



ADDED VALUE, JOBS, AND BRUSSELS.

By M.F. Cowhey,
Managing Director.

In recent years, the Beef Industry has taken a large amount of stick from all sides of the establishment. It is accused of a head in the sands attitude to intensive development and also to the marketing function. Glowing pictures are painted of the number of jobs which would be available and of substantial increases in livestock prices if the Industry woke up from its Rip Van Winkle forty winks. Such views might be correct if one could cross the giant obstacles ahead in one large leap. Common sense dictates that several steps or small jumps are necessary. There are circumstances in which evolution must prevail over revolution.

Before the industry can take even one small step forward on the desired route, certain anomalies created by the unnecessary juggling of the Common Agricultural Policy by the European Commission must be eliminated. The following are the principle anomalies and factors created by the Brussels Bureaucracy which are inhibiting any further progress in intensive beef processing.

1. Beef Canning Anomalies.

Because of different devaluations of the English and Irish Green Pounds, and the NON APPLICATION of Monetary Compensatory Amounts [M.C.A.'s] to COOKED BEEF PRODUCTS, the export side of the Irish Beef Canning Industry is faced with extinction. The home market of the industry is likewise threatened as British Canned Beef Products pour in huge quantities on to Irish Supermarket shelves at much lower prices than the home product. Unless the canners get some relief soon, jobs will also be threatened. They [the Beef Canners] have carried the burden now for six

months with no sign of the promised relief forthcoming. To simplify what is involved, the British Beef Canner under the present Brussels regulations, has his beef going into the can at 14p per lb. cheaper than the Irish Beef Canner.

The Irish Beef Canners have been representing the position to both our own Department of Agriculture and Economic Planning and to Brussels. Sympathy has been received in plenty, but otherwise, no action.

2. Co-Efficients Anomalies.

The E.E.C. Co-efficients system is used on conversion rates to equate [a] Boneless Beef to Carcass Beef, [b] Carcass Beef to Liveweight Beef and [c] Boneless to Liveweight. The system is complicated and would require more space than is available here to explain in any detail. Suffice to say that the present co-efficient system favours the live export of Beef Cattle over their export in Carcass or Boneless form. More significantly, they favour SUBSTANTIALLY the export of Carcass Beef over Boneless.

Over the past twelve months, were it not for Boning for Private Aid Storage and for Intervention, the Boning Halls of the Irish Beef Plants would have been closed down. In recent weeks, a joint study group composed of members of the trade and officials of the Department of Agriculture, has been set up to prepare a case to take to the E.E.C., Commission in an endeavour to have the handicaps presented by the co-efficient system to the development of more intensive processing, removed.

3. Pieces of Beef, Three Kilos, or less.

The pieces of beef less than 3 Kilos cannot be exported to the E.E.C. This rule is of Veterinary necessity, viz., identification of the

origin of the piece. The regulation inhibits the export of retail size cuts in VAC PACK or FROZEN FORM. This rule must surely be abolished in the not too distant future.

To return to the accusation of non development of a processing arm by the trade, the above gives some idea of the present obstacles. A major obstacle to such development in the past has been a financial one. After all, it is only six to seven years ago, that a large portion of the trade was tottering on the brink and were only kept in business by a large state loan. As the late President Childers often stated, there are too many knockers in our country always looking for the worst side instead of, as he encouraged them to do, show the good achievements which are by far in the majority.

To take our own Company as an example. In précis, some of the achievements of Shannon Meat Ltd., over the past five years, viz., 1973/'74 to 1977/'78:-

Expenditure on Capital Works, viz., on Building, Plant and Equipment : £1,300,000.
Paid out to Employees:- £3,212,653.
Paid out to Shareholders:- £92,714.
Employment increased from a total number of employees in December, 1973 of 205 to a total of 273 in December, 1977.

U.S.A. NEWS - RUSSIAN PURCHASING

The slaughter of cows in the U.S.A., during 1977 was the third largest on record but the edition of heifers, at the lowest level since 1970, brought cow numbers down to 49.7 million head. This reflects a liquidation of 12½% in their total cow herd during the past three years, and a liquidation of 15% of their beef numbers.

Without question, these latest statistics confirm that beef production during the next 3 to 5 years will be significantly below the record high levels of the past 2 years. U.S.D.A., economists calculate that per capita consumption of beef in 1978 will be 6 to 7 lbs. below the 1976-'77 level of 128¾ (carcass weight basis). Economic factors, feed supplies and weather could all combine to encourage a more favourable climate for cattlemen during the year ahead than is now envisaged and result in a sharper reduction of total slaughter and consequent beef supply.

Further to the items on Russian Purchases in Australasia in February/March Issue of the Gazette, we have just been informed that a consortium of Australian plants has offered Russia 100,000 tons of boneless cow beef on the basis of 34% F.O.B. This means that the Australian farmer is being paid at 10p/lb. carcass weight. The irony is that the Russians refused the offer, even though they were getting six months credit terms. It makes one wonder what price the Russians are paying for the E.E.C., bone-in intervention beef. It also clearly shows how such E.E.C., sales can damage producing countries like Australia and New Zealand.

NEW ENGINEER



Don Gallagher.

Born in Co. Longford, reared in Co. Donegal, educated in Dundalk and London, Don Gallagher is the newly appointed Plant Engineer with Shannon Meat Ltd.

As a sandy haired teenager, he attended St. Mary's College, Dundalk. Furthering his education, Don set sail for England. At the Anglian Regional Management Centre, he acquired a Diploma in Management Studies, this added to his Polytechnic Higher National Certificate (HNC) and endorsements, which he had previously received while studying in North East London. During his stay in King George's Land (all of eleven years), Don worked with the Plessey Co. (Electronics systems) and the famed Ford Motor Co., where he was employed in the Research and Engineering Centre. This eventually brought him to Rathkeale and prime beef. Don commenced with Shannon Meat Ltd., on 23rd January, 1978.

MARRIED

In 1971 (he thinks) he married Kathleen Shiels, a Co. Limerick girl. They have a father-like-son in 3 year old Stephen - fair haired, keen footballer, exceptional to rise in the morning and finally a first-degree (tor) mentor, (after careful consideration the prefix may be removed). Don himself is a fine footballing defender as he has shown in his few games with Shannon Utd. He plays the regular game of squash in order to keep fit primarily, and secondly, to keep the kilos down, (as Don himself admits). His favourite pastimes include reading, music (all kinds except "teeny-bop") and films (all except heartbreaking love stories).

Why Rathkeale? Don explains, "I returned to Ireland because I thought, or should I say hoped there was a better way of life". He continues, "small Irish industries like Shannon Meat Ltd., with an integrated structure and progressive outlook, offers an individual a sterner challenge and consequently more responsibility and greater job satisfaction".

To Don, let us wish a contented and prolonged stay with the Company.



Attending the Party arranged by the Social Committee for retired members of the Company on 3rd of March at Rathkeale House Hotel are back row (left to right), Paddy Royce, Tim Cunningham, Bernard Daly. front row, Tom O'Connell, Paddy Collins, Jack Buston and Jer Hennessy.

ASPECTS OF LIMERICK'S PAST NO. 2. INTRODUCTION TO OUR FIELD MONUMENTS.

By Patrick F. Wallace.

County Limerick has a rich heritage of structures and buildings erected by our ancestors over a period of five thousand years. While we have yet little physical evidence that the first Irishmen, the hunters and fishermen of the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age period (6500-3500 B.C.) actually reached this area of the country, there is no doubt that their successors, our first farmers of the Neolithic or New Stone Age (3500-200 B.C.) found the light soils of the East of the county, especially around Lough Gur very suitable for their light tillage and grazing economy. Archaeological excavations in that area have unearthed remains of the simple post and wattle houses of those people while specimens of their pottery and stone implements have also been found. Their religious beliefs and architectural skills are evident from the careful excavation of their great stone tombs or megaliths.

These Stone Age people appear to have pushed into West Limerick clearing forests for ploughing and fencing areas of pasturage for their cattle. Stone axeheads used like hatchets in the felling of trees and clearing of bushes have been found in West Limerick, especially in the Curraghchase area near Adare. A tomb of late Neolithic date (Circa 2200 B.C.) and showing influences from a contemporary South Leinster culture which favoured burial by inhumation (deposition of whole bodies) rather than the usual Stone Age rite of cremation, was discovered at Morenane, near Croom, a few years ago but was destroyed before being reported to the National Museum. There is a fine boulder dolmen of roughly similar date at Tinnakilla near Clonleharde, Ballyhahill. It consists of a large capstone which rests on a number of low supporting postal stones. The weight of the capstone and the effort necessary to lever it into position show the technical skill of the people who built it, not to mention their religious fervour and social organisation.

METALLURGY

County Limerick, situated between the rich ancient copper deposits of S.W. Munster and North Tipperary, was also witness to the introduction of metallurgy to Ireland. A great many bronze weapons and implements of the Early Bronze Age period (2000-1200 B.C.) have been found in the area as have examples of the typical stone lined box (or cist) grave of the period. There is an important early Bronze Age axehead from Shanagolden as well as a hoard of bronzes from the nearby Old Abbey district.

The Shannon estuary region became very prosperous during the Late Bronze Age, from about 1200

B.C. onwards. It is possible that the area was ruled by warlike aristocracy who wore gold ornaments and who had some contact with Scandinavia. Their warlike character is clear from the numbers of bronze swords and spearheads which have been found as well as from the unique beaten bronze shield from Lough Gur. The gold ornaments include a number of gold collars like those reported from Cullen Bog on the Tipperary border and those found at Tory Hill near Croom and Shannogrove, Pallaskenry. Other gold ornaments from the area include hair ornaments reported from Askeaton. A necklace of fossilized resin or amber, imported from the Baltic was discovered at Tooradoo, Co. Limerick. Scandinavian inspiration is also evident in the kinds of gold ornament and in their decoration.

IRON INTRODUCTION

The introduction of iron to Ireland is credited to the Celts who also brought the Gaelic language from the continent about 500 B.C. The earliest iron object so far found in Ireland - a linked horsebit of Germanic type - was recently found in the archaeological excavations at Aughanish Island - midway between Askeaton and Foynes. This, and a characteristically decorated bronze pole-tip from the shaft of a Chariot, attests to the early presence of people of Celtic stock in this part of Ireland. The Heroic Age of the Celts is depicted in early Irish literature, Knockaney (Cnoc Aine) and Knockfierna being significant in Celtic legend and Mythology. This area was once dominated by the Celtic clan of Uí Feigheinte whose capital was at Bruree where the royal fort which gives its name to the town may be seen to this day. A small hillfort at Lisbane near Kilbradran, Shanagolden, also probably belongs to the Celtic Early Iron Age period. Many of the holy wells of the country, which were later associated with Saints of the Early Christian Church, have their origins in Celtic devotion as have many festivals like Samhain, Lunasa and Bealtaine. A mass burial of many individuals recently found at Ballyann near Newbridge, Shanagolden, may also date to this period.

The introduction of Christianity in the fifth century led to the replacement of pagan beliefs and customs, many of which carried on in modified form. The widespread inroads of Christianity led to an active age of monasticism which resulted in missionary activity abroad, the construction of monasteries at home and the production of works of art. Kileedy, Mungret and Monaster are but three of the local centres of this time. While hardly any monastic architecture has survived in County Limerick from this period, it is possible that future

archaeological excavation on some sites of later Churches and Monasteries will indicate a continuity from the early Christian period. It is to this Golden Age of Saints and Scholars that Limerick's (and Ireland's) greatest Christian treasure, the Ardagh Chalice belongs.

FARMING METHODS

With the monasteries and monks came improved farming methods such as an enlargement of the plough and the introduction of new crops from the Roman world. This resulted in a great advance in farming technology in the Early Christian or Early Historic period. It was at this time that many of the raths or ringforts of which there are probably more than a thousand in County Limerick were constructed. These were circular banks which were thrown up to protect farmyards, dwelling houses and farm out-buildings from the ravages of marauding animals. The houses were simple post and wattle structures, thatched with straw or reeds, and were either free standing or lean-tos against the rampart wall. Careful excavation of these structures can cast much light on the time and its economy. Most of the ring-forts were built of earth cast up from a ditch which then encircled the bank. In some cases a wooden fence or palisade was erected on top of the bank as a further defence. In a few where more than one bank occurs and where the ditch may have been deep enough to act as a water filled moat their defensive role as opposed to their usual domestic role is more in evidence. Rerasta near Ardagh village is an example of the latter. In more craggy stony districts the "banks" or walls of the fort were built of stone. These are referred to as "cashels" or "cahairs". In some forts, the farmer of the day dug a deep trench which he lined with side-stones and lintels and then covered over with earth. These covered chambers or "caves" are called souterrains. While they may have acted as places of refuge, they are thought to have been mainly constructed to protect and preserve perishable food stuffs and dairy produce. There is a souterrain in the fine stone cashel at Milltown, south of Askeaton. There are many cashels in the Cappagh - Newbridge area of the county, including a very fine specimen at Gurteenamrock, Cappagh, Askeaton.

While remains of Early Christian Church buildings are rare, there is no doubt that the little oratory at Killulta, Kilcornan, near the main Limerick-Foynes road is very early. It would appear to be at least as early as the 12th century. There is no scarcity of architectural remains from the 12th century onwards. These buildings are either ecclesiastical or military.

ABBEYS

The ecclesiastical remains in West Limerick include the Cistercian Abbeys at Monaster (1148) and Abbeyfeale (1188), the Dominican Friary at Kilmallock (1291), the Trinitarian Priory at Adare (1230), the Augustinian Priors at Askeaton, Adare (1315) and Rathkeale (13th century), the Augustinian Nunnery at Old Abbey, Shanagolden (13th century), the Franciscan Friaries at Adare (1464) and Askeaton, and mediaeval churches at Killeen (Kilcornan), Croagh and Shanagolden. These and other remains, though now in ruins, are part of our physical heritage. Many still possess details of sculpture, architectural design and layout.

County Limerick is credited with more castles than any other county in Ireland. Over half of the four

SHANNON MEAT CHAT

By The Scribe.

- * I must say that Kitty Boyce looks smashing in her new blue Mini. So too does Paddy Mullane in his.
- * Proud man these days is Con Kenneally, whose wife, Bridie, has presented him with a daughter.
- * Congratulations to Jim Kenrick, Tom White, Niall Hogan and John Lyons on their successes with their respective Soccer Clubs.
- * No wonder Ned Lawlor can afford a little smile, presently. His wife, Kathleen, has given birth to a daughter.
- * Every success to Gerard Geaney and his brother on their new business venture.
- * Congratulations to Gerald Enright who got engaged prior to Christmas.
- * The Scribe welcomes new Plant Engineer, Don Gallagher, to Shannon Meat.
- * Many questions are being asked about Jim Power's car being parked outside the local Curate's house daily, at dinner-break.
- * David Dalton of the Boning Hall and Kitty Donnelly of Croagh were married on 18th March. Every success to them both.
- * Patrick Coleman spent a weekend in England recently, with his fellow-wolves.
- * A sudden spate of Car-Fever seems to have hit the place, from the ultra-modern [Peugeot, Toyota, etc.] down to the very humble [Escort, Mini, etc.] being driven by staff members.
- * The Scribe wishes to extend his best wishes to Marian Collins, who gave birth to a baby boy recently.
- * Rumour has it that a certain trainee accountant is either:
[I] Learning to operate the Company's Photocopier.
or
[II] Learning to type
or
[III] Learning more about the typist.
One thing is sure, he is learning more about something.
- * Congratulations to Joe and Mary Lynch on the arrival of their first child.
- * The big question is: What kind of car will Sean Harnett be driving next?
- * Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Neily Hogan on the birth of their first child.
- * James Bond fanatic, Tom Shaughnessy, had to settle for 3007 on his number plate.
- * LATE NEWS FLASH
Mike Liston, Offal Supervisor, announced his engagement to Miss Mary Curan, [his Rose of Tralee].



Ruins of the Franciscan Friary, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. (Photo by permission of Public Works in Ireland).

hundred or so known castles still survive. Like the abbeys, these possess architectural and military details which are well worth attention and study not to mention conservation and investment because of their tourist potential.

In forthcoming issues of the Gazette, I hope to introduce some of these monuments to you by describing their surviving architectural remains and sketching their history.

PICTURE PARADE

PICTURE PARADE



Paddy Sheehan (centre) Vice-Chairman of the Social Committee with retired Staff, Tom O'Connell (left) and Jer Hennessy at the Retired Staff Social.



Mr and Mrs Jack Buston photographed at the Retired Staff Social on the 3rd of March.



Mr and Mrs Paddy Collins photographed at Rathkeale House Hotel on the 3rd of March.



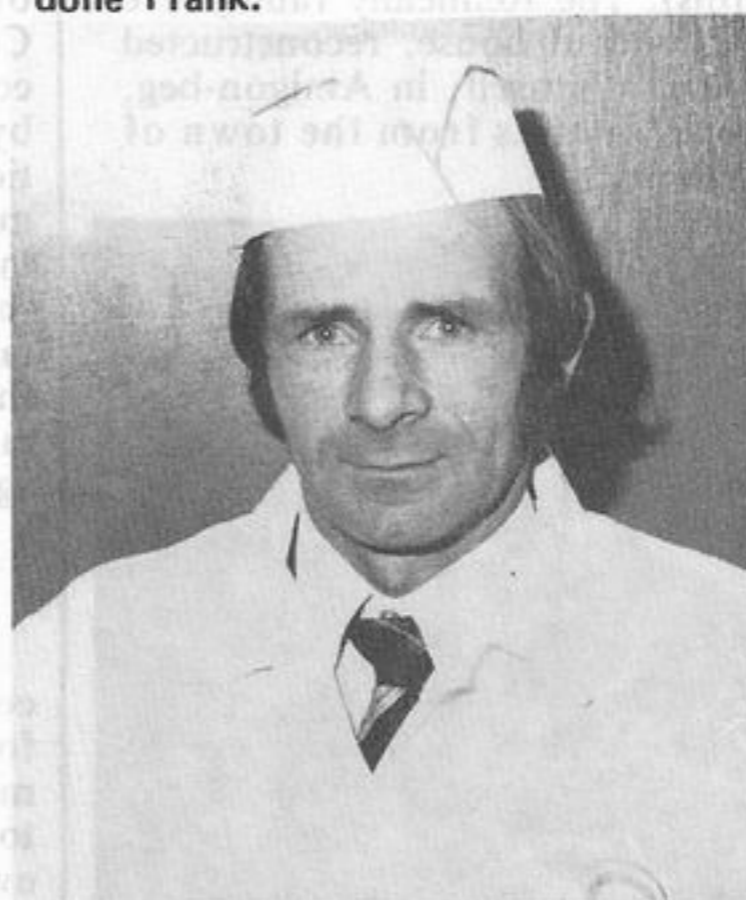
The Music Maker, Mr. Frank Costelloe, at the Retired Staff Social. He gave a great night's entertainment. Well done Frank.



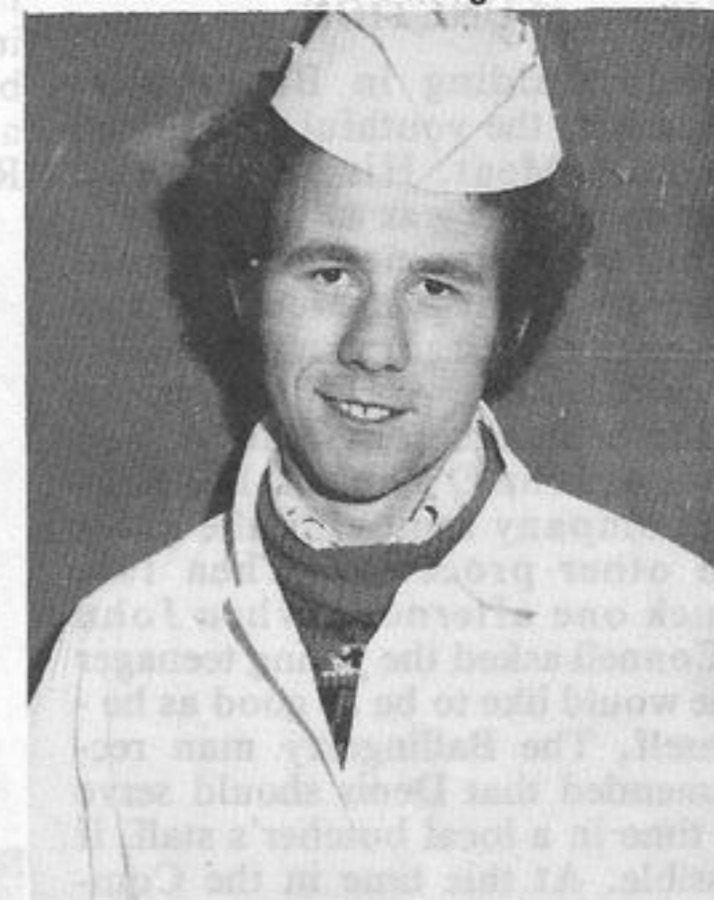
Miss Hannah Mulcahy of Ballingarry is a member of the Boning Hall Staff.



Mr. and Mrs Tim Cunningham above enjoyed the Retired Staff Party organised by the Social Committee.



Mr. Christy Jones is at present fully occupied with operative training at Shannon Meat Ltd.



John Lenihan, above, of the Boning Hall, hails from Kilfinny and has been with the Company since 1974.

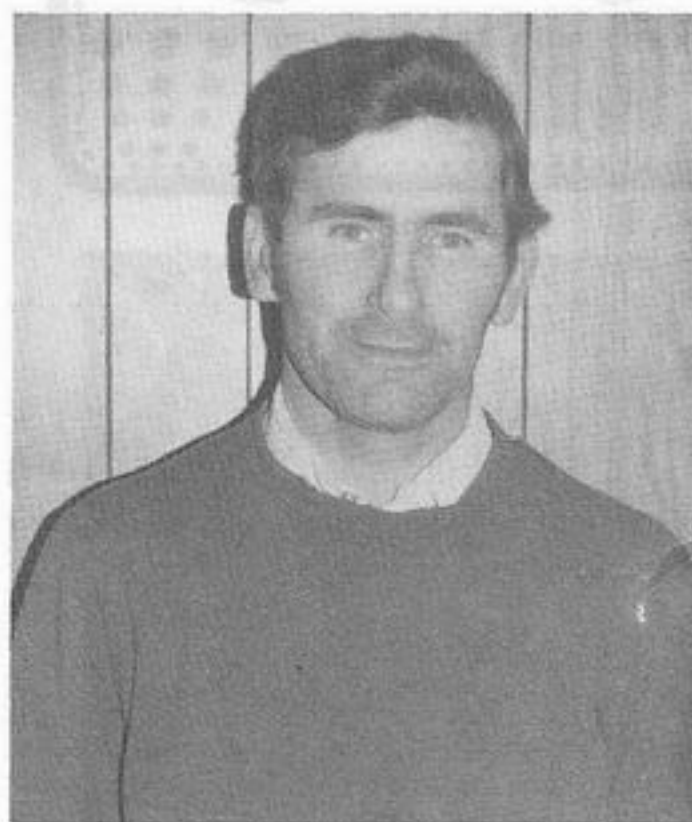


Looking very relaxed at the Rathkeale House Hotel are Bernard Daly, Paddy Royce and Tim Cunningham.



Father and son, Tom O'Connell photographed with his son John who is Slaughter Hall Supervisor with the Company.

PROFILE — DENIS KENNEALLY



Denis Kenneally.

with the Company ever since. Ironically, in John O'Connell's absence, Denis Kenneally deputises as Slaughter Line Supervisor, which indirectly results back to the former's modesty, nearly a quarter of a century ago.

Denis's elder brothers, Joe and Connie, are also two esteemed members of the Company's staff.

SPORTING CIRCLES

Denis Kenneally is a very prominent figure in local sporting circles. Compared to his fellow sports people around him, Denis did not take competitive sport seriously until his mid-teens. Denis, down through the years, has lined-out at centre-field, or left-half-back for the local St. Mary's Club in both hurling and football. He also assists the Company's Inter-Firm team. He has won three West Junior Football medals and two West Junior Hurling medals, plus a large number of tournament trophies. What many followers of these codes fail to remember is that Denis is 39 years of age. His fitness is unquestioned - the word remarkable would not be out of context, or an over exaggeration of the man's physical health. It is plain to be seen that there is plenty of kicking left in his favourite left leg. Denis's name has been closely allied to the local soccer, athletic and handball clubs, each of whom he has served with distinction at some stage or another.

MARRIED

In 1969, DK married Margaret Vaughan of Ashford, Kileedy, which he forcibly points out is a strong hurling parish. They have a young family of four, two boys and two girls: Theresa (8), Thomas (6), Denise (3) and Brendan (4½ months). The Kenneally family live in a beautiful house, reconstructed by Denis - himself, in Amigon-beg, about 2½ miles from the town of Rathkeale.



Denis photographed above with his wife Margaret.

Noted local footballer, Denis Kenneally (known to his intimate friends as - DK) is an important member of the Slaughter Line Staff of Shannon Meat Limited.

Denis was born on 23rd January, 1939, in Ballyengland, Askeaton, the youngest of three boys. The first nine years of his life were spent growing up in this remote townland. He spent a number of small years ("near eternity") attending the parish primary school, where he was taught by former Dáil Deputy, Denis Jones. Denis Kenneally completed his education in Rathkeale, where he came under the guiding influence of the late Messrs. Madigan and Boyle. In order to earn pocket money during these times, Denis served as Dan Johnson's milk-man and also as trainer of Father Costelloe's (presently Canon) greyhounds, who because of the expertise training bestowed on them, were very successful around the Markets Field. Denis retired from scholastic life at the age of 14½.

FUNCTION

Then residing in Boherbuoy, Rathkeale, the youthful DK joined Shannon Meat. His function in these early days was as "Tea Boy". In his spare moments he would observe with great interest and awe the entire slaughtering process. Enviously he would watch, in childish amazement, the skilled hands of John O'Connell, Bill Kelly and company removing the hides and other processes. Then fate struck one afternoon when John O'Connell asked the young teenager if he would like to be as good as he - himself. The Ballingarry man recommended that Denis should serve his time in a local butcher's stall, if possible. At this time in the Company's history nothing could be taken for granted, particularly employment. Denis spent the next four years as a trainee butcher with Michael P. Cahill of Rathkeale. Afterwards, Denis returned to Shannon Meat and has remained

CLUES ACROSS

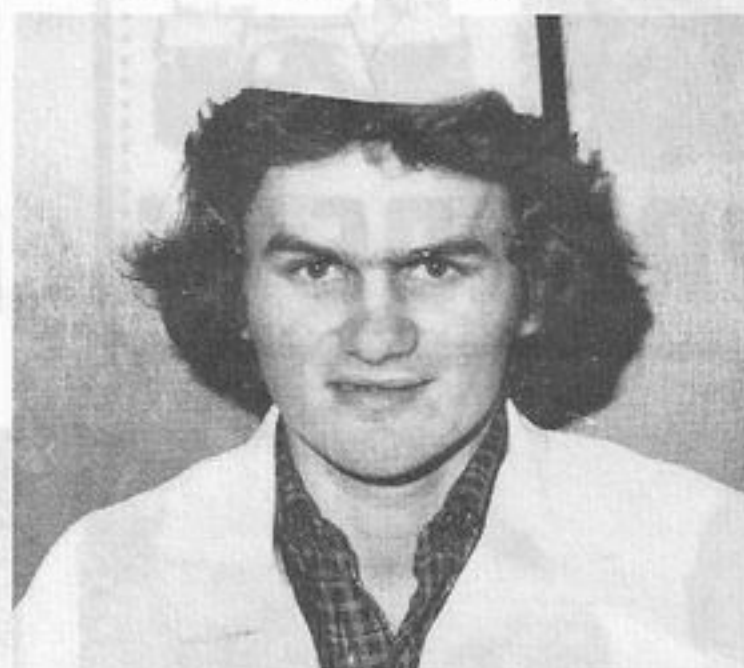
1. Must be seen through.
4. Runs to keep fit.
6. Battlement.
7. A hard push for the Drug Dealer.
8. Common to Gold and Soap.
9. Principles.
10. A favourite place for the ghost.
12. Cage Rim (Anag.)
14. To produce a knotted result.
15. Chills.
19. To rest very little weight.
21. Adipose tissue.
22. Weighty problem for the lorry driver.
24. A shade of green.
25. Sticky position in the field.
26. Is often cracked.

CLUES DOWN

1. Undo for a present surprise.
2. Pricks at a sore point.
3. How rain feeds nature.
4. This group agree on a lawful decision.
5. Soak.
8. Attack of 'flu for the boxer.
10. Two letters for the male.
11. Negative result.
13. In between.
15. Coast home at the track.
16. Decorative.
17. Out of harm's way.
18. A spell at.
20. Like.
23. Short for 25 across.

[Solution on Page 5.]

ON THE MOVE



Thomas O'Shaughnessy.

Mr. Thomas O'Shaughnessy is presently aspiring to the position of Training Instructor with the Company. Tom was the successful candidate for the recently advertised position.

Born in the locality, Tom is the eldest son of former I.T. & G.W.U. Chairman, Paddy. He commenced with Shannon Meat Limited in August, 1974, after passing his Intermediate Certificate. Tom quickly learned the skills of boning and trimming, and established himself as an esteemed boner, which when carefully meditated on, proves that he is a "chip off the old block". A decided advantage in his favour is the swiftness with which he can

THOMAS O'SHAUGHNESSY.

learn the various skilled and semi-skilled operations, and afterwards applying himself to these tasks. Every Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Tom sets off to Limerick, where he is attending a two year course on Supervisory Management, which offers him an insight into current managerial and supervisory affairs.

WELL-VERSED

The well-versed Tommy received his early primary education at the local Convent. After this he tells us: "I went to the 'Big Boys'." Under the careful tuition of Michael Brosnan, he acquired a standing technical education.

Nineteen-year-old Tom is the eldest child of Patrick and Mary O'Shaughnessy. Undeterred by what came first, they have a family of seven boys and one angelic daughter.

Tom is a fervent soccer enthusiast. He fills the right full-back berth for Shannon United, and is noted for his crunching tackles, even on his good friends. Barely single, Tom is a very likeable lad, and is a very popular choice for the testing position of Training Instructor, in which we feel certain that he will prove to be an unqualified success.

I.T.G.W.U.



NEWS

NEW BODY

Financial support of about £300,000 to be paid this year towards the setting up of a European Trade Union Institute has been approved by the European Commission.

The European Trade Union Confederation has been examining the possibility of setting up such an institute to promote the research and information required to provide an effective service for European trade unions and their membership. Both the Community's social action programme and the Council of Ministers are on record in support of such a move.

The new institute, which is likely to be based in Brussels, should be able to assist projects in the member States in addition to undertaking its own studies, encouraging the exchange of information and organising seminars. It is intended to focus on Community-level topics of interest to the trade union movement such as the working of multi-national companies within the Community framework, and changes in European company and labour law.

Three of the Selection Officers of the Union were among the attendance at a seminar organised by Mr. Fred O'Brien, Cost Accountant, on 6th March. This was in connection with the operations of the Common Agricultural Policy, and was a very worthwhile exercise.

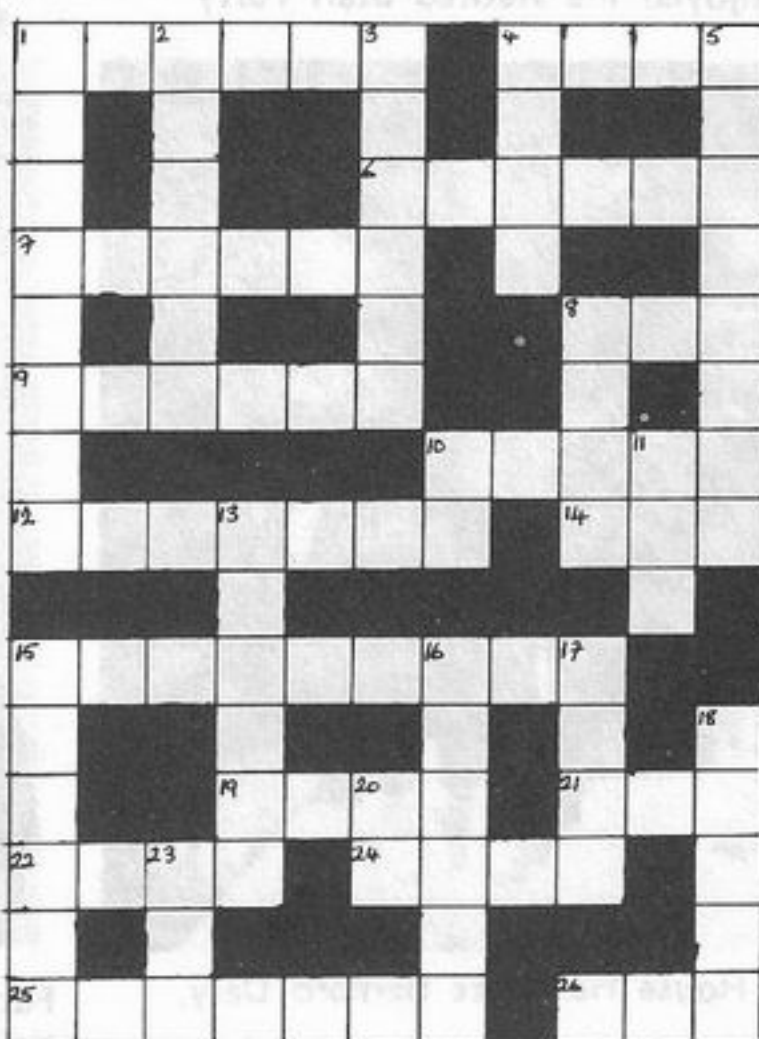
Our new committee is coming into office shortly. We hope that the Company, and the committee will continue the effective work achieved by the Monday evening consultations between Union and Management. All grievances occurring during the week should be discussed at this meeting. We think it is important that the section officers conduct this meeting in a business like manner. An agenda should be agreed upon before the meetings.

THANKS

We would like to thank and congratulate the social committee for organising the social for retired members of our company. It is nice to know they are still remembered, even though some of them are retired for some time.

By F.M. O'Brien,
Cost Accountant.

MEATY CROSS - WORD



LIVESTOCK TOPICS



Liam Ahern.

PREMATURE OPINIONS ON CLASSIFICATION TO BE AVOIDED

By Donie Donovan, Livestock Procurement Manager.

The Department of Agriculture have put a considerable amount of work into the much talked about "Classification Scheme" over the past number of years. To take classification a step further from the drawing board and pin it to the suppliers statement of account, be it for one or forty animals is going to be an entirely different task. However, producers should avoid forming any opinion of the scheme, without first having the experience of relating the grade back down the line to the actual beast. We seldom meet a supplier who under-estimates his stock, and it is also fair to say that there is a lack of concern among suppliers for what is really under the skin. Moreover, with the high price today, the European housewife is not prepared to pay over a £1 a lb. for excess fat. Classification will not be introduced overnight, and an open mind should be kept on it until a later date.

OPEN WEEK

In August this year, we intend to hold an 'Open Week' whereby we would have a selection of steers, heifers and cows on show - stock that would be typical of our normal throughput, no brushing, or shampooing is required, just cattle straight off the land.

The purpose of the show would be as follows:-

1. It would be an educational asset, with no form of competition.
2. All stock entered would be identified in lots - 'A' to 'Z'.
3. To give the supplier an opportunity to see how the different types and breeds of cattle perform under classification.
4. To be also looked upon as an opportunity to see the degree of finish from one lot to another.
5. To see in detail the kill-out percentages of different lots of animals.
6. To be able to furnish in detail, to those who take the opportunity of seeing the cattle, the end results after slaughter.

ANALYSIS OF CULLING SURVEY

By Liam Ahern, Livestock Field Manager.

A recent survey carried out on 80 East Anglian Farms by the Animal Breeding Research Organisation shows that out of 20,000 cows and followers, 4,000 have been culled.

To conduct the survey an Officer makes periodic visits to each farm. Information on all animals on the farm is put through a computer. Each farmer is left a supply of culling forms and a questionnaire to be completed when he disposes of an animal. For an animal culled, partly for low yield, or Mastitis, the farmer could have written in 50% for each.

The total number of animals and culls are shown in Table I.

The over-all reasons for culling in the first 3,663 animals recorded are given in Table II.

Points of interest in the table are that production is of importance in the grounds for disposal, that breeding difficulty and the failure to conceive are of major importance.

Table III, shows infection rate and reasons for culling, Mastitis being the main cause.

TABLE I: NUMBER OF ANIMALS IN THE SURVEY

	Milking Cows	Followers	Total
Total Number	11,725	7,366	19,091
Number of culls	3,175	80	3,255
Breakdown of culls:			
Voluntary	2,936	725	3,661
Involuntary	221	74	295

TABLE II: Reasons for culling expressed in percentage of total culled:

	Calves & Heifers	COWS	
		Lact- ation 1-3	Lact- ation 4+
Economic & Management factors	62.94%	5.51%	14.39%
Production	6.28%	27.86%	16.48%
Breeding Problems	20.60%	38.15%	32.69%
Calving Problems	0.17%	3.18%	2.02%
Infectious Diseases	5.78%	11.06%	17.21%
Foot & Limb disorders	0.28%	1.06%	3.86%
Udder disorders	0.28%	6.02%	10.26%
Gut disorders	0.62%	0.74%	11.15%
Respiratory disorders	0.21%	0.29%	0.04%
Temperament & Conformation	3.03%	6.11%	1.73%
Number of culls	725	1,426	1,510

TABLE III - % Analysis of disorders affecting culling:

	Calves & Heifers	COWS LACTATIONS						
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Mastitis Acute	-	2.4	1.9	3.1	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.8
Mastitis - chronic	-	3.0	5.0	7.4	11.5	10.1	13.6	11.1
Mastitis - Summer	3.4	1.6	0.8	1.8	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.1
Foot disease	-	-	-	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Brucellosis	2.1	3.2	0.4	1.1	2.0	1.6	2.7	0.3
Other diseases	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.2

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS:
1. Window. 4. Jogs. 6. Turret.
7. Peddle. 8. Bar. 9. Ideals.
10. Haunt. 12. Grimace. 14. Tie.
15. Coldrooms. 19. Lean. 21. Fat.
22. Tare. 24. Sage. 25. Referee.
26. Nut.

DOWN:
1. Wrapping. 2. Needle. 3. Waters.
4. Jury. 5. Saturate. 8. Bout.
10. He. 11. Nil. 13. Middle.
15. Canter. 16. Ornate. 17. Safe.
18. Stunt. 20. As. 23. Ref.

SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to Mr. Dom White on the recent death of his Mother, Mrs. Bridget White (Station House, Rathkeale), after a prolonged illness. Condolences are also expressed to the other members of the White family.

SHANNON Quality Meat for your Home Freezer

- * Home Freezer Special Prime Beef Packs
- * Prime hind and forequarter heifer beef
- * Your own stock processed to your specification
- * Top quality Lamb Packs and Lamb Carcasses
- * Specialist advice on Home Freezer maintenance.

Get full value from your Freezer. Meat supplied by Shannon Meat Ltd. is processed under modern hygienic conditions. This ensures top class quality, proper maturing, best cutting and packing methods and blast freezing to ensure meat is frozen solid in the shortest possible time. We are proud of our Home Freezer Service.

For full particulars contact :-

The Home Sales Manager,
Shannon Meat Ltd.

FORK LIFT TRUCKS ARE DANGEROUS



Fork Lift Truck Drivers, in the interest of safety :-

1. Avoid driving over bumps or kerbs.
2. Remove loose objects from your path.
3. Do not attempt to lift a load heavier than the capacity of the truck - if in doubt, find out.
4. Keep a sharp look-out in the direction you are travelling.
5. Do not alight from the truck until it is properly parked.
6. Don't leave the truck where it creates a hazard or a nuisance.

DIM WIT

By Joe Kerr.

- * A few minutes with him makes you want to jump for joy, ---- off a tall building.
- * He holds people openmouthed with his conversations. They can't stop yawning.
- * His stories always have a happy ending. Everyone is delighted when they finally end.
- * It's true that he's a man of few words. The trouble is, he keeps repeating them.
- * He says he'd go to the end of the earth for his friends. They only wish he would, and that he'd remain there.
- * He's proof that stuffed shirts come in all sizes.
- * He deliberately broke a leg skiing. He wanted a status symbol.
- * She mightn't have such a wrong slant on things if she stopped looking down her nose.
- * A monkey took one look at him and yelled "To heck with the Darwin theory - they're not going to make a man out of me"!
- * Pandemonium doesn't merely reign when he's around, it pours.

SOCCER SCENE



TITLE HOPES FADE :

With only three series of games remaining in the league, our chances of retaining the title are very remote indeed, and it would appear that Kilcoleman have an outstanding chance of winning their first title. They have been around now for a number of years, through thick and thin, and this success is long overdue. We are drawn against a non-league team from Ardagh, in the first round of the Cup, and a good Cup run is just what the Club needs to give the lads a bit of a lift. We went out in the first round to a non-league side last year, and it would be something of a sensation if it happened again. However, having said that, we will treat the opposition with caution, and be prepared for a difficult game.

MAJOR DECISION

Some weeks ago, we (the Committee of the Club) arranged a meeting with the Secretary of the Limerick League, with a view to competing in the City League, thus relinquishing our ties with the Desmond League. This was no snap decision, because for a long time now we realised this is the only course open for us. We just can't go on losing our best players to teams competing in the City League. We bring lads up from the under-age teams to the Junior side only for other clubs to reap the rewards. Getting back to our meeting with the Secretary of the City League, he stated we would have no difficulty entering the City League, provided we got a clearance from the Desmond League, and that is the snag. We duly applied for the clearance and now we must wait and hope. Hope they can see things from our point of view.

Congratulations to Mario Zoncada and Johnny Jones on being selected for the Desmond League side, who recently played Waterford in the Oscar Traynor Challenge Trophy.

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION

On the 12th of February last, we held a very successful church gate collection, and I, on behalf of the Committee, would most sincerely like to thank all those for their generous support.

MATCH REPORTS

Shannon Utd. : 1 Kileany : 6

Three spectacular goals by Kileany in the first 15 minutes certainly dented our title hopes. We just had no answer to the rhythm and skill of this very fine Kileany side. By half-time it was 4-0, and they added another soon after. It was left to Pat Lavin to score a late consolation goal.

Kildimo : 0 Shannon Utd. : 3

After our heavy defeat last week, we were back on the winning groove with a very convincing win. Pat Lavin, deadly as ever from dead ball situations, had us two up after 15 minutes, one from a penalty, and the other direct from a free kick. Johnny Jones added another before the break, and we simply strolled through the second half.

Askeaton : 2 Shannon Utd. : 1

This defeat must surely have killed off any lingering hopes we had of retaining the league. Askeaton were the better side on the day and clearly deserved to win. Our defence were caught flat-footed mid-way through the first-half, when the ball was played over their heads for the Askeaton centre-forward to run onto, and he easily beat Denis Harnett with a low shot to the corner. Bill Chawke had us level early in the second half, but back came Askeaton to score the winner, after another lapse by our defence.

Goal Tally:

Jones [8], Chawke [6], Zoncada [3], Harnett [3], Lavin [3], Lynch [2], White [2], Culhane and Fitzgerald one each.

Michael Dunne.

G. A. A. CLUB NEWS

By Noel Harnett, Secretary.

TOURNAMENT

Our own football and hurling tournaments will be commencing in early April, and the following are the draws:-

FOOTBALL

Southern Chemicals v Kantoher, Howmedica v Shannon Meat/Scanglo.

HURLING

**A. Castlemahon Bye.
B. Cement Bye.
C. P. & T. Newcastle v Salemink.
D. Kantoher v Shannon Meat/Scanglo.**

**SEMI-FINALS : A v D
B v C**

I would like to take this opportunity of once again thanking the Management of Shannon Meat Limited, who sponsored our Hurling Tournament, and Jeremiah and Theresa Fitzgerald of Rathkeale House Hotel, who sponsored our Football Tournament.

From time to time, I will introduce some of the boys who play and work with the firm. The following are two popular members of our Football and Hurling teams respectively :-



Denis Noonan

Name : Denis Noonan
Department : Boning Hall
Age : 26
Height : 5' 9"
Weight : 12 st.
Married : Yes, to Theresa
Children : Emily (1½).
Club : Dromcollogher.
Position : Centre-forward.
Favourite Sports : Hurling, Football, Soccer and Rugby.
Hobbies : Reading
Favourite Teams : Limerick.
Favourite Player : Ritchie Bennis.
Most Difficult Opponent : D. O'Dea, Rathkeale.
Most Memorable Match : U-16 West Final Dromcollogher v Rathkeale.
Honours : 1 U-16 West Hurling Title.
Ambition : West Hurling with Dromcollogher, County Championship with Shannon Meat.



Denis Duggan

Name : Denis Duggan
Department : Accounts.
Age : 21
Height : 5' 11".
Weight : 12½ st.
Married : No. (contemplating)
Club : Na Piersaigh (Alias - Nappy).
Position : If not left Outside, Left-half back.
Favourite Sports : All Bass sponsored; Hurling, Football, & Riding.
Hobbies : Pool and Working.
Favourite Team : Brian Boru's (London).
Favourite Player : Paul McGettigan (Donegal)
Most Difficult Opponent : All very difficult.
Most Memorable Match : Winning Minor Schools final with Ard Scoil Ris.
Honours : 3 City Minors (Football) 1 U-21 City Football, 1 School's Championship.
Ambitions : To win Senior Championship Medal.

same as last season :-

**Family : £6.00
Individual : £4.00
Juveniles : £2.00
Green Fees : £0.30**

Any member who wishes to be registered will be asked to pay an additional 50p. This registration will enable him to play in the various Regional competitions.

The course is re-opening on Sunday, 2nd April.

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ABBAY PITCH & PUTT

The second Annual General Meeting of the Abbey Pitch and Putt Club was held at Patsy Doherty's on Saturday, 4th February. In comparison to previous meetings the turnout was very encouraging, and a new found hope seems evident for the forthcoming season. The following Officers were elected:-

**Chairman : Seamus Tierney,
Secretary : Liam Woulfe,
Ass. Secretary : Breed Woulfe,
Joint Treasurers : Tom Steele and Miko Dunne.**

The following personnel were elected into the Committee:-

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Dollery, Seamus Lyons, John Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Dollery, Seamus Doherty, Mce. Woulfe, and Pat and Mike Neville.

The husband and wife team of Liam and Breed Woulfe have taken over the Secretaryship. Both have worked unselfishly and with great dedication to promote the Club since it started. Both too, may I add, are very fine players and form a very impressive duo around the greens.

Two more husband and wife teams of Jimmy and Mary Dollery and Phil and Christie Dollery, respectively, are members of the Committee. It is very encouraging to see the women-folk taking an active part in the affairs of the Club.



Newly appointed Secretary of Abbey Pitch and Putt, Liam Woulfe (above).

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The new Committee have decided that the membership fees remain the