




## News

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## IN BRIEF

## Fire tragedy

■ BALLYORGAN is a community in mourning this week following the death of much loved local woman in a fire. Ann Collins, who was in her 60s, died when fire broke out at her home on Wednesday afternoon last. It's understood her husband Michael had gone to get some shopping and was not in the house at the time. Two units of Limerick Fire and Rescue from Kilmallock attended the scene, along with paramedics from the National Ambulance Service and guards from the Bruff division. Ann was originally from Kilfinane.

## Lebanon challenge

■ LIMERICK soldiers from Sarsfield Barracks currently based in the Lebanon are about to undertake a challenge to raise money for local charities, including Milford Hospice. The 115 members of the detachment were due home earlier this month but can't come because of Covid-19 restrictions. They will undertake a series of marathon runs within their compound with friends and supporters making donations through a Go Fund Me page.

## Stolen pups

■ THE theft of puppies in the Abbeyfeale area has been reported to Gardai. According to Crime Prevention Officer, Sergeant Ber Leetch, a man who advertised that he had three border collie pups for sale was showing them to a prospective buyer who asked to see their mother. The man went off to get her and when he returned the buyer and the pups were gone. "If anybody is offered border collie pups for sale they should contact their local Garda station," said Sgt Leetch.

## HERITAGE

## Hunting down memories of Ardnacrusha

by Bernie English

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IT WAS one of the most important and ambitious projects ever carried out in the young, new Republic that was Ireland in the 1920s and it still has a profound effect on life in Limerick and East Clare. Part of the Shannon Hydroelectric scheme, the power station at Ardnacrusha cost one fifth of the entire national budget at the time but made it possible to meet the huge surge in demand for electricity and is still Ireland's largest hydroelectric station. The Hunt Museum is now collecting stories and memorabilia from family connections of those who worked on the project for the 'Ardnacrusha Memories' exhibition which will form part of the Europe@Work initiative in collaboration with the ESB.

During the construction of the plant, approximately 4,000 Irish and 1,000 German men lived and worked on-site at Ardnacrusha.

People willing to share objects and associated stories about the Scheme will be interviewed as part of the initiative.

Hunt Museum Director Jill Cousins said they were asking anyone with connections to the Shannon Scheme to dig out the memorabilia they have of the

experience and tell their stories.

"We are also interested in anyone involved in the rural-electrification scheme telling us how the advent of electricity changed the modes of work."

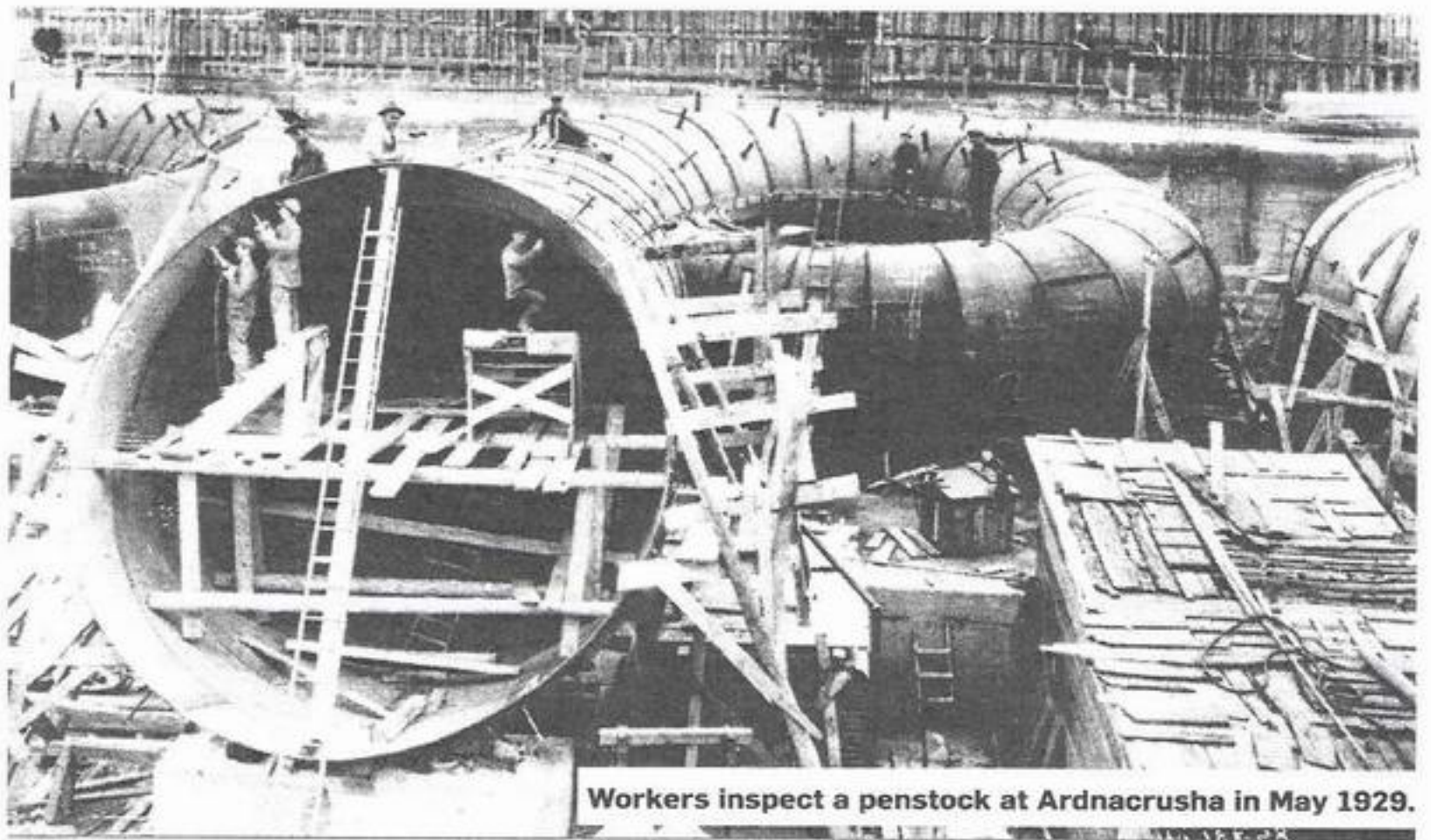
Objects might be photos, diaries, letters, drawings, tools used, reminiscences of the first time electricity came to a home, school or business.

"Normally these collection days take place in cultural institutions where stories are recorded and associated materials are photographed but with the current need for social distancing and staying at home, people will now be able to share their material online or work with a volunteer using Facetime, WhatsApp, Hangouts, Skype or by telephone to

record their stories," Ms Cousins explained.

Museum staff are already calling people who have contacted them and are hoping to host a physical collection day and lunchtime lecture on Saturday, September 26.

Details from the museum at Marketing@HuntMuseum.com or phone 061 312833.



Workers inspect a penstock at Ardnacrusha in May 1929.

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