



Leader Memories

with **SEAN CURTIN**

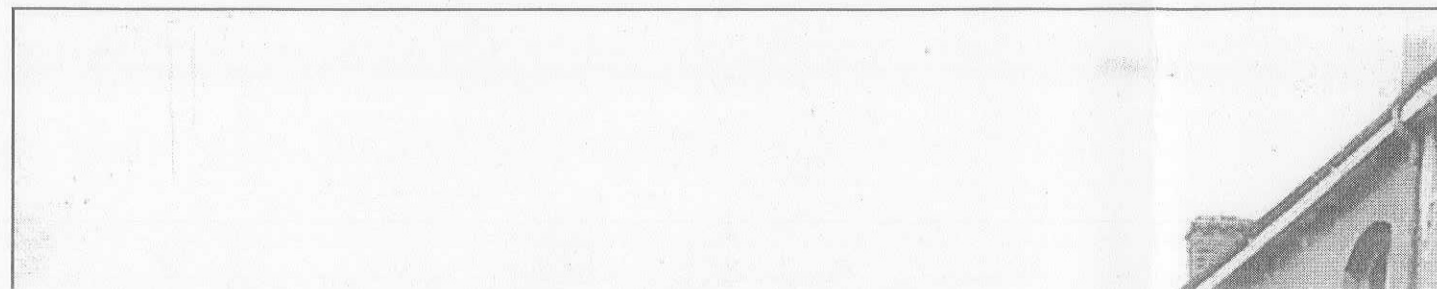
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Rose Ryan's Reflections on Mungret and Newcastle... **Musings** from Mountcollins... **Next week**... don't miss more great local pictures



Cotter's Shop, Mungret

Rose Ryan, that extremely generous lady who keeps supplying me with pictures, emailed these gems only during the week. Top picture is of Cotter's shop in Mungret and I (and Rose) would like to know who the people in the picture are. Her grandfather, Willie Leahy, was working for the Irish Times as an advertising rep but loved photography and anywhere he went he "snapped" locals and places. Like the Leader his contribution to social history is immeasurable. Pictured below is a fantastic picture of Bridge Street in Newcastle West. Both pictures were taken in the mid 1950s.



Mountcollins, the friendly village

MOUNTCOLLINS - the last outpost in West Limerick - is as a friendly a place as it is picturesque. We also found it a most interesting place on the occasion of our visit this week. The first person to greet us was 73 years old, Mick Roche, whose home is at Knockulcare on the outskirts of the village - one of the most likeable characters in the village.

An old stager who has worked at most trades, Mick has many memories of Limerick of almost forty years ago. At that period he was working on the Power Station at Ardnacrusha and can recall many of the interesting incidents associated with this outstanding development in Irish industrial development.

THE LONG ROAD

But for Mick there is one memory in particular that stands out above all others. It was the occasion that he had to walk from Abbeyfeale back to Limerick, a distance of 40 miles or so. "I never gave it much thought," he recalled, "and just kept on walking. The only time that I found it any way hard was whenever I passed the door of a

In the 1960s the Limerick Leader's Tom Tobin and photographer, Donal McMonagle, travelled the length and breadth of County Limerick for our series called "Leader Newsreel". On March 28, 1964 the following little article appeared on the "Leader". The articles were really musings and chats with the local community rather than any in-depth history of the area. They are now a treasure-trove of social history that would have long since gone were they not so expertly and lovingly compiled.

public house I would long for a big pint, but didn't have the money to buy one at the time." Mick's wife, Annie, is still hale and hearty. Their family is scattered today but their happy home is a place of many memories. Mary is in America; Eileen is in Belfast, Joan is still in the area, Peig is in Tournafulla and Nancy is in Ahane.

Mick told us many interesting stories concerning his area and his comments on various matters of general interest were wonderful.

VETERANS

Another personality we met

was Mr. Denis O'Connell of Mountcollins. A veteran of the struggle for Independence, he served with Lieut. David Denihan, father of Sgt. Connie Denihan of Sarsfield Barracks, and is still in the best of form.

Denis recalled the day that he and many of his comrades visited Limerick for the arrival of the "American Delegation" who came to the city to address the Volunteers. It was a memorable turn-out, he said but he will never forget the manner in which the British on motor cycles patrolled the streets speeding so close to us that they nearly cut the toes off us.

