

# THE CORRAN HERALD

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## The Earliest Settlers In County Sligo

Have you ever wondered just how long people have been living in this County? Most of the buildings in the county date to the 19th and 20th centuries. Ballymote Castle dates to about 1300 A.D. There are burial mounds close to Ballymote dating to before the time of Christ and others dating to the earlier bronze age, about 2,000 to 1,400 B.C. The cairns on Keash and Carrowkeel date to the period of our earliest farmers, 3,000 to 2,000 B.C.

How far back can we go? At what point can we say that there was nobody living in Co. Sligo? Men began living on this island of Ireland about 7,000 B.C., mainly along the north and east coasts. By 4,000 B.C. or at the latest 3,500 B.C. these people had reached Co. Sligo. These first settlers did not leave great or even simple monuments and so proof of their existence is hard to find.

These first settlers in Ireland lived what we call today a

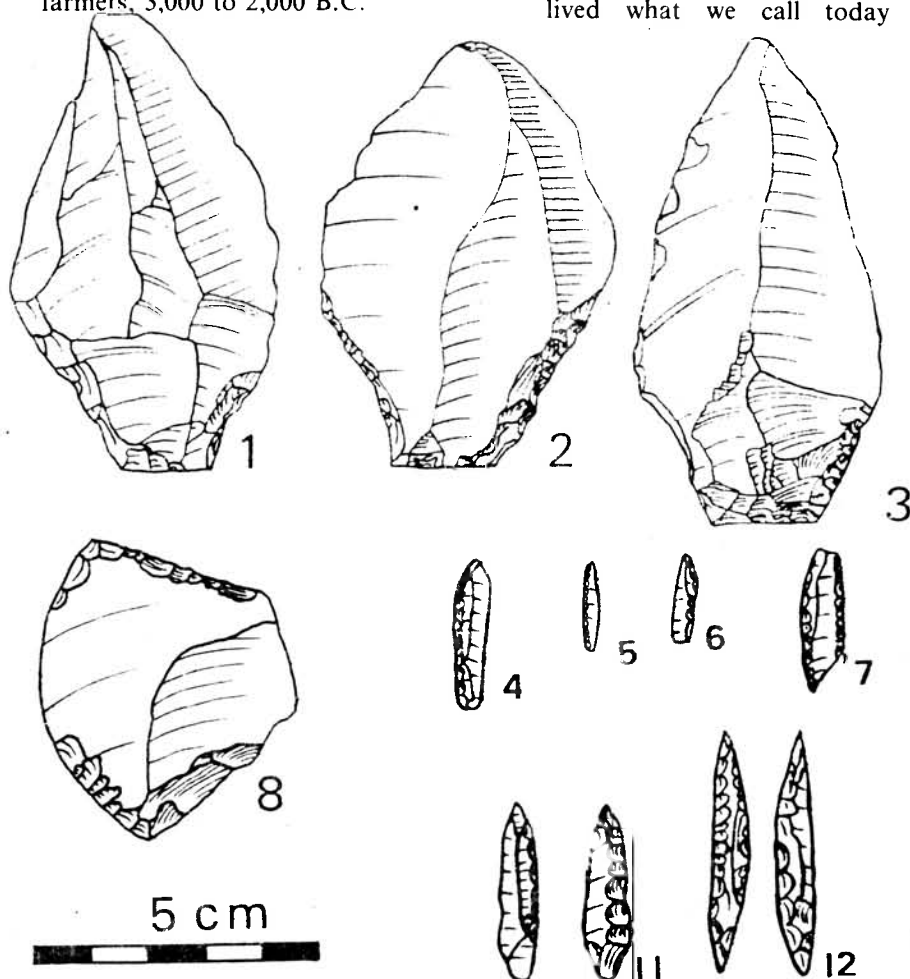
by Martin Timoney

Mesolithic way of life. They were hunters, fishermen and gatherers. Their way of life was based on what I like to describe as 'the fruits of the forest' taking that in its broadest sense. Anything that nature provided was used. Deer, wild animals and birds were hunted. Fruits, birds eggs, nuts, berries, leaves, herbs, shellfish, honey, mushrooms, seaweed, grasses and nettles were gathered. They fished for all sorts of fish in rivers, lakes and in the sea. All these helped give a good varied diet. Agriculture, cattle, grain, vegetables and potatoes were all centuries away in the future.

Not all these foods were available at the same place all the year round. So Mesolithic groups would have moved to where the food supply was and this varied with the seasons. This migration cycle ruled out substantial dwellings. Their huts were of light timbers and hides, either like the wigwam of the American Indians or like a large inverted basket. When the group moved on only post holes and fire places remained. We know by comparison with modern day peoples living a mesolithic way of life that these people probably had sacred ritual sites and designated burial areas on their seasonal circuit.

Besides meat, a deer was a source of bone and antler, usable for tools and hide for clothing and containers. Less appetising to us is the eating of blood, mixed with seeds, or the eating of brain or the half digested contents of the stomach. Also, sinew and gut had their uses. Seals are a source of

skins for clothing, fat for light and



A variety of Flint Tools, scrapers and points used by Mesolithic people in Ireland.

# A Late 18th Century

by Mary B. Timoney

In the northwest section of the graveyard at Ballymote Friary, is an interesting late 18th century headstone. The limestone headstone measures 74cm from ground level to its curved top. It is 48cm wide and 13cm thick. The top of the stone follows the outline of the decoration which consists of an I.H.S. in a full sunburst with an hour glass on either side. On the arched bar of the H is a cross with splayed terminals. I.H.S. is the monogram for Christ and the hour glass symbolises death, the short passing of life. The sun is symbolic of Christ, as the source of all energy symbolising glory. The sunburst is well executed; the rays alternate with every second one straight or flamed. Many sunbursts on gravestones in Co. Sligo are treated in this manner. Hour glasses on gravestones in Co. Sligo are relatively rare.

The incised inscription in good clear lettering reads:

Here lyeth the  
body of John Kerin  
who departed this  
life August ye 12th  
1776 aged 59 yrs  
Jams. Toomy  
Facit

The unusual feature of this headstone is that the sculptor has cut his name, Jams. Toomy on it. The last word, facit, is the Latin for made. The lettering for his name is done to the same size as the rest of the inscription. H is only in recent times that it is common for stone masons to cut their names on their work. On 18th and 19th century signed headstones the sculptor's name would not be in such a prominent position or in as large lettering as in this case. Jams Toomy must have been a mason of note, as can be seen both from the high quality of his work and it would only have been a superior mason who would put his name on a gravestone. There is no other gravestone in the graveyard comparable to this work. It could have been that he was a travelling mason of note, who was visiting the Ballymote area for some other work and was commissioned to do this headstone. Seamus Murphy, the famous Cork born sculptor, describes the travellings and work of such masons at the beginning of



this century, in his book 'Stone Mad.' The itinerant masons would travel around the country working on buildings such as churches, court houses, bridges and big houses which involved the quarrying, shaping and the dressing of stone. He would have carved decorative pieces for door and window lintels, columns, fireplaces and pulpits. While in the area they would be commissioned by local wealthy people to do individual pieces of carving such as gravestones. It would be interesting to discover what major buildings were being built in the Ballymote area in the

period after 1776. Perhaps we could find out what brought Toomy to Ballymote.

Fitzmaurice established a thriving linen industry in Ballymote about 1774. He erected bleach mills and eighty weaver's cottages at a cost of £50 each. This period of prosperity would have seen a variety of itinerant workers, including masons, in Ballymote. The Toomy headstone belongs to this period of prosperity. The name Twomey is predominantly associated with Co. Cork. When found elsewhere it is often spelt Toomey or as in this case Toomy.

## The Earliest Settlers

heat and their tusks were used as charms. Bird bones were used as needles and, no doubt, colourful feathers were used for adornment.

Knowledge of metal was still thousands of years away in the future so these people had to use what was at hand: Stone, timber, antler and bone. Any sharp stone could be used as a cutting instrument. Flint, a white glass like substance, provides the best cutting edges, but it is only found in quantity in Antrim and some may well have been traded from there at this early period. Chert provided good cutting edges also. This black limestone-like substance was exploited on Knocknarea at a later period, but we do not have any certain chert tools of the mesolithic period except for a few late ones from Lough Gara. The late Mr. F. T. Kitchen of Newpark showed me

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two mesolithic flints from the seashore at Cliffoney. The simplicity of some of these tools makes them very hard to recognise, even by archaeologists. Anyone finding anything that looks ancient should send it to the National Museum of Ireland or give it to an archaeologist. I feel that the number of tombs belonging to the subsequent Neolithic farming period indicates a high density of population, many of whom had their origins in the Mesolithic period. The Carrowmore Project (1977 - 1982) has thrown up some controversial results in this regard. Its Director, Dr. Burenhult of Stockholm, goes so far as to suggest that the earliest of the Carrowmore tombs were built by people living a mainly, if not totally, Mesolithic way of life.

# MICHAEL COLEMAN

by Fiona Rogers

A period of 97 years has passed since the birth of the renowned Sligo fiddle player Michael Coleman. It is believed that this great fiddle player is a descendant of the Coleman Family, thought to be of Ulster stock, which settled at Kellanada, Ballaghaderreen about 1840. His grand-father later settled in the Killavil townland of Knockgrania.

Michael Coleman was the second son of limeburner Jamsey Coleman and his wife Ellen, formerly Ellen Gorman. He attended Killavil national school where his teachers at that time were John Lavin and Patrick Benson. His name can still be found in the old roll book which has been preserved in the school house over the years.

Michael's father was a flute player, but it was the famous travelling piper, Johnny Gorman, who influenced the young Coleman. The great John O'Dowd was known to say that Michael Coleman could competently play for step dancers at the age of five years. A little known fact about him is that he held the senior Connaught Championship for step dancing for four consecutive years. His dancing teacher at the time was a man named Touhy who travelled around from place to place. It is also said that Coleman could step dance while playing the fiddle.

Before his emigration to the United States, Coleman spent most of his life playing music at all the country house dances. These took place practically every night at Patrick Curley's of Killavil which was only two miles from his own home. He could be seen strolling down the road on a summer's evening with his fiddle tucked under his arm.

It was in Curley's that he got the names for two of his most popular tunes. According to locals the story goes as follows: One Summer's evening Patrick Curley and Michael Coleman were having a session of music. He got Patrick Curley to play two tunes over and over again until he had mastered them. Michael asked him what he would call them. At that moment Patrick Curley's little girl, called Kate, came in the door. She was followed by a hen

and clutch of chickens and she was calling 'Jelly, Jenny' to the hen. With that Coleman said 'we will call them 'Bonny Kate' and 'Jenny's Chickens.'

When he was eighteen years of age Coleman emigrated to England where he remained for a time working as a barman, and it was here he made his first recordings. He later sailed for the U.S., settled in New York, but soon became restless and joined Keith's Theatre Circuit. With this group he toured the principal American cities and captivated his audience with his renderings of Irish traditional music on the violin. After a few years on tour Coleman returned to New York and became one of the popular artists in the Irish dance halls and country clubs in that city. For many, his beautiful renderings of traditional airs was the only link with their homeland. It is interesting to note that one of his most popular pieces was 'MacDermott's Hornpipe' a tune taught to him as a boy by the late P. J. MacDermott of Bunninadden, Co. Sligo. (Unfortunately, despite many efforts and enquiries, I have been unable to acquire a recording of this piece.)

Michael Coleman was a man of low stature and quiet disposition. During his years in the States he could rarely boast of having steady employment. By 1920 he was married and more often than not, he depended on the fluctuating income he got from his performances and recordings as his sole means of livelihood. This gifted artist sometimes played at important functions on a violin borrowed from a friend. Coleman had many friends in New York, including a number of accomplished fiddle players from the home country — Paddy Killoran, John Down and Tom Morrison.

Coleman was a unique artist. He could blend the joyous nature of our native music with a masterly control of his instrument. One of his most amazing accomplishments was his ability to play a tune backwards, starting with the last note and finishing with the first. However, his real genius lay in his gift for

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dressing tunes. Some claim that he never played an air the same way twice. His amazing musical ability received special recognition and he was given long contracts in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. Coleman's artistry brought his letters of admiration from the celebrated Fritz Kreisler and the renowned Mischa Elman. The latter, searching for the greatest compliment he could pay Coleman, called him 'Ireland's Kreisler of the Violin.' Kreisler in turn is reputed to have stated that he would not attempt the kind of music Coleman played if he 'practised for one thousand years.'

The Columbia and Vocalion Broadcasting Companies and the Decca Recording Company vied with each other in distributing Coleman's dance tunes throughout America and beyond. His best known recordings were 'Bonnie Kate,' 'Lord Gordon's Reel,' 'The Green Fields of America,' 'The Templehouse Reel,' 'The Duke of Leinster,' 'O'Dowd's favourite,' 'Farrell O'Gara's Reel,' 'The Grey Goose,' 'The Morning Dew' and 'The Boys of the Lough.' A number of his recordings have recently been re-issued.

Coleman's recordings were cherished wherever Irish musicians gathered. Their immediate effect was to stimulate interest in traditional music. Coleman's standard of playing was so high and his artistry so inspiring that all musicians, of varying standards, suddenly found motivation to aspire to greater heights. Another result of Coleman's influence was the birth of what may be described as the modern Pan-Irish style of fiddling.

Of several influential recording artists, it was Coleman whose music found widest acceptance not only throughout Ireland but with the various Irish fiddlers of the United States and Canada as well. Many Irish fiddlers imitated Coleman so that the stylistic traits characteristic of the Sligo area began to appear everywhere.

Coleman's importance as an artist and a cultural ambassador goes beyond the effect his music had on the style and repertory of traditional Irish musicians. Coleman elevated to a level of interest that justified the serious attention of a listening audience, by achieving a concert level of performance.

Michael Coleman died in New York on 4th January, 1945, aged 53, at Knickerbocker Hospital, and is buried at St. Raymond's cemetery in the Bronx. In his relatively short life he completely altered the concept of Irish folk music. By his skill and ability he could transform a native and simple tune into a first class masterpiece full of vitality and rhythm. If ever a musician deserved the title 'Legend' it is the Sligo fiddler Michael Coleman.

In September 1974, through the efforts of the Coleman Traditional Society, a memorial to honour him was unveiled in Gurteen, not far from his birthplace. (See photo). The unveiling ceremony was performed by James 'Ladd' O'Beirn, a personal friend of Coleman's and with whom he often played in concerts in the U. S. The monument consists of a large upright slab, flanked by two lower ones. On the large slab is the engraving of a fiddle and the words 'To the memory of Michael Coleman, Master of the Fiddle, Saviour of Irish TRaditional Music, born near this spot in 1892, died in exile 1945.' Underneath the main inscription is an engraving of a harp, signifying Irish culture, standing on the road of time. The sun is dawning over the mountain and there is a chain with broken links to indicate freedom from bondage. The slab on the left side as one faces the monument is dedicated as follows: 'To the traditional musicians of the older generation who in this area inspired his genius.' And on the right slab 'To those of a later generation who after his passing fostered and preserved that tradition for posterity.'

Michael Coleman lived in a traditional West or Ireland abode — a three roomed white-washed cottage. 'Coleman's Cottage' as it is known locally, is situated at a crossroads and 'Coleman's Cross' became a place of congregation for local musicians. Travelling players frequented the home, brought there by the lilting strains. Older members of that community recall that musical activity was so abundant there that the house was dubbed 'Jamsie Coleman's Musical Hall.' Michael's father James Coleman was also an extraordinarilyly deft fiddler with a bow technique much like that of his son.

# Ballymote Nursing Home

by Eilish Friel

The old Nursing Home was previously known as 'Castle Lodge.' 'Castle Lodge' had been the residence of the parish priests since the Sisters of Mercy, who previously resided there, moved to Earlsfield. Monsignor Rougheen P.P. then built the present parish house for the parish with funds he had inherited from his family. When he moved into his new house in 1950 he invited the Sisters of St. John of God in Wexford to come to Ballymote. They came to 'Castle Lodge' in 1952. Extensions were made to the home and in 1953 much to the delight of the people of Ballymote and the surrounding areas the home was opened as a Maternity Home.

In the Nursing Home at that time there were a total of ten maternity beds and three beds for medical patients. There were two people employed in the Nursing Home. The Maternity Ward was in existence for eighteen years and during that time there were two thousand eight hundred deliveries, approximately one hundred and fifty five births per year. Work for the employees at that time was much more difficult that modern nursing. The nurses and employees worked with much dedication and care despite the fact that they did not have the help of modern equipment which is enjoyed by the nurses of today. People came from the surrounding counties — Sligo Leitrim, Roscommon and Mayo to the Maternity home.

The year 1971 saw the closure of the Maternity Home. The main reason for the closure was that women preferred to go to hospital for the delivery of their babies. At that time, Sligo was developing as a major urban centre. With better communications and roads Sligo was a more central area for people from the surrounding counties to go to, so as a result of this, less people went to the Maternity Home in Ballymote.

The St. John of God nuns saw that there was a greater need to care for the aged of the community, so the same year, 1971, saw the opening of its doors as a geriatric nursing home. The number in employment in the geriatric home at that time was two. This home remained open for fourteen years. Due to the increased demand for more beds in the nursing home, work began to build a more modern home. Much work went into the design of the new home to care for the elderly. The new home was to be built all the one level. It was to be better equipped that the old home with newer and better facilities.

But work on the building of the new home could not have started without the great help of the people of Ballymote who contributed so much through various fund raising activities. As soon as people heard of the hope to build a new home bazaars, sales work, socials and card drives began. With the help of these and individual contributions work began promptly on the new home.

February 1985 saw the opening of the doors of the new nursing home. To the present day it employs nineteen people and has a capacity for twenty seven patients. It would now rank as one of the most up-to-date Nursing Homes in the country.

There are plan to build on a mortuary chapel in the Nursing Home, and an account for this has now been opened in the Bank of Ireland. I have no doubt that this mortuary chapel will be built because the people of Ballymote have already shown great generosity, and I am sure will continue to do so in the future. We are very fortunate in Ballymote to have the St. John of God nuns to care for elderly patients, and we hope their existence will be long lived.

# Secondary Education In Ballymote

by Patricia Flanagan

The history of secondary education in Ballymote goes back a long way. Many of its details have been lost, but the broad general picture still survives.

Before the name secondary education ever came into existence, the same level of education was being provided to some extent by the hedge schools. Some of these existed in the parish of Ballymote. They came into being because of the penal laws which did not allow proper schools for Catholics. Neither were Catholics allowed to educate other Catholics nor to receive an education from a Catholic.

In these hedge schools, pupils were educated in the three R's, Latin and Greek. Seán O'Gara was headmaster in one of these schools in this parish. He composed a lot of poetry, in Latin as well as Gaelic, in which he made references to the classics, suggesting that he had had an extensive education and offered a good education to his pupils.

Scholars often left straight from hedge schools to Irish Colleges in France to become priests. Rev. Andrew Donleavy was born in 1694 and educated in Ballymote. In 1710 he left for Paris to become a priest. There he compiled a Catechism in both English and Irish, for the many Irish who had left Ireland for the French army and brought their families with them. This catechism may be the only remaining evidence that scholars did leave from hedge schools and go through college on the education received there.

The first secondary school in Ballymote was founded by Miss Rose Gonley and Miss C. Connolly. They each had a degree from Galway University. Miss Connolly had been teaching in Germany, but returned home and set up this school with Miss Gonley in 1939. Mrs. Una Connolly also taught there between 1942 and 1949. Their premises were in the Keash road, in what is now Mr. Patrick Harrison's house. They catered for approximately twenty pupils, from age ten years and upwards.

They were educated as far as Leaving Certificate Examination standard. As the school was not yet recognised by the Department of Education, the students attending paid a fee to their teachers.

In 1942 the school joined with the Sisters of Mercy and set up in the Glasshouse at the Convent of Mercy. Later this became a bicycle shed and then was changed back into a classroom when the need became greater, and it is the present art room. Fifth to second year pupils were catered for in this building, and the first years were in a room in the convent. The principal at this time was Sr. Frances and Miss Rose Gonley was assistant principal.

In 1941 Miss Connolly married Mr. Paddy Rogers and left teaching. Miss Gonley later also married, and left teaching and Ballymote.

In 1943-44 the school changed premises again to 'Beechmount' (Bartley Cryan's house) Ballymote. In this year five girls sat for the Intermediate Certificate Examination.

They changed location back to the Glasshouse in 1945. At this time the school still taught only girls, but in 1955 it became co-educational. There were now approximately seventy — eighty pupils in the school.

As the need became greater, a new building was provided in 1956. This was funded privately by the Sisters of Mercy. It consisted of four classrooms, a staffroom, toilet areas and a kitchen. In 1956 a laboratory was built.

In 1967 free school transport was introduced and this put up the numbers considerably.

The next extension in 1978 was also privately funded by the Sisters of Mercy. This consisted of eight classrooms and toilet areas. A 'prefab' was added to the school in 1984/85. The basketball courts first came into use in 1976, and the football pitch in 1975. Volley ball has been very recently added for the girls.

At present there are 357 pupils in the school. A further major extension has now at last been

# Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

The recently formed Ballymote branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Eireann held their first function on Wed. April 6th, in the Castle Hotel. A great night's entertainment was provided by local and visiting musicians, singers and dancers. The opening address was given by Fr. Flynn and the 'fear-a-fi' was Tim Kelly.

The Branch have decided to hold junior sessions on a monthly basis in the Community Centre, Ballymote. These have proved very popular so far. All young musicians beginners or more advanced players are welcome.

The basic aim of Comhaltas is to pass on from one generation to the next all that is best in our culture, with special emphasis on traditional music, singing and all forms of Irish dancing.

New members are always welcome. Junior membership (£1) is available for those under 18. Forthcoming activities will be advertised in the local press.

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sanctioned by the Department of Education. This will consist of specialist room for art, craft, a laboratory, offices, a library and a gymnasium. The Department will only provide a small sports hall, so the school staff decided to raise extra funds for a proper gymnasium.

The whole extension will cost £750,000. 80% will be funded by the Department of Education, therefore 20% (150,000) must be provided by the school. Approximately £65,000 has already been raised by the school in a draw which took place between October 1986 and November 1987.

This extension is eagerly anticipated by teachers and pupils alike. The school will then be in a position to provide a comprehensive education which will enable its students to meet all challenges in an increasingly competitive and difficult world.

# The Hidden Strength Of the G.A.A.

The contribution of the Gaelic Athletic Association to the sporting, social and cultural life of the nation for more than 100 years is incalculable. Little did the founding fathers realise when they met in Haye's Hotel Thurles 1884, to initiate the G.A.A. for the preservation and cultivation of national pastimes, that they were planting a seed, which like the mustard seed of the Bible Story, would become a sturdy tree, with overspreading branches that would eventually reach and effect every parish and townland in Ireland.

The latter part of the nineteenth century was a depressing time for Irish nationalism. Memories of Black '47 were still green, and worse still originated a tide of emigration to England and America which denuded the countryside of some of its most talented young men and women. Excessive drinking was the norm in all areas, and the general picture was bleak and barren. It is no exaggeration to label the foundation of the G.A.A. as a social revolution. Sports meetings were held in venues which had not seen the likes for 50 years. The country was soon humming with interest and activity. The ambitions of the youth were aroused, and the young men, who a short time ago loitered in idle fashion around the village pubs on a Sunday, now had found a new sense of purpose. Every parish had its newly formed football and hurling team, prepared to do or die for the honour of the little village. It was soon evident that

there was a new air of parochial and national pride. Young men were proud to belong to the Association, and they described themselves as Gaels, which obviously meant a higher status of nationalism for them than for those who were not members of the Organisation. Suddenly, the Irish culture, heritage, tradition and way of life was rejuvenated. There was soon an unparalleled interest in our identity.

Despite the political upheavals of the time, the Organisation never became side tracked, and it will always be to the credit of the G.A.A. that in the aftermath of the civil war, despite splits in clubs and counties, men who had been bitter enemies, met, shook hands and plunged with and against each other as if there never had been a civil war. The G.A.A. was to heal the wounds of division, and when the disastrous tide of the civil war had receded, there was a new resurgence of G.A.A. activity.

Cinemas, dance hall and the radio were scarce commodities then, and the G.A.A. continued to provide the chief source of entertainment.

The hungry thirties with their high unemployment, and the tariff war, together with the huge haemorrhage of emigration may have decimated many clubs, but the G.A.A. continued to dominate the social and cultural life of the parish.

The modern era dates from the end of World War II to the present time and is surely dominated by the purchase and development of club and county

grounds. Today the number of excellently laid out G.A.A. grounds, with all modern type amenities, community social centres and recreational facilities, make the G.A.A. the centre of all parochial activity. The Scór and Scór na N-Og activities embracing every facet of Irish cultural activity, dancing singing, drama, etc. have increased the G.A.A. monopolisation of the Irish cultural scene, in a manner that would be beyond the wildest dreams of Cusack and Davin.

As an Association we have helped to build the nation, to rejuvenate its moral fibre and its self esteem as well as helping to preserve and promote our national games and pastimes.

What for the future? We will have to adapt to the changing realities of a different world, but we must never lose our original historic objectives and aspirations, and we must continue to work for a better Ireland where everyone will be treated with dignity and justice. There is one enormous cloud on the horizon. I refer, of course, to the renewed scourge of emigration which threatens the decimation of many of our clubs. However, given that our Association has a track record second to none in overcoming challenges, I feel that with its invisible hidden strength it will overcome all adversity, and continue to flourish in Ireland's 'four green fields' and beyond.

John Higgins, N.T.

Central Council Delegate  
(former County Board Chairman)

## TUBBERCURRY SUMMER SCHOOL

Tubbercurry will extend a céad míle fáilte to all traditional musicians, dancers and singers when the annual South Sligo Summer School takes place from the 10th to the 16th July.

The School aims to preserve, promote and pass on the unique heritage of traditional music that exists in this area. Each morning, classes will be held for young and old who may wish to learn dancing or singing or any of the

musical instruments. The afternoons will be devoted to lectures, videos, etc., on various aspects of South Sligo music and musicians. At night, well known musicians will give recitals on fiddles, pipes, flutes and whistles. There will also be set dancing and a céile mor will be held on the last night. Local instrument makers will feature on the night of July 11th. On the opening night, a long awaited event will take place: The launching by CCE of the new

record of Sligo Music by Peter Horan and the late Fred Finn.

Last year's School was extremely successful. Set dancing classes were among the most popular.

Enrolment will take place on Sunday July 10th in St. Brigid's Hall at 4.30 p.m. The course fee is £30 (includes classes, lectures and workshops.) All participants must arrange their own accommodation. A list of accommodation is available. Phone: 071/85010/85090/82151/85035.

## TRANSCRIPTION

Public Records Office  
**BOUNDARIES DESCRIPTION**  
County of Sligo  
**1654 — 1656**

The barony of Corran as may appear by the description of the barony of Tirerill which abounds it partly upon the north and altogether upon the east, upon the south with the half barony of Coolavin in the County of Sligo and partly with the barony of (Costillogh) Costello in the county of Mayo; on the west and north-west by the barony of Leyny in the county of Sligo, so that it lyeth as it were a round center in the middle of all the baronies. In the said barony, the parish of Emlafadds lyeth as it were in the midst of the barony, all the rest of the parishes touching thereon and drawing themselves from thence to the utmost extents of the barony. As for the quality of the land, it is good for all sorts of graine crops especially wheate, bearylly and oate, the usual corn in that county as also for all sorts of cattle.

Consisting for the most part of small hills, each hill being compassed about with low valleys, meadow land in some places, in others turf boggs and small little loghs, and through the middle of those low valleys rum small streams in deep narrow channels which are not only the meares of quarters, but also, occasioneth great difficulty for man or beast to travail from quarter to quarter.

There is one considerable river running through it called Owenmore, issuing from a well in Coolavin half barony and supplied with small brooks till it comes to Templehouse Lough lying between the two baronies of Corran and Leyny and from thence that it meeteth another river called Ovenslow coming out of the mountains of Leyny

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barony, and thirdly at Coolooney Castle it meeteth with the river Urshinagh coming from Loharwagh in the barony of Tirerill, and so all of them incorporated fall into the sea at the bridge of Ballyshadara. Those rivers have no comodity of fishing except some few eels of no great moment.

The salmon are not able to pass a great rock at Ballyshadara and another at Cowlowny maketh these rivers altogether unprofitable.

In this barony almost in the middle thereof standeth the ancient castle of Ballymote, now ruinous and the timbers thereof ready to fall.

From Book of Survey &  
Distribution 1654 — 56

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*Cosy Atmosphere*

*Cards*

*Darts*

*Enjoy a Drink*

*at*

**DAVEY'S**

Lord Edward St.,  
Ballymote

# SILENT MEADOW LANDS

by Stan Casey

Lovers of wild life are very concerned about the inevitable extinction of the corncrake, that strange bird whose call with that of the cuckoo is the welcome harbinger of late Spring and early Summer.

For a number of years past, 70% of corncrakes in Europe were to be found in Ireland, but as far back as 1979 only 1500 could be accounted for. In a recent Irish Wild Life Conservation survey, it was found that along the untouched headlands of the Shannon Banks from Lough Reagh to Lough Deirg, a distance of about 50 kilometres, 60 corncrake nests were discovered. This is the equivalent of all the corncrakes nests found in the Outer Hebrides. These statistics go to prove that these birds are fleeing from our meadowlands to safe areas as stated above.

I have not heard the call of the corncrakes for two years now. In the previous two years I heard him call each Summer near Ardrea lake, on meadowlands owned by Alfie Gallagher. After making enquiries I was informed that Alfie has left a small patch of undisturbed meadow where the birk was nesting. He has been carrying out this same routine for some time.

Another method for saving the bird from destruction is the mowing of the meadow from the centre outwards so as to give him a chance to escape.

We appeal to our farmers to take these simple precautions so that our corncrakes may once again join in the symphony of the birds and make our Spring and Summer more appealing and more satisfying.

Michael and Tommy Hunt have carried on a tailoring business at Rathmullen, Ballymote. They are widely known as traditional musicians and have given the following interview for the Corran Herald:-

**Interviewer:** Michael, both Tommy and you have always worked here at Rathmullen?

**Michael:** Yes, since we were ten years or so, we worked here, learning the tailoring trade from our father. We might not work a full day at first, it being twelve hours then. In those days a tailor worked sitting on a table with his legs crossed. There was a sort of wooden frame he held on his knees for pressing seams and doing all the ironing — it was called a laboard. The pressing irons were heated in the open fire and left on a horseshoe to avoid burning the table.

**I.** Had you and machines?

**M.** Later on we got a steam iron and a tailor's donkey, a type of ironing-board you adjusted for doing sleeves and legs.

**I.** Michael, you trained in Dublin?

**M.** I went to Phillips in Grafton St. to learn drafting and cutting of garments. I worked part-time to cover the cost of the course. It was all hand-sewing and if there was a stitch out of line it was all unpicked and sewn again. It was a first-class tailoring establishment, catering for priests, doctors and the like. On completing the course I returned home and Tommy and I started off on our own. Then our brother in America wrote and offered to bring us out there with the promise of plenty of work but advising us that if we could make a living at home we might be better off. We decided to carry on, sink or swim. All the old customers came to us and some new ones as well. We came on gradually and we were content at the job. We began to stock our own materials direct from the wholesalers, giving the customers a wider selection. In my father's time a tailor met his customers on a fair or market day. Usually in a pub over a few drinks a countryman would arrange with the tailor to visit the draper-shop and pick out the material. There were no ready-made suits in the shops then. The tailor charged eight to ten shillings for a three-piece suit, that would be a week's work at least. This went on for a long time. The hand-craft finally gave way to the ready-mades.

**I.** Did you have recessions in the business?

**Tommy.** During the war years second-hand clothes were sold at fairs and markets. They were bought for working clothes and sometimes for Sunday clothes. We were lucky we had a good deal of cloth in stock at the beginning of the war. In fact we made up suits for a draper in Carrick-on-Shannon.

**I.** Did you work long hours to meet deadlines?

**T.** Twelve hours every day, longer when there was a wedding coming up or a young fellow going away to a job. It wasn't all that good for the health — a man should have a more active life. We always took a walk at night and visited the neighbours.

**I.** Did you do alterations?

**T.** We did them free for our customers. We did repairs also — a seat or a knee in a trousers.

**I.** Over the years you had to cope with the changing styles.

**T.** In the early days it was all serge — a strong woollen material. A young fellow didn't wear a long trousers. It was more like riding breeches, tight from below the knee with buttons at each side, worn with long stockings. It was a lovely wear alright. Then there was the plus-fours worn mainly by doctors and bank officials. They were the wear of a gentleman. During the war years the suits were tight fitting and without waistcoats owing to the scarcity of material, and so it went on from one extreme to the next.

**I.** Moving to the music, Michael, you play fiddle and Tommy the tin whistle, concert flute and uilleann pipes. How did it all start?

**T.** It really began with a builder from Galway, named Lavin, who was working around here on the Land Commission houses. He was a marvellous flute player and he rambled in our house every night to play with my father. He did flute, concertina and melodeon. At ten I was able to play the pipe. I remember bringing it to school and another lad banging out an accompaniment on a rusty bucket. I followed it up learning lots of tunes from my father, but I didn't see a set of pipes until I was eighteen.

# CORRAN HERALD INTERVIEW

by Cassie Finn

## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A BALLYMOTE CITIZEN YEAR 1601

by Nial Friel

I. Michael, how did you start?

M. I learned from Joe Hannon in Lissananny, he would be Paddy Joe Hannon's grandfather. Joe was a grand player. The fiddle was very popular around here. Paddy and Tommy Killoran lived nearby, also Pakie Dowd, Matt Molloy and Pakie Fox.

I. You went to the country-house dances and sprees.

T. Yes, there were dances in every house around Rathmullen when we were young. You'd see thirty couples any night. The sprees were held at Christmas and for visitors from England and America. Then there were the benefit dances held in the schools around Rathmullen, Culfodda, Keash and the best ones were in Kilaville — wonderful music, mostly fiddle players there.

I. Did you play in any group or band in the old days.

T. Batt Henry invited us to play in his band with John Joe Gardiner, John Brennan and flute players Willie Mulligan and the Phillips brothers. We had many a good session in Emlaughton with visiting musicians. They went on late enough considering that Master Henry had to be up for school. He was the first to have Michael Coleman's records.

I. Have you any recollections of Michael Coleman?

T. I vaguely remember his coming to Maggie Higgins in Emlagh. I remember him dancing in our house a few nights before my brother and he emigrated to America.

I. Tommy your music was recorded by Radio Eireann?

T. Dick Brennan and ourselves recorded two reels — Lady on the Island, Kiss the Bride in Bed and a jig Haste to the Wedding. It was played recently by Harry Bradshaw on the Long Note. We also recorded with Batt Henry's band for Radio Eireann.

I. Who were your favourite musicians?

T. Martin Wynne, Dick and Lad O'Beirne and Dick Brennan.

I. Tommy, tell us about the uilleann pipes?

T. Nobody around here played the pipes, in fact I'd never seen them. There was an ad. in the paper and they were thirteen or fourteen pounds complete with regulators. I did my best but couldn't get anywhere with them. Later through the piper Anderson who came from Marlow I got a lovely set of pipes and with some help from Brendan Breathneach who came around compiling a book of Irish music, I mastered the pipes.

I. Did you meet the famous pipers of the day?

T. I met and played with Willie Clancy, a grand man. He was my favourite and Patsy Touhy and Michael Carney who was in a wheelchair. I met Leo Rowsome and the Dorans, they played street music, and there was Seamus Ennis, he was a creative musician. Among the younger ones I met Neil Mulligan, a Leitrim man and Michael O'Brien from Dublin whom I met through Fidelma O'Connor, who lived in Ballymote for some time.

I. Did any of the local musicians teach music?

T. Not really, here and around Kilaville they all understood musical notation. They could write out the tunes, but everyone learned by ear.

I. What do you think of the changes in music over the years?

T. Some good, some not so good. The regional styles are disappearing fast. It's hard to know a Clare man from a Kilaville man. While the fashion for speed makes for a lively session it is responsible for the loss of the intricate parts of the tune.

I. What do you think of the new compositions?

T. There are a lot of new compositions, some of them are not original. The old simple tunes were meant for simple straight forward dances and were never meant to be smothered in ornamentation. Having said that we enjoy playing and listening to the traditional music of all ages.

My name is Turloch McDonagh, and I live with my wife and two children in a clearing in the forest made by my father and his bather before him in the Forest of Corhobber. I am not a rich man like the O'Donnells of the Castle in Ballymote or even as rich as his soldiers or bards.

The week I want to tell you about started on Sunday the 9th September 1601. I woke up early that Sunday as the gales of the night before had removed part of the thatch from my house. I was afraid that the stockade where I kept my three goats and a cow might have been damaged. I was very fortunate as the fence has held firm. I spent the rest of the day repairing the thatch.

Monday was a nice fresh day after the terrible storms of the previous weeks. I decided on going hunting as food supplies were very low. I soon set off in the direction

which in previous days had proved very successful. It wasn't long before I was in the middle of the forest and I feared I was lost. I climbed up a large oak to see if I could find my bearing. I soon recognised where I was. The view from above was magnificent. Ballymote Castle could be seen very clearly. I noticed that an unusual amount of smoke was coming from the direction of the castle. I also saw that large groups of men were marching towards the castle. I soon forgot about it and continued hunting. The day ended very successfully, and I was pleased for at least I knew that we had enough food for the immediate future.

All of Tuesday was spent harvesting my crops of oats and barley. My crop was not as good as other years, but at least I knew that it would see my family through the winter before the hard weather would set in.

contd. page 11

## McDONAGH'S KEASH

### Grocers & Undertakers

Keash, Ballymote.

## THE HIDEOUT

BALLYMOTE. PHONE: (071) 83472

*Traditional Music Session  
every Thursday night*

*Darts Competition Friday*

*Music every Saturday*

## GOVERNMENT

by Una Preston

Good government starts at grass roots level. We are accustomed to looking for it from the top and ignoring the part we ourselves should be playing. We leave education to the schools. The teachers are excellent people, but they are paid for their work. Their interest in the children is of necessity only passing. The same applies to the health services, highly organised as they are with Health Boards, Doctors, Consultants, G.P's etc. Free health services: there are a lot of question marks here. Social Welfare – again

a question mark. Why are so many people in need of social assistance? Is the EEC a blessing or a curse? Does a country as small as Ireland need a capital city as large as Dublin has become? Can centralised government ever be just or effective?

A few women have scrambled into ministerial positions and are trying to play the establishment game but the women at the bottom seem blissfully unaware that there is a readymade role for them and that they should be playing it.

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## BALLYMOTE HERITAGE

by Una Preston

Ballymote Heritage Groups Lecture season is almost ended. It has been full and interesting. The Swedish Archaeologist, Stefan Berg, gave a very interesting account of his excavation work on some ancient graveyards in Sligo, including Carrowmore.

Niall Farry in a detailed and very well researched lecture gave an account of the Taaje family from arrival in Ireland to final departure, their connection with Ballymote and its castle and involvement in Irish affairs in the wars and politics of that time.

The last two lectures were a departure from history, and could be called Nature studies. The first of these by Brendan Friel, dealt expertly with trees, native and foreign and was supported by an illustrated project by two young school girls. The second, by Martin Enright, himself an experienced birdwatcher dealt with birds and was supported by two excellent films. The colourful and beautiful Kingfisher, its habitats and lifestyle, was the subject of one of these. The second dealt with waterfowl, both native and visiting, and came from Northern Ireland.

The final lecture in our programme – The book of Ballymote – is being postponed owing to pressure of time until the opening of next lecture season.

## APOLOGY

Due to shortage of space in this issue P J Duffy's article has had to be held over.

## CORRECTION

In Corran Restaurant Ad. page 16 Lunch price should read £4.50.



## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A BALLYMOTE CITIZEN

contd. from page 9

In the evening a traveller called looking for directions to Ballymote. I told him the directions and also offered him a bed for the night as it was very dark and not much headway could be made. We were soon sitting beside the fire talking. I began to tell him about Ballymote Castle. He was fascinated to hear that the castle is thought to be the strongest in Connacht even though it was built in around the year 1300 by Richard de Burgo.

On Wednesday I decided to go to Ballymote. As I neared the town, I began to notice the smoke which I had seen a few days before. I was amazed when I reached the town to see the crowds which were making their way to the castle. One of the townspeople told me that they were part of the O'Donnell and O'Neill's army which were marching south to Kinsale to attack the English. I then went to the castle to see what was going on. Thousands of soldiers were assembling outside the castle and everybody seemed to be very busy. However, I began talking to one of the soldiers. He told me that the purpose of the march was to do battle against England and to drive the English out of Ireland. I then left as it was becoming very dark.

Thursday was spent preparing firewood for the house. I started off very early in the morning with my axe. At the end of the day I had a good pile of fuel. This indeed was a relief as I would not have to worry about firewood during the Winter.

On Friday my curiosity brought me into the town. I again went to the castle. This time there were even more people gathered around the castle. I was surprised to see many townsmen there. They told me that they too were going to march as well as the many others who gathered at the castle. A few hours later I left for my house. Later that night the bright lights of the town and the noise of laughter and enjoyment were to be seen and heard. It would probably be the last time that the soldiers would enjoy themselves until after the battle.

On Saturday I again went into the town. This time to watch as the army left. I arrived early just as the final preparations were being made. Then everybody was called around outside the castle to where a monk said a mass for the safety of the soldiers. It wasn't long before they were about to leave. The scene was magnificent. Red Hugh O'Donnell was at the front on a mighty white horse and all his troops in step behind him. The crowd began to cheer as the army passed by after a while. As the army crossed by the hill of Kesh I was full of hope for a triumphant victory.

## EDUCATION

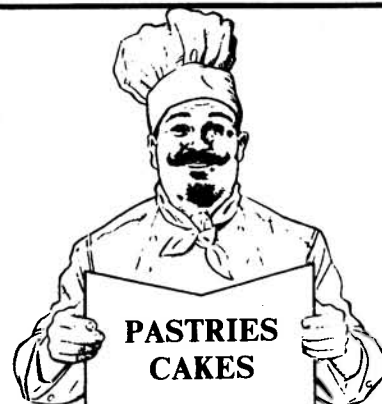
by Una Preston

*It concerns parents, they foot the bills all the way. Their children's future and hopes of employment after school days very much concern them. 40 or more children in a class doesn't give a fair deal either to child or teacher. School attendance is mandatory but looking at some results, curricula and methods of passing on knowledge must be questioned. Who more entitled to question than parents? They are becoming aware of this and parents' associations are being formed in many school catchment areas. Unity is strength and only by organising themselves like most other sections of the community can they hope to make any impact on the system. Teachers should welcome such a move: an organised parent's body would be more of a help than a hindrance to them. Also, there is a danger that with the present and projected class sizes parents may be forced to provide some form of supplementary education themselves particularly for slow learners who often have exceptional talents but need different teaching methods.*

## DAY OUT IN TOWN?

*Bring Home  
something nice  
for tea*

From



## THE CAKE BOX

Lord Edward St.

*Home Baked Bread, Cakes & Pastries  
Specializing in  
Fresh Cream Confectionery & Gateaux  
Prop: John Hunt*

## CORRAN HERALD

A  
Ballymote  
Heritage  
Group  
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Editor: James Flanagan

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## BALLYMOTE COUNTRY LIFE SINCE THE WAR

by Geraldine Hunt

It's now forty years since the end of World War II — a time that has undoubtedly seen greater changes in the fabric of country life than any other period in history.

First, there's the country house. The traditional home in most small farm areas was the three-roomed thatched house with small windows, white washed walls and a half door. There was no electricity at that time, only lamps and homemade candles. The fire was on the hearth or in the grate. A kettle was usually hung from the crane. Bread was made from whole wheat flour and was also hung on the crane in an oven. Stirabout was cooked in a skillet. Other items around the kitchen were the churn and dresser. The churn was used for making butter. The dresser was filled with shining delph 'speckled and white and blue and brown.'

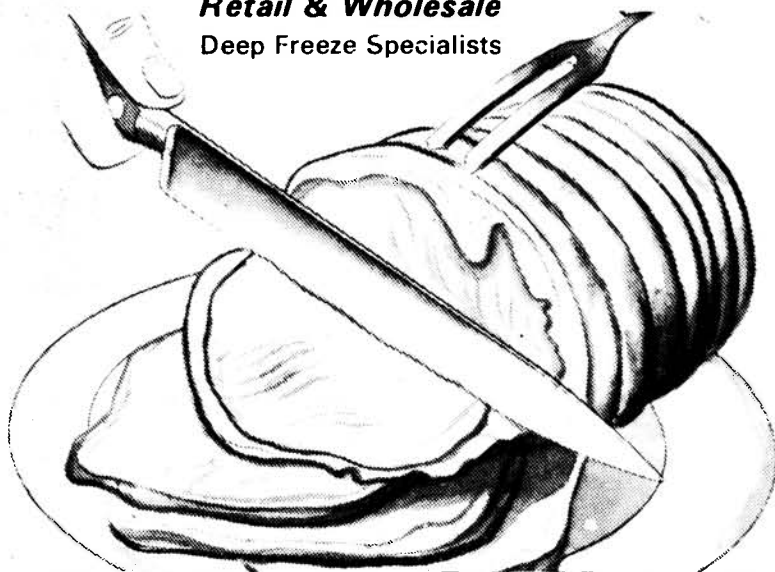
Outside, there was usually a dog asleep in the sun (there were always summers in those days.) Often a sheep dog with a mixed pedigree. There were hens of various breeds eg. Rhode Island Reds with the odd bantam. There was a byre for the cows, a stable for the horses, a calf house, a piggery and best of all a barn. Haggards were where the harvests were gathered near the house. They contained ricks of turf and big cocks of hay. Cows munched hay, and were milked by hand. The milk usually was accompanied by one or more cats, waiting for their share of fresh milk. Milk not intended for churning or feeding the calves or pigs, was put in a creamery can.

For most people, going to town was a major operation. The horse and cart, or horse and trap were used. You usually brought eggs, or a pair of chickens or maybe a few sacks of potatoes. These were sold or traded for groceries. The shopping list included tea, sugar and things like lard, dripping, a pot of jam and a batch loaf.

Some houses had radios which used wet and dry batteries. They were mainly used for the news, the forecast, cattle market reports and football match reports. Young people were told to turn off such things as dance music, especially jazz, in order to spare the batteries.

## Scanlon & Irwin

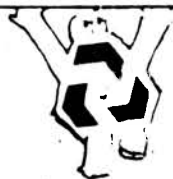
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**HAVE YOUR OWN BEEF OR LAMB  
PREPARED FOR FREEZER AT KEENEST  
RATES**

# Ulster Bank

**BALLYMOTE**



**Ulster Bank**

**MANAGER: Kieran McGowan**  
**ASST. MANAGER: Nobby McGuirk**

Cattle and sheep were still sold at fairs which began very early in the morning and involved getting up at an ungodly hour and spending several hours on the road to town with cattle.

Payments usually didn't take long. The rolls of notes, big or small, could be put in the inside pocket of a waistcoat or lodged in a bank. Then, and only then, were people to eat or drink — or both! It was a long day.

These are just a few of the changes which have occurred in the past forty years in Ballymote. We've made progress. We have our new bungalows with all modcons, our televisions and vidoes, cars and telephones. Around the farmyards we have tractors, milking parlours, slatted outhouses, slurry tanks and all the rest. If we measure progress by these things, we have made progress, but I wonder are we more content.

# History and Philosophy of the Credit Union Movement

Usury is undoubtedly one of the most serious problems in many countries around the world. In many places, farmers, industrial workers, employees, small merchants and small businessmen, are exploited mercilessly by unscrupulous money lenders. Interest rates reach astronomical figures, in some cases as high as three or four thousand per cent per year. In their desire to solve the problem of personal credit, groups of people in many countries have created a large number of savings and credit organisations. Most of these organisations are temporary in nature and, in many, there is an element of chance.

Legalised credit agencies for personal use are very scarce. Generally, they are limited to pawn shops or to programmes of government agencies organised exclusively for their employees. All are very limited in their credit service. Most do not have any safeguards for their members' savings, and almost all of them are informal in nature, lacking government protection in case of fraud or any loss of money. Moreover, all of these organisations work as isolated units without relation among themselves, lacking the strength necessary to create centralised services. Those that are legal, and sometimes government promoted, are so conservative in nature that they do very little towards the solution of the credit problem.

Credit Unions, on the other hand, offer a simple and practical solution to the problem of usury. They are a type of basic co-operative easily adaptable to all economic and social classes. They have proved that they can be successfully developed under the most adverse conditions.

Credit Unions are showing in many countries throughout the world that they are an effective tool for the accumulation of capital and the acquisition of the necessary fundamentals for operating more complex forms of co-operatives. In general, it can be said that credit unions make a significant contribution in the following fields:-

(1) Developing habits of thrift and combating usury through the accumulation of small savings and the extension of loans at reasonable rates of interest.

(2) Developing in the masses of the people the ability to control, in a democratic way, their own financial institutions.

(3) Developing appreciation of the principles of mutual help and the manner in which they can be applied for the solution of social and economic problems.

(4) Training of local leaders in the management, control and administration of their own organisations.

(5) Developing skills, understandings and attitudes for a programme of adult education in the field of consumer credit.

(6) Developing skills, understandings and attitudes helpful in the development of small business enterprises.

## What is a Credit Union

A credit union is a mutual aid organisation whose objective is to promote thrift and to extend loans to its members. Credit unions are organised for people who have a common bond. This bond exists among the residents of a small community, or any other well-defined geographical area, the employees of a factory, the members of the same church, or the members of the same association. All the members of a group may join regardless of race, creed or colour affiliation.

In credit unions, the members exercise a democratic control over the society. That is to say, each member has only one vote regardless of the number of shares he owns. The members elect their own directors and they determine policies at the annual meeting of the credit union.

Credit unions stimulate regular savings among their members. From these savings, loans that benefit the members are made at reasonable rates of interest. Credit unions teach the administration and control of income since, through the credit union, members acquire knowledge of money and establish the mechanism by which millions of small shares are joined together and placed at the service of those who create them. Thus, large quantities of money are controlled by the owners, who at the same time, receive a credit service.

the best way to define a credit union is by giving an example: Let us imagine the residents of the village of Ballytown decided to organise a credit union. Each person eligible as a member will pay an entrance fee of a small amount of money. Many also pledge to save regularly and systematically a small amount each pay period. Some members with higher income save higher amounts. Some will transfer to the credit union savings that they already had accumulated in other places. Each member will have one vote. The members will adopt a set of bye-laws. They will elect from among themselves a Board of Directors and a Supervisory Committee.

The money accumulated from the savings of the members will be lent to those members that need it at an interest rate of one per cent per month on the unpaid balance. On a £100 loan payable in 50 equal weekly payments of £2.00 each, the member will pay a total of £5.95 in interest.

The income from interest will be used to pay the expenses of the credit union, to build necessary reserves, and to pay dividends to the members on their savings.

Since this is a small village at the beginning, the interest paid by the borrowing members is not sufficient to cover the operating expenses. Voluntary service by credit union leaders will keep the credit union operating for some time.

As is the case with the great majority of credit unions this Ballytown Credit Union provides an additional service for their members. They obtained Loan Protection Insurance through which, in case of death or total and permanent disability of a borrower, the loan balance is paid. Another service provided by the credit union is Life Savings Insurance through which, in case of death of the member, his estate will receive an additional amount for each amount saved by the member in the credit union. The credit union pays the premiums of this insurance from its interest income.

Credit union members also pay annual dues for the support of the Credit Union League, for the promotion and expansion of the credit union movement. Dues are paid through the credit union.

## Memories of Dolores and Larry Corr

Ladies and gentlemen, and people of Ballymote,  
I'm coming here before ye to ask ye for yer vote.  
Vote one for Baron Blowpipe and when ye put me in,  
Ye'll get grants for going to bed and for getting up again.  
The Co. Council meetings now get funnier and dafter,  
They should advertize and charge going in for pantomime and  
laughter.  
When I get in, I'll spout so much I'll help the Co. Manager  
To flood the place with water from here to Carrickbanagher.  
With Bord Failte grants we'll clean the town, no more shall cattle  
soil it,  
We'll drive them to the Cattle Mart where they can use the toilet.  
We'll throng the streets of Ballymote with angling tourist bookings,  
And ye'll be making money digging worms for their hookeens  
Our castle and our abbey walls from ivy coat we'll free them,  
And tourists from lands far and near will come in crowds to see them.  
So fill the box with Blowpipe votes in every polling booth,  
And get your man elected by working nail and tooth.  
And when I'm Co. Councillor my next step is the Dail  
And perhaps as Transport Minister where to go I'll tell ye all. (aside)  
When I get in, I promise ye, ye'r future's in the can,  
Then let the war-cry loudly ring 'Baron Blowpipe is the man.'

by TOM McGETTRICK



L - R front row: Berchmans Scully (ugly sister), Tom McGettrick (baron blowpipe), Phil Sheeran (ugly sister). Back row L - R Paddy Mullen (blister) and Tim Daly (pimple).  
Photo reproduced from Sligo Champion, curtesy of James Mulligan.

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## Development

*The magnificent job of development being done on Corran Park by a community group demonstrates what can be done in other areas, and there are many other areas in the town and its surroundings that badly need attention.*

*The Tourist Development Group is working hard to re-vitalise tourist angling, but this is only one wing of our tourist potential. We need many more amenities to make our town an attractive and comfortable place for tourist families to come to. The town needs a cultural centre. A town park, a community meeting room, and a children's playground. Also we need to investigate our potential for farmhouse holidays, for mountaineering, and for wild life studies and guided tours.*

*On the industrial side - the Crafts Group which has some very able and talented workers needs support. The District Council is at present working on a town park project, also it is working towards having a Credit Union set up in the area. A children's playground plan has had to be shelved owing to the excessive cost of Public Liability Insurance.*

## Nuclear Power

by Una Preston

*The threat - womens power. The world is rushing headlong towards its own destruction. If men cannot or will not say stop women should. Already a sprinkling of women are doing just that, but it is a tasak for all the women of the world. Too long men have been allowed to muddle along and with what result? This century has had two world wars with very many areas of continuing conflict - causing untold misery and suffering. It is time for a re-assessment of the whole pattern of living - not just in Europe, America, The Middle and Far East, but all over the world, and women should unite and work to promote and compel the full stop and re-assessment. But in the process they must realise what they are - not pale shadows of men, not imitators, but beings in their own right with potential for change that they have never realised and never used.*

# Griffith's Valuation

In this issue we continue statistics from Griffith's Valuation of Tenements for the townlands of Roscrib (West), Ballinvoher and Cletty. These townlands are recorded in the parish of Toomour which today comprises a large portion of the parish of Keash.

The name ROSCRIB would most likely be from the Irish Ros-Scribe. The word Ros here means a wood — it occurs in the name Camross also. Scriob (gen scribe) has several meanings: Dineen in

his dictionary gives a scribe scrape, a track, furrow, mark or limit, light surface soil, ceann scribe means goal or destination. There is a certain relationship between many of these. In this case it might mean light surface soil or it might refer to some identifying mark which gave the place a name.

BALLINVOHER is Baile an Bhothair or Bealach an Bhothair. The ancient road from (and to) Ballymote, Bothar an Iarla Rua, passed through it

CLETTY. The Irish word Cleite means feather and from it comes the word Cleiteach, feathery, a feathery place. Part of a large turlough is in the townland. Hundreds of waterfowl, ducks, seagulls and swans occasionally come there and there is a considerable amount of moulting. This might give a reason for the naming of the townland. It would be interesting to hear other explanations of these names.

## PARISH OF TOOMOUR.

Tenants to	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	
ROSCRIB, WEST. (Ord. S. 33.)							
a	Samuel Gilmore,	Sir Robt. GoreBooth, Bt.	Land, house, and offices.	119 2 5	105 0 0	4 0 0	109 0 0
b	Laurence Luby,	Samuel Gilmore,	House,	—	—	1 0 0	1 0 0
c	Patrick Morrison,	Same,	Herd's house & offices,	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
	William Jenkins,	Sir Robt. GoreBooth, Bt.	Land,	17 1 29	13 10 0	—	13 10 0
			Water (Bellanas:arrow Lough),	2 3 16	—	—	—
	Mary Woodlands,	Sir Robt. GoreBooth, Bt.	Land (severance),	0 1 31	0 5 0	—	0 5 0
	Samuel Gilmore,	Same,	Land (severance),	1 0 0	0 15 0	—	0 15 0
			Total.	141 1 1	119 10 0	5 10 0	125 0 0
BALLINVOHER. (Ord. S. 33.)							
a	Meredith Thompson,	Sir Alex. Creighton, Bt.	Land,	13 1 0	8 0 0	—	8 0 0
b	Thomas Reid,	Meredith Thompson,	House,	—	—	1 0 0	1 0 0
c	Michael Mattimo,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
	Alexander Gilmore,	Sir Robt. GoreBooth, Bt.	Land,	0 3 0	0 10 0	—	0 10 0
	Alexander Gilmore,	Same,	Land,	0 2 15	0 10 0	—	0 10 0
	Samuel Gilmore,	Same,	Land,	0 0 30	0 2 0	—	0 2 0
	Samuel Gilmore,	Sir Alex. Creighton, Bt.	Land, house, and office,	183 3 33	158 0 0	5 0 0	163 0 0
			Total.	198 2 38	167 2 0	6 10 0	173 12 0
CLETTY. (Ord. S. 33.)							
a	Patrick Kearns,	Isabella Irwin,	Land and house,	18 3 35	12 10 0	0 15 0	13 5 0
a	George M'Iloy,	Same,	Land and offices,	11 3 5	8 0 0	0 10 0	8 10 0
a	Michael Cryan,	Same,	Land and house,	4 2 26	2 15 0	0 5 0	3 0 0
	Patrick Callaghan,	Same,	Land,	6 0 2	3 10 0	—	6 0 0
a	Patrick Callaghan,	Same,	Land, house, and offices,	3 2 24	2 5 0	0 5 0	6 0 0
a	James M'Iloy,	Same,	Land, house, and offices,	15 1 0	9 15 0	0 15 0	10 10 0
a	Michael Healy,	Same,	Land, house, and offices,	17 0 20	9 15 0	0 15 0	10 10 0
{ a	Henry M'Iloy,	Same,	Land, house, & offices,	109 3 6	54 0 0	1 5 0	55 5 0
{ b	William M'Iloy,		Land, house, & offices,		27 0 0	1 0 0	28 0 0
	Margaret Healy,	Same,	Land, house, and office,	11 0 36	7 0 0	0 5 0	13 0 0
	Margaret Healy,	Same,	Land,	8 0 0	5 15 0	—	13 0 0
	Patrick Donagher,	Same,	Land, house and offices,	19 0 5	12 0 0	0 10 0	12 10 0
{ a	John Healy,	Same,	Land and offices,	26 3 20	6 0 0	0 5 0	6 5 0
{ b	William Noone,		Land, house, & offices,		6 0 0	0 10 0	6 10 0
{ c	Hugh Davy,	Same,	Land, house, & offices,	3 2 15	6 0 0	0 10 0	6 10 0
a	Hugh Tabeny,		Land and house,		2 5 0	0 5 0	2 10 0
a	Patrick Flynn,	Same,	Land, house, and office,	16 1 20	14 5 0	0 15 0	15 0 0
a	Honoria Flynn,	Same,	Land and house,	10 2 20	6 10 0	0 15 0	7 5 0
b	Bartholomew Flynn,	Same,	Garden and house,	0 0 20	0 2 0	0 5 0	0 15 0
	Bartholomew Flynn,	Same,	Land,	0 2 10	0 8 0	—	0 15 0
	Patrick Bruin,	Bartholomew Flynn,	Land and house,	0 1 10	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 10 0
	Patrick Lavin,	Isabella Irwin,	Land, house, and offices,	10 2 19	8 10 0	1 0 0	9 10 0
			Total.	294 2 13	204 10 0	10 15 0	215 5 0



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