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BALLYMOTE DURING 'THE TROUBLES'

by Neal Farry

During the Great War (1914-1918) a branch of the Sinn Fein party was set up in Ballymote. In his "Sligo G.A.A. Centenary History", J.C. McTernan notes that, in 1915, Sligo County Board of the G.A.A. was experiencing great difficulty in having fixtures completed because local G.A.A. members were joining the 'Irish Volunteers' in increasing numbers. A number of the earlier meetings of the Ballymote Sinn Fein Branch were held in the home of Chris and Vinnie McDonagh in Main St. (Lower Teeling Street).

While the Great War was going on in Europe, civil disobedience to the British authorities was organised by the Ballymote Sinn Feiners. The Sinn Fein party opposed British Government directives to Irish farmers to increase tillage in an effort to boost food supplies for the British war efforts. Jack Hoey, of Newtown, recalled how he and other young members of Sinn Fein canvassed the local farmers instructing them to ignore the orders of the British.

Bertie Farry related, that, in 1917, the R.I.C. banned the public carrying of hurleys and other implements capable of being used as weapons after an R.I.C. officer had been killed by a blow from a hurley in a political riot in Dublin. In defiance of the order, the members of Ballymote Gaelic football team provided themselves with hurleys which they carried publicly through the town to the fargreen where they proceeded to play Gaelic football, leaving the decorative camans neglected by

In 1917, also, Sarah Bohan, Baby Bohan, Dilly McManus and Mrs. Alex McCabe sold flags in Ballymote in aid of Gaelic League funds without a British permit.

The Sinn Fein candidate, Alex McCabe, defeated the outgoing Nationalist Member of Parliament, John 'Dowd of Buninadden in the general election of December 12th, 1918. McCabe, who was the principal teacher of Drumnagransha N.S., Keash, now represented the South Sligo constituency. On January 21st, 1919, Alex and those of the 73 Sinn Fein M.P.'s who were at liberty, assembled in Dublin's Mansion House to establish Ireland's new revolutionary parliament, Dail Eireann.

Within months, the Sinn Fein party in Co. Sligo began to transform the Irish Volunteers into a guerilla army to oppose the British army and the R.I.C. Dail Eireann viewed the British army as a force of foreign occupation and the R.I.C. were considered Irish collaborators of the British army. The new guerilla army became known as the Irish Republican Army and it operated under the authority of Cathal Brugha and Michael Collins, who were respectively Minister for Defence and Adjutant General in the Cabinet which had been appointed by Dail Eireann. In practice, the I.R.A. fighters tended to act on their own areas.

The commanding officer of the Co. Sligo Brigade, I.R.A., was Billy Pilkington, a clerk in Wehrly's of Sligo. The Ballymote area Battalion was known as the 3rd (Sligo)



Ballymote 1924

Pigot and Company City of Dublin
and Provincial Directory 1924

Is in the county of Sligo ninety-five miles north west of Dublin, eleven from Sligo, and ten from Boyle. Here are the ruins of a small monastery of Franciscan friars supposed to have been built about 600 years; at present the part of the interior is used as a burying ground, and on the site of the other is the Catholic parish chapel. Not far distant are the neglected remains of a large castle built in the year of 1300 by Richard De Burgh, second Earl of Ulster who was the first nobleman for possessions and power in the kingdom. The castle was large and strong, and with that of Sligo, being in the hands of the Irish, much impeded the reduction of Connaught, but Ireton joining with Sir Charles Coote, was the of the army, re-took them both in 1652. Adjoining the town is Earlsfield, the beautiful seat of Major Bridgeham, and about half a mile distant, is Newbrook, the residence the Rev. John Garrett, rector of the parish church of Emlaghfad. The church has a neat spire, and is distant one mile from the town, and pleasantly situated on a rising ground. Here is a court house, where the sessions are held four times a year, for the trial of civil and criminal causes. The market day is Friday, and the fairs are on January the 26th, Easter Monday, May the 11th, June the 14th, September the 3rd and the first Monday in November, old style, and the Monday before Christmas day. Population about 500.

cont. page 2.

Ballymote during the troubles (1917-1922)

cont. from page 1.

Battalion and it was divided into six companies, i.e. Killavil Co., Ballymote Co., Culfadda Co., Keash Co., Kilcreevin Co., and Emlaghnaughton Co.

The following officers and volunteers were prominent in each company.

Killavil: Condt. Michael J. (Sonny) Marren, Capt. Pat Hunt (Quartermaster), Mick Gardiner and Johnny Seanion.

Culfadda: Thady McGowan, Frank Higgins, Michael James Higgins, Jos. Candon, Bob McMenamin, Pa Coleman and Joe O'Conner.

Kilcreevin: Capt. Bernie Brady, Tom Forbes, Peter Forbes, Tom Deignan, Ted Mitchell, Mikey Brady, Ned Killeen and Tommy John Healy (Ballinvoher).

Keash: Capt. Tom Brehony, Alex McCabe, Henry Sheerin, Tom Cawley and Batty Herte, Andrew Kietly, Tom Dwyer, Martin Kietly.

Emlaghnaughton: Capt. Pakie O'Brien, Lt. Bernie Leonard, Jack Finn, Pakie Henry, Dinny Coen and Johnny Connolly (Temple House).

Ballymote John Joe Dockry, (Intelligence Officer) John Albert Farry, Lt. Jim Hever (Carrickbanagher), Jim Molloy, Lt. Bat Keaney, Jack Molloy (Lissananny), Wille McDonagh, Stephen Hannon, Josie Hannon, John Hannon (O'Connell st.), Frank Hannon (Marlow), Tom Coleman, Bertie Farry, Jim Donegan, Paddy Dwyer, Paddy Rogers (Marlow), Jim Houston, Patrick Duffy (Ballinascarrow), and Martin

Davey (Ardree), Tonso Farry, Matt Molloy and John Hannon (The Baker) were members of Fianna Eireann, the Sinn Fein youth organisation. Patrick (Pappy) Farry was a member of the I.R.A. elsewhere in the country and he served a period of imprisonment in Crumlin Road prison, Belfast. The Ballymote men had a training camp in Ardree near Rathmullen bridge.

Comdt. Michael J. Marren, of Mount Irwin, Killavil was commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion. Josie Hannon of Ballymote, was the Battalion Quartermaster and Thady McGowan of Culfadda was Adjutant. Josie Hannon had served for two years in the Royal Navy and his military training proved invaluable to the new guerrilla battalion.

Members of the 3rd Battalion accompanied Marren in engagements at Ballaghaderreen, Collooney, Kilfree and Keash. A large scale ambush was set in Rathmullen in May 1920 when an expected consignment of gelignite with a police escort failed to turn up. Carts had been stopped by the I.R.A. along a mile of the road.

The members of the Ballymote Battalion attacked and burned the R.I.C. barracks at Temple House. A group of twenty men, which included Frank Carty of Ballinascarrow and Pat Hunt of Killavil, attacked the Perceval home at Temple House in search of weapons. The raid was largely unsuccessful, yielding only some ornamental swords and a Mauser pistol. A favourite weapon of the Ballymote Battalion was a dual purpose Parabellum which was a pistol but could be used as a short rifle when a stock was fitted. Pat Hunt was Condt. Marren's constant companion all through the war. Some of the Ballymote volunteers participated in an attack on Rockingham where a quantity of arms was taken. The arms were concealed in a house in Corhubber. Bat Keaney was prominent in this action.

Early in 1921, a number of I.R.A. suspects was rounded up in the Culfadda - Rathmullen area and they were assembled beside the railway bridge in Ardree. Tom Deignan was captured in a bog near Culfadda. While the prisoners were waiting for transport, Maria Scanlon, of Harristown (afterwards

Mrs. Healy, of Cietta) courageously entered the group of policemen and rebels and convinced the officer-in-charge that one of his prisoners, Jim Molloy, of Lissananny, was her own brother, that he a harmless farm boy who had been arrested in error and was needed immediately to transport the farm's milk to Gurteen creamery. Thus she secured Mulloy's release. If any of the Ballymote policemen were present they must have corroborated her story although it seems difficult to understand how they failed to identify a rebel of Molloy's stature.

Ballymote Races

(1936)

(Under Irish Racing Association Rules)

ON WHIT MONDAY 1st June 1936

Handicapper Mr. F. Condell
157, Cabra Road, Dublin.

Programme

First Race 3.15 p.m.

THE EARLSFIELD PLATE
Plate of £10 out of which second will receive £2. Open handicap. Distance about 1½ miles flat. Entrance Fee 5/-.

Second Race 3.45

THE CASTLE PLATE
of £7 out of which second will receive £2. For ponies 14 hands and under. Open handicap. Distance, 1½ miles. Entrance Fee 3/-.

Third Race 4.30 p.m.

THE TOWN PLATE of £15, out of which second will receive £2. Open handicap. Distance 2 miles flat. Entrance Fee 5/-.

Fourth Race 5.15 p.m.

THE EMLAGHAD PLATE of £5 out of which second receives £1. Open handicap. Distance 1 mile flat. Entrance Fee 5/-.

Fifth Race 6.00 p.m.

THE CARROWNANTY PLATE of £5 out of which second receives £1. Open handicap. Distance about 1½ miles flat. Entrance Fee 3/-. Winner of any other race at meeting will not be allowed to compete. Entries close on Monday 25th May with the Hon. Secretary Mr. B. Cryan, Ballymote, County Sligo.

A Special Train will leave Sligo at 1.45 p.m. and take passengers and Horses. Usual Cheap Fares will be given. It will return from Ballymote at 8 p.m. Return Tickets at Single Fares will be Issued from Longford and Intermediate Stations. **BALLYMOTE BRASS AND REED BAND WILL ATTEND**

Admission to Course 1/-
Grand Stand 1/6
Motors and Other Vehicles

At the end of June, 1921, a group of a hundred volunteers, led by Billy Pilkington (Sligo) and Jack Brennan (Cloonacool) attacked Sligo jail and released Tom Deignan, Frank Carty, Frank O'Beirne and Charles Gildea by using rope ladders. The escapees cycled to the Ladies' Brae where they went "on the run" in the Ox mountains. Nine previous attempts had been made to free them.

During their imprisonment the local volunteers carried out operations against trains at Ballymote station, Kilfree, Culfadda and Seefin to prevent police witnesses appearing in court to testify against the I.R.A. men. Alex McCabe and Paddy Rogers of Marlow, were also detained in Sligo jail.

Tree-felling, road mining and road trenching operations were carried out in the Ballymote area to restrict the movements of British and police patrols. Two bridges at Ardree were destroyed by I.R.A. bombs. The railway bridge and the small bridge at Rathmullen had its capstones removed and thrown on the roadway to impede traffic. The bridges were also bombed in Old Rock and Temple House. These actions caused great inconvenience to the local people who were compelled to make detours to secure supplies in Ballymote. The local I.R.A. made their own bombs and landmines. The instructions were sent from I.R.A. headquarters in Dublin and Marren himself constructed many of the mines from beer barrels, concrete and gelignite. Jos Candon, of Culfadda, also was an explosives expert.

On the November, 1920 fairday in Ballymote, Sergeant Fallon of the local R.I.C. was assassinated by two members of the 3rd Battalion at the corner of Emmet Street and Lord Edward Street. This action did not have the approval of Comdt. Marren, who always released his prisoners unharmed and he was known to the Black and Tans as "The Gentleman". There is a suggestion that the gunmen shot Fallon because they believed he had ordered shots to be fired at

the escaping Marren during an attempt to arrest him at Mount Irwin some time previously. Sgt. Fallon was a widower with three young daughters and many people condemned the killing. It is recalled by Owen Brechony that, moments before he was slain, the sergent had given sixpence to one of his daughters for the purchase of ribbon. Sgt. Fallon was interred near the roadway in St. Columba's cemetery.

At the time of the shooting the town was crowded with an enormous number of cattle, farmers and dealers. Immediately, all the roads out of the town became choked with lines of people and beasts fleeing the expected wrath of the British forces. Detective - Inspector Russell of the Ballymote R.I.C., sent a telegram, requesting assistance, to the commanding officer of a company of British Auxiliaries that was patrolling the Sligo-Roscommon border near Lough Gara. A copy of the telegram was afterwards published in the Sligo Champion.

As night fell, the terror and hysteria, that had been the lot of Belgian towns during the Great War, descended on Ballymote when the lorries, carrying the avenging battle hardened British veterans, roared into the town. The families of Sinn Fein sympathisers became refugees in the countryside, where they sought the protection of relatives and safe houses. It was reported that a policeman known as "Toby" tipped off the Sinn Feiners about the expected arrival of the Auxiliaries.

All over the parish, people vacated their homesteads to spend the night in the relative safety of distant off-the-road outhouses. In shock and terror, the country people climbed to hilltops to watch the flames from burning buildings in the town. That night, the Auxiliaries put the following buildings to the torch: the creamery, Dockry's bakery in O'Connell St., the Hannan home in O'Connell St., James Duffy's turfshed and hayshed in Wolfe Tone Street and some of Paddy Meehan's property at Camross off the Sligo road. The bar of Farry's public house in Wolfe Tone Street was wrecked and it is believed that the house was saved

from the arson because Constable Ansboro of the R.I.C. shared the same roof with the Farry family.

Members of the local R.I.C. assisted the townspeople to extinguish the flames in Hannon's home and a section of the house was saved. Mr. Tom McGettrick described that night's atmosphere of terror in an article in Irish which was published in the 1950 Corran Park Programme.

Some time later, a Black and Tan constable named O'Brien, who was attached to Ballymote R.I.C. station, lost his life in a gunfight at the corner of O'Connell Street and Creamery Road. After midnight, a group of I.R.A. men emerged from Farry's public house and approached a group of armed police at the corner across the road. A scuffle resulted from an attempt to arrest the I.R.A. men and Jim Molloy of Lissananny was knocked unconscious by a blow of a baton or the butt of a gun. One of Molloy's comrades opened fire, mortally wounding Constable O'Brien. Molloy was carried to the barracks and the other rebels fled into the darkness.

There were no reprisals on this occasion. The dying policeman is reputed to have said that the fight was fair and square and he asked that nothing should burn in Ballymote on his account. O'Brien was an Englishman of Irish extraction and it was reported that he had resigned from the force because of his disapproval of British policy in Ireland. My informant, the late Mick Gildea said that O'Brien died while serving out his notice. Jim Molloy had a narrow escape when he was helped out a rear window of Tom Hunts cottage in Lissananny by Tom's daughter, Mary Anne while the cottage was being raided by a party of Blake and Tans led by an officer names Strave. Shots were fired at Molloy and Tom Hunt was interrogated.

Some of the Ballymote I.R.A. men participated in an ambush at Chaffpool which was organised by the Tubbercurry and Cloonacool men. Detective - Inspector Brady of the Tubbercurry R.I.C. lost his life in this engagement.

During the period of the conflict, a Union Jack was occasionally flown from Gorman's first floor window in Teeling Street safely out of the reach of some enraged Sinn Fein hands.

Batt Henry 1872-1957

MEMORIES OF MY FATHER by Mrs. Shiela Kivlehan

"I have met and spoken to three saints in my lifetime: Pope Pius the tenth, Rev. John Casey of Gurteen and my own brother Batt'.

These remarkable words, spoken in tribute to Batt by his brother Dr. Henry, bear eloquent witness to the esteem in which this outstanding man was held by all who knew him during his long and fruitful lifetime.

In this article the Corran Herald is proud to present to its readers a portrait, of the life and achievements of Batt Henry. This is done in the sure knowledge that the lives of great men are always worth recording so that the memory of their doings will live to serve as an inspiration to those who follow.

Martin Bartholomew Henry popularly known as "Batt" was born on November 1st 1872 at Emlaghnaughton, Ballymote. His father was Thomas Henry originally from Mayo and later a teacher at the old school in Emlaghnaughton. His mother, Catherine Mooney was a native of this area Batt was the second eldest of their eleven children.

Batt Henry taught for 40 years at Emlaghnaughton National School. He was not only an outstanding teacher of Mathematics, English, Christian Doctrine and Geography, but also devoted time to Singing, Art, Agriculture, Drama, Sport and Drill. A patient man who loved children, he spent much of his spare time preparing his pupils for scholarships. Many such pupils succeeded in acquiring places at St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderren, Marist Convent, Tubbercurry, and Ursuline Convent, Sligo where they furthered their education to become fine priests, on the home front and on foreign mission fields; nuns, who stayed at home or travelled the world to carry with them the word of God that Batt had instilled into them; teachers who were to benefit much in their careers from the example of their old teacher Batt Henry; and many, many others the foundations of whose welfare in life were laid in the humble one-roomed school at Emlaghnaughton.

Like many of his time Batt Henry was weak on Irish language and grammar. However, when the enthusiasm for the revival of our native tongue came with the found-

ing of the Gaelic League he went to great lengths to improve his Irish. He cycled to Sligo to attend classes and spent time in Tourmakeady, Co. Mayo where special classes were arranged for the teaching profession. Batt even went to the model schools' in Dublin where he could learn more about his native language. Soon however Ballymote was to have its own class which was held in a room near the Courthouse and presided over by Martin Quigley N.T. Batt and many other National School teachers attended.

In this as in many other aspects of his teaching Batt Henry showed a certain conscientiousness. He prepared concerts which would include: music, song, dance, drill, patriotic recitations and a humorous sketch. The plays he produced all with local talent fit for any stage in any theatre of Ireland. Some of the plays 'Arrah na póg', 'Conn the Seachrán' 'The Cailín Bán' and others, he would take further afield to halls in the local towns and villages. As fund raising events, for families in need within the area or any other cause his kind awareness saw fit to aid. Children could be seen outside the school brushing costumes, preparing scenery to be used in possibly 'The Lord Mayor' or maybe 'The White Headed Boy' or at times even Shakespearean scenes. Batt Henry ensured a complete education for his pupils.

As County Secretary for the G.A.A. Batt Henry practised what he preached and promoted National games which included not only football, hurley and handball, but also sporting activities were sponsored by the G.A.A. at the time. To add further variety for his pupils, they practised the long jump, and the high jump and even 'golf'. Improvisations were made for this sport: nine empty paint tins were placed strategically in the ground with the hand used as a club. No need however to improvise for the handball practice. In 1926 a group of enthusiasts, under the leadership of Batt Henry set about the task of erecting a ball court on the school ground. This was accomplished in record time and for many years Emlaghnaughton was known as the only place in the County where a back-walled alley was available to handball players.

Giving so much of himself and so freely, it is not surprising to learn that this man was deeply religious. He inculcated in his pupils a deep love and understanding of our Christian beliefs. Many of his pupils were called to the priesthood and religious life, many from the same family were called. Batt Henry would have been justified to proudly boast that he had four pupils from the McGettrick family and five pupils from the Wims family of Ballymote who devoted their lives to the priesthood or religious life. Batt Henry didn't boast, he was unassuming, but past pupils did not forget their old teacher, and many who distinguished themselves in their vocations and professions, would return to visit, or wrote to say thanks. On hearing of his death the late Sr. Bridget McGettrick wrote to Mrs. Henry from far away Texas to say that 'Days spend with Batt Henry at Emlaghnaughton were a lifelong memory with her'. In retrospect his pupils no doubt realized how lucky they were to have known and been taught by Batt Henry.

He retired from teaching in 1937. A night of celebration was held in his honour at his school, "A wedding feast" in the words of his daughter Shiela Kivlehan, herself now a retired national school teacher. Batt Henry's three children Val, Shiela and Moya all followed in their fathers' footsteps and became fine teachers.

An ardent promoter of Irish culture in all its aspects, Batt Henry was one of the chief organisers of Gaelic Games in the County of Sligo for two decades. His efforts and great organising ability did not go unnoticed and in 1914 he was elected County Secretary of the G.A.A. These were particularly hard times with all public meetings prohibited including G.A.A. games. Batt however was not to be curtailed where the National sport was concerned. On one occasion he cycled to Enniscrone accompanied by Michael Jennings of Collooney and authorised the playing of a senior championship game between the home side and Templeboy in defiance of the ban. On another occasion he travelled to Cork with Hugh O'Donnell to attend a National meeting of the G.A.A. to be held on Easter Monday 1916.

Batt Henry 1872 - 1957

They were oblivious to the fact that the 'rising' was taking place in Dublin but were soon informed. On arrival at Cork, Batt and Hugh arranged to obtain a lift back to Limerick in what was a 'Republican lorry'. Hugh stayed in Limerick with relations but Batt headed home. He hired a bicycle for 2^s/6^d and cycled to Tubbercurry where he left the 'bike' with instruction for its return to Limerick on the first train after the 'disruption'. He completed his journey in the mail car from Tubbercurry to Ballymote. Much is owed to this man and people like him for without them our National games would not have survived to maintain our culture. Batt Henry had and showed both.

During his period of office as County Secretary Sligo produced some of its greatest Gaelic players, amongst them the Collerans, Kilcoynes, Noones, and the great 'Click' Brennan. Brennan was nicknamed 'Click' by Batt himself because Batt felt he had 'clicked' when he encouraged the selection committee to include Brennan in the team.

Batt is fondly remembered by Mary leaving his home for a football match with the ball fastened to the handlebars of his 'bike' by its lace. He himself played for 'Ballymote Round Towers' when they won the County championship in 1905. Batt Henry remained County Secretary of the G.A.A. for 20 years a position he filled with distinction as can be clearly seen from the foregoing. 'Few men in the county of Sligo did so much the G.A.A. and fewer still gave so unselfishly of their time and service (recorded in the centenary history of the Sligo G.A.A. 1884-1984).

Batt is also remembered for his love of Irish music. Through him reels and jigs of the area have been preserved. His home at Emlaghnaughton was an open door for musicians wishing to get together to exchange tunes. Ireland's music was welcome in his home as was her people in troubled years, his home being one of the 'Safe houses'.

Visiting Ballymote on one occasion Batt heard a tune being played by a traveller on a fiddle and was captivated by it. He invited the traveller to his home. Where Batt played the tune and many more.

The traveller stayed the night and went on his way the next day after a fine breakfast. Seeing Batt in Sligo some time later the traveller immediately changed his tune to the one that Batt had taken him to his home to learn. Batt is also remembered in a poem written in America by a T. Doyle who came from Boyle as overseer for the laying out of new roads in the Carrownanty area of Ballymote. Here he came upon Batt's music. Doyle lived in a horse-drawn caravan whilst working in the area and his humble dwelling was visited by exponents of Irish music. The musician played to the small hours. John Gorman played the fiddle, Batt Henry played the flute!

Batt Henry died September 10th 1957. The year he died he remarked that he had been 28 yrs at the turn of the century and that by 1956 he had added on two more 28's to his life-span. Such a simple thought for a great man. But then that is how he saw himself just an ordinary man. Batt Henry was no 'ordinary' man, his deeds were hundred fold, his faults were few. He is remembered with a great respect, and may this tribute ensure that he is remembered for many years still to come.

Speaking of Batt after his death Monseignor Roughneen P.P., Ballymote extolled his virtues and achievements and spoke of his deep humility emphasising this especially. When calling next for prayers for the happy response of his soul the Monseignor remarked that he personally believed that Batt did not 'want' them.

Batt Henry's lifestyle would be incomplete without mentioning his wife, Julia Hunt, his former pupil, accomplishing the King's scholarship on first trial (see list of pupils). Her own career forgotten, Julia was to become Batt's lifelong partner in all he tried to do and in all he succeeded in doing. She herself commented little did she realize the day she walked through the door of the old school at Emlaghnaughton, that she would nurse both its teachers on their deathbed! Batt Henry and his sister, Mary Jane Batt married at the age of 37. He had three children, Val, Shiela and Moya who remember him proudly as a quiet, but authoritative presence in the home. Both parents loved music and would spend time teaching their children the songs and tunes they both loved..

'Behind every successful man there lies a woman' this was surely true of Batt and Julia Henry. There was however one detail in Batt's character which even his wife failed to improve upon, and this was his appearance. All the same, one can surely forgive a man arriving in disarray to a match, having cycled over forty miles to be there. On hearing of 'a fault in his character' I was somewhat relieved. In fact I was beginning to wonder if this man was human at all, appearing to have no faults! Enquiring thus of his daughter I was most assuredly informed that 'yes he had his faults and yes he was very human. Batt enjoyed the company of his friends and neighbours and had a fondness for relating jokes and tales wherever the opportunity arose. He was known on occasions to be the 'life and soul of a party'. As for his faults it was well known that he could be 'vexed' on the football field, and consequently would play a poor game - tactics very often used with just that intention. His anger when arisen and because he was slow to anger the few such occasions are remembered by his daughter 'A hush would fall upon the house'.

No such hush could ever fall upon the walls of the old school at Emlaghnaughton where, upon return, its many pupils could yet hear the echoes of the two times tables or the combined voices of master and children giving air to 'Eibhlin a Ruin' Ah yes indeed Batt Henry through his unselfish dedication has managed to survive the barrier of time and lives on. Appreciation to Mrs. Shiela Kivlehan for the interviews on her late father. Narrative by Patricia McNally

CORRECTIONS

In our article "Ballymote Traditional Club" (2nd issue) the following names were inadvertently omitted from the second paragraph. Jimmy McGettrick of Aughris, Paddy McDonagh, Padraic Kerins, Michael Mullaney from Riverstown.

In connection with our 3rd Issue article "Four miles of Change", we wish to point out that Gilmour's Garage was of course built by Alex Gilmour himself, and not be the late P. Begley as stated in the article.

PERRY'S

Ballymote

SPECIALS

HB Block Ice Cream .82p
 ½ lb. Lyons Tea.82p
 1 kg Sugar59p
 4 lb. Chicken3.25p
 2 litre Orange1.39
 1 doz. Eggs size 5 . . .69p
 Twin Toilet Rolls . . .19p
 1 lb. Tin Peaches . . .39p
 1 lb. Tin Fruit Cocktail44p

**FRIDGE
 FREEZERS
 MUST BE WON**

A THOR
 WORTH 300

PLUS £25 WORTH OF



PRODUCTS

**MUST BE WON
 IN
 THIS STORE**

The following story, which was given to me by George Hannan, of Cloonagashel, aptly illustrates how the ladies gave invaluable assistance to the fighting men. Sgt. Pat Madden of Ballymote R.I.C. received an order from his superiors to bring a group of Black and Tans to the home of Martin Davey in Ardree where a number of I.R.A. men were convalescing during a serious 'flu epidemic. This information had been given to the police by a shy ?.

While the police party was being organised Sgt. Madden left the barracks to have tea in his home in O'Connell St. (Now Harrisons). Forgetting about the tea, Madden crossed the street to the home of Susan Hannan all the time keeping a wary eye on the barracks. As he passed the room where Susan worked as a dressmaker, he knocked loudly on the window and passed on towards the Keash Road, where he suddenly turned and retraced his steps towards Susan Hannan's door. As he passed the door, which was now partly ajar, he paused momentarily to inform Susan that a police raid on Martin Davey's home was imminent.

Susan relayed the information to her father, Stephen, who immediately unloosed a cow that was within a few months of calving and drive her to Ardree on the pretext of visiting Martin Davey to avail of the services of the bull. No doubt, Stephen hoped the biological absurdity of his trip would not be obvious to the Englishmen in Ballymote barracks. Having reached Ardree safely Stephen passed the information to Martin Davey and the men in sick bay quickly evacuated the farmhouse.

As Stephen and his cow returned home they met two lorries of Tans. He noted the knowing smile on Sgt. Madden's face and he, no doubt, reflected on the inevitable anger of the soon-to be thwarted Englishmen who were approaching the nest after the birds had flown.

On another occasion Josie Hannan commanded a flying column that attacked Omagh R.I.C. barracks, in Co. Tyrone. Josie's brother Stephen and fellow Ballymote man, Bill McDonagh were also members of the column. The raid was successful and a large amount of arms was captured. During the raid one of the volunteers stole a silver trophy which was confiscated and held "in tooth" by Josie Hannan on behalf of the Battalion.

About ten years later Garda Sergeant Potter of Ballymote met an Omagh R.U.C. man in Bundoran. The Tyrone man related to Potter the story of the raid by the Ballymote men and he particularly regretted the loss of the silver cup, which was of great sentimental value to the Omagh police.

On his return to Ballymote Sgt. Potter asked Josie Hannan to make inquiries about the cup. Immediately, a meeting of the Ballymote I.R.A. men, which was held in Johnny Cryan's of O'Connell Street released the trophy and through the agency of Sgt. Potter it was returned to its rightful owners.

Countess Markievicz visited the South Sligo freedom fighters during this period. The 1916 heroine took part in a parade of the volunteers in Ballymote and she addressed the crowd at a volunteers rally in Keash where she shared the platform with the Keash parish priest Rev. Fr. O'Grady. A number of bands paraded in her honour. The rebel Countess stayed in Hannons's hotel in Lord Edward Street (now Des Johnson's) during her visit.

A truce was declared on July 11th, 1921. Immediately, the men on the run emerged from their hiding places in the mountains and on the moorlands to receive their accolades from the admiring people of town and country. On the 13th of July, Sonny Marren was tragically drowned at Stranmillis while celebrating with his men. Following eulogy was composed in his honour by Mary A. (nee Henry) of Battlefield.

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Ballymote During "The Troubles"

Their problem was solved, however by the arrival in town of Mikey Brady (Kilcreevin Co.) on horseback elevation to enable him to remove the offending emblem.

There was a number of safe houses for I.R.A. men "on the run" in the Ballymote area. One of these was the home of Batt Henry in Ballybrennan, weapons and ammunition were sometimes concealed under floorboards in Emlaghnaughton and Carrowreagh schools. Batt, who was secretary of Sligo County Board of the G.A.A., made his own spectacular contribution to the struggle for independence when he cycled to Enniscrone accompanied by Mick Jennings of Collooney, to publicly authorise the playing of a Senior Championship football match between Enniscrone and Templeboy in defiance of a proclamation by the R.I.C. which banned all public meetings, including G.A.A. games.

In the Ballymote area Susan Hannan, Baby Bohan, Sarah Bohan, Katie Rogers and Mrs. Jim Heuston were active in the Cumann na mBan organisation while the Keash-Culfadda area, Norah McGowan (Mrs. Flatley) and Mrs. Alex McCabe were prominent in the womens' organisation. The home of Norah Mullen (Mrs. (Mrs. Cryan) in Culfadda was a "safe house" for men of the "flying columns". The Cumann na mBan ladies organised victuals, accommodation and funds for the guerilla fighters. They also collected information and delivered messages vital to the men on active service.

cont. on page 11

The league season finished Easter week with both division IV and division V teams playing in the County Finals. Division IV played Gillooly Hall, Sligo and lost 5 games to 4 in a closely fought game.

Division V played St. John's Club Sligo and had an overwhelming win of 5 games to 2. This success qualified division V for the Connacht semi-final, which took place at the Swinford Complex. Ballymote div. V were beaten by Mullin's Culb 5 games to 2.

Extract from the "Freeman's Journal"

5/9/1984

Dedication of the new Church at Ballymote

BALLYMOTE SUNDAY EVENING . . . The new Catholic Church of Ballymote was this day dedicated to the worship of the Most High by the Most Rev. Dr. Durcan, Lord Bishop of Achonry, with all the solemnity and splendour by the ritual for so important and sacred a proceeding.

The new church which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and Her immaculate Conception is one of the most spacious, most substantial, and at the same time one of the handsomest temples of catholic worship to be found in the country districts of Ireland. In length it is 145 feet and its breadth is 54 feet and consists of a nave, aisles, apse, sacristy, etc. The style of architecture is pure Gothic; arches and pillars separating the nave from the aisles are remarkably elegant in outline, and the windows and doorways also give evidence in their graceful design and formation of the talent that has been so strikingly displayed in the architecture of the remainder of the building. Beside the principal entrance is an imposing square tower wherein hangs a massive bell whose lucid tones will it is hoped ring out down the years over the parish to summon the people to pray.

To the able, indefatigable and sincerely beloved pastor of the parish, the Very Rev. Canon Tighe, the highest credit is due for his great and unwearied efforts to give to his people the blessing which the ceremonial of this day has placed at their command and that of generations to come after them. The place in which the church stands is one that from its historical and ecclesiastical associations called for a building of no mean or unhand-some description. Immediately adjoining are the ruins of the venerable Abbey of Ballymote founded with Papal permission in 1442 by the McDonagh sept for the Franciscan tradition, and at a short distance on the other side of the road are to be seen the ruins of the old castle of Ballymote wherein we are told the famous Book of Ballymote was compiled in 1391. The old chapel which up to now served the spiritual needs of the parish is a short distance across the graveyard around the Abbey. (This is now the Loftus Memorial Hall).

Special trains arrived at the station which was being built to receive traffic at the same time as the church, and Bianconi's cars, specially run took people in from other districts.

Among the influential attendance were Charles and Mrs. Strickland, Loughglynn House; Thomas and Mrs. Strickland, Castlemore; Mr. and Mrs. Jervis; Edward Farrell, Esq., J.P. Carrickbanagher; George Goldby, Esq., London, (The Architect); M.J. Madden and Mrs. Madden, Camphill House; Miss O'Connor and Mrs. McDermott; R. Spring Esq., Dublin; James Tighe, Esq., Sligo; Edw. Tighe Esq., Ballymote; the Misses McGettrick, Kilturra; Daniel Milmo Esq.; Messers O'Brien, Ballymote;

Among the clergy present were Very. Rev. Canon Tighe, P.P.; Very Rev. Dr. O'Rourke, P.P. Collooney; Rev. Thos. Fitzgeralds, P.P. Newtownforbes; cont. on page 8

BALLYMOTE BADMINTON CLUB

Mixed Doubled Competition

This competition was finally concluded with an exciting final between: Jim Gallagher and Eva Gill versus Stephen Cannon and Carmel Mulligan with Jim and Eva overcoming Stephen and Carmel in the third set.

EXTRACT FROM
'FREEMAN'S JOURNAL'

cont. from page 7 Rev. C. Cosgrave, P.P. Keash; Very Rev. Roger Brennan. P.P., Tubbercurry; Very. Rev. Jas. Higgins, P.P. Charlestown; Very Rev. Goerge Gearty, P.P. (Diocese of Ardagh); Very Rev. Dr. Costelloe P.P. Crossmolina; Very Rev. Jas Henry P.P., Bunninadden; Rev. Mark Cooke, C.C. do; Rev. D. O'Grady, C.C. Keash; Very Rev. Br. Goodman, O.S.D. Sligo; Rev. Mr. Lohall, Collooney.

The Rev. Luke Hannon was celebrant of the High Mass and the deacons were Rev. M. Cooke and Rev. Roger O'Hara, Ballaghaderreen. The Archbishop of Tuam Dr. McHale preached after the Gospel. His Grace took as his text - "Come not nigh hither fro the ground on which you stand is holy ground" (3rd chapter of Exodus, 5th verse) and upon this text he delivered a remarkably able and beautiful discourse, which was listened to by the immense congregation with profound attention.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was then given by the Lord Bishop of Achonry and this brought to an end an inspiring and red-letter day in the history of the parish of Ballymote.

This poem was printed in the last issue of the Corran Herald. We would like to apologise to Mr. Stan Casey for the omission of a number of lines.

A THOUGHT FOR EACH DAY

*As pure as the lily that grows
in the fields
As sweet as the wold rose
that the kind earth yields.
Let these be our thoughts as
each morn we pray,
To thank the dear Lord
for another day.*

*And as we traverse the Lord's
special path,
May our souls thus be free of all
envy and wrath.
Spare a thought for the suffering
each day we pray,
As we journey along our
earthly way.*

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

by P.J. Duffy

In the early years of this century you would find a forge in every town and village, and indeed for that matter, at many a rural cross-roads through out the Irish countryside.

My own district of Killaville had no less than four forges operating at the same period in time. The most famous of these workplaces belonged to a smith named Paddy Corley who resided and carried on business at Knockrower. Corley could be described as a man of many talents, for along with being a smith he was also a musician, and his thatched dwelling house which was situated across the road from the forge, was often a venue for a lively session of music and dancing. Any musician of the day who was worth his salt, would lay claim to having played at a session, or maybe, to having learned a fresh tune at Corleys.

Notable names from the world of music came here from near and far. People like Cipin Scanlon, Blind Healy, Coleman, Killoran, Hunt, and O'Beirne, to mention but a few.

As a young man Corley spend long hours by the anvil, working from early morning until well after sundown. His father before him was a smith, and the skills of he and his two sons Paddy and Tom have long since passed into legend. Not very long ago I happened to come accross an old iron gate standing in a remote country field, it was as firm as the day it was first put together and had the name Corley stamped on the latch. He shod horses for country squires at three shillings and sixpence per set, and more of ten shod donkeys for his neighbours for the sum of half a crown.

Perhaps this man and his forge is best remembered for a raffle he held each year. Corleys annual raffle was an event to be looked forward to in these parts. He would make a gate and hold a draw at a dance which would take place at his dwelling house. The firge would be tidied up to make way for a bar, stout from a freshly tapped barrel would be sold freely across the anvil at three old pence per pint. Music, dancing, and dining usually went on inside the dwellinghouse.

Paddy Corley was by no means a robust man. His death in 1913 at the early age of 47 years was

brought about as a result of pneumonia contacted whole working at the forge.

My own memories of an Irish forge go back to the early 1950's, and a smith names Pat Gaffney who kept a neat little thatched forge at Rathmullen bridge. Pat, a batchelor and ex-army man was a master of wit, something he certainly inherited from his father who was also a blacksmith.

My early visits to the forge usually took place in the springtime of the year, when the plough irons needed pointing and the mare a new set of shoes. It was also a busy time of year for the smith, and a large crowd of people could be found standing by inside the forge, their respective charges have been tethered outside. Pat, a man of exceptional intelligence, had a method of his own of dealing with his customers. The proud and and haughty he would take down a peg or two. The dower and the sour ones, he could amuse, but woe betide the slick individual who dared think he could get the better of Pat Gaffney.

I was present at the forge, on an evening when an old man of the roads walked in the doorway and asked for a fill of tobacco for his pipe. Pat took a piece of tobacco about the size of a thimble from his pocket, and chuckledn now which of us two is the poorest? Having said so much, he then took a penknife from his pocket, and splitting the portion in two gave half to the bewildered stranger, who produced a short shanked pipe. The old man teased the tiny piece of tobacco and plunged it down the funnel, and Pat ser him smoking with the tip of a red hot poker taken from the forge fire.

Patt Gaffney died in September 1976. The walls of the old forge are still standing, and as I pass by on my way to town, my mind goes back to those memorable days spent at the forge, and the genial blacksmith who is still affectionatly remembered for his great wit, and fine sense of humour.

It would be a shame to wind up this article, without making reference to the O'Connell brother who down the years operated a very successful farrier business at the lower end of O'Connell Street in Ballymote. Their skills and reputation as craftsmen known far and wide.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

O'Connell I've been told could make and fit a set of shoes on a horse at the tender age of ten years. His brother Pat who was the last surviving member of the family to work here, was a brawny well built man who in many ways resembled the description of the village blacksmith in Goldsmiths poem "The smith a mighty man is he with strong and sinewy hands".

A student of to-day who might be interested in this dying craft, should pay a visit to O'Grady's of Gurteen, and there he can examine one of the last surviving forges in these parts. Proprietor Martin Hoe will take you around and show you tools and implements, used extensively by the blacksmith in bygone days.

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Manager

B. Dempsey

Asst. Manager

E. Sweeney

RURAL SCHOOLS

by Una Preston

The ill-advised action of government in closing rural schools has had a disastrous effect on the areas where it took place. In most cases the children of these areas were transferred to town schools to which they had to travel by bus. Their backgrounds were different to those of the children whose schools they now shared, and this was to their disadvantage. Their new schoolmates were for the most part children of busines and professional people, bankers, lawyers, etc., and their lifestyles were different to what the rural children were accustomed to.

The result of this situation has been that the country children in many cases develop a distaste for their rural background and try to emulate the manners etc. of thier town schoolmates. Others react differently: they feel frustrated at a difference that they cannot understand and develop an inferiority complex which can be quite destructive to personalities.

On the other hand, the rural primary school was the hub of country community life. Children could be seen wending their way school-wards from different directions each morning and home in the evenings while at playhour their shouts and laughter could be heard from the playgrounds. The teachers knew the parents and the backgrounds of the children and were always approachable if there special problems to be dealt with.

Rural schools were also used for adult education classes, talks, lectures, and an occasional social gettogether. The Station serving the school area was also held in the school building and on Election days for Dail or Council polling booths were centred there.

Now, the yellow bus arrives on the road at 9.15 a.m. and takes away the children (from four years old), the life of the rural community, to crowded classrooms and strange teachers. The bridge that existed between the rural

teacher, the child, and the parent is gone. The substitute is the formal Parent-Teacher meetings, where in many cases rural parents are far too inhibited by teachers they do not know, by the more articulate townspeople and by the strange surroundings to say what they really want to say. They are frustrated but feel they are powerless against the system.

Country areas have immense possibilities for development, development that could provide employment, but town-educated children have little taste for the type of work that rural development would entail.

Congratulations to Miss Brenda Friel St. Annes, Carrownanty who was awarded a special merit award the 32nd Texaco National Art Competition. This is the second consecutive year for Brenda to be awarded this prize. The competition attracted a total of 50,000 entries. Brenda recieved her prize from Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D. Minister for State

BALLYMOTE 1824

Pigot and Company City of
Dublin and Provincial
Directory 1824 cont. from page
CENTRY AND CLERGY

Bridgehan Major J. Earlsfield.
Durkan Rev. Patrick, Garrett Rev.
John, New-brook. Duke Robt. K.
esq. New-park, Fleming Wm. esq.
Abbeyville.

MERCHANTS' TRADESMEN

Professional Gentleman
Loughed Joseph, surgeon.
Shoopkeepers
Cogan Patrick, grocer and
linen and wollen draper
Gomley Philip, baker
Kerin Bartholomew, grocer
McMananamy Peter, grocer
Innkeepers
Farquhar William
Finn John
Publicans
Boland Matthew
McDonagh Michael
O'Brien Edward

No Coaches pass through this town
Cars may be hired for the convey-
ance of goods to any part of Ireland

POST OFFICE

Post Master Mr. John Motherwell.
The Dublin mail is despatched at
ten in the morning, and arrives at
four in the afternoon. The Sligo,
Boyle, and Collooney mails depart
and arrive at the same time with the
Dublin mail. Letters from England
and Scotland are sent by the Dublin
mail.

TELEVISION

Is Television that has so much
potential for good becoming a
menace? Is it time we took a hard
look at the picture. Few homes are
now without "the box" and view-
ing is rapidly becoming an addict-
ion. It is usurping our ability to
think and reason for ourselves. Our
brains become lazy and accept the
food that is being poured into them
visually and orally, and what food!

Given sensible intelligent
programmes, television could
stimulate the brain by supplying
information and providing food for
thought and action, but even there
would lie the danger of our
becoming dependent on it for
information that is at best the fruit
of someone else's mental activity.

LEAVES

*Strong, silent, they stand on
this bright autumn day
Still are their leaves - waiting.
Their summer chores are now
well done*

*Soon - very soon will rest
time come.*

*Even now they're party-dressed
In shades of orange, gold and rust.
Waiting for the dance.*

*Their host - the wind will come
along*

*Whispering through the grass
and sedges*

*Murmuring through the wilting
hedges*

At first - so low.

*But soon his voice will
gather strength*

*Soon will come his wild lament
The summer's oer - come let
us go,*

Now the dance is on.

*Come along ye brilliant band
Spread your gold throughout
the land*

*Dance until your strength is spent
Then sleep*

*Mother earth will find a place for
your beauty and you grace to rest
Any with her magic alchemy
She'll translate the faded gold
To something new from something
old*

*To greet the coming spring.
And our leaves will have new life
In violet sweet or iris bright
In willow grass or sedge - economy
Thus nature cycles move and cross
Nothing's wasted nothing's lost
Just changed.*

by Una Preston

We are concerned about the
state of society today - immorality,
extravagance, violence, selfishness,
shirking of responsibility. Yet the
Television screen presents these
things to us night after night
unashamedly as the stuff that life is
made of, as the norm of modern
life.

Children are permitted at a very
early age to sit for hours watching a
presentation of life that is both
unreal and unwholesome, and we
are surprised when we see the
violence etc, depicted on the screen
enacted in real life.

THE SLIGO MAIDS AND THE STRANGER

*I stopped to listen to the women
in the fields
Near Derroon Cross. Green-eyed
Kate of the long red hair
Bridget Ann of the upturned nose
and urchin grin broad-hipped
whistling Niamh
so comely in thier simple country
dress, arms bare seperated from
eachother and from me
by three foot ditch and a single
hawthorn tree
and their young wives' laughter
and their Sligo lilt
forking yellow hay, unknowing
of my gaze.*

*Where are thier men I thought ?
Would they be at the Mart or
at Achonry creamery ?
What kind of men would leave such
lively girls as these forking hay,
green-yellow hay, unprotected
in the fields
from the stripping eye,
the probing eye, the turned ear,
the practiced ear, and the
hungary soul, the callous soul
of the passing stranger.*

*Good luck to the work ! I called.
Their rhythm did not change
but Bridget Ann looked up and
smiled her strong arms and forking
still. The other two kept heads well
down but I caught the sidelong
glance and the humour in those
knowing eyes as they discarded me.*

*Then the deepchest roar
of the curly bull in the bull field
to the right
as he camly watched his forty cows
and their forty curly calves
and the new-mown scents in the
August air gave me the answer*

*Close to the earth, no need fear
for his wife.*

*Close to the earth, the stranger
could well lose his life.*

Granted there are many interest-
ing, informative, and entertaining
programmes on television but there
are far too many of the other sort
and it is up to us the citizen
discriminate and it is our re-
sponsibility to voice our opinions.

On the Death of Sonny Marren

Oh men of South Sligo,
I write unto ye
A few lines of sorrow
on death's cold decree,
Concerning a young soldier
who fought for his land
Being washed out by the
waves on the bleak Sligo strand.

He was kind as a lamb,
yet brave as a lion;
In the deepest of danger
he would never repine.
When he stood in danger
to give him just reward
He was never afraid
His foes to retard.

His ambition was love
for his land to be free
But, alas, sure that freedom
he never did see.
One morning young Marren
to his comrades did say
"We'll swim the salt water
around Sligo Bay."

Oh, fatal the thought, for his
young life it cost;
In those treacherous waters
his body was lost;
His comrades swam frantic
to search, but in vain,
Their leader was drowned
and would ne'er lead again.

Yet God, in his mercy,
the wild sea did command
And sent forth the remains
of our bravest men.
His comrades, they bore him away
to the tomb
Overcome by their sorrow
for his awful doom.

And as for his parents, who can tell
the grief
Of their poor hearts of anguish
which could find no relief?
As they witnessed his comrades
Lay their son down in clay,
Bid adieu to their leader
and in grief march away.

When the Civil War broke out in June 1922 the majority of the Ballymote I.R.A. company took the Republican anti-treaty side while Culfadda men joined Alex McCabe on the Free State pro-treaty side. A number of the Ballymote company were in action against Free State troops, which were led by General Sean MacEoin, at Collooney and Dooney Rock

(Lough Gill) where they captured a Free State armoured car, "the Ballinalee". The Free State army was victorious at Collooney and some of the Ballymote men including John Hannon (Grattan Street), Paddy Reynolds, Albert and Fonso Farry, Josie Hannan were captured and interned in Athlone and the Curragh.

A company of Free State soldiers led by Alex McCabe occupied Ballymote and attacked the R.I.C. barracks which was held by a group of Republican irregulars. Faced by superior numbers, the Republicans evacuated the building but not before setting fire to it. The fire lasted for several hours and completely gutted the structure. The Free State soldiers then set up their base in the courthouse.

During this period another violent death connected with the "Troubles" occurred in Lavalla. An ex. R.I.C. man Josie Brehony returned home to visit his brother Johnny at his cottage. During the visit some armed Republicans called to the house. It is not clear what happened but shots were fired. Johnny Brehony was shot dead and the ex-policeman, Josie, escaped through a back door. Nobody was apprehended for this killing.

During the Free State occupation of Ballymote Pa Coleman, of the Republican forces was arrested near his home in Lissananny. Owen Brehony recalls Coleman being escorted by his captor and former comrade, Alex McCabe, from a cell in the courthouse to Johnny McDonagh's bar in Newtown where they shared a drink or two. McCabe was immaculately turned out in his officer's uniform of the Free State army while Coleman wore the tattered, filthy uniform of a guerilla fighter and his head was swathed in a bloodstained bandage that covered a wound he had received during his arrest.

Owen had first seen Coleman proudly sporting his new volunteer uniform at a feis in Culfadda at the commencement of the War of Independence. Four Years and two wars had changed both men considerably but the flickering friendship that caused them to raise their glasses together betokened hope for a new Ireland where the shame of foreign occupation, the agony of revolution and the bitterness of civil war would eventually be forgotten.

I am painfully aware that the names and incidents contained in this article do not portray the whole story of the "Troubles" in Ballymote. The available information is sketchy. Guerilla activity is by its very nature, secretive. I will be much obliged if any member of the community can provide the names of people or incidents that have been omitted.

It has also been brought to my attention that the sufferings, sacrifices and courage of those Ballymote men who fought to defend western democracy as members of the Allied forces in the two World Wars have been overlooked and forgotten. I would welcome information from anyone about these men and perhaps women, so that an effort can be made to enable to present generation of Ballymote people to acknowledge, understand and appreciate their motives and the courageous reality of their deeds.

BALLYMOTE G.A.A.

Activity in Ballymote G.A.A. club is now in full swing. In this year, which is the club's centenary year, the players, selectors and managers of all teams are striving to achieve success to make the centenary year memorable on the field of play.

After a good run in the winter league the under 13 team lost to Maugheraboy in the County semi-final. The under 14 team under J. Cunningham and M. Donnellan started the season with an eight point win over Eastern Harps. The under 13 team is now in training for the Community Games football competition.

The Junior team has won two of its three opening games in the league with victories over Crumcliffe and Enniscrone. This team looks like a good bet to lift a trophy or two this season. Training sessions, which are well attended on Tuesdays and Thursdays are well structured and are directed by Brendan Dempsey. Morale is high among the players. Team building has been going on since 1984 when the Juniors progressed to the third round of the championship training sessions and club leagues in 1984 were organised by Jim Gallagher and Neal Farry.

An Eighteen Century Memorial Cross in the Franciscan Abbey

In the east end of the Franciscan Abbey at Ballymote, in from of where the altar was, there is a stone cross with the top broken off. It is about 1½ feet high above the ground and 2 feet wide across the arms. It bears the following inscription.

"Pray for the soul of

*Roger McDonagh who
Died October the 9th 1712".*

The first three lines are written across the arms of the cross and the date is written on the shaft underneath.

The inscribed side of the stone faces to the east to the rising sun. This is the usual direction for memorial stones in older graveyards to face, the rising sun symbolising the Day of Judgement and the Coming of Christ. In the case of the memorial to a priest, it generally faces to the west and to his congregation.

Over the inscription the lower half of the letter S appears. This probably was part of an inscribed IHS the monogram of Christ "Jesus Saviour of mankind".

By Mary B. Timoney

Unfortunately it is not known who the Roger McDonagh was. In the Hearth Money Roll for Co. Sligo of 1665 a Roger McDonnagh is listed for the townland of Shancarrigeen. Could this be the same Roger, or more likely his son? Shancarrigeen is near to Ballymote also he was wealthy enough to be taxed under this system. Roger McDonagh must have been a sufficiently important person to be buried near the old altar under the East window of the Abbey. The difference in the spelling McDonagh against McDonnagh is not of significance as spelling errors are common both in the Hearth Money Rolls and also in sculptured inscriptions.

It is the oldest memorial stone in the Abbey graveyard. Over the past two years I have been recording the grave stones in Co. Sligo and this is the earliest memorial in the form of a cross that I have seen. It is also the only Sligo cross dating from the eighteenth century known to me.

WOMEN IN POLITICS by Una Preston

Politics have been and still are a male preserve; The subordinate position in which women were kept over the ages and the fact that they were denied a comprehensive education barred them from having any aspirations to a say in government. The tables are turning now, but slowly. Even the vote was a hard won concession though it was a breakthrough. Women still hug their chains - whether through timidity or laziness it is hard to say. A few have entered the political scene lately, but how? They joined a political party with man-made rules and a man-made policy. If they want to remain in the party they must adhere to the rules and accept the policy.

The importance of women in politics is that they would have an opportunity to use their approach to problems as women, not as imitators of men. This is something that neither men nor women seem

to be aware of. Nature designed men and women to be complementary to each other. Women are patient, far-seeing and gentle, and have a natural sense of economy. And their presence in the political arena should provide a more balanced approach to many problems than the all male one we are accustomed to.

There is a growing feeling amongst women everywhere that if united they should in some way be able to stem the increasing violence that is threatening to destroy even our planet. We had an international women's day, also a day of prayer, and there are several women's peace and anti-nuclear groupings.

Women have emerged as leaders in different parts of the world and have shown their capability. Through time they will learn to infuse their feminine qualities into the entrenched male system.

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When in Sligo call to see me

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MESSAGES OF SPRING

*Long winter days have all but fled,
And the kind frog croaks from
his refreshed bed.
Now the sweet vales show
myriad shades
And the song-birds
in secluded glades.*

*Down in green pastures
the oxen sigh
As the sweet little lark is soaring
on high.
A mystic scene that we love
and renew
As in childhood days when our
cares were few.*

BALLYMOTE G.A.A. IN THE THIRTIES

by Johnny Benson

With the dawn of the thirties many prominent players, who had figured to such good effect in the previous decade, had by now called it a day and their departure from the scene led to a dearth of talent in the parish. However, former exponents Patrick Dwyer and Bertie Farry were now cast in the role of administrators and kept the flame alive.

Early in the thirties young players began to emerge with four locals gaining representation on the County Minor team. In 1930 John Kivlehan and Tom McGettrick gained representation on the team that beat Leitrim in the Connacht Championship. In the following year two others, Paddy Cawley and Val Henry, made the team and these formed the nucleus of the Junior team in 1935.

The scene of operations had now shifted to Carnaree and the team became known as Derroon or, as they were popularly known "The Bit o' Red". Young players were beginning to sprout in the area, most prominent being Jimmy Coleman, Paddy Fahy and the Wims brothers, Jimmy and Paddy. Ned Grehan became the team's established net minder and another to join the club was Paddy Davey from Ballinaglough. Charlie O'Connor, a Garda Detective, had come to Ballymote from Tubbercurry and proved himself a valuable asset on centrefield in the early years of that Derroon team. In the mid-thirties the side was strengthened by the acquisition of three young forwards in Dinny O'Rourke from Culfadda and Francis McDonagh and Andy Rogers from the town. Bill McGovern had returned from army duties and played some great games at right half back.

This first breakthrough at county level came in 1935 when Derroon won the County Junior championship by defeating Grange at Collooney. The following year three Derroon players gained places on the County Junior team that beat Leitrim but lost to Mayo in the Connacht Championship. These

were John Kivlehan, Tom McGettrick and Jimmy Coleman. By virtue of winning the Junior Championship the previous year Derroon now took their place among the elitist senior teams in the county. When the draws were made they found themselves in Division 1 in the company of Knockalassa, Sligo Town, Coolera, Ballisodare and Maugherow. Some great games ensued and those that stand out most clearly in the memory were the trussles with Knockalassa and Coolera. One of the above surpassed all others in excitement was the game at Riverstown against the mighty Knockalassa. Derroon were looked on as no hopers prior to this game but caused a major surprise by holding the O'Garas, Dowds, Mick Devaney, Bernie Cogans and company to a draw. From then on they gained in confidence and won out the Division. In the other section the Easkey Sea Blues won out and so a new pairing emerged to contest the County Senior Final.

Training at Quigley's field was stepped up with sessions each evening and all sessions well-attended. Road work formed a major part of the training schedule at the time and a common sight to be seen on the road between Ballymote and Collooney was a squad of Red and White figures striving to get fully fit for the Big Game. Many supporters came out from Ballymote, and, indeed from all areas of the parish to watch the players in their training stints.

As the day of reckoning approached flags were got ready and transport where available was arranged. The most common mode of conveyance in that era was the bicycle. Each machine carried two and sometimes three people and it was not uncommon to see many fans making the journey on foot.

Derroon were the choice of many to take the title for they fielded many stars in their lineout. The forward formation looked the best in the county and read from right: Francie McDonagh, Dinny O'Rourke, Val Henry, Andy Rogers, Tom McGettrick and Paddy Cawley. Midfield was manned by the high-fielding Paddy Davey and Jimmy Wims. The backline from goal was: Ned Gahan, Jimmy Coleman, John Kivlehan, Michael Quigley, Bill McGovern, Charlie O'Connor and Paddy Wims. All were strong and reliable defenders and would present opposing forwards little scope for scores. The Final was played in Quigley's field in Collooney and the crowd was massive with a big force of stewards trying to keep the crowd in control and outside the playing area.

The game itself was fast and furious and Derroon were finding it difficult to break through the tough Sea Blues' rugged defence that included such stewards as John and Owen Harte, the two Weirs, "Spinner" and "Jet" and a fine midfielder in Mick Kennedy. There was little between the sides but it was Easkey corner forward, Kevin O'Sullivan, who buried Derroon's hopes with a brace of goals and the final score was : Easkey Sea Blues 3 - 1; Derroon 0 - 4. cont. on page 14



Derroon Senior Football - 1937

Back (Left to Right) - B. McGovern, C. O'Connor, T. McGettrick, J. Wims, T. Morrison, P. Davey, M. Clarke, J. Kivlehan, E. Graham, P. Dwyer (Trainer).
Middle Row - V. Henry, S. Tighe, J. Coleman, F. McDonagh, P. Wims, M. Kearns.
Front Row - P. Healy, M. Clarke, A. Rodgers, M. Quigley, P. Cawley.

G.A.A. in the thirties.

Much the same team was again in action the following year and, ironically, the Final pairing for the 1937 Final was again Derroon v Easkey. The result was much the same on this occasion with the Sea Blues emerging winners on the score 5 - 5 to 1 - 5. The Derroon saga continued for some years afterwards with the inclusion of some fine players in Marty Clarke of Keash, Paddy Healy, Matty Clarke from Branchfield, Martin Kearins and others. However, the great charisma that surrounded the teams of 1936-37 was never recaptured and so ended a wonderful chapter in the annals of Ballymote G.A.A. that gave much pleasure to players and many supporters. It must be mentioned here that the county selectors recognised the merits of some of those players, when they selected two, John Kivlehan and Francie McDonagh, to play against Galway in the first round of the Connacht Championship of 1938. Galway won that game on the score of 3 - 2 to Sligo's 2 - 3 and went on to win the All-Ireland Final against Kerry in a replay. Ballymote had played a noble part in Sligo football in the thirties. N.B. It is hoped in the next issue of the Herald to take a look on G.A.A. events in the war-torn forties.

BALLYMOTE PARK DEVELOPMENT

At the A.G.M. of Ballymote and District Park Development Committee the following officers were elected.

Chairman	Eamonn Scanlon
Vice-Chairman	Tom Currid
Secretary & Development Officer	Sean Tansey
Joint Treasurers	John Perry Liam McClean
P.R.O.	Neal Farry

The meeting decided to request Glanmire Parks Construction Company (Cork) to survey the site with a view of providing a costed plan which will accompany the committee's application for grant-aid from the European Regional Fund through the agency of Enterprise Connacht. The park will also be surveyed by Mr. Webb, and environmental architect from An Foras Forbartha.

As soon as these surveys are completed the earth and stones in the roadside section of the park will be levelled and deposited in accordance with the advice of the advisory services mentioned.

Further fundraising will be carried out later in the year.

The Courthouse Ballymote

In 1899 this building was the scene of a dramatic political event. In January of that year the Grand Jury system was abolished and in its place County and District Councils were to be elected. For the purpose of selecting candidates, the Mayor of Sligo and M.P. for the Courthouse summoned a convention at Ballymote, the Courthouse was the only building in town suitable for such a gathering, but the day before the convention the following telegram was sent to the caretaker, Jackson Hawksby, by the Sub Sheriff, Colonel Coffey:-

*"Rosses Point January 11th,
1899 - Mayor McHugh
cannot have Courthouse
to-morrow"*

When McHugh and his followers arrived he found the doors barred and locked. He demanded admission in ten minutes; after consulting with the District Inspector of the R.I.C. Hawksby returned with a refusal. McHugh turned to the local League Secretary and said: John Gilmartin, get me a sledge hammer - I am not going to ask you to do anything I would not do myself". In a short time Gilmartin returned with the sledge and with a few hefty blows McHugh sent the doors flying off their hinges, the party trooped into the building and transacted their business unmolested. James Hannon, J.P. was the first County Councillor selected and afterwards elected for Ballymote area. The District Councillors chosen were:- John Gilmartin, Thomas Gallagher, James Kane, James Cunnane and Matthew Hannon. McHugh's action caused a great sensation both in this country and elsewhere, being featured in the Paris newspaper "Le Temps". A local poet made a "New Hit" and gave us a ballad of which I quote the opening verse and chorus:-

*"To a Courthouse not remote,
Well it's christened Ballymote,
Now myraids of good men
gathered there,
Up from Sligo, Screen and Curry,
Leaguers hastened in a hurry,
But the cream of all dandies
was the mayor".*

Bat J. Kearney Comdt.;

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In July 1985 the largest concert ever seen was held simultaneously in Wembley and Philadelphia, called Live Aid, it was the brainchild of Bob Geldoff, and it raised over £70 million worldwide to help the starving peoples of Africa.

On May 25th 1986 we will have Sport Aid, the last major effort by Geldoff to raise money for Africa. On that day millions of adults and children worldwide will undertake a 10 km/6 mile sponsored fun run.

A Ballymote Fun Run is being organised. Sponsorship cards are available from Video Services, Lord Edward Street. For the runners two trophies will be awarded: one for each for the first male and female to finish the course. Runners who are not sponsored must pay a £1 registration fee. There will be a prize for the individual who raises the most money.

The Fun Run is more than worthy of your support. Whatever you give, little or large, it will help save lives in Africa. The Sport Aid run will start simultaneously world wide at 4 p.m. Ballymote's own run starts from the Community Centre.



THE CORRAN HERALD
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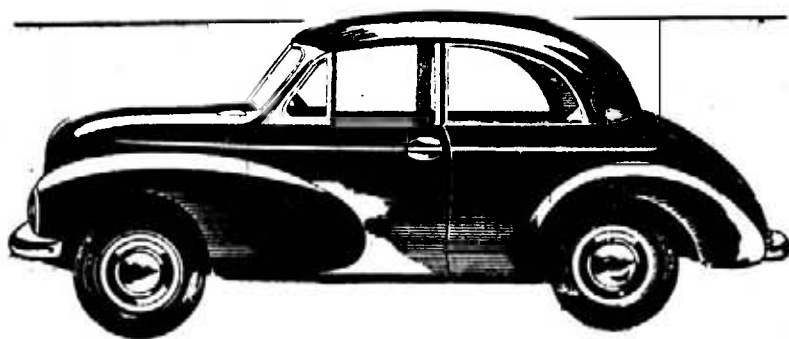
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