

Summer 1995

DEEL VIEWS

RATHKEALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL - PRICE: 50P



Fiona Fitzgibbon



Lisa Flynn



Ciara O'Shea



Laura Gallinagh



Olga Noonan



Caroline Collins, Princess of Desmond 1994



Shirley Brosnan



Lorraine White



Jane Monaghan



Lorraine Lynch



Terese Dalton



Olivia Byrnes



Ciara O'Sullivan



Fiona Griffin



Martina Noonan



Linda O'Brien



Maureen Mulcaire

*Princess of
Desmond
Contestants 1995*



Caroline Rice



Sinead Mullins

941
9493
005



Editorial

We must compliment the Tidy Towns group and the F.A.S. employees under their sponsorship on the magnificent work that has been carried out during the past few months. The appearance of the town has improved considerably and nowhere is this more evident than on the approach road particularly around the Askeaton entrance. Here some beautiful flowers and shrubs are in full bloom and add marvellous colour to their surroundings.

Likewise around the town where the tubs and containers are showing to great effect and are being so well tended by the dedicated few fortunately the vandalism which was evident early on this year seems to some extent to have disappeared. Obviously the efforts of the "gardeners" as having a positive effect in many ways.

A number of derelict buildings still badly needs attention particularly in the centre of the town while the parking problem seems to be getting worse. This begs the question where are the parking laws in regard to yellow lines going to be implemented? As often here mentioned in the past there is no shortage of off street parking in the town both public and private and there are still occasions where the travelling the main street is some difficult now than before bypass days.

Nevertheless we look forward with anticipation to the adjudication's verdict in the National Tidy Towns competition.



Red Cross Society

The local branch has had a very successful year. A service a first aid classes proved very useful and all participants got certificates. It is proposed starting a first aid until in the Autumn and a further service of classes planned for the Winter months.

The senior citizens outing took place to Killaloe and Lough Derg and was enjoyed by all the fine weather especially.

We send our best wishes to Tom Daly of Riverlawn who has left for Tajiskinstan in Russia as a Red Cross Volunteer.

New members or those interested in attending the Winter classes should contact Tim Shiels (Hon Sec)

LEFT:
Margaret Roche and Owen Conway who were married recently in Cappagh Church.

Photo: Seamus Hogan, Rathkeale.



RATHKEALE WELCOME HOME FESTIVAL 1995

Thursday 10th August - Sunday 13th August

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Thursday 10th August

- 4.00p.m. **Novelty Sports** in St. Mary's Park
7.30p.m. **Grand Opening Parade** from Youth Centre to the Square - with the Princesses, contestants in the adult and childrens Fancy Dress - Led by Rathkeale Brass Band
8.00p.m. **Music in the Square** from Bunny's Disco plus introduction of the Princesses.
8.30p.m. **Monster Festival Bingo** in Community Centre
9.30p.m. **Pub Quiz** at Molly B's
11.00p.m. **Line Dancing Competition** in Davy Mann's -
Dancing to Sharon Turley and her Line Dancing Band.



Friday 11th August

- 7.00p.m. **Rathkeale Historical Society** - hosting Tour of Rathkeale under Tony Brown of Thoond Historical Society. Assemble at Community Centre.
7.00p.m. **Novelty Street Sports**
9.30p.m. **Grand Parade of Princesses** to Community Centre - led by Rathkeale Brass Band.
Final of Princess of Desmond '95 with Aonghus McNally of R.T.E. fame.
Dancing to The Vantones in The Community Centre.
11.00p.m. **Bunny's Disco** in Davy Mann's

Saturday 12th August

- 2.00p.m. **Adult and Children's Treasure Hunt**
6.30p.m. **G.A.A.** - Ladies Football Match
8.00p.m. **Kiddies Disco** in Community Centre
11.00p.m. **Dancing to "Grease"** in Davy Mann's



Sunday 13th August - FINAL DAY

- 2.00p.m. **Mass in the Abbey**

IN THE ABBEY

Special Appearance of Heavenly Bodies - Disco Dancers
Outdoor Boxing Tournament
Tiny Tots Sports
Wheel of Fortune plus lots of Side Shows
Final of Little Prince & Princess '95
with Dr. John Moloney of Limerick 95FM
plus Paul Hayes Disco in Community Centre

CLOSING OF FESTIVAL

- 11.00p.m. **Dancing to The Conquerors** in Davy Mann's

*All proceeds this year go to Rathkeale Sheltered Housing.
The Committee wish to thank all the sponsors and anyone that helped.*

WILLIAM'S AMUSEMENTS in St. Mary's Park

Rathkeale Sheltered Housing Association

No doubt but you are probably aware of the fact that The Rathkeale Sheltered Housing Complex at Boherbuoy is now almost complete.

Yes, the buildings have been completed, but more needs to be done to make these 'houses' 'homes' for those who will occupy them in the near future.

A boundary wall must be constructed, public lighting installed, gardens have to be landscaped and the driveways must be completed. It is also hoped to provide floor-coverings and other little things that go into making for extra comfort.

AUCTION

In order to raise funds, we are holding a Charity Auction in the Community Centre on Sunday September 24th. The success of this Auction will depend on you and your friends. We need many items, in good condition, which we can put up for Sale.

If you have any saleable items such as furniture, electrical goods, farm machinery, paintings, household goods, collections of records or C.D.'s, a trailer load of turf or timber blocks, country produce, a heifer or a lamb or even a pony - in fact anything which may be converted into cash, we would appreciate it very much. However, on this occasion we do not need clothing, books or magazines.

If you feel that you can help, please contact any of the undersigned. Collection of goods can be arranged.

Now have a look in your attic, spare room, garage or outhouse, there is surely something that you may be able to donate for this very worthy cause.



BELOW LEFT:
Sheltered Housing Project

BELOW RIGHT:
Sheltered Housing Project at an advanced state.

Yours,

<i>Bríd Morrissey</i>	<i>Tel: (069) 64396</i>
<i>Bridie Daly</i>	<i>Tel: (069) 64407</i>
<i>Adeline Dillon</i>	<i>Tel: (069) 64543</i>
<i>John Dinnage</i>	<i>Tel: (069) 64088</i>
<i>Noel White</i>	<i>Tel: (069) 64202</i>
<i>Joe Dunleavy</i>	<i>Tel: (069) 64373</i>
<i>Patrick Johnson</i>	<i>Tel: (069) 64206</i>
<i>Con Horan</i>	<i>Tel: (069) 64255</i>
<i>Theresa Naughton</i>	
<i>Michael Hanley</i>	





REVIEW OF URBAN RENEWAL SCHEME AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RATHKEALE

By Senator Dan Neville M.C.C.

The announcement that a thorough review of the impact, effectiveness and cost of the tax based Urban Renewal Schemes in designated areas is to be welcomed. It is an opportunity for Rathkeale to present its case to the Minister for State, Mrs. Liz McManus T.D. to include part of the town in future extensions of the scheme.

There is a very special case for Rathkeale because of its unique social make up and because of economic factors which have taken many former business practices out of their original activity. Incentives must be put in place to return these from being locked up or used as antique furniture stores to viable commercial units. It is also an opportunity to lobby for incentives to revitalise the centre of the Town as a residential area.

As part of the review the Department of the Environment will be commissioning Consultants to carry out a detailed analysis of the Urban Renewal Scheme over a wide range of headings which will include the effect of the schemes both on the areas designated and other areas. In assessing the schemes the Consultants look to their impact in relation to planning and land use policy, the property and housing markets and their overall impact on economic, social and fiscal taxation policy terms. The study will also address key aspects including the contribution of developments in the designated areas in urban design in architectural terms.

The Urban Renewal Schemes are rightly regarded as having made a major contribution to the revitalisation of our towns and cities. Limerick City is one of the best examples of this. It is time to re-examine the situation and re-define the approach or emphasis, the consideration of the inclusion of smaller towns should be a key aspect of this.

I have for many years been amazed that no Town in Co. Limerick has been designated. Surely there is a case for smaller older towns like Rathkeale to have the opportunity to improve under the scheme.

The Urban Renewal Scheme is one of the most successful initiatives in recent years. The level of investment totalling an estimated £1.7billion is one measure of our Urban Renewal incentives. The

physical evidence of new apartments and commercial developments where previously decay, decline and dereliction had lasted for generations or more is the more tangible indicator of success for the general public.

I am submitting a proposal regarding the position of Rathkeale to the Consultants set up by the Minister.

I welcome the initiatives taken to re-examine the scheme and the fact that the Minister for State Mrs. McManus T.D. has announced that she intends the review to be complete in 1996, the 10th anniversary of the Urban Renewal Scheme Act, 1986 under which the first areas in this country were designated for Urban Renewal.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

Marriages

Daniel Sheridan ~ Julia Sheridan
Michael King ~ Catherine Mary Conroy
John Joseph Hannon ~ Catherine Teresa Chawke
Brendan Christopher Buckley ~ Christina Mary Frawley
Married in Rome: Philip Clancy ~ Ann Morrissey

Baptisms

Ciaran Michael Brosnan
Denny Sheridan
Bridget Lisa O'Brien
Robert Joseph Keogh
Nora Monica Culligan
Lana Kate Kennedy
Courtney Mary Elizabeth Muckell
Mary Gammell
Martina Michelle Marie Jinks
Kathleen Celine O'Donoghue

Funerals

Josie Murphy
Mickie Quilligan
Mary Kennedy
Minnie Quilligan
Joanie Lynch

A Night at the Dogs

When the pages of History record the happenings of 1995, I wonder what will they have to say about Monday May 1st? It was a bank holiday, but more important it was the evening during which the people of Rathkeale went to the dogs.

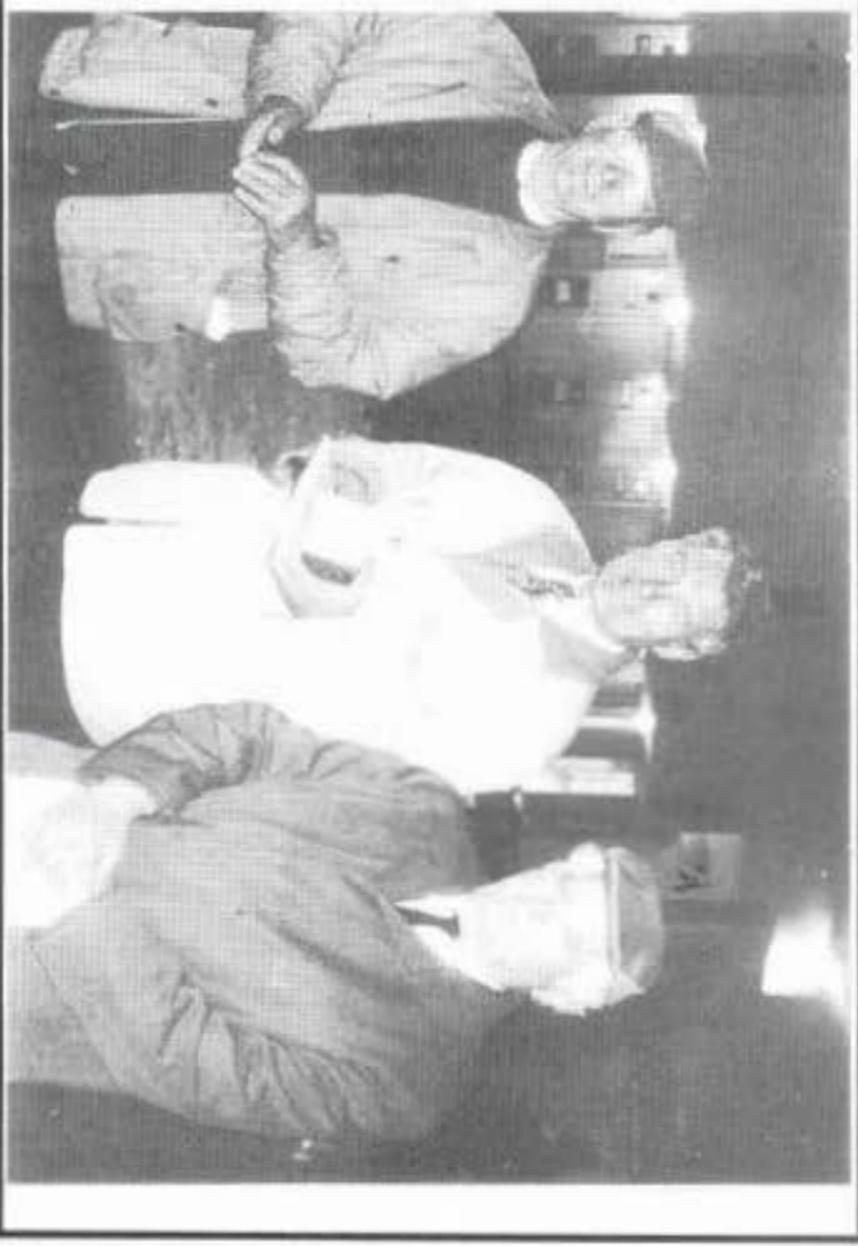
Monday May 1st will be remembered as the day on which Rathkeale Sheltered Housing Association promoted one of the most successful fund raising ventures ever organised in the area. It was the first occasion for any Rathkeale Organisation to benefit from the proceeds of a "Night at the Dogs"

Held in Limerick Greyhound track (Markets Field) the venture proved to be a tremendous success, not only financially but also from a community spirit point of view. Many people put their shoulders to the wheel to ensure its success of course the real success story was the support received and contributors for several weeks prior to the event, the members of the organising committee a sub committee of Rathkeale Community Council, did Trojan work as they travelled throughout afield to secure sponsorship and donations.

With the fear of omitting names, I will refrain from mentioning any individual. It is suffice to say "Thank You" to all those who helped in any way to make the event a success. Those who did help will know what their contribution amounted to and how they supported Rathkeale Sheltered Housing Association project. For those who did not contribute and who would like to be associated with such an event then there is next years "Rathkeale Night At the Dogs" which will also be in aid of the Sheltered Housing Project. The total profit from Rathkeale "Night at the Dogs" on May 1st amounted to £10,700.

Scenes from Rathkeale's Night at the "Dogs"





HISTORY AROUND YOU

MOST concerned citizens feel their hackles rising and their blood pressure soaring at the destruction of some valued part of our physical heritage—the ploughing up of a ringfort, the demolition of a Victorian landmark, even the felling of mature trees. Yet every day, unremarked and unobserved, a little part of our heritage of knowledge slips quietly into oblivion as elderly people take their folk-memories and their local idioms to the grave, as public authorities and private firms discard redundant records, as local landscapes are modified and altered in minor but multitudinous ways to serve the community's changing social and economic needs. Can anything be done? Should anything be done to preserve this perishable transient and irreplaceable inheritance? Is there anything that you can do?

ARE YOU A LOCAL HISTORIAN YET?

The continuing dissipation, with the passage of time, of local historical material, is so widespread and so unremitting that the handful of professional historians in our centres of learning cannot be expected systematically to ensure its preservation. Their work must be complemented by the efforts of an army of local historians in every district, working as individuals and in organised groups, to study, record and interpret the various historical factors which have contributed towards making our towns and rural areas what they are today—customs and attitudes, events and movements, topographical changes and developments, personalities and organisations.

Amateur historians, through their numerical strength, their local background knowledge and their lifelong interest in their locality are in a unique position to document local history not only as a matter of personal satisfaction but to provide the source material for future historical research by others.

LOOK AROUND YOU—THERE'S HISTORY EVERYWHERE!

A study of topographical features can itself produce an awesome array of historical evidence. The historian—more correctly the archaeologist—interested in the pre-Christian period may find (depending on where he or she lives) a variety of court tombs, portal tombs, wedge tombs, passage graves, standing stones, crannogs, ring forts, hill forts, promontory forts. The person concentrating on religious history

will study the pre-reformation churches and monastic settlements, the holy wells the places of pilgrimage, the stone crosses, the graveyards, modern churches both Catholic and Protestant and modern religious houses.

Military historians may encounter the remains of military encampments, barracks, scenes of ambush, earthworks, castles, motte and bailey fortifications and so on. The "Big Houses" with their inhabitants are a subject of almost universal interest. Those with an interest in administrative history will track down the story behind the public water supplies and drainage works, the road building schemes and public housing programmes, the public works, the land reform divisions, the hospitals and workhouses, the Courts, the police barracks, the prisons. Others will concentrate on the schools and convents and colleges in their areas. Industrial archaeological remains are everywhere, perhaps requiring a subdivision into remains of mining activity, of manufacturing activity, of agricultural activity, of communications activity — even of "settlement archaeology".

Even the local roads raise many questions why was there a seemingly unnecessary change in direction at a given point? Was there a former settlement there? Was there previously a different road pattern? Did its replacement indicate a change in location of habitation? How old is the road? Who built it and why? What traffic did it carry ... and so on.

The basic and simple roadside objects which have survived to the present can often cast light on days gone by. Milestones in Irish miles still exist, half forgotten, half buried in the hedgerows; post-boxes bearing the monograms of English royalty attest their length of public service; village pumps still quench the human thirst; horses no longer use the track beside the local bridge which led them from the roadway down to the refreshing stream; some horse troughs, dry or empty, still remain; stone monuments remain, vainly trying to preserve the memory of landlords now forgotten. Manhole covers like cast iron tombstones, preserve the memory of local authorities and public utilities now defunct. Even some hair salons retain a red-and-white-striped decor on their doorposts raising questions about the history of their trade.

Yes history is all around us - you cannot escape - unless you haven't noticed. Take a walk along a road or street and ask of everything you meet - why? Find the answers and you will already have uncovered some of the secrets of your native place.

PALATINES TO IRELAND: A 10 Day tour hosted by the Irish Palatine Association.

The programme will include civic receptions, tours, concerts and leisure activities with a distinctive Palatine dimension.

There will be opportunity to meet Irish people, participate in local activities as well as visit some of the main tourist attractions & enjoy the excitement & colour of Ireland's rich and varied countryside.

The Irish Palatine Museum is based in the town of Rathkeale and will be used as the holiday headquarters.

Each morning you will be transported from your accommodation to the Museum where the days activities will commence.

We have pleasure in announcing preliminary outline details as follows.

Thursday 21st September 1995:

- * Arrival Registration and reception at the Irish Palatine Museum.
- * Official welcome by the Rathkeale Community with evening meal and entertainment by Rathkeale Brass Band.

Friday 22nd September 1995 Rathkeale the second largest town in the county of Limerick.

- * Tour local palatine settlements including Barbara Heck's Home, Ballingrane Church, Killeheen chapel site, Chastlematrix home of the Southwells & the Palatine Museum.
- * Tour of local factory Andersons International Ltd. makers of costume jewellery and including lunch.
- * Guided walk of Rathkeale historical sites including Methodist School house, St. Mary's Church & Holy Trinity Church.
- * Dinner (Woodlands Hotel) followed by slide illustrated talk on our trip to Palatinate in 1994

Saturday 23rd September 1995 depart for Tralee, the heart of the kingdom of Kerry:

- * Flying boat Museum at Foynes, once the fulcrum point for air traffic between the United States and Europe,
- * Kerry the kingdom Museum tells the story of Kerry and features street scene from medieval times.
- * Depart for Blennerville on the Tralee Steam Railway
- * Blennerville Windmill and visitor Centre with emphases on local Palatine settlements.
- * Dinner with entertainment.

Sunday 24th September 1995 Ballingrane, the cradle of American Methodism

- * Embury & Heck Memorial Methodist Church, Ballingrane Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service.
- * Tour of Copsewood Agricultural College with included.
- * Walk in the Celtic Park and Gardens at Kilcoman.
- * Dinner followed with a lecture by Dr. Rudiger Renzing author of "Pfalzer in Irland:

Monday 25th September 1995 Adare a model estate village:

- * King John's Castle to learn something of the 800 years of Limerick's history.
- * St. Mary's Cathedral built in 1172 AD by Donal Mor O' Brien, King of the province of Munster.
- * Shopping in Limerick City.
- * Guests of Limerick County Council for a tour of the council Chambers.
- * Dinner hosted by Limerick County Council.

Tuesday 26th September 1995 Adare, a model estate village.

- * Guided tour of Golden Vale Co-Op Charleville
- * Adare Heritage Centre invites you to step back in time and share the excitement and colour of its rich and varied historic past.
- * Time to shop in Adare's gift and craft shops.
- * Adare village to visit the ornate thatched cottages, beautiful old stone buildings and ancient ruins.
- * Banquet in Adare Manor former home of the Earls of Dunraven once landlords of Adare.

Wednesday 27th September 1995 Ballyhoura, land of contrast with the rugged beauty of mountains and lush rolling pastureland.

- * Welcome by Ballyhoura Society & briefing on local Palatine settlements by local historian, Dr. Mannix Joyce.
- * Visit to Lantern Lodge deer farm, Ballyorgan/Molanna View Dairy Farm, Ballyorgan including hot lunch.
- * Guided tour of the local Palatine sites of Kilfinane, Ballyorgan and Glenosheen.
- * Dinner and entertainment as guests of Vocation Educational Committee.

Thursday 28th September 1995 Killarney a tourist destination for over 100 years.

- * Visit the Torc Waterfall and 5 mile bridge
- * Tour of Muckross House and formal gardens, the focal point of the 10,000 hectare National Park.
- * Ross 14th Century Castle
- * Relax for a waterbus tour of the famous lakes with breath taking views of the National Park.
- * Tour of St. Mary's Cathedral and Golf Club Aghadoe.
- * Dinner at the Failte Restaurant, College Street.
- * Stroll around the town for a little late shopping.

Friday 29th September 1995 Croom Mills & Bunratty Park

- * Croom Mill Waterwheel and Heritage Centre to journey through a golden era of country life in Ireland in the 1940's
- * Limerick Crescent Shopping Centre to pick up those last minute gifts.
- * Bunratty Castle, the most authentic mediaeval castle in Ireland and Folk Park featuring 19th Century Irish Village street as well as rural style cottages.
- * Farewell Dinner with special "Irish Night" entertainment by Rathkeale people.

Saturday 30th September

- * Departure.

The life of Fr. Charles Tuohy

P.P. of Rathkeale.

Part II - by Pat Coleman

In the previous article in this series I looked at the background of Fr. Touhy who his family was, how other members of his extended family and of those families that intermarried with his also provided members for the priesthood I propose in this article to look at Rathkeale, during the time Fr. Touhy was parish priest.

The Catholic Church in the early years of the 19th Century was still a church under pressure. The penal laws, though elements of them were still in place, were to all practical purposes long rendered irrelevant, in and around Rathkeale. The landlord was now Catholic, though an absentee. Yet one has to bear in mind the long term effects of the laws. The effect of the penal laws was to hand over, in total, the infrastructure of the church in Ireland to the established Church. Though the worst of the persecution had finished by the mid 1720's, isolated incidents continued, which resulted in keeping the Catholic Church a back street church.

In 1726 a Fr. Ryan was executed in Limerick for marrying a Catholic and a Protestant. Some evidence exists in suggest that this priest may also have been in some difficulties with the Catholic Bishop of Limerick. In the mid 1730's Fr. Charles Bermingham was thrown into prison by the head of the Odell family, though later released with an apology to Dr. DeLacey, according to the "White Mss." The early 1740's saw an outbreak of persecution with the Jacobite threat in England and Scotland. A dispute in 1750's between the Soughtwells and the newly appointed Parish Priest of Rathkeale, insulted in the Parish Priest having to flee the Country, to avoid persecution. Finally the execution of Fr. Sheehy the Parish Priest of Clogheen in Co. Tipperary in the 1760's was of particular relevance in West Limerick, from where his father's family came and to where he fled where his life first appeared to be endangered.

Throughout this period, the attitude of the landed classes towards the Catholic Priest and his religion were changing, in some cases slowly, in other cases the relationship was always good. We know from a description of the town in the late 17th century that Fr. James Stritch, the Parish Priest, had a house on the main st. It is most unlikely that some of his 18th Century successors lived so openly. The chapel or mass house would have been confined to the back streets throughout the Penal period. It appears certain that the town's first penal chapel was located in Chapel home, some of the ruins still remain. At some stage, I would suggest in the latter half of the 18th century, a new

chapel may have been built in an area now occupied by the convent. Both these chapels would have been small, and would have held no more than 500/600 people. They would have had mud floors, a thatched roof and few internal adornments. They may well have been put to other uses during week days an account from Kilfinane, suggests that the landlord was still threshing corn in the chapel in that town until 1800, when a new Parish Priest put a stop to the practice. On other occasion the chapels were used as schools during week days.

Rathkeale would almost certainly have been a town of extremes at this time. It would have contained a wealthy merchant class, many of whom would have been Catholics. It would also have contained a large labouring population. Because of the Napoleon wars, these people would appear to have been faring seasonably well at this time, However, the occasional bad harvest would have pushed them very close to the margins of society and may well have resulted in the emergence of secret societies such as the Ribbonmen or White boys and acts of political violence. Also around this time, a large number of dispossessed people moved out the commons of Rathkeale. Again the lives of these people were very much on the margins of society. Again poor harvests could see an upsurge in violence and many of these people joining secret societies. A further grouping adding to the vibrancy of the town were the British Army who appear to have had a barracks in the town from circa 1770 to the 1820's. The army appears to have attracted followers of their own to the town, elements not always welcomed by the established sectors of the community both Catholic and Protestant.

This was the town that Father Tuohy came to in 1808. An advertisement in the general advertisement of June 10th 1805, which emanated from the Protestant community of Rathkeale, spoke of the concern about the lack of attention paid to the Lord's day in the town: "Observing with deep concern, the shameful breach of the Sabbath in this town, by public markets being open, and shop business transacted more upon this than any other day in the week, knowing that the wrath of God is demonstrated against such violation of all laws, Human and Divine, and that we cannot be a prosperous or a happy people while so scandalous a practice is allowed amongst us." The advertisement then goes on to outline the action that the established Church was to enact to counteract the abuse of the Sabbath.

A number of points need to be made about this advertisement. Firstly it emanates from the established Church and it echoes much concern from the established church and it echoes much concern on the part of the ministers and officials of that church in respect of the abuse of the Sabbath, not just in Rathkeale but elsewhere in Ireland. A Rev. Mr. Hall, a Methodist Minister passed through the Limerick region circa 1813 on a walking tour of Ireland. He frequently comments on the indifference shown to the Sabbath, but this pen picture of a Sunday morning in Newcastle is most memorable. He is passed on his way into the town by a woman reciting her rosary. At a home where he hears laughter, he enters to find the woman of the house at work. She informs him she will not be going to Mass as she had been the previous Sunday and that in any event she lacks suitable clothes, finally in the town square soldiers are engaged in gambling and other activities that denigrate the Sabbath. We know from historians like Paddy Court that concerns of this nature were nowhere near as strong on the part of the Catholic clergy and bishops. To suggest such concerns didn't exist would be a misnomer. Already a major church building programme was under way to provide facilities where the Catholic congregation could hear mass.

The second point to observe in respect of this advertisement is that in tackling the problem the established church is in a position to call the agencies of the state to its assistance. A later section of the advertisement reads "We do also pledge ourselves to give information to the Magistrates and Church Wardens against all such persons as shall be found (after this public notice) transgressing herein by buying or selling or exposing to sale, on the Lord's Day... The Catholic church lacked such support though invariably the Priest was the most rejected member of his community. Be that as it may, the Priest frequently had to negotiate very difficult ground in rebuilding his church not all of it emanating from the Protestant Community. The story of Fr. Touhy in Rathkeale, centres on his attempts to build a new church in the parish. The next instalment of this series will look at the building of this church.

RATHKEALE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A small steering has been formed to help get the society off the ground.

Chairman	Jack O Dwyer
Secretary	Pat Coleman
Treasurer	Ethel Naughton
P.R.O.	Sean Hennessy

An inaugural meeting was held on the 19th of June at which Mr. John Cussen one of the founder members of the Newcastle West society discussed that body's formation and how it has operated over the years. A very interesting question and answer session developed afterwards.

Provisional aims of the society, to be put before a general meeting later in the year, are as follows:

1. To research and record the history of Rathkeale and district
2. To locate and collect articles on local history.
3. Make funding available to the public.
4. Encourage an interest in local history among young people.

Plans for the immediate future include a guarded walking tour of the town during the forthcoming festival, a talk by a visiting historian sometime in October and a discourse by one of our local members in the December/January period.

Meanwhile anyone interested can contact Pat Coleman,
Glebe Castle, Rathkeale.
Tel: (069) 64454

CHAMPIONS AT LAST

(From Shannon Meat Gazette, Aug. 1977)

The smiles that tell it all!

*L to R:
Fred O'Brien,
Billy Nestor,
Mike Dunne,
Martin Doherty,
Pa Sheahan,
Butch White,
Joan White,
Sean Hennessy,
Veronica
Hennessy and
Mary Kenneally.*



The league campaign of 1976-77. will be remembered for many a long day by those of us involved with Shannon United whether we be players, committee members or supporters. It started last September and came right on up to June. We played 20 games, won 12, drew 6 and lost 2. A record you might think good enough to win the league outright, but no, we finished level on points with Kilcolman and this meant a play-off for the title. The final was fixed for Newbridge, on Sunday 5th June and after the 90 minutes the teams were still locked together with the final score 2-2. Pat Lavin gave us an early lead, but Kilcolman had squared the game 1-1 by half-time. Kilcolman got well on top in the second half and it came as no surprise when they took the lead mid-way through the half. They held the lead until the very last minute when Timmy Mullane scored a brilliant equaliser to earn us a lucky re-play, which was fixed for the same venue the following Wednesday and what a game it turned out to be.

MAGIC

At the start, there was magic abroad in the air all of it created by Shannon United. They played it long and it was elegant, they played it short and it was superb. They traded short balls in delight ful mid-field circles, they tossed it wide to the wings where the Kil colman full-backs began to crack. How Kilcolman managed to survive that first-half without falling behind I will never know, but worse was to follow early in the second half when Kilcolman took the lead in a rare breakaway. However, Shannon United's explosive fire power was crystallised into an amazing fight back when they scored two lightning goals. Mike Sullivan crossed from the right, Turlough McDonald picked it up and smashed a left-footer into the far corner. It was now that the deficiency of the Kilcolman backs was ruthlessly exposed by the devastatingly quick Shannon attack. They forced a

corner in the 75th minute. Noel Harnett swung the ball into the area, Johnny Jones sent a glorious header crashing off the bar, but James O'Grady was on hand to plant the re-bounce in the net. All hell broke loose as the jubilant supporters rushed onto the pitch and play was held up for several minutes. Eventually, order was restored and the game was completed with no further scoring. Johnny Jones held the cup aloft amid wild scenes of delight and jubilation. The cup was paraded through the town at the head of a motor cavalcade and the celebrations went on long into the night. Credit for this great victory must be passed right along the line to the players, the manager, committee members and to those wonderful supporters. The team who did us all so proud on the night was: Gallagher, Harnett, Mullane, Lavin, Dollery, Lynch, Jones, Zoncada, Sullivan, Chawke, McDonald, Res. O'Grady and Culhane. Kilcolman gained some consolation for this defeat when they beat us 1-0 in the Top Four Final. Earlier we had beaten Askeaton 1-0 in the semi-final through a John White goal.

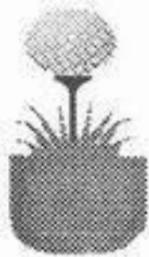
FINAL GOAL TALLY

Chawke (8), O'Grady (8), Jones (7), Coleman (6), Lynch (6). Culhane (4), Lavin (3), Zoncada (2), White J. (2), Hayes, Gallagher Harnett, Daly, White T., Dinnage, Mullane, McDonald one each.

A.G.M.

We held our Annual General Meeting at Rathkeale House Hotel on Tuesday 21st June and the following officers were elected : Chairman - Sean Hennessy, Vice Chairman - John White, Secretary - Mike Dunne, Ass. Secretary Noel White, Treasurer - Frank Lynch, Committee: Joe Lynch, Seamus Cawley and Tom O'Grady. Manager - Pa Sheehan. Assistant Manager - John Lyons. Team Captain - Mike Gallagher.

Michael Dunne.



Abraham's Golfing Society

We have had three outings since the last issue of Deel Views with the following prizewinners:

Newcastle West:

Gents: 1. John O'Connor
2. Pat Keating
3. Noel Harnett
4. Sean Goodwin

Ladies: 1. Eileen Noonan
2. Phil O'Connor
3. Monnie Wilmott
4. Breda Keating

Ladies: 1. Phil Ruttle
2. Monnie Wilmott
3. Eileen Noonan

Charleville:

Gents: 1. Gerry O'Connell
2. Billy Neville
3. Pat Neville
4. Michael Cregan
5. Tom McNamara

Ballyneety:

Gents: 1. F. Geary
2. Mce. Noonan
3. N. Duggan
4. G. Shier

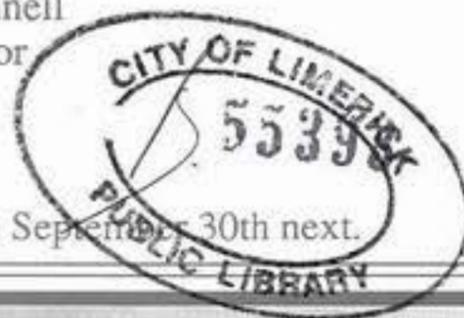
Ladies: 1. M. Dwane
2. L. Keating
3. M. Wilmott

The next outing will be breaking new ground at Dundrum, Co. Tipperary on Saturday August 12th.

Meanwhile there has been an interesting development in the society in that the Sean Hayes Perpetual Cup has been kindly donated for competition by its sponsor. This trophy was formerly presented for a pool competition and was first played for in 1977 and has seen many distinguished names engraved on its base.

The Cup will be played for in a knock-out match play basis and the following is the draw amongst those who recently qualified.

Aidan Supple	v	Peter Donovan (jnr.)
Eileen Noonan	v	Liam O'Sullivan
Mary O'Sullivan	v	Tom McNamara
Billy Neville	v	Monnie Wilmott
Breda Keating	v	Gerry O'Connell
Patsy O'Sullivan	v	Phil O'Connor
Michael Cregan	v	Pat Keating
Michael Keating	v	Pat Neville



First round has been completed and the finals is due to be played before September 30th next.



RIGHT:
Rathkeale new
school, now
nearing completion

Remembering Past Events - 1969

by P.J. Madigan

At an enjoyable function held in Geary's Hotel on Saturday 18th January, a presentation of a wallet of notes was made by Mr. Dan Quirke on behalf of the staff of the Munster and Leinster Bank, the knights of Columbanus, and friends and well wishers, to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Robinson. Mr. Robinson retired as manager after 46 years service during which period he served in Kilkenny, Midelton, Nenagh, Head Office, Newmarket, Millstreet, Kilmallock and Rathkeale, where he had been manager since October 1964.

On Thursday 2nd January a G.A.A. social was held in the Vocational school, where tea was served to about eighty boys from the parish by a local ladies committee. The occasion marked the presentation of juvenile medals won in the West Limerick championships. After tea some concert items and a sketch were presented by the local school-boys. Music for the occasion was supplied by James and Donal Clancy. Very Rev. J Eamon Costello, P.P. presented medals to the following players: - N. Hogan, J. Shiels, Jas Doherty, Ml. Cunningham, Ml. Fitzgerald, J. Enright, Denis O' Shea, A. Supple, S. Connolly, B. Naughton, P.J. Barrett, J. O' Keeffe, Pat Naughton, Jerry Cunningham, N. Guinane, J. Daly, J. Lodge, A. Fitzgerald, J. Fitzgerald, John Hartnett.

The official inauguration of Cappagh G.A.A. guild took place in St. Jame's School, Cappagh, on Wednesday 8th January. The members were addressed by Miss Shortall, County Organiser, and Miss Lorigan, Federation President, The following officers and committee were elected.

President	Mrs. W. Ruttle
Vice President	Ethel Baker
Secretary	Peg Donovan
Asst Secretary	Mrs. Griffin
Treasurer	Mrs. E. Ruttle.
Press Secretary	Peg Hennessy
An grinaan Rep	Mrs. Shanahan, N.T.
International Officer	Mrs. Higgins
Committee:	Mrs. Hogan, Mrs. Duggan, Mrs. T. Baker, Mrs. Jas Riordan, Mrs Kitty Burke

The annual general meeting of Cappagh Handball club was held at Peter O' Grady's residence on Monday 27th January. The chairman of the County handball committee, Peter Donovan, who was the guest speaker, described the Cappagh handball club as being the best in the country. The following officers and committee were elected.

Life President	Mr. A. Kennedy
Vice President	P. O' Grady
Chairman	V. Roche
Vice Chairman	D. Kennedy
Secretary	M. Hennessy
Asst Secretary	S. O' Grady
Treasurer	P. O' Shea

On Saturday 1st February at Holy Trinity Church Rathkeale, the wedding took place between Robert West, youngest son of Mrs. Elizabeth West and the late John West, Gortatlea, Tralee, and Miss, Joan Shiels, N.T. youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Shiels, Ballycommon Rathkeale, The bridesmaid was Miss. Miriam Tesky, cousin of the bride, Arthur West, brother of the bridegroom, was best man, and the ushers was John Shiels, brother-in-law of the bride. The reception was held in the River Room Motel, Newcastle West.

The A.G.M. of the Rathkeale branch of the Deel Anglers association was held on 11th February. Two films dealing with the life cycle of trout and salmon were shown by Mr. P. Nash, Newcastle West. The following officers were elected.

President	Very Rev. J. Canon Costello P.P. P. F.
Chairman	Rev. D. Wall P.P.
Secretary	D. O' Brien
Treasurer	R. O' Brien

The A.G.M. of St. Mary's G.A.A. club was attended by a large number of players and supporters. The following officers and committees were elected.

Hon President	Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P., P.F.
Hon Vice	Rev. D. Wall, P.P.
Presidents:	and James Keating
Chairman	John Kavanagh
Vice Chairman	Ml. Neville and Peter Fitzgerald
Secretary	Thomas McNamara
Treasurer	Peter Brennan
Committee	J. Langan, P. Naughton, Andy O' Dea, P. Doherty, S. McDonnell, Tom Markham, John Brennan, Ml. Baggot.

Hurling Selection	
Committee	J. Kennedy, P. Fitzgerald, P. Doherty
Football Selection	
Committee	M. Neville, J. McNamara, J. Langan.

Mr. Bert Shiels, New line, retired in February from the position of bank porter at the Munster and Leinster Bank, after 45 years service. During this time he had served under seven managers. To mark the occasion an enjoyable function was held in No. 2 National School, at which tribute was paid to Mr. Shiels by Rev. W. Nicholson, Rector, Rathkeale, and Mr. Robinson who had recently retired as manager. A wallet of notes was presented to Mr. Shiels by Mrs. Robinson on behalf of the staff of the Munster and Leinster Bank and friends. The new manager, Mr. Armitage, was also present. An enjoyable tea was served by the ladies, and the function ended with community singing, accompanied on the piano by P.J. Madigan.

A capacity audience thronged the Deel Hall on Friday 28th February, for a concert organised by St. James Pitch and Putt Club, Cappagh. Topping the bill were the comedy duo Tom and Paschal of R.T.E. fame, Gerry O'Brien, ace accordionist, Eoin Neville, guitar and ballads; and tenor Jim Hartigan. Two visiting artists from Templeglantine were Jim Sullivan who sang to his own accordion accompaniment and was later joined by Pat Moloney, bango for a selection of traditional music. Local artists who contributed were: vocalist, Dorothy Tesky, and Estella Enright, accompanied by Ronnie Tesky, guitar, P.J. Madigan, violin, the following members of the Dalton School of dancing. Elva McCarthy, Siobhan Cahillane, Celestine Hogan, Maura Markham, Richard Mooney, Gerard Geaney, Thomas Wilmott, Sean Cahillane, Lilian Markham, Patsy Carroll, Marian Moroney. The concert concluded with a selection of ballads from the local folk group "The Decimal Four" featuring Delphina Robinson, vocalist, G. Fennell, D. Long, and M. Mullane guitar.

A meeting of Civil Defence wardens of the Rathkeale Sub-County area was held in the Deel Hall on Thursday, 6th March. The county manager was represented by the County Secretary, Mr. Dillon. Other speakers included the county civil defence officer, Mr. D. Johnson, and his assistant, Mr. J. Abraham, Comdt Costello, Regional civil defence officer, also spoke.

It was proposed to launch a security drive, with the emphasis on the warden service.

In April William Enright, Holy Cross, Rathkeale, received a certificate of recognition for his forty years of service with R.T.E. He was also presented with an inscribed gold watch from his fellow workmates.

Mr. Matthew O'Shea Boherbuoy, Rathkeale, also retired after more than forty year's service with Limerick County council. When the refuse collection scheme was put into operation in the town, Matt, was the person who helped to make it run so efficiently and he was a familiar figure on the streets for approximately fifteen years.

The A.G.M. of the Rathkeale Swimming Club was held in the Deel Hall on Wednesday 23rd April. The following officers and committee members were elected for 1969:

Chairman	P. Lynch
Vice Chairman	S. Guiry, P. Dollery
Secretary	P.J. Madigan
Treasurer	M. Fennell
Asst. Treasurer	D. Naughton
Committee:	M. Cowkey, S. Tierney, P. Sheehan, M. Steele, W. Quinn, J. Dalton, M. Morrissey, J. Quinn., W. Meade.

The outgoing chairman, Miss O'Rourke, was authorised to form a ladies committee whose members would assist at the swimming pool during the summer months.

The following pupils of Rathkeale Boys National School were successful in recent examinations: Joseph Kennedy, Mel Lane, won an entrance scholarship to St. Munchins College two places were secured by James O'Grady and Bernard Hennessy, both of Main St. Rathkeale. Joseph Bincy, Fast George, Rathkeale, passed the entrance examinations to Glenstal, while Sean Barrett, Rathnasare, and Eamon Walshe, Enniscouche, passed the entrance examinations to the salesian agricultural college, Pallaskenry.

On Thursday 24th April at St. Joseph's Church, Limerick, the marriage took place between Patrick Neville, son of Mr. and Mrs. Neville, Danestown, Cappagh, and Mary Hanrahan, daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. Hanrahan, Ballylongford, Co. Kerry. The ceremony was performed Rev. Fr. O'Keeffe, P.P. assisted by Very Rev. Fr. Cawley P.P. Cappagh, The best man was Michael Madigan, Killeha, Askeaton, and the bridesmaid was Eileen Feely. The bride was given away by her cousin Mr. P. Hanrahan. The reception was held at the Shannon Arms Hotel, Limerick.

Garda C. Callanan, took up duty in Rathkeale in May 1969. He replaced Garda J. Flanagan who had been transferred to Limerick City. Prior to his transfer Garda Callanan had been stationed in Abbeyfeale.

There was a large attendance at the question time and public speaking competitions which were held in the Church of Ireland School under the auspices of Muintir na Tire. Two teams participated in the question time, Knockaderry and Rathkeale. The final result was a win for the Rathkeale team of Patrick Johnson, Jack O'Dwyer, Noel Fitzgerald, Con Crowley and P.J. Madigan. The members of the Knockaderry team were; Micheál de Búrca, Sean Curtin, Jerry Mahoney, Maura O'Connor and Maurice Cahill.

The public speaking contest was between Thomas Maher,

Alice Murphy and John Nash from Kilcorman, and Patricia Fennell, Mary Hennessy and Martin Keating, all pupils of the seat of wisdom secondary school, Rathkeale. Kilcorman were the winners. The attendance included very Rev. J. Canon Costello, P.P. P.F., president of the Rathkeale guild of Muintir na Tire, Rev. W.H. Nicholson, Church of Ireland Rector, Rathkeale, John J. Maher, chairman fo the co. Executive of Muintir na Tire, and Maurice F. Crowley, chairman of Rathkeale Guild of Muintir na Tire. The adjudicators for the public speaking contest were Mrs. McDaid and Mrs. Fitzgibbon, and for the question time, John J. Maher and John Nash, The commere was Mrs. Hawkes.

The A.G.M. of the Rathkeale Lawn Tennis club was held in the vocational school on Monday, 26th May, and the following were elected for the 1969 season:

President	Very Rev. J. Canon Costello P.P. P.F.
Chairman	Mr. H. Robinson
Secretary	Mr. F. Johnson
Treasurer	Mr. C. Crowley

On Monday 2nd June, at St. Mary's Church, Croom, the wedding took place between Patrick Guinane, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Guinane, Main St. Rathkeale, and Catherine Fitzgerald, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Fitzgerald, Anhid, Croom. The ceremony was performed by Rev. L. Boyle P.P. cousin of the groom, assisted by Very Rev. M. Tynan, P.P. Croom, Rev. P. Fitzgerald, P.P. Rathkeale, and Rev. S. McCarthy, P.P. Croom. Michael Guinane, brother of the groom was best man, and Margaret Fitzgerald, sister of the bride was bridesmaid. The organist was Miss. E. Madigan, Rathkeale. The reception was held at the Parkway Motel, Limerick.

A large number of members attended the A.G.M. of the Rathkeale branch of the Irish Red Cross Society, which was held in the vocational school. The following were elected:

Chairman	Very Rev. J. Canon Costello, P.P. P.F.
Vice Chairman	Rev. W. H. Nicholson, Rector, and Mrs. D. Donovan
Secretary	Miss. C. O' Rourke
Treasurer	Mr. F. Johnson

First aid certificates were awarded to the following: Catherine Hanley, Kathleen Roche, Catherine Meade, Esther Roche, Margaret Reddin, Billy Clifford, Joe Donovan, Bill Mooney, Brian Ruttle, and P.J. Madigan.

A talk on the new decimal currency system was given at Geary's Hotel, by Mr. A. J. Hoverden, Royal bank of Ireland, Ltd., Ballsbridge, to business people and others. The speaker was introduced by Mr. Armitage, Manager of the

Munster and Leinster Bank, Rathkeale.

On Tuesday, 10th June, in the new Church, Ardagh, the wedding took place between Liam Steele, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Steele, Church St. Rathkeale, and Mary Mullins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ml. Mullins, Ardagh. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Fr. Elliott P.P. Ardagh. The best man was Tom Steele, brother of the groom. Liam Hanley was groomsman. The brides maids were Marie Fitzgibbon, and Kitty Sheehy. Singing during the ceremony was supplied by the Ardagh Church choir, accompanied by Mrs. P. MacCormack, organist. The soloist was Patrick Ahern. The reception was held at the Shannon Arms Hotel, Limerick.

On Wednesday 2nd July, at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, the wedding took place between Thomas O' Sullivan, son of Mrs. K. O' Sullivan, and the late Mr. O' Sullivan, Killamey, and Margaret McKnight, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. McKnight, Main St. Rathkeale. The best man was Frank Lewis, and the brides maid was Ann McKnight, sister of the bride. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Bernard Fitzgerald, P.P. Killorglin, assisted by Very Rev. J. Canon Costello, P.P. P.F. The soloist was Mr. Con Crowley, and the organist was Miss Emer Madigan, The reception was held at the Intercontinental Hotel. Limerick.

On Saturday 26th July at Killamey Cathedral, the wedding took place between Timothy Lynch, son of Mr. and the late Mrs. D. Lynch, Killamey, and Catherine Brennan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Brennan, Rathkeale. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Fr. Looney, Killamey. Best man was Mr. Sean Lynch, brother of the groom, and the bridesmaid was Gillian Brennan, sister of the bride. The reception was held in the Park Place Hotel, Killamey.

A special "Irish Amercian" evening was held in the Methodist Church, Ballingrane, on Wedndnesday 9th July, in honour of the Rev. J. K. Sheane, and Mrs. Sheane, and a party of Americans form Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma. The group arrived in the area in time to look around the Ruttle home at Fortview which is the original home of Barbara Heck, on of the founders of American Methodism. On arrival at the Church Hall, they were officially welcomed by Mr. Emmet Walsh, the biscuit steward.

The congregation of Mount Hope, Meade and Burdette presented a new Rippen piano to the Ballingrane congregation. Also the Rev. Oscar Fontaine, the president of the Oklahoma Wesley Historical Society, presented an historical display case on behalf of the Society. The Rev. W. J. Buckanam received the gifts and voiced the appreciation of his congregation to the American friends.

A musical programme followed provided by Miss Rebecca Ruttle (piano); Miss Ruth Chard (piano) Mr. J.

Cullen (monologue); Mrs. Maura Sparkling and Michael Doyle (songs and guitar); Mr. and Mrs. R. Teskey, (songs and guitar); P.J. Madigan, (violin and piano) and some of the friends from Kansas. The evening was brought to a close with a service of dedication and epilogue conducted by the Rev. J. A. Noble, (Bandon), who was deputising for the president of the Methodist Church in Ireland. The organ was played by Barbara Ruttle.

On Tuesday 5th August, at St. James' Church, Cappagh, the wedding took place between Raymond Larmer, son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Larmer, Kilkee, and Mary Ita Hogan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thos Hogan, Ballingrane. The ceremony was performed by Very Rev. Fr. Crowley, P.P. Cappagh. Bestman was Ml. Purcell, Kilkee, and bridesmaids Joan Hogan, sister of the bride, and Kitty Larmer sister of the groom.

On Friday 29th August, during the Rathkeale Festival, the Deel Hall was full, when, at midnight, Miss Bernie Battles, Kildimo, was crowned "Princess of Desmond" by the mayor of Limerick, Ald. S. Coughlan, T.D. Introducing the mayor, Mrs. Moss Fennell, described the occasion as being historic in so far as it was the first time in living memory that a mayor of Limerick had attended a function in Rathkeale in an official capacity. The antique Desmond crown was carried by the Misses F. and M.

Fennell in pages costumes, and was placed on Miss Battles head by Ald. Coughlan, following the wedding of the coronation proclamation.

The adults fancy dress parade took place on Saturday, 30th August, with the following results:

- Group of over 3
 1 "Can-Can girls" Group leader, Mrs. B. O' Gorman:
 2 "Package Deal" Group leader, S. Hennessy:
 3 "Jumbo Jet" Group leader, E. Naughton

- Group of under 3
 1 "U.S. Moonflight" Dermot Long and Liam Doyle:
 2 "Festival Queen" Vera White

The following children took place in Irish dancing displays on Sundays during the Festival: Eileen O' Shea, Rosemary Hughes, Catherine Naughton, Ann, Susan and Martha Fitzgerald, B. Mulcair, Kay Fitzgerald, Kitty and Bernie Sullivan, John, Fiona and Marie Madigan, Theresa and Marcella Curtin, Elva McCarthy, Celestine Hogan, Mary O' Brien, Carmel Hennessy, Richard, Declan, and Brian Mooney, Gerard Geaney, Thomas Wilmott, Lilian and Maura Markham, Marian Moroney, Regina O' Gorman, Patsy, Catherine, Brian and Geraldine Carroll, Marie McNamara.

To be Continued.

Kiddies Corner!

HOLIDAY PUZZLE UNSCRAMBLE THE LETTERS ON THE CASES TO FIND THE DESTINATIONS OF ALL OF THESE HOLIDAY-MAKERS.

1. I L A O D R F
 2. A R I P C
 3. R E U Y T K
 4. C M O J A R
 5. N A A D C A
 6. T A A U I R S

ANSWERS: 1. SWITZERLAND, 2. AUSTRIA, 3. FLORIDA, 4. CANADA, 5. TURKEY, 6. MAJORCA

Connect The Dots

AERO-MAZE HELP THE AIRCRAFT TO REACH THE AIRPORT THROUGH THE CLOUDS.

Springtime Square Fun
 Fill in the missing numbers so that the numbers in each row and column add up to 40.

	10	7	12
	8	13	7
	10	11	7
	7	8	14

???????????
Did you know...
 Mammoths which died a million years ago have been found in Russia. Some were so well preserved in the frozen soil that scientists were even able to study their last meals!

From Deel Views 1976

RATHKEALE COURTHOUSE

LEWIS TOPOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY
Second Edition 1850



"The Courthouse is a convenient building but much out of repair"

"The town is a chief Constabulary Station; the quarter sessions are held in it in January, March, June and October, and petty sessions every Thursday. The Court house is a convenient building but much out of repair. The Bride Well is one of the largest in the County, containing 3 day rooms, 3 airing yards and 8 cells. It is under good regulations."

Lewis' reference is only description of the appearance of the Court House built probably around the end of the 17 hundreds. i.e., Georgian Style. There are references to Limerick Court House in 1792 and Rathkeale Court House would be of the same period.

There are references to 3 Castles in Rathkeale, (1) Castle Matrix, (2) near the site of the old church in Church Street, probably at Mount Southwell, and (3) near ruins of Abbey at the other end of the town. There are no traces of the latter castle near the abbey ruins, but recent developments in buildings adjacent to Court House, revealed vaulted cellars of great age. It is safe to conclude that the Court House was built on the foundation of the Castle. This Castle is referred to in History of the period of Malhies campaign in Limerick. **Captain Raleigh (later Sir Walter)** stayed behind in Rathkeale, (after the army had moved off) to ambush the Irish, who as they had expected came into the deserted camp to scavenge scraps left behind. Captain Raleighs forces beat the Irish and as a reward the people of Rathkeale gave him the freedom of the Town—he then repaired the Castle and the Bridge. (The town at the time had a charter—a Corporat on) granted in 1598 but this was withdrawn by Cromwell as punishment for lack of hospitality,—the town obviously had "Old England" associations sympathetic to Raleigh but not to the later Cromwellians).

In the Court House were held Quarter sessions every 3 months and the Petty sessions every week, Petty session were the trivial transgressions, and the Quarter sessions were, more serious, but the really serious crimes were tried in Assizes which in the Munster Circuit were held in Limerick, Ennis, Tralee and Cork.

The early 1800's were the most serious from the point of view of criminal activity and resultant court proceedings in County Limerick. The White Boys were then very strong as also was the Captain Rock movement. The Napoleonic Wars had ended and with them the period of prosperity and high food prices but farm rents remained at the same level. The above mentioned societies were active at night, raiding, burning, houghing cattle and searching for firearms and similar weapons.

By The Insurrection Act, after the Union, the Lord Lieutenant was given powers to proclaim a County, that is Magistrates were given power to assist and transport those people absent from their homes from Dusk to Dawn. In 1822, seven Special Sessions were held in Rathkeale as a result of which about 30 men were sentenced to 7 years transportation.

At this period also occurred the Captain Going episode. Because of the disturbed state of the Country special military war. settled in the area under Captain Going. One Sunday a sporting event was held between Rathkeale and Ardagh, Going entered the area with his soldiers On horseback. They were in a narrow hedged road surrounded by the crowds and they tried to turn—confusion ensued, shots were fired, some men killed and many wounded. Going took the bodies with him on his return to Rathkeale and buried them in Quicklime graves. Traditionally these graves were said to be near the bridge. One historical source says near the Court House, but this is unlikely. Later Going was shot himself at the other side Of Rathkeale. Two men were arrested and tried in the Spring Assizes in Limerick and were executed on March 14th 1823. They were defended by Daniel O'Connell . A third person suspected by the police. fled to America, and later died tragically. At this period—the local Magistrate who conducted the hearings of the special and Quarter sessions was especially hated, and the following rhyme was common at the time.

"Going was coming and Going was gone, and Yellow George Leake is the next to go on".

George Leake was the Magistrate who had a liver complaint hence the description "yellow". He lives in Abbey House, a fine Georgian House on the Limerick side of the Town. He later escaped to England smuggled in a laundry basket.

Although there are early references to Itinerant Judges (see Black Book of Limerick in 1200-1350), and to the setting up of local courts of Manor to settle differences within the Community and Courts "Pied Poudres", (literally "dusty feet") which settled problems arising with travelling merchants, entertainers etc, who were not permanent members of the Community, the Brehon Law system held sway over the country until the 1700's, when the Modern Circuit Court system was firmly established. This was improved on by the County Court System of the late 1800's and later with the establishment of the Irish Free State by the Modern Circuit Court system. The less serious crimes were tried locally by Justices of Peace—always these men were large farmers and in sympathy with the establishment. although not necessarily uncritical of Englands Rule. The J.P's were not paid; occasionally eccentric, and (to modern eyes) often outrageous in their response to human dilemma. Magistrates presided over the Quarter sessions probably over an area within the County. The Magistrate Was paid. and tried the serious crimes, but the more serious crimes were tried by the Assizes in Assize Town of (in our case) Limerick. The Magistrate had training in Law and had practised as a Barrister. The Assizes were presided over by the judge.

Solicitors appeared for their clients in petty sessions, but only Barristers appeared (instructed by solicitor) in Quarter sessions and Assizes. Etiquette demanded Social distinction between Solicitor and Barrister and no contact between Barrister and Client: The Solicitor gave the brief to the Barrister (that is "hired him) and paid him his fee. On circuit, the Barristers and later the county judge (who replaced the Magistrate in the County Court System), when travelling from Quarter session to Quarter session in small towns. met the solicitors on equal level and these social barriers were then broken down. A closely knit society emerged and an agreeable and enjoyable life was enjoyed by all, full of humorous and intellectual exchange. Many stories are told of these personalities of the famous judge Adams — renowned for his scolding and quite often thoughtless Rapartee, of A. M. Sullivan (later Sergeant), of Daniel O'Connell and Peter O'Brien, later Lord Kilfenora, called "pether the Packer", because of his thick accent and his ability to "pack" - juries to get results suitable to himself, all of whom were familiar faces at one time or other in Rathkeale. The Sessions were important socially and economically in the town.

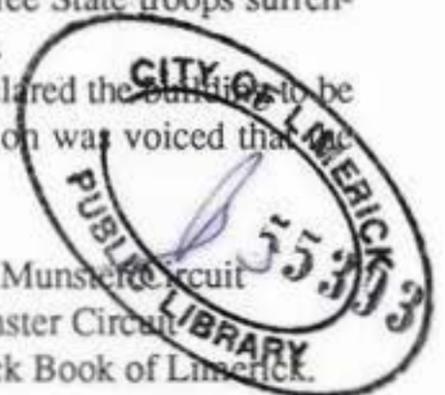
The later years saw a diminution of importance of the Sessions. The railway, then the motor car allowed people to come and go in one day. The Court House was the scene of a scene of a struggle in Civil War when a siege was laid by attacking Republican forces, who blasted into the cellars from the adjoining houses. The Free State troops surrendered. The Court House was also the centre for counting votes in local and general elections.

In the late fifties the County Council the body, responsible for the upkeep of the building, declared the building to be unsafe and unsuitable for business. Much local resentment was apparent when the suggestion was voiced that the building be and the outcome is yet uncertain.

Other References:

Begley = History of Diocese of Limerick.
Lenihan = History of Limerick

Healy = The Old Munster Circuit
Flanagan = The Munster Circuit
McCaffrey = The Black Book of Limerick.



Useful Information

Deel Views: Jack O' Dwyer, Tel: (069) 64210

Banks: Late opening Tuesday

Credit Union:

Monday: 2-4p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10a.m. to 4.p.m.

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

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

Saturday: 10a.m. to 12 noon

Library Opening Hours:

Monday and Wednesday 2p.m. to 5p.m.

Tuesday: 10.00-1.30, 6.00-8.30

Thursday: 10.00-1.30 & 2.00-5.00

Friday: 2.00-5.00-6.30-8.30

Mart: Tuesday - Cattle. Wednesday - Calf & Pig

Post Office:

Monday to Saturday 9.30-5.30p.m.

Thursday: 9.30-1.30p.m.

Dentist: Ml. Brosnan

Doctors:

Dr. Lynch: Half day Thursday

Dr. Curtin: Half day Wednesday

Dr. Teahan: Half day Thursday

CHURCH/MASS TIMES

St. Mary's Catholic Church

(Sun 8.30a.m./10.00a.m./11.30a.m.)

(Mon to Sat 9.30a.m.)

Sat 8.00p.m. (summer) 7.30p.m. (winter)

Holy Trinity Church of Ireland

(1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Sundays 10.30a.m. (4th Sunday 11a.m. alternating with Askeaton and Castletown)

Embury & Heck Memorial Methodist Church

(Sundays May & July 11.30a.m.)

(Sundays June & August 10.00a.m.)

(Sundays Jan. Mar, Sept, Nov 12.00p.m)

(Sunday Feb, April, Oct, Dec, 10.30a.m.)

Piano Lessons: Louise Muckell, Roche's Road.

Festival Show: Mrs. Ann O' Connell

Community Council Monthly Meeting

First Monday 8.30p.m. Secretary Brid Guinane

Social Services: Secretary-Breda Morrissey

Red Cross: Secretary-Tim Shiels

St. Vincent de Paul: J. Dunleavy

Meeting alternate Mondays

L.C.A.: Secretary-Mrs. Joan O' Toole

2nd Thursday

G.A.A.: Patsy Doherty, Hon. Secretary

Soccer: Juvenile - Sean Hartnett

Abrahams Golf Society:

Ml. Cregan, Secretary

Scout Cubs: Thursday, Youth Centre

Community Hall: Tel: 64908

THINGS TO DO AND SEE:

Tourist Information Centre:

Irish Palatine Centre

Open June - Sept 7 days: 2.00-5.00p.m.

Castle Matrix-Tours

10.30a.m.-5.00p.m. 7 days.

Lunches & Banquets by appointment.

Tel: (069) 64284

Irish Palatine Heritage Centre

Open June - September. 7 days 2.00-5.00p.m.

Dohyle Lough:

Contact Ronald Sparling. Tel; (069) 64170

Sports Complex:

Squash, Racket Ball, Hand Ball, Snooker, Pool,

Tennis Courts: Tel: (069) 64622

Kyletaun Tennis club

Contact Pat O' Doherty. Tel: (069) 64086

(affiliated to Tennis Ireland. Flood lit International

Size. open 7 days)

Bridge Club

Every Tuesday Night Sept - June

Contact Ann Roche, Parklewis.