

# SHANNON MEAT GAZETTE



Volume 1 No. 6. October/November 1976.

Telephone : Rathkeale 49/50.

## NEW CHEMIST



Mr. Turlough McDonald has recently joined the company as chief chemist. He replaces Mr. Gerry Raftery, who has returned to his native Galway to take up a position with Leydon's Catering Company. Turlough was born in Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan in 1947, but moved with his family to Ardee Co. Louth while still very young. There he grew up and received his primary education. He went to Belcamp College, Co. Dublin and having acquired his Leaving Certificate, entered Trinity College. While attending Trinity, Turlough spent a number of summer holidays working in New York, where he held many different positions. One in particular was in a Jewish Appeal Centre. He graduated successfully from Trinity in 1970 with his B.Sc. and immediately returned to Cornell University in New York to study for his Masters Degree. Having acquired this degree in 1972 he came back to Ireland and was employed by Roscrea Bacon Processing Plant.

### HOBBIES

Turlough has many hobbies, particularly sports, including football and rugby. He played rugby with Roscrea while working there and has now joined Garryowen R.F.C. He has taken up residence in Rathkeale and is still unmarried, though we are sure not resigned to the idea. He joined Shannon Meat Ltd. last month and we wish him a contented and prolonged stay with the Company.

### LIVESTOCK DEPT.

As an Extra Service to Suppliers our Telephones will be manned from 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. for Enquiries and Bookings.

### NEXT ISSUE

The December/January edition of the Shannon Meat Gazette, will be published during the second week of December and not on the first day of the month, as is usual.

## INTERIM WAGE AGREEMENT

On the 11th September, The Irish Congress of Trade Unions voted in favour of acceptance of the terms for an interim pay deal. The voting in favour was 309 to 90, somewhat bigger than most observers had anticipated. On July, 3rd last, the Congress had voted by a narrow majority - 211 - 202 - to reject terms for a full National Agreement. Acceptance of the terms was no surprise as the executive of The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union decided to recommend a vote of acceptance to its members. As the Workers' Union of Ireland, the second largest Union, was also being urged to vote for acceptance, the outcome of the Irish Congress of Trade Union Conference had not been in doubt.

Under the terms accepted, workers will receive an increase of £3 to £5 per week which is applicable two months after expiry of the original 1975 National Agreement. This incorporates a two-month pay pause.

### DISCUSSIONS

Acceptance of the interim Agreement has cleared the way for the I.C.T.U., to have discussions with the employers and Government on economic and social strategy for the next two years. These discussions will be on a wide range of subjects, including employment, prices and incomes etc. These tripartite talks are likely to be a preliminary to the commencement of negotiations for another National Wage Agreement to cover a period at least until the end of 1977.

The interim Agreement itself is

based broadly on the 1975 Agreement with changes in less than six of the 22 clauses. Clause 3 on Pay Increases reads as follows :-

- (a) "Changes in rates of pay shall be negotiated at industry or firm level through recognised negotiating procedures and in accordance with the provisions of the Interim Agreement.
- (b) The increase provided for in this Interim Agreement shall be applied to the basic rate of adult employees five months after the date on which the final (fourth) phase of the 1975 National Agreement became due except to such extent and for such period as other arrangements are agreed between the parties as a result of the application of Clause 6 in this Interim Agreement or Clause 6 of the 1975 National Agreement. The increase shall be for whichever of the following two amounts is the greater -
  - (i) 3 per cent of basic pay : plus £2 a week subject to a maximum increase of £5 a week, or
  - (ii) £3 per week.

This payment shall apply for a period of five months. It is agreed that there is no commitment by employers to pay any further increases at the end of this period."

NOTE: Clause 6 above, refers to the inability to Pay Clause of the 1975 National Agreement.



Returning to Work in Shannon Meat the majority to Staff Boning Line No. 2 were : Back Row : A. Frawley; N. Harnett; M. Sheehan; J. Joy; Middle Row: T. Murphy; D. Fitzgerald; M. Reidy; J. O'Grady; Front Row : G. McCoy; D. Larkin; P. Sheehan; and T. White.

## DRY SPELL

No doubt, but the long dry spell has brought its share of problems. Scarcely a week gone in September and we hear of people already feeding grain to prime steers, to get that extra bit of finish on. This we have seen in a small scale other years, but not until late October.

One wonders if we are facing one of the longest winters on record, from a fodder point of view. Anyone selling baled hay, could hardly lose anything to hold on, when one reads of a situation in the U.K. where they will have to pay £80 million extra for cereals to make up the short fall in supplies as a result of the drought. It is difficult to see any large numbers of stores being exported with the shortage of fodder on the continent and the U.K.

### NEEDED

It could just happen that all the extra feeding in this country will be all needed. It looks as if stock will be off the land for the best part of seven months this winter. In view of all this it is amazing how good the store trade is holding.

We have been asked why we do not refer to our quoted price for the different types of stock in the Gazette. Unfortunately as a fortnight lapses from the time of going to press and the date of publication, it just would not be news, moreover with present trends, while total livestock numbers may be back 3.5% from 1975, the amount of prime being offered weekly does not suggest there is any shortage and it is difficult to see that situation changing over the next few months. (More Livestock Topics on Page 2)

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting of The Shannon Meat Social Committee, took place on Friday, 3rd September. A small but enthusiastic number attended. The Officers elected for the forthcoming twelve months were :-

Chairman..... P. Lynch.  
Vice-Chairman ..... P. Sheehan.  
Secretary..... D. Neville.  
Treasurers ... S. Tierney & S. Guiry.  
Committee members elected were :  
L. Ahern, C. Jones, P. Guinane,  
P. Curtin and D. McEnery.

It was decided that The Devon Inn, Templeglantine, should again be the venue for the Annual Staff Dinner & Dance. This will be the eighth annual function, the last two of which have been at the Devon Inn. The Social Committee are confident that this year's function will be as successful as those of previous years. It will take place on Saturday, November, 27th. Music for the event will be rendered by the Western Star Country Band. Tickets will be available from the usual ticket sellers early in November. We advise all staff members wishing to attend the function, to book their tickets as early as possible as numbers attending the Social are as usual limited to circa 400. An enjoyable night is assured.



The Officers of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union in Shannon Meat Ltd., were very pleased when it was learned that the Interim National Wage Agreement was accepted. We feel that agreement at national level is much better than a free for all with each area negotiating on their own.

### CONGRATULATIONS :

We would like to congratulate Michael Meehan of the Slaughter Hall on his son's recent marriage. We would like to wish his son, who is also named Michael, and his new wife, the very best for the future.

We would also like to wish every success to Matty Williams who recently was granted a Slipper's Licence. We hope that he will get many meetings. We will now continue to print some extracts from the rules of our Union commencing with Rule No. 15.

### Discipline of Members :

15. (a) A member whose arrears (including fines, levies and special levies, if any) exceed eight weeks, may be fined by the Branch Committee. The Branch Committee shall also have power to fine any member for non-attendance at a Branch or Section Meeting of which due notice has been given. Such fines shall be deemed to be additional arrears.

(b) A member who is deemed to have been guilty of conduct unbecoming that of a member, or whose conduct is inimical to the interests of other members, may be :-

- (i) fined a sum not exceeding ten pounds;
- (ii) debarred from attending Union meetings for a period as decided;
- (iii) debarred from holding office or participating in any way in Branch or Union administration;
- (iv) expelled from membership.

(c) The Branch Committee of the National Executive Council may impose one or more of the penalties mentioned in (b) for the conduct regulated therein.

(d) Any member fined, debarred, from attending Union meetings for a period as decided, or from participating in any way in Branch or Union administration or expelled, under this rule by a Branch Committee, may appeal to the National Executive Council, provided such appeal is received at Head Office not later than fourteen days after the date on which the decision of the Branch Committee is notified to the member - such notification to be sent by registered post - and the decision on such appeal shall be final.

(e) The Branch Committee shall, in all cases concerning disciplinary action against members, afford the member an opportunity to make his defence.

### BRANCHES :

Formation, Dissolution, etc., of General and Industrial Branches.

16. The Union shall be divided into Branches, to one and not more than one of which, without the consent of the National Executive Council, each member shall belong.

17. Every Branch shall, at its establishment, consist of not less than 50 members.

18. A branch shall consist of all the members of the Union residing or working in its area or

working in an industry or related industries or in related employment, as decided by the National Executive Council.

19. A Branch Secretary may, in consultation with the Branch Committee, and in response to a request from its members, establish sections and allocate the branch members among the sections, in accordance with the nature of their employment. The Branch Committee or section concerned shall have the right to appeal to the National Executive Council from the decision of a Branch Secretary, either to establish a section or not to do so.

20. The National Executive Council or General Officers may, at the request of a branch or, in the absence of such a request, of their own initiative-

- (a) abolish all or any of the sections in a branch;
- (b) amalgamate two or more sections into one section.

21. The National Executive Council may, at the request of any of the branches, or in the absence of such a request, on its own initiative -

- (a) dissolve a branch and transfer its members to one or more other branches;
- (b) divide a branch into two or more branches.



Miss P. Curtain who represents the Female Members here busy at her work place.

## LIVESTOCK TOPICS COW/HEIFERS

By D. Donovan Livestock Procurement manager

Cow/Heifers or would we do more justice to the same animal if we were to call them Heifer/Cow?, either way, one cannot help thinking that these double barreled phrases leave too much to the imagination. There is no doubt but they come in all shapes, sizes and weights. Opinions can often differ widely as to what one might call them. If someone asked me what is a Heifer/Cow, I would be of the opinion that it would have the same conformation and finish of a maiden heifer with not more than six permanent teeth. In order to get an animal into this category, one needs a fair bit of size for age. I have no doubt with the high cost involved in stocking land to-day, there must be herded owners contemplating going back into suckling. Provided the animal has not got to go through a long store period it is possible to end up with a suitable well finished carcase inside the 30 to 32 months.

It is amusing at times to say the least. You will meet the owner who describes these animals to you as fine heifers and that they were dry with a year and a half. You have another owner maybe, after describing these lovely animals to you only to find that they were being milked once a day. The blue card can often give away the game of course, with the date of its first test.

### YOUNG COWS

A very large percentage of these animals can only be classed as young cows and cow beef as such being sold by the ton in boneless form. I doubt if anyone could show me the difference between the cuts from a four year old and a six year old cow. The one argument being constantly put forward is the fact she had only one calf. This means nothing if the animal has not got the amount of finish required to classify its carcase for a purpose other than straight cow beef. There is not another phrase I can think of that fits the Cow/Heifer

trade better than the one that defines all our geese as swans. Whatever the chances of getting that 2p. to 3p. extra, we will continue to listen.

A black and white 9 cwt., bullock is missing in the area. Not wishing to turn the Livestock Department here into a Lost and Found Office, we would gladly pass on any information that may help. It has got to be somewhere, but what I cannot understand is why people will not report to their local Garda station, when they find they have an extra animal. It saves so much trouble for the poor unfortunate person who is out searching, a job nobody likes. It is a bad situation if it is another one of these unsolved cases. While the Law may state that the animal belongs to its new owner if the original owner does not turn up after a year and a day and that seems fair enough if a genuine effort has been made to locate its true owner.

### BRUCellosis ON WAY OUT

Good progress is now being made in eradicating brucellosis, according to a survey by the United Kingdom Milk Marketing Board Veterinary Research Unit at the end of June.

It showed that almost three quarters (73 per cent) of the dairy herds in England and Wales are now accredited and that South Wales has more than 90 per cent of its herds accredited.



Mr. Donie Donovan Livestock Procurement Manager.

## SAVING THE CAP

Petrus Lardinois is the key figure in the Common Markets Agricultural Policy, the C.A.P. To-day he is preparing to leave Brussels for a quiet job, running a farmers co-operative bank, in his native Holland. Before he goes he is making one, probably last attempt to deal with the root problems of the C.A.P. He has proposed the most radical attack yet on Europe's explosive dairy problems, the 1.3M tons skim milk mountain and a butter stock pile now 200,000 tons high. In a recent interview, Lardinois explains why and warns of tough consequences if his plans are rejected. His plans for dealing with this staggering problem include cash to farmers who do not sell their milk, a variable charge on those who do, to be set every year and a tax on margarine to make it so expensive that housewives will buy butter instead.

Lardinois believes that what we have is a structural surplus of milk, part of which is due to technical development in modern dairy farming. So the surpluses are growing and the cost is rising steadily. He feels his scheme for farmers to share the extra costs should limit the amount of milk produced. He also proposes to encourage a cut in productive capacity through premiums for non-delivery

### OUTWEIGHED

He states that the impact of this could easily be outweighed by future incautious price policy. Lardinois expects strong opposition to his policy from farm lobbies and governments, but sees no alternatives. If his plans fail and the cost of milk surpluses go up any further - it has already passed 30% or 35% of the total farm budget and could even reach 50%, then the whole C.A.P. will break down.

Lardinois states that Denmark and the Netherlands should favour restructuring. They have most to fear from the C.A.P. falling apart. Even the French said that they are not

against the principle. He also expects support from the British and Germans who have pressed to reduce the cost of the C.A.P.

He admits however that the British are firmly opposed to his plan, to put up the cost of margarine with a duty on vegetable oils. "But if the British are serious they must act against surpluses." He sees strong opposition from margarine companies and consumers and does not underestimate their strength. "After all" he says, "there has been a battle going on for 13 years. But this time it is different. We cannot undermine the butter market, we have to maintain the neutrality of the C.A.P. between butter and margarine."

### THREAT

The stronger threat he has said repeatedly, comes from the artificial monetary mess produced by shifting exchange rates and the devices in the C.A.P. to keep prices in Europe the same. "There will come a moment when the C.A.P. cannot be held together any longer. There will be such price differences that they cannot be bridged by acceptable border adjustments or payments. The solution lies in co-ordinating economic monetary policies", he states.

Lardinois feels that consumer options have been strengthened by the U.K. presence in the E. E. C. "Take meat for example, we dispose of surpluses through social action rather than exports. I am not unhappy. A synthesis is possible between consumer and producer interests provided consumers are willing to look towards long term considerations", states Lardinois.

He believes that structural change is influenced more by outside factors than policies. Take dairy farming. In seven years the number of dairy farmers has fallen in the original six from 3.5m to 1.97m. "We should not insist on keeping people in farms but ensure that industry is created to find them jobs." He says.



# PICTURE PARADE



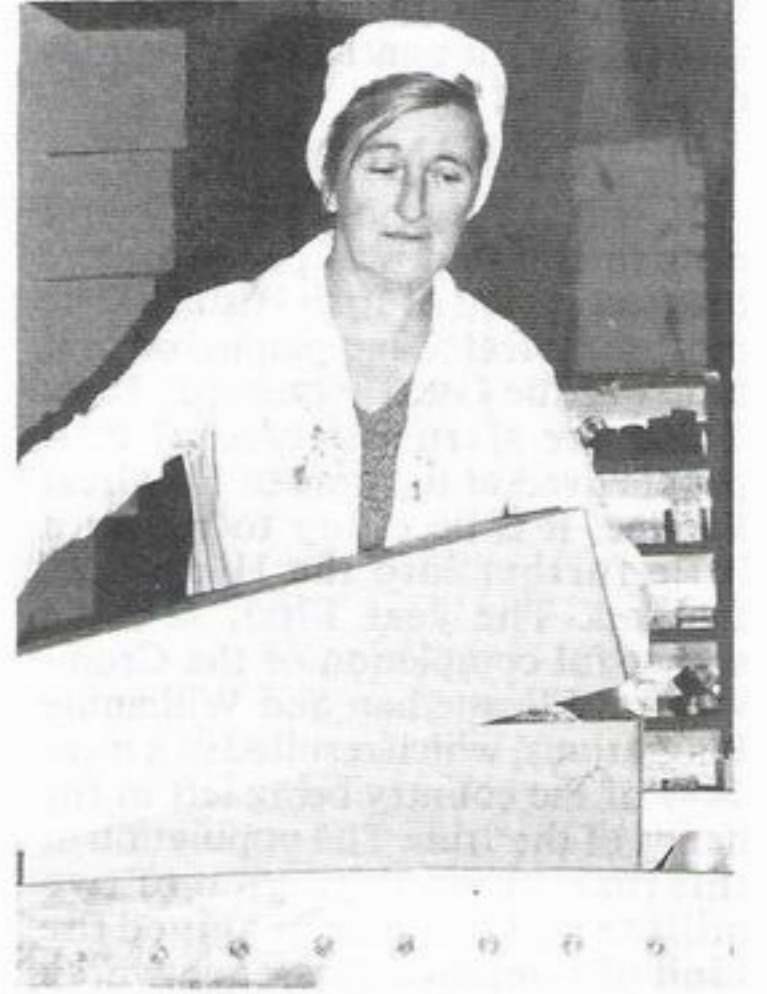
Good Interest was shown in our stand at the Annual Limerick Show held in August. Photo shows Liam Ahern, Matt O'Doherty and Evelyn McLoughlin chatting with visitors to the Stand.



Instructors with Shannon Meat are Christy Jones [left] and Pat Costelloe.



Site Foreman with Nash Contractors is Frank Costelloe [above]



Miss Theresa Heffernan who is responsible for identification and coding of Boneless Beef.



Miss Elizabeth Reidy, Busy at her Typewriter.



John Lyons seen here "clocking in" at the Manually Operated Clock. This Clock will be soon replaced by an Automatic one.



On the Breakdown Section of Boning Line No. 2 are Willy Kelly right and Sean O'Shea.



Joining the Company for the first time as Packers on Boning Line No. 2 are [L. to R.] Mary Dalton Duxtown, Mary Hogan Rathkeale, and Eileen O'Connor Carrickerry.



Clerical Officers Pat Coleman and Gerard O'Connor take a break from duties for this photograph.

# THE BAD OLD DAYS

By Sean Dowling.

The 20th Century has been the Century of change. People who have lived in it, have perhaps witnessed the greatest transitional period of the world to date. Scientific and Economic development seems to have reached a climax. Computerization and automation have become a part of everyday life and all values other than materialistic ones, seem to have disappeared. Prosperity has become more widely distributed and the lifestyle of the majority of people has improved considerably. This change has come about in a very short time and living conditions to-day are in stark contrast to the conditions of a little over a hundred years ago. It is difficult to imagine that what we consider necessities to-day were the unattainable luxuries of yesterday.

## FAMINE

It was an age of poverty and destitution and was perhaps, the blackest period of Irish History. The most memorable happening of that time was the Great Famine of 1845. To create a true picture of how people lived at the time of the Great Famine, it is necessary to retreat a little further into the History of Ireland. The year 1700, saw the successful completion of the Cromwellian, Elizabethan and Williamite Plantations, which resulted in a mere 14% of the country being left in the hands of the Irish. The population at this time was in the region of two million and it can be imagined the kind of wretched existence which they scraped out of such a small portion of land. Typical of what usually happens in a situation of poverty, there was a dramatic population explosion which resulted in the population increasing to five million by the end of the 18th Century and to over eight million by 1840.

The land was owned by landlords who left it in tiny "holdings" to the Irish tenants and compelled them to pay enormous rents. As these holdings rarely exceeded five acres, the most prevalent form of livelihood was agriculture, particularly the growing of potatoes. Weather conditions in Ireland were suitable for potatoes and they could be grown on land which was too poor for other crops. Also, because of the plentiful return of the crop, it soon became the staple diet of the large Irish families and they became solely dependent on it. So it should have been very apparent that if anything were to happen to the potato crop there was no substitute means of subsistence for the people. However, if this fact was recognised, no steps were taken to combat it.

## BLIGHT

The potato blight hit Ireland in the Autumn of 1845 and the greater part of the plentiful potato crop was reduced to an evil smelling inedible substance. The immediate effect was disastrous and when the whole potato crop was destroyed by a repeat of the blight in 1846, the effect was complete desperation. The already degrading and terrible condition of the Irish people was reduced to an inhuman level.

Consider for a moment that your Great-Grandfather and possibly your Grandfather survived through this period. He probably had a family of about 12 and let us assume he had a holding of about one acre. On his holding he would have a small mud built cabin of one or possibly two tiny rooms. For a chimney, there would be a hole in the roof and in this hovel he and his family plus any pigs,



Sean Dowling.

cows or chickens he might be fortunate to have would live. To pay his rent to the landlord he would either work or pay it by means of corn or animals, both of which would put him in the higher tax scale of that time. Having cultivated the garden, potatoes would be sown in ridges known as "lazy beds" and the family would then wait and eat sparingly of the remainder of last year's crop. This was how your great grandfather lived until August 1845.

## HARVEST

One morning in August he awoke, hungry yet with a contended look as he remembered the dense flowering stalks which indicated a very fruitful potato harvest. The worry of feeding his family was now eased for a while. He stepped carefully and quietly out of the cottage not to awaken the sleeping children as they lay sprawling in all corners of the room. Coming outside he noticed a most unusual thick mist and a most appalling stench assailed his nostrils. He paused wondering and then noticed the smell was coming from the potato garden. His steps quickened as he moved towards it and the look of complete desperation which appeared on his face told its own story. Gone were the luscious healthy stalks of yesterday and in their place a wilted withered fungus, with a strange premonition of disaster, he fell on his knees and began tearing at the soft sodden mass of decay. Through the soft earth his fingers dug, and then he raised his hand and looked at the remnant of a healthy potato. Half of it was now black and rotten. Numbed and speechless he hastily returned to the house and roused the family. With faltering words he told them of the predicament and added with a false note of optimism that some of the potatoes might still be unaffected. Grabbing the spade he raced back to the garden with his family on his heels and began digging. Before very long it became obvious that the cause was futile. The complete family except those who were too young to understand wept silently as they stared at their food, their future, their very existence rotting before their eyes. A slow wailing lonesome cry began to rise with the mist as people all around awake to discover the misfortune.

The sparse supplies of the family were quickly depleted and before long there was nothing left to keep them alive. There was nobody to borrow from as everybody was in the same position. Thousands of people were dying of starvation and many were already dead. Some of these remained unburied because of the lack of strength of the people remaining and this resulted in typhus and cholera becoming widespread. A great number of those who had strength enough headed for the coast and boarded what later became known as the coffin ships. This appropriate name was given to them

because of the many thousands who died on board due to starvation, disease and terrible insanitary conditions. Most of those who remained were reduced to mere animals eating dogs, cats, rats, frogs and even each other, anything to stay alive. Those in authority made a few feeble attempts to help, by setting up soup kitchens and importing a quantity of Indian corn from North America.

## INADEQUATE

These measures however were completely inadequate and hardly worth mentioning. Work-houses had been set up just before the famine to assist the poor and homeless and these now became very overcrowded. One such work-house was situated where this factory is now built. The hanging hall as we know it was the old chapel and there was a fever hospital where the civil workshop is now built. These work-houses were not built to accommodate such large numbers and the food allocated for them was inadequate. For example, the Dietary of the inmates in workhouses in Newcastle West and Rathkeale, in 1840 was as follows :-

## MENU

### BREAKFAST :

For the able bodied male, paupers between the ages of 14-60.  
8 ozs of Oatmeal stir about & ¾ pint of new milk.

For the able bodied females, paupers between the ages of 14-60,

6 ozs. of Oatmeal stir about & ½ pint of new milk.

### DINNER :

Course of the day (everyday)

3¾ lb. of raw minnion potatoes and 1 pint of skimmed milk.

When the above course was not available they got nothing. Our great Grandfathers probably went through the workhouse and obviously managed to survive. One wonders how many of us would overcome such an ordeal.

In Ireland to-day these conditions of dire poverty have completely disappeared and though not everybody is well off, nobody has to suffer the indignities of our fore-fathers. The Great Famine was caused by the selfishness of individuals and the irresponsibility and mis-management of government. Ireland lost two million people between 1845-1851, one million through immigration, while another million died of starvation and disease. There are many lessons which can be learned from a disaster such as the Great Famine. We should appreciate and value our good fortune and prosperity more and do our utmost to assist those less fortunate than ourselves. There are many places in the world to-day where famine does exist and one wonders if we do enough about it. Are people making an effort or are we too worried about our own well being? Could there be another Famine?

# COOK'S CORNER



By Mary Foley, Laboratory

Stew can be considered an almost traditional dish in Ireland. It is easy to prepare and looks most attractive. The following are two popular stew recipes.

## IRISH STEW

2 lbs. neck of mutton, (cut into convenient sized pieces).  
2 large onions, (peeled and sliced).  
2 lbs. potatoes, (cut into quarters).  
½ - 1 pint hot stock of water. Salt & Pepper.

## METHOD

1. Arrange prepared meat and vegetables in layers in saucepan, sprinkle each layer with salt and pepper. Pour in stock or water.
2. Bring to boil, skim off skum. Cover with tight fitting lid and simmer very gently over the lowest possible heat for 1¼ - 2 hrs. until the meat is tender. Stir at intervals and add extra liquid if necessary. Cook in oven 325°F or Gas No. 3 for 2 hrs. Serves 5 - 6.

## BROWN STEW

1 lb. stewing steak, e.g. chuck, shoulder or shin.  
1 heaped tablespoon seasoned. Salt & Pepper, Flour 1 oz. margarine.  
1 Onion.  
¾ lb. mixed vegetables, e.g. (carrot, turnips or parsnip) Peeled and ½ - 1 pint stock.

## METHOD

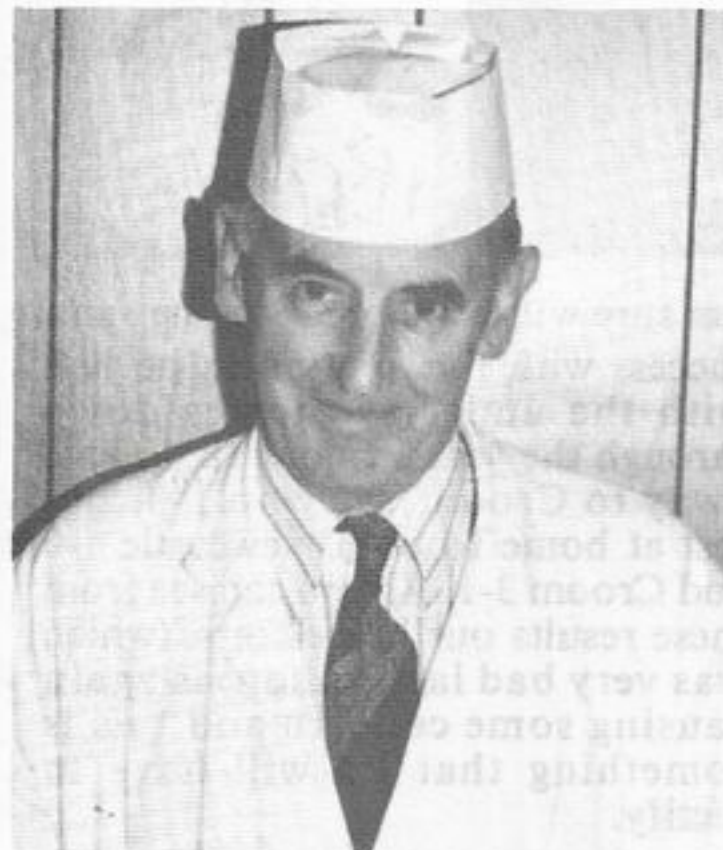
1. Prepare meat, cut into 1 inch cubes. Toss lightly in seasoned flour.
2. Heat margarine and fry meat lightly for 1-2 mins. Remove meat onto plate.
3. Add sliced vegetables to pan and fry lightly until golden brown.
4. Stir in remaining flour and fry until lightly browned.
5. Add stock or water and stirring continuously bring to the boil. Reduce heat, add meat and seasoning if desired.
6. Cover and simmer very gently for 2-½ hrs. or until meat is tender. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking. Alternatively transfer contents of pan to a casserole and cook in a slow oven (235°F Gas No. 3) on middle shelf for 2 - 2½ hrs.
7. Add gravy browning if liked. Serve with boiled or jacket potatoes and a green vegetable. Serves 4.

# TRIMMINGS

By the Trimmer.

- \* The early fish gets hooked for the same thing as the early bird gets credit for.
- \* Sad fact of life : Square meals make round people.
- \* He who laughs last probably intended to tell the story himself.
- \* Ambitious Wife : The power behind the drone.
- \* Where there's a will, there's relatives.
- \* Success is when you are bored by people who once snubbed you.
- \* Don't take life too seriously; you will never get out of it alive.
- \* Courtship is the period during which a girl decides whether or not she can do better.
- \* There is nothing wrong with the younger generation that the older generation did not outgrow.
- \* The nice thing about a college education is that it enables us to worry about things all over the world.
- \* Never kick a man when he is down - he may get up.
- \* The honeymoon is over when he stops helping her with the dishes and does them himself.

# PROFILE - PADDY CAWLEY



Mr. Paddy Cawley.

Long serving employee, Paddy Cawley is a Production Supervisor & Hygiene Officer with the Company. Paddy's association with the Company started way back in 1953. In this year, he joined the firm as a butcher. At this time, Paddy was one of a staff of around thirty who combined their normal butchering activities with those of loading. These two being the only processes required. Times were difficult then in the meat industry and the firm only remained in operation for five to six months each year. In the summertime of each year, Paddy was left with no option only to seek work to support his wife and family. Fortunately, for the Cawley family, the breadwinner had a trade to assist him and Paddy was able to gain employment in butcher stalls in and around the Limerick area. Twice during this era, Paddy worked with the Irish Meat Packers in Sallins, Dublin. This meant for Paddy, leaving his wife and young family at home. The same story can be told of other staff members at this time. Up to 1960, this was the way of life for the Cawley family.

## DEMANDING POSITION

In and around 1960, Shannon Meat Ltd; was beginning to get both feet firmly established on the ground. It was in this year that Paddy Cawley became Supervisor in the Boning Department. He remained in this very demanding

position until March, 1975. In this post, Paddy was found by all, to be very fair and was respected equally by those who worked under him as well as those who worked alongside him. He tells of a co-operative staff and of the great working atmosphere which always prevailed. With a grinning and a simultaneously lonely smile, he recalls those cheerful working days. Paddy tells of a new recruit, on an errand for a fillet of steak known as a tornado. On coming up to Paddy, this lad asked for a hurricane, (definitely the weather had something to do with it). In 1975, Paddy became an inter-departmental supervisor. At the same time, he was given the responsible position of Hygiene Officer.

Paddy Cawley grew up in a small farming community in Cogaula, Westport, Co. Mayo. He received his education in a small country school. At the age of fifteen, he abandoned the books and in their place, picked up a knife and steel. Clad with these perilous items, Paddy served his time as a butcher in his native Westport. At the age of nineteen, he moved to Hospital, Co. Limerick, where he continued his trade. On leaving this, he worked for a number of years with Barry's butchers who were based in William St., Limerick. He worked in this stall until 1953, when he joined Shannon Meat Ltd.

## FAMILY

Paddy Cawley lives in Church St., Rathkeale with his wife and son. His wife Mary, hails from Kilfinane. In all, they have a family of three, two girls and one boy. His eldest daughter, Marie, is married on the Isle of Wight. His second daughter, Patricia, is an elocution teacher and lives with her husband and family in Kilcornan. Their only son, Seamus, is an employee with the Company. Seamus is very prominent in the local sports scene and is also a fine dancer and stage performer. In many ways, he portrays the characteristics of his father.

Paddy Cawley, the kind-hearted, softly spoken, humorous and sincere gentleman of Shannon Meat Ltd., we salute you.

# SHANNON MEAT CHAT

By the Scribe

- \* Congratulations to Tom and Gretta Steele on the birth of their daughter.
- \* Best wishes to Denis Noonan and James Dowling in their new houses.
- \* John Lyons tells me that Billy Crowley is building a house under-water, (thought Kerry men were funny).
- \* Congratulations to Stevie Murphy on captaining St. Kierans to the West Limerick Senior Football Title.
- \* Tom White (Jnr) is sorry to see all the schools have re-opened after the long summer break, sorry too, is Anthony Frawley.
- \* Sean Dowling celebrated his twenty-first birthday recently.
- \* Welcome to Turlough McDonald who has joined the Company as Chemist.
- \* Pat Marron undertook his driving test lately and was successful.
- \* Jim O'Connor of Abbeylands has joined the night cleaning staff.
- \* The fourth member of the Laboratory/Quality Control Staff, celebrated their 21st birthday recently in the person of Mary Foley.
- \* The Scribe is delighted to see that more of his friends have returned to work.
- \* A very speedy recovery is extended to Pat Morrissey.
- \* The Scribe is looking forward to toasting with all at the forthcoming Dinner Dance.
- \* Congratulations to Pa & Kitty Guinane on the birth of their son (Another West Ham Utd. supporter).
- \* Peg Curtin and Michael O'Neill were successful in the recent First Aid examinations.
- \* Former employee, Mary Shiels is the proud mother of a baby girl.
- \* The Scribe wishes the local soccer club the very best for the coming season.
- \* Welcome to Jack Daly and Tom Murphy who recently joined the Company.

# A BULL IN THE BUSH

By R.J. Wood, Plant Engineer.



Mr. R.J. Wood.

At 8.30 a.m., I finally arrived at Addis Ababa Airport after a thirteen hour flight. "What was I doing here"? I asked myself, 3,000 miles from home, a big job facing me and just out of my apprenticeship. I must be mad. But there I was, 8,000 ft., above sea level on the north east coast of Africa. Well, make the best of it, I resolved.

The funny thing about it was I left London Airport in June, 1963, and arrived in Ethiopia in May, 1957. I later found out that they had 13 months in their calendar to our 12. What a funny people, I thought.

I was greeted by a rather black looking gentleman, who answered to the name of Gabesa, driving a rather sporty looking Land Rover. Our hosts, Mitchel Cotts & Co., had sent a sporty driver as well, I found as we drove through the Addis traffic. I am still not sure which side of the road they drive on, even to this day.

The road to Shashamani was covered in tarmac as far as Mojo. It continued from there on with no surface at all. My destination was a compound in the middle of the bush country, 80 miles south of Addis Ababa, nearing the Kenya border. The objective was to build an Abattoir for the Ethiopian Government. There were two other gentlemen with me. Ted, who was to install the boilers and Jack, the insulation expert.

The temperature was 90°F when we arrived at the compound, a virtual oasis, cut out of the African bush, built like the cavalry forts in the western movies, large E.S.B. poles all around the compound. "What are these for"? I enquired innocently. "To keep the animals out" was the reply "and you in." Boy, did I feel small!

## SICKNESS

No sooner had I been shown my living accommodation for the next 7 months, when I went down with a sickness called Arrussi Desise, which flattened me down on my back for three days with no doctor around for 80 miles. It was worrying, I can tell you, but with the aid of the local Italian medic, I got back on my feet.

I found out that there were about 25 Italians in Shashamani, a left-over from the Italian occupation of Abyssinia as it was known then. They had started a small cannery in the middle of nowhere, canning tomatoes and beans, which are one of the chief exports of Ethiopia.

I was then introduced to a Mr. Cyril Coates, who was the head man on the site, who told me that the labour to be used was mainly Italian with Ethiopian helpers. I got 2 Ethiopian boys. It looked like I had to do the job myself. I heard that Cyril Coates was a highly respected man in Mitchel Cotts. "Why", I enquired. Well, the Company are the main agents for Land Rovers in the Middle East and many years ago, a man entered the Mitchel Cotts Office and demanded 60 Land

Rovers for immediate delivery. The salesman refused and informed the gentleman that all Land Rovers had been commandeered by the British Army. A raging battle ensued. The gentleman got his Land Rovers, the salesman did well and received a nice commission. The gentleman was Lawrence of Arabia, the salesman, of course was Cyril Coates.

The Abattoir was slowly taking shape and things were going well when Jack the insulator complained of "corns" on his feet. He felt this was strange as he never had "corns" before. Well, we had a look and noticed small black dots, about five of them on the ball of his big toe. We were at a loss to know what they were. One of the Ethiopian house boys arrived and on taking a look at Jack's feet, burst out laughing and produced a razor blade. He explained that Jack had got "Jiggers", a small fly who buries itself in dust until an animal passes, then hops on to its host and lays its eggs into the flesh. If allowed to hatch, the grub would eat their way into the marrow bone and the host would be dead within four weeks. Jack was pleased to have them removed and we all threw away our sandals and wore boots from then on.

I was fortunate that several safaries were organized and one of the most memorable was a visit to Lake Tana which for all you Livingstone fans, is the source of the Blue Nile. There was an abundance of wild life and many photographs were shot and plenty of Chainti drunk. (Ask Mario).

When the Abattoir was finished, 5 Ethiopian Salesmen were brought in, given 20,000 Ethiopian dollars each and told to go out and bring in the cattle. They all departed. We heard nothing for 5 days. The first salesman arrived with no cattle even though the country around about was crawling with them. The bosses of the factory were none too pleased to hear of it, they asked why? The story was that each head man of the village was approached and asked if he would sell his cattle for money and for a start he did not know what money was, and secondly his cattle were his life blood in every sense of the word. It fed him, clothed him. He was able to have milk daily. He could swap cattle for wives. What did he want with bits of paper, for they were no use to him, as there were no shops in the middle of the African Bush anyway.

The Manager had to re-think. Eventually a salesman was given a lorry loaded down with utensils, knives, axes, soap, cigarettes etc., and the old barter system was adopted.

Whether this succeeded or not I do not know as I left Ethiopia three days before Christmas, 1963, and arrived in my tropical weight suit, into London Airport in 3 feet of snow in the depths of winter. Still, I was glad to be home after my bush adventure.

**ABBEY PITCH & PUTT  
OPEN COMPETITION  
AND  
OFFICIAL OPENING**  
will take place on  
**2nd-3rd October**  
**ALL WELCOME**



# G.A.A. CLUB NEWS

By Denis Noonan  
(Secretary)



By Denis Noonan [Secretary]

Both our football and hurling teams have made their exits from this year's County Championships. They were both defeated in the semi-final stages.

### Howmedica 2-8 Shannon Meat 2-6

Despite leading by seven points after five minutes our footballers were eventually overhauled by a strong Howmedica fifteen. Some great passing football by the locals enabled, firstly, Peter Mullins and then, Sean Harnett in for well worked goals. Slowly, but surely Howmedica pegged away at this lead and Shannon Meat held only a slight advantage at half-time. On the resumption of play it was Howmedica's turn to score two quick goals. For the latter part of the game, the boys in blue and gold put intensive pressure on their rivals. Shots for goals rained in from all angles, when, points would have been of more value. The local lads can consider themselves a little unlucky not to have at least earned a draw. The unconquerable fielding ability of Mick Aherne was the chief reason for Howmedica's success. He was best assisted by Limerick Soccer Star, Jerry Duggan. A disappointed Shannon Meat outfit were best served by John Lynch, Stevie Murphy, Patch Markham & Peter Mullins. Scorers for Shannon Meat were : Sean Harnett, (1-5), P. Mullins, (1-0) and John Jones, (0-1). The line-out was :- T. White, D. Cagney, B. Chawke, L. Woulfe, S. Murphy, J. Lynch, D. Kenneally, P. Marron, J. O'Grady, S. Harnett (Capt.) S. Dowling, J. Jones, N. Hogan, P. Markham, P. Mullins.



Bill Lynch above is Captain of the Shannon Meat Hurling Team.

### HURLERS DEFEATED

Cement Ltd., 4-11  
Shannon Meat Ltd., 0-10

A very strong Cement XV defeated Shannon Meat Ltd., in an exciting tussle played in Adare recently. Though the scoreline reads a thirteen point deficit, it was by no means a true reflection on play up to the final ten minutes, when Cement really ran riot.

Playing with a very strong breeze in the first half, the local lads had a four point lead at the interval. This could have been higher but for the inaccuracy of our forwards. The second half saw Cement playing some excellent hurling with Liam O'Donoghue particularly, scoring some great points from long range. When Cement edged in front, our boys completely faded, and gave up the chase.

Best for Cement Ltd., were Leonard and John Enright, Liam O'Donoghue and Joe Lynch. Shannon Meat Ltd., were best served by T. Hannafin, M. Williams B. Chawke, J. Jones and particularly by J. Cavanagh.

The Shannon Meat line out was :- T. Hannafin, Wm. Sheehy, M. Williams, P. Sheahan, D. Cagney, B. Chawke, J. Cavanagh, S. Dowling, F. Dalton, S. Harnett, J. Jones, P. Marron, D. Noonan, B. Lynch (Capt.) P. Mullins.

Reflecting on the season to date, we cannot be too down-hearted. We qualified for two county semi-finals, the only team to do so. If we are to win any County Championship, both our footballers and moreover, our hurlers will have to do some training. The talent is undoubtedly available, but only by training will this talent be fully exploited.

### KNOCK-OUT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Within a few weeks, the County Championships (knock-out), will be staged. Both teams were unfortunate with their draws as they drew some very good opposition. Our hurlers will be playing William St. Traders, whilst our footballers have drawn Southern Chemicals. To them, we wish the best of luck and success.

slan agus beannacht

# SOCCER SCENE



The long summer break is over and we are eagerly awaiting the big kick-off to start the 1976 Desmond League Season. What are our chances for this new season? Well as always we are optimistic. We will have more or less the same panel as last season with only a few slight changes. We have lost the services of our star inside - forward Sean Harnett, who has joined Newcastle and will be playing in the 1st Division of the Limerick League. John Lyons is another who has opted to change clubs by joining Croom and will also play in the Limerick League next season. We wish them both the best of luck. To counteract these losses we have signed Johnny Jones and Mike Gallagher. Both these players are very experienced in Desmond League football and will be a valuable asset to the side for the coming year.

### FRIENDLY GAMES

We have already had a few freindly games and while the results have not been anything to shout about, we had the chance to blood some of our young players and Pa Sheehan (our new team manager) has had the opportunity to see the full panel of players in action. Pa I

am sure will be hoping for the same success with the Juniors as he had with the under-age teams down through the years. In our first game away to Croom, we won 1-0, but lost at home to both Newcastle 1-0 and Croom 3-1. As you can see from these results our home form (which was very bad last season) is again causing some concern and this is something that Pa will have to rectify.

### SUCCESS FOR MINORS

At the time of going to press the minors are going great guns in the league. They have won their two games so far, beating Kilcoleman 1-0 and Glin 3-1. The king-pins of the minor league are Askeaton and they are next on the list. If we can beat Askeaton (we play them at home) we are nearly sure of success in this tournament. This of course would be a terrific boost for the club, because many of the minors will be playing for the Juniors this year. Even a defeat by the Askeaton boys should not dampen our hopes for the future. At inside - left for the minors is Mario Zoncado, who left to join Celtic Rangers last season, but is now back in the bright yellow of Shannon United. To him we say welcome back.

Michael Dunne.



Mario Zoncado [Left] and Tom White play with Shannon United Minor XI

# ABBEY PITCH & PUTT

### Open Competition

I am glad to relate that the Club are now in a position to be able to run their own Open Competition. The dates fixed for this existing Tournament are the, 2nd and 3rd October. Despite the unfavourable weather (from a horticultural viewpoint) eighteen holes will be playable for this week-end. The Club have also erected a prefabricated club-house. Credit must be given to the members of the Committee for their willingness and unselfishness in providing this amenity for members of the public. Credit must be, likewise, extended to anybody outside of the Committee who assisted with this venture, which may I remind you is no where near finished.

The following are the competitions in our Open Competition.

Overall Nett (Joe Cuddy Perpetual)  
Overall Gross (Cronin-Barry, Perpetual)  
Senior Nett, Senior Gross, Junior Nett, Junior Gross, Intermediate Nett, Intermediate Gross, Ladies

11-18 Nett, Ladies 11-18 Gross, Ladies 4-10 Nett, Ladies 4-10 Gross, Best Visiting Lady and Gent, Best Local Lady and Gent.

It is hoped that a strong contingent of our members will participate in this event.

On the 2nd October, the Course will be officially opened. All in all this should be a great week-end in the development of the game in the area.

### PREVIOUS COMPETITION

The following are the winners of the last Club Competition.

Gents... James Dollery; Joe Lynch  
Ladies ..... Mrs L. Woulfe  
Mrs J. Dollery.

Juveniles ... Pat Neville; Ml. Neville  
Under 12's..... Tom Meehan.

A disappointing feature of this competition was the poor turn out of members. This, however, should not take from the victors, all of whom played exceptionally well in their first competition.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations is extended to Donal Costelloe, our Assistant Secretary, who is now a Senior Player. This, let us remember is only Donal's second season playing pitch and putt. A very worthy achievement Donal.



Michael Dunne [above] is Treasurer of the Abbey Pitch and Putt Club. Michael is a regular contributor in Soccer Scene Column.

### Life

Life is like a journey  
Taken on a train  
With a pair of travellers  
At each window pane.

I may sit beside you  
All the journey thru  
Or I may sit elsewhere  
Never knowing you.

But if fate should mark me  
To sit by your side,  
Lets be pleasant travellers  
It's so short a ride.

### What a Life

If a man runs after money - he's money mad. If he keeps it - he's a capitalist. If he spends it - he's a playboy. If he doesn't get it - he's a ne'er-do-well. If he gets it without working - he's a parasite. If he gets it after a life of hard labour - he's a fool who got nothing from life.

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