

shop opened Day in 1989 blooming ever owned by Mrs. e and her son, ephen did the ngements for her and Ballina for Christmas. uch admired. Choral Society n boy competi- lyhane on St. y. There was a ere was great o them for win- ravelled all the d surrounding hat night they d the Ballina h social. It was uge jolly occa- Lakeside Hotel, and dancing. uel Costelloe Barbara from ere home in onnelloe, for They attended ss in St. Molu- Michael went to 1953 and this s second time istmas in forty s delighted to

the nurlers and anted the wren ephen's Day arish and Scar- were warmly ywhere. s were scarce d in Killaloe. il were in e- e lunch but in e ever faithful y group came ertained, with ng, which was

was quiet in Ballina. There people home milies for the ullina was very all the Christ- owing. Killaloe. However Santa children were

## KSWELL

VELL national o teams com- Limerick city ool football ear, and both d the finals of tions.

team won its he league by eams from nd St. Senans,

eam qualified -final stages et Scoil Ide, 3-5 to 3-2 as achieved. n was John

Daniel Boyle, John O'Riordan, Padraig O'Brien, Shaun Daly, Gary Murphy, Martin Kiely, Christopher Fitzgerald, William O'Dea, Kevin Buston, David Dundon, Brian McNamara, Denis O'Sullivan, Victor Balfry, Liam Murray, Steven Finnin, Geoffrey Foley, Paul O'Connor, Owen Foley, Michael Geary, Davin Enright, Niall Morrissey, Tony Ryan, John Conway, Keith Griffin, Keith Ahern, Ciaran Foley, Jamie O'Dea. The school's u-13 team also reached the final of it's

nicely for the final by playing Sexton Street (runaway winners of the A division title) twice. Both games were drawn.

In the final, as the game reached the last five minutes, Patrickswell were in dire straits. Fortunately, the "never say die" spirit of the team showed just reward. A burst of three rapid goals soon set hearts thumping.

The last whistle sounded and the 'Well' had snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, albeit by a single point. The team was ably led by Brian Scanlon. He

Keith Murray, Eoghan Murphy, Neil Byrnes, Brian Murray, Keith Griffin, Alan Courtney, Patrick McDonagh, Paul Hennessy, Ross Bennis.

The school carol singers were to the fore in the run up to Christmas. A selection of 5th and 6th class pupils, plus teachers and parents raised money for Cradle, a charitable organisation which aims to alleviate the suffering of children in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The singing was carried out in the local village.

Proceeds of this year's

Santa Claus took time out from his heavy schedule, during his busiest week, to visit the children in junior and senior infants, 1st and 2nd classes and distribute some much appreciated goodies.

The visit was a great success but there could have been chaos around the world, were it not for the deft action the teacher who "rescued" Santa Clause from the boiler house where he got stuck coming down the school's solitary chimney.

# Mannix: still going strong, 50 years on

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

IT'S 50 years ago, this year, since the Limerick Leader's longest-running columnist - An Mangaire Sugach - first put pen to paper.

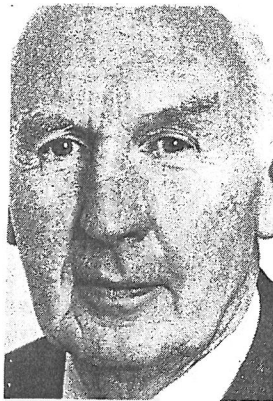
In the years since then, Mainchin Seoighe, the man behind the pseudonym, has become one of the most respected writers and historians in the country, and has been honoured with an doctorate for his literary contributions.

When he wrote his first article for the Leader in 1944, he was too shy to put his name to it.

"I took the first pseudonym that came into my head. It was the pseudonym of the 18th century Maigue poet, Aindrias MacCraith, and I suppose I should have left it to him, but it's too late now to change to another pen name", said Mainchin, this week.

His debut as a columnist, half-a-century ago, came about almost by accident, although his first article had been published two years before that in the Irish Press - an article on Limerick man Peter de Lacy who had emigrated with the Wild Geese and who went on to become a field marshal in the service of Russia.

In the summer of 1944, Mainchin recalls, there was a big carnival in Bruree in



Mannix Joyce: half-a-century of writing. (LL)

aid of the local church. The event included a grand raffle

and Mainchin, who had started work with the County Council got the job of having the tickets printed by the Limerick Leader.

He remembers his first meeting with the then Editor, Con Cregan, - "a big man in every way".

"He gave me the impression of being a very friendly and courteous man," he recalled.

Years earlier when he was at school in Bruree, and later in Kilfinane and Charleville, Mainchin enjoyed writing essays, and had thought "how wonderful it would be to have an article published."

"When I met Mr Cregan, it struck me that he was the kind of man who might publish one of my articles. But when I wrote that first piece, I was too shy to put my name to it," he said.

His article appeared alongside that of another

Bruree man - columnist Tim Hannon who wrote under the pen-name "Rambling Thady." But it was only after the publication of a second article that he decided to disclose his identity, and was promptly invited by Mr Cregan to write a weekly column for the paper.

"And so began my long connection with the Limerick Leader," he said.

His first article was about a travelling man, and began with quotation "An te a bhionn suiltach, bionn se scealtach - The man who travels always has a story."

His pen moved on through local history and folklore, and the competitions which he ran in those days tapped a veritable goldmine of history, as the correspondence rolled in.

Two correspondents particularly, he remembers - Patrick O'Hogan, originally from Clare, who once sent him 38 foolscap pages of history all written in copperplate. Another memorable correspondent was Tomas O Conba, from Dromindeel, who sent him three copybooks of proverbs used by the last Irish speakers of West Limerick.

Mainchin went on to write several books. His biography of Sean Sabhat - "Maraidh Sean Sabhat Areir" caused controversy when the Club Labhair which had selected the book insisted on omitting the verses in the addendum, including most of the poem

by Chriostoir O Floinn from which the title had been taken.

He was author also of "Cois Maighe na gCaor", "History of Bruree", histories of Dromin/Athlacc and Kilmallock, "Portrait of Limerick", "The Joyce Brothers of Glenosheen" and "de Valera of Bruree".

He wrote extensively in many magazines and periodicals, and a series on the towns and villages of County Limerick published in the Aughinish Alumina magazine is due to be published now in book form by the company.

In his early writing days, everything he produced was handwritten.

"The word processor was way down the road in the future," he said. Today he types his work, but always does a draft in pen first.

He has seen many changes in the newspaper business, and makes no bones about saying that he preferred the older ways.

"But I have great regard for the local newspapers. I think they play a very important role."

He has travelled the world, visiting 30 different countries, and his reports from places like Russia back in the 50's, were among the most avidly read features in the Limerick Leader.

And although it is now half-a-century since that first article appeared, the stories continue to flow as fluently as ever from the pen of An Mangaire Sugach.