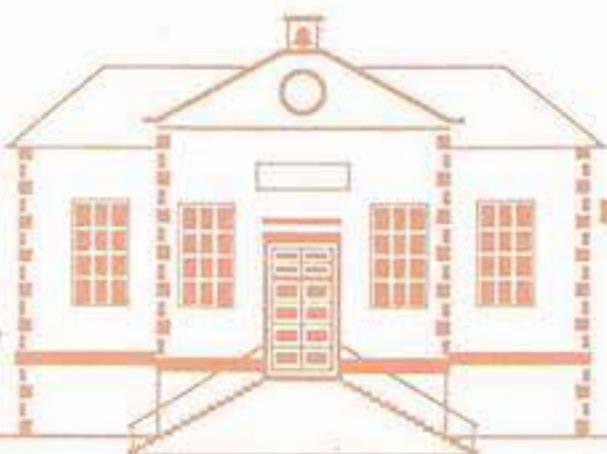


DEEL VIEWS

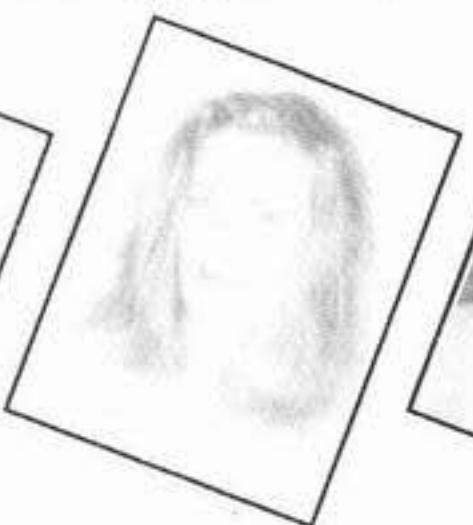


RATHKEALE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Summer 1993

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EDITORIAL

There are obvious signs about the place that Rathkeale is going through a process of revitalisation. Despite the forebodings expressed that the new road would seriously damage the business community all the evidence seems to point to the contrary.

A number of new enterprises have recently developed and appear to be doing well and some of the more established outlets are prospering. The final stage of the sewerage scheme is now under way with the reconstruction of the footpaths and the road surfacing. When finished, these should add considerably to the town's appearance. It is hoped that proper parking regulations can then be implemented, particularly on the main street.

Many of the unsightly frontages have been refurbished and, while much remains to be done

in this area, it is gratifying to see progress of any sort. On Fair Hill the old halting site is being upgraded and will eventually be developed for housing. This particular area has come more under public scrutiny since the opening of the by-pass and it is imperative that serious attention be given to its improvement. The taskforce set up by the County Council must play a role in this regard.

The West Limerick Resource Group is to be commended on its efforts to develop enterprise in the region and it is hoped that a significant sum from the large E.C. fund will find its way here to assist this activity.

The community can look forward with some optimism to the future but the support of all is essential for further progress.

A CONNECTION By M. F. Hartnett

I walk along the long tree-lined avenue
Facing, at the end of the curve,
A castellated mansion,
Where she worked in the kitchen,
So long time ago now,
With her hands,
Serving the "upstairs" people.
But then there was evening
When she, having done her long day's work
Tidied herself up,
Put on her best dress,
And walked down that long tree-lined avenue
From the castle, towards the gate,
To meet a handsome man on horseback,
And they together walked hand in hand
And talked of love and laughed and planned their
future.
And now I walk that same avenue,
A generation later,
With a handsome man too,
And there is a link,
A connection,
A coming together,
A sense almost of time standing still,
And I feel their presence somehow around us
everywhere.



*The Lyons family, St. Marys Park and Kilburn
at London Reunion in March*

SENATE PROCEEDINGS

SENATOR DAN NEVILLE

"REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF URBAN RENEWAL SCHEME TO RATHKEALE"

There is a special case for this town because of the unique circumstances which prevail there. Many of the commercial premises and some of the residential premises in the centre of the town have been withdrawn from commercial use. This is because of the presence in the town of rich traders who have purchased these premises and turned them into stores for furniture. Most of the traders are in the furniture business.

It is important to restore the centre of the town to commercial activity. The extension of the urban renewal scheme would provide an incentive to do this and would attract business back into the town. As the Minister is probably aware, a relief road was opened recently the Minister for the Environment, Deputy Smith, and this is very welcome. While it creates some difficulties for the town, it also creates opportunity, and we want to grasp the opportunity rather than talk about the difficulties.

Rathkeale was a congested town. That congestion has ceased and there is now an opportunity to make it a vibrant town. An urban renewal scheme in the area would be a catalyst for this. I recently learned that the Government was considering extending the urban renewal scheme to smaller towns such as the one to which I am referring. Rathkeale has been neglected over the years and has lost many of its activities. The local ESB office and yard was closed three or four years ago. The major creamery has closed as a result of rationalisation and other facilities such as the cinema have also been closed.

There is an active Chamber of Commerce and an active Community Council in the town, both of which have done much work to progress the town and its commercial life. We believe that an urban renewal programme would give incentive to the business sector to open up new bars, shops and offices which would attract more people to live in the area. The rates relief for ten years, no change in Poor Law Evaluation for rates purposes when work is done and the rent allowances under the urban renewal scheme would also be attractive to people in the residential sector as the cost of building and refurbishing houses would be tax deductible over ten years.

I was pleased when I read - and perhaps the Minister of State will confirm this - that the Government is considering extending the urban renewal scheme to such small towns. It is important that these towns in rural Ireland are assisted in every way possible and that development should not only be concentrated on

our major cities and larger towns such as Ballina, Ennis, Drogheda, Longford or Bray where there are urban renewal schemes.

Finally, I would ask the Minister of State to give special consideration to this request because of the unique circumstances of Rathkeale, where 30% of the town's population are members of the travelling community. We have two cultures living side by side in the town. There are many tensions but there is also much tolerance between the two communities. Difficulties may arise at Christmas and other events between the two communities but overall there is a high level of tolerance.

MINISTER'S REPLY

One of the most visible achievements of the Government over the last few years has been the outstanding success of its urban renewal scheme.

The scheme was introduced in 1986 with the primary aim of promoting the re-development of areas previously considered devoid of development potential. There is no doubt that the scheme would not have been nearly as effective without the backing of the local authorities involved. The part played by local authorities in facilitating developments and in promoting the scheme has been a major contributory factor to its success. Under the present scheme a range of taxation incentives and rates remission is available to promote private sector investment in the re-development of specially targeted designated areas in 24 centres throughout the country.

In order to maximise the impact of the scheme, the number and size of areas designated must be limited. In a scheme such as this it is inevitable that choices have to be made and limits drawn, with a result that not every centre which may have a case for designation can be accommodated. Doubtless, many other centres including Rathkeale could put forward a good case for designation. However, to designate on a widespread basis would be counter-productive since this would turn the special rating and tax reliefs into standard ones.

In addition to the areas already designated, requests and representations for inclusion in the urban renewal scheme have been received in respect of numerous urban areas. Obviously the scheme could not be extended to all these areas, not only because of the potential loss to the Exchequer in terms of revenue foregone, but more importantly because the effective-



ness of the scheme would become completely dissipated and investment would be directed into more favourable locations at the expense of areas most in need.

Nationally the most recent estimates available show that, in existing designated areas, projects with a value of £622 million are either completed or are in progress with further development valued at £344 million in planning. Under the scheme as it now applies the foundations for new development must be laid by 30th November 1993 and the scheme itself is due to expire on 31st July, 1994. The Government's intention at this stage is to ensure that those projects still in the pipeline in the existing designated areas are delivered. In the circumstances, I have no proposals to extend the present scheme to additional towns.

The Senator will, no doubt, be aware of the great work carried out on the Rathkeale By-Pass. Finance for the scheme was provided by my Department where the overall cost of the project, including land acquisition and landscaping, was £8.3m. This road in its own way contributed to the promotion of urban renewal in the town. The old Rathkeale Station House lay on the route of the road. Concern for the conservation of the built environment resulted in the building being rebuilt through joint action by Limerick County Council and the Irish Palatine Association. In its new location the building, now the Irish Palatine Heritage Centre, houses an attractive exhibition portraying the story of several hundred families of German origin who settled in the area in 1709.

Although the present urban renewal scheme is drawing to a close, this does not mean that the Government is turning its back on urban renewal. My Department is currently examining all aspects of urban renewal to see what the best options for the future are. I will bear the views of the Senator in relation to Rathkeale in mind in the context of any new proposals which may emerge.

SENATE PROCEEDINGS

RATHKEALE (CO. LIMERICK) SCHOOL

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There are many social problems generated because of the presence of two quite different cultures in the town. It is important that there is more communication between those cultures and more understanding between the two communities in Rathkeale. The settled community works hard at this problem. It feels threatened at the moment by the growth of the travelling community in the town.

At present, St. Anne's and the boys' primary schools do everything they can to encourage the travelling community to educate their children. I am asking the Minister and the Department of Education to provide a home-school liaison teacher or officer to liaise between the school and the traveller families.

There are 209 settled children attending St. Anne's School and there are 18 traveller children on the ordinary roll. However, there are on average 90 traveller children enrolled in special category classes in the school. Although the average is 90, this figure increases to over 100 between October and Easter and is far in excess of 100 around Christmas. It declines after Easter because of the transient nature of the traveller lifestyle. Next year there will be 35 traveller children full-time in the school and on average an extra 70 from October to Easter.

The Minister should understand the special needs and problems in a school like this; the need for the school to encourage the traveller parents to continue with their children's education, and the importance of primary education to the travelling community. This is the reason I am asking the Department to appoint a home-school liaison officer to the area. When I mention this problem to people from outside my area, they think it is ridiculous that Senators have to make representations to the Minister to get such a service. I also think it ridiculous but, nevertheless, I ask the Minister for help.

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Every parent has the right to choose the education they want their child to have, and this also applies to traveller parents. However, they need a lot of counselling and help in the matter. Discussions with teachers of pre-school classes, special classes and ordinary classes should determine when a traveller child is ready for ordinary class work. In other words, there should be counselling between the parents, the school and the child to determine when the traveller child should no longer be in the special category.

Traveller children usually cope well when placed in ordinary classes, especially in the junior classes, but they begin to lose interest by the time they reach the senior classes. There are various reasons for this and some of them are cultural. One of the most important reasons is that the parents, who are often illiterate, cannot help their children with their homework. There is an obvious need for counselling in such cases.

If Rathkeale school had this service it would open up opportunities for full participation by the travelling community in ordinary classes or, at least, for integration in some subjects - for example, music, art and crafts, physical education, reading etc. Pupils from the senior special classes in the school who have achieved a good standard of reading might benefit from one or two years in the ordinary senior classes, even though they could be a bit older than the other pupils.

As a consequence of its unique problems, there should be a better teacher-pupil ratio in the school. There are 33 or 34 pupils per teacher and there are other deprived children in the school besides the travellers. As in other schools in similar towns, some of these children can be even more deprived than the traveller children. Rathkeale is unique and should be treated as such by the Department. In order to effectively carry out the integration I have discussed and to improve the standard of education, the pupil-teacher ratio in the ordinary classes should be reduced to 25:1. This would allow teachers to help deprived children from both the settled and the travelling communities to perform better.

As I said, a school liaison officer is badly needed to work with parents and children of the settled and travelling communities. They would also work with the staff of the two local primary schools, St. Anne's and the boys' school. Until now, St. Anne's has been the only school dealing with 50 to 100 traveller children at any one time, but the local boys' school will be in the same position from now on.

The thrust of my request is to ask the Department to treat this request as a matter of urgency in time for the new school year.

On a final point, FAS has refused to provide a training centre for travellers in Rathkeale where there are 700 or 800 travellers.

Minister of State at the Department of Finance (Mr. Dempsey):

I apologise for the absence of the Minister of State at the Department of Education, Deputy Aylward. He had to go to a vote. May I suggest that the Senator talk to the Minister for Equality and Law Reform in particular in relation to the point he made about FAS. I believe the Minister may be able to assist, because I am surprised by what the Senator has told the House.

The Minister for Education is aware of the particular circumstances of the school in question. At present the school has four permanent special assistant teachers catering for traveller children in special classes. In addition, I am aware that a number of traveller children are attending ordinary classes in the school. In response to this latter group, a number of temporary teachers are also allocated to the school throughout the year to meet exceptional fluctuations in traveller enrolments at the school. The Department adopts a flexible approach to the provision of these temporary teachers in recognition of the particular difficulties with which the school has to contend and which the Senator has outlined.

I can advise the Senator that the Department's inspectorate, together with the National Education Officer for Travellers, are currently reviewing the adequacy of the current educational provision for the school, with particular emphasis on the laudable efforts being made by the school in the area of integration.

I should also point that, as part of the Government's commitment to focus on areas of special need in the education sector, a range of additional supports are being provided with effect from September 1993. These supports will include the extension of disadvantaged area status to a significant number of schools not previously included in the disadvantaged areas scheme. Schools selected under this initiative will receive a concessionary teaching post as well as increased capital grants. It is also intended to target a limited number of extra posts specifically at the needs of traveller children.

In addition, an extra fifteen co-ordinators are being appointed to the home/school/community liaison scheme, the scheme referred to by Senator Neville. However, to date, the scheme has been confined to selected schools which have already been designated as disadvantaged and the initial expansion now taking place will focus on schools so designated.

However, I can assure the Senator that the needs of the school in question will be taken fully into account in the selection of recipient schools for the new post to which I have referred.

AN ETHNIC GROUP

A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.

Maurice Wm. Foster

In sociological terms ethnic groups are defined as persons who share a common cultural tradition which unites them in a social entity. They see themselves as a distinct and separate ethnic group with needs and values which are different in some ways from those of the settled community. In many societies racial and ethnic groups constitute important components of the social order, and the relations among them create significant social problems. These relations are often complex for they substantially affect one another. Furthermore, these differences that set groups apart from one another more often than not contain the seeds of conflict and hostility. For one thing, there are marked cultural differences. This is very much in evidence in Rathkeale. The place is a two-cultured town and is a highly stratified society, a phenomenon that brings with it attendant social tensions.

It is erroneous when one discusses the general plight of travellers in Ireland to include in the same analysis those in Rathkeale, as the latter are not typical of Irish travellers. Their distinctiveness allows their culture to be seen outside of the context of the deprivation generally associated with travellers. In this respect Rathkeale is very much the exception to the economic rule.

Lack of inter-culture contact by the settled community in Ireland leads to ignorance of the travellers way of life, bringing mistrust in its wake. However, this is not one-sided. Annually, during the Christmas period, one is witness to an immigration of travellers into what is regarded as the capital of the travellers, accompanied by apprehensiveness and fear as perceived by the settled community. This influx has as its consequence a social explosion, spawning ignorance, a lack of understanding and an absence of tolerance as regards the sensibilities and culture of the said settled population of Rathkeale. Persistent pleas have been made down the years to the relevant agencies to help alleviate the situation but to little avail. Both official and political will and initiative are sadly lacking. In some thirty years there have been umpteen meetings and articles written concerning the travelling population in Rathkeale. Yet there does not appear to have been an indepth sociological study specifically dealing with Rathkeale's travelling community and the consequent impact on the town; a community that was once described by an Assistant County Manager as being "rather unique in County Limerick and Ireland".

I submit that the direct involvement of the travelling

community in helping to create a better climate would be a positive step, in that it would involve responsibility for the actions of the said community. The desired objective would be to achieve a fairly stable and harmonious equilibrium with the settled community. This could, I suggest, be done with the direct involvement of such expert organisations as: The Irish Traveller Movement, Holy Faith Convent, Finglas, Dublin 11 (Tel. 01- 348018; Minceir Misli and The Dublin Travellers' Education and Development Group, Pavée Point, North Great Charles Street, Dublin 1 (Tel. 01-8732802; Fax 01-8742626). These organisations are indeed committed to promoting better relations between the travelling community, which they eminently represent, and the settled community and membership consists of those from both communities.

I therefore strongly urge Rathkeale Community Council to make contact with the Directors of the aforementioned groups, well in advance of the forthcoming Christmas period, and make them fully aware of Rathkeale's unparalleled ethnic situation. The next step would be the formation of a joint committee comprising of the Community Council, the above groups and Rathkeale Chamber of Commerce, and with the active involvement of the Gardai, Limerick County Council, the Taskforce on the Travelling Community and the Department of the Environment.

A crucial element in the make-up of such a joint committee would be the ACTIVE participation of the travelling community itself. Research has repeatedly shown that, without the key equal involvement of the travellers themselves and without they being asked their views, failure is inevitably the result. They are the second half of the equation, and by affording them a responsible role the prospects for success are heightened. The traveller-oriented organisations mentioned would play an important and pivotal role in securing the co-operation and participation of the Rathkeale travelling population.

The raison d'être for this joint committee would be to actively monitor the annual Christmas exuberance initiated, as previously indicated, as a consequence of the influx into the town over the festive period. By implication of its proposed brief it would be a "hands on" joint committee. Failure to act constructively and cohesively could very well bring about the situation wherein both the broadcast and printed media - locally, nationally and internationally - would carry out their own investigative reporting.

As one involved in academic social research I have demonstrated in this paper that Rathkeale town is sociologically unique in Ireland and, as such, merits further analysis and imaginative special study.

RATHKEALE SOCCER CLUB

I must preface this article by apologising to the many readers of "Deel Views", especially those no longer living in our parish, for there being no soccer update in recent editions. I am especially conscious of those living and working in far away places. When Jack O'Dwyer informs me of his deadline, I never seem to be able to oblige.

So, without further ado, let's review the past season 1992-93. Rathkeale fielded the following teams in competitive football:

1. Two Junior sides - A and B.
2. Two Youth teams - Under 17 and Under 18.
3. Seven Schoolboy teams - from Under 10 - Under 16.
4. Two Ladies teams - Junior and Girls.

Our "A" side started the season slowly but finished the campaign very impressively, winning the League Cup and being runners-up in the Desmond Cup Final (where injuries to some key players were a major factor in our defeat).

Rathkeale "Bees", under the guidance of Club Chairman Mike Walsh, had a very successful season, finishing in a high position in the highly competitive 2nd Division.

Our Youths had an uneventful season relative to previous seasons, but the fact that many of these boys are working on Saturdays explains this.

Rathkeale Schoolboys had once again a highly successful season, winning the Under-16 League and Cup Double and the Under-10 League.

The Ladies, at the time of going to press, are in two Cup semi-finals and to win one would be a major boost to their confidence and morale.

Off the field, the Management Committee of Rathkeale A.F.C. have been busy developing their pitch and amenities and these look mighty impressive from the by-pass.

Rathkeale had some excellent individual performances during the season and the following played Inter-League:

Junior: John Conmy, Paul Lynch, John Woulfe, Seamus Dollery.

Youths: John Gilbourne, Niall Ryan, T. J. Riordan, Gerard McNamara.

Schoolboys: Damien Wilmott, Barry Riordan, Martin Vereker, Keith Harnett.

Three young players from the Club were given the highest individual award at their League:

JOHN GILBOURNE was voted Best Youth Player in the Desmond League. KENNY HOGAN was voted Under-15 Schoolboy of the Year. KEITH HARNETT was voted Under-10 Schoolboy of the Year.

In conclusion, I would like to commend Edmund Dollery on another outstanding season - a role model and example to any young player.

Let's hope the coming season will be as successful.



County U/16 Champions Rathkeale Schoolboys

Back Row: Sean Harnett, Mike Woulfe, Barry O'Doherty, Paddy Flaherty, John Guinane, Eoin Barrett, Enda Neville, Kieran Guinane, Alan Young. Front Row: Keith Smith, Noel McNamara, Kieran Duggan and Kenny Hogan

IRISH TOWN WHICH HONOURS A CHINAMAN

1763 INCIDENT RECALLED

By Maurice Wm. Foster

Come next August 14th, Rathkeale will be celebrating a two hundred and thirty year old connection with the Peoples Republic of China. On that day, as part of the Annual Festival, there will be an important ceremony in the town when the refurbished statue of that much beloved Chinaman, Mr. Wongyil, who has looked inscrutably down on Main Street for all those years from what is today Foley's Bar, will be officially unveiled - for the second time.

It is envisaged to have a high ranking delegation from the Chinese Embassy specifically in Rathkeale on this special day for this historic event. It will also afford an opportunity to show our town to our distinguished guests and visitors.

The following is an interesting article recalling the original heroic incident that occasioned the erection of the Chinaman in the first place.

How the town of Rathkeale in Co. Limerick was saved from being pillaged and burned and its inhabitants probably massacred is told in a book, "The Seaports of the World", from which the following is an excerpt:

In the year 1763 a cargo of tea arrived at Foynes from China. The ship, "The Mikado", was about a fortnight unloading supplies for the South of Ireland. The captain and some of the crew were drinking at Fitzgibbon's public house in Rathkeale when word came from Tarbert that a pirate ship had arrived there and that the pirates were

plundering the town and district.

The captain of "The Mikado", a Mr. Wongyil, mustered about one hundred men from Rathkeale and Foynes and marched to Tarbert where they captured the pirate boat, known as "The Bat", and killed most of the crew, including the captain (who was known in most parts of Europe of "The Serpent").

The people of Rathkeale, Tarbert and Foynes were so thankful to Mr. Wongyil that they got an image of him erected over the door of Fitzgibbon's public house in Rathkeale, where it stands to this day. When Mr. Wongyil died in 1789 he left a large sum of money to the poor of Rathkeale.

His great-grandson, Mr. Yang, once owned one of the largest tea plantations in China and in his recent book, "The Seaports of the World", he mentions the incident at Tarbert in 1763 in which his ancestor took part.

The book also shows a photo of Fitzgibbon's public house with the effigy over the door. Later some attempts were made to steal the effigy which is now firmly bolted to the wall. The well-known public house is still in existence under the name Fitzgibbon, but is owned by Mr. Edwin Johnson.

Is Rathkeale the only town in Ireland which has publicly honoured a Chinaman ?

"TIMES PAST" - (From Limerick Leader 1959)

RATHKEALE BRASS BAND

Rathkeale has the proud distinction of being the home of the most juvenile brass band in Ireland. How did St. Mary's Boys Band come into existence? Well, here is the story. Over fifty years ago the men of Rathkeale decided to form a band of their own, which flourished right up to the end of the last war, after which they made their appearance on certain occasions.

Several attempts were made to revive the band, which appeared on the streets of the town on the Feast of Corpus Christi. For a few nights afterwards the men would turn up for practice, but would then "fall away" again. The instruments were stored away for yet another year!

However, all was not yet lost. Last June, teacher/conductor T. O'Shea got a brilliant idea. "What about the youth of the town?" he asked. Gathering an energetic committee around him, with Rev. Fr. Enright, C.C. as President, he approached the schools, where there was a ready response. That committee which founded the new Boys Band were as follows: Rev. Fr. Enright, C.C., President; J. Hennessy, Chairman; J. H. Shire, Vice-Chairman; C. Noonan, Hon. Treasurer; N. Daly, Hon. Secretary; P. Lynch, P. Roche, J. White, W. Steele and J. McCrane.

So the start was made seven months ago. Thirty-seven youths - their ages ranging from seven to fifteen years old (only one member is fifteen years old) - turned up for tutoring the first night. Drums rolled, trumpets sounded - all instruments went boom-boom-boom. Even the short shrill whistle of the piccolo could be heard in that first night's "crescendo".

But perfection was the "keynote" of the band. Teacher/conductor O'Shea insisted that all members would have to read music and not play it "from ear". The boys put their minds down to the job. For five nights every week they assembled in the local schoolhouse - permission being kindly granted by Very Rev. Canon Carroll, P.P. - to learn their various instruments. And after Mass on Sunday mornings they duly turned up for instruction.

Then came their great day - the Feast of Corpus Christi. They excelled themselves in the playing of "Ave Maria", "Bells of St. Mary's" and "Faith of our Fathers". Members of the band that day were: Thomas Lynch, John Doyle, Batt Collins, Michael Collins, Edward Doyle, Joseph Daly, David O'Grady, Vincent O'Brien, John Daly, Michael Guinane, Francis Carroll, Thomas O'Grady, Patrick Collins, Richard Lynch, Liam Dunne, Martin Mullane, John Quinn and John Griffin. Next appearances of the band were G.A.A. matches and an F.C.A. parade.

So great was the enthusiasm aroused in the town over the band's achievements that several other young lads went "into training" and among them were John Young, Michael Dunne, William Mulcair, Christy Lynch, Patrick Lynch, Patrick Dunne, John Magner and Patrick Magner.

Special uniforms have been tailored for the band and on Saturday night, at a Grand Concert in the City Theatre, Limerick, they will make their first city appearance.

We wish these Co. Limerick boys - the youngest brass band players in Ireland - every success in all their coming events and congratulate Mr. T. O'Shea and his committee for the great job of work which they are doing.

Rathkeale Welcome Home Festival - August 8th to August 14th

THE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR IS IN AID OF CHURCH REPAIR FUNDS.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, 8th AUGUST

- 2.00 p.m. Mass at the Augustinian Abbey
2.45 p.m. FAMILY FIELD DAY in the Abbey Park. Sponsored by Andersen (Ireland) Ltd. Featuring * Rathkeale Brass Band * Wheel of Fortune * Bottle Stall * Car Boot Sale * Horseshoes * Basketball * Wellie Throwing * Crazy Golf * Bonny Baby Show * Guess Weight of Cake * Guess Mystery Person * Granny of the Year Contest - Sponsored by Frank & Mai Markham * Tiny Tots Open Sports for boys and girls under-3, 4 and 5. PLUS lots of other novelty attractions.
7.15 p.m. FESTIVAL PARADE and introduction of PRINCESS OF DESMOND contestants. Led by Rathkeale Brass Band and Ballingarry Youth Brass Band. Sponsored by Golden Vale.
8.00 p.m. Donkey Derby at Carnival Grounds. Sponsored by Budge O'Grady.
9.00 p.m. Kiddies Disco plus heat of LITTLE PRINCESS AND PRINCE CONTEST.
10.30 p.m. Harp PUB FUN QUIZ at The Dutchman's.
11.00 p.m. Festival Club Dance at Davy Mann's. Music by THE DEERHUNTERS. Bar Extension.

MONDAY, 9th AUGUST

- 6.30 p.m. Boys and Girls under-9, 11, 13 and 15 Open Road Races.
7.00 p.m. Carling-Brennan 5-a-side Soccer.
7.30 p.m. 10km Open Road Races. Sponsored by St. Mary's A.C. and The Amber Lantern Bar.
8.30 p.m. Opening of "Mná go léir agus cúpla fir" Art Exhibition at Rathkeale Fire Station. Sponsored by Crest Windows. Exhibition will run for duration of Festival.
10.30 p.m. Harp PUB FUN QUIZ at Mrs. Foley's Bar.

TUESDAY, 10th AUGUST

- 7.00 p.m. Carling-Brennan 5-a-side Soccer.
7.30 p.m. Children and Adult Novelty Sports on the street.
8.30 p.m. Kiddies Disco plus heat of LITTLE PRINCESS AND PRINCE CONTEST.
10.30 p.m. Harp PUB FUN QUIZ at Davy Mann's.

WEDNESDAY, 11th AUGUST

- 7.00 p.m. Carling-Brennan 5-a-side Soccer.
7.30 p.m. Children and Adult Fancy Dress Parade. Sponsored by Deel Take-Away. Led by Rathkeale Brass Band.
9.00 p.m. Super 45-Drive in Community Centre.
9.00 p.m. Live on Stage in the Abbey Park THE DUBLIN CITY RAMBLERS. Sponsored by A.I.B.P. Rathkeale. Plus SUPER BARBECUE with lots of delicious spare ribs - sausages - burgers - black and white pudding. Sponsored by the Master Butcher Joe Williams and Wilmott Bros. Limited.

THURSDAY, 12th AUGUST

- 7.00 p.m. Carling-Brennan 5-a-side Soccer.
8.00 p.m. MONSTER FESTIVAL BINGO in Community Centre. Usual buses. Super raffle and spot prizes galore.
10.00 p.m. GRAND FINAL of Harp Inter-Pub Fun Quiz. Sponsored by Guinness Group Sales. At Molly B's.

FRIDAY, 13th AUGUST

- 7.00 p.m. Carling-Brennan 5-a-side Soccer.
7.30 p.m. Comic Dog Show and Best Dressed Doll Show at Carnival Grounds.
9.30 p.m. Cavalcade of finalists of 'PRINCESS OF DESMOND'. Led by Rathkeale Brass Band.
10.00 p.m. PRINCESS OF DESMOND '93 FINAL at the Community Centre. Compere: MARTY WHELAN, television and radio personality. Sponsored by Brian Geary Car Sales. Late night dancing in the Community Centre to the music of Ann Marie and the Ferrymen. SUPER RAFFLE - sponsored by Sean Hennessy T.V. & Hi-Fi, Rathkeale.
Tickets on sale during interval.

SATURDAY, 14th AUGUST

- 2.00 p.m. Arrival of delegation from The Peoples Republic of China Embassy.
2.30 p.m. Unveiling of refurbished statue of Chinaman at Foley's Bar, Main Street.
2.45 p.m. Feast of Traditional Irish Entertainment - Music, Singing and Dancing. Sponsored by Charlie & Ita Kirk.
3.00 p.m. "Rathkeale on the Air" with Radio Limerick 95FM disc jockeys and personalities.
3.00 p.m. £500 OPEN BUSKING COMPETITION. Adult and Juvenile Categories. First prize in adult category £200. Cash prizes for all competitors down the line. Total £500 prize money sponsored by Rathkeale Chamber of Commerce.
7.00 p.m. Carling-Brennan 5-a-side Soccer.
8.00 p.m. LITTLE PRINCESS AND PRINCE CONTEST Final presented by Dr. John of 95FM. Sponsored by Homestyle Bakery. Followed by Kiddies Disco in the Community Centre.
10.00 p.m. Festival Club BUFFET DANCE at Davy Mann's. Music by Tommy Drennan and His Band. Tickets £10 each now on sale.
1.00 a.m. FESTIVAL DRAW for super prizes. Tickets now on sale.

SUNDAY, 15th AUGUST

- 3.00 p.m. Carling-Brennan 5-a-side Soccer Final.
WILLIAMS AMUSEMENTS NIGHTLY
SCHOOLBOYS SOCCER TOURNAMENT EVERY EVENING

A GOLD BAND FOUND NEAR RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK

Raghnall O Floinn

In March 1855, a thin gold band was found in the immediate neighbourhood of Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. It was acquired by the Cork antiquarian, Captain Edward Hoare who published a drawing and description of it in 1857. Shortly afterwards the object came into the possession of Mr. Forman of Dorking in Surrey, England and its present whereabouts are unknown. The purpose of this note is to show that the Rathkeale gold band represents one of a small group of similar ornaments known from Ireland and western Scotland which can be dated to the 11th or 12th centuries A.D.

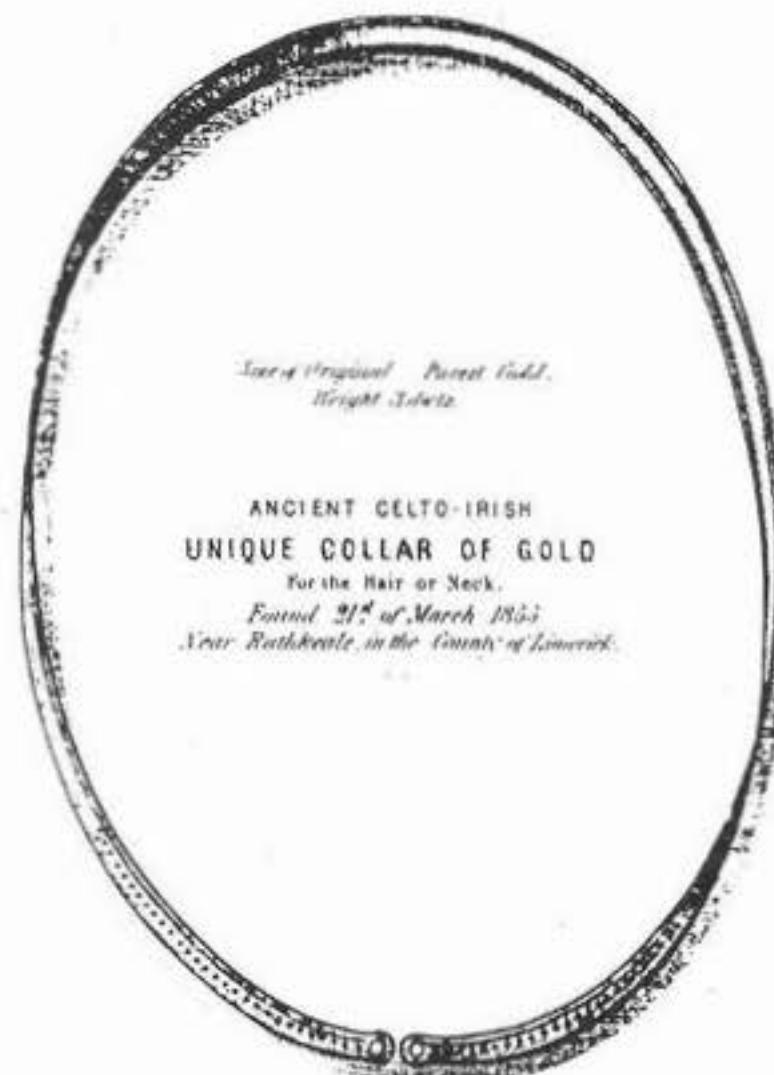
The object, to judge from Hoare's drawing (Fig. 1), is made from a thin strip of sheet-gold, 40.5 cm. in length. It measures 5.5 mm in maximum width midway along its length and tapers gently towards the terminals. The latter are circular, each pierced with a centrally placed perforation. As illustrated by Hoare, the band was oval in outline in the manner of a necklet or collar. The narrow edges are outlined in repoussé by narrow ridges. It is further ornamented at each end for a distance of c. 5.5 cm. with a row of repoussé pellets, the inner end of which terminates in a cruciform arrangement of pellets. The object weighs a mere 4.6 gm.

DISCUSSION

Hoare described the band as unique and suggested that it may have been used as a collar or hair band. Windele compared it in shape and size to a gold neck-ring from Duhallow, Co. Cork. The latter, recently re-published by Megaw, has been tentatively dated to the later Bronze Age. It differs considerably from the Rathkeale band in that it is formed from a series of twisted rods laid side by side and soldered together. The terminals consist of closed rings made in a similar manner. The Stuttgart analysis of Irish gold ornaments places the Duhallow neck ring in Hartmann's MC/NC group which contains the majority of Dowris Phase gold ornaments.

There are, however, much closer parallels for the Rathkeale band from Ireland. Part of an unprovenanced gold band, 16 cm. in length and 1 cm. in width, is preserved in the National Museum of Ireland (Fig. 2.1). The long sides are bordered by rows of repoussé pellets and an arrow-shaped arrangement of pellets occurs at one end, in this case pointing outwards towards the original terminal. The Stuttgart analysis places this piece in a miscellaneous group containing such diverse pieces as the gold hilt-mounting of a dagger from Topped Mountain, Co. Fermanagh, the flange-twisted earrings from Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, and a lock-ring from Harristown, Co. Meath. Also included in this group, significantly, is an unlocalised plain strip of gold now 22.5 cm. in length and 4 mm. wide. The analyses of these two pieces are very close. Both contain trace elements of platinum but only 2% and 2.5% silver respectively, and because of this low silver content were excluded by Hartmann from his PC-Iron Age-group.

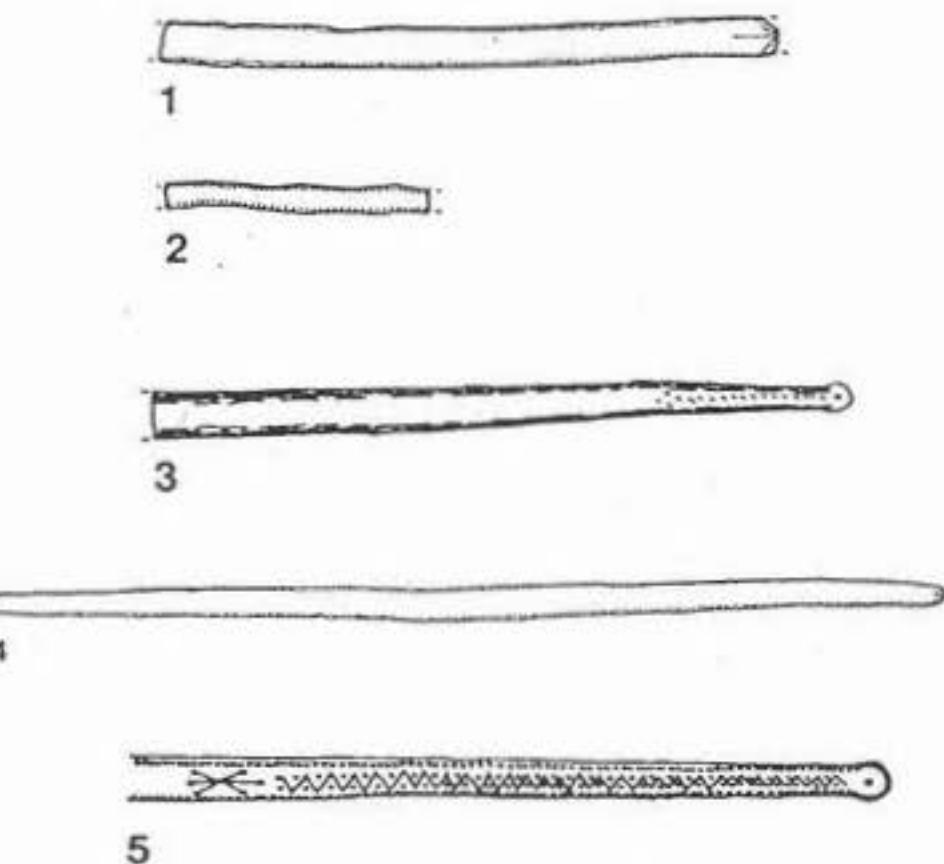
Another portion of a gold fillet, unfortunately also unprovenanced, in the National Museum, is very close in shape and dimension to the Rathkeale band. This measures 6.9 cm. in length but is broken at both ends. It is 6 mm. wide and the edges are decorated with rows of repoussé pellets (Fig. 2.2). This piece, formerly in the collections of the Royal College of Science, was analysed by Smith in the late 19th century,



IN THE COLLECTION OF CAPTAIN EDWARD HOARE,
North Cork Rifles, CORK.

and its gold content and low silver content (1.98%) corresponds almost exactly with the Hartmann analysis for the two gold bands described above.

In the excavations at Christchurch Place, Dublin, the terminal of a similar gold band was found. This fragment, measuring 9 mm. in length and only 3 mm. in width, is pierced by a small pin-hole near the rounded terminal and traces of a second perforation are visible on the fractured



end. As with three of the previous bands, it is bordered by a row of repoussé pellets. From the same levels, two Hiberno-Norse coins dated to the first quarter of the 11th century were found.

Two further finds of similar bands are recorded from Ireland by the 18th century antiquarian, Ralph Ousley. Writing from Limerick, Ousley states that he was shown a gold ornament "fifteen inches long, very thin and narrow, about a quarter of an inch broad, of fine gold and worth about a guinea, the ends have small holes in them to admit a thread thro". The appended sketch and Ousley's measurements describe an object identical in shape and size to the Rathkeale band. He further states that a similar object was found a few years earlier near Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

The Rathkeale band can, therefore, be shown to belong to a group of similar ornaments, seven examples of which are recorded from Ireland, related in shape, size and (where known) metal composition. One example comes from a dated archaeological context.

Further confirmation of the fact that these pieces form a related group comes from a number of finds from Western Scotland, all from hoards. The first is a hoard containing gold and silver objects found with coins at St. Blane's Church on the Isle of Bute. The deposition date for the hoard, on the basis of the coin evidence, is c. 1150 A.D. The objects consisted of a twisted gold finger-ring, a penannular gold ring, a silver ingot and two complete gold bands and a fragment of another. The complete examples measured 43 and 33 cm. in length and each were 6 mm. in maximum width tapering towards the ends. The terminals were rounded and perforated and the edges were bordered with repoussé pellets. As in the case of the Rathkeale and one of the unprovenanced National Museum of Ireland specimens, the bands were further embellished with repoussé designs extending for a short distance from either end (Fig. 2.5).

Similar bands were found in two hoards of objects from Iona. In one, a complete band, 33 cm. long, and a fragment were found with four silver spoons in the Nunnery. This band (Fig. 2.4), in addition to a border of pellets, was decorated along its length with a continuous running vine scroll. The second Iona hoard, from St. Ronan's Chapel, contained in addition to a fragment of a gold band, perforated at one end (Fig. 2.3), a twisted gold finger-ring similar to that from St. Blane's Church and a fragment of gold wire. Curle, in publishing the Iona finds, dated the silver spoons to the 12th or 13th centuries with a preference perhaps for the 12th. The St. Ronan's hoard he dated on analogy with the hoard from St. Blane's Church to the 12th century.

It is difficult to suggest a plausible function for these objects. Curle suggested that they were used to secure a linen veil or wimple such as were worn by women in the Middle Ages to gather the hair in protuberances above the head.

Hoare and Windele also suggested that these objects were personal ornaments - either neck rings or hair bands. It is unlikely that they functioned as decorative mounts for shrines or weapons, or objects such as shields or scabbards on account of their general uniformity of length and their tapering, rounded ends. That they were used as some form of jewellery seems a more likely interpretation. Their occurrence in three instances on church-sites need not necessarily imply an ecclesiastical use. The silver spoons found with one of the Iona fillets could equally have been

used for secular as for ecclesiastical purposes. In two of the Scottish hoards, fillets were associated with gold finger-rings of twisted wires with lozenge-shaped bezels. This type of finger-ring is of Viking origin and is common in hoards of gold and silver ornaments of Scandinavian character from the 10th to the 12th centuries. The occurrence of a fragment of a gold band in 11th century levels in Dublin confirms the Scandinavian character of the type, although present evidence suggests that their distribution is confined to Ireland and western Scotland. Like many of the ornament-types of the later Viking period from these islands, it is difficult to say whether they should be regarded as native or Scandinavian forms or, indeed, whether such a distinction can ever be made.

The dating of the Rathkeale-type bands to the 11th or 12th centuries raises the possibility that other gold objects listed by Armstrong and others as prehistoric may in fact be later. Bøe, in his catalogue of Viking antiquities of Ireland, suggested that a group of five penannular bracelets, four of which are of rectangular cross-section from Vesnoy, Co. Roscommon, and a single find of a similar bracelet from Edenvale Caves, near Ennis, Co. Clare, were of Viking Age date. Graham-Campbell, however, omitted these from his list of Viking Age ornaments suggesting that they might well be prehistoric. The Vesnoy bracelets were considered by Eogan to be of uncertain date as parallels for their form are rather difficult to find. Hartmann includes them in his Group M which includes bar-torcs and flange-torcs of the Bishopsland Phase (c. 1200-1000 B.C.). The weights of the Vesnoy bracelets indicate a unit of c. 25.5 gm. which would be consistent with a weight unit based on the Viking öre of 24-26 gm. The heaviest bracelet, at 48.98 gm. and the lightest (of circular cross-section) at 25.98 gm. would approximate to a 2 öre and 1 öre unit respectively. Similarly, the Edenvale Caves bracelet, weighing 63.44 gm., would be equivalent to a unit of 2.5 öre. Two other unprovenanced bracelets of similar type but with recurved terminals, which weigh 23.45 gm. and 28.69 gm. also conform to a 1 öre unit. The excavations at Edenvale Caves also produced a bronze armlet with spirally twisted terminals which is certainly a Scandinavian type. It may well be that this group of ribbon bracelets of rectangular cross-section should be now regarded as being an ornament-type peculiar to Ireland of probable Viking Age date.

The gold band from Rathkeale is a welcome addition to the list of Viking Age finds of gold and silver ornaments and coin hoards in Thomond. Finds of ornaments of 11th century date which may be contemporary with the Rathkeale band are not common. Two finds - a silver torc found at Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare, and a hoard of silver 'ring-money' from the Clare side of the River Shannon - are of types current elsewhere in the Viking world between about 930 and 1060 A.D. There are also two hoards of Hiberno-Norse coins dating to the 11th century; one found at Adare (deposited c. 1050 A.D.), the other found near Limerick City (deposited c. 1063 A.D.).



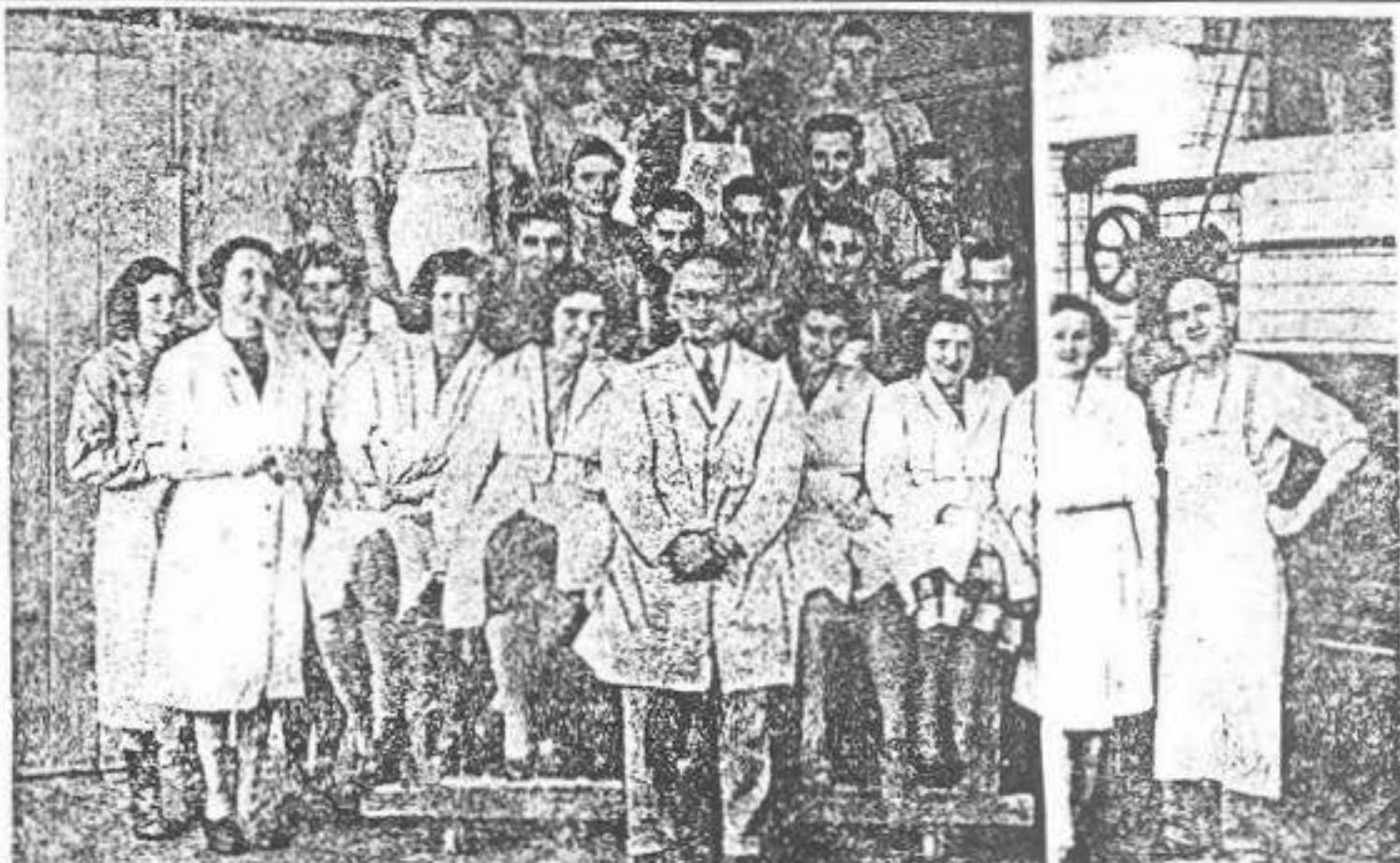
RATHKEALE THROUGH THE YEARS - The Limerick Weekly Echo, Saturday, 11th February, 1950.



A group of the Managerial Staff of The Peoples Bakery. Fourth from right is Mr. Joseph A. Binchy, Proprietor.



Members of the Sales Delivery Staffs of The Peoples Bakery, Rathkeale. (Reading from left to right) - Mr. McCann, Des Shire, P. K. Naughton, Mr. Royce, Jn. Griffin, Ed. Fitzgerald, Chas Mulcahy, Tim Cregan.



The Manufacturing Staff attached to The Peoples Bakery, Rathkeale.

Abrahams Golfing Society

There have been four outings since March including Killarney, Charleville, Dooks and Newcastle West.

The winners among the men were Gerry O'Connell, Paul Hennessy, Noel Harnett, Declan Mooney, Neally Duggan and Michael Keating. The ladies successes went to Irene Donovan, Breda Keating and Mary O'Sullivan.

All the competitions have been most successful and, in most cases, blessed with fine weather. The attendances have been exceptionally high and it has to be emphasised once again how important it is for as many as possible to arrive at the venue before the start time.

The President's Prize was played for in Dooks Golf Club on 3rd July when Bea Tansey presented the trophy to Noel Harnett.

Next outing is to Fermoy Golf Club where we will be playing for the first time on Saturday, 7th August. Tee time being 3.00 p.m. Please come early.



ABRAHAMS GOLFING SOCIETY OUTING AT DOOKS GOLF CLUB IN JULY

THE LIMERICK HURLERS (1930s)

Sent in by K. Moloney, Croagh Village

Limerick is beautiful as everybody knows,
And by that city of my heart our gallant hurlers rose,
They dwelt down by the Shannonside with muscle, brawn and bone,
As when Sarsfield swept the Saxons from the Walls of Garryowen.

Now here's to Mick and Timmy Ryan, the brothers Mackey two,
McMahon, Cross and Kennedy and Roche from Croom abú,
McCarthy, Howard and Clohessy, Young Close and C. O'Brien,
With Ned Cregan and Pat Scanlon who always held their line.

Our heroes conquered Waterford, Tipperary, Cork and Clare,
Kilkenny, Galway, Dublin and the boys from old Kildare,
They are heroes of our own Green Isle, no man can run them down,
And now they're in America far from old Limerick town.

Out spoke our gallant Timmy Ryan as the Yankee's hand he clasped,
'Tis long since you have challenged us but you've got us here at last,
You know our flag is floating high and this to you I'll own,
To defend it we will do or die for dear Old Garryowen.

The coin was spun the struggle begun and the crowd began to roar,
As Cross sent on to Mackey for to open up the score,
McMahon next was on the scene, opposition there he met,
But he broke through all with that lovely ball and shook the Yankee's net.

The game went on with lightning speed as Limerick took command,
They hurled up with all their might while on the Yankee land,
The referee blew the whistle and the Yanks with grief felt sore,
For they knew their men were conquered by the boys from Shannon Shore.

Shortly they'll be coming home, they are world champions now,
For to them in the U.S.A. the Yanks they had to bow,
The Reeves Cup they have captured and they'll bring it o'er the foam,
To rest in dear old Limerick beside the Treaty Stone.

Now to conclude and finish up I have no more to say,
But they conquered all before them while in America,
I pray success may reign supreme upon our hurlers bright,
And may they live for years to come to wear the Green and White.



FROM SHANNON MEAT GAZETTE 1976. - Members and mentors of the Rathkeale Junior Team that won the Western Title last year.
Back Row L to R: P. Wilmot (Secretary), A. Supple, J. McEvery, G. Bollard, D. Kenneally, J. Lynch, J. O'Grady, D. O'Dea, T. White, P. Markham, L. Woulfe, D. Doherty, T. Markham, M. Neville (Trainer), J. Kennedy (Chairman). Front Row L to R: J. Kennedy, M. Tully, N. Fitzgerald, P. Clancy, S. Harnett, T. Wilmot, N. Harnett, M. Sullivan, T. Fitzgerald, P. Sheehy.

RATHKEALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

1993 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

ITEM NO. 1 - GENERAL

DEBIT	£	CREDIT	£
Caretaker	1855.00	Rent of hall - Bingo	2500.00
Insurance - Hall	1352.00	Rent of hall - Cards	1650.00
Insurance - Dohoyle Lough	200.00	Rent - Aerobics	160.00
Heating Oil - Estuary	505.50	Rent - F.C.A.	400.00
Service fire extinguisher	146.00	Rent - Summer Camp	200.00
Christmas tree	36.30	Rent - Unislim	80.00
Repair to Burco boiler	5.80	Rent - Playschool	260.00
Fitzsimons Printers	89.00	Rent - Credit Union A.G.M.	35.00
Sponsorship - Kilcornan		Rent - Athletic Club training	100.00
Community Council	25.00	Rent - Athletic Club Bazaar	35.00
Photocopying - Credit Union	87.60	Rathkeale F.C. Poker Classic	70.00
Presentation - Tim Geaney	475.00	Referendum 1992	400.00
Quinns Wine (Catering & General)	62.30	Community Games (Munster Final)	50.00
Pa Sheehan	202.00	G.A.A. Discos	90.00
P.B.R.	8.00	Bord na nOg	30.00
Michael O'Shea, Jnr.	3.88	Boxing Club	250.00
E. Neville	5.00	Halloween	141.00
Flowers (Irene Donovan)	38.00	Youth Club	30.00
Sanding of floor Comm. Centre	1000.00	Dancing Group	30.00
Total cleaning supplies	62.90	Shop	700.00
Muintir na Tire	50.00	Meetings - P.B.R.	15.00
Mrs. Breen	27.26	Meetings - SIPTU	20.00
Sponsorship - Brass Band	50.00	Meetings - BLOE	35.00
Floor wax polish	61.30	Senator Mary Kelly	15.00
E.S.B. - Hall	1554.00	Pro Life	30.00
Telecom	339.17	Prayer Group	120.00
Disposable plates, napkins, tinfoil, table cloth	44.55	Meals on Wheels - E.S.B.	60.00
T. O'Connor (general)	109.01	Irish Palatine Association	100.00
Secretary's expenses	42.88	Payment for damaged floor	856.00
Cathedral Carpets	250.00	Payment for damaged bulbs	80.00
Medi-Kleen	97.88	Dancing Group - dance	50.00
		Dancing Group - play	50.00
		Valentine Ball	30.00
		Phone meter	44.42
		E.S.B. meter	54.50
TOTAL	8784.73	TOTAL	8770.92

Total to Balance Sheet

13.81

BALANCE SHEET As at 31st March 1993

DEBIT	£	CREDIT	£
General	13.81	Balance on hand	15086.67
Sports Hall	1574.98	Bingo	1934.47
Social Employment Scheme	5592.14	Cards	1829.28
Tidy Towns	758.71	500 Club	2198.00
St. Patrick's Day Parade	472.00	Gymkhana	717.64
Deel Views	361.00	Transfer from Social	
Sheltered Housing	320.00	Employment Account	513.93
Bank charges + cheque book	258.84	Bank interest	555.04
TOTAL	9512.08	TOTAL	22835.03
Balance on hand 31.3.93	13322.95		

Rathkeale Sewerage Works

We illustrate in this number the sewerage works now just finished at Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. The works were designed by John Cox, Esq., C.E., County Surveyor, W.D. Limerick. The contract was undertaken by Mr. Walsh, and executed under the superintendence of Mr. John Scannell, C.E.

The town of Rathkeale is situated on the banks of the River Deel, the principal portion of the town being on its north side. The lower part of the town next the river is flat; the upper part is built on a low hill, about 35 ft. over the level of the river. The level of the water is in general very little lower than the level of the flat portion of the town below, and this made it impossible to get an outfall. There was an old stone sewer running the whole length of the principal street, but it was almost useless, as the level of its outfall was necessarily below that of the river. The consequence was that, instead of the sewage flowing into the river, the river flowed back, causing a deposit of sewage matter which completely choked the old sewer. For this reason the Board of Guardians last year determined on carrying out a thorough system of sewerage, of which the following is a description.

The reason of the high level of the water next the town is that a mill, about a quarter of a mile down the river, keeps the water back by a weir (this, in winter and in times of heavy rain, floods nearly 1,800 acres of agricultural land). Below the weir the water is 7 ft. lower, and the difficulty of obtaining an outfall was overcome by carrying the main intercepting sewer beyond this weir, thus securing an additional fall of 7 ft.

The main features of the plan are:

1st - a main or intercepting sewer, 3,385 ft. long. This is of concrete, and of the modern egg-shaped form, shown on fig. 1.

The entire fall of the concrete sewer is 6.81 ft. thus giving an average gradient of 1 in 496. This, flowing one-third full, will discharge 75,000 cubic feet per day of twelve hours.

2nd - a settling or filtering tank, shown in plan and section on fig. 2. This, as will be seen, is in duplicate, only one-half being in use at a time. The concrete sewer discharges into a sluice-chamber (A), which is intended to catch the heaviest portion of the solid matter. Two sluices communicate with this, one opening into each tank. Only one of these sluices is open at a time. Each tank chamber is divided into four smaller chambers by three filters or screens, which work in grooves, as shown at (B). These filters consist of two plates of cast-iron, 8 in. apart, fixed in an iron frame, and perforated with circular holes, three-eighth in. in diameter and half in. apart. The 8 in. space between the plates is filled as follows: No. 1, to act as a screen to intercept the solid matter, is filled with broken stones. No. 2 is filled with stones broken smaller and animal charcoal in equal proportions; it is intended partly as a screen to intercept the finer

solid matter that escapes No. 1 and partly as a deodoriser. Filter No. 3 is filled entirely with pieces of animal charcoal, broken small, and is intended entirely as a deodoriser for the liquid matter before it escapes into the river. The purified liquid matter then falls into the overflow chamber (C), and thence into the outfall sewer (D). This outfall sewer is of the same shape and size as the main sewer, and is similarly formed of concrete. It is 120 ft. long, and is closed with a flap-valve, opening outwards.

As this main sewer is all through below the high level of river above the weir, means are provided of flushing it thus. A small branch is brought from the main sewer into the river. This is provided at the end with a sluice gate, worked up and down by rack and pinion work. By raising this sluice, a large quantity of water can be let into the sewer, thereby effectually clearing it out. Besides this means of flushing, a valve or door is provided at each man-hole, which can be tightly closed. The accumulation of fluid rushes down on the sudden opening of the door, clearing away any solid matter in its path.

3rd - Minor sewers, consisting of several lines of earthenware pipes (Jennings's patent chair and saddle), and one built sewer, all falling into the concrete sewer. The built sewer is merely the old one referred to above, improved in form, lines and levels, 850 ft. long.

The remainder of the minor sewers (pipes) are for the greater part placed at the backs of the houses. This was done to avoid the necessity of making connections under the floors of the houses. However, in some cases they are laid in front of the houses where, owing to the formation of the ground, the other course would have been impracticable. There are thus laid about 4,000 ft. of 12 in. and 600 ft. of 9 in. pipes.

4th - Lamp holes, man-holes, ventilators etc. This system of sewerage is designed so that all sewers, whether pipes or otherwise, are laid in perfect straight lines and true gradients.

Whenever a change of direction is necessary, it is done at an angle, and at the angle is placed a man-hole or lamp-hole. This system is adhered to throughout, no curve in pipe or sewer being allowed anywhere, so that any length can be examined at a moment's notice, obstructions easily localised and got rid of, and opening of ground or disturbance of sewer avoided.

Fig. 3 shows the construction of the man-holes. They are cylindrical chambers, 3 ft. 6 in. internal diameter, formed of concrete 10 in. thick, the bottom being 12 in. The particular man-hole selected for illustration has two sewers flowing into it and one out. The two entrance sewers are shown, and are provided with flushing doors. The exit sewer does not appear on the section, but it is shown on plan.

The side or "ventilating chamber" is also a cylinder 1 ft. in diameter, and is formed of concrete. It communicates with

the man-hole by an opening (E). In this is fixed a rectangular sheet-iron box (F) perforated on back and front, and containing pieces of animal charcoal broken small. The man-hole cover is fixed in a flag 10 in. thick, and is of the pattern adopted by the Metropolitan Board of Works, London.

(G) is a grating fitted into a flag. The noxious gases in their passage from the man-hole must pass through the charcoal box (F) and so escape into the air perfectly purified. There are six of these man-holes on the main sewer, and five others in various parts of the town.

Fig. 4 - The lamp holes, twenty in number, are cylinders similar in shape to the man-holes, but only 18 in. in diameter, and each one is covered by a flag with a circular perforation containing a "Latham's" patent spiral charcoal ventilator. These ventilators are very convenient - they are easily taken out for the purpose of letting down a lamp, or for the removal and renewal of the charcoal.

In the upper part of the town, where the irregular lanes and streets necessitated a number of short stretches of pipes meeting at angles, it would be expensive and unnecessary to provide a man-hole or lamp-hole at each angle. In those cases a concrete cylinder is formed with a groove moulded in the concrete bottom to correspond with curve of the pipe, and the top simply covered with a flag laid under the surface of the ground. These can be removed, and the pipes examined after very little trouble. A ventilator is fixed at the termination of each line of pipes.

There are provided twelve flushing doors for the earthenware pipes; one is sketched in Fig. 4. These are most necessary, as in the upper part of the town there is no means for flushing, except what comes from the surface water of the street. They are opened and closed from the street.

There are also twenty-four double-trapped gully gratings laid down in the streets, and communicating with the sewer, in addition to those previously laid by the sanitary authorities.

The concrete used was composed of one part best London Portland cement, two parts of sand, and three of stones broken to one and a half in. in diameter.

The cost of the works will be nearly £2,300.

RATHKEALE SEWERAGE WORKS

FIG. 2.

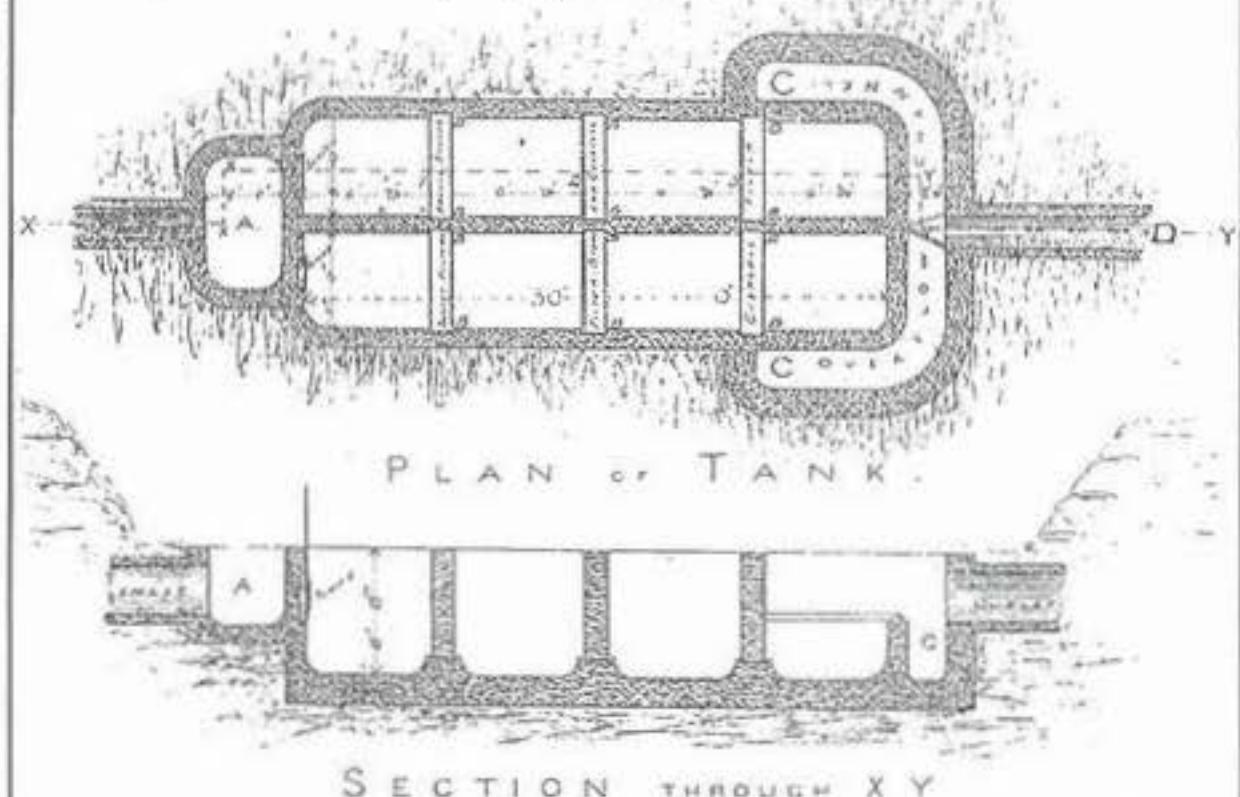


FIG. 4.

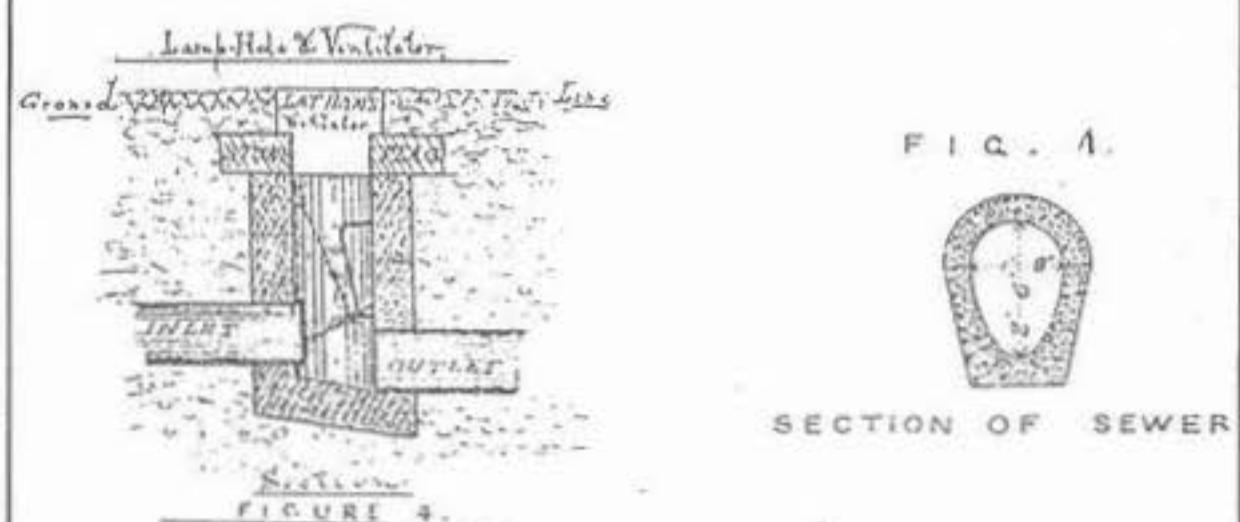
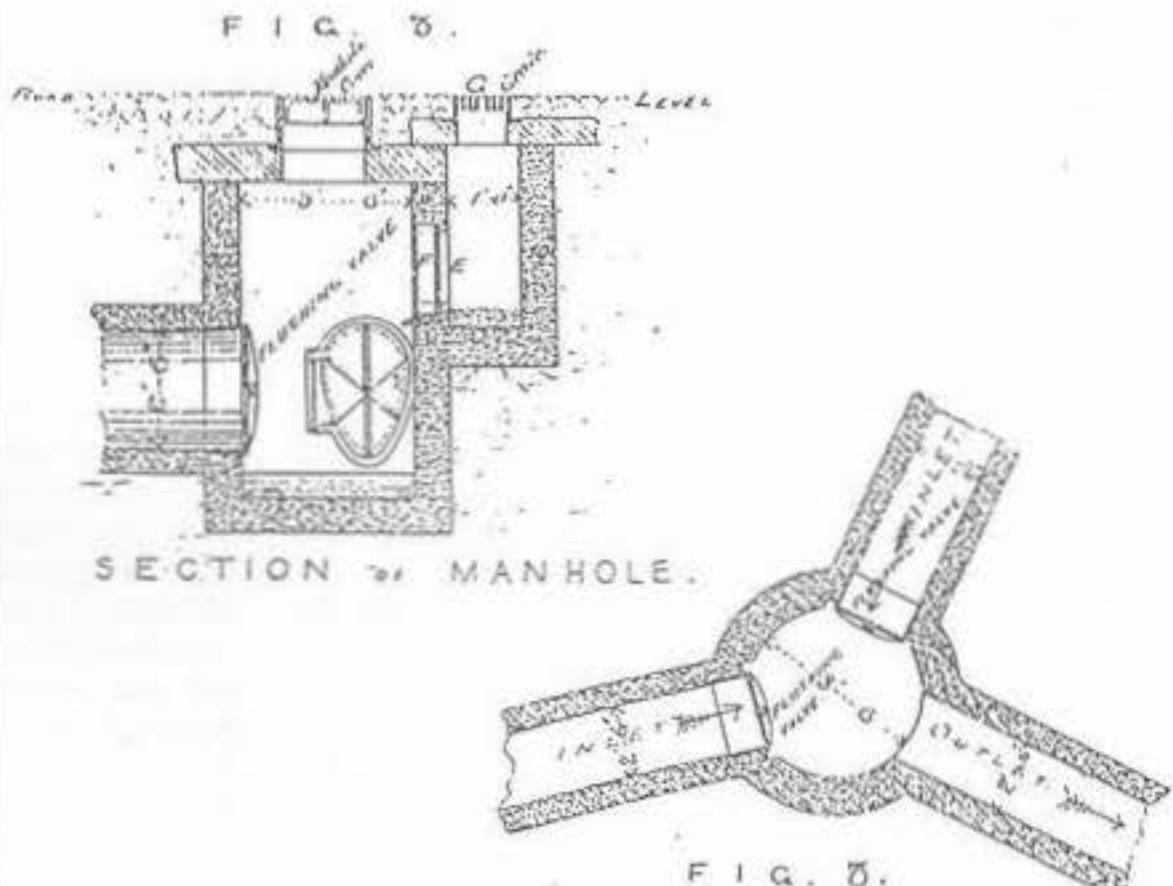


FIG. 5.



THE REVIVAL

(From Shannon Meat Gazette - 1980)

By William Madden, Accounts Department

It is widely accepted that rugby originated in this country in 1954 in Trinity College, where Limerick's Sir Charles Barrington was to play a major role in the advancing of the game. Sir Charles dedicated himself to a work on the laws that were passed in 1868.

As rugby gained in popularity, it was inevitable that a Governing Body be founded and, quaintly, Rathkeale was the first Munster club to be represented at a meeting of the Irish Rugby Football Union (then the I.F.U.) on 3rd March, 1874. The delegates were Captain Bowyer and T. B. Bolton, Rathkeale. The area's first Rugby Club, Limerick County came into being in 1876. They issued a challenge to the I.F.U. at a meeting in March, 1877 and this led to the first meeting of Leinster and Munster in College Park on 26th March, 1877. Leinster won by a goal to nil.

During the 1930s rugby was again flourishing in Rathkeale, under the captaincy of Maurice Fennell. Among the large panel of players were: Maurice Cowhey (who led the side when Maurice Fennell went to the Civil War in Spain), James McGrane, Paddy Carlon, J. J. Lynch, David Wall, Mick Healy, Bernard Madden, Michael Giltenane, Mick (Tyler) White, Jack Killackey, Jimmy Ahern, Martin Treacy, Dan Johnson, Larry Walsh, P. Stephenson, Denny Reilly, Jimmy Traynor, with John Culhane and Jack O'Mahoney from Askeaton.

Amid strong local opposition the team was formed by John O'Connor, principal of the secondary school and Jack Killackey as trainer. Although lacking in the basics of the game, their strong point was the robust pack of forwards. The team trained in the Library and, for a time, were like a nomadic tribe, unable to locate a permanent playing field. Among the many locations used were the old racecourse, the site of the present soccer pitch, a field in the Mount at Church Street and the field opposite the church in the New Road. Following a door to door collection in the town, sufficient funds were secured to purchase a field. This was in Enniscouche, opposite the present Coursing field. A set of jerseys (red and black hoops) were also purchased.

FIRST GAME

The first game played by the side was against Newcastle West. At this time Newcastle were at the peak of their performances for many years and were also hosting two international players - R. J. Cussen and Jerome Mullane. Before the game began it was agreed to swap the back-lines at half time if Newcastle West were winning easily. However, much to the amazement of all present, Newcastle were trailing at half time. At full-time the situation was reversed but the performance given made it clear that the basis was present for a rugby team in Rathkeale.

In the mid-1930s the team was strengthened by players from the Newcastle Club, which went into abeyance for several seasons. These included Mossie Dee, Larry Curtin, Mossie Curtin, Tom and Matt McCoy who played regularly with the side. This laid the base of a cherished rugby alliance between the two towns. Rathkeale rugby players down through the years have given sterling service to Newcastle West. Bill Mulcahy, the immortal "wigs" of international fame played his first ever Club rugby with Newcastle West. John, his brother, who won a Munster

Senior Cup medal with Bohemians, played also in the fifties for them. In more recent years, players like Tom and John Lynch, Sean Goodwin, Tom Daly, Brendan Kennedy, David, John and William Madden and Dan Cagney from Ballingarry have supported Newcastle West.

DISBANDED

With the beginning of the war in 1939, the Rugby Club was forced to disband. The demise of the Rathkeale Rugby Club was a source of sorrow to all in rugby circles.

The foundations have long since been laid for a team from Rathkeale to play rugby. This position is now held by the Shannon Meat Inter-Firm rugby team. Although beaten in the '78 final with a Shannon Meat/Scanglo combination, the '79 competition proved more successful. With the shadow of last year's defeat still present, the team went for an outright victory. The path was not an easy one to tread but sheer determination and willpower by all involved made the task easier.

Castlemahon, having earlier been beaten by the side, were strong and skilful opponents. So the scene was set for what proved to be an exciting and entertaining eighty minutes of rugby. Full of magnificent thrills, in its entire passage, reputations were made; some already made, further enhanced. It was a clean, manly, strenuous encounter with our boys sometimes in irresistible forward rushes, with the rearguard snapping up the opportunities that came their way.

PENALTY

The score was opened by a penalty from Sean Harnett. Castlemahon soon replied with a drop goal. Then James O'Grady went over for a fine try. This score did not seem to upset the opposition who pressed hard for the last ten minutes to get a score, stopped time and time again short of the line. Each scrum was faced with the same determination and vigour as if it was the first in the game. The support on the sideline was tremendous and much credit goes to those who enthusiastically supported the team throughout the competition. Finally, the full-time whistle blew and the worthy victors were the beaten finalists of '78.

Outstanding performances were given on the night by Patch Markham, although new to the game proved to be a great attacking forward; James O'Grady, Dan Cagney, David and John Madden who dominated lineouts and were always involved in loose play and mauls; John Lynch and Sean Harnett played well together, with the rest of the back-line tackling and handling well. For the full-back Turlough McDonald it was his first game of the competition, but he soon made his presence felt with trustworthy fielding of the ball and accurate kicking for touch. One person who deserves special credit for his participation is Mickey Reidy. While unfortunate to miss the final, his earlier performances were a source of inspiration to all the players.

The last two seasons saw the revival of Rathkeale rugby under the captaincy of Dan Cagney after a lapse of forty years. The team can now face the eighties with confidence and the future may bring good fortunes and plenty of success.

Irish Palatine Heritage Centre

Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

In 1709 several hundred families of German origin settled in Ireland. Known as the Palatines, they established roots mainly in the Rathkeale area of County Limerick.

Phase one of the new Irish Palatine Heritage Centre includes an extensive display of artefacts, photographs, graphics etc. The complex contains extensive archives, bus and car parks and landscaped surroundings.

Due emphasis is placed on the Palatines' innovative contributions to Irish farming life and on their formative role in the development of world Methodism.

The exhibition as a whole seeks to re-present in detail the Irish Palatine experience ranging from their German places of origin, to their colonisation and settlement in Ireland, and their subsequent scattering all over the English speaking world.

Located alongside the N21 at Rathkeale, 18 mls. from Limerick, 8 mls. from Adare, 46 mls. from Tralee, 50 mls. from Killarney.

If you have visitors staying or happen to be in contact with tourists, we would appreciate your support by recommending they visit us. If you are a member of a club or association why not arrange a visit for a guided tour.

Admission: Adults £2.00. Children £1.00.
Family £5.00. Tours 10% discount.

Open daily, June-September.
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Other times by appointment.

Telephone: 069-62080/64397.
Facsimile: 069-64220

Contact:
Esther O'Connor/Austin Bovenizer

Marriages

John Quilligan and Nora Flynn

Thomas Wright and Marie Giltinane

Denis Francis Crosse & Margaret Martha Fennell

Seán Antoine Barrett and Thelma Fitzgerald

Michael Enright and Deirdre Madigan



Baptisms

Joan Patricia Enright

Amy Sarah Brosnan

Lauren Marie Wilmot

Michael Anthony Keating

Richard Nigel Kelly

Sarah Rebecca Barry

Deaths

Margaret Power

Michael Burns

Kathleen Sheridan

Mary Baggott

Patrick Royce

Tyler White

Martin Williams

Gerard O'Grady

Josephine O'Grady

Pat Joe Mulcahy

Jimmy O'Neill

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Thursday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Library Opening Hours:

Monday & Wednesday: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 12.30; 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Mart:

Tuesday: Cattle

Wednesday: Calf & Pig

Post Office:

Monday-Saturday: 9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Thursday: 9.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Doctors:

Dr. Lynch: Half day Thursday

Dr. Curtin: Half day Wednesday

Dr. Teahan: Half day Thursday

St. Mary's Church Masses:

Saturday 8 p.m. Sunday 8.30 a.m. 10 a.m.

11.30 a.m.

Holy Trinity Church:

Sunday Service 8.30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Embry Heck Church, Ballingrane:

Sunday Service 10.30 a.m.

Piano Lessons: Louise Muckell, Roche's Road

Festival Show: Mrs. Ann O'Connell

Community Council Monthly Meeting:

First Monday 8.30 p.m. Sec.: Brid Guinane

Boxing Club: Secretary - John Jones

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:

Mr. O'Kane. Tel. 069-64622

Bridge Club: Mrs. Phil Ruttle. Every Tuesday

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

Soccer: Juvenile - Sean Harnett

Abrahams Golf Society:

N. Harnett, Hon. Secretary

Scout Cubs: Thursdays. Youth Centre

Community Hall: Tel. 069-64908

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