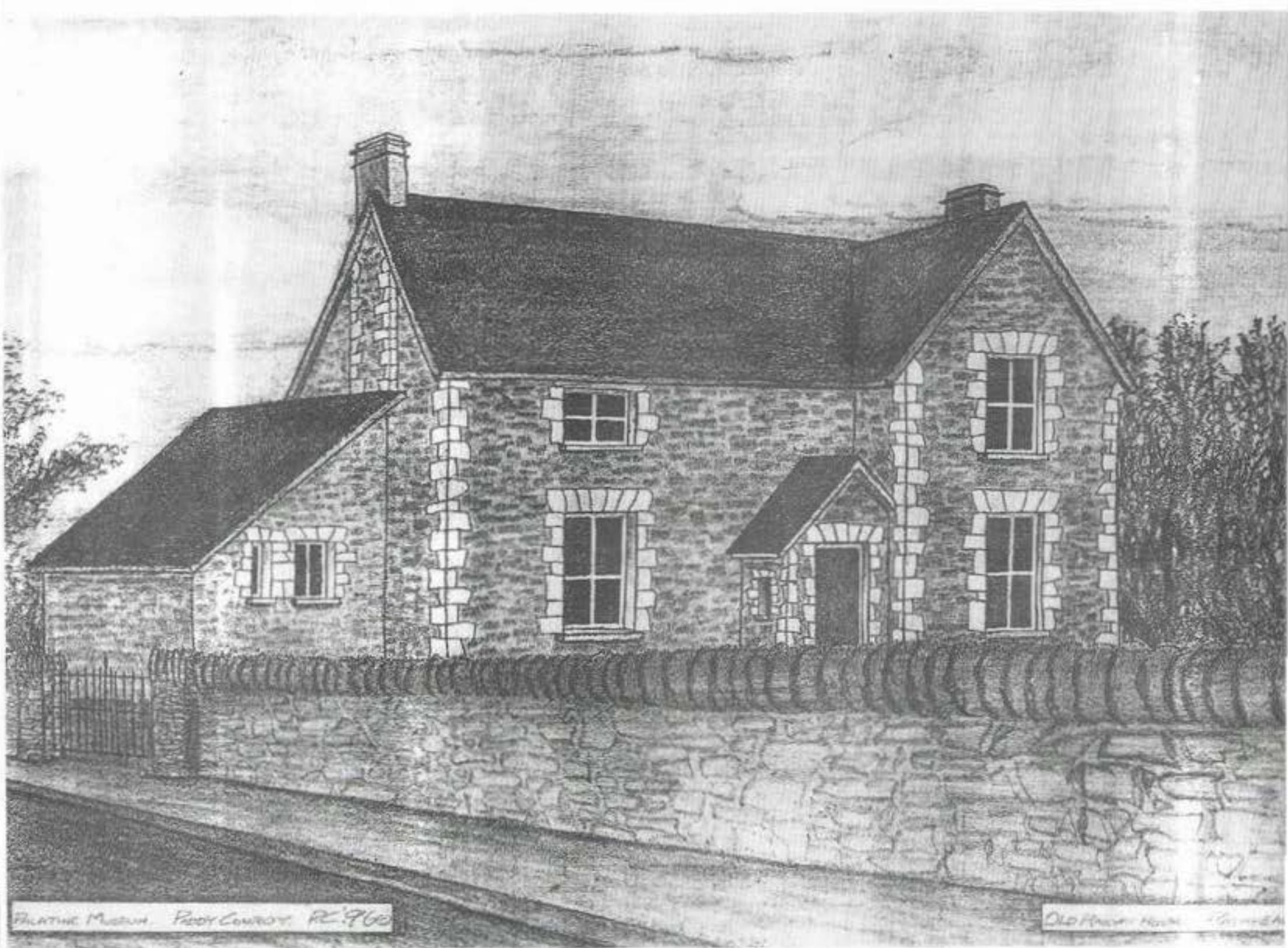




DEEL VIEWS



Christmas 1997



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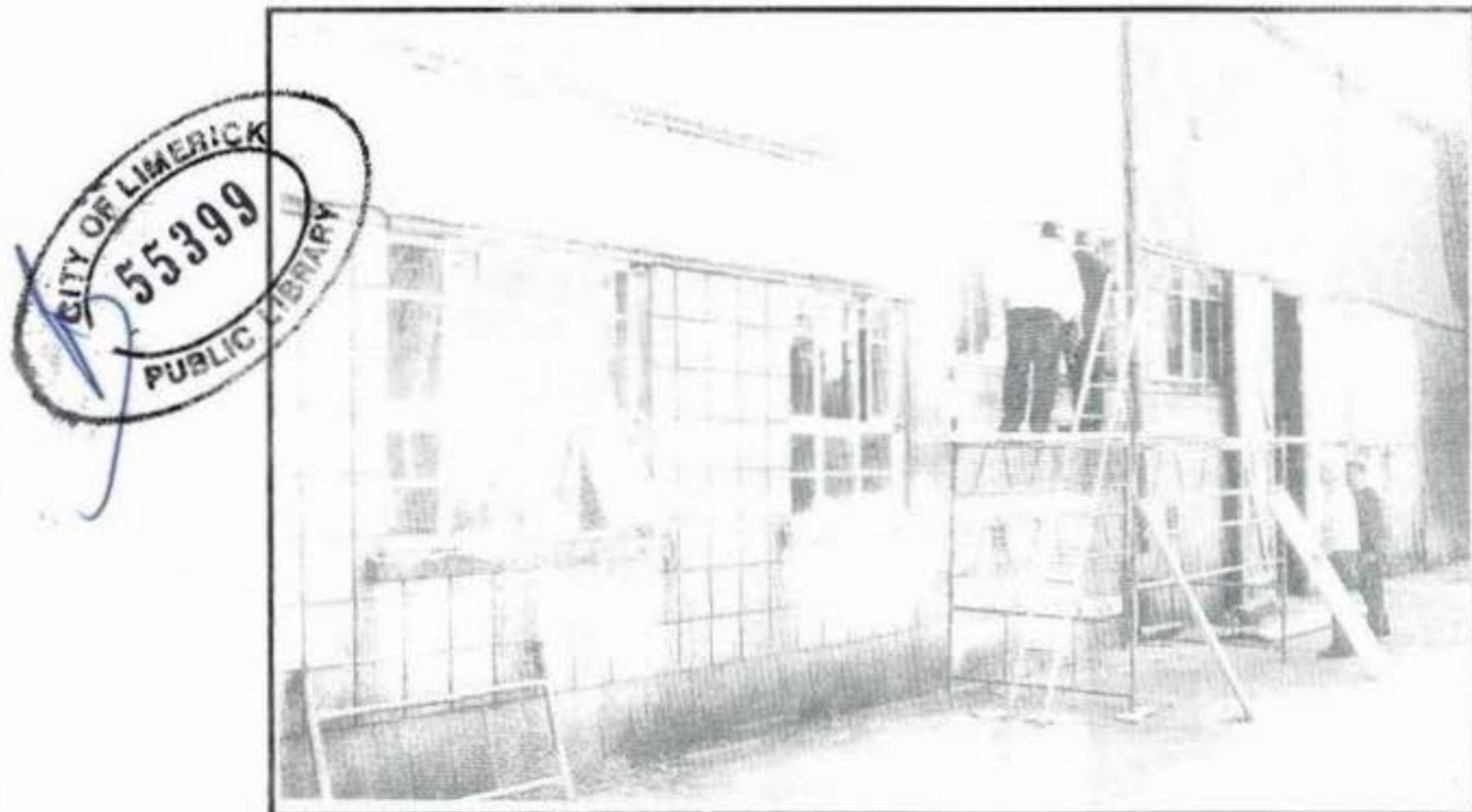
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EDITORIAL

When are we going to get an A.T.M. in Rathkeale!! It was said somewhere recently that we are the only town from Belfast to Skibbereen without the "hole in the wall". The lack of such a facility is particularly felt around Christmas and other holidays, most especially by visitors. While we understand there may be genuine reasons why neither of the bank branches can install the machine in their buildings there are other outlets available to them. There are precedents within the vicinity where A.T.M's have been introduced in filling stations and other commercial premises and we would urge one of other of our banks to act with some urgency in proceeding along these lines. At a time when the town is really beginning to progress on many fronts it is extremely important that the financial institutions do all they can to encourage this progress.

Community Council Creamery Workspace



Work in progress at Creamery

The old creamery at Enniscouch which was acquired some time ago from Golden Vale has undergone a transformation with the aid of FAS scheme and the dedicated work of the sub committee of the community council. Three units on the ground floor have now been renovated and recently occupied by tenants. Raymond Markham is starting a printing business and has commenced work there. In a second unit two people from Newcastle West, John Woulfe and Denny Mulvihill, are developing an industry to manufacture herbal remedies and shortly it is expected the third section will be taken up by the local Mothers and Toddlers Group who plan to start a creche.

Meanwhile plans for the development of the more spacious top floor are well advanced and a planning application will soon be ready for submission to the County Council. All concerned deserve congratulations on the achievements to date and it is good to see such a substantial investment by the Community Council bearing fruit. It showed great initiative by a voluntary body.



Synopsis of talk by P.J. Dundon on "LIFE ON AUGHINISH ISLAND" to Rathkeale and District Historical Society.

I was born on the island in 1918 into a family of five, three girls and two boys, I being the youngest. My father died when I was six. The story is told that when I was three weeks old, towards the end of the first world war, a great flu raged and I unfortunately became a victim. An old cousin of my fathers, who lived in the same yard as ourselves, called to see how I was. He was a great smoker who usually kept his clay pipe in his breast pocket when not in use. Anyway whatever way he took out the pipe the stem broke off and fell into my cot. The story goes that somehow I got the stem into my mouth with the result that I vomited an amount of phlegm which had been lodged in my chest. The prognosis had been very bad at the time but following this incident I made a complete recovery and until the old man died, aged 89, he maintained he was responsible for saving my life. I am now 79 and thank God have not had a days illness since.

At that time there were thirteen families living on Aughnish-upwards of fifty persons-comprising four of Dundons, two of Walls and Mangans, with Mulcaire, O'Shaughnessy, Neville, Guerin and Guiry. Many of the gardens and haggards were named after these families. The island had 500 acres of primarily upland holdings and in addition an amount of low lying lands open to the tides. It was decided to embank this area between the island and foynes and the people succeeded in completing four miles of bank, adding another 500 acres to the total. £450 was made available for the upkeep of the banks but the interest was not sufficient for the purpose and eventually the Land Commission took over. Then in the 1970s the Office of Public Works reconstructed and raised the embankments to their present stake and that body has been responsible since.

The principle industries of the time were game shooting and fishing and the main market was Kildysart across the Shannon in Co. Clare, not Askeaton or Limerick as one would expect. Merchants in Kildysart would export the produce for which there was a great demand in the wartime. In fact the islanders were better known in Clare than in Limerick. They went to Mass there by boat - it being easier than walking to the nearest church in Pallaskenry. Another important industry was the quarrying of limestone which again was transported by boat to Clare where there was little or no such material. The boats would return with loads of turf from West Clare. Sea weed was another significant substance which was used as manure. It would be harvested at low tide and then pulled in with ropes at high water, often having to

be minded overnight.

Boat building also took place and as I said there was much contact between the Clare side of the Shannon and the islanders, including the islands in the river such as Low Island where there had been a monastic settlement from 525a.d.

A little anecdote to illustrate the relaxed way of life; There were two well known characters in my time, Jim Wall and Jim Dundon - known as Captain. They worked together on the bank maintenance and had employed John Neville to draw the stones for them. Neville wanted the work completed before the week end in order that he would be paid and have a few pints. However on returning with a load of stones he could find no sign of the two lads. After searching for some time he spotted them out on the sandy shore, each with a stick in their hands and marking something on the sand. When he asked them what they were at he was informed "we have a problem with leap years and we are trying to find out how many seconds have passed since Christ was born". The same Jim Wall wrote poetry as does his nephew, Michael Ryan from Askeaton who is with us here tonight. His best known work is "The Fowlers Paradise" which incorporates most of the beautiful place names of the island. All the men were very useful with their hands and many made their own suits, while the women made crotchet and lace. The standard of living was quite high with plenty of food - especially game and fish and of course, potatoes. We had many visitors in my time including musicians such as Maire Ni Scolaf and her husband Liam O'Buachalla, Mairin De Valera and Sydney McEwan. They came back again and again. There were few children on the island but it was by no means a lonely life for a child. I would spend a lot of time carving out little boats complete with sails and battery operated lights and the Shannon for us was the main road where we watched the passage of the colliers and grain boats into and out of Limerick. We walked 3 miles each way to school where our teacher was Master King from Glin with family origins in Clare. He was a tough disciplinarian and the stick was in regular use. I remember fowlers from Rathkeale who were frequently visitors particularly Casey and Legear.

Another little story from the place; The Hickey family have long links with the medical profession. A Major Hickey came on a holiday once to the area and brought a large yacht and a shooting boat. This had a gun mounted on it capable of firing 3 or 4 lbs. of shot aimed

at ducks at low water. He asked "Capt" Dundon to spend a few weeks with him on the river and during the time a lot of duck were shot. The Major so enjoyed himself that at the end of his holiday he invited the captain and all his friends to a dinner and drinks on the yacht. A wonderful time was had by all but unknown to them the proceedings were recorded on an old cylinder recorder. Before leaving this was played back to them to their consternation. As recording was very new at the time the story lived along and was retold for many years after. On another occasion we visited another family of Dundons around 1927. One member of the family was home from Dublin where he worked and brought with him a radio. Being able to put on earphones and listen to the chimes of Big Ben was a big thrill for us simple folk. I left the island in 1949 and spent some time away, returning in 1962 to settle down in Askeaton. I found many changes and of course the island of my youth is not longer inhabited.

I will conclude by quoting the last verse of the "Fowlers Paradise" (thirteen in all).

*"I live to hear those place name spoken
It brings me back my childhood days again
Roaming the hills and dales of Aughnish
In frost or snow in sunshine or in rain
Long years have passed since youth has housed me
But in my dreams you are ever near
May God bless you sweet sea girth island
O Aughnish to me you are ever dear"*

GREAT SOUTHERN TRAIL

The management of the above recently organised the carrying out of a survey of attitudes to the proposed walking and cycling trail along the old west Limerick railway line.

The survey covered a fifteen mile long corridor extending from east of Ardagh to Abbeyfeale and in total three hundred persons were approached. Of these two hundred and fifty responded. These numbers included landowners along the line. There were some interesting findings from the project - the prime one being that while 14% were against 86% were in favour. However among the landowners who comprised 12% of the total numbers surveyed, 40% welcomed the proposal, 36% were against and 20% were undecided. The main reasons for the opposition of landowners are; Privacy (90%) Security (89%), Noise Pollution (76%), Trespassing (71%) and Wandering animals (62%).

Rathkeale & District Historical Society

We have already commenced activities for the Winter period. In October we welcomed Prof. Brendan O'Madigain from U.C.G. who spoke on the "History of Music and Song in Co. Limerick". In addition to a wonderful lecture he also contributed with his impression of many of the old songs associated with the county.

The talk previously fixed for 15th November had unfortunately to be cancelled but we were delighted that, at very short notice, John Haugh from nearby Ardagh stepped in to the breach and entertained us with a talk on his recently published book on the story of the co-operative movement which was largely centred in County Limerick. He spoke specifically of the foundation of the creamery in his native Ardagh and a lively discussion ensued.

The next event on the calendar will be on January 28th when items of local history will be featured and as in past years we are hoping for anyone who feels they might have something to contribute to come forward as soon as possible. The occasion is always very informal and speakers will not be asked to talk for more than twenty minutes or so. Pat Coleman should be contacted.

Admission to all lectures, which are held in Rathkeale House Hotel, is free but we welcome membership at £5.00

The conclusions to be drawn would suggest that landowners response seems to be mainly negative due to worries about privacy and security. However by placing a representative of the landowners on the management committee 35% of them would be satisfied. There does nevertheless remain a formidable task in reassuring opponents of the trail of its potential benefits.

From a local perspective it is unfortunate that the survey did not extend to the Rathkeale/Ballingarrane section.

RATHKEALE IN THE NEXT CENTURY

Earlier this year the Rathkeale Enterprise Group decided to run an essay competition in conjunction with Mercy Community College. With the kind permission of the group and with the co-operation of Mr. Padraig Feehan, Vice-principal we are delighted to publish two of the prizewinning essays in this issue. It is planned to include more essays submitted for the competition in our next issue.

Living in Rathkeale in the Twenty First Century

by Elaine Lyons 1st year

Hi! my name is Alana. I live in Rathkeale. The year is two thousand and twenty. Let me tell you about my home town. From the day Dan Neville was elected Taoiseach of Ireland, things have moved fast in Rathkeale. His first task was to elect Michael Hanley, an expert cameraman and reporter, as his public Relations Officer (birds of a feather flock together!!) Neville and Hanley, being true Rathkeale men, put their home town rather than their country first.

Nowadays Rathkeale has something to offer everybody. If you are the sporty type as I am, there is no shortage of facilities. Where the "Bog Garden" used to be there is now a huge stadium. It houses Gaelic Football and soccer pitches, tennis courts and athletic tracks. The sports complex also has an Olympic sized swimming pool. Now that Tommy Steele has become president of the Olympic Council of Ireland, (another government favour!) we are keeping our fingers crossed that the Olympic games will be held here in two thousand and twenty eight.

Rathkeale has one of the biggest shopping centres in the country- Abbey Court Super Shopping Centre. It has hundreds of shops to cater for all your need e.g. Patsy's Fashions, Dinnages Menswear, Donovans Jewellers, O'Connors Hardware and Manns Bar and Restaurant to mention but a few. It also has a twenty screen cinema and Superbites restaurant with a "Drive Thru". The Financial Centre is situated on the square. All the big banks, credit union and insurance companies are housed there. It even has a A.T.M. (not before time!!).

My home is on the twentieth floor of a block of high rise apartments. Each apartment has ten rooms and a balcony. This is a big elevation for my family and I as our ancestors belonged to the travelling community that lived for many years at Fair Hill.

Thanks to Taoiseach Neville all the travellers have been housed.

Another addition to Rathkeale is the "Casino" a far cry from Noel Whites " Bingo Session" and Mick Nevilles forty five card drives! There is even a snooker hall fit for the likes of Ken Doherty.

Don't think Rathkeale is just a mass of buildings. There are many beautiful parks in and around the town. These parks consist of scenic walks, playgrounds, flower gardens and even a zoo. Hourigans Equestrian Centre is also situated in one of the parks. The highlight of the Rathkeale year is the International Showjumping Competition.

This is a small insight into Rathkeale in the twenty first century. Life here has been made good for everybody. I hope in the years to come Rathkeale will get even bigger and better.

Living in Rathkeale in the 21st Century

by Tracey Frawley, 5th year.

In the 21st Century, I think the face of Rathkeale will have changed considerably. Rathkeale town and its hinterland has so much to offer if we use our initiative and entrepreneurial skills. Rathkeale is the ideal base for industry "Anderson Ireland" is a very successful business on the periphery of the town and it also important for other local business through workers spending their incomes in the town. Rathkeale Mercy Community college provides a highly educated workforce and for higher education the University of Limerick and Limerick RTC are invaluable. There is also a good road and rail (Colbert station Limerick) network, Foynes seaport and Shannon Airport (for movement of raw materials and finished products) Why could Rathkeale not have an electronics industry for example? An increase in

industry would also encourage more retailers to Rathkeale, so that there would be a better variety for residents. People would like to shop locally rather than having to visit Limerick etc.....

Cycling tours for back-packers would entice tourists to Rathkeale. There are many interesting cultural and natural features in and around the Rathkeale area e.g. the Castle of Castlematrix, the Augustinian Abbey and Dohyle lake (where a five hundred- seater outdoor theatre is planned as an attraction in itself due to the integration of a man made feature with nature). This tour could also include a trip to a local farm perhaps, which is a big hustle and bustle of life. Rathkeale is a market town and this fact should be exploited. Could one large market be organised during the "welcome Home Festival" during the summer?. People visiting Rathkeale would like to see the local produce, I'm sure, and its as much a social event as it is a business opportunity for entrepreneurs.

The Rathkeale railway now lies idle and that's a shame when you consider the success of the "Blennerville" system engine in Co. Kerry , where along with the windmill it attracts large numbers of school tours and other tourists of all ages. Is there not a market for such an enterprise in Co. Limerick such a venture could lead to the establishment of a souvenir shop which would provide a valuable source of employment. Or a restaurant/ coffee shop may be required to cater for visitors? Sport facilities must be improved in Rathkeale. There is a sports complex in the town centre, for those interested in squash, racquetball etc.. But people must travel to another town or to Limerick city for the use of an indoor swimming pool or a health and fitness centre. Such facilities are important for both residents and tourists. And if more factories are established here in the future, workers will be interested in the facilities available.

Dohyle Lake could be further exploited by introducing canoeing perhaps. Students from Mercy Community College travel to Kerry for adventure courses including canoeing, treasure hunts, team sports etc... Such courses could also be in Rathkeale if the sports facilities are developed to their full potential.

Foreign tourists today (Americans in particular) want to experience the 'traditional Irish' way of life. Why not have traditional Irish farmhouse accommodation available, catering especially for such customers? Specialisation is becoming more and more important in business today, including the tourism industry.

We, as a community, have a duty to develop the numerous resources in Rathkeale and its hinterland to provide a firm foundation for future generations.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Once again the triennial election of members to the Community Council has taken place. While the numbers voting was very disappointing, nevertheless the election was completed successfully and hereunder are the names of those who will form the council for the next three years:

<u>St. Mary's Park</u>	Noel White Lorraine White Tom Steele Martin Smith Seamus Hogan
<u>Abbeycourt</u>	Kevin Neville Patrick Moloney
<u>Riddlestown</u>	Mary B Daly
<u>Holy Cross</u>	Donie Hourigan Mary Kenneally Brian McEnery
<u>Ballymacave</u>	Bríd Guinane
<u>Main Street</u>	Timmy Shiels Frank Fennell Michael Noonan
<u>Ballywilliam</u>	Veronica White Jack O'Dwyer Sean Hennessy Mary Hughes
<u>Kyletaun</u>	Con Horan John O'Connell
<u>Springmount</u>	Patrick Sheehy
<u>Reens</u>	Michael Brosnan Austin Bovenizer
<u>Thomas St.</u>	Sr. Jerome
<u>Church Street</u>	Joe McCann Pat Coleman Maureen Markham

The newly elected officers of the Community Council are:

Chairman:	Noel White
Vice-Chairman:	Michael Brosnan
Secretary:	Brian McEnery
Asst. Secretary:	Lorraine White
Joint Treasurers:	John Dinnage, P. Johnson, C. Horan.
P.R.O.	Tim Shiels
Trustees:	Patrick Johnson, Peter Donovan, Michael Neville, Joe Dunleavy, John Dinnage.

Remembering Things Past 1972

P.J. Madigan

Rathkeale Festival 72 opened on Friday July 14th with a grand parade to the festival grounds led by the Rathkeale Brass Band. The programme for the ten days includes Feis, Hurling Tournament, Teenage Night, Competition, Wrenboy Night and Childrens Fancy Dress.

Fancy Dress Result:

Groups of Three or more:

- 1 "Pick of the Pops" Leader, John O'Brien
- 2 "Irish Grandmothers" Leader, Catriona Nestor
- 3: "Statistics of G.A.A." Leader, P. Doherty

Smaller Groups

1 "Effects of Common Market"	Anne Cronin
2 "Pippy Longstockings"	Martha Fitzgerald
3 "Miss India"	Miriam Culhane
"First Aid Last Aid"	Anthony O'Donnell

The talent competition was held in the Marquee on Thursday and five groups participated. The winners were Mallow Folk Group with second prize going to Murroe Comhaltas. Fermoy, Croom and Limerick were others competing and the judges were P. Cahillane N.T., Mary Carroll and P.J. Madigan.

The final of the Princess of Desmond event took place on Friday and the winner was Marilyn Coyle from Shannon, formerly of Lisburn. Angela Geary was second and Marie Noonan third, both from Rathkeale. Judging was carried out by Seamus and Siobhan Quill and Tom McGrath of Aer Lingus.

On Saturday July 15th at St Mary's Church the wedding took place between Michael Glenny of Church St. and Bridget Wilmott of Rockfield. The best man was Thomas Glenny, Bridie Glenny was the bridesmaid, and another sister, Josephine, acted as trainbearer.

On Saturday August 5th at St. Mary's Church the Wedding took place between Denis Kelliher of Togher, Cork and Pamella Supple of Enniscouch Donal Kelliher was bestman, Patrick acted as usher and the bridesmaids were Mary Mangan and Jon Byrne.

Also on August 5th in Croagh Church Brendan Breen of Kilduff, Tralee married Agnes O'Connor of Ballinvira,

Croagh. Bestman was Denis Broderick while the grooms brother James and John acted as groomsmen. The bridesmaids were Jenny and Helen O'Connor and Deirdre O'Connor was flower girl.

Another wedding in August was that between James O'Gorman of Holy Cross and Esther Naughton from Church St. Bestman was Thomas O'Gorman with Bernard O'Gorman and Con and Patrick Naughton as groomsmen. Patrick and Aidan Dolan were ushers and the bridesmaids were Catherine Naughton, Regina O'Gorman, Catherine Geary and Lilian Markham. The pageboys were Cornelius and Anthony O'Donnell.

The following local members of the D'Alton School of Dancing were prizewinners at Abbyfeale feis on Sunday September 10th:

Jig U.7.	2nd Anne Hogan
3-Hand Reel u.10	1st Fiona Madigan, Brian Mooney, Martha Fitzgerald
Boys Reel U.12	2nd Declan Mooney, 3rd Brian Mooney
Reel U.14	3rd. Richard Mooney
Reel U.16	3rd Richard Mooney
4-Hand Reel Open	3rd Martha Fitzgerald, Fiona Madigan, Brian Mooney, Declan Mooney,

The wedding took place at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale between Patrick Giltenane of Clough, Croagh and Breda O'Connor of Blossomhill, Rathkeale. Bestman was Thomas Neville and the groomsman was Dan Neville. The bridesmaids were Kathleen O'Connor and Peg Giltenane.

There was a large attendance at the C.Y.M.S. hall on Thurs. Sept 14th. When Mr. James McGrane was the recipient of a clock and a wallet of notes to mark his retirement after 45 years as postman in Rathkeale. The function was organised by a committee of local people and the presentation was made by Mr. Sean Hayes, Postmaster who wished Mr. McGrane every happiness on his retirement both on his own behalf and that of the staff of the postoffice. Among others who spoke in praise of James were Rev. Canon Costelloe, Rev. B. Snow C. of I; Mr. Haughey Postmaster Limerick, Mr McEoin postmaster organizer, Miss M. Finn M.C.C.; M Foley;

P. Donovan and Edward Doolery a colleague for over 37 years.

On Saturday Sept 9th the wedding took place in Rathkeale of James O'Connor of Ardagh and Mary O'Dea of Roches Road, Bestman was John O'Connor and the bridesmaid was Margaret O'Dea. The flower girls were Marie, Siobhan and Jennifer O'Dea.

On Tuesday Sept 12th at St. James' Church, Cappagh the wedding took place between William Sheahan of Purt, Adare and Eileen Madigan, Ballingarrane, Askeaton. The bestman was Michael Sheahan and Bill Byrnes acted as usher. The bridesmaids were Agatha and Anne Madigan.

The wedding of John J. Nash, Boherbuoy, Pallaskenry and Patricia Cawley, Church St; Rathkeale took place on Sept. 23rd in Rathkeale. The bestman was Michael Nash while another brother Francis was groomsman. The ushers were Seamus Cawley and Thomas Nash, Maria Cronin was bridesmaid and Mrs. D. Sheahan was matron of honour Sandra Sheahan was flower girl and Don Sheahan was pageboy. On Saturday Sept. 23rd at St. Mary's Church the wedding took place between John O'Sullivan and Mrs. Michael Lee, sister of the bride was matron of honour. Margaret Kennedy, Abbeylands was flower girl and the pageboy was John O'Keeffe, Riddlestown.

Also on the same day at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Glin Patrick O'Shaughnessy of Reens, Ardagh and Eileen McGrath, Glin were married. Michael, brother of the groom was bestman and Joe McGrath was groomsman. The bridesmaid was Marie O'Shaughnessy and Marie Therese Galligan was matron honour.

Once again Rathkeale's Marian Shrine has won first prize in Bord Failte's Roadside Garden Competition for 1972 with a total of 91 marks. The success achieved is due entirely to all who took an interest in the maintenance of the shrine, particularly the caretaker, Jim Leahy whose dedication has been outstanding.

A very pretty wedding took place recently at Lurriga Church. The bride was Anne Kelliher of Marian Park, Patrickswell and the groom was Noel White of Roches Road, Brother of the groom, Michael, was bestman and the bridesmaid was Marie Kelliher, sister of the bride. The flower girl was Marie Clohessey.

On Saturday October 28th the girls of the Seat of Wisdom Secondary School, Rathkeale scored an easy win over the visiting St. Patrick's team from Limerick in a camogie match which was played in the local G.A.A.

field. The home team gained an early lead which they never lost and the final score was 6 goals 3 points to nil. The game was refereed by Eithne Neville and the team was as follows; Geraldine Mulqueen, Kathleen Walsh, Patricia Baggott, Christina Hannon, Mary Hannon, Grace O'Brien, Carmel Dore, Ann O'Connor, Maura Moloney, Mary Mulcahy, Olive Wall, Brid Danaher, Joan O'Sullivan, Ann Balfé, Bernie Enright. The team was Prepared by Lucy Wall, Games Instructress.

A large gathering attended Rathkeale Youth Club's Hallow'een social in the Deel Hall. The following artistes took part; Youth Club Singers, Theresa Curtin, Rita White, Maura Markham, Marcella Curtin, Joan O'Sullivan, Marie Dollery, Marie Dunne, Eithne O'Sullivan, Brian O'Sullivan, Patrick McCarthy, Finola Fennell, Margaret Kennedy, Frankie Dinnage, Padraig Feehan and Dick Woodroffe. Mr. Brian Snow, monologue; Liam Fitzgerald, accordion; Cormac and Gearoid Cahillane, harmonica and spoons duet; Catherine Fitzgerald, accordion, Maura Markham, recitation, Padraig Feehan, songs; Ballingary Youth Ballad group; Dorothy Teskey sang to the accompaniment of her husband Ronnie and P.J. Madigan. The following dancers took part; Catherine Carroll, Richard Mooney, Martha Fitzgerald, Brian Mooney, Fiona Madigan, Rosemary Hughes, Eileen O'Shea, John Madigan, Declan Mooney.

St. Mary's G.A.A. club staged the first round of Scor 73 at the Deel Hall on Thursday December 14th. The winners in the various categories were:

Solo dancing; Pasty Carroll.

Solo singing; Judy Neville.

Recitation; Mary Hennessy.

Question Time; B. O'Gorman, B. Neville and J. O'Dwyer.

Set dancing; Mr. and Mrs. J McEniry; M. Neville and Nora Flynn; P Doherty and U. Finn, N Duggan and Mrs. T McNamara.

Ballad Group; D. Teskey, N Flynn, M Sparling, T McNamara, P Wilmott

The adjudicators were Mrs. Jones and Mr. Tim Woulfe.

On Tuesday 2nd January at the Holy Rosary Church, Limerick the wedding took place between John Shiels of Lower Main St. and Geraldine Clyne of Gorey Co. Wexford.

The bestman was Tim Shiels brother of the groom and the groomsman was Francis Wilmott. Miss Cindy Clyne and Miss Olive Shiels were the bridesmaids.

The A.G.M. of Rathkeale Festival Committee was held in Geary's Hotel and the following officers were elected for the coming year;

President Rev. Canon Costelloe, Chairman John Griffin, V.Ch. William Fitzgerald, Hon Sec.. Helen Roche, Asst. Hon. Sec. Jack O'Dwyer, Joint Hon. Treasures Peter Donovan and Pa. Sheahan.

The A.G.M. of Rathkeale Handball Club took place at Pasty Doherty's premises on Thursday January 25th and the following officers were elected;

Chairman: Noel Wilmott; V.Ch: John Kelly; Secretary: Jim Langan; Treasurer: Peter Donovan; Committee: Noel Fitzgerald, John Griffin, John Young, Stephen McDonnell, Pat Markham and Michael Hayes.

The Rathkeale Guild of the I.C.A. were awarded first place in the County Final of the Eleanora Gibbon Trophy Competition for drama. The event took place

in Adare on Sunday March 4th. Five guilds entered and Rathkeale won with a total of 95 marks out of 100. The title of the winning entry was "Voices of Ireland" with the script written by Rev. B. Snow C of I rector Members taking part were; Maura Lenihan, Terry Devlin, Irene Donovan, Joan Roche, Monnie Wilmott, Mary Geary, Helen Roche, Margaret Moloney and Josephine McNamara.

The wedding took place at St. John the Baptist Church, Kilcornan between Patrick Maune of Callow Askeaton and Mary Brigid Mulvihill of Kilbreedy Askeaton. The best man was Connie Maune, brother of the groom and the usher was Gerard Ruttle. The bridesmaid was Cait Ryan of Limerick and Mrs Liam Bourke, sister of the bride, was matron of honour.

KNOW YOUR DUBLIN

ANSWERS

1. Chapelizod
2. Dolphins Barn
3. Blackrock
4. Marino
5. Stoneybatter
6. Stepaside
7. Killester
8. Bachelors walk
9. Ringsend
10. Leopardstown
11. Donabate
12. Harolds Cross
13. Coolmine
14. Ballsbridge
15. Crumlin
16. Fairview
17. Cross Guns
18. Windy Harbour
19. Foxrock
20. Knocklyon
21. Kilmainham
22. Portrane
23. Rathmines
24. Lucan
25. Stillorgan
26. Tallaght
27. Merchants Quay
28. Temple Bar
29. Gardiners Street
30. Castleknock
31. Goatstown
32. Inchicore
33. Donnybrook
34. Baldoyle
35. Belfield
36. Dollymount

If you wish to be reminded of original questions, see below.

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

RED CROSS NEWS

The local branch of the Irish Red Cross is going from strength to strength. Cadet first aid classes are ongoing every Saturday morning at the Youth Centre. The senior citizens outing took place to Galway during the summer where a great time was had by all and a number of our members recently received long service awards and certificates. These were presented at a function in October in the Dunraven Arms. Congratulations to all. Unfortunately the records of the society have been mislaid and consequently some of those entitled to recognition were missed out. This situation is now being rectified and it is hoped to have the remaining awards presented shortly.

The annual party for senior citizens takes place at Rathkeale House Hotel on Sunday at 2.30 p.m. We are pleased that 1997 has gone so well and look forward to further progress in the New Year.

We wish everyone - old and not so old - a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

ABRAHAMS

Golfing Society



Results of recent outings include:

Ballyneety in August:

Gents:

1. F. Geary
2. M. Cregan
3. M. Keating

Ladies:

1. P. Noonan
2. N. Dwane
3. A. Keating

Adare in August (Captain's Prize):

Winner: Billy O'Sullivan

Gents:

1. A. Supple
2. L. O'Sullivan
3. M. Cregan
4. G. O'Connell
5. N. Harnett

Ladies:

1. E. Neville
2. C. O'Connor
3. M. O'Sullivan
4. U. Finn
5. M. Hennessy

Gross:

- V. O'Kelly

Gross:

- E. Noonan

Dundrum House in October:

Gents:

1. N. Duggan
2. P. Donovan Jnr.
3. P. O'Sullivan

Ladies:

1. E. Neville
2. U. Finn
3. N. Dwane

Newcastle West in November.

This took the form of a mixed scramble and fortunately was played in excellent weather conditions.

1. J. O'Dwyer, K. Keating, B. Neville.
2. A. O'Dea, P. Ruttle, D. Mooney.
3. J. O'Connor, E. Neville, P. Keating.
4. G. O'Connell, P. Supple, M. O'Sullivan.

Charleville in September (President's Prize):

Winner: Mary Hennessy.

Gents:

1. F. Geary
2. D. Mooney
3. B. O'Sullivan
4. P. Donovan Jnr.

Ladies:

1. E. Neville
2. C. O'Connor
3. M. O'Sullivan

This being the final outing of the year our congratulations and thanks to the Captain: John O'Connor, President: Andy O'Dea and all the members of the committee for their efforts. We look forward to 1998 when we hope to break new ground by playing Killorglin in July.

Ladies Gaelic Football

1997 was a great year for ladies football in Rathkeale. It was decided to take part in under age football for the first time. We started with an under 12 team which, after drawing their first game, proceeded to win all the remaining matches and eventually bring home the county title. The under 14's were next and reached the county semi-final where they played Abbeyfeale in Coolyroe. Our team were by far the better on the day but just could not score. One consolation is that all but two members of the team are under age again next year. Incidentally Abbeyfeale went on to win the final. The trainers and members of both teams deserve the utmost credit for their efforts. It was decided to use the under 14's in the following competition, u/16, in order that they gain some further experience and while it was felt they would be out of their depth they did reach the county semi-final where they were beaten by Glin.

It was then the turn of the Juniors and due to the success of the county team in getting to the Munster final, this competition ran very late. The first game was drawn against Askeaton but for the replay we were short nine players who had returned to college. Askeaton won and were in turn beaten by Ballyhahill in the final. It is hoped the County board will start this championship earlier in 1998.

Looking back on the year we are delighted with the progress the club is making but we would like to see more people getting involved and helping to improve matters. Our thanks to Norita Shire, Ciara O'Sullivan, Joe Williams and John Daly for their tireless work during the year. Thanks also to Seamus Cawley for his fund raising in running the Dublin Marathon and of course to our sponsors and all who supported us. We take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a sporting new year. The club contacts are Joe Williams, John Daly and Ciara O'Sullivan.



The successful under 12 team: Samantha Keogh, Kathleen Lawlor, Jessica Foley, Davina Noonan, Nicola White, Caoimhe Molyneaux, Karen Burns, Aoimhe Lenihan, Ashling Ryan, Orla Murphy, Linda Herwich, Teresa Mulcair, Cora Molyneaux, Niamh Kelly, Marian Solley, Ita Lynch, Clare Barry. Missing are: Megan Kelly and Elaine Harnett. Trainer was Norita White.

MAURICE LENIHAN'S REMINISCENCES OF A JOURNALIST

*An article written on the subject of the Greatrake family of Rathkeale
along with some personal observations*

Maurice Lenihan is famous for his book on the "History of Limerick" which has now been in the public domain for over a century and was republished again in recent years. Less well known are his "Reminiscences of a Journalist" which appeared in Lenihan's own newspaper, "The Limerick Report & Tipperary Vindicator" between 1866 and 1870. Though Lenihan owned this newspaper and despite the fact that it was printed in Limerick, many of the articles related to his native Waterford or Co. Tipperary where he had worked for some time. Those articles that focused on Limerick generally related to Limerick city. However, one article was published on Rathkeale. This was an outline of the history of a family of the name of Greatrakes, representatives of whom lived in Rathkeale from the 17th to the early 19th century and who had a peripheral connection with Lenihan's Co. Waterford. I include some personal observations among the footnotes¹.

Notes on the Greatrakes family²

Published in Edition of June 15, 1869

"... William Greatrakes of New Affane, county of Waterford, the first of the family who settled in Ireland, and the grandfather of Valentine Greatrakes "the stroker"³, occasionally resided in the cities of Dublin and Limerick, between the years 1619 and 1627. This he did for healths sake, that he might consult a Limerick leech (Dr. Thomas Arthur) who is deservedly ranked among the most eminent physicians of his time ... I am enabled to connect with Limerick not only Mr. Greatrakes himself, but his eldest son William.

By a deed of conveyance, dated 23 June 1629(2)⁴, Edmund Southwell of Castlematrasse, county Limerick, granted and assigned to Richard, Earl of Cork⁵, Sir Thomas Browne, Sir Thomas Harris and "William Gratrick", the castles, towns and lands of Castletowne, Arleman, Kilbridge, Cloghgrane, Fahie, Ballylongford, Beagh, Ballynestine, Keppagh, Ballycoghlane, Lisnamuck, Ballinagool, Ballinacurraghe and Cloghcottreel in the county of Limerick; to hold for the residue of the terms of 1,000 years²⁰, to the uses and intents in the indenture expressed.

The neighbourhood of Rathkeale, a town situated about fourteen miles from Limerick was the locality where

the branch of the family I shall describe established itself. I cannot name the first settler, nor am I able to give the year of his coming to Rathkeale, but the descents that follow may be depended upon.

I am indebted to the politeness of James McMahon Esq., Register in the District Court of Probate, Limerick, for permitting the searches in his office.

...Greatrakes was born circa 1650. He married Katherine, daughter of, and by her, who was alive in womanhood, 10 May 1717, he had issue (with perhaps others) two sons and a daughter.

- 1 Edward whose line I will follow.
- 11 John who appears to have died unmarried.

His last Will²¹ which was executed 10 May 1717, was proved at Limerick. It is "No. 7" in the Register. By it he bequeaths to his mother Katherine Greatrakes a certain sum of money, to do therewith "as shee shall think fitt", and the testator recommends her to his brother Edward Greatrakes, "to take care of her during her life". He bequeaths to his sister "Mary Moylan"²², the wife of David Moylan(3)²³, a sum of sixty pounds, and to his sister's (Mary Moylans) three daughters, viz. Katherine, Helen and Bridget Moylan, sixty pounds to be divided equally between them. "He bequeaths to his sister's daughter Elizabeth Moylan, the sum of ten pounds, and to Fr. Patrick Moore²⁴, the sum of four pounds "to be disposed of as he shall think best for the good of my soul"²⁵. He leaves ten shillings to his brother Edmund Greatrakes, and also his leases, bonds, bills, debts, and all the remaining part of his estate, goods and chattles whatsoever, except the household and wearing linen²⁶, which he bequeaths to his sister Mary Moylan, and his niece Mary Moylan alias Forrest²⁷, "to be divided equally between them. His executors were Samuel Robertson and his brother Edward Greatrakes, both of Rathkeale. The will bears date May 10, 1717, and is signed very imperfectly by

John Greaks(4)

And witnessed by

William Barrett, John Sandford, John Stretch.

The John Stretch who appears as a witness was, I believe, the Catholic Pastor of Rathkeale, and Catholic Vicar General at the time. He was a remarkable learned and eminent ecclesiastic, and was son of the Mayor Stretch, who suffered in Limerick during the occupation of the city by Ireton(5).

Administration of this will was taken out on the 1st day of June 1717, as appears by an entry in the handwriting of Z. Ormsby, Vicar General.

111 Mary married to David Moylan, of Rathkeale, by whom five daughters Katherine, Helen, Bridget, Elizabeth and Mary who married Mr. Forrest²⁸.

Mr. Greatrakes died circa 1700. His elder son Edward Greatrakes of Rathkeale. He married Elizabeth²⁹, daughter of Jonas Leake, Gent³⁰, of Rathkeale, and by her, who long survived him, and was buried at Rathkeale, 22 January 1717³¹, he has issue

- 1 Edward, his heir
- 11 John
- 111 Jonas
- IV Norton, bapt. 22 Aug. 1758, buried 7 Oct. 1760 at Rathkeale
- 1 Ellen³²
- 11 Elizabeth married 10 Aug. 1780, to Mr. Robert Deane³³
- 111 Meliora
- IV Jane, married 21 June, 1781 to the Rev. George Rose
- V Mary, bapt. 7 March, 1755; buried 9 July 1757 at Rathkeale

He (John Greatrakes) was buried at Rathkeale, 30 July 1759. By his last Will, bearing the date 26 July, 1759, he constituted John Browne of Deansfort³⁴, Esq (6) and Jonas Leake(7) of Rathkeale, gent, both in the county of Limerick, Trustees. His "dear and beloved wife Elizabeth Greatrakes" received "during her life and for the intents and purposes hereafter mentioned, the lands and tenements which I now hold by lease from Brook Brydges, of the city of London, Esq.³⁵ together with the several tenements in the town of Rathkeale, which I hold under the said Jonas Leake, with all my stock of cattle, household furniture, shop goods, debts and other securities for money, and all the other assets of every kind whatsoever that I am possessed of, to hold unto my said trustees until the following trusts and legacies are fully paid and discharged". He leave a sum of £800 as a provision for his younger children viz. his elder daughter Ellen £200 provided she marries, with the consent of her mother and the trustees; to his daughter Elizabeth £150 under the same proviso; to his daughter Meliora and to his sons John and Jonas and his daughter Jane

100 £³⁶ each under the same proviso; to his son Norton 50 £³⁷, and to his son and heir Edward, he leaves the bulk of his property; which failing to male issue in Edward or in the others "then to revert to the issue female of my said sons, remainder to the elder". In the event of his wife's marriage, he takes from her the dower which he bequeaths and awards her 20 £ a year during the term of her natural life.

This will bears date the 26th July 1750; it is signed in the admirable handwriting of the period:

John Greatrakes

And is witnessed by
C. Smyth
J. Uppington
Jonas Leake

The will was proved at Limerick before the Rev. Dean Hoare, Surrogate, in the Consistorial Court of the Diocese of Limerick, on the 6th October 1759, and is endorsed as "No. 25". There is an instrument attached to it, repudiating the trusteeship on their own part, by the Trustees whom the testator nominated. Mr. Greatrakes' eldest son, Edward, or Edmund Greatrakes Esq.,³⁸ of Rathkeale, married Eleanor, daughter of .. Massey, Esq.³⁹ by whom:

- 1 John, bapt. 16 June 1767
- 11 Michael, bapt. 27 October 1767⁴⁰
- 111 Hugh, bapt. 12 Dec. 1768. His descendants lately lived in Limerick in a humble position⁴¹
- IV William, bapt. 20 Dec. 1766, buried 7 April 1770 at Rathkeale
- V Edmund (twin with William), bapt. 20 Dec. 1769⁴², buried 7 March 1771
- V1 Edmund(2) married Anne, daughter of and had a daughter, Anne, bapt. 9 Sept. 1790.

He (Edward, snr) was buried at Rathkeale, 6 Dec. 1790.

REFERENCES

- 1 Lenihan's article is poorly written and does not appear to have been edited thus it is easy to become confused. Every effort will be made to clarify what appears to have been Lenihan's intent.
- 2 The article is not published in its entirety. I have included only those parts which I view as being relevant to Rathkeale.
- 3 Valentine Greatrakes was a Cromwellian supporter. He earned the nickname of "the stroker" because of the alleged healing power of his touch. He had a reputation of renown in 17th

century Ireland and England, both countries which he toured widely effecting cures. He was summoned before both Charles 11 and James 11 of England, so that these monarchs could witness his talent. On both occasions his cures failed to work. Hugh Thomas, in his book "Religion and the Decline of Magic", states that over 1,000 cures were attributed to him. He left much correspondence which survives to the present day and is held in the British Museum. I do not know if "the stroker" ever visited Rathkeale or if his relatives had settled there at the time he was alive if he had any correspondence with them.

4. Where numbers are inserted in brackets, these are notes inserted by Lenihan and details will be placed at the end of the article.

5. Richard, Earl of Cork, is Richard Boyle. Known to many as "the famous land grabber", Boyle was a close associate of William Greatrakes. Though traditionally Boyle is viewed as one who exploited the lack of legal documentation to Gaelic holdings to wangle the land of native Irish chieftains for his own gain, in truth he exploited the lack of legal title or loopholes in the law of property against all. I suspect that this is what is occurring here. Given the association between Greatrakes and Boyle, it does not appear unreasonable to suggest that the first Greatrake may have settled in Rathkeale as part of the final settlement reached between Boyle and Southwell. If my hunch is correct, then the individual may well have been a son or nephew of William Greatrakes and therefore either a brother or first cousin of "the stroker".

20 Effectively this land would have been alienated for all time from the Southwell estate.

21 This is the Will of John Greatrakes.

22. The marriage of Mary Greatrakes to David Moylan - a Catholic - is a matter of some surprise given the strong stance taken by Valentine Greatrakes at the time of the Cromwellian Wars. It is possible however that at least some members of the Greatrake family were Catholic at this time. The strongly sectarian nature that emerged in some Munster counties as a result of later plantations seems to have been less pronounced in Limerick as the greater part of the County was planted at the time of the Munster plantation. Many of the planter families married into the local dispossessed families so that land frequently passed on in the female line. A number of historians such as Kevin Whelan and Eamon Duffy have commented on the unrecorded role played by women at the time of the Reformation and counter-Reformation. They frequently influenced the religious stance taken by families, if not in the case of their husbands, certainly in the case of their

children. It is possible that such a strategic marriage may have occurred when the Greatrakes originally settled in Rathkeale.

23. The Moylans were an old Rathkeale family. Liam Danaher who was related to the family submitted a history of the Rathkeale family to the Irish Folklore Collection. He suggests that the chief of the West Cork family of the name was offered land in Rathkeale by Sir Thomas Southwell at the time of the Williamite Siege of Limerick. This occurred after he - Moylan - rescued some of the women-folk of the Southwell family from Limerick and escorted them to Rathkeale. The offer of land is said to have been refused at the time. However, after Moylan returned to West Cork and found his lands confiscated and his own life at risk, he decided to return to Rathkeale and accept Southwell's offer. Southwell honoured his commitment. Liam Danaher in his piece boasted that the Moylans were the oldest surviving family on the Southwell estate as their presence in the land pre-dated the Palatines by a number of years. This evidence certainly puts the family in Rathkeale from an early date. If indeed land was got from the Southwells, it was probably got as a result of some favour done for the family. It does appear that the Southwells did have an early presence in West Cork also so that, if it was the head of the Moylan family who was located in Rathkeale, the decision may also have been for political reasons on both sides.

24. Fr. Moore was believed by Begley to have been curate of Rathkeale at this time. He was to succeed Fr. James Stritch as parish priest of Rathkeale. Fr. Stritch, who registered with the authorities as parish priest of Rathkeale in 1704, was 60 years of age at that time, a good age for the early 18th century. It is possible that Canon Begley had this article available to him when writing his history of the diocese, for as will be seen below, one of the signatures of the Will was John Stritch. Lenihan takes this to be Fr. Stritch. Canon Begley suggests that his year of death was roughly 1719. It is possible that a family of the name Stritch, possibly related to the priest, resided in Rathkeale at this time. A list of converts from Catholicism to the Established Church between circa 1743 and 1752 is included in the Rathkeale Church of Ireland records. Among those included in this list is a woman of the name of Stritch, who had or was about to marry a member of that Church. On the basis that this woman was a native of Rathkeale (the marriage is registered in Rathkeale Church), the likelihood of the individual named Stritch being other than the parish priest is strong. Danaher suggests that the

- Moylans may have been related to the Stritches. Indeed he submits that people of that name in the Rathkeale area may have in time adopted the name Sheehy. If this was indeed the case, it is much more likely that the money to look after the good of John Greatrakes soul would have been left to Fr. Stritch if he were still alive at this time.
25. This was a common practice among Catholics at this time.
26. Clothing was a very expensive commodity at this time.
27. This would suggest that one of his nieces was married at the time of his death, suggesting that John Greatrakes was not necessarily a young man.
28. From the evidence available to us, it would appear that David and Mary Moylan did not have a son. The survival of the name Moylan in Rathkeale to the 20th century would, on this basis, have been dependent on another branch of the family. The possibility of the two families being related should not be ruled out. If such was the case, then the presence of Moylans in Rathkeale, may pre-date the time given by Liam Danaher for their commencing residence. Due to personal circumstances the Southwells appear to have been more sympathetic to Catholics in the Cromwellian period than at the later Williamite period.
29. The passage becomes quite confusing at this stage. I suspect that it was actually Mr. Greatrakes grandson named John who in fact married this woman.
30. The Leakes were the family who occupied Abbey House. Local folklore suggests that stones from the Abbey were used in the building of the house. Tony Browne in the town walk he conducted on behalf of the Historical Society suggests that the original entrance to this house was through the gate in Abbey View which leads to the town park today. The Leakes were forced to sell their estate at the time of the Encumbered Estates Act in the late 1840's. The most famous member of the family in local lore is "Yellow" George Leake who was active with Captain Going.
31. In the light of the information about to be given, this is plainly impossible. Either Lenihan was genuinely confused or confusion occurred in printing this piece.
32. The sons and daughters appear to be listed separately.
33. An attorney active in Limerick city in the 1780's went by this name. It may be the same person. Deane is, I believe, the family name of Lord Muskerry. If I am correct in this belief, then it would appear that a connection may have been established with one of the most prominent men in Limerick society of the time through this marriage.
34. Now known as Danesfort, I suspect that this rather than Mount Southwell was the house built for the Rev. Browne when that family first commenced residence in this area. Pat O'Connor in his book "All of Ireland is in and around Rathkeale" suggests otherwise.
35. At the time of the Cromwellian land survey, a Brook Bridges is listed as one of the prominent men of the English interest living in Rathkeale. The land held from Brydges is obviously from a descendant of this man. The maps done by those involved in the Bolton Street College of Technology Rathkeale Town Plan included a map showing 18th century landholding in Rathkeale. It is some time since I've seen this map and when I last saw it the colour shown for the Greatrake holdings seemed indistinguishable from that of another family. I am unable therefore to say where the specific holding was.
36. I is a livre or the equivalent of a £.
37. As can be seen above, Norton died shortly after his father. Infant mortality was high at the time.
38. Begley in Volume 3 of his "History of the Diocese of Limerick", page 66, publishes details of the Convert Rolls - a list of those who converted from Catholicism to the Established Church - among those included is an "Edmond Greatrakes of Co. Limerick, now Dublin, March 18, 1759".
39. No date is given for this wedding. It may have a bearing on Edmond Greatrakes conversion (if this is indeed the same Edmond Greatrake). If he was to come into property - particularly land - as a result of his wedding or a subsequent inheritance from his wife's family, then as the Penal Laws were still in place, there was a possibility that his position might well be compromised. A conversion to Anglicanism, even a token one, could help protect one's land against the work of discoverers.
40. Some confusion also appears among these details, particularly over dates of birth. As the parents are given in the records, then one has to assume the error occurs in the details Lenihan transcribes.
41. As will be seen through information provided by Lenihan, this man's children were being baptised in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Limerick.
42. Again an error occurs here with the date of birth of one of the twins. The date given for the baptism of Edmund appears to be the correct date.
- The second part of Lenihan's article will appear in our next issue.* P. Coleman

TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION

For the first time since the inauguration of the Tidy Towns Competitions Rathkeale reached the highest category the Top Twenty among some 700 entries with a total of 124 marks. The town came second to Dunmanway in the category 1500-3000 population. The prize was £600 and a few extra marks would have turned the tables. It is sad that while nearly every house and shop is well kept and attractive, so few of the townspeople (and country people too) seem to care about the "no man's lands" the roads where there are no houses, the roads and pavements in and around the town.

When it was known that Rathkeale was "short listed" for the Major Award, the chairman of the community council organised litter collection on two evenings every week in August. The response was disappointing - 3 or 4 adults and 5 or 6 children, was the maximum turnout, and it was the same faithful few who managed to keep the town almost 100% litter-free for that period. The County Council gave great help as did personnel from Shannon Meat Ltd. The Residents Association in St. Mary's Park also made a most praiseworthy effort to maintain their area not only during August but at all times during the year.

We all know our "Problem Areas" and there is not much we can do about them, but keeping the town free of litter is very definitely everybody's business, and something we can quite easily achieve if we really put our minds, and our hands, to the task. Now is the time to start, so that long before the first inspection in May or June 1978, the town will be litter free all day, every day.

Miss O'Rorke, Secretary Tidy Towns Committee

TIDY TOWN PRESENTATION - MULTYFARNHAM 1977

Mrs. Hennessy, Chairman of the Tidy Towns Committee, and Mrs. Lenihan, Committee Member, attended the Presentation of Prizes Ceremony at Multyfarnham recently. Mrs. Hennessy, who was very impressed with her visit, wrote an account of her trip for "Deel Views".

" On October 9th two delegates from Rathkeale Community Council travelled up to Multyfarnham to see the tidiest town in Ireland.

At 10.30 a.m. Mrs. S. Lenihan and myself left by coach from Limerick tourist office. We stopped for lunch at Tullamore at 1 p.m. and received a most enjoy meal. While we were having lunch there, we were introduced to all the delegates from Clare, Tipperary, and Limerick and we discussed all our problems with them.

We arrived at Multyfarnham at about 3.30 p.m. We were just in time for the Parade of Bands. The Army Bands and the children's Band from Multyfarnham took part in the Parade. The children were all dressed in green, white and gold costumes and looked very beautiful. The Presentation of Prizes began at 4. p.m. There were prize winners from all over the country there, and each of them received either a cheque, a plaque or a cup.

Multyfarnham is comprised of all old houses, very well-kept, with a population of about 300. It would remind you of a traditional village with window boxes on every window sill, each made from barks of trees and the flowers in them were only beautiful.

The Presentation of Prizes took place in the centre of the village in a lovely garden surrounded by flowers and trees. There were two covered in platforms erected for the occasion. It was pity it rained during the presentation but we were lucky enough to be under shelter in the arena, inside with all the V.I.P.s. After that we had a meal at the Priory. When we were leaving Multyfarnham we noticed, although the village had been thronged with people that day, still there was no sign of any litter on the streets.

We started for home at 6 p.m. and stopped on the way for high tea at Birr. We arrived in Limerick at 12 midnight. What we learned from our visit to Multyfarnham, is that it took real community effort to win the prizes for the Tidy Towns competition. So we ask the people of Rathkeale and the surrounding areas, to make the effort to make our town a tidier town."

TIDY TOWNS 1997 "Caring For Our Environment"

Centre: Rathkeale. County: Limerick. Category: C.

Results Date of Adjudication: 03-07-97

	Maximum	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	200	196

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning your completed entry form. You still need to formulate and agree development plan that will chart progress over the next three to five years. Since the bypass took effect the traffic has been reduced significantly and the main streets in particular have added potential for further improvement. Ideally, you need to involve a wide representation from the community and select ten or twelve items that you could tackle for 1998. Much of the environmental improvements of recent years are being kept to a high standard and this is commendable.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Rathkeale has many fine buildings stretching back over the centuries. The abbey and environs are well presented, but the Tennis Courts need weeding. Some garages are not playing their part and the forecourt of Jim Roche farm machinery should be improved. The Fire Station is well presented and weed control here is good. The dispensary is poor in presentation. D. McMahon has potential to be quite attractive. The Golden Value mart environs are in need of improvement and should be tackled for next year. Rathkeale House Hotel is magnificent and the car park and environs are well laid out and maintained. Peoples Bakery is one of the best shopfronts in this strategic location. Churches and Schools are well presented again this year. Colaiste na Trionoide is also well presented and should further improve with the passing of time. The visitor centre at the old railway station is excellent and provides a valuable service.

LANDSCAPING

You have worked hard in this section and the flower bed treatment on the Ballingarry approach is excellent. Work was in progress here during adjudication day. The major landscaping treatment at the roundabout is praise-

worthy. You have done well in linking the new road with the town and the Rath Caola flower display is effective. As usual the grotto is excellent and free of litter - well done. Throughout the town there is evidence of some excellent individual effort and some commercial outlets have worked hard to achieve such a high standard.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have a part to play in this respect and the river bank area offers scope for promoting wildlife. Also, when planting new shrubs or hedgerows, select a variety that will benefit wildlife in autumn and winter. You might also consider a wildlife project in the school that could raise the interest generally.

LITTER CONTROL

There are pockets of litter in several areas throughout the town and this will need to be tackled if you raise your standards. The town centre is almost litter free but some of the housing estates are not playing their part. Food Stores have a responsibility to supply adequate litter bins and assist in litter control.

TIDINESS

For the most part the town looked tidy. Most of the problems are associated with commercial traders. Some lane ways are very untidy and need attention. Public buildings are well presented and look tidy. The access to the river at the Golden Value shop is very overgrown and untidy and not at all encouraging for a river walk as the stile suggests. One evening with a small work group would improve this black spot. There is a good deal of weed growth in the gutters - these should be sprayed in May.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Abbey Court and Ballywilliam need improvement and

the area where many of the houses are protected with wire mesh have a multitude of environmental problems. Private houses in the town centre and on the link roads between the new and old roads are for the most part very well presented. The terraced houses opposite Rathkeale Motors are excellent with generous bright colours. Developers of new houses should be encouraged to finish well and landscape if possible before leaving the site. Court Villas is a gem and really improves this area. The derelict and unoccupied houses opposite are ideal for urban infill.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surface on the main street is well up to standard and the footpaths are well kept. Signage for the

most part is good. The new black/gold metal signs are attractive in design. Further signs should be bilingual. You also need to identify the housing estates with proper bilingual signs. Many side and rear entrances need improvement and weed control in particular.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town looked attractive on adjudication day and you have done well to maintain the standards of previous developments. With the reduction in traffic you have potential for improvement. Continue with landscape development, add as much colour as is feasible to your approach roads - similar to the Ballingarry approach. Good luck for 1998.

Submission to Limerick County Council by Rathkeale Tidy Towns Association.

1. Walls and Roadsides from Court Villas to Five Roads to be looked at and cleaned. This is the first entry into Rathkeale from Limerick.
2. Abbeylands Housing Estate. Railing broken and unsightly, examine this area and see if something other than timber railing could be placed there. Shrubbery to be planted to enhance green area.
3. Mid Western Health Clinic: Painting and replanting of this area may help to improve appearance.
4. Area near First & Last Bar entrance to Abbey Court to be cleaned and replanted.
5. Tree planting on streets at Abbey View and Abbey Parks sides.
6. Fair Hill - complete area to be planted. Proper footpaths, roads and all dereliction to be removed.
7. Roches Road leading to by-pass should be widened at old quarry and entry to and from Pallaskenry road to be looked at from a safety point. Railings broken and walls in need of rebuilding.
8. The Square is most unsightly and planning the appearance is a priority. Corner Old Stone Cutters' Yard could be a nice area for a street sculpture.
9. Bottle Bank to be relocated.
10. Area leading into car park (by Frank Walsh's) pedestrian walk to be cleaned and examined for improvement of appearance.
11. Tree planting at New Line.
12. Telecom premises at Well Lane should be approached to improve the appearance of their premises - painting?
13. Bottom of Well Lane in front Bríd's Salon - area inside shrubs to be tarmaced, pedestrian crossing, new planted area. Ballywilliam Estate - some of the houses are in shocking condition and more barred up with wire meshing.
14. Wall at Danaghers Cross to be cleaned and improved, also all areas visible from bridge to be planted and landscaped.
15. Slip ways to River Deel to be cleaned and improved, also all areas visible from bridge to be planted and landscaped.
16. Church Street - Tree planting on Street. Gate way into housing estate to be replaced and ground and area between housing estate and No. 2 National School to be examined and improved with planting.
17. Seat at Holy Trinity Church and Church to be floodlit. Wall around Church could be looked at for preservation.
18. Castlematrix - Rath Caola sign in Golden Box Hedging.
19. Open area to Old Road to be maintained as a Park and planted and landscaped.
20. Holy Cross, Kyletaun - Wall from Bog Garden to Ned O'Flaherty's to be rebuilt and wall from Quinn's Corner to Power Station too.
21. Street names on all streets to be erected, Bilingual and exit signs to all areas erected with suitable signage that will be in keeping with what is already there.
22. All people with derelict buildings to be notified to put their premises in proper habitable order.
23. Street shores near Community Centre and Josephine O'Shaughnessy's house causing flooding.
24. Street shores from Old Road Corner to Garda Station be examined, these are loose and a danger.

A note on the 150th Anniversary of the death of Daniel O'Connell

This year marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the death of Daniel O'Connell on July 1st. An Post issued a 32p postage stamp commemorating the event: it portrayed O'Connell standing in heroic pose.

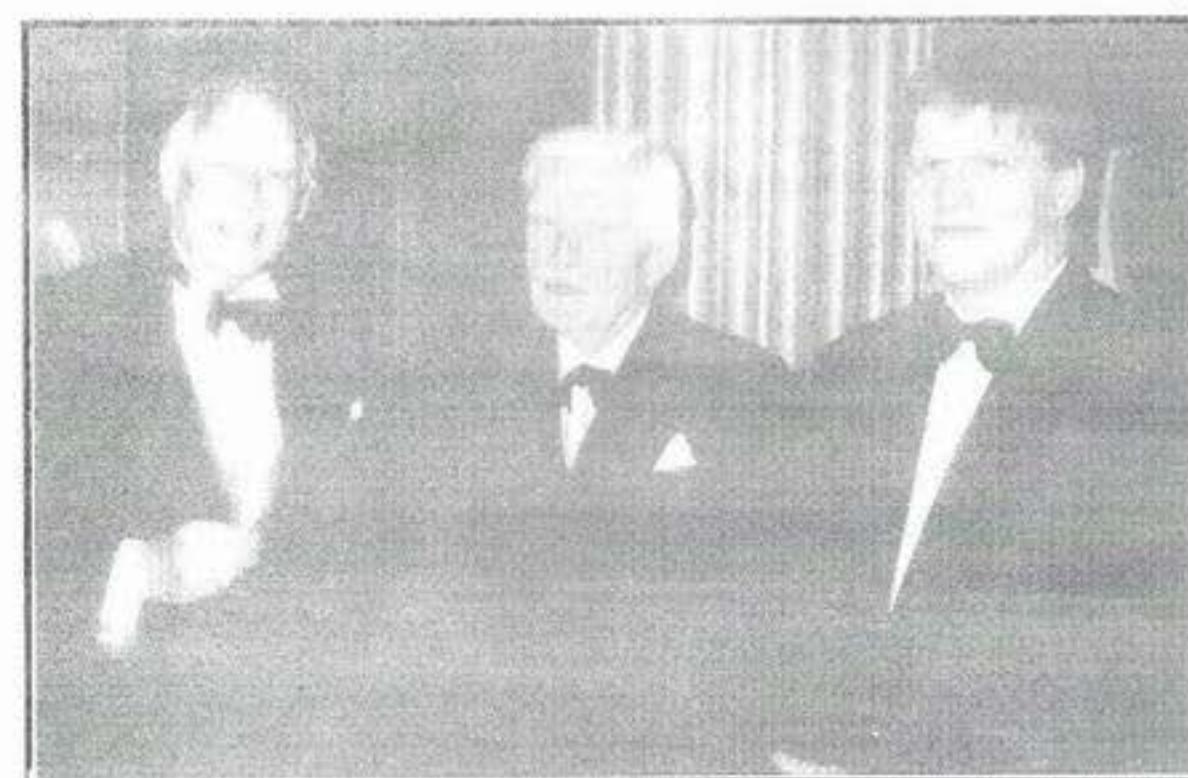
The original of the picture used by An Post hangs in the hall of one of the great London clubhouses in Pall Mall - The Reform Club. That club was founded by the more radical members of what was then the Whig party (soon to be called the Liberal Party) who promoted the Reform Act of 1832 which started the process of democratisation of Parliament. O'Connell's portrait hangs there because he was one of the founders of the club.

In April the secretary of the Reform Club asked the writer (a member and former vice-chairman) to send on a few of the stamps, when available, for the club's archives. This was done on the day of their issue. As a result, the archives of O'Connell's London club contain not only a block of unused commemorative stamps (including the marginal sheet

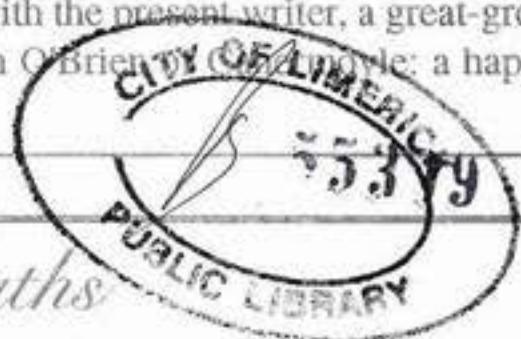


number which philatelists will recognise as significant) but also a first day cover using the stamp, and bearing a clear Rathkeale postmark.

On May 15th (the actual anniversary) the Reform Club gave a large commemorative dinner at which the principal guest and speaker was Mary Robinson, then President of Ireland. The event was covered by the Irish Post (a London weekly) and its short notice was illustrated with three photographs. The first, unsurprisingly, was of the President with the chairman of the club standing in front of the O'Connell portrait. The second was of two distinguished members, Dr.



Garrett Fitzgerald and Robert Kee (together with Miss Fitzgerald). The third photograph includes the Liberator's great-great grandson Dr. Daniel O'Connell K.M., his son, yet another Daniel with the present writer, a great-great grandson of O'Connell's colleague in the House of Commons, William Smith O'Brien; a happy conjunction. (Photo courtesy of Malcolm McNally)



Births, Marriages & Deaths

BAPTISMS: Michael Oliver Enright, Nora Mary Sheridan, Lisa Marie Hartnett, Seamus O'Brien, Erin Annika Jacobser, Eric Alexander Jacobser, Laura Rebecca Barry, Eoin Patrick Kennedy, Nikita Siobhan Kett, Bob Martin Cronin, Shannon Josephine O'Riordan, Ciara Louise Springall, Kelly Evan, Brendan James Tierney, Aoife Marie Stackpoole, Christopher George Mulcahy, Nora Shanise Culligan, Ciara Gwen Dillon, Michael William Hogan.

MARRIAGES: Damien Delaney and Marie Dillon; Michael Patrick Mortell and Michelle Collins.

DEATHS: Stephen Markham, William O'Riordan, Daniel O'Rourke, Hannah O'Grady, Pearl Dollery, Harry Dinnage, Baby Mary Sheridan, Michael O'Neill, Michael Francis Conway.

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

Embry 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