DEEL VIEWS

Rathkeale Community Council SUMMER 1997 Price: 50p

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THOLIC CHURCH RATHKEALE, CO LIMERICK.

PADDY CONDON P.C. '96©

Editorial

Rathkeale Enterprise Group is to be highly commended for its efforts to date "to help regenerate Rathkeale as a thriving economic, social and commercial centre with a positive image to hold out to the world". From a beginning last September and with the above basic aim the group has launched a number of very attractive projects and recently issued a most information Newsletter explaining Progress so far. The list of projects includes: Theatre Project, Pitch and Putt Course, River/Railpath Walk, All Weather Pitch. There are sub-groups dealing with Industry and Tourism, Tax Designation, Public Representation and Community Arts.

They are now seeking greater support and the involvement of as many as possible who feel they could help. We would urge everybody to complete the Questionnaire included with the Newsletter and for those who may not have received same, a copy is included in "Deel Views".

ABRAHAMS GOLFING SOCIETY

The opening event of the year was as usual the outing to Killarney in early April. This is the twelfth successive year for the society at this venue. Our second competition took place at Newcastle West (Ardagh) in mid May.

Results:

Killarney	Men	1:	J. O'Dwyer
		2:	D. Mooney
		3.	G. O'Connell
		4.	M. Keating
	Ladies	1.	L. Keating
		2.	M. O'Connell
		3.	P. Noonan
N.C.W.	Men	1.	J. Shier
		2.	M. Hennessey
		3.	J. Dunleavy
		4.	M. Cregan
	Ladies	1.	M. O'Sullivan
		2.	M. Wilmott
		3.	I. Donovan

Unfortunately, the first "major" of the year - the President's (Andy O'Dea) Prize fixed for Charleville on July 11th had to be abandoned because of flooding of the course. This was a big disappointment especially to Andy himself and all his many admirers. It is proposed to reconvene at the same venue on Sat. September 20th - this to be confirmed later.

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QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. From what you know and have read of the Enterprise Group, do you think we have the right approach?

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2. If your answer to question one is NO, what in your opinion are we doing wrong?

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3. Of all the activities we have undertaken, which, in your opinion is the most important? (If you want to, please rate them in order of your preference.)

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4. What, in your opinion, have we left out?

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5. Would you be prepared to give some time to the work of the Group or any of the sub-groups?
If your answer is yes, please indicate which area you are interested in and fill in your name and an address or phone number so we can contact you.

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PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS.
Questionnaires should be filled in and left at Breen's Newsagents, Thomas Street, Foley's Newsagents, Bank Place or John Dinnage, Menswear, Main Street.
Thank you very much for taking the time to do so.

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REMEMBERING PAST EVENTS

By P. J. Madigan

1972

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Sheils, Abbeylands, Rathkeale celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday, 29th January. They were married in Croagh Parish Church on 29th January, 1922 by Very Rev. Fr. Mulcahy, P.P., Croagh. The best man was Michael Shiels, brother of the groom, and the bridesmaid was Margaret O'Connell, sister of the bride. Mrs. Shiels' daughter, Mrs. Hobden, and sister Mrs. Dutton, flew from England to join the party being given to Tim and Mrs. Shiels by their relatives.

The annual general meeting of St. Mary's G.A.A. Club was held in Patsy Doherty's residence on Thursday, 17th January. Presentations were made to the following members of the club who got married during the past two years: Stephen McDonnell, Michael Murphy, Vincent White, Michael Cunningham, Tadhg O'Connor, Con Guiney, James O'Shaughnessy, William Mulcair, John Brennan. The following were presented with under-21 players: Niall Hogan, Denis O'Dea, John Enright, Pat Naughton, Connie Naughton, William Mulcair, John Lynch, Aidan Supple, John Daly. The officers elected for 1972 were: President: Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P. Vice-Presidents: Rev. D. Wall, C.C. and Rev. J. Irwin, C.C. Chairman: John Kennedy. Vice-Chairmen: Michael Neville and Peter Fitzgerald. Secretary: Pa Wilmott. Assistant Secretary: Tom McNamara. Committee: Paddy Naughton, Patsy Doherty, John Griffin, John O'Connor, Michael Hanley, Patrick Collins, Niall Duggan, John Lynch, Tim O'Donnell.

On Thursday, 9th March, in Holy Trinity Church, the Rev. Brian Snow was instituted Rector of Rathkeale Union by the Right Rev. Donald Caird, Bishop of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe. The preacher was Rev. R. W. Wynne, Rector of Monkstown, and the Lesson was read by Rev. R. C. Armstrong, Rector of Dun Laoghaire where Mr. Snow had been a curate.

Among the large congregation were: Very Rev. T. N. D. Salmon, Dean of Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin; the Dean of Limerick; the Dean of Ardfert, Archdeacon Chambers; Archdeacon Wallace and other clergy of the Diocese; Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P.V.F., Rathkeale; Very Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald, P.P., Cappagh; Rev. D. Wall, C.C., Rathkeale and Rev. J. Irwin, C.C., Rathkeale; Rev. Denis Coates, Methodist Minister, Adare-Ballingrane Circuit; Sr. M. de Chantel and Sr. M. Peter, St. Anne's Convent, Rathkeale.

Others present were: Mr. & Mrs. Brosnan, Mr. & Mrs. P. Cahillane, Mr. & Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. & Mrs. Crowley, Mrs. Snow with her three sons, parishioners and members of the Methodist community. The organist was Hugh Massy. After the Service, tea was provided in the school by the ladies of the parish.

The annual general meeting of Cappagh I.C.A. Guild was held in Cappagh National School. The following officers were elected for 1972: President: Miss P. Donovan. Vice-President: Mrs. W. Ruttle. Secretary: Mrs. P. Lowes. Treasurer: Mrs. J. Baker. Asst. Treasurer: Miss P. Hennessy. International Officer: Mrs. Wm. Shanahan. Production Officer: Mrs. Mai Fitzgerald. Press Secretary: Mrs. J. Culloty. Grianán Rep.: Mrs. P. Woulfe. Hostesses: Mrs. K. Burke and Miss C. Baker. Committee: Mrs. J. Ruttle, N.T., Miss K. Duggan, Miss F. Baker.

The A.G.M. of Rathkeale Handball Club was held on 7th March. The following officers were elected for 1972: Chairman: Noel Wilmott. Vice-Chairman: John Kelly. Secretary: Jim Langan. Asst. Secretary: Michael O'Shea. Treasurer: Peter Donovan. Committee: Pat Markham, Noel Fitzgerald, Patsy Sullivan, Stephen McDonnell, John Griffin.

On Saturday, 11th March at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, the wedding took place between Eugene MacNamara, son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael MacNamara, Dooradoyle Road, Limerick and Ann Moran, daughter of Jack Moran and the late Mrs. Moran, Kilcoole, Rathkeale. The best man was Michael MacNamara and the groomsman was Gerald MacNamara, both brothers of the groom. The bridesmaid was Alice Sparling and Mrs. K. Costello was matron of honour. The flower-girls were Marie and Catriona Nestor.

The wedding took place at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale on 25th March of Peter Mullins, son of Mr. & Mrs. Mullins, Ardagh, and Margaret Enright, eldest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Enright, Roches Road, Rathkeale. The best man was Thomas Mullins and the groomsman was Michael Mullins, both brothers of the groom. The bridesmaids were Patricia and Christine Enright, sisters of the bride. The flower girl was Helena Hogan and the pageboy was Frank Enright, brother of the bride.

On Tuesday, 28th March at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale the wedding took place between Michael Scanlan, son of Mr. & Mrs. Con Scanlon, Askeaton, and Una McGrane, younger daughter of James McGrane and the late Mrs. McGrane, Boherbuoy, Rathkeale. The best man was Neilus Scanlon, brother of the groom. Mrs. Maura Smith, sister of the bride, was matron of honour.

On Easter Monday, 3rd April, at St. John the Baptist Church, Croagh,the wedding took place between John Hurley, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Hurley, Glenagruss, Meelick, Co. Clare, and Margaret Lenihan, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lenihan, Amigan, Croagh. The best man was Michael Hurley and the groomsmen were Anthony Hurley and Michael Crowe. The bridesmaid was Katherine Kiely, Ballylin, Croagh. Mrs. Brigid Costelloe and Mrs. Mary Sweeney, sisters of the bride, were matrons of honour. The flower girls were Geraldine Lyons and Rose Higgins, nieces of the groom.

The wedding took place at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale on Saturday, 20th May between John Byrnes, son of Mr. & Mrs. James

Byrnes, Riddlestown, Rathkeale and Catherine Daly, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Daly, Roches Road, Rathkeale. The best man was Seamus Byrnes, and the bridesmaid was Moira Daly. The flower girl was Helena Hogan and the page boy was Thomas Kett.

Scholarships for a month at the Irish College have been obtained by Ann Roche, pupil of St. Anne's Convent School, and Patrick Neville, St. Joseph's Boys National School; also two students from Rathkeale National School, Mary Mulcaire, Ballingrane and Patrick O'Keeffe, Duxtown.

On Saturday, 6th May at St. James Church, Cappagh, the wedding took place between Michael Prendeville, son of the late Michael and Ellen Prendeville, Rockfield, Rathkeale and Bernadette Culloty, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Culloty, Ballingrane. The best man was Thomas Ahern, Ashfort, Patrickswell, nephew of the groom. The bridesmaid was Sheila Culloty, sister of the bride.

The wedding took place at Ballybrown Church on Saturday, 27th may between Christopher Lynch, son of Mr. & Mrs. Lynch, Enniscouch, Rathkeale, and Anne Fitzgerald, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Fitzgerald, Corcamore, Clarina. The best man was Martin Lynch, brother of the groom, and James Lynch, another brother, was groomsman. The bridesmaid was Pat Fitzgerald, sister of the bride, and the matron of honour was Mrs. Phyllis O'Neill, also a sister of the bride. The flower girls were Jacqueline Lynch, sister of the groom, and Sandra Lynch, niece of the groom.

The wedding took place on Saturday, 3rd June at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale between Joseph Dowling, son of Maurice and Katherine Dowling, Kilcolman East, Rathkeale and Anastasia O'Sullivan, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Ballyallinan South, Newcastle West. The best man was Francis Dowling, brother of the groom, and the bridesmaid was Mary Scanlon, cousin of the bride.

On Sunday, 11th June, at Cappagh ball court, Cappagh defeated Shannon in the final of the Munster Club Tournament for the Duggan Cup and set of medals, on the score 183 points to 143. In the opening match of the programme, Michael Burke of the home club got his team off to a great start when he finished 34 aces ahead of his opponent, Christy Dooley.

The next match was a doubles decider, in which Cappagh, represented by Pat Stokes and Tony Hayes, took the first two games, with the third going to Shannon's Jim Molloy and Martin Currans. The defeat of those two players by Stokes and Hayes put the Cappagh team in a comfortable position, but when Jimmy Culloty outplayed Eamon Jones in the second set of singles, Cappagh had only to get eight aces in the final match of the competition to win the title. Jackie Moloney, partnered by Moss Hennessy, clinched the issue when, in the first game of their rubber, they ran out clear winners, defeating Fonsie Killeen and Jim O'Dwyer 21-11. Cappagh won by 40 aces.

Mr. Fonsie Killeen of Shannon presented the trophy to the captain of the Cappagh team, Moss Hennessy who in turn congratulated his team mates and the Shannon club in the fine sporting manner in which the competition was played.

Mr. Jim Langan of the Rathkeale club refereed the entire programme. Before the matches commenced, a minute's silence was observed for the late Jack Duggan, who donated the trophy.

On Thursday, 29th June, in the presence of the teachers and pupils of St. Joseph's Boys' National School, a parents presentation of a canteen of cutlery and a cheque was made to Mr. Pat Cahillane, Principal of the school since April 1959, on the occasion of his departure to become Principal of the new boys' school in Caherdavin, Limerick. The presentation was made by Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P.V.F. who paid tribute to Mr. Cahillane for his work in the school and the influence which he had over the children. Mr. Liston, N.T. and Mr. McElligott, N.T. also paid tribute to Mr. Cahillane. In reply, Mr. Cahillane said that he felt overwhelmed by the presentation, and the occasion was a poignant one for him.

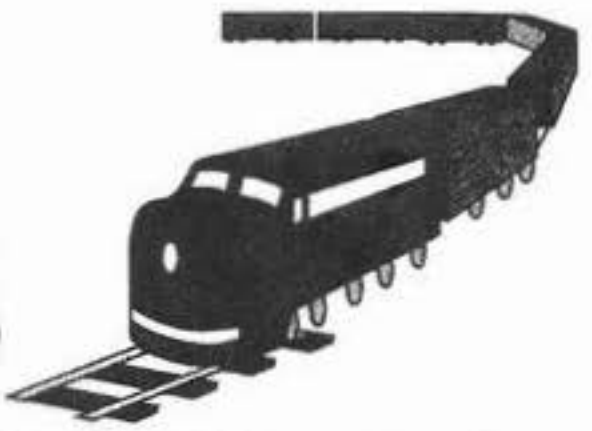
On Tuesday, 27th June, the teachers in St. Joseph's Boys' School presented Mr. Cahillane with a car radio and the Sisters and teaching staff of St. Anne's Convent presented him with a gift token.

Following the presentation to Mr. Cahillane on Thursday, 29th June all the pupils had a party with plenty of minerals, biscuits etc. and on Friday, 30th June boxes of sweets were distributed to all the children, as a gift from Mr. Cahillane on his last day as Principal in Rathkeale.

Mr. Pat Ambrose, formerly Vice-Principal in Askeaton, replaced Mr. Cahillane as Principal of St. Joseph's Boys' National School, where he commenced on Monday, 3rd July.

On Thursday, 22nd June, at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale the wedding took place between Sean Goodwin, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Goodwin, The Square, Rathkeale, and Margaret Magner, daughter of Mrs. Mary Magner and the late Thomas Magner, Kiltannan, Knockaderry. The best man was Harry Robinson and the groomsman was Neil Coakley. John Goodwin and Connie Curtin were ushers. The bridesmaid was Mary Magner, sister of the bride, and Eileen Lyons, cousin of the bride was matron of honour. The flower girl was Margaret Curtin and the trainbearer was Larry Curtin, both cousins of the bride.

RAILWAY MEMORIES



Limerick/Foynes Railway (L.F.R. - twenty six and threequarter miles) was opened in 1858 and Ballingrane was called Rathkeale at that time. The L.F.R. remained independent until 1873. Trains were operated by the Waterford/Limerick railway (W.L.R.) at a price - financial haggling was always to the forefront.

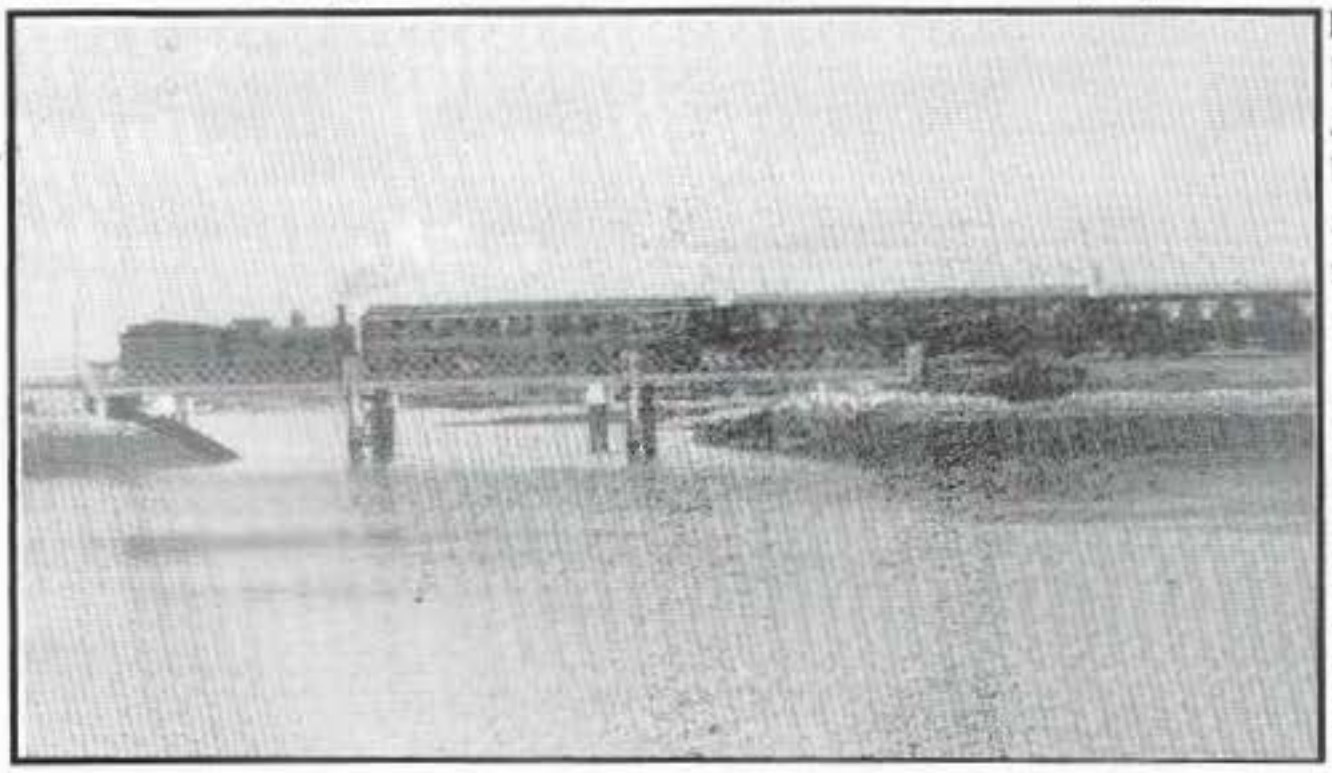
There were three trains per day in Summer, two in Winter. The steamer "Rosa" (in later years the "Vandeleur") connected with up and down trains at Foynes and carried passengers to Kilrush on four days a week.

In 1866 warships visited the Estuary. Excursions on the "Rosa" brought passengers/sightseers to the "Black Prince", anchored at Tarbert. The "Frederick William" also anchored at Foynes. In 1867 P. Tait, Mayor of Limerick, chartered "Elery" on a Limerick-Tarbert-Kilrush shipping run and this led to a fares war - prices had to be cut on the L.F.R.

This branch line had fourteen directors, one of whom was His Lordship in Adare. Adare Manor was the destination of some excursions from Limerick in 1870. His Lordship wasn't pleased with the quality of visitors and asked to have these excursion stopped. The final excursion on 21st August attracted 1,000 passengers.

The L.F.R. never made much profit and dividends were small. Example: 2% March 1871; 0% (zero) in September. The Sections were: Limerick/Patrickswell; Patrickswell/Rathkeale; Rathkeale/Foynes. (Block Posts E.T.S. System). William Malcolmson, Chairman W.L.R. was also Chairman of the L.F.R. which was amalgamated with the W.L.R. in July 1872.

Below: Shannon Bridge - Foynes Branch. 16th May 1982



In 1869 the problems of travelling to Foynes got much worse on a daily basis. That year the W.L.R. decided to cut costs and the morning Foynes/Limerick train took 'time out' at Ballingrane to run to Newcastle West for its passengers before continuing to Limerick. This meant an 80-minute delay (official) at Ballingrane each morning and 85-minutes each evening for passengers to and from Foynes. Newcastle West passengers weren't in the slightest delayed. Thus the scheduled Foynes/Limerick time was 2-hours 50-minutes.

Adare 1982

RATHKEALE/NEWCASTLE WEST JUNCTION RAILWAY

Since 1861 the R. & N.J.R. had been under construction. The contractor was Joshua Hardgreave. Chairman was the Earl of Devon. This section finally opened New Year's Day 1867. It had three trains daily. The W.L.R. were paid 11p per mile for each train. The R. & N.J.R. had the lowest receipts per mile in Ireland (£205 per mile). Rathkeale now had its own station so the original Rathkeale was changed to Ballingrane Junction. Rathkeale proved to be a very busy station for many years with all the sundry traffic for the town and surrounding areas coming by rail and the outward traffic was equally as good.

Example: Mill products from Castlematrix Mill. Fat pigs to the factories in Limerick, also sheep and cattle from the fairs i.e. 1876, 5th February: 1,400 pigs. 18th May 1870: 800 pigs. Total for year - 1878: Cattle 3,400. Sheep 1,520. Pigs 15,442.

NEWCASTLE WEST/TRALEE LINE (43 miles)
In September 1878 the firm of Falkiner/Standford took the contract for building the 43 miles line Newcastle West to Tralee for £19,700. This line, including Barnagh bank tunnel, opened in December 1880 thus linking Limerick/Tralee by direct rail line. Known as the North Kerry Railway (70.5 miles). The Chairman for this was also the Earl of Devon with Lord Listowel as a major shareholder.

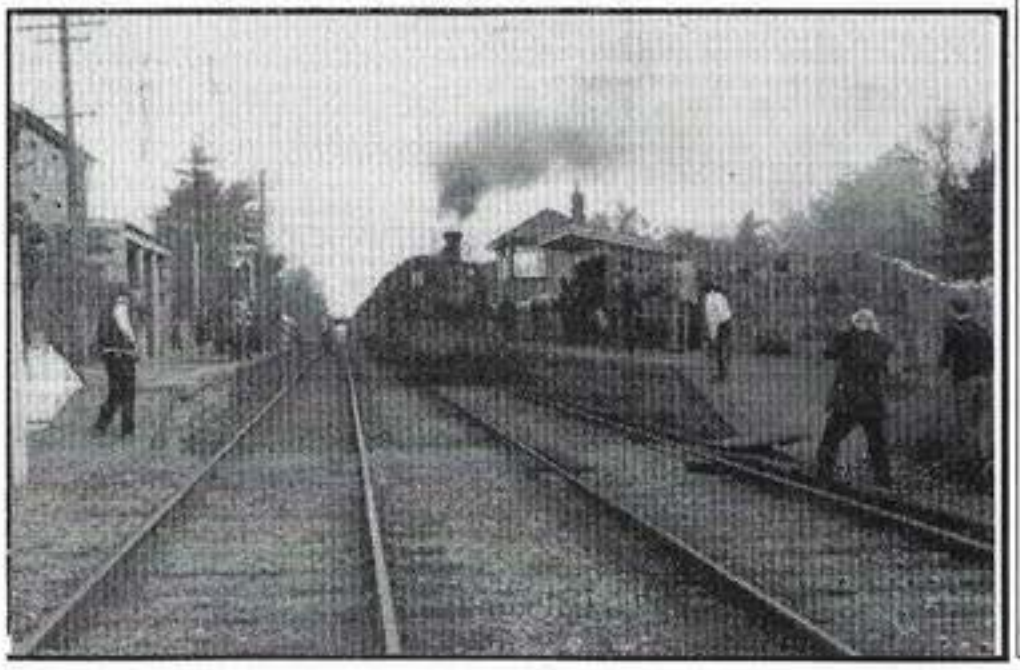
As passengers and goods increased the line was at its peak in the 1930's with five trains each way daily plus special fair trains, excursions etc. The 1930 timetable shows services at their peak before the 'Emergency' caused curtailment. There were five trains each way on the main Limerick/Tralee line, one goods train each way Limerick/Foynes and two passenger trains to Foynes. A total of sixteen arrivals and departures each day at Ballingrane in addition to the special excursion trains and cattle trains.

These companies and the W.L.R. were eventually incorporated in the G.S. & W.R. which later became the G.S.R. and then C.I.E. in 1945 and now Iarnród Eireann. The Lartigue Monorail Listowel/Ballybunion opened in 1888 and closed in 1924. Passenger train services ceased on 2nd February 1963 and the line eventually closed in 1975. Regulations demanded that the tracks could not be lifted for ten years after closure. Lifting began in November 1987. Now all that remains is the path of what was once the North Kerry Railway.

STAFF

BALLINGRANE		*RATHKEALE*	
Stationmaster	1	Stationmaster	1
Signalmen	2	Signalmen	2
General Porter	1	Goods Checker	1
Lady Telegraph Clerk	1	Maintenance Staff	3
Maintenance Staff	3	Extra staff on fair days (loaders)	
ADARE		*PATRICKSWELL*	
Stationmaster	1	Stationmaster	1
General Porter	1	Signalmen	2

STATIONS: NORTH KERRY BRANCH -
Rathkeale, Newcastle West, Barnagh, Devon Road, Abbeyfeale, Kilmorna, Listowel, Lixnaw, Abbeydorney, Ardfert, Tralee.
Below: Ballingrane - 16th May 1982



Know Your Dublin

The following are all locations in Dublin in cryptic form e.g.;
"Sea creature out-house" is Dolphins Barn

1. Church reptile
2. Sea creature out-house
3. A very dark boulder
4. A breed of sheep
5. A gravel paste
6. Move out of the way
7. Dispose of this woman
8. Where single men don't run
9. Bells finale
10. Big cats city
11. Did professor ease off
12. Mr. Seacomes angry
13. Lukewarm pits
14. Spheres cross over here
15. Sounds like its falling apart
16. Honest opinion
17. Angry weapons
18. A stormy haven
19. Sly animal on stone
20. Rap Leo
21. Assassinate leading actor
22. Sounds like the dock rushed
23. A rodent in front of the pits
24. An elusive peer
25. Motionless musical instrument
26. A lanky vowel
27. Traders lock opener
28. Head pub
29. Gerry Daly's way
30. Fortress with a shrine
31. Smegsville
32. A small measure of her centre
33. Osmonds river
34. Kojaks fuel
35. Chimes on the green
36. Partons hills

Answers in next issue.
Otherwise contact Jack O'Dwyer (069) 64210

Rathkeale Brass Band

London 1997

Members of Rathkeale Brass Band and friends visited London for the St. Patrick's weekend celebrations which included the St. Patrick's Day Parade to Westminster Cathedral on Sunday, 16th March.

During the parade to the Cathedral the band members were greeted by many friends and relatives from the Rathkeale area and had the honour of playing into the Cathedral and up the main aisle to the altar where they were welcomed by the Rev. Colm O'Reilly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois. This was the highlight of the tour for the party and especially for the senior member, Edward Daly, who had celebrated his 78th birthday some days previously.

After arrival on Friday morning, the party travelled to Wembley Stadium where they had a guided tour of the complex. They later went to an ice skating rink which was very exciting, especially for the younger members. Later on Friday evening they attended a Rathkeale reunion. This was a most enjoyable occasion and many from the Rathkeale area living in London were there to greet the party.

Saturday morning was spent at Madam Tussauds and after lunch the group went to see a senior Cup match between Spurs and Leeds. All were delighted to see Gary Kelly playing for Leeds and even though they lost by 1-0 the occasion was most enjoyable, especially for the younger members.

The party later attended and performed at a Meigue reunion. Michael Guinane, Main Street, Rathkeale was also playing at the same venue. Michael is a past member of the band and took part in the first band outing on St. Patrick's Day in 1984.

On Sunday afternoon the party had a guided coach tour of London and visited many of the well known sights before returning to the airport and back to Shannon.

The band members were on the road again on Monday morning and took part in five St. Patrick's Day parades.

The band committee wish to thank all those who travelled and assisted in any way with the tour and also all the Rathkeale friends from across the water who turned up to greet the party. A special word of thanks to the younger members of the band who were excellent and a credit to Rathkeale.

David Noonan, Band Secretary, is also to be congratulated for organising the trip and also Michael Hanley for doing a video of the trip. Hopefully in the near future another outing will be arranged to some other destination.

Members of Rathkeale Brass Band at Madam Tussauds

NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON RATHKEALE AND ITS ENVIRONS IN THE 1840's.

By Patrick Coleman

The following reports appeared in newspapers in the 1840's and relate to the town of Rathkeale and its hinterland. The reports were subsequently cut out of their respective newspapers and placed in a series of books containing such cuttings which are currently kept in the National Library where they form what is known as the Moran Mss. The collection relates mainly (though not exclusively) to Limerick City and County. The cuttings below are the only ones that I could locate which related specifically to Rathkeale. The piece on Captain Edward Lloyd is of interest in that it gives us further information on one of the local gentry families who held land in Rathkeale. His links with Mungo Park are of particular interest, in that it places him in contact with one of the earliest of British explorers in Africa, and may suggest that other details of the life of Captain Lloyd have survived. The piece on Rathkeale is of value because of the picture it paints of the town and its environs on the eve of the famine. At this time I do not know who the Mr. Ray was who wrote the report. The particular newspapers in which the reports appeared and the dates on which they appeared is unknown, though the report on the death of Captain Lloyd originally appeared in the Limerick Chronicle and the report was subsequently carried by another paper.

DEATH OF AN IRISH PATRIARCH ON THE GAMBIA

The following curious intelligence appears in the Limerick Chronicle: "Captain Edward Lloyd of Beechmount, near Limerick, died on the 17th of March last, having resided in the West of Africa during the incredible period of 42 years, having gone to that country in 1805, along with the celebrated African traveller, Mungo Park. He lived at the Gambia since 1816, where his then wigwam formed the nucleus of the present beautiful settlement of splendid stone and brick houses, now inhabited by a population of 3,000 souls. The town can boast of a spacious schoolhouse, fine streets, a noble square, barracks, a church and Wesleyan chapel, hospital and government house, which last cost about £20,000. He was reckoned the venerable patriarch of the locality, living respected and dying regretted, not only by his numerous children and grandchildren, colonists, native chiefs and kings, but by the natives generally on the banks of the Gambia far into the interior of that extreme continent. His word had so much influence among them that it stayed many a sanguinary war, or shortened its duration. In the Egyptian expedition in 1810 he was a captain in Abercromby's army. The Rev. Mr. Rankin, colonial chaplain, died in April last of an attack of periodical illness of which he was subject, having suffered much from the country fever. The chaplaincy of £450 a year is again vacant to any church aspirant who may feel disposed to risk himself in that extraordinary country. It is to be regretted that churchmen, of all other professions, are found to be rather chary of the coast, as their hopes are fed on livings at home".

MR. RAY'S REPORT ON RATHKEALE - OCTOBER 1842

Informants: Rev. Mr. Synan, Mr. Stephen Hayes, leather merchant; Mr. Stephen Casey and others.

"Rathkeale had formerly three tanyards, employing sixty men; a brewery and a distillery twenty men each; a bleachyard ten men, and the making of shoes and brogues for the surrounding fairs and markets more than one thousand hands in and about the town. There were four chandling manufactories, four of which also carried on soap boiling. These employed thirty-five men. There were six salt pans employing twenty men. In the foregoing establishments the capital invested was at least £25,000.

All the foregoing sources of industry have vanished. The tan-yards were converted into dung-pits, the breweries and other factories gone to decay, the manufacture of soap, candles and salt superseded by articles brought from Liverpool, as was the extensive manufacture of shoes by foreign articles.

I found but a few tradesmen in the town. Twenty shoemakers, three carpenters and eight mason doing occasional jobbing work and repairs. The former hands were mostly driven to pauperism, many emigrated, and many turned to day labour. At the period of my visit there were six shoemakers in the poorhouse, and some of the few other remaining tradesmen also. One eminent manufacturer who in various establishments as miller, brewer, distiller, tanner, baker etc. had formerly given bread to at least 1,500 men died recently in an alms house. The wages of day labourers was from 6d to 8d per day and employment in spring and harvest time only.

I was told that the neighbouring district of Ballingarry, four miles from Rathkeale, there used to be forty horseloads of coarse linens carried three times a year into Connaught, besides the vast quantities made for home consumption. There were 1,500 looms there, now not more than 60; there were two calenders constantly going, now one occasionally employed about two hours in the week.

A stand at Ballinasloe Fair, remarkable for its extent of business, was known as the 'Ballingarry Stand'. There is even still some linen manufacture carried on there. The soil is extremely favourable for the growth of flax. It is also an abundant wool growing country and no doubt is entertained that the manufacture of woollen cloths will be

pursued to an unlimited extent with perfect success, and that the former departments of industry could be beneficially revived if a spirit of enterprise were created with capitalists and a desire promoted among the people to give a preference on equal terms to home manufacturers.

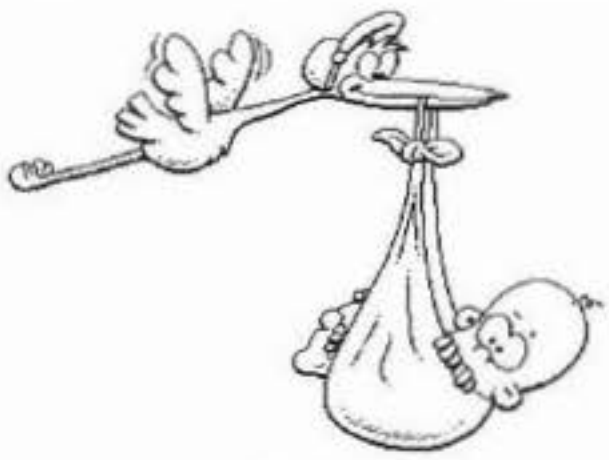
The district abounds in natural resources. There are coal mines at Ardbohill, near the surface, and it is believed the silver mines might yet be worked with advantage. There are admirable quarries producing beautiful black marble so abundant that the workhouse and church have been built from them.

In addition to all these advantages it is the best corn country for many miles around - and the cutting of a canal from Rathkeale to Askeaton would open up a communication near the Shannon which would confer incalculable benefit at a comparatively inconsiderable outlay.

The town is held under two chief proprietors, but let out to intermediate tenants. It is consequently much neglected and deteriorating, there being little or no encouragement to improving tenants. When trade and employment flourished building ground let from 10s. 6d. to 22s. 9d. (in good sites) per running foot - the average now is 2s.6d. per foot. Rent of best houses (two and a few three stories) about £25 per annum, second class £15, lowest £5, down to 30s. for cabins. Formerly the houses would bring double the rents; the setting of lodgings often cleared the rent.

Baptisms

Nora Quilligan, Kathleen Flynn, Patrick O'Brien,
James Quilligan, Treasa Clancy Coleman, John Joseph Egan,
Jim O'Donoghue, Savannah Kate Kennedy,
Lydia Joanne Kenneally, Stacey Marie Creagh,
Michael Sheridan, Alisen Maura Margaret Enright,
Gearóid James Mulcaire, David Quilligan, Patrick Sheridan,
Margaret Mary O'Donoghue, John O'Donoghue,
Daniel Culligan, John Quilligan, Marie Margaret Sheahan,
Michael Joseph Morrissey, Patricia Ann Moloney,
Dylan Andrew O'Shea, Megan Bridget Shanahan,
Séan Pádraigh Hough, Lia Pauline Noelle O'Callaghan,
Jamie Thomas Tierney, Laura Marie Madigan,
Mickella Patricia Gunia, Seán Michael Mulcaire,
Nadine Mary Kenneally, Andrew Michael Joseph White.



Marriages

Simon Quilligan - Julia Mary Flynn
Michael Hegarty - Julia O'Brien
Thomas Leo Daly - Vladilena Molochkova
Daniel Culligan - Mary Teresa Quilligan
Francis P. Kearns - Linda M. Woulfe
Maurice Cremin - Joan Nash
Timothy Trevor McKechnie - Niamh Uí Mhurchú
Thomas Colm Kennedy - Bridget Anne Chawke

Deaths

Michael O'Brien, James Cooney Sheridan, Mai Goodwin,
Nell O'Connell, Tommy Cullen, Jimmy Kett, Mick Moroney,
Ned Kennedy, Mary O'Shaughnessy, Nancy Doherty,
Margaret Hayes, Catherine Hayes, Bill Stackpoole,
Dolly Sheahan, Con Baggott, Danny Boy Sheridan,
Roger Slattery, Kathleen Wilmott.

From 1977 issue of Deel Views

A Look Back

By J. Neville, C.S.S.P.

There is no doubt that the present generation never realise that the things they see around them and which they daily use not only did not exist but were not even thought of at the turn of the century when I was a boy at Rathkeale School.

TRANSPORT: The horse and trap or horse alone were the means of conveyance in use. Very few had bicycles and those which were in existence had solid tyres - the pneumatic tyre had not yet been invented. Trains of course did exist but not the motor car and don't mention aeroplanes. None would believe that one could fly through the air with the greatest of ease in future years.

WATER: Not one house in our town had water laid on. The housewives with their children drew water from the pumps down in Well Lane, now known as Bank Place, while those in Boherue went to a well in Dohile. There was one man - Tom Finn - with a donkey and cart who sold water to the public at halfpenny a bucket and twopence a barrel. I remember one funny story about the same Tom. One of the wittiest men that ever lived, Thade Scanlon, found that Tom had overslept one morning. He knocked violently on his door and shouted: "Arise thou gallant Finn and give your ass some hay, and give Rakale some water before the break of day". Tom was up like a shot and down to the pump.

LAMPS: Electricity had not arrived, even in Limerick City. The streets were lit with gas lamps, while in the homes we used oil lamps or candles. The Gas Works were over the bridge where the Deel Hall now stands.

STREETS: The streets that time were merely dirt roads, no such thing as tarmac or concrete, and since the cattle fairs were held on the streets one can imagine what they were like after the Fair Day!

NEWS MEDIA: Important news was announced by the Town Crier who, at that time, was Jim Murray. He was a man of fine physique and had a loud clear voice. Starting at Boherbue ringing his bell he would continue until he reached Church Street. I can still hear him call out "a grand concert will be held in the Carnegie Hall starting at 8 o'clock, doors open 7 p.m. prices three shillings, two shillings and one shilling and sixpence". It may be of interest to know where that famous bell is now. It was given to me by Mrs. Mary Carroll, wife of Jim Murray's nephew, and is now being used to call the children to school in my parish in Kilimanjaro. Another example of how the news was delivered in those days. On the day of a hurling or football match we would wait on the roadside for the first cyclists returning from Limerick or elsewhere to get the good or bad news as to who had won or lost. If the game was played in Thurles or Cork the news was brought by carrier pigeons owned by the Whites.

MUSIC: In those early times Rathkeale was famous and won many prizes. Twice a week a Mr. O'Brien came out from Limerick on the midday train to teach the members, returning again on the 7 p.m. evening train. A few people had pianos and violins but when a gramaphone was brought to the town by Maria Neville of Kyletaun who returned from America in 1906, it was of immense interest and delight to the townspeople and children.

CINEMA: Are you dreaming? The only pictures we saw were Magic Lantern slides screened on a wall in the Carnegie Hall by Michael John Hassett. Later, a travelling show with a tent came to town and showed the first movie about 1910 - they were, of course, silent films.

RADIO: In May 1923 there was a garden fete in aid of Rathmines Church in Dublin and the most interesting attraction was a thing called a 'wireless' which was being operated in a small tent with an admission fee of sixpence. When we entered we were given earphones and when everyone was ready the operator turned a switch on an open contraption of wires on a table. To our amazement we heard voices and then some music, which sounded faintly like messages from Mars, and which we were told came all the way from London - what a thrill!

PHOTOGRAPHY: In those days not one person in Rathkeale had a camera. Then some travelling photographer came to town. He went to prospective clients, took their names and later returned with a huge camera which was placed on a tripod. It took him quite a while until he was able to focus and then 'click' we were photographed. Half the cost had to be paid in advance and two or three weeks later we received our photographs. You now have some idea what it was like at the turn of the century. What will it be like in fifty years time when you will be the 'senior citizens'? Only time will tell. The future has in store many surprises.

NOTE: Fr. Neville, C.S..S.P. who has contributed many articles to Deel Views has returned home to his native Rathkeale on holiday from Africa. Born in 1898, he attended Rathkeale National School where he was taught by Mr. John Hayes (father of Sean Hayes, M.C.) and his brother Paddy. School companions at the time included the O'Gradys (later Canons Martin and Willie), Sean Finn, Jimmie McMahon, Gerald and Patrick Hassett, Jack Griffin, Bank Place, the Fitzgeralds at the Railway, the Roches, the Hartigans, Alco Shaughnessy, Cyril MacNamara, The Square.

LOCAL NEWS FROM
'WEEKLY OBSERVER'

JOB CREATION

The Rathkeale Group have just formed a sub-committee to promote Industry, Job Creation and Tourism in Rathkeale. This committee wishes to create an inventory of the following: (1) Space available for rent or purchase. (2) People interested in setting up a new business or expanding an existing one. (3) Job skills available. They would also welcome any new member who would be interested in joining this committee to voice their ideas and opinions. For further information please contact Marie Crosse, Eamonn Daly or Mrs. M. T. Breen. Any information received will be strictly confidential.

RATHKEALE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Rathkeale and District Historical Society are organising a trip to Nenagh on Sunday, 27th July. A bus will leave the Square at 1.30 p.m. and return to Rathkeale at approximately 8.00 p.m. Our trip will include a walking tour of Nenagh and a visit to Nenagh Heritage Centre. For those not travelling by bus, the visit to the Heritage Centre will cost £1. The tour will be led by Nancy Murphy of the Nenagh Historical Society and a most informative and enjoyable day is promised to all. If you are interested in travelling to Nenagh please contact our Secretary, Patrick Coleman as soon as possible to confirm your booking. Places will be limited in the case of those travelling by bus.

Our trip to Cappagh last Sunday was a major success. A large crowd attended. Indeed we were unable to attend all the locations we had planned to travel to. In all over thirty people attended. Frank Whelan renewed many old acquaintances and regaled with numerous talks of the history of the parish. Special thanks are also due to Paddy Cregan who informed us of the history of the railway and Ballingarrane Junction. Walter Ruddle gave us a most informative tour of the Embury-Heck Memorial Church. To these people and to all those who attended, thank you.

LARK IN THE PARK AND FANCY DRESS

No sooner had cancellation of the Welcome Home Festival been announced on Monday last, but work had commenced on the planning of a Festive Weekend. It is anticipated that the festivities will be held on Saturday 9th and Sunday, 10th August. The Rathkeale Arts Group, headed by Norma Prendiville, are arranging a Monster Fancy Dress Parade on the Saturday evening while on Sunday, 10th members of the Community Council will host a "Lark in the Park" at the Abbey Grounds. Meetings to plan and organise these proposed events will be held during the next week. Hopefully support for all of these events will be forthcoming and that all sections of the community will give their support.

OLD CREAMERY DEVELOPMENT

Development work on the provision of work space units at the Old Creamery in Enniscouch is at an advanced stage. A Community Council initiative, there are now three units available for letting to entrepreneurs wishing to establish or expand business interests in Rathkeale. Units are available at very reasonable and negotiable rents.

MIDSUMMERS NIGHT DREAM

Our recent Midsummer's Night Dream held in Castlematrix was a major success. All the tickets were sold well in advance. We would like to thank all those who supported us in this very worthy effort. Among those who contributed to the success of the evening were piper, Seamus Hunt, who welcomed those who attended; the Limerick Early Music Group who provided music early in the evening for the Medieval Dance and later entertained people indoors while food was being served. The Medieval Dance Troupe included Josie Meehan, Anthony Flaherty, Noreen Flaherty, Pat Flaherty, Jnr., Gillian Hogan, Pat Flaherty, Norma Prendiville and Patrick Coleman. This group, along with Caroline Sheehan, Ger Fennell and Teresa Cronin, were the core group in making the night a major success. Stephen Naughton and P.J. Madigan have long provided a core music group to the Arts Committee on First Friday Club and were prominent again on this most enjoyable evening.

Indeed, Donal Murphy was so impressed by the First Friday Club that he volunteered to bring his Sliabh Luachra Group back down for the Midsummer's Night Dream. Thank you Donal and friends for that vote of confidence. Last but by no means least, on the musical front, Charlie Healy, Martin Mullane and the inimitable Jack McKenna, deserve our thanks also for their excellent support. From the floor, Patsy McCann, Brendan Markham and Padraig Feehan came forward to recite poetry or sing songs. Ladies of the Castle also proved to be in excellent form.

Behind the scenes, a number of other people made valuable contributions. Liz O'Driscoll in her brave decision in making the Castle available to us; Jack Fennell for videoing the event; Helena McMahon for her excellent work on the medieval costumes; the catering staff of Sutcliffe Caterers for their work on the evening and all the other help they gave us; Eamon Kennedy was excellent as steward for the night; Victoria White and Sharon Hunt were also marvellous in their allotted rolls. Special thanks are also due to Anderson Ireland Limited for all the help they offered. Without you, the evening would not have taken place. It is marvellous to see a major employer prepared to support such an undertaking on behalf of the people of Rathkeale. Several are due thanks: Eamon Daly, Sean Hennessy, Bill Hutch, Michael Noonan, Rathkeale House Hotel, Mollie B's and Peter Donovan for his very special and unsolicited vote of thanks.

Clippings from old Newspapers

RATHKEALE CO-OPERATIVE POULTRY SOCIETY (Leader, 1904)

Vice-President: Rev. Jeremiah Murphy, C.C. Treasurer: The National Bank Ltd., Rathkeale. Auditor: Mr. Thomas Scott, Dublin. Secretary pro tem: Mr. Wm. D. Power. Committee: Rev. J. O'Shaughnessy, P.P., Clouncagh; Messrs. P. T. Liston, solicitor; T. O. Hartigan, B.E., E. K. Powell, John Ambrose, T.C. D.C., Joseph P. Moloney, T.C., David O'Shaughnessy, Michael M. O'Grady, David Shanahan, R. C. Johnson, N.B., Wm. Sheahan, D.C., Maurice Gavan, John M. O'Grady, T.C., Thomas Costelloe, Wm. Hayes, Michael Mulcahy, Eugene McSweeney, James Norman, John Bourke, C.C., Samuel Shire, Patrick D. Grogan. The shares applied for and allotted as of this date number 422, on which the first call of 2s. 6d. per share has been paid on 310 shares and lodged with the treasurer. It is arranged to commence business about the 1st February, by which date a trained manager will be appointed and a suitable place for the transaction of business will be secured.

At a meeting of the Working Committee held on Tuesday evening for the purpose of considering the several applications received for the position of manager, the Rev. President, on taking the chair, said he wished to make it clear to the public the object of this society. It should not by any means go forth that it was got up with the view of opposing any person in the way of their business. Nothing could be more erroneous than to be of such an opinion. Neither himself nor the promoters of the society would countenance any such thing, because he knew the men in that business in the town to be amongst the very best in the parish. The chief objects of the society were to create and promote an industry in this and the surrounding localities that would, not alone make a business for the society itself, but that by teaching and assisting the people to keep a good useful description of poultry on a large scale, it would secure for all others in the trade larger supplies and consequently more business. It was only on these lines the society would be worked.

The following resolution was passed, and copies ordered to be forwarded to Mr. Michael Naughton, C..C., Mr. John Bourke, C.C., Mr. R. Pigott, J.P., C.C., and the secretary of the Limerick County Council - "Resolved - that we request the County Council to bring the matter of the appointment of Poultry Inspector to a conclusion at once, in order that this society may be able to avail themselves of the advantages the Council will be empowered to confer in the way of distributing a good class of poultry in this district".

The Secretary read a letter in which a cheque in payment of twenty shares was enclosed from Messrs. J. J. Murphy & Co, Lady's Well Brewery, Cork. The best thanks of the committee were ordered to be tendered to Messrs. Murphy. The monthly meetings of the committee will be held on the first Tuesday of each month, at ten o'clock a.m. and those of the Working Committee will be held weekly on Tuesday evenings at seven o'clock p.m. Next meeting of General Committee on Tuesday, 5th January at ten o'clock.

RATHKEALE LIGHTED WITH GAS (Chronicle 1870)

A most respectable and influential meeting of the clergymen and other inhabitants of Rathkeale was held at the office of the Town Commissioners on the 17th instant, to make arrangements for lighting the town with gas.

The chair was taken by the Very Rev. James O'Shea, P.P. who, in a clear and business-like manner, put the subject before the meeting. He then communicated the liberal intentions of Lord Southwell and Robert Pigott, Esq., with whom Rathkeale is blest as the lords of its soil; Lord Southwell, in the first place, giving without charge, and for ever, a valuable portion of land, with offices thereon, as a site for the gas concern, as well as taking shares to the value of £250, if a company is formed, and giving a subscription of £150. The chairman next dwelt on the equally munificent gift of Robert Pigott, Esq., who also takes shares to the value of £250, and gives a subscription similar to Lord Southwell's £150.

It is unnecessary to say that the above announcements were received and acknowledged by all present with feelings of deep felt gratitude.

Robert E. Reeves, Esq., the respected agent of Mr. Pigott, who kindly attended the meeting, responded in the most gentlemanly style to the manner in which the name of his principal was introduced and received. He dwelt on the advantages of having a town lighted with gas. He said that he had made most diligent and careful enquiries from several persons competent to give opinions on the subject, and he was now most happy to furnish the meeting with information which would be found valuable, and statistics which would

be necessary for their guidance. The particulars had been received from companies who had their towns lighted. Mr. Reeves closed his observations by expressing the pleasure he felt in identifying himself with the good work and taking shares to the value of £50 if a company were formed. The kind feeling evinced by Mr. Reeves in all he said regarding Mr. Pigott and Lord Southwell will contribute to endear them and him to the people of Rathkeale and the great interest always taken by them in the people's welfare is what may be justly termed tenant right in its true meaning.

After these pleasant preliminaries, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1st, That a company be formed on the Limited Liability principle, the shares of which will be Five Pounds each.
2nd, That Mr. Joseph Casey be appointed Secretary.
3rd, That the Munster Bank be Treasurer.
4th, That the Secretary take down the names of those gentlemen present who intend to become share holders, requesting them to qualify for the number of shares they desired to take, by their own signatures.
5th, That the Secretary be directed to publish a full report of the proceedings of this meeting in the Limerick Chronicle and Munster News newspapers.
6th, That after the taking down the names of the shareholders, this meeting be adjourned to a convenient day of next month, which will be intimated to them and that, at such adjourned meeting, progress will be reported, a number decided on to form a Board of Directors, and such Board afterwards voted in by ballot.

Signed: J. O'Shea, Chairman.

ATROCIOUS OUTRAGE
(Limerick Chronicle 1822)

The following we insert on unquestionable authority: - At a very early hour on Friday night, two dwelling-houses, the property of Mr. James McMahon, on the lands of Graiges, near Nantenan, in this county, were surrounded by a well-armed party of lawless incendiaries who, after placing sentinels at the doors of each house, in order to prevent the egress of their inhabitants, communicated fire to the thatch, by which the houses were in a short time after burned to the ground. Just as the roofs were about to fall in, the half-suffocated, half-burned creatures, who were hitherto kept inside, were allowed to drag themselves from the devouring flames. On the 22nd of February last, a horse, the property of the above-named gentleman, was shot on said lands.

Mr. McMahon had been under-agent to Mr. Hoskins during the period he remained in Newcastle, and from the date of his employment, as under-agent, up to the present moment, his life has been repeatedly endangered by several bold and daring attacks made on it by those assassins who, I am sorry to say, still exist in this country, a disgrace and a lasting reproach to that generous and high-minded spirit which characterized our peasantry. It is a truism that several parties of hired assassins, well appointed as to arms and ammunition, have several times, within the last two years, lain in wait for Mr. McMahon. "There's a special Providence in the fall of a sparrow", and to a similar Providence Mr. James McMahon attributes "his numerous hair breadth escapes" from those assassins.

At the last fair of Nantenan, near Rathkeale, Mr. McMahon and his brothers, as they were about to quit the fair at an early hour, were treacherously surrounded, and in the most cowardly and brutal manner, nearly beaten to death with stones by a gang of nearly forty ruffians. Mr. McMahon and his brothers owe their lives to the human interference of several respectable individuals who were there at the fair.

Extract from a letter from Dublin, dated Oct. 14: - "The state of this country was never more alarming than at present. The spirit of disturbance has again broken out in those very districts where so many victims were lately offered up to the vengeance of the laws. The worst apprehensions are entertained for the general peace of the ensuing winter, and it is thought there will be a greater demand than ever for special commissions and military executions. Such are the fruits of that inexorable system of coercion to which this country has been doomed, but still nothing like conciliation appears to engage the attention of Government. The application of the bayonet and the halter seems to be the only statesmanship necessary for the Government of Ireland. To ameliorate or improve is a task that does not disturb the repose of authority. The intervals of the conflict are not devoted to the discovery of any moral preventive against its recurrence. The seat of Government is insulted with impunity by the Orange provocations to public discussion, so that the alteration of the person in the chief power has not changed at all the system which had so long harrassed and degraded Ireland".

Many familiar faces from the 1940s era. We are not sure of the occasion

Jim Brennan, Connie Noonan, Artie O'Shea, Jim Culhane, Robert O'Brien, Victor Sparling at the "Well Stream" in the 1940s.

SOCCER OUTING TO LIVERPOOL

Sean Harnett

Forget your usual greetings like 'how are you mush', 'hello dude', or 'good day', the new in-phrase is 'alright' especially when spoken with a strong Liverpudlian accent. Just imagine twenty Jason McAteers or Cilla Blacks in a room ..... unbearable.

As you are probably aware by now I am talking about Rathkeale Soccer Club and our recent trip to Liverpool. The party, comprising 50 juveniles and 30 adults, departed town at 2.00 p.m. right on schedule and in two buses. Onward to Dublin and thence by ferry to the Irish capital of England. While the kids enjoyed the excitement of the boat trip the adults partook of the beer and from North Wales to Liverpool helped to moisten many a roadside.

Our hotel was reached at the appointed time and a small few decided on bed. The young travellers had no intention of wasting their time on such things as sleep and, what's more, intended that no one else would be able to close their eyes either.

Everyone was up and about very early the following morning as our under-14s were due to take on a local side in the city. While some caught up with lost sleep on the grass the team won the game impressively 6-3. With spirits lifted by this result it was now time to do some serious shopping. The schoolboys main interest was in highly fashionable sports gear, including shoes, boots and jerseys. As we made our way to Anfield the Man. United gear had, of course, to be removed before we reached the home of the other 'Reds'! The heartbeats of some of our mature members gained momentum as their dreams were about to be realised. The B.B.C. cameras awaited at the gates for Barry Riordan and Barry Shaughnessy and they survived the experience (the cameras, that is). After this, the child-like excitement of Ann O'Brien was in evidence as she approached her Holy Grail for the first time.

As it was Liverpool's final home game of the season the atmosphere was electric. At 6.25 p.m. Rob Collins was last seen to open his mouth for the weekend, when his beloved Spurs opened the scoring but, alas for Rob, his son David and Paddy Harnett, the home side scored twice for a deserved victory. In his many pilgrimages to his 'shrine' this was the first occasion for J. J. Riordan to see his team triumph.

After that, it was a matter of food or drink: food for the under-aged, and partying for the adults. If the kids decided not to sleep on the first night, it was now the turn of the older brigade on the Saturday. First up for breakfast on Sunday were Paul Ruttle and Barry Shaughnessy, but they hadn't been to bed! During the still of the night 'Big' gave a rendition of 'I can fly' and at the time he thought he could. A prominent local car salesman thought the hotel lift was hand operated and he was fortunate it wasn't his own hand needed an operation. The lack of sleep was now becoming evident and the coach trip to the boat contained a mixture of silence and frequent bouts of deep snoring.

The sea journey was rough, to put it mildly, and ghost-like figures were seen sleeping quietly in un-comfortable surroundings. Once Dun Laoghaire was reached our spirits rose and the sound of laughter and cheering made a welcome return. In fact, the trip from Dublin to Rathkeale appeared very short such was the banter and craic. We arrived at base at 10.50 p.m. and welcoming smiles greeted us. Any seeds of doubts as to young loved ones being allowed make the excursion were quickly dispelled and fortunately for all the following day was a Bank Holiday.

In closing I would like to thank everybody for their co-operation and this contributed in no small measure to the success of the expedition. Thanks to our two drivers, Tommy and Joe. Here's to our next adventure. Alright!

CITY OF LIMERICK PUBLIC LIBRARIES 55308

Story of Rathkeale Band

Joe Dunleavy

Back Row L to R: John Quilligan, Mick Guinane, Joe Walsh, Joe Fitzpatrick, Jer Sheehan. 2nd Row: Matt O'Shea, Neddy Quinn, Mick Hayes, Stephen Walsh, Tom Heffernan, Tom Casey. Front: Jimmy Reidy, Patrick Guinane, Joe Hayes, Tom Markham, Billy Steele, John Hayes, John Guinane, Jimmy Hayes, Captain Bill Sheahan with greyhound. The above photograph was taken outside the Munster and Leinster Bank (now AIB) on the first days coursing held near Shannon Meat Factory. The band played through the town on the occasion on the way to the coursing meeting.

Thanks to Mrs. Guinane of Main Street for producing the photograph and getting the names of the band members.

It was first published in Deel Views in 1977.

Rathkeale Brass Band has a history dating back for over 150 years. The first known recorded reference to a band in Rathkeale was made in 1840 on the occasion of a visit to the town of Rev. Fr. Matthew. A Limerick reporter who covered the event stated the following: "The Rev. Fr. Synan, C.C., Rathkeale on Wednesday last, July 24th, 1840 handed to Fr. Matthew the sum of £40, £20 of which the Very Rev. gentleman returned to Fr. Synan, requesting him to appropriate one half of the money to the purchase of instruments for the Rathkeale Teetotallers Band and the other half to charity.

However, what is well known is that Rathkeale Brass Band was founded in 1882 by the then Town Council and each member of that Council contributed £10.10s. for the purchase of instruments to get the band on the road. It was a Parnellite Band and, at that time, the town also had another Fife and Drum Band which was based in Church Street in a two-roomed house. This band disbanded when the Brass Band was founded and many of its members joined the Brass Band. At the time of the Parnell split the band was taken over by Joseph Sheehy of The Square, Rathkeale and it continued under his supervision until 1900 when it became the Confraternity Band.

In 1900 the band was re-organised by Fr. O'Connor, C.C. A cup won by the band in 1910 was in the possession of Rev. Canon Thornhill, Adare. In the competition for the cup the band competed against the Boherbuoy Brass Band in Limerick. We don't know how the cup came into possession of the Rev. Canon Thornhill or what became of it.

During the years between 1882 and 1910 the band had rooms in the following places: Sheehy's House, The Square (now Herwich's Bar); Sheehy's of Roches Road (occupied until recently the Kennedy family); Patrick Mulcair's House, The Square, Jimmy Cregan's, Well Lane. About 1910 the band's headquarters were removed to the Old Temperance Rooms, now the Youth Centre.

In the mid-1920's the band travelled to Limerick in connection with a Confraternity celebration and paraded in front of a group of 500 representing Rathkeale. The band members did not have uniforms then but borrowed uniformed caps, they were covered in white cotton by a tailor in Well Lane and there was also a blue ribbon around the rim. The names of the band members at that time were as follows: John Culligan, Paddy Kett, Jim Reidy, David Wall, Michael Wall, Dom White, Michael White, Michael Hassett, John Hayes (Spot), Jim O'Brien, Paddy Carlon, Joseph Feane, Jim Gloster, David Nolan, Michael Carroll, Paddy Dowling, Michael White (Tyler), Ned Quinn, John Guinane, Pat Mulcahy, Ned Wall, Michael O'Neill, Joe Walsh, Matt O'Shea, Tom Casey, Jer Sheehan, John Young.

One of the oldest photographs of the band was taken on 8th November 1924. On that occasion the Rathkeale Brass and Reed Band played the coursing club through the town and on to the old Workhouse (now Shannon Meat Limited) gate for its first day's outing. There were a total of 21 in the band on that occasion, including 6 young boys.

In 1929 the centenary of Catholic Emancipation was celebrated in Rathkeale, several thousand people turned up for the occasion. The Confraternity Band played through the main street and received much praise for their excellent music. The Confraternity Jubilee celebrations were held in Rathkeale in 1931 and, on that occasion, the Confraternity Band marched from Beechmount to Enniscouch where the main celebrations were held.

During the 1930s the band lapsed again and the instruments were stored at the CYMS (now the Youth Centre). In the early 1940s a large number of people joined the LDF (Local Defence Force) and to keep interest alive and as a new initiative the Local Defence Unit decided to revive the band as an LDF Band. The consent of the Trustees of the old band was obtained. The instruments were checked

and found to be in very poor condition and indeed many of them had gone beyond repair. However, the unit had proved its efficiency at organisation, the instruments were moved to the Courthouse (now Community Centre) were training and drilling were carried out. Here also a room was procured for storage, practice and music sessions. Many of the key men of the old band and a number of young recruits became available.

The LDF Unit did a first-class job at organising fundraising. Because of the Second World War new instruments or sheet music was not available. Many enquiries were made, far and near, for skilled men who could do a reasonable job of repair to the instruments. Some good secondhand instruments were also purchased. The shortage of music sheets was rescued by Joe Hayes of the well know musical Hayes family. Joe had previously moved to Dublin where he was a skilled and innovative arranger and did all the arrangements for the top bands, including the Theatre Royal, and he sent fifteen musical scores, beautifully set up and arranged for each instrument.

After a few months the band members were in full LDF uniform and had its first official outing to a huge national parade in Limerick City. Up to 30,000 Army and LDF personnel participated in this parade which was reviewed by the Taoiseach, Mr. de Valera. The Rathkeale Band was the only LDF band taking part, apart from the official Army Bands. The LDF uniforms were the first uniforms worn by a Rathkeale band.

The band was allowed to lapse again after the Emergency and the instruments were again put into storage. For the next number of years the band did not function until a meeting was held at the Library on 13th April 1953 in connection with a proposal to re-organise the Brass Band. It was decided to hold a public meeting for 27th April on this matter. The meeting was attended by all the parish organisations and included the following: Irish Red Cross (represented by Miss O'Rourke and Sarah Treacy); G.A.A. (Frank Neenan and Conor Magner); CYMS (Desmond Shire and Bernard Tansey); Organisation of National ex-Servicemen (Michael Madden and Patrick Jones); ITGW (Martin O'Shea); Boxing Club (John White and John Russell) and Joe and Edward Daly from the Rathkeale Band.

The meeting was chaired by the late Fr. Enright, C.C., Rathkeale and it was stated at the meeting and recorded that the Brass Band was the property of the people of Rathkeale and continued to be their property and held in trust for them by the various band committees held down through the years. A band committee comprising of all the organisations present was elected and the chairman was Fr. Enright. A check was made of the band instruments and recorded as follows: Trumpets - 4; Trombones - 1; Basses - 3; Euphonions - 3; Baritones - 2; French Sax Horns - 3; Cornets - 2; Base Drum - 1. It was felt that many of the instruments were in very poor condition and all the local organisations were requested to contribute some funds towards the band. The local organisations did contribute funds, the band got going again and turned out the same year for the Annual Corpus Christi Procession. Extract from the Limerick Leader - June 1953):

"A very impressive and imposing sight was witnessed in Rathkeale on Sunday last when the Corpus Christi Procession waded its way through the town's main street amidst a scene of lavish and highly artistic decorations, consisting of flags and buntings. A very outstanding item of the proceedings was the presence of the newly formed Brass Band in a choice selection of all the Confraternity hymns. This was in the very capable hands of Mr. Joseph Walsh, Conductor. As Vice-President of the band, Michael Madigan was in charge".

During the years between 1953 and 1962 the band played at a number of functions including hurling and football matches in Rathkeale and other towns throughout the county. A very successful junior band was formed in the late 1950s. There were a total of 18 young boys in this band. They competed at a concert in Limerick city on 19th December 1959 and the star attraction the same evening was Margaret Barry. This boys band from Rathkeale was referred to in the Limerick Leader as 'Story of Ireland's youngest band'.

However, the band lapsed again for a few years and, at one stage, the instruments were stored in the garage of John Hennessy, Main Street. The late John Hennessy was Chairman of the band for many years.

At a band meeting called on 24th April 1966 it was stated that band classes would commence the following September at the local Vocational School. Mr. Michael Brosnan, headmaster, arranged the classes for Saturday mornings with Mr. McCormack from Boherbuoy Band, Limerick as the music teacher. When the classes commenced in September 38 boys, 6 girls and 1 adult attended.

Around this time approximately £200 was raised by way of a raffle and also a concert at the Deel Hall. A collection for the band in Rathkeale town raised the sum of £73 in March 1967 and secondhand band instruments were purchased in Dublin by the then Chairman, Jack O'Dwyer and Edward Daly. The new St. Mary's Brass Band committee held its first annual general meeting at the CYMS Hall in January 1968 and the Chairman, reviewing the past year's activities, expressed his self satisfaction to the band for the wonderful work done by them of making a success of every issue attempted during the year. This was the last recorded meeting of St. Mary's Brass Band.

In the early 1970s the band instruments were transferred to the Convent School and band classes for the students commenced under Sister Jerome. Mr. Twindle, a music teacher from Limerick, gave music classes for a period and once again the junior band turned out for the annual Corpus Christi Procession. This young band was also very successful for a period but again lapsed. The band instruments were transferred to the Community Centre where they remained there until September 1983 when Rathkeale Community Council decided to hold a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Rathkeale. The re-organisation of the band was discussed with a view to it taking part in the parade.

Mr. Michael Brosnan of the Vocational School provided accommodation there and the band instruments were again transferred from the Community Centre to the Vocational School. Those instruments were in very poor condition. Edward Daly, who had been associated with the band both as a musician and committee for over fifty years, took charge of the band and the training of members. He received great help from the Adult Education Officer at the time, Mr. David Noonan. Many of the instruments were in bad repair but again the headmaster came to the rescue when himself and his staff carried out repairs.

In the past 13 years the band has turned out for every event of note in Rathkeale including festivals, parades, processions, novenas etc. It has also turned out to welcome home athletes and others who did the town proud, especially those who won honours at the National Community Games. The band has travelled throughout Munster and other parts of the country. They played at the opening parade of the Rose of Tralee from 1992 to 1995 and had their photograph included in the Rose of Tralee brochure which is distributed almost worldwide.

However, the highlight to date was the trip to London in 1993 for the St. Patrick's Day Parade there. They marched from Horse Guards Parade to Westminster Cathedral and had a special place for Mass at the Cathedral. They also gave a concert which was attended by many Rathkeale people residing in London. They mentioned afterwards how proud they were of the Rathkeale band and to see it in London for the first time.

Irish Palatine Association NEWSHEET

Welcome to this our third newsheet. Introduced at Christmas 1994 in addition to our annual Journal, it informs members of happenings within the Irish Palatine Association and related activities of interest to members.

GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND RETIRES

The German Ambassador to Ireland, Dr. Martin Elsasser, retired in March of 1996. The Irish Palatine Association first became acquainted with the Ambassador when he was invited to attend a stone laying ceremony for our Museum on the 18th of May 1991 (see Newsletter No. 2 Dec. 1991). Since that time he has attended a number of functions hosted by the Association and has always been supportive of our efforts. Dr. Elsasser will continue to live in Ireland and has promised to maintain his interest in the Association.

BORNHEIM VISITORS

In May of 1996 Rathkeale was host to a group of 70 Bornheimers under the leadership of Bürgemeister Dieter Hömer. Their interest in visiting Rathkeale was stemmed by the 'Back to the Ancestral Homeland' trip, organised by the IPA in April/May of 1994 when a group of 50 descendants of Irish Palatines from various countries, members of the Association, returned to their German roots for an unforgettable 10-day holiday (see Journal No. 5 Dec. 1994). A full report on the Bornheimer visitors will be included in our next Journal.

OHIO BOVENIZERS VISIT IRELAND

In Journal/Newsletter No. 2 Dec. 1991 page 16-19, Austin Bovenizer reported on a traverse of the United States. On that occasion he spoke about a pleasant stay in Belmont County, Ohio where he met the descendants of Adam Bovenizer and Charlotte Sparling. On the 12th of June 1996 some of Adam and Charlotte's descendants, Ronald and Judy Bovenizer, together with Ronald's sister Rosaleen and her husband Hillas Kemp visited Ireland from Ohio for one month. This was their first visit to Ireland and they enjoyed self-catering accommodation in an original Palatine settlement home at Killeheen. They visited many of the Bovenizer families in the area and were able to determine how their branch of the family fitted into the overall family tree, which now means they too can trace a direct link back into Germany. Many evenings were spent in animated chat and the family bonds have been strengthened.

JAGER FAMILY PERFORM IN RATHKEALE

The Jäger family who performed for our IPA Palatinate tour in 1994 (see Journal No. 5 Dec. 1994) once again delighted audiences with songs from their collection of folk and classical music of Palatine origin when they visited Rathkeale. The visit had been planned for some time and the family arrived 12 strong in three campers on the weekend of August 9th. On Saturday evening they gave a performance at a concert organised by the IPA. This was attended by local people of Palatine background and/or with a special interest in music. Some of the songs would have been familiar to our German ancestors and this made them all the more special and interesting to listen to. A cassette tape album of their songs was sold out at the concert. On Sunday the family participated in the worship services of three denominations including morning service at the Embury & Heck Memorial Methodist Church, morning communion service at Holy Trinity Church of Ireland (Anglican) and an annual open-air Mass held in the ruins of the Augustinian Abbey in the afternoon.

VISIT FROM LESTER HARTRICK

In September we had a visit from Lester Hartrick, a patron, member, donator and contributor to our Journal. Lester was at the crest of a 2-week tour, meeting old friends and new, while continuing to research various aspects of the Hartrick clan. The occasion of his visit to the Museum was used to bring along some further material for our Library.

CHANCELLOR HELMUT KOHL VISITS IRELAND

On the 2nd and 3rd October the German Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl paid an official visit to Ireland. As the 3rd is a national German holiday celebrating German Unity there was a special reception held at the RDS (Royal Dublin Society) in Dublin attended by members of the German community in Ireland.

Lily Baker and Austin Bovenizer were invited to represent the Irish Palatine Association and community at the function. They were officially presented to Chancellor Kohl and had a brief opportunity to speak with him. Our Association felt especially honoured to be included in this function.

IRISH PALATINE ASSOCIATION TO GO ON INTERNET

Thanks to the help of member Geoffrey Thompson who is based in Luxembourg, the Irish Palatine Association plan to go on Internet. Geoffrey is setting up a company that will focus in the areas Internet and Intranets. Amongst the company's services will be the development of client Web sites and he has offered to prepare a home page and offer his advice free of charge.

VISIT FROM THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

On the 29th of October members of the Heritage Council of Ireland visited our Museum. They were shown around by Austin Bovenizer and were most enthusiastic about our efforts. They expressed a strong interest in helping us and offered advice in relation to the preservation of artefacts in our Museum.

ABEL RAM ESTATE

Those of our membership who have a Wexford connection will be interested in the following. A recent traveller in Co. Wexford came across a local tourist attraction situated in Coolgrainy outside of Gorey. Here Mr. & Mrs. Stephen's invite you to the grounds of their home at 'Ram House', where you may sit and admire their two acres garden while enjoying tea and gateaux. The house was built for two spinster ladies of the Ram family, Abel Ram being the landlord responsible for settling the Wexford Palatines on his estate in 1709. 'Ram House' has since passed through many hands until the present owners developed the gardens and have opened them to the public.

GIRLS GUIDES

A recent piece sent by Mr. Patrick D. O'Brien, Ontario, Canada indicates that a Mrs. William Ruttle was responsible for introducing the Girl Guides to Canada in 1920. Further details in our next Journal.

SPONSORSHIP APPEAL

As part of a special drive to improve our exhibition we are preparing a display on Palatine emigration from Ireland. As an initiative to raise funds for the project we are asking that any member who would like to have his or her Palatine emigrating ancestor listed in the display, they may do so by donating IR£100.00*. In addition, the location of that emigrating ancestor would be recorded on a world map backing the display (* We are also appealing for copies or original material in photographic or other formats recording special achievements of the many Palatines who emigrated from Ireland. We will be making a selection from this material for our display. Where material is not used it will be stored in the IPA Library or if requested to its owner).

MEMBERSHIP

Please don't forget that membership renewal date is the 1st of January. When renewing why not consider giving a gift membership. Just let us have name/address details together with appropriate subscription total. In addition to receiving membership entitlements the new member will be sent an IPA introductory letter announcing your gift.

THANKS

The Committee and Directors would once again like to express their sincere thanks to all who have supported the efforts of the Association during the year past through membership, patronage or donation of articles, information or money.

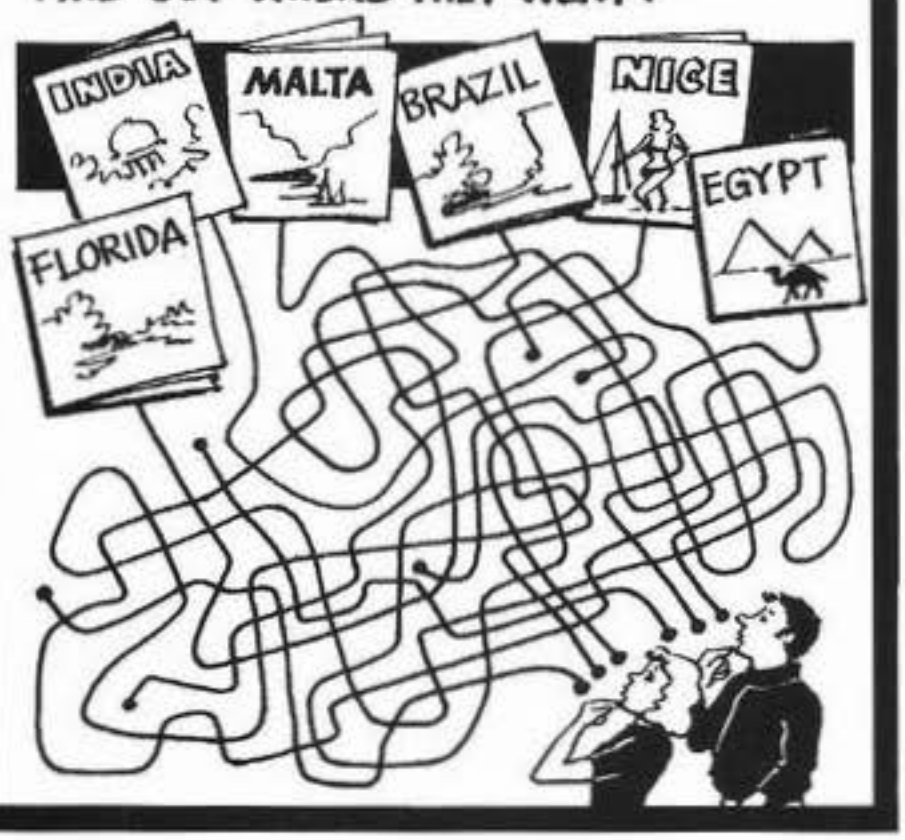
Irish Palatine Association, Irish Palatine Museum,
Rathkeale, Co. Limerick
Tel: (069) 64397, Fax: (069) 64288

CO. LIMERICK
55398
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kids Page

WHERE TO GO?

THE COUPLE ARE TRYING TO DECIDE WHERE TO GO FOR A WINTER HOLIDAY. CAN YOU FIND OUT WHERE THEY WENT?



Ben: Why are squirrels so poor?
Greg: Tell me.
Ben: Because money doesn't grow on trees.

You've Got To Be Joking

Carol: My brother quit his job at the doughnut shop.
Kylie: Why did he do that?
Carol: He just got tired of the hole thing.

Laurie: I bet I know how I can keep you in great suspense.
Bill: Oh yeah? How?
Laurie: Tell you later.

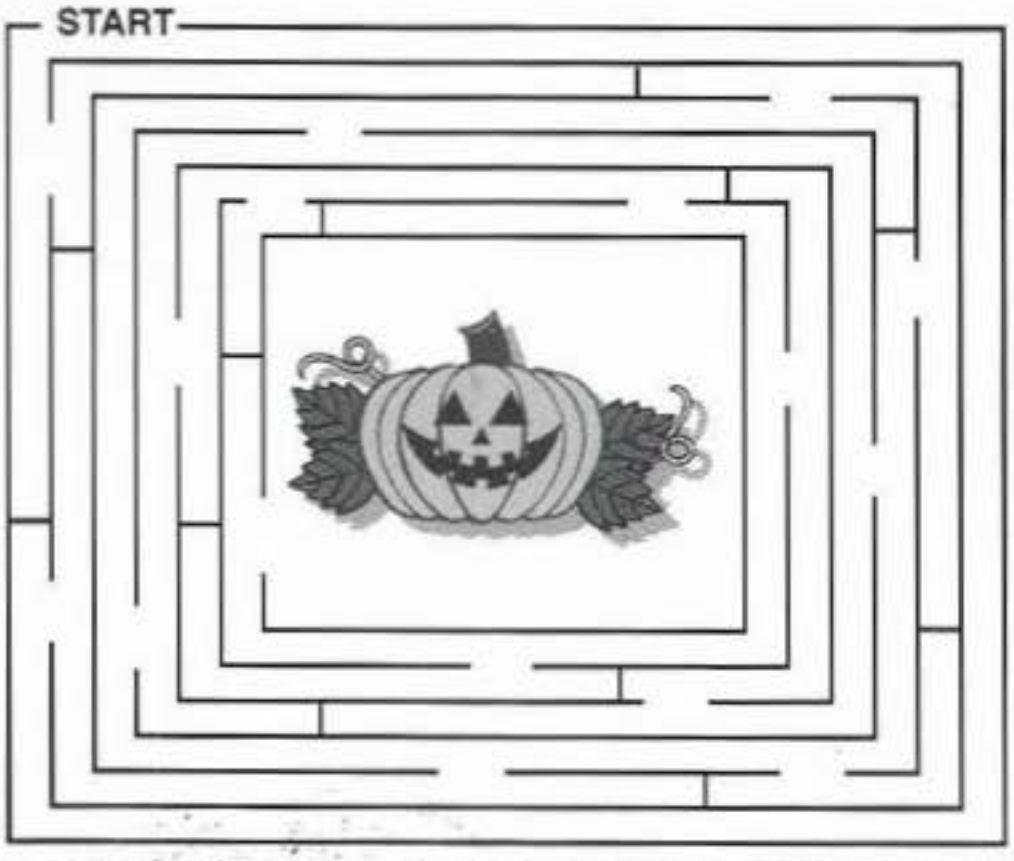
Betty: A traffic warden just gave my beagle a ticket.
Billy: How come?
Betty: He was parked too close to a fire hydrant.

Amy: Why can't witches play cricket in the afternoon?
Linda: I don't know. Why?
Amy: Because bats don't come out until night.

Cindy: How does a dentist examine a great white shark's teeth?
Sam: How?
Cindy: Very carefully.

Puzzle Patch

Can you find the path to the pumpkin?



SECRET SCENE

SHADE IN ALL THE AREAS THAT CONTAIN A DOT TO FIND WHAT IS IN THE PICTURE.

Useful Information

DEEL VIEWS: Jack O'Dwyer. Tel. (069) 64210

BANKS: Late opening Tuesday

CREDIT UNION:

Monday:	2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Tuesday & Wednesday:	10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Thursday:	10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
Friday:	10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.
Saturday:	10.00 a.m. - 12 noon

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:
Monday & Wednesday: 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Tuesday: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m; 6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Thursday: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m; 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Friday: 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m; 6.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

MART: Tuesday - Cattle. Wednesday - Calf & Pig

POST OFFICE:
Monday to Saturday: 9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.
Thursday: 9.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

DENTIST: Ml. Brosnan, Thomas Street

DOCTORS:
Dr. Lynch: Half day Thursday
Dr. Curtin: Half day Wednesday
Dr. Teahan: Half day Thursday

CHURCH/MASS TIMES:
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Sunday: 8.30 a.m., 10.00 a.m., 11.30 a.m.
Monday to Saturday: 9.30 a.m.
Saturday: 8.00 p.m. (Summer), 7.30 p.m. (Winter)

Holy Trinity Church of Ireland:
1st & 3rd Sundays: 11.15 a.m. Morning Prayer
2nd & 4th Sundays: Holy Communion
5th Sunday: Joint Service on rota
Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan

Embury Heck Memorial Methodist Church:
Sundays: May & July 11.30 a.m.
Sundays: June & August 10.00 a.m.
Sundays: January, March, Sept. Nov. 12 noon
Sundays: February, April, Oct. Dec. 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. Secretary: Brid Guinane

SOCIAL SERVICES: Secretary: Breda Morrissey

RED CROSS: Secretary: Tim Shiels

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: J. Dunleavy
Meeting alternate Mondays

I.C.A. Secretary: Mrs. Joan O'Toole. 2nd Thursday

G.A.A. Hon. Secretary: Pat Sheahan

Soccer - Juvenile: Seán Hartnett

Abrahams Golf Society: Secretary: Ml. Cregan

Scout Cubs: Thursdays, Youth Centre

Community Hall: Tel. (069) 64908

Things to do and see

Tourist Information Centre - Irish Palatine Centre
Open June-September 7 days 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Castlematrix Tours 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. 7 days
Lunches & banquets by appointment. Tel. (069) 64284

Irish Palatine Heritage Centre
Open June-September 7 days 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Dohyle Lough: John Griffin

Sports Complex:
Squash, Racketball, Handball, Snooker, Pool

Tennis Courts: Tel. (069) 64622

Kyletaun Tennis Club. Contact Pat O'Doherty (069) 64086. Affiliated to Tennis Ireland. Floodlit international size. Open 7 days.

Bridge Club. Every Tuesday night. September-June. Contact Ann Roche, Park Lewis

Fitzsimons Printers (069) 76226/76231