

Remembering our Olympic champion

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

WHILE AMERICAN athletes were picking up gold in barrowloads in Los Angeles last week, one Irish-American paid a quiet visit to the grave of a former U.S. Olympic champion at Pallasgreen.

Mrs. Johanna Killian of New York travelled to the last resting place of her father, Patrick J. Ryan, who, as a member of the American team, won the gold medal for the 16 lb. hammer throw at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp.

A Celtic headstone inscribed "Patrick J. Ryan — world champion hammer thrower," stands over his grave.

It was an emotional occasion too for the widow of the former Olympic champion, Mrs. Johanna Ryan, who still lives at Pallasgreen.

World records

"He held at least 12 world records in different types of weights," Mrs. Killian said, adding that at the 1920 Olympics he had also won the silver medal for the 56 lb. weight throw.

And he won so many medals and trophies that friends to whom he had bequeathed them in New York, before he returned to Ireland in the 1930's, are still returning them to the family.

6' 4" in height, and weighing about 280 lbs., he practised his hammer throwing in the fields of the family farm at Pallasgreen and by the age of 19 he had become Irish champion with a record he established at a hammer throwing event in Scotland.

"He never had any formal training," said his daughter, Johanna, "except the practice he did in the fields at Bunavoy." In 1913 he set a world record which lasted for 25 years, and he held the American record for 40 years.

Grace Kelly

"He often told us," Johanna recalled, "that he had travelled to Antwerp with Jack Kelly of Philadelphia, father of Princess Grace."

He served with the American forces in France in World War II, where he made another great friend, champion boxer Gene Tunney. "Gene Tunney remained a friend of the family and I met him on several occasions myself," Mrs. Killian said.

The Olympic champion got a tremendous reception when he returned to Pallasgreen, while in Ireland to visit an exhibition in Dublin in 1925. He came back in the 1930's, bought a farm and died in Pallasgreen in February, 1964.

The famous Olympic gold medal disappeared for many years, but about five years ago, when the foundations of a new house on the farm were being dug, the medal was found to the great joy of all the family and is now in the possession of his daughter in London, whose son, David Weatherhead, has just won a 9 lb. hammer throwing contest in England.

"All my father's trophies have been divided among the family," Mrs. Killian says.

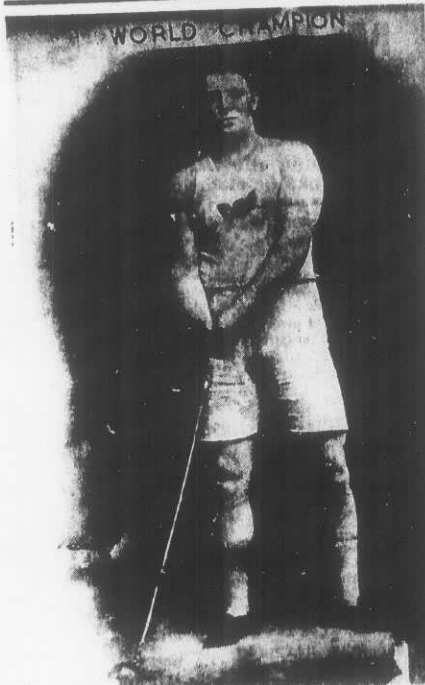
Daughters

Mrs. Killian herself, who holds a master's degree in education from Fordham University, has two daughters, Monica and Christine, who have made an all-star basketball team. Christine O'Donovan and Mary Weatherhead in England and Catherine O'Grady, Kiltcealy, and Bernadette O'Dwyer, Cashel — all have children interested in sports.

Sibhlin O'Dwyer has qualified for the long jump at the Community Games final in September, and Julianne O'Dwyer is a 1,500 metres champion.

The feats of their grandfather are still recalled in Pallasgreen and the thrills of the 1920's Olympics. Incidentally, there was another Mid-West hammer thrower on the American team at Antwerp, who pulled out just before the Games because of illness: Matt McGrath from Carraghans, Killaloe, a New York policeman, who, eight years before at Stockholm, had won another Olympic gold medal for the U.S.

NEW OFFICE



Patrick J. Ryan, hammer thrower.



Sisters Julianne and Siobhan O'Dwyer, Cashel, with their cups and medals. They are grand-daughters of Pat Ryan, Olympic hammer thrower.

'6,000 IN BROKEN MARRIAGES IN REGION'

BY LEADER REPORTER

ACCORDING to statistics compiled by the Limerick branch of the Divorce Action Group, upwards of 6,000 spouses in the Mid-West are in disintegrated marriages.

Mr. Vincent Jennings, chairman of the branch, said this week that they had received an avalanche of enquiries since they were formed earlier this year.

"Support is growing all the time," claimed Mr. Jennings, adding that they had set up as a result of the enquiries being put through to the organisation's Dublin offices from people in the Limerick area.

The law

The law in Ireland, he said, was totally unsatisfactory to people whose marriages were in difficulties and pressure would have to be put to bear on the Government to insert a new clause in the Constitution.

split payments and in receipt of barrister orders.

They report that the various welfare depts. were of assistance to them in compiling their list, which showed at least 6,000 problem marriages in the Mid-West.

"This is a very disturbing figure and while we do not suggest that all 6,000 would rush in for a divorce if it was legalised, we estimate that about 1,000 would be relieved of the pain that goes with a disintegrated marriage," Mr. Jennings commented.

The Divorce Action Group are of the opinion that the existing structure of family law is ramshackle, being badly in need of reform, and none of it part of a comprehensive plan to deal with the problems of modern marriage.

The Limerick branch plan to meet local politicians over the next few months to highlight their case, and to further their argument will put forward case histories.

Religious



Mrs. Johanna Killian at the grave of her father, Patrick J. Ryan, in Old Pallasgraveyard, with her daughters, Christine and Monica. Picture: OWEN SOUTH.

LIMEI HONC JOYC BROT

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AT THE Joyce Brot School, to be held in Kilfir during the week-end September 7 to 9, Co. Limerick do honour to two of its famous sons, Patrick We Joyce and Robert D Joyce.

P. W. Joyce was the author of many popular histories of Ireland. *A Child's History of Ireland*, *Outlines of the History of Ireland*, *A Short History of Ireland*, *A Concise History of Ireland*, *A Reading Book in History*. Indeed his were the histories of their country to be in the hands of Irish children in national schools. He also wrote very fine *Social History of Ire* dealing with an important part of our history that up to then had been almost completely neglected. Another very popular work came from his pen was his *Celtic Romances*, retelling English translations of famous tales from Irish mythology. Joyce was a native speaker, his part of Co. Lin being still Irish-speaking in youth. His love for the land led him to prepare a useful *Grammar of the Irish Language* for the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language.

Placenames

Joyce's most famous work was his three-volume *Origin and History of Irish Names of Places*. It was a pioneer work, and it is interesting to note that the still placenames, an interest still continues to grow, we remain forever indebted to him. And he put us further in the debt another great service he rendered to Irish tradition — the collection and publication of a very large number of traditional Irish airs and songs. These were published in volumes: *Irish Music and Irish Peasant Songs in the Irish Language*, *Ancient Irish*, *Old Irish Folk Music and Songs*.

P. W. Joyce was born in Ballyorgan, Co. Limerick, but his family moved to Glensheen when he was 12. He received all his formal education in hedge-schools in his district. He himself trained as a teacher, and rose to the top

Aughinish spawns food projects

By LEADER REPORTER

THE AUGHINISH Alumina plant on the Shannon Estuary is the unusual base out of which two separate food industries work.

One of the food projects was created by Mayne Adams and Alex McCarthy who rear mussel spat which grow from the jetty piles at Aughinish, and when fully grown export them to Britain, where they reach a price of £2.25 Sterling a lb. The mussels, which are being taken out of the Shannon are reared in the warm waters of Kenmare Bay, are shipped to the Marks and Spencers' factory in Scotland, where they are cleaned, cooked, steeped in wine and then marketed under the name of "Moules Mariniere."

Says Mayne Adams: "In retail terms, Aughinish mussel spat must be worth millions." Another man with the foresight to exploit to the fullest the potential of his surroundings at the Aughinish plant is Pat Lynch, who is now selling his own Aughinish pure Irish honey.

Pat was clearing away some dead trees at the south of the island three years ago, when he discovered wild colonies of bees in some of the old elm trees. Feeling sorry for making them homeless, however, Pat wondered should he provide alternative accommodation for the bees "and thereby maintain the over-

LIMERICK PRICES SURVEY RESULTS

PRICES Inspectors of the Department of Industry, Trade, Commerce and Tourism last Thursday in Limerick carried out a vegetable, fruit and chicken retail price survey on behalf of the National Prices Commission. The findings:

1. Carrots: Class 2, Irish an Italian. Price range in supermarkets, 49p to 34p per lb. Prevailing price, 45p per lb. Price range in other shops, 55p to 32p per lb. Prevailing price, 40p per lb.
2. Lettuce: Class 2, all Irish. Price range in supermarkets, 22p to 18p per head. Prevailing price, 22p per head. Price range in other shops, 25p to 20p per head. Prevailing price, 20p per head.

3. Onions: Class 2, U.K. and Irish. Price range in supermarkets, 59p to 41p per lb. Prevailing price, 49p per lb. Price range in other shops, 40p to 25p per lb. Prevailing price, 30p per lb.
4. Green-Red Peppers: Class 2, all Dutch. Price range in supermarkets, 149p to 284p per lb. Prevailing price, 129p per lb. Price range in other shops, 225p to 120p per lb. Prevailing price, 145p per lb.

5. Cucumbers: Class 2, all Irish. Price range in supermarkets, 39p to 27p each. Price range in other shops, 38p to 30p each. Prevailing price, 35p each.

6. Mushrooms: Class 2, all Irish. Price range in supermarkets, 130p to 129p per lb. Prevailing price, 129p per lb. Price range in other shops, 135p to 120p per lb. Prevailing price, 130p per lb.

7. Tomatoes: Class 2, all Irish. Price range in supermarkets, 52p to 49p per lb. Prevailing price, 49p per lb. Price range in other shops, 43p to 35p per lb. Prevailing price, 40p per lb.

8. Celery: Class 2, all Irish. Price range in supermarkets, 49p to 37p per head. Prevailing price, 49p per head. Price range in other shops, 57p to 45p per head. Prevailing price, 48p per head.

9. Cauliflower: Class 2, all Irish. Price range in supermarkets, 59p to 59p per head. Prevailing price, 59p per head. Price range in other shops, 52p to 30p per head. Prevailing price, 50p per head.

10. Cabbages: Class 2, all Irish. Price range in supermarkets, 29p to 24p per head. Prevailing price, 29p per head. Price range in other shops, 30p to 20p per head. Prevailing price, 25p per head.

11. 5 lb. Bag of Potatoes: Quality appeared good, all Irish on offer. Price range in supermarkets, 85p to 41p per 5 lb. Prevailing price, 75p per 5 lb. Price range in other shops, 90p to 60p per 5 lb. Prevailing price, 75p per 5 lb.

12. 25 Kilo Bag of Potatoes: None available in supermarkets. Price



Patrick Weston

profession as Principal Teachers' Training Coll Marlborough Street, Dub died on January 7, 1914.

Robert

P. W. Joyce's brother, was born in Glensheen in 1850. He later took his mother's name, Dwyer, as a second name, becoming Sir Robert Dwyer Joyce. Sir his brother Patrick, had a his maternal grandmother's name, Weston as his Christian name. Like his brother, Dwyer Joyce was a teacher; but after some time gave up teaching and became a writer. He went to Ant 1866. Before leaving Ire had contributed many Irish poems to various Irish magazines, especially the *Catho nationalist publications*.

He held strong views, and was an ardent of the Fenians. He was th

Belltab