

Left to right: Paddy Hedderman, Bruree; Cal O'Donnell, chairman, Kilmallock G.A.A. Club; Tony Moloney and Tony junior; Mike Fitzgerald, Kilmallock; Paddy Leahy, Kilmallock; Ray Moloney, Kilmallock and Seamus Sexton, Bruree.



Attending the Tankardstown ceremony (from left): Angela Moloney, Teresa Moloney, Doreen Hayes, Josie Leahy and Phil Hickey. The children are James Moloney and Helmar Hayes.

By JIMMY WOUFFE
LIMERICK'S GAA centenary celebrations paused in remembrance in a quiet country cemetery near Kilmallock on Saturday evening last.

A plaque was unveiled during Feile na Maighe at the grave of Joseph Kevin Bracken in Tankardstown in recognition of his part in the formation of the association.

J. K. Bracken was one of the founder members of the GAA, its first vice-president and the first president of the Tipperary County Board. He spent the last years of his life at Ardvullen House, Kilmallock, and died in 1904.

Churchill

He was father of Brendan Bracken who was one of the most powerful men in Britain during World War II and one of Churchill's closest advisers.

Limerick GAA historian and journalist, Seamus O Ceallaigh, spoke to members of the Bracken family who had travelled to Tankardstown about the correspondence he had with Brendan Bracken when he was Churchill's Information Minister.

"Brendan Bracken was somewhat surprised that his father had played such an important role in the formation of the GAA," Mr. O Ceallaigh told a grandson of J. K. Bracken, Brendan Bracken, who is P.R.O. for Irish Life Assurance Company.

When J. K. Bracken died, his son, Brendan, was three years old.

The letters written by Brendan Bracken to Mr. O Ceallaigh have been submitted to the GAA museum in Dublin.

Other family members present at the unveiling were Mr. Justice Donal Barrington, S.C., grandson of J. K. Bracken; Mrs. Joy Faulkner, Dublin, granddaughter; Miss Marie Barrington, Dublin, grand-daughter; Miss Nancy Barrington, Dublin, grand-daughter; Mrs. Hannah Condon, Templemore, grand-daughter, and Master Brian Barrington, great-grandson.

Keeping faith

Unveiling the plaque, Mr. Sean O Siochain, former director-

Limerick honours Joseph K. Bracken



Some of the Bracken family at the unveiling of the plaque (from left): Brian



Some of the Brackne family at the unveiling of the plaque (from left): Brian Barrington, Brendan Bracken, Marie Bracken, Joy Faulkner, Hanna Bracken Condon, Mr. Justice Donal Barrington and Nancy Barrington.

□ Pictures: DERMOT LYNCH



Sean O Siochain unveils the plaque.

general of the GAA, said they were keeping faith with their founders on occasions such as this.

J. K. Bracken held an honoured place in that group and he was a strong nationalist and a member of the I.R.B. and it was this background that attracted him to the new movement which started in 1884. At the inaugural meeting in Thurles in 1884 he was elected vice-president and he became the first president of the Tipperary County Board.

Mr. O Siochain recalled that J. K. Bracken built up a reputation within the GAA during its formative years as an outstanding man to settle disputes between clubs.

Concluding, he said, he was very pleased by the presence of so many members of the Bracken family who had travelled long distances in order to honour a man who had done "a worthwhile job for his country."

On behalf of the family, Mr. Brendan Bracken, Dublin, thanked the Limerick County Board of the G.A.A. and the committee of Feile na Maighe. He said it was a fitting tribute to his grandfather.

Chairman

Mr. Jim Hickey, chairman of the Limerick County Board, said J. K. Bracken was one of the small band who answered the call of Cusack and went to Thurles in 1884. He said they felt it their duty to honour him now.

He added that by the unveiling of the plaque the memory of J. K. Bracken would remain clear over the second century of the G.A.A.

Mr. Mannix Joyce, chairman of Feile na Maighe, said they were pleased that the ceremony should be part of their festival programme.

Recalling the history of Tankardstown, he said the cemetery was dedicated to St. David of Wales.

He added: "This area will always be proud of the fact that one of the founders of the G.A.A. is buried here and awaits the Resurrection with the old stock of this parish."

The entire officership of the Limerick County Board of the GAA was present. Also in attendance was Mr. Seamus O Riain, Tipperary, a former president of the GAA. The plaque was blessed by Very Rev. David Canon Wall, P.P., Kilmallock.

The graveside area for the ceremony was prepared by the caretaker, Mr. Tom Carey of Bruree. The ceremony was organised by Mr. Paddy Leahy, chairman of the Kilmallock G.A.A.

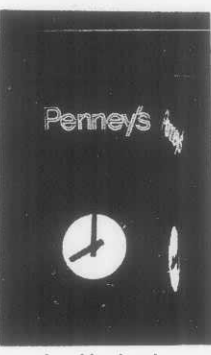
LEADER LETTERS

Visiting Penney's

IN RESPONSE to the article on March 17, 1984 entitled "Penney's: a new local landmark." I went into the new Penney's store to see for myself their "extensive range of children's wear" — or at least I tried to.

Since the management of Penney's have placed this "extensive range" on the second floor, how exactly do they expect mothers with babies in pushchairs often accompanied by other small children (and of course shopping bags) to get up to the second floor.

Certainly there is an escalator — with a notice beside it saying "no pushchairs." And even if a mother



A BROLLY DEMO FOR REAGAN

I WISH to advise that the West Limerick Branch of the International Peace Movement has decided to show its disapproval of President Reagan's disastrous foreign policy by holding a demonstration when he arrives here in June. We intend to do this

Under no circumstances, however, should a golf umbrella be carried as it will not lend the desired effect. Further information will be given at a later date.

MATT CURTIN, Secretary, Main Street

Irish course

AS THERE appears to be some confusion as to the Irish Touring Joy Course which we have been holding annually for the past seven years at St. Nessan's, Moylish (see also ad in this issue), I would like to make it quite clear that we will be holding same again this year from July 2 to July 22.

There will be no deviation from the full course, classroom teaching, 6 different grades, which will be efficient and pleasant, one session daily for ceilid dancing, one for team games, one for community singing.

All this through Irish proves that teenagers can and do accept the language as something which can

Sunday shame

I WAS reading in an English Sunday newspaper that there will be Sunday racing in Ireland this year and no one objected in any way to this.

I also see that all soccer matches are now being played on Sunday. I say, shame on all soccer players for accepting to earn their living on the Lord's day of rest.

All of this is leading up to only one thing. It would seem that some one is hell bent on destroying our national games of hurling and football. Why the GAA has never strongly objected to both soccer and racing I'll never know.

Maybe there is an answer to this danger if our people will see it, learn and speak our Gaelic language, and I mean all.

At least then we will keep at least one very important thing which belongs to us alone or to those who would wish to annihilate our people by every kind of falsehood and hypocrisy.

3-Day Sale Gen

RIVER R

Sale will continue all day recommence at again on Tu

This sale w furniture to suit modestly priced

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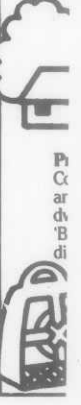
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