

# A Limerickman's Diary

By **OBSERVER**

## Limerick's first Girls' Pipe Band takes shape in Ballynanty

Limerick will have its first girls' pipe band later this year. Helping the making of musical history is Ballynanty housewife Mrs. Susan McCarthy, who is watching her dream come true as 40 girls, ranging in age from seven to 15 years, take evening lessons in the local community hall from Army Corporal and Limerick Pipe Band member Tom McMahon.

Mrs. McCarthy got the idea of a girls' pipe band for Limerick during visits to her native Glanworth and watching her smartly uniformed niece play in the Liam Lynch Band at nearby Fermoy.

So impressed was she that she thought of taking two of her daughters to Glanworth to train in the band. And then she asked "why not recruit membership for a girls' band in Ballynanty?"

The idea was well received and in a short time some forty girls reported for training. They included two of Mrs. McCarthy's daughters, Susan (15) and Christina (10).

Particularly helpful were the Parish House Committee at Ballynanty who gave permission for the use of the magnificent Community Hall, and Very Rev. Canon Breen, P.P., St. Munchin's, who co-operated with the project.

It is expected that the band will be ready to give public recitals in about six months time. In the meantime the big problem of financing the purchase of instruments and uniforms will have to be solved. Instruments will cost a total of about £500, and uniforms about £20 each. The money will probably be raised by collections and sales of work.

### Instructor

Corporal Tom McMahon, the band's instructor, has been a member of the Limerick Pipe Band since 1949, and played with the winning combination in the championships at Thomond Park during one of the recent festivals of Limerick. Tom, who lives at 215 Hyde Road, Prospect, told me: "Getting the new girls' pipe

be a formidable job, but I am confident we will succeed." Mrs. McCarthy is wife of Sergeant Owen McCarthy, who is stationed in Sarsfield Bar-

racks. They live at 3 Moylish Avenue, Ballynanty, and have six daughters, Ann, Susan, Christine, Sylvia, Helena and Harriett (the latter two are

twins), and four boys, Patrick, Thomas, Gerard and William.

### Camogie

Mrs. McCarthy has a successful flair for organising, and, in addition to founding a band in Ballynanty, has also started two camogie teams there. Previous to her marriage, she captained Glanworth camogie team for two years and her trophies include a championship medal.

The teams have already given a good account of themselves, and will play Newcastle West in Kildimo next Monday evening in the first round of the championship.

Their coach is Mr. Thomas Bourke, who is attached to the Goods Depot of C.I.E. He is a keen follower of camogie and hurling, and his daughter, Noreen, plays at full-back on the team.

## New Musical Society

Not since the lush days of the 19th century has music flourished so well in Limerick as at present, and now the great tradition moves into the 1970's with the announcement of the formation of a new society in the city.

It will open on St. Stephen's Day with a spectacular pantomime at the Confraternity Centre's new theatre.

The honorary secretary and public relations officer is Mrs. Moira Jennings, and she has been associated with the amateur stage for many years. She says: "The society holds promise of great things in the future."

She added: "At present I will go as far as predicting a Gilbert and Sullivan season." The new society, she told me, will welcome to its ranks



Liam Goodwin . . . playing with St. Brendan's.

## Prominent Player with St. Brendan's

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