with County Roscommon, and with the parish of Kiltullagh.

## *Mrs. Cecily Moran and Paul Waldron in conversation with Mrs. Mary Boyle, Coolnafarna*

Mrs. Boyle, who has always been better known as Mary or "Baby" Moran, had been cited as having a great fund of local history by many, including her sister-in-law, Mrs. Cecily Moran. It was apparent that her stories and recollections would be of interest to readers of the Annagh Magazine and

so, in October this year, the writer accompanied Mrs. Moran on two of her regular visits to Mrs. Boyle and her son Paddy. During these two visits, after the news of the day had been discussed by the two ladies, the talk strayed to topics local and historical.

## THE MORANS

This place on the borders of Mayo and Roscommon has been home to the Moran family for nearly three-hundred years. According to family tradition, the Morans originated in Co. Longford and eventually some families of the name settled in the Fairymount area of Co. Roscommon. From there, a number of brothers were moved up to Coolnafarna by Mr. Strickland, Lord Dillon's agent, in the eighteenth century. "The first of them that came here was Tom Moran and his brothers Pat and John. They were all tradesmen, I believe - millers, carpenters and farriers. Some of the family were cattle-traders and they used to ship cattle across to England, to markets in Blackburn and Liverpool." One of a later generation, Thomas Moran, was killed

on one of these boats in the 1850s when the cattle knocked him over and trampled him to death.

The early generations of Morans in Coolnafarna operated a corn-mill: "I don't remember our mill in operation, it had stopped working before my time, but I often heard about it. The water was held in a number of 'holding-places' and it had to be dammed for a few days before there was enough of a flow of water to work the mill; we were always bet for water, I believe. Judge's mill in Clooncrim was further upstream on the River Suck, so it had a better flow of water altogether and could operate better than our mill. In a small building beside the granary there was a structure which was often to be found in conjunction with a corn mill in days gone by - a corn-kiln: "There were five or six irons going across from one wall to the other; there was a metal plate on top with holes punched in it. It was used for drying corn before it was milled."

Seven generations of Morans, at least, have lived in Coolnafarna, and it is remarkable that the names of all the Mrs. Morans for nearly three hundred years can still be recalled: "The first Mrs. Moran in Coolnafarna was a woman by the name of O'Regan from County Sligo. The next then - her daughter-in-law - was a McDermott from somewhere around Boyle. Then the next was Peggy Boyle from Clagnagh: she was my father's grandmother. In the next generation there was my grandmother Margaret Waldron from Cave: she was a sister of Canon James Waldron and had three sisters - Mrs. Andy Henry of Cave, Mrs. Morris of Erritt and Bridget who never married. Then my mother was Margaret Heneghan from Doogary, Aghamore and the latest Mrs. Moran was my brother Jim's wife: she was Margaret Burke from Granlahan. That makes six Mrs. Morans who have lived in Coolnafarna."

"My father had two brothers - John, who went to America and Michael who died young; and three sisters: Katie (Mrs. Michael Loftus, Levallyroe), Bridget (Mrs. William Judge, Clooncrim) and Maggie (Mrs. Waldron). Maggie married John Thomas Waldron of Redford and they had a daughter



Going to Mass in the 1930's: Paddy Moran, Baby Moran, Peggy Moran and Mary Dalton.

Ethel. They were home from the States once and while they were here they bought twelve bags of feathers and twelve ticks made in Ballyhaunis and shipped them over to America. It must have cost a fair bit, but it seems they couldn't get anything like them over there, and they were very happy with them!"

In her own family, there were eleven children: John (Jack), Mary (Baby), Paddy, Peggy, Jim, Eileen, Mick, Donald, Dominic, Gerald and Kevin. She has two brothers still living: Gerald in Newbury, England and Kevin in Chicago, U.S.A.

## CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

There was an old school in Coolnafarna, which had closed before Mary's time. "I went to the 'New' school, but that has disappeared now and there's a private house built on the site. Mrs. Sarah Burns (néé Dalton), Robert Burns' wife, was the teacher: she was very nice and kind. We used start at nine o'clock, or half nine and finish at three.

There was plenty of lessons, but we also did some singing; some of the songs we learnt were "Let Erin Remember" and "Home Sweet Home." At break time we used play "jackstones", "Ring-a-ring-a-rosey" or "Tick." Jackstones was where you threw five stones up into the air, then caught as many as you could while sitting down. I remember too that the Inspector - either Mr. Cregg or Mr. Shannon - used to call every year."

Mary started school in the Convent in Ballyhaunis when she was twelve years of age and some of the teachers she remembers there were Sr. Aloysius, Sr. Peter, Sr. Ignatius and Mother Evangelist. "I used cycle the three miles into Ballyhaunis, of course the road was very rough in those days, it wasn't tarred but there were smooth patches here and there. The Parish Priest Canon Canning used call an odd time, but usually that was the Curate's job - one of the first I remember was a Fr. Finn. My brothers Dominick and Kevin went to school in the Monastery in Granlahan; Gerald and Don went to Garbally, Ballinasloe."

"We usually went to mass in the side-car to the Friary and the earliest of the Friars I can remember was Fr. Frost - he was a great man for the plays. Sometimes we went to mass in Ballinlough, which was a mile nearer than Ballyhaunis. I remember the remains of the walls of the old parish church, in front of the present Parish church in Ballyhaunis - where the car-park is now. I was in the Sodality and had to attend the Sodality mass every



Mrs. Mary Boyle

month."

"The shops I remember going to in Ballyhaunis as a child were Peter Hannon's and Infant's in Abbey Street. Ma'am Doogan had a small shop there too - she used to be a housekeeper for the Friars. We used get drapery in Richard Henry's in the Square, or Flynn's and Eaton's in Main St., and got clothes made by Mrs. Carney of Knox Street.

Paul Waldron's was the first Chemist shop I remember, but I often heard of an older one in Abbey Street, where Mrs. O'Dwyer lives now: it had the word "Apothecary" on the show-board. We got our shoes repaired in MacNamaras in Ballyhaunis, or by our neighbour Arthur Burns. Dr. Crean was the only Doctor in the area - he was tall man and had side-whiskers. There was another man known as Dr. MacDermott who lived in Cashel, but he wasn't fully qualified and put great store in whiskey and water as a cure for most ills.

"I remember going on holidays to Enniscrone with my brother Paddy and grandmother. We'd go on the side-car as far as my mother's home-place in Doogary, Aghamore, stay the night there, and then drive into Swinford the next morning. Campbell's of Swinford had a 'break' - a long sort of a side-car, pulled by two horses, and that's how we went the rest of the journey. It was a long trip and the horses had to be rested here and there on the way down. I remember we stopped in Foxford for a cup of tea."

"Fair days in Ballyhaunis used to be crowded when I was young. I remember the Pattern on the 16th of March, the day before St. Patrick's Day, and the swinging-boats and hobby-horses in The Square."

## THE BOYLES

Mary Moran married Peter Boyle, her neighbour. "My late husband Peter's grandfather, another Peter Boyle came from Clagnagh. He had two brothers: one called Martin who settled in Levallyroe, and the other called Tommy. Peter and Tommy were living with their families in the one house, or they'd divided a holding of land between themselves. Anyway, because this was against the estate rules, Charles Strickland, who was Lord Dillon's agent at the time, had Peter, his wife (Margaret Bailey) and family evicted; they had no place to go, but his sister Maggie, who was Mrs. Moran, my great-grandmother, took them in and gave them that part of the Moran's farm which lay in County Roscommon."

This holding was actually in a townland called Scregg, not the Scregg near Ballyhaunis, but another small place of the same name which borders Coolnafarna on the Roscommon side, between the main road and the railway. "Peter and Margaret had a son John, my husband's father, and a daughter who became a Nun, and who was supposed to've been a great handball player!"

"Right beside our house (Moran's) another Boyle family lived: these were relations of my husband's family and the first of them here was Austin Boyle who came from Carrowreagh - he was second cousin of my husband's father John Boyle." This house is only a few yards from the northern gable of Moran's, but it lies in County Roscommon since the River Suck which forms the county meeting runs between them.

Right beside the house where Mrs. Boyle currently lives, a stream flows down from the hills at the back. This stream also forms part of the county meeting: "The water in it was supposed to have a cure, and so a cup was left on the wall nearby for anyone that wanted to use it."

## SOME EARLY RECOLLECTIONS

Mrs. Boyle has seen many changes over the past ninety years and, as well as recalling events in her own life, has picked up many stories from the older generations, which make her a link with people and events which would otherwise be long forgotten.

"Minor Young was a landlord who





5th Annual Reunion of the Moran Clan: Chicago, San Francisco, California, Boston, London, Newbury, Nottingham, Dublin, Wicklow, Waterford, Cork, Galway, Sligo, Coolnafarna and Ballyhaunis.

lived in Kilkeevan, where the Psychiatric hospital was in Castlereagh, and where the prison is going to be. His daughter was shot accidentally by a man named Brady in Jordan's house (now Hannon's) in Devlis. I remember hearing that the Redcoats accompanied the funeral all the way from Ballyhaunis to Kilkeevan."

"I remember hearing of a woman and her twelve or thirteen year old son who came looking for work at Lord Sandford Wills at his lodge in "Willsboro." The lad was only very young and he stayed in our house with my grandparents and their children. The young fellow was fair-haired and was called 'Akawaun' (Eacha bhán?)."

## THE SHOP

A Mrs. Greally started a shop in what was the old school-house in Coolnafarna, and when she retired, Mary Moran took it over: "I lived there until I got married and sold everything from groceries to light hardware. It used to be open all hours and was very convenient for the people of Coolnafarna and surrounding villages.

I used buy eggs from the locals and got supplies from Peter Hannon's, Dwyer's of Cork, Murphy's of Clare-

morris and Gilmartin's of Kiltimagh. The shop closed in the early 1950s and much of its business taken over by Cunningham's travelling shop."

## COOLNAFARNA - NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS

The townland of Coolnafarna was unique in the parish of Annagh in that it was home to a number of Protestant families. They were said to have originally come from the Sligo direction and included the families of Evans, Pugh, Mears, Boyd, Burns and Kenny. The Sampys and Cornwalls of Kiltulagh parish came to Coolnafarna first, and then moved to other villages near Ballinlough. "They were all fine decent people and everybody in the area got-on well together. However, there was always something a bit more advanced about their farming methods, and nearly all of them had an orchard. There were four Burns families in Coolnafarna: one of them, Arthur Burns' family, lived in a little house which was built by the side of the road, right on the county boundary: one half of the house was in County Mayo, the other in Roscommon. It had two nine-

paned windows with a "bull's eye" in the centre pane, which was regarded as a great thing those days. Arthur used fix shoes and he reared a fine big family." A member of another Burns family - Jane Burns, whose mother was Reynolds from Castlereagh, belonged to the Order of the Open Brethren.

## TOBAR ÁRD NAOMH

Tobar Árd Naomh is the name of a holy well on Moran's land in Coolnafarna. Its name means the high well of the saint. "There was a pilgrimage there on Garland Sunday - the last Sunday in July - every year to the well of Tobar Árd Naomh. One of the pattern rituals involved doing a station, or walking around a mound of stones saying your prayer; every time you went around you'd throw a small stone on top of the mound to keep track of your station. There was an old hawthorn tree growing over the well and people who had somebody sick, or even a sick animal, would tie a strip of cloth from the sick person or animal, to the tree in the hope of a cure. There's a children's graveyard beside the well too, where children up to the age of seven were buried. I heard it was used for adult

burials in years gone by, including one of a vagrant who was found dead along the road. There was also an old stone cross with IHS carved on it."

## THE TROUBLES

Mrs. Boyle was a young woman during the Troubles of the early 1920s. There was much excitement the time the Barracks in Ballinlough was burnt, and Volunteers Glavey, Keane and Glynn were shot. "My oldest brother Jack Moran was first Company Captain in the Ballinlough Company of the 1st Castlereagh Battalion of the old I.R.A. He, and a lot of others in the area had to go on the run. My future husband Peter Boyle went to Leo; Jack, my brother went first to Killunagher where he stayed the overnight in Kelly's house. Then he headed north and went across country to Doogary. Aghamore, where he stayed with his mother's people the Heneghans."

"Around that time too, a lorry-load of soldiers came into our house and we had to make tea for them. My brothers Don and Mick were eating their dinner at the time, and had move from the table and finish it sitting out on the stairs. One of the soldiers, on his way out, sneered: 'look at the fine meal those lads are eating.'"

The Cattle-Pass, which was a low tunnel under the railway, was blown up by the IRA around this time too. "I'll always remember that one of the Mears family was born around the same time."

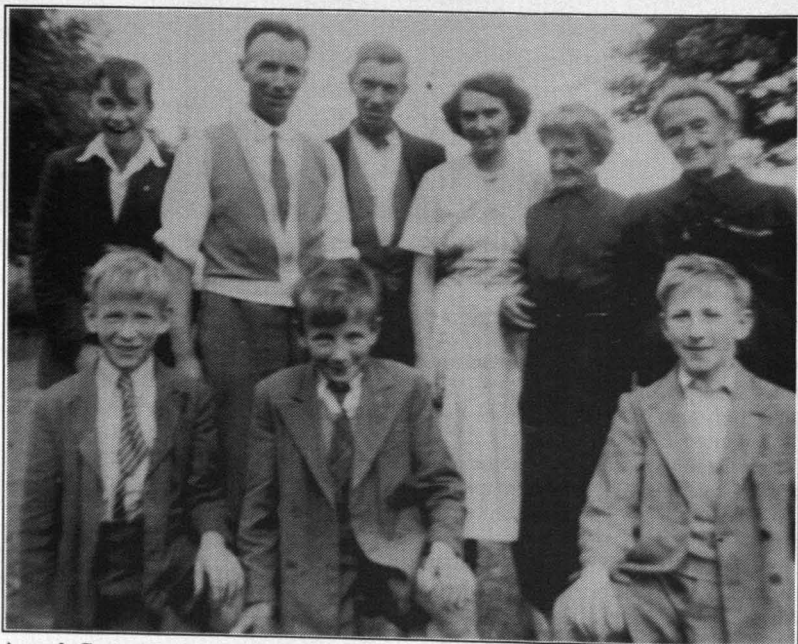
It is interesting to note that there was some Nationalist activity in Coolnafarna in the more distant past, since several pike-heads were found in the roof of old buildings beside Boyle's house.

Mrs. Cecily Moran, who organised this meeting, and her late husband Don shared a great interest in both local and national history: they were stalwarts of the Ballyhaunis Heritage Society for many years and spent many of their holidays visiting sites of historical and archaeological interest throughout the country. An interest in history, and the possession of a good memory seem to have run in the Moran clan since, as well as Mary and Don, their brother Mick (R.I.P.) also was a wonderful fund of local historical and genealogical information.

Since Mary is now the oldest surviving member of the Moran family, it was a great pleasure to make her acquaintance and listen to stories spanning almost three hundred years. Mary has one son Paddy, Coolnafarna and one daughter Margaret in Birmingham. She has five grandchildren and a great-granchild who was born in Budapest.



Back, L-R: Edward Fitzgerald, Martin Hannon and Seamus Clarke. Front, L-R: Tony Greene, Vinnie Freyne and Peter Hannon.  
(Courtesy Joe Keane)



Annagh Group; Back (L-R): Tom Geraghty, Johnny Walsh, Austin Muldoon, Mary Geraghty (née Walsh), Anne Walsh and Bridget Killeen (née Kenny). Front (L-R): John, Tom and Michael Meehan.



On the Ice on Annagh Lake - 1950: Extreme Left: Johnny Walsh (R.I.P.); third from right: Micky Jordan (R.I.P.); second from right: Austin Muldoon (R.I.P.).



# Customs Gone?

**F**OR the past few years I have watched with disgust and horror the way our youth celebrate "Hallowe'en." The practice of throwing eggs and flour around the streets is certainly not the way that we celebrated "Hallowe'en."

*By Eamon Murren*

When we were young, nuts and barm bracks were on the menu. It was said that who ever got the ring in the brack would be the next to get married. Ducking for pennies or apples was another aspect of the party. Trying to snap a bite from an apple hanging from the ceiling was a difficult task, especially if your hands were tied behind your back. Out of doors we would have a hollowed-out turnip in the shape of a skull, with a candle inside. This we brought around as we knocked on peoples doors. A favourite part of the door-knocking was to tie black thread onto a door-knocker and then from a hidden point tug the thread to knock on the door. "Trick or Treat" was unheard-of in our day, and this appears to be an American custom which the power of television has landed in our midst.

Apart from "Halloween", there were other times of the year when we had customs. St. Brigid's Day on February 1st was always marked by the making of St. Brigid Crosses. That night people would go out on the "Brideógs."

June brought St. John's night and the bonfire. Every street in Ballyhau-nis had its own bonfire and there was great competition to see which fire could emit the greater blaze and smoke. The run-up to the bonfire was spent gathering timber and tyres. For Upper Main Street a lot of our brambles were cut in Curran's Wood. We also cut some bigger trees in places where we should not have. I remember we got into a lot of trouble on one occasion for cutting down some of Dr. Waldron's trees without his permission. It was very important to have a big tree for the "middle-post", and great care was taken in trying to get as big a one as possible. Tyres were also an important part of the bonfire. It was common

practice for "Raids" to be made among the different street gangs so as to have plenty of tyres on the night. I recall Mick Keegan on several occasions throwing a big tractor tyre into our bonfire to give it a great boost.

Of course, Christmas brought its customs. The placing of candles in the windows on Christmas Eve was a beacon to the lonely, poor and weary travellers to come and partake in the Christmas Supper. St. Stephen's day brought the "Wren Boys" and the various collections to help with the burial of the wren.

Working in Castlebar I have come across two lovely customs there. One is that of the "Waits." This occurs in the weeks leading up to Christmas, when a couple of local gentlemen can be heard outside each door singing "Merry Christmas Mr. and Mrs. Murphy." The fact that this occurs well past midnight means that not everybody appreciates the good wishes. The other custom is on May 1st, when the Mayflower is spread outside peoples homes. This is supposed to bring good luck.

I am sure that there are a lot of other old customs that people know about. Maybe somebody will write about them in next year's "Annagh."



Patricia and Mary Grogan, Clare Street, 1949.



Convent School Group from 1950: - Back, L-R: Unknown, Lena Costello, Margaret Hunt, Mary Barry, Cathleen Kelly, Marie Kelly and Una Murphy. Middle, L-R: Ms. Winston, Mary Ronane, Mary Foody, Margaret Webb, Mary Mulligan, Josephine Glynn, Brenda Judge, Anglea Coen and Ann O'Boyle. Front, L-R: Milly Greene and Mary O'Boyle. Missing from photograph: Bernadette Freyne, Coolnaha, (Nun).

# To Coolnafarna and back – by tricycle

**A**S I attended Coolnafarna School for a mere three to four years, I could not consider myself as one of the past pupils who should be the first to write about those days, and pen an appreciation of our esteemed Master, the late Jimmy O'Dwyer. But now that both Seamus Sloyan, in the 1992 Annagh, and Jimmy's son Michael in the 1994 Annagh, both very much more worthy than I to do so, have each contributed accounts of some of their experiences of school and with 'The Master', I now feel comfortable in writing my 'penny's worth' of some of the memories that linger in my mind of the years spent in Coolnafarna.

Michael states in his article of last year that "Folklore has it that one of the Robinson family travelled to Coolnafarna by tricycle." Well, be it folklore or not, it really happened. I had been 'transferred' to Coolnafarna School at very short notice, and, as my brother Micheál was travelling on our own bicycle, the services of a small child's tricycle was obtained, and thus, until another bicycle was purchased, I spent the first number of weeks of my trips to Coolnafarna peddling on the three-wheeler. At times it took 'superhuman' efforts to keep pace with the other cyclists, but on most occasions I somehow managed.

One extraordinary experience still stands out in my mind. The hill just outside the town, which we called Boyle's Forge Hill, was much more steep in the 1940s, particularly on the far side. One extremely stormy morning, with the wind in our faces, I had pedalled at least half way down the hill when a sudden gust turned me around, and blew me back up to the top of the hill!

Some years later my Mother told me that Fr. Curley had seen me on my tricycle and that he had come to her to tell her he thought that I would never get there, and he was astonished that I had done so. I can imagine the same Fr. Curley's colourful description of the event! Be it considered folklore or legend, I can confirm that I was the 'victim' who travelled the six mile round-trip, each day for a number of weeks, working feverishly on my little tricycle! Those were the days! Oh

## *A few memories from Anthony Robinson*

Yeah!?

Some of the boys who travelled by bicycle during my years were: my brother Micheál, Joe Webb, Paddy and Tony Healy (from Ballindrehid), Sean Tynan, Donnie Philips, Columba Jordan and Joe Rattigan (from Lecarrow). There were many others, but I cannot at present recall the names from those days of over fifty years ago! It is at times like this that I would most wish to have Mick O'Connell's memory and, of course, his writing talent. Mention of Mick reminds me of a contribution of his in last year's Annagh about the Phillips family. This is the same Donnie Philips who attended Coolnafarna School with us.

The journey brought us over six great hills, most of which were very much higher than they are now. The first was the present Abbey Street hill, and the second was the Devlis hill. Next we met Boyle's Forge hill, which was very steep, followed by Cruise's Hill, which also was much higher. The fifth and sixth hills were those at Murphy's and Sloyan's, both of which were also higher and more difficult to climb than at present. So, by the time we had reached our destination we had plenty of morning exercise over us and we were fit to eat the lunch which we had brought with us - but that had to wait!

Of course we experienced some very wet mornings as well as snow and frost. But at that age we barely noticed the inclement weather, not even the many falls we had on the frosty roads. We realised that no complaints would be entertained either at home or by the Master at the School! The roads of course were not quite as smooth as now and we learned every hump and hollow of our passage. We knew the houses along the way - they were our land marks. Waldron's and the Statue, Boyle's Forge, John Cruise's house, Mick Kenny's, Dyer Lyons', Murphy's, Murt McHale's (who always had a word for us as we passed), Sloyan's and the house of Pat Keane who had a shoe repair service in Main Street, who for many years was an

Officer of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club, and whose premises became a meeting place for young and old, which Joe Kenny, in his own wonderful style, described in the 1992 Annagh.

But the whole purpose of the exercise was to attend Coolnafarna School and learn from Master O'Dwyer ... and he was THE Master! He did not merely teach us the three R's, he taught us about life, about religion and our prayers, about our history and our culture. He left me with a lasting impression on all of these subjects ... and more! We lived with him through the great stories of "Íosagán" and "Eoinín na n-Éan"; with the emotion in his voice as he spoke of the 1916 Rising and the resultant executions: we could practically see James Connolly being carried out for his execution. He told us great stories about Daniel O'Connell, including the one when the Irish waitress spoke to O'Connell in Irish to warn him that his drink was poisoned: "Go raibh maith agat, a Cailín as Eireann!" He taught us many of our prayers in the Irish language, in a manner in which we could remember them, and be delighted to say them through Irish. I can recall each day at twelve noon standing for the Angelus as the Master said "Thainig Aingeal an Tiarna ..."

And how he loved the poetry. We learned "The Bridge of Athlone", as we stood beside the Shannon and watched the battle unfold ... "Break down that Bridge! Six Warriors rushed through the storm of shot and the storm of shell." We escaped with Michael Dwyer and "his trusty men": "Up spoke the brave McAlister, the weak and wounded man! You shall escape my comrades, and this shall be your plan!" We departed from Ireland with the "Flight of the Earls": "And Oh for Ireland far away, for Ireland dear with all her ills, for Mass in fair Tyrone today, amid the circling Irish hills." We perished with travellers in "Eanach Cuain": "Ma fháimse slainte, is fada bheis tráct ..." And of course we struggled in the darkness of Raftery: "Mise Rafterí an File" and we rejoiced in his journey through our native county "Go seasaidh me síos i lár Condae Mhuigeo!" "I gClár Cláinne Mhuiris bheis me an cead oiche ..."



The Master delighted in teaching us about Douglas Hyde, our first President, his writings and his poetry. I can recall being taught "An Gleann Inár Tógadh Mé", which I proudly recited as part of the competition for An Fainne: "Mar cos an ghiorraidh do bhí mo chos, mar iarann gach alt is fé...." And how proud our Master was to see us receiving the silver Fainne, all entirely due to his teachings.

A great favourite of his was Goldsmith's "Village Schoolmaster." He loved to recite it, he loved to teach it, and we loved to listen to him: "A man severe he was, and stern to view, I knew him well, and every truant knew" ... "the day's disaster on his morning face" ... "full well they laughed with counterfeited glee, at all his jokes, for many a joke had he!" And at times Master O'Dwyer would insert his own version: "and even the story ran that he was ENGAGED!" The inclusion of such humour only helped to add to our enjoyment of the lesson.

And of course we learned the Geography of Ireland, both the Irish and the English names of counties, cities, towns, rivers, mountains etc. Again, the Master had his own method and style in ensuring that most of what he taught would stick in our young minds. He would name the principal towns in County Roscommon as: "Ros Comáin Mainistir na Buille, Ailfionn, Caisleán Riabach - and Ballinlough thrown in!" To a young mind this was funny, and was something that the same young mind would see as a must for learning and repeating. Practically unknown to ourselves, we were learning much of the basics of each subject, in a manner in which the knowledge would stay with us for the rest of our lives. And then one day we learned a very strange word: "Mnemonic." Master O'Dwyer explained to us that it came from a Greek word meaning 'to be mindful', or to remind us of something. As examples he taught us some phrases, and by taking the first letter of each word in each phrase, we could remember certain lists which would otherwise be very difficult to recall. For example, it is difficult to remember the names of each of the bays in the south-west on the Kerry/Cork coastline. Our Mnemonic for these bays is "T.D. Knew Better Days." In other words: Tralee, Dingle, Kenmare, Bantry, Dunmanway.

Jimmy O'Dwyer's second great love was football. Having been a star player on some great Mayo teams, being a member of the team which played Kerry in the All-Ireland Final of 1932, and having toured the U.S.A. with the Mayo team in the 1930s, it was with great pleasure that he



Taken outside Jim Jordan's house in Devlis - L-R: Unknown, Unknown, Mrs. Loftus, Mrs. Jordan, Unknown, Ms. Givern, Jim Givern, Mrs. Cribbin, Mr. Cleary, Tom Murray and Mr. Cleary. (Courtesy Mrs. Noreen Horkan)

watched and instructed, as we played in the field beside the school. Despite the handicap of an old knee injury, he still managed to demonstrate to us the art of controlling and kicking the ball. He took great pleasure in taking on the Ballyhaunis Town School team. Having as the backbone of our team such great footballers as Seán Moran, Joe Webb and Michael Murphy, no opponents were going to have an easy day on the football field!

Thanks to the foresight and efforts of Eileen Lyons and Eileen Grogan, a Reunion of Past Pupils of Coolnafarna National School was organised, and held on Friday 5th August 1994. Reference was made to this reunion in the 1994 Annagh, and a group photograph was produced inside the back cover. The Mass in St. Patrick's Church had past pupils as Celebrants, Readers, Offertory Procession members, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir and Narrator. A video was taken which can be handed down to posterity. A social followed at the Manor House and the whole night was a credit to the organisers: Eileen Grogan, Eileen Lyons, Seamus Sloyan, Matt O'Dwyer, Kevin Lyons and Bill Comer. It was a great pleasure to meet again some of the people who attended the school during my years there, many of whom I had not met for forty-six years. They included Seamus Sloyan, Billy Comer, Maureen Comer, Noreen Kelly, Mary Dyer, Mickey Regan, Seán Moran, Columba Jordan, Noel Dalton and the late Joe Webb. This special gathering turned out to be the last time I met Joe, and his

untimely death brings back many memories of our journeys together on the road to Coolnafarna and of his great talent on our football team.

It was a wonderful surprise to meet Margaret Dyer once again. Margaret was in my class and we had not met since we left the school. She is now Sister Pius and is resident in Castlebar. She had been in the Convent in Westport for over thirty years during which time she was Reverend Mother. One of the first things I asked her was of the day she broke her arm. It was an event that seemed to stick in the mind of most of us who were pupils at that time. Master O'Dwyer carried her to Ballyhaunis on his bicycle for treatment. We all had great sympathy for her when she returned to school some days later.

I left Coolnafarna school in 1948 well prepared to face the next chapter in my life, fortified with the knowledge, manners, and confidence that Master O'Dwyer had instilled into me during my years there. I can still see him standing at his desk at the window, or at the fire or beside the blackboard, enthraling us with his descriptions of moments in history, or wonderful places in the big world, or explaining how to move a decimal point with one stroke of our pens!

In those days in the 1940s, all through my life since, and even now at the present day, I link Master O'Dwyer with Oliver Goldsmith's Village Schoolmaster: "And still their gaze and still their wonder grew, that one small head could carry all he knew."

# Tullaghane Land League Heroine

**B**EHIND the modest announcement of the death of Mrs. Margaret Heneghan at her residence: Tullaghane, Ballyhaunis, on Wednesday, January 3rd 1940, lay an episode of history without parallel in the long, drawn-out and stubbornly contested Land War half a century earlier. The period was one when the callous writ of landlordism was expressed in terms of the battering ram, the bailiff, and the armed force of the British Court. In those memorable and stirring times, agitation on the Lord Dillon estate, which had widely flung ramifications in Connaught, resolved itself into a veritable war in which all available influences of landlordism were directed against the people, who always fought back against the repeated assaults.

Noted as a rendezvous for 'agitators, plotters and campaigners', the Heneghan homestead at Tullaghane, four miles from Ballyhaunis and situated on the Lord Dillon Estate, was singled out for special attention. For many months it was under the constant surveillance of the reconnoitring forces. Patrick Heneghan, the head of the house, was the chosen leader of the Land League and planner of campaign movements in the locality. He was subsequently arrested, imprisoned and banished into exile.

Ever by his side, ready and willing to share the worry, pain and punishment of her husband and colleagues, engaged in the struggle, was his wife, Mrs. Margaret Heneghan. She emerged as a heroine because she was prepared to pay the supreme sacrifice, if necessary, for the principles which she and the plain peasantry had espoused.

When the paid servants of the crown and landlord raided, in force, the village of Tullaghane, Patrick and Margaret Heneghan were taken into custody and conveyed to the Ballyhaunis R.I.C. depot under strong armed escort. At a session of Ballyhaunis Petty Sessions, they were both convicted and sentenced to a month's imprisonment in Castlebar jail.

When the finding of the court had

## *Tom Kelly Recalls An Unique Story*

*(From the Conaught Telegraph  
Commemorative Issue April 1996)*

been pronounced, the solicitor for the defence pointed out that Mrs. Heneghan was nursing an infant daughter from whom she refused to be separated during the period of her incarceration. In the circumstances the defence asked for an amendment of the committal order to include the child so that it could accompany the mother to prison. This application was accepted and later husband, wife and child were conveyed to Castlebar jail under heavy escort. The infant daughter, who unintentionally played a unique role in the history of the period, in after years became Sister Mary Teresa Clare of the Dominican Community of nuns in New York. She died in 1926.

On the completion of their sentence, scenes of indescribable enthusiasm were associated with the demonstrations of reception for the liberated at

Ballyhaunis and Tullaghane. In the early hours of the morning of the release, a special reception committee proceeded to Castlebar to receive the party on gaining their freedom. At various points on the return journey, manifestations of welcome greeted them. At Ballyhaunis, where the houses were illuminated and bonfires blazes, thousands of people, led by the well-known Irish Nationalist, Mr. Dan Crilly, joined in the greeting and appropriate speeches were delivered by numerous speakers at the demonstration which followed.

As the party left Ballyhaunis for Tullaghane and home, the horses were taken from the cars on which they had been conveyed and the vehicles drawn by friends through four miles of countryside while bonfires blazed on hills for miles around.

It was a memorable occasion for many reasons, not the least of which was that it sounded the death-knell of landlordism in Mayo and other parts of the West of Ireland. Mrs. Margaret Heneghan went down in history as one of the most God-fearing, patriotic and valiant of Irish heroines who worked, suffered and sacrificed for causes and ideals founded on imperishable right. Her husband Patrick, died in 1917 after a life of exemplary husbandry and unselfish National effort for which, at one stage, he was forced to seek sanctuary in the United States where he spent two years in exile. She was also predeceased by a son: Mr. Thomas Heneghan, who died in Australia in 1910, and daughter: Sr. Mary Teresa Clare. She had four other sons: Michael, Patrick, James and Luke and five other daughters: Kate, Nora, Annie, Margaret and Ellen.



Taken in Devilis: L-R: Tom O'Malley, Noreen Cribbin (child), Jack Lyons, Delia Jordan, Mrs. Jordan (seated), Unknown, Jim Jordan, Mrs. Margaret Cribbin and daughter Mary.

(Courtesy Mrs. Noreen Horkan)



# Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club

**T**HE past year has been a very successful year for Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club. We have fielded sixteen teams ranging from Under-10 to Senior.

## UNDER-10 FOOTBALL

For the Under-10 footballers the season ran from March right up to Saturday November 2nd when the Mick O'Connell Cup was played for. Attendance was good at weekly training which caters for children from seven years of age and upwards. While competition is not encouraged officially for this age group, a number of exciting challenge matches were arranged and Ballyhaunis took part in blitzes in Ballinlough and Castlebar. The Ballyhaunis Blitz, which is now a well established event, was held again on August bank holiday Monday and congratulations to Aghamore who were this year's winners. For the Mick O'Connell Cup there were four local teams and the captains were: Aodan Healy, Daniel Carroll, Robert Potter-Cogan and David Hannan. After a strongly contested competition, Aodan

*By James Reidy (Secretary)  
and Willie Ryan (P.R.O.  
Hurling Sub-Committee)*

Healy's team were the winners. Afterwards, medals were presented to all the players at a special function in the Central Hotel. Many thanks to Mick O'Connell and to the referees on the day: John Prenty and Eamon Murren. The panel of players was: Ross Carney, Daniel Carroll, Clayton Coffey, Padraig Cribbin, Michael Cunningham, Darren Doyle, Niall Feeney, Lorcan Finan, Austin Fitzmaurice, Brian Gallagher, John Gallagher, Kevin Gallagher, John C. Halpin, David Hannan, Aodan Healy, David Healy, John Jordan, Michael Jordan, Niall Jordan, Mark Kelly, Robert Lilly, Kieran Lucey, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, John Lyons, Killian McDonagh, Kimberly Moran, Conor Mulrennan, Anthony Murphy, Joseph Neenan, Seamus O'Dwyer, Sean O'Kane, Robert Potter-Cogan, Mark Regan, James Ronayne, Sean Ronayne, Eamon Shanley, Jarlath Turner, Brian Waldron, Ciaran Waldron, Michael

Waldron and Lisa Webb.

Thanks are due to this year's trainers: Tommy Waldron, John Halpin, Martin Finan, Michael Gallagher and Barry Butler. Thanks also to Mr. Jim Landon and to all the parents, especially those who provided transport to away matches.

## INDOOR HURLING LEAGUE

In under-age hurling the year commenced with an indoor hurling league in the Community School Gym. This ran from January to March with upwards of seventy boys and girls taking part. The Division One title went to the team captained by Tadhg Buckley, while Damien Lyons' team were victorious in the Division Two Title.

## UNDER-12 AND NATIONAL SCHOOLS

The Under-12 and National School team had a very successful year taking the East Mayo title in both grades and coming second in their division in the County Under-12 League. At East Mayo level the East Mayo championship was held in early June and, following victories over Eastern Gaels, Kilmovee and Charlestown, the team qualified for an East Mayo final with Charlestown at Charlestown. Following a very exciting game the Ballyhaunis youngsters emerged victorious by virtue of a 2-8 to 2-4 scoreline. After the game, the East Mayo Shield was presented to team captain John Prenty by East Mayo Secretary Vincent Walshe. The team that did duty in the



East Mayo Under-12 Champions 1996. Back, L-R: Alan Daly, Alan Lyons, Stephen Shanaghy, Brian Mulrennan, Shane Buckley, Paul Jordan, Ian Prenty, Liam Lyons, Christy Burke, Gareth Morrissey and Padraic Carney. Front, L-R: William Nestor, Ciaran Griffin, Keith Higgins, Colm Gallagher, Cian Higgins, John Prenty, Fergal Walshe, Patrick Waldron and Niall Richardson. Extreme Back, John Prenty and Tommy Waldron.



Pierce Higgins and friends, after receiving Hurler of the Year Award - 1996 - from the Western People in the Downhill Hotel Ballina.

East Mayo Final was: Shane Buckley, Liam Lyons, Padraig Carney, Christopher Burke, Cian Higgins, Alan Lyons, Patrick Waldron, Keith Higgins, Stephen Shanaghy, Ian Prenty, John Prenty (Capt.), Fergal Walsh, Colm Gallagher, Brian Mulrennan and Paul Jordan. Other players in the panel were William Nestor, Ciaran Griffin, Niall Richardson, Gareth Morrissey and Karen Lilly.

In the County Under-12 League which was run as a double round league we had victories over Moy Davitts twice, Charlestown twice, but failed to defeat Kiltimagh on both occasions losing by a very narrow margin, and we had to be satisfied with second place in the league.

The team was very determined to do well in the East Mayo National Schools competition and began the campaign with an easy victory over Eastern Gaels. This set up a semi-final clash with old rivals Kiltimagh and, after an epic game, we emerged victorious on a 1-10 to 1-8 scoreline. In the final game of the competition we only needed to draw with Aghamore to take the title and among scenes of great excitement we won the East Mayo National Schools title on a 2-9 to 2-2 scoreline. After the game, the East Mayo trophy was presented to team Captain Stephen Shanaghy by East Mayo Secretary Vincent Walshe. The team that took the East Mayo title was: Shane Buckley, Karen Lilly, Padraig Carney, Christopher Burke, Cian Higgins, Alan Lyons, Patrick Waldron, Keith Higgins, Stephen Shanaghy (Capt.), Ian Prenty, John Prenty, Fergal Walshe, Liam Lyons, Brian Mulrennan, Paul Jordan. Other players used during the cam-

paign were William Nestor, Colm Gallagher, Noel Maguire, Ciaran Griffin, Michael Kilcourse, Fergal Carroll, Patrick Heaney, Shazad Javid, Adriano Leggio, David Connolly and Gareth Morrissey.

During the year, the team also had a number of challenge games, most notably against Dunmore, Milltown, Kilconly, Westport, Ballintubber and Shrule/Glencorrib, and at present we are awaiting the local club competition for the Julia Donoghue Cup. The team showed great dedication at all times during the year and trained regularly from February when they started in the Community School Gym, up to the present time. We would like to thank the many parents who helped transport the team to the many games throughout the year as, without their help and support, our job would have been more difficult.

Cumann na mBunscoil organised a seven-a-side blitz in Stephenites Pitch in Ballina for Under-11 teams. The winners would go on to represent the County at provincial level with players picked to play in Croke Park in the interlude of the All-Ireland semi-finals and finals. Ballyhaunis had high hopes going into this competition and won their first game against Tooreen, comprehensively. They then came up against Westport Quay school in the semi-final and duly accounted for them to earn a right to play Knock N.S. in the final. Again, a very strong physical Knock team proved to be too strong for the Ballyhaunis boys and Knock N.S. ran out winners.

In the N.S. competition, Ballyhaunis also were beaten by a strong Knock school in the East Mayo final, having easily accounted for a good Tooreen

team in the East Mayo semi-final. Congratulations to Knock N.S. and Jackie Coyne who went on to win the Cumann na mBunscoil County final for the second year in a row.

## UNDER-14 FOOTBALL

The Ballyhaunis Under-14 Football team started their initial training in the Community School gym under the guidance of team mentors Gerry Lyons, Tommy Glynn and Murt Hunt. The full panel of players are as follows: Tadhg Buckley, Michael Plunkett, Ronan Healy, Jason Powers, John Freeley, Hugh Carney, Christopher McCrudden, Padraig Carney, Murt Hunt, Alan Healy, David Murphy, Edward Murphy, Yvonne Byrne, Ciaran Costello, Damian Lyons, Alan Lyons, Liam Gildea, Paul Prenty, Brian Mulrennan, Patrick Freeley, Derek McConn, Patrick Waldron, Fergal Walsh, David Kilcourse, Keith Higgins, Christopher Burke, Padraig Gildea, Martin Kilbride, Alan Lucey, Andrew Shanaghy, Stephen Shanaghy and Noel McGuire.

Our first competition started with the Under-14 County Football League with games against Lahardane, Bonniclon and Kilmovee, but were unsuccessful in reaching the final stages of the competition.

The East Mayo Championship started in June and we were successful in reaching the East Mayo Final against Kiltimagh, but they proved too strong for us and won out easily in the end. The Club wish to thank most sincerely parents and members who travelled with players to our games. It was very much appreciated.



## FÉILE PEIL NA NÓG - BALLYHAUNIS

The Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club played host to the London Under-14 Football team in July of this year. Our group comprised of London, Aghamore and Eire Óg (Ennis Co. Clare). A party of twenty-four youths and six adults from London travelled to Ballyhaunis and enjoyed a very good week-end. The Club wish to acknowledge the following people who shared their homes with the London party: Gerry and Anne Lyons, Knockbrack; John Joe and Sarah Kelly, Knox Street; Jimmy and Mary Walsh, Knockbrack; Tadhg and Kay Buckley, Knock Road; Hugh and Stacia Carney, Classaroe; Joe and Kay Healy, Annagh; John and Mary Costelloe, Tonragee; Tom and Fiona Prenty, Knock Road; Gerry and Liz Kilbride, Aisling Drive; Donal and Ann Shanaghy, Larganboy; John and Mary Prenty, Knock Road; Tom and Breeda Waldron, Cave; M. J. and Kathleen Walsh, Knock Road; Ray and Martha Lucey, Aisling Drive and Pat and Anne Powers, Devlis.

The Féile football, in which approximately 2,000 young players took part, was a resounding success from an administrative and games viewpoint. The level of skills, teamwork, standard of sportsmanship and the development of new friendships were part of the occasion. The Ballyhaunis Under-14 team were narrowly beaten by Eire Óg and failed to reach the semi-finals of their respective division.

## FÉILE NA NGAEL - HURLING, UNDER-14, UNDER-16 AND UNDER-18

The team mentors then turned their attentions to the prestigious Féile na nGael competition for Under-14 Hurlers. Training commenced in earnest and Ballyhaunis progressed to the semi-final where they held off a strong challenge from Ballina Stephenites, another North Mayo side, Belmullet were to be their opponents in the final in late May. Again, the East Mayo side proved equal to the task and overcame a searching examination to prevail on a 2-3 to 1-2 scoreline. Keith Higgins sent them on their way with an early goal and Derek McConn and Yvonne Byrne followed up with quick scores to put them in a commanding position which they maintained throughout. The reward for the Mayo Under-14 Féile champions was a trip to Waterford as the County representatives in the National Féile na nGael finals from June 21st to 23rd inclusive.

En-route to Waterford, the team stopped off to pay a visit to Dowling's



Mick O'Connell Under-10 Tournament 1996. Under-10 players with L-R: Eamon Murren, Barry Butler and Michael Gallagher.



Mick O'Connell Under-10 Tournament 1996. Under-10 players with L-R: John Prenty, John Halpin, Mick O'Connell (Sponsor) and Martin Finan.

Hurling manufacturers in Kilkenny to see how the Camán is made and the various stages that are gone through prior to its manufacture. The team were guests of the Kilrossanty club in Waterford for the duration of their stay in the Southeast. The highlight of the three day competition was the team's participation in the National parade of Féile na nGael in Waterford city on Saturday evening, June 22nd. This assumed even greater importance when the parade was reviewed by the president-elect of the G.A.A. Mr. Joe McDonagh.

Buoyed by their success in Féile na nGael, Ballyhaunis then attempted to add the County Under-14 Hurling Championship to its impressive victories, and wins over Ballina Stephenites and Belmullet, saw the East Mayo side through to the final. Victory, however, was not to be on this occasion as a well drilled and highly motivated Westport XV triumphed by 1-9 to 1-2. Among

the highlights for Ballyhaunis were the 3-0 scored by Fergal Walsh against Ballina with Keith Higgins weighing-in with 2-1 for good measure, while Derek McConn had an impressive return of 2-3 against Belmullet, Christopher McCrudden, Jason Powers, Martin Kilbride, Brian Mulrennan, Paul Cunnane, Andrew Shanaghy, Alan Lucey, Paul Lynch and Yvonne Byrne were also prominent. Ballyhaunis Under-16 and Minor hurlers also took part in the respective County Championships but unfortunately failed to progress beyond the group stages, despite some good performances. It should, however, be realised that many of the players are very young and will be eligible for both age groups for some time yet.

The Hurling Committee would like to congratulate Yvonne Byrne and Keith Higgins, both of whom won the Poc Fada in Mayo in 1996. Yvonne went on to win the silver in Mosney,

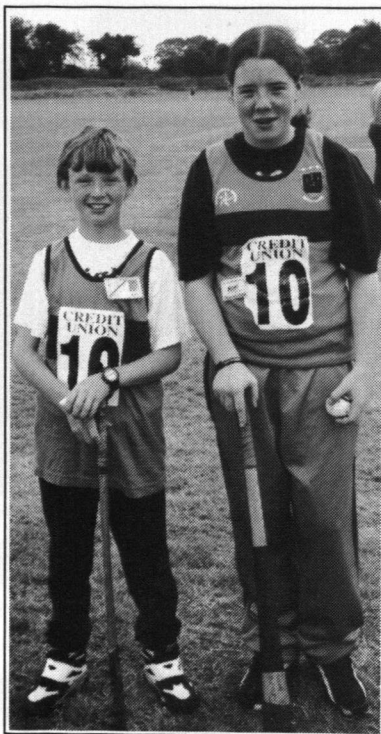
and, while Keith did not progress as far, he gave a good account of himself, considering he is still young enough to compete next year. The Committee wish also to congratulate Ailish Nevin, who won Silver in Mosney in the Sixty Metres Hurdles.

## COUNTY HURLING

Ballyhaunis players were also very much to the fore on the County front with Paul McConn and David Murphy on the Mayo team that reached the All-Ireland Under-16 'C' semi-final before succumbing to eventual winners Armagh by 3-4 to 1-3 in Cavan. Don Regan and Kenneth Kirrane were members of the Mayo Minor team that reached the All-Ireland final Division 'C' before going under to a strong Armagh team at Croke Park on September 21st. In addition, Michael Regan, John Gallagher and Paul McConn were members of the panel. Incidentally, all five will be young enough again next year when they will endeavour to help Mayo regain the title. The Hurling sub-committee received a tremendous fillip when Don Regan was adjudged to be Mayo's best player in the final. Don was later presented with his award by Mr. Frank Colgan at the Spa Hotel in Lucan.

Peter Higgins, the Club's recording secretary, along with T. J. Tyrrell, Ballina Stephenites, managed the Mayo minor team that reached the All-Ireland final.

Club member, Ray Lucey was appointed a County Under-16 selector while John Joe Kelly was returned unanimously as Honorary Secretary of the County Hurling Board. David McConn, Frank Browne, Tom Phillips, Ray Lucey, John Joe Hoban and Club



Keith Higgins and Yvonne Byrne (Mayo Gold Medalists), representing Mayo in the Poc Fada competition in Mosney.

Secretary, Eugene Morley did sterling work in steering the Ballyhaunis team to the Féile title.

The Sub-Committee held a number of important meetings during the year under the Chairmanship of David McConn. David laid out a detailed programme for the year at its inaugural meeting in January last. This was carried out in a most effective fashion throughout the year. In conclusion, David must be complimented on his organisational prowess.

## HURLING TEAMS

Under-11 Cumann na mBunscoil Mini Sevens: Patrick Waldron, Barry Collum, Paul Lynch, Keith Higgins, Brian Mulrennan, Fergal Walsh, Alan Lucey, Padraic Carney, Stephen Buckley and Liam Lyons.

National School Team: Jason Powers, Barry Collum, Christopher McCrudden, Hugh Carney, Keith Higgins, Alan Lucey, Steven Gately, Patrick Waldron, David Murphy, Padraic Carney, Andrew Shanaghy, Paul Jordan, Brian Mulrennan, Fergal Walsh, Liam Lyons, Steven Shanaghy, Paul Lynch, Shane Buckley, David Lynch and Adriano Lieglio.

Under-12 Panel: Patrick Waldron, Paul Jordan, Brian Mulrennan, Paul Lynch, Shane Buckley, Stephen Shanaghy, P. Carney, Gerard Morrissey, A. Lieglio, Keith Higgins, Fergal Walsh, Liam Lyons, Christopher Morley, Cian Higgins, Ciaran Griffin, William Nestor, C. Gallagher, E. Nolan, D. Waldron, V. Hunt, D. Lynch, R. Coyne and P. Carroll.

Under-14 Panel: Tadhg Buckley, Steven Carney, Paul Cunnane, Yvonne Byrne, Damien Lyons, Anthony Lyons, Martin Kilbride, Christopher McCrudden, Derek McConn, Jason Powers, Barry Collum, Hugh Carney, Alan Lucey, David Murphy, Andrew Shanaghy, Patrick Waldron, Brian Mulrennan, Paul Lynch, Shane Buckley, Steven Shanaghy, Padraic Carney, Adriano Lieglio, Steven Gately, Fergal Walsh, Liam Lyons and Keith Higgins.

Under-16 Panel: Michael Walsh, Robert Morley, Christopher McCrudden, Paul McConn, Paul Cunnane, Stephen Carney, Dermot Murphy, Thomas Murphy, Shay Walsh, David Murphy, Michael J. Nolan, Anthony



East Mayo Final - Champions Ballyhaunis. Back, L-R: Tony Morley (Manager), Patrick McGarry, Richard Phillips, Pierce Higgins, Michael Lyons, Tony Morley, Jason Morley, Brian Flanagan, Tommy Grogan, Michael Freeley, Tom Lyons, Tony Cribbin, John McQueeney, Kevin Waldron, John Joe Hogan (Mentor). Front, L-R: David Nestor, George O'Neill, Brian Phillips, Johnny Cribbin, Billy Lyons, Declan Doyle, Seamus Caulfield (Captain), Mike Phillips, Donal Moran, Johnny Burke, Hugh McKermitt and Eamon Murren (Mentor). Children: Stephen Hoban and Kevin Moran.





East Mayo National Schools Champions 1996. Back, L-R: Keith Higgins, Patrick Waldron, Noel Maguire, Gareth Morrissey, Brian Mulrennan and Shane Buckley. Middle, L-R: Cian Higgins, Patrick Heaney, John Prenty, Michael Kilcourse, Karen Lilly, Paul Jordan, Christy Burke, Stephen Shanaghy, Alan Lyons, Liam Lyons, Vincent Walshe (East Mayo Secretary), Padraic Carney, Ciaran Griffin, Phelim Carroll, Shazad, Ciaran Waldron and Aodan Healy. Front, L-R: David Connolly, Colm Gallagher, William Nestor, Ian Prenty, Fergal Walshe, Danny Carroll and Adriano Leggio. Selectors: John Prenty, Tommy Waldron and Jim London.

Lyons, Derek McConnell, Gareth Delaney, Anthony Curley, Jason Powers, Tadhg Buckley, Yvonne Byrne, Martin Kilbride and Alan Lucey.

Miceál Walsh and Derek McConnell were also honoured to receive an invitation to participate in the Joe Cooney School of Hurling at New Inn, Co. Galway, home of the famed Sarsfields Club on July 10th last, while Yvonne Byrne won the Poc Fada title.

Under-18 Panel: Michael Walsh, Robert Morley, Paul McConnell, Shay Walsh, David Murphy, Michael J. Nolan, Anthony Curley, Don Regan, Michael Regan, Kenneth Kirrane, John Gallagher, Mark Neenan, Johnny Burke, David Conlon, Darren Conlon, Gareth Delaney and Seamus London.

## 1996 COMMUNITY GAMES SILVER MEDALIST

Perhaps, of all the successes in the field of hurling in 1996, that of Yvonne Byrne is the most outstanding. A daughter of Pat and Margaret Byrne, Knox Street, Yvonne started hurling a few years ago, and was one of the most committed players of 1996. She played a big part in winning Féile na nGael title for Ballyhaunis for the first time ever. She won Poc Fada in Mayo in 1995, and represented Mayo at Mosney

and came a very good tenth. In 1996, she repeated the performance in Mayo and went on to Mosney.

This year, with a drive of approximately ninety metres she annexed the silver medal, only beaten by a few centimetres for gold, a very worthy competitor.

## UNDER-15 FOOTBALL

The Ballyhaunis Under-15s started their campaign in the Under-15 County league with a good win over Kiltimagh and won by a score of 5-11 to 1-6. The team lined out as follows: Tadhg Buckley, Andrew Shanaghy, Des Lyons, Alan Healy, Murt Hunt, Brendan Rudden, Derek McConnell, Tomas Murphy, James Mulrennan, Paul Prenty, Tyoib Idress, Miceál Walsh, Christy Lyons, Patrick Gildea and Christy McCrudden. Subs used: Eddie Murphy, David Murphy, John Freeley, Patrick Freeley, Nathan Murphy and Shane Conlon.

Their next outing was against Ballyhaderreen. Michael Walsh started in goal instead of Tadhg Buckley; the rest of the team lined out with Eddie Murphy at corner back, Des Lyons, Paddy Coffee, Murt Hunt, Brendan Rudden, Derek McConnell, Tomás Murphy, James Mulrennan, Paul Prenty, Anthony Curley, Christy McCrudden, Andrew

Shanaghy, Padraic Gildea and Alan Healy; Subs used: Nathan Murphy and Hugh Carney. The final score was Ballyhaunis 4-14 to 1-2.

The next and final game was against Charlestown and Ballyhaunis had to win to get through to the semi-finals but, after a tough game, Charlestown won out in the end by 3-10 to 1-4.

The team lined out as follows: Miceál Walsh, Eddie Murphy, Des Lyons, Paddy Coffee, Murt Hunt, Brendan Rudden, Derek McConnell, Tomas Murphy, James Mulrennan, Paul Prenty, Padraic Gildea, Christy McCrudden, Andrew Shanaghy, Tyoib Idress and Alan Healy; Subs used: Christy Lyons and Nathan Murphy.

## UNDER-16 FOOTBALL

This year the Under-16 football team won four of their matches in the Mayo County League. They were beaten in the first round of the East Mayo Championship by Swinford.

In October they won the Flanagan Cup sponsored by Michael Glavey's. Team: P. Biesty, D. Lyons, B. Kilcourse, T. Wallace, G. Davitt, P. Meenan, A. Curley, A. Regan, B. Rudden, V. Healey, J. Mulrennan, F. Fahey, M. Walsh, S. McGuire and C. McCrudden.

## UNDER-17 FOOTBALL

In this age group we were defeated in our first game.

Congratulations to Brendan Rudden and Thomas Murphy who were selected for the School of Excellence this year.

## MINOR FOOTBALL

Ballyhaunis Minor Team had quite a successful year winning their section of the League and finishing county runners up. They played ten games, winning eight, drawing one and losing one. The team also went on to win the East Mayo Minor B Championship, being defeated narrowly by Ardnaree in a County semi-final replay. Panel: J. Burke (Capt.), P. Keane, J. McGarry, P. McManus, C. McManus, E. Butler, C. McCafferty, S. Hunt, J. Vahey, M. Shanaghy, N. Tighe, A. Regan, G. Davitt, P. Meenan, B. Rudden, A. Egan, P. Finn, B. Kilcourse and S. Walsh.

## UNDER-21 FOOTBALL

In the Under-21 Championship, Ballyhaunis defeated Ballina in the first round and were beaten by the much fancied Crossmolina team in the second round. Panel: B. Flanagan, T. Lyons, F. Kelly, D. Doyle, N. Tighe, T. Lyons, C. O'Connor, K. Waldron, P. Higgins, H. McKermitt, M. Lyons, D. Walsh, E. Webb, J. Burke, J. Vahey, P. Nolan, E. Loughran, P. Healy, J. Higgins and P. Keane.

## SENIOR TEAM

This year our Senior team started off by winning the Goodfellowship



Hurling Mini Sevens 1996. Back, L-R: A. Lucey, B. Carney, L. Lyons, B. Mulrennan and P. Lynch. Front, L-R: F. Walsh, K. Higgins, P. Waldron, B. Collum and S. Buckley.

Tournament. Training started in February for the League with indoor circuits. In the first league game, Ballyhaunis beat Achill and with three League games left we are currently on course for promotion to Division Two. In the Junior Championship we qualified for the East Mayo semi final and beat Kilmovee. In the East Mayo final Ballyhaunis beat Eastern Gaels. In the County semi final Ballyhaunis beat Lacken coming from a nine point deficit at half-time to win by a point, scored by Tony Cribbin, the last kick of the game. The Final was played against Breaffy, in which Ballyhaunis were narrowly defeated. The standard of football produced by both teams was

thoroughly entertaining for all who were present.

During the year the Senior Team also won the Centenary Cup, and were defeated in the semi-final stages of the Byrne/Morley Cup.

## COUNTY TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

This year Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club had the following representatives on County Teams:

Under-16 Hurling Players: Paul McConn, David Murphy; Under-16 Hurling Selectors: Ray Lucey; Under-16 Football Player: Alan Regan; Under-18 Football Player: Johnny



Ballyhaunis Under-14 Hurlers representing Mayo at the Feile na nGael 1996.



Burke; Under-18 Hurling Players: Don Regan, Kenneth Kirrane, M. Regan, J. Gallagher and P. McConn; Under-18 Hurling Managers: Peter Higgins; Under-21 Football Player: Fergal Kelly; Under-21 Selector: Bernard Waldron; Senior Footballers: David Nestor and Tony Morley; John Joe Kelly was also re-elected County Hurling Secretary.

### ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL SUPPORT

As a result of Mayo reaching the All-Ireland against Kerry, Tommy Moran organised a bus to bring fifty under-age supporters to Croke Park. They were accompanied by Fr. James O'Grady, Tommy Prenty, Marguerite Moran, Matt O'Dwyer and Tommy himself. We were delighted to see our own David Nestor playing for Mayo and are grateful to him for giving his jersey to raffle amongst those underage supporters.

### '300' CLUB DRAW

The 1996/97 monthly draw is again quite successful with £250 given out every month. We wish to express our sincere thanks to all our subscribers over the past year; to the Parochial Hall for allowing us use their venue to make the draw every month; and to the following people who, without their help, the draw would not be possible: Tony Morley, Pierce Higgins, Tom McCormack, Peter Meenan, Gerry Winston, Hugh Rudden, Gerry Lyons, Eugene Morley, Dave McConn, Aiden Kelly, Ann Curley, James Reidy, John Prenty, John Joe Kelly, John Joe Hoban, John Durkan, Tom Waldron, Paddy Phillips, Pete Higgins, Paddy Brennan, Michael



East Mayo Final supporters, from left to right: Josie Morley, Pat Doyle, John Joe Hoban (Selector) and Jimmy Walsh.

Daly, Tommy Glynn, Willie Ryan, Tommy Moran, Tim Shanley, Sean O'Domhnaill, Tony Waldron, Ray Lucey, Padraic Regan and Seamus Caulfield. We will be starting the 1997/98 draw in February '97. We wish our subscribers luck for 1997.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Pierce Higgins on being awarded "Western People" Hurler of the Year '95 in Mayo. Congratulations also to the Conlon brothers David and Darren (hurling stars at Under-18), on their wonderful boxing achievements during the past year at Club, County and International level.

This year Bord na nOg reintroduced the player of the year awards: Under-18: Simon McCafferty; Under-16: Peter Meenan; Under-14: Tadhg Buckley.

## The Irish Face

THERE was the Irish face, fairly ruddy and fresh, and less obvious but not less real, its Catholic look; and the broad neck with the round clean-shaven nape. The Irish walk, an easygoing sort of swing, and it would be simple to pick out such a one in a crowded English street, for he didn't quite fit in.

However, apart from these and certain racial differences, one distinct comparison could be made - the Irish face was as yet unindustrialised. There was little doubt that the face that had grown up on familiar terms with machinery, and had acquired that particular almost wizened look, was the one which would ultimately prove superior in a material or worldly sense.

The face that suggested of sophistication, the earth, the spade and the muck fork, must finally give way to it.

*By Bill Naughton*



Up for the final, left to right: John Prenty jnr., Marguerite Moran and Tadhg Buckley jnr.

# Father

**M**Y father had a way of reading aloud from his newspaper. There was scarcely a breakfast time, even in his most taciturn mood, when some item, mostly to do with crime, of course, wouldn't impel him after reading it once, to read it aloud for us. Very often it would be of a man who had committed some outrageous crime of murder.

"God save us," my mother would say, " - but I wonder what drove the poor man to do a thing like that!" "What the hell drove him?!" my father would shout, " - What the hell do you think drove him but his own nature." "Then how did he never do it before now?" my mother would say, "something must have broke in his mind, God help him."

I remember it was all very frustrating at the time, even for me only listening to her. The one crime my father had great sympathy for was to hear of anyone robbing the government; his only regret was that the man was caught. Between my father reading from the newspapers and my mother telling her dreams, breakfast time could be fairly full of items of interest.

Thinking over this almost obsessive hunger my father had for reading newspapers, I ask myself what sort of life it would have been for him had he been unable to read (and something is inclined to ask me what sort of person I am, to go nosing into my poor dead father's habits at all at all, but I'll avoid myself and go on with him, God rest his

*By Bill Naughton*

Soul). Now, I think he would have been a far happier man - or maybe I mean less troubled. For one thing, it is fairly certain that anything you read about in the newspaper is not the whole truth, and for another, there is seldom you can do anything about it. It is doubtful if his father could read (I think his mother was unable to), and to go back it is most likely no one ever before could read.

He had the unfortunate weakness of being most interested in those items most likely to annoy him. These covered a wide range of things from the duplicity of politicians to brewers' wills. I don't know whether it was that a large number of brewers died during my childhood, but it seemed there was hardly a week went by but he would let out a curse: "A flamin', bloody brewer died here, left over a half a million of money." My mother would be sure to say: "God rest his Soul," and my father would say: "May he burn in hell - he has the public robbed out of the money." "How robbed," my mother would say, "wasn't that his business?" "How else would a man accumulate that amount of money but robbery? Do you realise what the interest alone on that would bring you in, woman - it would bring you five hundred pounds a week in that door! And to think I sweat myself night after night down that bloody pit to earn in four years what

he'd get in one week in interest." I think once I ventured to say that it must have been in the family, and he asked me how did I think it got into the family except by roguery, trickery and defrauding the poor public like the bunch of hill-and-dale robbers they were. Tobacco wills were another thing, and there was one family whose wills ran into millions and my father would hold up his half an ounce of twist tobacco and say: "That hell's flamer left two million of money, and look at the miserable piece of tobacco that wouldn't fill a pipe he charged me four pence for."

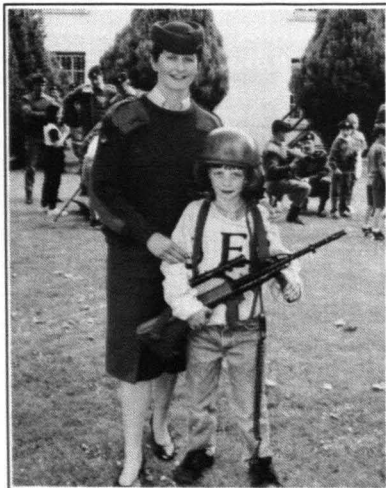
Newspapers brought him no happiness at all, and he had never done reading them.

If only he had read a book! But I know the sort of book that would have gripped him would have been a behind-the-scenes revelation of merchant's frauds on the public.

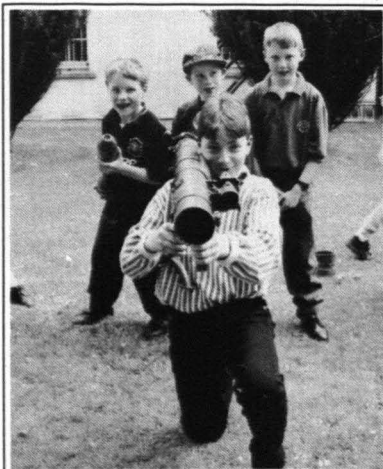
Most people still retain a sort of liking or even admiration for a piece of good cloth, although it was much more common in those days, and you never took a coat from someone in the house without remarking: "That's a fair piece of cloth." My father would remark on clothes, how long exactly he had them, and would say "Just feel that cloth - feel the weight of it." Awe would creep into his voice at the feel of a very fine botany wool twenty-two ounce serge suit. He loved to feel such a cloth, and was always careful to brush his own clothes very lightly so as not to wear the material out.

"Sure you'll have the suit brushed away," he'd remark to me.

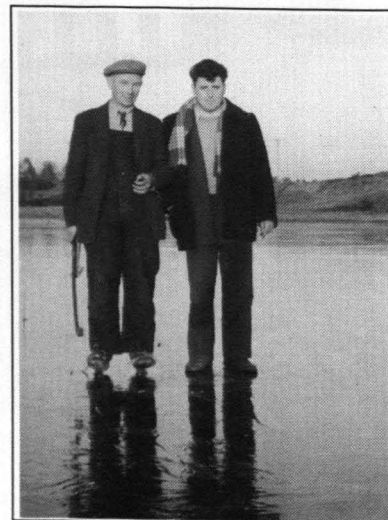
*NOTE: Bill Naughton's father, Tom, was from Knockroe, Carrowkeel, Ballyhaunis.*



Daniel Carroll with his aunt Mary Lou Henry on their school tour to the Army Barracks in Athlone.



Pupils from St. Mary's Primary School, Ballyhaunis - Aidán Healy, Michael Cunningham, Ciarán Waldron and David Lyons on their school tour to the Army Barracks in Athlone.



On the Ice on Annagh Lake 1950: - Johnny Walsh and Michael Lyons.



# An Old-Timer Remembers Gaelic Football

By Tom Keane

NOW that the dust has settled after another year of high hopes and ultimate frustration for Mayo footballers and their supporters, we can take a look back at Gaelic Football and how it has changed over the years. I saw my first Inter-County match in the late twenties between Galway and Mayo in Morley's field below the station, an experience I'll never forget. I was taken there on the cross-bar of Tom McGuire's bike which made it even more special. In my mind's eye I can still see those giants in maroon and white, and green and red as they soared into the clouds to fetch the high ones; one hop, or one toe-to-hand and the leather was sent rocketing towards the opponent's end and play could surge from one end of the field to the other a half-dozen times before the ball went out of play, maybe with a score, maybe not. In this way excitement remained at fever pitch all through the game which consisted of two half-hour periods in those days. One player I remember well from that day is Mick Donnellan of Galway. To me he was everywhere, which of course didn't suit me as he was wearing the wrong colours for me. In later years I watched two of his sons, John and Pat, or "Pateen" as he was affectionately known, play for Galway. Pat, with Eamonn Mongey of Mayo, Frankie Byrne of Meath and Snitchey Ferguson of Dublin were the hardest working footballers I've ever watched and, while others may have got the cheers and the credit, they did most of the work. Then, in the thirties, Mayo more or less made their own of the League and managed to fit in their first All-Ireland which was a great day for the old green and red. In the early forties I finally made it to Croke Park to watch Roscommon win their first of two All-Irelands in a row and, naturally enough, my heart was with them, the tribal instinct being so much part of our Irish Heritage, if your County is out, follow your province. So, to make the All-Ireland series an open-draw would, to my mind, be a big mistake.

Then in '48 we had the windiest

final ever: if my recollections are correct there was only one point scored against the wind which blew at storm force from the canal end to the railway end. Cavan were playing Mayo. Mayo played against the wind in the first half and scored one point; at half-time Cavan led 4-4 to 0-1. On the changeover, Mayo went on to score 4-2 leaving them just that one point behind with time running out. Mayo got a fairly close free-in, which, as far as I can recall, was taken by Padraic Carney - even then a very useful free-taker. With the gale force wind behind him, the ball failed to lift, the back got his hand to it, the whistle blew and that was that.

The team stayed together for the next few years and managed to win Sam in '50 and '51, though all good Louth men will maintain even today that Mick Flanagan over-carried the ball on his way to score the goal that won the match in 1950. In '51, I watched the final between our lads and Meath from the Canal Terrace with Davey Delaney and Johnnie from Tulrahan, and there still isn't any better place in Croke to watch a match from, as Con Houlihan, who used to write for the Evening Press will tell you. Part of that end wasn't terraced at the time and was just a bank, but if one was small you could buy an orange box for 6p from a dealer and you had your own grandstand.

In '67 I think it was Mayo played Meath in the semi-final and were holding their own in the second half when a Meath player called The Red Collier took a side-line kick from well out on the Cusack stand side and, without a hand or foot getting near it, it ended in the back of the net and that was that.

Some time later the powers that be decided to instruct the referees to "let the game flow." The refs, being good obedient servants, did just that and it has flown down the drain in my opinion. No more the high-catching, clean

pick-up, two or three steps and get rid of it and, what used to be a propelling game, has turned into a carrying game, getting more like Rugby every year which God forbid. The continuity has gone out which used to make the game so exciting. The over-carrying has led to jersey pulling and high tackling, which can lead to someone being badly hurt, as a high tackle when a player is in full flight can lead to serious injury. Now players have to be superfit as once they held their positions, but not any more. The full-back doesn't stick to the edge of the square and catch the high ones coming in, he is just as likely to be found at the other end, attacking after making a solo run the length of the field, more than likely over-carrying most of the way and, as long as the over-carrying is allowed to go on, the pulling and dragging will continue because if the referee doesn't stop him the back will - that's what he is there for.

It's a pity to see a great game ruined, not by the players but by the game bats who make the decisions. So all you lads and girls who wear or will wear the old green and red, stick to the old rules which are still there and try to save the old game and try and bring the foot back into football. A lifetime has passed since I saw them for the first time but I still get a thrill when I see the neighbours' children in their green and red togs galloping around Croke. I think Sean Flanagan has a record which maybe equalled but will never be beaten: while playing left full-back at Inter County level, the opposing right full-forward never scored from play. I think Sean Wynne went through a whole campaign without letting in a goal. He was on the bench when the one goal was scored against Mayo that year but came on immediately after. Check That.

## Dreamland

*Long, Long ago  
In a faraway land,  
Lived a prince and a princess;  
Who walked hand in hand.*

*They lived in a palace,  
Which was made of gold;  
It was high as a mountain,  
And so very old.*

*They walked hand in hand,  
Alongside a stream;  
Where flowers grew,  
Where the grass was green.*

By Leanne Murphy



Taken at Harvest time 1939, Outside Moran's, Skeaghaid; L-R: Val Waldron, Mark Waldron, Andrew Moran, Mrs. Josie Andrews (Dublin) and Dick Waldron. Front: Maisie Colum (Mrs. Sullivan, Dublin).



Vona Moran, Ballindrehid, Presenting a cheque from her cousin, Fr. Andrew M. Greeley, Chicago, to Fr. Vincent McCarthy, O.S.A. the cheque was towards the "Restoration Fund" at the historic Friary, Ballyhaunis. Fr. Andrew's ancestors came from Ballindrehid, where his relatives still reside. His grandfather emigrated to Chicago at the beginning of the last century.



Sandra Laffey, Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis, who was recently conferred with her Certificate in Medical Laboratory Sciences at Galway R.T.C. Sandra, who is daughter of Paddy and Susan Laffey, is at present continuing her studies in the University of Ulster, in Coleraine.



Sorry to see you go! - Ms. Laura Finn receiving gifts from the pupils and teachers of St. Mary's Primary School. Ms. Finn is currently teaching in Madrid. L-R: Beatrice Shanley, Ms. Finn and Séamus O'Dwyer.



# Shooting Collins...

**D**ON'T bloody move or I'll shoot!" The young soldier's eyes were wild and excited. He looked the part. The black pants and tan jacket were right but the accent was a bad case of Portmarnock meets Piccadilly. It wasn't cockney, it didn't convince. Cracks of rifle fire suddenly drowned out his voice. The air reeked of cordite.

"Okay that's good, it's getting better." It was the director, Neil Jordan, again. He was tearing at his hair and rushing all about the set for the past two hours. He was finally beginning to relax. He threw himself into his director's chair. His assistant Patrick Clayton, took the loudspeaker. "Now, just remember, the Tans are the bad guys." At that stage, I don't think anyone needed reminding.

The bagpipes started again. The piper, it seemed, was determined to play. His bloated face had turned from a bright shade of red to crimson. Beads of sweat trickled from underneath his tweed cap. The Black and Tan started to lose his patience. He was starting to forget he was acting. "Jaysus, if yer man doesn't shut up, I'll bleedin go over to him..." He pushed back his beret, shook the Lee Enfield rifle in his hand and knocked back the repeat-loader. The fat piper stopped playing. After looking at everyone around him for appreciation, and getting none, he started to fix his braces.

It was time for the next shoot. This time, the Black and Tans, in lorries and armoured car, were going to race through a cobbled street, around a corner, and through the gates of Croke Park. The Lancashire armoured car would lead the convoy, burst through the gates and move onto the playing field. It would be followed by a Rolls Royce open touring car and two Crossley Tender troop carriers.

The armoured car crawled along the cobbled street. On turning the street corner, its momentum built up until it crashed through the wooden gates. The gold-coloured enamel lettering, spelling Pairc An Chrócaigh, which spanned the gate, was torn down by the two turrets of the Lancashire. The Lancashire thundered towards the centre of the field. The Rolls Royce touring car circled the field before drawing up in front of the armoured car. Two uniformed officers jumped from the Rolls Royce while two plainclothes officers remained in the back seat. The two plainclothes men were dour-faced, coldly purposeful. The uniformed officers began to roar orders in the direction of the Crossley Tenders which had entered the field. The Tenders screeched to a halt. Black and Tans jumped from both sides of the trucks onto the turf.

*A day on the set of Neil Jordan's film, Michael Collins, September 1995.*

*By Mark Godfrey*

The two football teams, Dublin and Tipperary, stopped playing after the sound of the timber doors breaking was heard. The Tipperary captain, Michael Hogan, looked bizzarely incongruous beside the uniformed officers. Stiff white togs and striped socks beside breeches and bandolier. The spectators had swelled towards the perimeter wall of the field, in curiosity, when the convoy entered. They were now pressing in the other direction. An old man beside the gate of the park turned ashen faced when the Black and Tans rushed towards the crowd with rifles raised. Perhaps he'd seen it happen before. A young boy ducked behind the wall.

Suddenly, everyone's attention was drawn towards the centre of the field. A Tipperary footballer was running with the ball past the armoured car. Having kicked it once, he collected it again and running towards the goal posts, scored a point. His team mates began to clap. A few spectators cheered nervously. The whole crowd began to roar. The braver spectators jeered the Black and Tans. The whole crowd began to jeer. The Tans moved closer to the crowd. The sweat was beginning to roll on some, others clenched their teeth. "Yerra, go home to your mother!" a spectator taunted a baby-faced Tan. The Tan screamed obscenities at his taunter.

Neil Jordan was running towards the armoured car. "Okay that's great, that's great everyone, now let's take a break and we'll go on to the next scene. We're going to see a lot of blood spilt in the next scene, so you'll need it." Jordan looked worried again. He fumbled at the buttons of his battered leather jacket. The knees of his stone-washed jeans were soil stained.

Back in the centre of the field, the armoured car had been disabled. The left front wheel had been loosened from the axle and slightly buckled after bursting through the gates. More delays. Two mechanics were working at it with wheel braces. Patrick Clayton was trying to calm an exasperated Neil Jordan.

A half an hour later and, after numerous cups of tea, we were ready to start shooting again. It was now half past four in the evening. Neil Jordan and lighting director Chris Menges were worrying about the lighting. The evening sky had darkened into a dull Autumnal grey. In 1921, the All-Ireland final started at 2 o'clock. This was the shortest shoot of the day.

The Tipperary captain, Michael Hogan, would start the action. He would appeal to the crowd after scoring his point against Dublin. The crowd would cheer wildly, and, following Hogan's example, taunt the Tans. The guns of the Lancashire armoured car would then cut Hogan down, before firing on the other players and on the crowd. Five selected spectators were to be shot down by the Tans while other spectators were to feign injury. The make up artists prepared Hogan and two of the other players. The five spectators were instructed by Jordan before being prepared by the make up crew. The Black and Tans around the field were ordered to get in place. The spectators tensed.

The shoot went perfectly. Six bullets from the Lancashire turrets tore at Hogan's shirt and the "blood" sprayed out while Hogan fell into a crumpled heap. Crimson "blood" from the other two players stained the green grass. The spectators' cheering turned into an ominous silence and then a din of screaming and frightened roars. The Black and Tans now raced towards the perimeter walls of the field, firing as they went. Two Tans jumped onto the wall. They picked out the five selected spectators. The others fired at random. "Clink-clink, tchuk-tchuk..." Spent bullets bounced off the wall while the Tans pulled at the repeat loader of their rifles after each shot.

"Okay, okay, that's enough, that's brilliant, really good." The filming was done for another day. The Black and Tans cleaned their guns and started to speak in Dublin brogues again. They were once again soldiers of the Dublin Command, F.C.A. The murdered footballers made a Lazarus-like recovery, to become again Club Championship footballers from Kilmacud Crokes and Eire Óg clubs. Neil Jordan slapped Patrick Clayton on the back. Clayton had a "I told you so" expression on his face. The spectators congratulated themselves on a fine performance. A group of young extras tried to take the brown leather football from the ground in front of the goal-posts. One of them tripped up in his oversized tweed costume overcoat. A member of the props team got to the ball first.

We couldn't wait around. We could hear the 5.30 p.m. 'Dart' thundering into Bray station. We had five minutes to get to the station..., no time to return our tweeds and hats to wardrobe. The old man sitting across from us on the Dart looked up from his Sunday World. He looked around. Then, again, he looked at us. "Jay, am I in the right place or time at all?" he muttered. "Be quiet, I've got a gun in my pocket!" my friend whispered. He returned to his newspaper. He made a very quick exit at Tara Street station. He'd have a good yarn for his mates down in the local that night. If only he knew...

## Remembering Entertainers of the Past

**T**IS often on a summer evening I see a huge bandwagon going for the West and know that in the wagon there's a big singing star, and as I watch it go out of sight the mind boggles and goes back in time. I can picture somewhere along that road there's a stile or bridge where years ago some poor soul, cold and hungry, sat composing and writing a song which that big star may well be singing a few hours later; a song that made that star rich and famous.

*By Michael Godfrey*

But what did the person who wrote the song get? - nothing save a few pence in their cap at some fair or market. They didn't have any money but they had what money can never buy - God's gift; and so too had the musicians.

They couldn't read a note of music, they had no tapes or recorders, their brains did all the work. Any music they heard, they retained it and worked it out on their instruments and passed it onto another generation, so the beautiful music and song we enjoy today is a product of the gift God gave them.

I recall one fair evening in Ballinlough I heard an old man singing "Skibbereen" and I don't think, since or before, did I ever hear anyone could sing that song like him, but sadly for him, he was long before his time. If he were alive today he and many more like him would be well paid for their talents.

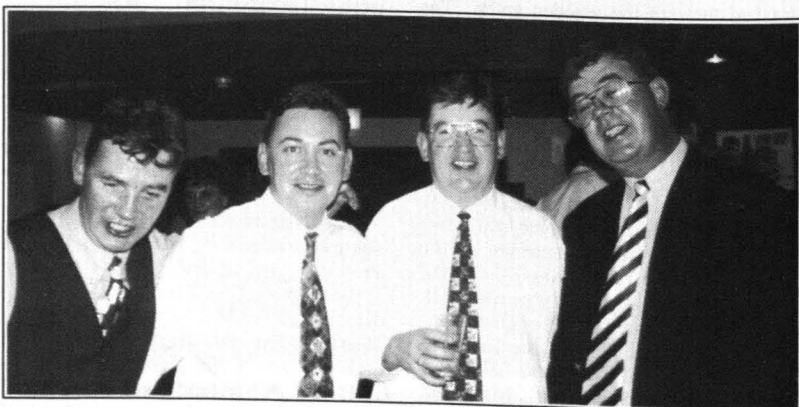
But sadly they are forgotten, while the stars of today who inherited their music and song will be seen and heard on video and tape for many years to come. There is one way in which I would like to remember them, and that is with a Mass each year at some Fleadh.

It would be a lovely way to open a Fleadh with an open-air Mass, weather permitting. All the musicians and singers could be there and some of their music and song could be used during mass. It would be a lovely way to pay tribute to them.

## Research into Ovarian Cancer



**D**R. Yvonne McGarry, B.Sc, M.Appl. Sc (Nuclear Medicine) was recently conferred with a Ph.D degree at Trinity College, Dublin. The research for her thesis on Ovarian Cancer involved the production of antibodies to cancer cells, and may have potential in the management of certain cancers. Yvonne, formerly of Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis, is pictured with her husband, Patrick Groarke, Solicitor, Longford, her children, Patrick, Ruth, Jennifer and Hilary. Also in the picture are her mother, Mrs. Teresa McGarry, Ballyhaunis, her brother, Dr. John McGarry, St. Louis, U.S.A., her niece, Niamh McGarry, Ballyhaunis (a post-graduate music student, from Trinity College) and her sister, Mrs. Cora Glynn, Tuam.



Enjoying the craic at Vinnie Caulfield's wedding, October, 1996, left to right: Séamus Grogan, Tommy Caulfield, Tommy Eagney and Michael Grogan.



# Reviving Memories of the Ballyhaunis Operetta

**T**HE high standard of performances set in recent years by the Ballyhaunis Juvenile Operatic Society was ably upheld by the present group when, in the Parochial Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday night, they presented the operetta: "A Royal Jester", which provided high class entertainment for large audiences.

When one remembers that the cast of this musical extravaganza was made up of some fifty children whose ages range from five years to fourteen, the amount of trouble which their tutor and coach, Mrs. Dill Hughes, had to undergo in preparing those tiny tots for such an elaborate and colourful spectacle can only be imagined. Suffice it to say that she must be blessed with the patience of Job, as well as the happy knack of bringing forth from those little operatic aspirants natural deep-rooted talent which otherwise might have laid dormant for

*From the Connaught Telegraph  
- December 29th, 1947.*

all time. Mrs. Hughes certainly deserves great credit and she may rest assured that her work in organising functions such as this in the interest of the poor of the parish will not go unrewarded.

The principals in the opera gave impressive performances, the most notable being Eamonn O'Connell in the title role, who was at his best and provided much fun. Frankie Cormican was a stern King and young Gemma Smyth was a charming and graceful Queen. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Micheál Smyth excelled himself, and John Dillon and John Forde, in the parts of the Lord Chancellor and Prime Minister respectively, gave sound portrayals.

Comedy in plenty was provided by Tom Johnston as 'Puck', Spirit of Mirth

and Laughter, and Ursula Jordan as Princess Sylvania created a profound impression. Gerald Roche and Tom Leetch were to the fore as the Lord Chamberlain and the Court Astrologer respectively, while splendid performances came from Peter Waldron, Bernard Lyons, William Byrne and John Waldron in other roles.

The chorus was composed of the following: Quips and Cranks (Servants of Puck): Pat Waldron, Noreen Dillon, Frances Moran, Margaret Lyons, Susan Fahey, Bernadette Concannon, Josephine Healy, Bernadette Healy, Ann Byrne and Attracta Jordan; Ladies-in-Waiting: Jill Roche, Mary Curley, Mary Mulligan, Winifred Regan, Mary T. Concannon, Joan Fahey, Bernadette Greene, Pauline O'Brien, Hannah Byrne and Bridie Smyth.

Court Ladies and Gentlemen: Rita Byrne, Maria Byrne, Mary M. Byrne, Deirdre Wall, Celine Webb, Patricia Jordan, Margaret Healy, Margaret Webb, Anna Leetch, Anna Roche, Marie Webb, Ann Hunter, O. Morley, Maureen Morley, Marie C. Byrne, K. Freely, Michael Curley, T. Leetch and J. Dillon; Pages: Hugh Curley and Mossie Dillon; Royal Guards: S. Lyons and M. Lyons.

Orchestra: Mrs. Dill Hughes (piano), Kevin Flanagan (violin), Collette Fahey (cello), Gus Lanigan (trumpet) and Tom Swift (drums).

## Community Games

**C**OMMUNITY Games '96 will not be remembered for the number of children who took part, but for the quality of performance by those who did. Our successes this year were in track and field events. Ailís Nevin won gold at County Under-10 girls Hurdles and won silver at Mosney. Yvonne Byrne won gold in the Long-Puck Under-14 at County, and also won silver at Mosney. Keith Higgins won gold at County Boys Under-14 Long Puck. Both Yvonne and Keith are members of Ballyhaunis Hurling Club and are trained by Pete Higgins.

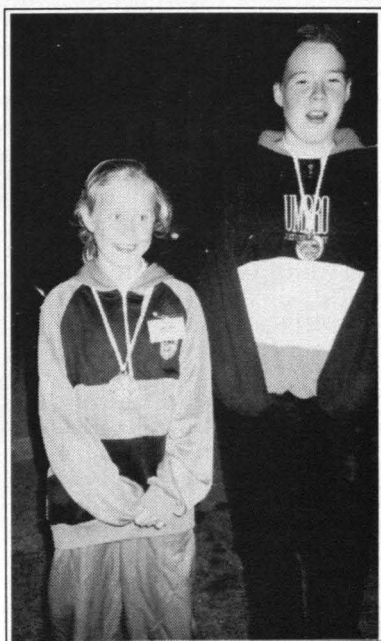
Teams took part in Quiz, Basketball, Soccer and Gaelic Football.

Sadly this year saw the departure of three great members of our committee: Sr. Teresa Fahy, Sr. Rosario Waldron and our Treasurer, Tony McDonagh. Their contributions to Art, Draughts, Choir, Quiz and Athletics over the years have been enormous.

We are asking more parents to give their time and talents to encourage more children to take part.

**Officers:** President: Pat O'Connor;  
Chairman: Liam Lynskey;  
Treasurer: Tony McDonagh;  
Secretary: Kay Curley.

*By Kay Curley*



Ailish Nevin and Yvonne Byrne, Silver Medallists at the All-Ireland Community Games Finals.

## Life's Journey

**S**ometimes the road seems very long which we must travel on. This tedious journey fraught with care can be a lonely one: sadness and worries, ups and downs all get in our way. We cannot see the sunshine for the endless skies of grey, but we must have faith to guide us on down life's road. For none of us need walk alone when we walk with God. So take heart, weary traveller and lift your spirits high. Then open wide your eyes and see - the clouds are passing by. Look up, dear friend, the sky is blue, the sun does shine again. Time will heal the sadness and take away the pain, so as you journey down life's road, the pain will slowly ease. Sweet memories will fill your heart with happiness and peace.

*By Agnes Heaney*

# Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce

UNLIKE the previous two years, Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce activities were not as hectic. Nevertheless, executive, sub-committee and BRCIE meetings were convened on a frequent basis to review progress, and to decide on what were to be the main objectives for the year ahead. The highlights were the announcement of a £21 million investment plan for the area in May last, and the acceptance of its application for the Rural Renewal Scheme. The big disappointment, however, was the closure of the Farah factory in the town last July.

The Chamber members were in buoyant mood at the monthly executive meeting on the 9th May when it was announced that Ballyhaunis and District were to be the recipients of a £21 million investment. This considerable award to the area was to be broken down as follows:

1. Sewerage Treatment Plant - £4 million.
2. Water and sewerage within the town area - £4.2 million.
3. £11 million to extend the Mask Water Scheme to Ballyhaunis via Knock.
4. £220,000 allocated to the refurbishment of Tooraree Housing Scheme.
5. £45,000 to be spent on lighting.



Photo taken outside Waldron's Moneymore 1932: Mrs Ellen Waldron (néé Carney) and Mrs Mary A Cribbin (néé Murphy).

*By Willie Ryan, PRO*

6. £100,000 allocated for the Town Improvement Scheme.
7. £1 million already allocated for the recently completed bypass on the Knock/ Claremorris road.

There then followed further good news at the Chamber's June meeting when Ballyhaunis and District were sanctioned for participation in the next Rural Renewal Scheme. The purpose of it is to promote the physical, social and economic revitalisation of rural centres throughout the country. The scheme is administered by the Department of the Environment. Ballyhaunis Chamber now hope to submit an application for the Urban Renewal Scheme which is expected to be renewed when the first scheme comes to its end sometime in 1998. Applications for the second scheme, however, must be with the Department in 1997 where they will be meticulously examined and adjudicated upon.

Also in June, Chamber members met with Tony McNulty and Peter Hynes of Mayo County Council to discuss the potential for further development within Ballyhaunis and District. Two post-graduate students from the Czech Republic and Poland then carried out a study of the area and expressed considerable satisfaction with the improvements carried out to Church Street and Chapel Street, but added that there is even greater scope for further development when cognisance is taken of the derelict sites within Ballyhaunis.

The July Executive meeting of the Chamber again discussed the £21 million investment for Ballyhaunis and District. Top of the agenda was the water and sewerage scheme. Members were of the view that such a major project would take a minimum of six months to complete. The consensus was that the installation of the sewerage system on one side and the water on the other side of the town streets should be done concurrently in order to minimise inconvenience. Some members, while welcoming the development, sought reassurance on a number of issues:

- (a) The inconvenience it could cause for business premises when work is in

progress - for example, will the premises be accessible at all times?

- (b) Would it cause problems for town residents?
- (c) What can be done to facilitate the smooth delivery of merchandise to the many business premises?
- (d) Could there be electrical faults which could lead to power failures when work is in progress?

In response to these concerns it was felt that a Chamber delegation might have to seek a meeting with County Manager, Des Mahon, for clarification on the above concerns in addition to discussing any other infrastructural developments which may be earmarked for Ballyhaunis and District.

The April Executive meeting devoted much time to a discussion on the beef crisis and its adverse effects on the economy. Members pointed out vehemently that all beef sold through local victuallers and meat vendors was sourced and killed locally. In addition, the County of Mayo has no incidence of BSE and consequently there should be absolutely no fears with regard to local beef. The Chamber Executive again stressed the importance of pointing this out to people and repeated its message in an unequivocal and upbeat fashion at further monthly meetings. It also was in contact with the Department of Agriculture expressing its "grave" concern at possible lay-offs at the local Irish Country Meats plant because of the crisis. It requested the Department to do everything possible to avert such an outcome by taking decisive action.

Hot on the heels of the employment cutbacks at Irish Country Meats was the news that Farah Clothing plant in the town was to close at the end of July. A Chamber deputation met with the management and representatives of the employees but were told that the decision was not going to be reversed. At the July executive meeting members were of the view that its loss would have a detrimental effect on the local economy.

While appreciating that its employees would be offered an opportunity to relocate to its Kiltimagh plant, this did not ease the pain their departure would cause for the business community. Uppermost in members thoughts was



the fact that the plant's closure meant the loss of over a hundred employees to the town. The unanimous view was that Ballyhaunis had suffered its fair share of disappointing news on the employment front over the last few years and it was time to call a halt. Every effort must be made to secure an alternative industry and have it in place as soon as possible.

## BUSINESS PLAN

BRCIE, the development wing of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, met on a number of occasions during the year and appointed Mary Keane to draw up a Business Plan for Ballyhaunis and District. Consequently, with this in mind a series of meetings got underway in October under the guidance of the above mentioned Mary Keane and these will continue until the end of November. Their purpose is to facilitate the drawing-up of such a development plan by allowing people in the area to participate and give their views on the type of projects required for the area.

Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce once again featured in the National magazine of the Chamber of Commerce of Ireland "Inside Business." This marked the third occasion in the last

eighteen months that Chamber activities have been publicised. This follows an article on the Chamber which appeared in "Business and Finance" magazine in March 1994 as part of its feature on Western Chambers of Commerce.

In conclusion, it is imperative that Ballyhaunis Chamber grows even stronger to meet the many challenges in the years ahead. To do this it is essential that more members from the business community become involved.

Ballyhaunis Chamber will, as a result, be in a more influential position which can only bode well for further development within the area. The executive committee and Chamber Council exhort more people to become involved in its activities in the year ahead.

Officers for 1996: President: John Durkan; Vice-President: Denise Moran; Secretary: Bernie Concannon; Treasurer: Tim Shanley; P.R.O.: Willie Ryan; BRCIE Chairman: Peter Cunnane.

## Employment survey in Ballyhaunis

An updated Ballyhaunis Employment Survey, carried out over the Summer of 1996, reveals that there are 1,117 employed full-time and 297 part-time, in the East Mayo town.

The survey was carried out by the Student Summer Scheme, under the supervision of Mary Smyth, and sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce. The students also carried out a report on access for the disabled, along with Pat Hanrahan of the Centre for Disabled Living, and also compiled a Waste Management and Disposal Report for the town.

"The figures in the Employment Survey show a very high percentage of people employed in this town as the population of the immediate town area is about 1,200, which shows a proportion are just coming into the town and not living here," said Mary Smyth, who is a supervisor on a local FAS scheme. "It shows that most of the manufacturing enterprises started as small businesses and developed into what they are now.

These companies are all on our doorstep and there are also a lot of embryonic businesses in the area also." "I don't know if it's something in the air or what but there are a lot of entrepreneurs in the town," she added.



Logboy School Taken 1948: Front, L-R: B. Lyons, D. Waldron, S. Cleary, T. Cleary, M. Gilligan, M.M. Lyons, C. Lyons, M. Corr, J. Delaney, J. McNeive and D. McGuire. Middle, L-R: J. McWalter, P. McGuire, M. McGuire, A. McNeive, J.J. Burke, J. Walsh, P.J. McNeive, C. Buckley, M. McGuire and J. McWalter. Back, L-R: M.T. Hosty, D. Byrne, A. Corr, D. Hosty, P.J. Burke, M.J. Gillian, J. Fitzmaurice, S. Lyons (R.I.P.), M. Waldron (R.I.P.) and L. McGuire. Absent that day: K. Prendergast and T. Dowd.

# A Good Year for Twinning

I AM glad to report that we have had a very successful year for twinning. We received a party of families during the month of April and we had a return visit of students to Guilers in September. Also, during the Summer we had several students staying with local families for a few weeks.

*By Bernie Freyne*

The year began with the usual planning for the arrival of the French on the thirteenth of April. A total of forty-seven were to stay in town. On the arrival date, they were met in Cork and, after a brief stop in Ennis, reached Ballyhaunis around 8 pm. At "Chez Horan", old friendships were renewed and new ones were started as new homes had to be found for about twenty-five people. At this point I must say thank you to all of the new families who got involved. I hope it was, and will be, an enjoyable experience for them. Because the French have a set period each year for Easter, usually the two last weeks in April, it did not coincide with our Easter break, which meant that we were all back at school or working. As a result, seven tours around the province were drawn up and each car received a copy. That took care of the days. We had two official nights, the first was an Irish night in "Coney Island" which surpassed all expectations. Thanks to everybody in Gorthaganny. The second night was our official reception in the "Central Hotel." Here were seated one-hundred and ten guests. Gifts were exchanged

by both parties and, after the usual speeches, a good night was had by all.

I want to pay tribute and say thanks to all the families, the business community, the industries of the town and the E.C. Commission for their help and support. We are truly in their debt.

On September 14th, I went with a group of students from the Community School to Guilers. I am not going to report on the tour itself because a lot has been written about the same journey by the students themselves. All I will say is, except for one or two minor hitches, the tour went very well. Also, I have to say that they were one of the finest groups of young people I have ever travelled with. So last year's transition students "take a bow."

All in all, I would say that 1996 was a good year for twinning, but it would not be so without the help and support of the people of the town and the twinning committee that put so much effort into making it a success. Once again a big "thank you" to everybody.

A suggestion has been made that we should make a trip during the Summer holidays. In fact the first week in July has been suggested. I am in favour of it because, with the E.C. subvention, and the group rate discount, the cost should work out around the same as what it used to cost us during the off-peak time. The seas at that time are normally calm, so it should make pleasant sailing. Think about it over the Christmas we will be having a meeting in January and your thoughts on it then would be appreciated.

By the way, Happy Christmas from everyone in Twinning.



First Communion Day 1943 - Eamon Meath (R.I.P.) and Micheál Smyth, both of Clare Street.

## The Old School House in Mayo

THIS Summer Mr. John Austin Freeley of Brackloon South published his first book: "The Old School House in Mayo." This fascinating novel has, as its central character, Sean Branagan, who lives in the village of Glenore, a few miles from the town of Carrick. It follows Sean through his childhood years and offers a most interesting window on life in rural County Mayo in the 1920s and 30s.

The Author, a noted musician and story-teller, describes the good and the bad times experienced by the school-going generation through the twenties and thirties. In the years that Mr. Freeley writes about, the Irish language had not completely died out in many parts of rural Mayo, and a notable and most important feature of his book is the way he manages to reproduce the old way of speaking English, which had more in common, as regards construction and grammar, with Irish, than with English.

We congratulate him on this work, and look forward to more of the same.



L-R: Jarlath Cosgrove, Pat Murray, Jim Kilboyle and Patrick Doherty.



Finnegan's Stations, Derrintogher; L-R: Agnes Ruane, Agnes Heaney and Paddy Finnegan. (Courtesy of Betty Regan)



# Early History of Gaelic Football in Ballyhaunis

**G**AELIC football assumed a definite shape in Ballyhaunis in 1910 when a junior team was affiliated and recognised by the Mayo County Board on the G.A.A. In that year they met and defeated all the leading teams in the county, contested the final with Ballina, and were unlucky to be defeated by the narrowest of margins. Ballyhaunis objected to the constitution of the Ballina team. This objection, however, was withdrawn at the County Board meeting and the ruling body of the G.A.A. in the county presented a set of medals for a challenge match between the two teams, care being taken that Ballina fielded a legal junior team. The match took place in due course and, much to the surprise of all, Ballyhaunis won by thirteen points to nil.

Again in 1913 Ballyhaunis met Ballina in the junior county championship and were victorious once more.

## *From the Connaught Telegraph*

Prompted by this victory and the excellent athletic material available, Ballyhaunis decided to enter the senior ranks for the following year. After disposing of many fancied teams, Ballyhaunis reached the final and suffered defeat at the hands of their old rivals Ballina Stephenites.

Encouraged by their achievements in their first year in senior grade football, Ballyhaunis trained vigorously, and it was the ambition of every player to bring county honours to his native town. In the semi-final of the following year, 1915, Ballyhaunis faced formidable opposition in Lacken and, after a terrible struggle at Balla, Ballyhaunis emerged victors to score 6 points to 4 points.

The final of that year took place at Foxford. Ballyhaunis defeated Ballina

in one of the finest games ever witnessed in the four corners of Mayo. Final Score: Ballyhaunis 1-3, Ballina 1-1.

Fresh after the victory, the Mayo county senior champions journeyed to Dunmore where they met and defeated the Tuam Stars, a team which constituted the cream of Connaught's football talent for the period.

The following is a list of the most prominent Ballyhaunis players of that period.

Johnny Byrne, Jack Waldron, Jimmy Byrne, Tommy Morley, George Delaney, P.J. Caulfield, P and A. Kenny, A. Griffin, P. Waldron, "Murty" Gavin, Pete O'Malley, Michael Carney, "Lucky" Devaney, M. Morley, P. Lynskey, Johnny Hunt, J.P. Kenny, P. Fitzgerald, T. Cooney, T. O'Reilly, M. Halliday, Jim Devine, P. Prendergast, M. Finlan, W.E. Glynn, T.F. Moran, and "Pokey" Murray.



Gus Levins  
(Courtesy of Joe Greene)



Agnes Ruane, Bargariff, Ballyhaunis and her pet cat, May 1996.

## Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

**B**ALLYHAUNIS Bridge Club continues to grow in strength and numbers, with games played twice weekly: Tuesdays and Thursdays, in Alberto's at 8 p.m. sharp.

### *By Kay Higgins*

The A.G.M. of the Club was held in May, and the following officers were elected: President: Mrs. Mary Walsh; Vice-President: Mr. Donal Geraghty; Secretary: Mrs. Frances Gaffney; Treasurer: Mrs. Leone Connery; Public Relations Officer: Mrs. Kay Higgins. The incoming Committee were elected as follows: Mrs. Angela Joyce, Mrs. Kay Lyons, Mrs. Peggy Cruise and Mr. Martin Winston.

For the past number of years, the position of Tournament Director has been filled by Mrs Angela Joyce.



Mrs. Mary Walsh, (President), Knock Road.

She has been outstanding in this role, and the Officers would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her tireless work for the club. The current position is that a different Tournament Director will fill the rank on a monthly basis.

During the year a number

of Charity events took place, including the following: St. Mary's and St. Joseph's National Schools. The Day Care Centre and St. Patrick's Church Window Restoration Fund. All events were very successful, and the Bridge Club Committee sincerely wish to thank the Organisers, Sponsors and Supporters of these activities.

Numerous Competitions were held in the course of the year including Simultaneous Pairs, The Murphy Cup, Turkey Competition, The Banker's Prize, News-round Prize, Christmas and Easter Prizes. The main competition of the Year was The President's Prize, which always attracts a large turnout and a great night of Bridge.

The Bridge Club activities end with a Dinner and get-together of all Club members, after a great season of Bridge.

# Grandmother's Home Remedies

**L**ONG before medical science developed modern drugs, mankind treated its ailments with natural remedies. They used flowers, leaves, roots and berries as food and medicine. In those days a herbalist was a very important person in every community, probably as important as the local Chemist is to-day. Even the first doctors of record had no medicines, except the ones extracted from natural sources. We are told that the vast majority of the World's population still depend on folk remedies to cure its ills. Ancient cures have been used by millions of people for centuries and each generation handed down its secret formulas and recipes to the next.

The country people, especially the women, who lived in this country, less than a century ago, knew and used this old-fashioned medicine to prevent or cure common complaints. In my own family, my paternal grandmother was the keeper of various home remedies of the same natural substances that her mother and grandmother had used. Among my earliest childhood memories are the walks I took with my grandmother through our fields, to collect the wild plants that she used for her healing purposes. Though I was only about five years old, she taught me the names of the edible herbs and of their medicinal value, like coltsfoot, ground ivy, comfrey and dandelion etc. Then

*By Agnes Heaney*

she'd say: "look carefully at these plants and never eat any of them until you learn the difference between the good ones, and those that could make you sick or even kill you." As a child I never questioned her reason for collecting these flowers and leaves, because at that time children were supposed to be seen, not heard!

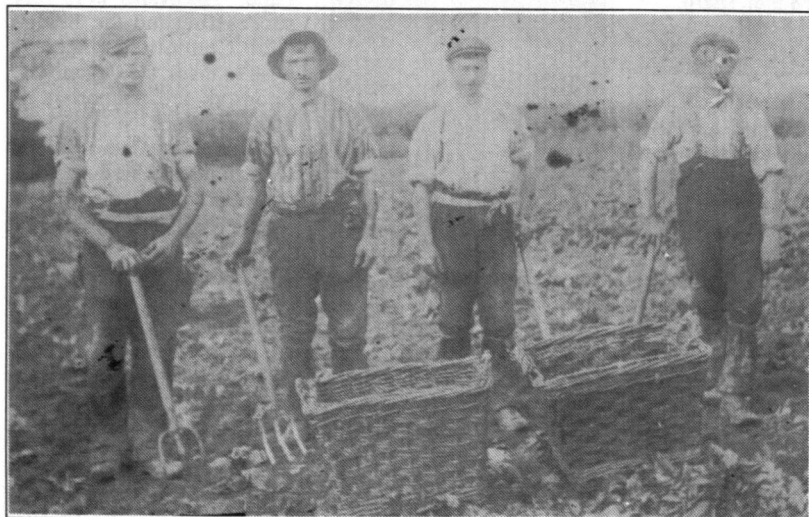
In the years that followed I began to realise that my grandmother was getting old and that she was eager to share with me her favourite home-made remedies. So that I would be able to preserve my health the natural way. She taught me in many ways, like the morning we were out picking berries and my hand accidentally closed on a stinging nettle plant. I was ready to cry when she handed me yellow Dock leaves which I rubbed on my hand and their juice instantly cured the sting. Then she highly praised the nettle and said: "Its sting is nothing compared to the pains that it heals." That nettle tea made from its young leaves was a cure-all for many ailments, including rheumatism, stomach problems, blood pressure, and as a blood cleansing tonic. I also remember my mother including boiled nettles in the food given to young turkeys to prevent fowl disease.

At Shrovetide we would walk to the local river to collect watercress which was eaten with oaten bread during the old Lenten fast. Grandmother said that watercress had many healing properties and that it should be eaten in the Springtime to purify the blood. The Dandelion was one of the herbs she liked best. She used it in my different ways. For a salad, the leaves had to be gathered when they were young, otherwise they were too bitter to eat.

Later in the season we gathered the yellow dandelion flowers and some of the leaves and, after they were simmered in water, the liquid looked like brandy and it was then bottled for winter use and the dose was half a glass before breakfast. This was recommended as a diuretic and for liver and digestive disorders.

In September we made Dandelion Coffee, by digging up the roots and after they were washed and dried, they were roasted in the pot oven until they were ready to grind into powder; then it was brewed like ordinary coffee. By sweetening it with honey it was a pleasant drink and a good night-cap. If one had warts, the milky sap from a squeezed dandelion stem was applied to them, and in a few days the warts would turn black and fall off. Dandelion leaves were often mixed with other herbs and were used to make poultices for boils and abscesses.

If we had colds or flu, Grandmother made her special onion broth and, she made her own cough mixture from flax-seed or linseed, coltsfoot leaves and honey. She often talked about the great flu epidemic of 1918, she said it was a year of terror across the land, many families were wiped out and of those who survived, many were left with permanent respiratory weakness or with brains damaged by high fever. Back then, medical science had little to offer in the way of protection. When the first outbreaks occurred in the area, Grandmother summoned the whole family together and she put them on, what she called her "garlic therapy", as a flu preventive, so they added the garlic to soups, salads, meats and sometimes even to beverages. Between meals they chewed on bits of garlic and at night they slept with pieces tucked between their gums and cheeks. When the flu struck the local community as it did the rest of the country, many people were bedridden for weeks and some never recovered, as for our own family, not a single case occurred. The flu epidemic passed on and grandmothers age-old remedy was very effective. She said she knew that the garlic possessed anti-infection properties and was proven to be a powerful, natural germ killer. She told me that the best



Potato Picking in England c.1900: Second from the right is Jim Waldron of Derrynacong. If anybody can name the other three, the Annagh Committee would be very pleased to hear from them.

(Courtesy Mrs. Kathleen Fitzharris)



preventive medicine of all was a sensible diet of natural food, such as fresh vegetables, milk and plenty of fruit and berries. She was a great believer in the health benefit of pure spring water, as well as walking in the fresh air and sunlight. Most of grandmother's healing herbs, flowers and young leaves had to be plucked during the summer months, in clear dry weather and in the morning after the dew disappeared, so we would have to set off after breakfast, basket in hand, and spend the whole afternoon walking through the sunny fields looking for the special plants that were of use to her.

The walk was lovely on the bright mornings in early summer with the beauties of creation all around: the blue of the sky, the brilliant green of the trees and the birds singing - all spoke of peace and serenity. Sometimes grandmother would say to me: "The exercise will do us good and it might put a bit of colour in your cheeks!" She was a woman of deep faith and always kept her rosary in her pocket and prayed as she walked along. She had great confidence in the healing power of nature. I remember her saying that "all of creation is for our benefit" or "the fruit of the trees is for our meal and the leaves for our medicine" and, that there's a herb growing to cure every disease.

She had a rhyme that went:

*"For every sickness under the sun  
There is a remedy or there is none  
If there is one, try and find it  
If there is none, never mind it"*

One day she plucked an ear of wheat and blessed herself with it three times, once for the food it stood for, once for the prosperity it represented and lastly, because the Consecrated Host was made of wheat.

On golden September afternoons, grandmother and I would wander through the fields picking mushrooms or gathering the delicious blackberries that my mother turned into delicious jams, jellies and pickles. The blackberry fruit was also known as bramble-fruit and its leaves were used in medicine. September was always a bumper month and we were kept very busy trying to keep pace with nature's free bounty. In October and November we gathered rose-hips, hazel-nuts and sloes. The shorter days and colder mornings warned us that winter was coming and we had to gather them quickly, sometimes grandmother would be in a talkative mood and would recount some incidents from her youth. When herself and grandfather got married she was only nineteen years; they were blessed with ten children and life on the farm was hard, working from dawn to dusk. She often said: "Hard

work never killed anyone." They lived a simple life and their daily routine varied little, they enjoyed good health all their lives and never had to go to hospital. At ninety they never wore glasses and had keen hearing. They didn't let age defeat them; grandfather would say: "The best way to age is not to be in a hurry about it." Grandmother managed never to lose her youthful looks, her secret was not to worry, put your trust in God and the troubles will fade away, or "the problems you face in the days ahead will never be solved by worry in bed." Of course, they lived in a different environment and never had the pressures of modern living and they managed rightly without them.

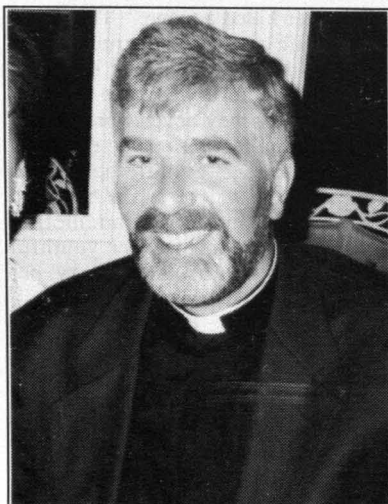
I will always treasure my memories of my grandparents, they were special people, they helped to enrich my life and were a link between me and another time and place. I often think of the times we laughed and were happy, for sadly we can never have these times back again. I recall a verse that grandmother often recited for me -

*The Poor Person's Riches  
My wants are but few  
And generous nature  
Gives more than my due  
The air and the sunshine  
Fresh water and health  
And the heart to enjoy them  
All these are my wealth*



Photograph taken in the former St. Mary's Boys National School at Abbey Quarter c. 1930. Back, L-R: Jimmy Tully, Vincent Hopkins, Padraic Garvey, Paddy Forry, Paddy Smyth (R.I.P.), Joe Tarmey, Johnny Melvin, Gus Caulfield, Jimmy Duffy, Michael Finn, Tom Caulfield, Jimmy Boyle and Michael Freeley. Middle, L-R: Joe McDonnell, Seamus Durkan, Luke Freeley, Joe Lyons, Jarlath Waldron, Michael McGuire, Paddy Henry, Jimmy Gilmore, Mickey Walsh (R.I.P.), Jackie Kilduff, Joe Tighe and Martin James Cleary. Front, L-R: Jimmy Kilduff, John Lyons, Peter McDonnell, Jimmy Levins, Austin Levins, P. Duffy, Jack Coyne and Paddy Hunt.

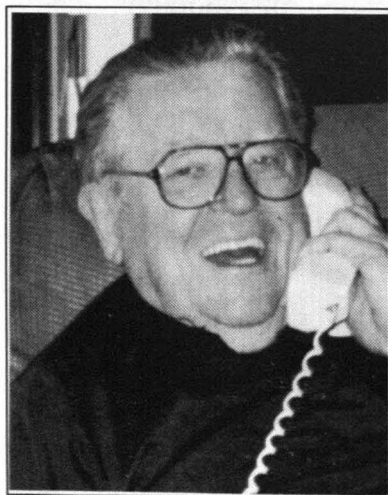
(Courtesy Seamus Durkan)



Fr. Des Walsh, C.C., Cloonfad, Chaplain to Ballyhaunis Community School from 1977 to 1996.



Sister Helen Regan, Gurteenmore and Peru.  
(Courtesy of Joe Greene)



A frequent visitor to the Halpin Family in Ballyhaunis is Monsignor John Caulfield, Philadelphia. He is nephew of the Late P. J. Caulfield, Main Street.

# Crosswords, Competitions and Conundrums

*By Tony Boyle*

When travelling by bus or train nowadays it is not unusual to notice a fellow passenger deep in thought for words in the middle of a crossword puzzle. But we often wonder where and when did these crosswords originate.

The first modern crossword was devised in 1913 by a New York newspaper Editor called Arthur Wynne (who died in 1945) when he was anxious to arouse interest in the Christmas Fun Supplement of his paper The New York World. At the outset, he created a basic diamond shaped puzzle of clues and words, and this was eventually followed by the formal rectangle figure we see in most papers today. It would appear that his innovation was so popular that the readers asked that it be repeated in future issues of his paper, and by the middle of the next decade the formula had been introduced in many other newspapers, thus giving birth to the golden age of crosswords.

The success of crosswords in America quickly spread across the Atlantic and before long British newspapers developed more sophisticated styles. Eventually the craze swept the world like wildfire and crosswords are now a regular feature, each with its own style and idiosyncrasy, in about ninety per cent of all world newspapers. On April 10th 1924 the first compendium of crossword puzzles was published and nowadays those books come in all shapes and sizes, and they vary from simple to very difficult, some verging on the almost impossible. The modern trend for specialisation has not bypassed the crossword pastime and many magazines and journals often contain an entire puzzle devoted to their own subject, be it technology, politics, sport or literature.

So, when Arthur Wynne set the ball rolling all those years ago, little did he know the amount of brain-teasing pleasures he was unleashing on the world. Personally, I do about a half dozen crosswords in the week, but I must confess that I would not be so successful without the assistance of the good lady of the house, plus an excellent pocket thesaurus (presented to me by my

daughter) and a few often referred-to dictionaries. My greatest success was in winning the weekly prize was with the Western People when about a dozen Cross Pens came my way. I also had the occasional success in a few other National periodicals. In most crossword puzzles the clues tend to be very tricky, but I will never forget when the clue was 'a number of fingers' and the answer was Frost!

Now, so much for crosswords, I am also addicted to, and I immensely enjoy other competitions such as Limerick competitions, quizzes, slogans etc., and I have been moderately successful in the Limerick competitions on radio some years ago, when the competitor would complete the Limerick after having only been given the first line. One competition that has almost completely faded away is the 'Spot the Ball' competition which was a popular Sunday newspaper feature for years. And who remembers the old 'Opsits' competition that the Sunday Independent ran way back in the thirties and forties, and the old type crossword when we were given the choice of three or four words for the same answer.

There are several competitions on Television nowadays, but my favourite is 'Countdown' on Channel 4 which runs for greater part of the year. Nine letters are picked at random and the better of two contestants gets points for the longest word. Double points are awarded for a word with all nine letters, but this does not occur often. There is also a contest with numbers when five small and one large number are involved, and here we often witness the genius of Carol who helps to run this half-hour long, very interesting contest. A jumbled conundrum (or anagram) completes this programme, and I never miss it if I possibly can.

Those of us who enjoy and spend so much time doing competitions are forever grateful to those behind the origin of them and we feel sure that they will bring happiness and contentment to many thousands to the end of time.



# Ballyhaunis Citizens Information Centre

**T**HIS year has been a very successful year for the Citizens Information Centre. The number of queries increased significantly on previous years, reflecting the many changes and developments in the areas of social welfare entitlements, family law, consumer matters, etc. During the year, a number of our members attended information seminars on such topics as Divorce and Social Welfare, Rights of Landlord and Tenant, Community Employment Schemes and Social Welfare, in general.

*By Mary Donnelly PRO*

We were saddened by the death of Sr. Dymphna Mooney, a founder member and loyal volunteer at the Centre for many years. May she rest in peace. Our best wishes go to Mary Folliard who has retired as a volunteer. We thank her for her dedication and service to the Centre for so many years.

We also thank the Ballyhaunis Community Workers under the guidance of Mary Smyth for their courtesy and co-operation in publishing our "Know Your Rights" column in the

popular "Profile" magazine every month.

The Citizens Information Centre is one of a network of eighty centres throughout the country. It is manned by trained volunteers and equipped with an up-to-date information system covering a wide range of services and entitlements. The system is constantly up-dated by the National Social Service Board with which the Centre is registered. Free and confidential information is available on all aspects of social welfare, health services, education, taxation etc. We also have a comprehensive range of application forms and information leaflets.

There are a number of special publications available dealing with specific topics, e.g. "Entitlements for over 60s", "Information for those affected by bereavement", "Information for regular part-time workers" and "Getting Back to Work." This latter booklet is of particular interest to unemployed people who may wish to take up employment, but are fearful of losing secondary benefits such as Medical Card, Rent Allowance or Fuel Allowance. It sets out clearly the vari-

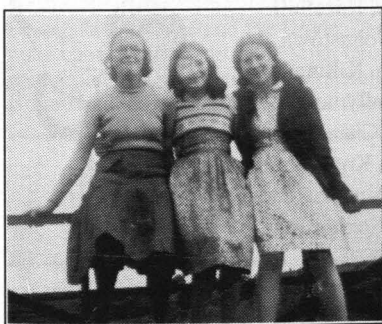
ous options which may allow them to take up work, become self-employed or gain work experience or training and retain some, or all, of the secondary benefits. Copies of all the above are available free of charge at the Centre.

The Centre is located at the Parochial Hall and opening hours are as follows:

Tuesday and Friday, 11.30 am - 12.30 pm and 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm  
Saturday, 11.30 am - 12.30 pm.

It is staffed by the following: Chairman: Kathleen McBride; Organiser: Deirdre Diskin; Deputy Organiser: Bridie Brennan; Secretary: May Murphy; Training Officer: Sr. Assumpta; Publicity Officer: Mary Donnelly. Volunteers: Ann Flanagan, Nora Sweeney, Kathleen Murphy, Angela Waldron, Mary Waldron, Ann McHugh, Mary Hopkins, Kathleen Waldron, Marion Regan and Maura Griffin.

**Citizens Information Centre,  
Parochial Hall,  
Ballyhaunis,  
County Mayo.  
Phone (0907) 30212.**



Josephine Higgins, Clare Street; Noreen Byrne, Bridge Street and Bernadette Mulligan, Hazelhill, 1948.

(Courtesy Josephine Higgins-Beirne, New Jersey)

## Alcoholics Anonymous

**M**EETING held in the Old Convent School: Sunday nights 8.30pm (winter); 9.00pm (summer).



Pictured at a fundraising dance in New York (for St. Patrick's College, Ballyhaunis), in the 1950's are: L-R: Tony Greene, Knox Street; Jim Gannon, Johnstown; Tom Fleming (R.I.P.), Knox Street; Kitty Dyer-Treanor, Brackloon; Peter Sloyan, Brackloon; Agnes Freyne, Clare Street and Mrs. McNulty, New York.

## Bali - to an Ordinary Man

*Here we are in Bali, in paradise at last,  
It's like another planet, where aliens pull in fast  
The first we met was porter, not the black stuff that you  
know  
But a guy with his two workmates, who showed us where  
to go  
They took us through arrivals, and there we met our guide  
His name was Murdiana, and he put our bags inside  
As we stood beside our taxi, and tried to go inside  
Our famous porter stopped us, with hands held open wide  
He asked me for ten dollars, and said it was a tip  
When he said they wanted ten each, I told him take a trip  
I gave him five pound sterling, and a dollar just for luck  
And said if that was not enough, I didn't give a damn  
Hotel Sanur Aerowisata - Bali - what a luxurious tropical  
name  
For the most magnificent place on earth, where very few  
remain  
Like the girl from San Francisco, with the flower in her  
hair  
There's a Bali variation - they wear it in their ear  
The staff are very friendly here, they meet you at the door  
And take your bags up to your room, how could you ask  
for more  
There's a Fridge that's full of liqueur, soft drinks and  
chocolates too  
And some peanuts, crisps and water, on the counter just  
for you.  
It was late when we got settled, and were glad to get to  
bed  
So we both lay down together, and did rest our weary  
heads  
Our first morn' was a disaster, when I opened window  
wide  
I thought I was in Ireland, with the rain that fell outside  
I cursed this island paradise, but still arose to see  
If there was any other sight, in rain that would suit me  
We headed for the village, as rain was falling light  
And before we'd taken many steps, it started falling right  
Well as the rain came pouring down, and we passed by  
stalls in pairs  
Each one invited us in, to buy some of his wears  
Buy it cheap they said to us, a good price here today  
You would need your calculator, or they would lead you  
astray  
How little we knew at this time that this would be the  
trend  
But we made it safely to our nest, and ,alas, the rain  
would end.*

**By Martin Fitzmaurice.**

## Baptisms in the Parish

*December 1995 - 17th November 1996*

Shane Edward Healy, Doctor's Road.  
John Joseph Cribbin, Lecarrow.  
Shannon Rebecca McHugh, Abbey Street.  
David Patrick Cleary, Cherryfield.  
Andrew Sean Henry, Aisling Drive.  
Tasha-Nicole Fitzpatrick-Coyne, Clare Street.  
Tessa Catherine Lyons, Upper Main Street.  
Stephanie Sarah Morley, Woodpark.  
Mary Barbara Maughan, Tooraree.  
Paul Anthony Lyons, Holywell.  
Patricia Elaine Daly, Cherryfield.  
Victoria Kelly, Scrigg.  
Joseph Patrick Fahy, Holywell.  
Sean Thomas McDermott, Ballindrehid.  
Claire Marie Moran, Knox Street.  
Ian Seamus Duffy, Abbeyquarter.  
Robert Anthony McGrath-Morley, Abbey Street.  
Caoimhe Marie Henry, Ballindrehid.  
Stephen Patrick Nolan, Togher.  
Joseph Patrick Lyons, Knockbrack.  
Lisa Morley, Holywell.  
Darren Patrick Concannon, Johnstown.  
Neal Thomas Folliard, Kiltiboe.  
Brendan James Biesty, Holywell.  
Brandon Mark Peake, Gurteen.  
Ryan James Peake, Gurteen.  
Aoife Marie Murray, Doctor's Road.  
Conor Joseph McCarrick, Abbeyquarter.  
Mark Francis Phillips, Doctor's Road.  
Stephen Patrick Ryan, Hazelhill.  
Lisa Marie Higgins, Johnstown.  
David Andrew Regan, Killinaugher.  
Thomas Maughan, Ballymun.  
Laura Maria Carney, Clare Street.  
Niamh Mary Murray, Knox Street.  
Rory Colum Nestor, Knock Road.  
Daniel McCormack, Station Rise.



Noreen and Tom Hopkins hosted the Station Mass for Upper Main Street, in October 1996.



# Musical Society

**T**HE 1996 show by the Ballyhaunis Musical Society, which went on stage at the Scout Den between Sunday February 11th and Saturday February 17th, was once more enjoyed by large audiences.

Perhaps one of the really good aspects of his production of this highly popular musical "Oklahoma!" was the fact that people such as Fintan O'Leary, Patricia Grogan, Deirdre Moran and Pat Doyle were to play leading parts for the first time, and do so with gusto. Perhaps particular praise needs to be given to the leading man and leading lady: Fintan O'Leary as "Curly" and Martina O'Rourke as "Laurey." Fintan, who works in Irish Country Meats in Ballyghaderreen, and who is a Cork native, was making his stage debut in the leading part and did so with the ease of a professional. Ballyhaunis native Martina, made her stage debut in the role of Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" in the Community School, and also received praise for her portrayal of Rose in "Dancing at Lughnasa" when it was performed locally, and again, her fine performance of the part of "Laurey" was very well received.

The other principals in this well received show were: Emmett Keane, Kevin Henry, Aisling Toal, Micheál Horan, Jack Greene and Pat Doyle. The male chorus was made up of Mike Grogan, Colm Flynn, Maitiú Ó Domhnaill, Brian Hunt, Adrian Murray, Conal Hig-

*By Sean Ó Domhnaill*

gins, Seamus Freyne, Mark Glynn, Michael Lyons, Thomas Brennan, Mark Donnellan, Michael Nolan and Derek Gallagher. The members of the female chorus were: Celine Murray, Tina Kirrane, Marie Kelly, Loretto Carney, Aoife Hunt, Eileen Jordan, Patricia Fadian, Madeline Niland, Mary Lyons, Moira Stratford, Marie-Louise Linhart, Breda Burke, Frankie Ralph, Sharon Jordan, Laura Finn and Helen Lyons.

Musical Producer was Ray Leonard while Musical Director, again this year, was John Aldridge. Choreographer was Áine Whelan, who particularly did an enormous amount of work with the chorus etc. as was demanded by this particular show. Chorus Person once more was Nuala Fitzgerald while Mary Smyth again was in charge of making the costumes for the musical.

The Musical Society Officers for the year were: Chairperson: Aidan Kelly; Vice-Chairperson: Helen Lyons; Secretary: Anna Henry; Treasurer: Moria Noone; Committee: Madeline Niland, Nuala Fitzgerald, Sean Ó Domhnaill and Kevin Henry. Meanwhile preparations have already begun for this year's show with the auditions held in early November and it is hoped that it will be a very enjoyable project both for all those taking part and for the usual large attendances that support the musical.



Renee O'Malley (Mrs. Benedetti) with Jack Halpin at Delaware River, Waterfront, Philadelphia.

## To The Children

Dear children at Christmas  
go early to sleep  
For Santa is coming  
His promise to keep

You won't hear him coming  
Or you won't hear him go  
But he will not forget you  
That you must know

He loves little children  
As everyone should  
For he knows all children  
Are obedient and good

Then his presents he'll leave  
And hurry away  
And pray God watch o'er you  
'Til the next Christmas Day

*By Michael Godfrey*



At the Stations in Carmel Waldron's, Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis; L-R: Justina Lyons, Peg Culliney, Kathleen Caulfield, Mary Moran and Geraldine Regan.

# Renew

**E**ARLY in 1996, the Bishops of the Western dioceses planned to initiate a programme of spiritual growth among the people. Their hope was that this would stimulate prayer and faith of young and old. When brought to the priests in the parishes, the idea was welcomed with joy and enthusiasm.

*By Maura Griffin*

Over the Summer, in the parish of Annagh, Fr. Cooney P.P. and Fr. O'Grady C.C. looked for volunteers who would train as leaders in the Renew programme. A number of parishioners came forward and devoted their time and energy to getting ready to launch the Bishops' idea. Starting at the beginning of October, Renew was planned to go on for six weeks. There were two ways of participating: first of all, everyone was invited to recite the Renew Prayer daily and it was said at all Masses in the Church. A little booklet was produced suggesting Scripture Readings and reflections for each day. In addition to that, groups of ten to twelve people under trained leaders would meet once each week to read

passages from Scripture, to discuss them and see how they apply to life today.

Special groups were organised for teenagers who wished to take part. Those who joined in the Renew Programme found it a very worthwhile experience. The Prayer Programme will resume in Lent 1997.

## Renew Prayer

*Lord, we are your people  
The sheep of your flock  
Heal us when we are wounded  
Comfort us when we are in pain  
Touch us when we are lonely  
Strengthen us when we are weak  
Help us to know the Father's love  
Through Jesus the Shepherd  
And through the Spirit.  
Help us to lift up that love  
And show it all over this land  
Help us to build love on justice  
And justice on love.  
Help us to believe mightily  
Hope joyfully, love divinely  
Renew us that we may help  
Renew the face of the earth*

Amen.



Elizabeth MacNicholas, Clagnagh, Died 5th August 1971, her Mother Ellen Freely, Died 19th November 1941. (Courtesy John Morley Clagnagh)



Jack Lyons, Logboy and Mrs. D. Lyons (née Jordan). Murray's Ford Model T Motor Car and Jordan's house in Devils are visible in the background.

(Courtesy Mrs. Noreen Horkan)



Three classmates who joined the Mercy Order, November, 1956. They celebrated forty years in religious life in November, 1996. Left to right: Kathleen Hunt, Lecarrow; Joan Fahy, Main Street; and Mary Concannon, Brickens.



# Ballyhaunis Rugby Club

**U**NDoubtedly, the highlight of last season was the victory over Sligo to retain the Dr. Shield's trophy. The game was won in fine style - every player giving his best. The trophy was presented afterwards by Mrs. Una Shields, wife of the late Dr. Shields, to David Walsh, President of the Club.

## By Ruairi Caulfield

This season, the club currently fields a team in the Connaught League, which has resumed since last October. We also play friendly games against various clubs all around, so,

matches are played almost every Sunday. There are also under-age teams fielded as well, Under-18, Under-16 and Under-14 in League and Cup. The current Coach for the under-age teams is Kevin Henry.

The Club's bingo runs every Thursday night in Julian's, Midfield. It has been running now for two years, and is a big success. There is also a lotto run, with the last jackpot of just over £3,000 being won last September.

Our coach for the last three years, Tony McDonagh, has been transferred from his job in the Ulster Bank, Ballyhaunis, to Castlereagh. We wish Tony

the best of luck in his new position and thank him for all his time over the seasons in helping out the team.

This year the Club's Officers are: President: David Walsh; Vice-President: Peter Gallagher; Secretary: Eamonn Healy; Treasurer: John Ryan; Fixtures Secretary: Brendan Morrissey; P.R.O.: Ruairi Caulfield; Team Captain: Mark Gallagher.

Those interested in joining the club or wishing to play, are always welcome. Training is on Tuesday and Friday nights at 8.30 p.m. at the old pitch, across from Major Steel. We look forward to seeing new players and members.



John Healy, Curries, Granduncle of Helen Meehan, Curries. Photo taken c.1897.



Pioneer Members for 50 years - Seamus and Eleanor Forde of Reask, Began who were presented with Gold Pioneer Pins.

# Ballyhaunis I.C.A.

**M**AYO Federation commenced in 1953 and we hosted our First Council Meeting in 1970. The Presidential Chain of Office was presented to us by the A.I.B. in 1980. At our Federation meetings, which are held four times a year in different parts of the County, there is always a competition for members, and we hold raffles and sales of work in aid of expenses. We invite speakers on subjects such as Women's Health, Family Law, Security in the Home and Personal Safety.

## By Veronica Freyne

Discussions on education at all levels are popular and we are pleased to now have third-level education available in our own county. Members also serve on local bodies - Committees of Education and Agriculture. There are dedicated members involved at every level of service throughout the County.

At a local level we began our summer meeting by electing a new Guild President, Mrs. Angela Waldron, whom we are sure will guide us to even greater achievements, and we wish her a happy and fruitful term of office.

This being the year of "Life-Long Learning" members embarked on a variety of new projects. Mrs. Veronica Freyne obtained her Teaching Diploma and held an Exhibition of Traditional Irish Lace in "An Grianan", our wonderful college in Co. Louth.

We have also extended our Physical Health programme and held a Federation Sports Function during the summer months which involved walking, swimming and cycling. This was one of our



Mrs. Veronica Freyne completed the Dublin Women's Mini Marathon for the third time in aid of charity.

most successful ventures.

Mrs Veronica Freyne completed the Dublin Women's Mini-Marathon for the third year. As a charitable organisation we strive to raise funds, and we continue to support the Hospice Movement. We thank most sincerely all the good friends who have so generously supported our officers.

We hold our meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 8 pm in the Parochial Hall. Do drop in to see what we are all about. We extend a warm welcome to you all. We know we have something to interest YOU!

Officers: President: Mrs. Angela Waldron; Vice-President: Mrs. Mary Donnelly; Secretary: Mrs. Veronica Freyne; Treasurer: Mrs. Maura Fitzmaurice; P.R.O.: Mrs. Catherine Carney.

# Contributors

*SOME of our readers may not be familiar with all of our contributors, so the following may be of interest :*

**Tony Boyle** lives at present in Claregalway. A former member of the bar staff in Gallagher's, Main St., he has been a regular contributor to Annagh magazine for many years.

**Michael Godfrey.** A native of Tullaghan in the parish of Annagh, Michael now resides in Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon. A gifted poet and song-writer, he has written several famous songs which have been recorded by Margo, amongst others.

**Bill Naughton.** Born in Ballyhaunis, Bill and his family moved to Bolton, England, in his childhood. He has become recognised as one of the most important figures in English Literature and his better known works include "Spring and Port Wine" and "Alfie."

**Josephine Ganley.** From Lisacul originally, Josephine is married to Pat Ganley and they live in Crossard. She was a member of the team which produced the Profile magazine in 1995/'96.

**Anthony Jordan** was born in Knox St., Ballyhaunis son of Tom and Delia (Kedian) Jordan. A Principal Teacher in Sandymount, Dublin, he has a number of books to his credit including biographies of Capt. John McBride, Sean McBride, Conor Cruise O'Brien and Winston Churchill.

**Jim Cribbin** resides in Johnstown. He has been a regular contributor to Annagh since its inception in 1978, and to its predecessor the Parish Newsletter in the early seventies.

**Agatha Higgins.** Daughter of Seamus and Mrs. Clarke of Devlis, Agatha is married to Vincent Higgins, a native of Irishtown. They live in Knockbrack.

**Gerry Cribbin** lives in Tooraree and is a well known local Historian and Archaeologist. He has been employed as guide and tutor by staff and students of the University of Manchester during their fieldwork trips to this area.

**David Shimwell** is attached to the Department of Geography, University of Manchester. He is a frequent visitor to the parishes of Annagh and Kiltullagh and has organised and supervised several important scientific studies in the locality.

**Anna Henry.** A native of Killala, Anna (née Gillespie) is married to Kevin Henry, Upper Main St. She teaches in the Community School and has played leading roles with both St. Patrick's Dramatic Society and the Musical Society.

**Willie Ryan.** A director of the Ryan's Supermarket group, Willie is son of Paddy and Josie (Carroll) Ryan. He is a well-known sports broadcaster with MWR fm.

**Bridie Brennan,** a native of Claremorris, Bridie is married to Paddy Brennan, ex-postmaster.

**Agnes Heaney** (née Mullarkey) is a native of Bargarriff where she resides at present. Her husband Padraic is a native of Garrymore. Her article "The Rambling House" which was published appeared in the 1995 Annagh magazine appeared in the Irelands Own and Irelands Eye recently.

**Mary Donnelly** (née Boyle) is daughter of Brod and Peg (Lyons) Boyle of Ballinphuill. She lives in Ballinphuill with her husband Jim, a native of Milltown, Co. Galway, and family.

**Veronica Freyne** comes from Began and lives in Clare St., Ballyhaunis. She is closely involved with the ICA at national level and has won many prizes for her craftwork.

**Michael Byrne** lives in Clare St. with his wife and family. They run the highly acclaimed Public House. He is the local correspondent for the Connacht Telegraph.

**Kay Curley** is married to Patrick Curley, a native of Main St., Ballyhaunis. They live with their family in Hazelhill.

**Seán Ó Domhnaill** is a native of Barna, Co. Galway. He is the local correspondent for the Western People.

**Murt Hunt** is a regular and popular contributor to Annagh Magazine. He, and his late wife Anne, organised several Parish Pilgrimages to Lourdes

**Aine Hunt** is daughter of Murt and the late Anne Hunt. A pupil of the Convent of Mercy, she has inherited her father's literary and poetic skills.

**Bernard Freyne** is a native of Clare St., and son of Anges (Dyer) and the late Sean Freyne. He has a well-known Archaeologist and resides with his wife Mary (Mulkeen) and family in Devlis.

**Eamon Murren** is a Secondary Teacher in St. Gerald's College, Castlebar. He commutes regularly between Ballyhaunis and Castlebar and is well known in both towns.

**Fr. Joe Cooney.** A native of Cross-boyne, Fr. Cooney was previously stationed in Tuam and came to Ballyhaunis in 1994 when he succeeded Canon Costello as Parish Priest.

**James Reidy** comes from Island. He is a secondary School teacher in Castlebar and lives in Doctor's Road. He is secretary of Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club.

**Joe Greene** operates the well-known Greensprint printing service with his son Alex from their premises on Main St. Joe has an avid interest in things historical and literary.

**Eleanor Freyne** (née Eaton), is married to Nicholas and they live in Coolnahaa. Eleanor is the Ballyhaunis librarian.

**David Nestor** is a student in U.C.D. He played under-21 for Mayo in 1995 and corner-forward in the Mayo Senior Team this year. He is son of Billy and Eileen Nestor (née Lyons, Main Street).



**Laura Nestor** is daughter of Billy and Eileen Nestor and is a student in the Community School, Ballyhaunis.

**Anne Nestor** (née Waldron, Irishtown) is married to Tony Nestor and they live in Bracklaghboy.

**John Dillon**, a travel agent and Director of Knock International Airport from the beginning. The Dillon premises is on The Square, Ballyhaunis.

**Martin Fitzmaurice**, a native of Gurteenbeg. He lives in Devlis with his wife, Patricia (née Lyons, Erriff). He is the youngest son of Mai and the late Tommy Fitzmaurice and is a member of the popular local band, Tempo.

**Kay Higgins** is a native of Claremorris and is married to Galway-man, Pete Higgins. She is a hairdresser with her premises in Knox Street.

**Mark Godfrey** comes from Ballykilleen, Cloonfad. He is a student in Dublin City University.

**Dee Dee Hosty** is a foreign languages student in University College Limerick. She is a daughter of Joe and Anne Hosty, Levallyroe.

**Leanne Murphy**. An up and coming poet, Leanne is daughter of Micheál and Dolores (née Halpin) Murphy. The Murphy family live in Annagh.

**Tina Waldron** is married to Seamus Waldron, originally from Woodpark. They live in Drimbane.

**Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A.** is a native of the Sliabh Luachra district in County Cork. Since coming to Ballyhaunis he has published several historical and religious works. He is also a poet.

**Tom Keane** was born and reared in Kiltaboe, where his brother Mick, still lives. Another brother, Pat, was as shoemaker in Lower Main Street. Tom currently lives in Dublin.

**Pat O'Connor** is a native of County Meath. Pat lives with his wife, Patricia and family in Hazelhill.

**Marie Jordan** is married to David Jordan. They live in Lecarrow and have a deer farm.

**Ruarí Caulfield** is son of Martin and Noreen Caulfield, Carrowkeel. He is a member of the Ballyhaunis Rugby Club.



Paul Waldron, Annagh Editor; Jack Halpin, President of Annagh Magazine Society; and Jim Lundon, Assistant Editor, putting the finishing touches to the 1996 Annagh.

**John P. Healy** was born in Cumber, Aghamore, and worked for several years in Ballyhaunis. He was a regular and popular contributor to Annagh magazine. He died in July, 1995 (R.I.P.).

**Tom Kelly** is deputy editor of the Connaught Telegraph, Castlebar.

**Cecily Garvey-Moran** operates a educational books and supplies shop in Knox Street. She has a keen interest in matters historical.

**Anthony Robinson** was born in Clare Street, the son of Tim and Sarah Robinson. He lives in Roscommon.

**Kathleen Walsh Finneran** was born and reared in Barrack Street. She and her Sligo-born husband live in England.

**Frank Glynn** was born in Clare Street. He recently retired from the Canadian Mounted Police and lives in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

**Mrs. Kathleen Flanagan, R.I.P.** (née Grogan) of Spaddagh. She was a regular contributor the old Ballyhaunis parish newsletter in the 'seventies. Her son is John Joe Flanagan, Spaddagh.

**Mary Duffy** and **Anne Peyton** were employees of Farah (Ireland) Ltd., Ballyhaunis.

**Seamus Durkan** lives in Abbey Street. He has been foremost in the Scout-ing movement in Ireland for many years.

**Jack Halpin** lives in Main Street. He is President of Annagh Magazine Society.

**Michael F. Waldron M.A., L.L.B.** lived in Knox Street and died in the 'fifties. He took a great interest in local and historical matters and was a regular contributor to both provincial and national publications.

**David Dwane**, born in Clare Street, Ballyhaunis, son of Eamonn and Rosaleen (née Garvey) Dwane. He is advertising manager in the Western People and a well-known musician.

**Canon Patrick Costelloe** was parish priest of Annagh, until his retirement in 1993. He is currently C.C. in Kilcoona, County Galway.

**Seamus Caulfield**, son of Kathleen and the late Vincent Caulfield, Upper Main Street. He is married to Aisling Webb of Devlis and is captain of the Ballyhaunis Gaelic team.

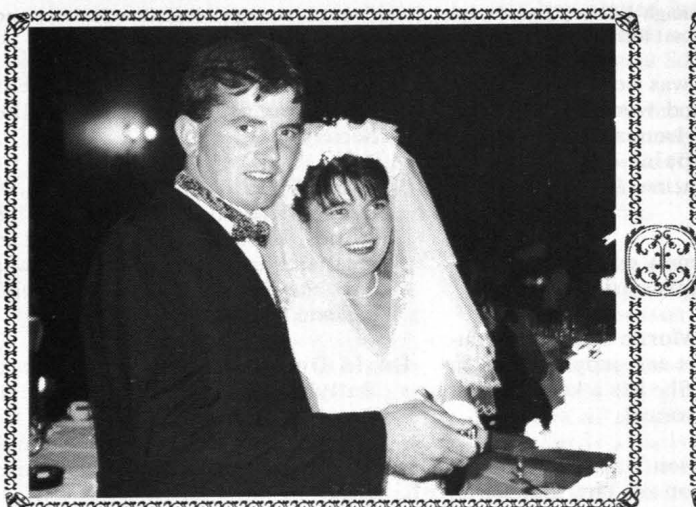
**Jim Lundon** is a native of Dingle, County Kerry. He is principal of St. Mary's Primary School, Ballyhaunis, since 1976.

**Maura Griffin** lives in Clare Street, a native of County Longford and taught for many years in Convent of Mercy Secondary School and the Community School, Ballyhaunis.

**Paul Waldron**, a native of Cave, where he still resides. He is son of Valentine and Olive Waldron. He is current editor of Annagh magazine.



Olive Greally, Drimbrane and James Clarke, Delvis, married 27th July 1996, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



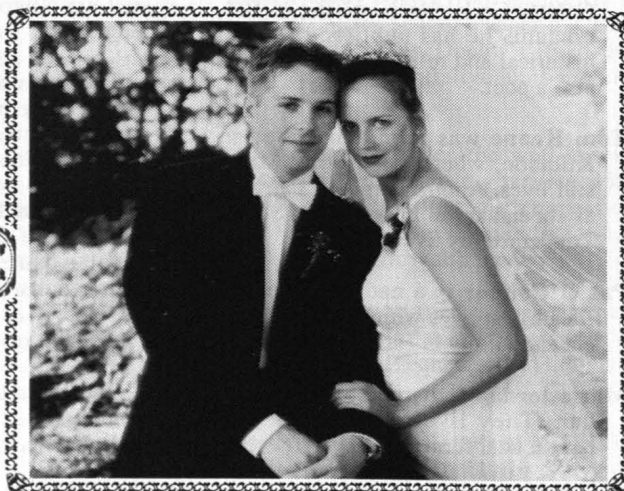
Bernie Jordan, Johnstown and Tom Concannon, Kilconly, Tuam, married 27th September 1996, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Mary Frances Byrne, Johnstown and Paul Meehan, Dunmore, married 5th August 1996, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Paul McGuire, Lisbane and Mary O'Malley, Ballymacragh, Castlebar, married 29th September 1996, in Church of Holy Rosary, Castlebar.



Peadar Walsh, Knock Road and Yvonne Gallagher, Castlebar and Main Street, Ballyhaunis, married 13th September 1996, in Mayo Abbey Church.



# ding ls




Audrey Ryan, Hazelhill and Colm O'Shea, Dublin, married 2nd June 1996, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Cathriona Madden, Gurteen and Tom Concannon, Kiltimagh, married 11th May 1996.



Imelda Waldron, Lisduff and Eamon Caulfield, Williamstown, married 27th July 1996, at The Friary Church, Ballyhaunis.

## Marriages in the Parish of Annagh

*Nov. 1995 to Oct. 1996*

John Bernard Fox, Castle St., Castlebar, and Lorraine Maria Haugh, Main St., Castlereagh. Michael Donnellan, Belmont, Milltown, and Sandra O'Dowd, Holywell.

Kieran O'Grady, Ballindrimley, Castlereagh, and Regina Mary Higgins, Knock Road.

Colm Joseph O'Shea, Kenilworth Park, Dublin, and Audrey Josephine Ryan, Hazelhill.

Eric Gerard Dempsey, Glasnevin, Dublin, and Margaret Esther Murphy, Glasnevin, Dublin.

John Desmond Potter, Clontarf, Dublin, and Barbara Levins, Clare St.

Scott David McCabe, Chicago, U.S.A., and Marie Katherine Concannon, Chicago, U.S.A.

Seamus Caulfield, Upper Main St, and Aisling Webb, Devlis.

Sean Devane, Curraghmore, Scardaun, Claremorris, and Christina Thompson, Aisling Drive.

Eamonn Caulfield, Ballyhaigue, Williamstown, and Imelda Waldron, Lisduff.

James Clarke, Devlis, and Lisa Olive Greally, Drimbane.

Paul Meehan, Sylane East, Dunmore, and Mary Frances Byrne, Johnstown. Peter Bolter, Whitechurch, Cardiff, Wales, Margaret Mary Keenan (neice of Michael Lyons, Classaghroe).

Martin Mulkeen, Lakehill, Knock, and Patricia Mary Dowdall, Devlis.

Seamus Grogan, Doctor's Road, and Paula Egan, Knockbrack.

Thomas Concannon, Ardour, Kilconly, Co. Galway, and Bernadette Jordan, Johnstown.

## Marriages outside the parish

Owen McDonagh and Margaret McDonagh. Patrick Phillips, Main St, and Anne Fitzgerald, Shrule.

Thomas Concannon, Kiltimagh, and Cathriona Madden, Gurteen.

Paul Webb, Main St, and Laura Burke, Devlis.

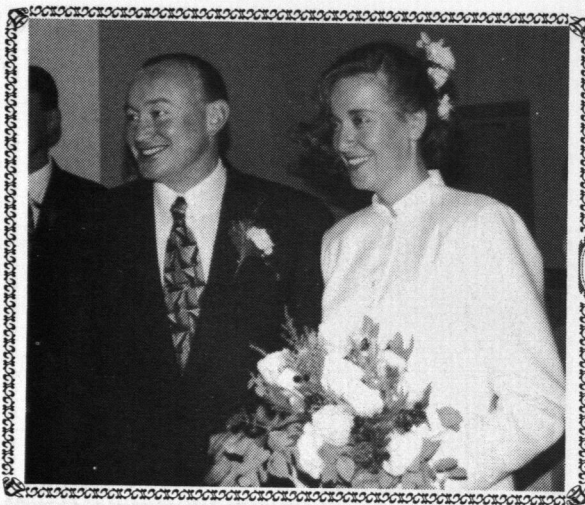
Michael Dempsey, Castlereagh, and Jacqueline Webb, Tooraree.

Peadar Walsh, Knock Road, and Yvonne Gallagher, Castlebar and Main St.

Paul McGuire, Lisbane, and Mary O'Malley, Castlebar.

Vincent Caulfield, Upper Main St, and Maire Connaughton, Co. Galway.

Emmett Keane, Knock Road, and Aoife Hunt, Claremorris.



Vincent Caulfield, Upper Main Street and Maire Connaughton, Loughrea, married 26th October 1996, at the Church of The Holy Family, Clostoken, Loughrea.



Regina Higgins, Knock Road and Kieran O'Grady, Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon, married 30th March 1996, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Barbara Levins, Clare Street and John Potter, Clontarf, Dublin, married 14th June 1996, in The Augustinian Church, Ballyhaunis.



Sandra O'Dowd, Holywell and Michael Donnellan, Belmont, Milltown, married 10th February 1996, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Jacqueline Webb, Tooraree and Michael James Dempsey, Castlereagh, married 2nd July 1996, in The Irish College, Rome.



Joe Keane, Knox Street and Joanne Courts, Coventry, married 7th September 1996, in Coventry.





Patricia Dowdall, Delvis and Martin Mulkeen, Knock, married 17th August 1996, in the Augustinian Church, Ballyhaunis.



Mary Walsh, Ballyglass and Martin Casserley, Knock, married in Ballintubber Abbey.



Séamus Grogan, Doctors Road and Paula Egan, Knockbrack, married 31st August 1996, in the Augustinian Church, Ballyhaunis.



Séamus Caulfield, Upper Main Street and Aisling Webb, Devlis, married 12th July 1996, in the Augustinian Church, Ballyhaunis.



Joseph Tighe, Tooraree and Marie Boyle, Aughacashel, Leitrim, married 25th May 1996, in St. Mary's Church, Aughnasheelin.



Peter Bolter and Margaret Keenan, Cardiff, married 24th August 1996, in the Augustinian Abbey, Ballyhaunis. The bride is a niece of Michael Lyons, Classaroe.

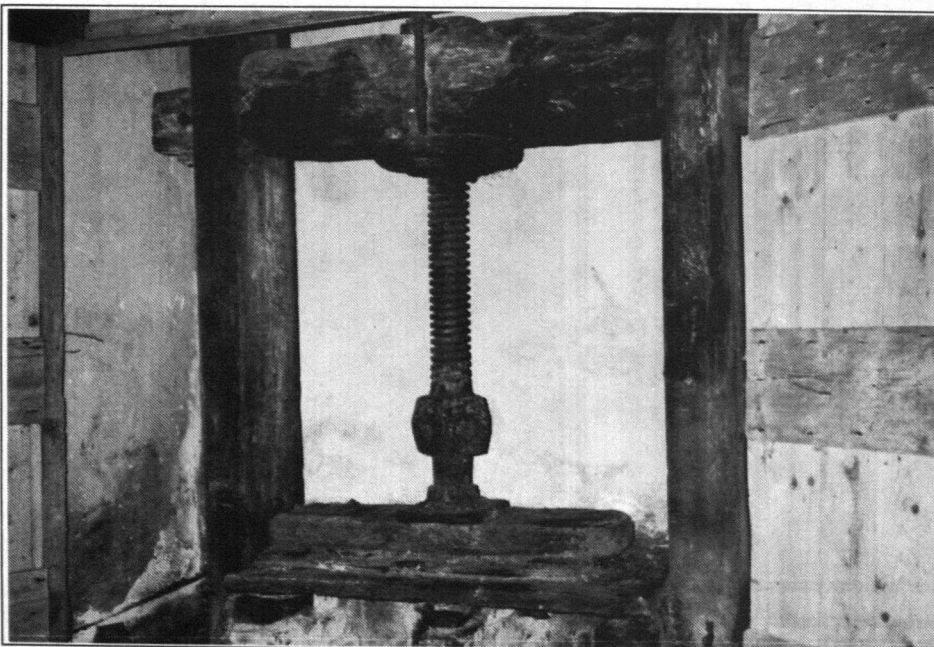
## Deceased of the Parish

*November 1st 1995 to November 1st 1996*

Fr. Kieran Fahy P.P., Abbeyquarter and U.S.A.  
 Mrs. Bridget Gilmore, Pollnacraoghy.  
 Anthony Waldron, Upper Main St.  
 Patrick Waldron, Derrylahan.  
 Tom Gilmore, Devlis.  
 Jim Donoghue, St. Gerard's Crescent.  
 Bernard Rogers, Devlis.  
 Tom Flatley, Clare St.  
 Mrs. Christina Elwood, Upper Main St.  
 Bridget Mary Leo, Upper Main St.  
 Francis Connolly, Devlis.  
 Aileen Holton, Charlestown and Main St.  
 Sally Waldron, Brackloon South.  
 Delia Grogan, Killunagher.  
 Mrs. Maureen Cleary, Clare St.  
 Patrick Freeley, Derrynacong.  
 James Reidy, Island.  
 Mrs. Margaret Boyle, Ballinphuill.  
 Sr. Dymphna Mooney, Convent of Mercy.  
 Damien Webb, Devlis.  
 Paul Treston, Station Rise.  
 Michael Kenny, Skeaghard.  
 Sean Durkan, Abbey St.  
 Annie Kennedy, Annagh and Clare St.  
 John Healy, Annagh.  
 Martin Fahey, Levallyroe.  
 William Flatley, Leo and Devlis.  
 Mrs. Mary Monica Ellis, Spaddagh and England.  
 Mrs. Marcella O'Brien, Tavnaghmore.  
 Edward Webb, Main St.  
 John McGrath, Curries.  
 Mrs. Kathleen Lyons, Knockbrack.  
 Thomas Ruane, Derrintogher.  
 Owen Kilduff, Barrack St.  
 Frank Garside, Lisduff.  
 David Judge, Lisduff.  
 Mrs. Maura Herr, Knox St.



Above: The Kilmannin  
Ogham Stone.  
(Courtesy of The Department  
of Archaeology, U.C.G.)



Linen Press in Dotie Dillon's,  
Abbey Street.  
(Courtesy Gerry Cribbin)



# Patrons

*Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present.*

Abbey Electrical, Abbey Street .....	31092
A.I.B. Bank, Bridge Street .....	30464/30726
Alberto's Bar, Restaurant, Carvery, Lunch Daily .....	Fax. (091) 756678; Ph. 30443
Alma's Ladies' and Gent's Hairdressing Salon, Clare Street .....	30354
Augustinian Fathers (Hon.), The Abbey .....	30031
Avondale B & B, High Class Accommodation, Clare St. (Prop. Bridie Levins) .....	30345
Ballyhaunis Transport Service; to/from Dublin, Mon./Wed./Fri. ....	(088) 549077, 30477
Bank of Ireland, The Square .....	30073
Bridge Club, Ballyhaunis .....	
Burke, D.H., Supermarket, Upr. Main Street .....	30482
Burke, Tom, M.R.C.V.S., Abbey Street .....	30225
Byrne, Patrick, Victualler & Grocer, Knox Street .....	30283
Byrne's Bar, Clare Street .....	30039
Campbell's, Auctioneers & Insurance Brokers, Knox Street .....	30082
Carewell Registered Private Nursing Home, Knox St., Ballyhaunis .....	30833
Carney, Eugene, The Gem, Newsagency, Toys, Jewellery, Grocery .....	30840
Central Hotel (Props: John and Carmel Vahey) .....	30030
Chamber of Commerce (Barry Butler, Secretary) .....	
Christina's Curtain Centre, Barrack St., .....	30441
Churchfield House Hotel, Knock .....	(094) 88281 / 88556
Clock Tavern, Knox Street .....	30344
Colleran's Pharmacy, Bridge Street .....	30028
Community School (Ballyhaunis), Knock Road .....	30238
Connacht Scaffolding Ltd. ....	Fax: 30336; Tel. 30198
Connaught Arms, Knox St. ....	
Connolly's Kitchens, Galway Rd., Ballyhaunis .....	0907 30327
Cooney, Rev. Joseph, P.P. (Hon), Parochial House .....	30006
Credit Union, Ballyhaunis & District, Main Street .....	30998
Crehan's, Martin, Supply and Fix all Concrete Products .....	30328
Cunningham, Paddo, Londis Foodmarket, Abbey Street .....	30730/30162
Curley's Bar, Clare Street .....	30077
Curley's Chemists, Main Street .....	30110
Curley's Jewellery & Cosmetics, Bridge Street .....	30110
Curran's Pub, Bridge Street .....	30357
Daly's Electrical, Domestic Appliances, Bridge Street .....	30987

<b>Delaney, Paddy</b> , Select Bar & Lounge, Abbey Street .....	30024
<b>Delaney's Ltd.</b> , Hardware, Paint, Household, Gifts, Bridge Street .....	30296
<b>De-Luxe Cleaning</b> (Vincent Higgins), Carpets, Upholstery, etc. Ballyhaunis .....	30284
<b>Dillon's Travel Agency</b> , Fancy Goods, The Square .....	30021
<b>Doherty's Betting Office</b> , Main Street .....	30628/30738
<b>Donnellan's Joinery</b> , Undertakers, Funeral Home.....	30045
<b>Donnellan's Service Station</b> , Devlis, Heating Oil and Motor Deisel .....	31151
<b>Durkan's</b> , Drinks Distributors, Devlis.....	Fax. 30615; Tel. 30034
<b>Eagney Insurance Services Ltd.</b> , Bridge Street .....	Fax. 30795; Tel. 30793/30794
<b>Electrical &amp; Pump Services Ltd.</b> , Ballyhaunis .....	Fax. 30761; Tel. 30226
<b>Finn, Tom</b> , Footwear Specialists, Ballyhaunis & Kiltimagh.....	30141
<b>Fitzgerald's Grocery &amp; Confectionery</b> , Bridge Street.	
<b>Flogas (Ireland) Ltd.</b> , Ballyhaunis .....	Fax. 30040; Tel. 30883
<b>Forde's Ltd.</b> , The House For All The Family, The Square .....	30013
<b>Forkan's B &amp; B</b> , (en-suite rooms - private parking), Knox Street.....	30888
<b>Freyne, Bernard</b> , Freyne Gas Service, Hazelhill .....	Fax. 30040; Tel. 30152
<b>Freyne's Garage &amp; Filling Station</b> , Clare Street .....	30043
<b>G.A.A. Sports Club</b> (Chairman: Gerry Lyons, Knockbrack).....	30737
<b>Gallagher's Builders' Providers</b> , Furniture, Main Street and Clare Road .....	30314/30020
<b>Garvey-Moran, C.</b> , School Supplies, Knox Street.....	30079
<b>Gerry's Barber Shop</b> , Barrack Street .....	31014
<b>Glynn (Pat)</b> , Photographer, Doctor's Road .....	20094
<b>Golf Club</b> , Ballyhaunis, Coolnaha .....	30014
<b>Greensprint</b> , Main Street .....	Fax/Tel. 30597
<b>Griffin (John)</b> , Orthodontist, Knock Road.....	30534
<b>Griffin (Mike)</b> , Taxi Service, Clare Road, Devlis .....	30213
<b>Grogan (Austin) &amp; Sons</b> , Concrete Products, Cave .....	30072
<b>Gun Club</b> , Ballyhaunis & District (Chairman: Eamon Burke) .....	30151
<b>Halpin's, Breege and John</b> , Floral Occasions and Coffee Dock, Main St. ....	30012
<b>Harvest Fresh</b> , Fruit, Veg., Main Street .....	30736
<b>Hazelhill Bed &amp; Breakfast</b> (Prop.: Martina & Michael Gallagher) .....	30605
<b>Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd.</b> (Milo Henry), Europallets .....	Fax. 30825; Tel. 30094
<b>Healy (Joe)</b> , Registered Building Contractor, Annagh .....	30481
<b>Helen's Launderette</b> , Barrack Street .....	30841
<b>Herr (Fred)</b> , Grocer, Knox Street.	
<b>Higgins (Jim)</b> , T.D., Devlis.....	30052
<b>Higgins (Pat)</b> , Mayo Co. Council, Devlis .....	30052
<b>Hopkins (Tom)</b> , Grocer & Newsagent, Upper Main St.....	30076
<b>Horan's Tudor Inn</b> , Main Street .....	30885
<b>Horse Shoe Inn</b> , Abbey Street .....	30178
<b>Irises Florists - Interflora</b> , Main St. ....	30015



<b>Irish Ale Breweries,</b> .....	Fax. (0907) 30158; Tel. 30130/30158
<b>Irish Country Meats (Ballyhaunis),</b> Clare Road .....	Fax. 30561; Tel. 30555
<b>Irish Runner,</b> Frank Greally, Martin Joyce, 228 Harold's Cross Rd., Dublin 6 .....	Fax (01) 4923089; Tel. (01) 4922718
<b>Ironing Parlour,</b> Barrack St., Washing, Drying and Ironing. ....	31220
<b>Jack Halpin's Pub,</b> Pub Grub, Traditional Irish Music, Main Street .....	30012
<b>Jacki's Hair Salon,</b> Bridge Street .....	30807
<b>Jennings (Bernard),</b> Knox Street .....	30315
<b>Johnston's Machinery,</b> Farming Community Specialist, Knox St. ....	30019
<b>Jordan Windows,</b> Clare Street .....	30641
<b>Joyce (Michael),</b> 9 Washington Street West, Cork .....	(021) 270391
<b>Kay's Salon,</b> Knox Street .....	30065
<b>Keane's Kitchens Ltd.,</b> Kitchen, Bedroom, Furniture, Clare Road .....	30038
<b>Keane (Joe),</b> Merchant Tailor, Knox Street .....	30751
<b>Kelliher's,</b> Spar Foodmarket, Main Street .....	30023
<b>Kelly (Padraic),</b> Furniture Manufacturer, Drimbane .....	30089
<b>Kelly (Rosaleen),</b> R.P.N., M.S.R.I., Kinesiology, Learning Difficulties .....	30022
<b>Lilly (John J.),</b> Plant Hire, Johnstown.. ....	30352
<b>Little Brook House,</b> Bed & Breakfast (Prop.: Breda Burke). ....	30151
<b>Loughran (F.J.),</b> M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S., Upper Main Street.....	30017
<b>Lyons (James),</b> Publican, Main Street.	
<b>Lyons (Michael),</b> Coach & Minibus Hire, Lecarrow .....	30347
<b>McGarry (Gerard &amp; Associates),</b> Development Consultants, Architects, Engineers.....	30170
<b>McGarry's,</b> Ladies Wear .....	30084
<b>McGuire, Seamus,</b> Johnstown Taxi Service. ....	(087) 678857 or (087) 404048
<b>McHugh (Terence),</b> High Class Victualler, Abbey Street .....	30061
<b>McNamara Car Dismantlers,</b> Dublin Road .....	30439
<b>MacSiurtáin,</b> Publican, Main Street .....	30854
<b>Madden (Gerald),</b> Snooker Tables, Gurteen .....	30228
<b>Meadow Farm Eggs (M.Caulfield),</b> Carrowkeel .....	30183
<b>Meehan Memorials,</b> Annagh .....	30203
<b>Mercy Sisters (Hon.),</b> Upr. Main Street .....	30108
<b>Mobile Tractor Repairs -</b> on call Day and Night, Ring: Eamonn .....	30386
<b>Moran Bros. Ltd.,</b> Building/Publ. Wks. Contrs., Tooraree. (Members 6-year Structural Guarantee Sch.) .....	30146/30725
<b>Moran (Donal),</b> Television Systems Ltd., Knox St. ....	30569
<b>Moran (Donal K. &amp; Sons),</b> Building Contractor .....	30079
<b>Moran's Coaches &amp; Minibus Hire,</b> Knock Road .....	Fax./Tel. 30346
<b>Moran (Tommie),</b> Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main St. ....	30493
<b>Morley (P.J.),</b> T.D., Began .....	(094) 80217
<b>Morley (Tony) &amp; Sons,</b> Exterior & Interior Decorators, Knox St. ....	30944
<b>Mulhern (Edward),</b> Bar & Taxi Service, Clare St. ....	30249
<b>Mulrennan (Jas.) &amp; Sons Ltd.,</b> Fitted Kitchens & Bedrooms Specialists (Keane's Kitchen Centre) .....	30038

<b>Munro (Brian) &amp; Sons, Insurance Broker</b> .....	30343
<b>Murphy's Auto Sales, Service Station and Shop, Dublin Road</b> .....	30307
<b>Murphy (Eddie) &amp; Sons, Menswear Specialists, Main Street</b> .....	30651
<b>M.W.R. F.M. 96.1, Abbey Street</b> .....	Ads: 30553 / Requests: 30169
<b>N.C.F. Ltd, Mart and Stores</b> .....	30166
<b>Nestor &amp; Co., Accountants, Upper Main Street</b> .....	Fax. 30294; Tel. 30005
<b>Newsround, Newsagency, Toys, Giftware, Cards, Main Street</b> .....	30897
<b>Nolan's Engineering and Mobile Welding, Togher</b> .....	30205
<b>Nolan's Pub, Knox St.</b> .....	301174
<b>O'Brien (John), Auctioneer, E.B.S. Agent, Main Street</b> .....	30088
<b>O'Connor, John, Ronoco Ltd., Doctor's Road</b> .....	30037
<b>O'Grady, Rev. James, C.C. (Hon), Upper Main Street</b> .....	30095
<b>Oak Bar (Niall Delaney)</b> .....	30099
<b>Originals by Mary Smyth Ltd., Designers of Unique Clothes, Main Street</b> .....	30373
<b>Parochial Hall, Bingo.</b> .....	30212
<b>Patterson (Noel), Main Street</b> .....	Fax. 30865; Tel. 30113
<b>Phillips (Charlie) &amp; Sons, Shoes and Drapers, Main Street</b> .....	30368
<b>Phillips (Eamon), High Class Victualler, Main Street</b> .....	30381
<b>Phillips (Paddy), Publican</b> .....	30118
<b>Rattigan's Bar, Knox Street</b> .....	30157
<b>Royal Breffni Pub, Knox St.</b> .....	
<b>Rochford Motors, Main Mitsubishi Dealers, Knock Road</b> .....	Fax 30570; Tel. 30163/30350
<b>Ruane (P.), Radio and T.V. Dealer / Repairs, Knox St.</b> .....	30129
<b>Ryan's Super-Valu, Main St., Free parking at rear of store for all our customers</b> .....	30359
<b>Scott's Hot Bread Shop, Main St.</b> .....	
<b>Shop 'n' News, Foodstore &amp; Newsagents, Abbey Street</b> .....	30950
<b>St. Mary's Primary School, Abbeyquarter</b> .....	30310
<b>St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School, Abbey Street</b> .....	30505
<b>St. Patrick's Dramatic Society</b> .....	
<b>T.C. Fast Foods, Main St. and N60 Bridge Street</b> .....	30357
<b>Tynan Dillon &amp; Co., Chartered Accountants, Clare Street</b> .....	30261
<b>Ulster Bank Ltd., Abbey Street</b> .....	30049
<b>Val's: Michael &amp; Bernie Quinn, for Food and Accommodation, Main Street</b> .....	30068
<b>Valerie's - Ladies' &amp; Gents' Hair Salon, Barrack Street</b> .....	30681
<b>Wash Tub, Launderette &amp; Dry Cleaners, Same Day Service, Ironing Service</b> .....	30449
<b>Webb (M.J.), Master Butcher, Main Street</b> .....	30003
<b>Webb, T.J., Catering and Retail Butcher, Bridge St.</b> .....	30041; (088) 679190
<b>Western Brand Chickens Ltd., Fresh and Frozen Daily</b> .....	Fax. 30834; Tel. 30069
<b>Winston (Gerard), Family Grocer, Devlis</b> .....	30395

*The Annagh Magazine Society wishes all the compliments of the season.*





Jim Waldron, Derrynacong, and his sister Mrs. Delia Grogan, Spaddagh, photographed in May 1963. Mrs. Grogan was for many years Prefect of the Derrynacong Sodality. An extract of her Sodality Book from 1897 (left) is reproduced here.

Delia Grogan  
 Kathleen Grogan  
 Margaret Connolly  
 Mary B. Kelly  
 Anne Tully  
 Kate Maule  
 Delia Londe  
 Mary Kedian  
 Mary Deacy  
 Ellen Fitzmaurice  
 Mary Regan  
 Mary R. Regan  
 Ellen Kenny  
 Anne Tully  
 Annie M. Hunt  
 Janie Lark  
 Nora Keir  
 Mary Caulfield  
 Mary A. Giblin  
 Ellen Waldron  
 Margaret Kedian  
 Mary Kedian  
 Delia Hunt  
 Delia Fitzmaurice  
 Kate Jennings  
 Nora Waldron  
 Lizzie Hunt  
 Delia Oyer

1	Delia Waldron	Derrynacong	1 <sup>st</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 1893
2	Statie Waldron	Derrynacong	1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 1897
3	Cathrine Waldron		1 <sup>st</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 93
4	Maggie Waldron		1 <sup>st</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 93
5	Mary Waldron		1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 98
6	Cathrine A. Waldron		14 <sup>th</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> 95
7	Mary P. Fitzmaurice		1 <sup>st</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 1893
8	Mary Fitzmaurice		1 <sup>st</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 93
9	Anne C. Connell		11 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 94
10	Eliza Indian		1 <sup>st</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> 94
11	Kate Cox		1 <sup>st</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 98
12	Kate Hunt		10 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup> 94
13	Mary Dunn		11 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 94
14	Cathrine Quinn		18 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 95
15	Ellen Lark		14 <sup>th</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> 95
16	Mary Fitzmaurice		15 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> 95
17	Mary Hunt		1 <sup>st</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 93
18	Ellen Fitzmaurice	1 <sup>st</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> 97	10 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup> 94
19	Bridget Finney		1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 97
20	Maria Waldron	Monaghan	10 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup> 14
21	Annie Giblin		1 <sup>st</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 93
22	Anne S. Giblin		12 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 96
23	Bridget Hunt		1 <sup>st</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> 95
24	Anne Higgins	Br. 1 <sup>st</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> 97	1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 94
25	Statie Smyth	Bracklow	1 <sup>st</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup> 94
26	Mary McHugh		15 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 95
27	Cathrine Waldron		12 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 95
28	Cathrine Hunt		11 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 95
29	Anne Dooley	Killengoher	6 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 95
30	Anne Hansborough	Spaddagh	1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 1897
31	Ellen Waldron	Spillyburn	15 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 95
32	Bridget O'Connell	Gulden	1 <sup>st</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> 96
33	Mary Hunt	Parson	
34	Anne Fitzmaurice	Spaddagh	12 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 95
35	Statie O'Connell	Spaddagh	1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 97
36	Cathrine Connell	Spaddagh	1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 97



# Annagh '96

