

# County Chronicle

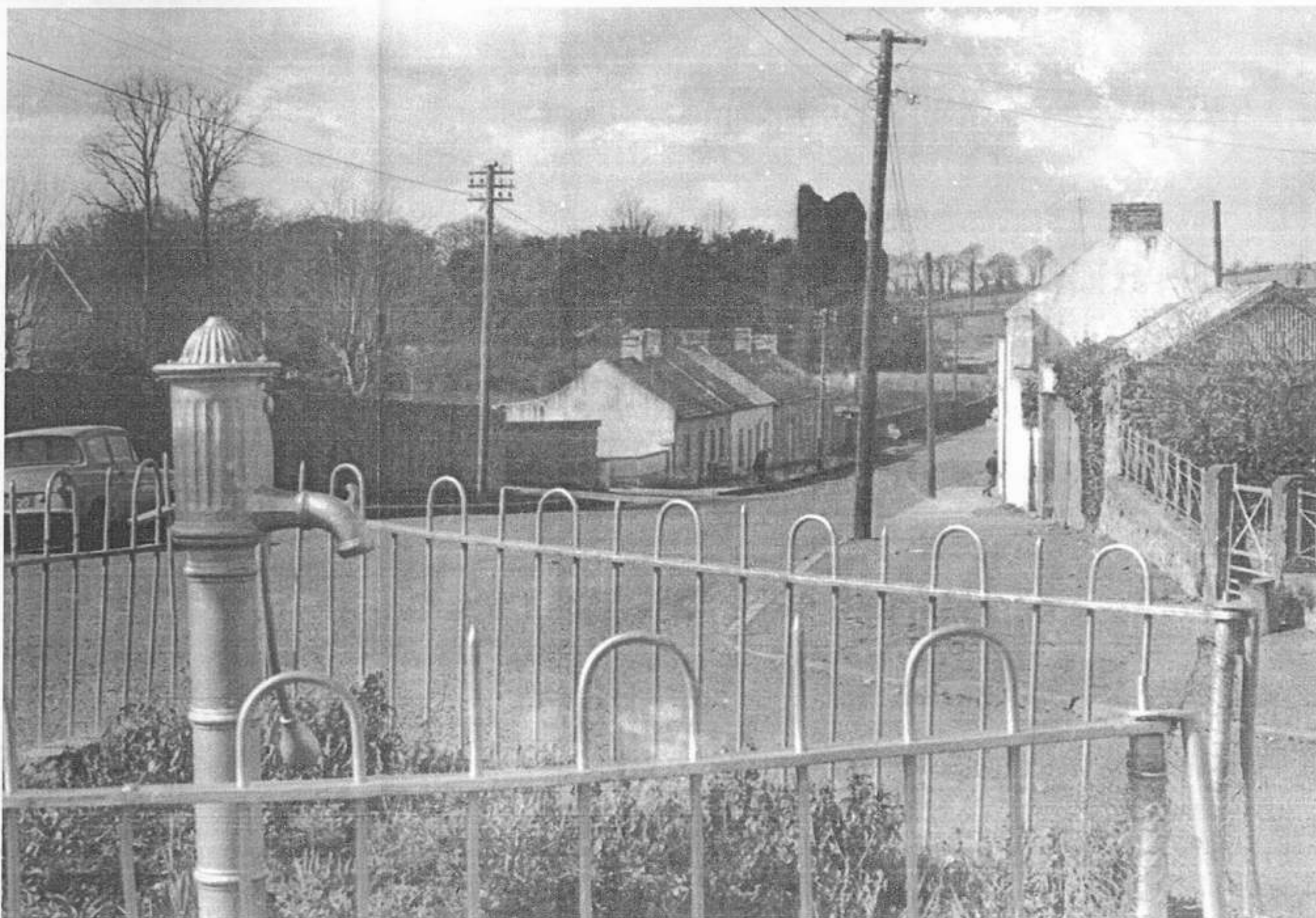


Sean Curtin reveals scenes from Shannonside's storied past

## Majestic scenery in County Limerick

CASTLECONNELL is known far and wide for its unrivalled beauty. The old convent, now the Castle Oaks House Hotel and Leisure Centre was built on the most picturesque site for any hotel in the country. Most popular with wedding parties the Castle Oaks can boast the most magnificent scenery imaginable. Walks along the bank can be so relaxing and peaceful. If one were adventurous one could cross to the County Clare side on the footbridge that was built in the 1940s. These pictures were taken in 1969 and in 1970 and shows the lesser photographed Castle Street (main picture) as well as the Castle (below) and Main Street. on the bottom left is the timber structured footbridge bridge that links Castleconnell with Clonlara and Doonass in County Clare. on the right, under the main picture is the World's End. There was a diving board here for many, many years but is long since gone. Castleconnell Boat Club is situated there.

—Sean Curtin





## Limerick Show fifty years ago: an update



This is not the Golden Vale stand as intimated in our issue of July 8. Pat Brosnan from Ballysheedy was on to tell me that this was a new brand of Milking Parlour that swept the country. Prior to the inception of the New Zealand Milking Machine all milking was done by hand. GVB were the Irish distributors. Those that liked the system called it "God's Very Best" Milking Parlour while those that hadn't taken to it described it as "Going Very Bad". Patrick did say, however, on a more serious note, that the milking parlour revolutionised milking in Ireland. He was also able to name the three men in the picture. On the left is Francie Healy from Abbeyfeale, Billy Quirke who became manager of GVB later on and, on the right is Bob French who sold milking parlours in Thomas Street for many years.

## Harvesting in Mungret, 1954



Like the Limerick Show picture above this shot of harvesting in Mungret aroused a fair bit of interest. A number of people had different views of who the men were but I got a letter from Ralph Drew from Ballyvogue, Askeaton who was able to name the people in the picture and also give a little history. The person driving the second tractor was his uncle Tommy Ruttle from Ballyengland, Askeaton and the person standing immediately behind him was Tommy Stokes, also of Ballyengland. They were cutting corn on the Cement Ltd. farm and 1954 was an exceptionally wet year and the harvester had to have double wheels fitted. Both the second tractor and the harvester belonged to Tommy Ruttle and Ralph expected that the other tractor belonged to Cement. Would anybody know the other men in the first tractor. Give Sean a ring on 061 314584 or drop a line to the Leader at 54 O'Connell Street, Limerick