

# SHANNON MEAT GAZETTE



VOLUME 5 No. 5 August/September 1980.

Telephone : Rathkeale 49/50 & (061) 40700.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BEEF CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

Beef Cattle Suppliers from many parts of Munster attended Demonstrations and Lectures on the Beef Classification Scheme which is now law. This took place at the Company's premises on 20th and 21st May. The programme was introduced by Mr. Eugene Doyle, Livestock Group Inspector of the Department of Agriculture, who was assisted by Department Grading Officers Maurice Windle and Martin Giltenane. Since the commencement of the Classification Scheme, the Department of Agriculture has established a permanent Grading Office in the Company which is staffed by full-time Grading Officers. They are responsible for the Grading of all Steers slaughtered in the Plant.

The purpose of the exercise in May was not alone to brief Beef Producers on the points to note in the Classification of their animals, but to bring home to them that the production of the right kind of "saleable meat" with the right conformation, can add up to a very

sizeable financial sum. In the pens of the Cattle Yard at the Factory there were Fresians, Herefords, Limousines, Simmentals, Charolais and Shorthorns. Every supplier present was given a Chart and encouraged to try his or her hand at assessing the conformation of the animal. Later, in the Chill Rooms they were asked to evaluate the conformation and fat of the Carcasses.

The exercise was an unqualified success. Much of the credit for this goes to Eugene Doyle. One could not but be impressed by both his command of the details of his Department's Classification Scheme and his forthright delivery on the subject.

Credit also goes to our Livestock Department who laid on the facilities for the Course and who were responsible for inviting the Department of Agriculture to introduce it. Their reward was in the success of the exercise and in the large number of suppliers who attended on each evening.



At the Beef Carcass Classification lecture at the Company's premises in Rathkeale were, left to right, Donie Donovan, Livestock Procurement Manger, Shannon Meat Ltd., Vincent Hewson, Miltown Pallaskenry, Eugene Doyle, Livestock Group Inspector of the Department of Agriculture who introduced the programme and Col. O'Grady of Inchirourke, Askeaton.

## IMPORTANCE OF CONFORMATION IN ASSESSING CARCASS VALUE

Maximizing the profitability of the beef enterprise is achieved through the efficient production of cattle of the quality and type best suited to the needs of the market place. Efficiency of production can be assessed on the farm and is measured in terms of daily live-weight gain and feed conversion efficiency. Evaluation of carcasses with any degree of accuracy is only possible subsequent to slaughter. Beef producers, therefore, need a feedback of accurate and

comprehensive information from the meat factory. One factor hindering the transmission of such information has been the variety and vagueness of terms used by the trade to describe carcass quality. Terms such as "Overfinished" and "Underfinished" abound in everyday transactions and do little to advise the producers on the best type of cattle to produce.

### Beef Carcass Classification

The Beef Carcass Classification

Scheme has been developed with the aim of providing a common language for use between the various sectors involved in the beef industry. It will enable information on carcass quality to be passed back to the producer and by describing carcasses in a standard manner it should promote and expedite sales of Irish Beef in the various markets.

### Conformation

Carcass Classification involves the description of a number of physical attributes of the carcass. Conformation is one of the characteristics described in the Beef Carcass Classification Scheme and is defined as the relative development of flesh in the carcass. It is assessed by visual appraisal of the shape of the carcass. Seven conformation classes are defined, represented by the Letters I, R, E, L, A, N, D, where I denotes the best conformation and D the worst.

Opinions differ as to the value of conformation in assessing the relative merits of beef carcasses. It has been suggested that conformation is essentially an aesthetic trade description and of little use as a basis for assessing carcass value. To evaluate the importance of conformation it is necessary to consider the relationship between conformation class and carcass value.

### Conformation Class and Yield of Saleable Meat.

The most important factor influencing carcass value is yield of

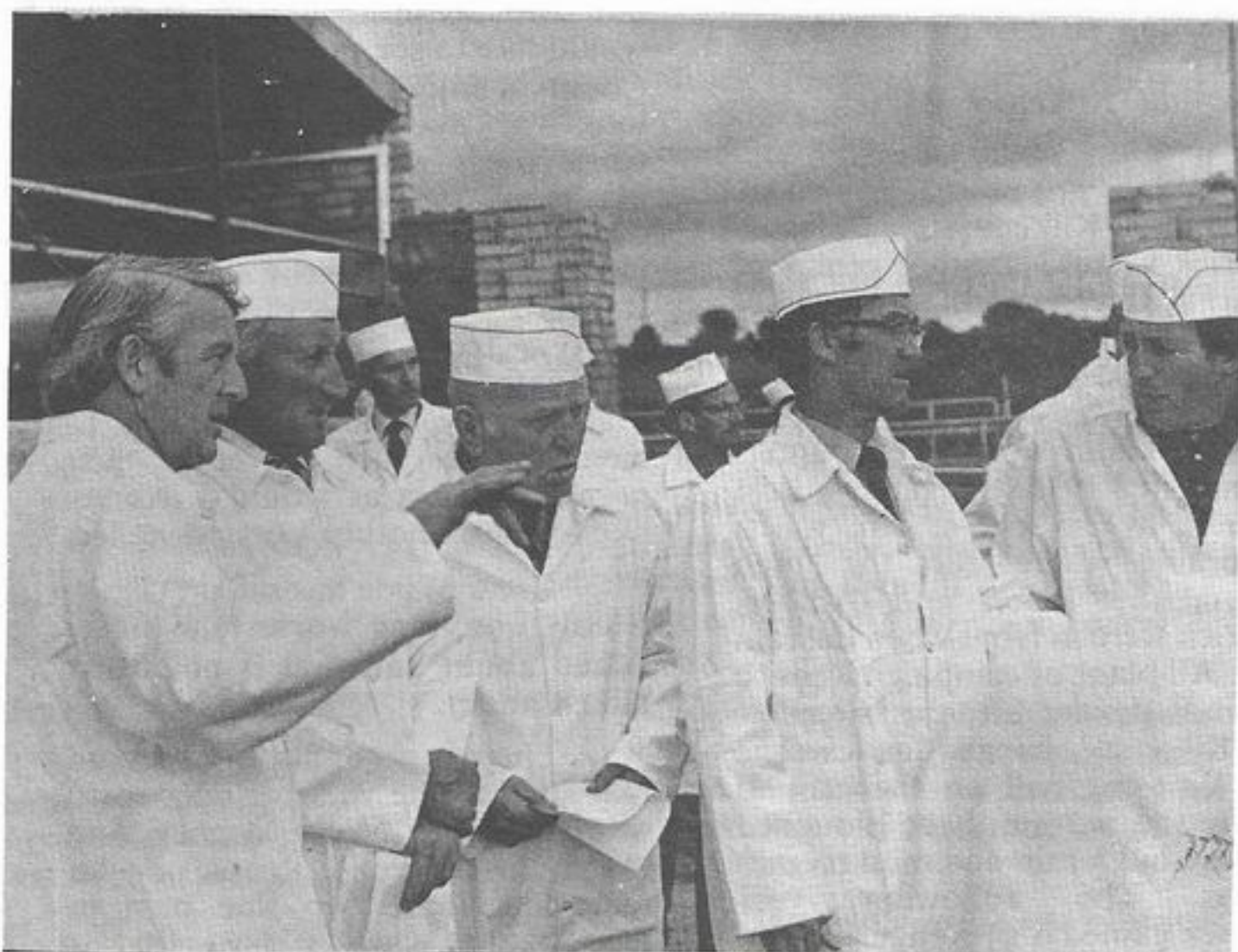
By Dr. P. Mulvehill, Carcass Classification Unit Department of Agriculture

saleable meat. Evidence on the relationship between conformation class and yield of saleable meat was obtained from a large scale dissection trial involving 600 steer carcasses. The results show that at fat class 2 the yield of saleable meat decreased from 77.3% for conformation class 1 to 69.6% for conformation class A while the bone content increased from 14.9% for conformation class 1 to 20.9% for conformation class A. Based on current market values the carcass unit value ranges from 159 p/Kg for conformation Class 1 to 143 P/Kg for conformation Class A. When expressed on a per carcass basis this difference in value represents £48 in a 300 Kg steer carcass. The question arises as to whether this difference in price, justifiable on the basis of variation in saleable meat content, is reflected in prices obtaining in markets. To answer this question reference is made to data obtained in a recent study carried out to examine the marketing of Irish beef in France. The study was funded by the Agricultural Trust.

### Conformation Class and Market Price

One aspect of the study involved an examination of the quality/Price relationships obtaining in the Rungis Market in Paris. During the course of a number of visits to the market samples of carcasses were classified by the writer in accordance with the Irish Beef Carcass Classification Scheme and the market price was recorded.

(Continued on page 2)



Donie Donovan, Right, clarifies a point of the Beef Carcass Classification Scheme with Tom Williams, Kilrush, Ned Sheehy, Granagh, Kilmallock, Michael Dooley, Financial Controller, Shannon Meat Ltd and Denis Ahern, Limerick.



# BEEF CARCASS CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

Carcass Classification Unit  
Department of Agriculture

## Operation of the Scheme

The Regulations providing the statutory base to the Beef Carcass Classification Scheme came into effect on August 13th, 1979 (1). The scheme mandatorily applies to all animals slaughtered at licensed beef export plants.

The scheme is basically a system for describing carcasses in a standardised manner and will be operated by Department of Agriculture "Classification Officers" at each plant. The Classification Officer inspects and classifies each carcass as it passes the weighing scales on the slaughter line. Factories will be obliged to transmit the classification information to the producer on a special "classification certificate" and to permit carcasses to be stamped or labelled according to category. Carcasses will be allocated to their appropriate Intervention categories on the basis of classification.

## Importance of Conformation in assessing Carcass value contd.

from Page 1.

Because of the range of conformation encountered it was necessary to define an additional conformation class 'X' to cater for the extremely well conformed French carcasses. Analysis of the data to determine the relationship between conformation class and market value revealed a very definite effect of conformation on price. The market price ranged from 243 P/Kg for conformation class X to 154 P/Kg for conformation class L, a difference of 89 P/Kg. Why then do the French value conformation so highly? As already shown part of the answer lies in the increase in yield of saleable meat. A second reason is that the size of muscle in the heavier well-conformed carcass makes it possible to dissect out individual muscles and sell them as high priced steak. In the case of the lightweight poorly conformed carcass such muscles are too small to be sold as steak. This effectively increases the yield of high priced cuts in the heavy well-conformed carcass.

It can be concluded, however, that conformation is of great importance in trade practice. The Carcass Classification Scheme, by making this information available to the producer, will provide the essential link necessary to ensure that production is directed towards meeting market requirements. This information, of itself, is not sufficient and must be linked with a realistic price schedule to encourage the production of a more desirable beef animal.

## Classification Criteria

The Scheme describes five carcass characteristics:-

Weight  
Sex  
Conformation  
Fatness  
Age

**Carcass Weight** - described as the weight, to the nearest 0.5 kg, of the carcass dressed in accordance with a standardised dressing specification and recorded within one hour of slaughter. Classification will, in practice, operate as a weigh authentication service. The recorded weight is termed the 'hot' weight which is reduced by a standard 2% to obtain the - 'estimated cold weight' i.e. the weight following losses due to evaporation during chilling. Producers are paid on the estimated cold weight.

**Sex Category** - Four sex categories are defined and identified by the following code letters:-

- S. - Steer - castrated male animal.
- H. - Heifer - female animal which does not display the cow-type characteristics normally consequent upon calving or pregnancy.
- C. - Cow - adult female animal other than a heifer.

B. - Bull - entire male animal.

## Conformation Class

Conformation is defined as the relative development of flesh in the carcass. It is assessed by visual appraisal of carcass shape. Seven conformation classes are defined, each represented by one of the letters I, R, E, L, A, N, D. These letters represent an incremental scale ranging from 'I' which denotes 'best' conformation, downwards to 'D' representing 'worst' conformation.

## Fat Class

'Fat Class' is determined by visual appraisal of external fat cover and is an estimator of the fat content of the carcass. Seven fat classes are defined each represented by one of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. This incremental scale ranges from '1' denoting 'least' fat upwards to '7' denoting 'most' fat.

**Age Group** - assessed by reference to the number of permanent incisors erupted at the time of slaughter. Four categories are defined:-

- Y - Young Animal - no permanent incisors
- 2 - Two year Old - 1st pair of permanent incisors erupted.
- 3 - Three Year Old - 2nd and 3rd pairs of permanent incisors erupted.
- M - Mature Animal - 4th pair of permanent incisors erupted.

Information under this heading will be provided by prior arrangement only.

## Classification Grid

Conformation and Fatness are assessed independently, and all carcasses must fall into one of the subcells in the 7 x 7 Classification Grid.

# SPORTSTARS OF THE PAST

By Michael O'Neill, Boning Hall.

This is the year of the very controversial Olympic Games and the Lions Rugby Tour of South Africa. There are two sportstars of the past, both incidentally are of Hurling fame (need you ask!) whom I would say cause no such controversy when their names come up in conversation among Gaels. Ironically one of them was near the end of his playing career when the second was just starting. Have you guessed who they are? The first of this famous pair is the late Lory Meagher, R.I.P. of Kilkenny and the second is Limerick's own Mick Mackey, who following an illness last year, is, I am glad to say, fully recovered Deo Gratia.

Kilkenny has always been one of the greatest Hurling Counties and Lory Meagher one of its greatest hurlers. His death in 1973 at over 70 years of age severed a link with the glorious hurling years of the thirties. I often sat for hours listening to my Father talking about Hurling Matches in the late Twenties and the early Thirties. At that time Hurling and Football meant everything to a large number of people.

Lory came from a famed hurling family and began his Hurling Career with Kilkenny in the Mid-Twenties and for well over a decade he was an outstanding Mid-Fielder for his County. In 1926 he played his first All-Ireland Final against Cork. Unfortunately, he finished on the losing side. His only successes in the Twenties were Leinster Medals and Railway Cup Medals. Again in 1931 the finalists were the same. Cork won after a second replay. It has been said that this Final 'as the most memorable in the Annals of the game.

## NEW STYLE

Kilkenny couldn't be denied for long those days. With the new style of Centre-Field play, delivered by Lory Meagher, they were on the crest of a wave and their dramatic win against Clare in 1932 brought the Hurling Title to the County for the first time in ten years. It is not often that Kilkenny go ten years these days without winning the McCarthy Cup.

When Kilkenny defeated Limerick in 1933 another genius of the art had appeared. It was Lory Meagher against Mick Mackey. This was a clash of outstanding personalities as well as top-class teams. Kilkenny won this encounter. Again, in 1935 Kilkenny beat Limerick by 2-5 to 2-4. This was a memorable game for the man wearing the Black and Amber. Limerick were in front when the rain came. All plans of campaign went to the winds. Under Meagher's leadership, Kilkenny changed tactics. The team kept the ball on the ground and in the second half ploughed ahead through rain and mud to gain victory. The following year Limerick gained it's revenge and ran riot by 5-6 to 0-3. Lory was now near the end of his playing Career. He always kept a keen interest in the game. His name will live on forever.

Even though his period of supremacy belongs to the 1930's and early Forties, it is a testimony to Mick Mackey's ability that to-day his fame and reputation remain alive. Just as the Forties and the Fifties belong to the late Christy Ring, R.I.P., the Sixties to Jimmy Doyle of Tipperary, the Thirties were Mick Mackey's. The times and the drab surroundings created a desire to escape through Sport. I think it is appropriate to say that this genius was a Player with a hunger for success. He never knew when he was beaten. Victory had to be achieved irrespective of the cost and hardship imposed on himself. What a terrifying spectacle he must have presented. Full-Backs and Half-Backs braced themselves for the bone shattering challenge that would inevitable be their lot, because Mick feared no man.

Jim Young the famous Cork Centre-back once said - "that he would much prefer to be pursuing Mick while he went on one of his very famous solo runs than have to face him". He was the master of the solo run. No other man could use this strategy with such expertise. There should be no mistaking the incalculable contribution of Mackey in producing the golden era of Limerick Hurling from 1933 to 1940, when Limerick won five National League Titles in a row and three All-Ireland Finals. His collection of Medals include fifteen County Senior Hurling Titles with his Club Ahane. One could go on forever writing about this great man. Dave Clohessy a man I met two years ago said - "that the likes of Mackey will never be seen again". This statement by a Fedamore man is a great tribute to a great man.

## FAVOURITE PLAYERS

At this time of the year when all Gaels are discussing the coming All-Ireland Final, each one of us has our own favourite players that we would like to see present in our own County's colours. Tipperary people long for another Jimmy Doyle, Cork Gaels would like to have a player of the calibre of the late Christy Ring. I pray for not one player but three, of the class of the Rackard brothers of Wexford. Anyone from Limerick who was fortunate enough to see Mick Mackey play, would dearly love to have another such player in their present line up as would Kilkenny like to have another Lory Meagher.

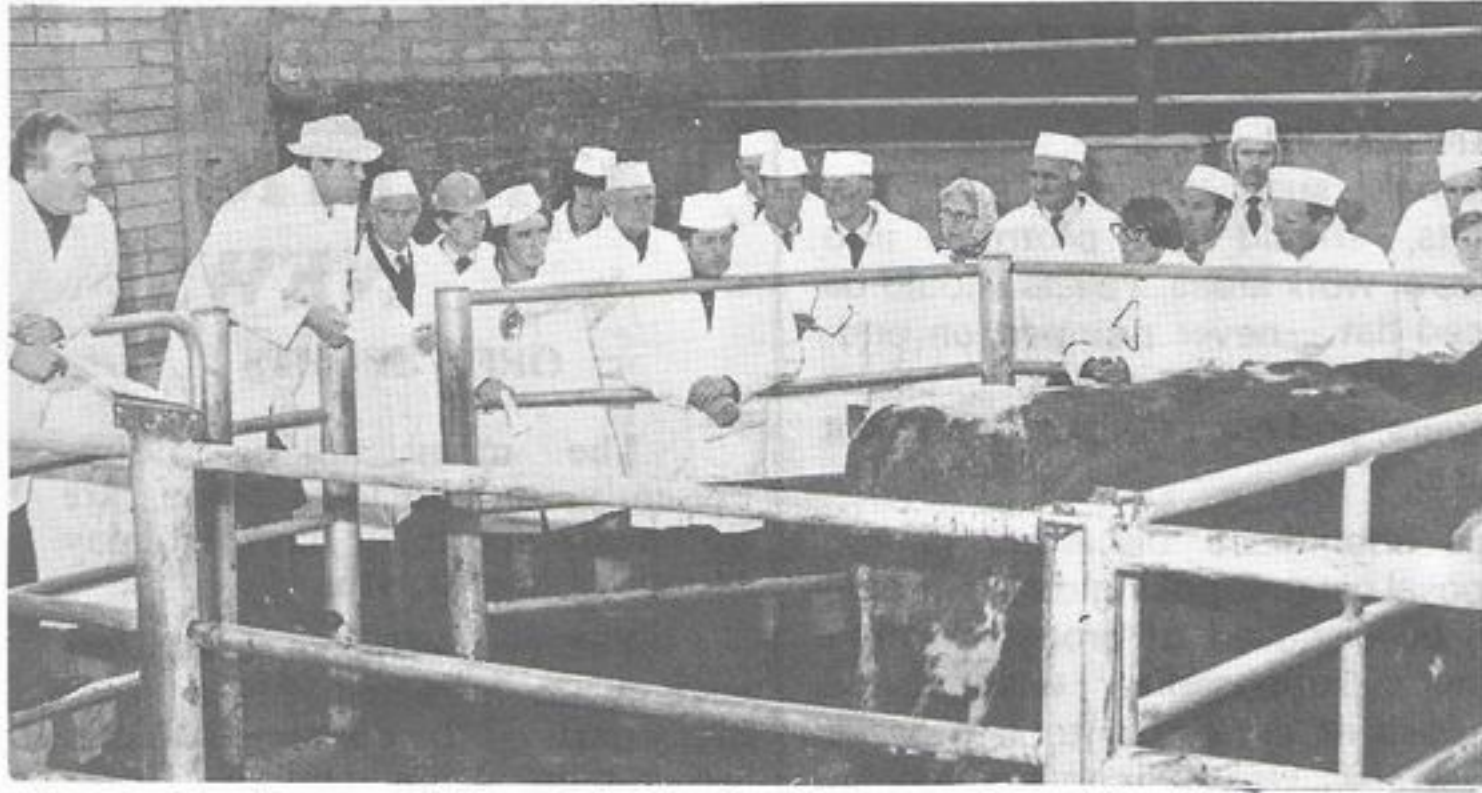
Oscar Wilde has said - "There is only one thing worse than being talked about and that is not being talked about."

There is no doubt in my mind that such a fate will not happen to sportstars like Mick Mackey and Lory Meagher. People who remember these two fine men in their playing careers must find it difficult to find words that would adequately describe the feelings and thoughts that their names conjur up in conversation.



**PICTURE PARADE**

**PICTURE PARADE**



Eugene Doyle, second from left, in the lairage section giving his demonstration on the evaluation of live cattle in relation to the Department of Agriculture Beef Carcase Classification Scheme. On the extreme left is John Mulcahy, Production Manager, Shannon Meat Ltd.



Eugene Doyle in the chillers. The above photograph shows Mr. Doyle of the Department of Agriculture demonstrating the details of their beef Carcase classification scheme on carcasses of steers in the chillers of Shannon Meat Ltd.



Photographed at the Beef Carcase Classification programme are (L to R) John O'Keeffe, Chairman Limerick County Executive of Macra na Feirme, Gerard Cronin, Chairman, Ballingarry branch of Macra na Feirme and David Fitzgerald, President of Ballingarry Macra na Feirme.



Karen Condon, left and Nora Murphy are now trained in beef trimming and are the first girls to take their place as trimmers on the boning line.



Tom Govan of Abbeylands, Rathkeale, recently joined Shannon Meat Ltd., as an Effluent Plant Operator.



Tom O'Regan (above) of Monteena House, Newcastle West, recommenced employment with Shannon Meat Ltd. in June of this year.



Runners-up in St. Mary's Park, Rathkeale 5-a-side Soccer Tournament were the Maintenance Department Shannon Meat Ltd. (L to R) Richard Hayes, Beverly Lowes, Pat Coleman, Michael Guiney and James Kennedy.



Department of Agriculture officers at Shannon Meat Ltd. (L to R) Ger Lillis, Patrickswell; John Vaughan Broadford, Co. Clare and Seamus Collins Abbeyfeale.



Eugene Doyle showing a "test area" on a live steer to evaluate the Fatness Class under the Department of Agriculture Beef Carcase Classification Scheme at the talk and demonstration which took place at the end of May of this year.



## ON THE MOVE



Pat McNamara.

Newly appointed Assistant Retort Operator is Patrick McNamara. Pat hails from Castleroberts, Adare. He has been employed with Shannon Meat Limited since the 17th. September, 1979. In that time he has experienced working in the Loading, Slaughter Line and now, Cannery.

### FOOT-STEPS

Eighteen year-old Pat has two elder brothers and a younger sister, all of whom, are presently single. His mother (formerly Rita O'Grady) originally comes from neighbouring Patrickswell. His father, Tom is employed as a Boiler-Man in Croom Orthopedic Hospital. Therefore, it could be held that Pat is following in the foot-steps of his father, making allowances for the divergence from heat to Corned Beef.

Pat was educated at the local Christian Brothers, and he spent two years in the Vocational School, Croom. Shannon Meat Limited gave Pat the opportunity of his first job, at least, the first job he got paid for. "See that!" now we aren't a bad Company.

### SUCCESS

Pat's spare time is occupied in the main with horses. A number of years ago, the McNamaras ventured in to horse breeding and recently they met with their first success.

Along with Christy Costelloe, Pat served his soccer apprenticeship under the auspices of work-mate Denis Kenneally in a recent five-a-side tournament which, to say the least, was an experience.

If he continues to maintain an even temperature the popular and friendly Pat could cook for himself a very successful career in Shannon Meat Limited and equally so in life.

## 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 Carcases
- \* 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.

## GOOD HOUSEKEEPING GOOD HEARTKEEPING

A recent American newspaper article indicates that poor housekeeping, in the office as well as in production areas, is high on the list of tensions that lead to heart attacks. Working in the midst of disorder means lost correspondence, lost messages, lost parts, and lost tools, all adding to the day's frustrations. A disorganized desk or work area sends the worker home with a fear that somewhere in that mess at work may be an urgent, critical item he has overlooked.

Poor housekeeping also presents another threat to the heart — the threat of bodily injury. A bump to the shin from a protruding skid, a blow to the skull from a falling object, or a wrenched back from falling over a tripping hazard quicken the heart into double time. Falls, indeed, are the accidents most responsible for fatal injury, and most falls are due to poor housekeeping.

### A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

So, let's get things in order. Straighten out that desk, workbench, work area. Often the work load is such that it's impossible to keep up with it. A method of immediate sorting, whether for correspondence or assembly of machining jobs, must be devised so that urgent matters are separated from the less pressing matters and so that we are always on top of what we have and where it is.

In regard to tools, storage arrangements for them should be adequate.

### TIDY UP

Scrap on the floor, a pencil, paper clip, screw, bolt, etc., can cause falls. Spilled liquid should be wiped up immediately. Electrical or other cables should not cut across aisles or work areas, and telephone and electrical leads should not hang from desks into walkways.

Inspect the floor. Repair any large cracks or holes.

### Informing the Dead

A law on the books in Oklahoma says that the driver of "any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in death... shall immediately stop... and give his name and address to the person struck."

## DIM WIT

- \* He has such a big mouth, he can eat a banana sideways, or sing duets by himself.
- \* He has a waterproof voice - no one can drown it out.
- \* Success hasn't gone to his head - just to his mouth.
- \* She serves him blended coffee - today's and yesterday's.
- \* Once she cried "The dog ate the meat loaf I made for you" he said "stop crying, I'll buy you another dog."
- \* He's given up asking her to straighten up the house. She wisecracks, "Why - is it tilted?"
- \* Even after ten years of marriage, her husband finds her entertaining - when he comes home unexpectedly.
- \* Teaching his son to count, he asked, "What comes after 10?" Answered the kid "The man next door."

### GANGWAYS

Materials, such as crates, skids and pallets, should not protrude into aisles or work areas. Pallets should be placed flat — never propped on end. Close desks, filing cabinets, bench drawers, and cabinet doors when not in use.

Rags should be discarded in rag disposal cans. Smoking debris should also be disposed of properly. Don't permit supposedly extinguished matches or cigarettes to be tossed into an aisle. Use the proper container.

Snacks should be restricted to designated areas, and leftovers placed in receptacles provided.

Housekeeping failures cause fires, and fires are not at all designed for good heartkeeping, judging from the deaths resulting from them every day.

**We must go after poor housekeeping with the strongest motive we could have — good heart-keeping for all.**

[N.S.C. - U.S.]



## TIME RUNNING OUT?

SO you've never lost any time from work because of an accident? Well, time may be running out on you if:

- You don't wear gloves on the job, even though safe operating rules say you should, because they make your hands sweat too much.
- You try to reach just a few inches farther from the ladder because it's too much trouble to get down and move it a couple of feet or so.
- You lick that small, stinging cut a couple of times and keep right on working.
- You've vowed never to take off that wedding band for as long as you live, no matter where you are or what you're doing.
- You don't always bother to lock out because that adjustment you're going to make will only take a minute or two.
- You think about what you're going to do next weekend while operating a machine.



"It's called a safety poster. Too many guys are hurting their backs."

## SYMPATHY

Sincere Sympathy is expressed to Michael Morrissey of the Civil Maintenance Department and to Breda Morrissey of the Accounts Department on the death of their mother Mrs. Joseph Morrissey of Abbeylands, Rathkeale. Sympathy is also forwarded to the other members of the Morrissey family.

May she Rest in Peace.

## ATHLETIC NEWS

### OPEN SPORTS

The main talking point, presently, on the local scene, are Rathkeale Sports on Bank Holiday Monday, August, 4th.

The ever efficient organisers have again attracted Clubs from many parts of the country. Athletes are coming from Dublin, Cork, Kerry, Waterford, Tipperary, etc. For the first time a North of Ireland Club will compete at the Meeting, when the colours of Belfast Olympic will be in evidence.

Club Secretary, Michael Hanley informs us, that approximately 160 athletes will be resident in town for this particular week-end.

Every possible rewarding success is extended to the ever resourceful organisers and their hard working volunteers, and deservedly so.

### NEW RECORD

No athletic round-up would be complete without a mention of the name Pat McCarthy. Recently, in the Munster B.L.O.E. under 17 Championships, Pat created a new Munster record for 1,500 Metres when he ran the distance in 3.59.8 which is just 0.5 seconds outside the National Record. The same athlete captured the U-17 3,000 Metres National title at Tullamore on 13th. July. Pat has been selected to represent Ireland in the Senior A.A.A.'s and in the Bavarian Junior International.

Another athlete to keep an eye open for is the long striding Barry Dillon. It is thought Barry is engaging to break through the Abbeylands soccer fortress and we believe he is met with open arms.

Showing impressive form and continual improvement in marathon running is Seamus Cawley

A thought in passing, R.T.E. boast about their "Live Mike", however, Rathkeale Athletic Club possesses five, namely, Mike Hanley, Mike Dillon, Mike McNamara, Mike Walsh and Mike Harnett (seriously that's what his name should be) rather confusing, especially if they were all in the one room, together.



Michael McNamara, Joint treasurer of Rathkeale A.C.



# G. A. A. CLUB NEWS

By Michael O'Neill,  
Secretary.

## INTER-FIRM NEWS

With only one game remaining in the League, it seems that once again we here at Shannon Meat Limited will receive no laurels. Castlemahon accounted for us in the first round of the Championship. We were beaten by a scoreline of 4-7 to 2-7. Since then the Castlemahon team have qualified for the County Semi-Final. Even though we were minus a few of our regular players we had enough of the ball to beat our main rivals of recent years.

I can only hope that for our last League game, which, incidentally, is also against Castlemahon, we will have a full turn out of players.

## INTER-FIRM AFFAIRS

Castlemahon are due to meet Cement Limited in the County Semi-Final. This promises to be a great game. Cement Limited will have the services of such players as Leonard Enright and Liam O'Donoghue of Limerick fame. Castlemahon will have Seamus O'Sullivan, understudy to Tom Quaid in goals and Maurice O'Sullivan of Feenagh/Kilmeedy who on a few occasions had trial games with Limerick. The backbone of the Castlemahon side seems to come from the Dromcollogher area. I feel that the eventual County Champions will be the winners of this encounter. The football championship is also nearing completion. The new champions will be one of three teams - Cement

Limited, Alcan or the Gardai from Limerick City.

Southern Chemicals were beaten in this years competition by the Post Office of Limerick City who in turn were beaten by the Prison Officers. Cement Limited beat the Prison Officers in the County Semi-Final. On completion of the championships the second series of League games will commence.

I would like on behalf of the Club to take this opportunity to thank the Company most sincerely for it's kind and generous help. It is very much appreciated by all concerned.

Everyone in Limerick can be very proud of the Senior County Hurling team that won the recent Munster Final against Cork. We are all looking forward to the All-Ireland Final in September. Players included with Inter-Firm Clubs played a major role in achieving this success. Leonard Enright and Liam O'Donoghue of Cement Limited, Donie Murray from Wyeth Askeaton, Sean Foley and Fr. Willie Fitzmaurice of St. Joseph's, Mossy Carroll plays Inter-Firm hurling with Chadwicks of Clonmel in the Tipperary competitions. It is very obvious that Inter-Firm hurling and football plays a major part in G.A.A. affairs. If only some of our own players would show half the interest that the above mentioned players have in their Clubs then and only then will we gain success.

## FIVE-A-SIDE - CONCRETE EFFORT?

An addition to the normal communal activities in Rathkeale in recent years, are five-a-side soccer tournaments.

It is customary now, for the active St. Mary's Park Residents Association and the Rathkeale United Soccer Club, to each run off such a tournament during the summer months.

It gives all, young, o'd, green-horns and stars an opportunity to put their skills against each other, or for the selective band a chance to loose weight.

President, our versatile captain [pending on the match] dedicated players, loyal, overworked officials and fervant supporters, leaves a lot to be desired, to say the very least.

We strongly feel, you didn't cover your foot prints in your own concrete, and now, ultimately it has hardened. Personally, I unanimoously believe you deviated from our envious standards. Moreover, as our chances of attaining the very pinnacle of our success looms nearer and nearer.

The aforementioned was clearly focussed on Wednesday, 4-6-1980. You selfishly and un-wisely categorised your responsibilities completely out of context. To state the utmost it broke the "concrete" of our Association, it would be true to say you spit sand in your fellow man's eyes.

The Club have no alternative but to release you from further duties. In simplicity, you will be no longer required by the Club. We acknowledge, we are open to criticism from the press and media, as they will relate to us having left a talented player, slip through our 'screen' but then, it's not all sand and cement in your own concrete, either.

We appreciate, this must be a major blow to your promising career. We take this opportunity in hoping you will find another Club or Vice-versa.

A fee in line with your obvious ability will be expected, even if it results in arbitration."

Yours in Sport. "Shah Crawling"  
President.

The back-round to the letter hereunder, is that a certain prominent member of Cosmos AFC, preferably mixed concrete rather than assist his less competent team-mates in an important game in the recent St. Mary's Park, tournament.

To preserve the identities of the individuals concerned the offendent will assume the name "Who-Done-It" and the president "Shah Crawling".

## COSMOS AFC

"Who-Done-It"  
Rathkeale. 5-6-1980.

Dear Who-Done-It",

At a recent unscheduled extra-ordinary Meeting of the aforementioned Club the following is a summary of the outcome.

"The careless attituded, derogatory behaviour, unassuming concern, meaningless respect and conduct generally of "Who-Done-It" towards our lovable endearing

# SOCCER SCENE



Contrary to what was stated in the last edition of the Gazette, Rathkeale Utd. remain in Division 1 of the Desmond League. I hope, in all sincerity, that I have not embarassed, or rendered any undue difficulty to the Club and its officials. The blame for my inaccurate report must be on the shoulders of Broadford A.F.C. who failed in their efforts to obtain sufficient points to enable them to finish higher in the League than the locals. A special word of compunction must go to the secretary of last season, Mr. Tim Shiels, whom it is understood, went to great pains to verify that his Club had maintained their premier status.

## A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of Rathkeale United took place at Shiel's Arms on July 2nd. It was the best attended meeting of the Club for many a day, it would also be true to add, it was also one of the hottest. The latter statement bears no reflection to the weather. However, it is in keeping with most other years and in summary, is merely a time consuming exercise of conglomerating trivialities.

The following are the officers for the 1980, '81 season:-

Chairman: Tim Shiels  
Secretary: Tom Steele  
Joint Treasurers: Pat Sheahan, Pat Madigan  
Committee: Miko Dunne, Mike Walsh, Patk. Coleman, Jimmy Fitzgerald.  
Manager: Noel Harnett.

The aforementioned sees the return of some old and experienced individuals, notably Miko Dunne and Tom Steele.

Similarly, it sees the abdication of ex-chairman, John White and Sean Hennessy from office, neither of whom sought re-election. To say the least, both these hard working individuals will be missed.

In the hot seat, as manager, for the forthcoming campaign will be Noel Harnett. Noel, will command the post from his playing

position. Noel, a very good defender, is an equally good Clubman. To emerge as Player - Manager, Noel narrowly defeated another Club Stalwart, Johnny Jones.

At the time of writing, I am a little sceptic of this Player - Manager idea. It places a great burden upon an overworked individual, who really has the good of the club at heart. An undivided approach is required from both officials and players, to lessen this onus.

My message for the club for the season is: not alone should the players train for physical fitness this season, they should similarly teach themselves a change of attitude.

## TITBITS:

Mr. Tim Shiels is the newly appointed secretary of the Desmond League. Every success is extended to Mr. Shiels in his potent role as administrator in chief of the League.

Congratulations to Joe Kennedy on his selection as Player of the Year. Likewise to Seamus O'Doherty as Leading Goalscorer.

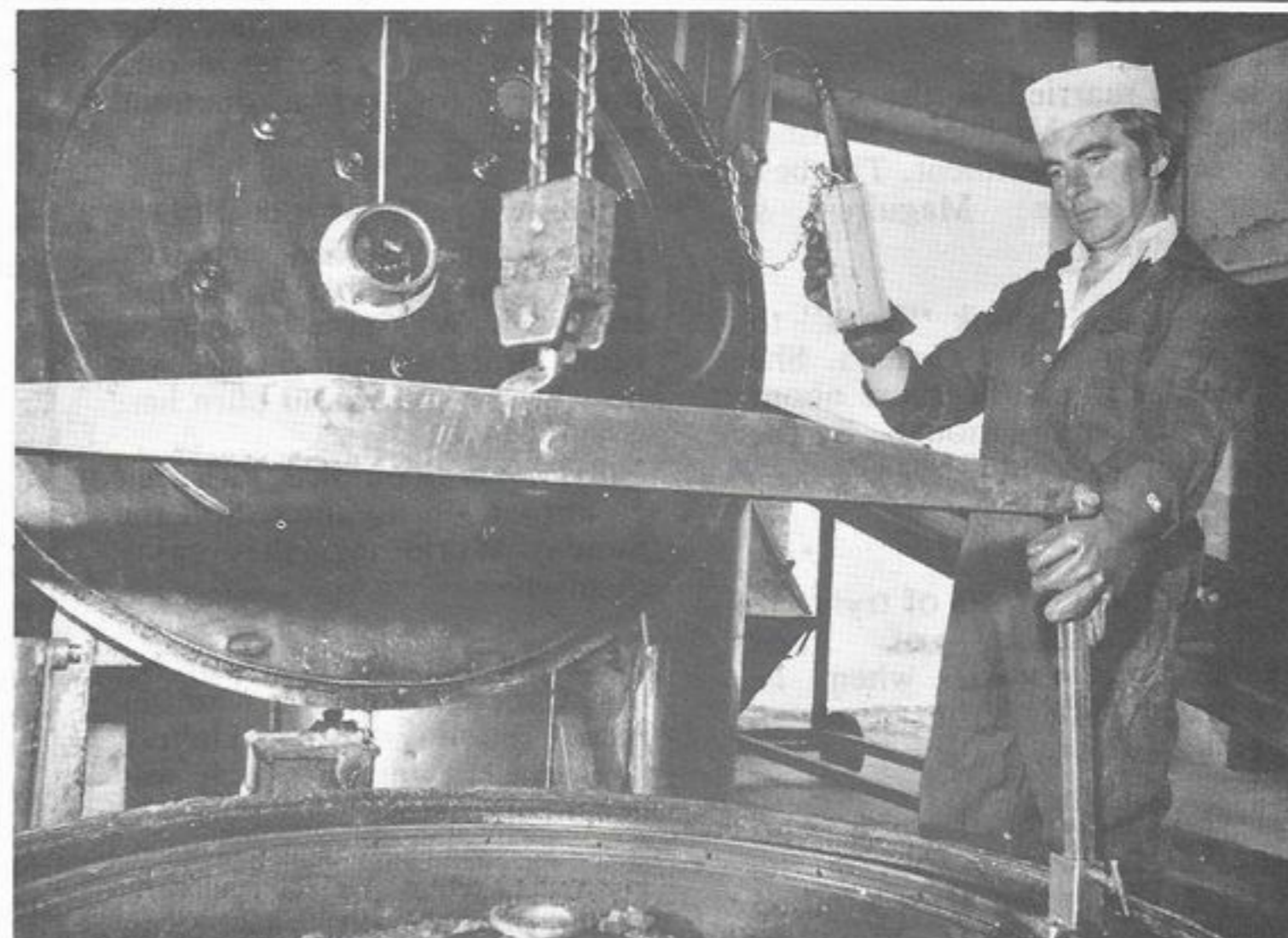
Congratulations to Pa Sheahan's under - 14's who won the County League. They beat Cappamore in the final, at the third attempt, inspired by captain John Conny and the very skilful, Pat Reidy.

Both the under 12's and 16's narrowly missed the final. The under 12's failed by a point to oust Newcastle from top spot. The case with the under 16's was a case of over estimating themselves against Cappamore in the semi-final.

Nevertheless, once again, a successful campaign for Pa Sheahan



Noel Harnett of Abbeylands, was recently elected player-manager of Rathkeale United.



Michael Kelly charge hand in the refining plant is seen here operating the Centrifuge rendering machine.



## VISITORS



On Tuesday 24th. June this year the above group of French farmers and botonists visited Shannon Meat Ltd. They were members of the Montmartre Voyage Group and the above photograph was taken outside the entrance of the office complex at Shannon Meat Ltd. Of late the factory has been regularly visited by tourist groups with interest in the food industry.

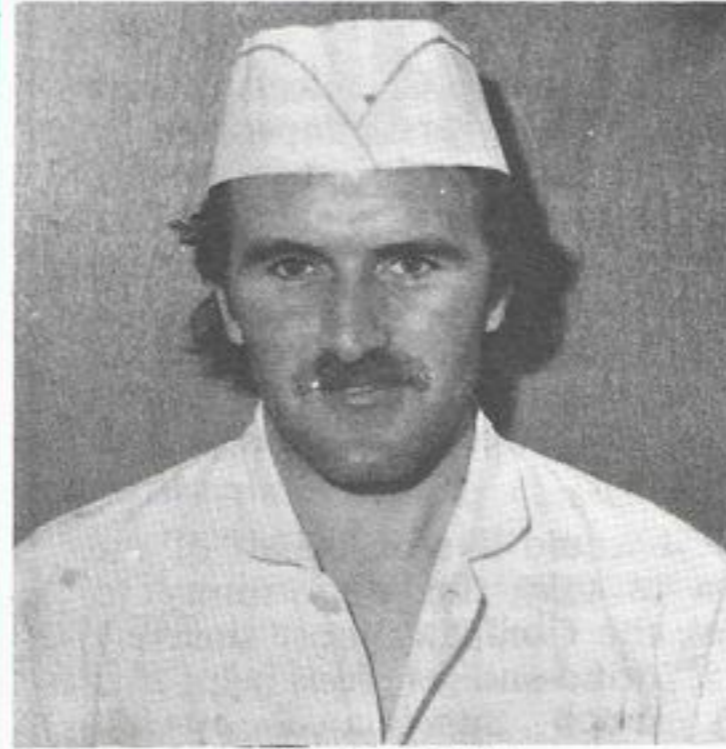
## SHANNON MEAT CHAT

By the Scribe.

- \* The price of development! Sean Guiry's majestic lawns are been eroded by extensions. Sentiments of Wood Quay!
- \* Efforts to collect a German Engineer nearly fell flat recently. You could say they were punctured until First Aid came to the scene.
- \* Our Boning Hall gang will be glad to hear Patsy Madigan has been made treasurer of the soccer club.
- \* Maintenance Department under the influence of Beverly, "lowed" the colours of many teams during the recent five-a-side.
- \* Clocking the miles during the Summer (what's that you may ask? "Well how am I supposed to know") will be Larry Kelly in his new Fiesta.
- \* Getting married at the end of July was Michael Keating, Livestock Department. The best match since Maguire & Patterson.
- \* Anna doesn't think "Buns" to be popular in the canteen. She wouldn't think the same about "Ritchie" mints though. By the way neither would "Buns".
- \* The Union's efforts of trying to rid themselves of their Chairman, failed, when he returned safely from a recent course.
- \* If you really must know who shot J.R., he was shot in the canteen, Shannon Meat Limited at the ten o'clock tea-break on Tuesday morning. Nature of death - abuse and note not admiration.
- \* Congratulations to Bernie Sheahan (Boning Hall) and former employee, Mary Hogan who were married on 12th. July.
- \* Who says money doesn't follow money. Jim Ahern was "bonded a prize" recently. Now Jim you can stop growing your own veg. Wonder what kind of car will he buy this time.
- \* You could say it was girls without jerseys in Jersey, the weather we are informed was excellent, at least.
- \* Best kept secret of the year. Wille Costelloe was married on 5th. July. Shrewd, but I like it.
- \* After her holiday in England, Christina O'Brien realised there was only one man for her, "her very own Sean". So he in turn produced for her a diamond ring.
- \* Theresa Lynch of the Boning Hall enjoyed "a third party, fire and tent holiday around Ireland". Whatever chance of been burnt by the fire, there was no way the sun would burn her.
- \* Notice, it is all our little girls that go abroad on holidays. Still the Sunday World says they enjoy themselves.
- \* Shouting her head off in her best Cappagh voice on Munster Final Sunday was Theresa Cregan. The minor match was her main interest.
- \* Hear Ye! Hear Ye! It has now been proclaimath that Dan Cagney & Rebecca Sheehy have announced their engagement.

## PROFILE

Cornelius Cahill



Neilly Cahill.

The Christian name, Cornelius, maybe a little misleading for many people, moreover, those of us in Shannon Meat Limited, where he is simply known as Neilie. Nevertheless, this is the title his father paid to christen him as an adoring infant. It could be said that he got his money's worth.

Neilie was born in the small village of Athea, in a remote and forlorn corner of West Limerick, on January 14th. 1951. He has four sisters and one brother, all of whom are married. Neilie tells us his father has a government job. He is employed as a postman, while his mother, Nora, is a housewife. Like their son, in Shannon Meat, the Cahills are looked upon with repute and respect. Con, Senior, the village postman, goes about his daily task in a most friendly manner. His picturesque uniformed frame can be seen whistling gaily, pushing the eagerly anticipating door open as he heralds the mood of the heavens and simultaenously bids the time of day to his suspecting recipients.

### Garsun

As a garsun, Neilie attended the National School, Athea, until the summer of 1965. Because there was no Secondary education available in this "Connaught or Hell" part of Limerick, the budding scholar was forced to migrate to the Carmelite College, Middleton. After completing his Leaving Certificate, Neilie underwent a Commercial Course at the Vocational school, Abbeyfeale.

After this, Neilie was called to the bar. For a number of years he worked at the Railway Bar, Limerick. Even at this stage, he was on the track to great things. For a time he served bar at Ward's in the Main Street, Rathkeale, a noted landmark in bygone days. For six-months, he acted as relief postman in the G.P.O. Athea. On 7th. May, 1973, Neilie, joined the staff of Ferenka and remained until its unfortunate closure. He feels it was a striking relationship.

### Worked

On the 8th. August, 1977, Neilie joined Shannon Meat Limited. With the company, he has worked (excuse the choice of the verb) in the Despatch, Boning Hall, Offals, Freezers and now the Packing Section of the Boning Hall. In this Department, it is like a Shepherd amongst his sheep, as Neilie is amongst his female companions, however, I doubt if Neilie would swap Sally and friends for the place of shepherd's sheep.

Neilie feels he is a batchelor at heart, despite his qualities of

irresistable magnetism. He categorically points out that he wishes to remain so, and has no intentions of accompanying any lady up the centre aisle. I hope this passage won't be too difficult for those poorly deprived Boning Hall girls to bear. Like Oscar Wilde, he is a little sceptical of women. He states: "women begin by resisting a man's advances and end by blocking his retreat."

Neilie has a very keen interest in all sports, notably, soccer, football, handball, darts and squash. The latter he plays in the local squash court, presumably, the "Ball alley". It should be stressed that facilities available with this amenity includes running water, the current of which frequently carries the match ball.

### Pioneer

As chairman of Athea soccer club, Neilie, more than anybody has promoted the game and was a pioneer in their efforts in introducing the village side to organised League football.

With such a pleasant character and good humour and nothing "weighing" against him, except the boxes of boneless beef, the future holds no bounds for Neilie.



## IT.G.W.U. NEWS

### SERIOUS APPROACH TO SERIOUS ISSUES

The 1980 Annual Delegate Conference in Wexford concluded with an enthusiastic expression of the delegates' appreciation for General President, Senator Fintan Kennedy. In his summing up he pointed out that this was his last Annual Delegate Conference as General President and represented for him a particularly emotional occasion.

Vice President John F. Carroll and General Secretary Michael Mullen each paid tribute to him for the great contribution he made to the development of the ITGWU over the years and especially during his period as General President.

This was a fitting end to a very significant Conference for the Union which was opened on an optimistic note by the General President. In his Presidential Address he called for a new approach to Trade Union unity, a greater involvement in national economic and social policy and a determined attack on "the twin evils of poverty and unemployment".

General Secretary Michael Mullen, in his introduction to the political section of the Annual Report set the tone of the Conference when he said that "in the past year the whole Trade Union Movement has been involved in an unprecedented level of political activity. That has been the case because our Members recognise that now more than ever before, their living standards are directly influenced by political decisions. The real value of a wage increase is clearly dictated by Government taxation policy, the price of food, health care, housing, education or travel are all directly affected now by the political decisions and the political priorities of the Government in power".