

## LIFETIMES

## Micheal McKeogh, Ballina

MICHAEL (Hal) McKeogh, Ryninch died recently at the Lake's Nursing Home, Killaloe. A most popular member of the farming community, Hal enjoyed great health up to two years ago. His final illness was borne with courage and resignation. He was a true gentleman and will be sadly missed by his family, relatives and friends.

Large crowds of sympathisers attended Lynch's Funeral Home and the reception service and Requiem Mass in the Church of Our Lady and St. Lua, Ballina.

Following Requiem Mass, which was concelebrated by Fr. Tom Lanigan Ryan, Fr. Ted O'Rahelly, Fr. Hugh O'Dowd (Ogonnelloe), Fr. Pat Malone (Killaloe) and Fr. Seán Mulcahy (U.S), Hal was laid to rest in Templekelly Cemetery.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his sister Tess (Corbett); his brother Tom and sister-in-law, Mary; nieces, nephews, extended family, relatives and friends.

(Killaloe/Ballina)

## Mainchín Seoighe, K'lock

"AN té a bhíonn siúlhaltach, bíonn sé scéaltach". That was the beginning of the first article which appeared under the name of An Mangaire Sógach in the Limerick Leader dated December 2, 1944, an article which would signal the start of a series which would continue for over fifty years. An Mangaire Sógach was Mannix Joyce or Mainchín Seoighe. The proverb tells us that the person who has travelled has many stories and this proverb applied to no-one better than it did to Mainchín.

But his travels have now come to an end as he made the last, great journey to heaven last week. Bruree, Kilmallock, Limerick and, indeed, Ireland has lost a treasure, for, without doubt, Mainchín was a national treasure. Mainchín loved Ireland and all things Irish - the language, the culture, the history - and dedicated his life to promoting all these. Many will remember his Irish classes and his books are an invaluable contribution to our knowledge of our own places.

They will be a fountain of

knowledge for future generations not only of ordinary people but also for scholars and historians. Without Mainchín it is doubtful that the history of Bruree, Kilmallock, Athlaca and other places around his beloved Limerick would have been adequately recorded. He had a great sense of place and his books awakened that sense in many others.

His list of published works is impressive to say the least - Maraíodh Seán Sabhat Aréir, Cois Máighe n gCaor, Bruree, Dromin-Athlaca, Portrait of Limerick, De Valera and Bruree, The Story of Kilmallock, The Joyce Brothers of Glenosheen, The Irish Quotation Book, County Limerick - Its People and Places, Staker Wallis and From Bruree to Corcamohide. All were painstakingly researched and presented in a very readable style. Many have followed his example but Mainchín set the standard and that standard was very high. The importance of his writing and his contribution to Irish culture was recognised by the National University of Ireland at Galway in 1990 when he was conferred with an honorary Doctorate.

Over the years, Mainchín produced more than three thousand articles for the Limerick Leader

in one of the longest running newspaper columns. They usually appeared side by side with those of another great writer, John B. Keane.

These covered the mundane and the exotic, the quirky and the commonplace, stories of Limerick, its history, its people, its folklore, its natural life, stories from his travels to delight and entertain his loyal readers. I am sure there must be at least one book in the archive of these columns. It would not be out of place to quote Oliver Goldsmith in describing Mainchín Seoighe - "And still they gaz'd, and still the wonder grew, That one small head could carry all he knew".

For indeed the Mangaire Sógach had a head filled with information. Mainchín had a seemingly endless fund of knowledge and was always willing to share that knowledge, with fellow historians, with students, with anyone with an interest in Ireland, in history or in their own place. He was generous with his knowledge and with his time.

Though he was born in the parish of Kilmallock, Mainchín had a strong spiritual connection with Bruree. It was here he attended school and from here he took the bus to his job with Limerick County Council in Limerick City.

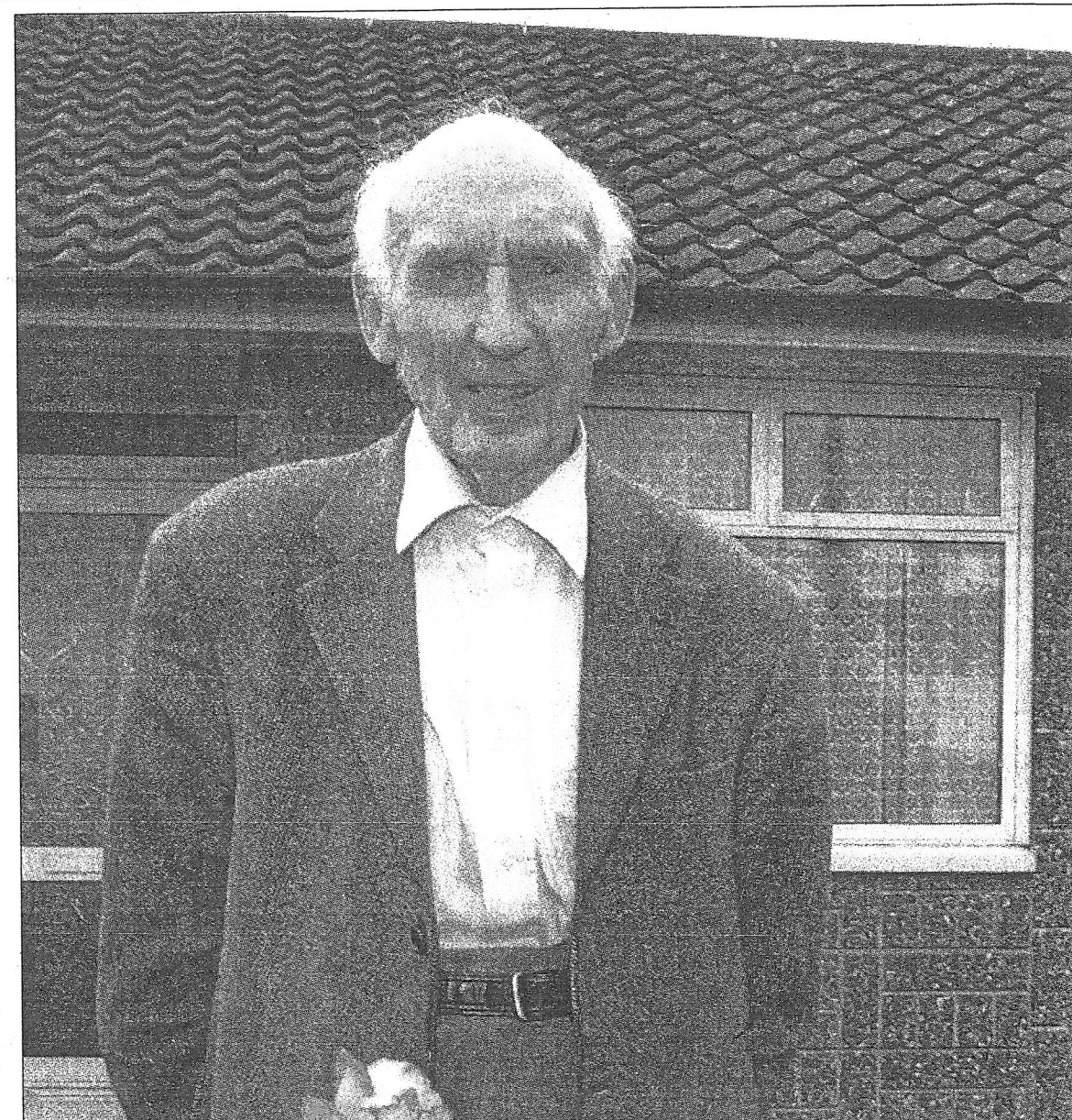
His family's friendship with Eamon de Valera also drew him towards Bruree and when it was decided to honour the former President in Bruree, Mainchín put in a lot of time and effort into seeing that the museum did the man justice.

He was appointed honorary curator of the De Valera Museum. When the museum was refurbished in 1994, Mainchín spent many hours and days writing and proof reading the material for the panels.

He also spent many hours scripting the narration for the video. In 2003, the Bruree Rockhill Development Association decided the time had come to honour Mainchín and dedicated a room in the De Valera Museum and Bruree Heritage Centre to him. Thus the story had come full circle as a room in the school he had attended became Seomra Mhainchín Seoighe.

Mainchín Seoighe will always be remembered as a gentleman, a generous man, a scholar, but most of all a Limerick man, a man who knew and loved the place where he grew up and continued to live. He has given us all a sense of the significance of our own place.

Mainchín is survived by his wife, Proinseas, his sisters, Mary and Nellie, his family and his very many neighbours and friends. (Bruree)



Mainchín Seoighe, Kilmallock

# Festival Fun in Tipperary Town

## this weekend Thursday 13th - Sunday 16th July



Soccer Tournament at Canon Hayes Recreation Centre commencing July 10th until 4th August  
Phone: 062-52022

The festive atmosphere will be extended to Saturday and Sunday 22nd and 23rd of July with the new Ramada Tipperary Racing Festival at Tipperary Race Course featuring the Tote

