

PLACENAME BOOK GIVES SOME ODD TRANSLATIONS

LIMERICK has been chosen for the first ever full study of placenames. And some of the old names translate in a very unusual way, others are easy.

Here are a few:

BALLINACURRA; the town of the wet land, or the fordmouth of the weir.

BALLYCLOUGH; the town of the stone (structure).

BALLYNANTY; the town of the nettles.

BALLYSIMON; the fordmouth of Siomon.

BALLYSHEEDY; the town of Sioda.

BOHERBOY; the yellow road.

CORBALLY; the noticeable town.

DOORADOYLE; the animal enclosure of the blind person.

GALVONE; the bog of the foreigners.

GOULDAVOHER; the fork of the two roads.

KILLALEE; the church of Feilim.

KING'S ISLAND; the island of the king.

MONALEEN; the bogland of the flax.

MOUNTKENNETT; possibly just "Cinit's Hill".

MOYLISH; derelict enclosure.

PARK; the field.

PROSPECT; the black stone.

RAHEEN; the small ring fort (rath).

And it seems that our prehistoric name-givers had a long-term eye on the EC. The county townland of Blossomhill actually means the hill of buttermilk.

Some places are far from flattering for their inhabitants. There are four Ballynamud-daghs in County Limerick and all translate as 'the town of the low-bred persons'. Ballygaddy is 'the town of the thief'. Ballysalla and Ballysallagh each mean 'the dirty town'. Boherbraddagh means 'the road of thieves'.

And others are just obscure: Knockaunavad means 'the hill

of the sea ground of the boat', without explaining what a boat was doing on a hill. Lyre means 'the high ground between converging glens or streams'.

Quite a few place names are only partially translated or have been lost in the mists of time. Not surprisingly, the older the settlement, the harder it is to trace.

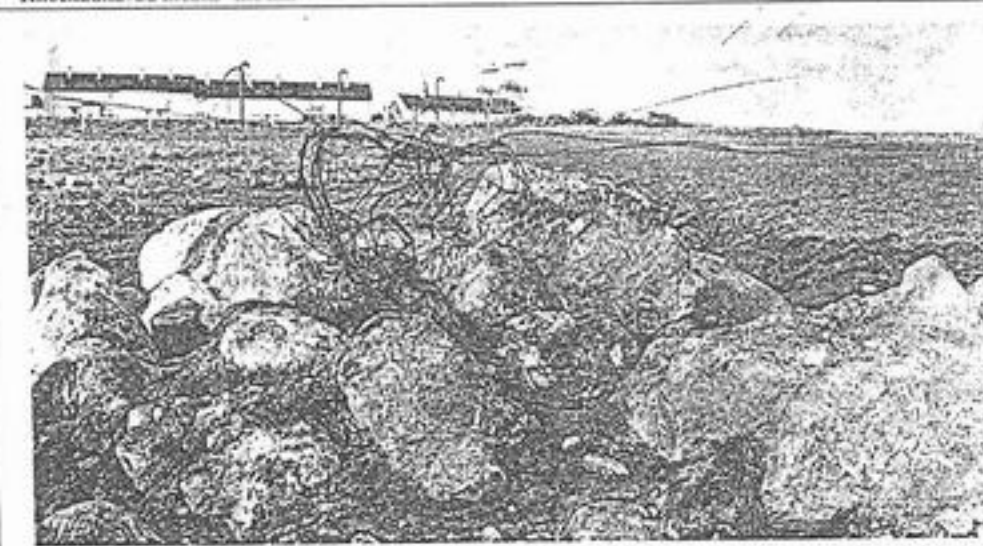
Limerick itself falls into that category, and its naming is highly speculative.

The book, 'Logainmneacha na hEireann' was compiled by Art O Maolfabhall and his

staff at the Ordnance Survey. It covers all of the townlands of Limerick, city and county. The various references to them over the centuries are listed, and the changes in pronunciation or spelling noted.

It was launched at Friday's meeting of the County Council. It is on general sale, price £10, or from the Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House, Dublin 2.

Although written in Irish, it is readable by the person with just a smattering of the language, and there is an easy-to-use English index at the back.



Large boulders now secure the breach in the fence through which itinerant caravans had entered the Southhill field of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. The caravans moved out before the weekend and the breach was plugged.

CRISIS IN GRAMMAR — CLLRS

THERE are no elocution or diction classes in Limeick's public schools.

There has been "a huge drop in standards of basic grammar" also, a councillor has claimed.

No classes are planned because of education cuts.

The question was raised by Cllr Jack Bourke:

"I am very disturbed at the standard of elocution and diction among our young people. There are no classes to correct the position. Standards of diction are at very low levels.

"This is not just a problem in Limerick, but our people are getting a very bad example from people in very high places, such as those on national radio and television," he said.

When Cllr Frank Prendergast joked about Mr Bourke's cousin, the broadcaster, Mr Gerry Ryan, Mr Bourke replied:

"My cousin, Gerry Ryan's diction is absolutely perfect. He may be saying things with which you don't agree, but whatever he says he says properly."

The proposal for classes was ruled out on the grounds of available money. Mr Muirish O Ceallaigh, head of the VEC explained why:

"With a pupil/teacher ratio of 20:1, we are very lucky if we get just the basic subjects. Art and music and elocution can be accommodated in a ratio of sixteen or less, perhaps."

Mr Prendergast: "There has been a huge drop in standards

of grammar among our young people."

Mr O Ceallaigh: "Parents would not thank us if we were to drop mathematics or one of the practical subjects to accommodate more time for elocution."

Mr Prendergast (to Cllr John O'Connor, FF, chairing): "If your government will give us the money, we'll give you the classes."

FEWER TAKE NIGHT CLASS

There has been a falloff in the number of adults taking night classes.

The VEC is concerned. "The numbers have levelled off, but are down on the level of a few years ago," chief executive, Mr Muirish O Ceallaigh, told Cllr Frank Prendergast.

The VEC figures do not include evening courses offered at the university.

LIMERICK LOSES OUT IN LOTTERY BONANZA

Limerick didn't get its share in the National Lottery hand-out, according to a TD.

Deputy Michael Finucane wants Minister Pdraig Flynn to explain what criteria were used in the distribution of the amenities and recreation funds.