

THE CORRAN HERALD

A Ballymote Heritage Group Production

Issue No.1

Friday 25th October 1985

PRICE 25p

Greetings to our Readers

EDITORIAL

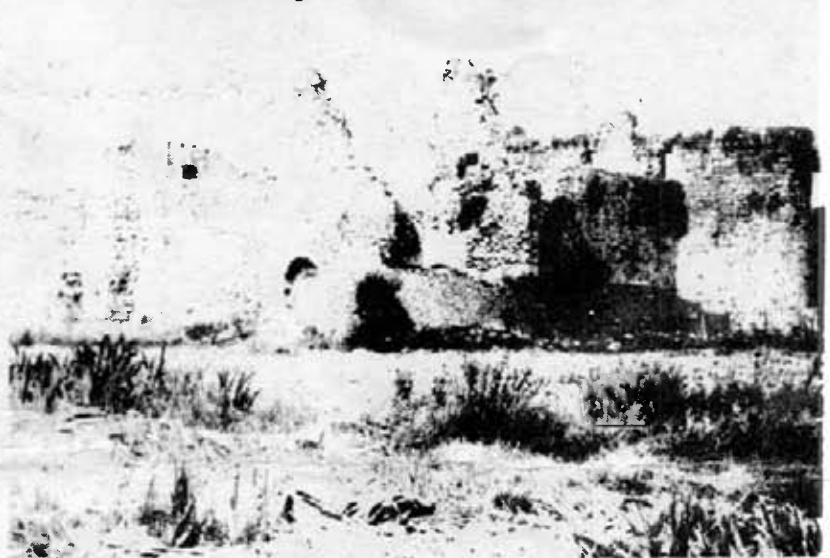
With great pleasure we bring you today this first issue of the Corran Herald, Ballymote's own news-letter. Taking its name from the ancient barony of Corran of which our town is part, this paper aims to inform, promote and publicise the Ballymote area in every aspect of its existence: its culture, its history, its people and personalities, its community and religious life; its industry and agriculture, its tourist potential, and its hopes for the future.

We hope that this paper will provide a heightened awareness of our native area and sense of identity, of belonging, of pride. We have much to be proud of in our heritage from the past: our Castle and Abbey, our fine Churches, our well-built town, the many remains from history and prehistory in the area, our music and dance, etc., etc. It is not hard to be proud of these: they are all around us if only we look and see and admire and respect.

We have much to be proud of in our present, most of all our people - especially youth. Being proud of them means supporting our schools, helping out youth activities, doing all we can to help their employment prospects and their leisure occupations.

It is hoped that future issues of this paper will have a Letters Page in which you can share your ideas, suggestions and criticisms in all the above areas. What do you think of Ballymote? What do you think of the quality of life it offers its people? What do you think of our services such as phones, sewerage, lighting, water supply, roads, etc? If you have something you want to say, write to us.

Ballymote Castle



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We invite you to contact us too if you have information about local personalities or happenings of the past. Every area has always had its "characters" and its own special lore; these are part of our heritage. Old photographs or groups or individuals or places would be most welcome for publication - they will be returned safe to you.

Also welcome would be any information about old customs and practices, old beliefs, old superstitions, folk cures and remedies, weather lore, or any other topic that you yourself feel to be of interest.

This paper looks forward hopefully to a long existence. We hope that you will help to make that existence a true reflection and expression of the life and spirit of the Ballymote area.

Ballymote Community Council

By Mrs. Preston

Ballymote Parish elected its first Community Council in October 1984. Its first 18 months were plagued with the growing pains that are the lot of most ventures. The system of election was one that brought in many who were not even aware of what a Community Council was about and would not have been greatly interested anyhow. These attended a few meetings then drifted away.

Some changes in Committee brought a change of policy. Sub-committees were recognised as legitimate and necessary developments. The organisation had started to broaden its outlook. Linc. has a limited and qualified acceptance. Our Heritage Group started by two council members has proved a worthwhile venture.

cont page 2.

A survey of the potential of the area undertaken by a Sub-Committee of the Council and financed by AnCo is now complete and will be published soon. 14 young people engaged in the exercise received expert training in a variety of skills in the process. The findings of the Survey should prove invaluable in formulating a plan for further developments in the area.

An ambitious plan sponsored by the Council for the development of part of the Corran Park G.A.A. grounds to provide some badly needed amenities for the town is now under way. Bad town lighting and an inadequate water supply for town and country are problems that so far have not been solved in spite of desperate efforts, letter-writing, deputations, interviews etc. A plan for full scale development of local tourism is being considered.

In spite of many set-backs the Community Council has proved its worth and when Election time comes again a more imaginative election system should attract new talent and new ideas

At a recent meeting of the Club I was instructed to ascertain whether the County Council would open a Branch of the Co Sligo Liabraries at our Club . . . I would be glad to hear from you at your earliest convenience".

This extract from a letter written on September 22nd 1948 by the secretary of the then Ballymote Men's Club, with its Club Rooms in the Loftus Hall, marked the first step towards the establishing of a Branch Library in Ballymote. One month later it was verified by the then Parish Priest, Very Canon Rougheen, that accommodation in the Hall would be available free of all charge provided that the necessary equipment was supplied by the County Council. This was agreed and the Branch Library was opened in the Loftus Hall in February 1949.

Ballymote New Vocational School is now finished Plans are not yet complete for the old school, but it will still be used to provide additional facilities. When work is finished the V.E.C. should be in a position to give good service.

By James Flanagan

For many years the new Branch was in the charge of the late Jimmy McFadden. His kindly disposition and his friendly but firm relationship with his reading clientele made him an ideal man for the job. His administration system may have been his own, and it was not unknown for his filing cards to be held together with safety pins, but through the years he gently fostered and encouraged an interest in good reading. The after-Mass Sunday visit to the Liabrary for the weekly reading supply became a high point in many peoples' lives.

Over the years the level of social activity in Ballymote increased and the Liabrary room came to be used for many other purposes. Gradually it became clear that it was no longer a suitable location for the Liabrary, and towards the end of 1984 to County Council made available in Ballymote Courthouse a downstairs room which could be used for Library purposes only. This enabled a bigger bookstock (at present 3,500 volumes) to be provided and to be organised and displayed much more effectively. This step from the lowest point to the highest point of the town appears to have been amply justified because the readership has steadily increased throughout 1985. The average number of books issued per week has been 416, a significant increase on former years. This reflects the growing awareness amongst people in general of the very important role played by books in education, entertainment, and in the transmission to us of knowledge of the things and the ways of the past that form part of our heritage.

At a recent meeting of Our Heritage Group a suggestion was made that the town should have a museum. It seems a good idea. Accommodation should be the main difficulty, ideas from readers would be welcome. Another interesting suggestion related to the question of a Youth Hostel for the area. It too seems worth consideration.

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The Street Where You Live

By Tom McGettrick

The landing of the French Expedition at Kilcummin in Killala Bay to assist belatedly in the 1798 Rebellion had repercussions one hundred years later in Ballymote as it had in the County and Country. The Sligo Champion of the time reports: "The dawn of 1898 was celebrated in Ballymote by a number of tar-barrels and bonfires being lit up in various parts of the town and at twelve o'clock, midnight, the new fife and drum band under Mr. P. Dennedy paraded the streets etc. . . ." '98 Clubs or '98 Centennial Clubs organised commemorations in various parts of the county and these celebrations continued until the close of the year.

There was a St. Patrick's Day Procession in Ballymote lead by the Fife and Drum Band with "two splendid horsemen , Rogers and Sheeran with green sashes and hats, at the head". Prominent organisers of this and other events were H. Markey, Pres. J. Clarke, Jas Walsh, S.Carroll, J.McGuinness, Jas Hannon, J.P., and J.Gilmartin, Sec.

In the month of May came the date fixed for the ill-fated Rising. Now one hundred years after, Ballymote was en fate. There were illuminations and bonfires, flags, banners and bunting; there were pictures of Tone and Emmett with mottoes, "Who Fears to Speak of Ninety-eight", "God Save Ireland", "Remember '98", and others. Again the Ballymote Band paraded with a banner at the front having Emmet on one side with "Remember the Patriot Dead" and Tone on the other with "Who Fears to Speak of Nine-eight". It was held aloft between two Pike staffs (staves). Where are all or any of the trappings of that time now ?

On September 9th Sligo Corporation had a meeting to rename the streets of the town and on September 11th a meeting of the Ballymote Centennial Club congratulated Sligo and passed a resolution, "That at our next meeting we will name the day when we will christen the streets of our town after '98 men". The day came on the 18th October.



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On this great occasion Matt Hannon, presided. The following are named as being present, T.Gallagher, P Barlow, B.Cawley, J.Kielty, M. Quigley, Patk. Keavney, T. Kellegher, J.Walsh, J.McGuinness, John Clarke, J.Davey, M Rogers, M Gallagher, and Jas McGovern. J Gilmartin was the secretary. These people have left us our street-names as they are to-day many of them are still remembered. Some of the old names, Main St., Jail St., Market St., Mill St., etc. still linger on. This is how the new names were given as reported at the time:- Main St., and Jail St., from , Patk. Coghlan's to J.Reynolds to be Teeling Street. (Jail Street, had got its name from the Courthouse or Bridewell which was used as a temporary accommodation for prisoners awaiting trial.) From Mrs.Walsh's corner to the Market House, Formerly Market Street to be Lord Edward Street. From J.Coleman's to McManus's to be O'Connell Street. (Where was McManus's ?) From John Sheeran's to Keenaghan to be Wolfe Tone Street. From Coleman's to Mrs. Healy's (Formerly Church Street) to Emmet Street. From John O'Connor's to Thos. Heaver's to be Grattan Street.

Name boards were to be put up on November Day with further celebrations. If they were put not one now remains. Pearse Road has a name plaque. If Castle Road and Corran Road were added to the list the names would recall the oldest authentic records of our town's story.

I salute you

By Elizabeth Brennan

Ballymote, I salute you ! I cast aside the capital, to bless this Western town!

"Comrade, look not upon the West. 'Twill have the heart our of your breast", warns an unknown poet. Too late now for me to be detached ! The fine town of Ballymote has my heart. I claim Heritage !

First impression upon the newcomer is FRIENDLINESS ! From the oldest inhabitant to the smallest child, no one will pass by on your wide streets without a wave, a smile, a "Hallo ! How're ye ". In Ballymote you have progress, well stocked shops, a prosocrous cattle market, an air of quiet agricultural comfort.

cont page 9

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Ballymote

By Una Preston

The town or living centre of Ballymote though taking its present name from its frowning Norman Castle has origins stretching back into the mists of pre-history. The coves of Keash still look challengingly out on us as if daring or inviting us to explore the myths and legends that surround them. Our fields are still studded with Ring Forts and frequent hill-top cairns tell us that someone of importance in a long gone community is buried there.

Our ancient graveyards and ruined monasteries speak to us of other pages of our history, some golden age of learning and a measure of wealth, while others you have in evidence of that mixture of wealth and destitution that marked a period of our history, when side by side with impressive monuments there are those pathetic little heaps of stones marking a famine grave or the last farewell of an exile to what remains of his family.

Ballymote as a living centre survived and outlasted the warring tribes, the heavy onslaughts of the famine years and the drain of emigration and to-day it is like someone awaking from a long sleep and hating to be disturbed. Yet this quiet place has much to offer to tourist or visitor. It's archaeological remains are many and varied dating back to the stone age. It's mountains with their ever changing colours beckon the climber while its un-polluted rivers and lakes teeming with fish and often surrounded by scenic beauty are an anglers paradise. Its fresh young forests provide scope for the wild life student or for those who enjoy quiet walks.

There are coach tours for those who would like to go further afield. The majestic Donegal mountains, the much publicised attractions of the Yeats Country and the sea are all within easy reach.

.....

every success to
CORRAN HERALD

From

Ballymote Traditional Club

KERINS'S HIDEOUT

Old Cemetery Restoration

By Keenan Johnson

Approximately six months ago, the local Heritage Group made enquiries with a number of Government Departments, in an effort to have remedial works carried out at the local Franciscan Abbey and cemetery. The members of the Heritage Group were of the opinion that if the Abbey and cemetery were restored and preserved, they would form a very important amenity for the town and the surrounding district. The group eventually contacted the Engineering Department of Sligo County Council, the body responsible for the maintenance of the property. It was agreed with the Council that the project should be submitted for inclusion in the Social Employment Scheme. Under the said scheme, people who are over the age of twenty-five years and are unemployed for a period of twelve months or more, can be employed for 2½ days per week on community projects. The group submitted a plan of development to the County Council which included the following :-

Clearance of all weeds, ivy, bushes (except the decorative ones), trees etc. over the whole site. Removal of the ivy covering most of the Friary ruins. Attention to the gravestones inside and outside the Friary ruins. Clearing of all that remains of the Friary walls or reducing them to a safer permanent level. General levelling of the whole area and the sowing of grass which would be kept in lawn condition. Provision of walks, making each part easily accessible. Provision of flowerbed area and seats. Attention to surrounding walls and entrance gate.

The County Council were very enthusiastic about the idea and sent the project to the Department of Labour for approval. The Department of Labour has now approved the project and interviews were held by the local Manpower Office for persons to work on the Scheme. Work began in September.

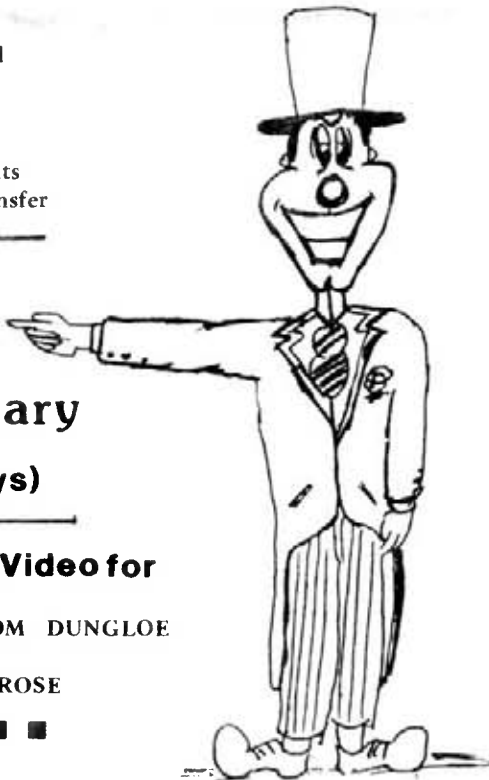


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We would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who contributed in any way in the production of this first edition of the "Corran Herald". We look forward to your continued support...
 Enquiries to Corran Herald, Lord Edward St., Ballymote. Phone (071) 83388.

Ballymote Boys' National School.

By Neal Farry

Ballymote historian, J.C. McDonagh, makes reference to primary education in Ballymote, during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries in a few scattered instances. In the first instance, McDonagh informs us that the eminent Irish catechist and French Catholic intellectual, Dr. Andrew Dunlevy D.D. was born in Ballymote in 1680 and that he received his early education in the town's elusive mud-walled hedge-school. Dr. Dunlevy's greatest work was "The Catechism of Christian Doctrine", which is a weighty volume of some five hundred pages, written both in English and Irish, and contains a pretty full treatise on both dogma and morals. It ran into several editions and having won the approval of the doctors of the Sorbonne, was recommended by the Irish bishops to their seminaries of the late 18th and 19th centuries.

In the second instance McDonagh refers to the 1731 report by the Protestant bishop of Achonry on the state of the rival Catholic Church in that diocese. When dealing with the parish of Emlaghfad, the bishop states that "the parish contains one Mass House, built about six years ago (1725) and one Popish school".

For the first half of the 19th century, McDonagh's sole reference to primary education in Ballymote contains the information that, in 1826, Wood field school had a total enrolment of 164 pupils of both sexes and of every denomination. The teachers were Jackson Hawksby, Ann Hawksby and Jane Ellis.

Mr. Tom McGettrick has noted that an ordinance survey map of the 1840 period, approximately, shows a school to have existed on the site now occupied by the Hoye home in Newtown. Mr. McGettrick also believes that there was a school situated in Cumeen.

After the new Catholic Church was dedicated in 1864, the old chapel, now the Loftus Hall, became the Catholic National School for the town. It seems that all the Catholic children of the town i.e. boys, girls and infants, attended school in this building until 1914. However, it is by no means certain that the building housed a single co-educational school of primary

schoolchildren of all ages.

McDonagh implies that, in 1894, Mr. Michael Doyle was the principal teacher of a co-educational school in the Loftus Hall. However, the register of pupils of Ballymote Boys' National School (1908 - 1959) clearly shows that Mr. Doyle was principal of that school from 1908 until 1913 with responsibility for the education of boys only.

In 1904 the principal of the Girls' National School was Mrs. Kelly and her assistant was Miss Teresa O'Dowd. The infants school was run by Miss Noreen Daly and this school was also in the Loftus Hall.

Perhaps a change occurred between 1904 which divided a hitherto co-educational school into a Boys' School, a Girls' School and an infants' School. Further research into this question is being conducted and the assistance of the Department of Education is being sought. Perhaps some of the Senior members of the community might be able to throw some light on the subject.

Canon Batty Quinn P.P., was responsible for the erection of the Convent of Mercy school, on the Captain's Brae in 1915.

At the beginning of the century, a local businessman, James McDonagh, donated the site of the present Boys' N.S. to Canon Loftus. The new school was built in 1914 by Canon Batty Quinn P.P. The family of James McDonagh is commemorated on the plinth of the Marian statue, which is located inside the gate of Ballymote Catholic Church.

The school, which originally consisted of two rooms divided by a partition, was reconstructed and extended by Canon Roughneen P.P., in 1949 when a third room was added on the town end. The main contractors were Jimmy and Josie Scanlon, Kilmacowen. In 1976 the Department of Education inspectors reported that the building was antiquated and inadequate to fulfil its function for the future. In October 1984, at a public meeting of the parishioners, it was decided that funds should be raised immediately to finance the proposed extension of the school at an estimated cost of £200,000.

One of Michael Doyle's assistants for a period the 1880's was James Francis Cunningham of Bunninadden, who later became a Colonial Secretary for British West Africa, enjoying the highest rank and salary in the Colonial service for the year 1984.

After the death of Michael Doyle, his colleagues in the teaching profession erected a monument to his memory. The statue, which was expertly executed by the Sligo sculptors, Diamond Brothers, stands in front of Ballymote Court-house and bears the following: "To the memory of Michael Doyle, principal teacher of Ballymote school, 1868 - 1913, a founder of the I.N.T.O., General Secretary, 1910 - 1913, and the champion of Irish educational advancement. Erected in grateful remembrance by the teachers of Ireland".

In 1913 Mr. Patrick E. Durkin was appointed as principal of Ballymote Boy's N.S. In 1921 his manager was Very Rev. Thomas Canon Quinn P.P. A clash of personalities occurred between the two men and relations between them deteriorated to such an extent that a mere dozen pupils were attending the school in the spring of 1922. Mr. Loftus was Mr. Durkin's assistant. In September, 1922 Canon Quinn opened a rival boys' school in the Loftus Hall.

On January 29th, 1923, a formed inquiry, which lasted fifteen days, was held in Ballymote school to investigate the affair and it involved Mr. Durkin, his solicitor, department inspectors and I.N.T.O. representatives. The result of the inquiry favoured Mr. Durkin in as much as the manager's request to have him removed from his post for alleged inefficiency was rejected.

As a result of the inquiry the I.N.T.O. decided to institute legal proceedings against four Ballymote people, who had signed a petition against Mr. Durkin.

The trial opened in the King's Bench, Dublin, on April 29th, 1924 and it lasted for two days. A verdict for £500 damages was awarded against two of the defendants and the remaining two were dismissed from the action. An appeal by the defendants came before the Court of Appeal on May 21st, 1924.

The verdict against one of the Ballymote defendants was reversed on the grounds that malice against Mr. Durkan had not been proved. A new trial was ordered in the case of the second defendant.

Mr. Durkan and the I.N.T.O. decided not to proceed with the new trial since Mr. Durkan had already been sufficiently vindicated. Mr. Durkan continued to teach in Ballymote school until September 1924 when he was offered a post as assistant in the Department of Education's model school in Inchicore, Dublin. In September 1934, he was appointed principal of Rathmines Boys' N.S. and in 1939 he was awarded the Carlisle and Blake premium which was regarded as the blue riband of the profession.

★ ★

This article will be continued in the next issue.



Group Photographed at Ballymote Mart
L to R Fergal Gallagher (Gurteen), Joise Perry (Bunninadden)
Joe Egan (Ballymote), Johnny Hannon (Culfadda)
William Owens (Newtownards, Co. Down) & Denis Walsh (Collooney)

Ballymote and Districts Community Council has reached the end of its first term of office and preparations are now being made for the A.G.M. which will be held on November 19th.

A different method of election is expected to bring new talent and give new impetus to this useful and very necessary organisation.

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Joe Masterson

MANAGER BALLYMOTE

Progress of a Town

By Stan Casey

This is our Ballymote, a picturesque and historic old town, through the passing years, I have grown to love and respect.

On a hill overlooking the town is the seat of the ancient Parish Emlafad and Kilmorgan. Here countless generations of our ancestry prayed for a better Ireland. The spires of the two Christian Churches reach to the sky and here too are the remains of the Franciscan Tertiary Abbey with its beautiful hand-chiselled stone which is unmatched in any part of Ireland. On the left-wing door a most perfect stone carving of the head of Pope Eugene surmounted by a carved Tiara insignia. Scattered about are the graves of many centuries. Further West is our fine old Castle which is being extensively restored by the Board of Works. Alongside this tradition of the past we have a growing business and commercial life with its rapidly increasing building schemes both State and private, and continuously increasing population.

Continued on Page 8

My story now relates to a unique and distinct effort by a group of Ballymote town and country people who came together in the upper room of Batty Cawley's for the purpose of starting an Industry in Ballymote. Also present were the late Mr. Alasdoir MacCabe and the late Mr. Frank Mac Gettrick. It was decided to form a Co-Operative Society to be known as the North West Regional Co-Operative Society Ltd., with the object of forming industries at Ballymote and in the North West Region. A Board of Directors was formed and at the first meeting it was decided to have a Livestock Mart as an initial project.

At a further meeting of the Board of Directors a Grade A hotel and a proper water supply was considered a priority for the town and district. Through the efforts of the Society these two projects were successfully established.

Now the Society devoted its attention to the raising of share capital for the building of the Mart. It was decided that this must come from the farmers in the region. The Project met with some opposition at first but eventually the necessary capital was raised and thus the Mart was established. Much opposition was still in evidence at the livestock sales after a few years the Mart was forced to close its doors and remained so for a few years. Another project that was being initiated by the Society at this time, namely powdered milk and chocolate crumb had to be abandoned and this industry is now established at Ballaghaderreen and employs almost 300 workers. In their industrial brochure the Society included promotion of Tourist Angling for our lakes and rivers. With the essential co-operation of the Inland Fishery Trust, pike were removed from some of the lakes in the area and one lake was stocked with rainbow trout. This venture was a great success at the time and it continued to attract many tourists.

The setbacks suffered by the closure of the Mart were reversed when the N.C.F. purchased the Mart as a co-operative concern and it is now one of the most successful Marts in the West.

Additional industrial projects have come to Ballymote with a work force of 100 and a good prospect of further employment.

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In the last few years we have a new Nursing Home and an Acot College has been established for the purpose of instructing our young farmers in farming methods.

We now have a new Vocational School which will be able to cope with the increasing number of students in the various crafts and skills in addition to the academic subjects.

All these efforts are a proof of a steady progress in our area. Yet there is not sufficient employment for our young people. This is due to a difficult economy. The State can no longer invite the Multi-Nationals as there would be too much of a financial drain on an already over-burdened Exchequer. I refer of course to industries employing from 400 1,000.

The alternative to this unemployment crisis seems to turn in the direction of private enterprise and, hence our young people can make use of the crafts and skills they have acquired in our schools and colleges. It is to be hoped that expert advice will be available from the State and their various agencies. Finally, it is my earnest wish that our unemployed young will find that a growing economy will help them market the products of their various skills and so take their rightful place in a progressive community.

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I salute you.....

Look the cars ! Three banks, denoting plenty of business, Tennis Court, Golf Course, G.A.A. grounds, free fishing within easy distance, excellent schools, chemists, medical help, What more can you want ! Pubs, Cafes, and the Castle Hotel, sure !

Here you have historic remains, legendary places, fine modern houses, little kindly old houses, large welcoming churches, spires and towers to be proud of. And here also you have organisations where neither man nor woman, boy or girl, need ever be lonely. I am a minute part of them, but enough to know.

In this town I suggest that uniquely, there are artists fit for any community to be proud of, painters, dancers lovers of the fiddle and flute. The ready laugh, the busy housewife, the working farmers, the 'teen-agers whizzing by on bikes with always a backward glance for you, and the lovely grin of youth-with, or without a job !

For years now I have come and gone - loving you more, Ballymote ! Long time ago a late sister and I dreamed of living here. We called on you who were interested to participate in the ups and downs of amateur drama, and were not disappointed. You have talent here, Ballymote ! Use it !

Now you have a Heritage Group, and here begins a magazine, " The Corran Herald" of your own. Read it, be inspired by it, chat of homely affairs, like engagements, weddings, or christenings, not to mention splendid articles by local people on learned cultural matters. You will find the magazine in newspaper shops, and you will be reminded of solemn things and places, churchyards being kept tidy, for therein lies respect for your departed loved ones.

Pastoral beauty surrounds this town, green meadows, wild flowers, singing birds, soft fertile landscape where the quietude of centuries of broods, in deep-rutted stone, holy wells, places of healing and prayer, reminders of saints and of fighting men. Put out more flags for them, Ballymote, above the spires and towers, the sun-bleached hills of Keash.



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You will, I'm sure forgive a friend for a small suggestion ? I think perhaps a little more colour ? Perhaps bright flowers in street window boxes, or shrubs in tubs, if trees are not possible, brightly along your streets. And what about flower-beds about your splendid Court House or Loftus Hall ? It has been suggested to me that children would interfere. In reply I cannot help thinking that more trust in youth would solve this problem ? Take the young into your confidence, or, as an old Gaelic saying has it, "Praise youth and she will fly to you." (With apologies that I cannot give you the Irish.) To sum up the point, be happy as well a beautiful; prosperous, and friendly, Ballymote !

May prosperity abound with you and long continue. May "Peace and holy quiet" be always your portion. For me, it will never be "Good-bye". Only when duty calls, Au Revoir ! and "good luck !

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**BALLYMOTE
COMMUNITY CARE**

By Alfie Banks

Ballymote Community Care Council was founded in 1973 and its work has continued unbroken since then. Its first Chairperson was Mrs. Teresa Johnson (now living in Waterford) with Tom Lavin as Secretary and Sean Egan Treasurer. Other Chairpersons since then were Mrs. Concie Rogers (R.I.P.), Paddy McElvanney, Alfie Banks, Tom Lavin and present incumbent, Mrs Nance Tighe. The Council has a membership of 15 to 20 and meets on the first Tuesday of every month.

Its primary work is Care of the Aged, and in the formative years, it administered a winter fuel scheme which is now switched to a voucher system. Visitation of the aged and help in the homes cleaning and decoration is high on the list of activities. An annual outing for Senior Citizens to Knock Shrine is one of the highlights of activities. Seats were provided at suitable vantage points in the town for the benefit of the elderly. Meals on Wheels is another appreciated service, with members rotating each day in bringing hot meals to deserving cases both in and out of town. A Laundry service for the aged is manned each week by the members, and it is here and in the delivery of meals that the Council would appreciate new members and volunteers.

The Council maintained an active campaign until the new Nursing Home and Geriatric Hospital was completed at Ballymote to replace the old one which had been condemned, and was instrumental in initiating a Trust Fund to furnish the Home. This Trust Fund received magnanimous contributions and exceeded £14,000. It has now been applied in full towards the purchase of beds, curtains, and rails for wards, tables, chairs and an Altar for religious service, as well as the general cleaning of the premises before its official opening. The fund is still open and subscriptions may be handed in at Bank of Ireland, Ballymote. An apparent need is a mortuary Chapel.

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THE CORRAN HERALD
Michael & Carmel
ROGERS

The only source of income is voluntary subscription and the annual fund raising sponsored walk on the first Sunday of May. These have always enjoyed the goodwill and generous help of the people of South Sligo. The Council Confidently looks forward to continued support in the future and the successful carrying out of its work.

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Date to remember
25th Oct.'85
 On this day the first flight by Air Lingus from Knock Airport to Rome.....
 On this day the first Edition of THE CORRAN HERALD.....
 Long may both operate.....

G.A.A. in Ballymote.....

By John Cunningham

Since its foundation over 100 years ago the G.A.A. has been associated with the parish of Ballymote. People from the area played and officiated at games at every level in the Country. Success was gained at different levels, and the clubs had many players on Sligo teams. Derroon, Emlaghfad, and Keash were great rivals. As time passed by so did many fine players. In 1949 "Corran Park" was opened and this ground has housed many games since then. It is regarded as the best "sod" in the county and indeed as one of the top winter pitches.

The present state of the G.A.A. in the parish, is not so healthy, no longer is there a senior team, and even though there is a junior team, there is always a problem fielding a team, this is due mainly to the fact that employment is scarce, and immigration is high. Most of the players are residing elsewhere. Nevertheless there has been a market improvement this year towards training, and with more experience and commitment, the future is looking good.

Our under-age teams have the same problems, nowadays, there is a variety of sports, and most young boys and teen-agers involve themselves with them. However our under 12 team, have retained the County title, they won in 1984, and this looks well for the future. The younger boys have shown tremendous spirit, and dedication towards the game, and hopefully they will continue their success by bringing the U-14 and U-16 titles to the town in the future. A great loyalty and friendship has developed between them, and the support has risen dramatically since their winning. This looks good, and with more people getting involved in the club, I can see a great sense of pride, admiration and endeavour returning.

The crafts promotion Group started just a few months ago to encourage and commercialise the craft skills of town and rural women certainly blazed a trail with their display stand at the recent Ballymote Show. It was an example that deserves to be copied. There is no reason at all why a Trade Show should not play a part in that popular annual event.



Ballymote U-12

D. Rogers, D.O'Dowd, F.Donnellan, P.Cassidy, R.O'Connor.

N.Clancy, P.Healy, A. Sheeran, T.Scanlon, E.Donnellan, D.Cannon, D.Hever, G.Walsh, A. Scanlon.

F.McCann, N.Friel, R.Lally, D.Cunningham, S.Currid, M.Finan, M.Sweeney, P.Coleman, S.Brennan.

There is also a Hurling Club "St.Nathy's" here and there have been numerous successes at different levels, all under-age. There is no reason why Ballymote, should not have a well organised club, after all they have the facilities to match and out-shine most clubs in the County, there is a definite lack of interest in the game here, and some past players no longer have any association with the club. Like myself "a blow in" the club depends on non-native's, there are exceptions, Neal Farry is a trogen worker, Pat McGrath, Joe O'Hara, Alfie Banks, Tommy Lavin, Bill Donohue, are all locals who are involved. Brendan Dempsey, has instilled some spirit in the Junior team, and Michael Donnellan, represents us at all levels together with refereeing and organising. Paddy Conheady and Pat Hough, run the Hurling scene, and last but not least there is great support from the "Ladies" who are interested. Hoping I left nobody out.

Congratulations to Eoin Quinn, Gurteen, on securing a place in the Journalism Course in the College of Commerce, Rathmines, Dublin. Eoin is a son of Frances and P.J.Quinn, Gurteen, and is a past pupil of St.Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen.

NEW in Gurteen

By Eamonn Sweeney

Seamus Pilkington of Kilfree, Eastern Harps Senior Player, has been chosen as a coach in the new G.A.A. coaching scheme. Seamus is qualified to coach and has been visiting various National Schools throughout the county. This type of coaching will hopefully help to bring football in Sligo to a higher level. Congratulations are also due to the many school-children from the area who competed with great success in the G.A.A. essay competition, and especially Carn National School who won a school award.

POLAR WEST

Best wishes to Polar West a fish processing Company who have opened a factory recently in Gurteen. It provides both full time and part-time employment and is an invaluable service to the many fast food services in the Sligo area. We wish the owners continued success in their new venture. A more detailed article to follow in the next issue.

The Ballymote Art's Group was started in 1982 to provide a background for the very successful Art Exhibition of that time. Afterwards it was decided that it should become a permanent association. Since then its performances though infrequent have been very much worthwhile. The skills and talents of its members were used to produce performances reminiscent of a more gracious and leisurely age than ours. Flower arrangements, the use of draperies, lights and greenware used to form a setting for combinations of song, music, poetry and drama, with very pleasing results

BALLYMOTE ARTS GROUP



There has been organised tours to some famous gardens and to a very beautiful flower display in St. Nicholas Church, Galway. This display could only be described as History in flowers and would have to be seen to be appreciated.



Other activities of the same nature are in the pipe-line, a childrens art exhibition, an antique display, and more outings to gardens, houses, and churches where something outstanding is to be seen. An organ recital with flower display is also planned. On the whole, the Group has contributed something of value to Ballymote life.



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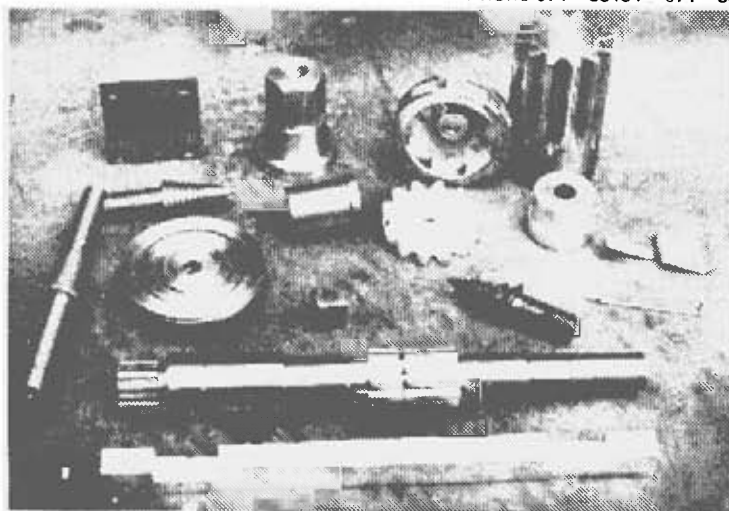
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of "THE CORRAN HERALD"



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