

THE CORRAN HERALD

A Ballymote Heritage Group Production

ISSUE NO. 10 :: JULY EDITION 1987 :: PRICE: 40p

This extract, taken from *Gloir Shligigh* 1893 - 1943, relates to the efforts that were made in the Ballymote area to revive and promote the Irish Language in the early decades of the Century.



COURTESY OF LIAM McDONAGH

baile An móta

IN Ballymote town and surrounding districts the early fight for the language had many ardent supporters. It is the proud boast of this historic place that many of its people were first in the field to promote everything Irish. Years before the Gaelic League organisers came to the country districts, as far back as 1902, Ballymote had its Irish class. This class was held in a room in a house near the Courthouse. The late Mr. Martin Quigley, N.T., was the teacher, and included in the attendance we find the following names:—Miss Daly, N.T., the Misses Annie and Amy Tighe, Miss Oonagh Brady, Miss Kate Keenan, N.T., Miss A. J. Queenan, and Miss Horan, N.T. Amongst the men who attended we find the names of Mr. Bernard Mullen, N.T., Mr. Jim Reynolds, Dr. Earnest O'Sullivan, and Mr. Batt Henry, N.T.

The first prize to be won for Irish singing at the Sligo Feis Ceoil was won by a Ballymote lady, Miss Oonagh Brady, the judges at the Feis being Signor Esposito and Mr. Denis O'Sullivan. Credit is due to Mr. Martin Quigley for the teaching of the Irish songs for the event, and to Mr. Jim Reynolds who played the accompaniments.

Dr. Douglas Hyde was the honoured guest at a banquet held in Sligo town in connection with the Teachers' Congress of 1905. The only Irish songs sung at this function were by Dr. McNeill's sister, and Miss Oonagh Brady. When the toast of "The King" was proposed, it was a young Ballymote teacher who objected—Mr. James Quigley, now residing at Castlebar. It was due to his efforts that the toast was abolished and was never again proposed at any succeeding Congress.

Contd. on Page 2

The Franciscan Friary and Graveyard

The restoration of the Franciscan Graveyard, undertaken by the Heritage group is now almost finished and plans are under way to have the ruins of the Friary attended to. To have the destructive ivy growth removed and the masonry made safe while preserving as many as possible of the interesting features of the ruin.

Ballymote Friary, though it hasn't been given the status of a National Monument is a valuable milestone in the history of the area, and its hallowed graveyard has provided a last resting place for poor and rich, as the simple grave-market side by side with its impressive monument demonstrates.

BY Una Preston

Museum for the area

A place where valuable records, pictures and equipment of a culture and age that is slipping from us could be housed and put on show for visitors and preserved for future generations.

This has been a long felt want of the Heritage Group but no suitable place was available. Now a site has been offered which would accommodate a building, which could in addition to housing a small museum, provide space for a meeting room and a Tourist Information Centre.

Fund raising has started and the group is optimistic that a start could be made on construction in the not too distant future.

A word of praise is due to the untiring zeal of the late Mr. Martin Quigley, N.T., who, through all the up-hill fight of those early days, kept the flag unfurled. When the late Mr. J. J. Cooke came to the local Creamery he took a keen interest in the Gaelic League. Mr. Thomas O'Malley later came to the town as organiser. As a result Sean O Ruadhain was sent as Gaelic teacher. He spent a few years here, and established a branch of the League with Irish classes which were splendidly attended.

From this time onwards Ballymote was foremost in everything Gaelic throughout the County, attending Feiscanna in Sligo and Riverstown, and travelling even to the Oireachtas and Dublin Feis Ceoil. Amongst the prizewinners for Irish step-dancing in the children's competitions of the time we find the names of May Dockry, Kathleen Bohan and Christina McGovern of Ballymote. The late Mrs. Kelly, N.T., and Mrs. Lipsett, N.T., sent choirs to the Feiscanna for Irish singing. Mr. Seamus Morrison, the now famous American traditional violinist, was an active member of the Branch. At this period we find the same names supporting the movement with the addition of Miss O'Dowd, N.T., Miss Breslin, N.T., Mr. John A. Barnes, B.A., N.T., Mr. Seamus Morrison, and Mr. Paddy McGettrick. After the departure of Mr. Sean O Ruadhain, Mr. Quigley and Mr. Cooke continued the classes. During these years Cathal Brughia was visiting the town, and the League was forwarding the sale of Irish manufactured goods. Many shop-keepers bought in stocks to suit the requirements, one obtaining an agency for Foxford Woollen Mills. The next Gaelic teacher to come to Ballymote was Mr. Sean Langan, Castlebar, who spent a few winters here. The teachers had special Irish classes taught by Sean O Ruadhain, and it was at this period many of the teachers obtained their bi-lingual certificates amongst them the late Miss Seánlon, N.T., and Miss O'Dowd, N.T.

In 1917 an order by the British Government was issued forbidding collections or flag days to be held for any purpose, except under permit from the R.I.C. Ballymote Gaelic League held its usual collection in defiance of this order and also had a most successful flag day at a Sports in Earlsfield. The sellers of the flags on this occasion were Mrs. Alex. McCabe, the Misses Sarah and Baby Bohan, and Miss Dilly McManus. Miss Baby Bohan, a Ballymote lady, helped the Sligo Gaelic League during all the troubled years by making collections without a permit in Sligo, Manorhamilton, etc. During the years 1919-1923 the Irish language was kept alive by a strong active Branch in the town, but unfortunately after 1923 a wave of apathy spread over the district and the Branch became dormant, until Mr. John A. Barnes, B.A., N.T., was appointed principal of the Boys' National School. This great Gael took up the Gaelic League revival and set to work with energy to re-establish the Branch. He interested the Technical Committee, got them to start Irish classes, and Mr. Seamus Deignan was appointed teacher. He was succeeded by his brother, Pádraic, who was again succeeded by Mr. Seamus Browne, Mr. Hugh Greene, Mr. Cafferkey, M.A., Mr. L. Jinks and Mr. T. Finan who is still active here in the promotion of the language. For the past ten years the late Very Rev. Canon Quinn, P.P., took a deep interest in the Gaelic movement and under his paternal care it made great progress.

An innovation, in connection with the Gaelic League, took place about five years ago when Coiste na bPaisdi was established. Each year ten pupils were sent to the Gaedhealtacht from the parish of Ballymote. They were in charge of Mr. J. A. Barnes who looked after their welfare while there. This movement has given the children a real living interest in the language and at a meeting held recently it was suggested that if it were possible to make an arrangement whereby a number of children could be sent to the Gaedhealtacht for six months in exchange for a similar number of Gaedhealtacht children to be sent to Ballymote area, it would ensure that all children would then have a chance of hearing and learning the language as it is spoken in its native home. All the teachers of the parish are giving of their best in this movement.

A FORGOTTEN ART



Pictured above the late Jack Milmo, Treen, Keash.

Adult Education

As it is operated in this country it only seems to cover manual skills and cultural activities — This rapidly changing world of ours today demands that we keep abreast of these changes, which means that education cannot stop at school-leaving stage but must be an on-going thing while for those who have long left school it must be a process of catching-up. And catching up on what? How we are being governed. How the money extracted from us in various ways (the fruits of our labour) is being spent. Should we not trust the people our votes have put in government? But how can we vote wisely if we do not understand what we are voting for, the maching that is being used to govern us, and something of the reasoning behind it.

With that knowledge we could vote wisely and with our elected representatives play a useful part in ensuring reasonable and balanced government.

There are many other facets of adult education as it should be operated in the 80's and onward which will become more apparent as time goes on.

Local communities must themselves become the educators in this changing world.

Every year the Dramatic Club, consisting of Mrs. Sinead Mrs. Bealey, Mrs. B. Scully, Miss K. Key, Miss C. and A. Cassidy, Miss K. Ryan, N.T., Mr. Cassidy, N.T., Misses J. Sweeney, D. Carty, John, John Hanley, B. G. Clark, Keenan Johnston, John, J. J. Tahan, E. McDonagh, and A. Henry, N.T., performed valuable work to provide funds for the Club. Mr. Cassidy was a most energetic and strenuous worker in this Club and he contributed in no small measure towards making the scheme a success.

The present officers of the Ballymote Gaelic League Branch are: Chairman, Rev. J. A. Henry, C.C.; Vice Chairman, Mr. J. A. Barnes, B.A., N.T.; Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Tahan; Secretaries, Miss J. Potter and Thomas O'Flaherty.

"THE SIEGE OF PORT RIVERSTOWN"

Historic Battles For The Language

(By B. B.)

IN honouring the pioneers who led the language movement in the past, mention must be made of many Gaelic-minded, patriotic priests. None deserves remembrance better as a consistent, fearless Gael than an t-Athair Brian O'Críochain, formerly of Riverstown, Sligo and Grange, and now Very Rev. Canon Crehan, P.P., Creggs, Co. Roscommon.

One finds it difficult in a short article such as this to know where to begin to write about an t-Athair Brian, or what period or incident to pick out of the forty years' active service he has given the cause of Irish Ireland.

Perhaps it may be as well to turn first to the pages of the weekly Irish paper, "The Leader," of September, 1904. In it one finds an item with the strange heading "The Siege of Port Riverstown." Here is what it says: "Port Arthur and Mukden are interesting places to all the world just now, but Irish-Ireland has a particular interest in the hamlet of Riverstown in the County of Sligo. There is a sort of siege or battle going on there; some postal officials with brooms are attempting to stop the Irish-Ireland tide; the battle is raging as we write, and no one knows the fateful moment when the Riverstown defenders will throw up their hands and let the tide swamp that great stronghold of English civilisation. When the Irish tide in the shape of an Irish-Ireland curate first encroached on the fortress of Port Riverstown, the gallant defenders treated the tide with even more than indifference. . . . Long Tom was not mounted on the sorter's desk. Letters addressed in Irish were not only harboured in the great British fortress, but the contraband was delivered with fair regularity to the foul enemy who was biting at the foundations of English civilisation within the gates. The foul enemy then started a treasonous Irish class in Port Riverstown and preached nefarious Irish ideas. The gallant Sourface on the watch at the Post Office Fort looked to the powder and the guns; the tail of the British lion had been twisted overmuch. The Post Office officials shook their lions' manes. The servant of the Irish enemy was told at the Post Office Fort that his master was getting into a bad habit in having letters addressed in Irish through the post and that his master ought not to get them."

So that was the battle! Letters to the Catholic curate, if they were addressed in Irish, were withheld and delayed by a local Postmaster! The story promises to be interesting, so let us continue to read from the files of "The Leader":—"After that, the open war commenced. All, or almost all, the Catholic curate's letters, etc., addressed in Irish were packed back to Dublin for translation. The curate has been at Riverstown for about 17 months, but he is still officially unknown at the Post Office Fort. The British lion at Riverstown has taken the field against the Irish wolf-hound but the wolf-hound fortunately has teeth. Needless to say, the British lion at Port Riverstown is a Sourface.



THE CORRAN RESTAURANT BALLYMOTE

**DINERS NIGHT OUT
SATURDAY AND
SUNDAY NIGHT**

• MENU •

PRAWN COCKTAIL
EGG MAYONNAISE
SOUP DE JOUR

T-BONE STEAK
ROAST LEG OF LAMB
with Mint Sauce
GRILLED OR POACHED
SALMON STEAK

FRESH FRUIT SALAD
WITH CREAM
TRIFLE WITH CREAM
HOME-MADE ICE CREAM
WITH CHOCOLATE FLAVOUR

TEA or COFFEE

€10 PER PERSON

Bottle of wine free with every
table of two.

LAST ORDERS 10.30



OLDEST BUSINESS

When Andy McGann built and opened a licensed premises on the Rock in Ballymote in 1847 when the famine was at its worst he hardly realised that in 1987 the same business would be in operation under his great grandson, the present proprietor, Mr. Mark Henry.

After Andy's death the business passed to his son Mark McGann, who handed it on to his daughter Mary McGann. In 1928 Mary married Michael James Henry of Greenaun, Keash Mrs. Mary McGann-Henry is still hale and hearty and her son Mark and his wife Maureen are carrying on the business which has remained within the family for 140 years.

'The Siege of Port Riverstown'

Contd. from Page

The Irish wolf-dog is not turning tail; he is showing more of his teeth and some of his claws. Hitherto his were the only Irish-addressed letters sent to Port Riverstown; now he proposes asking his class to have letters addressed to them in Irish in future. We trust all our readers who know anyone in the famous fortress will pour in contraband Irish letters there in bundles; it would be a pity not to give such a noble British authority plenty to do. Give them Irish right, left and centre; we would have the eyes of Irish-Ireland turned on Port Riverstown and its gallant Sourface Horatius."

The title given to the Post Office upholder of the anti-Irish system appears to have stuck. In many subsequent issues "The Leader" reports the progress of the duel between Horatius and an t-Athair Brian O Criochain.

The issue of 24th September, 1904, has a lengthy account of the battle, including the news: "On the morning of the 17th, fifty loaded carbines in the shape of fifty letters addressed in Irish to the Catholic curate, arrived in Riverstown. . . . We do not know yet whether the gunners at the Fort succeeded in forcing the 50 letters back to the R.L.O. at the Dublin General Post Office, or did they let them march through to the nefarious Irish Catholic curate. . . . It was a happy thought that sent these fifty missiles whizzing into Port Riverstown from the Irish encampment at Mount Bellew College. We would be glad to hear of any other ports such as that of Riverstown where the champions of pure English civilisation are holding back the onward march of Ireland. Perhaps it might be possible to take them on their turn, and instead of spreading our shot over too wide an area, focus it on one fort, such as that of Riverstown, and reduce it to submission. There is no reason why the attack on the various British Postal Forts in Ireland should not be made as interesting as, at least, football matches. Next season tourists may travel specially to Port Riverstown to see the sorters' counter where Long Tom so stubbornly defied the Irish forces; and perhaps Horatius might be engaged for a lecturing tour in England."

SHELLS IN IRISH.

From subsequent issues of "The Leader" we learn how the battle progressed; unfortunately space does not allow the communiqués to be quoted fully and it must suffice to quote such extracts as the following:—8th October, 1904—"The fort is now closely invested by the Irish-Ireland forces, and several shells in the shape of correspondence addressed in Irish to the Catholic curate and other residents have been dropped into the citadel, harassing the garrison sadly. We have been sent a few samples of these missiles. By the endorsement: 'For Translation, R.L.O., Dublin,' we see that Horatius still holds the bridge. . . . As many of our readers would, no doubt, like to lend a hand in the capture of this famous anti-Irish fort, we give in full the name and address of the commander of the Irish-Ireland attacking force—An t-Athair Brian O Criochain, Teac na Sagart, Baile Idir Dha Abhainn, Co. Sligoigh."

A further barrage of Irish-addressed correspondence is reported in the issue of 22nd October. Many of the shells from the Irish side were fired from very long range. From ~~Italy~~ in Italy a shell fired in Irish dropped into the fort. The following English was on the shell, which was of the post-card pattern:—"Intellectual people all over the world admire your fight against ignorance, stupidity and boorishness." Reference is also made in this report to Irish-addressed shells to bother Horatius from Cork, Dublin, Sligo, Ballymote, Athenry, Motherwell, London, and many parts of England.

The name and address of the Irish commander is also given in Irish again for the benefit of those wishing to support him.

The end of the historic battle is reported in "The Leader" of 19th November, 1904, under the heading of "The Fall of Port Riverstown." The introduction reads: "Port Riverstown has fallen! A wide breach has been made in the sorter's rampart. Horatius is reported to have fled. The Gaels have won the day, and Gaelic post-cards tramp victoriously up to time over the courtyards of the surrendered stronghold."

Kesh Corran's Stately Hill

*Once upon, this charming hill I climbed
With light and bouyant air,
To view its famed majestic mount,
Likewise South Sligo fair
I paused beside its well-known caves,
Where elfin hordes reside,
And then again my course began,
All up its rugged side.*

*But when upon its apex high,
What sight there met my gaze,
Instead of beauteous scenery,
All seemed a mystic haze.
The well known scenes I loved to scan,
By clouds were shadowed o'er,
I scarce could trace, beneath my feet,
The fair Lough Arrow's shore.*

*But mid-day came with lustrous hue,
All clouds fast fled away,
As did the shadows from the earth,
Like night before the day,
Then I beheld sweet Ballymote,
Last by the Owenmore,
Which wound its placid course along,
To fair Tireragh's shore.*

*The lake and woods of Templehouse,
Now next attracted me,
And further in the background shore,
The hills of Knocknashee,
Then streamstown's verdant valleys,
And the plains of Tullaghmore,
Outrivalled all that I've yet seen,
Upon my native shore.*

*The sight of Chaffpool's sylvan hills,
My dreaming heart did gladden
But not so much till I beheld,
My dear old Bunninadden.
Then on the whole I gave one last,
long loving fervent glance,
And down its slopes I quickly hied,
To join the nursery dance.*

*And other sports that graced the scene,
With rural mirth and joy,
When every mind was bent on sport,
And none on cares alloy,
No wonder in such merriment
That all indeed were gladdened,
For this dear reader is no less,
Than a man from Bunninadden.*

By LAURENCE J. McHUGH,
Doobeg, Bunninadeen.

Above poem appeared in the weekly 'Freeman' 1892.

'The Siege of Port Riverstown'

It was indeed a victory for the Irish,—for the language as well as for the people, and one need only quote another line or two from the files of this memorable fight against the anti-Irish system of the time :—"Port Riverstown has been conquered by the Irish army. Horatius has resigned, and shells addressed in Irish are now delivered without delay at Riverstown to the gallant soldier of Irish-Ireland, an t-Athair Brian O Criochain."

Many years later Father Crehan was to fight and win another battle for the recognition of the language,—this time with the Board of Education. Ministering then in Grange, he found himself in a duel with the Board because his Irish signature would not be accepted on documents in connection with his school returns and teachers' salary claims. Reporting the controversy, "The Leader" of 15th October, 1921, recalls the battle of Port Riverstown and makes the appropriate comment :—"The last man in Ireland that West British jack-in-offices would tackle if they were wise is an t-Athair Brian O Criochain, and we feel safe in saying that the Board of Education is as good as beaten already."

"The Leader" was right, as it reports later, for after a passage of arms that was short and sharp, the opposition collapsed and the Irish signature of an t-Athair Brian was thereafter accepted without question.

AN HONOURED RECORD.

Born in the breach-Gaedhealtacht of Droichead Nua, Co. Galway, in 1874, Canon Crehan was educated at Sligo and Maynooth, being ordained in 1900. Stationed at Gleann, Co. Sligo, in 1903, he was afterwards in Riverstown from 1905 to 1911, in Sligo for three years till 1914, and afterwards in Grange till 1923. He ministered again in Gleann before going to Creggs as P.P. in 1927. Appointed a member of the Coisde Gnotha of the Gaelic League in 1905, he was one of the founders of Colaiste Chonnacht at Tourmakeady in 1904, being Ard-Runaidhe there for more than twenty years. He was also connected with the founding of the Irish College at Spiddal and was mainly instrumental in having branches of the College established in the Sligo Convents in 1922. In collaboration with Mr. B. J. Goff, solicitor (now District Justice) he wrote a valuable phrase book 'Mion-Chaimnit,' in the early day of the League, and also compiled an Irish prayer book.

A life-long standard-bearer in the Gaelic advance, the friend of Michael Breathnach, An Craoibhin and Pearse, Canon Crehan will always have his name honoured in the records of pioneers of the new Ireland.

Nevertheless the sporting interests of the young men who lived south of the town were unwittingly being neglected. Into this vacuum, in the spring of that year, stepped the lads of Emlaghfad and Emlagh. In their respective townlands, two separate groups of aspiring footballers independently set out to solve their problems, each group employing the same method.

In Emlaghfad, three teenagers, Tommy Coleman, P.J. Rogers and John McSheera pooled their meagre resources to realise the princely sum of 7s : 6d with which they daily purchased a genuine leather football (size 4) from Jimmy Flynn, O'Connell St., Ballymote. Footballs were rare in those days and players were soon attracted from the neighbouring townlands and from the town itself.

At almost the same time the youths of Emlagh, which is situated one mile south of Emlaghfad, had the same idea. After a card game in Rathmullen school Sean Connor, Jack Costelloe, Eddie Mullen and John Feehily organised a whiparound to raise the price of a football which was also bought in Ballymote by John Feehily. Before long they were practising football daily in Sonny Connors' bottom field with the inevitable effect on the lads of the adjacent townlands.

EMLAGHFAD G.A.A. TEAM



Although the Emlaghfad Gaelic Football Club was in existence for a mere nine years, it earned for itself a lasting place in the hearts and memories of the people of Ballymote parish. The people of Ballymote parish. The establishment and development of the club

displayed a degree of spontaneity, initiative and independence among the young men of the southern townlands of the parish that endeared them to young and old alike.

In 1938 the Derroon club was ably representing the parish of Ballymote in G.A.A. circles.

It was no surprise when the two groups arranged a challenge match in James Kerins' field in Emlaghfad. Sean Tighe of who Mullacor, who was a Keash player, guested for Emlagh and the Scanlon brothers, John Francis and James, who were Knockalassa players, lined out for Emlaghfad. Jack Foye of Keenaghan, was the referee but as the match developed into a brawl, he took the necessary precautions of blowing the final whistle prematurely and heading for home.

At this stage, the members of both teams the wise decision of uniting their forces when they founded the Emlaghfad club. Martin Davey, of Ardree was elected Secretary-Treasurer. These were two respected men of mature years who would ensure that the energies of the young footballers would be properly directed.

Keash/Culfadda Volunteer Movement

The following statement was recorded for posterity by Thady McGowan, Culfadda and Tom Brehony, Carrowreagh, Keash. I obtained this document from Michael McGowan, Culfadda when doing a school project on the history of our parish. I feel that it will be of interest to many people in South Sligo, as it deals with the parts played by the people of this area in the shaping of modern Ireland.

My sincere thanks to Michael McGowan for giving me the document.

John Higgins.

We joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood in Keash in 1914. Alec McCabe was the Head Centre of the Keash I.R.B. and its membership was about twenty. The Ancient Order of Hibernians was very strongly organised in this area in 1914 and they took the initiative in forming the Volunteers in 1914. In the year 1915 the Redmondite supporters had control of the local Volunteer organisation the Republican and I.R.B. Section who were members of the Volunteers at the time broke away from the organisation controlled by Redmond's supporters, and they formed a Republican Company of the Volunteers, and in 1915 Henry Sheeran was C/C of the newly organised Company.

Alec McCabe was the prime mover in organising Sinn Féin and the I.R.B. in our district. In 1918 he was dismissed from school on account of his Republican activities. In November, 1918, he was arrested at Sligo Station. When arrested he was carrying explosives on his person. He was charged with the offence of being in possession of explosives without a permit, and for his defence he pleaded that he used the stuff for fishing purposes. He was sentenced to a term of imprisonment. Previous to 1916 McCabe procured a number of .38 revolvers which were distributed amongst prominent I.R.B. men.

For Easter week, 1916, plans were made to capture Keash R.I.C. Barracks, the garrison of which comprised one Sergeant and four policemen.

On Easter Sunday evening we were mobilised in a few places, one being an outhouse belonging to Cryan's, and another being near Keash Barracks. On this particular night the Keash Company men that were mobilised were waiting for Alec McCabe, who was in the town of Ballaghaderreen. McCabe, however, found himself unable to turn up as he had arranged and he sent a man named Berre who was a Centre of the I.R.B., to take his place. When Berreen turned up, his leadership was not accepted by the Keash Company men and, in the absence of McCabe, the attack on the Barracks was called off. At that time Keash Company had one service rifle, six or seven .38 revolvers and about twenty shotguns. After the calling off of his attack on Keash Barracks, nothing else was planned or attempted in Easter Week.

From 1915 up to about September 1919, there was very little activity in our locality. Alec McCabe was trying to organise and keep things going. In 1918 Thomas Brehony was appointed O/C Keash Company.

In September 1919 a re-organisation of the whole Battalion area of nine Companies was carried out. M.J. Marren was appointed Battalion C/C, Thady McGowan, Battalion Adjutant, and Josie Bannon, Battalion Quartermaster. The following companies were attached to the Battalion: Ballymote, Keash, Culfadda, Kilavil, Bunninadden, Emlugh-ton, Kilcreevan, Ballinacra and Derroon. At this stage the Irish Republican Brotherhood took control of the Battalion and Company staffs were also members of the I.R.B., this idea being part of McCabe's plan for the re-organisation of the Volunteers.

One of the main activities in 1919 and early 1920 was our effort to procure arms, by raiding for them or by purchasing them.

In December, 1919, was raided a large gentleman's residence in which two Battalions, Gorteen and Ballymote, took part. A raid was carried out on the residence of Charles Graham near Bunninadden. M.J. Marren was in charge of this raid.

A very exhaustive search of the premises was carried out and a quantity arms, etc. obtained including one Martini rifle, one Leo Enfield rifle, three revolvers, field-glasses, three shotguns, and a large amount of shotgun and other assorted ammunition. This raid, we think, occurred about February 1920.

Military Operations:

In June 1919, Judge Wakely was staying in Hannon's Hotel and McGowan went to the Hotel, accompanied by a number of Volunteers, including B.J. Keany, J.A. Farry and P.W. Coan. When we arrived at the hotel, we were not able to effect an entrance, as it was barricaded. We searched for the policemen on guard, but failed to find them outside the hotel. We were informed that the policemen were in the hotel. We then fired on the hotel and broke some windows. Judge Wakely put his head out of an upstairs window and enquired what was wrong and what was the meaning of our firing. One of our men informed the Judge that we did not want him or his English law here. We then called off the affair.

On Easter Saturday night, 1920, in obedience to a G.H.Q. order, we burned an evacuated Barracks at Keash and another at Temple House. About a month later we burned Ballinacra and Mullaghroe Barracks. In the two last mentioned areas, the local volunteers failed to do their jobs.

In July, 1920, we planned an attack on the R.I.C. Barracks at Castlebaldwin. The plan adopted was to disarm some of the garrison who were in the habit of frequenting local publichouses at night time and, with the arms we would capture from the police, we were to rush to the Barracks and overpower the remainder of the garrison. Thomas Brehony took part in this operation. Others who took part were Patrick Ballantyne, Bertie Hart, Seán Cryan, John Henry, Harry Sheerin, J. Walsh, J. Neilan, Frank Trimble, Peter O'Connor, M. Coghlan, Patrick Hannon, etc. We went into the pub and overpowered the police who were there but they were unarmed.

Having overpowered the police, we went to the Barracks. Our only weapons were some shotguns filled with buckshot and a few home-made bombs. We fired with the shotguns through the windows and we threw the bombs at the building. The police in the barracks replied to our fire, which lasted a considerable time. We were not able to create any impression on the garrison who refused to surrender. The I.R.A. suffered no casualties in this operation, but one of the R.I.C. received serious injury. The barracks were evacuated the next day.

In August, 1920, a party of I.R.A. under the command of the late Frank Carty, proceeded to a position at Kevins. This party numbered about twenty and they waited in position for some time. Four R.I.C. men came along on bicycles. The I.R.A. men pounced on the policemen from their positions and overpowered them. They disarmed the police and got three rifles with fifty rounds of rifle ammunition, a shotgun and cartridges, a Webley revolver, one bomb, four bicycles and four police tunics. The party of I.R.A. included M.J. O'Hara, Charles Gildea, Jack Walker, Joe Durkin, Jim Halloran, Patrick Nicholson, Patrick McCormack, Reverend Dr. Henry C.F., M.J. Marren, Thady McGowan, Pat Hunt, Frank Higgins and Patrick Coleman.

Ratra Ambush:

We have read the account of this ambush written by Jim Hunt, who was in charge of it, and we have nothing to add to the very accurate description he has given. We would like to state that amongst the attackers at Ratra the following men from Ballymote Battalion were present: M.J. Marren, Thady McGowan, James Molloy, John McManmy, Tom Connolly and Paddy Connor.

The Shooting of Sergeant Fallon at Ballymote:

Sergeant Fallon was a very dangerous enemy of I.R.A. He had gone out of his way from 1916 onwards to harry men who were active and on the run. This man's daughter was also actively engaged in doing Intelligence work for the British. When



These five stalwarts are members of the R.I.C. from early in the century. The picture is supposed to have a local connection and perhaps some reader might help with recognition. Note the tight fitting uniforms buttoned up to the neck, the pockets with chains for whistles, the sergeants stripes, and the boots worn by each member. It looks as if they were well 'spruced up' for the picture.

Sergeant Fallon's anti-I.R.A. activities had become notorious, orders were issued for his execution. On the 3rd November, 1920, when Sergeant Fallon was on duty at the fair in Ballymote, two I.R.A. men approached him and ordered him to put up his hands and surrender. Fallon attempted to draw his gun and he was shot dead.

At the end of December 1920 or early January, 1921 we formed part of an I.R.A. party under Commandant Jim Hunt. We proceeded to Kilfree railway junction, and there we awaited the arrival of the Dublin-Sligo afternoon train. Edward Doherty, the Battalion I.O., had boarded this train at Boyle and travelled on it to Kilfree junction. At that junction he gave the waiting I.R.A. party the signal that there was enemy personnel on the train and pointed out the compartment occupied by them. We rushed to this compartment where we found the D.I. and two R.I.C. men, and we disarmed all three.

In January 1921, we formed part of a party under the command of M.J. Marren (deceased). We proceeded to Kilfree junction and awaited the arrival of a train travelling from Sligo to Boyle. The I.R.A. party was small in number — about six or seven in all — and, when the train arrived at Kilfree,

we found that there was a large party of armed military on board. We waited until the train moved out of the station, and it was gathering speed, we opened fire on the carriages occupied by the military. They returned our fire and we heard later that some of them were wounded.

Attack on Ballaghderreen Barracks:

In February 1921, the Sligo and East Mayo Brigades joined forces to carry out an attack on Ballaghderreen Barracks. We took part in this operation with the Sligo contingent. The plan adopted for the capture of the Barracks was the use of a large mine which was to be conveyed in a cart to the vicinity of the Barracks and placed against the front entrance. The mine was constructed by the Engineering Section of the Sligo Brigade and contained a large explosive charge. On the night of the attack a large number of volunteers entered the town of Ballaghderreen and surrounded the barracks and the approach to the barracks. The cart containing the mine was waiting in an archway convenient to the barracks, and the men were in charge of it. A patrol of six R.I.C. men, who were out on duty at the time, apparently got to know of the presence of the I.R.A. party near the cart and opened fire on them. pto

KEASH/CULFADDA VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT

Any volunteers in that vicinity returned the fire of the police. When this firing started the party of Volunteers close up to the barracks opened fire, which lasted for about twenty minutes. As the possibility of getting the mine into position for use on the barracks was prevented by the outburst of fire, the operation was called off and all withdrew.

Attack on Ballymote Barracks and Courthouse, February 1921

In February, 1921, we formed part of a party, with Alec McCabe in charge, that went into the town of Ballymote for the purpose of attacking the R.I.C. Barracks and Courthouse there. The Barracks was a large building, garrisoned by 50 R.I.C. and Tans. The plan adopted for the attack was to explode a mine at the Courthouse in the hope that the explosion would draw out a party of police or Tans from the Barracks. The mine was placed at the Courthouse and different positions around the Barracks were occupied by the I.R.A. men. After the explosion of the mine the Volunteers waited for some time, but as no police or Tans left the Barracks the main body of the Volunteers opened fire on the Barracks and this continued for some time. There were no casualties in this operation.

Attack on Collooney R.I.C. Barracks:

Liam Pilkington, the Brigade O/C, was in charge of this attack. We were members of the party of about thirteen men that he mobilised. We proceeded to the vicinity of Collooney Barracks without attracting the attention of the garrison inside. The attacking party lay in convenient positions under cover, ready to rush to the Barracks when the mine exploded. The mine was then exploded and the entrance to the Barracks was blown away. The rushing party, led by Brigadier Pilkington, got into the front part of the Barracks before any fire was opened by the police or Tans inside, and found that the air at entrance was completely saturated with dust, to such an extent that it was impossible to breathe in it or see through it. This

Contd. from Page 7

was due to the effects of the explosion on the dry plaster on the inside walls of the Barracks. The police then started to fire and Pilkington and his men were forced to retreat. The firing on both sides lasted about fifteen minutes when the I.R.A. decided to withdraw us any prospect of taking the barracks has then passed.

In May 1921, Thomas Brehony, in charge of four others — Bertie Hart, J.J. Brehony, Harry Sheeran and Martin Coughlan — took up an ambush position near the Hill of Keash and awaited there for enemy forces travelling on the road nearby. A British lorry containing about fourteen armed men came along. The I.R.A. men were in position about 40 yards from the main Ballymote-Boyle road, at a road trench, and when the lorry arrived at the ambush position it was immediately engaged by them. The firing lasted about an hour. Two of the enemy party were wounded early on in the exchange of fire and, at the start of the engagement, a British machine gunner broke his leg when dismounting from the lorry. The engagement was terminated by the arrival of reinforcements and the I.R.A. being forced to retreat.

In May, 1921, Michael J. Marren took charge of a group of I.R.A. men numbering 43 or 44. Thady McGowan was second in command. The party took up positions along both sides of the railway line near Seefin. On one side a bank about 35 feet high was occupied by some of the Volunteers. A Volunteer scout had been sent to a certain railway station where he was to board a train containing enemy forces travelling in Seefin direction. A train arrived in which Auxiliary and police forces were traveling in the direction of the ambush position. When the train was approaching the scout gave us the signal that the train contained armed enemy forces. Some of our partners got out on the railway line in front of the train with a red flag and signalled to the engine-driver to stop. The train pulled up to a halt, and a few Volunteers took control of the engine. Marren and McGowan boarded the train and went along to the different carriages to get the civilians out.

When they came near the carriage where the Auxiliaries were, the latter opened fire on them and both men took up cover between carriage. The Volunteers on the railway bank then opened heavy fire on the carriages which were occupied by the Auxiliaries. The firing lasted approximately half an hour, and then 11 Auxiliaries with two R.I.C. men surrendered. The party were disarmed and the train was then allowed to proceed on its journey. There were no I.R.A. casualties in this operation.

Michael J. Marren, Battalion O/C, and Thady McGowan his Adjutant, were both carpenters. In May, 1920, the Battalion Staff made plans to ambush a patrol of police who regularly used a certain route when acting as an escort for explosives used by the County Engineer for blasting work in quarries. Marren and McGowan worked the night making a coffin, so that it would be ready for the planned operation against this police escort the next day. The plans made for this operation were as follows: About 60 or 70 volunteers, having mobilised at a point on the road where the escort was expected to come, would take on the role of mourners at a funeral, the coffin to be carried on the shoulders of four volunteers, and a part of the ambushing party were to take up a position at the real sharp bend on the road, facing in the direction the escort was coming. The armed portion of the ambush party were to take up position about forty yards in front of the band on the road. On the approach of the police, who usually travelled on bicycles, the four men with the coffin on their shoulders and the Volunteers at the rear of the bend were to come across the bend as a funeral party. It was expected that the police, who by then should be within a short distance of the band, would dismount from their bicycles to show their respect for the 'funeral' party. It was at this point that their surrender would be demanded by the Volunteers, and fire opened on them if they refused. The Volunteers waited a considerable time, but the enemy escort did not appear. A car, driven by the County Engineer, approached the ambush position and he was called on to halt, but he ignored the challenge. Shots were fired in his direction and he eventually stopped.

When the car was searched a quantity of explosives was found. The fact that the County Engineer was conveying explosives in his car confirmed our opinion that the police escort was not coming in our direction that day.

In May, 1920, we got information that military huts were being conveyed by goods train from the direction of Finner Camp in Co. Donegal, and were destined for Mullingar area. Orders were issued to an I.R.A. officer named Lieut. Patrick McManmy to have the military huts destroyed. McManmy took charge of this operation, and with the help of 9 or 10 men of his Company section he proceeded to Culfadda held up the train, removed the military huts from the railway carriages and made a pile of them in a bog alongside the railway line and set fire to them.

McManmy and his men waited in the vicinity of the burning hut to ensure their complete destruction. Whilst they were waiting two motor tenders of military came on the scene and opened fire on the party of I.R.A. They, the I.R.A. party, replied to the fire from the military and made their escape from the vicinity by using the cover afforded by ditches.

Alec McCabe in May 1920, took over an unoccupied house on Corrick mountain, better known locally as Bridget Rocks, overlooking the Curlew Pass. The house was used for keeping prisoners, and later some of the South Sligo Column did rest in it for the purpose of loading cartridges, etc.

The bomb which was captured at the attack on Ballaghaderreen R.I.C. barracks was made by A. McCabe, M.J. Marren and Thady McGowan in Leonard's old mill Carnowcroy, Keash, and also the one which was used for attack on Collooney R.I.C. Barracks.

Attempted disarmaments of military and R.I.C.:

In May, 1920, Alec McCabe and Comdt. M.J. Marren mobilised about 60 men, who were put into concealed positions alongside the roadway to await and disarm a party of military and R.I.C., numbering 14 to 16, who had been using a particular role as a cycling patrol. This composite force travelled as a cycling patrol in single file formation.

The I.R.A. under McCabe and Martin awaited them on two occasions, but the enemy did not turn up whilst the I.R.A. were in position.

Capture of O/C Bedfordshire Regiment:

On the 29th July, 1921, Commandant M.J. Marren and a number of men held up the Dublin-Sligo train at Pathmullen, between Culfadda and Ballymote. In the search of the train by Comdt. Marren and his men, the officer in charge of the Bedfordshire Regiment was identified as a passenger on the train.

This officer travelled incognito. He was removed from the train and was detained for some time before he was released.

Disarming of a Spy at Clogher:

An ex-British policeman named Harrington lived alone in Clogher, and it became known to the I.R.A. that he was doing spy work for the British and that the information he gave to the British was a matter of extreme danger to local I.R.A. officers who were on the run and active. Thady McGowan was one of the party, under the command of Jim Hunt, that went to arrest Harrington. Harrington had extensive preparations made to defend himself in case of emergency, but the Volunteers gained admission to his house and overpowered him before he had time to use the arms he had on his person. He was courtmartialled later on and was banished from the country.

In February 1921, for the attack on Ballaghaderreen Barracks, all roads in the vicinity of the town were trenced and blocked as a safety measure. After the attack a military lorry ran into a trench placed on the Curry-Ballaghaderreen road. A party of Volunteers, armed with guns and revolvers, were in the vicinity at the time and opened fire on the British force that manned the line and numbered about sixteen,

armed with rifles. The firing from the British military was heavy and the I.R.A. had to retreat. There were no casualties in this operation.

There are many other items of service which we rendered from day to day during the years 1919, 1920 and 1921 which we have not mentioned in this statement.

There were certain routine activities which were carried out as a matter of policy such as blocking roads, cutting communications, and the holding up of post cars and the raiding for mails. Those activities were general in the Brigade area and would not justify devoting space recounting each of the individual incidents.

For a similar reason we have not mentioned a number of laid ambushes where we took up positions and waited in some instances for a considerable time, with hopes of getting a chance of attacking crown forces. On those occasions where we waited in ambush positions without results entailed much preparation and care, selecting suitable places for ambush with precautions we had always to take to prevent the enemy getting information of our plans. All those laid ambushes entailed both worry and danger to the officers and men engaged. It often happened that we lay out awaiting the enemy in ambush positions as often as three or four times before we were lucky enough to have an action.

Before we finish we would like to pay tribute to the numerous friends all over the brigade area who looked after our comforts in providing food, sleeping accommodation, change of clothes, etc., and also those who looked after our safety in guarding our billets, acting as our look-outs and scouts when we moved from place to place. We could not carry on without the unselfish help of those people so generously given to us. They gave us both their time and their goods without thoughts of payment or reward.

Ballymote Arts Group

Surprised by the interest shown in last years Flower Show, the group are planning another for the coming Autumn. This one to be better publicised. They plan to visit some famous gardens during the summer months. Poetry Reading, another of the groups activities will be resumed in September. These sessions are light-hearted gatherings and are open to anyone with an interest in poetry. They are followed by wide ranging discussions and the social Cup of tea. It is hoped they will also touch on Drama in their next season.

BALLYMOTE SHOW

By Alison Healy

Horses, dogs and cats descended by the dozen on the town of Ballymote on June 14th as once again the annual horse show took place. It was the 9th show since its revival and, as usual, was held in Ballymote Community Park. Ballymote Junior Chamber organised the first of the present shows in 1979 and, as they say, the rest is history. The horse show has grown tremendously since then, with new classes being introduced each year, such as the dog show, the cat show and this year the newly born, 'Best Dressed Lady of the Show'. This idea was stolen from the Dublin Horse Show when it was seen what a great success the feature was — the Ballymote version was very successful.

Some agricultural shows were held in Ballymote many years ago where the Marren Park houses now stand but they were discontinued due to the troubled times. Then, in 1947 a gymkana and show was held in Ballymote Town park which was newly purchased at that time. This was indeed highly successful but, for some reason was not repeated. One Sligo judge, the late Mr. J. Rowlette described the standard as being 'exceptional', high praise from such a distinguished man. The routine Show Dance followed, with the paltry admission fee of 3/6 or 17½p. Of course, now or then, no committee would dream of holding a show without a show dance and thankfully the Ballymote Show Dance has already received great support from the town. At this show dance the hard-working committee get the chance to kick up their heels, let down their hair and dance the night away after the turmoil of the day.

The committee of twenty five diligent workers start preparations for the Horse Show in January under the leadership of the elected officers who beg, boss and cajole members so that the horse show will be ready for June. Schedules are sorted, rosettes received, judges secured and jobs handed out at meetings. This band of workers do not get any form of payment for their work but they say that a successful show is reward enough. Such dedication!!

To raise funds for the horse show a function is usually held around St. Patrick's Day and the Show Dance also contributes to the fund raising campaign. Show members receive very generous donations from the towns people and from surrounding areas. Without this the show could not possibly continue.

Ballymote Horse Show is very lucky in that the weather is always beautiful on that day. Last year I heard a farmer comment that if you ever needed good weather to do something then do it on the day of the show. Of course, that doesn't mean to say that we should all rush off to the hay or bog on that day and desert the horse show!

It is indeed a great family day and this year the show committee also introduced two special attractions. As well as the 'Best Dressed Lady' feathe, the Bonny Baby show and 'Little Miss Ballymote' took place. Any aspiring little Miss Worlds could get their first taste of fame at Ballymote Show through the 'Little Miss Ballymote'

Long may the show continue to bring rewards and enjoyment to so many people from so many places.

1947

SCHEDULE OF PRIZES

THE BALLYMOTE HORSE SHOW

Ballymote Horse Show

Jumping, Driving and Gymkhana Competitions

THE TOWN PARK, BALLYMOTE

Wednesday 23rd July 1947

MORNING 10.00 AM

EVENING 7.00 PM

Over £80 in Prizes

Entries close on the 14th July not later than 12.00 PM
Entry fee charged for late entries

E. MIDGETTICK Hon. Secy
B. CAWLEY

Phone: Ballymote 5 BALLYMOTE, CO. WICK

Officers

PATRON

Very Rev. P. J. Canon Roughneen, P.P., W.F.

PRESIDENTS

The Ven. Archdeacon McCready Bryan, Very Rev. Canon McCombe

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Major C. K. O'Hara, Major A. A. Percival

CHAIRMAN

Rev. J. Henry, C.C.

VICE-CHAIRMAN

J.W. Goulden, Esq., Hon. V.S. A. A. Gallagher

WORKING COMMITTEE

Wilfred Goulden, Esq.	Edna Bright, Esq.
Dudley O'Gara, Esq.	Keogh Conboy, Esq.
Patrick Craig, Esq.	George Dorran, Esq.
Marion Moran, Esq.	Robert Hall, Esq.
James Dorran, Esq.	Paddy Henry, Esq.
Frank Gardiner, Esq.	Michael Redican, Esq.
Walter Craig, Esq.	William Bright, Esq.
Patrick Duffly, Esq.	J. J. O'Grady, Esq.
George Cuff, Esq.	



MS. MALEE age 3,
Swinford, Co.
Mayo, youngest
competitor at
Ballymote Show.

Development

Ballymote Tourist Development Association, originally initiated as a sub-committee of the District Council has now got underway as an active body set to develop the considerable tourist potential of the area in the only way that can be done — by working from ground level. A small but experienced committee is already achieving results. A survey of the area has shown a high level of support for the venture and an appreciation of its job creating potential.

At a recent meeting Sub-committees were appointed to deal with Finance, Development, and Promotion. Another meeting attended by Bord Fáilte experts dealt with matters relating to Angling, an activity that has been flourishing in the area some time ago and only needed revival. Other ideas being considered deal with aspects of tourist potential in the area not previously touched on. Our rich heritage of Archaeological remains, mountains, forests and lakes, as well as our nearness to the sea and much publicised Yeats Country.



Ballymote Show's Best Dressed Lady, Mrs. Mary Middleton, with the judge, Mrs. Ryan's, Ryan's, Wine St., Sligo.

Ulster Bank

BALLYMOTE



Ulster Bank

MANAGER: Kieran McGowan

ASST. MANAGER: Eddie Sweeney

WERE YOU BETTER OFF IN 1932?

H.A.I.
(Enclosure II.)

SAORSTAT EIREANN.

MEMORANDUM A.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACTS, 1932 to 1936.

MEMORANDUM ISSUED BY THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE GUIDANCE OF PERSONS AND PUBLIC UTILITY SOCIETIES DESIROUS OF ERECTING NEW HOUSES UNDER THE ACTS.

FREE GRANTS FROM STATE FUNDS.

1. Grants of the following amounts for the erection of new dwelling-houses, including suitably planned self-contained flats under the Acts, are offered:—

(a) to persons and public utility societies in urban areas (including towns with Town Commissioners):

	per house
For houses of floor area not less than 500 and not more than 1,250 sq. ft. begun on or after 12th May, 1932, and completed before 1st April, 1936	£50
For houses of floor area not less than 500 and not more than 1,250 sq. ft. begun on or after 12th May, 1932, and completed before 1st April, 1937	£45
For houses of floor area not less than 500 sq. ft. and not more than 800 sq. ft. begun on or after 1st July, 1936, and completed before 1st April, 1938	£45

The attention of persons erecting houses in urban areas is particularly directed to the fact that houses begun before 1st July, 1936, must be completed before 1.4.37 to qualify for a grant. See also paragraph 22 of this memorandum.

(b) To persons in rural areas:

For houses of floor area not less than 500 and not more than 1,250 sq. ft. begun on or after 12th May, 1932, and completed before 1st April, 1938:—

in the case of a house erected for his own occupation by a person who derives his livelihood solely or mainly from the pursuit of agriculture and is in occupation of agricultural land and buildings, the rateable value of which	
(i) does not exceed £15	£70
(ii) exceeds £15, but does not exceed £25	£60
in the case of a house erected for his own occupation by an agricultural labourer	£70
in the case of a house erected by any other person whether for his own occupation or not	£45

Emlaghfad G.A.A. Team

From Page 5 :: By Nial Farry

Martin Davey provided a link with an earlier Emlaghfad team played against Cloonacool in the 1916 Junior Championship and against Gurteen in the 1917 Junior competition. The team seems to have disbanded after 1917.

The new club secured permission to use John Ferguson's field beside Emlaghfad church on the following terms. A £1 fee was paid for the use of the field for every match and practice was allowed free of charge. Although Ferguson's field is situated adjacent to the site of St. Colmcille's monastery of Emlaghfad, it is, in fact, located in the townland of Tieveboy.

An annual dance was held in the Loftus Hall, Ballymote, in aid of club funds. The club colours were horizontal red and white stripes and each player was obliged to wash his own jersey after every match. Eddie Mullen, of Emlagh, recalls giving John Ferguson a day's work on the bog as payment in kind for the rent of the football field. For this service Eddie was reimbursed by the Club. John Feehily was in charge of gate arrangements. When John Ferguson died in 1944, the members of Emlaghfad team carried his coffin, in relays on the mile-long journey from his home to Ballymote church.

Ballymote businessman, John Thomas Regan has been given great credit for motivating the team members to practise and train themselves between games. Training was, of course, informed in those days and P.J. Rogers remembered Regan as the person who enthusiastically organised the sessions although he had no interest in playing in matches. John Thomas was a well-known handballer who represented Ballymote and Sligo on many occasions. Paddy Carey, a Dublin born barber, is also remembered as a keen motivator and mentor of the players on match days.

The admission fee to Ferguson's field was usually 6d but 1s was charged on a few occasions. It is estimated that a thousand people attended some of Emlaghfad's home games. The record gate receipts were £26. On one occasion the Emlaghfad club was asked to host an important match between Keash and Gurteen. The officials of the

visiting clubs objected to Ferguson's field on account of its tight dimensions so Sonny Gilmartin's field, adjacent to Ferguson's, was rented for the occasion.

Mrs. Corcoran, of Keash Rd., Ballymote, whose husband, John, was an Emlaghfad player, after a period with Derroon, remembers droves of people walking from the town to the playing fields. These were the war years and motor transport was restricted so it seemed that virtually every person in Ballymote was on hand to cheer on the team. Even the infants in their prams had their places on the packed sidelines.

From its foundation in 1938 the Emlaghfad team participated in the Co. Sligo Junior Championship. It was the burning ambition of all the players to win that competition so as to attain Senior status. During these years Emlaghfad's opponents were generally confined to the East Sligo area and these included Derroon, Keash, Gurteen, Killavil, Knockalassa, Sooley and Ballintogher. The Emlaghfad club also fielded a minor team and in 1943 the minors were runners-up to Collooney in the County final. Some of the 1943 Minor panellists were Tommy Coleman, Eddie Mullen, Matt Scanlon, Fachtna Collins, Paddy Brennan (Lissananny) and John Fox.

In 1946 the Emlaghfad Junior Team went close to realising its main ambition when it lost by one point to the eventual winners Tourlestrane, in the County semi-final which was played in Bunninadden.

There was intense rivalry between the two local teams, Emlaghfad and Derroon. One of their matches, which has now become part of local folklore, was played on the day of Fr. Val Rogers' ordination in June 1945. Unfortunately things got badly out of hand during the game which had to be abandoned in disorder. John Corcoran, the store manager in Rogers of O'Connell St., was playing for Emlaghfad and he received a severe gash over the eye. His workmate, Andy Rogers, was a Derroon player and he also suffered a facial injury. Both men were living in the Rogers household and they needed medical attention. There was widespread sympathy in the town for Andy's mother, who had now to cope with two injured workers in her house as well as dealing

with the problems of a prolonged ordination celebration. In spite of her strict instructions, the two stalwarts lined out for the rematch a fortnight later.

Another incident that has endured in the memory of the Emlaghfad followers involved a free kick that Paddy Pettipiece took during a match in Gurteen. Just before he struck the ball, Paddy threw his cap in the direction of the defenders on the Gurteen goal line, momentarily distracting them. The ruse was successful and Paddy scored a goal.

In 1947 the Emlaghfad and Derroon clubs amalgamated and played thereafter as Ballymote Round Towers. The players from both sides formed the nucleus of the Ballymote Senior team that won the Sligo Senior Championship in 1948. The failure to win the Sligo Junior Championship was a source of great disappointment to the Emlaghfad players but when one considers the immense Emlaghfad contribution to the victorious Ballymote Senior Team of 1948 it is reasonable to suggest that county honours at Junior level would certainly have been won by Emlaghfad had the club remained a separate and independent entity. Emlaghfad provided ten of the twenty strong Ballymote Senior panel in 1948. These players were John F. Scanlon, John Scanlon, Matt Scanlon, James Tighe, Eddie Mullen, Paddy McGuinness, Jackie Sheridan, Aiden Tighe, John P. Kerins and Thomas Coleman. Derroon provided the following players for the panel: William Scanlon, Thomas Morrison, John Joe Taheny, Vincent McGuinness, Patrick Scanlon and Edward Scanlon, Joe Flannery and Fonso Farry were products of the Ballymote Minor and Junior teams. Christie Murray was a native of Roscommon who had won an All-Ireland Minor title with that county. The remaining member of the panel was John Joe Lavin, a native of Killaraght and Captain of the Sligo Senior county and team. John Joe had previously played for Gurteen and Derroon.

Training for the 1948 Senior championship took place in Ballymote fairgreen and the hedgerows of Emlaghfad and Tieveboy no longer resounded to the shrieks of whistles, the thunder of the crowds and the crunch of crashing athletic youths.

Apart from those players already mentioned the following players also represented Emlaghfad between 1938 and 1947; Jackie Mullen, Francie Kerins, John Pakie Kerins, Gerry Finn, Sean Connor, Frank Scanlon, Jack Costelloe, Michael James Scanlon, John McSheera, P.J. Rogers, Bernard Corcoran, Tommy Moran, Drumshanbo, Francie (Bantam) Connor, Jimmy Brady (Cloonlurg), Micky Brennan, Jim Kielty, Micky Connor, John Feehily and Pat Taheny. Emlaghfad players, Aiden Tighe, Paddy McGuinness and Matt Scanlon represented Sligo, with distinction, at Senior level.

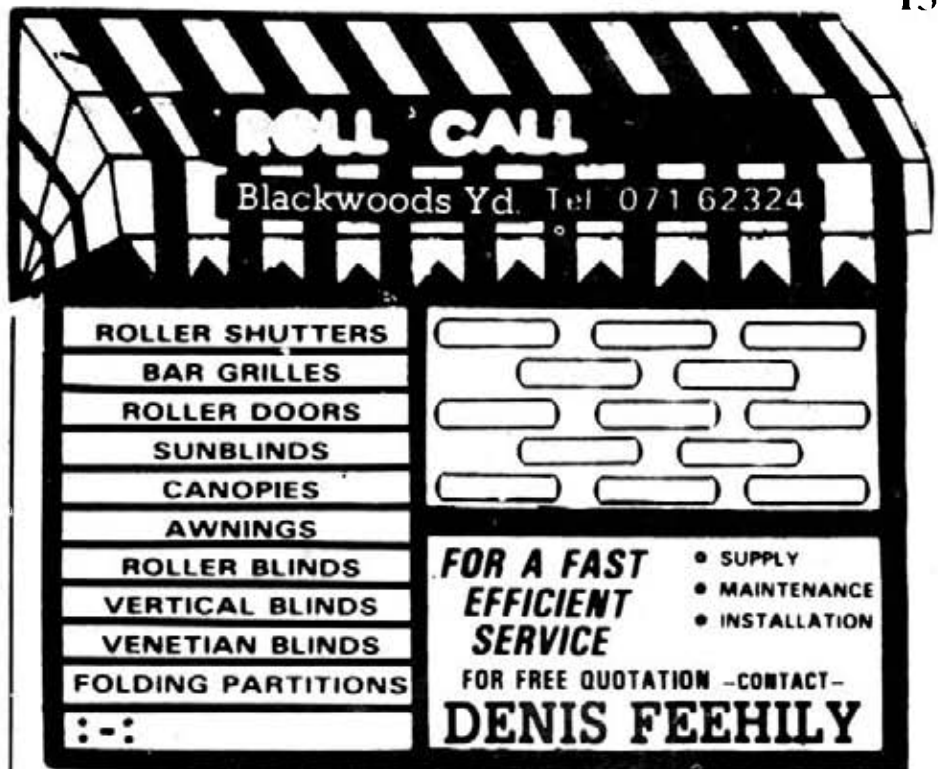
To flashback almost a century is it interesting to note that another unaffiliated Emlaghfad team played a local selection in Mullen's field, Freeheen, on Easter Sunday, 1893 when Paddy 'Tailor' Curley, of Rathmullen, was the man of the match. A row broke out at the end of the match and Paddy noting the number and truculence of the Carrigans supporters, beat a hasty retreat towards Ballymote. When teased about his disappearing act Paddy quipped that it was better to be a coward for five minutes than a dead man all his life.

The Paddy Curley yarn is the first of a succession of Emlaghfad stories that enlivened the fireside chats in the rambling houses and pubs of the parish since 1893. We earnestly hope that Pat Dockry and his current panel of assorted footballers from Emlaghfad, Derroon, Ballymote, Mayo, Dublin, Tyrone, Donegal and Wolverhampton will give the parish glories, memories and yarns that will be recalled, God willing, in 2093 A.D.

CORRAN HERALD

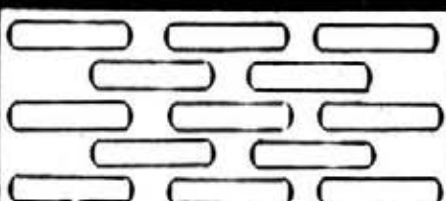
A
Ballymote
Heritage
Group
Production

Editor: James Flanagan
Printed by:
FASTPRINT, SLIGO.



ROLL CALL

Blackwoods Yd. Tel 071 62324

ROLLER SHUTTERS BAR GRILLES ROLLER DOORS SUNBLINDS CANOPIES AWNINGS ROLLER BLINDS VERTICAL BLINDS VENETIAN BLINDS FOLDING PARTITIONS :-:	 FOR A FAST EFFICIENT SERVICE FOR FREE QUOTATION -CONTACT- DENIS FEEHILY
--	---

- SUPPLY
- MAINTENANCE
- INSTALLATION

The role of the people

The centrally based planners who hold the National purse strings should be made to accept that local development needs are important — that the Parish and country town are units of the nation and their healthy growth is part of the national development, also the community workers at local level have their mandate from the people and are well aware of their needs. It is time that these people should be given a real say in the machinery of government, also that local Dáil and Council representatives should realise that only by fully co-operating with community groups. Can they really fulfil their role in government. But do the community groups fully realise their responsibilities and the need to inform themselves fully. The tendency has been to follow a traditional pattern of voting at election time. If a family has supported one of the major political parties in the past, their descendants felt obliged to do the same. Why this was done is hard to say. One suspects laziness. But times are ever changing and what was desirable when this state formed is completely out-dated today. Our people are better educated now and are well able to study situations and form independent judgements. Candidates for election should realise that, and should consult with the electorate

EMIGRATION

Emigration is a long-standing part of Irish life and in the last five years it has reached alarming proportions. The combined unemployment figures for the North and South of Ireland are approaching 400,000 and the figures continue to increase every month.

This problem has become more difficult by the fact that the hitherto ready market for emigrants, that is Great Britain can no longer cope with the situation. Added to this is the difficulty in obtaining accommodation. In London alone, 6,000 of our people are accommodated on a bed and breakfast system as there is great difficulty in obtaining housing. With regard to America, the emigrant problem has become more difficult and as from next October new laws are being implemented in respect of immigrants to that country.

Where does the solution lie to this problem? I feel that greater co-operation between North and South can work wonders as we are partners in the E.E.C. This association may eventually lead to more friendly relations and peace.

Finally, I would like to inform intending emigrants who are going abroad, that it is hoped to establish a bureau for the purpose of advising emigrants. Further details regarding this Bureau will be announced later.



Standing L-R: Josie McHugh, Tom McGettrick, Mollie Martin, Paddy Coen, Bridie Scanlon. Seated Delorus Corr and Carmel Collins.

This happy picture contains the cast of seven of Dark Brown with which the Ballymote Dramatic Society won the All-Ireland Rural Award in Athlone in 1956. All are happily still with us except Mrs. Bridie Scanlon on the right of this picture. Mrs. Scanlon gave dedicated service to amateur drama during her young days in Emlaghmaghten and throughout her life when she came to live in Ballymote. She played leading parts in such plays as the Rugged Paths, The Summit, Professor Tim, Drama at Innish, The Whip Hand, I'm Righteous and Bold, etc. etc. and audiences at home and at festivals throughout the North West came to know her and acclaim her for her talents. The trophies displayed are a tribute to Bridie and each member of the cast.



ear piercing while you wait

For Friendly Professional Service
Stylists **AGNES** and **PAULINE** will
be glad to meet your needs.

**CUTTING, BLOWDRYING, PERMING,
HI-LIGHTS, ETC.**

O'Connell St., Ballymote, Co. Sligo.
PHONE: (071) 83001

The Exile

*Far from his native land, he
loves so dear,
The mellowed stranger hath
one great fear.
His thoughts are full of a
hillside vale
Where a lonely mother doth
fret and wall,
For her dear fond son.
The seasons come and the
seasons go,
And her mellowed features
That were once aglow,
Are saddened by thoughts not
known.*

*In his lonely room at the dead
of night
A kindly head in the glowing
light,
Would have loved to see once
more
The land he loves with it's
songs and lore.
With a gentle hand he blessed
his brow
And his prayerful thoughts of
a mother true.*

*And so once more on Ireland's
shore,
The aged figure gazed once
more.
He hurried quickly to the
silent glen
That once was full of life and
men.
He entered the threshold of his
early home
But he found himself so sad
alone.
His fondest friend was not
there today,
She has passed the threshold
of life's hardened way.*

BY Stan Casey

BALLINDOON ABBEY

BY Tom McGettrick

There is some doubt as to the exact date of the foundation of this Dominican Abbey of Ballindoon. Dr. O'Rorke, Co. Sligo's great historian quotes the Annals of Lough Cé that 'the Monastery of Ballindoon was begun by Thomas O'Ferghail in 1507'. There is little doubt that the monastery was founded under the patronage of the McDonaghs, Chieftains of Tirerrill, the basony in which the monastery was built on the shore of lovely Lough Arrow. A few hundred yards from it on the lake

shore is a substantial pile of stones and earth of somewhat regular shape which is all that remains of Ballindoon Castle built in the previous century of Tiege, and one of the McDontagh clan.

According to O'Rorke it is one of the five Dominican houses in the Diocese of Elphin, its size and importance being dwarfed by the Great Abbey of Sligo, yet a visit to it will assure one of what a valuable historical and Archaeological gem it is in its beautiful setting on the edge of the Cake. Its importance to the local people goes deeper because within and around its hallowed walls rest many generations of the people of that part of the Barony of Tierrill — an area which was in our legendary stories a battleground for prehistoric colonists (The Battle of Moytura) and in later times a rich harvest ground for St. Patrick's Evangelists.

Many great limestone memorials to the dead of long past centuries are side by side with polished marble stones of our time, indicating a continuity and a tribute of a long established people to their dead.

The Gaelic scholar and scribe David O'Duigenan of Shanroe and Terence McDonagh of Geevagh, 'The Great Councillor' and soldier in the Williamite Wars are both buried within the Abbey Walls. This McDonagh for a short period commanded a garrison at Ballymote Castle.

The Abbey at Ballindoon is fairly well preserved, but like most buildings of its kind, needs occasional attention. It is of course a roofless ruin. An 18th century sketch in Grose's Antiquities of Ireland (in Sligo Library) gives a good idea of what a fine building it was then. There are some loose stones, one loose stone brings down another, the small repair done today would secure what might be difficult to repair later.

On a Friday evening a few years ago, there was a great occasion at the Abbey after a lapse of two hundred years, Mass was again celebrated there. The celebrants of this Mass were Most Rev. Dr. Conway, Bishop of Elphin, Rev. A.J. Ryan, OP, Sligo, and Rev. Fr. M. Brown, CC, Highwood. There was a large congregation giving an indication of a high place Ballindoon holds in the hearts of people. Were it to be allowed to deteriorate in any way it would hurt many a heart.

The Linen Industry

HERITAGE OF OTHER TIMES

In the April issue, we introduced the story of the linen industry in Ballymote as told by Arthur Young, who visited Ballymote in 1776, in his book 'A tour of Ireland'. In this issue as promised we continue the story. It is a story of dedication to an ideal and deep interest in the welfare of a community. The Fitzmaurices who sadly saw much of their planning end in failure played an important part in the politics of England up to modern times. Mr. Young continues:

BY TOM McGETTRICK

In the first year, 1774, not having a bleach-green, he only kept the looms going to sell the linen green: 65 in that year worked 1730 webs, each 50 yards long and seven-eighths broad, on the average 10 hundred linen. In 1775, the number of looms was 80, and they worked 2110 pieces of the same linen. At present the number is 90, and preparations are made for there being 120 by this time twelve-month: and Mr. Fitzmaurice has no doubt of having 300 in two years' time. In establishing and carrying on this manufactory, the increase has been by weavers from the north, for whom he builds houses as fast as he can, and has many more applying than he can supply by building. They come with nothing but their families and Mr. Fitzmaurice fixes them in houses, finds them a loan and everything necessary for their work, and employs them upon their own account; their rent for their house and garden being proportioned to their idleness. The full rent he fixes for a stone and slate cottage, that costs him £50 is 40s. if the weaver is idle; but in proportion to the number of webs he weaves his rent is lowered; besides which encouragement, he gives premiums for the best weaving and spinning throughout the manufactory. In order to show how far this system of employment is of importance to the neighbourhood, I may observe that the 80 looms besides the 80 weavers, employed 80 persons more, which are usually women; quilling, warping and winding; the quilling by children and half as many children for quilling, in all 80 men, 80 women and 40 children. The 2110 pieces worked last year consumed 132,930 hanks of yarn at 63 each, allowing for accident and

waste, which is spun here, and as a woman spins a bank a day (it is 3 hand yarn) it employs at 300 days to the year, 443 women. I should be particular in remarking, that all the houses he built for the weavers, have no more than half a rood of potato-garden to them, Mr. Fitzmaurice finding them a cow's grass, for which they pay 30s. He does this, because he would not wish to have them farmers, which he thinks does not at all agree with their business of weaving. He has planned much greater works; has procured a patent for a market, which he designs to establish; to build a large handsome market-house, at an expense of £1,000; to pull down all the old cabins in the town, and rebuild them in regular streets of good houses for weavers and mechanics. To convert a large house, at present used in the manufactory, into a handsome inn; a large house for a master-weaver and lastly a mansion-house for himself in the stile of a castle, and suitable to the ancient ruins, situation and grounds. For these purposes he has employed Mr. Paine, the architect, to give designs and execute the whole. These are great works for the ornament and improvement of a country, and united with the flourishing progress of the manufactory, promise to make Ballymote a considerable place. Too much praise cannot be given to a man, who in the prime of life, when pleasure alone usually takes the lead, should turn his attention and expense to objects of such national utility and importance which have for their aim the well-being, happiness, and support of a whole neighbourhood. In many places throughout the country there are fields or gardens still called 'bleach-green' and the Irish word 'Tuar' which is a common place name has the same meaning.

PAUL ELLIOTT

FAMILY BUTCHER

FOR QUALITY AND VALUE

*Choice Beef, Bacon, Lamb, Pork,
Fresh Chickens, Sausages, Burgers,
Rashers, Collar Bacon.*



DEEP FREEZE ORDERS

PRICES, like the meat, WELL CUT.

OPEN LATE THURSDAY & FRIDAY TO 8 O'CLOCK

Lower Main Street, Manorhamilton. Phone: 55023

Bridge Street, Sligo. Phone 43441

PHONE: 071-83351

JOHNSTON FURNITURE

BALLYMOTE

**SEE OUR LARGE
SELECTION OF
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE
at UNBEATABLE PRICES**

FREE DELIVERY PHONE BALLYMOTE 3326



TINA'S

HAIR SALON

O'CONNELL STREET, BALLYMOTE. TEL. 071-83382

OPEN ALL DAY MONDAY ::

OPEN ALL DAY MONDAY :: LATE OPENING THURSDAY
SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR STUDENTS & SENIOR CITIZENS

VINCENT McDONAGH & SONS

FOR

● TELEVISIONS ● VIDEOS ●
WASHING MACHINES ● GAS
ELECTRIC COOKERS, ETC.

PHONE: 071-83351

SCULLY'S

BALLYMOTE. PHONE: 83418

SINGING LOUNGE

MUSIC EVERY SATURDAY



EILEEN'S

HAIRDRESSING SALON

BALLYMOTE

JOHN DODDY BAR & LOUNGE

(with Meeting Room)

**BP Petrol, Diesel,
Oils.**

OPEN 9 am — 11 p.m.