

Shannon Meat GAZETTE



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Tel. (069) 64111 or (061) 40700.

SHANNON MEAT LTD. NOW 30 YEARS IN PRODUCTION

THIRTY YEARS ON

By M.F. Cowhey
Managing Director

As those people who have seen the company video film know, operations on the factory floor commenced in Shannon Meat in February, 1953. The film recounts the history and progress of the company over the intervening thirty years. Anybody who wishes to see the film may do so by applying to the Personnel Department of the company.

Huge Exodus

The period of the early to mid fifties was one of job scarcity even non availability, minimal development, high immigration to the U.K. by people in all walks of life. There was a huge exodus of building workers, professional, skilled and unskilled in 1956/'57 following a dire recession and close down in the building industry. As the fifties and early sixties progressed, mini revolutions took place in the ex gate operations connected with farming. The advent of more sophisticated meat export plants and livestock marts pushed the cattle and other livestock fairs off the streets of the various market towns. These fairs were direct successors of the old Celtic aonachs. It is recorded in the annals of the Four Masters that Smithfield, Croagh was one of the greatest venues of these aonachs. Linehan states in his history that two of the big Croagh dates were transferred to Rathkeale in the 18th Century viz the 10th March and 18th November. Those who attended the fairs on these dates will recollect the huge hosting of people and livestock. Cattle were walked from a 20 to 25 mile radius to the Rathkeale fairs. Selling and buying commenced at 5 a.m. irrespective of the time of year. As the various lots of cattle converged on the town in the early hours of the morning, all roads were choc a bloc with livestock and people. Pigs and sheep came in creels attached to common carts and in the centre of the fairs were one, two or three lots of Connemara ponies in lots of 80 to 100. Also in the centre were the 'STANDINGS' a series of market stalls on continental lines where travelling traders sold second hand clothes, etc. and various bits and pieces.

Horse fairs, which have also disappeared, were held on the streets on separate dates from the cattle fairs. Horses came from 60 miles away in huge numbers. There would be at least 1,000 horses at a fair. The business of selling or buying continued in to the late evening and altogether was a colourful scene of

bustling activity. For anyone interested, Father Carroll of Nantenan, who wrote under the pen name of PATCH and who was one of the most popular authors in the U.S.A. in his day, has written marvelous descriptions of his attendance at the fairs as a boy in some of his books.

Among the activities I remember was the drinking of hot claret on the wet and cold fair mornings. This was a significant pointer to the long history of trading by people of West Munster with the West coast of France. The claret came from the great Chateau Vineries of Bordeaux - very few people could now afford a similar quality of wine as that drunk on these fair mornings.

The amalgamation of the creameries through the sixties and seventies is a continuing process and has had a profound effect on the farming scene.

In 1966 cattle prices took a severe fall as they did again in 1974. By then we had joined the E.E.C. and for beef farmers the fall was cushioned by the intervention system and by the huge drop in store prices enabling them to replace stock at a low figure. Producers depending on store cattle were badly hit, particularly, the small holders in the West of Ireland.

Euphoria

Entrance to the E.E.C. in the early seventies created some euphoria. The for and against still continue the debate. Since our entry, the Beal Bocht attitude has increased. Everybody seems to be constantly looking to the E.E.C., the Government, the Local Authorities or the Health Authorities for some handout. Sturdy independence, the ethic of self initiative and hard work seems to survive only in a diminishing minority.

The Northern debacle has been a tragedy for the country and the goings on difficult to understand by those of us who live in this part of Ireland.

The late seventies saw a boom period for Irish Farming not before its time. This prosperity spilled out into the towns and villages as farmers invested in an endeavour to correct the grave under capitalization of their property over the years. Is there a lesson here as to how we should find a way out of the present recession? Industry will

9TH. FEBRUARY, 1953

It was on the 9th. of February thirty years ago that work commenced on slaughtering of cattle. All work prior to that was concentrated on the building of the facilities.

First Beast

Bill Kelly was the man who stunned the first beast on that memorable day. He remembers the event well - "I stunned the first bullock at 10.00 o'clock. After stunning, the beast was pulled across the floor of the slaughter house by two men and placed in a bay for skinning. There were three such bays there at the time."

With Bill butchering were Paddy Kennedy, Croagh, Dick Hogan, Adare and John Hayes, Ballysteen. Bill recalls the rivalry between the four on that day - "The rivalry and showing off of the different skills ensured a full days work on that day."

Heavy Work

Sean Guiry, then working with builder Charlie McDonald remembers visiting the slaughtering on the first day. "Tim Finnucane, Paddy Roche, Henry Doab and I went to see the operations at about lunch time. He recalls Mr. Vlandeghem asking them to leave and a discussion between Tim Finnucane and the Director ensued." Though not associated to production on that day Sean remembers the four butchers helpers on the floor, Malachy Hanley, Billy Kett, John Royce and Michael "Sikie" Meehan. Sikie remembers the day well. "The thing I remember best is that we had to press down on the beast while on the floor to ensure that it was fully bled. There

was a lot of very heavy work in pulling the carcass through the slaughter hall" states Sikie. He also remembers quartering at a later stage. "Quartering was an art in itself in the early days. Two tables were placed one on top of the other to help in quartering. The late Sean Joy, John Lynch or myself took turns in taking the high position.

Charge Hand Paddy McNamara remembers the morning of the 9th. February, 1953 as being 'a typical February day, frosty but not too cold.' At this time Paddy worked in the building of the Plant. "I remember admiring with delight the bullocks awaiting slaughter." Shortly after the slaughtering had started, Paddy was asked to give a hand. "My job was to wash the carcasses and this I did with stockenette and water. There was a lot of very heavy work involved. We all smoked as we worked. There was just sufficient knives and a person was very lucky to have an apron. We had no official breaks either, just one hour for lunch."

Technology

To-day most of the physical effort has been removed by technology. No longer must carcasses be manually moved about while skinning. Lifts, hoists, moving rails etc., have seen to this. Those of us who have been lucky enough to enter the Company's employment when these modern conveniences are available should not forget those whose hard work and dedication over the years made this possible. To-day, thirty years after production started, let us salute the men who made that first day possible and to the many people at all levels who worked to make Shannon Meat Limited what it is.



Rathkeale Fair 4th. April, 1904.

certainly not lead us out of our present dilemma. Any scheme to overcome the still occurring position of under capitalization on farms will engender prosperity in rural Ireland, give the kiss of life to flagging agribusinesses of all kinds and form a firm basis to beat the recession. Nobody owes us a living and the politics of envy should be buried.

In the late seventies came the advent of E.E.C. export refunds (subsidies) on live exports to North Africa and the Middle East. This resulted in beef production being turned into a more sharply seasonal business causing immense, and seemingly unsurmountable, problems for meat plant managements endeavouring to keep their operations going over the twelve months.

LIVESTOCK TOPICS

TAKING STOCK

By Donie Donovan
Livestock Procurement Manager

The total National Kill for 1982 was approximately 920,000. This is an increase of 40,000 over 1981. The total live export were 340,000 in 1982, down 67,000 from the previous year which means that 27,000 less were exported in 1982. In spite of the change the beef trade got no credit for the fact that prices were up by 10%.

The most important factor in all is the swing towards more and more grass beef. The blame for this is the lack of foresight on the part of the Brussels package. It has all the ingredients of a build up of unfinished stock at the back end of the year. It may not happen in 1983 and if not it has to happen in 1984. As soon as the new price package is delivered the farmer will know what he has to get for his cattle off the grass, so why should he bother to put expensive silage and meals into his stock for the same return? Often after a spell of unkind weather stock are unloaded on the market not because the animals are finished beef but it is just that the land cannot take any more.

The capacity in the Irish factories was not tested for some time but it is believed to be close to double what is required, purely from a point of slaughtering capacity. The capacity to further process has dropped over the past number of years and could take as long to recover as it did to drop. Therefore, any sudden upsurge in numbers could not be marketed to the best advantage without the benefit of been processed. Capacity is not just confined to plant and ware houses, there is also a skilled labour force requiring expensive

training each time it is needed.

The drift in and out of this pool of labour is costing agriculture a colossal sum over the years.

Refrigerated and live stock transport are two other areas at the mercy of this "hot and cold" system that we have been experiencing down the years. The problem is no nearer to being solved now than it was twenty years ago.

LIMOUSIN CROSS FRESIAN

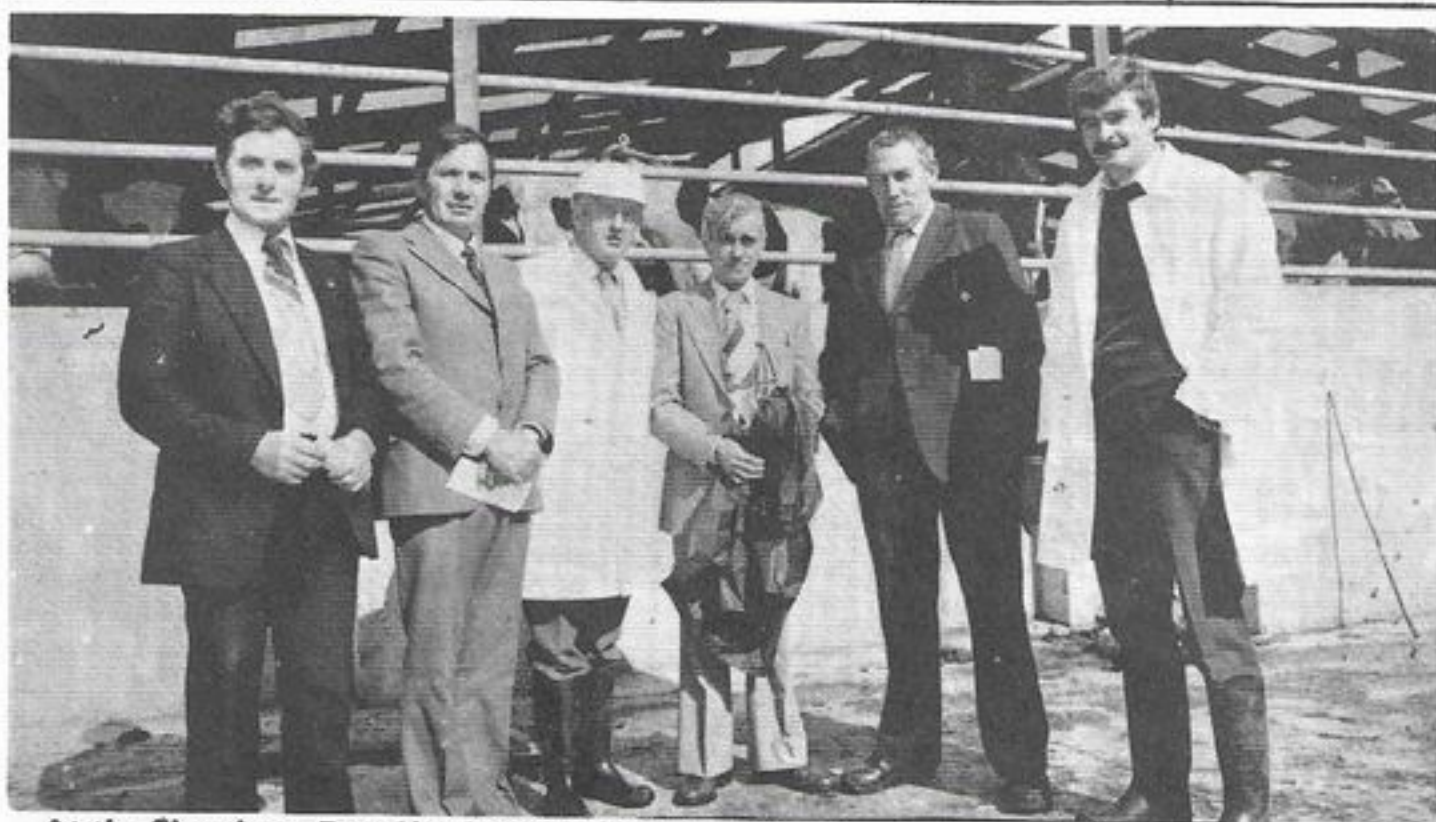
In the June, '82 edition of our Gazette we had results of twenty-six (26) Bullocks, Limousin and Fresian bred reared and finished on the one farm. From the same Dairy herd we had twenty (20) Limousin and Heifers slaughtered 13th. January, 1983.

The twenty (20) Heifers were not quiet two years old. The average live weight was 9 cwt. The Bullocks last May averaged 11.69 after fasting overnight. The Fat Score on the twenty-six (26) Bullocks averaged 2.87 while the Fat Score on the Heifers was 2.35.

The Confirmation was excellent. Eighteen (18) graded "R", two (2) graded "O". The Bullocks killed out 64.77 lbs., per cwt., and the Heifers killed 62.81 lb., per live weight. The Heifers realised £56.60 per cwt., in January and the Bullocks averaged £62.77 per live cwt. last May.

These progeny are first Cross Fresian Limousin and are performing very good. In the following Chart two lots are combined:-

	Live Cwt.	Dead Lbs.	£ Gross	Per Cwt. Live	Kill Lbs. per Cwt.
26 Steers	11.60	757	733.86	£62.77	64.77
20 Heifers	9.00	565	508.50	£56.50	62.81



At the Shorthorn Breeders Society Show in September last were: James Houlihan ICMSA, Donal Murphy, General Secretary ICMSA, Donie Donovan, Shannon Meat Ltd., Malachy Kelly, Old Course Downpatrick, Donal Sheehan, Director, Shannon Meat Ltd. and Liam Ahern, Shannon Meat Ltd.



accidents are
heart breaking

FOCUS ON RED OFFAL DEPARTMENT

One of the key areas in the factory is the Red Offal Department. In this Department, tail, lungs, livers, kidneys, melts and lip meat are processed and some specially packed off for the Company's French Market. Separate livers, melts and lungs are packed off and used in the manufacture of pet food elsewhere. Edible livers and fresh kidneys are exported to France. In this Department, people have to prepare and pack the offals. In this article, we focus our attention on some of these people.

He loves music and enjoys a few jars at the week-ends, so there is plenty of musicians and dancers in the Red Offal Department.



Tom Grey - Working in Shannon Meat since 1974, and formerly Vice-Chairman of the I.T.G.W.U., in Shannon Meat. He worked in England prior to joining Shannon Meat. He was born and reared in Newcastle West and still resides there with his wife and three children - Jim aged 14, Michael 10 and Thomas 3.

In his spare time Tom is very interested in the F.C.A., and carries younger members of the force out camping every year. Tom is Sergeant in it and puts the younger members through their paces in the first year, foot drill, marching etc. In the second year of camping these members learn more about tactics and fire arms.

Tom is a keen fisherman and fishes for trout in the Deel river. He also does a small bit of fly fishing in May. So Tom in the meantime, happy fishing.



Seamus O'Connor - This is the youngest member of the Red Offal Department and is working in the Company since 1979. He is the eldest of a family of five and his father Jim works in the night cleaning staff of Shannon Meat. Seamus lives with his father and mother in Abbeylands, Rathkeale and he has three brothers and one sister.

He is very interested in soccer and plays as a winger for the local club Shannon United. He is so good in fact, some people from across the water could come to have a look at him play. He is a great supporter of Manchester United and must be very happy as they seem to be likely winners of this year's league. He also likes disco dancing and if it came between disco dancing and soccer he would opt for disco dancing because women seem to follow dancing more than soccer, so he tells us. So let us hope that Manchester United will give him plenty to dance about when the league is over.



Mike Collins This gentle, single man hails from Ardagh, County Limerick. He was born and brought up there and has no intention of leaving that place. As a youngster he enjoyed playing hurling with his class mates and people in Ardagh, but he never played hurling with any club. He is very disappointed with hurling to-day and feels that the standard has deteriorated a lot in the last ten years or so. As a result this man does not go to hurling matches anymore due to the poor standard the spectator has to see.

In his youth Mike worked with a farmer near Rathkeale, and still has a great interest in farming. He still does a small bit of farming in his spare time. He first joined Shannon Meat in 1969 and has spent most of his time in the Offal Department.



Preparing for the forthcoming Boxing Tournament are the youngest and oldest member of the team: Michael Williams & Gerry Mulcair.

PICTURE PARADE

PICTURE PARADE



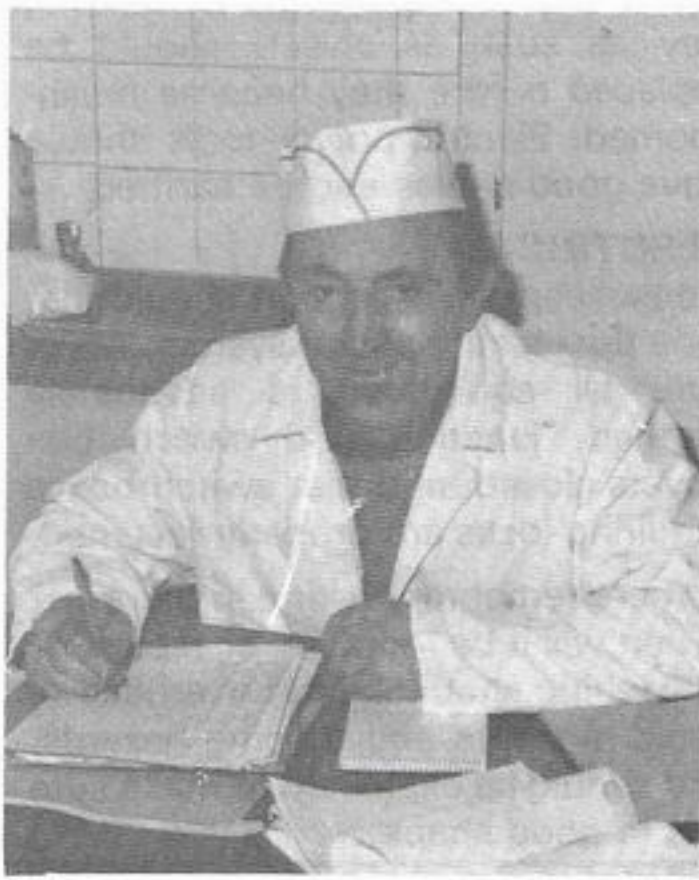
Donie and Noleen Ahern photographed at the 14th. Annual Dinner dance organised by the Shannon Meat Social Committee.



Seen here, in the Company's Locker Room, are members of Deel United (l to r) Tom O'Shaughnessy, Jack Lyons, Frank Roche & James O'Grady.



Remember our French friend Anne-Isabelle Labrousse? Anne-Isabella was married recently. Married to her Frederic whom she spoke much about last summer while with us. We send them both our best wishes.



Liam O'Donnell busy at work in the abattoir office.



Pa and Kitty Guinane also attended the Annual Company Social on the 17th. December.



Seen here, clocking out is popular Slaughter Line employee, Paddy O'Shaughnessy.



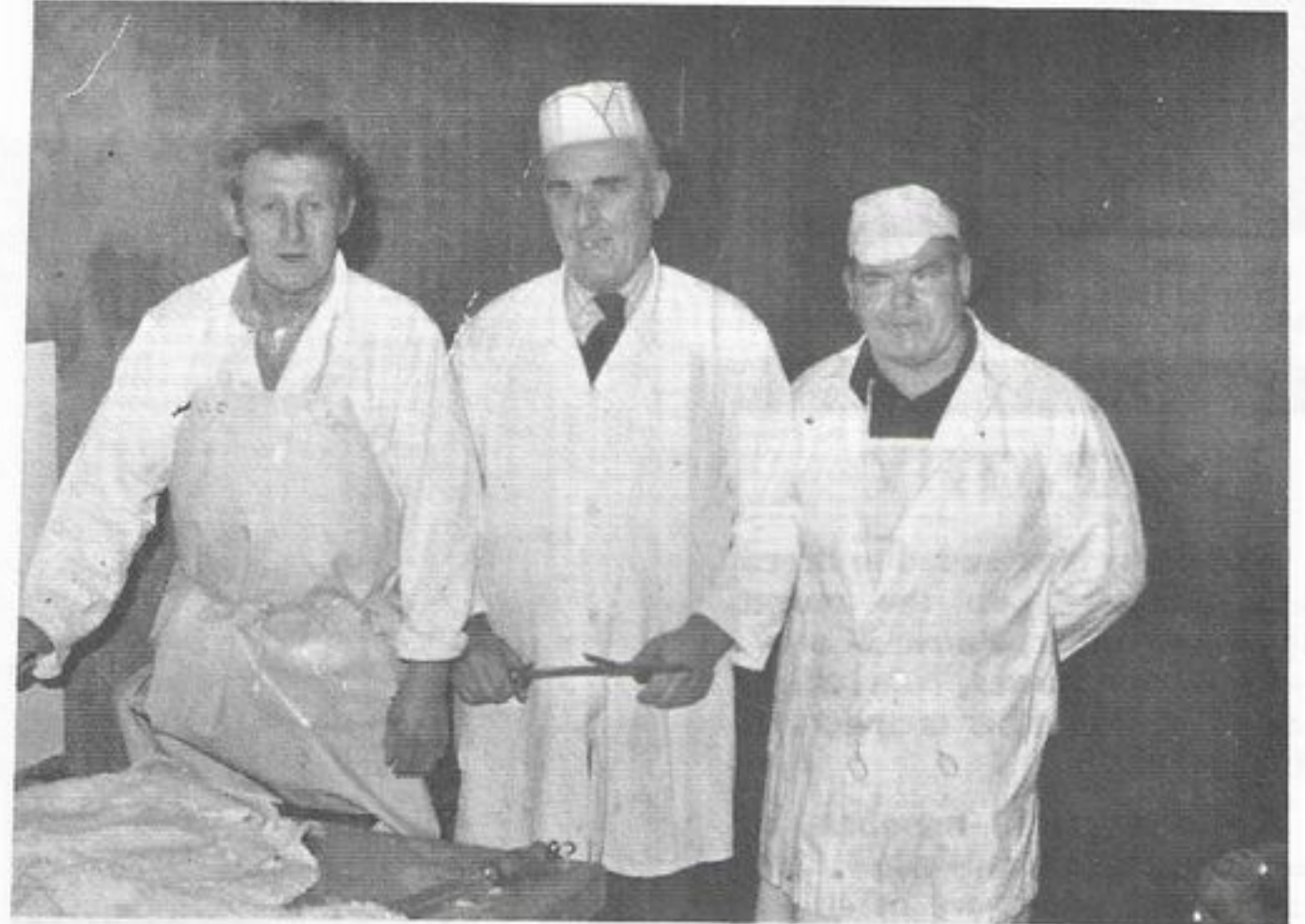
Donie and Julia McEnery enjoying the Annual Dance at the Devon Inn.



Dunnes at the Dance l to r: Miko and Helen, Liam and Pauline, Pa and Anne at the Devon Inn.



Photographed at Social Committees dance on 17th. December, were, Mary O'Connor, Noreen O'Regan, Tom Mujan and Gerard O'Connor.



Long serving employees pausing from work for this photograph, Michael Shiels, Paddy McNamara and Kevin Barry.

RINGSIDE NEWS

A Sean Finn selection will challenge the Rest of Munster in Askeaton on Sunday, 6th. February at 4.00p.m.

Club Chairman, Mattie Williams tells us this is a great occasion for the Club and the selected boxers have been training diligently for the event.

The team of boxers is as follows with age, weight and townland:

4½ Stone	
Tony Gammell (11)	Askeaton
John Walsh (11)	Askeaton
Denny Hogan (11)	Rathkeale
James McCarthy (12)	Kilcornan
5 Stone	
Michael Williams (10½)	Rathkeale
6½ Stone	
Dan McCarthy (13)	Kilcornan
Tadgh Hogan (15)	Rathkeale
Willie McCarthy (15)	Kilcornan
6-11½ Stone	
John Sheehy (12)	Askeaton
Brendan Markham (12)	Rathkeale
7½ Stone	
Jimmy McCarthy (13)	Kilcornan (Munster Champion)
10 Stone	
Gerry Mulcair	Rathkeale
11 Stone (Junior)	
Vincent Conmy	Rathkeale

Mattie is hopeful of winning eight bouts.

The following Sunday a re-match has been fixed for Rathkeale.

Thanks to Mattie, Pat Joe Jones and "Waxie" Walsh the Club is in a very strong footing.



Getting advice from their father, Mick, are Denis & Tadgh Hogan. Brendan Markham also avails of the opportunity.

Some Housekeeping "Musts"

Good housekeeping requires constant checking to be sure that work areas are maintained in proper order and everything kept in place.

There is little doubt that a clean area helps prevent accidents, influences morale and results in better production.

Permanent aisles and passageways should be clearly and appropriately marked. The supervisor's daily observation of these areas also helps keep them cleared of standing materials, equipment and other obstructions. Much can be done to achieve this by giving careful study to material flow into and out of the area.

SURFACES

Aisles should be checked to see that the walking surface is in good condition, free of slipping or tripping hazards, and that bad spots are reported for repairs.

Check for materials or other obstructions that project into aisles where they could trip or strike an unsuspecting passer-by.

FALLS

Oil spills or leaks should be cleaned up immediately if possible. If caused by a leaking piece of equipment, it may be necessary to use an oil-absorbent material until the necessary repair can be made.

Water and other liquids can cause equally dangerous slips.

Non-slip material may be useful on stairways as well as on walking and working surfaces which have become worn and slippery.

SCRAP

Scrap material can be responsible for much needless disorder. It is particularly important that it is not allowed to accumulate.

All rubbish receptacles should be emptied regularly to prevent overflow and fire hazard.

Round or cylindrical shapes such as pencils, bottle caps, and pieces of pipe can be treacherous underfoot, especially on stairs and inclines.

TOOLS

Tools of various kinds, both hand and power-operated, are often left on equipment and cabinets after use.

They should, of course, be returned to racks and storage points.

Tops of cabinets should be clear. This is equally true for ledges and window sills.

Tools assigned to the area should be checked to see they are in good and safe condition. Handles should be tight and firmly secured. Striking devices such as chisels should be replaced before they become mushroomed. Electric power tools should have good cables and be earthed.

ELECTRICAL

Housekeeping inspection should include the electric power system. Make sure all equipment is adequately earthed, junction and switch box covers closed, and that switch boxes requiring locks are properly fastened.

Is there temporary wiring in the area? When will it be removed or replaced? The wiring should be run overhead to avoid moisture and tripping hazards, and should be examined to make sure it is in good shape.

CHARITY RUN

Hail!, Rain!, and Snow!, well dear readers we had all kinds of weather (as usual) for this year's Annual Charity Run. But, despite the adverse weather conditions, once again our gallant club have done Rathkeale proud. Just look at the amounts they have collected over the past couple of years —

- 1979 - £2,200
- 1980 - £2,600
- 1981 - £4,500
- and wait for it -
- 1982 - £8,000 giving a grand total of over £17,000

This years group consisted of the usual twelve apostles and the number of collectors is forty plus.

Dedicated

For somebody who has been involved in various organisations I have yet to come across a finer or more dedicated group of people as those who participate in this Annual Charity Run. (Too often people talk and criticize the youth of to-day but, if the critics got up and let the young people have a say things would be a lot better in our communities.

The majority of our group are young teenagers and the way in which they worked this year to raise funds to purchase a heart machine for Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children was unbelievable.

Social

A Social to present the proceeds of the Run will be held at The Shiels Arms Hotel on Saturday, February 5th. All are welcome.



Relaxing following their days work are Bob Crombie and Billy Lynch.



Attending the Shannon Meat 14th. Annual Dinner dance at the Devon Inn on 17th. December, were: Mike and Ursula Guiney with Batty and Mary Collins.

DIM WIT

- * You owe something to your mother tongue. If there is a better fashion of speech than your own, do not be content until it is yours.
- * If you follow your recreation instead of your business, you will soon have no business to follow.
- * He who does the best he can is always improving. His best of yesterday is outdone to-day, and his best of to-day will be outdone to-morrow.
- * Nature has given us two ears, two eyes, but one tongue so that we should hear and see more than we speak.
- * It is a great mistake to suppose that the best work of the world is done by people of great strength and great opportunities.

SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to Breed Woulfe [Canteen] on the recent death of her father, Patrick Casey, late of Ballyann Lower, Newbridge, Askeaton, also to other members of the Casey Family.

To other staff members or associated members who had bereavements, lately, we offer our sincere sympathies.

G.A.A. CLUB NEWS

ATHLETICS

THE WORLD CHAMPION FOR RATHKEALE

John Treacy the 1978 and 1979 World Cross-Country Champion will be amongst the starters for this year's National Senior Cross-Country Championships when they will be held here in Rathkeale.

Other Athletes included amongst the entries of over 900 received to-date are David Taylor, Gerry Deegan, Gerry Kiernan (1982 Dublin City Marathon Champion).

Neil Cusack, Boston Marathon Champion 1974, Dublin Marathon Champion 1982 and this year's Munster Champion. Indeed Cusack is one of the most "capped" Irish Athletes. He has represented Ireland on new fewer than ten occasions in the World Cross-Country Championships and was Ireland's representative in the Montreal.

Also included in the line-up will be Limerick's Robert Costello a recent winner of an International Cross Country race in France and a road race in Prague.

Cork will be represented by Liam O'Brien, Donie Walsh, Tony O'Leary and Richard Crowley, whilst John Woods will be travelling over from Liverpool for the race.

Travelling from America will

be Brendan Quinn, Paul Donovan and Richard O'Flynn and from Amsterdam Noel Spellacey.

CO-OPERATION

So much for the "stars", but without the help and co-operation of so many it would not be possible for us to stage such an event here in Rathkeale. Pride of place must go jointly to Mr. Mort Daly and family for providing us with a magnificent course and to M/s Shannon Meat Limited for providing the changing rooms and showers.

The Shiels Arms Hotel will be used to the full. They will be providing the facilities for the many press men and The Function Room will be used as a result centre and presentation area.

Tom Steele, Michael Hanley and Seamus Cawley are heading the local organising committee. They would appreciate the help and co-operation of as many as possible. If you feel that you can help in any way do not hesitate in contacting them.

Dance

On the Saturday night prior to the Championships the Local Athletic Club will be promoting a Dance in the Shiels Arms Hotel.

Michael Hanley

who followed us during the lean years also deserve a special mention.

County Convention

The following officers were elected to run the Limerick Inter Firm G.A.A. Board at this year's Convention:-

Chairman: John Shaw (Co. Council)
Vice-Chairman: Henry Cooney, St. Joseph's Hospital

Secretary: Oliver Haskett (Wyeth, Askeaton)

Asst. Secretary: Tim O'Connor (Post Office, Limerick)

Joint Treasurers: John Shaw/H. Cooney

Registrar: Oliver Haskett

Looking at the new officers, it is worth noticing that it is the 1st year since the formation of the club that Shannon Meat Ltd. have no member on the county committee. I resigned after eight years service. Every committee needs new faces on occasions.

Annual General Meeting

Our own annual general meeting will be held early in February. It is very important that we have a good attendance this year. We look forward to seeing all players and other interested people at this year's meeting.

Yours in Sport,
Michael O'Neill,
Secretary.

The year 1982 has a lot of happy memories for the Shannon Meat Ltd. G.A.A. Club. It was our second year being amalgamated with the Town Traders. Our hurling and football teams won the county championships for the first time. This was a great achievement. Both teams were undefeated in domestic competitions. As a result of this, the hurlers also won the league, while the footballers won the final of the 1981 league which had been carried over to 1982. We qualified for the Munster Championship for the first time in the history of the club. Unfortunately, our hurlers were beaten in the semi-final. The football team is still involved in their quest for further honours.

10th. ANNIVERSARY

This year is the 10th. anniversary of the formation of the club. It is nice to commence our tenth year as dual champions. The men who first formed the club deserve special mention as they persevered without any success to try and win that first county title. Matty Williams, one of the founder members, is still involved with the running of the teams. Other founder members were the late Dick Woodroffe, Pat O'Shaughnessy, Ml. Keating, Ml. McNamara, Pat Costelloe, Jimmy Lenihan, Tom Hannafin, D. Kenneally, Gerard Enright, Seamus Tierney and Bill Lynch, Pat Jones. Tom Hannafin and Bill Lynch are still members of the hurling panel. Our supporters

SOCCER SCENE

SHANNON UNITED

Shannon United are failing to impress the League this season. This is very disappointing, considering they just missed out on promotion last season.

From eight kick-offs they have amassed three victories, one draw and four defeats, giving them a total of seven points.

This is not as bad as it appears as Shannon are only five points off the pacemakers. Considering there are two places to play for there is still the possibility of promotion.

A higher degree of commitment and determination is called for, and as well as that some clinical goal-scorer may fall on the door-step.

Match Reports

Creeves 2 Shannon United 1
Frank Lynch

It took three penalties to decide this game, with the Newbridge side coming out on top.

Judging by this game, this is the only way United will score this season. This is a tie that should have been won. Mike Shaughnessy, Denis O'Dea and Frank Lynch were most prominent for an out of luck Shannon.

Shannon United 1 Athea 0
Denis O'Dea

This was a fully deserved win, but for lack of goal scoring potential the margin of victory would have been far greater. This game illustrated that the difference between top and bottom of the League is only marginal. Athea being joint second and Shannon

near the foot of the table.

Adare 2 Shannon United 1
Frank Lynch

This was the second occasion this season that Adare had a somewhat lucky win over the boys in blue and gold. A dubi us last minute goal winning the game for the home side.

The 'man in the middle' came in for more attention that either of the two teams.

Shannon United 4 Ballyguiltenane 0
Barry Dillon 2
Denis O'Dea 2

A great start to the New Year for Shannon. Prior to this Ballyguiltenane had been going great guns and had the scalps of many big name Clubs to their credit. The youngsters in the United side showed their potential, none more so than Barry Dillon whose second goal was first class. Denis O'Dea and Liam Fitzgerald were also very much to the fore.

Shannon United 0 Deel United 3

This second derby game showed that Deel are more experienced, committed, determined and better organised. Shannon did not perform at all well and were comprehensively beaten, although not as bad as the three goal score-line suggests.

Liam Kennedy gave an outstanding performance at left-full and was the most impressive player on view.

Watch it Grow:-

Frank Lynch and Denis O'Dea 4 each, Barry Dillon and Noel Harnett, 3 each, Gerry McGinny, John Coleman and Liam Kennedy 1 each.

DEEL UNITED

At this stage of the season Deel United would appear to be progressing towards premier division football next season.

The addition of Brian Dillon to the United team has given the side greater mobility. Both Brian and Richie Hayes have contributed fitness and determination to Deel, something not too many of the individual players possess.

It is these qualities (if not moreso) as much as football skill that will stand them good in reaching their objective of winning the League.

Match Reports

Deel United 1 Athea United 1
Liam Casey

This was a fair result. Neill Cahill gave a great first half performance for Athea, who caused a very disorganised home side an amount of problems. Deel were minus three players and this was testimony a strong XI is needed at all times. Niall Hogan and Liam Casey were best for Deel.

Deel United 1 Bally Rovers 2
P.J. Wall

This was Deel's first defeat in the League. Bally were much stronger up the centre and should have won by more. On this performance United will have to improve if they are to win the Second Division. Eamonn Daly and Richie Hayes were the only Deel players that could have gained any satisfaction from this game.

Kildimo 0 Deel United 4
P.J. Wall, Mike Sullivan
Brian Dillon 2

Deel United got back on the winning trail with this comprehensive win over a very poor Kildimo side. Debutant Brian Dillon added a dimension to Deel - mobility and fitness. As well as being man of the match, he scored two fine goals.

Shannon United 0 Deel United 3
Jas O'Grady 2
Richie Hayes

Playing with a strong breeze in the first half James O'Grady put a determined Deel two up early on. Nearer the end of the half Richie Hayes sealed the issue with a great goal. In the second half Deel were content to contain the younger opposition and this they did most effectively.

Seasons Tally:-

Seamus Doherty, 5, Mike Sullivan and James O'Grady 4 each, Paul Dineen, 3; Liam Casey, Ray Doherty, Richie Hayes, P.J. Wall and Brian Dillon 2 each. Jimmy Fitzgerald, Edmund Dollery, Own Goal -1.

SCHOOL-BOY AWARDS

For the first time, Rathkeale School-boy's Soccer Club introduced individual awards for its players in 1982.

1982 had been a successful year:-

Winners U-15 County School-Boy League

Runners-Up U-14 County School-Boy League

Third U-12 County School-Boy League.

Player of the Year Awards were made to:-

Community Games: John Woulfe.
Under 12 Kieran O'Rourke (Rocky).

Under 14 Edward Geaney

Under 15 William (Chilly) Daly

Gratitude is extended to both Deel and Shannon United who donated the trophies.

An enjoyable and well attended "Award Presentation" Disco was held in Shiels Arms Hotel on Sunday, 5th. December.

SHANNON MEAT CHAT

By: The Scribe

- This edition of the Chat is similar to a Register of Births and Engagements.
- Congratulations are extended to Home Sales Manager, John Healy and Yvonne Teskey who announced their engagement at Christmas.
- Both Jim Kennedy and Tom White are mad for the chance to sing on stage. The Scribe's advice for them is to get on the next stage out of town.
- Kathleen O'Grady of the Canning Department got engaged to John Sheahan of Mountcollins, lately. Now, for wedding bells in the summer.
- Hail, rain or snow Finbarr McSwiney goes around the place with only a shirt on. Many of the females are excited at the thought of how he will attire in the finer weather.
- Anne Sheehy presented her husband Willie (Slaughter Line) with a baby son for Christmas.
- Having something to smile about now is Eileen O'Connor who also got engaged for Christmas.
- The apples of each others eyes are Thosie Donovan and Teresa Meehan to whom Santy Clause brought an engagement ring.
- Charge-Hand in the Cannery, Nora Shields gave birth to a bouncing baby girl late in the Old Year. She was hoping it would be the first in the New Year.
- Best wishes to Anne Kenneally and Harry Wilmoth who announced their engagement of late.
- A speedy recovery is extended to John Hayes, who is ill in hospital
- The Scribe thinks Christmas must be a very loud time of year. When people are asked how they got over Christmas, the general reply is "Ere sure 'twas quiet."
- Hitting the Bulls-eye regularly is Christy Costelloe. He reached the last sixteen of the Munster Open Darts, recently. Somehow, he doesn't appear to have the stomach for this sport.
- Teresa (Sally) Cregan and Tadgh Costelloe put on the 'dassler' lately. Sally is now hoping to become 'Baroness' of Ballingarry.!
- Revealed! Jack Daly is a horse-owner. If the tax-man hears this, it could lead to 'Another Row!' However, Jack can have recourse to Holland. (This is a surname of a certain female, not the country.)
- Advance Warning! Michael O'Neill, it is rumoured is retiring from Inter-Firm G.A.A., activities. Shouldn't be allowed.
- Lost & Found. Van Driver, Pat Alfred who knows every back street in every town in Ireland was recently found in Carrickerry looking for Ardagh.

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AN OLD TRADITION

By Nora Duffy
Galway

The scene is Leisureland, Galway, Easter Week 1982. The occasion - The World Championships of Irish Dancing.

The main hall of Leisureland is alive with the tapping of dancing feet. Children of all ages from 6 to 20 are gathered from all over the world to compete in the championships. The costumes of the various dancing schools are dazzling to the eye and in every corner of the huge complex the dancers are practicing their steps under the watchful eyes of their tutors. Only by their accents can they be distinguished. Dancers from every county in Ireland mingle happily with dancers from America, Australia, Canada and England. And on the stage May Keogh plays tirelessly as the competitors take their places, dance their arranged steps and bow off. And on it goes, medals and trophies are presented. The winners are congratulated and the losers depart to dance again another day.

I am taken back in time to the fireside of my grandmother's house in Stoneville, Rathkeale. I am a child again and she is telling me stories of bygone days. I can hear her voice in my ears as if it were yesterday - "Listen to me now and remember what I tell you. Your great grandfather, my own father, was a great dancer. He could dance with the best of them and many's the one he taught how to dance and he taught them "right". From village to village he went and wherever he went he was welcomed. He stayed in each place for six weeks and the children flocked around him to learn the dancing steps. Twopence a lesson he got and then moved on to the next village. And that's not all - he was a great musician too and there's his fiddle on the wall - maybe you'll play it some day."

In this way I learned about a tradition that had already died by the time I was growing up. It is difficult now in this age of television and micro computers, to imagine what it was like in those days.

The dancing master had a talent which he wished to pass on to the younger generation and that younger generation was eager to learn from him. He laid in provisions for his family - flour, meal, and potatoes and when the Christmas was over he left on his journey. From town to town he went teaching and playing - all through the springtime - from Athea to Ballingarry and all the towns and villages of West Limerick. He travelled on foot with his fiddle strapped to his back. There were others like him, but their equals will never be seen again. Those days are gone but they have left a legacy behind them that will never decay. Times and customs may change and the dancers may wear glittering costumes, but the dancing will endure - and the music.

Thus I mused as I sat in the great hall in Galway while I waited for my niece to appear on stage - and I thought of my great grandfather Jimmy Scanlon or "Jimín Ceol" (of Athea) as he was known. And I thought of the long legacy he had left behind and wondered how he would have felt if he could have known, in those far off days, that his great, great Grand-daughter, - a slip of a girl from London, would one day compete in the World Championships of Irish Dancing. There's many a step from a little village in the hills of West Limerick to the World Championships of Irish Dancing.

[Nora Duffy is a sister of our colleague Batty Collins]

APPRECIATION :

Pat Hayes,

M.R.C.V.S.



On 1st., December, 1982 one of the most gentle and generous people to have contact with Shannon Meat passed on to his eternal reward. Pat Hayes' contact with our company stretches back over the years to the first days operations commenced in February, 1953. In fact Pat was the veterinary officer on the abattoir floor on the 9th. February, 1953 when the first beast was processed through the plant. Over the past thirty years Pat made friends with everybody he came in contact with in Shannon Meat Ltd. and executed his responsibilities as an officer of the department of agriculture in a courteous and fair manner. It is not an exaggeration to say that a hint of personal insult was never heard from the man.

A native of Doon, Co. Limerick, Pat Hayes qualified from the Veterinary College, Dublin in 1937 and except for a short period with Dublin corporation he spent all his working career with the department of agriculture. He played a large part in the launching of the tuberculosis eradication scheme in the Bansa area of Co. Tipperary in 1954. He was appointed Superintendent Veterinary Inspector in 1958, based in Limerick. He was promoted to the position of Senior Superintendent Veterinary Inspector with responsibility for animal health in 1969.

In his various positions with the department he had close contact with Shannon Meat Ltd. and following his retirement in 1976 he was re-employed as a temporary veterinary inspector with the department and appointed to Shannon Meat where he remained until his illness in mid 1982.

After his family, Pat's love was the activities of the G.A.A. and particularly hurling. He would spend long periods over lunch discussing games of yesterday, yesteryear or games of the earlier part of the century. His capacity to remember these in such great detail reflected the level of commitment to his hobby throughout his lifetime. Pat was no mean player himself. He was proud that he won a Munster Colleges hurling medal with his native Doon C.B.S. in 1929 when his team beat St. Coleman's, Fermoy in the final. His interest in hurling was as acute in his final months as it was then.

The world is at a loss when people like Pat Hayes depart. To his staff he was always fair and considerate, to his colleagues - a diligent and helpful ally, to all of us - a good friend.

We offer our condolences to his family of five boys and three girls. His wife pre-deceased him in the mid sixties.

Solas na b-Flaitheas do Anam.

D. Neville

WINDOW TO THE PAST



Formal opening February, 1953, Present were: Rev. W.J. Canon Carroll P.P., General Liam Hayes, Joseph A. Binchy, Omar H. Vanlandeghem, Maurice F. Cowhey, Directors, John Woods, Auditor, Charles McDonnell, Contractor and Charles Quinn, Architect.

MUNSTER FINAL

Shannon Meat/Town Traders have qualified for the Munster Football Final.

In the Semi-Final they had a

clear win over Molex (Clare Champions).

The final will be played on 5th. February in Buttevant. The opposition will be Cork Champions U.C.C.