

Local history



Leader Memories

with **SEAN CURTIN**

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Mary Walsh a great County Limerick lady... **Next week** ... more great pictures...

Great County Limerick woman who founded a great Order

FROM the townland of Ardrine, in the western extremity of Knockaderry Parish, in West Limerick, a girl named Mary Walsh, then aged 18, arrived in the United States in 1869 to seek a living there. She was virtually penniless and had very little education and her first regular job was as a domestic to a well-to-do family in New York. She soon got to know the terrible plight of the poor in that great city and began to devote as much time and attention as she could to the relief of their sufferings.

In due course she actually became the Foundress and first Mother General of the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor. She died in 1922 and the members of the great Community she established have since been praying constantly that her life of wonderful sanctity and self-sacrifice be crowned by having her raised to the Altars of the Church.

Comparatively very little is known of the girlhood years or family background of Mary Walsh. Her father's name was John Walsh but that of her mother is not recorded. It is understood she was from another Irish county. John was the only boy in a family of five children. His people lived in Ardrine but he was driven out by the economic pressure following the famine years. He went to London where Mary was born around 1850. Both parents died of black diphtheria when their little girl was only three years of age. Mary's grandmother travelled

This unsigned article appeared in the Limerick Leader of Saturday, April 3, 1954 outling the life of one of Limerick's greatest women. Mary Walsh was reared in Ardrine, "in the western extremity of Knockaderry". She was the founder of the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor of the Immaculate Conception and are still based in several cities in the US where Mary Walsh and her two founding mothers are based in Gaylord Street, Denver, Colorado where Mary Walsh would be extremely proud of their work for the sick and the poor

Included also is the heading from the Limerick Leader of April 3, 1954

intimate contact with the suffering of the poor in the grim slums of New York. She never lost an opportunity of bringing any relief she could to the helpless, sick and indignant in the appalling hovels in that city.

After years of such charitable activities which entailed much hardship and actual privation to her, she began to gather around her a few other girl workers with a bent for the same sort of charitable effort.

AN INNER COMPULSION

She and her co-operators were remarkable women. In order to bring help to suffering poor they often endured hunger and cold and want themselves and quite frequently slept on the floor of their own fireless abodes.

Eventually, the time came when Mary Walsh - as he biographer puts it - "felt an inner compulsion to leave the world entirely and seek a life of complete renunciation and dedication as a nun."

From that time on her life was one of remarkably heroic devotion to the poor. Her charity was boundless and her wonderful perseverance and

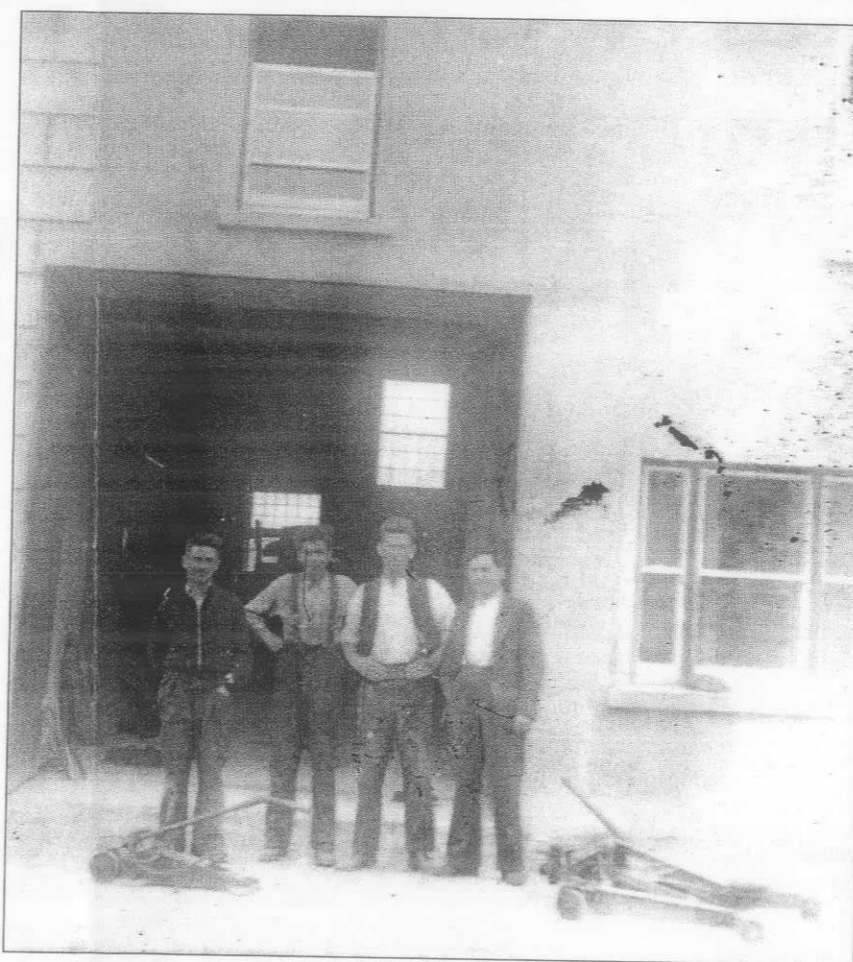
case.

She had many bitter trials, however, and was well tested in the furnace of tribulation and disappointment. She was consumed by selfless charity and nothing daunted her when something special was to be done in pursuance of the great mission of goodness she had undertaken.

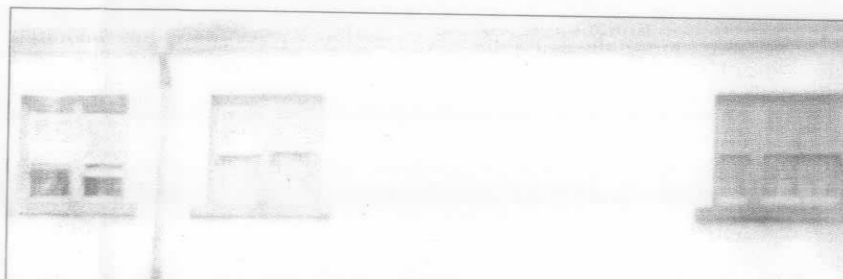
"A CHOSEN SOUL"

Father McNicholas - afterwards Archbishop - once said of this remarkable woman - "her willingness to wait and her confidence that God would bless her work impressed me beyond measure. I could never forget her deeply religious character. She was a chosen soul in every sense of the word."

Sister Mary had great difficulties to contend with in getting her Order of the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor fully recognised by the Church authorities. She ultimately succeeded to the full, however, in getting the highest recognition and approval. The official diploma of affiliation with the Dominican Order, with formal permission to don the Dominican Habit, arrived from the Mother General in



Local Studies This is the third series of pictures from the archives of the County Council Local Studies Department. Tony Storan, the Archivist, has kindly loaned some of their treasure trove. The glass negatives were found in the old County Council offices in O'Connell Street. Nobody knows where they came from and where the pictures were taken or by whom. We can confirm that there is a date of 1937 in one picture. If anyone knows where the pictures were taken email me at the address at the top of the page



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LIMERICK LEADER, SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1954

Great Co. Limerick Woman Who Founded a Great Order

FROM the townland of Ardrine, in the western extremity of Knockaderry Parish, in West Limerick, a girl named Maray Walsh, then aged 18, arrived

back to Ireland.

Mary was brought to Ardrine where she lived with her grandmother and as unmarried aunt until she was 18 years of age.

OLD RESIDENTS GONE

All the old residents of Ardrine who might be in a position to throw more light on Mary's relatives and early life in Ireland have long since gone to their reward and therefore very little information is available on these matters.

It is known, however, that Mary went to school both to St. Catherine's Convent, Newcastle West, and also to the National School in Castlemahon.

When old Mrs. Walsh, the grandmother, died, her brother, who had been in the United States for some years, came back to Ireland. On his return to America he took Mary with him to his home in Pennsylvania where his wife and family lived. She stayed with them for less than a year as her uncle's wife was not an easy woman to get on with.

LEFT FOR NEW YORK

She then left for New York, where she took up employment as a domestic servant. Her special forte was laundry work at which she was an expert, being also deft at all kinds of needlework. Her work eventually brought her into

ing. The story of all she did and endured for the love of God and His suffering poor is an astounding as well as an edifying record. It is admirably told in a most interesting life of her published in 1950 by Harper and Brothers, Publishers, New York, under the title *Such Love is Seldom*. This fine work was written by Anne Cawley Boardman, mainly from notes jotted down by Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, OP, Archbishop of Cincinnati, some time before he died early in 1950.

ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT WOMEN

From the details given of all she did for the sick and the suffering poor, and how she did it, it is abundantly clear that Mary Walsh - or Sister Mary Walsh OP, as she duly became - was not only one of the world's great women but one of the greatest. Her understanding of human needs was as great as her sympathy with human suffering and affliction. One of her outstanding characteristics was her unshakable faith in God's help in her work. Time after time she was faced with difficulties and problems that looked absolutely hopeless of solution. She faced them all with courage and confidence and help that could be regarded only as something in the nature of the miraculous came to her aid in practically every

A FITTING TRIBUTE

The diploma gave the new Order the title of the American Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor of the Immaculate Conception. Sister Mary's heart overflowed with happiness and was a fitting tribute to her greatness that she was made the first Mother General of her Order which has now several branches in the United States.

Mother Mary died on the 6th of November, 1922, after a long life which was a truly impressive saga of heroic charity and personal suffering and sacrifice for God's poor and afflicted. At the end of her singularly readable and elevating book, from which the foregoing inadequate summary is mainly compiled, Anne Cawley Boardman has the following special declaration: "I hereby declare that in conformity with the decrees of Urban VIII respecting the Canonisation of Saints and the Beatification of the Blessed, I do not intend to give the facts or expressions contained in this book particularly such expressions as 'saint', 'sanctity', 'miracle,' any other sense than that authorised by the Church to whom judgment I gladly submit in advance."

There was no bye-line to this article



FIRST TIME BACK AFTER ABSENCE OF 43 YEARS

OUT OF THE NAVY

By ROB

Do ar For

SUCCESSFUL APPEAL BY BOOKMAKER

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FROM the townland of Ardriane, in the western extremity of Knockaderry Parish, in West Limerick, a girl named Mary Walsh, then aged eighteen, arrived in the United States in 1869 to seek a living there. She was virtually penniless and had very little education, and her first regular job was as a domestic to a well-to-do family in New York. She soon got to know the terrible plight of the poor in that great city and began to devote as much time and attention as she could to the relief of their sufferings. In due course she actually became the Foundress and first Mother General of the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor. She died in 1922 and the members of the great Community she established have since been praying constantly that her life of wonderful sanctity and self-sacrifice be crowned by having her raised to the Altars of the Church.

AMONGST recent American visitors to West Limerick was Mr. Edmond Dalton, a native of Coole, Athea, who was paying his first visit to Ireland after 43 years exile in Chicago (writes a staff reporter of the "Leader"). A retired official of the Chicago Street Car Company, Mr. Dalton is brother of the late Paddy Dalton, who was brutally murdered by British Crown Forces in Gurtaglanna during the height of the fight for freedom. One of Mr. Dalton's first and long deferred acts on returning home was to pay his sad respects at the memorial which has been erected at Gurtaglanna, where his brother and two other young Volunteers were brutally beaten and battered before being done to death by a party of Black and Tans who came on them by surprise. Although unarmed at the time the young victims of the shocking outrage were tortured for hours before being riddled with bullets by the Tanes. Mr. Dalton sought to force from them information as to the whereabouts of their I.R.A. leaders in the area.

THE Society for National search was founded in 1911 encourage research into antiquities, into matters relating to seafaring and ship building among other things, and also into the language and customs of the sea, and into other subjects of nautical interest. Among the major achievements was the recovery of over £10,000 to restore the flagship, H.M.S. Victor her appearance as at the Bat (Trafalgar). However, even her author inclined, the editor, kindly on an encomium on British Navy in this column, all would, I feel sure, give a warm welcome to the current number of the Society's Quarterly, "The Mariner's Mirror", which contains a masterly and most able account of "Penn's Expedition to Bonratty (sic) in 1646."

SIR WILLIAM PENN. Besides being the father of Pennsylvania, the founder of Quakerism and Pennsylvania, William Penn is renowned for his own right, for he was a great captain of the British Navy. Penn was meant and exonerated frequently referred to in the diary. True, these references are not always complimentary but Penn was Penn's boss and sometimes to perhaps to find with him, and sometimes, it is to interfere inconveniently some of Penn's notorious schemes for his own profit. Although they often dined to Penn's describes him in the diary as "a counterfeiter, cunning rogue," "a very cunning, crafty, and evasive critical rogue," "a cowardly coxcomb," "a very villain, falsest rascal," and "as if fellow as was ever born." He was married Margaret, the daughter of John Asper of Rotterdam. I believe, settled in Co. To Penn's she was "the old woman."

PURITAN AND CAVALIER. Again, according to Sam Penn was meant and exonerated rigid economy in his own hold; and yet he describes "a jovial companion, fond of and of telling a good story, a song." He was a Cromwellian and having survived Cromwellian Regime, he off services to King Charles, return, was Knighted, Restoration and made a member of the Navy. He committed to the "Power of and on release, had spent his time on his Munster awaiting the return of a

THE CONFEDERATE. Like all the other Catholics of the time, the Clare supported the Confederacy. In Inchiquin, was an exception was conspicuous for his activity and military skill, ruthlessness earned him the famous nickname of "Mortimer." At one time he was a Confederate Catholic, and having changed his and religious creeds no four times, he died a Catholic relative, Barnaby Thomond, and owner of which was no less wavering in his principles. In endeavor force him to join them, he had no rent, and the tered his estates for the benefit. His position

which now enjoys most amenities, including water light, fine roads and splendid houses replacing the old hovels that were prevalent during his all too brief stay in the country. Mr. Dalton, with his sisters, Mrs. M. Cregean, Mrs. Foley, Listowel, Mrs. John Dalton, Sally Hill, Dalton, Carrickerry, and Dalton, at the old home

AGAIN DEEPLY MOVED. Mr. Dalton was again deeply moved when on the night before his return to the United States, after a rather brief holiday, he was the guest of honour at an American "Wake" given at the home of his brother, Dick, at Coole. In accordance with an old local custom, friends and neighbours gathered to wish him well and bid him a safe journey. The traditional programme of Irish music, song and dance included the rendering by a local tenor of that ever popular ballad, "The Valley of Knockanure," which recalls in touching words and plaintive melody the tragic story of one of the blackest nights in the history of West Limerick. For the first time in over half a century the veteran 65-year old American exile visibly broke down as the singer, with deep emotion, recalled the sad home coming of the remains of young Dalton to his broken-hearted mother, who had since gone to join her dead patriot son.

PLEASANTLY SURPRISED. But it wasn't all tragedy for the welcome visitor from far off of Chicago, whose visit also enabled him to renew acquaintances with four surviving brothers and two sisters. Mr. Dalton was very pleasantly surprised with the remarkably improvement in conditions in this country since he left home in 1911. Most, if not all, of his youthful acquaintances were dead or gone but there were quite a few happy family reunions, with numerous friends and relatives to share in the rejoicings. And imagine Mr. Dalton's pleasant surprise when he came across an old friend and former fellow employee of the Chicago Street Car Company, Mr. Michael Hanley, a native of nearby Roeskagh, and now, in his retirement, farming near Knockaderry. The occasion, needless to add, called for a happy reunion between the two old friends in a well known Knockaderry establishment, with old Chicago as the main topic of conversation.

HOPES TO PAY FURTHER VISIT. Mr. Dalton has now returned to Chicago via Shannon but he hopes to pay a next three or four years visit to learn more about the old country from which he has been exiled for most of half a century. A widower, he served for three years with the American forces in France during World War No. 1. He has four brothers and two sisters still living in this country, which he still loves very much, and of which he is very proud.

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DECLARATION. At the end of her singularly readable and elevating book, from which the foregoing inadequate summary is mainly compiled, Anne Cawley Boardman has the following special declaration: "I hereby declare that in conformity with the decrees of Urban VIII respecting the 'Canonisation of the Saints and the Beatification of Blessed, I do not intend to give the facts or expressions such as 'miracle,' 'saint,' 'sanctity,' 'miracle,' any other sense than that authorized by the Church, to whose judgment I gladly submit in advance."

Rev. John T. McNicholas, O.P., Archbishop of Cincinnati, some time before he died in 1950. ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT WOMEN. From the details given of all she did for the sick and suffering poor, and what she did it, it is abundantly clear that Mary Walsh—or Sister Mary Walsh, O.P., as she duly became—was not only one of the world's great women but one of the greatest. Her understanding of human needs was as great as her sympathy with human suffering and affliction. One of her outstanding characteristics was her unshakable faith in God's help in her work. Time after time she was faced with difficulties and problems that looked absolutely hopeless of solution. She faced them all with courage and confidence and help that was regarded only as something in the nature of the miraculous came to her aid in practically every case.

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ALFRED Joseph Hogan, Toureen, Ballysimon, Co. Limerick, successfully appealed at Newmarket-on-Fergus District Court on Thursday against the refusal of Supt. J. S. Flynn to grant him a licence in respect of bookmaking at Newmarket-on-Fergus. Mr. T. A. Lynch, solicitor, for applicant, said defendant was not present as he had gone to attend races, but he had to attend Court. "And it may be a serious loss to other people when he goes to Clonmel," said Justice Gordon Hurley, amidst laughter.

NO APPEAL TO HIGHER COURT. Mr. Lynch pointed out that the decision of the Justice on the appeal was final as there could be no further appeal to a higher tribunal. The Superintendent objected on the ground that there was already in the maker's premises and as far as Ennis on one side and as far as Limerick on the other side, the premises that the valuation of the premises to be licensed was less than 25. The Court was in discretion to overrule these objections.

Inspector McCarthy, for Superintendent Flynn, said he had never been intended by the legislature that there should be a betting office in every hamlet in the country and there was telephonic communication between Newmarket and Limerick, and Ennis. The population was roughly 600, according to the last census. There was no objection to the premises as a premises.

THE "BOB-EACH-WAY" MAN. "But," protested the Justice, "what about the man who wants to put a job on each way? He is not usually so flush as to telephone his bets."

Mr. Lynch agreed and said it was from everybody that a bet by telephone would be taken by a bookmaker. Another matter was that the population of Newmarket had increased in recent years due to its proximity to the Shannon Airport. The Justice said it was agreed that there was no betting premises between Newmarket and Ennis or Limerick. It was also agreed that there was no objection to the premises themselves. Accordingly he had decided to grant the application.

Airport Chapel To Have Stones From A Hundred Shrines

Stones from sacred edifices in 100 countries will be used in the erection of an outdoor shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, which will form part of the proposed Roman Catholic chapel at Idlewild International Airport in New York (says the Catholic Library Information Bureau in Dublin). The stones, which will be brought from overseas free of charge by the airlines using the terminal, will each be one foot square and will be accompanied by a photograph showing its origin.

Among the famous places from which the stones have been obtained are the Basilica of the Good Jesus at Goa, Portuguese India, where the body of St. Francis Xavier rests; the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico; and St. Hedwig's Cathedral in East Berlin. Plans for the Chapel and the Shrine have been drawn up by the Catholic Guild of the airport, which has some 2,500 members among the airlines and customs staffs.

POPULAR APPOINTMENT

Mr. "Brud" Slattery, N.T., a popular and well-known golfer who figured in a number of important competitions, has been appointed Secretary of the Lahinch Golf Club.



53, give a good celebration of indications that better and more st year will be

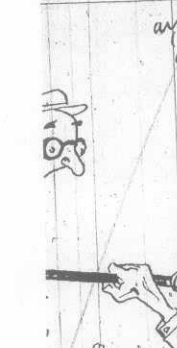
AY, 9th MAY: Annual Parade and Match. ATTRACTIONS. For the above, the City Committee are sponsoring Competition and will be held during an attractive dances, exhibitions, details of which have not yet been completed, and organised. A compiled list of events available within the next few days. The Committee are undertaking a collection

TE LIGHTING. Committee's intention to enable for the lighting, throughout this year, that in future years, of an An Festival, the times of the year, stive occasions, this present will be available nominal charge, it o run the strip-lighting Clancy Strand this ble, and if the funds d raft will also be on year.

ENT GUSON. RNING OF A NEW Department at their onnell St. 1954. TEL. 206.

ES 2/6. MOST NEWSAGENTS SIGN IS EXHIBITED HILE YOU WAIT. SUCCESSES FOR 14 SWEEPSTAKES.

Advertisement for 'HOME AND DRIED WITH £50,000' featuring an illustration of a man in a hat.



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