

Shannon Meat GAZETTE



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OPINION

Agriculture is Ireland's primary wealth producing activity. There appears to be a reversible trend that industries based on agriculture will disappear. This year has seen farmers ploughing back into the ground vegetables and fruit while jobs are being lost in Erin Foods, the Sugar company and all sectors of the food industry.

In 1980, Ireland imported £460m worth of food and drink. If the Irish farmer was in a position to produce this food and drink and Irish industry to process it, 30,000 jobs would be created. Instead of tapping this potential national wealth by progressive policies from our governments, we have a situation where jobs are being lost daily in the food industry and apparently nobody in a position to influence this will do anything to reverse the trend.

We, in the meat industry, have been forced to lay off our staff all of whom have productively contributed to our enterprises as their role determined. It is unlikely that the people who influence the present situation ever had the unpalatable task of telling an employee that his job was no longer available. Such unemployed people are not yet a cohesive pressure group and as such it appears in 1981 that their cause will be ignored. It might be argued that such a man has been cushioned by employment benefit. That maybe true, but with gainful employment comes a sense of dignity and a feeling of making a contribution to society. This to many is as important as their earnings although less often expressed.

The meat factories have asked to be placed on equal trading terms with the live exporter. The plants who provide the added value facilities, viz. boning, freezing, vacuum packaging and canning should be put on an equal basis both with the live exporter and the exporter of carcass meat. To do this will help the present depressed state of agriculture by more keen competition.

We hear daily of I.D.A. job creation successes through foreign investment. Has this organisation calculated the amount of potential jobs in adding maximum value in the meat industry? To export live 1,000 cattle will create circa two jobs. To export these in the cooked state will create circa 54 jobs. The present disincentives to adding maximum value ensures that a company, no matter how progressive its outlook, cannot economically justify investment that will reduce its viability as a profitable enterprise.

We seem to have come full circle from the days of self reliability and are now on the road to eliminating industry based on our chief source of wealth, agriculture. Maybe somebody will stand up and show some leadership in the present crisis. **D. Neville.**



Photographed at the Annual Party for retired staff of Shannon Meat Ltd which took place at Rathkeale House Hotel are back row L to R. Dan Neville, Frank Costelloe, Paddy Royce, Paddy Cawley, Bernard Daly, Tim Cunningham, Jack Buston, Bill Meade, Paddy Collins, Donie McEnery, Pa. Guinane, front row: Liam Ahern, Mrs. P. Cawley, Mrs. B. Daly, Mrs. T. Cunningham, Mrs. J. Buston, Mrs. B. Meade, Mrs. P. Collins and Jer Hennessy.



Shannon Meat Ltd. No.1 National Industrial Safety quiz team. John Stack, Batty Collins, Anna Fitzgerald and John Lyons.

HOME FREEZER PROMOTION

As part of Shannon Meat Sales promotion of beef and lamb, I have been assigned the job of visiting various women's organisations around the country and I give talks to them on this subject. My talk is complemented by slides showing what each cut looks like and this seems to be an area which stimulates much interest. I would venture to suggest that a housewife when she

By Maureen Cronin, Home Sales Department

purchases a deep freeze has only a hazy idea regarding her needs. I hope that my talks are helping to supply this much needed information.

As this is a relatively new venture, I can only speak on the twelve I.C.A. guilds and ladies clubs that I have visited. Overall I have been very impressed with the reaction I have received. Everyone that I have met seems interested and I think this

interest has been reflected in the sales.

My entry into this promotional aspect of sales happened to coincide with a similar sales promotion launched by the C.B.F. This was a great advantage to me as they had many leaflets and recipes published which I distribute. I am well aware that at the moment my competence to answer all questions may not be complete, but I feel, in a short time, I will be in full control of the situation.

Any group, or organisation who wish to avail of this service, can do so by contacting Maureen Cronin, Home Sales Department.

THE MASTERMINDS OF SHANNON MEAT LTD.

The contestants trained. They trained for six weeks before the contest. They trained before breakfast, at lunch and often until 1.00 p.m. The contestants practised each day. In training the quizmaster was strict. He did not give a mark to any contestant who did not earn it. The questions were difficult. They covered accidents, chemicals, compressed air and construction. They dealt in detail with employment, electricity, fire, first aid, flammable liquids. We learned about health, hoists, lifts, tackle, ladders, lifting and the law. In all, twenty-two subjects were covered.

The event being prepared for was the National Industrial Safety Organisation's annual quiz on Safety. Our team on previous years failed the first hurdle. This year was to be different. We did not let up on training or practise during the six weeks. At the end of that time our contestants were fit. They could answer any question on safety, machines, seats, temperature, tools, transport or any of the twenty-two subjects. There was a great air of confidence among the contestants. This was to be our "break-through"

year. We were certain of it. The team members were not announced until the night of the contest on Tuesday, 3rd. March. We entered two teams. Our "A" team were drawn against Golden Vale "A", and E.S.B. Rosbrien, who won the Regional Final last year. Our "B" team pitched their knowledge against E.S.B. Tarbert and Deel Vale.

Teams

The team trainer announced the teams just before the quiz. On team "A" would be Batty Collins (Captain), Anna Fitzgerald and John Lyons. The substitute was John Stack. On Team "B" were Michael Guiney (Captain), Tom Govan and A.N. Other. The team trainer could not decide for a third place with equal merit for this distinction going to Maureen Cronin and Pat Coleman. Pat Coleman won the draw, took his place so Maureen acted as team substitute.

The Shannon Meat "A" team were first on the field. Each team member received two two mark, two four mark and one six mark questions. Our expectations were

high as we sat on the edge of our seats. Luck however was not with us. Two of the more difficult questions came our way and even though our two team members at the receiving end of these made a trojan effort in answering them, the judge decided that one mark each should be deducted. At that stage in the contest Golden Vale had answered all questions and if they missed one our team would have triumphed. Our team answered all subsequent questions but, so did Golden Vale. The final result gave Golden Vale "A" full marks at 54 and Shannon Meat "A" 52 marks. We drowned our disappointment in a pint of Goodness as it was Shrove Tuesday. We had no direct interest in heat two. In heat three was our "B" team. They answered well. They however, dropped a few marks mid-way through. If they did, so did the other teams. Coming up to the six mark questions the mathematical geniuses of our supporters reckoned that the team was ahead. They answered all the six markers. By our geniuses calculation we had won. We suppressed our cheering until the official announcement. This put Deel Vale 52 marks, Shannon Meat "B"

51 marks.

Consolation

That for another year was the end of our involvement in the Safety Quiz. There was a consolation however. Three members of our teams, Anna Fitzgerald, Tom Govan and Pat Coleman received full marks and as such will be presented with a special NISO Trophy on Friday, 10th April at The Limerick Inn. The chairman of the quiz paid our teams a special tribute for going so close, but that was not what we came for.

It was only left to us to celebrate the beginning of Lent and before the night ended a song or two was sung.

Our contestants put many many hours of work preparing for the quiz. They represented the Company honourably in this important event. It was accepted by everybody that our teams were as good as the best in this high standard event. They receive our sincere gratitude.

LIVESTOCK TOPICS

SEVENTY FOUR

THE FACTS

By: Donie Donovan
Livestock Procurement Manager

There was a statement recently by a prominent livestock man which read; as follows:—

"An Autumn glut would give the meat plants the opportunity to drop prices through the floor and judging from the past experiences they would do just that."

Next you have politicians, through the media of television, jumping on the band wagon trying to show the farmer how concerned they are about the beef trade. In the little time at their disposal, they make one or two remarks about 1974 and they are convinced that they have every farmer's vote in the country. We have spelled it out before as to what exactly happened in the meat trade in 1974.

There was a world recession and an oil crisis in November, 1973, and the Irish farmer was so busy building up stocks that he did not realise that vast quantities of chilled beef were coming into the United Kingdom from Argentina up to July, 1974.

As over 90% of the stock produced in this country are not suited to the Continental market, there is little point in talking of markets other than the U.K.

Decline

Another very important point which the farmer did not realise until it was too late was that live shipping had declined from 42% in 1972 down to 21.8% in 1974, or 308,000 cattle less. How convenient it can be to forget the facts of the case, it was the failure of the live trade that brought about the situation in 1974.

Capacity in the Irish plants in 1974 was roughly one third of what it was in 1980. Cattle numbers were much higher in 1974. Weatherwise — both were bad years. The state came to the rescue in 1980 with subsidies for fodder programmes, this we did not have in 1974. The press and the television played no small part in making a bad situation worse, one would not expect news readers to understand the difference between a finished prime steer and an unfinished one.

The one mistake that a lot of the beef plants made in Seventy Four was that they lowered their standards to allow stores, or unfinished cattle into the plants and it was this poor quality that caused the problem in the market place.

Seventy four was just like any normal year up to mid-September. Suddenly panic to sell set in and the rush lasted well into 1975. People who never fed anything only a store beast up to 8cwt. decided they were beef producers over night. After starving the market for two years — total exports for 1973 were the lowest in eight years, for ten weeks of the peak season, in 1974, Irish farmers put an extra 12,000 cattle per week.

Root of Problem

To get to the root of the problem let us ask why did the farmer have to

suffer as he did in '74?

Was it financial pressure?. Was it complete lack of planning at farm level, lack of feeding, housing and bank accommodation?.

As long as there is no long term plan for cattle production, farmers will tend to change back and forth from store to beef systems and live with the risks that go with such a combination. With, or without a long term plan, the farmer wants the best of both worlds, both the live and the dead trade, but he will eventually have to choose between the two, as financial pressure will force him to choose a system with which he will have to stay.

The central bank pumped £75 million credit, the two years previously, into agriculture putting Ireland on top with an inflation rate of 12½% in 1974. This stop-go credit policy has showed its teeth again in the later seventies when land prices went out of hand. We seem to be going from one extreme to the other at a time when stability was never more needed.

If the dry stock farmer wants an insurance to protect himself against another 1974, then he will have to identify himself with a system first. Then he must invest in Winter accommodation similar to the dairy farmer to carry his stock over the Winter. This is a difficult decision to make while the Common Agriculture Policy is in its present form, but at least he would not have to panic when the first shower of hailstones comes.

The Department of Agriculture Classification would have done a marvellous job in Seventy Four if it were there to highlight the amount of unfinished cattle the producer dumped that year. Seventy Four was also a very popular year to dispose of Brucellosis cows all for the wrong reasons.

One has to look at the full cycles in the cattle trade to form any opinion and not just at one year's performance.

While the trade had margins, profits were put back into buildings and plant creating jobs and security for the producer to the extent that we have over capacity at present.

If the store cattle prices had not collapsed, Seventy Four would not have been any different to any other year. Increasing stock numbers in the early seventies was very foolish without increasing the winter feed and accommodation proportionately and this would seem to have been the kernel of the problem. While a certain percentage of producers are dedicated beef men, there are a large number who are not committed to any system. Using Seventy Four as a means of getting political mileage in 1981 is as remote as blaming the meat trade for the economic war in 1932 only that the meat plants did not exist then.

PROVISION OF ADEQUATE WINTER FODDER

By Donie Ahern
Livestock Field Officer



Donie Ahern

In my last article I dealt with the breeding of better stock as a help towards better income. I wonder is the provision of an adequate amount of quality fodder of more or less importance, but it certainly causes more headaches for the farmer and none more so than this Winter — When the quality of the Winter fodder left so much to be desired and we see the results of such fodder every day in Shannon Meat Ltd. So many cows are of such poor condition and are brought to the factory it seems as a last resort. This is not helping anybody at either side.

We blame a lot on the weather in Ireland; especially where hay is the principal type of fodder, but we never think of the alternative which is silage and on which weather has little if any affect.

Advantages of Silage making

Having adequate Winter fodder gives the farmer many advantages:—

- 1) he can choose when to sell stock
- 2) his stock are in much better condition; i.e. there can be a gap of at least £150 in value between poor and good quality cows.
- 3) reduces risks at and before calving time or resultant loss of cow and calf
- 4) where good quality silage is

made — there is little need for supplementary meal feeding prior to calving or for buying in extra straw or hay at the start of Winter

- 5) poaching can be avoided in the Autumn on wet land.

The advantages of fodder of high quality far outweighs the headaches caused by shortages or poor quality. Every incentive should be given to encourage every farmer to have adequate home produced fodder. This would include grants as were paid last season. Silage contractors should not have to charge V.A.T. for silage making as they do at present. This is something that could be looked into at government level.

To produce adequate fodder for the following Winter, one has almost to plan from the previous Winter; e.g. getting stock off the land early. Manuring for silage and knowing how many acres are needed and also knowing what stock will be on the farm for that Winter. We have been advised time and again on the advantage of cutting silage in May for improved quality. Every advice should be availed of at all times towards producing the cheapest food whether as pasture or ensiled food. It has been proved that grass on a dry matter basis is thirteen times cheaper than meals, home grown silage is five times cheaper than meals and brought in silage is three times cheaper than meals. From this one can see that getting cattle on to grass as early as possible in Spring can save on expenditure.

There is no doubting the fact that in Ireland we have some of the best farmers in Europe, it is a pity that many more through better systems cannot be encouraged through more education, grants or other incentives to improve and there is no reason why anybody no matter where cannot have adequate fodder if proper advice is adhered to.



Brian Ruttle of Cappagh and Eddie Scanlon of Ballybrown at the Stockjudging show organised by Macra na Feirme at Shannon Meat Ltd. in February.



Photographed at the Annual retired staff Social organised by the Staff Social Committee are Paddy Collins, Tim Cunningham and Liam Ahern, Chairman of the Staff Social Committee.

PROFILE



Seamus Cawley

There was once written a best seller and which eventually became a money spinning film "The Story of the Long Distance Runner". This cognomen would aptly apply to a member of the Canning Department, namely, Seamus Cawley, if ever he were to write his eagerly awaited autobiography.

Originally, as a young-fellow, (Once upon a time) keenly interested in sport, Seamus tried his hand (and legs I presume) at a number of different sports. It wasn't until Slaughter Line man, Michael McNamara asked him about trying his hand (sorry legs) at running that he thought seriously about athletics. Seamus hasn't looked back since (only at people finishing behind him).

To say the least, the greyhound figure of Seamus has adopted a very professional approach towards his sport. His weekly training stints would frequently surpass that of some motorists (I am not referring to strike periods).

Along with the Dillon brothers, Brian and Barry and Pat Jones, Famous Seamus can be seen plodding along the roads of the country side. He tells me it isn't the tea and cakes that takes him to the Pike. With great pride and satisfaction he tells of how he helped in their training when they took the silver medals in the Munster U-17's.

The biggest influences in his career have been the dedicated Fr. Kelliher of Tullylease and the equally hard working, Michael Hanley.

In fact, during the Summer months, moreover, he has given up much of his spare time to the coaching and development of young athletes — a service that very often goes unnoticed.

Marathon

Though, Seamus participates in many athletic events, principally Cross-Country and road running, not forgetting Charity Runs, the Marathon holds special appeal for him.

In the famed, much publicised Dublin City Marathon (R.T.E.) of last October, Seamus finished a very creditable 154th in a field of 2,000 athletes. Moreover, he achieved his target of running the gruelling 26 miles and 385 yards in less than three hours.

His major ambition for 1981 is to run the event in a time of two hours, fifty minutes or better. The Munster Marathon of April 26th will give him the opportunity of doing just that in his own back yard, as the event is being staged in Rathkeale.

James Cawley was born on 6th December, 1958. He was born third in line heir to the empire (that of Paddy and Mary Cawley). His two elder sisters are both married. His father, Paddy, was the long serving Production Supervisor and Hygiene Officer

The Marathon Man

who retired last year from the company.

As a strapping youngster, Seamus attended the local schools. This included sentences in the Convent, Boy's National School and the Vocational, where he was released in 1974.

On the 15th August, 1974, Seamus Cawley joined his father in Shannon Meat. He had spent the previous Summer with the firm and during his parole from school enjoyed the experience, so much so that he conscripted himself on a permanent basis.

Cannery

Most of his time with the firm, Seamus has enjoyed working in the Cannery Department. It is no wonder he enjoys it for 90% of his work mates happen to be females — explains bachelorhood. For the last number of years, Seamus has been elected Shop Steward to represent the interests of his colleagues in the Cannery Department — an onerous task that he has fulfilled very satisfactorily indeed.

One of Rathkeale's most eligible bachelors, Seamus doesn't give any inkling as to changing his marital status. In March of this year, Seamus was in Spain to watch his friend and colleague, Patrick McCarthy — Doctor Jim's son — compete in the World Cross Country Championships. We are still awaiting feedback on the "senorita situation" (Ole! Ole!), with great curiosity.

To quote our good friend Fr. Trendy (M.M.M.O. — Member Mike Murphy Order) life is like a race — some are of a short distance, just a sprint, others longer, stamina and energy sapping. Some include a few jumps, others more, some eventually hit faults (some high, some long). It is necessary to keep on the right track, otherwise you maybe disqualified, or sinning. En route, there are many temptations, but, surely nobody should become a drop out, so it is very important to get off to a very good start and learn to take everything in your stride. But, to get past the finishing post with a good record is the ultimate, whether the reward be heaven, a medal, a rest, or any other world, or heavenly pleasures that may interest, or excite.

Seamus keep tracking.

RINGSIDE NEWS

Mr. Mattie Williams has informed us that the recently reformed Boxing Club produced five County Juvenile Champions. The Championships were staged by the local Sean Finn Club in the Community Centre, Rathkeale. For the record the victors were:—

Tadhg O'Shaughnessy
Steve McCarthy
Willie McCarthy
Tadhg Hogan
Tim McCarthy

Fourth member of the McCarthy family Dan was a beaten finalist.

Tadhg O'Shaughnessy and Steve McCarthy go forward to the Munster First Year Championships in Shannon. The three remaining Champions will represent their Club in the Second Year Championships in Cork.



Retired staff members photographed at their Annual party on 6th March, back row L to R Tim Cunningham, Paddy Cawley, Paddy Royce, Bill Meade. Front Row L to R Jer Hennessy, Bernard Daly, Jack Buston and Paddy Collins.

FROM ONE DESK TO ANOTHER

By Noel O'Loughlin.

When you leave College, even if only for eight or nine months as I have done, you are inclined to feel as if a great weight has been lifted from your whole body. You no longer have to worry about making mistakes in assignments given to you by lecturers; you don't have to worry about trying to find books or notes which have mysteriously disappeared and which you desperately need the night before an exam; you don't have to worry about exams themselves. In fact, every single worry you have on your mind is miraculously lifted the minute you leave the ominous shadow of the College behind you. At least that is what you think before you start working.

As you may have guessed by now I am a student. I am doing a Business Studies Degree at the N.I.H.E., in Limerick. Part of the course entails spending six months of your second year at the College gaining practical experience in an actual work environment — in my case Shannon Meat Ltd. This six month's coupled with the three month's of the summer holiday's gives you a nine month break from the rigours of College.

Contact

My first contact with Shannon Meat was when I was informed at the N.I.H.E., that I was one of a number of students chosen to do the interview for the job I now have. There lay my first feelings that maybe life in the big bad world held its own problems. First of all, I had never been in an interview before — what would it be like? Would I make a complete fool of myself? Secondly, it was so long since I had worn a tie I was not sure I could even put one on properly!

Before the interview I finally managed to convince myself there was nothing to worry about, relearned how to put on my tie, did the interview, and, as you can see, emerged none the worse for wear.

On the first morning of my new job I was probably as scared as I ever was when going into an exam. How would I get on with everyone? Would I be able to manage the work I would be expected to do? Fortunately, on meeting first Dan Neville and then Sean Harnett my fears soon disappeared and confidence returned.

And so to work, assuring myself that everything in the job would go off without a hitch. Actually, doing the work I found that self assurance disappearing rather faster than I would have liked, being replaced by self doubt. Have I left out anything in that Report I gave to Dan Neville? Will



Providing the music for the Social Committees party for retired staff of Shannon Meat Ltd. are Frank Costelloe right and Pa. Guinane.



At the retired Staff Annual Social, Mr. & Mrs. Paddy Cawley and Paddy Royce.



Enjoying themselves at Rathkeale House Hotel are Donie McEnery, Joint treasurer of the staff Social Committee and Bernard Daly.

Sean Harnett be able to read that note I've left on his desk? What will be the next practical joke that Seamus Kennedy will pull on me?

Did I say you leave all your worries behind when you leave College? Forget it, it just isn't true.

PLANNING FOR SURVIVAL

By Sean Goodwin,
Assistant Accountant.



Sean Goodwin

Nowadays, practically every news bulletin and every newspaper confronts us with more redundancies and an ever increasing unemployment list. Depressing news indeed and one wonders if anything can be done to reverse the trend, or indeed to even halt it.

All kinds of reasons (excuses?) are put forward to explain the problem such as imported inflation, world recession, uncompetitiveness, poor marketing of Irish goods, etc. No doubt each theory contains some grain of truth and certainly it is helpful to identify the reasons behind the problems. But surely the time for talking is past and a concerted national plan of action is long overdue.

Of course it is important to realise that a National Plan of action will not work the oracle overnight. For instance, ongoing research and development is necessary into the type of products that not only will be required in the market place in the months and years ahead, but also into the type of marketable products that give us a natural competitive advantage over other countries.

Planning

All the management textbooks stress the need for top management to involve itself in corporate planning; i.e. continuous examination of the company's market and social environment to attempt to foresee where the company will stand in 1-10 years time with its present policies and products, make any changes which such a forward view suggests to be necessary, monitor the results of such changes and adjust the corporate plan accordingly.

Isn't it strange then that the government - and not just the present one - as top management of the biggest company of all (the national economy) appears to make little serious attempt to involve itself in such corporate planning - but perhaps not so strange.

Politicians, because of the very nature of their job, must always keep one eye on the next election when considering their plans and actions. The trouble is that most of them tend to focus both eyes in this direction and forget what their job really is or should be. Hence we see a rash of vote-getting activity at a constituency level, with the aid of the local T.D. being sought whenever and wherever it is felt that such aid will expedite decisions on individual problems.

All very commendable no doubt from the constituents point of view, because certainly a word in the right ear will cut through the red tape involved in the alleviation of

genuine problems. The sad thing is that such activity tends to cloud the politicians view.

As far as he or she is concerned the 'plain people of Ireland' are not concerned with such ideas as a National Corporate Plan, and besides which, such things take years to show results and there is no political mileage to be gained from something that bears fruit at a time when the voters have put you out of office.

But perhaps the 'plain people of Ireland' are not as plain as the politicians seem to think. Nobody requires a degree in economics to realise that without a sound national economy, the hope and right of all the people for secure employment will not be fulfilled.

If the country is ever to have such an economy, then it will not be achieved without the type of planning discussed above, or if it is, then the economic miracle will certainly be upon us!

Agriculture Content

How such a National Plan should be formulated is another days work entirely and it is not the aim of this article to put forward such a plan. It should be said, however, that without a strong agricultural content, any such plan would be sadly lacking.

As already stated the aim should be to concentrate on areas that give us a natural competitive edge. Whether we like it or not (and we should be delighted with our good fortune) Ireland is basically an agricultural country. Everybody has to eat so what is to prevent us feeding the people of the world with the food they want to eat at the right price. It could even become our national motto: "This is Ireland. We feed the World!"

There is also an important social aspect here. An Irish economy with a strong agricultural base could become a unifying force between the urban and rural communities. Such agricultural industry could provide secure well paid employment for the non farmer and would give the farmer the incentive to consistently produce better quality food for an on going market with guaranteed minimum prices. Agriculture could then be truly viewed by all to be the industry that it should be.

On a recent 'Today Tonight' television programme a comment was made that when the sun shines on the farmer, everybody else gets a suntan. While this is hardly the present situation, any national planner worth his salt should be able to ensure that in the future such is the case.

All wishful thinking? Let's hope not!



Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bustow pictured at Rathkeale House Hotel.

COOK'S CORNER

By Anna Fitzgerald,
Canteen Officer.



Method:—

Fry the meat until brown. Remove from pan. Fry the onion and put aside with the meat. Add the flour and curry powder to fat and cook until dry and sandy.

Add the stock and bring to the boil without stirring. Add tomatoe puree, brown sugar, apple, worcester sauce, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Keep sultanas and eggs until later.

Return the onions and meat to the sauce. Simmer gently for 1½ — 2 hours stirring occassionaly. After 1½ hours approximately add sultanas and eggs.

Wash rice and stir into a large saucepan half filled with boiling salted water. Boil for 10-15 minutes until rice is soft. Drain and rinse with boiling water, season with salt and pepper and add red pepper. Mix well.

Place portion of rice in plate with well in centre. Heap curry into centre of plate and garnish with parsley.

Serves six.

Recipie:—

- 2lbs. Stewing beef cut into 1"
- 2oz. fat for frying
- 1 large onion chopped
- 3-4 tablespoons Curry Powder
- 2oz. Flour
- 2 level tablespoons Tomatoe Puree
- 2 tablespoons Marjo chutney
- 1 Pt. Stock (can be made from 2 stew cubes in boiling water)



The Shannon Meat "B" quiz team who participated in the recent NISO quiz at the RiverRoom Motel Newcastle West were Pat Coleman, Michael Guiney, Maureen Cronin and Tom Govan.



Shannon Meat Ltd. recently introduced the AnCo Fork-Lift truck driving course in their company. Photographed at this course are Bill Lynch, Freezer Department. Peter Hynes, AnCo Instructor, Dublin and Martin Cregan of the Maintenance Department.

GET IN ON THE ACT

So long as there are two workers and provided they don't opt to elect a Safety Representative, there can be a joint Safety Committee.

The new Act entitles workers to select from among themselves the worker members of the Committee.

It is left to each enterprise to work out its own rules concerning the life of a Committee, provisions for elections, resignations and replacements etc.

The Committee cannot be smaller than three or bigger than ten. Safety Committees already in existence with at least three members set up under the Factories Act, 1955, continue in being, unaffected by the new Act, even if there are more than ten members.

Functions

The functions of the Safety Committee are similar to those of the Safety Representative: to assist the employer and the workers in relation to the Acts and Regulations and to perform such other functions (if any)

relating to the safety and health of workers as may be written into Regulations by the Minister, after consultation with FUE and ICTU.

Meetings

At the request of the Committee the employer is obliged to consult with it with a view to reaching agreement on facilities for meetings and on their frequency, duration and times. The law provides that meetings shall take place at times settled by the Committee. These meetings may be held during normal working hours and without loss of pay provided:—

*there is a quorum

*except for emergencies, they are held not more frequently than once every two months

SOCCER SCENE

Match Reports

By The Observer.

F.A.I. Junior Cup:—

Villa Rovers 2 Rathkeale United 0

In this the semi-final of the F.A.I. Junior Cup (Area) a very much off-form XI put up a very poor show against a nicely balanced, determined, Ardagh side. The game was played in atrocious weather conditions. Edmund Dollery had a particularly good game for the Rathkeale side.

League:—

Rathkeale United 1 Kilcolman 5
(D. O'Dea)

Not only do the Manchester Uniteds and Liverpools of this world have injury problems, but, so too, do the Rathkeales. For this tie United were missing six players, all injured. In the early stages, Rathkeale more than held their own, but, a team of nine gets tired and frustrated quicker than a full XI.

Rathkeale United 0 Glin Rovers 0

Wanted! A player who can locate the oppositions net. This would appear appropriate considering United's total supremacy over fellow strugglers Glin. Ritchie Hayes tried very hard up front, whilst Frank Lynch marshalled his defence superbly.

Pallaskerry 4 Rathkeale United 4
(Hayes 2, O'Doherty and Harnett).

The home side who are having one of their best campaigns for some time were surprised by an in-form, inspired Rathkeale side and were thankful for a share of the spoils. This was a great game and it was a feast of goal-mouth action.

Rathkeale United 0 Park 1

The last three league games, all proved conclusively that the difference between loosing and winning can sometimes be very marginal. For, in these three games United were worthy of maximum points, which is championship material, yet they were rewarded with only two, which leaves them in the depth of the relegation zone. League Leaders Park will testify that they were most fortunate to take the points from a very good side.

Oscar Traynor:—

Rathkeale United supplied three players to the Desmond League team which defeated Cork A.U.L. and lost to Clare, in the second round. The players Edmund Dollery, Noel Harnett and Joe Kennedy more that justified their selections and on both occasions all three were very prominent.

In all, four Rathkeale men were in the panel as Deel United's Mike Gallagher was reserve keeper.

Social:—

On March, 14th Rathkeale United undertook a new venture by promoting a Supper Social. I am glad to relate it was a successful undertaking and this is due largely to the support given by patrons.

Watch it Grow:—

Seamus O'Doherty, Davy O'Keeffe — 5 each. Noel Harnett, 4. Ray O'Doherty 3. Vincent Comny, Denis O'Dea, Brian Dillon, Richard Hayes — 2 each. David O'Brien, Liam Casey, Liam Fitzgerald — 1 each.

— DEEL UNITED —

Match Reports

Bally Rovers 3 Deel United 3

A bruising encounter United took the lead after ten minutes with a well taken goal by Neil Hogan. However, the home side were leading 2-1 at the short whistle. Centre-forward James O'Grady equalised only for Bally to score from the kick-off. Jack Lyons tied the game at 3 all from the penalty spot.

Deel United 2 Creeves 2

After a few minutes United were trailing. Approaching half-time Jack Lyons equalised from a penalty. The same player did a similiar rescuing act in the second period. However, with a few minutes remaining Jack Lyons hit the cross-bar from the twelve yard line spot. This game was typical of United's season to date — draw specialists (pity there's no Pools) and a penalty or two.

Deel United 3 Ballygultenane 0

A very one sided encounter against an understrength (9 players) visiting side. Scorers for the League Leaders were:— Peter Mullins, a spectacular Eddie O'Dwyer effort and a penalty from left-full Tom White.

Adare 1 Deel United 4

This promotion clash saw the Rathkeale side play some of their best football, all season. Two fine goals from P.J. Wall and a header from Johnny Jones had United three up at the break. The lethal left peg of Tom White from the penalty spot put the game beyond the Maigue siders reach who got a consolation goal minutes from the end.

Deel United 1 Kildimo 1

Hopefully, before the season finishes, United will not rue this point dropped. With ten minutes remaining James O'Grady headed a fine goal. However, the Bill Chawke inspired Kildimo side were not done with and a great individual from Athletic star John Battles insured a share of the spoils.

Seasons Scorers:—

Jack Lyons 12, P.J. Wall 6, James O'Grady 4, Peter Mullins 3, Eamonn Daly, John Jones, Neil Hogan, Tom White — 2 each, Mike Gallagher, Milo O'Shea, Eddie O'Dwyer — 1 each.

League Position:—

At the time of going to press, Deel United lead Division II of the Desmond League. With three games remaining United have to play their two closest challengers — Villa Rovers and Athea United, both away. The other game is against Broadford (home). So the destination of the League Title is very much in their own hands.

Pld. W. D. L. F. A. Pts.

14 6 7 1 35 27 19

SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. Tom Steele of the Slaughter Line on the recent death of his father, William Steele (affectionately known as The Com.) late of Church Street, Rathkeale.

ATHLETIC NEWS

By the time you read this Patrick McCarthy will have represented Ireland in the World Junior Country Championships. Seamus Cawley also travelled for the big occasion.

For the second year in succession, Rathkeale will be the venue for the Munster Open Marathon on 26th April. Sources have it, the event will be bigger and better this time, with the very cream of long distance runners competing.

Coventry City will be represented in the Munster Open Marathon. The light blue colours will be worn by Miko Dunne on April, 26th.

A coaching course for young athletes will be held at Plassey on April, 18th and 19th. Further details from Mike Hanley.

West Limerick Athletic Club will promote a track and field league at Tullylease during the month of April.

"Sport for all" day will be held throughout Ireland on May, 3rd. It will be held in Abbeylands on May, 2nd.

Rathkeale Open Sports will be held on Monday, August, 3rd.

The County Under 8, 9, 10 Track and Field Championships will be held at Rathkeale on May, 30th.

Will Dave Sexton be replaced by a female athlete? Marie O'Dea seems to think so, since she took charge of the Community Games Girl Soccer Team. Pa Sheehan is manager of the Boy's. There must be great bits of help in the newspapers.



Tower Gaelic football star, Denis Kenneally has now given up the football boots for his fork-truck or fiesta.



N.I.H.E. Co-op Student from Ennis, Noel O'Loughlin. A second-row forward in the Shannon Meat Inter-Final Rugby team to tour West Limerick.



The ever jovial Collins from Rosemount, Rathkeale, retired staff member Paddy Collins & his wife Mary.

INTER-FIRM G.A.A.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in the Canteen on Tuesday, 17th February. While the attendance was somewhat smaller than we had hoped for, it was a very good meeting. During the course of his address, the outgoing Chairman Gerry Molyneaux stressed the importance of loyalty and dedication to the Club. These two qualities are very essential, if we hope to achieve any success this coming year. He thanked everyone who helped us during the year. The Club was very grateful to the Company for its continued support, without which it would be very difficult to exist. Following reports from the other officers present, the committee for the coming year was elected.

Chairman: Gerry Molyneaux
Vice-Chairman: Sean Harnett
Secretary: Michael O'Neill
Treasurer: Jack Daly
Captain — Hurling Team: William Chawke
Captain — Football Team: John Lynch.

It was decided to enter the football team again this year, in the Inter-Firm competitions following a lapse of one year. I must say, it is very encouraging to see the footballers showing renewed interest in the affairs of the Club. I, personally feel that the football team has a great chance of winning a County Championship. At the same time, I do not wish to give supporters the impression that our hurlers have no hope of success. Both teams are capable of winning honours this coming season.

Town Traders

Due to the fact that the Club has lost some very good players during the past twelve months, it was decided to approach the town traders as regards a possible amalgamation. A meeting was held in the Community Centre and the response was very encouraging. It now depends on whether the Inter-Firm Board will give its approval. I see no reason why it should not. The Firm Board tries to facilitate anyone who is interested in participating in its competitions provided everything is done within the rules of the association. Let's hope this will be our year for success.

Inter-Firm Convention

At the recent Convention held in the Gaelic League Hall in Limerick, Shannon Meat Limited Inter-Firm Club had two officers elected into the new Board. Gerry Molyneaux was elected as Secretary of the Board. Following a three year term as Vice-Chairman and one year term as Chairman, I decided it was time to let someone else take over the chair. John Shaw of the County Council is now Chairman of the Board. I was elected as Registrar.

Affiliations

Affiliations and registrations must be lodged with the County Board within the next few week's. The cost of these affiliations plus Insurance for a Club with two teams is £40. What with the cost of hurley's, hurling balls and footballs, it can be very expensive running a Club these days. We here in Shannon Meat Limited have always been very well supported in any fund raising activity organised by the Club and I know that we can look forward to your continued support in the future.

On behalf of the Club I would like to thank you all once again for your help.

Yours in Sport

M. O'Neill.

SHANNON MEAT CHAT

By The Scribe.

- * Our answer to the 'royal couple' Prince Donald (Markham and Lady Marcella (Curtin) have returned from their wedding and honeymoon to the Palace — Shannon Meat.
 - * Reading through a 'leading' provincial newspaper the scribe observed the "Live Mike" of athletics was doing a similiar chat job. Such a copy-cat.
 - * Welcome back to Tom Kenneally after a prolonged illness.
 - * Mikie Reidy's favourite country and western star is "Crossbar Willie". He must think it's a goal-keeper's world. Whatever happened to the box.
 - * Don Gallagher claims to be the 'oldest swinger in town' — such modesty. Watch out for him at all the pop concerts around the country.
 - * Valentine's Day proved one thing. The biggest hit with the girls in Shannon Meat is John Meehan of the Cannery. Fair Play!
 - * Chin Lyn of the Boning Hall drives a Japanese car. For identification purposes the number is CZA 27.
 - * Imagine somebody following a Queen around in a wind-swept loading-freezer bay. Yes, you would if I said the Queen was on a pound note.
 - * It is now the turn of the Manchester United supporters to suffer humiliation at the hands of their colleagues. Soccer too, is a vicious circle and so too are Utd
 - * My congratulations to the members of our Quiz Team who
- stuttered once or twice and hence lost. I'm not trying to boost your egos but here's to next year. Where did I hear that before.
 - * Jack Lyons is hoping to qualify for a Tax Rebate. However, a lot depends on his original timing. Fingers crossed Jack.
 - * Gerry Molyneaux runs out to Danaher's Cross (during keep-fit classes) but returns to town (during the early hours of the morning). Contrary to expectations, it's not because he is a slow mover.
 - * Poor Seamus Kennedy had his bike stolen lately (temporarily) but, was driven home by a nun. I hope he won't make a habit of this.
 - * Squash Champions:— Michael Dooley, Fred O'Brien and Sean Goodwin. I believe it wasn't the drink of the same name that squashed their thirsts after the final.
 - * Tom White (yes, again) carries a pair of slippers in his car. No, not what you might be thinking. It's because he can't drive with his boots on.
 - * Some people have given yachts, others money, but, Seamus in the Cannery, we believe a few tins of Corned Beef. Result Albert installs. If the queue was as a bus stop he probably would have been killed.
 - * Fiesta (no not a holiday) is the fashionable word at the moment. Denis Kenneally, Donie McEnery and Batty Collins display their deluxe means of transport. Even if they are all nearly the same colour.



Photographed at the ANCO Fork-Lift truck driving course recently held at Shannon Meat Ltd. are Denis Kenneally, Peter Hynes, AnCo Instructor and John Lyons.



Participating in the AnCo Fork-Lift truck course in Shannon Meat Ltd. were Kevin Hannafin, Peter Hynes AnCo Instructor, Bob Crombie and Michael Kelly.

FORK-LIFT TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING

In early March of this year Shannon Meat Limited introduced the AnCo Fork-Lift truck training course. The training took place within the Company itself and was attended by seven members of the Staff. The Course was conducted by Peter Hynes of the Dublin Training Centre and proved very well worthwhile. Some of the guidelines for fork-lift truck training as pointed by Mr. Hynes are as follows:—

A. RESPONSIBILITY:—

Safety rules are work rules and as such part of your responsibility for efficient production.

1.

The operator is in charge of his own vehicle. As such, he is responsible for his own safety, his truck, his load, Company property and equipment, and other employees or pedestrians.

2. Only qualified drivers may operate trucks. This will be determined by the Department Manager and the Supervisor. Also, these rules will be interpreted in the same manner.
3. Wear hard hat, safety glasses and safety shoes as required.
4. Horseplay is prohibited.
5. Report all accidents immediately.

B. TRAFFIC:—

In general, observe the usual traffic rules and regulations wherever possible. This includes:—

1. Keep to the LEFT on roadways and wide aisles.
2. Drive at a reasonable speed depending on location and condition of surface.
3. Slow down at intersections, corners, ramps and other danger points.
4. Leave plenty of space between trucks when travelling.
5. Use horn in "blind" spots, but don't overdo it.
6. Watch in turning that you don't cut too short.
7. Be alert for wet and slippery surfaces while driving.
8. Give pedestrians the right of way. Assume they are not thinking about lift-trucks.
9. Stop at all stop signs.

10. When parking do not block traffic.
 - a. Park with forks on the floor.
 - b. Turn off the power and take the key with you.

C. OPERATIONAL SAFETY:—

1. Passengers or riders on truck or trailers are not allowed at any time.
2. Know the capacity and weight of your truck. It is important to observe weight limitations for your own safety. When the fork truck is empty, travel with the forks as low as possible.
3. Total height of load on forks should not exceed the height of uprights. Do not pick up any load which is unsteady or unsafe.
4. Keep forks and load as low as possible while moving. Avoid butting loads. Adjust width of forks to size of load. Keep load way back on forks.
5. Handling loads : Raise and lower them with care. Watch overhead clearance when moving loads.
6. Pallets : Keep a close watch for dirty or broken pallets. Return for repair and cleaning. Respect the lowly pallet. It is the key to your operation.
7. Drive in reverse with high or bulky loads. Face the direction of travel.
8. On steep grades, all types of loaded lift trucks should be driven down grade with the load last, and upgrade with the load first; unloaded fork lift trucks should be operated on ramps with the tractor toward the upper end of the ramp. A truck should never be parked on a ramp.
9. Trailers increase efficiency of operation. When going down a ramp with trailers, stop, then proceed at slowest speed. Maximum of six (6) regular size trailers or four (4) long trailers.
10. Keep carbon monoxide in mind. Minimize operation in confined areas. Watch for danger of fumes. Do not smoke in restricted areas. Do not drive in restricted areas.
11. While driving, watch carefully for bumps, hazards, obstructions, etc. Remove hazardous material from roadway. Drive diagonally wherever possible across bumps, railroad tracks etc.

MUNSTER OPEN MARATHON 1981



(26 miles and 385 yards)

on

SUNDAY, APRIL, 26TH

