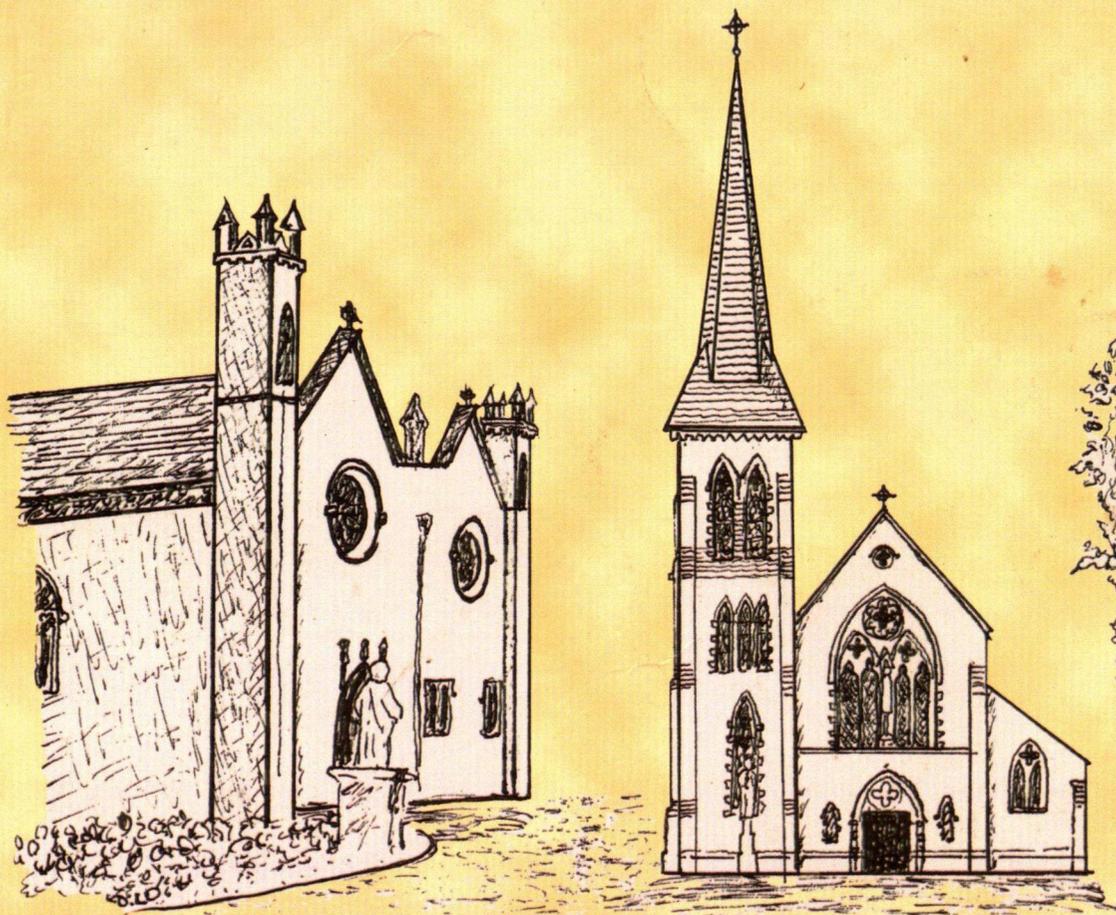


Annagh

Parish Magazine

2000



Ballyhaunis Co. Mayo.

23rd Annual Edition

Ballyhaunis Magazine **Contents**

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Annagh Magazine **Editorial**

Welcome to this, the twenty-third edition of the Annagh Magazine, and we sincerely hope that all our readership, at home and abroad, will enjoy it.

The year 2000 started for all in an optimistic and expectant mood. The parish of Annagh ushered it in by the special New Year's Eve mass, the music for which was composed by our own Noel Henry. The church was bursting at the seams; everyone who could toddle from the babies to the great-grandparents was there. There was a reception afterwards in the Parochial Hall. Two great ladies from the Parish Council, assisted by a small army of helpers, performed the miracle of the loaves and fishes, only that this time it consisted of tea with buns, cakes, scones and biscuits and soft drinks, bars and sweets for the children. The atmosphere was incredible. It was the friendliest and most unifying assembly I have ever seen.

Four weeks ago the outlook for "Annagh" looked a bit blue. All the Committee members had been very pre-occupied with the ups and downs in their lives. But, then as always the Herculean work began in earnest. Thanks to all our contributors of articles and poems, those who provided photographs old and new, the loyal patrons who support the magazine year after year, it has come to birth.

We would like to pay a special tribute to the young people of Ballyhaunis who are widely scattered throughout the world and who have provided such interesting articles and photographs from their places of work and holiday. Please keep it up; we at home, who have never had the opportunity of travel, love to hear of your adventures and successes. Most of all, we thank our readers at home and overseas. When the magazine sells we know that you enjoy it and it gives us the incentive to continue. Special gratitude also to the printers who work really hard to get it on the shelves in time.

Finally, could we appeal for help? Our committee has become sadly depleted and a few more members would be a Godsend. Could you help?

With best wishes for a happy Christmas and blessed New Year to all.

Editorial Committee

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

I am very happy in this Jubilee Year to convey, through the pages of Annagh Magazine, my best wishes to all its readers and to all parishioners, both at home and abroad for Christmas and the New Year.

The year 2000, the New Millennium, the Jubilee Year began on a very high note with our New Year's Eve Mass in St. Patrick's Church, at the end of which, the Millennium Spire was blessed. It was an unforgettable occasion with the church packed to capacity and the music for the Mass composed for the occasion by Noel Henry and sung for the first time by a choir of fifty voices. Other highlights of the Jubilee Year were the visits to the various burial grounds in the parish. Over two hundred people walked in pilgrimage last June to Holywell where we prayed at the holy well and then visited the adjoining burial ground and the remains of the 13th century church of Annagh. This was followed by well attended visits to burial grounds in Churchpark, Brackloon, Coolnafarna and Tullaghane.



For most people it was a happy beginning to the new millennium and a happy Jubilee Year - births and weddings brought joy to many people but sadly, there were funerals as well. Many of our friends departed this life, some of them well before their time. As we approach the Christmas season we remember them and remember especially their families for whom this will be a lonely Christmas but we want them to know they are not alone, they will be very much in our prayers.

This Christmas also we remember all those from Ballyhaunis who live overseas and will not be home to celebrate the birth of Christ with their families. Christmas is a time for remembering and we assure them they will not be forgotten in our prayers and Masses.

I want to wish them and everyone in our parish a Happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

Joseph Cooney

Fr. Joseph Cooney, P.P.

Front Cover: drawings of St. Mary's Abbey and St. Patrick's Parish Church by Declan Lyons

Key to Photographs on back cover.

Clockwise from left;

Photo 1, left-right: Veronica Moore (nee Tarpey), Teresa Tarpey, Benita Hume (nee Tarpey). Front: Sean Biesty, Daniel Tarpey, Pat Biesty & Dan Tarpey (Carrowkeel)

Photo 2: Melbourne Rose Tara Glynn and Galway Rose Evelyn O'Conner.

Photo 3: Fr. Tim Walsh O.S.A. & Paddy Ryan.

Photo 4: Michael & Margaret Hopkins, Island.

Photo 5: Left - right: Maura Patterson, Paul Fitzmaurice, Mike Phillips, Paul Concannon, Maria Hunt & Mark Madden.

Photo 6: Mary Byrne & Máisín Meath.

Photo 7: Three Webb Sisters. Marita Shannon & Baby Laragh, Aisling Caulfield and Baby Conal, Eavan Caulfield and Baby Patrick.

Annagh Magazine Counter Jumpers

Mike Finnerty

The following is the story of how two young men, sons of small farmers, started their careers as shop assistants, or "counter jumpers", back in the late 40's and early 50's, and today have their own successful businesses. Milo Henry, Gurteen, son of the late Mike and Catherine Henry, is managing director of Hazelhill Timber Products, while Tom Finn of Carrowkeel, son of the late Pat and Delia Finn is the proprietor of Finn Footwear Ballyhaunis and Kiltimagh.

Tom Finn was a shop assistant with McGarry's and began his apprenticeship there on June 23 1953. This is his story in conversation with Mike Finnerty.

The Start...

I left school when I was fourteen and a half years of age, and on the recommendation of the late Bill Mulligan, school principal, I applied for the position at McGarry's. Following my successful application I commenced work there on June 23rd 1953, Bonfire Night! My starting wage was twelve shillings and sixpence per week, I was one of the fortunate ones as many young apprentices received no starting wages and in fact some had to pay to work! My apprenticeship lasted for 3 years, which was the norm at the time. The team in the shop included Phil and Peggy Keenan, Teresa Barrett, Josie Cunnane, Johnny Durkan, Ina Phillips and myself, along with the late P.J McGarry and his late wife Teresa, who were always referred to as "The Boss and The Missus".

At the start I didn't do any sales on my own, I would be looking after stock; folding bales of material, dusting footwear, wrapping parcels etc. I can still see the old brands on the shelves, such as Rawson, Donaghys, and Lee Shoes.

The Working Day...

I cycled from Carrowkeel every morning. Our day started at 10 a.m and went on until 7 or 8 in the evening. On Saturdays however, we worked until 11p.m or until there was no one left on the street.

It was not hard manual work, but I put in very long hours and was kept very busy.

There were so many different things going on in McGarrys, the shop had a Ladies, Gents, General Drapery, Furniture and Footwear Departments, which meant I went from selling shoes, to furniture, to suits etc, all in one day. As "The Boss" was a great DIY man I could more than likely find myself fitting plugs, charging radio batteries or repairing shelves, this really made me a "Jack of all trades"!

The Nightshift...

The McGarry family also owned the Star Cinema and the Eclipse Ballroom, the entertainment centre of Connacht throughout the fifties and sixties. This meant I could augment my weekly wages by working as box-office attendant, usher, snack bar manager, or anything else that may have needed doing' like looking after dance bands, or taking bookings. I saw all of the big bands play there; The Royal Showband, Clipper Carlton, Mick Delahunty, to name but a few.



Gallaghers' staff 1956. Front l-r: John Higgins, Mike Mulkeen R.I.P., Johnny Walsh, Paddy Kilkenny, Brian Clarke. Back Row l-r: Milo Henry, Doc Healy R.I.P., Jack Kilduff R.I.P., Charlie Phillips R.I.P., Tom Fleming R.I.P., Clarence Grogan R.I.P., Tony Carney, Paddy Niland & Paddy Fox.



Milo Henry and Jim Fitzmaurice R.I.P., Gurteen, 26th May 1956.

Fair Days...

These were always very busy days in the shop. As the farmers sold their stock outside, they normally came in to purchase something or pay accounts that may be owing. When someone got credit they always made the statement "I'll pay you when the cow calves".

The fair day was a huge social occasion. The men came to town early in the morning and were followed in the late afternoon by their wives who always had shopping to do.

One of the most unpleasant tasks I had to undertake on Fair Day was to remove the sheep muck from the footpath outside the shop. This was especially difficult on a warm summer's day, it took buckets of water and loads of elbow grease to return the shop front to its normal pristine condition.

The Changes...

The first day I came to work, I went home on a pony and trap with the late Tom Carney and his mother, which was a big treat to me, unimaginable in today's modern world.

All accounts and bookkeeping were done in long hand, everything was totted up in your head, no computers, fax or calculators then! Plastic bags were unheard of, everything had to be parcelled in brown paper and tied with string.

Very eco-friendly of us!

Selling prices were very rarely marked on anything. Every purchase was conducted in a bargaining situation; I asked the price, they made an offer and normally proceeded to the door saying "I'm going". If the price was awfully wrong I let them go, but normally I dropped a few shillings or pence, or else offered to throw in socks, cap etc, this invariably clinched the deal.

No fitting gauges for feet. The mother would come to the shop

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counter with a piece of a stick or a measurement in inches, telling me that is the length of the child's foot, and then I would give her a pair of shoes to fit that size, which somehow always seemed to fit, or as near as!! This wouldn't happen today.

Present Day...

After 22 years I left McGarrys in 1975 to set up my own footwear retailing business in Main Street.

In 1992 my son Austin and I opened our second premises in Kiltimagh.

All of my children were fortunate enough to avail of 2nd and 3rd level education, my education was the great school of life and the "House of McGarry".

Milo Henry started work with Gallaghers' hardware on June 10th, 1947 and now runs his own successful business 'Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd.' on the outskirts of Ballyhaunis. Here he recalls how he learnt his trade...

The Beginning...

I was reasonably good going to school and the Lord have mercy on Bill Mulligan, he was my teacher. He was anxious for me to go to college but my father was dead and my mother could not afford to send me to college. Very few lads from the country went to college in those days so I spent the summer spreading turf in the bog. After a while, I heard that there was a job going in Gallagher's and I thought it was into the drapery that I was going. But to go into the drapery you had to turn right and on my first day I was turned left, into the hardware. That's how I got started and I remember it like it was only yesterday - the 10th June 1947, a pig fair day.

Working there at the time was Michael Brennan, Gerry Niland and myself; we were in the hardware. You had Walter Heneghan, Martin Lydon, and Charlie Philips in the drapery. Martin Cawley ran the bar; Mrs. Kilbride was in the office and Austin McGrath was the lorry driver. We had great days there but the person I remember most is a lady that fed us all and kept us alive for years, a lady called Mary Feeney who worked in the kitchen. I'm sure she's in Heaven now. One regret I have is that I missed her funeral.

The Job...

The greatest fear any of us had when we started was that we would be sacked. That would have been a disaster and, not exaggerating, but it would be like if you committed a murder. There was such a stigma attached to it. Nobody had any money that time but all the staff stayed indoors - I think there were four or five of us to the room. It was very strict though and you had to be in by eleven o'clock. I stayed there a good while, even after I got promoted, and even though I wasn't a lot older I could stay out later whereas the likes of John Higgins and Jackie Walsh had to be in by eleven. It was a good system but it was hard work. Forklifts hadn't really come into operation and I remember lifting a hundred weight bags on the back - cement, lime, coal or whatever it might be. Girders for putting up haysheds as well - they all had to be lifted manually.

Climbing the Ladder...

In 1950 the late Michael Brennan left to go and work in Durkans Castlebar and Gallagher's offered me the job as manager or foreman as they were called in those days. I went from getting



Staff at Kenny's Workshop 1950 - '51. L-R: Jimmy Finn (Erriff R.I.P.), P. Cunniffe (Meeltrane), John Fahy (Brickens), Tom Cunnane (Kilgarriff), Johnny O'Brien (Holywell) & Paddy Waldron (Cloonerriff, Knock)

nothing a week to getting three pound and ten shillings a week. I was so proud. I used to give three quid to my mother and I'd have ten shillings for myself. That time when you started earning you always saved something for the rainy day. I was lucky because the war was over and material was freely available so there was a lot of activity in the building trade. That was the time when people started putting up haybarns and new houses, and I started getting good contacts with a lot of people. I remember going for an interview then with McMahon's Builder's Providers in Limerick in 1956 but they told me I was too young. Four years later, in February of 1960, I was offered the job. I left Gallagher's and I worked as a sales rep. for McMahons right up until 1989. Then I went out on my own and I've never regretted it.

The Changes...

I've seen a lot of changes but the first photocopier that I ever saw still amazes me. We'd get statements in the office and there'd be four or five girls typing them out and they'd start on a Wednesday. By Saturday at 1 p.m. they'd have to be finished. The photocopier revolutionised all that. The forklift truck changed the way things were done as well and cut back on staff an awful lot. I remember the first ever car I got. It was an old Morris Ten; a black one and it cost £80 new.

I wouldn't think those times were necessarily better times. That's all nostalgia. If you see houses now, most have two or three bathrooms and you begin to wonder how any of us survived without one. There was no water, no toilet facilities in any house. The rural electrification came in the early '50s and that made life easier for most country people. Television wasn't heard of at the time and telephones were very rare. Nowadays you see every kid walking the street with a mobile to his or her ear. Thank God I have lived through it and I hope the next 50 years will be as good!!

In the process of researching and writing the above pieces with Tom and Milo I was fortunate enough to be given a glimpse of the Ballyhaunis of years gone by. The Ballyhaunis which lived and breathed long before the present day and which helped to shape the lives of many men and women such as Tom and Milo. Their success was not determined by the points' system but by sheer hard work and dedication. Today they are two of the most successful businessmen in Ballyhaunis. I hope their success will be an inspiration to the many young people of today. As the old saying goes:

"From the small acorn grows the great oak tree".

From Syria to Ballyhaunis

Manar Cherbatji

My name is Manar Cherbatji. I was born in Aleppo, the second largest city in Syria. Compared with Ballyhaunis it is a very large city.

I grew up in a large family similar to what an Irish family was here one time. There were five boys and two girls in ours. My father earned his living making and selling sweets in his own shop.

As soon as I left school I got married. I met my husband at a family party. Twelve years ago we made the huge decision to come to Ireland. My brother Mohammed Kezze owns his own business in Clare Street, Ballyhaunis. My husband came to work for him and this is how we ended up in the West of Ireland.

I am part of the large Muslim community in Ireland and as Muslims we have to pray five times a day. We fast each year for four weeks, this period is called Ramadame. During Ramadame we have to fast from sun rise to sunset. Everyday during this period we go to the Mosque at 8pm where we sometimes break our fast with the rest of the Muslim community. At the end of Ramadame we have a great big party where we all gather together to celebrate Eid, which would be the same as your Christmas Day.

Part of the Muslim tradition is to keep our heads covered when we go out in public. I always wear a headscarf but other than that I dress in the same fashion as Irish women.

I have a family of four boys all of whom were born in Ireland. They all attend the local national school and join in all the activities which the Irish children do. They love football and hurling at the local G.A.A. pitch and also at the national school. They learn Irish at school just like all other children and to me this is very important.

I have settled into the life style of Ballyhaunis and find the local people very pleasant and friendly. I have made lots of friends through my involvement on the parents' association in the schools.

Of course, there are things I miss about home. The big thing is the lovely hot weather. It is hard to get used to the constant rain we get here in the west. I try to go back on holidays as often as I can. I went this summer but it is not easy when you have four children. I would love someday to return to Syria. I think it is everybody's dream that had to migrate to one-day return to your homeland. I don't know if that will ever happen as my children are all Irish and they would find the move back to Syria very difficult. They cannot read or write Arabic and this would prove a major problem for them.

Ballyhaunis Community Council

Deirde Moran

Ballyhaunis Community council was formed following the huge success of the Spire Millennium Project, which was the erection of the Spire on the parish Church. The huge success of that project gave the committee the idea of following up with the formation of a Community Council.

A group of about 30 people was brought together in the early part of the summer and was asked would they participate in the formation of a Community Council to cover the whole parish of Annagh. The group was then broken into 2 sub groups:

To sort out the legal structure of the Council with the very generous help of John O'Dwyer, Solicitor.

A working group to do a need analysis survey of the parish and prepare a draft Community Development Plan to present to the community that can be worked on over the next 3 years.

The Need Analysis Survey had a terrific response with over 70% of the people surveyed responding. After much work and many hours labouring over the replies, a draft plan was prepared and the launch took place on 2nd October. There was a good attendance and many important decisions were made. The existing working groups were asked to stay on as the temporary Management Committee until the AGM could be held, sometime in the New Year.

On the night of the launch of the plan a number of groups were formed;

Environmental – with the formation of a Tidy Town Committee. They are already working on projects.

Social – This group will work closely with the Department of Community, Social & Family Affairs with the view to setting up a Family Resource Centre.

Community Working Group – This group is working to set up a flag ship project which has yet to be decided.

Ballyhaunis Community Council was set up for the community and as such every member of the Parish can become involved and we would like your input and help.

If you would like to become involved or you would like more information please contact the following:-

Chairman: Michael Kelly (0907) 30022
Secretary: Deirde Moran (0907) 30478

Paddy's Days

It was 1991 when the door closed for the last time behind Paddy O'Connell. The journey home to Drimbane after his final evening in Concannon's on Main Street was the same as it had always been. Forty-five years of life, memories, changes and people. All with a Ballyhaunis flavour. The odyssey which began in Castlerea when Paddy was only a teenager had ended when he was a pensioner. With the wind beating against the windowpane, Paddy O'Connell sits back and remembers the day when he left his profession. He is smiling fondly and regrets absolutely nothing.

"No, it wasn't a sad day when I finished up," he begins. "I had done my time and it was time to go. I wanted to go. I don't miss the job but I miss the people because that time, for forty-five years, I knew every customer for miles around and they all had a different story. It was great. The Concannon's always treated me brilliantly...like I was one of the family." It is October in the year 2000 and Paddy is rewinding the clock a long way. Some of the memories are slightly hazy around the fringes, but all endure in their own way. We decide to start at the start and he makes himself comfortable beside the old range.

"I served my time in Castlerea after I finished school and at that stage it was a matter of getting some job," says Paddy, matter-of-factly. "You either went to carpentry, tailoring or whatever but you had to serve your time for three years and there was no pay. It was tough." From there it was the short hop to Ballyhaunis where he arrived in 1946 at the age of 22. The first port of call was McGarry's, but it was in Concannon's where Paddy made his home. All the characters, the faces and the old routines come flooding back. From ten in the morning until eight at night he worked beside them. Their names spill out without hesitation. "I remember when I came first there were two Barrett girls from Tooraree, Teresa and Bridie who worked there. There was a fella in the bar as well called Davy Mulligan from Barrack Street.

"There were some great characters: Mary Guilfoyle, Greenwood (Mrs. Jordan, Knox Street); Bridie Kelly (Mrs. Reynolds, Dunmore); Teresa Hopkins (now Mrs. Emmett Keane, Knock Road); Bridie Hopkins; Mary Travers, Brickens; Betty McDonagh (Swinford); Mary Kirrane, Began (Mrs. M.J. Walsh, Knock Road); Betty Callaghan, Devlis; Catherine Mulkeen (now Mrs. Morley, Ballyhaunis); Teresa Cribben, Knockbrack; Andrew Fitzmaurce, Cloonfad (now living in Dublin); Bernie Meagh, Coogue (now living in England); Brendan Hopkins, Laraghanboy (now living in Castlebar) and Gerry Plunkett from Forthill...we were all there together," recalls Paddy, the old days crystallised in his mind.

Working Day

Next, we discuss the working day. The bicycle ride to work was followed by ten hours of dealing with the customer. Paddy O'Connell takes us back to Ballyhaunis in the 1940s, as seen from inside the walls of Concannon's shop. "Things then

were entirely different from what they are now," he says wistfully. "In the draper's shop that time nearly everything was parcelled up or in boxes - why?, I don't know. The only amount of space that you had to display stuff were the two windows and they had to be taken out every Monday morning, cleaned and redressed. "My first job in the morning when I went in would be to read the post. After that I'd check invoices, deal with enquiries, write letters if they had to be written and check, mark and put tickets on all the stock. Everything had to have a ticket on it. It was entirely different at that time and I've noticed the changes," remarks Paddy.

The East Mayo town is now a hub of thriving businesses. Where once there were open spaces now there are homes of industry. Paddy O'Connell admits that sometimes it can be difficult to remember how things used to be. The way that he, and his two life-long friends Tony Boyle and Willie Costello, recall them. They were three men who ploughed the same furrows and have often commented on the recent changes. "There are only two shoe shops in Ballyhaunis now...when I came to the town there were eight," outlines Paddy. "There was no employment in the town then either: you had to depend mostly on the country people. You were selling shoes and drapery and there were seven shops in opposition. You had to make the sales and you were under pressure to sell. If something came in, it had to go out. You had to make a profit. Everything had to be kept up to standard as well.

"Every month as well we had a cattle fair and a pig fair and at the backend of the year we had a horse fair; all held on the street that time. Now all that is completely gone." From one end of the calendar year to the other, Paddy's life revolved around the customer. Men, women and children would travel



Dan Tarpey, Jimmy Finn & Michael Biesty (Carrowkeel) 1953

into town for one reason and one reason only and they would be dealt with accordingly. Time may have changed but the principle remains the same he agrees. The sale had to be made.

"If they were strangers you'd have to be very mannerly to them and find out what they wanted," he smiles. "The ordinary customer you got to know after a while. If they wanted a suit or some thing for Christmas. Money wasn't as plentiful as it is now either. Teenagers hadn't money, country people hadn't money and there were ledgers kept in every house. "If people wanted stuff it was charged down in the book, then in the ledger, and the people would pay off that money when the cattle or the pigs were sold. That was the only way it could be done, and there was always a great understanding between the town and the country people. The country people didn't go any other place either: they did their shopping in Ballyhaunis and one was faithful to the other.



Bina, Tina & James Michael Waldron (Woodpark).

Back then, over half a century ago, free time was scarce according to Paddy O'Connell. He worked in Concannon's for six days a week and on Sunday cycled to Knock to work on a religious stall. After that, his evening was his own. "Whatever I got out in Knock nearly did me for the week," he offers. "You'd be out there at eleven o'clock, be back at six, and maybe go to the pictures or dancing after that. During the week, in the Summer time, there was a lot of football and a lot of walking, just out the roads. Lads and girls, we'd all meet up and there'd be great craic.

"I think today, that there's a great crop of teenagers coming out from school every year but I think it's the financial end of it that maybe ruins things. There's too much money and teenagers can tend to be silly now and again. But it's not their own making always. Society has changed. It was much quieter back in my day but I think we had just as much fun. You made your own fun. It's a different town now."

We stumble on to the topic of outstanding memories. After nearly fifty years of learning the ways of the world what stands out for Paddy O'Connell? He answers swiftly and reminisces with ease.

"It would have to be the blizzard of 1947...I didn't see that coming. I went to bed on the night of the 26th of February and

when I got up in the morning, the Lord save us, as far as you could see there was nothing but pure snow. It snowed for about three days and three nights and it was desperate," he says, shaking his head at the thought. "Then everything froze over that and any place you wanted to go, across rivers, fields, the graveyard, everything, you could go. You could walk on the snow. There was no electricity and when we'd finish work we'd go for a walk, anything to keep yourself warm. We didn't know what we were walking on. Work wasn't cancelled but there was nobody coming into the shop. It lasted until the 5th of April," concludes Paddy.

The evening is winding to a close and it is time to take our leave. Paddy O'Connell, a true gentleman, leans back, takes a breath and tries to siphon his greatest memories from the town he knows like the back of his hand. Sitting barely a mile from its centre, he plucks two nuggets from the past and declares them very special.

"A boxing tournament between Ireland and France that was held in the Friary Field," he begins. "I was working as a steward there." "I remember aswell when the Pope came to Ireland in 1979." "They were two great days and you could see something in the town or in the people that brought everyone together. Now, one of the saddest things that has happened in my time would have to be the proposed closure of the Friary...it'll be a sad day for the town if it closes. "But back then, in the days before the Pope came, something happened that really lifted people up, whatever it was. All in all, Ballyhaunis was always a great town and a friendly town." Few are more qualified to judge.

Parish Choir 1999/2000

Nuala Fitzgerald



Oh the strains of that triumphant music is still ringing in my ears!

I refer of course to the great Mass written for the Parish by Mr. Noel Henry, Knock Road, Ballyhaunis. The Parish Choir were privileged to coordinate the performance of this Mass on New Year's Eve. To say it was a worthwhile experience is putting it very mildly. The Choir went on to record a CD of the Mass at a later stage. Our thanks to Mrs. Anna Butler for the time and effort she put in during the year.

This Mass was the focal point of our performance in Knock last August during the Novena. Mr. Noel Henry, the Maestro himself travelled to play the organ and the Mass was conducted by Mrs. Anna Butler.

The Choir practices on Monday Nights from 8pm to 9pm in the Parochial Hall and new members are especially welcome.

People of Ballyhaunis that sing to themselves in the Church - come on take the plunge - join us souls in the gallery and let those notes ring off the rooftops. The more the merrier is the saying within the Choir.

Showband Days in Ballyhaunis

Seamus Mulrennan

As far as I am concerned the "Swinging Sixties" was the most wonderful era to be a teenager. England was being swept along with Beatle Mania, America was rocking to the hits of Elvis but here in Ballyhaunis we were dancing our shoes off to the great showbands.

The "Celtic Tiger" was then a wild animal and certainly did not live here. Work was hard to get and hard to do. Wages were very poor and there was little one could do to relieve the monotony of a long hard week of manual work.

Dancing has always been a popular Irish pastime since the days of the house dancing and dancing at the crossroads. However a new craze hit Ireland in the late fifties and early sixties "The Showbands". Every town and village had to have a ballroom and here in Ballyhaunis we were no exception - we had our own "Eclipse".

First thing Monday morning the main topic of conversation was how the weekend went and what band was coming to town for the following week. The next big question was could we afford to go or could we get a free pass someway or another. Somehow by careful planning and budgeting we always got there!

Sunday evening in most houses that time was like a beauty salon. Dresses and shirts had to get ironed. Hair had to be backcombed and sprayed to make sure it stood up to the jiving and swinging of the dancefloor. That time we all dressed up to go out. These were the days before trainers, jeans, and the 'casual look' was ever heard of.

For the men it was drainpipes and polished shoes with pointed toes called 'winkle pickers'. Collar and tie and a dark suit were the order of the day. All the girls wore dresses. As we progressed into the sixties the styles worn in England began to creep in much to the delight of the fellows! By the late sixties most girls going dancing were wearing the 'mini' - some more 'mini' than others.

I smile now when I see the queues for the taxis at the square every weekend. Rain, hail, frost or snow we walked the roads and never gave it a second thought. The craic and fun that took place on the journey to and from the dance is a subject for another day.

By eight o'clock every Sunday evening we made sure we were on the road ready to paint the town red or, more to the point, dance the night away.

Normally there was a relief band on first. They played until 11:30 pm. Between 11:30pm until 12:00am the hall would fill with excitement - the main band was on stage. The big

29th ANNUAL
SHOW DANCE
and Presentation of Cups in
THE ECLIPSE BALLROOM

Show Night, August, 19th
MUSIC BY
**Johnny Flynn
Showband**

DANCING 9 to 2 a.m. ADMISSION—50p

SPOT PRIZES FOR THE DANCE

1. Ladies and Gents Wailets presented by Mr. P. Freely, Main Street.
2. 200 Cigarettes presented by Gowcannon's, Main Street.
3. Bottle of Sherry presented by Joe Regan, Corner Bar.
4. Box of Chocolates presented by Mrs. Lyons, Clare St.

attractions in those days were Maurice Mulcahy, Mick Delahunty, Maurice Lynch, Johnny Quigley, Clipper Carlton and Royal Showband.

Keeping a watchful eye on the door and around the hall were the floormen, you had Peter Regan RIP, Luke Lyons, John Lyons RIP, Tom McGuire RIP, Pat Murray and Owen Judge. In the ladies cloakroom you had Mrs Regan RIP and later Owen Kilduff RIP, and in the mens' cloakroom you had Brod O'Malley RIP.

The men all congregated on the left side of the hall and along the bottom. The girls all lined up on the right hand side except for the "punters" who had no intention of dancing at all. They came for one thing only - to see the showband and spent the night gazing up at them from the front of the stage. The older and wiser girls would often stay in the cloakroom until the 'big band' was on stage and some dancers on the floor.

While we were waiting along the side of the hall, we used this as the viewing time to spot the talent. You always avoided letting them know you were looking. The one you fixed your eyes on was always in at the back. The locals were usually in front and it was hard to pass the ones you knew although I am sure they often wished we did.

Annaah Magazine



Western Dixie Flyers

Management: EAMON WALSH, Charlestown, Co. Mayo. Phone: 16.

1969. Front l-r: Brendan Walsh, Terry Griffin, Pat Blake. Back l-r: Michael Plunkett (Ballyhaunis), P.J. Foley R.I.P., Michael Murphy.

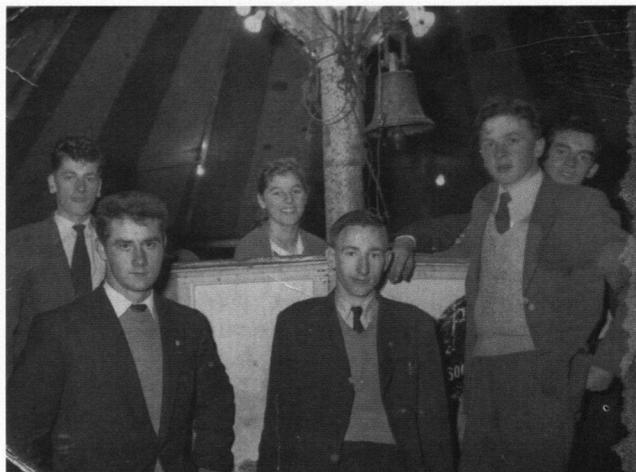
Very few even went on the floor until the main band came on – then the push was across the floor. We went like men to battle! Hands outstretched for the one you had spotted earlier, alas, when you got there she was gone. The girls seemed to know you were coming and simply disappeared behind a friend to avoid you. You were left with a quick decision to make and if the first one refused you, the whole line could follow suit.

Eventually success came, with someone you knew. The first few dances were often known as Duty Dances. As the night wore on you would get more courage and be more daring and ask the strangers out.

Sometimes as desperation set in we had to be less fussy as



Eclipse Ballroom, taken in Supper Room. L-R: John Costello, Tom Finn, Noel Culliney, Christy Freeman, Jimmy O'Malley & Gerard McGarry.



Taken at Rus Perks Carnival in the early 60's. L-R: Martin Hannon, Jarlath Moran, Stella Perks, Mick Meehan, Michael Waldron and Bernard Keane.

you did not want to be the odd one out in front of the friends. When you got her on the floor the next big task was to get her to stay for the second dance, sometimes you would be pleasantly surprised, but often it was the other way.

If your luck was in the next stop was upstairs to the mineral bar for a Fanta or Coke in a plastic cup. By now things were looking good. Then it was up to the band for an autograph. For the moneyed man there was the luxury of the supper room where you could sit in comfort and enjoy a cup of tea and a ham sandwich made by such great characters as Tom Finn and his right hand woman Mary Flannery RIP. Mary was a very witty and colourful person and was never shy in letting you have her views on your chosen partner of the night.

If you were really lucky your date would arrange to meet you again next week, if not it was back to the drawing board again. There was often the occasion when the girls would go in to get their coats and would not come back out. They would give you the slip by coming out the other door. For the many nights we were let down we always had Alice Lyons' shop in Clare Street to call into and cheer ourselves up. There we often bought, when we had a few bob left, a swiss roll and divided it amongst ourselves. No such thing as ordering a take away, that word was not in our vocabulary then

Some of the group of lads that would travel around to the dances were Eugene Freeley, Tommy Reilly, Tom Tighe, Eamonn Brennan, Michael Joe Lyons, Joe Rochford, Chris Culkeen and Tom Forde. Distance was no problem from Tooreen to Islaneady, Belcarra to Swinford, not to mention the carnivals and marquees during the summer months.

It was a golden era of popular music never to return again in that form. Halls have become more comfortable, mineral bars are a thing of the past. Discos are now the order of the day – not a live musician in sight. However I miss the showbands and the ballrooms.

Bi-Centenary of St. Jarlath's 1800-2000

Tony Jordan

Boys from Ballyhaunis have for long been associated with St. Jarlath's College. Many have distinguished themselves and their locality in subsequent years in sport, politics, business, religion, and the professions both at home and abroad. So it was only to be expected that on July 8 2000, as the college celebrated its bi-centenary, the road between Ballyhaunis and Tuam would be particularly busy.

On October 11 1800, the Protestant Archbishop of Tuam assented to the request of the Catholic Archbishop of Tuam and agreed that Fr. Oliver Kelly "was a fit person to keep a preparatory school for the Royal College of St. Patrick Maynooth" and he therefore did "grant and confirm unto him the office and employment of Schoolmaster of said preparatory school....he having first taken the oath of allegiance as by law required". A Martin A. O' Brennan of Ballyhaunis is one of the earliest students mentioned in the newly published book commemorating the Bi-Centenary. It also states that "big numbers came from places like Dunmore, Milltown and Ballyhaunis, and that they tended to stick together".

Bi-Centenary day was graced by the presence of President McAleese, an Taoiseach, Cardinal Daly, Archbishop Brady and most of the Bishops of Connacht. Not surprisingly, the President of the G.A.A. also attended. A massive Marquee was pitched on the football fields, while within the college a variety of exhibitions were on show depicting college life through the ages. I even got my photograph taken holding the actual Hogan Cup we won in 1960. Having been won by the college three times in a row, it now belongs to St. Jarlath's.

The most important and exciting part of the day was spent in meeting familiar and not so familiar faces and hoping that the



Micheál Smyth, John Waldron, Pat McNaught, Johnny Biesty, Anthony Jordan.

appropriate name would immediately come to mind. It was also a time for remembering absent friends. Many had travelled from distant lands to be present. There was much laughter, excitement, reminiscences and comments about obvious physical changes. There was a general consensus that what was unique about the college was its students. In successive generations they brought the qualities that had shaped them, their families and their communities into the melting pot of St. Jarlath's. These qualities were forged in difficult circumstances but bore the hallmark of a people intent on bettering itself while retaining its spiritual dimension.

The large Ballyhaunis contingent on the day, bore witness to all the best that linked it to St. Jarlath's. There were whole families represented like the Waldrons, the Lyons', the Webbs, the Grogans, the Byrnes, the Cribbins and the Lannons spanning generations. We also had the largest group present on the day. The fact that Ballyhaunis people always considered themselves special in the college, was illustrated in the evening, when the music ceased for the duration of Mass in the adjacent Cathedral and Johnny Biesty began to direct all Ballyhaunis people towards the front of the marquee for a group photograph. Mal Nally, Paddy McNaught, Vinny Healy, Paddo Cunningham, Enda Lyons, Bernie Freyne, John Durcan, the Lannons, Webbs and Grogans, Micheál Smyth, John Waldron, Jarlath Fahy, Shane Tighe, Fintan Lynch and Brendan Morrissey all arrived to take up their positions.

"Where is Jim Higgins?" someone asked. "I'll get him volunteered his brother Pat." Where is John Higgins? "another asked. The reply made us all realise that in a real way our group were part of history. "John did not go to Jarlath's he went to St. Pats at voice said. "Smile Ballyhaunis " I said from a top my perch on a rickety ladder as I took the first of many photographs. "Don't move now until I get into the picture myself". A really great day.

Thank you St. Jarlath's for the memories and friends.



Reunion Day at St. Jarlath's; Front l-r: Joe Webb, Shane Tighe, Bernie Freyne, Mal Nally, Anthony Jordan, John Durcan, Johnny Biesty, Enda Lyons. Back l-r: Adrian Lannon, Michael Grogan, Seamus Grogan, Tommy Grogan, Eugene Lannon, Micheál Smyth, Sean Webb, Tommy Webb, Vincent Healy, Brendan Morrissey & Jarlath Fahy.



Convent School, Class of 1946. Front left - right: Noreen Healy, Jenny Foudy, Ann O'Brien, Kathleen Morley, Patsy Hamilton. 2nd row: Christina Godfrey R.I.P., Una Judge, Ena Kenny, Una Glynn, Kathleen Campbell, Carmel Smyth, Marie Lyons R.I.P. 3rd row: Rita O'Connell, Mary Shields, Pauline Hunt, Evelyn Kelly, Patricia Finn, Theresa Durkin, Maura Kelly and Mae McCallig.

Marriages **IN THE PARISH**

NOVEMBER 1999 TO OCTOBER 2000



Niall Delaney, Coolnaha & Claire Louise Nolan, Carrowreagh
 Martin Walsh, Clagnagh & Stella Keane, Knox St.
 Brian Cosgrove, Claremorris & Mary Flatley, Clare St.
 Robert English, Achill & Martina Daly, Upper Main St.
 Robert Martin Finn, Main St. & Jo-Lise Krimmert
 Michael Joseph Byrne, Tallaght & Mary Tarpey, Carrowkeel
 Shane Patrick Keaveney, Granlahan & Grainne Ryan, Coolnafarna

Marriages **ELSEWHERE**

John Finnegan, Knox St. & Mary Hurley, Ballinphuill (Rome)
 Albert Madden, Gurteen & Rita Fitzpatrick, Gortaganny (Gortaganny)
 Kenneth Beirne, Main St. & Elizabeth Smyth, Limerick (Limerick)
 Austin Hopkins, Island & Una Greaney, Kilkerrin (Kilkerrin)
 Alan Biesty, Pattenspark & Helen Higgins, Knock (Knock)
 Francis Fahey, Salthill & Martina Crehan, Clare St.
 (Bushy Park Church, Galway)
 Alex Eaton, Main St. & Ann Stanley, Ballinlough (Knock)
 Fergal Gilhawley, Enniscrone & Dora Forde (Rome)

Baptisms

NOVEMBER 1999 - OCTOBER 2000

Conor Denis Sloyan
 Aoife Jane Nolan
 Kieran Cockburn
 Evan Martin Fitzmaurice
 Chloe Ann Ryan
 Marina Anastasia Carney
 Amy Louise Grealley
 Zoe Hickey
 Grace Healy
 Shauna Patricia Kirrane
 Maedhbh Deirdre Caulfield
 Cait Phillips
 Cormac Patrick Phillips
 Brian John Higgins-Fahey
 Niall Tobias Coffey
 Emma Josephine Nolan
 Darren Terence Maughan
 Jack Christopher Murphy
 Mary Ellen McDonagh
 Sean James Heslin
 Dylan Robert Traves
 John Richard Reidy
 Shauna Therese Lyons
 Neil Patrick Carney
 Aoifa Bridget Davis
 Ciaran Colm Doherty
 Eimear Brigid Murray
 Michelle Paula Grogan



Sydney 2000

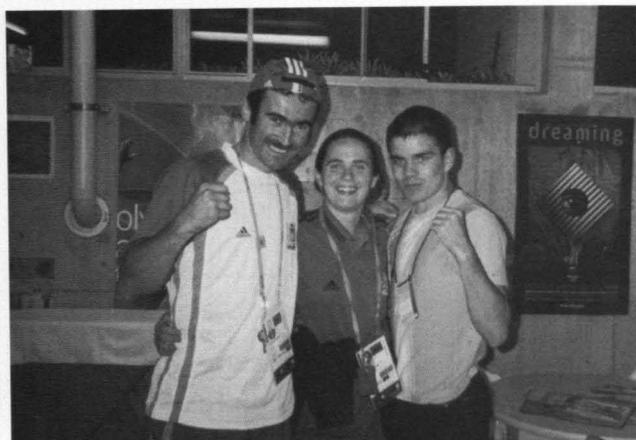
Gillian Keane

Little did I know when I was asked to work at a soccer match in the summer of 1999 that just over a year later I would be walking alongside the Irish team in the Opening Ceremony of the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. That match was an Irish u-16 team due to depart for the Youth's Olympics in Denmark the following day and so began my involvement with the Olympic Council of Ireland as a Medical team member.

It would be impossible for me to recount my many experiences and memories of the games in one article, I think I would need a book! However, I will do my best and I'm sure I will leave some important details out.

The first group to depart for Australia was small but the excitement and anticipation could already be felt as we met at the airport early on 6th Aug to begin the 24hr journey to Newcastle, a city two hours drive north of Sydney, which would be our home for the next five weeks. The group consisted of the Boxing team including Michael Roche and Bernard Dunne (a reserve for the featherweight division), their coach, manager, two racewalkers and myself. The first of the medical team to depart. The camp manager, Dermot Henihan, had left two days earlier to finalise preparations in the camp, which was over two years in the making. Every detail had been covered and our new home was to be the Boulevard Hotel on Beaumont St. in a little suburb called Hamilton. There were several other teams also training in the area including the Guatemalan, Lithuanian and Dutch Swim teams (incl. gold medallists Inge De Bruin and Peter Van Den Hoogenbrand) and the Chinese Gymnastics Team. My job as sole medical team member involved not just physiotherapy but medical advisor and chaperone for dope testing also. I started work straight away setting up our physio facilities and becoming acquainted with the local casualty dept. as early as the 2nd day! Over the next 2-3 weeks the rest of the Track and Field team, swimmers, shooters, cyclists and badminton team arrived and I was joined by my Medical Team colleagues Dr. David Fegan, Dr. Joe Commiskey, Physiotherapists Mary Dundon and Aifric Morrissey and a masseur John Sharkey. By now demand for treatment was quite high and daily clinics were held from 9-6pm. Most injuries were minor in nature but required attention to prevent any further damage or injury. The locals embraced their Irish roots and we became local celebrities and made many new friends. The Australians viewed us as cousins and this continued right through the games with the Irish competitors receiving cheers and support to match the Australians from the home crowd.

Time passed very quickly in Newcastle and very soon it was time to depart for the Olympic Village in Sydney and to join with the rest of the Irish Team who had their preparation camps elsewhere. The team consisted of sixty-eight athletes representing ten sports. The final medical team member, a physiotherapist, Marie-Elaine Grant met us in the village



Gillian Keane with boxers Michael Roche and Bernard Dunne in the Olympic village.

where she had been attending to the medical needs of the equestrian team. The next three weeks would prove to be our busiest as athletes completed their preparations and were in competition. In addition to the four accredited Chartered Physiotherapists already mentioned, two other physios were also involved. These were Ann Blaney who looked after the sailing team and Maeve Mitchell who looked after the canoeists.

The Olympic Village was a very unique and special place. It is difficult to describe and many compared it to "The Truman Show". It was a specially designed suburb of Sydney and all the houses and apartments were already sold and waiting to be occupied when the Games were over. It housed 10,000 athletes, 5,000 officials and 45,000 volunteers were involved in the day-to-day running of the village. Security was extremely tight and without your accreditation badge you ceased to exist! It literally became part of your daily clothing and was your ticket into the village, dining hall and training and competition venues. We quickly got used to the routine of bag searches, x-rays and metal detectors that were prerequisites to entering any venue or the village itself. In addition to all of that Police patrolled the village day and night on bicycles and quad bikes. Everything you could possibly need was catered for in the village with a polyclinic consisting of an A & E dept., MRI, CT and x-ray facilities, podiatrists, dentists, physios, masseurs and doctors all available. As one of the more developed countries we had our own medical team which had its own facilities in the Irish residential area. There was also a 24 hour dining hall, cinema, Internet café, gym and entertainment centre. A 24hr bus service circled within the village, though we were ideally situated only ten minute walk from the main dining and transport mall. We had a beautiful view over to the Olympic stadium, which was situated across the road from the village.

The atmosphere was building day by day in the village and the day of the Opening Ceremony arrived very quickly and was a typically busy day. I found out that I would get the opportunity to march only that morning. As a result by the time it came to leave at 5pm, it was a mad rush to find whatever size uniform was left (choice was understandably limited at this stage) but being the daughter of a Tailor I did wonders with a few safety

pins and managed to look presentable! We lined up, took photos, travelled to the Stadium where we waited for our turn to march into the stadium. After a few rousing renditions of "The Fields of Athenry" from us, the "Haka" from New Zealand, "waltzing Matilda" from Australia, The Mexican Wave by the Italians and some National dancing from Nigeria the mood was set. We set off behind Sonia, our proud Flag Bearer and as we entered the stadium experienced an almighty roar, flashes and cheering. It really is something I cannot put into words but stands out as one of the highlights of the Games for many others and me. The following day I left the village for Penrith, the rowing and canoeing venue, which was 45mins from the village. This was to be my home for the next 8 days as the men's Lightweight four Rowing team and the canoeists finished their preparations and competed in their events. Both the regatta centre and slalom-canoeing venue were magnificent man made venues and as many 5am starts to the day were involved I saw many spectacular sunrises over the lakes of Penrith. I consider myself extremely privileged to have been lucky enough to have had the chance to work with these fantastic athletes and to have been amongst the Great Britain team on the bank when Steve Redgrave made history winning his 5th consecutive gold medal.

Other highlights of the Games for me include Sonia's Silver medal win (of course), asking GB's Jonathan Edwards how he finished in his final only for him to say nothing but lift aside his accreditation badge to reveal a gold medal! watching Australia's golden girl, Cathy Freeman, win the 400m and watching the closing ceremony and fireworks from a yacht underneath the Bridge in Darling Harbour. Above all, I am extremely proud of all our athletes and their honest, 120% effort they invested in their performances. I'm aware that many comments have been made about their "failure to perform", comments which upset and hurt the athletes, their families and those who worked closely with them. I have



Medical Team - Sydney 2000, back left to right: John Sharkey (Masseur), Mary Dundon, Gillian Keane (Physiotherapists), Dr. David Fegan. Front: Dr. Marie-Elaine Grant (Physio), Dr. Joseph Cummiskey (chief Medical Officer) & Aifric Morrissey (Physio)

much to say on that matter but that's a whole other article! Suffice it to say that Ireland will never be a great sporting nation until adequate funds and facilities are provided. In Australia, there is a 50m pool in even the most remote of places....small wonder they have huge success in the swimming !!

Life after the Games has been extremely busy for me as I started a full time Masters in Sports Medicine at Trinity College almost immediately after returning. Sometimes the whole experience feels like a dream but the many memories and experiences will stay with me for life. I am proud and privileged to have been part of the Irish Olympic Medical Team for Sydney 2000. For now I hope to stay involved with the Irish Rowing squad and am currently looking after the Trinity Senior rowers.

Roll on Athens!

Ballyhaunis Fine Gael

A Successful Year Ends On Sad Note

Helen Lyons, Secretary

The year 2000 was another active and successful year for the Ballyhaunis Fine Gael Branch. Regular meetings were held during the year attended by the Party's Spokesperson on Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Deputy Him Higgins and Councillor John Cribbin.

During the last six months, however, the Branch mourned the loss of three of its most stalwart members.

Eamonn Burke was a former Chairman and current Treasurer of the branch. As in every facet of his life Eamonn was meticulous. Branch fundraising activities and particularly the annual National Collection were extremely successful. A few weeks before he died Eamonn insisted on devoting money from the National Collection towards a Sunday morning litter clean-up in the town during August and September. Eamonn died doing what he loved more than anything else, tending his beloved wild-fowl after a morning's shooting with his colleagues from the Gun Club.



The Branch was still reeling from the loss of Eamonn when word came through of the sudden death of another long time member. Gerry Coen was a most successful businessman, builder, farmer and a good community man. Above all else however he was a proud and devoted family man. For years he assisted and participated in the Branch's activities. He will be sadly missed.

Earlier in the year Austin Kelly, Derrynacong, passed away after bravely fighting a long illness. Austin was a loyal and long serving member of the Brackloon Branch before it was merged with Ballyhaunis.

To Breda Burke and Family, to Delia Coen and Family and to Jarlath and Brendan Kelly we tender out sincere sympathy.

Branch officers:

President: Michael Webb; Chairman: Michael Lydon; Vice Chairman: Joe Byrne; Secretary: Helen Lyons; Joint Treasurers: Eamonn Burke, John Joe Flanagan; PRO: Oliver Cribbin.



John T. Freeman, Gurteen on his way from the well. 1938



Gurteen 1938. John T. Freeman, Nora Lyons, John Martin Lyons and Bea Lyons (sister of John T. and mother of Nora & John Martin.)



School photo c. 1949. Front left to right: M. Nally, M. Caulfield, P. Waldron, B. Mulkeen, A. Lyons, T. Greene, C. Lyons, B. Concannon, N. Culliney, C. Byrne, M. Dillon-Leetch & A. Byrne. 2nd row: P. & S. Forde, D. Mulcahy, M. Duignan, A. Jordan, J. Clarke, F. McKenna, T. Biesty, M. Healy, M. Ruane. 3rd row, U. Rattigan, B. Fleming, M. Cleary, M. Lannigan, M. Kearns, B. Morrison, M. T. Rattigan. 4th row: J. Finn, C. Greene, J. Flanagan, W. Biesty, M. Regan, P. Higgins, T. Moran, E. Moran, B. Dillon. Back row: M. Connolly, J. McGuire, J. McQueeney, E. Lambert, J. Lyons.

It's Last Orders For Mary At The Horse Shoe Inn

Mike Byrne

May 15th last was a somewhat emotional night for Ballyhaunis publican Ms. Mary Morris when, together with her daughter Linda and barmaid Betty, she poured her last pint for her customers at the Horse Shoe Inn, the licensed premises which has been her home for the past twenty-seven years.

Many of Mary's long-time loyal customers and friends turned out at the 'Horse Shoe' for a special night to extend every good wish and good luck to Mary on her retirement.

A native of Belharbour, Co. Clare, Mary arrived in Ballyhaunis back in 1973 when, together with her late husband Mick, the couple acquired the Abbey Street licensed premises from the late Peter Hannon.

Sadly, and regrettably, Mary's husband, Mick, a native of Lehinch, Hollymount, departed to his eternal reward when, in 1986, he lost a protracted battle against cancer at a relatively early age.

Prior to their arrival in Ballyhaunis, Mary and Mick spent many years of their life in the United States of America where, in 1972 in Boston, the couple were married.

In the U.S., Mary worked as a fully trained nurse at the Malden Hospital, Boston. Mick, who had spent some time in the U.S. army, operated his own pub 'The Irish Village' in Brighton, in the south of Boston.

Throughout the twenty seven years in which Mary operated the Horse Shoe Inn in Ballyhaunis, the County Clare native has been held in highest esteem, not only by the clients who frequented her bar at regular intervals over the past twenty seven years, but also by the community of Ballyhaunis, of which Mary has become an integral part over the past number of years. Her quiet, reserved, inoffensive manner, together with her gracious and sincere personality, has endeared itself to almost everybody with whom she has come in contact since becoming part of this community in 1973.

The Horse Shoe Inn has become a landmark in Ballyhaunis and indeed in Mayo over the past quarter of a century, due mainly to the high values and standards set by Mary and her late husband.

Following the establishment of Ballyhaunis Rugby Club in the late 1970s, a club founded by the late Dr. Declan Shields and others, the Horse Shoe Inn became, not only the venue where club members socialised after games, but it was also used by the Rugby Club for changing gear and togging out before matches as well as showering after the games.

Morris' hostelry has also been the home of the Ballyhaunis Fianna Fail organisation down the years. Many noted politicians, both local and national, have graced the premises in the past since the

public house became the venue to be used by the party for meetings of its members from the Ballyhaunis and district electoral area.

It was indeed ironic and fitting that on Monday night, May 22nd the last day of trading for Mary Morris at the Horse Shoe Inn, the Ballyhaunis Fianna Fail Comhairle Ceantair held what was to be their final meeting in the popular East Mayo lounge bar.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr John Carty, the Fianna Fail Mayo County Council representative for the Ballyhaunis area paid a glowing tribute to Mary Morris and also in his eloquent speech, called to mind the many happy memories he had of Mary's late husband, Mick, during the time he served in Ballyhaunis before his untimely passing.

Councillor Carty said Mary and Mick Morris provided the Fianna Fail organisation in Ballyhaunis with not only a suitable venue for their meetings, but also made available for them, a home away from home.

He thanked the proprietress for the facilities which she had provided for the group and also thanked her sincerely for the generosity and courtesy which she had shown to him personally and also to his party members throughout the past twenty-seven years.

Following the party meeting, Ms. Marion Maloney, chairperson of Ballyhaunis Fianna Fail Comhairle Cenatair, presented Mary with a bouquet of flowers, on behalf of the local organisation, in recognition and acknowledgement of the service which they had received from her over the past quarter of a century.

Meanwhile, Mary, who has now retired from serving the public in the licensed trade, will continue to remain in Ballyhaunis which has been her home for almost thirty years. She will not, however, be without company in the future. Her three family members will undoubtedly be around to keep her company. Mary's eldest daughter, Linda, is attached to the teaching staff of Summerhill College in Athlone; Paul is employed with the computer company Gateway International in Dublin, while her youngest daughter, Karen, is attending All Hallows College also in Dublin, where she is studying theology and philosophy.

We take this opportunity of wishing Mary many years of health, enjoyment and contentment in her most deserved retirement.



Mrs. Mary Morris, proprietress of The Horseshoe Inn, with her daughter Linda on her final night of business.

Ballyhaunis Community School

Educational Trip to Poland

March 2000-08-05

*Compiled by Claire Healy and Fiona Murphy
Transition 1999-2000, Ballyhaunis C.S.*

This trip was the highlight of our year, the day we'd all been waiting for had finally arrived. At the start of the year we had joined forces with five different schools to do history projects on emigration as part of our European Studies Comenius Project.

These schools were from Poland, Denmark, France and two from Ireland; Ballinasloe and our own school. We exchanged, by post and by e-mail, information about ourselves, our schools, our town and finally our completed project on emigration with our Polish and Danish counterparts. Then came the time to pack our bags and head off to Poland to finally meet the Polish and Danish students we had been communicating with for the last seven months. All thirteen of us, accompanied by Ms. Moran, Mrs. Lavelle and her son, Owen, started our journey to Poland on March 17th at 3am. After some sad farewells from parents and friends we headed to Dublin Airport to catch our plane to London-Gatwick where we would catch a connecting flight to Krakow, Poland.

When we arrived in Krakow, the first thing we noticed was that the weather was a lot different from Irish weather as it was cold and snowy. The following is a schedule of what we did in Poland:-

Friday 17th ; We arrived in Krakow Airport at approximately 2.30pm local time. We travelled by public bus to the centre of the city to check into our hostel. We dined

Tex-Mex style that evening and retired to our hostel.

Saturday 18th ; On Saturday we had a guided tour of the old city of Krakow, once the national capital city of Poland and now locally recognised as the cultural capital of Poland. We returned to our hostel and dined at the student canteen at the adjacent university, where we had our first opportunity to sample traditional food, after we met our Polish friends who had just arrived in Krakow from Czestohowa. We seemed to get on really well with them as we were quite similar personality-wise.

Sunday 19th ; On Sunday we went to a Polish Mass and afterwards we had a tour of the Jewish quarter of the city, the setting of the famous film 'Schindler's List'. We dined in a Jewish restaurant where we were entertained by a quartet who played traditional Jewish music. Later, the Polish students brought us out for a few hours to show us the nightlife in Krakow. Our Danish friends arrived in the hostel late that night.

Monday 20th ; On Monday we left Krakow for Zakopane with the Polish and the Danish students. When we arrived in Zakopane we found it a lot colder than Krakow. It was snowing and the temperatures were 10-15. We had our dinner in the hotel in Zakopane and we went out on a walking tour of the town that night.

Tuesday 21st ; On Tuesday we went up into the mountains by cable car. When we arrived on the top of the mountain, having seen some spectacular views en route, we had something to eat and when we came back down we had a chance to do some shopping in the market. Our view from the mountaintop was somewhat hampered by dense fog so we just had time to eat and make the return trip to ground level! From there we had the choice to return to the hotel or to go skiing. Some of us were very tired so we returned to the hotel whilst others braved the ski slopes.

Wednesday 22nd ; Before we left Zakopane we had an enjoyable sleigh ride in the mountains. Then we left Zakopane for Czestochowa and on our way we visited two Concentration Camps, Auswitz and Birkenhau which was a very interesting experience. When we arrived in Czestochowa we separated from our Polish friends. While they went back to their houses in Czestochowa, we went to stay in a hotel with the Danish.

Thursday 23rd ; On Thursday, we went to a council meeting where we learned about emigration in Poland. We went to the Polish school where we learned a little about their subjects and their school. We firstly attended some of their classes and later each of the three schools had to make a formal presentation on the project they had undertaken during the year. Thanks to Lorraine, Michelle, Beatrice and Marianne for their excellent presentations here!

Afterwards we had lunch in the Town Hall and we then went, individually or in small groups, to the homes of the Polish for dinner. We had a chance to meet their families and to get to know them a little bit better.

Friday 24th ; On Friday we visited many interesting monuments such as castles on the outskirts of Czestochowa. Then we travelled out to a farm in the countryside where we had a farewell feast with the Polish and the Danish. We had food in the open air by a blazing open fire and when it got cold we sat by the fire and had a sing-song. We later waved goodbye to our Polish friends and returned to the hotel for a quick packing job and a short rest.

Saturday 25th ; We had to rise out of bed at 4am to travel to Krakow to catch our plane back to Ireland. We said our goodbyes to the Danish students and boarded the plane. We were all sad to leave our Polish and Danish friends but we were all looking forward to seeing Ireland, our friends and family and most of all Irish food!

Poland was a great experience and it's something I think none of us will ever forget.

Derrynacong

Helen Hoban

Derrynacong is situated off the main Ballyhaunis – Ballaghaderreen road. The Irish word for Derrynacong is Doire na Conga meaning “Oak wood of the thin strip”.

Since my childhood and I am sure for many years before there was a letter box at the entrance to the village. The post-man opened the box every week day and brought the letters that were posted there to the post office for mailing. The letter box was a great land mark in the area and was a useful guide for directions. Anyone asking for Derrynacong was told “turn in at the letter box”. Alas this useful facility is no longer there. It vanished one night – no one knows where. Shortly afterwards Pat Regan had the name of the village printed on steel and he mounted it on an iron pole. I think we are the only village in this area with its name at the entrance.

A few years ago Dennis Forde, Jersey City U.S.A. whose grandfather Patrick Forde was born in Derrynacong, had been researching family history and accumulated considerable information about Derrynacong in the previous century. His sources of information were photocopies of land records and the Annagh parish book which are available from the Mormon Genealogical Library, New York. His main contact here was Mrs. Kathleen Fitzharris R.I.P. whom he visited a few years before she dies. He gave her all the information he had collected and later sent copies to other households in the village.

From this information we can see the number of households there were in 1862 and the acreage allotted to each farmer. It is interesting to see the changes in tenancy from 1862 to early 1900's and even to this present day. From listening to my mother and my Uncle Johnie Fitzmaurice R.I.P. I can identify all the house holds in the Valuation Book 1862.

In the census of 1901 it states that all the homes were brick with thatched roofs. There were 19 homesteads in the village with a population of 96. To day there are 15 homes with a population of about 45. Of course many of the homes of 1901 are no longer there, the houses either derelict or demolished and the land sold. It is wonderful that there are new families in the village and many new houses. I take this opportunity to welcome all newcomers in our midst.

One of the old families was Deaseys. John Deasey was born in Coogue. When he was very young his father taught him to weave. Later he went to England and joined the army, enlisting in the Connaught Rangers. From there he went to India for seven years. On his return home he married Mary Cox and came to live in her home in Derrynacong. They had only a few acres of land so he took up his old trade of weaving. He made tweed and blankets and sold them at the local markets. Practically every house in the district had some of his materials.

Deaseys was a great visiting house and John kept the visitors



Stations at Hoban's in 1962. Back l-r: Nell Waldron, Janie Fitzmaurice R.I.P., Kate Hoban R.I.P., Gretta Fitzmaurice Henry, Catherine Hoban Enright, Theresa Hoban, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Margaret Hoban, Thomas Hoban R.I.P., Michael Keegan R.I.P., Mary Keegan. Front l-r: Helen Hoban, Bernie Ruane, Kathleen Hoban Henry, Norrie Hoban McCoy, Mary Hunt Walsh, Josephine Fitzmaurice, Evelyn Fitzmaurice, Michael Hoban, Mary Hoban, John Hoban, John Ruane R.I.P.



Going for a ride on Fitzmaurice's side-car; Rose Fitzmaurice R.I.P. (in the driver's seat), John & Ellen Fitzmaurice R.I.P. on one side and visitors on the other.

entertained with stories which had the younger people shivering in their skins and afraid to go home.

Card playing was a great pastime in the old days. There was no radio or television and I suppose when the stories ran out the men restored to the cards. In the early 60's six young lads in the village took up this occupation. They were Tommie Fitzmaurice, Jimmy Hunt, Michael Hunt, Bernie Hunt and my two brothers John and Michael. One Winter they played for an old white duck which was in our yard who ever won the duck one night put it up the next night and so on for several weeks – the duck never leaving our yard. In the end the old duck died so no one was the winner. I don't know how much money changed hands – pennies I suppose and old ones at that.

Patrick Dyer R.I.P. (Johnie Dyers father) was the first person in the village to own a motor car. My mother says it was sometime in the 1920's when she was going to school. It was a great treat to get a spin in the motor car.

We had a horse and sidecar. I remember going to Mass on it.



John & Ellen Fitzmaurice, Derrynacong with their grandchildren, Helen & Catherine Hoban.

The horse would be stabled in Paddy Byrne's (now the Breffini Inn) buildings at the back and the sidecar was "parked" in the archway. I think we must have come down in the world because the horse was sold and my father R.I.P. bought a donkey and cart. Now we didn't go to Mass in this conveyance but the donkey and cart were very useful for bringing home the turf.

The village has progressed since those days. Now every home has a car, a phone and television. There are mobile phones

about and I am sure a computer or two.

There is a very prosperous industry in Derrynacong, Regan's Engineering which was established in 1990. It is a family run business with Pat, Patrick and Brendan in the business. Speaking to Patrick he said they started small and worked their way up. They plan to extend the business next year and hope to employ staff to deal with the major workload.

At present they specialise in the manufacture of wrought iron gates and railings which are finished in a traditional manner. They manufacture all kinds of trailers, do a full range of farm equipment and Blacksmith work. They also have a mobile welding service, which is doing very well.

Patrick says it's nice to start something and succeed. It was a gamble but they took it and it was well worth it.

We in Derrynacong compliment the Regan Family on their initiative and enterprise and wish them every success in the future.

Gracenotes

Nuala Fitzgerald - Secretary



Oh – The exhilaration of winning has almost been too much for us!

The hard work of blood, sweat and literally tears paid off. The trophy for the best performance of an Irish Choral Piece was presented to 'Grace Notes' Ballyhaunis for their performance of 'An Oiche Ud I mBeithil' by O'Gallchobhair. The trophy is dedicated to Philip O'Leary.

It has become especially dear to us when upon receipt of the actual trophy we discovered that 'Cois Cladaigh' won it in 1999 – Laura Brogan, our Chairperson is also a member of this Choir.

Our year has been eventful and full of variety. We are very conscious that we are an integral part of the Ballyhaunis Community and our first objective is to make the Choir a focal point for Choral Singing in Ballyhaunis. With this in mind we participated in the local Musical Society's Production of the 'Sound of Music'

'Nuns on the run' and Nuns called to the Bar' are descriptions that leap to mind when we think of this time. We enjoyed the production greatly and it certainly helped to broaden our musical sense. The selection from this musical has now become a very popular part of our repertoire.

Creating relationships with other community groups is an objective we always like to keep in mind. Last year we had the opportunity of participating in a concert in Kiltimagh as guests of the Kiltimagh Choral Society. We are returning the compliment this year. They are coming to sing in Ballyhaunis in our concert, planned for the 3rd December 2000 in aid of Western Care Ballyhaunis. We look forward to this night.

A foreign tour is presently being planned for the year 2001 – Places of interest mentioned have been Barcelona, Prague and Italy. Planning is in the very early stages and no final arrangements have yet been made.

Membership of the Choir is fluid and a great throughput of people has been a feature over the two years. We are delighted with the interest shown in the group and we look forward to answering any queries people may have. Please contact Mrs. Anna Butler, Choral Director, or Mrs. Laura Brogan, Chairperson, should you wish to join the Choir or alternatively wish to arrange that the Choir would sing at a function eg. Mass, Weddings, Concerts etc.



Members of Gracenotes Ladies Choir who, under the direction of Anna Butler, were awarded the Philib Uí Laoghaire Memorial Trophy at the Cork International Choral Festival 2000, for the best performance of a part song in Irish. Back l-r: Moira Stratford, Ann Lyons, Una Shiels, Nuala Fitzgerald. Middle: Claire Stratford, Mary Dawson, Maureen Thornton, Mary Hannah O'Connor, Christina Concannon, Mary Caulfield, Xanthia Pratt. Front: Eimer Thornton, Ann Butler, Anna Henry, Laura Brogan. Missing: Monica Murphy, Ita Fahy & Mary Lyons.

News From America

John Joe Quinn,
Tullaughane,
Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.

October 1948 – Present

I left Tullaughane on October 7 1948 for America determined to make a better life for myself. This was necessary as there were five sons in the home and one for the place. My first trip back to Ireland was in 1956. The most impressive change to me at that time was the electricity in the homes. This brought light, radio, and convenience which was a great comfort and improvement from the candle and kerosene lamp from my day.

The installation of telephone was a wonderful improvement. I regret that this was not available in my father's home during his lifetime. It would have been great to have been able to talk to him.

My next trip was in 1971 and little changes were evident from 1956. My trip in 1984 produced many significant changes. The roads had been paved, farmers were no longer tilling the land, no one was raising hens. In my day we raised 50 – 100 hens. The egg money from the hens provided income to pay for our groceries and tobacco for my father.

The horse and cart had been replaced by the tractor and the side car had been replaced by the automobile. My father was a farmer and blacksmith and these changes created a void in his income as a blacksmith. Very few were bringing horses to be shod.

In America, I was employed by The Travellers Insurance Company in Hartford, Connecticut for thirty-eight years, retiring in 1986.

In America, I have seen highways increased from two lanes to six lanes to handle the increased amount of cars on the roads. The

quality of life changed for working people due to increased wages which provided better lives for all. It enabled me to help my children obtain college education which is necessary for American children in order to obtain successful employment.

Another change is the amount of time it takes to travel back and forth from Ireland to America. Now it takes five – six hours. When I came it took 13 hours on a prop. Plane.

In America, as well as Ireland, I have seen the introduction of T.V's VCR's Answering Machines, Cell Phones, Microwaves, Compact Discs, Tapes and Men in Space. The tragic assassination of J.F.K. Jr, his wife and her sister in the summer of 1999 was very sad.

Personal Computers have provided a significant change in life style here. These enable many people to work from their homes as well as communicate easily and quickly with family and friends in Ireland.

During several trips in the 1990's I have seen a notable change for the better in Ireland. The new homes are spectacular and work is flourishing. It is very gratifying also to see the progress in Ballyhaunis. Trees have been planted in town, parking has improved and beautification of the Square is being planned.

A final note; it is wonderful to see so many people from Ireland visiting America. In my early years, the 1930's this was almost unheard of due to the Depression in America which also affected Ireland.

On a personal note, I married an Irish American girl, Catherine Flynn, daughter of Margaret Mullarkey from Ballinross, Cloonfad, Dunmore, Co. Galway and Michael Flynn from Irishtown, Ballindine, Co. Mayo, Ireland. We have five children and fourteen grandchildren.

Mr & Mrs John J. Quinn, West Hartford, Connecticut



Looking for the forthcoming winning ticket in 'Newsround'! Pat Freeley, Tina Coyne and Laurena Freeley, taken on the last day of the 20th Century



"Friends forever"! Left - right: Patricia Gaffney (Ballinphuil), Michelle Curley (Hazelhill), Laura Healy (Amagh), Brigitta Burke (Devlis)

Ballyhaunis Parent And Toddler Group One Year Later!

Following a very successful initial year operating the Ballyhaunis Parent & Toddler Group in the Parochial Hall, we are pleased to see that at the beginning of year two in September of the Millennium that our group continues to thrive successfully.

The group is registered with the IPPA (Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association) who offer guidance and advice regarding development and progress of this voluntary community service.

Our Parent & Toddler Group offers support and friendship for all parents, carers and children who come along and provides a safe and stimulating atmosphere for the little ones, who we hope benefited from the regular informal meetings. The children develop (muscle control and co-ordination) from using the equipment and also learn to mix and share with others of their own age. By the end of the year we noticed that they seemed more confident and outgoing and more willing to mingle with others.

In 1999 the group was fortunate enough to be presented with Leader Development Programme Funding which gave a "kick-start" in providing suitable equipment for the children, from babies to crawlers and toddlers. An amount of £1,935 was spent (much of it locally wherever possible) allowing the group to provide a variety of stimulating, safe equipment to play with.



Grant of £1,935 being presented by Neil Sheridan from East Mayo L.D.P., February 1999.

Deceased Of The Parish

NOVEMBER 1999 - OCTOBER 2000

Christopher Dignam	Monica Lyons	
Dill Hughes	Kate Diskin	
Catherine Cunnane	James Byrne	
Rita Murphy	May Murphy	
Kathleen Freeley	Ita McCormack	
Mary Lawlor	James Crinnigan	
Katie Johnston	Padraic Caulfield	
Mary Kenny	Mary Henry	
Gus Caulfield	Eileen Lyons	
Elizabeth Mulleague	Patrick Finnegan	
Kieran Healy	Elizabeth McNamara	
Catherine Noonan	Mary McNamara	
Val Waldron	Sean Hannon	
James Culliney	Austin Kelly	
Lauren Hill	Paddy Nolan	
Mary Hussey	Fr. Bartholomew Delaney	
Mary Fitzmaurice	Michael O'Connell	
Patrick Casserly	Michael Finnegan	
Bridget Burke	Eamon Burke	
Austin Lyons	Gerry Coen	
Kathleen Lyons	John Fitzmaurice	
Delia Brennan		

There is also a social side to the group for the parents who feel they deserve an odd night out without their little tots. We organise occasional nights out and enjoyed a successful Christmas Party night for the mothers in December 1999. The mothers/carers have opportunity at the weekly meetings to share and discuss issues in relation to children while making new friends and enjoying a cuppa.

In October 2000 a Parenting Course, which was attended by 16 mothers, was run in the local Community School. It offered practical assistance for parents dealing with issues such as; Behaviour, Listening, Talking with your child, Discipline etc. and proved very enjoyable. It is hoped that other relevant courses will be run in the future, e.g. First Aid or Talks from various Health Visitors etc.

The meetings are on Thursday mornings from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Parochial Hall. New members are always welcome and we are open to new ideas and views. We hope that the group will grow and develop and go on providing a social service for many years to come.

Roses in Wonderland

Evelyn O Connor

So what was Tralee really like? Thrilling, exhausting, exciting, daunting, memorable and fun. Above all else it was emotional. My adventure began in Ballinlough on the last day of June when, sponsored by Rochford Motors, I was chosen as the Rose of Roscommon. I hadn't thought about winning, like most of the girls I was there just for fun, so you can imagine my shock when I learned that the Galway Rose was just a week away. Amid a flurry of excitement, I filled out my questionnaire and organised photos and tickets for the two-day event. The format was quite similar for both selections, involving a private interview with the judges, and an on-stage public interview. I felt quite nervous as the stage presentations kicked-off but this gradually wore off. As I was the 22nd out of twenty-three girls to be interviewed I mostly felt anxious to be finished, and it was with relief that I got myself a drink from the bar and kicked off my dangerously high heels, as the judges retired to make a decision.

When they returned with the verdict an hour later I quickly scrambled into my heels and belatedly arrived on stage just as they were about to announce the winner. If I had been shocked with my win in Ballinlough, I was literally dumbstruck in Galway. Immediately after being presented with my tiara and innumerable prizes, I was whisked away to the pressroom for various interviews with local radio station and newspaper reporters. It was at this point that I became aware of the RTE camera crew who were filming the selection for a behind the scenes documentary about the Rose of Tralee. They filmed my reaction and arranged to meet me the next day for further comment. Meanwhile, the Galway Rose committee took me under their wing and assured me that I'd be well briefed for Tralee when the time came. During the six weeks that followed they helped me with all my duties and preparations, including my photos, questionnaire, contract, make-up, clothes and confidence walking in high heels, something I'd never been too comfortable with! As this was going on, the Roscommon committee was tirelessly seeking sponsorship for my trip, which was to spread itself over ten days.

As part of my prize I took part in a photo shoot for Magpie magazine and appeared on the cover of the August edition. Needless to say it was an experience I would never have had otherwise and it was great fun pretending to be a model for a day. As Tralee loomed closer the only upset came when I was told that my boyfriend John Nolan couldn't be my escort. The powers that be in Kerry felt that the Roses would not mix as well if they had their boyfriends as escorts, a fair point perhaps but a disappointment nonetheless.

So I entered the Rose of Roscommon and ended up in the Rose of Tralee. It all began in Portmarnock's Golf Links Hotel on the 15th of August, where we met Marty Whelan and of course the other Roses. One of the first Roses I met was Melbourne Rose Tara Glynn, whose father Tom is from Carrowneedan Aghamore. The RTE crew was also there to follow four Roses for the documentary – Galway, Dubai (my roommate), Texas and London. Wednesday began with a photo-shoot at 7:30 a.m. and continued with a tour of Dublin, another photocall at the Museum of Modern Art, a lunch with the judges, and, for me, an interview



Evelyn O'Connor with Marty Whelan at the 'Rose of Tralee'

with Mid West Radio. We then proceeded to Tullamore and had a wonderful banquet at the Bridge House Hotel. At this stage we had spent two fun yet frenzied days together so we really let our hair down and partied. Getting up at 8 a.m. was thus not an easy task the next day but we managed it somehow and set off for a day in the bog! A well documented tractor-hijacking incident ensued where Dubai drove and Belgium hopped up on the trailer... the rest of the day was filled by lunch in Kinnitty Castle, autograph signing in Tullamore's shopping centre, a county-council reception and a trip to Annagarvey Farm for our evening meal. Whilst at the farm, the hot air balloon team from JFC in Tuam arrived and Darwin and I, along with the RTE cameraman Barry were taken for a thirty minute ride that I will never forget. The feeling of freedom and lightness, the beautiful view and the magic perspective on the world stayed with me all night; I can't wait to do it again!!!

Friday began disastrously for Claire and I, as our wake-up call never arrived. This was to be our day of arrival in Tralee, and we had less than an hour to wash, dress, eat, pack, do our hair and make-up, talk to the documentary crew and get on the bus! I did my make-up on the bus, and then fell asleep from exhaustion. When I awoke, all I could see was a camera in my face; Barry wanted 'real life' action, or inaction if you will. I have to admit, I never quite managed to fall asleep on the bus again. We arrived in Kerry at lunchtime to huge crowds and a fabulous reception in Listowel Writers' Heritage Centre. We then travelled on to Tralee and were told amidst much excitement who our escorts would be! We were also finally given name badges and began to call each other by first names instead of by the area we represented. After checking in at the Brandon Hotel, we entered the Dome for the first time. Sing-songs had been a part of our make-up since day

one but I think we did rather shock our escorts when they landed in to meet us, and rather than sitting around demurely we were dancing in a circle singing the "hokey-pokey". As tradition dictates, we had switched sashes to confuse the escorts but we all found our designated men eventually. That night we attended the International Rose Ball, headlined by Abbasque, which my parents, sister Deirdre, and boyfriend John also attended. We all had a memorable night and had to be dragged off to bed at 2 a.m. by the chaperones. Saturday saw the beginning of our private interviews with the judges, and we also visited the respective local pubs we had been twinned with... the Irish "Club na Feile" section and I were based in the Meadowlands Hotel, and I was here interviewed by TG4. Events around the town followed, and then it was time to prepare for the parade. By this stage the documentary crew had set up a camera in our room 'big brother' style but luckily for us we could switch it on and off as we pleased. On the coach that evening we were told what night we'd be on stage. I was relieved to be on 4th Monday as it meant I'd be able to relax once off stage and enjoy the rest of the show. After a hurried dinner we were helped up on the floats for the parade and here began the highlight of the week. Street performers, marching bands, and Rose floats paraded through the town for almost an hour and people turned out in their thousands to watch. The atmosphere was overwhelming, and the goodwill startling. One little girl of seven ran up alongside my float and handed me a good luck card she had drawn and coloured herself. I'm not normally the sentimental kind but I had to swallow a huge lump in my throat at this point. I was so touched by her gesture. The parade ended with a magnificent fireworks display and we retired to the Brandon to meet our friends and families.

Sunday began with both Catholic and Protestant services and a miniature parade to the town park. I then attended a ceili in the dome with my escort but had to leave as I felt quite dizzy, from exhaustion I presume. When I reached the 4th floor of the Brandon I fainted, which was lucky in a way as it meant I was excused from my duties for a few hours and had a much needed sleep. Dinner that evening was at the Meadowlands Hotel, then we had a reception in the Golf Club after a very brief visit to the Golden Rose cabaret.

Monday we had group judging which involved discussion of topics in groups of seven. Those of us who were to be on stage that night rehearsed our party-pieces in the Dome and I spoke to both Galway Bay FM and Mid West Radio about nerves and hoarse voices! I cannot describe in words the feelings I experienced that day, but by the time my turn arrived I was a nervous wreck. I gulped down a bottle of water in an effort to calm my nerves, eventually managing to stop my body from shaking but inside I was quaking. I remember quite clearly seeing the banners in the crowd for me and being surprised how quickly it was all over. When I went backstage all the girls were waiting to hug me and find out how it felt, and so the night continued, each of us egging the others on and hoping they'd manage to reflect their own talents and personalities in their few minutes on stage. Tracey, (Belgium) made us all laugh and cry, and most of us chose Roisin as favourite to win as soon as she came off stage. At the interval we met Westlife and any parents who managed to cajole their way backstage. We went to the Earl of Desmond for food and plenty of drinks once it was all over and then joined our families once more in the Brandon for a late night of celebrations.

Tuesday we were awarded honorary citizenship of Tralee at a civic reception. I spent the day relaxing, as I had injured my foot dancing the night before. Rumours of a broken toe were untrue but it was badly battered and meant I had to forsake the races. This night I got to sit out front and watch the girls but I don't think any of us really relaxed as we were nervous for each and every girl that came on stage! When it ended we raced in to congratulate them and then suddenly it was time to hear the result. Roisin, the New York Rose was crowned the 2000 Rose of Tralee, which came as no great surprise to the Roses. She is a warm and friendly girl with great poise and I feel we were all genuinely happy for her. Then it was definitely a case of 'let the games begin' and we celebrated by changing out of formal wear for the first time in nine days, dumping the sashes, grabbing our escorts, boyfriends, family and friends and heading to Mc Daid's pub for a session that lasted until 8 a.m. the next morning.

Wednesday we bid tearful goodbyes to those who were leaving, the four documentary Roses did one last round up with the camera crew, I know I was happy to just take it easy in jeans and finally spend some time with my family and John. The whole experience has left me with an appreciation of the Rose of Tralee that I certainly didn't have before but more importantly with an appreciation of the community spirit, which exists in Ballyhaunis and Ballinlough. The sponsorship I received, the support from people in the street, the good luck cards, the help from the Roscommon and Galway committees and most importantly the encouragement from my family and friends. Pat, Patricia, David, Aisling, Cormac, Deirdre, Sarah, Olivia, Nicola, Deirdre S, Jillian, Margaret, Blaneth and of course John, you may have teased me unmercilessly but I know you had fun and you helped me keep my feet firmly on the ground. Let's hope we're there again next year, without ballgowns this time!!!

Footnote:

I would like to acknowledge all my very generous sponsors as follows; Rochford Motors, Ballyhaunis Credit Union, Ballyhaunis Parochial Hall Committee, Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, Kiltimagh Resource Centre, Michael Glaveys G.A.A. Club, Roscommon Rose Committee, Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Bank, Ulster Bank, Dillons Travel, Lyons Coaches Hire, Collerans Chemists, Curleys Jewellers, Gallaghers Hardware, McGarrys Ladies Fashions, Finns Footwear, The White House Hotel, Dawn Meats Ltd, Ryan's Super Valu, Austin Grogan & Sons Ltd, Kellys Furniture and J.F.C. Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Tuam.
Once Again Many Thanks.



Evelyn O'Connor with her parents Pat and Patricia O'Connor.

Football 2000

Yvonne Byrne

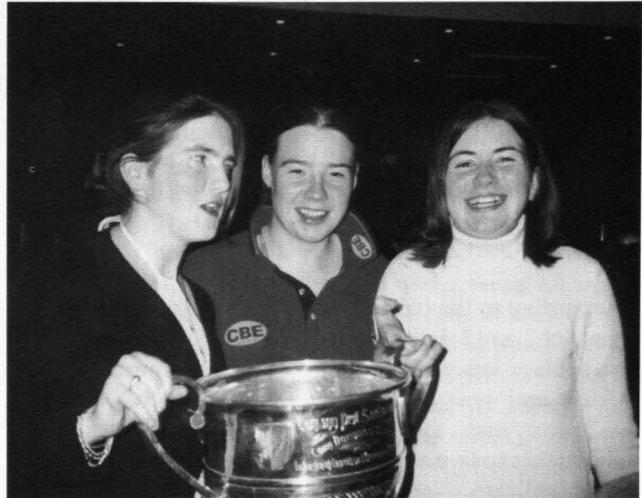
It is every footballer's ambition to play in Croke Park and every footballer's dream to win an All Ireland cup for their county. Mayo Ladies were very fortunate to realise this dream for the second time, in this, the Millennium year.

Very early in the year we felt our ambition and our dream were both achievable as we settled down to serious training. Weather conditions, training venues, time factors, travel distance or indeed any other inconvenience, were not considered part of the equation - if you were sufficiently interested and committed, you were at training - full stop. This was the attitude of each and every member of the panel, and was, we believe, what achieved for us, the All Ireland League Cup in June and the All Ireland Senior Cup in October.

However, all the commitment and enthusiasm in the world would not achieve two All Ireland cups in one season, without the leadership, coaching and excellent management skills of our two most efficient and popular managers Johnathan Mullin and Finbar Egan, who incidentally, are considered by the team to be the two most important members of the squad.

We are also very fortunate to have excellent sponsors. This year CBE Claremorris, our main sponsors, have set a precedent we only ever dreamed of. Not forgetting of course our own local sponsors, who never let us down. They consistently over the years kept us on the pitch, when there wasn't as much return for their investment, certainly no mention of Croke Park. Credit must also go to the GAA for their generosity with their pitches for training. Once again Ballyhaunis GAA club always accommodated the Mayo Ladies without fuss.

Last and but no means least, our supporters! You are the people we rely on for encouragement, incentive and



Yvonne and friends; left: Liesel Ronan and right: Tracey Gallagher

ambition. They say it's a long difficult road to Croke Park, but I would like you, our supporters to know, that every word of encouragement, every phone call, every good luck card, every letter written, and every red and green flag waved are what gets us there in the end.

When Mayo Ladies team ran on to the pitch in Croke Park on 1st October, I personally, will never forget, or find words to adequately describe, the feeling of pride I felt when I realised that 75% of the flags on the stands were red and green. The people of Mayo had turned out in force - a force to be reckoned with.

It is the one memory of the Millennium All Ireland that I will treasure for the rest of my life. You are the people who travelled to Croke Park to support us, and you did it with magnitude and style, as you did again on that very wet Tuesday evening, when Mayo Ladies brought the Brendan Martin Cup to my town. Fair play to you all - I'm proud of you, I'm proud of Mayo Ladies and I'm proud of the Brendan Martin Cup. We will have a go again next year, and with your help and support, we may enjoy another day in Croke Park so don't go away - we need you!



Supporting Mayo Ladies Football, William Nestor, Patrick Waldron, Tom Phillips and Joe Phillips.

You're Here For A Good Time Not A Long Time

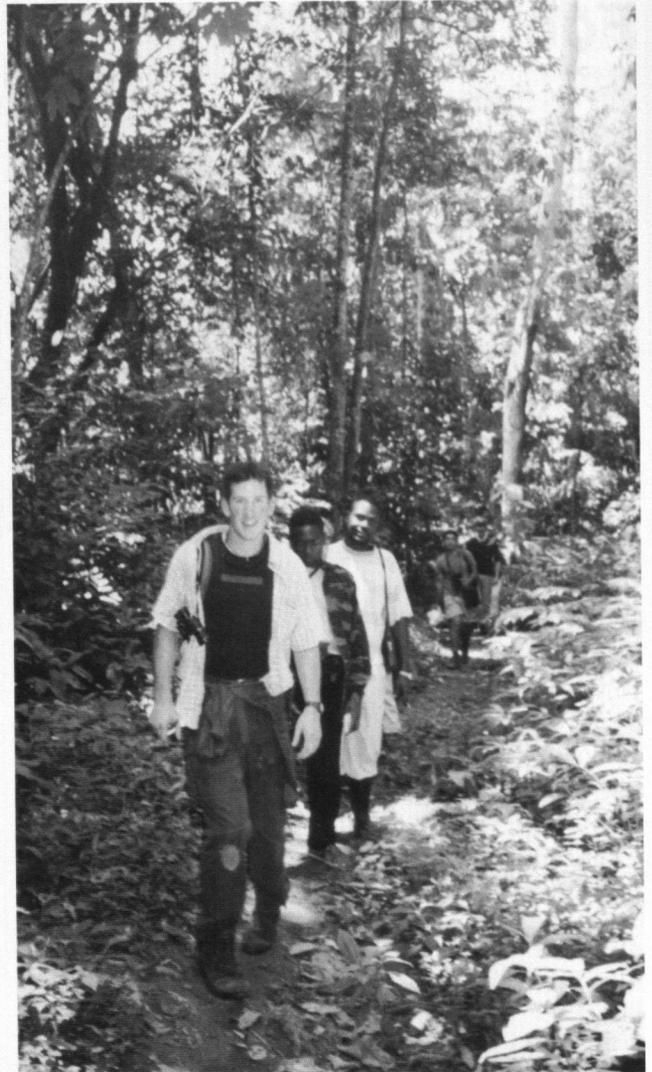
Steven Glynn

"According to the old saying "it's better to be born lucky than rich" and I definitely agree. This Summer I applied for a place on a tropical biology field course in East Africa and was lucky enough to be one of twelve European and ten African students to receive a scholarship to live and study in the eastern arc mountains, a tropical rain forest in northern Tanzania. The course began on the 2nd and finished on the 30th of September. The Tropical Biology Association (TBA) field course aims to develop and promote expertise in tropical biology and conservation, while encouraging co-operation between European and tropical biologists. The course works towards the goal of training young scientists from Europe and Africa to encourage them to pursue a career in tropical research, conservation or environmental management.

As for my educational background, I have just graduated with an honours degree in Environmental Science from NUI, Galway. From January to August I received information from the TBA, detailing daily itinerary, equipment and vaccines needed. The rendezvous point for all the students was Dar es Salaam. I arrived there a few days early to get a feel for the place. Dar. (as the locals call it) is a hectic city with a vaguely oriental feel. Some of its colonial character is still intact and in places it is a picturesque seaport. The city has a population of over two million and is Tanzania's major city and its capital in everything except name.

We left Dar on the second of September and had an eight hour journey by jeep north to the base of the mountains at which point a dirt road twisted and turned up the mountains to a plateau at approx. 1,000m. The highest peak on this range rise to 1,506m. On our way up the mountain clay huts dotted the roadside, villagers waved and welcomed us in Swahili (Karibu - welcome). We arrived after sun-set on the first night to a village called Amani, an attractive village established by the Germans as a biological research centre. The climate in the area is comfortable year round but during the rainy season paths become very muddy. Rainfall averages 2,000mm/yr (Ireland, in contrast averages 1,000mm). It is thanks to this climatic isolation and stability (i.e. geological features of 100 to 600 million years) that has resulted in a co-evolution between plants and animals that gives an exceptional degree of biological diversity (25% of plants, 30% of amphibians and 70% of chameleons are endemic to the Usambara mountains).

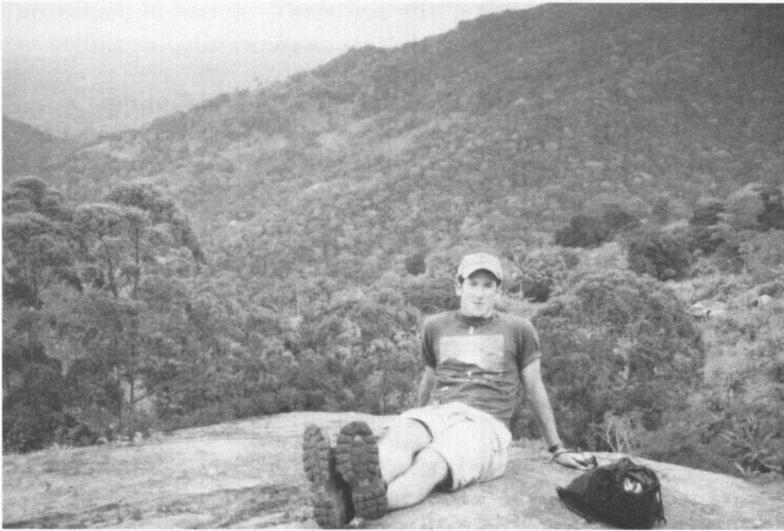
The other students on the course came from Denmark,



Steven Glynn in the Amani Botanical Gardens, Usambaras mountains, Tanzania

Great Britain, Austria, Portugal, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Cameroon, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya. Our schedule varied from day to day but some activities included guided walks and hikes deep into the forest or excursions to see how local villages were taking it upon themselves to manage the forest for sustainable use. There is a real need for this as the Usambara rainforest like most rainforests at the moment are under threat from deforestation.

A typical day started at 6:30 with an unheated outdoor shower. Breakfast consisted of toast, eggs and Paw-Paw/Mango. At 8:30 we met to arrange the day ahead. Generally the morning session included a hike and guided walk through the forest. We set up a lot of insect traps to identify some of the many species of the area. We also had lectures on various topics such as the migration and the threat of invasive tropical plant species. During the last two weeks of the course all students completed a project. A Swedish student and myself decided to research "Allanblackia" an endemic tree to the Usambaras mountains. The project looked at methods of seed



"Eastern Arc", Usambaras mountains, Tanzania.

dispersal and predation rates on seeds. This tree is very unusual, standing 35-40m high, this canopy tree produces fruit two to three times the size of a rugby ball! Luckily we were not around when any of these fruits fell.

During the course we also had plenty of time for social interaction. This gave us time to play soccer and rounders with the locals (necessity being the mother of invention, rounders was played with a bamboo stick and a ball made from socks and elastic bands). At night we went to our 'Colobus hut' and sat around a campfire drinking beer and chatting into the early hours of the morning. Other nights we hiked up to a lookout point "Mbomole Hill" and slept out under the stars. The sunrise at this location was unforgettable.

All good things come to an end and all too soon the course was finished and we returned to Dar. The majority

of the students at this point had to return to college. I on the other hand had another month to travel, and next destination was Zanzibar. Zanzibar is a fascinating land, famous for its spices, situated off the coast of Tanzania.

The town's labyrinth of narrow streets and beaches are picture perfect. The island is surrounded by a coral reef making it a major destination for scuba divers. It was on the deserted beaches of Zanzibar that I met up with some seasoned back-packers. People that had been travelling for six months to a year around Africa. Within hours of meeting these people I decided to go to Malawi, a country southeast of Tanzania. Getting there required a 24hr. bus journey and believe you me you've never done a 24hr. bus journey until you have done one in Africa. Unpaved

roads and packed buses; the bumps shuffled people into place like a deck of cards. Malawi is a back-packers paradise! The kind of place you plan on staying for a week, drink a few beers on the lakeshore and before you know it 6 months have gone by and your visa is out of date. My cabin on the lakeshore cost me all of £1.75/night and meals were half that. After taking part in an excellent dive-course in the fresh water lake I started to make my way back to Dar. On the way, I stopped at the "Mvasa Marsh Game Reserve" for a safari. On the first day a herd of a hundred plus elephants walked by my chalet. Other animals included Hippos, Kudu and Baboons. I got back to Dar on the 23rd after two twelve hour bus journeys. I flew back to Ireland on the 24th of October arrived on the 25th, graduated from college on the 26th and spent the 27th, 28th and 29th at the Cork Jazz festival meeting up with old friends. Who said "youth is wasted on the young"? Next week I leave for Colorado.

Living In Portugal

Terence Freeley

Most people thinking of Portugal, think of the Algarve, so popular for holidays. The part which I wish to describe is the north west of Portugal where I live. The city of Braga is about fifty kilometres north of Oporto. Braga is the capital of the province of the Minho. It stretches from the river Douro to the river Minho the frontier with the Spanish region of Galicia. This country like the west of Ireland is very green - due to it being next to the Atlantic it has a high rainfall. The climate is warm and the winters short and mild. The land is very fertile producing two or three crops a year. The land is divided mainly into small farms scattered in parishes.

The city of Braga itself is very ancient, founded in about 40 B.C. by the Romans. The seat of an Archdiocese, it is one of the oldest in the Iberian peninsula. The Archbishop of Braga is entitled the Primate of all the Spanish.

Though the city is very ancient, it has a very youthful population. It contains two universities and numerous schools.

The people here are very friendly and easy going and fond of their traditional festivals. There are some five hundred 'festas' in the region, the most famous being St. John's Eve (June 23), a festival of Celtic origin similar in many ways to the old Irish celebrations of that day. The people stay up all night in the streets, hitting each other on the head with little plastic hammers. Stalls sell grilled sardines and peppers and bowls of wine. People jump over bonfires on the street corners. Needless to say there is no shortage of music especially the bagpipes traditional to the north of Portugal, a relic, one of many of the early Celtic settlement of this land.

Braga is a very prosperous and expanding city. The hospitable nature of its people makes it a very agreeable place for a stranger.

I have been very happy to live here for over twenty years as it is a delightful land of endearing charm.

Bunnagh Magazine **St. Mary's National School**

The first year of the Millennium was busy and progressive for pupils, teachers and all concerned with the school.

Board of Management 1997/2000

Chairperson: Rev. Canon Joseph Cooney P.P, Secretary: John Griffin (elected parent), Treasurer: Kathleen Lyons (teacher), Agatha Higgins (elected parent), Jim Landon (Principal), Patron's Nominee: Martina Gallagher. Elected by the Board: Liam Lynskey and Pauline McGarry.

Thanks to the members of the outgoing Board of Management, for being involved in the running of the school so efficiently for the past three years.

Board of Management 2000/2003

Canon J. Cooney P.P., John Griffin (elected parent), Marie Cregg (elected parent), Betty Regan (teacher), Jim Landon, Liam Lynskey, Martina Gallagher and Anne Lyons.

Parents Association 1999/2000 (outgoing)

Chairperson: Martin Keane, Secretary: Marie Cregg, Treasurer: Bridie McDermott, Committee: Mary Mulrennen, Marie Jordan, Rosaleen Keane, Christine Concannon, Eamonn Healy, Mary Finan, Manor Cherbati, Bernadette Lyons, Bridie Waldron, Agatha Higgins, John Griffin.

Thanks to the outgoing Parents Association, for raising the money to buy a new computer, printer and scanner for the Learning Support class, a keyboard for the school, and for their invaluable help on many occasions during the year.

Teachers:

Jim Landon (Principal), Augustine Kearns (Deputy Principal), Jimmy Duggan, Kathleen Lyons, Aisling Toal, Betty Regan (Resource Teacher), Margaret O'Flaherty (resource teacher), Maureen Reddington (Shared Support Teacher with St. Joseph's), Eilish Creane (Shared Language Support Teacher with St. Joseph's), who took up duty on 1st of September 2000.

Fás:

We are indebted to Fás for the services of John Hurley (Caretaker) and Mary Dillon (Secretary) as part of the Ballyhaunis Community Workers Scheme.

School Activities:

Tuesday: Dermot Sullivan takes 3rd to 6th classes for Gaelic Football. Sixth class visits the Town Library. Thanks to Eleanor Freyne (Librarian), for her interest and help. Children can now join the library free. Children in all classes are encouraged to avail of the excellent service.

Wednesday: Music lessons on guitar, banjo, accordion and tin whistle with Tom Lyons.

Thursday: Hurling for 4th, 5th and 6th classes with Kevin Kelly. All classes learn Irish dancing with Gráinne Freyne.

Friday: Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union operates in the school.

All classes have swimming lessons in Claremorris Pool in April, May and June.

The children collect used postage stamps for Oxfam throughout the year. They collect for Trócaire during Lent

Quizzes/Competitions.

The school took part in the Credit Union, Cumann na mBunscoil, NPC and Gael Linn quizzes. Thanks to Marie Jordan who coached the boys for the NPC Quiz.

Niall Feeney, Devlis and Patrick Freeley, Hazelhill, were winners in the Energy Challenge competition run by Mayo Energy Ltd. for Primary Schools.

Padraig Cribbin, Lecarrow, was the overall winner of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association essay competition for Primary Schools.

Brian Waldron, Cave, was the winner in the INTO/EBS schools handwriting competition for the Mayo county area.

Daniel Glancy, Bracklaghboy, was the outright winner of the Connaught under 12 Open Junior Tennis Competition at Galway Lawn Tennis Club, Salthill in August. Daniel has many cups and medals from his success on the tennis court.

Patrick Kelly, Knox St, came 10th in the Puc Fada in the All Ireland Community Games finals in Mosney in August.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Magic Show: Fred Corvenio, Knockdrin, Mullingar, a.k.a. "The Joker", paid his first visit to St. Mary's and enthralled everyone with his magic show.

G.A.A President: On the 6th of December the senior classes and their teachers, met the then President of the G.A.A, Mr. Joe McDonagh at the Community School, Ballyhaunis.

Christmas: Hampers of non-perishable food items were presented by the pupils to the local St. Vincent de Paul society.

New Curriculum: The teaching staff attended a two day in-service course in Knock, on English in the New

Curriculum, in March. There was also a one day Planning Day in June.

First Communion: On May 21st, thirty children received their First Holy Communion in the Parish Church.

Rizwan and Jarlath in Croke Park:

The INTO/G.A.A Mini Sevens chose Rizwan Afzal, Clare Rd, and Jarlath Mellett, Abbeyvale, to play in Croke Park during the All Ireland Hurling Semi-Final on Sunday 13th August 2000. It was a very special occasion for the Afzal family from Pakistan, who came to settle in Ballyhaunis in 1997. As a result of Rizwan's selection, "The Irish Examiner" visited the school and did an article on the positive integration of the Muslim Community.



The school was also featured on TG4, "Breaking Ball", and the "Sunday Tribune".

L-R: St. Mary's Primary School; Luke Cribbin (U14 Hurling), Daniel Glancy (Clare & Connacht Tennis Champion), Michael Waldron (Boxing), Kevin Gallagher (East Mayo National School Football).

Schoolathon: Friday, June 9th was sponsored Schoolathon Day. The pupils enjoyed soccer, Olympic handball, cricket, table tennis, rounders, activity games, board games and ceili dancing. A very enjoyable day was rounded off with crisps and minerals supplied by the Parents Association.

End of Year School Mass:

The end of year School Mass was celebrated in the Assembly Area, by Canon Cooney, on 21st June, with pupils, parents and the staff.

In his homily, Canon Cooney had four very practical suggestions for the graduating pupils:

- a) That their school was judged the Tidiest School in Mayo and to be always litter conscious.
- b) When they are coming home from discos in the early hours, to remember there are elderly people asleep and to respect them, not frighten them by shouting and noise.
- c) No young person should drink before they are 18, and then, they might have some money of their own, instead of wasting their parent's money on drink.
- d) To attend Sunday Mass and stay for the full Mass.

The parents were welcomed and thanked for their great support during the year, the Board of Management for their work for the last three years, the Secretary (Mary Dillon), and the Caretaker John Hurley, the bus drivers Tom Waldron and the Lyons' bus drivers. All those who coached the children in sport were thanked and also Mary Meagh for the exquisite artwork she did for the school. Cannon Cooney presented Certs to the departing boys in 6th class and the girls in 2nd class (who were returning to St. Joseph's in September).

6th class boys: Fawaz Asilia, Thomas Concannon, Pdraig Cribbin, Lorcan Finan, Paul Fitzmaurice, John C. Halpin, David Healy, David Herr, Mark Kelly, Mark

Madden, Jarlath Mellett, Joseph Neenan, Joseph Waldron.

2nd class girls: Corrina Byrne, Sinead Byrne, Sara Cherbatji, Caitriona Cleary, Michelle Connell, Martina Daly, Avril Feeney, Lisa Finn, Lisa Folan, Fiona Freyne, Mairead Griffin, Sinead Healy, Maura Kelly, Adrienne Kenny, Leanne Lynch, Jennifer Lyons, Denise McCormack, Aideen Murray, Michelle O'Connor.

Irish Blood Transfusion Service.

The mobile unit paid its first visit to the school in July 2000 and returned again in November 2000. St. Mary's is the new venue for the service.

Summer Scheme: A beautiful Mural of Oisín and Niamh Cinn Oir was painted in the School shelter by Mary Meagh, who with Noreen Mansha painted the surrounding front walls.

Sport:

Our hurlers retained the Mayo Cumann na mBunscoil seven a side County Title. A special word of thanks to the Manager, Peter Higgins, assisted by Ray Lucey and Gerry Kilbride. The panel was Connor Mulrennen, Mark Madden, Rizwan Afzal, Brian Gallagher, David Herr, David Healy, Jarlath Mellett, Luke Cribbin, Stephen Hoban, Kieran Lucey, Patrick Kelly. In football our students played at U8, U10, U12 and N.S level. Great credit goes to their trainers Michael Gallagher, Martin Finan, Barry Butler and Sean McNamara.

Thanks:

To Caitriona O'Dowd and Natasha Higgins who worked in the school every Friday as part of their work experience.

We wish our pupils, parents and past pupils every success and happiness during 2001.



St. Mary's Primary School First Communion, May 1999. Front row l-r: Eamon Fitzmaurice, Charles Conroy, Sean Cunnane, Brian Hunt, Ruairí Finan, Jonathon Maughan, Shane Nolan & Shamie Webb. 2nd row: Joseph Lyons, Caroline Cleary, Melissa Kenny, Niamh Lyons, Shauna Folliard, Shirley McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Kevin McNamara, Orla Lyons, Daniel Ward & Keelan Kenny. 3rd row: Emma Jenkins, Amy Tighe, Ursula Byrne, Justin Glancy, Tadhg Morley, Sinead Higgins & Sarah Jane Lynskey. 4th row: John Lyons, Mary McDonagh, Kevin Nestor, David McNamara, Liam McDermott, Gavin O'Connor, Kevin Moran & Christopher Mongan. Back row: Fr. James O'Grady, Mrs. Kathleen Lyons, Mr Jimmy Duggan & Canon Joseph Cooney.



St. Mary's Primary School. First Communion, May 2000. Priests: Fr. James O'Grady C.C., Canon Joseph Cooney P.P. Teachers: Mrs. Margaret O'Flaherty. Back: Patrick Conroy, Mairead Griffin, Sean Ronayne, Stephen Cregg, Paul Freeley, Aideen Murray, Martina Daly, Corrina Byrne, Avril Feeney, Michael Lawrence. Middle: Maura Kelly, Paul Carney, Kevin Morley, Fiona Freyne, Padraig Waldron, Michelle Connell, Kevin Fitzmaurice, Jennifer Lyons & Niall Cribbin. Front: Leanne Lynch, Michelle O'Connor, Sinead Healy, Damien Conlon, Aiden Richardson, Gerard Grogan, Lisa Finn, Lisa Folan, Sinead Byrne, Adrienne Kenny & Catriona Cleary.

Junior Legion of Mary

The weekly meetings are held in the Parochial Hall on Monday evenings at 5p.m. lasting one hour. Boys and Girls between the age of nine to eighteen are welcome.

There are seven on the roll-ages between ten to twelve years. The Secretary Lisa Carney and Treasurer Elaine Carney resigned on January 24th due to family commitments. Lisa Freyne Secretary and Maria Hunt were appointed on January 31st.

The Spiritual Reading is taken from the Bible and various religious books. Small sections of the Handbook are studied and discussed.

Allocutios cover a wide range of topics - The Rosary, The Blessed Sacrament, Pentecost, The Acies, The Holy Spirit, Mary's faith and origin of the four Gospels.

The standing instructions are read each month and the children are reminded of the importance of attending the meeting each week and also the importance of punctuality.

The works carried out by the sisters are - delivery of Catholic papers and visitation to Grandparents. They offer up one hour's work to Our Lady; chores vary from washing the car to feeding the family pet.

A special Rosary is prayed at home each week for disaster victims, Holy Souls, and vocations. Different mysteries are prayed each week and the children take it in turn to pray a decade and name a mystery.

In May and October the children handed out bottles of Knock Holy Water with leaflets after Mass in the Friary and St. Patrick's Church. To date they have distributed 253 bottles.

Twenty-four Christmas cards were made by the sisters and given to the residents and staff of Carewell Nursing Home when they went carol singing. This was appreciated by all.

One Thousand Hail Mary's were offered as a bouquet to the Baby Jesus on Christmas morning by the sisters.

A concert was given by the children in the Carewell Nursing Home at Easter and again in October. A decade of the Rosary was first prayed for the residents and staff. The residents joined in with the singing and enjoyed themselves.

In January the children had their Annual Christmas Party which was enjoyed by all.

Used stamps and Christmas cards were collected for the Missions.

In July we visited Ballintubber Abbey, then went to see Moorehall, had a walk in the woods followed by a picnic which was enjoyed by all. On the 30th of July we to Saint Patricks Holy Well for Mass which was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Walsh Aughamore and then we had our usual picnic.

In May we decided we should have a Virgin statue to travel to homes where there are children. There is a leaflet on the Rosary and a booklet explaining the Legion of Mary with the statue. Lisa Freyne (Secretary) is responsible for the statue and a report is given each week. It has travelled as far as Castlereagh and the Beaumont Hospital in Dublin as well as to lots of homes in the Parish.



Junior Legion of Mary. Back, left - right: Elaine Carney, Lydia Concannon, Lisa Carney & Maria Hunt. Front: Christina Concannon (Vice President), Lisa Freyne, Janice Folliard & Carol Freyne.

The children are encouraged to get their parents and other members of the family to pray the Rosary with them while the statue is in the home.

In September we took up the challenge of Sr. Peyton who visited the Senior praesidium from Manchester. The challenge was to introduce the Rosary to the schools. Christina Concannon Vice President made arrangements with St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Primary schools and visited both schools each week during the month of October. In St. Mary's school the 6th class was seen and in St. Joseph's the 4th 5th and 6th classes were seen. The rosary was explained and the use of the rosary Beads. All the Mysteries were prayed in both schools and a period was given for questions and answers.

Christina was given a great welcome by the teachers and students. It has been arranged to visit again in May next year please God.



Margaret Prendergast - Winner of "An Bord Glas" All Ireland Quality Potato Championship. A native of Annagh Parish, she is daughter of the late Tom & Bridie Carney of Carrowkeel, Ballyhaunis. Being the first lady winner of this championship, it is her second year in a row to hold this title. Specialising in fourteen different types of tubers, it is a most enjoyable hobby for Margaret.



Ruth Judge, Clooncrim, Ballinlough of the Elwood School of Dancing, Ballyhaunis. Prize-winner in all solo competitions age 8-9 at Oireachtas Dancing Championships Nov. 2000 in Galway



Elwood School of Dancing 1999. Back l-r: Lydia Concannon, Lisa Henry, Lisa Carney, Jean Henry, Elaine Carney, Maria Connoll. Front l-r: Kenneth Judge, Laura Henry, Conor Freeman taken at the Connaught Dancing Championships in Leisureland, Galway.



Members of the King-Byrne School of Dancing pictured during a trip to Birmingham in Spring 2000. Back left to right: Robert Lilly, Karen Jordan, Luise Lilly, Laura Murphy, Ann King-Byrne (teacher), Orla Mulrennan, Karen Lilly & Michael Jordan. Front: Michelle Brennan, Lisa Jordan, Ciara Devaney, Sarah Lenehan, Damien Kedian, Michelle Cleary, Evelyn Kearns, Emma Forde, Lisa Kedian, Catherine Lenehan.

A Pilgrimage and More . . .

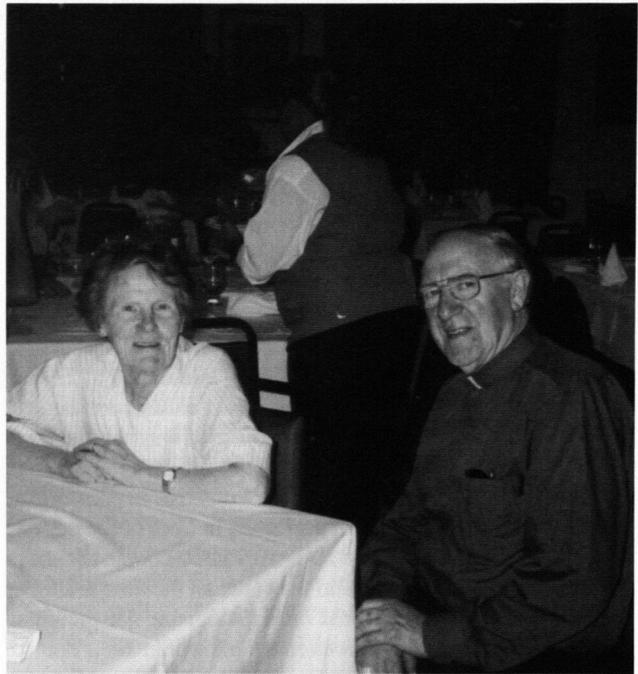
Maura Griffin

I booked my place on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land beginning on the 10th of October 2000. Just a few days beforehand the right-wing opposition politician Ariel Sharon strutted his way around the Temple Mount in Jerusalem This was offensive in the extreme to the Palestinians, because after Mecca and Medina, this Mosque is the third most sacred site to Islam. Then adding insult to injury Ehud Barak, the Israeli Prime Minister, invited Ariel Sharon to join the national Coalition Government.

On arrival at Dublin Airport we heard from returning pilgrims that there had been some tension in Tiberias on the previous day, and as we were to spend four days in Tiberias, some people became alarmed. We were addressed by the organisers of the pilgrimage and told the facts and as a result some ten people decided not to travel. We got airborne by about 2pm and after a very pleasant flight reached Tel Aviv by 8pm local time - one hour ahead of Irish time. We travelled by bus to Bethlehem, having been held up for a short time at the Israeli checkpoint as we entered Bethlehem. Bethlehem is in Palestinian territory. Passing Rachel's tomb, a Jewish sacred place within the Palestinian area, the ground was littered with stones from many stone throwing episodes here. This was our introduction to the stressed relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Next day the wake-up call was 7.30 a.m. Breakfast was self-service with an extensive variety of dishes, but bacon and sausages were absent as neither Jews nor Arabs eat pig-meat. We visited the Nativity Basilica and had Mass in the Church of St. Catherine there. Down a long flight of stairs in this church we came to the traditional birthplace of Jesus. This is marked by a star on the floor, and to venerate the spot the pilgrim must lie prone on the floor as the table of an altar covers the spot. Several other holy places in Bethlehem were visited during the course of the day and on our way back to our hotel we were told that the wake-up call next morning was at 4 a.m. Ouch! not much fun this!

Sure enough it came and by 5a.m. we were on our way to Jerusalem. By this time dawn was breaking through a cloudless sky with shades of pink, purple and vermilion around the horizon and a temperature of 24 degree C. We commenced the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa with all the pilgrims, four at a time, taking turns carrying a wooden cross. The end of the journey is up steep stone steps to reach the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the site of the Crucifixion on Calvary. The Basilica is under the control of the Greek Orthodox Church, but there is a Catholic chapel where we had Mass. Our last exercise here was to visit the sacred tomb in which Jesus was laid. We spent about an hour standing in a queue, and if a few pilgrims were inclined to linger too long, a Greek Orthodox monk intervened to chivvy them along. About 10a.m. there was a break for coffee and croissants and a welcome relief for tired legs and arthritic



Maura Griffin with Bishop Colm O'Reilly in The Holy Land.

knees and hips. By 5p.m. we got back to our hotel to the very bad news of trouble in Ramallah, where two Israeli soldiers were seized by a Palestinian mob, killed, and their bodies dragged through the streets. Israeli helicopter gunships attacked the town and T.V. pictures showed frightening scenes. Ramallah is less than twenty miles from Bethlehem, and the Middle East could well be on the verge of total war. Israel is not a happy place to be this evening. A 'Council of War' was held in the hotel and as many people in the party were fearful, it was decided that, if a plane could be made available by El-Al we would cut our losses and go home as soon as possible.

Next morning contact was made with the Irish Ambassador to Israel, Mr Brendan Scannell, who lives in Tel Aviv. He was not unduly worried but said he would come and visit us at 3.30p.m. next evening. It was thought to be a risk to go to Jerusalem that day so we became real tourists and went to the Dead Sea away from all flashpoints. When we got to the Israeli checkpoint leaving Bethlehem the soldiers insisted that we leave our buses and walk through. We stopped for lunch at Quemram where the Dead Scrolls were found and continued on to have a very pleasant day at the Dead Sea where some of us practised 'floating'. It was extremely hot about 35degrees C. as the area is about 400 metres below sea-level. On the way back the Israelis did not demand that we walk through the checkpoint. A collective sigh of relief ensued which proved to be short lived! As we passed Rachel's tomb, we heard gunfire - rifle and machine-gun. We retreated back from that street and our driver tried another route - same problem and more gunfire! The driver tried another route and this time, by driving down a very narrow precipitous street with a hairpin bend at the bottom, we succeeded in reaching our hotel and that doorway was good to see! Sporadic gunfire continued all afternoon until darkness fell.

Next day Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, we decided to go to Jerusalem to visit the Garden of Gethsemane and other holy places. Again we had to walk through the Israeli checkpoint. A

wonderful day! We had an outdoor Mass in the Garden of Gethsemane concelebrated by our Bishop leader and seven pilgrim priests. We visited the Church of the Visitation where the Magnificat is inscribed on the wall in about fifty languages including Irish. We recited the Magnificat together in Irish. We planned to return early as we were meeting The Irish Ambassador at 3.30p.m. How 'early' as it transpired was quite a different matter. We got through the Israeli checkpoint successfully but then we noticed that the road was littered with stones from an episode during the day. This time the Palestinians refused us entry to Bethlehem saying that the Palestinian authorities had banned all tourists from Bethlehem as a protest against 'their' tourists being humiliated by having to walk through the checkpoint. The Irish Ambassador came to see us. Parleying went on in a very confused way. At one stage a guy who described himself as the Chief of Police in Bethlehem told us we could go to our hotel. He stepped off the bus and straight away another guy stood in front of the bus and prevented us from alighting. This happened a couple of times - they shunted us backwards and forwards all the time telling us the problem was being sorted out, apologising for the delay and telling us that in a few minutes all would be arranged. Meanwhile our good friend the Ambassador was doing his best. God Bless the mobile phone! The Ambassador contacted the Palestinian authorities and tried to get through to Yasser Arafat in the Gaza strip, but he had left for Cairo, for the conference of Arab leaders. We spent 3 1/2 hours on the buses and by now it was dark. Getting quite scary! Personally I felt that the disorganisation and disunity among the Palestinians was our biggest threat. Remember there were quite a number of armed men and a general mob of youths surrounding us and if they had a serious disagreement we would have been the meat in the sandwich. By 6.30pm a compromise was reached. The Palestinians would allow us to return to our hotels to pick up our belongings and leave Bethlehem within an hour. We jumped at this. The Ambassador stayed with us and by 8pm we were loaded on our buses while the armed Palestinians were standing by in the lobby of the hotel. We set off for Tiberias - a journey of about two hours. The final irony was that on the way to Tiberias a call came through from Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Government apologising for the misunderstanding and asking us to return to Bethlehem. Needless to say we didn't avail of the invitation, but I can say I'm probably the only person in Ballyhaunis to whom Yasser Arafat apologised! Tiberias is in a totally Israeli dominated area so border clashes are not a problem. From this base we visited Nazareth and its beautiful Church of the Annunciation and Cana where the married couples among the pilgrims renewed their marriage vows. One couple was on that very day celebrating their Silver Wedding anniversary, so they were presented with special rings by the bishop! At the river Jordan we had the renewal of Baptismal vows with a dozen or so hardy souls opting to do so by total immersion in the water. Next day we went to Mount Tobor. To get to the summit we were taken by taxi - a journey of three and a half km with hairpin bends that would make you think that the Corkscrew Hill or the Connor Pass were the safest places on earth! In the church on Mount Carmel the crib must be the most elaborate in the world - not just a few sheep but a whole flock in it. Last place we visited that day was the port of Haifa. We've all heard 'see Naples or die' but Haifa puts

Naples in the shade. At a viewing point above the bay, a local busker played 'Amhran Na Bhfiann' for us to great applause from the Irish audience.

On the last day we drove north to the Galan Heights to spend some hours at a spa there. Here we travelled along the border between Israel and Jordan and in the distance we could see where the Irish army peace-keepers on the Lebanon-Israeli border are encamped. This is the proverbial 'land flowing with milk and honey' but there wouldn't be much agriculture only for a very elaborate system of irrigation using water from the sea of Galilee. Extensive crops of vegetables (peppers tomatoes etc), fruit (bananas, oranges, melons, dates) and tobacco are grown, while in drier areas olives are the dominant crop.

The political situation is reminiscent of our problems in Northern Ireland, but the situation in the Middle East is more extreme. The Palestinians are poor and feel they are second-class citizens and as such, nurse a sense of resentment. Whatever inconvenience we suffered was at the hands of the Palestinians, but despite that our sympathies were with them. Lastly, on behalf of our group I would like to express our gratitude to Mr Brendan Scannell, that good Kerryman from Tarbert, who championed our cause and looked after us so well.

FRIARY HILL

Cecily Garvey-Moran

As I wound my way up Friary Hill.
I paused as I took each step.
And thought of all who this way did pass
For six hundred years going to Mass

I moved along to the top of the hill
I went into the Church, it was so still.
I thought of all who were dead and gone,
And kept their faith so firm and strong

In Cromwell's time - in the darkest days
Our forbears fought, their faith to save
When our Friar was hanged on yonder tree
They didn't lose their faith O Lord in thee

Now people all we must fight again
To keep our Abbey on Friary Hill
Our ancestors all are buried here
WHY SHOULDN'T WE, THE PEOPLE CARE?

Ballyhaunis on Race Day

Joe Costello, Jnr.

From 1866 onwards the combination of the proximity of the Railway Station and initiative of the local people helped to put Ballyhaunis on the sporting World map. What arose from this partnership became known as the "Premier Sporting Event of the West" - the Steeplechase Races at Tooraree.

Following its opening, the Annual Meeting was one of unparalleled success. This success was built on a number of factors. The newly arrived railway line (opened 9th September 1861) played a critical role. The railway station was a mere three minute walk from the town. On race days the railway station changed from its normal character. It became a hive of activity and was swamped with people. The normal 10.10 a.m. Dublin-bound train from Westport was utilised for an excursion or "special" train. Passengers were picked up from Castlebar, Manulla, Foxford, Ballina, Balla and Claremorris, arriving in Ballyhaunis for 11.50 a.m. A down "special" from Athlone departed at 9 a.m. collecting from Roscommon, Donamon, Ballymoe and Castlerea before arriving at 11.10 a.m. Both trains returned that evening at 7.30 p.m. and 7.45 p.m. respectively.

The race-goers, thanks to the trains, were able to reach Ballyhaunis "expeditiously, cheaply and comfortably." The horse owners and jockeys were able to transport their animals to and back from Ballyhaunis free of charge. Extensive railway advertisements detailing travel for the races appeared in the local press a month in advance. The Ballyhaunis Race Committee issued their own separate advertisements two months prior to the meeting being held.

What distinguished Ballyhaunis on race day from many others in the province was a tribute to the excellent planning and sound financial affairs of the Race Committee. Its subscribers were many in number. The following is a rough breakdown of the type of patrons involved in any one race meeting. The gentry were naturally the largest donors, the amount varied from £6 to £1. The origin of these people makes for interesting reading. Money was sent from Galway, Dublin and Belfast. Surprisingly donations also arrived from Glasgow, Leeds and Bradford. About seventy-five members of the gentry contributed every year

The local businessmen of Ballyhaunis, Station Master and Parish Priests all played a part by donating a £1 each. Interestingly about sixty people gave smaller amounts from £1 to 10 shillings. An even greater number of people donated between 2 and 5 shillings. The local bank - the Hibernian - and the Tuam Herald was also to the fore with sponsorship. In total three hundred people gave annually financial support. This only serves to underline the factors mentioned previously - i.e. a sound financial base and good planning, key factors to any sporting event.

So what was Ballyhaunis like on race day?

The specials [trains] were crowded, certainly towards the end of the journey, extreme discomfort would have been experienced. The main roads were black with foot passengers, equestrians and vehicles all proceeding to the races. The number of strangers

revealed as much as any factor the esteem in which the races were held. On average 15,000 were attracted to the races.

Ballyhaunis on Race Day had all the appearance of a happy and festive time as the thousands flocked to Tooraree. The town was brisk beyond all description, the streets illustrating the truest picture of a race day. The business houses, newly painted and decorated, were crammed full of people purchasing luxuries of every kind. This constant stream of business flowed from an early hour up to ten o'clock in the evening and after. Ballyhaunis, in the eyes of one observer, was a tiny, snug place where "fabulous charges are unknown and your comforts may be fully and sumptuously provided". The town contained several spacious bars all doing a "roaring trade". Given the multitudes present, it was remarkable that up to the close of the entire racing programme there was no quarrelling or drunkenness to be seen. The police constables sauntered about having little else to do.

So to the course. The stand which had been erected offered ample accommodation and facilities. An extensive and well planned restaurant lay within the enclosure distributing goods of the finest quality. The gentry traditionally held the seats in the stand and were suitably dressed for the grand occasion. The men typically dressed in plaid suits, sported moustaches, puffed large cigars and carried telescopes. The ladies wore silken dresses and delicate bonnets or yachting hats. The chignon was the favoured hair styles of this period. As for the men, wigs were still popular, as were many kinds of dye.

The peasantry by contrast wore their Sunday best and would have headed for the "hill" offering the best views of the days proceedings. Many brought picnic hampers, two of the favoured delicacies would have been cold ham and warm punch. In other areas the cooking of bacon and eggs took place, in addition to the many refreshment booths on location.

The day would not have been complete without the side attractions. Ballyhaunis was no exception. Among the games of chance and amusement were the card-sharps, jugglers and thimble-riggers. The business done here was steady with those of all ages participating in the fun. Fortune telling was particularly popular with the best customers being young girls and "stale" boys (bachelors never quite close to matrimony).

Ballyhaunis was noted for its punctual race times and its weigh-yard was described as "well placed, well kept and commodious." The day's racing finished early thus facilitating the crowds travel home.

The success of the race course was significant in a province where the falling-off of sport and entertainment was evident. Some attributed this to the absentee gentry, but as I have already penned this was certainly not the case in Ballyhaunis. There was certainly less cause for lamentation than elsewhere. Highly favourable press reports from the day's events only serve to highlight the esteem in which Ballyhaunis was held and, in particular, the businessmen and women.

I conclude with a quote from the Connaught Telegraph: "To those, whose evocation it is to work behind the counter, the office desk, or follow the plough, nothing can be more soothing than a day's outing, in the way so generously catered for by the patriotic gentlemen of Ballyhaunis." Ballyhaunis, unlikely as it may have seemed, was then the racing capital of the west.

Ballyhaunis Magazine **Ballyhaunis Cemetery**

"Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed, not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven".

How consoling this quotation, from the Mass for the dead is when we visit the cemetery and remember fondly our loved ones who lie there - those people who have gone before us and to whom we owe so much. It is only fitting that we show our love for them by keeping their last resting places neat and tidy.

Ballyhaunis cemetery covers a large area of four acres, and, until recently, was in a very badly neglected condition. The older area at the front was almost completely overgrown because, with the passing of time, there were few relatives left to tend the graves. Visitors, looking for the graves of relatives and friends, commented on its unkempt condition. In truth it was an embarrassment. It did not reflect well on us as a caring community. Something would have to be done.

When Canon Cooney arrived in the parish one of his priorities was to make the cemetery a fitting monument to our dead. Fr. O'Grady and himself spent many Summer evenings with volunteer groups from the Station Areas and a great improvement to the appearance of the cemetery resulted. The grass and weeds kept growing, however a good start had been made. In November 1998 a Cemetery Committee was formed, a plan was drawn up for the following year and a number of meetings was held. Finance was needed and a parish collection was taken up. This enabled us to employ a temporary caretaker and the whole area was cut four times in 1999. Fourteen trailer loads of debris were removed from the



Ballyhaunis Cemetery

Stolen Moments

S. Ní S.

Summer sunshine dancing waves
picking sea-shells exploring caves

They watch the heathers purple hue
In bogs of misty morning dew

Joyous crazy carefree days
Spent soaking up the scorching rays

Strolling through the pathways green
Hugs and kisses in between

Their arms entwine in secret glee
Magic moments wild and free

Sharing precious stolen time
Laughing, loving, life divine

Two together passing through
A treasured picture of me and you

perimeter which had been used as a dumping ground over the years. One poignant moment in the work was when we discovered a grave that had been totally covered over with rubble to a depth of three feet - this was sad. At the November prayers for the dead many people commented on how well the cemetery looked. There would be no going back.

For the year 2000 our Millennium Project was to improve the cemetery further, cut the grass oftener, and approach Mayo County Council to remove the cracked dangerous pillars at the entrance and rebuild them; and also to strip and replaster the walls along the roads. Our thanks to Mayo County Council for completing this work. To finish off we painted the walls and entrance which very much enhances the appearance of the cemetery. A special word of thanks to the caretaker for his outstanding work, to all who contributed to the collection and to all who helped out in any way.

With the help of the people of the parish we intend to continue this work. Many people overseas, and also people outside the parish, who have relatives buried in this cemetery might like to help us.

Early in 2001 the annual parish collection for the cemetery will be held. We look forward to a generous response as we are working on a shoestring budget. We could do with a few "Brown Envelopes".

Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee.

Annagh Magazine

Ballyhaunis in 1876

Joe Costello, Jnr.

The following is a description of affairs in Ballyhaunis at the beginning of February and in May 1876. It provides one with a fascinating insight into the legal and economic situation at that time. The first half deals with controversial issues in the town, namely court cases and the state of the roads and streets! The latter half concentrates on retailing, and one shop in particular, advertising a sale in early May. The vast array and choices available reflect the period in which the shopkeeper was highly prominent in Irish rural society.

A court had not been held for the month of January. This ensured that there were over eighty cases on the books. Court day was on Tuesday and the presiding Judge was J. P. Crean. Forty of these cases were brought by the Constabulary for drunkenness and assaults. Fines varying from 2s. 6d. to 40s. were imposed. Some attributed all the cases brought by the Constabulary to the deplorable conditions of the streets. The mud was ankle deep and the streets laid out in artificial lakes. There many of the victims of the "hard stuff" lay stuck until the constable and his coadjutors arrived. They then bore the unfortunates away to a narrow 'four-sided room.' They were interned until morning and then presented with a 'card of invitation' for a particular Tuesday.

Dirty old town

Ballyhaunis was never dirtier. Some years previously a contractor was appointed to flag a part of the street between the Post Office and the Bridge. Nothing was done up to a couple of months previously when part of the street was flagged; the rest was dug up to the spot where the contract had been agreed. The clay was left in heaps and the sidewalk in a state of reeking filth. This, despite the fact that local government provided law guardians and sanitary officers in the town.

There were two banks in Ballyhaunis. One, a permanent - the Hibernian, and a weekly (on Tuesday) - the National. Bills were 'discounted without meanness' and the banks were 'friends of the farmer.' The Managers were friendly and amiable and praised in the efficiency of their work.

Commercial forwardness

The town was making strides in the commercial world judging by the availability, quantity and quality of goods in the town. An advertisement appeared in the "Mayo Examiner" of 8th May 1876 detailing the Spring/Summer collection held by Michael A. Waldron Senior. It also revealed his Winter Stock Sales and gave information as to the extensive nature of this retail outlet. The owner had returned from both the English and Scottish markets with an entire stock of drapery goods. The size of the collections is notable: 250 pieces of Fancy dress goods, 150 pieces of French cashmeres (all shapes and sizes). Also in the collection were 400 shawls plain and fancy, tweeds, coats and trousers.

As for the Winter stock, a large sale was underway. Among the reductions: corduroy was retailing at 1s. 10d. having previously been 2s. 4d. Reductions on other stock included flannel, hosiery, boots and shoes for ladies, umbrellas, waterproof goods, scarves, ties for children. Over one hundred and fifty pairs of mens and boys nailed and elastic boots were reduced from 3s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. The conditions of the sale included: there was no deviation from

the prices marked; no second price or credit of any kind was given; the prices were fixed for cash only transactions.

Alongside drapery goods, there existed a grocery, wine and spirit department. Among the spirits available were Porto wines, sheries, champagnes and clarets, Hennessy brandies, Jamesons old malt whiskey (five years old), Bass, Allsopps and other ales in wood and bottles, and Guinness XX porter. Tea brands included Assam and Mounings. Along with sugar, spices and groceries, hardware and cutlery were also to be found. The provisions store was stocked with French, Spanish and American flours; oatmeal, bran were the feed stuffs, all for moderate prices. Phosphates and Manure were also available and finally the shopkeeper was an agent for the National Line and Life Assurance company of Ireland.

Presentation To Postman John Cleary

Joe Byrne

The entire staff and management of Ballyhaunis Post Office assembled in the Belmont Hotel Knock to make a presentation to John Cleary, Johnstown. on the occasion of his retirement from the Post Office as postman. The head post-master, Mr Eamon Carroll described John as a gentleman who carried out his duty with utmost efficiency. Joe Byrne, made a presentation on behalf of his colleagues at Ballyhaunis P.O.

A special presentation was also made to John by Ann Harte, Secretary of the Communications Workers Union on which John served for many years both as President and Secretary. Mr Pat Biesty of Carrowkeel made a presentation on behalf of the people on John's delivery route.

Among the very large crowd who were present on the night were Mr Pat Crompton of the National Executive of the Post Office Union as well as members of John's family. Present were his wife Mary, his brother Tom(Birmingham); his sisters Chris(Manchester); Theresa(Dublin) and Eileen(Lecarrow). Also present were John and Mary's immediate family - Kevin, Pdraigh, Aiden and Louise.

A presentation was also made to John's wife Mary by Geraldine O' Donnell a member of the staff of Ballyhaunis Post Office.



Back row l-r: Alan Hunt, Liam Lyons, Paddy Fitzmaurice, Alan Quinn, Joe Byrne, Michael Connolly (Back), John Comer, Dom Murphy, Eamon Carroll (Head Postmaster, Castlereagh). Front: Geraldine O'Donnell, John Cleary, Mary Cleary & Helen Byrne.

Growing up in Main Street in the 1950's

Rita Murphy

For many years now (surely a sign of growing old)!, I have been reminiscing more and more-remembering and recalling people I knew as a child while in Main Street. Miriam and Edward have often said that I should put my thoughts on paper and I must say, that this is a great opportunity to reflect and recall in the Annagh Magazine.

Those times from the young child's perspective, were halcyon days - nothing seemed to change, there were no worries, no responsibilities, uncomplicated, only five or six cars in the town-simple quiet 'sunny' days.

The houses and shops in the vicinity of our house in Main Street were, starting at the Parish Church on the opposite side of the road and working down - Freeley's, Greene's, Dillon-Leetch, The Barracks, Nally's (Sergeant), Courthouse, Nellie Mullins (caretaker of the courthouse, and who had accommodation there). On our side of the street - starting from the Church side down - Kathleen O'Reilly (piano teacher), the Parochial Hall, Tighe's (now Credit Union), Sonny Byrne's (a tailor), Phillip's (victuallers-where auntie 'Birdie' lived - my father's sister, Flanagan's (which became the 'Cape of good Hope' bar around that time), Neary's, Murphy's (our house), McGreals, Walshe's, Tess Kelly's (Tess McHugh).

The shop I grew up in was a busy grocery provisions/select bar. Looking out from the back of the shop were groceries, delph and grain (bran, pollard, nuts, Indian meal.), stocked on the left side and towards the front of the shop, on both windows and outside on the street. To the right of the shop and looking out from the back, there was a 'snug', where ladies usually elderly, enjoyed the occasional glass of port - (away from the men and the 'wagging' tongues of disapproval). It was not socially acceptable for women to frequent bars or sit at a bar counter in those days, or for women to serve/work in bars.

On fair days, men would come to town on a horse and cart or pony and trap or bicycle and spend the day in the bar after a sale or deal. Many deals were struck on the streets and some fights also broke out. Many of the shops were soiled with the cows running through from the streets - (before the days of the marts)!

I remember my father, Thomas Murphy, serving in the bar while the women - my mother and aunt Kitty spent much time packing the tea or sugar into bags for sale. The tea was delivered in large tea-chests, the sugar in large canvas bags. Stout was stored in large 'ferkens' (barrels). I can still see my father leaning against the counter talking to a customer, with a cigarette in his mouth, or protected in his large hand. My father always smoked Woodbines or Players. His hand was totally brown from such unfiltered cigarettes.

Some unique local 'characters' used visit the bar in those days - their uniqueness stemmed from their simplicity, eccentricity, creativity and storytelling. One such person I recall had a wonderful singing voice - his favourite song was 'Beautiful Dreamer'.

We lived in the back of the shop/bar as did all businesses at the time. We had our sitting-room upstairs in front of the house which was reserved for special visitors who might call a few times a year. During those years we had many relatives in religious life, and so there were always visitors or friends in religious life calling to the house.

My father also had a few acres of land out in Hazelhill on which we had a few cows. In those days everyone in Main Street had some land on the outskirts of the town. Each evening we had to walk the cows home for milking - (off course I could not understand why we had to come through the town)! There was constant argument between Miriam, Edward and myself as to which one of us would walk the cows home. My father milked the cows out in the shed in the Fairgreen. We strained the milk and delivered the milk to local houses in Main Street - (before the days of pasteurization, regulation and health awareness).

Each evening at 6pm it was tradition to say the family Rosary. This was the custom of most families at the time. Off course we got up to all sorts of 'tricks' saying the rosary (pulling each other's hair etc). The prayers seemed to go on forever with the litany, novenas and 'trimmings' afterwards. Some of the words were said so ritually that I never really understood their meaning but they were always said and I must admit that to this day some of the prayers have remained with me.

As we did not have the distractions children have today, our times were filled with simple innocent games such as playing 'tick', hop-scotch, hide-and-seek, kit-kat on the street and up the fairgreen hill. On Main Street, we seemed to be one big gang at one time and then other times we might never see anyone. At times in the Summer and on Saturdays, the Leetche's - (Dillon-Leetche's - but we as children shortened the name), would call and say 'Dad is going to Cahir, do you want to come'? Off course a big group jumped into his car - themselves, Halpins and ourselves. We spent such happy times in Cahir roaming the orchard and the big house. Throughout those years there were times when Brigid Mary Halpin (John's and Helena's mam) had some wonderful birthday parties for one or other of the children and all the families in the town were invited. There was such excitement as Jack was the first person in town to have a television and home movies.

Summers then seemed to be sunny all the time. Probably we have repressed the darker days! Our Summer holidays were spent mainly at Annagh lake or out haymaking in Hazelhill. All the townspeople walked to Annagh lake with picnics. Distance seemed to be no object. Parents and children spent many happy times there - I remember the people who used frequent the lake then; Concannon's, Baker's, Eileen Lyons,

Halpins, Leetche's, Murphy's, Byrne's and Flatley's.

We had some great memorable times with dressing up and make-believe in Main Street most of the fun was devised and created by Finola, Margaret and Mary Liz. Leetch. The venue was at Miss Morley's near Curley's Chemists.

My memories of the dark Winter days and nights are of the peace and tranquillity of the Devotions, Benediction and the ornate vestments and the intoxication of incense, the Latin Mass - going to early Mass in the Friary or Convent chapel. During the Winter evenings, some women would meet at my aunt Birdie's (I suppose for the local gossip-but one could argue today that no discourse or conversation takes place-such a pity)!

My first memory of a death was that of Mr. Flanagan (Publican), where Paddy Phillips has his pub now. I remember he was 'laid out' and everything seemed to be dark-everyone dressed in black. In those days, women remained dressed in black attire long after the death of a spouse, possibly a few years.

When I was young, I remember the young women of Main Street at the time, getting ready to go to a dance. There were Walshe's who lived near us-(where Edward has Part 2 now). I had great delight trying on their perfumes and make-up (such innocence)! The meeting place for the young women before and after a dance was at Mercy and Kate Flatley's-(Kate had a little cafe then). I loved going to visit Phyllis Neary (Phillips) and her Mam and Dad, Kit and Bill, and also Kate and Mike McGreal next door, (where Tom Finn has his shop).

A few times a year my mother and father went to Dublin buying 'stuff' for the shop. One of us was brought along on the train. I loved the excitement of the city at the time and the big shops and the fast pace. How I have changed! My mother introduced us to culture early-Museum, Art Gallery and Zoo. We little appreciated it then! It is ironic though, how I have become much like my mother now, doing all the same things with my children!

Each year in June, we had the annual Corpus Christi Procession which was representative of every member of the community, including all the various groups, priests, nuns, Children of Mary, Legion of Mary, recent First Communicants, children who recently received Confirmation, Pioneers, Sodalities, also men, women and children. The processions were huge, extending the full length of the town. We as children were fascinated when, towards the end of the procession and on entering the church yard, we could not see the end of the procession-it was so long! I do not recall any procession day being wet then! All the fronts of houses and windows were adorned with altars and flowers.

At Christmas time, again, the windows were prepared and cleared of goods to make place for the Christmas crib and the beautiful large golden star we had would overhang the crib. A light bulb would hang inside the star.

Christmas was also a time when many people had more money (usually when the dollars came from America). At that time also, many debts were paid off. I remember my father putting aside the Christmas boxes' for his regular customers.



Main Street, Ballyhaunis. Two boys: Tommy Cunningham & John Halpin.

Annagh Magazine

I remember the daughters or relatives of people in the community when they arrived home from America there was great excitement. We as young children loved to see the style, wide-hooped dresses, fur jackets and fancy hats and bags.

Some distant relative of the family at one time sent us a 'box' from America and to this day I still have a bag which was contained in that box, with sequins and tiny coloured balls sewn on the material. My own daughters are now fascinated, as such detail is now back in fashion.

My mother has always been a wonderful cook and loved to make all sorts of cakes, sponges, tarts, puddings, flans. She was in her element at Christmas time preparing the fowl, puddings and Christmas cakes. I remember Mam killing the turkey or goose out in the back shed (I never wanted to know how she actually did it though)! She left it hanging for some days, then plucked and cleaned it.

Mam used make 'blood pudding'-the ingredients of which I never really knew. I vaguely remember she added barley, oatmeal, herbs, spices, and 'insides' of some beast/animal. It tasted absolutely delicious and was something similar to 'haggis'. It was steamed in white floured cloth/muslin. Mam had some wonderful 'secret' recipes for various dishes. I particularly loved her stuffings for the turkey. There was bread stuffing at one end and potato stuffing at the other end. To this day, I use Mam's recipes and I am always being complemented on them.

School for me was a wonderful experience-particularly all my years in the Convent school. In my early years in Primary school, I remember our teachers, all nuns then; Sr Carmel, Sr Benignus (we could not pronounce her name so she was given many other names)!, Sr. Oliver, Sr. Benedict and Sr Peter. Sr. Angela taught me in the later years in Primary school. Each evening in the junior classes, we had

'jobs' of setting the fire for the following morning. Some children had to bring a few sods of turf when fuel was scarce. There was a 'technique' in setting the fire - no firefighters then!. Some of the boys and girls from the outskirts of the town brought their lunches to school - sandwiches and bottles of cocoa. The bottles were placed near the fire in the morning and by lunchtime, the corks of the bottles popped, which was the signal for us to run home for our lunches! My school friends in those years were Eithne Glynn, Mary T. Hopkins, and Breege Moran.

My aunt Kitty was a wonderful pianist who spent hours playing the piano upstairs. She tried teaching Miriam and myself the piano but she had to give up! Mam subsequently sent Miriam for piano lessons to Kathleen O'Reilly (near the Parochial Hall at the turn of the Fairgreen). I went to Del Hughes in Upper Main St.

As the 1950's moved on and into the 1960's things changed in Main St. and in the town in general. Supermarkets in a sense, eroded the smaller grocers shops and the lounge bar dominated the old-fashioned select bars. Society changed drastically at that time. People had to change their businesses to survive. Such changes greatly affected our business in Main Street. In the 1950's we, along with other families in the town supplemented our income by setting up business in Knock. Those were enjoyable days but another chapter!

My experiences of the 1950's were simple, innocent and without distraction. They were bounded by tradition. The people I knew and met have all helped to ground me in my life and establish my identity. It is so important that we pass on to our children all our experiences, traditions, either verbally, in practice, or in writing, so that our history is not lost.



Last photo taken of the late Fr. Delaney, Ballyhaunis, beloved Friar who died earlier this year. Left: Mrs. Kathryn Gorman-Covey, right: her daughter-in-law Mrs. J. Kent Covey. Both attended the Waldron Clan Gathering in Ballyhaunis.

January

John C. Halpin

*The month of January, I don't like at all
Because there is never time to play football
The trees are dead with shiny snow
And you would always see the fog so low*

*People are moaning and moaning with flu
And I wish they were kept in the zoo
Everywhere you look you see a new car
And tons of people running into the bar*

*The sales are on and we're all glad
So we can go shopping like mad
Salmon are caught and babies are born
And it's all in the papers each morn!*

*So that's really it for one more year
And hopefully we will have a prosperous New Year.*

Jim Byrne's Churcheen

Declan Lyons

Jim Byrne was our postman and our neighbour. We saw him every morning as he set off for the Post Office on his bicycle. An hour later his peak-capped head could be detected above the tops of the roadside hawthorns as he made his way down the 'lisheen' with his swollen postbag to make the first deliveries of his run to his own Devilis neighbourhood. He then pedalled his way through townlands with rich-sounding Irish names that together, make a lovely litany: Ballinphuill, Skeaghard, Knockbrack, Cooloughra; the three that always go together, Scrigg, Leow and Kiltybo; Coolnafarna, Lurgan, Killinaugher, Derrynacong, Classaghroe, Spaddagh, Bunnadober, Clagnagh and finally Cherryfield.

When Jim got back from this long run he took a siesta. He then often found refreshment in cultivating his garden. He took pride in his evenly trimmed hedges and smooth lawn. He had a push lawnmower long before anyone else in that end of Devilis. In Summer his garden was ablaze with rambling red roses, lupins, marigolds and a host of other varieties of flowers.

Visitors to Jim's garden were captivated by the sight of a little Gothic church which sat in the far corner of the lawn. It was loosely modelled on the design of the Parish Church except that it had a graceful spire. Jim made the model sometime in the 1930's when he was a young man. The little spired churcheen was painted a metallic silver colour which gave it a forever new and precious aura. On first sight children fell in love with it. It was unique, it was special, it was only to be seen in Jim's beautiful garden.

Towards the end of this life Jim could no longer care for himself or his garden and so he retired to the Carewell Nursing Home in Knox Street. My brother Billy, took the little church from the garden and put it in Jim's house for safe-keeping. It was almost as if it was Jim's most precious possession.

Sometime in 1999 when I read that Canon Cooney proposed erecting a spire on the Parish Church in celebration of the Millennium I could scarcely believe what I was reading. Jim Byrne told me, time and time again, that the church was meant to have a spire but that the funds had run out and the church was never completed. He also told me of the rumour that the foundations of the church were supposed to be unable to support the weight of a spire.

The idea that my home Parish Church was at last to have its spire, struck me as bold and wonderfully imaginative. I felt a strong sense of pride in and enthusiasm for the venture.

*"To everything turn, turn, turn,
there is a season, turn, turn, turn. ."*

In celebrating the Millennium the moment was right to dare to dream that the Parish Church could be completed and crowned with its spire.

I longed to get hold of Jim Byrne's little church so that I could paint it anew and give it to Canon Cooney for display in the church as a focus of inspiration for the collection of funds for the spire project.

On my next visit home I called, as I usually did, to see Jim in the Carewell. I mooted the idea of using his little church to support the appeal for money to fund the erection of the spire. At this stage Jim was quite unwell and it was clear that his mind was set on eternal horizons and the long journey. He asked me to leave it until 'afterwards', and I did.

Jim died a few months later in December 1999, just as the spire was in place and providentially, paid for.

There are many people who would like to have Jim's little church, it would grace any garden. After Jim's death it was important that it be preserved and if possible shared widely. Happily, Canon Cooney was interested in displaying it in the Parish Church for a time before it finding it a permanent home in St. Mary's Primary School.

During my Summer holiday in Knock this year I had the joy of restoring Jim's little church. As I quietly toiled at scraping away the stubborn layers of old paint I could not but contemplate Jim and his life. His churcheen was in icon of his love and faith and his church. I remember listening to him when I was very young, as he recited the names of every diocese in Ireland together with the names of the bishops in each See. The prelates of the church were his royal family.

Restoring Jim's little church was a labour of love. It was a pleasure to be able to give it to Canon Cooney for safe-keeping. The churcheen will stand as a memorial to Jim who served his community throughout his working life. It will also act as a memorial to Jim's father, Nailor Byrne, the blacksmith who in his forge in the 'Back Way', made the nails used in the construction of the Parish Church in 1903.



Jim Byrne (right) with John Travers from Brickens in his garden with the church in bottom left of photograph.

Annagh Magazine

The Message Minder

Profile of recently retired postman - John Cleary
Josephine Ganley

The green van and its uniformed navigator is a very common feature of a regular visitor to our homes. We take him for granted and accept him as part of our everyday lives. However, if the same gentleman arrived on a 'push bike or 'high nelly' dressed from head to toe in an all weather cloak with a sack around his midriff, would the younger generation amongst us even let him in? As you have probably guessed by now the man in question is none other than our friendly postman and here we catalogue the progress and changing times of the said man from 1955 to the present time.

John Cleary Johnstown Ballyhaunis has been part of the postal workforce for 45 years ending on his retirement from An Post earlier this year on 31/3/00.

The eldest of a family of seven, five sisters and one brother, he remembers the first day he began working at Ballyhaunis Post Office. It was the first Monday in February 1955 and his main duty was delivering telegrams to homes within the wider Ballyhaunis region. Some of the areas he covered include Annagh, Drimbane, Brackloon, Larganboy, Island, Hollywell and Johnstown.

There was no such thing as four wheel transport at that time and John delivered his telegrams on the old reliable bicycle with his messages well protected in a special pouch which he carried on his person.

The day would begin for John at nine o'clock in the morning until six in the evening six days a week, and Sundays from 9am to 10.30am. In fact he worked the full three hundred and sixty five days of the year including Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Telegrams were a very important service in those times - in the absence of telephones there simply was no other means of direct communication. Due to emigration within families, messages were constantly being sent to and fro from their loved ones abroad and they depended on the safe delivery of the message at all times.

John reminds us of the vital significance of the telegram. Many families on parting with a family member who had gone abroad to work would be expecting a telegram from them once they arrived to confirm their safe arrival. This message would be eagerly awaited so it was important to deliver this message as soon as possible. Other telegrams would include messages from hospitals to those who had an ill relation there and would tell them if they were needed urgently. He remembers the priority ones which would probably have bad news such as a death and would not particularly savour the prospect of delivering this particular message. Being a regular visitor to peoples homes John would know exactly their personal details i.e. if they had a sick relative or people away from home and would be conscious of getting the message to them as soon as possible.



John Cleary on his rounds

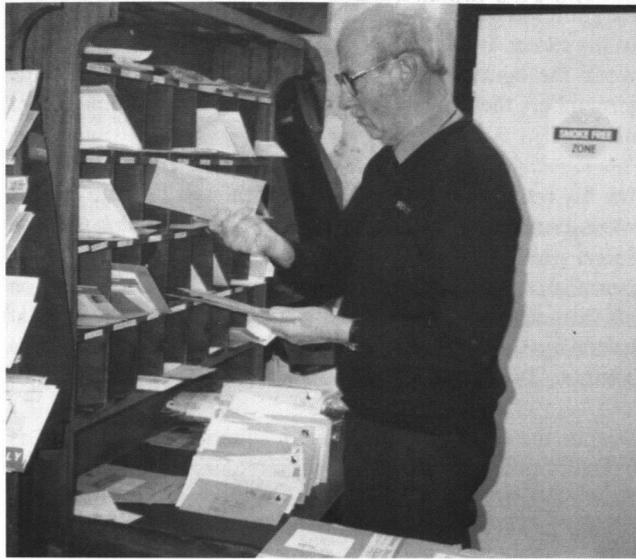
Being the kind of gentleman he is, John especially disliked asking for the cost of the telegram if the family had just received bad news. But, it had to be done and after a small lapse of time he would gently broach the subject. The telegram had to be paid for and he had other places to go and other telegrams to deliver.

On a lighter note John remembers the not so important ones as in the case of the stationmaster who would send the housewife a message to pick up the chickens she ordered at the railway station. The telegraph money order (T.M.O.) was a regular delivery from people abroad who would be sending the 'few pound' home. Many families depended on this money and were very glad to receive it. As a result John and his bicycle was indeed a very welcome visitor there and he would be waited upon with great anticipation. Often times he would be offered the welcome cup of tea and would be quite happy to stop and chat for a little time before he continued on his way.

It is interesting to note that whatever the family situation was at the time to whom John was calling on, he would be either a very welcome visitor or perhaps a dreaded one, whatever the case may have been at the time. It was not a personal thing, but in other words he would be the bearer of either good or bad news and as a result, would be met accordingly.

Then there was the telegrams of sympathy from relations and friends in the case of a death. The cost of the telegram was twelve words for one shilling and one penny for every word over and above. Telegrams were delivered free to the townspeople.

The bookies were not adverse to sending telegrams either according to John, and they did exist even then! It would involve the then 'sweepstake' to which people were contributing to on a regular basis. The bookies interest would be solely to buy the share in the case of a win. Pre paid telegrams were sent by companies to businesses and would



John on his last day in office.

be on the same line as our stamped addressed envelope today.

All in all John enjoyed delivering the telegrams and reminds us that for the most part they were all fairly good ones. He would have a fairly good idea if he had good news with him and would take great delight in sharing the happiness with the family concerned. At Christmas time in those days John would assist with the 'turkey' parcels which were sent to relations in England by families in the region. The turkeys (up to 150 sacks of them) would be packed and tied with a very strong twine. The twine would be knotted at certain points and the wrapping would then be sealed with wax - something akin to the seal on legal documents etc. They would then be loaded on a lorry and brought to the railway station where they would begin the first 'leg' of their journey! These turkeys would be sent to the central offices such as Manchester, Birmingham and London mostly.

After three years John was appointed as postman to Carrowbehy P.O. Castlerea. He was now delivering post and remembers the postmaster well. He was a gentleman by the name of Bill Cawley who lived there with his wife Lily, their children and Bill's sister Sally. Coincidentally, he once again started his new job on the first Monday in February this time in 1958.

He remembers this time as sheer drudgery. He would have to cycle the eight miles to Carrowbehy first and then deliver the post to the more remote areas of that region from Orlar Bridge to Cloonbonniffe Church. Pot holes were alive and well in those days also and were forever lurking in the shadows waiting to swallow up anything in their paths. The poor bicycle did not stand a chance! John improvised and bought himself a scooter thus making life a little bit easier for himself.

For two years John made this journey and was delighted when a vacancy came up in Ballyhaunis at Easter 1960. He was successful in his application and got the postman's job there. He duly finished in Carrowbehy on Easter Saturday

1960 and started in Ballyhaunis on Easter Tuesday 1960. He was home! His appointment covered his own home area and he settled in quite happily. He was still working six days a week from 6.30am to 2.30pm. In 1967 John's life once again changed for the better with the arrival of the first postal van which he was now able to use on his rounds. He covered the Greenwood, Coogue, Larganboy and Erriff areas to name but a few and in 1979 after the Postal strike, a five day week was introduced. This meant the hours had still to be covered so his working day began at 7.30am until 3.30pm. John did not mind the early mornings as he was used to getting up early and at least he did not have to cycle any more! Things could be a lot worse!

John remembers the Postal Strike very clearly and all the hardship that went with it. He also remembers the changes that came with it and explains the reasons for its inception. The main cause of the strike was low wages and the strike continued from February to June of that year (eighteen weeks altogether). Pensioners and social welfare recipients were paid through the St. Vincent De Paul Society and they had to go to the bank to collect their payments. Up to then An Post as we know it was known as the P&T (Posts and Telegraphs). In the final settlement the postal services were split into two semi-state bodies - An Post for all post and counter services and Telecom (Eirecom) for the engineering and telephone services.

There was another side to John's position of postman! He was very much the peoples link with the outside world and would be able to provide all sorts of information to them for instance train timetables, deaths, marriages etc. In the early years the people depended on him solely for this information and were very grateful to him for obliging them.

Not only did John bring messages to people, he also brought messages from them also. These would include letters to be posted by people who were unable to get to the post office for one reason or another and he remembers one very important task he had to do on Grand National Day. He would be given bets by some people to place on a specific horse and he had to make sure he did not confuse one persons selection from another, not to mention keeping count of the money! A trip to the bookies was in order!



John with the familiar green van.

Annagh Magazine

Over the years John delivered all sorts of mail - in the earlier years it would include parcels from America, usually clothes for the family from a relation; demand notes from the land commission regarding rent, letters from the county councils in relation to rates and letters from the immigrants abroad. Today, John says the postal services seems to be getting busier all the time. The post is no longer delivered by rail as the SDS lorries have taken over, thus ensuring a faster service than before. He agrees that this service is especially beneficial to companies who may require urgent messages collected and delivered as in parts of machinery etc. Consequently, the message can be located and delivered in one day. Other mail that keep the postman busy today according to John is the seemingly constant stream of letters to farmers from the Dept. of Agriculture, Fliers, Magazines relating to our new technologies and off course the old reliable bills.

During his years as postman, John was also the union representative for the local Post Office and as a result travelled to many conferences throughout the country. Some of these places included Tralee, Killarney, Kilkenny and Ennis to mention just a few. At these meetings all problems were discussed for instance pay conditions, uniforms, condition of buildings etc. He enjoyed these sojourns as a break from routine and enjoyed meeting new friends he had formed throughout his various meetings.

He smiles as he remembers the wages he was paid at the start of his career. It totalled the grand sum of £1.19s.6 pence per week the equivalent of about £2 today! In his time, he remembers there were six postmasters and four changes of uniform!

On his retirement John says that although he enjoyed his work immensely he is very pleased with his decision to leave early while he is still young enough to enjoy the more peaceful and easy going side of life. He enjoys working on his farm where he lives with his wife Mary and says that at last he has time to do all the things on the farm that he always meant to do but never got around to!

Despite the sorrow that John and his family have suffered as a result of the tragic death of his daughter Siobhan on 14th June 1988, John's outlook on life is a very optimistic one. He is very proud of his four other children - twins Padraic and Kevin, Aidan and Louise. Padraic is working in the plastering business; Kevin is working as a chef in the luxurious Connemara Coast Hotel in Galway; Aidan lives in Australia and works as a chef in Darwin, and Louise is in her final year at Ballyhaunis Community School.

He remains a very cheerful and engaging man and was a pleasure to talk to. I'm sure that I speak for his many friends and colleagues in wishing him a very happy retirement and hope that his future will be a very full and happy one.



St. Joseph's Convent 1968 - 1969. Back row l-r: Tom Mongan, Tom Carroll, John Finnegan, Pat Ryan, Pat Webb, Tony Keane, Padraig McHugh, Sean Freyne, Declan Phillips, Noel Henry, Pauline Gallagher, Patricia McGarry, Martina Sweeney, Nuala Fitzgerald, Tina Thompson, Sandra Lynch & Sr. Rossario. Middle row: Majella McGuire, Margaret Conboy, Emily Clarke, Noreen O'Boyle, Mary Lyons, Anne Kerrigan, Helen Caulfield R.I.P., Vivienne Fitzpatrick, Denise Moran, Joanne Webb, Patricia Curran, Alta Regan, Anita Waldron, Finola Morley & Mary Cribben. Front row: Vinnie Caulfield, Andy Niland, Cathal Phillips, Paul Kenny, Marcus Caulfield, Garvan Dwane, Tommy Joyce, Seamus Grogan, Enda Moran, Paul Coyne, John Flatley, John Keegan & John Webb.

My Memories Of America 1981

Gerry Lyons

Two years planning, numerous meetings and tremendous dedication and commitment by the official tour party coupled with wonderful support from the Ballyhaunis community resulted in one of the most memorable trips of my lifetime. Visits to New York, Boston, Hartford and Washington over a three week period has left lasting memories with all of the travelling party.

Events such as the Lord Mayor Project jointly run with Junior Chamber, The publication of a Club Magazine 'Past and Present' which was launched by Paddy Muldoon Chairman of the Mayo County Board and a Pub Quiz competition jointly ran with rehab in which twenty nine teams took part and was won by the G.A.A. team. All of which contributed to the enjoyment and success of the tour.

Prior to leaving on the 10th of April, we had some slight hitches where passports had not arrived for some of the party and our club blazers had not arrived.

The build up really started on the 25th of March with a farewell function in the Central Hotel where a host of musicians from the Ballyhaunis area entertained a large gathering to music and song.

We then attended a special Mass for the tour party on the 9th of April in St. Patrick's Church.

I did not sleep on the night of the 9th due to the impending departure the following morning. We left early in the morning with the good wishes of Rev. Fr. Costello P.P. and the Chairman of the Club Mr. Hugh Rudden.

I felt great pride in wearing the Club's colours, 'Black Blazers', grey trousers, and red & black ties and there was great buzz and excitement with the impending departure and Mr Austin Grogan, President of the Club filmed a video tape of the departure with a spoken commentary by Jim Higgins.

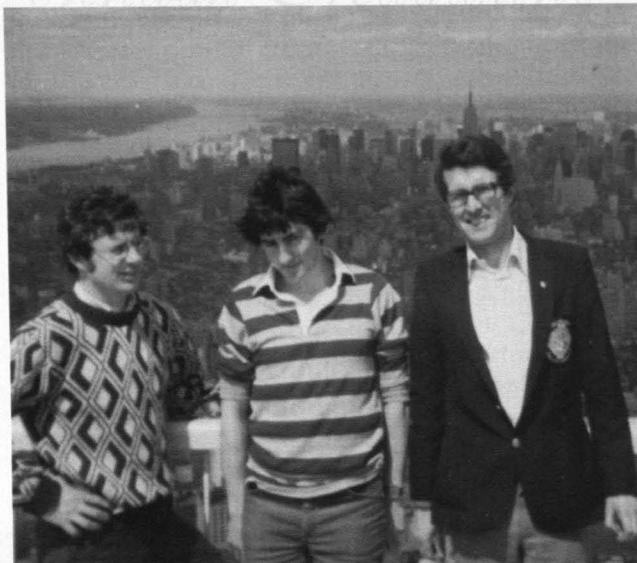
Our trip to Shannon, was short with a mixture of story, song and card playing. A six hour delay at Shannon due to fog, allowed some of the party time for refreshment while others walked to and fro from the departure screen some distance away wondering if we were ever going to depart.

On our eventual departure and successful arrival at Kennedy International Airport in New York we received a great reception. Tony Greene, Tom Fleming, Sean Finn, Paddy and Maura Jordan, my Uncle Jack and Aunt Kitty, all from the Ballyhaunis area were there to meet us as was Paddy Gavin from the Mayo/New York club and a native of Aughagower, and Michael McDonnell, a native of Balla. There were others present who I can't recall.

On Saturday night our hosts had the Ballyhaunis party as guests at a Gala dance at Gaelic Park Casino, Bronx. It was a wonderful night where we met the Mullarkey, Fleming, Plunkett, Dalton, Finn, Rattigan, Sweeney, Flatley, Lyons and McGillicuddy Families, to name a few from the Ballyhaunis area. I could not leave out Tony Greene as he gave us a rendering of 'Jailhouse Rock'.



Back row, left to right: John Dillon, Tommy Jordan, Mick Murray, Michael Waldron, Johnny Lyons, Sean Waldron, Mick Meehan, John Webb and Gerry Lyons. **Middle row**: John Higgins, Jim Landon, Sean Cribbin, Brendan Morrissey, Ivan Freeley, John Toolan, Dan Tarpey, Jack Greene, Pete Gilmore R.I.P. and Jimmy Duggan. **Front row**: Des Lyons, Padraic Pendergast R.I.P., Tommy Grogan, Ray Folliard, Eamon Healy, Mike Daly, Jimmy Fleming, Padraic Cunniffe, Denis Swift, Tommy Moran, Michael Byrne and Pat Freeley. Missing from photo: Tommy Prenty & Eamon Glynn.



Left to right: Gerry Lyons, John Toolan and Jim Lundon.

Our first game against a New York (Mayo/Leitrim) selection resulted in a win for the home side in Gaelic Park, The Ballyhaunis team fielded as follows.

Sean Cribbin, Pat Freeley (Captain), Padraic Prendercast R.I.P., Padraic Cunniffe, Ivan Freeley, Des Lyons, Ger Lyons, Tommy Grogan, Ray Folliard, John Webb, Tommy Moran, Dinny Swift, Eamon Glynn, Brendan Morrissey and John Toolan. On the same day our P.R.O. of the Tour committee Michael Waldron refereed the Tyrone V's Connemara Gaels League match and by all accounts acquitted the task well to the satisfaction of both sides.

The following days prior to our visit to Boston allowed visits to the Empire State Building, The Twin Towers, A boat trip around Mathattem Island, visits to Rosy O'Gradys, our trips on the underground and also a visit to Yonkers Race Track for a evening at the races. I had the opportunity of also jogging in Central Park. We also had a very enjoyable evening at Broadway with the musical 'Evita'.

We arrived in Boston to a magnificent welcome from the Galway Football Club led by its President John McDevitt of Donegal, Sonny O'Brien, of Dunmore and the Quinn family from Corroboy, Roscommon and Pat & Chris Nolan of Irishtown.

We visited many tourist spots including Kennedy Library, Fanuel Hall in Market St., John Hancock Building and well-known restaurants Pier four and Victory Station and also included a visit to the 'Niagara Falls'. We also had the opportunity of visiting O'Hare Airport with John Higgins and Mick Murray to collect his future son-in-law Tom Prenty from the airport and took in a few tourist attractions on the day.

On Easter Sunday we played the Local Galway team at the end of full time it was level so extra time was played to decide the game and the fitter Galway team ran out winners.

A very enjoyable reception and dance followed where we had the opportunity of meeting with many of the local immigrants



Left to right: Padraic & Marian Cunniffe with Mick Murray.

and prominent G.A.A. officials and members.

On our return visit to New York we stopped in Hartford for a relaxing break and took in the beauty of the countryside.

Our visit to Washington took in 'The White House' (external), Capital Hill, The Irish Press Bar and Restaurant, The Irish Times to name a few. Our escort was Vincent Keane brother of Patsy, Emmet and Bernard who welcomed us to Washington and made it a memorable trip for us all.

I am sure each individual who travelled has their own special memories of the trip and I sure would enhance the incredible feeling of a proud Ballyhaunis Gael among the Gaels of New York, Boston and Washington.

It was a great feeling returning to Ballyhaunis after what felt like months away and to listen to the sing song from



Tom Prenty, St. Mathew! and Denis Swift.



Michael Byrne



Pauline & Dolores Nally (Upr Main St.) with remains of bonfire in background, also town reservoir.



Left to right: Mick Murray, Tom Prenty, Michael Daly, Sean Moran, Johnny Lyons, John Higgins, Eamon Healy, Padraic Prendergast R.I.P. and Pat Freeley outside The White House (not Ballinlough!!!)



'Old friends meet at holiday time'. John Morley (Knox St.), Jack Greene (Carrowrea), Jim Morrison (formerly of Clare St.), Stephen Waldron (Knox St.)

numerous artists on the bus including the late Brian Hunt Snr. proudly wearing this Stetson Hat a memoir of his trip to the states.

The tour also afforded people outside the official party to travel for the first time to visit relations and friends, I fondly remember my late Aunt Peg (Boyle) her daughter Mary, also the late Julia Winston, Kathleen Murphy and Eddie Webb all who very much enjoyed the trip.

I hope on the eve of the club's second trip to America in April 2001 that the travelling party will have as much memories as we had in 1981.



John P. Nally, Rev. Fr. B. Delaney and Imelda Nally (Upr. Main St.) late 1950's

Review of 20th Century Decade By Decade

Tony Boyle

1900-1909

In 1901, the Union for Shopworkers was founded by Michael O' Lehane, a young drapery student assistant, native of Cork and working in Dublin. The Irish Independent first appeared in 1905 and the Old Age Pension of five shillings a week was first introduced on the 1st January 1909. Sinn Fein was also founded by Arthur Griffith on that first year in the century where there was probably not a dozen motor cars in Co. Mayo. We were then a long way away from television, mobile phones or headage payments!

1910 - 1919

The Sinking of the Titanic in April 1912, the votes for women in 1911 and the big Dublin strike in 1913 all made news in this decade, as well off course as the 1914-1918 war, the 1916 Rising and the subsequent executions. The huge vote for Sinn Fein in 1918 - the year of the flu - and the setting up of the Irish Provisional Government in 1919. Many died during the 'flu' epidemic.

1920-1929

1920 was the year of the Black and Tans, 1921 was the year of the Treaty and 1922 saw the death of Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith. The Civil War ended in July 1923 and Sean Lemass was elected a young T.D. in Dublin in 1924. Radio 2 RN was introduced in early 1926 and the Fianna Fail T.D.'s entered the Dail for the first time that year. There were two National disasters during this decade. First the Drumcollogher cinema fire in 1926 when forty-eight people perished and were buried in a common grave. President Cosgrave attended the funeral. The Cleggan disaster in Connemara in 1927 also claimed twenty-seven lives. The Minister for Justice, Kevin O' Higgins was assassinated on July 10, 1927 and a Mayo man, James Fitzgerald-Kenny became the new Justice Minister. There were two General Elections within seven weeks in the year 1927 and Cumann Na Gael narrowly won both. Towards the end of this decade, the Government became very unpopular as a result of taking one shilling off the Old Age Pensioners (per Minister Ernest Blythe). The introduction of The Shannon Scheme was announced in 1926.

1930-1939

This decade will be remembered for the coming to power of Fianna Fail with De Valera (who was in prison a few years previously) as new Head of Government. The appearance of the Irish Press came in 1931, the Eucharistic Congress (June 1932), the Economic War, The Blueshirts, The New Constitution (1937) and the Spanish Civil War. Dr. Douglas Hyde was first President and Pope Pius XI died in February 1939. Mayo footballers won the All-Ireland during this decade - in 1936 by defeating Laois, and the second World War

commenced on Friday September 1st 1939 when Germany invaded Poland.

1940-1949

Those were the years of the Emergency, the rationing and the shortages. We had the Ballyveale land trouble near Ballyhaunis, and two new political parties came into prominence - Clann Na Talmhan and Clan No Pubhlachta - and South Mayo had 3 Clann Na Talmhan T.D.'s (and no Fine Gael) at this stage. Fianna Fail won two General Elections (in 1943 and 1944) but were put out of office by an Inter Party Government in 1948 when John A. Costello became Taoiseach. The new Taoiseach declared a Republic in 1949 and Sean T. O Kelly became President during the decade. This was ended in April, 1945. 1947 was the year of the big snow, when Ballyhaunis town was literally isolated for almost a week. At that time, the Western People was (an old) twopence; twenty cigarettes was only a shilling (five new pence). In 1944 there was a tragic fire in Kiltimagh with a loss of eight lives in May of that year. Rural Electrification began in 1946. We had International Boxing in Ballyhaunis in 1945.

1950 -1959

The commencement of this decade - in both 1950 and 1951 were great years for Mayo football as they held the All-Ireland title for the two years. This was not a great decade for the Irish economy, (though there was no inflation) and there was mass emigration. The Credit Union movement was introduced in 1958 and it became the largest organisation in the country before the end of the century. The Costello Government was out of office in 1951 and back again in 1954. They lost to Fianna Fail again in 1957. Pope Paul died in 1958 and Pope John was elected. Lemass became Taoiseach and De Valera became President in the late fifties.

1960 - 1969

This decade will be remembered as the year that John F Kennedy visited Ireland- five months before his assassination. Fianna Fail won three General Elections during this decade, 1961, 1965 and 1969 which was the last time that a government was re-elected. It was during this decade that two people who had worked as shop assistants in Ballyhaunis were elected to Mayo Co. Council. They were Willie Costello (Claremorris) and Jimmie Grennan, Kilmovee. It was early in this decade that we first saw Irish television and we had the man in the moon at the end of the decade 1969. Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King were assassinated in 1968 and the Northern troubles started in 1969. Six people died in the Galway Docks tragedy in February 1964 and Galway had the three-in-a-row football win 1964-1966.

1970 - 1979

The first year of this decade will be remembered for the sacking of two Ministers, Blaney and Haughey by Taoiseach Lynch and the resignation of two others (Moran and Boland). We joined the EEC in 1973 and got rid of the G.A.A. ban. This was also the decade of decimalization (February 15th, 1971), and the Herema kidnapping (1976). Annagh magazine appeared for the first time in 1978 and De Valera died (August 1975). We had a six months bank strike in 1970 and we had

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Bloody Sunday in 1972, when thirteen were killed in Derry. Cosgrave was Taoiseach from 1973-'77 when Jack Lynch got the greatest majority ever. Mary Geoghegan-Quinn became the first lady Minister since 1922 in 1979 - the year we had three Popes, when John Paul I only lived thirty-three days.

1980 - 1999

There was no government re-elected during the seventies eighties or nineties and we even had a change of government on one occasion without a General Election. Fianna Fail became involved in a Coalition Government for the first time in 1989 when Mr Haughey and Mr O'Malley agreed on a programme. We had the Stardust disaster in February 1981 when 48 people perished in Dublin. Two Gardai were murdered in Roscommon in 1980 (7th July) and ten people died on hunger strike in 1981. Knock Airport was opened in 1986 and the Hospital Sweepstake closed in 1987. The G.A.A was one hundred years old in 1984 and Ireland did reasonably well in the World Cup which was won by Holland.

1990 - 1999

In the last decade of the century, there was extensive negotiations between North and South and the British

Government to bring peace to our island, and to date it has been reasonably successful. The nineties will be remembered as the years the Mayo Senior footballers almost won the All-Ireland three times!. People north and south voted for peace and as the decade ended we had high hopes of a full and lasting peace. We also saw the birth and growth of the Celtic Tiger and the welcome news of unemployment figures lessen. Unfortunately, we had the Bishop Casey bombshell during this decade - on May 7, 1992 which did not help the Catholic Church. We had two lady Presidents elected - one in 1990 and the other in 1997 while a Galway horse called Bobby Jo won both the English and Irish Grand National. We also saw the sad end to the Irish Press newspapers during the decade.

In 1997, we witnessed the launching at three venues - Claremorris, Dublin and Galway - of Willie Costello's wonderful book 'A Connaught Man's Ramble' which has already sold over 10,000 copies. It is an excellent book and we congratulate Willie on its success.

One final point: Despite all that has been said and written about the year 2000 and the new millennium, I still maintain that this year (the year 2000) belongs to the twentieth century!



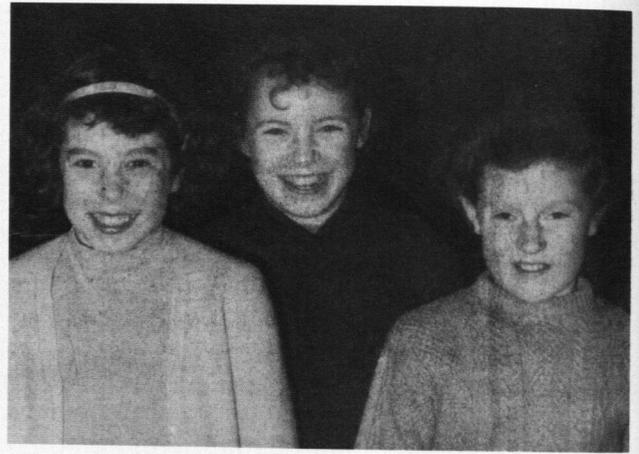
Taken outside Forde's first premises on Main Street, where Tom Forde established his business in the 1920's. "Newsround" now occupies the site. L-R: Dr. Sean Lavin (Kiltimagh), Tom Forde, unknown, Paddy Forde, Eddie Forde



Back row l-r: Gabriel Rattigan, Robert Kelly, Joe Hosty, Michael Carroll. Front row l-r: Tony Jordan, Martin Lyons, David McGuire and Brendan Moran. Class of 1961.



Taken in Manchester in 1936. Back l-r: Jim Sloyan and Tom (Brod) Sloyan. Seated: Margaret Sloyan (nee Fitzmaurice) and Una Sloyan.



Left to right: Joan Coyne (Devlis), Rita Forde (Upr. Main St.) and Rita Lyons (Devlis)



Maureen Cleary R.I.P. and Pauline Curley (Clare St.) in 1990.



Left to right: Catherine Dyer, Jim Dyer and Patrick (Pake) Dyer (Brackloon) with Patrick's wife Nora. Picture taken in Manchester in 1970.

Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club

James Reilly (Hon. Secretary)

The start of the new Millennium has seen Ballyhaunis G.A.A. continue in the traditions and the ideals for which the Club was founded over one hundred years ago.

Senior Football.

The Ballyhaunis Senior team can look back on the year 2000 with pride having gained promotion to Division II and having won 14 out of the 15 competitive games they played. In the Championship we defeated Eastern Gaels, Aghamore and Charlestown to win East-Mayo.

In the County Junior semi-final we were narrowly defeated by Killala, who went on to win the County Final in convincing fashion.

The best performance in the league was against the Neale where we came from behind, without our county players, to defeat them.

Senior Hurling.

For the second year in a row Ballyhaunis reached the County Senior Hurling final against our neighbours Tooreen. On the day we gave our best but unfortunately that was not good enough and Tooreen ran out winners.

Unfortunately we lost in the Junior Championship.

Under-8 Football

This year, footballers 6 to 8 years old trained every Sunday morning from 12.00 to 1.15pm at Ballyhaunis GAA pitch, during the season which ran from March to the end of

October. As the players involved are beginners, the emphasis is on basic skills and enjoyment rather than competition. Attendance at training was good and averaged 18 to 20 players. The trainers, Barry Butler, Sean Mc Namara and Peter Worden were helped during the year by John Durkan and Mike Griffin. Friendly matches were played against Charlestown and Claremorris, and we took part in the Charlestown Under 8 blitz on Saturday September 9th which was enjoyed by all. On Sunday 15th of October the Under 8 section of the Mick O' Connell Cup was contested by teams captained by Damien Keadin and Isaac Carroll and Damien's team won an exciting game. Under 8 players this year were: John Flynn, James Cribben, Cathal Fahey, Conor Freeley, Robyn Moran, Mohannad Cherbatji, Sean O' Rourke, Eanna Mc Namara, Pdraig Waldron, Conor Nolan, Sean Griffin, Gary Patterson, Eoin Collins, Ryan Worden, Niall Cherbatji, Shane Murphy, Damien Keadin, Jarlath Carney, Michael O' Rourke, Kieran Kiely, Aoife Mc Donagh, Isaac Carroll, Kieran Davey, David Lyons, Cyril Collins, Eugene Durkan, Ciaran Mc Dermott and Stephen Nolan.

Under-10 Football

Under 10 footballers began training in March. After good results in challenge matches against Castlebar, Claremorris and Charlestown, the competitive highlight of the year was winning our own Ballyhaunis Under 10 blitz on August Bank Holiday Monday. The team, captained by John Gallagher, beat Éire Óg and Claremorris but lost to Castlerea in their three preliminary games, to qualify for the final in which they overturned the earlier result and defeated Castlerea convincingly. In September we took part in competitions in Ballinlough (Michael Glavey's) and Castlerea where we performed well but failed to win, before finishing on a high note with a victory over Swinford in an end of season challenge match.

On the 15th of October the Mick O' Connell Cup tournament for Ballyhaunis Under 10 footballers was played,



Mick O'Connell Cup winners 1999. Back row l-r: S. McNamara, M. Finan, M. Gallagher, M. O'Connell. Middle row: D. McNamara, F. Fitzmaurice, J. Jordan, T. Morley, K. Moran, P. Carney, Mohammed Cherbatji, E. Griffin, R. Frayne, J. Quinn, P. Lilly, Nadeem Cherbatji. Front row: B. Hunt, D. Murphy, Arslann Afzal, P. Freeley, N. Prenty (Captain), K. Nestor, S. O'Dwyer, J. Gallagher & Niall Asilia.



East Mayo Minor Champions 1999. Back left - right: M. Walsh, T. Murphy, P. Prenty, C. McCrudden, H. Carney. Middle row: J. P. Kean, T. Moran, M. Webb, J. Mullrennan, T. Buckley, P. Meenan. Front row: V. Walshe, P. Carney, B. Rudden, P. Jordan & P. Waldron.

and this was an emotional event for Mick's many friends, as he passed away during the Summer. This was the first time that the competition which he had sponsored for twenty years was played in his absence.

Four teams took part, captained by Rory Finan, Kevin Nestor, Brian Hunt and John Gallagher, and after some closely contested games John Gallagher's team defeated Kevin Nestor's team in the final. The presentation of the Mick O'Connell Cup by members of Mick's family was followed by the presentation of medals to all the Under 8 and Under 10 players.

Under 10 players this year were: Robert Lilly, Adrian Ruane, David Mc Namara, Damien Keadin, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Johnathan Maughan, Brian Hunt, John Gallagher, Kevin Nestor, Craig Hughes, Niall Asilia, Brian Waldron, Kamron Afzal, Kevin Moran, Rory Finan, Ciaran Turner, Christopher Mongan, Paul Carney, Kieran Kiely, Zaheer Javid, Shane Nolan, Joseph Lyons, Rory Collins, Paul Higgins, Patrick Freeley, Kevin Mc Namara, Liam Mc Dermott, and John Francis Mc Donagh.

Mentors: Michael Gallagher, Martin Finan and Sean Mc Namara.

Under-11 Football

This year we took part successfully in the Under 11 League, with victories over Aghamore, Kilmovee and Ballaghaderreen, and a walk-over from Eastern Gaels. This left us the league winners and undefeated for the year. The team, captained by Stephen Hoban, was: Aidan Fitzmaurice, Robert Freyne, Stephen Hoban, David Mc Namara, Jonathan Maughan, John Jordan, Kevin Nestor, Niall Prenty, Seamus O' Dwyer, Brian Hunt, Declan Murphy, John Gallagher, Brian Waldron, Ciaran Turner, Kevin Moran, James Quinn, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Kamron Afzal, Rory Finan,

Paul Walsh, Craig Hughes, Robert Lilly, Mohammad Cherbatji, Nadeem Cherbatji, Enda Griffin, Zaheer Javid. Managers: Michael Gallagher and Martin Finan.

Under-12 Football

Preparation for the Under 12 league started well when we drew with Castlebar "A" in a challenge. The league proper started with a defeat by Kiltimagh, but we recovered to score victories over Garrymore, Aghamore and Mayo Gaels. Next we were beaten by Crossmolina, before defeating Kilmeena in our final game. This left us in a three way play-off for a place in the county semi-final.

In the play-offs we played some great football in defeating Crossmolina and Kilmeena and qualified to play Belmullet in the county semi-final. In

the semi-final we were just not good enough on the day, and Belmullet were the deserving winners by 6-9 to 3-9.

The Under 12 team finished off the season with a win over Michael Glavey's in a challenge, and finally just at the time of going to press the Joe Webb Under 12 Cup was won by Michael Waldron's team.

This year's Under 12 League panel, captained by Michael Waldron, was: Conor Mulrennan, Robert Freyne, John Jordan, Adrian Brennan, Niall Prenty, Daniel Glancy, Michael Waldron, Niall Jordan, Kevin Gallagher, Declan Murphy, Padraig Cribbin, Brian Gallagher, Stephen Hoban, Sean O' Kane, Seamus O' Dwyer, John Gallagher, Rory Finan, Brian Hunt, Jonathan Maughan, David Maughan, Luke Cribbin, James Quinn, John Lyons, Kevin Higgins, Aidan Fitzmaurice,

Mentors: Michael Gallagher, Martin Finan and Matt O' Dwyer.



County U-16 League & Championship winners 1999. Back left - right: K. Higgins, J. Prenty, I. Prenty, A. Lyons, C. Griffin, N. Richardson, W. Nestor, H. Carney. Middle row: V. Walshe, P. Carney, D. Ward, C. Burke, L. Lyons, J.P. Keane, T. Waldron. Front row: T. Moran, B. Mulrennan, P. Waldron, E. McManus, P. Jordan, S. Buckley & J. Prenty.



Golf Classic Committee. Back left - right: T. Moran, P. Holmes, M. Finan, J. Halpin, G. Kilbride. Front row: P. Meenan, M. Curley, A. Shanaghy, M. Prenty, T. Waldron & J. Biesty.

East-Mayo Club N.S.

In this competition, played on a league basis, Ballyhaunis were grouped in the "A" section with Aghamore, Charlestown, Ballaghaderreen and Swinford. After we had scored good wins over Charlestown and Ballaghaderreen, the game against Swinford was effectively the final. In this match a very determined and skilful Ballyhaunis team won by 2-8 to 1-3 and were duly crowned East Mayo champions. The trophy was presented to the Ballyhaunis captain, Kevin Gallagher.

N. S. Panel: Conor Mulrennan, Adrian Brennan, John Mongan, Stephen Hoban, Arslan Afzal, Robert Frayne, Niall Prenty, Michael Waldron, John Jordan, Kevin Gallagher, Declan Murphy, David Maughan, Brian Gallagher, Seamus O' Dwyer, Sean O' Kane, John Gallagher, Mohammad Cherbatji, Naðeem Cherbatji, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Rory Finan, Enda Griffin, James Quinn, John Lyons, Rizwan Afzal, Jonathan Maughan, Brian Hunt, Kevin Higgins, Daniel Glancy, Brian Waldron.

Mentors: Michael Gallagher and Martin Finan.

Under 14 Football

The under 14 panel took part in all County and East Mayo Championship and league fixtures. During that time the team had mixed fortunes winning some games and losing some. Hopefully the team enjoyed all the games.

Panel: Kevin Curley, Micheal Cunningham, Darren Doyle, Lorcan Finan, Robert Grogan, John C. Halpin, David Hannon, Aodan Healy, David Healy, David Herr, Michael Jordan, Mark Kelly, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Bernie McDonagh, Jarlath Mellett, Kimberley Moran, Joseph Neenan, Robert Potter-Coogan, Ciarain Waldron, Lisa Webb.

Mentors: Hugh Rudden and John Halpin.

Under-14 Hurling.

This year we took part in the league and Feile na Gael. The team played their best but Tooreen were the victors in both competitions.

Mentor P.Higgins

Under-16 Football

Having won the U-16 Championship and League Double last year 2000 promised to be a fruitful one for this year's team. However the team failed to fulfil it's promise and turned in a disappointing campaign.

The League started in promising fashion with an easy win over Swinford in the first game at home. This was followed by another home win over Round Towers. This was followed by our first away defeat to Lahardane in a game we should

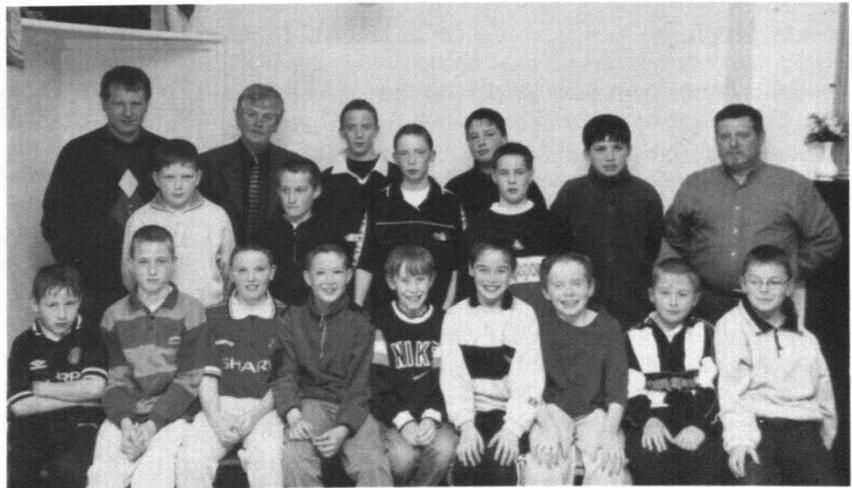
have won. We got back on track with another home win over Ardnaree but again lost to Achill after a long journey to the Sandy banks. Our next game was against Parke and after a titanic struggle we lost by the narrowest of margins. In the Final two games we defeated Westport and Kilmeena to finish up in third place and just miss out on promotion.

Our biggest upset was against Swinford in the first round of East Mayo Championship where we never played to our potential and were defeated by the narrowest of margins to lose our East Mayo and County titles.

During the year three members of the team, Paul Jordan, Patrick Waldron and John Prenty represented the Club on the Mayo U-16 teams.

The following players represented the Club a U-16 Level during the year;

Shane Buckley, Padraic Carney; Christy Burke; Keith Higgins; Alan Lyons; Brian Mulrennan; Stephen Shanaghy; Patrick Waldron; John Prenty; Paul Jordan; Fergal Walshe; Liam Lyons; Ian Prenty; William Nestor; Ciaran Griffin; Declan Warde; Simon McDonagh; Niall Richardson; Phelim



U-12 County League winners. Back left - right: T. Moran, M. Gallagher, A. Lyons, M. Kelly. Middle row: C. Mulrennan, D. Healy, F. Lyons, J.C. Halpin, L. Finan, John Halpin. Front row: N. Prenty, M. Waldron, J. Jordan, S. O'Kane, K. Gallagher, B. Gallagher, J. Gallagher, A. Brennan & S. Hoban.



Golf Classic winners 2000. Back left - right: Michael Dillon, Pat Holmes, P.C. Curley. Front: Frank Dillon, Mary Dillon, Norrie Dillon & Pat Curley.

Carroll; Cian Higgins; Patrick Heaney.

The Selectors for the year were John Prenty, Ann Shanaghy and Tommy Waldron

Under-16 Hurling

In this age group we qualified directly for the final against Tooreen and defeated them in Ballyhaunis. This qualified us for the Connacht Club Competition in which we have reached the final and are awaiting the opposition.

Mentor :T. Phillips

Mulrennan, K. Higgins, I. Prenty, D. Warde, S. McDonagh. Mentors:T. Moran, J. Fitzharris, S. McCrudden, P. Meenan, P. McCafferty.

Under-18 Hurling

In this competition we qualified directly for the final against Tooreen. On the day we proved too strong and ran out winners.

Mentor:G Kilbride

Finally Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Béal Átha hAmhnais would like to thank all their supporters throughout the year.

Minor Football

The minor team started the year playing in the minor league beating Aghamore, Ballinrobe and Charlestown. The county semi-final followed with a narrow defeat by Kilmeena.

In the Minor Championship the team gave it their best but were beaten by Aghamore.

Congratulations to Paul Prenty on his display this year on the Mayo Minor team who reached the All-Ireland Final.

Player of the year is Christy McCrudden.

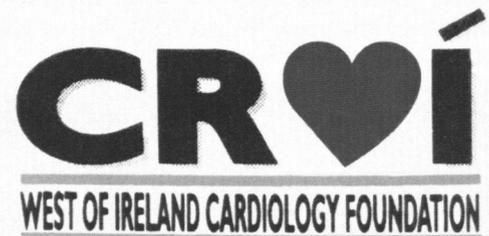
Panel:C. McCrudden, P. Prenty, P. Gildea, P. Waldron, P. Carney, S. Kelly, M. Hunt, T. Buckley, A. Healy, H. Carney, J. Powers, D. Kilcourse, A. Shannaghy, J. Freeley, F. Moran, O. McManus, D. Lyons, D. Jordan, D. Murphy, B.

Friends of Croí Ballyhaunis and District

Helen Meehan

For a number of years now, local heart charity Croi have been to the forefront in the fight against Heart Disease in Mayo. Initially, a considerable proportion of funds raised was used to support the development of the Cardiac Ambulance Service in the County. This involved providing life-saving heart equipment for use in ambulances operating out of Castlebar, Ballina and Belmullet.

More recently Croi has co-funded, with the Western Health Board, the purchase of a much needed diagnostic Stress Test Machine for Mayo General Hospital. This was followed by funding for the establishment of a Cardiac Technician post at Mayo General. This new position has transformed cardiology services in the hospital and the post is now secure.



Earlier this year, Croi pledged to co-fund a much needed Echo-Ultrasound Machine for Mayo General. This new equipment costs almost £200,000 and Croi is committed to raising half the costs this year. This machine will significantly improve cardiology services at the hospital to the obvious benefit of local heart patients. In addition, Croi has almost reached its £1m target – monies it pledged to the new regional heart surgery unit for the West of Ireland. This new facility will ensure the availability of heart surgery in Galway for West of Ireland heart patients.

All Croi's efforts are funded by voluntary contributions and donations. The foundation is deeply indebted to all that support it.

The Millennium Waldron Clan Gathering

The second International Waldron Clan Gathering took place over the May Bank Holiday Weekend earlier this year (28th – 30th April 2000), and was, by all accounts, an outstanding success. Upwards of one-hundred people travelled from the U.S.A. especially for the event, and were joined by about forty from England, and a sizeable number of locals, all with Waldron ancestry in common. Months of regular meetings, careful research and considered decision-making went into making the weekend as enjoyable and as relevant as possible for all the delegates. A dedicated committee left no stone unturned in ensuring the smooth running of the event.

The weekend started at four o'clock on Friday afternoon, the 28th of April, with the commencement of registration in Durkan's Central Inn. Shortly after eight o'clock the Gathering was formally declared open by the Chairman Tom Waldron of Claremorris, and a blessing was given by Fr. Austin Cribbin of Oregon, U.S.A. A meeting followed at which various items relating to the Association and the Gathering were discussed, and this was followed by a cheese and wine reception.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

On Saturday morning a constant stream of visitors continued to register as they arrived in the town.. At half past one in the afternoon ninety-two people, travelling in two coaches, braved the drizzly weather conditions and availed of the tour of "Waldron Country".. The weather improved as the afternoon progressed and the group travelled through the parishes of Annagh, Aghamore, Knock and Began, viewing sites of local historical and archaeological significance, and visiting locations particularly relevant to the history of the Waldron families. The tour finished at St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey in Ballyhaunis. The prospect of the Abbey's possible closure was met with disbelief from the delegates, who offered to help in any way to keep this most important foundation as functioning entity, with a resident community in place.

On Saturday night an Irish night was held upstairs in the Hazel at which a large crowd attended. Master of Ceremonies was Tom Waldron (Chairman), who also gave some stirring recitations, complete with audience participation. Songs and music were provided by Tom's daughter Orla Waldron, a rising star in the entertainment field and by the Waldron family (Cave), Michael Plunkett, Edward McDermott and Paddy Waldron (Cherryfield).

On Sunday afternoon, at two o'clock, a special Mass was concelebrated in St. Patrick's parish Church, Ballyhaunis, by Fr. Eoin de Bhaldraithe OCSO, of the Cistercian Abbey,

Bolton, Moone, Co. Kildare, a native of Cloonbooke, and Fr. Austin Cribbin, originally from Churchpark, who is attached to the Diocese of Oregon, U.S.A. The liturgy was arranged by Sr. Rosario Waldron, originally from Carn More, Aghamore, now based in Cork. The readings were delivered, and gifts presented by a cross-section of Irish, American and English delegates; commentry was by Patricia Ann Waldron of Los Angeles. Hymns were sung by Niamh Waldron of Dooradoyle, Limerick: her grandfather James Waldron was a native of Cloonslanor, Strokestown who settled in Athlone. Afterwards, there was an informal reception upstairs in the Hazel, organised by the ladies in the Organising Committee.

DINNER DANCE

The highlight of the weekend, for most people, was the dinner-dance in Churchfield House Hotel, Knock, on Sunday night, at which two hundred and eighty people were in attendance. The four course meal was a treat and commented upon favourably by all present. Toasts were proposed by Mark Waldron of Maynard, Massachusetts, U.S.A. and by Barbara Waldron O'Sullivan of Manchester, England. After the meal, the recently published book "Achadh Mór – Rich in Christian Heritage" was launched by John Carty, Mayo County Councillor. Its author is Aibhístín Ó Taidhg of Aghamore whose mother was Mary Waldron of Ballyhine and Lower Aghamore. Following the book-launch, the dancing commenced with music from the internationally renowned Brose Walsh Band. A variety of spot prizes, supplied by the organising committee and local businesses, were raffled at different stages through the evening.

Over the weekend, most of those in attendance met up with relatives they hadn't seen for a while; others met their relatives for the very first time; and even the few who have, as yet, to establish their exact family or place of origin, made new friends and established new contacts which might help them find the missing links at some point in the future.

NEXT GATHERING

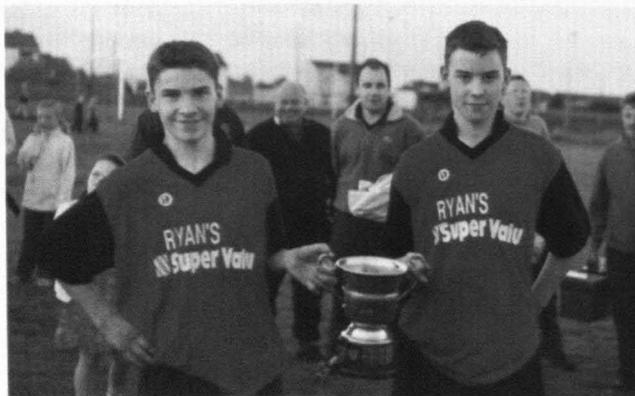
The holding of the two Clan Gatherings – 1997 and 2000 - has firmly placed Ballyhaunis in the minds of these visitors and their extended families as their homeland. Already, others who couldn't make the last gathering have promised to visit this part of the country on the strength of what they heard from those who attended. Ballyhaunis and district is now known world-wide as the homeland of the Waldron Clan world-wide. The next International Waldron Clan Gathering will take place in Ballyhaunis in 2005, though there is a possibility that a Gathering could be organised in the U.S.A. before then, at which delegates from Ireland, England, and elsewhere will attend. A full account of the Gathering appears, along with a number of interesting articles in the recently published Waldron Journal, no. 7 (2000) which can be had from newsagents in Ballyhaunis or from the secretary, Ursula Waldron, Logboy, Tulrahan, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.



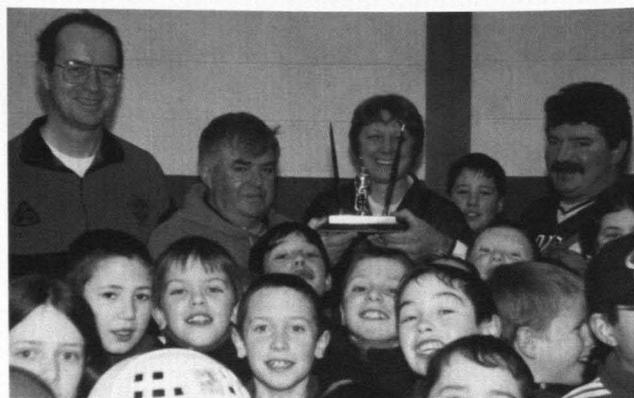
Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Team 2000. Runners up v's Tooreen in County Final pictured against Westport in Semifinal. Back left - right: Michael Regan, Don Regan, David Glennon, Tadgh Buckley, Noel Reilly, Michael Walsh, Christopher McCrudden, Paul McConn, J.P. Coen, Peter Healy, Jason Powers, Andrew Shanaghy. Front row: Billy McDonagh, David Murphy, Michael Curley, Frank Browne, Darren Conlon, Hugh Carney, Pierce Higgins, Tom Phillips Steven Carney.



Ballyhaunis U-14 2000 Champion & Féile Shield winners. Back row l-r: Luke Cribben, Mark O'Connor, Joseph Kelly, Ciaran Lucey, Rizwan Afzal, Mark Madden, Austin Lyons, Mark Kelly, Jarlath Mellett & Pat Kelly. Front row: Khaleeg Nazir, Sean O'Kane, Arslan Afzal, Brian Gallagher, David Herr, Conor Mulrennan, Anthony Murphy, Fergal Lyons, Alan Fitzpatrick, David Healy & Stephen Hoban.



Ballyhaunis U-16 Hurling 2000. Paul (left) and Peter Walsh (Joint Captains), winners of Mayo U-16 County Final & Connaught Finalists 2000.



Back row l-r: Gerry Kilbride (Chairman), Tony Duffy, June Duffy, Pat Feeney (Sponsor). Special presentation to Tony & June on behalf of Indoor Hurlers 2000.



Ballyhaunis Minor Hurling team at a coaching weekend in Wexford. Front row l-r: Justin Brown (Coach), Tom Phillips (Manager), Larry O'Gordon (Coach), Pat Feeney (Selector) & David Browne (Coach).



St. Mary's N.S., Ballyhaunis - Mini Sevens winners 2000. Back l-r: Ciaran Lucey, Rizwan Afjal, Mark Madden, Mark Kelly, Jarlath Mellett, Patrick Kelly. Front row: Brian Gallagher, David Herr, Conor Mulrennan, David Healy & Steven Hoban.



Mark O'Connor (Captain), Ballyhaunis U-14 Team being presented with the Shield Cup by Pat Armstrong, Hurling Board Chairman.



Ballyhaunis under age hurlers, winners of Best Team in Easter Parade 2000.

Ballyhaunis Apostolic Work 2000

Bridie Brennan

Ballyhaunis Apostolic work started in 1962 and is still managing to survive. The year 2000 was a good year for us. We have a very small number of workers but when our annual exhibition day came in June, we realised we had achieved quite a lot. A good number of people came to view our work and help financially by paying Honorary membership and supporting the raffle.

The A.G.M. of the Archdiocese was held in Knock in March and there was a very good attendance. The annual mini-vigil was held in Knock and there was a full attendance from the Archdiocese. It was a wonderful night of prayer and we are indebted to Fr. Buggy for making the vigil so special. We are very grateful to the priests of the parish and the Augustinian Fathers and Sisters of Mercy for their continued support.

A special thanks to the Bridge and Golf Clubs and those who donated goods for the raffle, our branch appreciates their generosity very much.

The Garahans Revisit Leow

Griffith's Valuation – a detailed list of tenant proprietors, giving the size and valuation of their landholdings and buildings - tells us a lot about the families who lived in this part of the country 150 years ago. A casual look through the returns for any particular townland will reveal families and surnames long-since gone from the area.

Looking at the details of Leow townland - at the very eastern end of Annagh parish – it is remarkable that so many families (about thirty-five) lived there at that time and it's hard to imagine how they all found a living in it. Most of these families have long-since left – having migrated to other parts of the country, or taken the emigrant ship to America and England – and their surnames have died away and been forgotten. One of the tenants listed in *Griffith's Valuation* for Leow (or "Leo" to give it its official spelling) was one Stephen Garahan (sometimes spelt with two 'r's). Along with Thomas Browne, Mr. Garahan held about twenty-five acres from the landlord Bernard McDermott. The Garahan family are no longer remembered in the area, and nothing more would be known about Stephen Garahan or his family, were it not for the fact that recently, one of his descendants researched the family history and returned to Leow to tell their story.

Stephen Garahan, as he is listed in *Griffith's Valuation*, or Stephen J. Garahan, as he is known in the family, was born sometime around 1814, somewhere in Ireland, probably in County Roscommon. At some point in his life he moved to Leow in the parish of Annagh. The circumstances of his move - whether he came alone or as part of a family group - have not been discovered. Sometime in the early to mid 1840s he married Mary Freeley from Scregg. She was born around 1818, daughter of Michael and Ellen Freeley. They lived in Leow and had four children who survived to adulthood: Catherine, born c.1848; Stephen J. Jnr., born c.1850; Ellen Honora, born c.1851 and Patrick, born c.1852.

The entire family upped and left Leow sometime about 1869. They emigrated to the U.S. and settled in the town of Cohoes, New York. Here, Stephen worked as a butcher and the family opened a meat market which did quite well. All four of the Garahan children married and had children of their own and their descendants are now numerous in the States. One of them – Catherine – married Augustus J. Hambrook who had been her next-door neighbour back home in Leow (where the surname was spelt "Hamrock", and where his first name was probably Augustine or Austin). Back in Leow, the Garahan holding was bought by the Stenson family and now belongs to the Phillips family.

The photograph reproduced here is a treasured heirloom in the Garahan family. It was taken about 1870 in Cohoes, New York. The seated couple are Stephen J. Garahan and his wife Mary (nee Freeley); they were aged about fifty-six and fifty-two at the time. Standing behind them is their daughter Ellen Honora who was then around nineteen or twenty.

Stephen J. Garahan died on the 20th of November 1872 in his late

fifties, a couple of years after the picture was taken. Ever since, there has been a Stephen J. in each generation of the family. His great-grandson - Stephen J. Garahan IV, or Joe, as he is known in the family – was the descendant who tracked down the family homestead and visited Ballyhaunis earlier this year. He called to Leow and was delighted to see that the very house his ancestors had left was still standing and in good condition. He visited some of the neighbours, including the Phillips family who now own the property, and took a multitude of photographs. He was particularly taken by the quality of stone-wall building to be seen in the buildings and field boundaries adjacent to the old family home. No doubt, many of these stones were first put in place by his ancestor, old Stephen Garahan, and his now forgotten neighbours.

Our visitor called to the cemetery attached to St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey in the town and paid his respects to his Garahan and Freeley ancestors buried there. He also visited the grave of his relatives by marriage – the Hamrock family of Leow – and saw the old gravestone commemorating Fr. Stephen Hamrock, dating back to the 1700s. On hearing of the threatened closure of the Abbey, both he and his father – Stephen J. III – made a donation to help the campaign to keep it open, with a permanent Augustinian presence, and vowed to do anything in his power to help in maintaining the church and community there for the foreseeable future.

And so, after one hundred and thirty years the Garahans returned to Leow, though only for a brief visit. The extended Garahan family in New York and beyond will, no doubt, hear of Joe's recent visit, and will want to call themselves to see the place their ancestor left so many years ago.



Stephen J. Garahan with his wife, Mary (nee Freeley) and their daughter Ellen, taken in U.S.A. in the late 1860's.

Seargant Patrick Lyons R.I.C. (Ballyhaunis) 1894

Gerry Cribbin

Sgt. Patrick Lyons, member of the Royal Irish Constabulary, was born in Lisronagh Clonmel about 1860. He joined the R.I.C. in 1885 and served in several stations before being transferred to Ballyhaunis about 1894 where he served for twenty-three years. He spent about three years in Galway County from 1913-1916 after which he returned to Mayo where he remained until he retired on pension in August 1920.

It's not for his police-work he is remembered in this area but for his wonderful contribution to archaeology and local history. He is credited with discovering four Ogham stones, three of which are close to Ballyhaunis - Island, Kilmannin, Ballybeg and one in Kilmovee.

It would seem that Sgt Lyons' greatest success in the field of Archaeology (in Mayo) was in his study of Ogham Stones. The first one he was associated with would be the Island Ogham.

Island Ogham:

An article written for the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland by Prof. Rhys I.L.D. I.S.A. of Oxford University, dated 1898 would give a better understanding of how this came about: "Soon after I returned from Ireland this Summer, an Oxford friend of mine, Mr G.W.Norton, who visits the County of Mayo from time to time, and always keeps a sharp look-out for antiquities, brought me a photograph of the Island Ogham Stones. It had been taken by Sgt Lyons of the R.I.C. Force, and the latter, together with Mr Austin Crean, son of Dr Crean, Windsor Villa, Ballyhaunis, afterwards went to see the stone for me. I have a report of it made by the Seargant and several letters containing valuable details from Mr Crean who is an enthusiastic student of archaeology. However, I was not able to satisfy myself altogether as to the right reading until Mr Cochrane examined the stone and sent me some admirable rubbings of it. From these, and his letters about the Ogham, I feel there can hardly be any mistake in reading the whole as 'Cunalegiav Qunacanos' which analyses itself into 'Conlig' descendent of 'Conchan'".

Mr Robert Cochrane, F.S.A. M.R.I.A. also submitted a report to the R.S.A.I. in November 1898: "This is next in importance to the two Antrim finds. It was brought to notice by Seargant Lyons, Ballyhaunis, an unusually intelligent and well informed man, who in the most praiseworthy manner had, during his limited spare time, turned his attention to the objects of archaeological interest in his neighbourhood. I am indebted to him for the photographs of the stone from which the accompanying illustration has been prepared. This Ogham monument is, I think, more than usually interesting on account of its position, as it appears to be in situ, and I believe it stands over the actual grave of the person whose memory it is intended to perpetuate.

The stone is surrounded by a small mound about 21ft in diameter of a height of about 3ft or 4ft above the original surface of the summit of the hill on which it stands.

These stones date from the early Christian period, and the inscription refers to the dead person and some member of family,

such as a parent or grandparent. Some Standing Stones can be dated from an earlier period, and may be reused as Ogham stones or Cross inscribed stones in the Christian period. This stone is known locally as Leigaun. It is also known as Kaigens Rock, and sometimes as Keadus Rock. It has also been known as Cashleige-Na Keishu".



Bracklaghboy Ogham-stone
(from a photo by Sgt. Lyons)

The Killmannin Ogham (Ballyhaunis)

Again, Sgt Lyons was the person who found the Ogham stone and brought it to the attention of the Archaeological Authorities. He also contacted Prof. Rhys, of Oxford University. Prof Rhys wrote an article for R.S.A.I. Jan. 27th. 1907: "Last Summer Sgt Lyons wrote to me announcing his discovery of an Ogham inscribed stone in Kilmannin. He sent me rubbings, fascimiles and photographs of the stone and its lettering. With regards to the description of the stone and the locality, I think it best to give it in the words of Sgt Lyons himself". He went on to describe the stone, its size and shape, the type of stone- a glassy sandstone - and where he actually located it.

"It lay in the ground course of the old church wall. When found the stone had a slight inward tilt. It must have formed a regular part of the wall fabric, for, I have been told, masonry has been removed from above its berth within the last thirty years. I found the stone partly by accident last June while doing a preliminary study of the Kilmannin Church site and surrounding area which has several interesting Ring Barrows, and a deep pit known locally as 'Pull-A-Daugh'.

Local folklore tells us this was formed when an Irish giant Fionn MacCumhaill had a fight with another giant(Scottish). Fionn scooped up a large amount of earth and threw it at the Scottish giant who was over in Island. This buried the Scottish giant, so Fionn then threw a large stone which landed on top of the hill formed by the first scoopful. This became the headstone for the Scottish giant and the markings on the stone today are the finger marks of Fionn Mac Cumhaill. The Ogham stone was moved to the national Museum in 1907 where it now resides".

Annagh Magazine

The Ballybegogham Stone:

This monument of antiquity was discovered in April 1900 by Sgt Lyons of Ballyhaunis who subsequently took a photograph of it. So wrote Prof Rhys on May 7th. 1901.

The sub-division of the townland where the stone stands is called Ballybeg, and the field itself is known as Parkataggle, or the Rye Field.

"My host, Mr Sandford, Wills, of Cashlieve drove me to the spot on Easter Monday. Sgt Lyons led the way on his bicycle and we were joined by Mr Austin Crean, of Ballyhaunis. These two gentlemen had the stone partly buried in the ground for sometime so as to kill the lichen on it, but the treatment had proved only partially successful. Afterwards, they attempted to decipher what was written on the stone but this proved to be difficult as part of the inscription had broken off and was subsequently lost in the long grass around the stone.

The cause of the fracture at the base of the stone was easily explained by a local man in his seventies who described how, on coming home from school as children, he and his brothers and sisters went out to pick potatoes which their parents had dug during the day. Being young and hungry after a day at school, they proceeded to light a fire at the base of the stone to roast potatoes for a meal. That was the reason for the stone to fracture at the base, and thus, led to the difficulty in deciphering the inscription".

Ogham Stone Kilmovee:

This again was an Ogham Stone discovered by Sgt Lyons built into a low wall surrounding a 'well' dedicated to Saint Mobhi. It appears McAllister deciphered the inscription and later Sgt Lyons re-erected the stone beside the wall with the help of some local men where it stands to this day.

A large crowd of people were present on the occasion, as he was a very good photographer and always took photographs of the sites he visited.

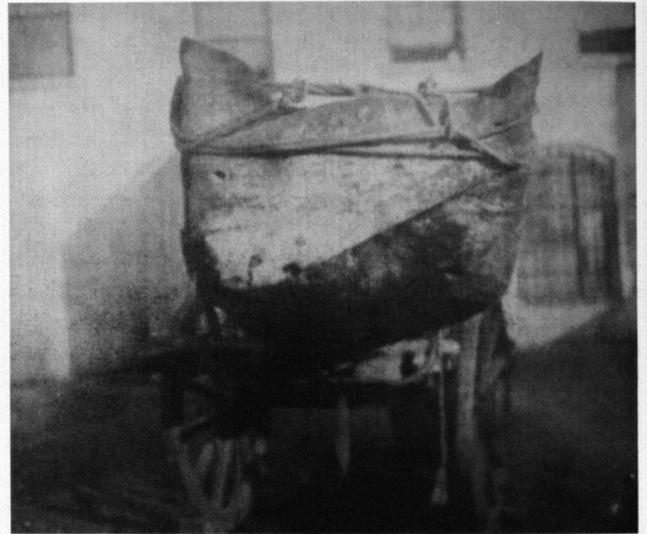


"Ogham Stone", Kilmannin 1907

This day was no different and, as a result, we now we have a photograph of about forty people standing around the newly-erected stone thanks to Sgt Lyons. As this was about 1916 the photograph would be about eighty-four years old.

Death Of Mr. Patrick Lyons F.R.S.A.I.:

Some extracts from a local Historical Society Journal Clonmel:- "Mr



Logboat in R.I.C. yard, Ballyhaunis.
(photo by Sgt. Lyons R.I.C. about 1905)

Patrick Lyons, F.R.S.A.I. has died at his place of residence on Monday. The late Mr Lyons was a remarkable personality. To the casual observer here was a humble and retiring man, but behind the exterior of reserve there flourished the brilliant intellect of a natural genius - a humble scholar if ever there was one. He was self educated and his interests ranged from Field Archaeology and related subjects to the study of the classics.

At the age of ten, the deceased left the National School with practically no learning, and went to work as a labouring boy with Mr. C. Purcell of Fortwilliam. Mr Purcell, for whom his former employer had a deep respect, was a kinsman of Kickhams. In the evenings, when young Lyons finished work, he was not allowed to join the other boys at play. Instead, he had to sit down and read history or some work in general literature. Old Mr Purcell then lectured, instructed and explained, and so were sown the seeds of that interest which was later to blossom into such erudite devotion.

He pursued his education at night school and as a result of his early training, he successfully applied for membership of the R.I.C. The greater part of his 'Peelering' life as he called it, was spent in Mayo - he spent twenty-three years in Ballyhaunis describing it as 'a difficult station' probably because of the rise of the Fenians, and local land agitation at that time. His long anonymity as far as his work in the West of Ireland was concerned is explained in a letter dated February 1953 now preserved with his photographic collection: Fate led me in 1897 to find an Ogham inscription. This led me into a connection with the late Sir John Rhys, Professor of Celtic at Oxford University which diverted my attention from official advancement and made my antiquarian craze irresistible. I am the only man living who found four ogham inscriptions and I was made a member of R.S.A.I. in 1905, a distinction I didn't seek. All my near relatives are dead and I live entirely alone. I am ninety-one years of age, in Mayo I was sixteen years in Ballyhaunis - a difficult station - and my duties with my antiquarian craze left me little time to spare". He died in 1955 at his home in Clonmel.

A generous extremely modest and retiring man Mr Lyons deliberately kept out of the public eye, contenting himself with researches in his chosen field and - surprisingly - in the acquisition, became self taught at a quite advanced age, of the languages of Greece and Rome in which he read a great deal. Among the many friends who will miss him is the writer of this notice who remembers with gratitude much assistance given by Mr Lyons in past years".

Signed: H.G. Leask.

Seargant Lyons And The Turoe Stone:

In an article written for the Galvey Archaeological and Historical Society by Dr John Waddell of U.C.G. makes reference to Sgt Lyons and the turoe stone. This is a very unusual monument with 'La Tene' decoration all over it.

In 1916 Miss. M.Redington of Kilcorman credited 'the Antiquarian policeman' with the identification of the 'Find spot (Waddell 1975, 10). As we shall see, it is possible that Sgt Lyons was mistaken about the original location of the decorated stone, but his contribution in the early decades of this century to the archaeology of the West of Ireland deserves to be remembered. His collection of several hundred photographs of western field monuments is preserved and is in the care of the Department of Archaeology U.C.G. It was he, (aided on occasion by Miss Reddington,) who supplied much of the descriptive detail on the numerous earthworks and other monuments in the many papers published by Knox as well as in the journal of this society and in the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

Knox, who suffered from poor health, repeatedly acknowledged the anonymous contribution of his colleague, the 'Field Antiquary', even referring to himself on at least one occasion as the armchair 'Antiquary'. Lyons contribution to Knox's several papers on the Archaeological remains at Rathcroghan for instance, was clearly substantial and he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland in January 1920 and became an Honourary Fellow in 1953.

Notes on Gig-Mills and drying kilns near Ballyhaunis Co Mayo. Published Jan 30 1907 by Hubert T Knox: This article was in the proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy and gives descriptions of horizontal water-driving corn mills which were in general use at that time around East Mayo, but more especially in the Ballyhaunis district. He made reference in the article to a few mills and the millers who operated them, notably Flatleys of Culintra, Pat Gannons of Cloonarkin, Cloonfad, Morgan- O'Briens of Gurraun. He continued on to give descriptions of the different parts of these mills in Irish and English, also of corn drying kilns and their working parts. Very little had been written on these most unusual mills before or since, which is surprising as they are said to date back to the seventh or eighth centuries. Knox goes on to say 'I have put together information which has been given me from Mayo'. As Knox was often in poor health and rather frail, and not given to travel in later life, I believe the man who was his informant was Sgt Patrick Lyons R.I.C. Ballyhaunis whose interest in these mills was well known.

Summary:

This is just a small example of the work carried out by Sgt Lyons in the Mayo area. It would be impossible to list all the places and sites he visited. His interest extended to corn mills, corn kilns, ring forts, stone forts, ring barrows, standing stones, megalithic tombs and road systems. He travelled as far afield as Rath Croghan near Tulsk, Kilmovee, Knock, Cappagh and Feamore.

To the best of our knowledge, most of these trips were by bicycle, carrying camera equipment. These cameras were large and old-fashioned with heavy tripods.

Sgt Lyons as well as being a wonderful field archaeologist was also a first rate photographer and was very much to the fore in using the camera to record the sites he visited and the finds he made. As a result, we now have a marvellous collection of his work, not only in archaeology but in the everyday scenes of a country town at the turn of the twentieth century.

Some of his photographs have been published in previous copies of Annagh Magazine and in the future their may be some more. Most of these photographs would be 85/100 years old and should be considered as part of the heritage of our area.

One photograph that gave me particular pleasure, which I found in his collection was of three standing stones on the Hill of Kiltullagh. There was many stories that there had been more than one stone on the hill but there had been no substantial proof. Now we have proof, due to the foresight one man. Finally, in the care of local man John Halpin is Sgt Lyons 'Magic Lantern' which was used to project glass slides on to a screen, (in working condition), and also a large collection of glass slides of local scenes, another part of a wonderful heritage. When he left Ballyhaunis, he kept in contact through Dr M.F. Waldron. When writing to him, he referred to Ballyhaunis, as 'Ogham Land', so he did not forget his time in our town.

While going through Sgt Lyons collection of photographs there was a photograph of a logboat which it appears was found somewhere in the Island/Mannin lake area. How this logboat came to be found I have no idea - whether it was discovered by Sgt Lyons or by local people during a dry summer it is difficult to know. It appears it was taken to a local mans' farmyard, and while there it was photographed by Sgt Lyons. Later it was taken by horse-cart to the local R.I.C. barracks in Ballyhaunis. Again Sgt Lyons took photographs of the logboat while it was on the horse-cart. He also drew attention to a wooden patch on the stern of the boat which was put on with iron nails. When this patch was put on is anybody's guess!

The boat appeared to be about 3ft 6"- 4ft 0', wide at the stern and about 12-14ft long. The stern seemed to be a couple of feet high and looked like an old cast iron bath in shape. How long the logboat was out of the water and in the Barrack yard before it was moved to Dublin by train is unknown. It was to go into the care of what is now the National Musuem. Its place of residence now is unknown. We do not know if it was in a condition to make it worth keeping or if it indeed survived the journey at all. This was about 1905/1906.

The Art Of Learning - Now And Then

James Cribbin

'Pen in hand, Robert Emmet sat in the narrow room allotted to him in Kilmainham Jail'. The text, my dear brethren is the opening sentence on page 118 of one of my old school books. The title on the fly leaf reads 'Land of the Youth Reader - Senior Book'. Underneath the title was my name address and the date, July 1950 written with pen and ink. Many things have changed in the meanwhile, some for the better, some for the worse. I am loath to admit this, but my handwriting was more legible in the school book than it is in this script, notwithstanding the fact that the biro in my hand is a more convenient writing instrument than the steel nibbed pen of fifty years ago! The steel nibbed pen was off course a great improvement on the quill pen that Robert Emmet held in his hand one hundred and fifty years further back. Then there is the poor relation of all pens - the lead pencil. The lead was used extensively on the inside pages of the school books. All four writing instruments have one thing in common, none of them will write on their own! I know, I have tried all four of them! In my information-hungry youth, I made, and experimented with a quill pen. I can recall the gander protesting violently at my venture into ancient calligraphy as I borrowed a quill to make my pen. I realise now that the gander's protestation was well founded! You cannot turn the clock back. The pen-knife was originally used for what its name implies. I found that a razor blade was more useful for making the nib on my quill pen than the thick bladed pen-knife. After a few lines of what would nowadays pass for abstract art, I managed a few legible lines. No attempt at acquiring knowledge is ever entirely futile. This exercise gave me some understanding of, and great respect of the ancient scribes who produced with quill pen, the Book of Kells and other great manuscripts of the past.

'Tempus Fugit'. It was in September that I talked with Editor Maura Griffin outside the Post Office and promised her that I would scribble something for 'The Magazine' - a promise made is a debt unpaid' according to Robert Service'. Now it is November, and I am still in debt. The matter has not been helped by the fact that I have gone back to school and handled a 'mouse'. At time of writing, I have completed two hours of study in Ballyhaunis Community School. This flying visit hardly entitles me to call the place my 'Alma Mater' - wear the old school tie or be present in 2025 at the silver anniversary of the class of 2000.

The short trip back to school has, I am sorry to say, not been a great help to me in my present endeavours to get something publishable to Maura Griffin before or shortly after the deadline. It seems to have killed my inclination to sit like Robert Emmet with pen in hand, now that I have been told that you can write with a mouse! I have kept this information secret from the cats; like people, what they don't know won't excite them. Computers have not yet invaded the private lives of cats unlike many other species of animals we could

mention.

Bring a bullock into a factory. Tap tap tap go nimble fingers on a keyboard and up comes the bullock's autobiography on the screen, pardon me, I should have said - monitor! I was not as well prepared for my second coming to school as I was for my first. Before I even went to school, a concrete foundation had been laid for my education. The 1940s were years of great scarcity and nothing was let go to waste.

My father bought a bag of cement for some purpose or another and when the cement was used, the clean sheets of brown paper were taken and made into a rough copy book. It was there under the guidance of my parents that I wrote my first ABC and 123. Because I don't know when I will die, I don't know when my education will end, but I know where it began.

In going back to school, I am really taking time off from university. Shakespeare is reputed to have said 'All the world's a stage'. It's that and much more. It is a great open university with everybody a professor of one thing or another. If you don't mind, I will tell you about a few of those 'professors' I have met and learned from. We were in Derrylea National School being taught about the various plantations of Ireland. Mr Higgins had explained that the earliest planters who came were Catholics and later planters were of the Protestant faith. Mr Higgins wanted me to tell him why the first wave of planters were not Protestant. I was stuck, and being pressed for an answer, Michael Waldron who was standing beside me came to the rescue with a prompt consisting of two words - 'not invented'! I learned two lessons from that prompt. Firstly, the approximate date that the Reformation took place in England, and secondly, how to give a prompt in a professional manner. Mr Waldron's choice of words was spot on. Nearly everybody would be able to utter the words 'not invented' without moving the lips. In giving a prompt it is of paramount importance that the lips do not move. Those were not the only lessons learned by means of the prompt. Now I never heard Noel Dalton sing, but I have reason to believe that he can sing because I learned a bit about music from him years ago. We were in a pub quiz when I was asked - what's a Baby Grand? The bell was about to ring when I got a shortwave broadcast from Noel consisting of a single word 'Piano'. Accepting a prompt was also fraught with danger as this story told by Paddy Kearns shows. The time is the late 1930s and the problem question for a certain pupil is 'who was Julius Caesar's friend'? The young fellow was not too well up on the classics or the wicked ways of the world. He placed his fate in the hands of the fellow beside him - a 'fly' boy who knew the teacher's politics and knew what would 'rise' him. The prompt is received clear but not loud and the pupil, unaware that he had been fed misinformation, promptly answers 'De Valera sir'. There were many people in Ireland at that time who would accept without question that the correct answer had been given. The teacher was not one of those. There were many lessons being taught here that one pupil would be reminded of as he went through life. It was not the last time he would be lied to or see those with power over him abuse that power. He would notice that power corrupts and were he alive today he would learn

something new every time he switched on a radio or TV about how absolute power corrupts absolutely. Not all the 'professors' I have learned from have spoken in whispers. Stephen Doherty was not whispering when he taught me a few words of German when he returned from Mannheim some years ago. German, off course is a language that lends itself to being spoken loudly. I have learned many things across the road with no word being spoken as I watch John Joe Lilly engage and observe complex pieces of machinery with a touch of a master's hand.

In the National School we had a thing called 'revision' every so often. Pages were turned back and we had another look at lessons learned some weeks previously. I have been doing a bit of revision with this old school book and in the past fifty years, I have picked up bits of information here and there that would enable me to add a few postscripts to many of the articles in the land of 'Youth Reader'.

If you bear with me, I will tell you about some of those scraps of information and the circumstances in which they were picked up. We were introduced briefly to Henry Grattan in the National School and I visited the building in Dublin where he made his great speeches opposing the Act of Union. I was committing a sin in London when I learned where he was buried. I consulted Tom Connell of Redford some years later on about the matter. Mr Connell found it hard to understand how visiting a place of worship could be a sin, but keeping his options open he assured me that if it was a sin at all, it had to be venial sin. Anyway, I may never have found out where Henry Grattan is buried had I not entered Westminster Abbey. Page 79 - Title 'Michael Dwyer' at the bottom of the page it stated that 'The stories of Dwyer's hairbreadth escapes in the Glen of Wild Imaal would fill a book'. Possibly, but how many of them would be true? We were in Finner Camp when Private John Mullarkey of Bohogue and Private Michael Lyons, were detailed to get to the Glen of Imaal to take part in artillery exercises. When the artillerymen returned to camp, we had many questions about their campaign in Wicklow. Amongst other things, they had seen Michael Dwyer's cottage where he had made a gallant stand and 'breaking through the ranks outside, swam the river Slaney and left the foe behind'. I ventured to ask Mr. Mullarkey how wide was the river Slaney? His reply was ambiguous but I will not quote him just now. You can ask him yourself sometime or Michael Lyons might still remember. Shortly after his epic swim, we found (by reading other books), Michael Dwyer in New South Wales wearing a jacket with buttons. It seems that when he had made his point that his native land should be independent, he concluded that he would live longer and enjoy more perks as a policeman with a pistol that he would by remaining a rebel with a pike. There is an old proverb that I often heard my mother quote - 'a wise man changes but a fool never does'. I was standing outside the oldest Catholic Church in Sydney when I learned that Michael Dwyer was not the only rebel to throw his pike in a bog hole and call it a day!

The Australian Historical Society had a plaque outside the church giving a brief history which included information that 'The site was donated by William Dolan, an Irish rebel of 1798'.

In the school days, no English reader would be complete without an extract from John Mitchell's 'Jail Journal'. There is an extract here on page one hundred and seven and proceeding it, an essay on the man himself. In the fourth paragraph we read - 'He was a strange boy'. His mother once consulted the family doctor about the erratic ways of her son but the wise old man only said 'Madam, I like that. The boy must have something uncommon about him, don't interfere with his fancies'. She should have sought a second opinion. The strange boy grew up to be a strange man, but we had to find that out on our own. The concluding paragraph of the essay starts with the sentence 'The remaining years of his life were spent in America'. For an account of his days in America we will consult an American Encyclopaedia. In it we read 'In 1853 he escaped to America where he published a series of short lived proslavery newspapers. During the American Civil War he supported the South and in 1865 he was imprisoned for a short time by the Federal authorities. As far as I am aware, he did not avail of this opportunity to write a second 'Jail Journal'. We have by no means exhausted the number of essays to which postscripts could be added. Looking through the contents I see 'Lambing Time'. Scarcely a lambing time passes that does not see my kitchen turned into an intensive care unit for baby lambs. There is an essay on 'Dublin Airport' where it says we are indebted to two Americans, Orville and Wilburn Wright, for the invention of the aeroplane. Better not mention that if ever you go to New Zealand. To this day the Kiwis vehemently maintain that the first aeroplane flight took place in New Zealand. 'Our Merchant Fleet' sailed in to history some years ago when Irish Shipping Ltd went 'belly up'. 'The Ballad of the Foxhunter' will surely attract a postscript from the campaigners against Blood Sports.

This reminds me of a great debate on the subject of animal welfare I had nearly twenty years ago. I was hanging around Melbourne when I came across a demonstration by one of those animal rights outfits in one of the city squares. I stood at the edge of the crowd and lent them an ear but not my sympathy. Two shapely 'sheilas' came to me and handed me a leaflet while rattling a collection box. Figuring this a way to get to know the locals, I told them I thought they had got their priorities wrong, that while there was a hungry child in the world; one prisoner of conscience being tortured in a prison cell; one human being who lived in conditions of slavery, animal welfare should take second place. Being a farmer, I had a few more cards to play, telling them how farm animals were 'molly coddled' from the day they were born unto the day they died. The two city sheilas admitted that they had never been out of the bush and had never camped beside a billibong.

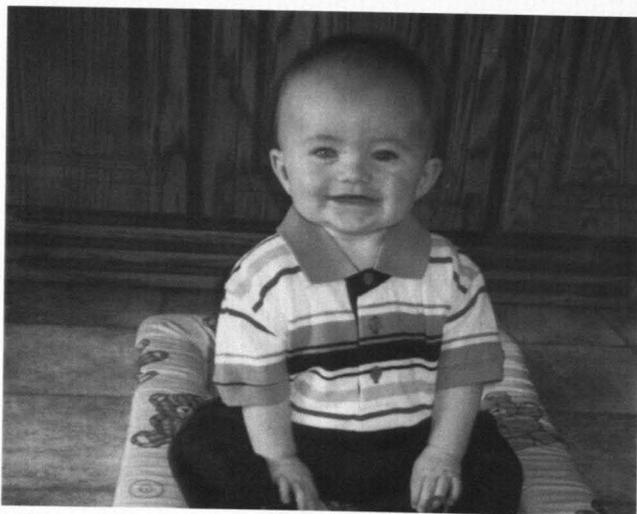
Page 72 'Cows in a Byre' - We could go on until the cows come home, but I am now going to take advice given to me some years ago, 'never put everything into one article, leave something for next time'. So for the present I am closing the 'Land of Youth Reader'. Just one thing annoys me about this old book. It has a better chance of being in existence fifty years from now than what I myself have.



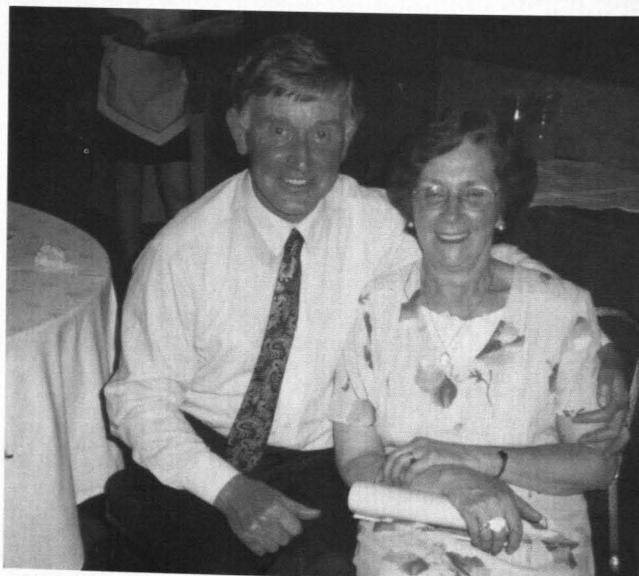
"On yer bike", left to right: Tom McNamara, John A. Freeley and John McNamara, all from Brackloon P.O. taken in Knox St., Corpus Christi 1940's



Taken in Brackloon 1972. Left - right: Joe Dyer, Mick Whitley, Mick Kelly, Catherine Dyer and Brendan Thompson.



The first baby of the Millennium to be Christened in St. Patrick's Church, Evan Fitzmaurice, born 22nd Dec. 1999, Christened 9th Jan. 2000. Son of Martin and Patricia Fitzmaurice, Derrynacong, brother to Róisín.



Henry and Kathleen Madden, Gurteen.



Josie and Martin Cunnane, Carrowkeel



Left ot right: Mary Smyth (Upr. Main St.), Liam and Bridget Lynskey, and Pat Freeley, Gurteen

The Last Famine In Ballyhaunis

January - August 1880

Fr. Kieran Waldron

Most people, if asked, would say the last famine in Ireland occurred in 1846-48. Famines, however, were a recurring feature through the 19th century. The last Irish famine occurred as late as 1880, in the lifetime of many of our parents and grandparents. Though large-scale mortality was averted in the crisis of 1880, this famine was so severe that it should be recorded.

Largely confined to the West of Ireland, it was a consequence of a worldwide drop in agricultural prices caused by huge imports of cheap food, just then made possible by the discovery of refrigeration. It was compounded by a failure of the potato crop for a third successive year, which made people unable to meet the ever-rising land rents. In April 1879, a famous meeting, held in Irishtown, eventually led to the National Land League to confront this very problem. By October 1879, starvation or death itself was facing every second family in western parishes. Memories of the shortages of the previous two winters, when the potato supply had dwindled to almost nothing, haunted the near-starving people.

There was talk of getting help from the Irish overseas. The Government in London was taking little account of the scale of the problem. A delegation from the Irish Bishops to the Lord Lieutenant for a scheme of relief works to ward off the approaching famine came to no avail. The Prime Minister, the Earl of Beaconsfield, had even refused to meet a delegation of Irish MPs.

A letter from the Duchess of Marlborough on the 16th December 1879 to The Times of London at last awakened the conscience of the realm to the enormity of distress in Ireland. The Duchess had already set up a small fund for local relief committees but this limited fund could make little impact. The real response came a few weeks later - on Christmas Eve 1879 - when the Mansion House Committee was founded. Under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, this committee was widely representative, including all Protestant and Catholic Bishops of Ireland. Money poured in from all over the world. Adelaide, in Australia, immediately responded with £2,109 and a fund totalling an enormous £181,665 was eventually reached.

Parishes in need were invited to set up individual branches of the Mansion House Committee. Eventually 800 branches were founded throughout Ireland. Much weekly correspondence was involved. By an extraordinary chance, the voluminous letters from these local committees, for almost a century, concealed behind wainscoting in the Mansion House, were fortuitously rescued during renovations in 1978 and are now in the archives of Dublin Civic Museum. Each parish file is a valuable source for local historians.

The Ballyhaunis branch, Committee No 246 entitled the 'Ballyhaunis Dispensary District Relief Committee', was registered on 24th January 1880 with Parish Priest, Canon James Waldron as Chairman. This committee had already been in existence as a sub-committee of the Claremorris Union for the 'Duchess of Marlborough Fund' in late 1879. As a Dispensary committee, it covered several outlying parishes as well.

In their application form, signed by Canon James Waldron as Chairman and Dr C.E. Crean as Secretary, it was stated that the population of the dispensary area was 12,800 and about 1000 needed relief. However, they noted that the number would 'vastly increase if remunerative works were not promptly undertaken'. There were twenty-three members on the committee. As money could not be given out, the committee proposed that from the grants it would receive, they would dispense a ration of Indian meal weekly to each family in need. In March, they proposed to purchase some seed.

It was hoped that the several parishes in the Dispensary district could work together. Apparently, this proved impractical, for on 29th January, Canon Waldron applied again for the registration of a committee for his own parish of Annagh with the rather unwieldy title of 'Annagh Parish, Barony of Costello, County of Mayo, Union of Claremorris - Post town Ballyhaunis Relief Committee'. This was given Branch Number 506 but, later, it reverted to the original number, two hundred and forty-six. The application was for 500-600 people in need living in the 'larger portion of the town of Ballyhaunis' and for 'small farmers paying from £2 to £7 yearly rent' in the twenty-eight outlying townlands.

Double registration was indeed a frequent nuisance to the Central Committee in many parishes with their anomalous boundaries. Some parishes having more than one church area had tried to register separate committees. In the case of Ballyhaunis, their double registration was to lead to confusion, and indeed suspicion, in the subsequent months. It became the source of many frustrated letters and objections from Canon Waldron. He had been named as the Chairman of both committees. He was frequently to assert that, as a result of the confusion, Ballyhaunis was not getting a fair deal. There was the complication that Annagh then contained the Logboy church area, while half Ballyhaunis town, including north side of Main St., and outlying townlands from Brackloon to Devlis were in the parish of Began.

There are sixty four letters and other papers on the Ballyhaunis file. Most were signed by Canon Waldron; some by Dr Charles E Crean as Secretary of the Dispensary Committee; and some by Fr M. O'Donoghue, C.C. A copy of the printed list of members is included here.

The first grant received by the Dispensary District Committee was for £50. At that time, two bags of Indian meal cost £1 two shillings (£1.10p). Of the £50 received, twelve pounds five shillings was allotted to the parish of Annagh and the rest was given to the five or six parishes or part parishes within the dispensary district - Knock Began, Logboy and Cloonfad.

A letter from Dr Crean, on 4th February 1880, gives the clearest account of the state of destitution. He writes 'of the thousands

clamouring for, and evidently in need of food, we were unable, owing to limited funds at our disposal, to relieve more than 200 families out of a population of 12,800 in this large and exceptionally destitute district. I urge upon you the extent and extreme necessity that prevails in this locality in the hope that a fresh and larger grant will be made in our favour'.

On 16th February, Canon Waldron was to state that the Dispensary District Committee, the committee which had previously acted for the Duchess of Marlborough Fund, was disbanded after the first £50 had been disbursed. 'I did not like to call the Committee by the name of 'Ballyhaunis Relief Committee' as it might cause jealousy but, in future, I will do so', he writes.

There were, by then, some rumblings of discontent coming from the Central committee as on 3rd March, Canon Waldron visited the committee in Dublin himself and met the Secretary, Mr V.B. Dillon. He arranged that Logboy and Ballyhaunis, being in the same parish, should be amalgamated and known henceforth by the name 'Ballyhaunis Relief Committee'. Logboy had received a total of £80 already in February and March. A mistake in Dublin was acknowledged in that £50 meant for Annagh, Ballyhaunis, had gone incorrectly to Annagh, Belturbet. Canon Waldron felt he had explained matters fully and asked for a grant of a further £70 which he stated 'would relieve the distress in the district for three weeks'.

Obviously some lines were being crossed, because only two days later, Dr Crean wrote to inform the Central Committee that at the last meeting of the Dispensary district committee, 'it was resolved that parochial committees be established', that the amounts already received had been divided and given to the chairmen of the various parishes 'in sums proportionate to the population of the several parishes which they represented'. Since then he has taken no part in the matter.

It appears this added to the antipathy in Dublin, especially from the Assistant Secretary, a Mr J.V. Wright. Applications were being refused which led to a pained letter from Canon Waldron on 27th March in which he bemoaned the fact that there was still confusion in Dublin. 'I really thought I had explained matters to Mr Dillon on 4th March. So convinced was he that he deemed it his duty at the next meeting of your committee to make a grant of £75 for our committee'. He also disputed the allegation that Ballyhaunis had received £250. He claimed the correct figure, after deductions for other parishes, was £162 and five shillings. All this confusion arose from the fact that he had been Chairman of both committees. 'I again beg to impress on you that you will be kindly pleased to give us a liberal grant to relieve the destitution of more than 600 families in getting Indian meal, and this committee will feel much obliged'.

Again, on 13th May, he repeats his annoyance and re-submitted more detailed accounts which he had to obtain from the parishes in the original committee. 'I trust that, at long last, I shall have no more trouble on that score'. Other committees had received huge grants 'while we get only a miserable dole to relieve our 600 families. I appeal to you now to make amends and enable our committee to extend relief to the poor families that were taken off our relief lists, due to sheer necessity, for the past three weeks. Since I have not received a grant, our six hundred families must

do without a few stone of Indian meal weekly, though now more than at any former time, sorely needing it. It often surprised me to see the large grants made to Relief committees in Began, Ballindine and Loughglynn, compared to the small grants made to Ballyhaunis Relief Committee. As you know well, there is no landlord in the locality, the population consisting mainly of small farmers who have no employment to get. Unless by going to England as 'harvestmen', they cannot earn anything. For goodness sake, send us a liberal grant large enough to get us over the coming months'.

There must have been some response because on 29th June, as he sent the accounts of the week he says 'it will surprise me if our application will be refused this week as it was last week. I beg to assure you the assistance of your committee was never more required'. He refers to a panic in Ballyhaunis as carriers from Swinford and Charlestown, where fever was on the increase, were coming to the Railway station and market in Ballyhaunis.

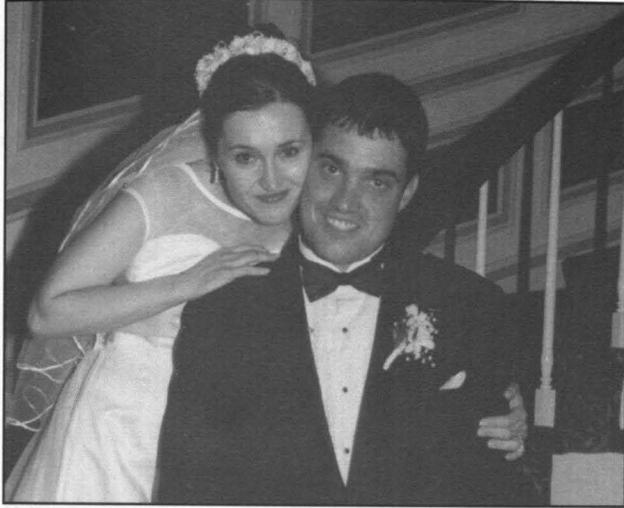
It might be noted that Canon Waldron's reference to 600 families in his later letters, rather than 600 persons, may, in fact, be an error or it may be that as the spring and early summer approached, the famine was reaching its height.

When July and August came, accompanied by a good potato crop, the famine did begin to wane and the Ballyhaunis committee, like other committees, could be officially wound up. But the mass of evidence in the Ballyhaunis file in the Mansion House papers is enough to scare our complacent society of today. I 600 families in the parish of Annagh were craving each week for a ration of the high-edible Indian meal, often contemptuously referred to as the hated 'yellow meal', it is something to make us think.

Why then was the famine of 1880 so quickly forgotten? Because, perhaps, the starvation, though extensive, did not lead to widescale deaths as in Black '47'. Also, to a long-suffering people, 'famine' was only a matter of degree in the 'bad times' - the 'droch-saol' - which plagued an over-populated countryside, still depending on one or two staple foods.

But such misery could hardly have been forgotten. Is it likely there was a deliberate cloaking over of those bad times by our grandparents' generation - almost as a moral evil in a family? People were mindful of the words of the great Michael Davitt who, to bolster the morale of the Irish people, had said in Castlebar in September 1879: 'in vain shall we try to rouse the National spirit, if the men who form the Nation are allowed to become paupers before our faces'. A contemporaneous scribe in the Connaught Telegraph wrote scathingly of attempts to avert pauperism 'to reduce the people still lower in the scale of beggars,hats in hand, craving relief and whining: 'sure we would try to do without relief, only as it is a thing going, we are all entitled to beg as our neighbours'. Bah! Let all who wish to see Ireland demoralised continue to subscribe to relief funds and place their subscriptions in the hands of landlords, agents and bailiffs'.

Those words, however, were written some months before the 1880 Famine had struck its worst. Nonetheless, there can be no doubt that widescale deaths were indeed averted by relief committees in this - hopefully - the last famine in Ireland.



*P.J. Kilraine, Chicago & Rachel O'Niell, Dublin.
(The Groom is son of Angela Heaney, Bargarriff, Ballyhaunis)*



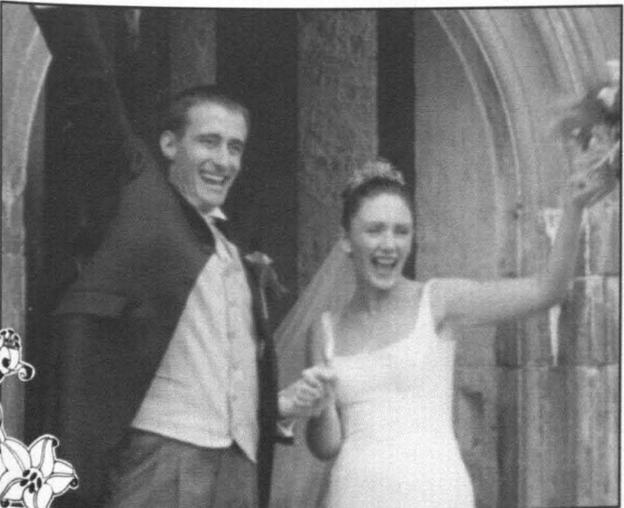
*Gráinne Ryan, Coolnafarna & Shane Keaveney, Granlahan,
married in St. Patrick's Church*



Austin Hopkins, Island & Úna Greaney, Kilkerrin.



*Albert Madden, Gurteen & Rita Fitzpatrick, Tully,
Carrowbehy, married in Gorthaganny Church*



*Mary Carney, Brickers & Tim Jones, England,
married in Ballintubber Abbey*



*Mary Hurley, Ballinphuill & John Finnegan, Knox St.,
married in Rome*



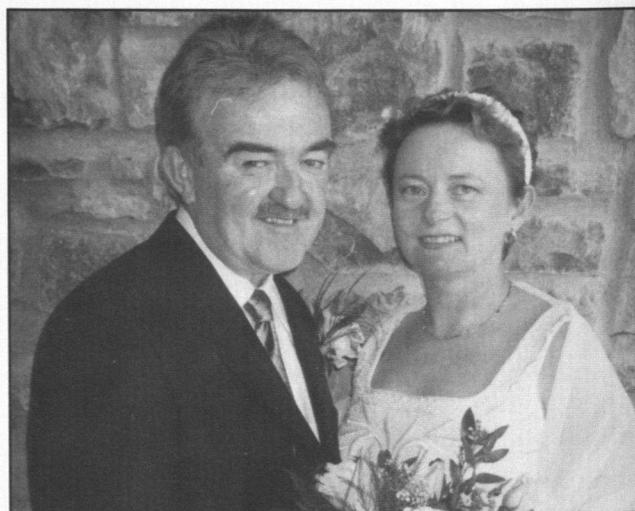
Sinead Curley, Ballyhaunis & Peter Whelehan, Dublin, married in Ballintubber Abbey



Michelle Daly, Upr Main St, & Martin Robert English, Achill



Mary Hickey, Greenwood & Michael Dalgan Lyons, Turlough



Alex Eaton, Main Street & Ann Stanley, Ballinlough, married in Knock

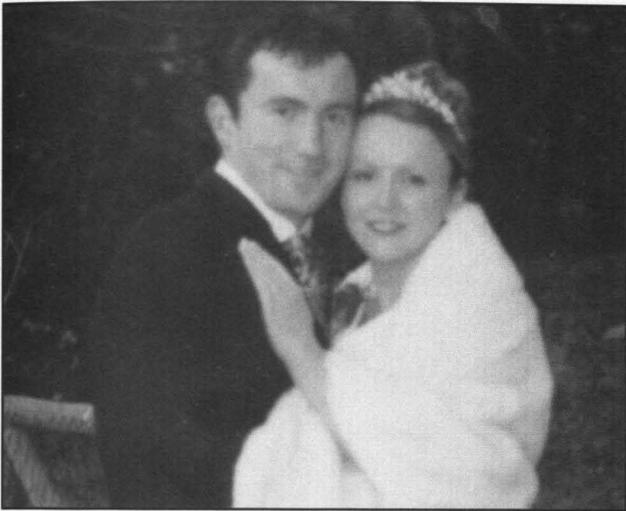


Mary Tarpey, Carrowkeel & Michael Byrne, Dublin, married in St. Patrick's Church



Claire Dalton & Mark Cawley (Grandson of Tom & Noreen Hopkins) married in St. Paul's Church, Coleraine





*John Coggins, Granlahan & Margaret Gormley, Granlahan,
married in St. Patrick's Church*



*May Flatley, Clare St. & Brian Cosgrove,
Claremorris, married in St. Patrick's Church*



*Dora Forde, Clare St., & Fergal Gilhawley, Enniscrone,
married in Rome*



*Martina Crehan, Clare St. & Francis Fahy, Salthill,
married in Bushypark Church, Galway*



*Christina Carney, Tooreen & Roger Clarke, Killala,
married in Tooreen Church*

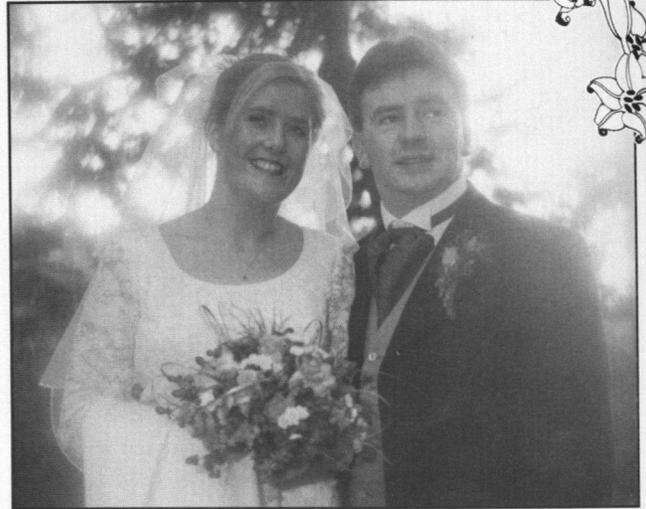


*Sylvia Denenny, Gurrane & Dominick Jordan, Charlestown,
married in Logboychurch*





Christy Flanagan, Tooreen & Anne Marie Ivors, Kiltimagh, married in Kiltimagh Church



Stella Keane, Knox St. & Martin Walshe, Clagnagh, married in St. Patrick's Church



Robert Finn, Main St., & Jo-Lise Krimmert, Sydney, Australia, married in The Friary



Niall Delaney, Coolnaha & Claire Louise Nolan, Carrowreagh, married in St. Patrick's Church

Ballyhaunis-man Appointed Armani Design Director

Michael Byrne

Earlier this year, Mr. James Waldron, a native of Devlis, Ballyhaunis, was appointed design director with the firm of Giorgio Armani, one of the worlds top fashion designers, based in Italy.

A first class graduate of the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, James went to Milan in 1988 where he took up a position with the fashion and design company of Luciano Soprani. Less than two years later, James was approached by the Armani Group and had no hesitation in becoming a designer in chief for Italys most famous and richest designer. Armani, who has been among the worlds top fashion designers over the past twenty years, has produced creations for many of the worlds most famous artists, such as ex-beatle Paul McCartney, footballer David Beckham, footballer Eric Clapton, and former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham, to name but a few.

James attended St. Josephs and St. Marys Primary Schools and the Community School in Ballyhaunis, before taking up art and design in Dublin. He is a former member of the Fourth Mayo Scout Troop in Ballyhaunis, with whom James travelled extensively in the early 1980s. A fluent speaker of both French and Italian, James has never lost sight of his Ballyhaunis roots and continues to travel home to his native town whenever the constraints of time allows him to do so. James was back in his native country during the Summer when, for the third year running, he assumed the role of outside examiner for degree students sitting their examinations at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin.

James is son Mary and the late Noel Waldron, Devlis, and has two brothers: Martin, senior buyer with Aer Rianta, Shannon Airport; and Paul, an accomplished graphic artist based in Dublin.

Ballyhaunis Musical Society

For five nights in March this year, the Ballyhaunis Musical Society staged their seventh production – the famous musical endeared to families worldwide by Julie Andrews in the 1960's – "The Sound of Music".

This Millennium production was a wonderful success, bringing an already acclaimed and established musical society to new heights in both drama and song. This year's production was unique due to the presence of young students from schools in the Ballyhaunis area, partaking for the first time ever in lead roles in a production staged by the Ballyhaunis Musical Society. As usual, much effort, talent and genuine hard working commitment ensured that this musical was as successful a venture as it was hoped it would be.

Anna Henry and Adrian Murray brilliantly portrayed the lead roles of Maria and Captain Von Trapp. The cast included both stalwart and new members in the lead and supporting roles: Fergal Carton, Johnny O'Shaughnessy, Leo Forkin, Tony Duffy, Brian Hunt, Austin Finn, Deirdre Moran, Mary Lyons, Patricia Grogan, Tina Kirrane, Nuala Fitzgerald, Aisling Toal and members of Gracenotes choir (Nuns Chorus). Anne-Marie

Madden and Michael Shiels played the two elder Von Trapp children.

Family one were as follows: Laura Freyne, Ronan Devaney, Aoife Caulfield, Joanne Delaney and Olwyn Murray. Family two: Marianne Knight, William Lyons, Lorna Carney, Miriam Judge and Niamh Lyons. Once again John Aldridge, Ray Leonard and Aine Whelan worked tirelessly to ensure that the end result was as successful as it was.

"Grease"

Rehearsals have already begun for this year's show "Grease", which became famous worldwide with the release of the film adaptation starring Olivia Newton John and John Travolta. To this day, this musical remains ever popular. The lead roles are as follows: Sandy – Anne-Marie Madden; Danny – Lorcan Higgins.



Left to right: Johnny O'Shaughnessy, Adrian Murray, Ashling Toal & Michael Kelly.



Nuns; l-r: Geraldine Collins, Úna Shields, Patricia Grogan, Anne-Marie Madden, Anna Henry (Bride), Brian Hunt (Bishop), Adrian Murray, Michael Shiels, Aoife Caulfield, Joanne Delaney & Olwyn Murray.

As was the case last year, we have a lot of welcome new talent in our production this year. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new musical director, Pauline McGarry. Once again Ray Leonard is the producer and Ballyhaunis Musical Society would like to express sincere thanks to all of our patrons without whom the show genuinely could not go on.

Officers: Chairman: Adrian Murray; Vice-Chairman: Mike Kelly; Secretary: Noreen Freyne; Asst. Secretary: D. Moran; Treasurers: Seamus O'Boyle and Fergal Carton; P.R.O.: Sinead London and Aisling Toal.

No Milk Today!

Eamon Murren

*"No milk today
Jack Morley's gone away
Baa is at the hay
And Susan's making tay"*

These were lines we sang in the sixties and seventies. Jack Morley of No. 4 Knox Street was a famous publican/farmer. Jack also had a very big milk round. He towed his milk trailer around the town in his black Morris Minor. While Jack sat in the car studying the horses for the next day, Michael (Baa) and Susan would deliver the milk. If Jack was absent, because of some important business, such as the Galway races, then "Brod" Byrne or maybe Jack Coyne were called in to act as locum.

The first milkman I remember delivering milk to our house in Upper Main St., was Johnny Murphy, Lecarrow, a gentleman and gentle man. Johnny was helped by his sons Martin and John with the delivery. When Johnny gave up the milk round, John Morley of Kilmannin became our milkman. I recall John's nephew and niece Declan and Ursula Carberry helping out during their holidays from Dublin. John's father-in-law Eddie Biesty was also called upon to do the odd shift. Sadly, John was called to his eternal reward at a very young age and it was then Timmy Melvin from "Doctor Waldron's" who brought our milk. Timmy would normally deliver the milk to our house in the evening and our house or Caulfield's would be his last call. Timmy would have a cup of tea, enquire as to how many winners Lester Piggot had ridden that day and then proceed to the pictures or a game of cards.

My own experience of delivering milk was helping Eddie Murphy do the milk round. Jimmy Cribben, some years ago in "Annagh" wrote about all the houses in town that kept a cow. Murphy's was such a house. Eddie and I delivered to Eamonn Phillips, Una Phillips, Tess Kelly and Marcella McHugh, to name but a few. I remember Eddie's dad milking the cow one evening when some scoundrel, who shall remain nameless, landed a stone on the roof of the shed and the cow kicked the bucket of milk over. Bill Curran, the sergeant was not long solving the crime.



Holywell in the late 40's. Left to right: John Connolly, Michael Connolly, Delia Brennan (nee Tarmey), Martin Whitehouse & John Whitehouse.

Other Milkmen

Another milkman I remember in those days was Ambrose Johnston. Ambrose delivered the milk in a pony and trap. Many reckoned that the pony knew where to stop without being told. Other milkmen who had a round were Paddy Hunt, Larganboy; Tommy Jordan, Knox Street; Roger Healy and Tom Melvin, Ballindrehid; Joe Finn and Eddie Mulligan, Hazelhill and Joe Greene, Main Street. Other places who sold milk were Sonny Phillips, Bernie Byrne, Austin Jordan and Tom Glynn. I'm sure there are many more I'm leaving out.

I leave one milkman to last. He was a man who showed great foresight and entrepreneurial talent. I refer to Tommy Roynayne, Clagnagh. It was, I think, the late sixties or possibly early seventies that Tommy began the novel idea of the carton of milk. His 'Clagnagh Dairies' were a unique venture in Ballyhaunis and indeed Ireland. Tommy, still hale and hearty, remains one of the area's most progressive farmers.

Down the years, stricter new Government regulations meant that most of our traditional milkmen went out of business. Shops and supermarkets began to supply bottles and cartons of milk. The milk we put in our tea today is nothing like the creamy milk of years ago. What I'd give for a drop of Johnny Murphy's milk in my tay.

Abbey Male Choir

Eamon Murren

With the future of the Abbey in doubt, the future of our choir is uncertain. However, we are hopeful that we will continue to sing at Mass every Sunday.

The past year has been a sad one for our members, because, on top of the uncertainty over the future of the Abbey, we lost one of our founder members. The death of Mick O'Connell robbed us of our esteemed and beloved member. Mick was very much the father figure of our choir and we miss him dearly. We know his beautiful voice will be heard with the angels singing "Scarlet Ribbons" and "The West Awake". May his gentle soul rest in peace.

We sing at 11a.m. Mass every Sunday and practice afterwards. New members are always welcome.

Escape to Ballyhaunis Part Two

Tony and June Duffy

Well now, doesn't time fly by, we only just seem to have finished our first Annagh Magazine article and here we go again.

After a quiet time at Christmas, owing to a bout of 'flu' from the 17th December until early in the New Year, the year 2000 sneaked in and has been all go ever since. The musical was a great success. They say never act with children and those playing the two families proved this, they were brilliant.

June was one of the singing nuns; they were so realistic that I was calling her 'Sister' for a week or two. I enjoyed my role as the German Admiral, especially the heel-clicking, but the best part for me was when Zeller (Leo Forkan) and I persuaded the audience to participate every evening during the concert scene. Did the end of the musical mean an end to all the fun, and at times hard work? No! because I had allowed myself to be persuaded to buy a field with access to water, well manured and fenced by the Bull McCabe and his son Tadhg. This meant being killed every night by those well-known villains, Tony Carney and Rory Caulfield, neither of whom was ever brought to justice. We even took "The Field" on tour, so I could be killed in Balla. The good part was the resurrection as the curtain came down. The cast and technical support were a great help, giving me advice on all aspects of acting.

Everything isn't perfect though, and among the deaths this year of many sorely missed people, one impinges on our own village of Cartron South. The death this year of Lizzie McNamara aged ninety years young. (21st Feb 1910 - 24th April 2000). Lizzie was born in the three roomed house on our land. She moved to her own house near the old school, and since we came to the area she was a constant source of information on all the comings and goings, both past and present. Lizzie was her own woman and not easily persuaded to change her views. She had the rare ability to talk equally to young and old and was a staunch supporter of the church. She rarely, if ever, missed mass. I remember the last bad storm on St. Stephen's Day, with trees down all round Lizzie's house. June and myself climbed over and under huge trees, and when we got to the house, covered in mud and wet, Lizzie said "if you got in, you can get me out and down to Mass". She was a mere eighty-nine then. The invitation to her 90th was unique, "I am too old for presents, just bring yourselves". Sadly, shortly afterwards Lizzie passed on. She was the last of her line, one of five sisters and a great loss to the community at large and Cartron South in particular. The photograph was taken by her nephew John Mullarkey and shows Fr. Walsh from Aghamore, and Lizzie on her ninetieth birthday.

After Camogie

Moving on, you will recall our 'great knowledge of hurling,' from last year's edition. Well this year when the Winter indoor training had finished and we were all back at the GAA ground, June was approached by two of our stalwarts, Joanna Hoban and Nicola Kilbride. They expressed a need to train and play in a league of their own. (Sorry guys but this involves wrap-around skirts and affiliation to the Camogie Association). Now this has opened up a whole new meaning to our lives, as we now refer to BC (before camogie) and

AC (after camogie) as terms of reference. Also it opened up a whole new area of dialogue with questions such as - What is camogie? How can we set a club up? When and where can we train? Who is going to train? Will we have enough support? Etc. Perhaps the most asked question of us is why? The simple answer is because the girls want it and (to quote a well known advert) because we think they're worth it. However, the two of us could not run the club without strong support. We held a meeting, and soon found that parents and others were eager to contribute and make the club a success. In particular Ray Lucey and Peter Higgins started the ball rolling in forming a Camogie Club Committee and as a result the following officers were duly elected.

Chair: June Duffy; Secretary: Tony Duffy; Vice-Chair: Tadhg Buckley; Treasurers: Liz Kilbride and Breda Murray; P.R.O: Mary Donnelly; Social Sec.: Agatha Higgins (wait for the Christmas Party!); First Aid: Mary Morrissey (we need her at committee meetings). Susan Hoban, Stacia Carney, Martha Lucey are also on board. We soon found there was no Camogie board in Mayo. However, this was no deterrent and after many letters and phone calls, we were accepted into the Roscommon League. It was not long before we were playing our first Under-12 Championship. Being drawn against Athleague, Oran, St. Dominic's and Four Roads, meant we had a steep hill to climb, however, the girls rallied round and we learned very quickly, the last result being 7-0/5-0 for Oran. During this period (August to September) we also put a Mayo County team into the Connaught Under-14 blitz, playing Galway C & D teams and then coming within three goals of the Roscommon B team. Not bad progress for a newly formed club team. The training is every Saturday afternoon at the GAA ground, 1.30 till 3.00 (indoors at the Scout's Den during Winter) and the two squads are up to forty registered players, with more coming every week. Our special thanks go to all those who have supported us so far with donations, time and effort. Team photographs will be in for next year's edition when we have our new kit.

In our "spare time" we have been helping the embryo Ballyhaunis Community Council, to gather information for its needs analysis, and we have agreed to "facilitate" one of the work groups until a new owner can be found. As usual, underpinning these minor activities, we have our "normal" lives! June is back in full time teaching at St. Michael's, Castlereagh, and I am still fighting my losing battle to control "God's little acre". Added to this is the usual round of fruit picking (our own and in the hedgerows), for the home-made jam, beer and wine. What with the cooking, cleaning, washing and ironing, it's no wonder they say "a fella's work is never done". This is being retired? Speak to you all next year God willing.



Lizzie McNamara & Fr. Walsh P.P., Aghamore on her 90th Birthday.

Annagh Magazine Guinness Group Sales (Ireland) Ltd. Ballyhaunis

The beginning of a new millennium-the end of an institution in Ballyhaunis?

We have heard and read so much in the last year about the wonderful goings on in the new millennium – all the changes in the way of life worldwide and more especially here at home of the effect on all of this so called Celtic Tiger. Indeed, we were so lucky in our town of Ballyhaunis to see so much going on with our big success story definitely being the completion of the lovely spire on the local church of St. Patrick's. A credit to the town it definitely is and to the hard working committee who saw it through to completion.

Downsides

On the downside, we have had the upsetting news conveyed to us all and sundry that another institution in Ballyhaunis may be closed completely. I am talking of course about the Abbey or the Friary as it is more commonly known. We also had to contend with the death of our beloved Fr. Bart Delaney, another institution in his own right. His death and the Friary crisis I will not elaborate on here as I feel I am not qualified to talk on that matter. We have had to put up with the ongoing stench problem at the local rendering plant, another will o' the wisp situation, "Now you see me, now you don't", or to localise that saying "Now you smell me, now you don't". The sewerage and water installations were a nuisance for some months restricting the flow of traffic through our town on numerous occasions. The idea of modernising the town was great and the trees on Main Street and Clare Street look wonderful, but what about the parking problem: we have cut our parking spaces by half in this busy shopping area and a concrete jungle has replaced our town Square and Clare Street parking lot areas.

Anyhow, the list goes on and on, the pros and cons of Ballyhaunis and its hinterland in this new Millennium year. In all the hype and activity of the past year, did anyone share a thought that one of the best-established businesses in the town will cease to operate by the end of this famous Millennium year of 2000? I am talking of course about the Guinness Group Depot, formerly known as Irish Ale Breweries or nicknamed 'The Brewery' by many people in Ballyhaunis or simply 'The Depot'. For over thirty years the 'Depot' has successfully operated from the yard at Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis. During that time, it has employed many workers from the town and surrounding areas culminating in a peak work force of over forty in the late seventies.

Beginnings of "The Depot"

There were many characters in the olden days around

Ballyhaunis whose effort indirectly led to the Depot coming to Ballyhaunis; a few spring to mind namely 'Goss' Regan, Rodgie Green and of course the real 'daddy' of the depot, Tommie Freeley. Tom was the cause of the depot coming to Ballyhaunis and he fought tooth and nail to keep it in town when there was talk of moving it elsewhere at one stage. Where are all the Tom Freeley's now?

In the late sixties, Smithwicks Ale had a Depot in Kiltimagh and Johnny Conlon, Mick Roughneen and John Forde operated from there. At the same time, Phoenix Ales had a Depot in Ballyhaunis at Tom Freeleys' premises in Ballindrehid (now Dillon's). They later moved to the station at Ballyhaunis for a short time when they had amalgamated. Phoenix Ale and Smithwicks Ale became known as Irish Ale Breweries Ltd. The company moved in 1969 to the former yard of Austin Grogan's at Abbeyquarter and they expanded there and built new offices, sheds, and garages, extended the yard considerably and there, yours truly joined the merry crew. Under manager Tom Freeley and traffic clerk Michael O'Loughlin, a brand new fleet of lorries were purchased and the task force set about supplying ale and lager to far and wide (approximately 100 miles radius).

There were about seven or eight lorries in those early days, but as demand grew this expanded to a fleet of twelve lorries, some of those returning to base for a second load at peak times. The ales and lager we supplied in those early years were the market leader Smithwicks, Harp Lager, Double Diamond and of course Tommie Freeley's favourite - Phoenix Ale. Smithwicks Ales is the only brand name that survived with its reputation intact. Of course we still carry Harp but it is no longer the force it was in the seventies when the famous advertisement 'Sally O'Brien and they way she might look at you' was going the rounds and loved by all and sundry. Now Budweiser, Carlsberg, Hudson Blue Cider, Cashels and Kilkenny beer have joined the team with Budweiser and Smithwicks vying for market leader.

Systems of Operating

The system of operating has changed considerably during those thirty odd years or so. In the early days the lorries called to every pub in every town and village 'on spec' you might say. It did not matter then whether they needed supplies or not, they were called on anyway. This alone meant that the lorries were out all hours of the night on some runs. Of course the overtime was good and nobody complained and 'what was good for the goose was good for the gander' as the old saying goes. New technology and advanced procedures have brought the Depot into the scientific age. No customer is called on now if they have not an order in by direct debit to the office in Galway. New technology sees the order relayed immediately to the Ballyhaunis office and the load made up for the particular run the next day. So the new procedure is 'no order, no call'. Personally, I don't agree with the system as it has a detrimental effect on customer relations in my opinion.

Money is not collected anymore either under any circumstances - what a change from the olden days! I personally remember one Christmas in the early seventies having £5,000 in cash in my back pocket from money I had collected from customers. Would it be safe nowadays: I shudder to think of the consequences.

So even though the whole set up has been modernised beyond recognition, i.e. a new grab loads the lorries fifteen kegs at a time, no rails have to come off lorries for loading anymore, it has cut manpower radically. What a change from the good old days of lorry covers, pallets, rails being taken off and put on, and working seven days a week and not knowing Sunday from Monday. All of this in the name of progress!!

Why Close Down?

If all is well in the camp, and Guinness Group Sales is booming in line with the Celtic Tiger, why is the Depot closing down, one might ask? Well, the story is that Guinness Draught has always been delivered to the various pubs through C.I.E and the beer and lager through the Depot. Now all the depots in Ireland are being relocated to the railheads (in our case Claremorris) and all the Guinness products are being delivered on the one lorry. Very logical it may seem. Why not do it in reverse and deliver the Draught Guinness from Ballyhaunis Depot? Guinness group have different ideas and like many other firms are now committed to leasing out deliveries to private transport and not replacing men who retire. When a lorry driver retires now, his lorry goes with him so they are gradually winding down and enticing men to retire with substantial lump sums. Some of the men who have retired have been offered contracts to deliver and have bought out their own lorries to do so. This applies in the case of Jimmy Flanagan, Flan Moroney and Sean Biesty, and I am sure more will follow in their footsteps.

The deadline for the moving to Claremorris station is the 31st of December 2000 but it is very hard to imagine the machinery of change being put in motion by then. A more realistic date would be late spring or early Summer 2001. However the company is very definite about the move. I wonder what our dear departed workmates of old would think of the move - not too impressed I would imagine.

Workmates Through the Years

Talking of workmates of old I will finish by reminiscing on some of the characters I worked with since I started in 1970. Apart from the three Kiltimagh men I already mentioned - Johnny Conlon, Mick Roughneen and John Forde - and all gone to their eternal reward, I might add I remember in particular Jack Coyne, who was probably the best teller of yarns I have ever heard; Seamus Ruane, shared many a cup of tea with us. Pdraig Prendergast, a footballing and socialising friend of mine who died at a very young age a few years ago; Paddy Ganley who died this year after a brief illness; Eamon Burke, our friendly service rep who died this year, and also John Hueston. Then there were the men still living but retired directly

from the company; the aforementioned Jimmy Flanagan, Flan Moroney, and Sean Biesty. Also Eugene Collum, Mick King, Mick Brennan, Seamus and Gerry McGuire, Christy Patterson, Des Lyons, John Coffey, Mick Hunt, Johnny Regan (affectionately known as J.R.), Tom Cribbin who was foreman until he retired a few years ago, Paddy Egan, Pat Byrne, Eddie Wall, Sean Herson, Frank McTigue and Darby Lyons. Our present workforce consists of Pdraig Regan, Willie Coyne, Pdraig Morley, Freddie Herr, Sean Grogan, John Greally, Brian Byrne, Pat Doyle, Dan Tarpey and Tommy Grogan who man the lorries and our yard staff of Joe Burke, Ollie Cribbin, Anthony Freeley, Eamon Egan, Seamus Flanagan, Tony Waldron and myself, and not forgetting our fitter Tony Gibbons. Tony Waldron will probably hold the distinction of being the last worker taken on by Guinness Group Sales at their Depot at Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis in the Summer of the millennium year of 2000.

Last but by no means least, our office staff of Manager Michael O'Loughlin and new incumbent Brian McGroarty, Mary Burke and Marguerite Doyle who have brought the Depot into the new Age of technology with the introduction of fax machines, copying machines etc. and more recently, our fully computerised system. Michael and Mary are definitely saying goodbye to us all this Christmas as they both retire. Of course there were many other managers and office staff also down through the years, Managers John O'Neill, Joe Coonerty, the aforementioned Tom Freeley (R.I.P.) and office staff Mary Walsh, Breda Burke, Mary Byrne, Una Collum and other temporary staff too numerous to mention.

Where to from here?

Will we be still here in 2001? Well, only a major miracle or a change of heart will accomplish that feat and the sad day that we were dreading all along is finally dawning on us. Whether the few stragglers of us move to Claremorris is another story, but at the moment it looks like when Annagh magazine goes to press in 2001, Guinness Group Sales will be a thing of the past in Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis. Yes, the beginning of a new millennium will signal the end of an old institution in Ballyhaunis. Well, it was good while it lasted and let us move on quietly to pastures new with the memories of workmates old and new, deceased and living vividly emblazoned in our minds. It was an honour and a privilege to have known you all; so as the song says 'Adios Amigos'. Goodbye to the many brave hearted men who transported the ale and lager from Smithwicks Brewery, Kilkenny, Cherry's Brewery, Waterford and Harp Brewery, Dundalk on a daily basis to the Ballyhaunis Depot. Rest in peace all you who have departed this life and to the others 'Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo aris'. As the old saying goes 'Where there's life, there's hope!'

*Murt Hunt, Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis
Foreman/Supervisor at the Guinness Ireland Group Depot,
Ballyhaunis*

Annagh Magazine



Left to right: Sally Fitzmaurice, Lisbane; Noreen Neary, Aughamore; Nancy Fitzmaurice R.I.P., Lisbane. Taken in the 1950's



Left to right: Des Lyons, Turlough; Carmel Higgins, Johnstown; Helena Byrne, Gurteen; Austin Biesty, Pattenspark; Sinead Byrne, Gurteen; Joan Biesty, Pattenspark.



At the opening of Gallagher's new premises. Left to right: John Gallagher, Helen Lyons, Charlie McCreevey Minister for Finance and Madeline Hyland.



Joe Kedian, Derrynacong and Manchester.



On top of the Reek in the early 80's. Back left to right: Tony Cribbin, Ann M. Fallon, Martin Forde, Gerry Cribbin, Joe Freeman, Mick Kelly. Front: Kathleen Kelly, Lynn Clarke, Johnny Kelly, Ann Kelly.



Kevin Jordan (Annagh) Pictured at his surprise 70th Birthday Party in Coventry. Left-right: Mick Meehan, Kevin Jordan, Bernard Keane, Kevin Meehan, and Martin Grogan. All native of Ballyhaunis.

Hosting for the First Time

The Regan Family, Brusna, Ballaghaderreen

It was June 29th - the day had arrived at last. Our visitors were due to arrive in a few hours. We were waiting in anticipation not knowing what to expect. What would they be like? Would they want to stay with us? Imagine how the children must have felt coming to a strange country not knowing the language or where or with whom they would be living for the next month.

It all began when I switched on Mid-West one morning and heard an interview; the topic was the A.B.C. Ballyhaunis (Aid for Belarussian Children). The person (whom I later discovered was the Chairman of the group, Seamus Comer) was looking for families to host children who had been affected by the Chernobyl accident. We had heard of this project before and we had always said we must do something, but always put it on the long finger.

Anyway here we were, at our first meeting of the group in Ballyhaunis. The first thing I said to Breege Nolan (Secretary) was "I don't know if we are wasting your time, we may be too far away, living in Ballaghaderreen". She said "the more the merrier".

Russian Lessons

We attended the meetings for the following few weeks and learned much from the families who had hosted the children in previous years. We had a lesson in Russian from Seamus Comer, which was very interesting, and we were advised to

purchase a Russian dictionary. The main worry we had as a family was the language. The other families assured us that the language was not a problem, the children were usually able to make themselves understood. We worried about food, would they like bacon and cabbage, Irish stew or would I be making goulash for the next two weeks.

They arrived in Ballyhaunis on June 29th 2000. The group consisted of sixteen children plus two adults. This year, for the first time, the Ballyhaunis group had been requested to host two children from an orphanage. The two adults were the interpreter and a carer from the orphanage. There was food laid on for all the children and as we stood around waiting for them to finish we wondered which children we would be having for the next two weeks. Shortly after they had finished eating Breege Nolan introduced the two children, Nastya and Ivan who we would host for the next two weeks. We drove home to Ballaghaderreen. The children didn't say much, they were probably weighing us up and wondering "where have we been landed". Once we arrived home and the children were settled in they were more at ease, they all went outside playing football. We had worried unnecessarily about the language barrier as Nastya and Ivan had very good English, this was because their mother is an English teacher. The majority of the children have very little English but this rarely causes a problem.

Settled in Quickly

When we attended the meeting, we were told to treat the children as we would treat our own. The children settled in very quickly, the food was never a problem they ate everything that we ate: cheese, pizza and chips were very well received and the verdict was "very tasty". They liked bananas very much and told us that in their country they could not afford to buy them very often because they were so expensive. They also could not believe that they could eat as much muesli as



Chernobyl Children with their interpreter, 3rd from the left - Back row, Tanya Serjanina and Rosaleen Kelly, Kiltaboe with the childrens carer Tanya Galanova, 4th from left in front row.

they liked because in their country this was also very expensive.

Even though this is called the Chernobyl Children Project, these children are from Mogiliv, a highly contaminated area. They live many miles away from the site of the Chernobyl accident but they (their children and their children's children) will be affected by the fallout from it for thousands of years to come. It is estimated that a month in Ireland breathing radiation free air and eating healthy food will increase their life span by two years.

There is so much we take for granted in Ireland, we just expect to get up every morning and be able to breathe clean air. In their country there is a system which monitors the level of radiation in the air. When the level of radiation is high, the system activates flashing lights along the streets, so the children cannot leave on their school bus in the morning. The bus then turns back and the children must stay inside their home for the day. I hear many an Irish child say "wouldn't that be great", but these children do not return home to a nice warm house with television, video, Play Station or Nintendo. The majority of families are very poor and live in one roomed flats, often with the grandparents as well as their own families, so it is no luxury for them to have a day off school.

"No Worries" in the "Land Down Under"

Laura Finn

"Win a trip of a lifetime to the Sydney Olympics, courtesy of Lindemans' Wines". I filled out the form and sent it off, never for one moment believing that I would win, but I did.

My brother Austin and I set out on All-Ireland Sunday on our long journey to Sydney, with the Olympic Stadium in Homebush being our very particular destination. As well as our flight tickets and hotel details I also had in my possession ten very valuable Olympic tickets; each one bought and paid for in advance, all we had to do was show up!

We were met in Sydney by Judy and Steve, members of the Australian side of the family, and also by our sister Trisha who is spending the year working and travelling in Australia. After noting the sights of Sydney, the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House being my favourites, the highlight of the trip would have to have been our two evenings at Homebush Stadium. The atmosphere on both nights was truly electric. Just to walk out into the stands and catch that first glimpse of the track, to turn and look up at the Olympic flame flickering mere feet away from where we were sitting was an experience I will remember always.

To be in the presence of such talented sporting legends as Michael Johnston, Marion Jones and our own Sonia O'Sullivan was an incredible honour. We may not have been there to witness Sonia winning the silver in the 5,000 metres on Monday night but we sure were cheering her on in the 10,000 metres on Saturday night. She wasn't in the medals that night, but she did us proud yet again, a true champion.

Rewarding Experience

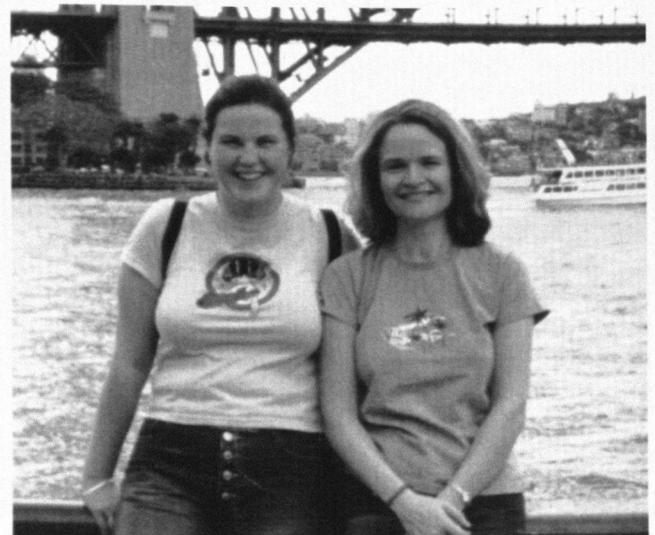
The children stayed with us for two weeks and then went to another family for the following two weeks. We had a very good back-up service in the form of the interpreter Tanya and Breege Nolan who went around to every house to check if the children or the host families had any problems. She was also at the end of a phone line any time of the day or night. For us as a family, it was very rewarding hosting children for the first time. We are not going to say it was not hard work, as it was, but it was well worth it to see the children happy. We receive letters from them and our children keep in contact with them also by letter. We learned much about the culture in their country and we hope the children benefited from their stay with us.

At present, the Aid for Belarussian Children, Ballyhaunis are starting to fund raise to bring in next year's group and we look forward very much to hosting children again next year. Already, the group have organised a very successful snooker night in the White House, Ballinlough. The aim of this was to raise funds to buy shoes for the children in the orphanage where the children who came with the group this year were from.

Closing Ceremonies

Sunday October 1st was our last day in Sydney, Closing Ceremonies day. We didn't have tickets to the event out in Homebush, but Trisha was determined we were going to enjoy the experience in the best possible spot in Sydney, "The Domain", location of many concerts in this magnificent city over the years. Sydney's farewell to the 27th Olympiad was spectacular on screen but even more so in reality. The Aussies know how to throw a party that goes off with a bang, what an amazing fireworks display that was, an appropriate ending to a wonderful trip.

Many thanks again to Lindemans and Gilbeys Ireland for what was "The trip of a lifetime". Also a big thank you to Trisha our tour guide and to Paula her side-kick. Thanks too the Krimmert family for their "Aussie" welcome.



Patricia and Laura Finn, Sydney - September 2000

Music for the Millennium Mass

Noel Henry

The events of our Millennium celebrations are well documented by more able scribes elsewhere in this publication, but I would like to share with you some of the background to the composition of the Mass of Praise and Thanksgiving (now more commonly known as the Ballyhaunis Millennium Mass) which premiered in the parish church on New Year's Eve, 1999.

More than three years have passed since my family and I came to live here in Nottingham. I am now working as a music teacher at Our Lady's Convent, Loughborough. Our school celebrated its 150th anniversary on April 2nd last, and as part of these festivities I was commissioned to compose a setting of the Mass suitable for performance by teenagers, to be premiered at an open-air mass celebrated by the Bishop of Nottingham, Dr. James McGuinness on June 27th. Well, good news travels fast, and before long enquiries were being made as to whether this music, written by a son of the parish, could be used as part of the Millennium celebrations back home. I explained that since the school commissioned it the first performance must take place there. I was already aware of the Millennium Spire project and like any exile was keen to be associated with it.

Early Movements

I contacted Luke Murray, Chairman of the Millennium Committee in early October. I was immediately impressed by his dedication to this project in general, but even more by his openness to the pursuit of an idea that was not heretofore on the agenda. He personally was in favour of honouring this historic occasion with its own specially composed music, but said the idea needed the approval of both Canon Cooney and Anna Butler, director of the choir for the Millennium Eve Mass. Things moved very quickly and about October 10th, Luke Murray confirmed that the Mass would go ahead.

I then rang Anna Butler to discuss what I had in mind. In truth, at this stage I had few concrete proposals. I knew the ability of the choir at our disposal, having spent many years as organist at the Parish Church and also having sung with many of its members during my time with Cantairi Beal Atha h-Amhnais. The music would therefore be quite complex and demanding, incorporating a variety of different musical styles suitable for an event symbolising the passing of time. Anna suggested that the choir needed a minimum of eight weeks rehearsal time. It was now mid-October. I had three weeks to write the entire piece!

Anyone who has ever tried writing, even a short letter, knows the difficulty of facing a blank page. I had tens of them!! But I wanted so much to make my humble contribution, to be part of such a major occasion in my

home town; more importantly, I had given a commitment. The shorter pieces such as the "Alleluia", "Amen", etc., were a matter of minutes work each – I do, however, have a large selection of these to spare as a result of my efforts! Getting the initial idea for each of the longer movements was more difficult. Each had to have the potential for growth and development without sounding tedious or boring.

Once the basic melodic idea for each piece is revealed, I generally prefer to compose by improvising on this initial idea until I play something that sounds more or less correct. I then record a synthesised version on tape and listen to it continuously. In the case of this Mass, as is usual, many corrections and improvements suggested themselves forcefully as I listened. Only a couple of pieces survived in their first edition.

Many Late Nights

Having two very active and demanding sons, it is virtually impossible for me to compose during their waking hours as I need long uninterrupted stretches of time to make any worthwhile progress. I had many late nights and early mornings during October 1999, occasionally resulting in low productivity in the music department at OLCS, Loughborough. Still, the nuns won't mind, given the reasons!

After about ten days, several sections were complete and all had at least a skeleton shape, a basic melodic idea. The greatest difficulty in composing is to develop the initial ideas into a seamless unit so that the casual listener is unaware of the form and structure holding the piece together. One has to be willing to change, and change often if necessary, but also be assured enough to realise when it sounds just right. Like any composer I'm not sure I ever reach this blissful state, but time was catching up and I had a deadline to meet. I made a synthesised recording of the complete work, wrote out the music and sent it to Anna Butler. The fact that a couple from Nottingham, originally from the Crossmolina area, took this to Knock Airport where it was collected by my brother Kevin shows how close I sailed to the wind!

I kept in regular phone contact with Anna Butler over the next six weeks or so. Each Monday night's rehearsal brought its own unique comments: "Oh, Noel, will we ever get this Gloria together"; "the sopranos were brilliant tonight"; "wait until you hear them sing the *Angus Dei*", etc., etc. My input at this stage was merely editorial, often due to my rushed scripting (well, that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it!). I also heard many indirect comments from choir members in conversations with my family. All of the above suggested that, despite occasional hitches, all was going well.

Praise for the Choir

It's one thing to compose music and have one's own idea what it will sound like; for someone in another place to realise that sound, perhaps improve on it, is part of the

magic of music. My limited vocabulary cannot adequately compliment the work of each member of the Millennium Choir, and no doubt they will all join me in singling out their director for special mention. Anyone who has had the pleasure of working with Anna Butler cannot fail to be impressed by her attention to detail, her determination and her energetic enthusiasm. I knew my music was in very capable hands.

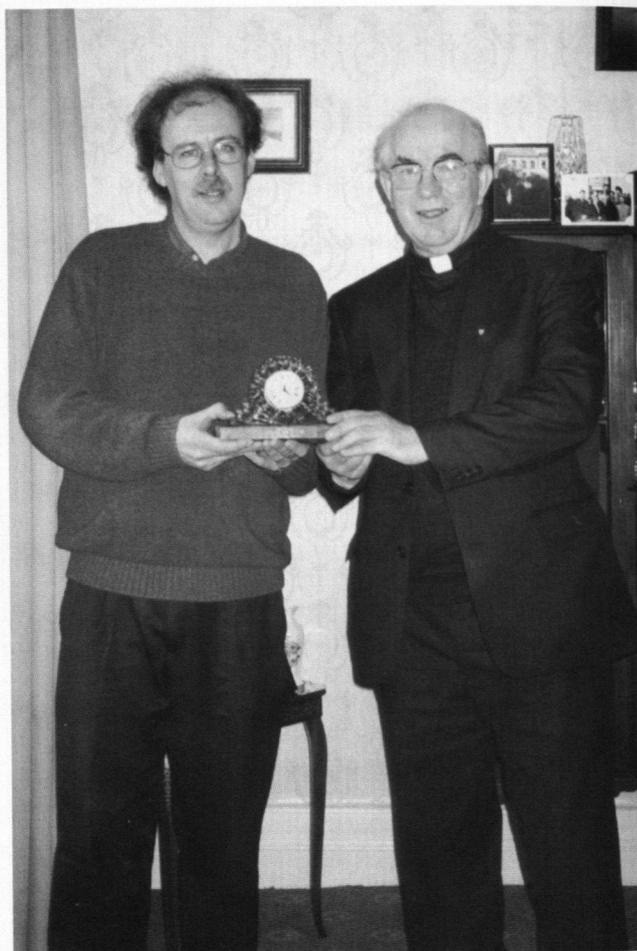
My family and I went to Ireland shortly after Christmas. I would be organist for the Millennium Mass and would meet the choir for two rehearsals only. As the first of these approached I was worried yet excited, nervous yet assured that Anna would have her charges well prepared. About twenty minutes into the rehearsal my emotions were even more mixed; it simply "wasn't happening", we couldn't explain why. Almost as though the choir sensed the anxiety thus created, the sound gradually improved – I suspect it took the choir this long to get accustomed to the dodgy organist! Two hours later we all left, tired but satisfied by a job well done. Our second rehearsal was much better, more or less up to performance standard from the outset. I distinctly remember the great sense of teamwork as we rehearsed and the relaxed confidence with which we anticipated the big one.

The premier performance was even better than any of us could have imagined, only two nights previously. Having an audience terrifies only the poorly prepared. Those of you privileged to have been in the congregation that night left knowing you had just heard some of the finest singing ever to fill that historic building. I feel honoured and proud to have been part of such a significant event in the life of Ballyhaunis, though I must confess I only realised the magnanimity of the Millennium spire project as I listened to the words of Canon Cooney and Luke Murray.

Tribute

Immediately after the Mass, it was suggested that, since so much work went into preparing this piece, it would be a shame not to perform it again soon. Mass on Sunday, January 2nd would be broadcast live on Mid-West Radio. I was so pleased we agreed to do this when the priest announced the Mass was in memory of the late Dil Hughes, my first music teacher. She left Ballyhaunis when I was about nine years old but even at that stage she had been a major influence on my life. She probably taught me more of relevance than any other music teacher I had, including university professors. Playing my music at this Mass was an inadequate and belated thanks..

I am proud to say that, unlike the majority of New Year's Resolutions, it has not been immediately forgotten. Because of many enquiries and suggestions to do so, we have recorded the Ballyhaunis Millennium Mass and it is now available on CD. It also received another public performance in the Basilica at Knock on August 19th this year. Again the Millennium Choir gave time to revise the piece at a time of year when outdoor pursuits are more appealing, and the proof was in the performance. Indeed, I



Canon Joseph Cooney P.P., Ballyhaunis presents a specially inscribed clock to Mr. Noel Henry in appreciation for his musical contribution "Mass of Thanksgiving and Forgiveness" for the Millennium Mass in St. Patrick's Church on New Years Eve.

spoke with Mr. Sean Egan who broadcasts every Mass of the Novena live on Knock Community Radio and he assured me that this was by some distance the best choir he had heard all week.

I have been humbled and honoured by the reaction to my music. Many people phoned or wrote with compliments; others stopped to speak to me on the streets. I was flattered, and also deeply impressed, by those who could remember individual parts of the Mass and discuss the music logically having heard it only once or twice. Everyone singled out the performance of the choir. Yes, I wrote the music but at the end of the day the delivery was outside my control. I thank each and every member of the choir for giving your time and talents - the music was not easy, but I hope you feel it was worth the effort. Your picture has pride of place in my music room and explaining its significance to visitors who examine it curiously rekindles very happy memories indeed. Many marvel at such an achievement in a small town, but I don't. Ballyhaunis at its best has a sense of neighbourliness and community pride that I've not witnessed anywhere else I've lived or worked, and is now rightly crowned by a fitting and lasting monument to the generosity and foresight of the present generation.

The Shrines of France

Agnes Heaney

In September '99 Veronica Freyne and myself went on a Lourdes Pilgrimage with a difference. The eleven day itinerary by coach and ferry included stops in Paris, Nevers, Lourdes, Tours and Lisieux. The tour started in Dublin where we met our fellow travellers and Fr. Ward, the Spiritual Director. Before boarding the modern coach, we also met Patrick the driver and courier who gave us details about the coming trip and he promised to help in making it carefree and enjoyable. Then we set off on the first leg of our journey to the Dun Laoghaire port for the short sea crossing to Holyhead. On board the "Stena" ferry there was time to relax in its elegant lounge, enjoy lunch and to browse in the duty-free shop. It was a lovely morning, the sea was calm and in less than two hours we were ready to disembark and join our coach again. On the long drive to London, the driver took the scenic route via Anglesey and North Wales. Soon after a breathtaking panorama became visible, there we found the most beautiful and varied scenery with views of the Snowdon Peaks, deep glens and quaint coastal villages. The countryside was changing as we reached the English border. Our road southward brought us through rich green farmlands, scattered towns and close to the vibrant city of Birmingham. Inside the coach there was a relaxed atmosphere and a spirit of togetherness. Our group of strangers chatted as if they had known each other all their lives. I believe that prayer brings people together.

On to France

Later that evening we arrived at the chosen hotel in time for dinner and overnight. The next morning we arose early and soon after breakfast, it was coach time again for another full day tour. Continuing south on the motorway, we drove through pleasant countryside as we made our way to Folkestone and the Eurotunnel. There was a buzz of excitement as we approached the tunnel and Le Shuttle came into view. For most of us a journey under the sea was a very new experience! We stayed on the coach for the quick trip and in thirty-five minutes we emerged in Calais, the busy French passenger port. On arrival we joined the Auto-route for the long drive to Paris. We travelled through a very flat and mostly uncultivated landscape, with ancient farm houses, their shutters and doors closed against the noonday heat.

Paris was resplendent in the evening sun as we drove through the rush-hour traffic. Our first priority was to visit the Rue du Bac, shrine of the Miraculous Medal. On the way we stopped to view the beautiful Madeleine Church named after Mary Magdalene and set in the Grand Boulevard shopping centre. It's noted for many a society wedding. Leaving the more fashionable thoroughfares and passing through narrow, twisting streets we came to the

Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Upon entering the convent chapel, one's attention is drawn at once to a side altar with an illuminated glass-fronted base. Within this reliquary lie the remains of St. Catherine Laboure. On this spot in 1830 Our Lady brought Catherine (a young French novice) the design for the Miraculous Medal and entrusted her with the mission of spreading a very special devotion. The medal was made and immediately distributed far and wide, and numerous graces of conversion, protection and healing were obtained. To gain wonderful blessings we should always wear this medal, with faith, on a chain around the neck and every day we must say the prayer inscribed on the medal, "O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to you". Catherine lived on to the age of seventy and was canonised in 1947. Here in this holy place we stood for some time lost in wonder; we were justifiably awed as we gazed on the Sacred presence. It was a time for prayer and reflection. We felt very privileged to be there for Mass concelebrated by three young French priests.

Sights of Paris

Later that evening our driver brought us on a sight-seeing tour of Paris. There was so much to see and nothing prepares one for its sheer majesty, its magnificent buildings beginning with Notre Dame Cathedral, known as France's greatest possession. Almost from any point in the city one can see the great white Basilica of the Sacre-Coeur on top of the hill of Montmartre. Another one of its great attractions is the Eiffel Tower built for the 1889 World Fair. We drove through the Champs Elysees, known as one of the most famous streets in the world. Close by is that striking monument, The Arc De Triomphe. After seeing most of the major sights there was an added bonus - a trip through down-town Paris with its quaint shops and tempting restaurants. Driving by the neon-splashed waters of the river Seine, we arrived at a beautiful square with superb mansions and glittering fountains. In days gone by Chopin and Hemingway lived here, today one of them is the fabulous Ritz Hotel where Princess Di spent her last hours.

St. Bernadette and Lourdes

On day three our enthusiastic pilgrims were ready for another wonderful tour. After an early start we set off in the direction of Nevers and the convent where St. Bernadette spent the last years of her life. On the way, we drove through the Loire Valley known as the heart of France. This region was overflowing with colour from its golden fields of sunflowers, vines and maize plantations. We were now on our way to the South of France and along this route are some of the most famous vineyards in the world. We caught glimpses of some old Chateaux tucked away among the trees, their red turrets gleaming in the Autumn sun. Nevers in Burgundy is a small city famous for the final resting place of St. Bernadette. She came to Nevers from Lourdes in 1866 to enter the Convent St. Gildard and today she is still there, her incorrupt body lies in the convent chapel having been buried for forty-four years before being exhumed. She now lies peacefully in her casket and people come in their thousands from all over the world who simply

wish to pray and seek peace there. Bernadette draws special attention as Heaven's Messenger, bringing to Lourdes millions to prayer, penance, service of the sick and inner healing. She was chosen by God and His Blessed Mother for her humility, simplicity and obedience. At the age of fourteen, Bernadette had eighteen wonderful apparitions of Our Blessed Lady in Lourdes. On one occasion, Bernadette was asked to encourage people "to pray more for sinners and do penance". After a few years Bernadette went to Nevers to join the Sisters of Charity. Sometime later she got TB and, after a long and painful illness, she died there at the age of thirty-five years. She was canonised a Saint on the 8th December 1933. On our arrival at the convent chapel, Fr. Ward celebrated the Mass and all of us participated in a spirit of joy and reverence. Afterwards we spent time in prayer and thanksgiving at St. Bernadette's shrine. It was so moving to see her for the first time, most of us were reduced to silent emotion. Others were weeping quietly while some experienced a beautiful peace. The place was vibrant with mysticism and a sense of eternity. Before we left the convent, we visited the Bernadette Museum and a replica of the Lourdes grotto where she spent time praying. Later that evening, after a day of soul stirring events, we arrived in the town of Limoges which is famous for its enamels. We had dinner, room and breakfast at the lovely Hotel Petit Paris.

On day four we set off for Lourdes, stopping en route to visit a village where one of the worst atrocities of World War II took place: on June 10th, 1944, Nazi troops massacred the 642 Catholic inhabitants without warning or provocation. The very disturbing remnants of their homes, shops and church remain untouched as a monument to this day. Crosses and grottos are found along the route. After many hours travelling in our coach we arrived in Lourdes, our base for the next four days. During the time we were there, we took part in the ceremonies as we mingled with people from many countries. Our own country was well represented that week. It was the 50th anniversary pilgrimage from the Dublin diocese. About 2,000 people joined Archbishop Connell, most of them students from secondary schools in the diocese who go to take care of the sick and elderly people on their pilgrimage, taking them to Mass, on processions and attending to their every need for five days. We were told that during the year they also do social work, visit nursing homes and fundraise for the sick to travel to Lourdes. While in Lourdes we visited the Legion of Mary House, where we met many Legionnaires from other lands and that evening we were privileged to lead the torchlight procession around Rosary Square. Lourdes is a sacred shrine for the sick and many healings of mind and body are recorded. It will continue to be an endless wonder. Bernadette's mission is still alive and active. Time passed very quickly, sadly we had to leave the peace of Lourdes for our homeward journey.

St. Theresa of Lisieux

Refreshed after our Lourdes visit we set off in high spirits for the city of Tours which is associated with St. Patrick and to visit the Basilica of St. Martin. We stayed overnight in

Le Mans, famous for its twenty-four hour car race held annually. Next morning we left Lisieux by Auto route for Mass in the convent where St. Theresa, the Little Flower, spent her life. Lisieux is a fascinating city; Tudor-style buildings with narrow cobbled streets, dominated by a huge Cathedral dedicated to St. Theresa. During the day we visited the house where she was born and after evening Mass in the Carmelite Convent we spent time in prayer. At St. Theresa's shrine, her incorrupt body is on view in the chapel. We spent the final night of our pilgrimage in Lisieux. After breakfast we joined our coach for the long drive to Cherbourg. On arrival we had time to visit a Hyper-Market for the duty-free wine etc., before boarding the Irish cruise ferry, the Normandy. The onboard facilities were super: top standard restaurant, night club entertainment, modern cabin accommodation. We enjoyed a good night's sleep and arrived in Rosslare at 10.30 a.m. On the way to Dublin we stopped in Gorey for lunch.

I cannot conclude without paying tribute to Patrick our experienced driver who went to all sorts of trouble to make our trip go smoothly. I think that a coach tour is an ideal way of seeing a superb variety of places in hassle free comfort and pleasant company. In Dublin, everyone parted to go their separate ways, but each carrying with them wonderful memories of unforgettable places and friendships.



Agnes Heaney and Veronica Freyne at The Grotto in Lourdes, in September 1999

Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union

John Touhy

The first year of the new Millennium has been a very good year for Ballyhaunis And District Credit Union as it continues to make remarkable progress. During the past year its membership has increased by 9% to 3,610. Savings with the Credit Union have increased by 26% from £3.5 million to £4.41 million. This represents a great vote of confidence in the management of the Credit Union, the Board of Directors, supervisors and staff. Founded in Ballyhaunis in 1983, it was established to promote thrift, to encourage members to save regularly by joining the Credit Union. All savings are securely bonded and guaranteed by the Irish League of Credit Unions Guarantee Scheme. All Directors and Supervisors are volunteers and give their time freely to attend meetings on a regular basis to conduct the affairs of the Credit Union. Members are able to borrow for productive purposes at a low rate of interest, and all loans are covered by free protection insurance, which makes borrowing from the Credit Union a very competitive option. Loans are available for all members' needs e.g. holidays, home improvements, cars, school fees etc., at low cost finance. Interest is charged on the reducing balance, members only pay on what they owe and there are no

hidden or additional costs. There are no transaction charges at the Credit Union.

Loans to good members can be paid out on the spot and all loans are tailored to suit the members needs. Also available are:

- Loan protection insurance free of charge.
- V.H.I. and BUPA medical insurance group schemes (10% discount).
- Home Union Insurance (up to 35% savings).
- Auto Union Insurance.
- Full foreign exchange facility.
- Western Union money transfer service.
- Gift cheques available in Punts, Sterling or Dollars.

All surplus funds at the end of the financial year are paid out to the members in the form of a dividend, this is approved each year at the Annual General Meeting to which all members are invited to attend.

The present Board of Directors are: Chairman: Aiden Kelly; Vice-Chairperson: Helene McCafferty; Hon. Treasurer: Pat O'Connor; Assistant Treasurer: Maura Murphy; Hon. Secretary: Pat Fitzgerald; Assistant Secretary: Madeline Niland; Office Administrator: Katherine Kilbride; Credit Control: Frances Mulhern, Helene McCafferty and Eileen O'Brien; Credit Committee: Aiden Kelly, Ina Freyne, Rita Lundon, Justina Lyons, Margaret Byrne; Insurance Officer: Maura Murphy; Membership Committee: Helene McCafferty and Cynthia Fitzgerald; Tellers: Cynthia Fitzgerald, Helene McCafferty, Ina Freyne and Mary

Rudden; Training and Promotion: Cynthia Fitzgerald, Helene McCafferty, Patricia O'Connor, Mary Rudden and Madeline Niland; Supervisors: Helen Lyons, Wendy Dowler and John Touhy.

The Board and Supervisors expressed congratulations to Kathleen Meenan on obtaining a Field Officers Post with the Irish League of Credit Unions during the year and she was wished good luck in her new position. She was an excellent administrator. Congratulations also to Katherine Kilbride on her promotion to Office Administrator.

Motto: Not for profit, not for charity but for service.



Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union presenting cheque to Hillcrest Bakery, on behalf of League of Ireland, for a new business venture. L-R, Back: Mary Molloy, Hillcrest Bakery; Cynthia Fitzgerald and Helene McCafferty, Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union; Angela Hession; Hillcrest Bakery; Patricia O'Connor; Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union. Front: Patricia Anderson, Attracta Duffy Hillcrest Bakery.

Ballyhaunis **Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair**

Tom Ronayne

The A.G.M. of Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair was held on the 27th of March 2000 and the following officers were elected. Hon. Presidents: Bridie Lyons, Austin Tighe, John Hennelly and Joe Conway; Vice-President: George Dee; Chairperson: Marian Maloney; Vice-Chairperson: John Touhy; Secretary: Tom Ronayne; Treasurers: Moira Noone, Seamus O'Boyle; P.R.O.: Kenneth Dennedy; Youth Officer: Elma Kilbride; Delegates to the Dail Ceanntair: Margaret Owens, Brian Hunt and Seamus O'Boyle.

It was a relatively quiet year on the political front as there were no elections taking place. The party is already preparing for the next election in 2002. The convention for Mayo is due to be held in early December in the Traveller's Friend, Castlebar. John O'Dwyer, a member of the Comhairle Ceanntair, has been appointed Director of Elections for County Mayo. Many meetings were held during the year at different venues. This year marked the end of an era for the organisation in Ballyhaunis, in that the venue for the meeting over the past twenty-five years, the Horse Shoe Inn, closed its doors for the last time on the 15th of May 2000. A large crowd attended what was an emotional night for the proprietress Mrs. Mary Morris. Since 1973, when Mary and her late husband Mick opened the premises, it was the venue for the Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair meetings. It was fitting that, on her last night of trading, Ballyhaunis Fianna Fail held their monthly meeting. John Carty, the Fianna Fail councillor for the Ballyhaunis area paid a glowing tribute to Mary, her late husband, her daughter Linda, her friend and bar-person Betty Coen. In his speech he called to mind many happy memories which he had of Mary's late husband Mick. He thanked the proprietress for all her generosity and courtesy which she had shown to the party members throughout the past twenty-seven years. The chairperson Mrs. Marion Maloney presented Mary with a bouquet of flowers to mark the occasion.

The infrastructure of Ballyhaunis town has continued to improve over the past year with the completion of the sewerage system and the upgrading of the railway line to the town. The proposed extension of the Lough Mask water scheme to Ballyhaunis and Knock in the near future should increase the town's ability to attract employment. The undergrounding of E.S.B. and Eircom cables and the installation of new footpaths has greatly enhanced the appearance of the town.

Many topics are discussed at each meeting but one which is seen to be of great importance by the Comhairle Ceanntair is the need to develop and expand facilities at Knock Airport. The development and expansion of Knock Airport is seen by the Comhairle Ceanntair as a vital link in the development of this region. The Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair and associated Cumann will continue to ensure that the needs of the locality are brought to the fore in any regional development plants.

FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

On a sad note, as secretary of Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair, I wish to tender sincere sympathy to the relatives of deceased members who passed away during the year. I feel I can't let this occasion pass without mentioning Gus Caulfield who died suddenly after returning home from our A.G.M. in which he took an active part. He was a gentleman who was held in high esteem by all who knew him. May they rest in peace. I would also like to extend sincere sympathy to our chairperson Marion Maloney on the death of her mother Kathleen Kinnane, in Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Finally, I wish to thank our local councillors John Carty, Pat McHugh, Officers of the Comhairle Ceanntair and its members for their help during the year.

Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

Peggy Cruise

The Bridge Club meets on Tuesday and Thursday nights from mid-September until early May in The Hazel, Main Street. This year's committee is as follows: President - Ina Freyne; Vice-President - Rita Lundon; Treasurer - Joan Flynn; Secretary - Peggy Cruise; P.R.O. - Rita Mooney.

Five tournament directors, headed by Angela Joyce, supervise all the games and five very experienced players form The Handicap Committee. A major competition is held each month: The Murphy Cup, Christmas prizes and The Presidents prize. The annual dinner is usually a very enjoyable night.

Our main sponsors are The Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Bank and The Ulster Bank and we are tremendously grateful to them for their interest and generosity. Our photo below shows the incoming President, Ina Freyne presenting the outgoing President, Francis Gaffney with a bouquet of flowers to mark the end of a very successful year.





Friends from Tullagane meet in U.S.A. Left to right seated: Mrs. Mary Sullivan, Vincent Quinn, Helen Mullarkey, Michael McNamara, Kay Quinn, Bridie Quinn, Kathleen McNamara. Standing l-r: Bridie Heneghan and John Joe Quinn.



Bridie Brennan, Mary Dillon Leetch and Minister Seamus Brennan



Knocking the Weighbridge in the Square.



Taken in Morley's Knox St. 1969. Clockwise from left: Mrs. Mary Hunt, J. Carney, J. Dyer, John A. Freeley, B. Freeley, Brian Hunt, Catherine Dyer, Mary Hunt, M. Mooney and Maureen Folliard.



Michael Byrne and Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A.

Annagh Magazine

Lifeboat Challenge

Joe Freeley

How often, when we are enjoying ourselves by the sea, out on a boat, or even crossing the channel to England or the Continent, do we think of our safety? Well, living forty miles away from the sea, maybe not too often. Having enjoyed many memorable days fishing off Achill, Killala and Blacksod, it is a reassuring thought to know that there is a wonderful voluntary organisation out there if help is needed – namely the R.N.L.I. (Royal National Lifeboat Institution).

In August the R.N.L.I. decided to have a once-off fundraising challenge to celebrate their 175 years of saving lives at sea. The mission was to visit as many R.N.L.I. stations around Ireland in forty-eight hours by any form of transport with a team of four. Not having a helicopter to hand which would have made the task very easy, I had no option but to take on the challenge by driving by car to the different lifeboat stations, and what better way to view the countryside than a nice drive around the country. I decided to take up the challenge and put a request on MWR for three volunteers. Within a few days we had a team put together, namely John Durkan, Castlebar (Garda Traffic Squad), Tom Moran, Achill (O'Malley Transport), John Heston, Belmullet (Bus Eireann and also a crew member of Ballyglass Lifeboat) and myself. We set out from Galway at 6 p.m. and headed south around Ireland in an anti-clockwise direction and managed to visit thirty-seven of the lifeboat stations, missing out on only one (Arranmore) due to weather conditions and safety factors and arrived back in Galway with six hours to spare. Twelve teams from all corners of the country took part and only one team from Dublin

managed to complete all thirty-eight lifeboat stations in the allotted time and our team came second. The purpose of the challenge was to raise much needed funds for the lifeboats; the fun factor was the trip around Ireland, although travelling around the country without sleep was not much fun at the time, but we had plenty of stories and jokes to keep us awake. We each managed to raise over £8,000 for the lifeboats and I would like to thank all those too numerous to mention for their generous contributions.

Here are some interesting facts about our lifeboats in Ireland. There are forty-five lifeboats based at thirty-eight lifeboat stations around the Irish coast. The 1,000 voluntary crew based at these stations are on call twenty-four hours a day three hundred and sixty-five days a year. It costs £4 million each year to maintain the lifeboat service around the coast. All monies raised in Ireland are spent on the lifeboat service in Ireland. Since 1824, over 8,300 lives have been saved by R.N.L.I. volunteers in Ireland. In the west of Ireland we have lifeboat stations at the following locations: Arranmore and Bundoran in Donegal, Rosses Point in Sligo, Ballyglass and Achill Island in Mayo, Clifden, Aran Islands and Galway Bay in Galway. So next time you are at any of these locations give the lifeboat station a visit where you will be very welcome. Every lifeboat station holds an open day each year where you will be shown around and even brought out on the lifeboat to see how the crew and lifeboat operate at sea. So next time you are on the sea give a thought to the brave men and women who risk their lives to make our lives safer.

You can make a donation to the R.N.L.I. at 15 Windsor Terrace, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin or to me directly at Lifeboat Challenge a/c Ulster Bank, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo a/c no: 73202058.

Mary's Dream.

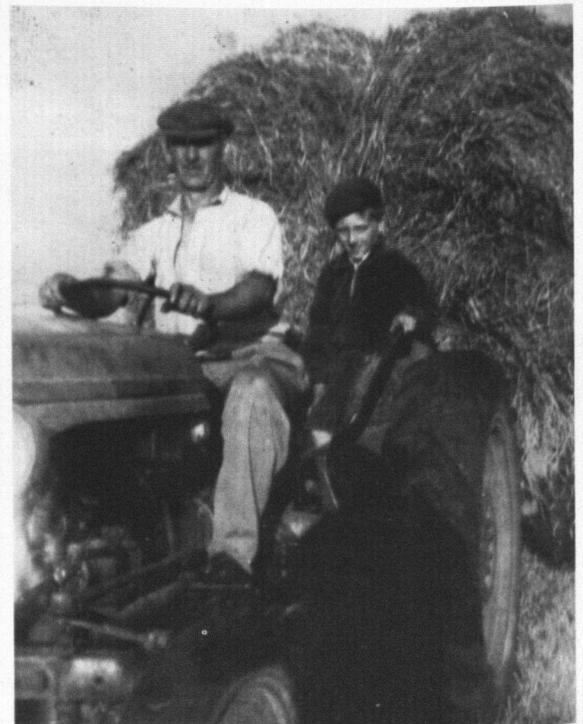
I had a dream, Joseph, I don't understand it but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son. The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They had gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure like an angel on top of the tree.

Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our son. I don't think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name.

I had the strangest feeling that, if our son Jesus had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday!

I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real!

Author Unknown



Brian Hunt & son Jimmy (Derrynacong) bringing in the hay. Early '50's

From Spire to Choir

...Millennium Mass was unique experience

Michael Byrne

It was expected to be something special and for the twelve hundred people or so who were lucky enough to get into the church building on New Year's Eve for the Millennium Mass, the last Eucharistic celebration in Ballyhaunis of the 1990s turned out to be more than something special ... it was something else.

In the days and weeks after this event, locals still continue to talk about and exchange accounts of the atmosphere and spirit which was captured in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, for the special and historic celebration on December 31st, 1999.

Its memory will linger on in the minds of all those who were present, first and foremost for the official blessing of the millennium spire, which finally completes the church structure, ninety-nine years after its official opening.

Secondly, for the musical opus, written by Ballyhaunis native Mr. Noel Henry specially for the occasion and performed by a combination of almost all of the choirs of the town.

Mr. Henry's musical score was something special indeed. Sung almost entirely in Latin, it certainly caught the imagination of all present and was indeed most fitting for the time and occasion.

Welcoming the congregation, Canon Joe Cooney, P.P., outlined that this was a Mass which was about "thanksgiving for all that was good in the last century and a prayer that God will bless us in the new century and in the new millennium".

The parish priest was joined in the celebration of Mass by Fr. James O'Grady, C.C., Fr. Bart Delaney, O.S.A., Fr. John Walsh, O.S.A., Fr. Timmy Walsh, O.S.A., and by Fr. Willie Byrne, a native of Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis.

Canon Cooney took the opportunity to personally thank all those who had helped in any way to ensure the Ballyhaunis Millennium Spire project became a reality and completed before the turn of the century.

"It is an historic moment, one which comes only once every thousand years and we are privileged to be part of it", said Fr. Cooney. He paid tribute to the millennium committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Luke Murray, and said this group was one of the best he had worked with during his career.

Canon Cooney opined that "the great lesson that I have learned is that when you have a committed group of people who believe in what they are doing, who are generous with their time and energy, who are prepared to work together, then anything is possible".

He thanked each and every one of the committee personally for their dedication and their wholehearted efforts for this successful project.



Michael A. Dyer (Brackloon) and his daughter Mary. Taken in 1905

Canon Cooney thanked Mr. Noel Henry for providing them with the premiere of his Mass of Celebration and Thanksgiving. In welcoming Noel, Canon Cooney expressed his appreciation for honouring this occasion by composing the music for the Mass. He thanked Mr. Henry "for honouring Ballyhaunis, your home town, and I know I speak for everyone here when I say I appreciate very much your gesture in allowing us to be the first to hear your composition and we hope that others will get as much pleasure as we have tonight". Canon Cooney also paid tribute to the choir, comprising of sixty-five voices and also to Ms. Anna Butler, the conductress, who had worked extremely hard over the previous six weeks to ensure that everything would be just right on the night.

The chairman of the millennium committee, Mr. Luke Murray, in his address, informed the huge congregation "that they were sharing in a unique milestone in the history of the parish tonight". Mr. Murray gave a detailed account of the planning and building of St. Patrick's Church, from the first meeting held in 1900, right up to the eve of the millennium a century later. The chairman's address focused mainly on the work undertaken by the millennium committee and the enthusiastic response which the committee had received from all quarters. "As the final sands of the second millennium ran through our fingers and as the third millennium loomed, in its quest for a suitable and worthwhile millennium, the Parish Pastoral Council passed a motion in favour of a millennium spire being erected. This was adopted by the Council as its millennium project, much to the delight of Canon Cooney, in the recess of whose mind, one feels, this project has been taking shape since the first day he set foot in Ballyhaunis", said Mr. Murray. Mr. Murray said the Ballyhaunis millennium had, from the very outset, being the brainchild of Canon Cooney and it would

undoubtedly come as no surprise to any member of the parish, that such an ambitious project and its final completion before the century's end was the idea and master plan of the Ballyhaunis parish priest.

Mr. Murray paid tribute to the local community which had shown such wonderful support for the project from the outset and said no words of his could adequately thank the project committee members for the extraordinary lengths which they had gone to in order to ensure the dream became a reality. "In this context of the £250,000 project, the grant of £100,000 from the National Millennium Committee had to be seen as a truly wonderful grant and much greater than that anticipated by the committee", said Mr. Murray.

Concluding his address, Mr. Murray said: "In this regard the Ballyhaunis committee is profoundly grateful to Minister Seamus Brennan, T.D., chairman of the National Millennium Committee, and to the good offices of Mr. Tom Rowley, PRO for that committee, and to all of those members of the national organisation who supported the Ballyhaunis cause so wholeheartedly". At the conclusion of the Mass, the blessing and the unveiling of the millennium plaque was undertaken by Canon Cooney, joined by Fr. O'Grady and the members of the project committee. As the sound of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus echoes from the rafters of the splendid building, courtesy of the combined Ballyhaunis chorus, the congregation rose to their feet to return a spontaneous and rapturous round of appreciation.

With the communal singing of the finale, "Faith of Our Fathers", an unforgettable evening was brought to a close.

Bantracht na Tuaithe

Irish Countrywomen's Association

Veronica Freyne



On entering the new Millennium the I.C.A. celebrated its 90th year. That is an impressive history of helping Irish women and their families. Our own guild continues under the leadership of our President Mrs. Angela Waldron and we are happy to have had an increase in membership.

Members attended our Adult Education College "An Grianain" to learn new skills, new technology and renew friendships. I.C.A. members formed a large contingent in the Dublin "Women's Mini Marathon" and a substantial cheque was presented to the Women's Health Screening Programme. We have also consistently campaigned for the retention of the Women's Health Screening Clinic in Castlebar, our number one priority being the health and care of women nation-wide. "Green" issues are also a major campaigning concern of our members.

Our "Easter Fare" was a great success and enjoyed by all. A donation was given to our own special charity, The Hospice Movement. Our guild was honoured to host the Autumn Mayo Federation meeting. We were happy to welcome the Mayo President Mrs. Mary O'Boyle and all our fellow members from all corners of Mayo. This was indeed a memorable occasion due to our hardworking President Mrs. Angela Waldron and our guild members. Honorary President Mrs. Maria Cribben, who is an outstanding member of our community and has continued to support and encourage us all down the years, was introduced to the meeting where she received a standing ovation.

Our year 2000 will terminate with a special Federation Christmas dinner. Our guest of honour will be "Dana". We look forward to meeting Mrs. Rosemary Scallon M.E.P. on a very special evening. The guild would like to thank all who helped and supported us during the year and a sincere thank you to the management and staff of The Hazel, Main Street for their help, kindness and generosity. Ladies who would like to join our guild please contact any committee members.

President: Mrs. Angela Waldron; Vice-President: Mrs. Margaret Kenny; Treasurer: Mrs. Maura Fitzmaurice; Secretary: Mrs. Veronica Freyne.

Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

Agatha Higgins

Well, we made it through another year against all the odds.

The Spring comes along and Summer's not far behind. The committee meets the task ahead - the opening of the pool, cleaning, painting, organising lifeguards and office staff. The pool opened on Saturday 24th June 2000 with the blessing of Fr. O'Grady. The attendances over the weeks were great and again the water safety courses were a great success. Thanks to these

courses we are able to supply our own pool with lifeguards and also give our swimmers the opportunity to apply to other pools for lifeguards positions.

The committee would like to thank our lifeguards: Brigitta Burke, Joanne Butler and Lisa O'Dowd, also Edel Nicholson our student employee who looked after the office. Thanks also to the relief lifeguards from Claremorris and Ballina.

The year ended with a party and gala with all the children enjoying competing in the races and novelty events. The pool is great for the children during the Summer months and, hopefully, this year we will be able to upgrade it so more children will avail of this facility and that Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool will continue to be part of life in Ballyhaunis in years to come.

Granny Hunts' 95th Birthday Bash

Members of the Hunt and extended families gathered from all parts of the globe for the 95th birthday bash for Mary E. Hunt (nee Carroll) of Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis. The date was the 1st of October 2000 and the venue was the holiday home in Lecanvey of her daughter Carmel and husband Pat McDermott. Invitations were sent out to all her relations by her grand-daughters Aine Hunt and Teresa Fahey-Larson. Although there were a few defectors for various reasons, there was a wonderful turn out for the occasion of her own family members, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and great-grandchildren including the Hunt, Carroll and Fahey families.

A marquee was put up for the occasion, and her grandson Karl Fahey supplied a disco. A catering firm supplied a wonderful meal for about sixty members of her family and a wonderful time was had by all. She was the life and soul of the party and was delighted to see all her relatives there. There were members of the family there from all parts of the U.S.A, the Cayman Islands and all over Ireland. Many tributes were paid to her in song and in verse and she received numerous cards and gifts. All were loud in her praise and of the hard working industrious lady that she has been all her life. She still has all her own faculties and bakes her own bread and still knits, sews and crochets. Although having a fall and breaking her arm some months ago, she bounced back and is again in good shape. We hope God gives us many more years of healthy living and D.V. she will be receiving her cheque from the President of Ireland in a few years time. God Bless Granny and



Mrs. Mary Hunt, Lecarrow with her daughters Carmel (McDermott), Sr. Kathleen and son Murt on the occasion of her 95th birthday celebrations 1st August 2000.

thank you for all you have done for all of us. Happy 95th birthday.

[P.S.: Mary E. Hunt was the subject of an article some years ago by Jim Cribbin for Annagh Magazine. A native of Erritt, Carrowbehy she was born in 1905, looked after an aunt in Knockbrack and came to Lecarrow when she married John (Plum) Hunt. She had five in family, Margaret (Fahey) (R.I.P.), Sr. Kathleen, Carmel (McDermott), Geraldine and Murt.]

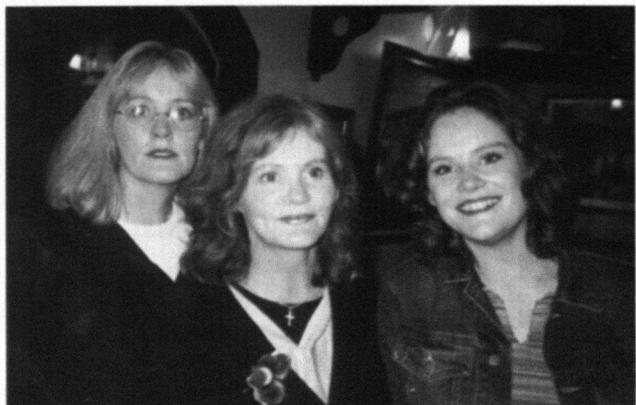
Ballyhaunis Library Summer Reading Promotion

Twenty-five children took part in a very successful summer reading promotion during July and August. Each child was required to read and write a review on fifteen books. Certificates and prizes were presented to all participants by Mr Pat McHugh, Councillor, and Mr. Austin Vaughan, County Librarian.

The following children received a Special Prize for best book reviews: Miriam Judge, Sandra Hora, Sarah-Jane Lynskey, Roisin Lawlor and Conor Freeman.



Main Street ladies: Rita Concannon, Maria Cribbin and Iris Lynch. 1960's



Three lovely daughters of Bridie & the late Michael 'Dalgan' Lyons, pictured in Ballyhaunis, left - right: Maggie (Dublin), Imelda (London) & Jackie (Bekan)

ABBEY BAZAAR AND CARNIVAL,

28th, 29th & 30th AUGUST, 1932.

The Abbey, Ballyhaunis,
Co. Mayo.

Dear

The Abbey of Ballyhaunis was founded for the Hermits of St. Augustine in 1348. Throughout the long succeeding ages it flourished as a home of learning for the scholar, of craftsmanship for the peasant, and of help for the poor and afflicted. Around its altars the people knelt with the black-robed Friars and kept alive the Faith of Patrick.

The Abbey did not escape the flames of persecution during the penal days. The Friars were driven out, but they could not be kept out. Perriott chronicles that "Friars and rebels" took forcible possession of it and clung to it despite every risk. For many of those dangerous years the Abbey remained the headquarters of a brave band of priests who ministered to the people in hidden places among the wild mountains and desolate bogs of Connaught. During the Cromwellian wars it was burned, but heedless alike of fire and sword the Friars remained to celebrate Mass in the ruined Church. In fact, they never ceased to celebrate Mass there through all those dark years. The faithful people knew where to find a priest when they wanted one, and their eyes always turned towards Ballyhaunis in times of stress. Even to-day that habit of pilgrimage still exists.

Time has laid a heavier hand on the Abbey and dealt her a blow more severe than any she ever received from Cromwell or Elizabeth. The fabric is very old and needs much repair. Unfortunately, repair is out of the question owing to an existing debt. When we recall her past glories and conflicts, and when we remember that to-day she alone of all the Abbeys of Connaught remains the living monument of those days of death and persecution, we cannot but with pain stand by and see her bereft of all her ancient beauty.

During the Eucharistic Year we appeal to our Catholic people to help us. Our Eucharistic God will be carried in triumph through our land. Beautiful Churches are scattered like gems all over the country. But things were once very different. Let us not forget that old Abbey of Ballyhaunis, which once sheltered our Eucharistic Lord when He had to hide with His priests and people in its ruins.

Counterfoils and remittances will be gratefully received by any of the undersigned.

We are,

Your faithful servants,

E. A. MANSFIELD, O.S.A. (Prior).

ABBEY BAZAAR AND CARNIVAL, BALLYHAUNIS, CO. MAYO.

Patron:

Austin J. C. Crean, Solicitor, County Sheriff.

Chairman:

William Dillon-Leetch, B.A., Solicitor.

Vice-Chairman:

Dr. Andrew F. Smyth, M.O.H., Ballyhaunis.

Treasurers:

Peter Hannon, Merchant.
Patrick J. Caulfield, Merchant

Honorary Secretaries:

John Durkan, Merchant.
Joseph Cooney, N.T., P.C.

Committee:

Very Rev. Ed. Mansfield, O.S.A., Prior, Ballyhaunis.
Rev. W. O'Flynn, O.S.A., Ballyhaunis.
Rev. Father Hogan, O.S.A., Ballyhaunis.
John Dillon-Leetch, Solicitor, Ballyhaunis.
Francis E. McNelis, Manager, Ulster Bank, Ballyhaunis.
Herbert W. L. Grennell, Manager, National Bank, Ballyhaunis.
Patrick A. Jennings, Postmaster, Ballyhaunis.
Dr. A. Waldron, Ballyhaunis.
Patrick A. Murphy (Rep. of C. & B. Brewery), Ballyhaunis.
Thomas F. Campbell, Ballyhaunis.
James J. Cunningham, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
Patrick W. O'Brien, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
Bernard T. Lynch, Ford Dealer, Ballyhaunis.
John Gallagher, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
Thomas Cunningham, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
James Caulfield, Merchant, Abbey St., Ballyhaunis.
Michael Foudy, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
Patrick McGarry, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
Thomas Johnson, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.

COMMITTEE—(Continued).

John Dillon, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
Michael Conway, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
John Byrne, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
James Byrne, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
John Waldron, Abbey St., Ballyhaunis.
Patrick Waldron, Abbey St., Ballyhaunis.
Michael Morley, Victualler, Ballyhaunis.
Edward Biesty, Ballyhaunis.
Thomas Forde, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
John P. Kenny, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
Patrick Neary (Rep. L.M. & S. Railway), Ballyhaunis.
Austin Jordan, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
Patrick Morley, Carrowreagh, Ballyhaunis.
George Delaney, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
Joseph McQueeney, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.
Patrick Smyth, Victualler, Ballyhaunis.
Edward Byrne, Ballyhaunis.
William Smyth, N.T., Ballyhaunis.
John McNicholas, N.T., Ballyhaunis.
Patrick Freeley (jr.), Ballyhaunis.
Anthony Griffin, Ballyhaunis.
Harry Dillon, Ballyhaunis.
Patrick J. Rattigan, Ballyhaunis.
James Caulfield, Main Street, Ballyhaunis.
Michael O'Malley, Ballyhaunis.
James O'Dwyer, N.T., Ballyhaunis.
James Forde, Ballyhaunis.
Martin Morley, Ballyhaunis.
Michael Curley, Merchant, Ballyhaunis.

STALL HOLDERS.

Miss M. A. Waldron, Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis.
Mrs. Sarah Coyne, Devils, Ballyhaunis.
Mrs. A. T. Morley, Knox Street, Ballyhaunis.



Some members of the Millennium Project Committee with the Time Capsule in which were deposited the names of everyone who contributed the building of the Millennium Spire on St. Patrick's Parish Church. The Time Capsule was sealed and installed near the top of the spire earlier this year. Left to right: Brigitta Burke, Edward Mulhern, Luke Murray, Tom Finn, Martin Fitzmaurice, Canon Joseph Cooney, Paula Donnellan, Mike Griffin, Michael Byrne, Nell Rochford and Rita Lundon.



Taken on the last day of the 20th Century, The Curley Bros. Mick and Hugh with Fr. Paddy Mullins P. P. Bekan.



Ballyhaunis Pilgrims taking a stroll with Archbishop Neary in Lourdes Aug. 2000. Left to right: Murt Hunt, Bernie Moran, Kathleen Horkan, Maureen Cunnane, Paddy Connell and Archbishop Neary.



Left to right: Ned Judge, Josie Garside and Ann Lynch.



Left to right: Fr. Vincent McCarthy O.S.A. (former Prior of St. Mary's Abbey), Jarlath Fahy (Principal of Community School, Ballyhaunis), Ita Fahy and Bernard Freyne.

Ballyhaunis town in 1901

(Part One)

This coming March 31st marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the 1901 census - the earliest surviving complete census of population for the entire country. Although a census of population was taken every ten years from 1821, the household returns for the censuses of 1821, 1831, 1841, 1851 and 1861 were, unfortunately, destroyed when the Four Courts was burned in 1922, with only some fragments surviving for locations around the country. The household returns from the censuses of 1871, 1881 and 1891 were destroyed under official order as soon as statistical data was abstracted from them. None of the pre-1901 census household returns survive for County Mayo, with the exception of some transcripts which form part of Old Age Pension applications.

To mark this anniversary, we publish here extracts from the returns of householders in Ballyhaunis town. The complicated political geography of the town means that a particular household return can sometimes be hard to track down amongst the originals which are held in the National Archives, Dublin. Even though the church parish boundaries were re-drawn eight years earlier - in 1893 - the town was still divided between the two civil parishes of Annagh and Bekan for administrative purposes, with the boundary running along the centre of Main Street and Bridge Street. To further complicate matters, the town falls into five townlands: Carrownluggaun, Hazelhill, Abbeyquarter, Friarsground and Pollnacraoaghy - the rural portions of each of which are enumerated separate to the town. The census enumerators were the local R.I.C. constables. Microfilm copies of the 1901 census returns, along with statistical data, are available in the County Library, Castlebar.

A wealth of information is given for each individual in the household returns: name and surname; relation to head of family, religious profession; ability to read and write; age; sex; rank, profession or occupation; marital status; where born (county or country); ability to speak the Irish language; any infirmities. As well as the household returns, there are returns giving information on the use and appearance of all the houses and buildings in each townland or street. Due to limited space, we can only include the returns for Main Street (North and South side) this year. Next year, we will publish the rest of the town's returns.

In the extracts given here, the following information is given only: name, age, relationship to head of household; occupation; county/country of birth if born outside of Mayo. The other details have been omitted for want of space. To make it easier to locate particular houses, an attempt has been made to identify the current (Christmas 2000) or most recent occupants of premises. Thanks to Gerry Cribbin and Michael Waldron who helped with this. If anyone can throw light on the locations of houses which haven't been identified, the committee would be interested in hearing from them.

A number of points should be noted: (1) The returns for "Main Street, South Side" include the Back Way, Barrack Street, Chapel Street, Upper Main Street and Waldron's Terrace, but these other divisions are not identified in the original returns. Similarly, "Main Street, North Side" includes Upper Main Street. (2) Many of the ages given in this census, as in many other records of the time, are incorrect - there was a tendency to understate them or 'round them off' to the nearest multiple of ten. (3) Generally all school children recorded as "Scholars". (4) Some abbreviations used below are as follows: asst. - assistant; dom. servant - domestic servant; ww - widow; wr - widower; md - married; unmm - unmarried; b. - born; O.S. - Ordnance Surveyor.

Main Street

(North Side)

1. Dillon's (Dillon's)

Garrett Dillon 41, shopkeeper
Nora Dillon 30, wife
Bernard Dillon 6, son
Henry Dillon 5, son
Mary Dillon 2, son
Gerald Dillon 4m., son
Mary Durkan 21, shop asst.
Mary Jordan 20, shop apprentice
Maggie Hunt 24, general servant
Winifred Curran 18, nurse
John Daisey 16, servant
Edward Sweeney 48 [unm], boarder, pensioner
R.I.C., b. England

2. Carney's (Webb's shop)

James Carney 26, draper
Mary Carney 26, wife, b. Galway
Michael Rattigan 19, draper's asst.
Michael Carney 16, draper's asst.
Bridget Rushe 27, milliner & dressmaker
Kate Duffy 18, milliner & dressmaker

Bridget Blake 12, dom. servant

3. Hackett's (Webb's house)

Sabina Hackett 33, shopkeeper [ww]
Winifred Regan 75, her mother [ww]
Annie Regan 28, sister, dressmaker
Catherine Regan 6, niece
Bridget Canning 21, dom. servant

4. McConville's (Spar)

Patrick McConville 76, shopkeeper, b.
Roscommon
Lizzy McConville 70, wife
Lizzy Webb, 40, daughter [md]
Dominick O'Brien 18, shop asst.
Pat Harrington 40, general servant [unm]
Lizzy Finegan 24, dom. servant [unm]

5. Smyth's (Cribbin's)

Patrick Smyth 46, victualler
Norah Smyth 47, wife
John T. Smyth 23, son, harness-maker
Patrick Smyth 16, son
James Smyth 13, son
Andrew Smyth 10, son

William Smyth 4, son
Eliza Smyth 19, daughter
Annie Smyth 15, daughter
Mary Smyth 12, daughter
Norah Smyth 9, daughter
Ellen Smyth 5, daughter

6. Lyons' (Lyons')

James Lyons 47, merchant
Kate Josephine Lyons 34, wife
Annie Mary Lyons 15, daughter
Lawrence Patrick Lyons 14, son
John Lyons 12, son
George Lyons 9, son
Cicelia Lyons 8, daughter
Mary Agnes Lyons 7, daughter
Catherine Frances Lyons 6, daughter
Bridget Lyons 5, daughter
Sarah Lyons 4, daughter
Thomas Lyons 2, son
Ellen Lyons 7m., daughter
Patrick O'Brien 22, shop asst. [unm]
Patrick Henry 18, shop asst.
Michael Regan 28, hotel porter
Charles Dalton 19, yard boy

Maria A. Mulligan 25, waitress
Mary O'Donnell 22, servant
Ellen Adams 17, nurse

7. **Delaney's** (The Full Shilling)

John Delaney 47, merchant & farmer
Mary Delaney 32, wife
Patrick Delaney 8, son
Mary Delaney 6, daughter
Ellen Delaney 4, daughter
Anne Delaney 2, daughter
Delia Delaney 1m, daughter
Ellen Delaney 71, mother [ww]
Mary Neilan 19, niece, b. Roscommon
Kathleen Neilan 17, niece, b. Roscommon
Mary Waldron 18, dom. servant
Mary Conway 17, nurse
Denis Barnicle 19, shop asst.

8. **Biesty's** (Patterson's)

Edward Biesty 27, shopkeeper
Mary Biesty 26, wife
Ellen Biesty 25, shop asst.
John Biesty 3, son
William Biesty 9m, son
Bridget Morley 20, servant

9. **Healy's** (McQueeney's)

Bernard Healy 36, publican & shoemaker
Anne Healy 30, wife
Mary Healy 6, daughter
Norah Healy 4, daughter
Frank Healy 2, son
Patrick Connell 18, shoemaker's apprentice
Patrick Lee 15, shoemaker's apprentice

10. **McHugh's** (part of Newsround)

Michael McHugh 35, farmer
Margaret McHugh 26, wife, shopkeeper
Michael Waldron 70, father-in-law [wr]
Ellen Walsh 70, lodger [ww], b. Roscommon
Mary Mullany 22, servant, b. America

11. **Golden's** (part of Newsround)

Michael Golden 64, RIC pensioner
Mary Golden 50, wife, b. Roscommon
Bridget Golden 25, daughter, seamstress
Lizzie Golden 14, daughter
John Golden 11, son
Hugh Hanlon, 26, harness-maker

12. **Flatley's** (Munro's)

William Flatley 60, tailor
Bridget Flatley 60, wife, dressmaker
Thomas Flatley 33, son, tailor
Patrick Flatley 30, son, tailor
William Flatley 27, son, tailor
Delia Flatley 20, daughter, dressmaker
Andrew Flatley 19, son
Anne Hughes 65, visitor [ww]
Maggie Hughes 19, dressmaker

13. **McHugh's** (Interflora)

Thomas J. McHugh 24, shopkeeper, b. Galway
Henrietta McHugh 19, wife
Richard Cassidy 17, brother-in-law
Andrew Cassidy 23, brother-in-law, asst.
Joseph D. Cassidy 17, brother-in-law
Thomas Cassidy 16, brother-in-law
James Lyons 74, farm servant [unm]
Teresa Gavin 17, servant

14. **Byrne's** (part of Val's)

Thomas Byrne 48, labourer, b. Knock
Maria Byrne 55, wife, b. Ballyhaunis
Eliza Byrne 17, daughter, teacher
John Byrne 14, son, telegraph messenger
James Byrne 11, son
Delia Byrne 9, daughter

15. **Fitzgerald's** (part of Val's)

Edward Fitzgerald 30, publican
Frances Fitzgerald 21, wife
Thomas Conway 18, shopkeeper's servant
Mary Kate Fitzgerald 3m, daughter
James Murphy 21, shop asst.
Edward Sammon 16, shop apprentice
Mary Grogan 16, servant

16. **Caulfield's** (Halpin's)

Thomas Caulfield 54, shopkeeper [wr]
Katie Caulfield 21, daughter
William Caulfield 19, son
Ellen Caulfield 17, daughter
Bridget Caulfield 15, daughter
Sarah Caulfield 11, daughter
Patrick Caulfield 13, son
John Caulfield 8, son
Kate Lydan 18, servant
Kate Cassidy 18, servant
Thomas Finnigan 17, servant
Robert Marks 20, servant

17. **Lyons'** (McHugh's)

Bridget Lyons 29, shopkeeper
Margaret Finn 15, asst.

18. **McNicholas'** (Murphy's Part Two)

James McNicholas 30, publican
Mary Anne McNicholas 22, wife
James Higgins 23, grocer's asst.
Tom Quinn 18, grocer's asst.
Mary Duffy 15, servant girl

19. **Naughton's** (Finn's)

Mary Naughton 72, shopkeeper [ww], b. Galway
Ellen Cox 74, lodger [unm]

20. **Murphy's** (Murphy's)

Edward Murphy 45, merchant
Winifred Murphy 33, wife
Mary Ellen Murphy 11, daughter
Patrick Murphy 10, son
Margaret Murphy 8, daughter
Katie Murphy 6, daughter
Michael Murphy 5, son
Eddie Murphy 3, son
Thomas Murphy 1, son
Agnes Morley 20, servant girl
Peter Galligan 40, O.S. [wr], b. Cavan
Michael Rawlins 40, O.S., b. Kerry

21. **Tighe's** (Mrs. P. Phillips')

Michael Tighe 40, publican
Mary Tighe 30, wife
Rose Waldron, 14, sister-in-law
Ellen Waldron, 19, friend
Eugene Harrison O'Connor 37, 2nd Corporal
Royal Engineers, O.S., b. Dublin
Mary Elizabeth O'Connor 38, wife, b. Leitrim
James Eugene O'Connor 15, son, b. Leitrim
Edward Joseph O'Connor 13, son, b. Roscommon
Francis Leo O'Connor 11, son, b. Roscommon
Hubert O'Connor 7, son, b. Mayo

Mary Rose O'Connor 4, daughter, b. Mayo
Eugene Patrick O'Connor 2, son, b. Dublin

22. **Veldon's** (P. Phillips)

Patrick E. Veldon 42, shopkeeper
Anna Mary Veldon 44, wife
Thomas Francis Veldon 11, son
Anna Mary Veldon 3, daughter
Mary Anne Mullarkey 17, servant

23. **Gilmore's** (part of E. Phillips')

Kate Gilmore 32, dressmaker
Mary Ellen Fahy 11, niece
Delia Fahy 10, niece
Mary Hopkins 20, dressmaker's apprentice
Ellen Hopkins 20, dressmaker's apprentice

24. **Byrne's** (part of E. Phillips')

Dominick Byrne 37, tailor
Mary Byrne 36, wife
Dominick Byrne 10, son
James Byrne 8, son
Margaret Byrne 6, daughter
Mathew Morley 16, tailor's apprentice

25. **Post Office** (Credit Union)

Edward Churchill Killeen 42, postmaster
Margaret Killeen 32, wife
Mary Killeen 70, mother [ww]
John Flanagan 18, post office asst.

26. **Unoccupied** (McHugh's)

Upper Main Street begins here

27. **Unoccupied** (formerly Dillon's)

28. **Moran's** (part of D.H. Burke's)
Jane Moran 39, licensed publican
Bridget Moran 18, daughter, shop asst.
Ellen Moran 11, daughter
Jane Moran 9, daughter
Kate Moran 6, daughter
Anne Moran 5, daughter
John Moran 4, son
Lawrence Moran 1, son

29. **Freeley's** (part of D.H. Burke's)

Michael Freeley 40, publican
Ellie Freeley 32, wife, b. Tipperary
Patrick Freeley 1, son
Bridget Niland 24, servant
Owen McDermott 34, manager works
Lizzie McDermott 38, wife
Owen McDermott 7, son
Isabella McDermott 6, son
Francis McDermott 4, son

30. **Cooney's** (Freeley's)

Patrick Cooney 61, master tailor
Bridget Cooney 61, wife
Joseph Cooney 19, son, national teacher
Patrick Keane 18, tailor's apprentice
Michael Ganley 15, tailor's apprentice

31. **Hynes'**

William Hynes 35, provisions merchant
Teresa Hynes 23, wife, b. Roscommon

32. **Waldron's**

Anthony Waldron 41, shopkeeper
Annie Waldron 40, wife

33. Grogan's

Mary Grogan 30, dressmaker
Bridget Kilduff 18, dressmaker
Maria Cunnane 18, asst.

34. Morrisroe's

Michael Morrisroe 21, waiter in a hotel
Maggie Morrisroe 18, wife

35. Keane's

Timothy Keane 35, shopkeeper etc.
Maria Keane 40, wife
Mary Lizzie Keane 14, daughter
Nora Keane 10, daughter
Kathleen Keane 3, daughter

36. Mulligan's

Henry Mulligan 47, baker, b. Monaghan
Jane Mulligan 44, wife, b. Roscommon
Lizzie Mulligan 18, daughter, monitress
Alice Mulligan 11, daughter
Ellie Mulligan 8, daughter
Kate Mulligan 7, daughter
Henry Mulligan 5, son

37. Devine's (formerly Ward's)

Martin Devine 56, fish & fruit dealer
Margaret Devine 54, wife
Winnie Devine 16, daughter
Michael Devine 14, son
Peter Devine 12, son
James Devine 10, son
Margaret Devine 6, daughter
Bridget Devine 3, daughter
Kate Devine 4m, daughter

38. Mannion's

Michael Mannion 35, bread-van driver
Bridget Mannion 31, wife, lodging-house keeper
James Mannion 6, son
Mary K. Mannion 4, daughter
Michael Mannion 2, son
Delia Mannion 4m, daughter
Patrick Killeen 50, boot & shoemaker [wr]
Matthew McGurn 52, summons server [wr], b. Roscommon

39. McDonnell's

Bridget McDonnell 40, lodging house keeper [ww]
Kate Kelly 26, daughter, soldier's wife
Patrick Kelly 20, son, labourer
Thomas Kelly 18, son, labourer
Julia Kelly 16, daughter

40. Gavin's

Kate Gavin 40, wash-woman
Thomas Gavin 26, step-son
John Gavin 15, son, dom. servant
Thomas Gavin 6, son
Bridget Dignan 66, lodger [ww], b. Roscommon
Margaret Winn 60, wash-woman [ww]
James Dillon 30, labourer [unm]

Main Street

(South Side)

1. Conry's (McGarry's)

John Michael Conry 46, merchant, b. Roscommon [wr]
Anne Josephine Conry 17, daughter

Michael Denis Conry 15, son
Mary Saville 30, asst. milliner, b. Monaghan [unm]
Mary Donelan 19, asst. milliner, b. Galway
Teresa McCormack 20, asst. milliner, b. Roscommon
Sarah McNamara 17, asst. milliner
Mary Freyne 18, asst. milliner, b. Roscommon
Bridget Lavan 18, asst. milliner
Mary Fallon 17, asst. milliner, b. Galway
William Eaton 23, asst. draper
Michael Keefe 20, asst. draper, b. Galway
John Connell 17, asst. draper
Michael Fitzmaurice 16, asst. draper
Michael Freyne 23, asst. grocer
Owen McHugh 21, asst. grocer, b. Galway
Peter Hannon 22, asst. grocer
Annie Conry 15, niece, b. Roscommon
Hanoria Loughlin 26, servant draper
Anne Jordan 18, servant draper

2. Waldron's (Gallagher's)

Michael M. Waldron 62, shopkeeper & Publican
Sarah Waldron 53, wife
Sarah Waldron 24, daughter
John Joseph Waldron 23, son
Michael Waldron 18, son
Martha J. Waldron 13, daughter
Maggie Feeney 21, dressmaker
Winifred O'Malley 17, dressmaker, b. Galway
Bridget Hayden 17, dressmaker
Ellen Walsh 16, dressmaker
Martin Flanagan 23, shop asst., b. Roscommon
James Waldron 23, shop asst.
John Conroy 22, shop asst., b. Galway
John Flanagan 19, shop asst., b. Roscommon
Martin Cahill 19, shop asst., b. Roscommon
Ambrose O'Connell 18, shop asst.
Patrick Brennan 18, shop asst.
Martin Mannion 17, shop asst.
Michael Mulrooney 17, shop asst.
John Walsh 16, shop asst.
Redmond Carroll 28, servant [unm]
Mary Cassidy 21, servant
Mary Boyle 21, servant

3. Unoccupied (Mans Shop)

4. Unoccupied (Eaton's/Sparkey's)

5. Waldron's (The Central)
Mary A. Waldron 53, merchant [ww]
Delia Waldron 28, daughter
Kate Waldron 24, daughter, book-keeper
Michael Waldron 17, son, shop asst.
William Waldron 12, son
Rose Waldron 9, daughter
Thomas Heneghan 7, grandchild
Bridget Rattigan 49, sister, house keeper [unm]
Maggie Mulkeen 21, servant, milliner
Ellie Heneghan 18, servant, dressmaker
Owen Gormly 17, servant, shop asst., b. Roscommon
Winnie McDermott 16, servant, cook, b. Roscommon
Eddy Glynn 13, dom. servant

6. Doyle's (Phillips' Drapery)

Mary Doyle 60, householder [ww]
Patrick Doyle 32, son [unm]
Austin Doyle 30, labourer [unm]

7. Unoccupied

8. McQueeney's (Kebab & Pizza House)

Mary McQueeney 40, shopkeeper
Mary Doyle 60, mother [ww]
John T. McQueeney 16, son
Michael McQueeney 12, son
Owen McQueeney 10, son
Joseph McQueeney 8, son

9. Freely's (MacSiurtain's)

Patrick Freely 39, publican
Anne Freely 30, wife
James Freely 6, son
Austin Freely 4, son
Rita Freely 2, daughter
Laurence Freely 24, brother, commercial traveler
Anthony Forkan 24, shop asst.
Honor Hunt 17, servant
Patrick Cunnane 15, servant

10. Flynn's (Beirne's)

Connor Flynn 46, merchant, b. Roscommon
Kate Flynn 30, wife, b. Roscommon
Mary Delia Flynn 19, daughter
Kate Jane Flynn 17, daughter
Teresa Flynn 16, daughter
Monica Flynn 15, daughter
James J. Flynn 13, son
Patrick J. Flynn 6, son
Maudie Flynn 8, daughter
Connor Flynn 4, son
Micho Flynn 2, son
Lucy A. Flynn 1 month, daughter
Thomas Flynn 26, brother, shop asst., b. Roscommon [unm]
James Naughten 21, shop asst., b. Roscommon
Martin Fitzmaurice 19, shop asst.
James Scally 15, shop apprentice
Kate Ryan 70, milliner, b. Roscommon [unm]
Annie Burke 23, milliner
Celia Kenny 20, milliner
Maggie Tarmey 21, dom. servant, b. Roscommon

11. Kenny's (Phillips' Shoes)

John Kenny 43, merchant
Ellen Kenny 39, wife
Michael James Kenny 13, son
Mary Kate Kenny 11, daughter
John Patrick Kenny 10, son
Monica Delia Kenny 7, daughter
Norah Kenny 4, daughter
Ellen Kenny 2, daughter
Kattie Ruddy 24, boarder, dressmaker, b. Roscommon
Norah Cruise 22, boarder, milliner, b. Roscommon
Katie Sweeney 20, boarder, dressmaker
Delia Murray 19, boarder, dressmaker
Mary Anne Bride 19, boarder, dressmaker
Katie Heneghan 18, boarder, dressmaker
Daniel Cahill 30, boarder, draper's asst., b. Tipperary [unm]
Thomas Ruddy 21, boarder, draper's asst., b. Roscommon
John Boyle 21, boarder, draper's asst.
George Scott 21, boarder, grocers asst.
Edward Carlos 22, boarder, draper's asst., b. Roscommon
Patrick Sweeney 17, boarder, apprentice draper
Patrick Ruddy 19, boarder, apprentice grocer, b. Roscommon

- Patrick Gallagher 14, boarder, apprentice to grocer, b. Roscommon
 Kate McGrath 19, boarder, servant
 Kate Morley 16, boarder, servant, b. Roscommon
12. **Morley's** (Bookies)
 Patrick Morley 28, shopkeeper
 Margaret Morley 32, wife
 Margaret Morley 15, niece, b. England
13. **Forde's** (O'Brien's)
 Denis Forde 54, publican [wr]
 Eliza Forde 20, daughter
 Maria Forde 16, daughter
 Denis Forde 14, son
 Charles Forde 12, son
 John Forde 10, son
 Ellen Forde 8, daughter
 Norah Forde 6, daughter
14. **Smyth's** (Webb's)
 John Smyth 82, victualler, b. Galway
 Eliza Grogan 54, daughter, housekeeper
 Mary Grogan 23, granddaughter
15. **Rafty's** (Moran's)
 Dominick Rafty 26, shopkeeper, b. Roscommon
 Kate Rafty 23, wife, b. Co Galway
 John Joe Rafty 11 months, son
 Michael Rafty 12, brother, shop asst., b. Roscommon
 Ellen Downs 13, servant
16. **Neary's** (Ryan's & Curley's)
 Thomas Neary 53, shopkeeper
 Celia Neary 56, wife
 Thomas Neary 20, asst.
 Laurence Reilly 25, step-son, asst.
 Patrick Reilly 27, step-son, asst.
 John O'Malley 22, asst. [unm]
 Myles O'Malley 17, apprentice
 Pat McGrievy 22, asst.
 Thomas Mullahy 16, apprentice
 John Slattery 16, apprentice
 Mary Kenny 40, servant, b. Roscommon [unm]
 Kate Gara 17, servant, b. Roscommon
 John Reilly 18, servant
17. **Lavelle's** (beside Curley's)
 Thomas Lavelle 36, fish & fruit dealer
 Norah Lavelle 56, wife
 John Lavelle 17, son
 Michael Lavelle 14, son
 James Lavelle 11, son
 Ellen Lavelle 8, daughter
18. **Court House** (Court House)
 Robert Mullen 51, sergeant R.I.C., b. Meath
 Bridget Mullen 48, wife, b. Longford
 Margaret Mullen 19, daughter, seamstress
 Ellen Mullen 17, daughter, b. Longford
 Bridget Mullen 15, daughter
 Patrick Mullen 12, son
- 19a. **R.I.C. Barracks** (Garda Barracks)
 Mary Josephine Cassidy 35, wife, b. Galway
 Mary Josephine Cassidy 11, daughter
 Teresa Cassidy 10, daughter
 John Joseph Cassidy 6, son
 Patrick James Cassidy 3, son
 [Head of family name - John J. Cassidy - appears on form F1]
- 19b. **R.I.C. Barracks** (Garda Barracks)
 Patrick Lyons 39, sergeant, farmer's son, b. Tipperary [unm]
 John J. Cassidy 43, sergeant, asst. teacher, b. Kildare [md]
 Patrick Kiernan 28, constable, farmer's son, b. Longford [unm]
 William Mooney 42, constable, farmer's son, b. Galway [unm]
20. **Unoccupied** (Dillon-Leech's)
21. **Kenny's** (Greene's)
 Thomas Kenny 55, shopkeeper
 Ellen Kenny 48, wife
22. **Freely's** (The Hazel)
 John Freely 28, publican
 Thomas Freely 22, brother, publican's asst.
 Bridget Freely 23, sister
23. **R.C. Church**
24. **Parochial House**
 John Canning 53, clergyman
 Mary Canning 48, visitor [unm]
 Bridget Kilkenny 34, servant [unm]
- Upper Main St., Barrack St. and Chapel St. begin here*
25. **Unoccupied**
26. **Jordan's** (Jordan's)
 Mary H. Jordan 40, labourer's wife, b. in America
 John Jordan 20, son, labourer
 Mary Jordan 16, daughter
 Thomas Jordan 13, son
 James Jordan 11, son
 Maggie Jordan 8, daughter
27. **Moran's** (Jordan's)
 John Moran 33, gardener
 Winifred Moran 30, wife
 Michael Moran 5, son
 Norah Moran 4, daughter
 Mary Moran 7 months, daughter
 Michael Downs 44, lodger, labourer [wr]
 Mary Downs 60, lodger, wash woman [ww]
28. **Carney's** (Jordan's)
 John Carney 50, blacksmith, b. Roscommon
 Mary Carney 45, wife, b. Roscommon
 John Carney 19, son, blacksmith, b. Roscommon
 William Carney 12, son, b. Roscommon
 Michael Carney 10, son, b. Roscommon
 Thomas Carney 9, son, b. Roscommon
 Bridget Carney 7, daughter
29. **O'Malley's** (Glynn's)
 Peter O'Malley 56, carpenter
 Bridget O'Malley 45, wife
 Ellen O'Malley 20, daughter
 Mary Kate O'Malley 14, daughter
 Michael O'Malley 12, son
 Peter O'Malley 10, son
 Delia O'Malley 7, daughter
30. **Caulfield's** (Caulfield's)
 Thomas Caulfield 27, egg dealer
 Rose Caulfield 26, wife
 Mary J. Caulfield 2, daughter
 Michael Caulfield 1, son
31. **Halfpenny's** (Presbytery)
 Patrick Halfpenny 41, bank manager, b. Louth
 Roseleen Halfpenny 31, wife, b. Meath
 Bridget Farragher 20, dom. servant
32. **Kenny's**
 Michael Kenny 45, carpenter [md]
 John Rattington 26, lodger, labourer [md]
 Ellen Rattington 24, wife, wash woman
33. **Sweeney's**
 Denis Sweeney 42, baker, b. Leitrim
 Bridget Sweeney 40, wife
 Thomas E. Sweeney 4, son
34. **Devaney's**
 Joseph Devaney 40, peddler,
 Bridget Devaney 30, wife
 James Devaney 6, son
 Mary Devaney 5, daughter
 Patrick Devaney 2, son
35. **McHugh's**
 Catherine McHugh 39, labourer's wife
 Norah McHugh 10, daughter
 Katie McHugh 8, daughter
 John J. McHugh 4, son
36. **Sweeney's**
 Michael Sweeney 40, blacksmith
 Ellen Sweeney 33, wife
 Catherine Sweeney 4, daughter, b. in America
 Mary Sweeney 3, daughter, b. in America
37. **McNulty's**
 Bridget McNulty 45, wash woman [ww]
38. **Finn's**
 Edward Finn 40, carpenter [wr], b. 'Greenwood'
 Edward Finn 12, son
 Mary A. Finn 16, daughter, servant
 Katie Finn 11, daughter
 Dennis Finn 9, son
 Catherine Tighe 60, dressmaker [unm]
39. **Cassidy's**
 Patrick Cassidy 35, labourer, b. Roscommon
 Margaret Cassidy 25, wife
 Margaret Ruane 50, mother-in-law, wash woman [ww]
 Mary K. Cassidy 4 months, daughter
40. **Levin's**
 Richard Levins 46, shoemaker, b. Louth
 Esther E. Levins 37, wife, b. in England
 Kate Levins 13, daughter, b. Dublin
 Richards Levins 10, son, b. in England
 William Levins 8, son
 Mary A. Levins 6, daughter
 James Levins 4, son
 Austin Levins 2, son
41. **Dignan's**
 Patrick Dignan 30, labourer
 Annie Dignan 22, wife
 Martin J. Dignan 1, son
 Margaret M. Dignan 1 months, daughter
 Michael J. O'Beirne 65, father-in-law, ex-national teacher, b. Dublin City [wr]
42. **Lee's**
 John Lee 50, labourer

Ellen Lee 53, wife, wash woman
Anne Waldron 13, niece
John Lee 3, nephew

43. Kelly's

Richard Kelly 37, constable R.I.C, b. Kildare
Anne Kelly 30, wife, b. Tipp.
Frances Kelly 8, daughter, b. Tipp.
Kathleen Kelly 2, daughter, b. Tipp.
Alice Kelly 4 months, daughter, b. Tipp.

44. Mulligan's

Patrick Mulligan 30, labourer
Norah Mulligan 28, wife, b. Galway
Mary Mulligan 12, daughter, b. in America
Maggie Mulligan 6, daughter
Thomas Mulligan 4, son
Norah Mulligan 3, daughter
James Flatley 24, lodger, tailor

45. Searson's

James M. Searson 35, constable R.I.C
Anne Jane Searson 34, wife, b. Donegal
Johanne M. Searson 5, daughter
Edward J. Searson 4, son
James M. Searson 3, son
John T. Searson 2, son

46. Dwyer's

Michael Dwyer 40, constable R.I.C, b. Limerick
Margaret Dwyer 34, wife
William Dwyer 12, son
Bridget Dwyer 10, daughter
John Dwyer 7, son
Norah Dwyer 6, daughter
Margaret Dwyer 4, daughter
Michael Dwyer 1, son

47. Mulligan's

Patrick Mulligan 38, baker, b. Monaghan
Margaret Mulligan 34, wife
Mary Eganey 60, mother-in-law [ww]
James Mulligan 9, son
Bernard Mulligan 8, son
Patrick Mulligan 6, son
Michael Mulligan 4, son
Thomas Mulligan 3, son
Elizabeth Mulligan 1, daughter
Patrick Waldron 60, boarder, labourer [unm]
Michael Lydon 60, boarder, labourer [unm]

48. Murphy's

William Murphy 27, labourer, b. Roscommon
Bridget Murphy 24, wife
Thomas Murphy 3, son
Patrick Murphy 1, son

49. Martin's

George Martin 40, baker, b. Limerick
Norah Martin 25, wife
Patrick Martin 4, son
George Martin 3, son
Edwin Martin 4 months, son

50. Devine's

Patrick J. Devine 50, shoemaker [wr]
Pat Devine 25, son, shop asst.
James Devine 14, son

Kate Devine 21, daughter
Amelia Devine 18, daughter, dressmaker

51. Lyons's

Patrick Lyons 50, labourer [md]

52. Sweeney's

John Sweeney 61, tinplate worker [wr]
Maria Sweeney 15, daughter, housekeeper
Nicholas Creed 22, tinplate apprentice, b. Dublin city

53. Flannery's

James Flannery 37, dealer
Mary Flannery 35, wife, b. Roscommon
James Flannery 2, son
Mary Anne Flannery 6, daughter, b. in India

54. Moogan's

John Moogan 40, labourer
Margaret Moogan 35, wife
Michael Boyle 15, step-son, labourer
Mary Moogan 10, daughter
John Moogan 7, son
Bridget Moogan 5, daughter
Maggie Moogan 2, daughter
Eliza Harte 70, boarder, b. Galway [ww]

55. Molloy's

John B. Molloy 55, fruit dealer, b. Galway [wr]
John Lavelle 40, boarder, labourer [md]

56. McDonagh's

Stephen McDonagh 38, constable R.I.C., b. Galway
Kate McDonagh 30, wife, b. Leitrim
Mary M. McDonagh 10, daughter, b. Roscommon
Charles E. McDonagh 5, son, b. Leitrim
Katie E. McDonagh 4, daughter, b. Leitrim
Bedelia L. McDonagh 2, daughter
John G. McDonagh 1, son
Ellie Sharpley 22, sister-in-law, b. Leitrim

57. Dillon's [behind The Central]

Patrick Dillon 30, labourer
Mary Dillon 28, wife
Bridget Costello 60, mother-in-law, wash-woman [ww]
Michael Dillon 7, son
Bridget Dillon 5, daughter
Patrick Dillon 4, son
John Caulfield 40, boarder, labourer [unm]
Peter Devine 60, boarder, boot maker [md]
Bridget Devine 70, [md]
Mary Dillon 7 months, daughter

58. Morley's (behind McSiurtain's)

Thomas Morley 35, driver
Mary Morley 34, wife
Norah Morley 5, daughter
Thomas Morley 3, son
John Morley 1, son
Patrick Morley 1m, son
Mary Curran 60, boarder [ww]
Bridget Nowlan 20, dom. servant
Mary Nowlan 60, boarder [ww]

59. Finigan's

Mary Finigan 55, housekeeper [ww]

60. Treston's

James Treston 45, labourer
Anne Treston 40, wife
Patrick Treston 20, son, labourer
James Treston 17, son, labourer
Bridget Treston 16, daughter
Owen Treston 14, son
Peter Treston 12, son
Mary Treston 6, daughter
Michael Treston 4, son
Nora Treston 2, daughter

61. Finigan's

Patrick Finigan 95, labourer, b. Roscommon
Mary Finigan 80, wife, b. Galway
Patrick Caulfield 26, also head of family, labourer
Kate Caulfield 26, wife
Michael Waldron 26, boarder, labourer, b. Roscommon
Bridget Byrne 41, boarder, dealer [ww]

62. Furey's

Catherine Furey 44, wash woman, b. Roscommon [ww]
Thomas Furey 12, son
Kate Furey 10, daughter
Peter Burke 70, also listed as head-of-family, bell man & umbrella maker, b. Galway
Mary Burke 72, wife, b. Galway
Mary O'Gara 14, granddaughter, b. Galway
Peter Bourke 9, grandson
Terrins Collins 24, lodger, labourer, b. Dublin
Sarah Collins 22, wife, b. Dublin
Mary Ellen Collins 3, daughter
John Shea 36, boarder, boot-maker, b. Limerick [unm]
John Shea 34, saddler [unm]
James O'Connell 36, watch-maker, b. Clare [unm]

63. McNamara's

John McNamara 60, labourer [wr]

64. O'Brine's

Joseph O'Brine 87, fish dealer [unm]
Julia Gehegan 45, niece, fish dealer [ww]
Kate O'Brine 44, niece, fish dealer [unm]
Thomas Walsh 10, distant relation
Julia Walsh 8, distant relation
Delia Walsh 7, distant relation
Mary Walsh 5, distant relation

65. Henry's

John Henry 50, labourer
Mary Henry 47, wife, dressmaker
Bridget Henry 19, dressmaker
Pat Henry 17, son, postman
Kate Henry 14, daughter

66. McGreal's

Patrick McGreal 35,
Kate McGreal 31, wife
Michael McGreal 7, son
Sarah Kate McGreal 5, daughter
Mary McGreal 4, daughter
James McGreal 2, son



Noreen & Tom Hopkins on their 50th Anniversary with their daughters, Patricia, Bernadette, Mary Theresa, Ann & Catherine.



Nancy and Sean Jordan, Johnstown, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary earlier this year.



Olive and the late Val Waldron, Cave, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 12th April 2000.



Celebrating 50 years of service to God, Sr. Assumpta Flannery, Sr. Ethna Nolan and Sr. Rosario Waldron.

The Emergency

(Part Two)

Willie Costello

Sixty years ago Ireland was just coming to terms with life in "The Emergency" (as World War Two was known in this country). This, the second and concluding excerpt from "A Connacht Mans Ramble", by Willie Costello, tells us a lot about the trials and tribulations, the good and the bad of life in Ireland during those years. The first part featured in Annagh 1999. The Author is a native of Garryredmond, Claremorris who, as a young man, worked in Ballyhaunis. He now lives in Salthill. It is reprinted here with the kind permission of the Author and Publishers.

Dearth and deterioration

As well as becoming scarce, the quality of most goods deteriorated as the war progressed. Clothing, footwear, even shoe polish and almost all products came to be known as of war grade quality. Flour and bread were, by law, only of the brown variety, as less of the wheat was wasted than in the white mixture. Strangely, there was no scarcity of brown bread until the war was over and then it was rationed for a short while. The bad harvest of 1946 had a bearing on that situation.

New bicycles were quickly sold out and no new stocks became available for the remainder of the Emergency. Bicycle tyres were almost impossible to procure even on the black market. As always, necessity is the mother of invention and, before long, the solid tyre made its appearance. This was composed of a large number of pieces of rubber cut into washers about three inches in circumference. A strand of wire ran through the centre of the washers which were tightly squeezed together. Both ends of the wire were knotted together thus forming a circle. As a result the bicycle became a real bone-shaker but people were prepared to put up with the discomfort, so pleased were they to have any form of transport.

Motor Fuel

By Government order private cars were taken off the road except where there was an absolute necessity for them. The reason was to ensure that as much as possible of the limited supply of petrol was available for essential services. These included ambulance missions, public transport, professional calls by doctors and clergy, but each received only a ration. A less generous ration was allowed to proprietors of hackney cars and lorries. The former could be used only on essential business and on calls that were benevolent or humane like bringing patients to and from hospitals. Whenever a hackney car owner was caught driving people to football matches, courting meetings or dances, his licence was taken from him.

The amount of petrol allowed to lorry owners was so small as to be of little use to them. There was a mechanism called a gas producer invented at the time, and it enabled a truck to be driven on gas which was generated from charcoal while the vehicle was in motion, but only after the engine was started on

petrol. Not having a mechanical mind, I have no idea how it worked, but I clearly remember seeing trucks with cylinders secured in front of the radiators. The gas producers were dirty and they caused so many problems that, on occasions, the cylinders were a camouflage while the truck was driven on black market petrol.

Diesel and electrically driven trains had not yet made their appearance and the pre-war steam engines were all fired by coal. With the difficulty of procuring supplies of this fuel the railway authorities resorted to turf. Compared with coal the power was very weak, and as we listened to engines labour as they ascended the slight incline at Garryedmond, we sometimes felt that the train would not make it. It always succeeded but only after a great struggle.

Inflation

It was during the War years that most of us heard for the first time the word "inflation." Every time that non-consumer goods were delivered to the shops they were dearer than the previous consignment. Traders who had a supply in stock altered the prices upwards in accordance with the current costs. This eventually became almost a daily exercise and it was quite legitimate. As goods became scarcer with each passing day there was no difficulty in selling all items at increased prices so the more inflation increased, the more traders profits were boosted.

While business people did well, there was no gain for the worker. In fact, the Government introduced what was called a Stand Still Order, which prevented trade unions from seeking any general increase in workers wages. This order was necessary in the battle against inflation, but it helped employers make even more money. In an attempt to counteract ill-effects the Government put a maximum retail price on food, some drinks and other selected goods like tobacco. Some unprincipled merchants charged their customers more than the controlled prices and for them the only deterrent to this practice was the fear of being caught out by the Department Inspectors who were constantly touring the country spot-checking and who were liable to call at any time. Sometimes they posed as customers and on other occasions they just checked the price lists which it was obligatory to display. Fines for overcharging were extremely high.

Black Marketeers

More unscrupulous still were the traders who were involved in the black market of which there were two forms, and one was as objectionable as the other. A trader bought scarce goods from a supplier either inside or outside the State at a cost far above the controlled retail price. He asked no questions as to how the supplier came by them because he did not care. His concern was to smuggle them or bring them covertly to premises of his own, preferably not his shop, where he sold them to anybody prepared to give him a good profit.

Like every emergency, even if there is strong suspicion that it will come, on arrival the preparation is never complete. The Department of Supplies did a magnificent job and probably could not have done better, but nothing man-made is perfect.

When the merchants sent in their coupons at the end of each month for essential rationed foods, the Department recorded the number of customers each had and therefore knew the amount of rations required to cover them. Wholesalers and manufacturers continued to supply the merchants with quotas based on purchases made in 1938 or 1939. In most cases, these were much higher than the amounts allowed for rations. As the trader could not sell more than the rations, he had to hold the balance on his premises and this surplus had to be available for inspection at all times. This may appear to be unfair, but the merchant had the option of notifying the wholesaler to send him only the amount for which he had coupons. Many of them took chances and they sold the surplus in the black market. When caught, the fines for being unable to account for the excesses were equal to those for overcharging. It should be stressed that the people who indulged in black marketeering were comparatively few.

Positive Consequences

One positive consequence of the War was the spirit of co-operation which it engendered among the people. The County Councils did their part for the country by leasing out any land they possessed at a very nominal rent to townspeople as plots for growing potatoes and vegetables. Some people took plots although they had no expertise in gardening but neighbours put whatever skills they had at their disposal. Turf banks were rented by others who had no idea of how to cut or save turf, but local farmers helped them. A solicitor from Ballyhaunis had attended at his branch office in Claremorris every Monday for a number of years, while a dentist from the same town attended in his Claremorris surgery every Tuesday. As they could no longer use their private cars each had to employ a taxi. So they decided to travel together, thereby halving their travel costs, but one had to change his attendance day.

Most young men joined the Defence Forces or The Red Cross. Training took place on three or four nights each week. There were parades in various towns on Sundays, and there were occasional manoeuvres with mock skirmishes with sections of the National Army. Ladies had their own branches of the Red Cross where their training in first aid was at least as intensive as that of the men and they also took part in parades.

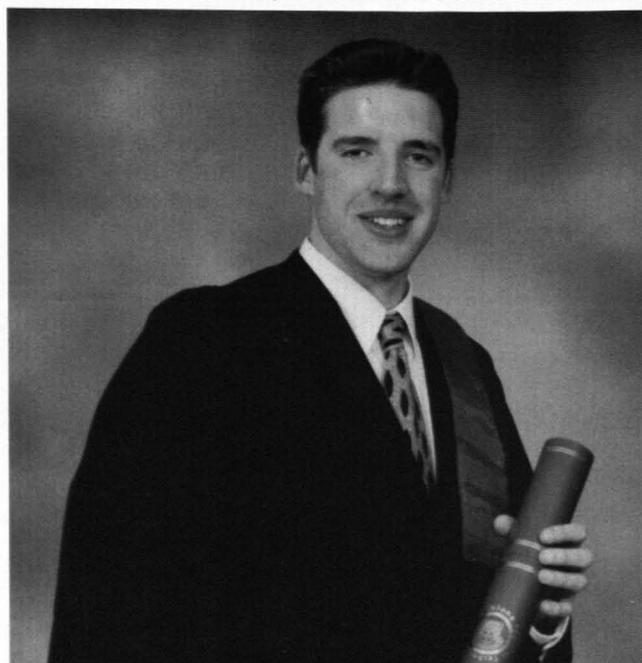
Danger of Invasion

People rightly believed that the threats and indeed the possibility of invasion were very real but yet there was no panic. While the German bombing of Dublin and of Campile in County Wexford brought home to the public how real was the danger, they still held their composure. It was a time when all our politicians left aside their petty squabbles and united behind the Government in their declared policy of neutrality. This unity at national level had a calming effect on the populace who had absolute trust in their leaders. When Belfast was bombed by the Germans, the Irish Government unhesitatingly sent fire brigades from Dublin to help the people there in whatever way possible. That sent a clear message to the Germans that whatever about the Border, Belfast was in Ireland.

When declaring the policy of neutrality, de Valera was well aware of the fact that our small army, with its meagre equipment, would be unable to withstand an invasion. But he said at the time, "If A invades us, B will help us, and if B invades us A will help us." It was the only strategy available to him. Luckily we were not invaded by any of the belligerents. But Churchill, in a most unworthy speech after the War, revealed that on many occasions he was sorely tempted to do so. In his internationally acclaimed reply, de Valera acknowledged the great temptation that must have been there, but he thanked God and not Churchill for having spared us the horrors of the War.



Patricia Mulhern, Knock Road, Ballyhaunis received her Diploma in Sport and Leisure Management at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin 20th Sept. 2000, daughter of Edward & Frances Mulhern.



David Freyne who has qualified in Graphic Art and Design, David is son of Veronica & Vincent Freyne, he is now continuing his studies in Galway.

Jubilee Parish Pilgrimage

Michael Byrne

On the evening of Sunday, May 21st, the parish of Annagh - like almost all other parishes throughout the country - celebrated the Jubilee Year of 2000 with a pilgrimage, attended by over three-hundred parishioners, along a two mile walk to the village of Holywell, and then on to the adjoining little village of Churchpark.

Assembling at St. Patricks Well (from where the village derives its name), the pilgrims gathered to hear Canon Cooney deliver a brief account of the history and of the Christian significance of their first place of pilgrimage. Local historian and noted archaeologist, Mr. Gerry Cribbin, described in great detail the historical background to both places of pilgrimage. St. Patrick, said Mr. Cribbin, established churches at Aghamore and at Kilcronin, on the shores of Mannin Lake, where he placed disciples. From Mannin Lake, he travelled to the well called Tobair Mucna, a pagan well - now Tobair Padraig - and baptised the first converts in the parish here around 564-5. The Annals of the Four Masters recorded that, in the twelfth century there was a pilgrimage to this well, and this continued up to about 1940. Two wells were blessed by St. Patrick: Kilcronin and Tobair Padraic, and both were used to baptise his convert.

The parish pilgrimage then moved on to the site of the old and original Annagh parish church which existed from as early as 1302. Situated in the village of Churchpark, much of the ruins are still in evidence. Annagh parish church was the site of a childrens burial ground and may indeed have also been the final resting place for adults. Here, Canon Cooney, together with his congregation, paused to offer prayers and a reflection for those souls who are buried there. The detailed history and accompanying background information relating to the places of pilgrimage, outlined by Mr. Cribbin certainly added enormously to the days parish jubilee celebration, a celebration and a pilgrimage which was conducted in a wonderful, peaceful and spiritual atmosphere an atmosphere and an occasion which will be treasured for manys a long day.

Your Young Years

Michael Godfrey

No matter how far you may travel
Or how lovely each city appears
Your heart it will always fly homewards
For you will never forget your young years

You will think of your pals in the schoolroom
The teachers who framed our careers
So wherever you roam, your heart will fly home
For you will never forget your young years

You will think of the crossroads you danced at
With the colleens we fondly called dears
Some to heaven are, gone but their memory lives on
For you will never forget your young years

You will think of the Fair Days and Markets
And the street singer song in your ears
Now the Fair Days are gone, but that memory lives on
For you will never forget your young years

You will think of the old folk by the fireside
And the ghost stories that often brough fears
The old folk are gone, but their memory lives on
For you will never forget your young years

You will see there the day that you parted
From the mother that kissed you in tears
To Heaven she's gone, but her memory is so strong
For you will never forget your young tears

Those green hills and fortunes yu heard of
Those green hills that lured you to roam
Far away from the scenes of your childhood
And the place you will always call home

So no matter how far you my travel
Or how lovely each city appears
Your heart it will always fly homewards
You will never forget your young years.



Left - right: Helen Biesty, Mary Mulrennan, Michael & Sadie Cameron.

PATRONS

*Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present.
All numbers are 0907 (code) unless otherwise stated.*

A.I.B. Bank Bridge St.	30464; Fax: 30726
Alma's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon, Clare St.	30354
Annagh View Guesthouse, Prop: Dolores Halpin-Murphy (Rooms En Suite)	31000
Augustinian Fathers (Hon) St. Mary's Abbey St.	30031
Avondale, B+B and Holiday Homes, Clare St. Prop: Bridie Levins	30345
Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union, Main St.	30998
Ballyhaunis Irish Dancewear(Dresses, Shoes. Accessories)	46193; Mobile: (087) 2295684
Ballyhaunis Plant & Tool Hire	30979; Mobile: (087) 2548355
Ballyhaunis Transport Service (To & From Dublin)	30477; Mobile: (087) 2549077
Ballyhaunis Trophy Centre, Knock Rd, Prop: Kay Buckley	30090
Bank of Ireland, The Square	30073
Beauty for You, Bridge St. Prop: Anita Duffy	31424
Boyle, Tony, 35 Riverside Drive, Galway	
Brennan, Bridie, Hazelhill	
Bridge Club, Ballyhaunis	
Burke, Tom, M.R.C.V.S. Abbey St.	30225
Byrne, Pat, Victualler & Grocer, Knox St.	30283
Byrne's Bar, Clare St, Prop: John Gill	30039
Campbell's Auctioneers & Insurance Brokers, Knox St.	30082
Car & Tractor Repairs, Prop: Eamon McNamara, Devlis (24 Hour Service)	30386; Mobile: (087) 2457908
Carty, Cllr. John, Carramore House, Knock	(094) 88149
Carney's, The Gem, (Newsagents, Toys, Jewellery, Grocery)	30840
Caulfield's, Grocery & Newsagents, Upper Main St.	30637
Chamber of Commerce, Upper Main St.	30311
Clock Tavern, Knox St.	30344
Colleran's Pharmacy, Bridge St.	30028
Community School, Knock Rd.	30238
Connacht Scaffolding Ltd, Knock Rd.	30198; Fax: 30336
Connaught Arms, Knox St.	30327
Connolly's Kitchens, Galway Rd.	
Cooney, Canon Joseph, Parochial House	30006
Crehan, Martin, Concrete Paving & Coping, Clare St.	30328
Cribbin, Cllr. John, Knockanarra	30052 (Office); 30847
Cribbin, Jim, Johnstown	
Cunniffe Construction Ltd., Tooreen	49035; Mobile: (087) 2612838
Cunninghams Londis, Foodmarket, Abbey St.	30730; 30162
Curley's Bar, Clare St.	30077
Curley's Chemists, Main St.	30110; Fax: 31191
Curley's Jewellers, Bridge St.	30110; Fax: 31191
Daly's Electrical, T.V., Domestic Appliances, Bridge St.	30987
Dawn Ballyhaunis, Clare Road	30555; Fax: 30561
Delaney's Ltd, Hardware, Paint, Household, Gifts, Bridge St.	30296
Delaney's, Paddy, Select Bar & Lounge, Abbey St.	30024
De Luxe Cleaning; Carpets, Upholstery etc., Vincent Higgins	30284
Dillon's Travel Agency, The Square	30269; 30021; Fax: 30721
Doherty's Betting Office, Main St.	30628; 30738
Dolan, Eugene, Long Island, New York	
Donnellan's Joinery, Undertakers, Funeral Home, Clare St.	30045
Donnellan's Service Station, Devlis (Heating Oil, Motor Diesel)	31157
Eagney Insurance Services Ltd., Bridge St.	30793/30794; Fax: 30795
Electrical & Pump Services Ltd.	30226; Fax: 30761
Farrell, Kieran, Tyres, Clare Rd.	30573
Finn, Footwear Specialists (Ballyhaunis & Kiltimagh)	30141; Kiltimagh: (094) 81970
Fitzgerald's, Grocery & Confectionery, Bridge St.	
Fitzpak Cartons Ltd, Tooraree, Folding & Laminated Cartons	30808; 30809; 30811; 31120

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Flanagan Motors, Tooreen, New & Used Cars	49433
Fleming, Seamas & Annette, Lavallyroe, B&B/Cab Hire	46040; Mobile: (086) 8195500
Flogas Ireland Ltd, Ballyhaunis	30883; Fax: 30040
Folliard, Noel, Barber, Knox St.	Mobile: (087) 6415039
Forde Bros., Ballinlough, Alum, PVC Windows & Doors	40525; Mobile: (086) 8120324
Forde's Ltd., The Square, (The House for all the Family)	30013
4D's Off Licence, The Square, Best Value, Selection of Wines, Spirits, Beers	30013
Forkan's B. & B, Rooms En-Suite, Private Parking, Knox St.	30888
Freeley, Terence, Braga, Portugal	
Freyne, Bernard, Gas Service, Hazelhill	30152; Fax: 30040
Freyne Ceramics, Hazelhill, (For All Your Tiling Needs)	30722
Freyne, Garage & Service Station, Clare St.	30043
Full Shilling, Carvery Restaurant, Lunch Daily	30443
G.A.A. Club	
Gallagher, Builders Providers, Furniture, Main St. & Clare St.	30314; 30020
Gallagher, Michael, Hazelhill, Building Contractor	30605
Garvey-Moran, C., School Supplies, Knox St.	30079
Gerry's Barber Shop, Barrack St.	31014
Glynn, Pat, Photographer, Doctor's Rd.	30026; Castlerea: 20094
Godfrey, Michael, Ballinlough	
Golf Club, Coolnaha	
Greene, Tony & Pauline, Box 127, Green Drive, Schola, P.A. 18458	
Griffin, John, Orthodontist, Knock Rd.	30534
Griffin, Mike, Taxi Service, Clare St/Devlis	30213
Grogan, Austin & Sons, Concrete Products, Cave	30072
Guinness Ireland Group, Abbeyquarter	30192; 30130; Fax: 30158
Gun Club	
Halpin, John & Breege, Floral Occasions, Tele-Florist, Coffee Dock	30612
Harvest Fresh, Fruit & Veg, Main St.	30736
Hazel, Bar & Restaurant, Contact Margaret/Michael, Main St.	30885
Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd, Europallets; Prop:Milo Henry	30094; Fax: 30825
Healy, Joe, Registered Building Contractor, Annagh	30481
Helen's Launderette, Barrack St.	30841
Heneghan Carpets & Furniture, Knox St., (Car Park)	30770; Fax: 30770
Herr, Fred, Grocer, Knox St.	31305
Higgins, Jim, T.D., Devlis	30052
Higgins, Pat, Adult Education Officer, Devlis	(094) 23159
Higgins, Business Property Ltd., Main St.	30088; Fax: 31383
Hopkins, Tom and Noreen, Main St.	
Iris Florists, Interflora, Main St.	30015
Jennings, Bernard, B.D.S. Knox St.	30315
Johnston's Machinery, Farming Community Specialists, Knox St.	30019
Jordan Windows, Clare St.	30641
K.F. Antiques, Ballaghaderreen Rd., Ballyhaunis, Contact Kieran	31149; Mobile: (087) 8037335
Kay's Beauty Salon, Knox St.	30065
Keane, Joe, Merchant Tailor, Knox St.	30751
Keane Kitchens Ltd., Kitchen/Bedroom Furniture, Clare Rd.	30038
Kearns, Tom, Plant & Hire, Lavallyroe	46193; Mobile: (087) 2528894
Kellehers, Spar, Grocery, Newsagents, Wine	30023
Kelly, Padraic, Furniture Manufacturer, Drimbane	30089
Kelly, Rosaleen, R.P.N., M.I.R.I., S.K., C.P.P., Kinesiology, Learning Difficulties	30022
Lilly, John Joe, Plant Hire, Johnstown	30352
Little Brook House, B. & B., Devlis	30151
Loughran, Frank, M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S. Upper Main St.	30017
Lyons, Crash Repairs/Spraying, Clare St.	31144; Mobile: (087) 2482170 Fax: 31145
Lyons, Michael, Coach & Mini-Bus Hire, Lecarrow	30347
Lyons, Michael G., Agricultural Contractor, Cloonfaughna, Knock	(094) 80249
Lyons, Tommy, Publican, Main St	
M.B. Kitchen Manufacturers, Gurteen	30797
M.M. Transport Ltd., Ballyhaunis	31082; Mobile:(086/087) 2746799

McGarry Development Consultants, Engineers, Architects, Clare St.	30170
McGarry's Ladies Wear, Main St.	30084
McHugh, Terence, High Class Victualler, Abbey St.	30061
McKay Construction, Lavallyroe	46320; Fax: 46320
McNamara, Car Dismantlers, Dublin Rd.	30439
McNamara, Eamon, Car/Tractor Repairs (24 Hour Service)	30386; Mob: (087) 2451908
McSiurtain's, Publicans, Main St., (Live Music) prop: Stephen Nolan	30854
Madden, Gerald, Snooker Tables, Gurteen	30228
Mercy Sisters, (Hon.), Upper Main St.	30108
Moran Bros. Ltd., Building/Public Works Contractors (6 Yr.Structural Guarantee Scheme)	30146; 30725
Moran, Donal, T.V. Systems, Knox St.	30569
Moran, Donal K & Sons, Building Contractor	30079
Moran, Coaches & Mini-Bus Hire, Knock Rd.	30346; Fax: 30346
Moran, Tommie, Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main St.	30493
Morrissey Distribution Ltd., Cave	30565; Mobile: (087) 2469441
Morley, Tony & Sons, Exterior and Interior Decoration, Knox St.	30944
Mulhern, Edward, Bar & Taxi-Service, Clare St.	30249
Mulrennan, James & Sons Ltd, Fitted Kitchens/Bedrooms (Keane Kitchens)	30038
Munro, Brian & Sons Ltd, Insurance Broker	30343
Murphy's Auto Sales, Service Station & Shop, Dublin Rd.	30307; Fax: 30307
Murphy, Eddie & Sons, Menswear Specialists & Part II, Main St.	30651
MWR FM 96.1, Abbey St.	30169; Ads: 30553
N.C.F. Ltd, Mart & Sales, Cave	30166
Nestor & Co., Accountants, Dalgan House, Oakmount Ave.	32000; Fax: 30294
Nestor's Corner Bar, The Square	31011
Newsround, Prop: Pat Freeley, Newsagents/Toys/Gifts/Cards, Main St.	30897
Nicholson's Bar, Bridge St.	30357
Nolan's Pub & Undertakers, Knox St.	31174
Noone, Moira & Pat, Ardpatrick, Hazelhill	
O'Connor, John, Ronoco Ltd, Doctor's Rd.	30037
O'Grady, Rev. James C.C. (Hon.), Upper Main St.	30095
Oak Bar, Bridge St, Prop: Niall Delaney	30099
P & P Plastering Services Ltd.,	30715; 30144
Parochial Hall, Bingo	30212
Patterson, Noel, M.R.C.V.S. Main St.	30865; 30113
Phillips, Charlie & Sons, Shoes, Main St.	30368
Phillips, Charlie & Sons, Drapers, Main St.	30368
Phillips, Eamon, High Class Victualler, Main St.	30381
Phillips, Paddy, Publican, Main St.	30118
Rattigans Bar, Knox Street	30157
Red Square, Fast Food/Restaurant. Prop: Seamus Grogan	31360
Royal Breffni, Pub, Knox St	31078
Rochford Motors, Main Mitsubishi Dealers, Knock Rd.	30350; 30163; Fax: 30570
Ruane, P., Radio & T.V. Dealers Repairs, Knox St.	30129
Ryans, Super-Valu, Main St (Free Parking at Rear)	30359
St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School, Abbey St.	30505
St. Mary's Primary School, Abbeyquarter	30310
Tasty Dish Restaurant, Knox St.	32963
Timoney, Martin, Carrownedan, RECI Electrical Contractor	Mobile: (087) 2398402
Tynan, Dillon, Chartered Accountants, Clare St.	30261
Ulster Bank Ltd, Abbey St.	30049
Val's For Food/Accommodation, (Live Music Thursday nights), Main St	30068
Valerie's Ladies & Gents, Hair Salon, Barrack St.	30681
Waldron, Anthony, Excavation Contractor, Clagnagh	31326; Mobile: (087) 2449313
Waldron, Austin, Derrymore	
Waldron, Paul, Ballyhaunis Correspondent, Western People	Mobile: (087) 4114628 Fax: 32989
Wash Tub, Launderette & Dry Cleaners, Same Day Service/Ironing Service	30449
Webb, M. J. Master Butcher, Main St.	30003
Webb, T. J. Catering & Retail Butcher, Bridge St.	30041; Mobile:088/679190
Western Brand Chickens Ltd, Fresh & Frozen Daily	30069; Fax: 30834
Winston, Gerard, Family Grocer, Devlis	30395

