

County Chronicle



Sean Curtin reveals scenes from Shannonside's storied past

Hospital is now a thriving village

In 1969 the village of Hospital was described by Helen Buckley in the 'Leader' as "combining a large percentage of business efficiency and progress with a shortage of community spirit and social enterprise." The residents probably thought that a bit unkind as they are extremely proud of their village and surrounding area. But like a lot of small villages dotted around the county Limerick city now and Shannon Airport, then, were the main sources of employment for the people of the area. The population at the time these pictures were taken was approximately 800 with O'Sullivan's (buses) and O'Neills (grocery) giving some employment. There were three garages, one bank and a sub office. Today, there are around eleven hundred in the area with two garages and four public houses. Maurice Herr, a native of Hospital, remembers anything up to 18 pubs in the area. The County Development Plan has around 500 houses earmarked for the village and the surrounding area.



Wexford lady, Agnes Roberts was the only lady among a staff of five at the Hospital Creamery Co-Operative. Edmond Crowe had 43 years service in the creamery, which was founded in 1910 with 94 members. Also in the picture are the Carroll brothers, Maurice and James and manager John Moran who hailed from Kilmallock. In the early 1950s the Creamery bought an 88-acre farm for £7,500 and sold it around 1960 for an impressive £21,000 which would have been a fairly sizeable sum of money for the time. The creamery is long closed.



The Crossroads in Hospital Village pictured in September 1969. Inset, Jackie O'Sullivan who managed a fleet of private buses from Hospital. At the time he was reckoned to be one of few private bus operators in the country.