

SHANNON MEAT GAZETTE



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Telephone : Rathkeale 49/50

SAFETY YEAR

The New Year is a time for making new resolutions. We are no different. Most such resolutions are broken within a short period. We hope that with the co-operation of everybody employed by Shannon Meat Ltd., not only keep our New Year's resolution but, to build on it. Our resolution is to make safety a top priority with everybody in 1979. We want to have 1979 known as Safety Year in Shannon Meat Ltd.

We do not wish it to be suggested that, heretofore, we were in anyway lax in our approach to this aspect of our responsibility. On the contrary, safety in our Industry has always been a priority with members of Shannon Meat Ltd. at all levels. But, we are not going to rest on our laurels. We will never be satisfied that enough precautions are taken. This applies, especially, in areas of training for safety and the use of knives and equipment. In 1978, we had not a lot (but too many) minor

accidents, especially knife cuts. Such accidents cause upsets to the people concerned as well as often, loss of wages and production. Familiarity breeds contempt and when one is using a knife, or flayer for long periods of time it is often easy to take such an implement for granted. These "animals" strike when this happens and the resulting injuries are most unpleasant not only for the person concerned, but also for his fellow workers and Supervisor. Everybody dislikes injury to a colleague, however slight.

In February, we will publish on the Company's Notice Board an analysis of the accidents for 1978. Most of these did not render the victim incapable of work for any period. None of them should have happened. In 1979 we ask everyone to work on improving these figures. Throughout the year we will keep you informed of progress towards this objective. Please remember to report ALL accidents, however slight. Accident Report Forms must be completed for ALL accidents.

The Shannon Meat Ltd. Safety Committee met periodically throughout 1978. The last such meeting which took place on 22nd November was very constructive with many worthwhile suggestions forthcoming. If you have any suggestions to make on improved safety practices, please pass them on to members of this Committee.

Remember, Accidents do not happen, they are caused. Do your part to make 1979 the year Shannon Meat Ltd. kept its New Year Resolution.

D. Neville.



"I'm home dear. And, I believe you left this lying on the front walk!"

SUPERVISORY COURSE

Michael Dunne, Assistant Canning Supervisor with Shannon Meat Ltd., recently completed the Shannon Free Airport Development Company Supervisory Training Course at the Parkway Motel, in Limerick. This course gives a basic understanding of Supervisory Management and its inherent skills. It gives the Supervisor a practical on the job training in the Management of his particular department. Michael completed a work related project as part of the practical application of the course.

Of the course itself, Michael states "I got a greater insight into the rôle of the Supervisor in every aspect of the job. The area that I was most impressed with was in the motivation lectures and in problem solving and decision making sessions." Another aspect of the course that appealed to him was the meeting with the other twelve participants all from the Limerick area.

"It was very interesting to hear the views of people in other Supervisory situations and to learn from the problems they were experiencing," he says.

Michael Dunne joined Shannon Meat Ltd. in 1967 and is a Rathkeale man, married, with a daughter, Susan, aged 6 and son, Paul, aged 2. He has been a regular contributor to the "Soccer Scene" column of this *Gazette* for the past three years.



Mr. Michael Dunne.

LIVESTOCK TOPICS

LIVE EXPORTS HARMFUL TO THE ECONOMY

By Donie Donovan,
Livestock Procurement Manager.

In 1978, 35,000 cattle were exported live to Libya. A small enough number in relation to our total exports. This figure is exactly what the Irish Meat Plants would handle in a week of full production. Take any skilled work force of 4,000 people and put them on unemployment benefit for one week, plus the loss of their P.A.Y.E. and S.W.I. contributions for one week, there would be a direct loss in terms of more than ¼ of a million pounds to the State.

For a small food exporting country as ours, had the half a million cattle that were exported live in 1978 been processed at home one has to think in terms of hundreds of millions of pounds loss in revenue. Any loss to the Beef Industry is a loss to the industries servicing the Meat Trade, for example: Freight Transport, Box Manufacturing Companies, E.S.B., Irish Tanning Industry, Protective Clothing Industry and a host of others too numerous to mention.

ERADICATION

To get back again to the Libyan situation, at present thousands of pounds are being spent on advertising the drive to eradicate T.B. and Brucellosis from our herds. Yet there seems to be a back door left open in the Scheme in spite of all the tightening up. Cattle can go to Libya from locked-up herds and also without a 30 day test. There will not be any come back from these people, but on the home front it creates a little weakness for those that are making every effort to comply with the regulations.

The Industry has always had its off season, depending on weather conditions, it can be anything from four to five months. Any large scale shipping of live animals which would further reduce the throughput brings us to the situation where we start talking about white elephants.

CALF EXPORTS

People who speak out in favour of the live export of calves seem to have little faith in our store and beef producers. They would do well to remember that if calves were never going to Italy, the Irish farmer can afford to pay a good price for good bull calves.

In 1975, when good bull calves were being sold for £7 to £10 per head, plane loads were then leaving the country for Italy, there was no pressure on the calf exporters to pay more. As cattle prices have nearly trebled since, the Irish feeder de-



Mr. Donie Donovan.

serves a little more credit. This is a very delicate subject among farmers who are solely in milk.

SERVICE

But, one cannot have jam on both sides of their bread at all times. If, for instance, we had no way of processing cow beef in this country, we can imagine the sight it would be to see a load of our poor Irish canning cows trying to scramble aboard a chartered Jumbo. I am afraid it would be like the story of the hens in the 1950's when the price of eggs were bad they all died in debt. The situation deserves a little deeper thinking than it has got. If the Irish Dairy Farmer is depending on the factories to process his culled cows in twelve to fourteen weeks of the year then surely those factories are most entitled to all the raw material available.

The Irish factories are giving the farmer around the year service for stock of all weights, ages, breeds and sizes, why should they be robbed of a percentage of the cream.

With the expansion in the Meat Industry since the early sixties, live exports were a dying trade until we entered the E.E.C., these past few years the anomalies in the regulation have favoured live trading. If the anomalies were corrected and all trading on level terms, time would solve all the problems.

ROBBED

If we are to be serious about job creation and added value, considering the total bill for imports, it is difficult to accept why we allow ourselves to be robbed of millions of pounds in parting with our own most important raw material, one of the very few this country has to offer and can ill-afford to lose.



Representatives of our Union and the Irish Fresh Meat Exporters' Society recently met Mr. Jim Gibbons, Minister for Agriculture, to underline the gravity of the crisis facing the Industry. This is because of the acute scarcity of cattle for slaughter and the anomalies in E.E.C. regulations. Among the topics raised were the decline in the beef herd, live exports and canned beef products. The Minister said he had plans to increase the beef cow herd but did not intend to prevent live export of older cattle. Calf exports last year reached nearly 140,000 head and represented a massive drain of the future raw materials of the Meat Industry.

The difficulties of the Beef Canning Industry still continue because of the operation of the M.C.A. system. British processors of cooked meat products were buying subsidised forequarters from Germany at 24p per lb. at the end of 1978, although prices were much higher in Germany than in the U.K. The delegation impressed upon the Minister the severity of the situation due to M.C.A. anomalies which are applicable only in the case of Canned Beef.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The National Executive Council, at its December meeting, decided that the 1979 Annual Delegate Conference will be held from May 29th to June 1st inclusive, in the Leisureland Centre, Galway.

SYMPATHY

We would like to express our sympathy to Michael Costelloe of the Building Maintenance Department on the recent death of his father. Sympathy is also expressed to the family of the late Maurice Woulfe of Ballingrane, who was a colleague of ours in Shannon Meat Ltd. up to twelve months ago. We would also like to convey our condolences to Pat Condon of the Home Sales Department, on the recent death of his mother.

COLLECTIONS

It was decided recently to have collections only in the event of a death of a near relative of one of our members.



Mr. Tom Gray, Shop Steward in the Offal Department.

SOCCER PILGRIMS



OUR MANCHUNIANS:-

The Manchester United Brigade photographed outside the elaborate Old Trafford Complex, left to right:- James O'Grady, Tom White, Mikie Reidy, Tom Glenny, Jack Lyons, Anthony Woulfe and Liam Woulfe.

It has now become a regular occurrence for many of our Employees to make frequent pilgrimages to their favourite Soccer headquarters in England during the course of the Football Season. For these dedicated fans, it is an ideal opportunity to see for themselves at first hand, how good or otherwise, their idols really are. One thing is for certain and that is nobody admits their team falls into the otherwise category. This latter point makes for many heated confusions by rival Club supporters, but if everyone agreed "there would be no crack" as Patch Markham points out. Patch, who remains convinced that Leeds United are the only team of note in the League, except of course when they are not interested. With his auxiliaries, Pa Dunne, John Stack and Seamus Cawley at his defence, he is reassured. In fairness to Patch, our biases gets the better of each and everyone of us on such matters.

EXPEDITION

A typical weekend in the life of these Football nomads would go



This photograph of Seamus Cawley, taken on the boat home, manifests clearly the severity of the trip.

something like this:-

The first stage of their expedition is a drive by bus or car, normally to Dublin. With the compliments of B. & I., they are ferried across the Channel to Liverpool where they arrive before the cock or clock, has awakened his master. A coach trip then takes them to their destination. The early morning is spent shopping and souvenir hunting - the wives and lady friends at home cannot be forgotten. After all, it was they and our bosses (who get no presents) who consented to us going, even if we were going anyway. Then at last it is time to trek towards the match venue. Jack Lyons describes seeing Old Trafford for the first time, "I stood as if held at gunpoint in unexpected amazement, bewildered by what stood before me. If asked to describe it, I would say fantastic, but this does not personify what I really saw." If John Stack was asked to describe Elland Road, home of Leeds United, he would reply in his most famous phrase, "Oh great!".

MEMORY CELLS

The enriching spectacle of our heroes in combat against second-rate opposition (so we think) will remain in the memory cells of our already overworked brains forever. We think - the real live action is much better than Match of the Day until we want to see that glorious goal again, or that super reflex save, or that ferocious tackle - never mind the atmosphere is electrifying, the decorated crowds shouting deafening obscenities at the Referee, opposition and each other is much better. Anyway, it was our man who committed the bad tackle - the boys at home would let us know that. Then we think of our comrades who are in the midst of their weekend chores - poor lads. We will tell them on Monday if Larry Kelly or John O'Connell gives us a minute or two over and above our break time. Eventually, the game ends, heads held high or low, we disperse. Funny, we think despite the 45,000 odd people present, there is no pushing and dragging - wow! couldn't our Sports Authorities

learn a lot here.

MONDAY MORNING

We then start on the return voyage getting tired, hungrier and colder by the second. Finally, flabbergasted and exhausted, we reach home where we are met by the smell of home-cooking, a glowing hearth and a bottle in the bed. Monday morning we are on top of the world, our workmates are asking questions faster than Bunny Carr, some others in the corner are whispering under their breaths "fools" - never mind. Then we think, roll on five o'clock until we get home to bed. By Friday, we have just about recovered having relived every moment of the weekend over and over again.

Normally, our Soccer pilgrims travel in groups of sixes or so. However, there is one supporter who heads off like a hermit, without telling anyone, returning on Monday morning with a selection of match programmes which he distributes to the fanatics. This is probably one way of trying to win over supporters - if not players, no - Wolves are not that bad.



I wonder who he supports!!
John Stack displays his colours a short distance from the home of Leeds Utd.

AWARD NOMINATION

Second year Apprentice Carpenter, Thomas O'Brien, is a man who can hold his head up high these days. The Ballingarry teenager has just been selected for the National Apprentice Competition from which the 'Apprentice of the Year' will be chosen. Tom informs us, "This whole sequence of events came about as a result of receiving my Senior Trades in Cabinet Making which Michael Brosnan, the Principal in the Vocational School, had entered me for".

"Prior to Christmas," he continues, "I undertook the preliminary examinations in Limerick." At the time of going to press, Tom was in Round 2. This meant further tests which lasted for four days.

This is a great honour, not alone for Tom, but his parents, family, friends and his Company whom I am sure will join me in wishing him every success for the future. Tom's achievement should also act as a great goal for our other apprentices.



Thomas O'Brien.

PICTURE PARADE

PICTURE PARADE



Attending a recent Seminar organised by Inbucon/AIC Consultants at The Burlington Hotel, Dublin are (left to right), D. Neville, Shannon Meat Ltd., D. McGee, International Computers Ltd., D.T. Leonard, Semperit (Ireland) Ltd., and John Horgan, Vice-Chairman, Labour Court who chaired the seminar.



I wonder what Larry got? Looking very relaxed with Santa Claus is little Marian Kelly, daughter of Production Supervisor Larry Kelly and his wife, Theresa.



Pausing for this photograph is Gerard Fitzgerald (I am sure he was glad of the break) from his Box Making machine.



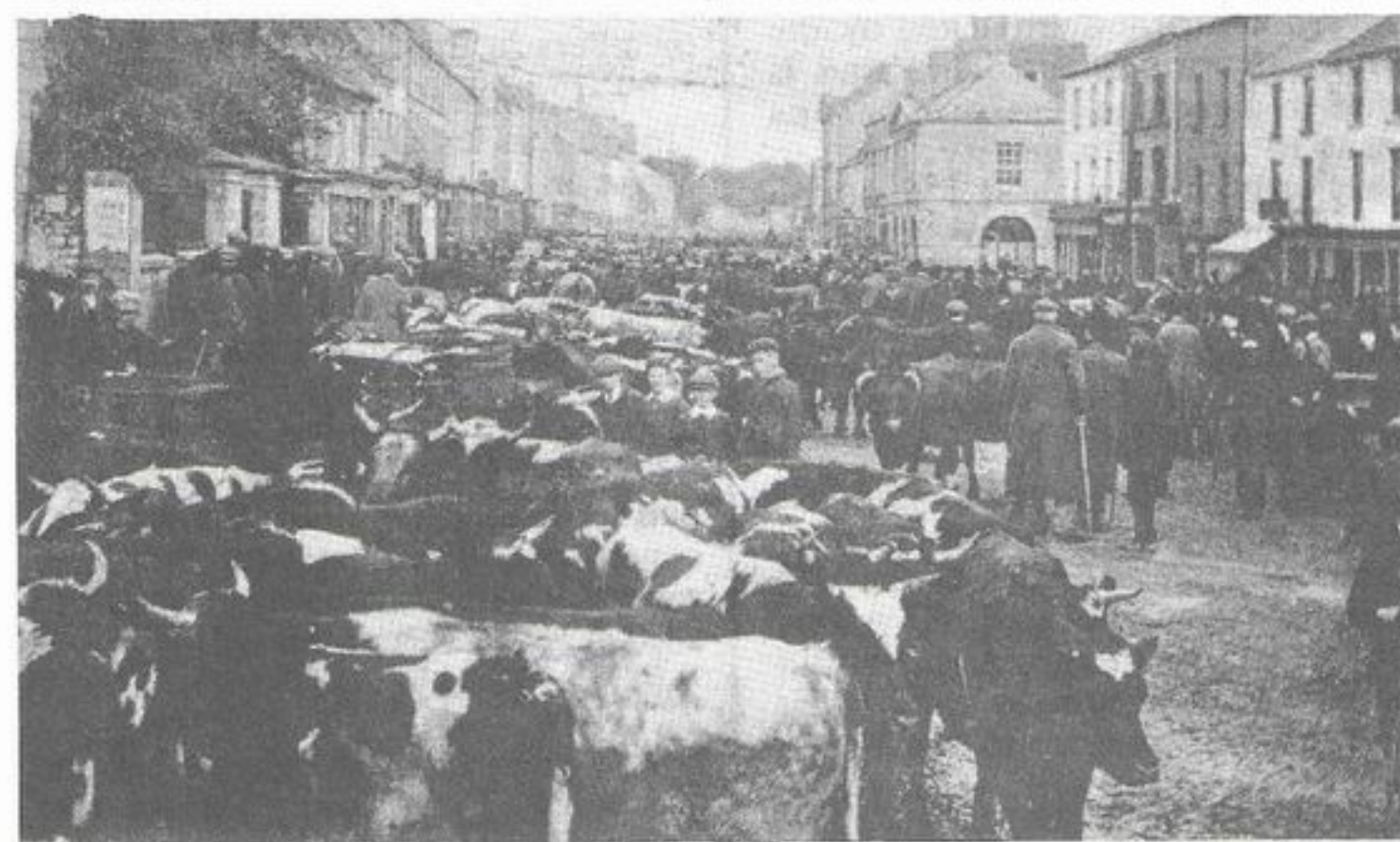
Tom Keating, above is a Quality Control Officer with this Company.



Peggy Curtin, above with her special spot prize for selling in excess of 100 tickets for the annual Staff Social.



Mr. William O'Donnell and his Bride, Marian, pause for the camera after their Wedding Ceremony recently.



Fair Day in Charleville at the start of the Century.
Photo Courtesy, T.J. O'Riordan.



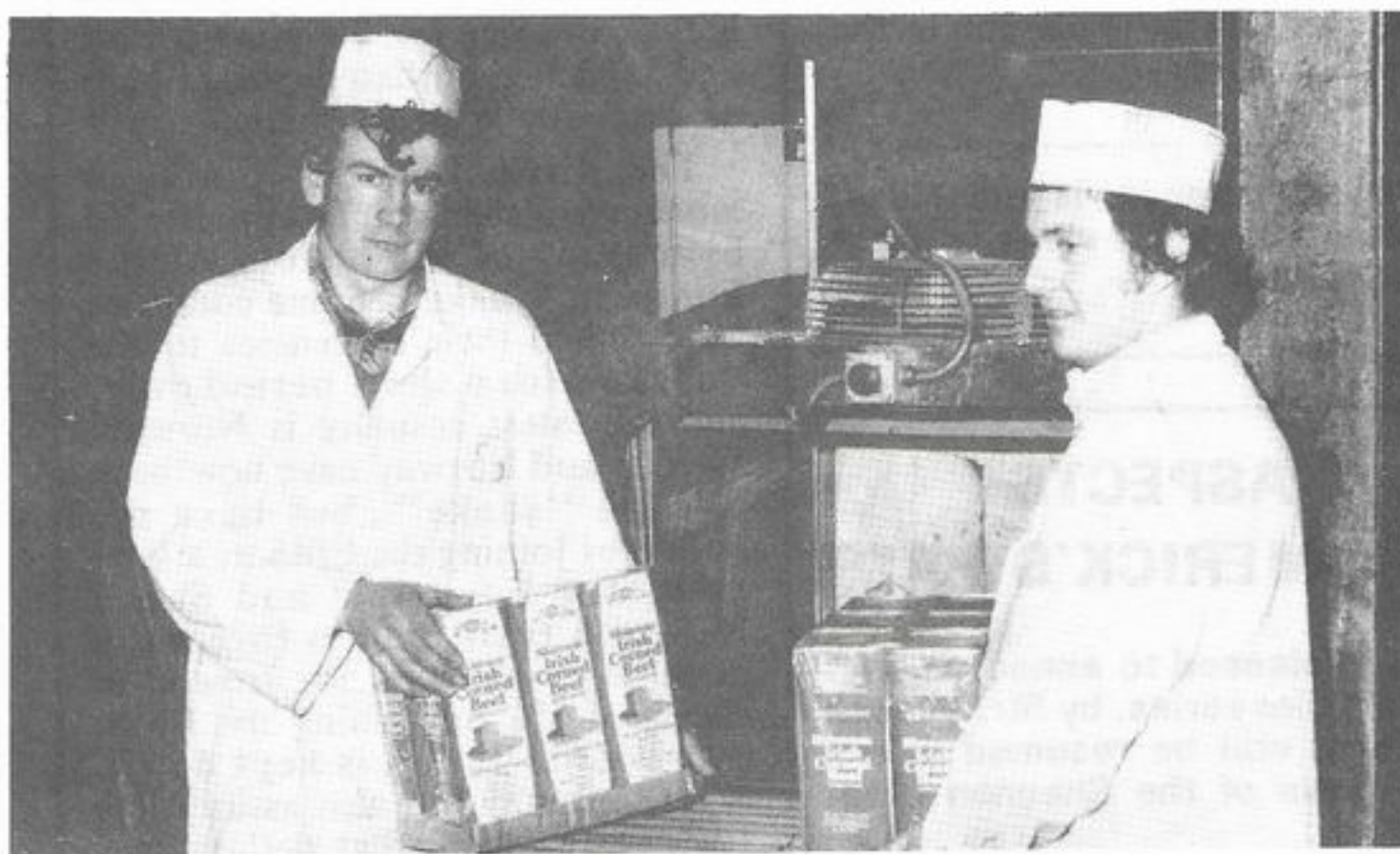
Supervising the unloading of cardboard boxes is Mr. Patrick Coleman, Stores Assistant.



A photo by request. Mr. James Doran of the Boning Hall, hails from Twogneeves, Brosna. He thinks Dublin are a great team.(?)



Senior and Junior in the red Offal Dept. are: Tom Kennedy, left and Patrick Sheahan, Departmental Chargehand.



Service Operators in the Canning Department are: John Byrnes, Ardagh and John Reddin, Shanagolden.

SYMPATHY

The recent sudden death of Maurice Woulfe, Ballingrane, Askeaton, came as a great shock to all in Shannon Meat Ltd. Mossy served twelve years of his short life working with this Company, from October, 1965 to November, 1977. We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife and children.

Condolences are also expressed to Patrick Condon of the Home Sales Department on the recent death of his Mother after a short illness. To Karen Condon, who was a niece of the deceased, and to the other members of the Condon family, we offer our condolences.

We take this opportunity to express our sympathies to Mr. Michael Costelloe of the Maintenance Section whose father was buried during the latter part of December, 1978.

**DO
YOU
KNOW**

Meat Processing Companies exporting beef and mutton to Moslem countries are governed by certain laws laid down by the purchaser. Firstly, the slaughterman must be a Moslem. The slaughtering is done to a traditional rite which is:- The animal's neck is slashed with a blow that cuts the respiratory tract and jugular vein. As he slashes, he prays in the name of Allah, the Almighty.

* Staff employed in Manufacturing Firms in South Korea work the equivalent of a sixteen month year. The average man works an eight to ten hour shift, six days a week. He has twenty days holidays per year which he can work at time and a half if he chooses. His weekly wage is £25. As well as receiving only 50% of the normal wage, goods are produced in half the time as in Ireland and other European countries. One final point worth noting, when a break occurs in the line, they (the Staff) huddle together and discuss how production methods can be improved. The target slogan in South Korea is "double it - and we'll achieve it next year." Watch out Europe! a star is shining in the East.

* Nobody's opinion is worthless. Even a stopped clock is right twice a day.

ASPECTS OF LIMERICK'S PAST

We are pleased to announce that this popular series, by Mr. Patrick Wallace, will be resumed in our next issue of the Shannon Meat Gazette.

EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM

The disappointment felt throughout the European Community in the wake of the Summit Meeting held in early December has been dispelled by the eventual decision of the Irish and Italian Governments to join the E.M.S. The stumbling block to Irish entry of the new Monetary System was the lack of adequate aid to offset the financial difficulties of participation in the first years of the System's operation. The change of heart by the Irish Government was due to an offer of aid by Germany, Holland, Denmark, France and Belgium which added £50 million to the special E.E.C. loan of £225 million annually, which will almost double our foreign debt.

The final amount is far short of the initial request for £650 million, but nevertheless, the total repayments will be high. The second stage of the package will require repayment of £1,884 million for the E.E.C. aid alone, which includes an interest payment in the region of £800 million.

The loans are being made available to Ireland through the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg which borrows on International money markets and lends to Community members at a composite interest rate. The finance is nominally in European units of account (EUA) which is made up of existing European currencies, but, in fact, the loans are a mixture of Deutschmarks, French and Swiss Francs, Dollars, Yen and Sterling. A very small amount may be in Irish pounds, so that any devaluation, or decision to leave the System could result in substantial exchange losses.

EXCHANGE RATES

The E.M.S. allows an exchange rate fluctuation of plus or minus 2.25%, or 6% for countries with floating currencies, and Ireland has chosen the more restrictive band though the option of the 6% movement was available for a number of years. Britain has also undertaken to maintain sterling within this narrow band of exchange rates, though not participating in the E.M.S., and thus the disadvantages of a complete break with sterling have been avoided for the moment.

Control of inflation is an important factor if full benefit is to be gained from E.M.S. membership and the good news from the Central Statistics Office was that inflation fell in the latter quarter of 1978. In the year to mid-August, inflation was running at 8.2%, but by mid-November the figure fell to 7.9%. This figure puts Ireland in sixth place in the E.E.C. inflation league - 1.1% higher than the E.E.C. average for the same period and 5.3% higher than the best figure of 2.6% for West Germany.

The difficulties of joining a monetary system can be appreciated by a study of the history of the European "snake". Some countries have linked their currencies to the "snake" for a short period only, and the latest casualty is Norway. Sweden and Norway have now both left the "snake", but have the option of joining the EMS at a later date. The Economic and Social Research Institute has forecast a possible growth rate for Ireland in excess of 5% on joining the EMS, provided inflation is kept down. West Germany has also assured the Irish Government that deflationary policies would not be necessary if inflation were controlled.

Implementation of the system has been delayed because of French objections to the present system of subsidies and border taxes (MCA's) within the E.E.C. France is demanding a time-table for phasing out MCA's and by a procedural agreement with West Germany, it is hoped to introduce the EMS fairly soon. A further delay could be caused if a decision were made to discuss abolition of MCA's only in conjunction with a farm price review. The involvement of other E.E.C. members would then be required, with the likelihood of disagreement over freezing of farm prices and the intervention system.

DIM WIT

- * What she hears is never as exciting as what she overhears.
- * She knows how to guard a secret. She tells it to only one person at a time.
- * The only two things that stop her from office-gossiping are the hands of the clock at 5.00 p.m.
- * He never tells a lie - if the truth will do as much damage.
- * He's the top man on the "quote-'em" pole.
- * One thing you've got to hand to her - she can put two and two together - whether they were or not.

E.E.C. BUDGET

A proposal to increase the Regional Fund from £400 million to £700 million was rejected last December by the European heads of Government, though backed by the European Parliament. The fund is used to help the less prosperous areas in the Community, but, in fact, only one-tenth of 1% of the Community's GNP has been used to aid the less well-off nations. The E.E.C. Budget Ministers have maintained their previous position that the level of the fund should remain unchanged until 1980.

Ireland has been voted an increase of £8 million by the European Parliament in addition to the £25 million already allocated. However, because of the disagreement within the E.E.C. Institutions concerning the proposed increase in the Fund, the extra monies will, at least, be delayed.

V.A.T.

A step towards financing the E.E.C. Budget by Customs Duties, Agricultural Levies and V.A.T. is underway with the implementation of the E.E.C. sixth directive on V.A.T. The aim of the directive is to harmonise V.A.T. throughout the E.E.C., up to 1% of which will eventually contribute to the Community Budget. March 1st, 1979, has been appointed as the date for bringing into operation the Value Added Tax (amendment) Act, 1978, in Ireland.

Some countries may have to appear at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg because they have not introduced legislation to accommodate this directive. The European Commission also fears that income from the "own resources" scheme may not be adequate to finance the demands on the Budget.

RATHKEALE AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION

By P. Dunne,
Assistant Secretary.



Mr. P. Dunne, Dispatch Supervisor with the Company.

To start with, the following in a nutshell is what a Credit Union does, and how it helps the Community in which it is established.

Members of a Credit Union buy Shares in the Organisation and pool their savings and the members who wish to borrow money for some worthwhile purpose may obtain it from the Credit Union at a low interest rate. Any profit that derives from the Loans is paid to the members in the form of Dividends.

The Rathkeale and District Credit Union has its Office in the Main Street and is open every Friday night from 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. A Branch Office in Adare is also operational at this time. Membership at the moment has almost reached the 300 mark. Needless to say, the more members we have in the Credit Union, the stronger it is and the higher the Loans that can be considered. For instance, if there were 400 active members, Loans of £4,000 could be considered.

LOANS

Any member of the Credit Union can apply for a loan. Loans are normally granted, but are not automatic. An application might be turned down because a member has not been saving regularly, or because of a doubt about his ability to repay it. The size of the loan granted depends on several things, mainly the amount already saved by the applicant, the reason for the loan, and the number of other requests at the time.

How can you help it grow ?

The Credit Union could be much bigger. You could make it so by becoming a member. The Credit Union Personnel would be delighted to answer questions and to give any information requested at any of the two Offices in Rathkeale and Adare between 7.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. on Friday evenings.

One final point which I think is an important one is that any business discussed with Credit Union Personnel is **completely confidential**.

E.E.C. BEEF PRICES

By D. Donovan.

The Irish Intervention price for steers is 7p per lb. lower than the German intervention price which is an average of £50.00 per animal more. Also the fact that intervention prices remains static throughout the year gives no incentive to Winter feeders. This is just one area where we see a grave lack of any long term planning. The sudden upsurge in beef prices over the past few weeks was brought about by abnormal situations; such as weather conditions and strikes in the U.K. This should not be confused with the normal seasonal price rise. We have seen a substantial rise in the number of grain fed animals over the past few years and those prepared to make heavy investments in the necessary accommodation are not rewarded for their efforts.

BETTER RETURN

The Dairy Farmers who have turned to meal feeding for more milk are finding more weight from their culled cows. This in turn means a higher meat content which will mean a more valuable carcass. It is becoming more and more obvious in terms of price that the poorer animal will not hold the same ratio with the better fed animals as it did in the past. With today's high prices, one can sense a certain amount of price resistance with a swing to the better type of beef cuts from top class cows.

ANOMALIES

Finally, we have a situation where carcasses leaving the Irish plants have an advantage over frozen boneless beef to the tune of £9 per beast, this has brought about a situation where large quantities of Irish beef are being shipped to England, deboned and re-exported to Germany. This results in a substantial gain for the U.K. processors.

The export refunds are loaded in favour of the raw material being exported live rather than in box form. Strangely enough, the further one processes the greater the disadvantage chilled beef has - a disadvantage of £12.64 over live exports, chilled boneless beef has £42.84 disadvantage over carcass chilled, frozen boneless has a further disadvantage of £28.30 over chilled which gives a total gap of £83.78 between live export and frozen boneless.

CATTLE SHORTAGE

The shortage of cattle supplies for the Meat Industry is causing some concern and has resulted in short-time working in some factories, rather earlier than anticipated. Mr. John Corr, the General Manager of C.B.F., the Livestock and Meat Board, has said that because of the decrease in the beef suckler herd, the number of cattle available to the factories had fallen by 4% to 5%. This decline in numbers was the first for some years and no change in the situation was expected until 1981. World beef production has been falling since 1974 and E.E.C. intervention stocks have fallen to 225,000 tonnes - of which 50,000 tonnes is Irish beef. The shortage of cattle came at a time when prices were good for Irish beef on the British market, though at this time the U.K. Lorry Drivers strike caused delivery problems.

PROFILE

THERESA HEFFERNAN



Miss Theresa Heffernan.

Theresa Heffernan - This is Your Life. Theresa, who is responsible for identification and coding of Boneless Beef, is presently serving her twentieth year with the Company.

Theresa was born in the Old Road, Rathkeale and here in the family homestead she still resides. She has a brother, Michael, and a sister, Peggie. Theresa was educated in the local Primary School, also the Convent, where she was taught by the most famous of all the local Mercy Sisters - the diminutive Sister Peter. The untimely death of her father meant that Theresa could not further her education at Secondary level.

ACTIVE

An active adolescent, she played Camogie for the local Parish team and states, "It was a great experience". In Summertime, she

enjoyed hours of swimming in the parochial pool, better known as "Kelly's Weir". God be with the old days, they knew what good weather was. Nowadays, we have to tell our children what it is that is shining from the heavens, apart from the U.F.O.'s. Listening to the radio with a mystery novel in one hand in front of an open hearth was how a typical Winter's evening was passed away.

In 1958, Theresa started with Shannon Meat Ltd. The first person whom she bumped into was Michael O'Grady and they haven't stopped bumping into each other since. Michael is now Assistant Supervisor in Theresa's Department. "And" to quote Mr. This is Your Life himself, "here we have Michael O'Grady, all the way from the Boning Hall, a person whom you haven't seen for minutes". With the scale of staff and throughput much smaller than present, Miss Heffernan brought the number of females employed by the Firm from three to four, the three others being Maura Lynch, Maura Markham and Kitty Daly. Theresa remembers those early days vividly, "At one stage, it was a regular occurrence to start work at 6.00 a.m. and finish at 8.00 p.m." She continues, "people at that stage showed a far greater concern and zest for their work, well, maybe there were so few of us we all knew what our fellow workers were thinking". Theresa concludes, "one aspect that hasn't differed is the Company's concern for hygiene, most staff here dress like Kings and

Queens".

Theresa recalls an occasion when her colleagues hoodwinked her, a prank reserved especially for all newcomers. A certain esteemed gentleman was touring the premises, making queries as he went. He arrived at Theresa's station (who was just in the process of learning the names of the various cuts from her concerned mates). Sensing a sign of apprehension about one of his Packing Staff, he asked "What is that?", pointing his cane in the direction of a particular piece of meat. "Nables", answered Theresa. "Navals?" said the questioner. He pointed to another, Theresa thought searching for the word, when suddenly she spied a colleague who recognised her dilemma, pointing to a lower part of his anatomy, "Flaps" shouted the relieved Theresa. Her answer met with a spontaneous burst of laughter from all present. "Flanks" said the gentleman, acknowledging what had happened and he continued on his tracks.

HOBBIES

Reading, television and furniture making are Theresa's favourite hobbies. She informs us that she isn't married yet, not having sufficient time even to host the idea. Her final guests are her cousin Mary and her husband, Billy Doody, with their two delightful boys, Liam and Thomas. Space prevents us from introducing more of her friends, a list of which is endless. It is this list that illustrates the delightful character and traits behind this woman.

P.S. Unlike Eamonn Andrews, I have no book to give you Theresa.

SHANNON MEAT CHAT

By The Scribe.

- * Congratulations to Paudy Reidy who has become a father for the first time.
- * Billy! Watch behind the counter, Cupid is shooting arrows.
- * Every bliss to Mossie Sheahan and his new bride, Brid'-jet', (not an Aer Lingus one) who is a sister of Mr. Innocence.
- * Childhood sweethearts, Donald Markham and Marcella Curtin (these mixed schools are a great thing) announced their engagement at Christmas.
- * Speedy recoveries are extended to both Martin Costelloe and Martin Dillon, victims of two motor bike accidents.
- * I have been reliably informed by a source that a certain Supervisor could easily get a contract as a Song and Dance Artist.
- * Getting married shortly is Andy McMahon and his school days attraction, Miss Geraldine Frawley.
- * "I does be thinking" that our education system is the greatest matchmaker of them all. Still, Shannon Meat Ltd. ranks high in the list.
- * Watch out! A Celtic/Rangers starlet for the future was presented to James Kenrick by his wife Vera recently. Remember, you read it here first.
- * A spy tells me that we have a 'cap modeller' in the premises. His name is not Andy Cap, but Paddy Cap. I wonder!!!
- * Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Billy Nestor on the recent birth of their second son.
- * Married on the 13th January, was Miss Helen Dalton to a local lad, Michael Clune.
- * Theresa C., in the Packing Section has become a human slot machine, after swallowing a tenpenny piece. It baffles to see how the jackpot will be won.
- * Engaged also at Christmas was James Joy of the Boning Hall. "I have me doubts" about his namesake.
- * Proud man these days is Donie O'Donovan, whose wife has presented him with a son.
- * The Scribe wishes these boys a quick return to the 'grinding stone' - Mike Kenrick, Denny Lynch and Denis Kenneally.
- * Beef workers are better lovers - so it seems. Ask Pat Stacker and Mary Packer (Hmm that sounds well) in the Boning Hall.
- * My good friend, Mike Liston, (he thinks I am another fellow) got married recently to his Tralee Rose, Mary Curran.
- * My suspicion is aroused with Tom Lyons's regular trips to Dublin.
- * Tom O'Brien has been nominated for the preliminaries in the Apprentice of the Year Award.
- * My last piece of news is a yarn - two Staff Members in the Boning Hall were shouting abuse at each other. When P. Sawyer said "People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." "Gee Mush?" said M. Mush. "I never threw stones at any house" came the reply.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is expressed to James Langan of the Maintenance Department on the recent death of his mother, Mrs. Mary Langan.

Sympathy is also forwarded to Willie Kelly of the Slaughter Hall on the death of his father, James Kelly.



SOCCER SCENE



BAD PATCH

Having reached the half-way stage of the present League campaign, we find ourselves trailing Kilcolman in second place. We hit a bad patch just before Christmas and lost three games on the trot. Kilcolman took full advantage and have opened up a big lead. Looking at our panel of players, it is hard to understand why this has happened. What we seem to be lacking most is heart and determination. It is true to say you get out of a match what you put in. I have seen players running off the pitch at the end of a game faster than at any time during the game. However, that is water under the bridge now and we must look to the future. We are second in the League, the Cup is still to come, and who knows what is in store. To the players, I say show us what you are made of, the memory of that June evening, two years ago is still fresh in my mind.

OSCAR TRAYNOR CUP

Three of our players were selected for the Desmond League team competing in the Oscar Traynor Cup. The three players honoured were Sean and Noel Harnett and Don Gallagher, indeed Don Captained the side. Although beaten in the first round by the Kerry League, our boys acquitted themselves very well and were a credit to the Club.

MATCH REPORTS

Shannon Utd. : 1 Kileany : 3

We made our exit from the Munster Junior Cup in a very tame fashion. Some of our players were



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late arriving and we were a goal down before we were at full strength. Mid-way through the first-half, Don Gallagher headed in the equaliser. In the second-half, Kileany got on top and scored two more goals without reply.

Celtic : 4 Shannon Utd. : 1

We dropped our first League points to Celtic in a game played in atrocious weather conditions. Wind and rain throughout the game made it very uncomfortable for the players. We drew first blood when Don Gallagher scored early in the first-half, but Celtic had drawn level by the interval. Celtic scored three lightning goals early in the second half and that finished the game as a contest.

Shannon Utd. : 1 Kilcolman : 4

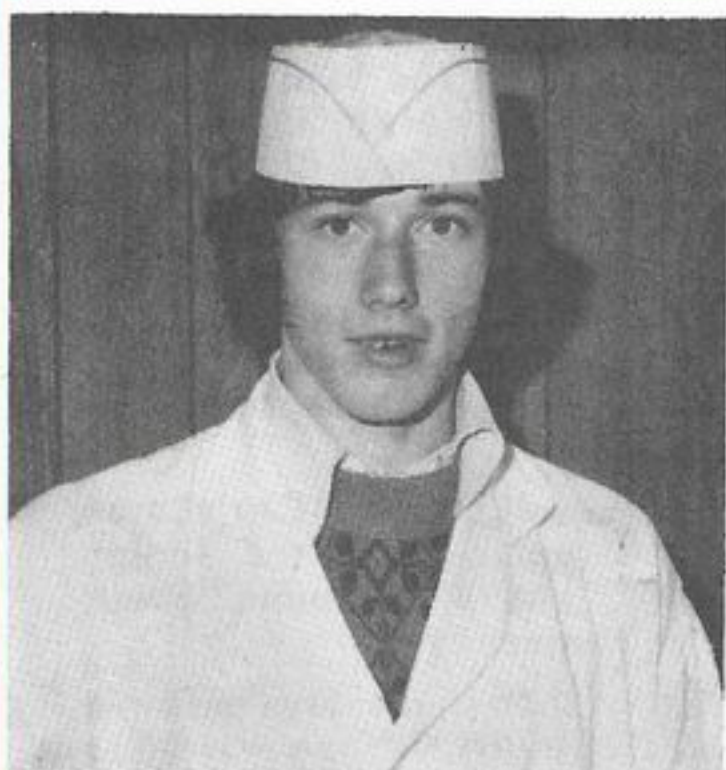
The big one we were waiting for and it ended in disaster. We had hoped to peg back Kilcolman's lead, but we blew it. We never could match Kilcolman's pace and determination and they raced into a two goal lead. Sean Harnett rose high to head in a corner from the left. Shortly after Sean Harnett was brought down in the box, but Mario Zoncada's spot kick was saved. Two defensive slips in the second half let in Kilcolman for further goals and they ran out easy winners.

Kileany : 1 Shannon Utd. : 2

We started '79 in great style and just edged out the home side in a hard fought game. Kileany scored early on and led for most of the first-half, but we struck twice just before the short whistle. Johnny Jones headed in the equaliser and Eamon Daly with another header gave us the lead. Kileany pressed hard throughout the second half, but could not break down the United defence. Seamus Doherty had just come into the side and had a fine game at right back.

Watch it Grow: Harnett (6); Butler (5); Chawke (3); Meade, Sullivan, Daly, Jones, Gallagher all 2 each.

Michael Dunne.



Recovering in St. Nesson's Hospital, Croom is Martin Costelloe after an accident.

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ABBEY PITCH & PUTT

By Chipper.

A.G.M. No. 3.

SAD NOTE

The third Annual General Meeting of the Abbey Pitch and Putt Club was held at Patsy Doherty's on Monday, 15th January.

Officers elected for the forthcoming term were:-

Chairman: Billy Neville; **Secretary:** Mrs. Breed Woulfe; **Treasurer:** Tommy Steele;

Committee: Liam Woulfe, Seamus Tierney, Seamus Doherty, Pat and Mike Neville, Mr. and Mrs. James Dollery, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Dollery, John Griffin, Seamus Lyons and Miko Dunne.

Mr. Seamus Tierney and Mr. Liam Woulfe, it is noticed have stepped down from their respective positions of Chairman and Secretary. They are replaced by Billy Neville (a successful campaigner in Tournament circles last Season) and Mrs. Breed Woulfe (wife of the esteemed Liam). The former two are to be congratulated in endeavouring successfully in bringing the land from a piece of agricultural soil to a highly rated Pitch and Putt course. Their names are synonymously linked with the Game and the Club. One hopes that they are not phasing themselves out of the scene. After all, I doubt if Morcambe would be any good without Wise, or Pascal without Tom.

During the course of the two and a half hour meeting, the new Chairman asked for a "competitive awareness" by all players and stated "we are not joining the League to play in it, but to win it."

I conclude this edition on a sad note. Our Membership Fees are to be increased (nothing to do with subsidies). The new Fees are:-

Family: £7.00; Individual: £5.00; Juveniles: £2.00.

By modern day standards, these Subscriptions are still very reasonable.

Mr. Jimmy Dollery has been elected Captain for the new Season. It was agreed that he and the Chairman, Billy Neville, will select the teams for the League matches ahead.

P.S. I should mention that my associate, Putter, supplied all the aforementioned. I can't tell you who she is except that she cooks a nice meal.



Elected Treasurer for his second term in Office is Tom Steele, (above) at the recent AGM of the Pitch & Putt Club.

G. A. A. CLUB NEWS

By Noel Harnett, Secretary.

The Inter-Firm G.A.A. Season has almost come to a close. We are, however, still involved in the Football League. There were seven teams in the League and when all matches had been played, Southern Chemicals headed the table. We finished joint second with the Post Office from Limerick. This means that ourselves and the Post Office have to play in order to decide who will meet Southern Chemicals in the Final. We hope to play this match within the next two or three weeks.

HURLING LEAGUE

We made our exit from the Hurling League when we had to give Salemink a walkover in the quarter final. The match was fixed for a Saturday and all players were notified. However, only five players turned up for the match and so we lost the chance of getting another

match against our arch rivals, Castlemahon, who had beaten us in the Championship.

RAFFLE

The Club ran a very successful raffle before Christmas, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported us. The following were the Prize winners:-

Turkey: Liam Doherty; **Brandy:** James Keating; **Whiskey:** Theresa Heffernan; **Biscuits:** William Kelly.

On behalf of all members of the Club, I would like to wish a speedy recovery to Martin Costelloe and Martin Dillon, both prominent members of our Hurling Team, who were recently injured in a motor bike accident. I would also like to sympathise with Patrick Condon and the other members of his family on the recent death of his mother.



Our hopes this year of a County Title rest on the above:
Back Row (L to R): Ml. Keating (Selector), N. Harnett, M. Williams, L. Woulfe, W. Sheehy, J. Daly, D. Cagney, B. Chawke.
Front Row (L to R): P. Costelloe, D. O'Connor, J. Kavanagh, D. Dalton, N. Hogan, T. Hannafin, S. Harnett, F. Dalton, B. Flavin.