

Hard men in when th has to be s

John B. Kea

OUT IN THE OPEN

A MAN doesn't become a millionaire under the Marquis of Queensbury rules. I say this as a witness to the ruthlessness and infighting which goes on in Irish business circles today. Efficiency or inefficiency has little to do with it.

Very often it's the man with the Capone instinct who gets to the top and it doesn't matter how many bankrupt and financially mutilated bodies lying in his wake.

It's a pity that most business people should be like this, that abnormal, worldly possessions should be the ultimate goal when every fool knows that it's how we harmonize with others and with our surroundings that really matters, if we are to find inner content.

I developed this line of thinking from a debate in which I was involved the other night concerning farmers and business people.

"If you think that business people are tough," one man said, "you should learn a bit about farmers."

True story

HE then went on to tell us the following absolutely true story which happened a few short years ago not far from where we were standing.

There was this big farmer, married for 25 years but without a family and consequently without his own help.

It was early in July and his meadows were rich and brown, ripe with fragrant clover and standing straight to the height of a middling man's navel. In short it was time to cut.

One morning the day broke, bright and fair with blue skies and only the barest suggestion of a breeze to mar another wise perfect day. After the creamery our friend drove through the immediate countryside to search for help.

He was lucky, nobody expected the weather to break and as a result there were few labourers engaged. At ten o'clock he started to cut and by late evening all his hay was on the flat of its back.

He re-engaged his men and the following day they set to work with a will.

On the evening of the second day he announced that he would wynd the following day and with that in view he would again re-engaged his meitheal.

The third day broke fair but to the far west there was a truculent mob of ominous murky clouds with nothing in their heads but rain.

In the meadow the pace was furious. Wynd and wynd went up and every few minutes our farmer friend would look to the distant

skies and endeavor gauge what sort of the oncoming blattions were making to his own prog

It was touch and spurred his men to effort, promising special bonus, if a stood before the rain

At twelve o'clock exact noon of the day was brought to the by his missus. There plenty for all, cold salty or fresh, brown and with oceans of wash it all down.

There was no after chat and as soon group were fed ev fell to the work with Inch by inch the rain clouds edged across the darkening

Then out of the farmer's wife who working by his side long rake, emitted a sigh and, without r keeled over and wa

Our friend gue was dead. There was long history of heart and it wasn't for the

Our friend
down over
breast
confirm
worst fe
There wa
sign of

cautions that she and lifeless with a hay for a pillow and tergrass for a death

Our friend be over her breast to his worst fears. He no sign of life. He to a crony who ca side as once.

They both looked the body. They were enced farmers, m world, according own lights honest would never co wrong another ma

Without a word looked up at the There were three four good hours in "She'll keep," friend. "And no ha said the crony. they moved her and lay her in the s outside whitethor

"When the last up," said the crony nounce her death.

Ardagh rooste

I HAVE received ishingly large numbers in connection passing of the Roost dagh.

Readers will know Moss Connell cock died at the ri of nineteen abo



Mary Kury's comprehensive work *Ardagh Co. Limerick* was launched by Liam Irwin last month and is a must-have for people in the area

Mary's work completes her father's legacy

■ Superb historical work covers the Ardagh area right through the ages

ARDAGH CO Limerick by Mary Kury was launched by Liam Irwin, who is an expert on local and national history in Ardagh Community Hall on Saturday December 9.

It features a photo of the Ardagh Chalice on the front cover, and the Fenian Rising Re-enactment march on the back cover. The contents over the 448 pages are broken down into 21 chapters which covers the village history from the early ages. The old and present day photographs are sure to attract a lot of attention for readers as they match the faces and names.

Mary writes that the book relates to the history and geography of Ardagh a village in west Limerick. Among the primary sources are the notebooks and photographs compiled by her late father Jerry Mc Mahon during a lifetime of research and this material has been extracted and arranged chronologically from his notes.

Part of his research involved interviews he carried out with many locals including John Corbett, Dominic Culhane, Dinny Drew, Jim Heffernan, and Mick Moore. He also received much help and support from Jim Liston, Jerome Enright, Eddie Barrett, Paddy Sullivan, John Joe Meade, Canon O'Brien, Fr O'Gorman and Fr Lane.

He also used notes received from Robert Cussen from Newcastle West a former president of the Thomond Archaeological Society for many years, which he had compiled in the 1950s and 1960s. Robert a noted historian had collected this information from talks with John Barrett Old Mill, John Corbett Skehanagh, James Mullins Glenville, James Conway Ballyrobin, Patrick Conway Kilscannell, Ed Fennell Knockbowheen, and Patrick Kennedy Ballyine.

Jerry also got help and advice from local historian and genealogist Michael Dore, John Danaher of Ordnance Survey Ireland Mary Cahill of the Department of Antiquities in the National Museum, The staff in Newcastle West Library. Other sources included the Granary in Limerick City and the National Library of Ireland.

Mary recalls her father's lifelong interest in researching the history



Then & Now

with Tom Aherne

of the parish and surrounding area from 1951, when he visited an exhibition at the newly opened South Bank Exhibition Centre in London.

There was a replica of the Ardagh Chalice there and he was astonished that so many people knew a great deal about the design and history of the Chalice.

Yet he who grew up in Ardagh and was ignorant of both. They say the apple does not fall far from the tree and Jerry's daughter Mary is continuing the tradition of history gatherer.

The chapter headings include Prehistoric Ardagh; From Christianity to the Desmond Rebellion; Munster Plantation to the Restoration; Sieges of Limerick 1685-1800; Penal Laws and Bishop Lacey; Captain Rock; New Churches and Catholic Emancipation; The Great Famine and the 1848 Rebellion and many more.

The Ardagh Fag song was written by Dan Madigan, Timothy Brouder, and Sean Sheehan, during the 1940s when cigarettes were scarce, and I include the first verse,

Oh boys! Will I tell you it isn't a joke

To live here in Ardagh without any smokes

You would travel the village and this they would say

We have no cigarettes only Cherless today

There are crowds in the village they're there every night

And to look from the top it's a terrible sight

When you go down the village your poor heart would break

When you think of the time you'll get your Gold Flake.

This is a book that people will dip in and out of as it contains so much historical facts and figures and photographs of interest.

It was printed by Fitzsimons Printers, costs €30 and is on sale at

present at Moloney's Daybreak, Carrigkerry, Greaney's shop, Ardagh and Newcastle West Book shop. It has been a labour of love over many years by the McMahon family and it deserves to be in every house in the area.

THE OLD Limerick Journal has preserved and built up a very impressive library of Limerick history over the years.

The present number 52 which was launched by Des Ryan at the Granary last November continues and adds to this great tradition.

It contains 16 very interesting stories over its 72 pages, and the colourful four-page cover adds to its attraction. The front cover features a portrait of Bishop Edward O'Dwyer, courtesy of St. Michael's Rowing Club.

The recently discovered painting by Limerick painter Sean Keating RHA is eye catching and enhances the publication.

Bishop O'Dwyer became a national hero in 1916 when General Maxwell wrote to him on May 6 demanding that he restrain two priests in his diocese, whom the general described as a "dangerous menace".

In his letter of reply the bishop defended his priests and rejected Maxwell's appeal to help "in the furtherance of your work as a military dictator of Ireland".

His letter attracted widespread support and he was bestowed with the Freedom of the City of Limerick in September 1916. Bishop O'Dwyer died in August 1917.

A band in funeral procession on George's (O'Connell) Street is pictured inside the front cover.

The back cover shows a photo of the Limerick Court House, on Merchant's Quay, which was built in 1810, and is believed to be the longest serving courthouse in Ireland.

Arthurs Quay Car Park in the

middle 1980s is included inside the back cover.

During the early 1970s the harbour area in front of Arthurs Quay was filled in by Limerick Corporation to form a car park. The area was subsequently landscaped to form Arthur's Quay Park, which was officially opened on January 1 1991 by the then President of Ireland Mrs Mary Robinson.

The contents feature among other stories, Friarstown Abbey by Liam O'Brien; Major-General Cuthbert Henry Tindall Lucas: the man behind the abduction by Ruth Wheeler; Captain Rock and the Limerick Racecourse Riot by John Hanamy; Trade Unions, apprenticeship and some Limerick printing firms by Derval O'Carroll; No Mercy - The Story of a Limerick Hanging by Michael Fitzgerald; Perjury and Subterfuge - The story of three West Limerick Convicts by Tom Donovan; The First Confraternity Procession through the streets of Limerick by Des Ryan and Roman Catholic Clergy of Saint Mary's Parish (Part 2) by John Carroll.

Michael Kirwan writes on the Eight Limerick men lost on the last voyage of the Irish Pine. A Limerick Silversmith in Afghanistan 1839-42 is the intriguing title of a piece by Brian Hodkinson; A study of Tuberculosis in Thomondgate in the early twentieth century was written by Clem Cusack.

Charles Lenox Remond in Limerick and the failure of the Anti-Slavery Irish Address (1841) was written by Liam Hogan. The Glenroe Riots (1873-1874) is a piece by Tim O'Connell. Limerick Republican Plot in Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery - a short history was submitted by Des Long. And there are more besides

Well done to editors Tom Donovan, and Brian Hodkinson, and all the contributors, and Fitzsimons Printers, on a very professional Journal. The Old Limerick Journal Committee are Chairman Tom Donovan, Secretary Brian Hodkinson, Treasurer Richard Ahern, Tony Browne, John Curtin, Matthew Potter, Des Ryan, and Paddy Waldron. Copies of the journal €10 may still be available in the Granary.

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