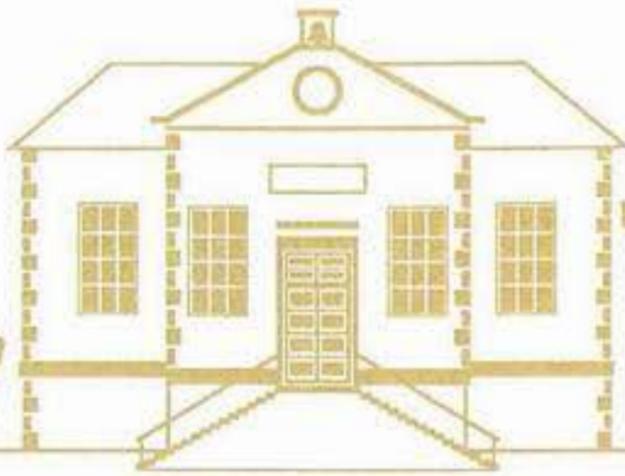


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*Gillian Hogan
Princess of Desmond '90*

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Editorial

In 1988 a very detailed study was commissioned by Shannon Development Company on the Great Southern Trail. It was proposed to develop the railway from Tralee to Ballingarrane as a long distance trail for walking, cycling and pony trekking. The report of the consultants was highly favourable of the project and much progress was made in the period since then.

County Limerick doesn't have many natural tourist attractions, compared with our immediate neighbours, and this trail would be of considerable importance from this point of view - particularly to the Rathkeale area.

The project is now in serious jeopardy due to the withdrawal of Shannon Development from the scheme and it is vitally important that no effort is spared in pressurising the company to change its mind.



CHAMPION

Adrian Maguire, attached to the Michael Hourigan Stables, the 1991 Champion Point-to-Point Jockey. Michael Hourigan was the Champion Trainer for the Season.

Photo by: Michael Hanley

RATHKEALE WELCOME HOME FESTIVAL

August 9th - 18th



FULL DETAILS INSIDE.....

THE GREAT SOUTHERN TRAIL

LIMERICK TO KERRY - A SAFE ACCESSIBLE WAY TO THE HERITAGE OF THE SOUTH WEST

SUMMARY

This outline of the proposal to convert the disused railway line to a track for walkers, cyclists and horses, has been produced following a public meeting in Newcastle West on July 4th at which a resolution to proceed with the project was passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION

The Great Southern Trail was first proposed in a document by the Shannon Development Company in March 1988. It was suggested that the former Tralee-Limerick Railway as far as the junction at Ballingrane would be converted into a long distance trail for walking, cycling and pony trekking. The stimulus of this would be to restore and develop the former station houses and crossing cottages along the route which would provide a range of services to meet the needs of trail users. The trail would be used as a basis of creating a linear landscape corridor and railway heritage attraction which would serve to provide a focus for tourism in the area.

After a very positive external consultant's report (Sustrans specialist trail developers report available from the committee - see names below) and more than a year's work, the project is at a stage of purchasing the property from C.I.E. but Shannon Development, for financial reasons, found themselves unable to continue.

REASONS WHY THE PROJECT SHOULD PROCEED

1. It will create jobs and makes sound business sense

The resources of the trail land, bridges, fences are already in place and have been for over one hundred years, so the cost of purchasing and development of all fifty miles at £1.2million is less than the cost of one single mile of major roadway construction.

The immediate cost of purchasing the property from C.I.E. £180,000 for the whole lot, is a holding operation on property which both Limerick and Kerry County Councils could sell again if, for any reason, the project did not proceed.

Employment in the form of FAS and other schemes would involve ten towns and village communities along the line. Estimates of employment of up to 20

people per scheme give a figure of 200 jobs in the reconstruction phase. The type of work involved is the ideal mix of skilled and unskilled for FAS schemes.

2. Tourist revenue earning potential

Ballyhoura and Sliabh Felim have shown the way to promote and earn money for local communities from tourism and agri-tourism. Towns along the Shannon river from Limerick to Carrick-on-Shannon have created major tourism business based on the corridor of travel along the river.

The possibility of unspoiled, unpolluted travel from Limerick to Kerry and Kerry to Limerick over fifty miles has a special appeal to the increasing numbers of environment conscious Euro-tourists. This is particularly important as Shannon Airport's status is still under threat.

Comparisons with a similar trail in Northumbria (Northumbrian Horse Holidays) which now attracts 20,000 visitors each year and uses 300 horses in the area.

3. Wild Life and Recreation

The trail stretches over a range of soil types from acid sandstone to limestone to aluvial river bed and bog. It has embankments totally exposed, shaded cuttings, a tunnel at some 600-feet in Barnagh and a stretch of several miles along the River Feale. The habitat range is enormous and, at a time of disappearing hedges, the 100 years of undisturbed vegetation provides contrasts in the landscape, plants and animals which are not be found, seen, heard or smelled elsewhere.

The experience of the trail for walking, cycling, running or horse-trekking is all the more important as the traffic has increased so much on the major roads and even the minor roads are frequently unsafe with silage crews and heavy machinery, particularly in summer when children are most at risk.

4. Local Interest Groups

Interested groups from walkers, cyclists, local historians, Palatine Association, wild life, fishing and game enthusiasts, farmers to business people, hoteliers

and caterers, have all expressed support for the project to this committee.

Co-operation with other committees in towns and villages along the line has been most encouraging and a real definite interest in having an input to the development exists.

Fears and worries about security and privacy for those who live, or have land, close to the trail must be considered and met with a comprehensive plan for fencing, policing. Regular consultations at the planning and development stage and a permanent place on the management board for local residents would be essential.

IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES

* Purchase by Limerick and Kerry County Councils of the trail property from C.I.E.

* A measure of support from Shannon Development in organising the development of the project within the limits of their budget constraints.

CONCLUSION

The case for proceeding with this project is undeniable. To lose such a resource for future generations would be a shortsighted act of environmental vandalism. The project has widespread community support, is employment generating and, even if it proceeds at a slow pace of five to ten years, its value as a tourist attraction and local amenity will be enormous.

TRAIL COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Jim McNamara, Lisaniska, Knockaderry.

Tel: 069-83114

Liam O'Mahony, Bishop Street, Newcastle West.

Tel: 069-61121

Paddy McCormack, Ardagh. Tel: 069-64155

Meals on Wheels

This service, under the auspices of the Social Services Committee, was formally initiated by Gerard Collins, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs, on 24th May.

Since then, up to eighteen dinners have been delivered on one day per week within a radius of about four miles of the town. While the service is suspended for July and August it will resume early September when it is hoped to extend to two days per week.

Since the work is all done on a voluntary basis, additional help would be welcome and any person with a few hours to spare in the mornings for either preparation or delivery of meals should contact any member of the Social Services Committee: Joe Dunleavy, John Dinnage, Breda Morrissey, Kathleen O'Dwyer and Mary Hartnett (Croagh), Nurse Bridie Keary.



'FLOW ON LOVELY RIVER' A swan with her family on her back pictured on the River Deel, recently.

Photo by: Michael Hanley



COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Rathkeale Under 21 Football Team, winners of the 1991 West and County Championships.

Photo by: Michael Hanley



RATHKEALE WELCOME HOME FESTIVAL '91

After many long hours of planning and preparation, it is now time to unfold the package which contains the programme for Rathkeale "Welcome Home Festival" '91.

Well, the first piece of information is that this year's Festival will open on Friday, 9th August and will continue until Sunday, 18th August.

It is a difficult task to put together a programme to cater for all tastes and all age groups, but the hard working committee are indeed very hopeful that their programme will contain something for you.

On opening night, Friday, 9th August, the Mayor of Limerick, Alderman Jim Kemmy, T.D., will be in town to perform the official opening of the Art Exhibition by local artists at the Fire Station. The Fire Station is also the venue for a number of historical talks and lectures which will be given by Dr. Pat O'Connor, Limerick University; Col. Sean O'Driscoll; The Knight of Glin, Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald and Mr. Frank Johnson. At the time of going to press, Dr. Pat O'Connor has confirmed that the theme for his talk will be 'All Ireland is in Rathkeale'. The Art Exhibition will be on view daily throughout the duration of the Festival and it should prove to be a big attraction for visitors and locals alike.

In conjunction with the Festival there will be Tug-of-War competitions for ladies and gents. These events will be sponsored by Beamish & Crawford, the brewers of Carling Lager.

Another event included in the programme this year will be a Busking Competition, sponsored by Harp Lager. This will be held on Saturday, 17th August, on the Main Street.

DANCING PROGRAMME

This year's Festival dancing programme is as follows:

Saturday, 10th August:

The Michael O'Callaghan Big Band plus the final of the 'Pride of Munster' Waltzing Competition.

Tuesday, 12th August:

Kiddie Disco plus dancing afterwards to the music of 'Rumour Hazit' plus Emily.

Friday, 16th August:

Final of the 'Princess of Desmond' with compere Michael Lyster of RTE's 'Sunday Game'. Followed by dancing to the music of The Vantones (Entertainment Award Winners '91).

Saturday, 17th August:

Kiddies Disco followed by Ceili and Old Time with Donal Ring Ceili Band. Also the 'Pride of Munster' Set Dancing Competition.

Sunday, 18th August:

Grand Finale with Anne Marie and The Ferrymen. A night not to be missed.

COUNTRY MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA AND BARBECUE

The big attraction on Wednesday, 14th August will be the Open-Air Country Music Extravaganza and Barbecue in the Abbey Park. Heading the programme will be Patrick Roche, Billy Donegan and Jambylia. The show will also feature the Tom Moloney Trio, Noreen Ferns, Michael White, Reunion, Big Maggie, Anne Marie and many more. Compere for the night will be Mike Gardiner of Clare FM. There will be craic, fun, music and, above all, lots of food. Definitely a show not to be missed.

ROAD RACE

Athletes from all over Munster will be in Rathkeale on Monday, 12th August for the 'Race of the South' - the Rathkeale 10k. Up to two hundred athletes will be competing for valuable prizes.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Other attractions during the Festival will include:

- A top-class Open Air Boxing Tournament
- Junior Hurling Tournament
- Under-age Soccer Tournament
- Tug-of-War
- Donkey Derby
- Open Juvenile Sports
- Street Sports
- Fancy Dress Parade
- Open Air Concerts
- Lark in the Park
- 'Reach for the Stars' Talent Competition
- Novelty Events on the streets
- Williams Super Carnival Amusements
- Kick Boxing Display

Of course, one of the principal highlights of the Festival will be the PRINCESS OF DESMOND '91 CONTEST which, as always, will feature up to twenty beautiful young ladies.

PARADES

There will be parades and recitals featuring our very own Rathkeale Brass Band, winners of this year's International Band Competition which was held in Limerick last March. Also on parade will be Majorettes from Charleville Youth Theatre.

CHURCH FUNDS

Indeed it is hoped to have a wonderful Festival which we hope will be supported by the entire community and visitors to the area. Profits from

this year's Festival will go towards the St. Mary's Church Refurbishment Fund.

C'mon everybody and together lets make Rathkeale WELCOME HOME FESTIVAL '91 something to be proud of.

FINALISTS FOR FESTIVAL TALENT COMPETITION

- Celtic Trio (Group)
- Celine Doody (Soloist)
- Aoife Lenihan (Dancer)
- Nora Lynch (Soloist)
- Ann Phelan (Violinist)
- Moira Fitzgerald (Variety)
- Geraldine Carroll (Soloist)
- "Limerick Connection" (Pop Group)
- Margaret Heffernan (Soloist)
- Marguerite Guiry (Soloist)
- Michael Collins (Soloist)
- Brendan Markham (Pop Group)
- "In Harmony" (Group)
- "Sinead" (Group)
- "Heartbreakers" (Group)
- Martina Hurley (Soloist)
- Ailish Feehan (Soloist)
- Sean O'Riordan (Soloist)
- Aeneas Ford (Soloist)
- Patrickswell Set Dancers
- "Inner Circle" (Pop Group)
- "The Young Ones" (Group)

The Final takes place in Rathkeale Community Centre on Sunday, 11th August at 8.30 p.m.



BOXING TWINS!

The Clifford twins of St. Mary's Park, Rathkeale, members of Rathkeale Boxing Club.

Photo by: Michael Hanley

COMMUNITY COUNCIL • NEWS •

ELECTION

Top of the agenda at the moment is the forthcoming election of a new Community Council. The present Council's term of office (three years) has ended and plans are now being formulated for voting in September.

It is a major undertaking and a most important exercise for the local community. It is particularly significant on this occasion as it is very likely that within the next three years further important changes will take place in the system of Local Government. Specifically mentioned in the recently published policy of reform was the concept of a sub county tier of administration. Community Councils - especially those properly and democratically elected - will play a major role in any such development.

For the coming election we are fortunate in acquiring the very considerable assistance of the V.E.C. Training Centre situated in the Industrial Estate. The trainees have taken on the task as part of their work experience and will undertake such matters as setting up and typing of nomination lists and ballot papers, monitoring of voting and counting of votes.

It is vitally important for the future viability and success of the Community Council that everyone possible participate in this election - both by nominating the person of your choice in your own area and then by casting your vote. Further details will be announced in early September.

ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Progress is slow in attracting development here. There is, however, a serious interest from a foreign entrepreneur who is considering a project allied to the equine industry.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

Under the Housing Act of 1988 there is provision for financial assistance to approved voluntary organisations to meet part of the costs of providing accommodation for renting to special categories of persons i.e. homeless, disabled and elderly.

The Community Council will be seeking to become

an approved body and pursue further the possibility of getting involved in such housing development.

SOUTHERN TRAIL

There has been some very disappointing news on this project which envisages the development of the railway line from Ballingarrane to Abbeyfeale and on to Tralee as a tourist trail. The basic plan was that Shannon Development Company would provide finance for the property from C.I.E. and the County Council, together with voluntary organisations, and private enterprise would develop the trail and other ancillary businesses on the route.

Unfortunately, the Shannon Development Company has withdrawn its commitment in regard to finance, leaving the entire project high and dry. It is of particular concern to such places as Rathkeale and Newcastle West which would be centres for major "spin off" elements to the trail while a further serious consequence is that C.I.E. have a deadline for selling off the property, either in lots or as a package.

The Community Council has been in close contact with the County Council and other bodies with a view to saving the plan and it would now appear to be a matter for political initiative. A detailed assessment of the proposal is included elsewhere in this issue.

COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEMES

The work on the relief road is proceeding rapidly and all along the northern side of the town there is great activity on the road itself and on the new bridges. Three new bridges are under construction - over the river, at the Holy Cross junction and on the Askeaton Road.

The building of the new sewage treatment works is also well in hands and it is likely that the pipe laying will not commence until the road is open to take the through traffic.

IRISH PALATINE ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATE - 1st June, 1991

The Irish Palatine Association, formed in April 1989, is in the process of building an Irish Palatine Heritage Centre. The site and buildings of the disused Rathkeale Railway Station, offered by Limerick County Council, will become the permanent home for that Centre. The station master's house which will serve as the reception area, has been dismantled and is presently being relocated in close proximity to the station store house. The two buildings will be linked via a glass tunnel and the store house will be the main museum area. Along with an extensive exhibition illustrating the story of the Irish Palatines and their large contribution to the development of Irish farming and Methodism, the complex will house an archive, genealogy database, gift shop, tea room, video room and tourist information centre. Estimations for the project run in the region of £300,000 and some of this money is being made available by the Department of the Environment while it is also hoped to raise funds in America and to receive some EC grants.

* Associated projects to complement and promote the museum project include an exhibition, improvements to some of the Palatine sites of interest at the three parent colonies of Ballingrane, Courtmatrix and Killeheen. This will necessitate cleaning and marking locations of churches, homesteads etc. and will be the first rung on the ladder in developing a proper tour route through the colonies. This work is to be complemented with a guide booklet, containing maps of locations and sites.

* The Irish Palatine Association meets regularly. It hosts tours of the Palatine settlements to various groups and corresponds with individuals around the world interested in the Irish Palatine story. It has held memorable events and been responsible for the visits of the President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery; the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev. W. T. Buchanan and the German Ambassador, His Excellency Herr. Martin Elsasser, to the town of Rathkeale.

* The Association has a membership plan which keeps interested individuals informed on all its activities. Members fees help support day to day administrative costs in developing our projects and ensure that the history of the Irish Palatines is not lost. The Association publishes an annual newsletter which is distributed free to members.

* The Irish Palatine Association's current exhibition runs at their Information Room, housed in the Rathkeale Community Centre Complex, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. This exhibition opens daily 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. June to September each year, promoting the museum project. This year the exhibition has been generously sponsored by Brian Geary Car Sales, AIBP Rathkeale Limited, AIB Bank Rathkeale, Bank of Ireland Rathkeale and Tadgh O'Connor Hardware Limited.

The Association may be contacted at: THE IRISH PALATINE ASSOCIATION, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK. Tel: 069-64397 Fax 069-64220



Dr. Patrick O'Connor presents his award winning book on the Irish Palatines to the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev. W. T. Buchanan at the stone laying ceremony on the site of the new Palatine Museum at Rathkeale. Also in the picture is the German Ambassador to Ireland, Herr Martin Elsasser.

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

This news item comes just after the writer has survived an election that has brought many changes. Limerick County Council is now dominated by a coalition of Fine Gael, Labour and P.Ds. They may differ greatly in matters of policy but I wish them the best of luck in their task of serving the people and when a item proposed is for the common good I personally will support it.

The V.E.C. is now under the control of the same coalition and the V.E.C. are now solely responsible for the provision of the Community College in Rathkeale. I will not be in a position to promote the school as effectively now, not being a member of the V.E.C. I will watch with interest the progress the present members make on this matter. I must congratulate Frank Johnson on securing a place on the V.E.C. and now publicly call on him to keep a watchful eye on our Community College progress. It is sad that the Board of Management of our Vocational School in Rathkeale now has no local representation on V.E.C. It is completely controlled by outsiders. *Se la vie!*

TOWN BRIDGE

I have earned a clap on the back for the excellent job done on Rathkeale town bridge. This was as a result of my voting funding being made available from E.E.C. to strengthen masonry bridges. This was necessary as an E.E.C. regulation was now allowing trucks with 40-tonne axles on the road and these old bridges would not be able to bear the weight. The pointing on the walls was not included but I am glad the powers that be agreed to it at my request. The tarmac finish is an example of what the rest of the Main Street will look like when restored after the sewerage scheme is completed. That scheme is also off to a flying start.

NEW ROAD

The new road is making great headway and is currently way ahead of schedule. I am keeping a constant eye on this development as snags will arise as progress is made. I have noted a few serious ones to date as follows:

(a) The lack of local employment content in the entire operation. I understand the contractors position in trying to keep a full time core staff intact, what I do not understand is the lack of employment with the County Council who have huge spin off works to do - and adequate funding for this.

(b) I have raised the following question for July meeting: "I will ask the County Engineer when he proposes to put public lighting on the new road where it passes through Rathkeale Urban Town Commissioners District."

(c) I can see severe problems at all junctions and vacant spaces as a result of the new road works. These spaces have, in other areas, been abused by illegal parking of caravans and no doubt Rathkeale will be no different. To prevent this I have the following motion down for July meeting of County Council: "I will move at the next meeting that all junctions formed between existing roads and the new roadway in Rathkeale will be so designed to give maximum safety to users and not facilitate illegal parking". I hope to secure enough support for this motion.

I will follow this up with requests for new street linking Upper Rathkeale to the new road, adequate signposting, ghost islands, margin grading and landscaping.

SHANNON DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

There is good news in this area. It would appear that Desmond Jewellery is planning a major expansion of their factory and will be moving into another unit on the estate. This should result in an increased workforce which will be most welcome in the area.

Unfortunately, the Training Centre under the V.E.C. will probably have to vacate their premises to allow for this development. However, steps are in hand to acquire another location in the town so that this scheme can continue.

HOLY CROSS

Holy Cross is the name of the locality surrounding Rathkeale Station. It gets its name from the cross erected at the corner of the graveyard to the memory of the brave men of the district who were persecuted and lost their lives for Ireland's cause in the years 1798, 1821, 1848 and 1867.

1798

1798 is the first date on the cross. In this year Joseph O'Loughlan and John Fitzgerald of Rathkeale were escorted to Limerick by a group of soldiers and they were charged with using traitorous language and being sworn United Irishmen. Their sentence is not recorded. Only three Co. Limerick men took active part in the 1798 Rebellion. None of these were Rathkeale men. We can thank the Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev. Dr. Young, for the fact that so few Limerick men took part in 1798. He wrote a pastoral on 9th June, 1798 to all his flock, which was read every Sunday in every parish in the diocese until the danger had passed. The pastoral told the people of the calamities that were looming, and exhorted them against the serious consequences that would follow if the people took action on the occasion of the Rebellion.

1821

The Tithe question was the bone of contention at this time in Rathkeale. When a favourable opportunity arose, young men got together and raided and seized arms from their Palatine neighbours. For this many of them were imprisoned and transported. However, no notable outrage took place until 1822.

In February, 1822, Ulic Burke of Newbridge was shot near Cappagh because of a dispute over land. In March 1822, a gallows made of the shafts of a horse's car was erected on Cappagh Hill. Four young men were hanged there in October in order to strike terror into the rest of the country people. The people of Cappagh gave us Madigan, Lewis and Lynch as the names of three of these men and pointed out to us the exact spot where the gallows stood. The bodies of the four men were brought to Rathkeale and buried in quick lime.

On 15th August, 1822, about two hundred men, well armed and dressed in white, marched to the house of the Proctor. Richard Going, Captain of the Rathkeale police, selected one hundred and ninety men or so. Acting on private information, he placed them under Captain Doolan, and sent them off after dark to guard the Proctor. When the police arrived, they found the

Proctor on his knees in the centre of the road, promising the White Boys that he would give up his situation for ever. Doolan ordered his men to fire, and two White Boys were killed, and three others were taken prisoner. The rest escaped to safety, but the road was splashed with their blood. The two dead men and the three prisoners were brought to Rathkeale. The prisoners were ordered by Captain Going to dig a hole in the waste ground beside the guard house, and to bury the dead men in it without coffins and to shake quick lime plentifully on them.

When news of Major Going's barbarous act reached Cappagh, nine young men from the district formed a conspiracy to shoot him. They closely watched his movements. On Saturday, 13th October, Major Going left Pallaskenry and, as he rode from Cappagh to Rathkeale, the nine conspirators riddled him with bullets. The road where the Major was shot is still called the Going Road. £800 was offered as a reward to anyone who would give information on the shooting. For two years nobody came forward for the reward. By degrees then information leaked out and three young men were arrested and condemned.

The Commons of Rathkeale was very thickly populated at this time, and many of the inhabitants there were in dire distress. In January 1822, three young men from the Commons - Oliver Fitzgerald, James and Thomas Minane - decided that they would raid the house of a Mr. Copley, Ballyclough, to get a few guns. They arrived at Copley's house just as the family were finishing dinner. They opened the hall door and found five guns inside the door. They took them away with them unknown to the occupants of the house. They then decided to raid Major Hare. They got into his house through a window and proceeded to creep up the stairs to the Major's room. The Major heard the disturbance downstairs and appeared on the landing with a pistol. He fired but missed. One of the party returned the shot and the Major fell dead. Oliver Fitzgerald fled to Canada but two years later he was arrested and charged. As a result of his evidence, his two companions were executed. He was left off free and returned to Canada after the trial.

On 26th February, a meeting was held in Rathkeale. They were upset over the crimes committed in the district, and resolved to transport or sentence to death any member of the Young Ireland Party that committed any offence in the district in future. The names of the magistrates present were Thomas Lloyd, John Waller, Gerard Blennerhasset, T. H. Rice, George Massey, Godfrey Massey, John Bateman, John Hunt,

George Mansell, Richard Smyth, William Smyth, James P. Massey, John Massey, John S. Brown, Snr., John S. Browne, Jr., Joseph Furlong, Thomas Furlong, Robert Peppard and James Sullivan. They pledged themselves to bring to punishment the perpetrators of the crimes.

1848

Smith O'Brien from Cahermoyle was leader of the Young Ireland Party after the transportation of John Mitchell. He attempted an insurrection in Tipperary, but the people being ill-prepared did not respond in great numbers. O'Brien and several others were captured and tried for high treason. They were sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. This sentence was later commuted to transportation to Tasmania.

Patrick O'Dea was the Young Ireland leader. The members of the Young Ireland Party were the soul of honour. They were brave and fearless, but never made any effort to drill or arm themselves, so their struggle was bound to end in a fiasco.

SHANNON DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

There is good news in this area. It would appear that Desmond Jewellery is planning a major expansion of their factory and will be moving into another unit on the estate. This should result in an increased work force which will be most welcome in the area.

Unfortunately the Training Centre under the V.E.C. will probably have to vacate their premises to allow for this development. However, steps are in hand to acquire another location in the town so that this scheme can continue.

MOSS FENNEL

The death occurred recently of Maurice Fennell, Church Street, Rathkeale. Moss, as he was known to everyone, had a brilliant career, serving as he did in the Spanish Civil War and, finally, in the Irish Army where he held the rank of Captain.

He was also well known for his keen interest in drama and helped to form The Deel Players. Two of his best productions were "See How They Run" and "A Murder Has Been Arranged". His stage management would surpass any of today's professionals.

He will be sadly missed by all his friends. May he rest in peace.



Play group taken in 1954 - the cast includes Sarah Lenihan (R.I.P.), Dimple Flahavin (nee Lynch), Roddy Cameron, Michael Madden, Moss Fennell (R.I.P.), Breda Roche, D. Lehane, Bridie Markham, Nancy Markham.

A MATTER OF OPINION

To: Rathkeale Community Council
Proposal for Community Development
Proposed by:
Michael Hanley, Castlematrix

Whether it has been acknowledged or not, the parish of Rathkeale has indeed been very fortunate to have a hard working Community Council and much good work has been done in the past couple of decades.

Our first step into the promotion of Rathkeale arose out of the setting up of a Muintir na Tire Guild at a meeting held in the Vocational School some time in the 1960s. We then progressed to the Community Council and the drafting of our own Constitution. The town grew and prospered and many fine facilities were provided, such as the Community Centre, Sports Complex and the People's Park.

Sadly, much of this work has gone unnoticed. Why? We must ask ourselves a few serious questions. Have we communicated with the people? Are we thinking ahead or are we just resting on our laurels?

At this stage, I wish to state that I do not intend to offend any person or persons on the Community Council as at present structured. From discussions with members of the community, there would appear to be a "them and us" attitude. In order to rectify this situation, corrective action is needed. ALL OF US - and I mean ALL OF US - will have to become involved in the promotion of Rathkeale. It is of very little use to come in here to monthly meetings and leave a vacuum until the next meeting.

Following the next elections to the Community Council, all elected members should be appointed to various sub-committees. These committees should hold regular meetings which would mean greater responsibility for members. These sub-committees would appoint their own officers and have the power to co-opt non-elected people. By getting more people involved, it is my belief that we will mould the entire community together and rid ourselves of the "them and us" syndrome.

My proposal for community development would include the setting up of at least six sub-committees as follows:

- (1) Finance
- (2) Education, Health and Welfare
- (3) Sports, Leisure and Youth
- (4) Arts/Culture/Entertainment/Publicity
- (5) Industrial, Commercial, Agricultural and Tourism Development
- (6) Tidy Towns

I would not see anything to prohibit a person of becoming a member of more than one of the above committees. Each committee, through their chairperson or any other member, would report their activities and submit proposals to the monthly meetings of the governing body, i.e. Rathkeale Community Council. Where there may be cross purposes of some sub-committees, it is envisaged that the groups concerned would communicate with each other.

Remember that 'United We Stand - Divided We Fall'. For all our sakes but, above all, for the sake of Rathkeale and its future development, I respectfully suggest that you give my proposal an opportunity to prove itself worthwhile.

Proposed Sub-Committees

(1) Finance - This committee shall have overall management and control of expenditure and of generating income. Their duties would include the organising of Bingo, club draw and card games, as well as any other fund raising activities that may be required for the day to day running costs of the Community Centre and general operating costs of the Council.

(2) Education, Health & Welfare - This should be one of the principal sub-committees and their duties will be of a very broad nature. Education of our young population is a priority, but their duties should also cover the promotion of adult education. This committee should have a close relationship with all the local schools, as well as with parent/teacher organisations in the parish. On Health and Welfare, this committee would co-operate with the existing voluntary organisations,

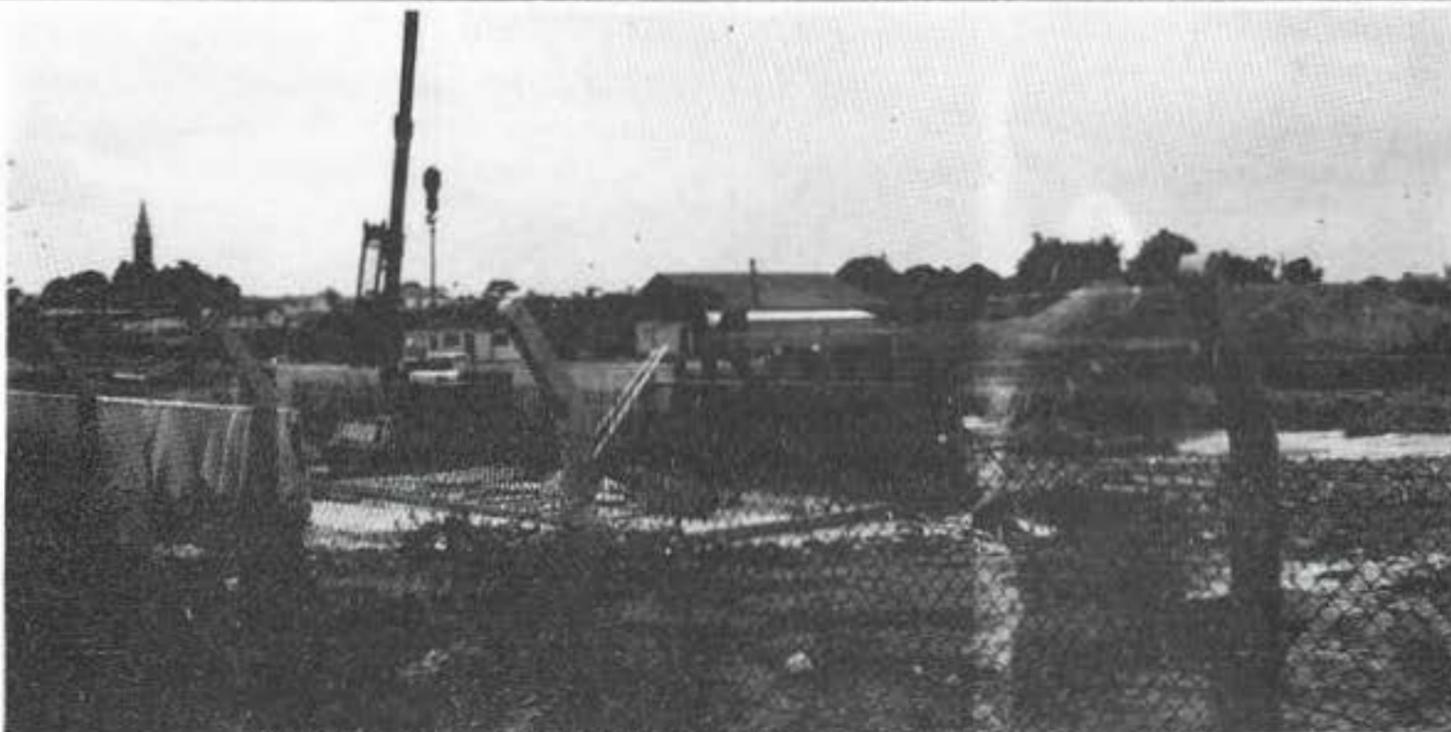
i.e. Social Services, Red Cross, Vincent de Paul, Meals on Wheels etc. and medical personnel in an effort to help the most needy within the community. There could also be the possibility of establishing a Sheltered Housing Scheme in the parish, whereby elderly or incapacitated people could be housed in a complex which would be manned by a medical team. Another area of work could be the organising of Health lectures for all age groups, but particularly for the younger generation. Subjects to be covered could relate to drug abuse, AIDS etc.

(3) Sports, Leisure and Youth - Rathkeale is noted for its many sports people who have achieved honours at home and abroad. Unfortunately many of their achievements have gone unnoticed in their home town. The parish has many fine facilities including G.A.A. venue, Soccer pitches, Sports Complex, but there is room for improvement. The Boxing Club has plans for a gymnasium. If all organisations could be encouraged to pool their resources, a fine gymnasium could be a reality, rather than a dream. By having all sports, leisure and youth organisations represented on this committee, it would be possible to set up an Annual Awards Scheme. This would have a two-fold result. It would help to create a community atmosphere and it would also help to honour outstanding achievements. The Sports, Leisure and Youth committee could also look after the management of the Sports Complex.

(4) Arts/Culture/Entertainment/Publicity - The portfolio of the existing Rathkeale "Welcome Home Festival" could be broadened to include the promotion of art and cultural events. These events would include exhibitions of all art forms by local artists and also to stage exhibitions of works by

visiting artists. This could be carried out in co-operation with the County Library Service and Limerick County Council. The committee should also arrange for the publication of "Deel Views" and any other publicity. This committee would have responsibility for organising Siamsa, Christmas shows and/or any other forms of entertainment that they may see fit to do. The St. Patrick's Day Parade should be organised by this group. (5) Industrial, Commercial, Agricultural and Tourism Development - Rathkeale has lagged behind when it comes to the promotion of industrial and tourism projects. We need to create opportunities for employment and keep our young people at home. Whilst SFADCO and the I.D.A. do their best to secure projects, there is much that we as a vibrant community can do. We will have to get up and promote Rathkeale ourselves. The launching pad could very well be the proposed twinning with a town in Germany or France. Agri-tourism could be promoted and the present development of Dohyle Lough, the building of the Palatine Museum, Castlematrix and our geographical location could go a long way to promoting tourism in the area. The development of the Great Southern Trail, no doubt, should be a big boost to the area.

(6) Tidy Towns - The duties of the Tidy Towns Committee will be to promote the concept of 'Pride of Place' in Rathkeale and to encourage people to be active in promoting Rathkeale as a Tidy Town. To organise local garden competitions. To maintain and develop the People's Town Park. To maintain the Marian Shrine and to develop any other open spaces in the town. The Tidy Towns committee should also be in a position to organise their own fund-raising functions for the purpose of purchasing plants, shrubs, gardening equipment etc.



WORK IN PROGRESS AT NEW SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Down Memory Lane

1948

WEST LIMERICK JUNIOR TITLE FOR RATHKEALE

Rathkeale-Dromard did not disappoint their big contingent of followers at Newcastle West Gaelic Grounds on Sunday when they scored a decisive victory over Dromcollogher in the final of the West Limerick Junior Hurling Championship by 5-6 to 0-3.

Their success, however, was dearly bought as the hard-hitting Dromcollogher lads fought every inch of the way and continued to contest the issue with vigour and determination long after all hope of success had faded before the increasing lead of the Deelsiders.

There was no lack of thrills for the record crowd who thronged the enclosure despite the inclemency of the weather. Fortunately, conditions were reasonably favourable for the game and once again the local Gaels rose to the occasion, as the field arrangements and stewarding were excellent in every detail.

Colour was added to the occasion by the Newcastle West Confraternity Brass Band, which played the teams on to the field. The ball was thrown in by Right Rev. Monsignor Hannan, P.P., who, with a big gathering of clergy from all over the west of the county, was amongst the interested spectators of the game.

Others present included: Mr. Wm. (Bill) Sheehan, Rathkeale, eighty six-year old veteran of Gaelic pastimes and Hon. Life President of the West Limerick Board; Rev. Fr. Rea, C.C., (Askeaton), Chairman, West Board; Mr. Paddy Flaherty, veteran Rathkeale hurler etc.

GOOD DEFENCE

Right from the word go the Rathkeale men were off the mark, and their defence was sound, with Maume in goal, and Keating, O'Grady, Roche and Foley always very much in the picture. At midfield Jerry Fitzgerald and Sheehan met with plenty of hard hitting opposition from Derry McCarthy and Tommy Costelloe. Tim Larkin's early retirement was a serious blow to the Rathkeale offensive in which Conway, Rice, Duggan and O'Connor gave a very convincing display.

The Savage brothers, Brouder, Kelly and Ryan were, as usual, the mainstay of the Dromcollogher defence, while Jim McCarthy, Noonan and O'Brien were prominent in the forward line. With the going rather heavy and marking so close that little or no quarter was given or expected, high-class hurling was out of the question. Casualties were rather over-numerous and in this respect Rathkeale-Dromard appeared to fare worst.

The issue was open enough up to the interval when the winners were leading by 2-4 to nil, but the mastery of the Deelsiders asserted itself early in the closing moiety and from then on to the end Dromcollogher's chances faded rapidly.

WEAKNESS IN FORWARDS

They made more than one determined effort to come back, but their main weakness appeared to be in their forward line, which missed many good scoring chances during the hour. There were wides at both ends before Sheehan initiated a determined Rathkeale attack which Larkin finished off with the opening score of the game - a point. Despite stubborn Dromcollogher resistance by Savage, Kelly and Brouder, the winners again forced the pace and Conway added a point for Rathkeale.

ISSUE OPEN AT HALF TIME

Derry McCarthy was inches wide at the other end before the winners resumed the offensive and Conway had a goal. Shortly afterwards Sheehan and Conway combined in a clever drive which was rewarded with a further Rathkeale goal. Tim Larkin (Rathkeale) retired injured and was replaced by John Kelly. Dromcollogher then took up the running and a free from Derry McCarthy was well centred. Maume, with one of his fine clearances, saved a dangerous situation for the winners and Keating, who was giving a very good account of himself, sent to the other end. Here Sheehan had a further Rathkeale point from a free round midfield, and before the interval the same sharpshooter added a further Rathkeale point, leaving the position open enough at half-time with the score: Dromard-Rathkeale 2-4, Dromcollogher, nil.

DECISIVE GOAL

Shortly after the resumption, Sheehan supplemented the Rathkeale score with a further point. Derry McCarthy failed to make the most of a close-in free for Dromcollogher, and Dromcollogher soon after missed another good scoring opportunity when Tommy Costelloe placed to advantage from a free at midfield.

Jim Roche eventually eased the situation for the winners' defence and, at the other end, Jerry Fitzgerald missed the objective by a narrow margin. Noonan and Kelly beat off a further Rathkeale attack, but Sheehan intercepted and finished off a fine solo effort with a goal for the winners. Dromcollogher replied with their first score of the game - a point from Derry McCarthy. Shortly afterwards his brother Jimmy added a further point, and Rathkeale retaliated with a similar score from O'Connor.

Receiving from the hard-working Costelloe, Derry McCarthy gave new life to the Dromcollogher men with a further point, but their hopes were rudely shattered a few minutes later when Jim Roche, from a '70' sent all the way to the Dromcollogher net for a great goal. Foley added a further Rathkeale goal before the long whistle.

Mr. Jim Sadlier (Young Irelands) refereed.

Dromard-Rathkeale - P. Maume, C. Noonan, J. Keating, M. Williams, J. Roche, B. O'Grady, S. Foley, J. Fitzgerald, D. Sheehan, M. Rice, T. Larkin, P. Duggan, P. Conway, B. Fitzgerald, C. O'Connor, J. Kelly.

Dromcollogher - D. Savage, Dt. Savage, P. Brouder, D. Brouder, H. Kelly, S. Ryan, E. Kelly, D. McCarthy, T. Leahy, T. Costelloe, T. Twomey, J. McCarthy, J. Noonan, S. O'Brien, D. Noonan.

RATHKEALE RACES

PRICE - 1/-.

A memento of the last Race Meeting held in Rathkeale. The race card cover and some information from inside the cover.

For the record, the winners that day were:

First Race DETOUR

Owner: G. O'Donnell
Trainer: T. Hyde

Second Race WORD OF HONOUR

Owner: Capt. C. B. Harty
Trainer: Capt. C. B. Harty

Third Race PRINCE OF BIRDS

Owner: Mr. J. Toppin
Trainer: Keating

Fourth Race LORD BURFORD

Owner: Mr. M. Gleeson
Trainer: C. P. Harty

Fifth Race ASTROMETER

Owner: D. P. O'Brien
Trainer: D. P. O'Brien

Sixth Race TENNIS BALL

Owner: P. P. Hogan
Trainer: J. P. Hogan

The next meeting was advertised for Thursday, 28th August.

Under Rules of Racing, I.N.H.S. Rules and General Conditions of the Meeting.

RATHKEALE RACES

(BALLYWILLIAM DEMESNE COURSE),
THURSDAY, 20th MARCH, 1941

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Viscount Guillamore.
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MR. J. C. OSBORNE (for Races under Rules of Racing)
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.. Stand—Ladies	5/-
Motors (Driver Free)	4/-
All Other Cars	3/-



The poem below was among the few possessions found in the locker of a psychiatric-geriatric patient following her death at Prestwich Hospital, Manchester, England.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

What do you see, nurse ? What do you see ?
Are you thinking when you look at me -
A crabbit old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with far away eyes,
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply
When you say in a loud voice "I do wish you'd try".
Who seems not to notice the things that you do,
And forever is losing a stocking, a shoe,
Who, unresisting or not, lets you do as you will
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.
Is that what you are thinking ? Is that what you see ?
Then open your eyes, nurse - you are not looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
As I rise at your bidding and eat at your will;
I'm a small child of ten, with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another.
A young girl of sixteen, with wings on her feet,
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet.
A bride soon at twenty, my heart gives a leap,
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.
At twenty-five now I have young of my own,
Who need me to build a secure happy home.
A woman of thirty, my young now grow fast,
Bound to each other with ties that should last.
At forty - my young sons now grown up have gone,
But my man stays beside me to see I don't mourn.
At fifty - once more babies play at my knee,
Again we know children, my loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,
I look at the future, I shudder with dread,
For my young are all busy rearing young of their own,
And I think of the years, and the love I have known.
I'm an old woman now, and nature is cruel -
'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool,
The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart,
There is now a stone where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells
And now and again my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,
And I'm living the loving life all over again.
I think of the years all too few, gone too fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So, open your eyes, nurse! Open and see -
Not a crabbit old woman,
Look closer - see me!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, RATHKEALE

This church, built in 1873, is one of the most beautiful and majestic in the diocese. Constant wear and tear from all the thousands who have worshipped and prayed there over the years has now given rise to the necessity of extensive repairs and refurbishing - particularly the areas most in use.

Work has already commenced on the main entrance which will be finished in glass to give a view of the church right up to the altar. On either side of the entrance will be new Confession rooms - also in glass.

In place of the existing Confession rooms there will be a new general purpose room which can be used for vesting on solemn occasions when the celebrant and ministers will proceed through the congregation to celebrate Mass.

The present side porch will be refurbished, the marble work having the names of benefactors will be cleaned and polished and lighted.

The "mortuary" area which is no longer needed for that purpose will be converted to a shrine, dedicated to prayers for the souls of the departed.

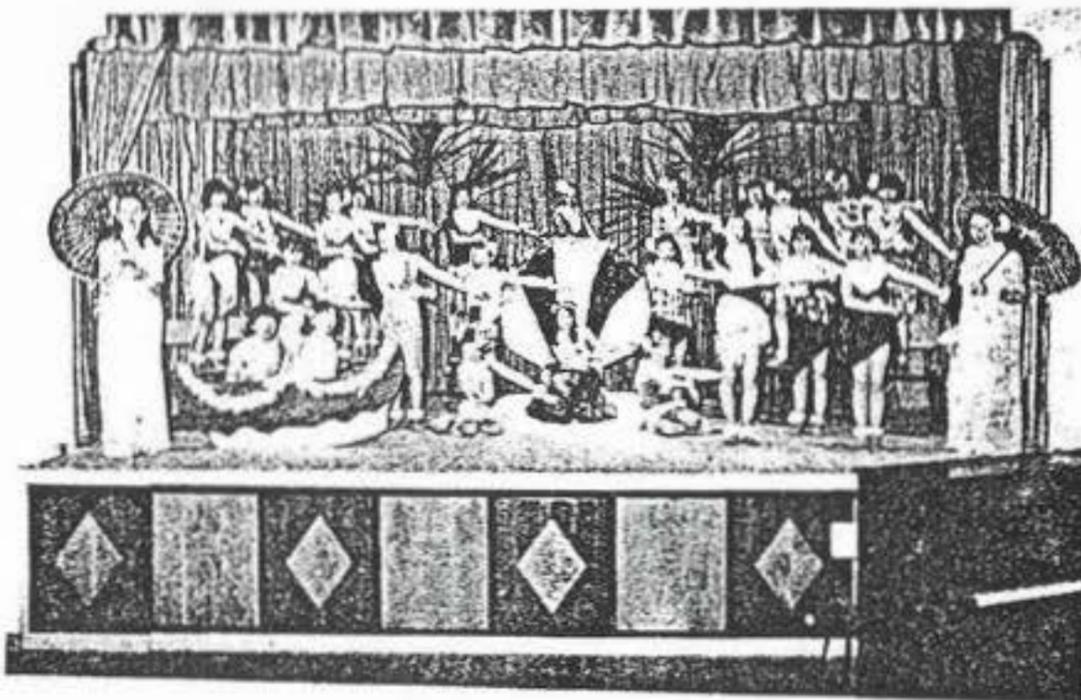
The floor of the church will be carpeted under the seats with hard wearing vinyl in the centre and side aisles. The tiled border in the centre aisle is being maintained.

The entire lighting system is being upgraded and the seats are to be washed down and polished.

The committee of the Rathkeale "Welcome Home Festival" has kindly offered to donate the profits from the event to the Restoration Fund.

ALOHA DUBLIN - FROM RATHKEALE

(From "Deel Views" 1981)



Guides on Stage

The Rathkeale Guide company had its own special way of saying "Happy 70th Anniversary" to the Irish Girl Guides. On October 31st, our Guide company had the honour of being one of the two units representing the Mid-West region at the Irish Girl Guides National Jubilee Concert at the R.D.S.

Earlier this year, after appearing in a Guide Talent Show in our Community Centre, the Rathkeale Guide company was asked to go on to the Jubilee Concert. Our Guides, beautifully turned out as natives of lovely Hawaii, won everyone's praise and admiration with their stylish pageant and lilting songs. During the summer they appeared, by special invitation, at the celebration of the Knights of Desmond Festival in Newcastle West.

The success and satisfaction of a job well done does not come about by chance. The pageant, given the full support and approval of the Guide Captain, Patsy Cronin and the Guide Lieutenant, Mrs. Breda O'Rourke, and directed by Mrs. Agnes Geoghegan and Mrs. Maureen O'Shea, was the admirable result of the dedication and co-operation of all involved. This included Mr. Geoghegan and Mr. O'Shea who displayed their skilled touch in the imaginative and striking props and the talent and expertise of Eileen O'Shea and Marie Madigan in the two very important areas of make-up and music, and not forgetting Irene Donovan for her skilled needle work, also the numerous others who helped in any way to make the show the success it was.

On the day of the show, the Rathkeale Guides, radiating their own special talent, put their "best foot forward" to win rousing applause from a delighted audience at the R.D.S.

Rathkeale town can be justly proud of the Guide

company and, by the interest and enthusiasm shown from the very start of this Guide endeavour, feel themselves a part of this Jubilee event.

Guide Members:

Louise Muckell	Adrienne Scully
Siobhan Donovan	Helen Reidy
Moira Geoghegan	Breed Reidy
Angela O'Shea	Diane Walsh
Maeve Donovan	Rose Lynch
Ann Morrissey	Patsy Lynch
Myfanwin Lynch	Margaret Feane
Margaret Lynch	Aine Corbett
Rose Reidy	Deirdre Enright
Mary O'Shaughnessy	Aileen Enright
Abhriel Whelan	Theresa Culhane
Maria Walsh	Margaret Williams
Rose White	

The Guide Captain, P. Cronin, and Guide Lieutenant, B. O'Rourke, wish to thank one and all for contributing and supporting their recent Sale of Work.

ABRAHAMS GOLFING SOCIETY

This year has been most successful so far. There has been a substantial increase in the number of participants at golf outings. However, it is getting more difficult to get facilities at clubs to the increased demands by their own members. At present membership of the Society stands at seventy and by rule is limited to that figure. There is a small waiting list.

At the outing in Charleville in May the winners were:

MEN

1. A. Supple
2. P. Keating
3. P. O'Sullivan
4. N. Duggan
5. J. Young

LADIES

1. E. Neville
2. G. Horgan
3. M. O'Sullivan
4. M. Hennessy
5. P. Noonan

At Newcastle West in June a Mixed Scramble competition was won by P. Wilmott, B. O'Sullivan and Mary O'Sullivan.

At Dooks in July the winners were:

MEN

1. T. O'Connor
2. M. Cregan
3. T. Keating
4. L. O'Sullivan

LADIES

1. E. Noonan
2. E. Neville

The next outing will be for the President's (Con Noonan) Prize at Dromoland on 11th August from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES	DEATHS
<p>Robert Seán White Nora Dolores Gammell Kathleen Flynn Mark Thomas White Foley Nora Mary Michelle Gammell Meghan Marie O'Sullivan Blaine Michael Woulfe James Quilligan Rhoda O'Kelly Mary Teresa Enright Seán Michael O'Shea Mary Gammell Roger Boswell</p>	<p>James Egan and Nora Quilligan Michael Egan & Margaret O'Donoghue Michael McCarthy & Jean Culligan Daniel O'Brien & Marie Sheridan Shane Hourigan & Ann Maria Jones John Flynn & Eileen Quilligan Gerard Paul Keyes & Eva Ann Brosnan Michael O'Connor & Jennifer Power</p> 	<p>Thomas Moloney John Nolan Dan Quilligan Maurice Fennell Mrs. Bridie Curtin Mary O'Donnell Mrs. Mary Dinnage Mrs. Josephine Jones Mrs. Bridget Enright Mrs. Bridget Lynch William O'Shaughnessy John Magner Michael Enright Eamonn Steele Jim Flynn John Kennedy</p>

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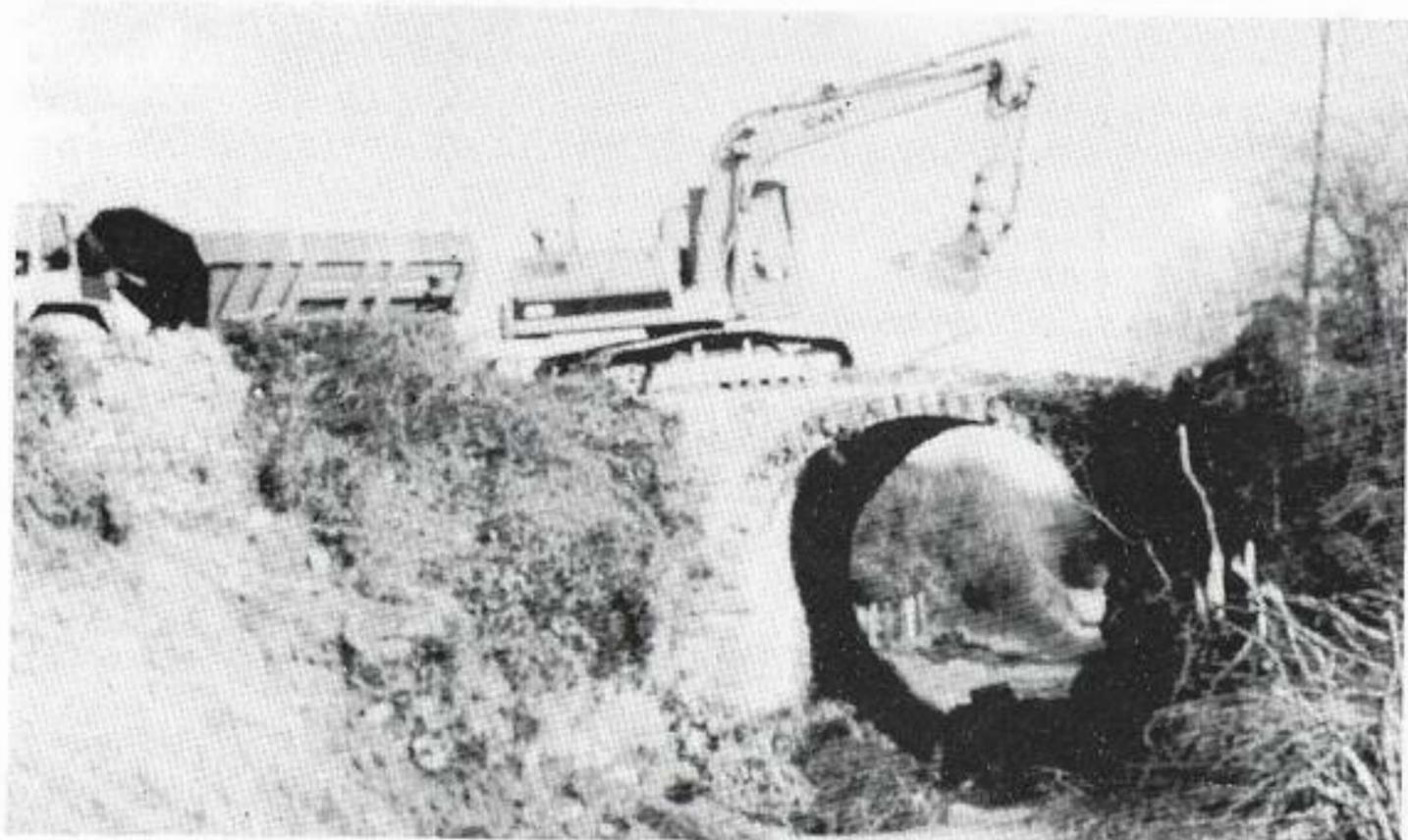
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The Late Johnny Kennedy of Croagh and Rathkeale.
Member of Rathkeale Community Council
and life-long G.A.A. player and administrator.



THE FINAL MOMENTS OF THE OLD RAILWAY BRIDGE AT CASTLE MATRIX

IT'S ONLY A GAME

I tell you it's only a game.
No need for all this agitation.
So I gave you some wrong information ?
What of it ? It's only a game.

If you have a well-balanced hand
And I've shown you just how I stand
We can make seven diamonds stone cold
If you show me the clubs that you hold.

But, darling, it's only a game!

You knew I'd a singleton heart
I showed you as much at the start
You could tell from my opening bid
So why did you say what you did ?

Oh, damn it, it's only a game!

Of all the daft cards you could lead
You've paid all my signals no heed
Why didn't you let me get in ?
With a spade we were certain to win.

Why worry ? It's only a game!

You should have finessed for the jack
I'm afraid I completely lost track
I thought that West still had the queen
You can't even count to thirteen.

I know, but it's only a game!

You know when we played board eleven
And you had four hearts to the seven ...

Whatever I had, I've forgotten
The way that you treat me is rotten
And what if we did come out bottom ?
I tell you, it's only a game!!



PALATINE HERITAGE CENTRE UNDER CONSTRUCTION



CONSTRUCTION WORK AT THE SITE OF THE NEW RIVER BRIDGE

USEFUL INFORMATION

Deel Views: Jack O'Dwyer. Tel: 069-64210

Banks: Late opening Tuesday

Credit Union:

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10.30 - 12.30; 1.45 - 3.30.

Friday 10.30 - 12.30; 1.45 - 4.30; 7.00 - 8.30.

Library Opening Hours:

Monday and Wednesday 3.00 - 7.00

Tuesday 10.00 - 12.30; 5.00 - 8.00

Thursday 10.00 - 5.00. Friday 5.00 - 8.00

Mart: Tuesday - Cattle. Wednesday - Calf & Pig

Post Office:

Monday-Saturday 9.30 - 5.30. Thursday 9.30 - 1.30

Doctors:

Dr. Lynch: Half day Thursday

Dr. Curtin: Half day Wednesday

Dr. Teahan: Half day Thursday

St. Mary's Church Masses:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Sunday 8.30, 10.00 and 11.30

Holy Trinity Church: Sunday Service 8.30 and 11.00

Embury Heck Church, Ballingrane: Sunday Service 10.30

Piano Lessons: Louise Muckell, Roche's Road

Festival Show: Mrs. Ann O'Connell

Community Council Monthly Meeting:

First Friday. 8.30 p.m. Secretary: Brid Guinane

Boxing Club: Secretary - Joe Rouine

Social Services: Secretary - Breda Morrissey

Red Cross: Secretary - Mrs. Mary Sheahan

St. Vincent de Paul: J. Dunleavy. Meeting alternate Mondays.

I.C.A.: Secretary - Mrs. Maura Mooney. 2nd Thursday.

Sports Complex: Patsy O'Sullivan

Bridge Club: Mrs. Phil Ruttle. Every Tuesday.

G.A.A.: Jack Daly, Hon. Secretary.

Soccer: Juvenile - Sean Harnett

Abrahams Golf Society: J. O'Dwyer, Hon. Secretary

Scout Cubs: Thursdays; Youth Centre.

(ANYONE WHO WISHES TO BE INCLUDED PLEASE CONTACT EDITOR)

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Next issue to printers: 22nd November, 1991