

SHANNON MEAT GAZETTE



Volume 1 No. 3. April/May 1976.

Telephone : Rathkeale 49/50.



"The voice of Shannon Meat" Miss Helen Magnor telephonist "passing on" an external call to the requested department.

LIVESTOCK TOPICS STOCK IDENTIFICATION

by Donie Donovan,
Livestock Procurement Manager

When one thinks back over the years and looks at the tagging system introduced by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in the early days of the Bovine Tuberculosis Scheme, it takes one back to the mid '50's. This was a tremendous break-through for both man and beast. Prior to that, we had the ear tattoo which was an extremely laborious job, slow and difficult to read at times. A tremendous amount of work has been put into the system to keep pace with eradication of disease and the various incentive schemes down the years.

The days of the raddle stick and scissor marks are slowly disappearing. They served their purpose well in an era when numbers were smaller and for the want of a better system.

Today, the whole system depends on the animal's tag number, commonly known as the T.B. tag, corresponding with an Identity Card, be it blue, red or yellow. From time to time, herd owners mislay cards or tags occasionally fall off animals. This problem is easily solved by contacting the local district veterinary office and having the animal re-tagged. It has been argued time and again if all this is necessary, since the animal was being slaughtered. The answer is simply yes it is, because the law says so and one could never regard this as red tape.

FACTORY TAG

The increase in herd size down the years brought larger numbers to the factories and so the idea of a factory tag was born. This tag must not be confused with the T.B. tag number. Our factory tag, as well as having a selection of colours is at least 3 times as

large as the T.B. tag. The figures are legible at a considerable distance depending on one's eye sight. Around this was built a whole new system identifying each animal on arrival, through it's T.B. tag number, tagging the animal with a special factory tag and co-relating same to it's T.B. tag number also the keeping of records for a minimum period of time.

It may well be argued that the system is only as efficient as those who operate it. This may be so but the producer also plays a very vital role by having the necessary correct cards or permits available at entry of stock to the premises.

An amount of information has been fed back to suppliers of stock over the years by following the animal's performance, through it's respective tag number.

This service is available on request to any supplier who may be interested. All it involves is inserting the T.B. tag number on the statement of Account as well as the factory tag number. If the supplier is to gain anything from this, one needs to be able to identify the animal's individuality through it's T.B. tag number. This, of course, involves the keeping of more records.

To finish on a lighter note, one is reminded of an incident which happened a good number of years back. In spite of having the same identification system then, as we have now, a supplier prior to loading his animal for the factory, sat down and wrote a note, put the note in an envelope and strapped it to the animal's horn with a bit of string. Not a very reliable way of communication. Nevertheless, the message did get through on that occasion.

HOME FREEZER SERVICE

Home Sales as the name suggests, caters for the home market as opposed to the export trade. From a humble beginning it has grown in size to the stage where it now contributes substantially to the yearly turnover of the factory as a whole. The old saying, "You must crawl before you walk" has real significance for this Department. It now supplies a substantial amount of carcass beef to the butchering trade weekly and also services the Hotel catering and institutional trade. Selected cuts such as beef fillets, sirloins & ribs which were once prepared for export are now all sold at home.

Shannon Meat Ltd., has an early appreciation of the importance of the home-freezer market. They realised that this expanding operation offered an ideal opportunity to the meat processing industry for further slaughtering of prime heifers and sheep and a resultant increase in turnover. We have procured our reasonable share of this market which continues to grow daily. We sell sides of beef, Fore Qtrs., Hind Qtrs., and pack of beef and lamb for this trade. Our quoted price is inclusive of cutting, packing, labelling and bagging. Our standard cutting method is approximately 3 lb. pieces but in our endeavour to meet all customer demands we try to meet personal cutting specifications where ever possible. Our aim is to give efficient service at competitive prices.

ADVANTAGES

The advantages to the housewife when she purchases her meat from us are as follows:-

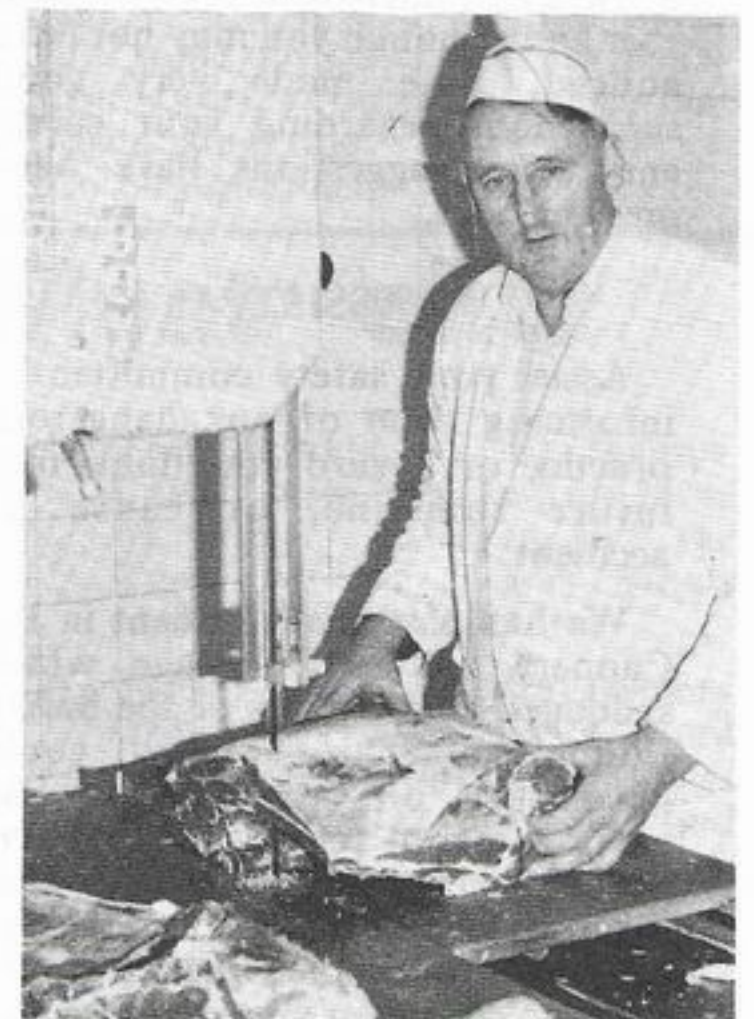
- Each animal killed is subjected to strict post-mortem inspection from a Dept. of Agri. Veterinary surgeon before being passed fit for human consumption.
- Cleanliness and hygiene are of paramount importance and indeed strict conditions and standards are laid down and carried out to comply with E.E.C. & U.S.A. regulations. Periodic inspections by professional officers of the aforesaid communities are carried out.
- Adequate chilling is always available allowing the beef to hang for a desirable period, for ageing purposes, at proper temperatures.

(d) Meat is blast frozen prior to collection or delivery. This, in opinion, is the greatest single asset to the housewife. She can be assured of having her meat frozen solid in the shortest possible time and does not have to bother with the super freezer portion of her home freezer except for storage purposes.

(e) Meat is delivered free of charge to customers in a line between the factory and Limerick city.

Owners animals, both cattle & sheep are also slaughtered and prepared in the same way as meat purchased from the factory. Here, the blast freezing facility cannot be overstated. The full carcass can be collected, packed in cardboard boxes, taken home in the booth of the car and placed immediately in the freezer cabinet. Any housewife who has tried freezing her own animal will readily recognise the advantages of having it prepared blast frozen.

Through this magazine we would like to point out that we are not interested in selling except in wholesale quantities. The facility of retail purchases is offered only to our staff in limited quantities. We would therefore ask the general public to refrain from placing the employees of the Company in an embarrassing position by requesting that they (the staff) purchase retail quantities of meat for people other than themselves.



Mr. Paddy Nash seen here preparing one of the Shannon Meat Ltd Home Freezer Packs.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting which was held on Tuesday, 9th March was the main talking point around the factory for a number of days. There was great interest in the result of the elections for the union officials for the coming year. The meeting was well attended. It is very encouraging to see our members take such an interest in the activities and running of the Union. Mr. J. Skerritt, the branch secretary, was amongst those in attendance. He thanked the outgoing committee most sincerely for all the good work they had done during the past year. Mr. Skerritt was very confident that the new committee would carry on the good work. The outgoing officials pledged their support to the incoming committee. After nominations had been received and seconded the electing of the officers took place. The following are the results:-

Chairman: Patrick O'Shaughnessy.
 Vice-Chairman: P.J. Jones
 Secretary: Gerry Molyneaux.
 Collector: Christy Jones.

It was agreed that each department should elect its own

spokesman. These elections took place the following day. Before the meeting was adjourned, Mr. Skerritt offered his congratulations to the new officials.

The I.T.G.W.U. are very pleased to see that the E.E.C. are backing-equal pay for women case. It came as a big surprise to us, that some of our Ministers of Government were anxious to have the whole issue of equal pay postponed indefinitely. At one time, when one of our Ministers was asked to comment on the number of calves leaving the country, he maintained that Ireland was the only country not to breach any of the E.E.C. rules.

Yet, in the case of equal pay the Government is anxious to opt out, at least for the present.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our committee members, Paddy Hennessy and his wife, Christina on their recent marriage and to wish them all the very best for their future happiness. Christina is working in the castings department of Shannon Meat and Paddy in the boning hall.

NEW CHAIRMAN

The new chairman of the I.T.G.W.U., is Mr. Patrick O'Shaughnessy. The popular and jovial Patrick is a key slaughter line operator. He started working in Shannon Meat in the early 1960's, but his stay only lasted a few years. He returned in 1970 and has been working in the Slaughter Line where the supervisor is his close friend, John O'Connell. Patrick served his time to local butcher Mr. Michael Cahill.



Patrick O'Shaughnessy, the 1976 Branch Chairman.

Patrick O'Shaughnessy married to the former Mary Frawley of Foynes. They have eight children, seven boys and a girl. The eldest son, Thomas is a very skilled and able boner(undoubtedly taking after his father). With a large grin, Patrick states "I look forward to the day when I shall see all my family working here." He lives in Abbeylands, a "short cycle" FROM HIS WORK: Patrick is a nephew of the long-serving employee, Paddy Royce.

UNION ACTIVITIES

In 1974, Patrick, first became involved in Union activities, when he was elected spokesman for the butchers. The chairman at that time was Michael McNamara. It was in this year that the bonus scheme was installed hence Patrick was constantly participating in negotiations in connection with its implementation. He is also vice-chairman of the factory's

G.A.A. Club, a position he has held since the beginning. Since 1972, Patrick has been a very prominent member of the Rathkeale Festival Committee. In these various organisations, Patrick has learned a great deal as regards communicating and organising. The individual himself portrays a character of wit, understanding, ambition and the sense to listen as well as to speak.

He wishes to congratulate all his committee members on their election. He is extremely glad to be able to draw on the experience of last year's chairman, P.J. Jones, who was elected vice-chairman. Patrick looks forward to the support of all the workers of whom, he consciously adds:- "their co-operation and understanding is essential, particularly in these trying times of industrial depression". He is confident of co-operation from Management. To Patrick, let us say the best for 1976.

Safety is Your Protection

By Belt & Braces.

"The Protection of employees and the safeguard of their health is our first consideration.

Protection of the Company's property is next in importance. I believe all injuries can be prevented. All levels of both Management and Employees shall accept their responsibility, to prevent injury and resultant loss of wages.

Positive disciplinary action including discharge will be taken against anyone who fails to follow established safety practices."

Harsh words you may say, but are they? Remember it's your wages and health, that the Company has as its first priorities.

Can you help to prevent injury? Use your common sense at all times. As you know you have a Safety Committee in operation who have worked extremely well over the past year and although you may not have noticed, have made very good suggestions regarding your safety and these suggestions have been implemented.

ASSIST

Assist your safety committee by informing them of any dangerous practice or hazard you think may injure someone, or cause an accident.

We had a serious accident in the Cannery not so long ago which saddened all members of the Safety Committee. This accident could have been prevented. How?. By using common sense. The machine should have been isolated and disconnected from its power source. This simple practice would have saved a man's hand as well as his loss of earnings. Always remember, "If in doubt, ask". Your supervisors, Safety Committee and Management are there for that

purpose. Use them.

"Boners, those knives are dangerous weapons. Builders, watch that roof and mind that scaffolding. Fork lift and Transport drivers, caution always. Maintenance, disconnect that machine. Slaughter staff, mind those flayers."

Let me ask you to be aware at all times and have an accident free decade. Remember God helps those who help themselves.

QUIZ

Our Safety Committee entered a team in the regional quiz recently and was narrowly beaten by one question. This question was, "What disease is caused by lubricating and cutting oils?" The answer given was dermatitis. The correct answer was CANCER. So, I would say hard luck to the team, who were Sean Harnett, Dan Neville, Dick Wood and Frank Dinnage, you did us proud.

Following that a word to the maintenance staff, lubricating and cutting oils cause cancer, watch it.



"I kept telling him not to mess with a machine he didn't know how to operate."

IN PRAISE OF GARDENING

By P. Dunne
 Freezer & Dispatch Supervisor.



Pa Dunne

Of all the flowers that grow in the garden those that appear in Spring (Pansies, Wall-Flowers, Polyanthus etc) are usually regarded as the ones that give the greatest pleasure and they certainly are the most welcome. Because after the long dreary months of winter we know them to be the forerunners of the many and exciting delights that the Spring and Summer gardens have in store.

I have derived immense satisfaction from the planting of shrubs, trees and flowers and from watching them slowly but surely mature and develop season by season and year by year. Some of the work is not easy, i.e., digging the vegetable garden, mowing the lawns, but it's a healthy pastime and incidentally we who work indoors most of the day need all the fresh air and sunshine we can get.

PRIORITY

Now, of course the vegetable garden has taken priority, regrettably in my opinion, over the flower garden. This no doubt, is due to the rampaging cost of living and to the scarcity of potatoes and other vegetables in our shops and stores. In the pursuit of vegetable growing, one not only has the privilege of working "in the great outdoors", but it also helps to stretch the family

budget.

Gardening has now become my favourite hobby and I would advise anybody who has a little time to spare to embark on a crash course on the subject. By the way, there is some very helpful literature available in our bookshops, on how to get to work with a spade and fork etc.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Sean Guiry and all the lads who tend the rose-beds and lawns in the forefront of the factory premises. They are a credit to all involved and I am sure ae admired by one and all who visit the Plant.

SYMPATHY.

Deepest sympathy is extended to John O'Neill, clerical officer in the Despatch Department and to the other members of his family on the tragic death of his brother, Michael. Michael died as a result of an accident on Saturday, 13th. March. The news of Michael's death cast an air of sadness over a very wide area in West Limerick. The huge gathering at both the removal of the remains from the Regional Hospital and the funeral the following day, Tuesday, bore witness to the high esteem in which Michael was held amongst his friends and neighbours.

May he Rest in Peace.

PICTURE PARADE



Mr. Frank Dinnage maintenance Foreman and Mr. Neilley Hogan Maintenance Fitter, busy in the Workshops.



Liam Ahern Livestock Liason Officer and Mary Lyons of Abbeyfeale who were married on 30th December.



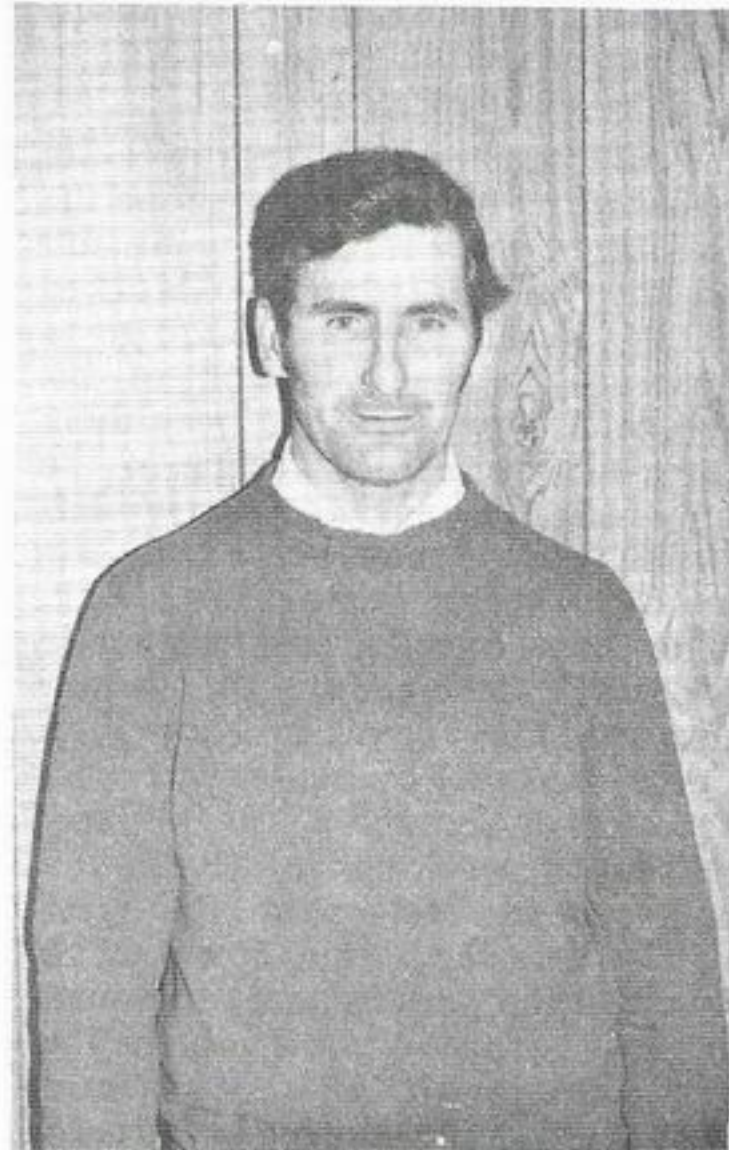
The delightful Miss Mary Foley who has been selected as a finalist for the Charleville Cheese Queen.



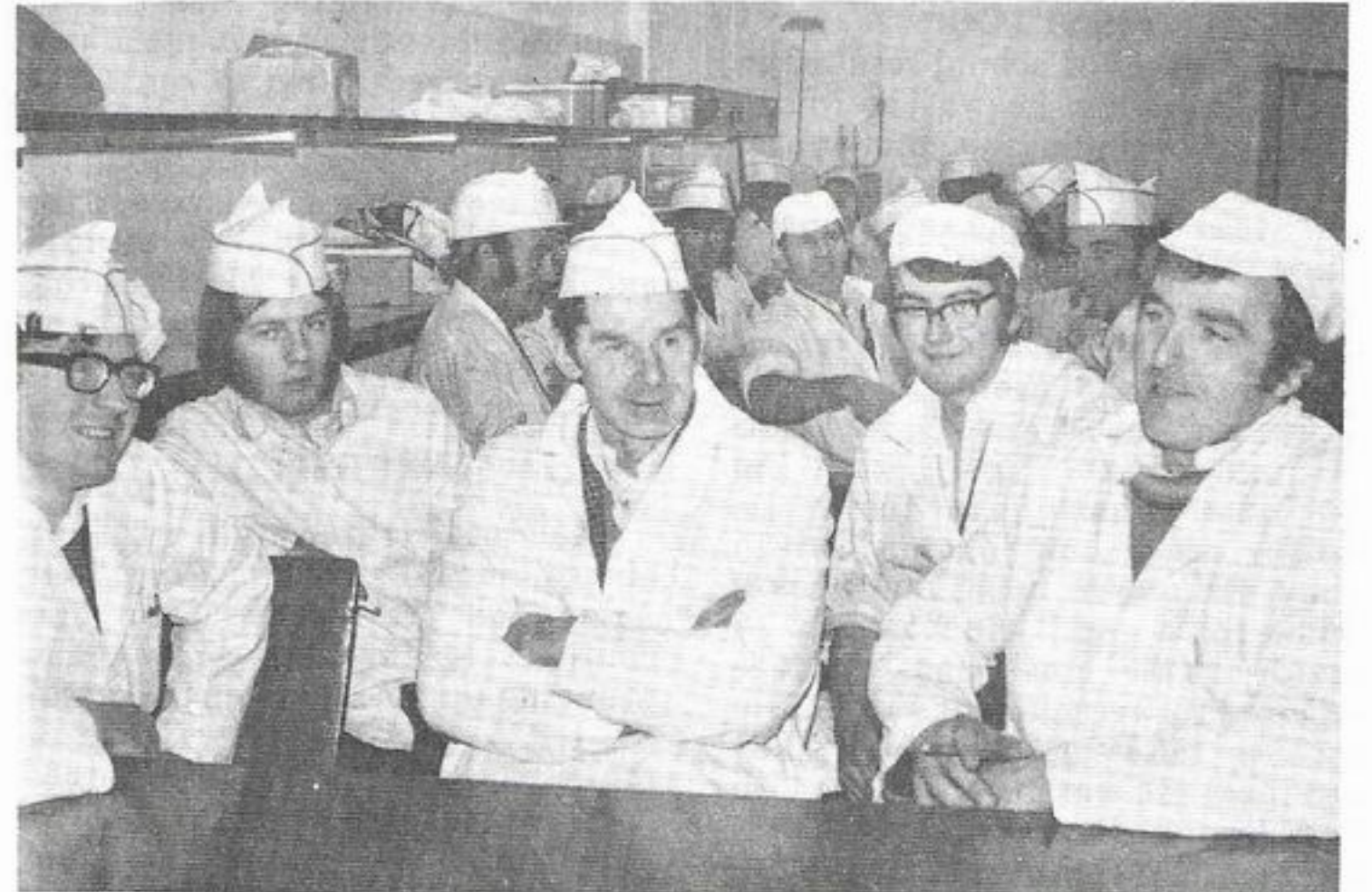
Mr. John Sullivan, Dispatch Dept. and Miss Mary McAuliffe who are getting married on May 29th.



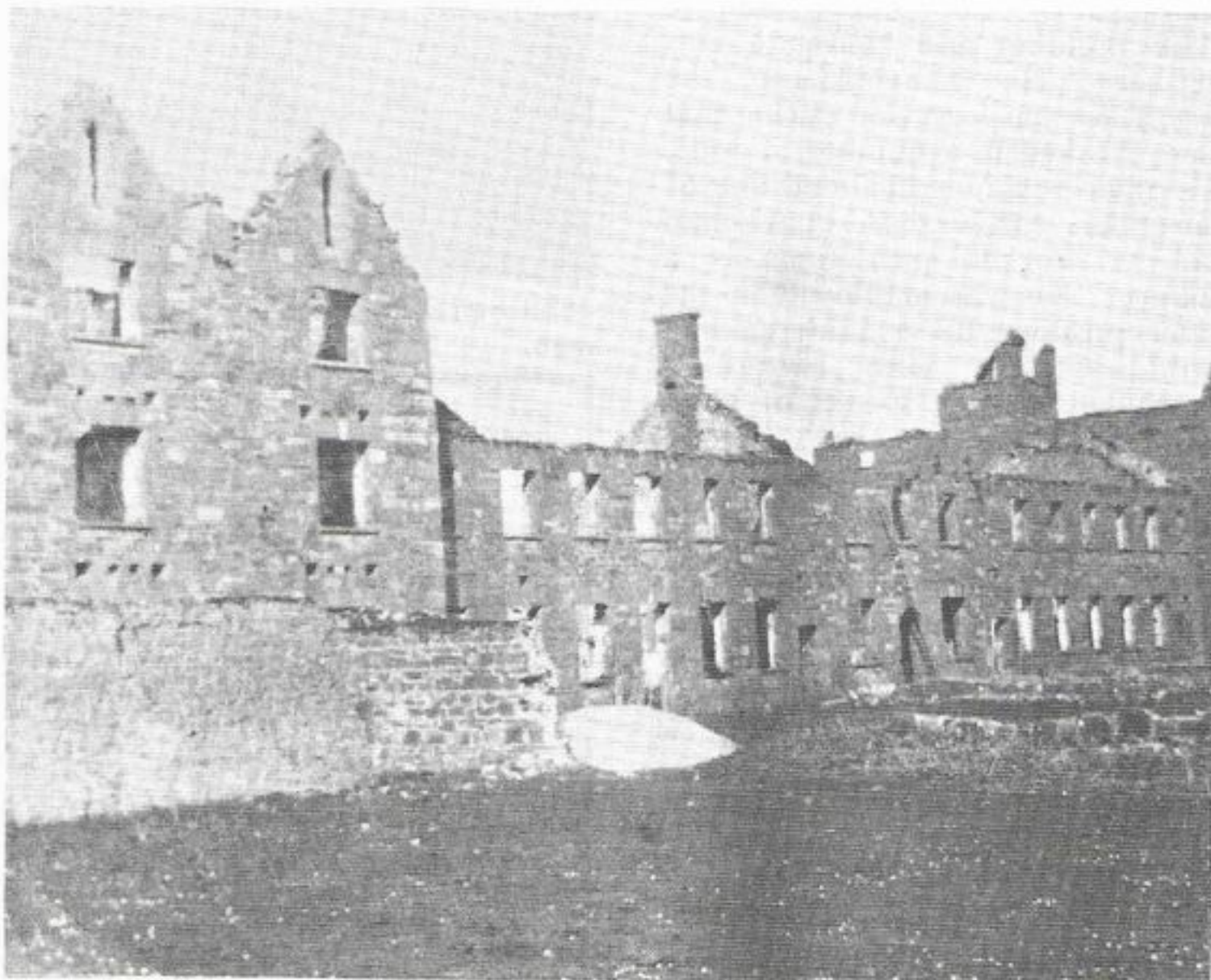
Peter Mullins who starred for Shannon Meat in the recently played County football Inter-Firm Semi Final.



Denis Kenneally the newly elected secretary of the G.A.A. Club.



Relaxing at a break :
 Foreground : Billy Costelloe, Pat Carmody, James Cavanagh and Pat Costelloe.



The way we were — The above was taken in 1952, prior to commencement of reconstruction of the premises which to-day forms the central structure of the Plant.



Attending the first aid classes organised by the Rathkeale Branch of the Red Cross are (L. to R.) P. Coleman, B. Lyons, M. O'Neill and M. O'Grady.



Profile

JOHN "COFFEY" FARRELL.

During a recent discussion on prospective material for future editions of the "Gazette", the name John "Coffey" Farrell was mentioned as a source of information and history. Following this line of investigation, we visited "Coffey" and his wife in Church St., and introduced ourselves. Having been made welcome in the true sense of the word we were immediately served tea during which we explained our quest to him. During the hours that followed, we were entertained with a true tale of adventure.

John Farrell was born in the wake of the turn of the century on the 3rd March, 1900 in Church St. He was one of a family of eight, five of his brothers served in the British Army. His father was a railway employee whilst his mother ran a small grocery store. He reluctantly commenced his education in Rathkeale National School and admits to spending as little time as possible there. His "mooching" sprees usually took him to the nearest garden where he acquired a taste for turnips. The school house as he remembers was a ramshackle of a building, infested with mice, who provided Coffey with a welcome distraction from his studies and "dogmatic teachers." During his school days he was infamous for his pugilistic tendencies from which originated the nickname "Coffey". John Coffey, an American boxer was the Mohammad Ali of that era.

FIRST JOB

His dislike for school resulted in his leaving when he was in fourth class and beginning his first job at Johnston's Mill in Castlematrix. He was twelve years of age and his basic wage was 3/ per week. In Castlematrix at this time there was a saw mill, flour mill and bake house. Coffey was employed as a messenger boy running errands throughout the town. Having worked at Johnstons for five years, Coffey decided to join the British army, the reason being that he was "mad for a gun." He was only 17 years at the time and the age required for recruitment was 19. He gave a false age and was duly accepted. He was first stationed on Bear Island off the Coast of Cork. He was then transferred to the 5th Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles and was stationed for brief periods in Belfast and Ballykinnel camp in Co. Down. From here the battalion was sent to Salisbury Plains in Staffordshire where they completed their training. At this time, the first World War was in progress and Coffey with his battalion was sent to France. During his training, Coffey had proven to be one of the best shots in his battalion and was qualified as a marksman. Because of this ability, Coffey was designated as a sniper. However, his stay in France was cut short due to his true age being discovered. He, and one other member of the battalion were returned to England because they were too young for active service. This was a grave disappointment to him. Having remained in England for some time he was again transferred to Belfast where the battalion was demobilised in 1919.

Having bid adieu to Army life, Coffey came back home to Rathkeale. After a brief period, he got a job as a milesman on the railway. His job consisted mainly of



John Farrell.

platelaying. During this time he became a member of the I.R.A. One of his main duties was running dispatches around the locality. He remembers one dispatch quite clearly. "It was during Sean Finn's funeral, and the place was crawling with Black & Tans. I was taking a dispatch to Shanagolden when I was stopped by soldiers at the railway bridge. The dispatch was hidden in my bicycle pump. They asked me where I was coming from and I told them I had been to Ballygran looking for cabbage plants. Luckily they believed me." Some time after this, Coffey was forced to go on the run after an encounter with the "Tans" at Quinn's forge. He speaks of this encounter with great satisfaction. "I was drinking tea at home when my Mother ran in and told me that Maurice Quinn was in trouble with the "Tans". She said that four of them had just gone into the forge. I got my hurley from behind the door and ran up there. Maurice was fighting with two of them and the other two came at me. Maurice roared at me to run as he had a grenade and was about to drop it. Just as I was going though, I gave one of them a belt across the head with the hurley. We escaped and had to go on the run." During his time on the run, John stayed with many families including the Lyons and Nestors of Newbridge.

ARRESTED

The Tans left Ireland in 1922 and almost immediately the Free State Army and the I.R.A. came into conflict. The Free State Army began rounding up all known members of the I.R.A. and Coffey was one of those arrested. He was imprisoned in Limerick jail prior to serving terms in both Kilmainham and Mountjoy. He recalls the latter as being the most difficult and disciplined one. They were under very severe restrictions and were not allowed to receive any parcels, papers, cigarettes, etc. However at Christmas, prisoners from the same area were allowed one parcel between them. The Rathkeale prisoners received one large hamper. Coffey has vivid memories of this particular hamper. "In our hamper, there were cigarettes, biscuits and home-made bread and also one un-cooked chicken. This chicken created a serious problem as we had no saucepans or utensils of any sort. We didn't even have a fire. All we had in our cell was a small gas burner to give us light. The only vessel we had was a "Bedroom Utensil". Left with no other choice, we cleaned it as best we could and put the chicken in it. We then placed it over our gas burner which was about as good as putting it over a lighted match. After three days and three nights cooking we feasted."

Having spent about three months in Mountjoy, Coffey and a number

of others were transferred to Tintown prison in the Curragh. From here he and a number of companions made their escape by means of a tunnel 70 yds. long. Coffey describes the digging of the tunnel as a very slow and tedious job and was himself the first to begin it. "We began by removing six square blocks from the floor of the hut and then dug down about six feet. At first our only tool was a six inch nail and we then managed to get a broken poker. We got rid of the earth by putting it into the hollow walls of the hut. Conditions in the tunnel were very bad as we had no means of supporting it. There was always the danger of a cave-in." The tunnel having been completed, about 95 prisoners made their escape and Coffey, accompanied by a number of others including Tim Healy, Jack Neville headed for Rathkeale. Their journey was extremely hardshipping and hazardous as they had to walk the whole way and were in constant danger of being re-captured. They had very little food and as it was winter time it was also very cold. They eventually arrived home and went into hiding. Coffey's freedom was short lived. He was discovered and recaptured in a neighbour's house a short time later and was immediately taken to the courthouse. A few days later he was transferred to the barracks in Newcastle West. Here he was detained for a short period and was released following the truce which was established in April, 1923.

PEACE

Peace having been restored, life returned to normal throughout the country. Coffey returned to his job on the railway where he worked until 1926. He then decided to go to America on the invitation of his brother Denny, who had been there for a number of years. One of the hundreds of emigrants, Coffey left Cobh and remembers the trip as a very hilarious one. There was dancing and singing in progress throughout the whole journey. On arrival in New York Coffey was met by his brother who had already secured a job for him. He began working in Sheffield's milk powder factory on the West side. After a short time, however, he followed the path of most Irishmen in New York and got a job on the buildings with the Marathon Construction Co. During his term of employment with this Company, Coffey was involved in the construction of such notable buildings as the famous Empire State Building and Hellsgate Gas Refinery. He remained in the U.S.A. for ten years and during that time, worked in a number of jobs. His other positions included that of bartender, car washer, quarryman and he worked part time as a bouncer. He was employed in the latter position by a Limerickman called Guiney who owned a dance-hall. Coffey speaks of good and bad times in New York. He did some boxing there and also played hurling with Limerick with whom he won All American Championship in 1928. He has a beautifully inscribed gold medal to show for it. Coffey states that he enjoyed living in New York but in 1936 he got homesick and decided to return to Ireland. At the time he decided to leave, he was working for a man called Jack Quaid from Rathen who owned a bar known as the Deel Inn. The night before he left, they had a big farewell party for him.

CHANGES

Having been away ten years, Coffey discovered many changes when he returned. The country had greatly developed and jobs and money were more plentiful. After a

short while, he got a job with the County Council working on the footpaths. When this work came to an end he was employed in the renovation of the Church. Others involved in the work were Paddy Scanlon, Tom Mac and Jimmy O'Neill. When the work on the Church had been completed, Coffey got a job with the E.S.B. "digging holes". A number of other jobs followed and then in 1952 Coffey became an employee of Shannon Meat Ltd. He was employed at the very birth of the plant and with others, including Sean Guiry, Paddy Jones, Fred Jones, Tim Dillon, Tom White, PaddyMac and Paddy Royce was involved in it's construction. His first job there was making cement blocks with Henry Dobe. When the plant went into production, Coffey got the position of night-watchman which he held until 1967. He worked from 5.30 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. seven nights a week. During all those years as night watchman, Coffey states that he never saw anything strange but he did here the banshee. To break the monotony, he often remembers creating his own excitement. "I frightened the world of people down there. They used be loading trucks at nighttime there and I'd get a chain and tie a bucket to it and run along outside the wall. They used run out of the place."

In 1967, Coffey was transferred to daytime work and during his last couple of years with the Company, did a number of duties throughout the plant including watchman, cutting the lawn, making tea for the office staff etc. he speaks very highly of both management and workers and considers the Plant as the heart of Rathkeale.

RETIRED

Coffey retired from his position with Shannon Meat Ltd in November 1969. He is now taking life easy and reminiscing on former days. Though he has just celebrated his 76th birthday, he still posses the energy and vitality of a much younger man. He is extremely witty and has a memory as good as the proverbial elephant. Probably his most notable characteristic however, is that no matter what age you are, he will address you as "My Son."



John Farrell photographed as a young man.

ATTENTION

All Staff are requested

TO INFORM
IMMEDIATELY

the Personnel Department

ON CHANGE OF ADDRESS

This is necessary for ongoing
maintenance of personnel records.

RECYCLING OF WASTE

By M.F. Cowhey,
Managing Director.

Since the introduction of silage yards, milking parlours etc., Irish Agriculture has become familiar with problems of waste disposal, viz, slurry pits and slurry spreading etc. Imagine what this problem is in the huge West and Mid-West U.S.A. feed lots where 50,000 cattle are fed in one lot. Were it not for the torrid and dry climate this problem would be insuperable. The introduction of such feed lots to the European scene has, among its major obstacles the one of rainy climatic conditions. With the explosion in world population and higher and higher prices for proteins, the pressure is on for their recovery by recycling and the overcoming of any obstacles to this recovery. The system devised by the Ceres Company in the U.S.A., is being used widely in the Western United States, and has recently been experimented within Europe. It has been approved by the United States Department of Agriculture. The general result of the Ceres research is that manure is too valuable to waste as a fertiliser or fuel because a cow does not digest 20% of its feed.

The Ceres system as used in feed lots, is claimed to convert manure to a protein food cheaply and without pollution. Clean water vapour and about 5% ash are the only residues.

The company is wary about giving details of the system. The manure is dumped into a large vat where water and chemicals are added. This passes through separators which divide fibre and liquid, remove impurities and sterilise the product. After evaporation, the protein concentrate becomes a powder while the fibre roughage is stored and fermented.

PROTEIN

The protein powder contains 25% to 35% protein. The roughage feed is almost identical to maize silage including 8% protein. In the U.S.A., Ceres claims that it can produce a manure-derived feed of 30% for about £30 a ton compared with soya bean meal of 44% protein at £90 a ton. In the U.S.A. Ceres feed-lots it is planned that recycled manure will eventually replace 55% to 20% of the cattle diet. To eliminate any build up of indigestible bulk after recycling three or four times processed manure is pelleted and fed to cattle on the range.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated that enough protein could be extracted from feed-lot manure to equal the protein in the country's total annual soya-bean crop and America grows three-quarters of the world's soya beans.

The manure is re-cycled into three products.

- (i) Consists of non-digested grains and fibres which are re-constituted in the forms of a chopped silage which is said to have the nutritional value and flavour of feed maize.
- (ii) Consists of a pelleted feed with 27% protein content, smelling of lucerne, but without toxicity.
- (iii) Consists mainly of the mineral residue from the muck, and provides a useful fertiliser with 1% nitrogen.

For profitable operation, the equipment needs to deal with 8,000 tons of dry matter a year, or the muck of 10,000 cattle. Using 10% to 15% of recycled waste in the herd's rations can save 20% to 30% of the beef-lot's feed costs.

MECHANISED

The feed routine is completely mechanised to keep pace with a giant herd's appetite. The maize, including the recycled material, is drawn from tower silos straight to mill-and-mix units within the feed trucks before distribution along the beef-lot troughs.

In general, the ration consists of 75% grain maize, 15% dried lucerne and the remainder liquid supplements. Four separate feeds are prepared - a mix to adapt new arrivals, a starter ration for young stock, and intermediate fattening mixture, and the finishing ration. Cattle also receive 2 lb. to 4 lb. a day of chopped hay, depending on their finish.



Pre-treatment of the grain maize consists of heating the grain to 110°C using hot air equipment. The "cooked" grain is then crushed and stored in tower silos. It is claimed that digestibility is improved 10%. The rations have been calculated for daily live-weight grains of 2.5 lb. and 3.5 lb. Trial work is in progress with alternative rations containing 55% and 40% of the treated maize, varying amounts of lucerne, and use of the complete maize plant in dehydrated form.

The recycled (i) product is used in the intermediate and finishing rations. A silage of equal parts of (i) and straw makes up 30% of the intermediate fattening ration, so that the recycled matter totals 15% of the whole, while in the finishing mixture the silage is reduced to 20% so that recycled material contributes 10% of the whole feed.

INTERESTED

At Shannon Meat we are intensely interested in recycling systems. Protein recovery must be considered as a live issue by all Industrial Abattoirs. At present, we are installing an addition to our effluent plant by way of an Electro Flotation plant, a sophisticated system to separate fat from liquid effluent. Total expenditure on our modern effluent plant amounted to £195,000. Recovery of proteins at a reasonable cost would help defray the high maintenance costs and hopefully give some pay back on the capital expended. A real break through in recovery systems in the foreseeable future would be an exciting prospect.

LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE

By Wm. Nestor
Sales Manager

At 1300 hours in late September, the "Iberia" leaves behind a dying British Autumn and casts off from Tilbury docks, London to follow the sun west, to prolong Summer, to visit ports and islands attractive and welcoming, places that barely know of the existence of winter. Such is the life of the rich, the life that can be enjoyed by those materially endowed to enjoy it, those born with a silver spoon in their mouth, rather than with memories of a wooden spoon against their backside. But even the rich have to eat and so we as dining room stewards together with the rest of the crew, get to see places, cultures and customs which would otherwise forever remain a dream.

Our crew is mainly British and Goanese, the latter from Goa, a small Portugese possession on the West coast of India and as a result, Catholic in belief. Many are spicy old salts with years of voyaging behind them. Others are raw recruits and myself, the greenest of the lot from the foothills of West Limerick. Up to now, my seagoing experience was confined to trips from Foynes to Kilrush.

We are soon gliding down the Thames almost unaware that we have cast off and the Iberia, all 39,000 tons of her looks resplendent in the autumnal evening air. A triple stream of smoke wafts upwards from her white funnels, funnels emblazoned with the insignia of the Peninsular and Orient line of which she was the flag ship. The numerous decks of this luxury liner rise majestically above the dark waters of the Thames and we begin to take an inward pride in this floating palace which is to become our home for this round world trip.

PORT OF CALL

Before I commence a description of this trip, let me say that even though we, the crew, had a generous amount of free time in which to enjoy ourselves, our working hours allowed for no loitering - so much for work. Our first port of call was Le Harve and our stay was of such a short duration that nobody disembarked. From Le Harve we steamed out through the Channel down the west coast on France, through the Bay of Biscay. Biscay is a notorious crossing and it's mood when we encountered it, was even darker than normal. The ship heaved, the passengers heaved, the crew heaved. Suicides were contemplated but forgotten as we found our sea legs and by the time we arrived in Lisbon

we were fighting fit and ready to enjoy our 2 day stay.

The pilot guided us up the Tagus and we berthed on it's Northern Bank. Lisbon is regarded as one of the most elegant and gracious cities in Europe. An imposing statue of Christ commands the harbour and some very smart stores are to be found in the 'Rue Garrett' area. The Avendia da Liberdade is one of Europe's broadest thorough fares and well worth a visit. At night you can listen to the haunting Portugese folk singing and the female singers are more appreciated as the glasses of Vinho Verde are imbibed.

FAREWELL

Lisbon to soon waves us farewell, we raise anchor and once more head out into the North Atlantic, journeying south westwards. Our destination an island in the West Indies, a reminder from our school going days that Columbus was actually looking for a westward route to India when he discovered America.

During this short time on the ocean wave, a subtle change is taking place in our phraseology. Right and left are becoming starboard and port side and front and back are being replaced by forad and aft. A clearer picture of the deck plans is also forming in our mind. Lift locations are falling into place and even when we do loose our way and find ourselves in passenger's quarters, it is more often by design rather than by accident.

WEATHER

The weather has by now become beautiful. Temperatures are very high, but the ship's movement creates a refreshing breeze. We are soon approaching Jamaica and we berth offshore and go by launch into Kingston. Palm trees sway in the breeze and our mind conjures up visions of coloured men with wide brimmed hats singing spirituals as they harvest sugar cane. Calypso rythem fills the air and we adjourn to an open air bar by a swimming pool. Here we laze in true Jamaican fashion made extra pleasurable by the consumption of several white rums with coke and ice.

We would have lingered to explore the countryside, but our launch was ready to take us back to our ship. We still dream of returning to Jamaica someday. We "Trust" that a West Indian hospital nurse will, some day soon, pull our name from a certain drum and make our dream come true.
(To be Continued)

Shannon Meat chat

By The Scribe

- * John O'Sullivan is getting married to Nora McAuliffe of Templeglantine, on May 29th.
- * Michael Barry is also to be wed-locked on April 3rd to Margaret Flynn of Ardagh.
- * The following staff members are attending the First Aid Course organised by the Red Cross in the Vocational School, Rathkeale:-
- * Ml. O'Neill, Ml. O'Grady, T. Heffernan, P. Curtin, B. Lyons, N. Dalton, H. Dalton, P. Coleman, C. Jones, and D. Neville.

- * The "twinkletoes" of Seamus Cawley were mistaken for those of Fred Astaire in the Tops of the Teens final, held in Limerick recently.
- * Mary Lawlor, sister of factory employee, Ned, represented Limerick successfully in Cross Country Quiz, the televised Macra na Feirme quiz contest, against Mayo recently.
- * Rhumour has it that Gerry Molyneux is contemplating retiring from competitive hurling.

G. A. A. CLUB NEWS

by Denis Kenneally [Secretary]



The Newly Elected G.A.A. Committee :-

Front Row :- M. Williams, P.J. Jones, J. Lenihan, P. O'Shaughnessy.
Second Row :- G. Enright, M. McNamara, M. Keating, P. Costelloe.
Back Row :- D. Kenneally, T. Hannafin.

On the G.A.A. front, at present, there isn't much happening. The Club members are all eagerly looking forward to the bright Summer evenings, when the various championships will be played. At present the Club are still in the running for the inter-firm football championship. (more about this later).

At the Annual General Meeting the following officers were elected, Chairman Martin Williams, Vice-Chairman Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Secretary Denis Noonan, Treasurer, Tom Hannafin. In the intervening time this team has been changed, owing to the laying off of Denis Noonan. The newly elected Secretary is Denis Kenneally. The hurling selectors elected were : Patrick J. Jones, Michael McNamara, Denis Kenneally. At the annual General Meeting it was decided that a Manager should be appointed to take charge of the hurling team. The Man selected for this demanding position was Michael Keating, Bill Lynch was appointed captain for the second successive year. Frank Dalton is Vice-Captain. The selectors for the football team are : Martin Williams, Tom Hannafin and Captain Sean Harnett. The club have affiliated both the hurling and football teams for the various championships.

COUNTY SEMI-FINAL

The Limerick Inter-firm Board are at present running off a hurling and football championship. On Saturday 6/3/76 Shannon Meat played St. Josephs (Limerick City) in the semi-final of the football championship. Prior to Christmas, St. Joseph ousted Shannon Meat from the hurling championship. This time, however it was the turn of the Westerners to turn the tables on their city counterparts. The score was Shannon Meat 0.16, St. Joseph's 2.4 This victory could be considered as a shock result. Although, despite missing some regulars, the St. Joseph's line-out contained some very experienced players, a few who have donned the green of Limerick. The local boys were missing six of their regulars. Nevertheless very adequate and worthy replacements were found.

From the commencement, of play, Shannon Meat domineered in nearly all sections, despite playing against a very strong wind. However, towards the latter half of the first half, St. Joseph's began to take control. Some sterling

defensive performances by Liam Woulfe, Tom White, Dan Cagney, and Denis Kenneally kept the St. Joseph's attack at bay. The score at halftime read-St. Joseph's 2.1 Shannon Meat 0.7. With the wind in their backs the Rathkeale lads took complete control in the second half. John Lynch, in particular, and Pat Marron lorded the game at mid-field. The attack forcibly led by Sean Harnett, Peter Mullins and James O'Grady took what chances came their way. In the end the Westerners thoroughly deserved their victory. Credit must be given to both teams for the manner in which they participated in a highly skilled game.

STARS

The real stars of the afternoon were the following: Michael Reidy in goals, M. Williams had a starring hour at corner back. John Lyons who headed the ball on a couple of occasions: Tom Hannafin who, amazingly was playing in his first competitive football game: Pat Costelloe who had a great hour at full-forward: And, finally but by no means least-Michael O'Neill who was playing in his first game after a seven year retirement (that would even make George Best jealous). The scores came from S. Harnett, 0.8. P. Marron 0.2. P. Mullins, M. O'Neill; J. Lynch; J. O'Grady and D. Kenneally 0.1 each. Best for St. Joseph's were H. Hogan, T. Marsh and T. Goodwin. The line out was:

M. Reidy, M. Williams, L. Woulfe, T. White, J. Lyons, D. Cagney, D. Kenneally, J. Lynch, P. Marron, J. O'Grady, S. Harnett, P. Mullins, T. Hannafin, P. Costelloe, M. O'Neill.

Everybody is now awaiting with anticipation the final, where it is hoped that our footballers can succeed where our hurlers failed. Here's to the boys in blue and gold.

BEST WISHES

Congratulations to Paddy Hennessy and Christina Enright who got married recently. Paddy is a prominent member of our hurling team. Vice-chairman of our G.A.A. club Patrick Shaughnessy has been appointed chairman of the Shannon Meat I.T.G.W.U. To you Pat we say every success.

A special word of mention to Michael Keating who is recovering after a serious accident sustained at work. Wishing you a speedy recovery.

SOCCER SCENE

Another season is drawing to a close and Shannon United League hopes have now vanished. Our League record to date is, played 18, won 7, drew 3 and lost 8. I don't know why, but we seem to play our best football away from home, e.g., our performance when beating Pallaskenry away by 5-1 was brilliant. If we played as well at home (to date we have won only 2 home games), we would now be challenging for League honours. On the bright side, 2 young local boys, John Coleman and Eugene Goodwin, who have recently come into the team, have been very impressive. They are both only 17 and attending the Secondary School. Definately, 2 players for the future.

Our last chance of winning a trophy is the Desmond Cup, and after a bye in the first round, we are away to the winners of Kilcolman v Killinny. WE have already beaten Kilcolman away by 5-2 in the League, so we should have no worries there. However, we know nothing about Killinny as they are not playing in the League. With a bit of luck we should get through to the next round.

Continuing our pen picture sequence

Noel Harnett Another member of our successful under 14 and under 16 teams. Won his place on the junior side last season and has been a regular since. A very versatile player who will do a good job in

whatever position he is asked to play in. Age - 19 years, Height - 5'11", Weight - 9½stone. Keen Liverpool supporter.

Frank Dinnage

Surely, the find of the season. First year playing junior football and is having a great season. Ideally built for a goal keeper, he is strong and courageous. Very dedicated to his position and is sure to improve even more. Age - 19 years. Height - 6' Weight - 12¾ stone. Supports Leeds United.

Declan Brennan

Very experienced player who can play equally well both in defence and attack. Now in his sixth season, playing junior football. Played with Galway Hibs., when working in Galway and also played for a spell in England with Kendall Park. Age-24, Height-5'6" Weight - 9¾stone. Supports Manchester United.

Sean O'Shea

Came into the side at the start of the year and has made the wing position his own. Can play on both flanks and has scored some spectacular goals. A real flyer when he gets going on a run. Age - 17 years Height - 5' 11" Weight - 10 stone. Supports Chelsea.

Seamus Cawley

Made his debut against Magobar when he came on as a sub. Good clubman who prefers playing in the back four. Age - 17 years. Weight - 9 stone, Height 5'9". Supports Leeds united.

PITCH AND PUTT CLUB

Friday, 12th March, 1976 saw the formation of a Pitch and Putt Club within the Company. The Club grounds and facilities will be open to members of the general public. The location of this course will be at the Company's grounds, Abbeylands. The urge for such a Club has been sprouting for a number of years now, but this sprout did not blossom until one of the initiators, Sheamus Tierney called a Meeting in Mid-March. At this Meeting the following officers were elected:-

Chairman : S. Tierney, Vice Chairman: P. Guinnane. Secretary : S. Harnett, Ass. Secretary : D. Costelloe, Treasurer: Ml. Dunne, Ass. Treas. : S. Cawley. The following individuals compile the committee: A. Woulfe, L. Woulfe, D. Neville, T. Hannafin, C. Jones, L. Kelly, J. Meehan. At the time of going to press, a series of meetings with St. James' Pitch and Putt Club, Cappagh, were being held. The aim of these meetings was to amalgamate both clubs under the name "Shannon Meat - St. James' Pitch and Putt Club". This would be a perfect combination for both parties and their respective members.

Work has already commenced on the grounds and it is hoped to have the course playable by early May. Membership Fees and Green Fees have not yet been decided upon.

VARIETY CONCERT

In an effort to raise funds, the committee have decided to organise a special concert. This concert will take place on Tuesday, 6th April at the Central Cinema, Rathkeale. At the time of going to press, the following groups have agreed to play:- The Moonshiners, Awbeg Folk, Askeaton Musical Society, Johnny Donegan, the Kentucky Bootleggers, The Louisiana Men, Batty Collins and Group and the local Polka Set.

Tickets for the Concert are on sale from any of the Committee members. Any information relating to any developments within the Club can be had from the previously mentioned committee. Regular bulletins concerning the Pitch and Putt club will appear in this magazine.

DELIGHTED

One individual who is particularly delighted to see the advent of such a Club is Donal Costelloe. Donal is a very enthusiastic player and in the brief period that he has been playing, has accumulated a number of worthwhile trophies.. Donal became a member of the St. James' Pitch and Putt Club, Cappagh in April, '75. Within a matter of weeks he had won his first honour, winning the Captain's Prize in Cappagh. At the St. James' grounds, he also annexed two more trophies.

Having by now "served his apprenticeship", he was ready to play the circuit throughout the county. Partnered by Sheamus Comny, they finished runners-up in the Fourball in the Catholic Institute in early June. Other impressive victories include Intermediate Nett in Croom, Over-all nett in Castleisland and the junior gross at the St. James' Open. At Sallybank, Donal won the over-all nett to win the Eamonn Cosgrave Perpetual Trophy. With these prominent achievements in his first year, the future must surely hold much promise for Donal.

Donal was appointed Assistant Secretary of the newly formed Club. If the Club achieve as much as Donal in their first year or two, they will be moving in an "Eagle" or "birdie" like manner.

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