

## signor Lane launches Ballybrown Journal

Maybe through divine intervention and the power of prayer Ballybrown hurlers can now do a Patrickswell and start winning county titles! Fr. Muiris contributed a very good article about the founder of the Pioneer movement.

Fr. Theobald Matthew's and also Matt Talbot and the local pioneers will have a very good supporter and friend in Fr. Muiris. I wish him a long and healthy stay in Ballybrown. I know he will enjoy the people there and I would also like to thank Fr. Irwin for this work in the parish and wish him well in his new ministry in Kilcornan.

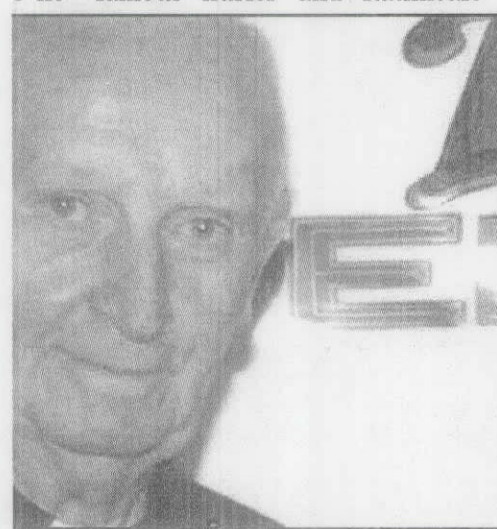
Monsignor Lane passed through the 150 pages commenting on each and every article. Dr. Matthew Potter's contribution on the Monsells of Tervoe made fascinating reading.

I have often written about Tervoe and Cooperhill and my time there as a small boy, what a historic place and family. Isn't it a pity that we weren't taught more about them at school. Dr. Matthew Potter is a young and brilliant historian who's work is in great demand in print and on the lecture circuit.

Matthew is employed by Limerick City Council and has recently completed a wonderful publication on the history of the Mayors of Limerick. Monsignor Lane had his usual go at us when commenting on Billy Davern's article on the Clarina Lawn Tennis Club, another brilliant bit of writing by a wonderful man. Monsignor Lane said that he regretted the demise of the tennis club as he felt that the Ballybrown hurlers might have been better suited to that game, come to think of it, he was probably right...

The time was flying, articles about Killeedy graveyard, the work of Michael McNamara was commented on, the departure of Michael Lynch and his retirement as principal of Ballybrown N.S. was covered in great detail.

An interesting article about the history of a famous hurler and Rathkeale man, Patty "Budge" O'Grady was very well written and received.



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of pens, members Mass and recruitment of new members were all covered.

Colm Ward's coverage of last years launch was recited, the massive advertising support was acknowledged with a strong message to support local industry, services and shops. They are a vital part of what makes up a vibrant community.

Monsignor Lane was then to make a startling revelation when commenting on an article by "yours truly". He mentioned that I must have come from a very wealthy background as in my piece, I was shown as a young boy with his hurley in hand and comparing his own youth in Abbeyfeale where they couldn't afford any hurleys, hence the football tradition.

We all laughed and it brought back memories of my late father Willie and Jim Hanley, digging out the ash butts of the double ditches in Cooperhill and Tervoe and making hurleys for us all, long before the commercial manufacture of the Camán.

The journal is a wonderful production with full participation of every club and organisation in the parish. Its full of photographs, old and new and being born in the 40's, I can recall most of the old photographs and the people. It



Former amateur jockey Gerard Hogan pictured shortly before his death.

## Gerard Hogan: amateur jockey and trainer with a rare talent

GERARD Hogan, who died recently in his eightieth year at his home in Lough Gur, County Limerick, was a gifted horseman who enjoyed a long and distinguished point to point career as both trainer and jockey.

Originally from Greenpark, Bruff, he was a member of one of the oldest families in Irish racing.

One of four brothers who rode in the same race at Limerick Junction in the 1950s, he was well known and highly respected for his understanding of horses. He was a man of few words, but when he did speak it paid to listen.

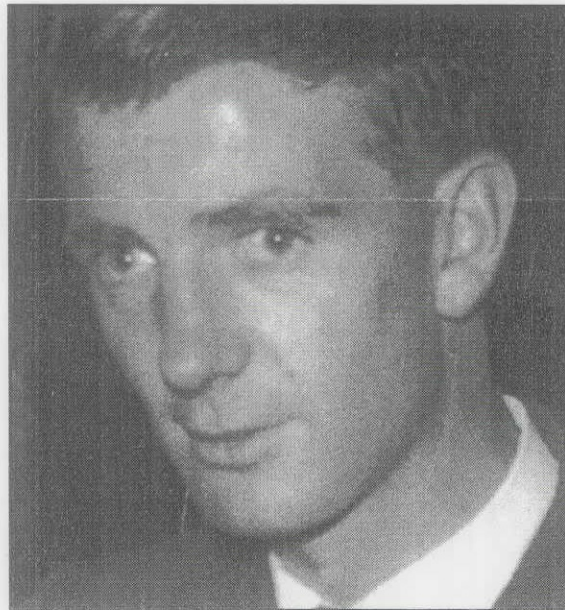
If Gerard Hogan said one of his would win a race, it invariably did.

As a jockey he rode more than 300 winners in point to points and in an era when there were just five races on a card, he regularly landed doubles and trebles, sometimes four-timers. He won plenty of races inside the rails as well.

His contemporaries in the saddle included notable jockeys such as Jack O'Leary, Anthony Scannel, Connie Vaughan and Joe Magner. Like him, they were tough as nails - and to survive in the saddle during that uncompromising era they needed to be. It was a time when they rode over stone walls, banks, bush fences and ploughed gardens.

Few had Gerard's gift for negotiating his way to the winning post. Among the trainers to put him up were Charlie Rodgers, Willie O'Grady, PP Hogan and Padge Berry. Under Rules he once rode a memorable double at Punchestown on Chimney Smoke and Dry Grass.

When he turned to training in 1957, after



Gerard Hogan in his younger days.

taking over the licence of his father, the late JP Hogan, he met with conspicuous success - even though he never had more than a dozen horses in his care at any one time. He trained Robot to win four point to points in three weeks under the talented Johnny Rioridan. Fugal Maid was sent out to win a maiden plate at Punchestown as a five-year-old, ridden by Willie Robinson of Mill House fame and the following year Bobby Beasley was up when the horse landed the Conyngham Cup at the same track.

Trick O' The Loop won four races and was second in the Powers Gold Cup. Other notable winners included Bet On, Gamber's Choice and Autumn Double. This writer can remember expressing surprise to Gerard when Autumn Double was entered in a 12-furlong hurdle at Naas in 1964, having previously won for him over three miles.

"How could you fancy him over half the distance he's won at?" I asked him then. The opposition in the race

was truly formidable. Vicadee, who had been placed in the Irish St Leger of the previous year, was the hot favourite and few could see him getting beaten. But Gerard's reply was

emphatic: "My fellow will jump out in front and he'll be very near the winning post by the time they catch him." Sure enough, with Tommy Carberry in the saddle the horse won hard held on the bridge at the generous price of 8-1. The manner of his victory persuaded the late PJ 'Darkie' Prendergast to travel to Gerard's yard in Ballycahane and pay £5,000 for Autumn Double, a considerable price at the time.

Perhaps the finest of his horses, however, was Royal Flush. A bay gelding out of Fugal Maid, he won the Iveagh Hunters Chase at Punchestown on his racetrack debut. He went on to win that race three times in a row. When the handicapper put 13st 3lb on his back for a race at Limerick, he was equal to the task, earning a much deserved ovation when he joined his modest trainer in the winner's enclosure.

Gerard handed in his licence in the mid 1980s, after a training career spanning three decades.

One of the most successful horses sent out from his yard in the time preceding his retirement was Shady Deal. A multiple winner, the horse was subsequently sold to Geoff Hubbard and went on to win the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown.

In recent years he was presented with the Arnold Ardmore Hall of Fame award for his feats in the point to point field, an honour richly deserved.

A large crowd attended the funeral Mass at Patrickswell, including many of his old point to point friends. Following a warm tribute from Fr Donal McNamara, he was laid to rest at the family grave in Athlaca.

He was predeceased by his wife Dorothy (nee McNamara), herself a highly distinguished point to point rider, and is survived by his daughter Deirdre, son Brian, sister Mary O'Grady, brothers Michael and Alec, daughter-in-law Sara and his two grandchildren.

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Ready for a morning gallop: Limerick jockey and trainer Gerard Hogan.

## Doon CBS win the 'Small School' award

By JEROME O'CONNELL

In association with Gaelic Telecom/Cumann na mBunscol the awards

Doon CBS were also nominated in the Best Hurling/Camogie Promotion category, but they

scol, Gaillimh (Gerry Hussey). Assessor's Merit Award: Cumann na mBunscol, Antrim, St

Ard Mhacha. Annual Fixtures/Information Booklet of the Year: Cumann na mBunscol, Gaillimh