

SOUVENIR



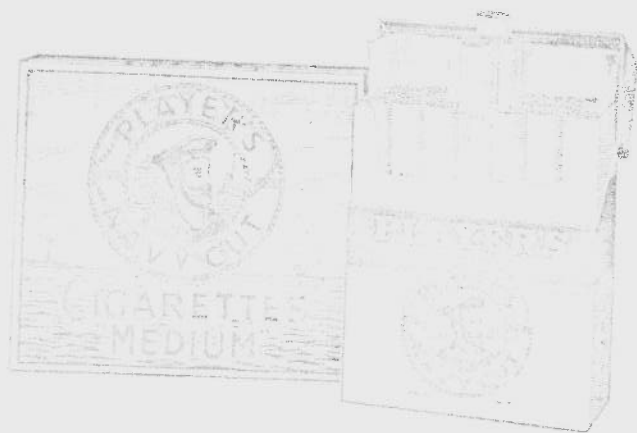
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AIBHEAN, 1982



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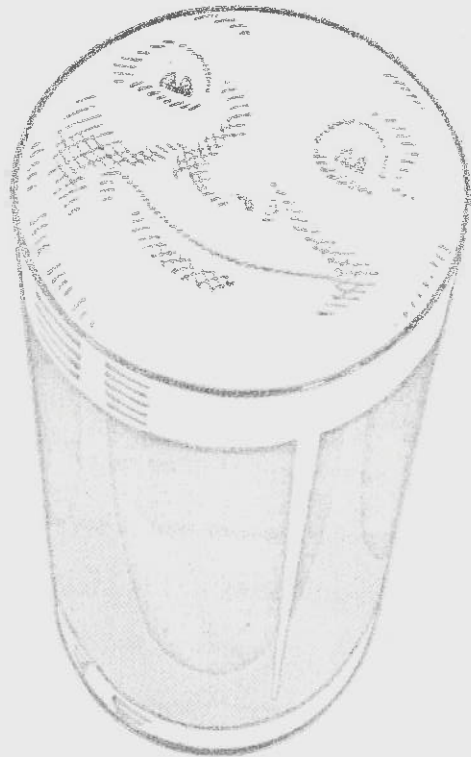
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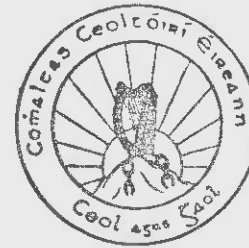
NO. 1/11

DEIREAD TARTA

Suinness



C.D. 65



Failte agus Buiochas

Ba mhaith linne, coiste riartha na fleidhe seo, cead míle failte d'fhearadh roimh ar gcúairteoirí go leir go Cara Droma Ruise agus ta suil againn go mbainfidh chuile dhuine acu sult agus taithneamh as an gclar a cuirfear ar fail doibh. Ta suil againn freisin go mbeidh nua gach bi agus sean gach di le fail acu i n-ostain agus i dtithe tabhairne an Bhaile Mhoir.

Ba mhaith linn, freisin, 'go raibh míle maith agaibh go leir' a ra on ar gcroithe amach leis na h-íomathoirí agus le gach duine a thug tacaíocht agus lámh cunta duinn.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON FLEADH CHEOIL COMMITTEE, 1962

President—Rev. Father Doyle, C.C., Carrick-on-Shannon.

Chairman—Mr. S. O'Rourke, Lecarrow, Croghan.

Vice-Chairman—Mr. M. McNulty, Tonnagh,
Carrick-on-Shannon.

Treasurer—Mr. T. Lyons, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Secretary—Miss B. Kennedy, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Officers of Connacht Council, 1962.

Chairman—Mr. M. O'Callaghan, Boyle.

Vice-Chairman—Mrs. Moffat, Dromod.

Treasurer—Rev. Brother Flannan, Sligo.

Secretary—S. Uas De Brun, Castlerea.



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His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Kyne, Bishop of Meath.

Carrick-on-Shannon

(CARA DROMA RUISC)


CARRICK-ON-SHANNON, Leitrim's County Town and first town on the lordly Shannon, 122 miles upstream from Limerick, is on the Dublin-Sligo trunk road and railway, and has connections by water with Dublin and Limerick via the River Shannon and Grand Canal.

Its population in 1946 was 1,497. In 1951 it was 1,492. In 1956 it was 1,494; while in 1961 (official figures not yet available) the figure is expected to be somewhat over the 1,500 mark. This increase in population over the past decade, although slight, is a sure indication that the town is in the up and coming class.

The part of the town on the right bank of the river, known as Cortober (the Well Hill) is in Co. Roscommon, while the town proper is in Co. Leitrim. The line of demarcation between the two counties is very clearly defined midway in the bridge where Leitrim Co. Council's concrete makes a bond with Roscommon's tar-macadam. The town proper is unique in the respect that it is the one town of its size in Ireland that has only two streets, namely, Bridge Street and Main Street. What was known as Leitrim Street over a century ago, is now known as Leitrim Road. Another rather unique feature, a feature, perhaps, that will be appreciated by at least a few Fleadh patrons, is that twenty-seven premises in the town are "licensed to sell beer, wine and spirits for consumption on the premises."

EDUCATION

The educational needs of the town and district are very well served by nine schools:— four Primary, three Secondary, one Technical and one Commercial. The combined enrolment at these schools is over 700 students. It may be of interest to note here that at one of these schools day students are in attendance from twenty-four different Primary Schools from within a radius of eleven miles. The marked increase in educational facilities in the past twenty years must be rightly regarded as the town's most significant development, for during that period two Secondary Schools, the Technical School and Commercial School were formally opened. Even though a considerable number of the students who pass through those fine schools have still to earn their living abroad, it is at least consoling to think that education



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has given them a passport to a professional, skilled or semi-skilled calling, thereby increasing their social standing and earning power. So it would seem that it pays to educate even if only for export!

The town's strides educationally within the past twenty years is almost matched by its progress industrially within the past decade. It has now three modern and expanding factories, which provide much needed employment. The biggest of these is Messrs. General Plasticss Ltd., a subsidiary of Messrs. Ward and Goldstone Ltd., Manchester, which manufactures for the home market electrical accessories, such as plugs, switches, junction boxes, adapters and lamp shades. Over 600 different lines in Costume and Souvenir jewellery for the home and export market are made by Messrs. Shannon Jewellery Ltd. The modern factory owned by Shannon Industries Ltd. have built up quite a considerable export market in rubber toys in the past few years. These factories employ female labour in the main. What a stabilising effect a fourth factory employing adult male labour solely would have on the economy of the town and district? It may be of interest to note here that at the turn of the last century two flourishing brickyards, Coyne's and Kings, flanked the Summerhill side now occupied by the old District Hospital at present used by Messrs. Shannon Jewellery, and that an extensive tannery was sited on the Leitrim Road.

A TOURIST RESORT

Carrick-on-Shannon has in recent years established itself as a centre for angling and boating tourists. In 1953, when a small scale publicity campaign was first launched, 35 such tourists were attracted to the town. Last year that number had grown to 1,000, who spent an estimated £20,000. The big attractions for these visitors are the excellent accommodation by way of first class hotels and guest houses available for them, the number of free and unrestricted fishing waters — 41 in all within a six mile radius of the town — and the different species of fish in these waters. Even some locals are unaware of the fact that such species as trout, rudd, bream, rudd-bream hybrids, pollen, tench, perch, pike and eel are to be had in their waters for the catching. A local angler who fishes Drumharlow Lake fairly regularly, in reply to a query by a cross-channel angler as to the quality of the fishing in that particular water, replied as follows, without even batting an eyelid: "In fact the pike are so plentiful in it that there is hardly enough place for the water."

On Carrick-on-Shannon as an angling centre, Bernard Venables, the greatest angling writer and personality of our time

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had this to say in the "Angling Times" of January 2, 1959: "Carrick-on-Shannon indeed is a place to which every angler should go sooner or later. It is a place to which I will certainly go back."

GENERAL

It may be of interest to visitors to know that the Costello Mortuary Chapel, recessed between Flynn's Corner Bar and Armstrong's, is the second smallest church in the world, and that Turlough O'Carolan, the last of the bards, lived for a time at the Priest's Lane. The late M. J. McManus, biographer, poet, essayist, and historian, was born in Carrick-on-Shannon on February 10th 1887, where his daughter Mrs. Molly McNabb and sister Miss Ceilia McManus still live. The poetess, Susan Longstaff Mitchell was also born in Carrick-on-Shannon in 1866, where her father was manager of the local branch of the Provincial Bank which at that time operated in the premises now occupied by Messrs. George Lynch and Son, Solicitors, Bridge Street.

Space does not permit my singing any further praises of Carrick — a town which has come to stay. Suffice it is to say: "Ta Carrick molta da mbeinn im'thost. Carrick aoibhinn gan aon locht."

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 3

Sean McDermott

By T. M. O'Flynn

It is a recognised fact that the physical features and the natural phenomenon of a country stamps an impress on the character of its people. The inhabitants of mountainous countries have ever been noted for their unquenchable love of liberty. They enthrone her in their rocky fastnesses. They hear her voice in the crashing winds and in the roar of the mountain torrent. They are ever first to unsheath their swords in her defence or to offer their sacrificial blood on her altar. So the more we study the life of Sean McDermott, the more evident becomes the motivating influences which underlay it.

Sean McDermott was born at Corranmore, Kiltyclogher, in 1886, the son of hard working, patriotic parents, Donal McDermott and Mary McMorrow. He was cradled in the shadow of the Dough and Thor Mountains, the beautiful Braes of Rossinver, where the dauntless McGlancy hurled defiance at the Virgin Queen, vetches his western horizon, and within short distance of his home were the two "homes of beauty", Loughs MacNean and Melvin. What wonder then that the young scion of the proud Clann of MacDiarmada from an early age was impregnated with that intense patriotism and fiery love of freedom, which inspired his every action, and finally crowned him with a martyr's diadem.

Fortunately for Sean his father retained a knowledge of the Irish language, and taught his son to lisp his prayers in the mother tongue and this tiny seed of love for the Gaelic speech grew and flourished in the heart of the young patriot until its preservation became one of the burning passions of his life.

Sean received his early education in Curraclon National School, and took a deep interest in the chequered history of his country. However, to acquire a better knowledge of Irish, he left this school and went to reside with his aunt in County Cavan. There he attended Tullinamoyle National School, then taught by Mr. P. McGovern. He remained here for two years, but being now reached manhood, and as employment was hard to find in his native land, he emigrated to Glasgow, determined to carve out his own destiny. For two years he worked there as a gardener, but the call of the motherland became so insistent, that he threw up his position in Scotland, and returned to Belfast to work as a tram conductor. Let it not be forgotten that although the name of that city is associated with intolerance, it was the cradle of the United Ireland

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Movement and ever carried a tradition of patriotism. Here Sean met a band of ardent patriots, who had completely lost faith in the constitutional method of accomplishing Freedom; became one of the most ardent associates, and took the oath of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. From this forth his one ambition was to fight for Ireland. Recognising his wonderful organizing abilities, the I.R.B. transferred him to Dublin. With that keen insight into the future, which was one of his outstanding characteristics, Sean clearly saw the possibilities of Sinn Fein and threw himself heart and soul into the movement.

Sean took part in the Leitrim Election of 1907 as the organiser for C. J. Dolan. The beauty of his voice and his transparent honesty made a deep impression on all who heard him. But his work was in vain. The success of the tenant farmers, through the assistance of the Irish Party, in wrenching open the strangle-hold of Landlordism, clouded the issue. The people were contented to rest on their victory, were battle weary, and had grown cold on the great national issue. The Ancient Order of Hibernians, the great pillar of support to the Party was too well organised. The Franchise was confined to adult suffrage. Leitrim was lost, but Sean was not disheartened.

Ireland was sinking deeper and deeper into the morass of materialism, when in 1912, George V. decided to visit Ireland. The night before his visit, Dublin was decorated with bunting. The air stank with loyalty. When day dawned the English garrison were surprised to see the principal streets and public buildings flying black flags. During the night, McDermott and a faithful band of supporters, tore down the emblems of slavery, and, in a fitting way, gave expression to the patriotic sentiments that still existed in the Capital.

Next came the Great War of 1914. Ireland was courted for recruits and a sham Home Rule offered her. Sean was not deluded with the glib promises of the Saxon. He clearly saw that Ireland's destiny must be carved out by the sword. England's difficulty was ever Ireland's opportunity. He went up and down the country swearing and organising men into the I.R.B. Time and again he was arrested and imprisoned for sedition. The cruel punishments meted out to him shattered his delicate constitution, but failed to break his indomitable will.

With the formation of the Volunteers Sean's dreams were about to be realised. Clouds, however, soon darkened the horizon. The volunteers were rent in two.—one wing determined to strike for Irish Freedom, the other to remain under the



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Ireland

dictation of the Irish Party. Needless to say which side McDermott took. Then came 1916.

Four figures—Pearse, Connolly, Clarke and McDermott—stand out in that glorious period. Pearse was the dreamer, who thought of Rebellion as revitaliser of the National Spirit. Connolly's first thought was the emancipation of the toiler from the thralls of Capitalism. Clarke burned with revenge against English tyranny. McDermott, loved and trusted by all, was the link that held those restless souls in check until he was sure that a certain measure of success would attend a Rising. Ever impetuous and daring, inflamed with the wrongs inflicted on his class, Connolly was prepared to precipitate the the Rebellion by attacking Dublin Castle with his own Citizen Army alone. It required all the ingenuity of Pearse and McDermott to restrain him.

At this critical period, early in 1916, sad news reached Sean from Leitrim. His father, whom he loved, was dying and he hastened to his bedside but before he could close his parent's eyes, he was recalled by Pearse, to reason with Connolly who was taking advantage of Sean's absence to start the fight. Hastily impressing a kiss on the dying lips, he answered the call. Perhaps he knew the parting would be of short duration. That soon father and son would be re-united in the Great Beyond where partings are unknown.

Then came Easter Week. The desired moment had come when Sean saw the realisation of his hopes, the fruition of his labours. We can imagine how his eyes sparkled with joy as he penned his name to the Proclamation of the Republic. All during the fight he rushed from post to post, encouraging, cheering, inspiring all. Unable to walk, he motored through the city amid a hail of bullets, courting death a thousand times, his active brain ever devising schemes to circumvent the enemy. He symbolised the spirit of his native County, and when the surrender came, to the surprise of all, the intrepid Leitrim man was still alive. During the week he endured martyrdom, but a song of joy, of pride, was ringing through his heart. With tears in his eyes he stumbled behind the flag of surrender. The English officers taunted him with the name of "cripple," but too well many of them knew that those palsied limbs were the result of English cruelty.

The curtain now rises on the dreary prison cell, with its suspense and uncertainty. Yet when the nerve-shattered heroes grew hisheartened McDermott never faltered. As their spirits flagged, his lilting voice broke into the cheering songs he sang around a Leitrim hearth, or painfully dragging himself to his feet he recited one of those recitations that so often roused his listeners in the homely kitchens in his loved Corranmore, undaunted to the last.

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Now comes the last scene of all. The firing squad have done their hellish work. The fires of rebellion have been quenched in a river of blood, only Connolly and McDermott remain. Connolly is dying of wounds, McDermott of disease. A lull had come in the work of execution—some say to further torture those two heroes. Connolly is carried on a stretcher, Sean limps to the place of death. A curt order is uttered then a volley rings forth, and those two noble souls stand in front of their Creator.

As that volley shattered the brooding silence of the sweet May morning and died in echoes amid the Wicklow hills, it proclaimed, to many, the unconquerable might of England, but to those whose ears were attuned to the heart beats of the nation it was a call to the manhood of Ireland to spring to arms in defence of their motherland, and proudly announced to the world that another name was inscribed on the Golden Scroll of Ireland's Martyrs—our own Sean McDermott.

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Ireland

Vocational Education

.... In County Leitrim

The growth and spread of Vocational Education in the Republic of Ireland is one of the most significant developments under native government. Prior to 1930 we had the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction under which were organised evening classes in Woodwork, Domestic Science, Spinning and Knitting, Irish and Commerce. These classes were organised at County level and were given in halls, primary schools or any available buildings. It was only in large cities that Technical Schools were already in existence. The passing of the 1930 Vocational Education Act, and its implementation changed this picture, as since then up to 270 modern Vocational Schools have been built and equipped throughout the country. They are staffed by upwards of 3,000 fully trained teachers and have enrolled in their present day classes in the region of 25,000 students and 80,000 students in afternoon and evening classes.

These Vocational and Technical Schools are administered by 38 Vocational Committees (27 County Committees and 11 Towns).

County Leitrim did not lag behind in this new development. In 1928 the first Day Classes to be established in Leitrim opened in the Boardroom in the old Workhouse Building in Mohill; here Irish, General and Commercial subjects were taught. At the same time, Irish, Woodwork, Domestic Science and Spinning Classes were conducted in other centres, by a staff of 10 itinerant teachers. All these classes were administered by the Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

After the closing of the Mohill Day Class similar experimental day classes were conducted in Ballinamore 1930-31; Manorhamilton 1931-32; Drumshanbo 1932-33 and Carrick-on-Shannon 1933.

^ In connection with Carrick-on-Shannon it may be of interest to note that its first Vocational School, per se, was held in three different buildings: Commerce and General Subjects including Christian Doctrine in the Town Hall; Domestic Science in Legion Hall on the Dublin Road and Woodwork Classes in premises belonging to Mr. J. J. Flood. X

The year 1962 presents a very different picture of Vocational Education in Co. Leitrim. It has now nine modern Vocational Schools with a staff of 38 wholtime teachers. The subjects of instruction include: Christian Doctrine, Irish, English, Commercial Arithmetic, Commercial Technique,

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With the coming into force of the New Apprenticeship Acts, in 1963, it is confidently expected that Day School enrolments of boys, in particular, will show a phenomenal increase, as, according to the basic conditions for apprenticeship laid down under the Act it is stated that; while there are other minimum educational qualifications, preference will be given, in each designated trade, to entrants to apprenticeship who have passed in specified subjects in the Day Group Certificate Examination of the Department of Education (Technical Instruction Branch).

In view of the strides made by Vocational School students in industrial fields, and of the advent of the Common Market it is quite evident that Vocational Schools in Co. Leitrim will play an increasingly important role in providing for their students the general education and practical training required to prepare them for employment in trades, manufactures, agriculture, commerce, and other industrial pursuits.

The devoted staff of teachers employed by County Leitrim Vocational Education Committee, while preparing students under their care for remunerative employment in this new material world will, in the future, as in the past, have as their guiding light, the noble sentiments expressed in the following excerpt from Memorandum V. 40, of the Department of Education (Technical Instruction Branch):

"Continuation education must be in keeping with Irish tradition and should reflect in the schools the loyalty to our Divine Lord which is expressed in the Prologue and Articles of the Constitution. In all schools it is essential that religious instruction be continued and that interest in the Irish language and other distinctive features of the national life be carefully fostered. The integration of these elements with one another and with the body of the curriculum is a task calling for the co-operative efforts of all teachers. In the good home—the model or ordered social life—tradition, faith, work and recreation blend naturally and easily with one another, and it should be the object of those in control of continuation education to secure similar unity within the school, so that pupils may go out well prepared to play their parts as members of society and guardians of the national inheritance."

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LIST OF COMPETITORS

Saturday, 28-4-1962—Town Hall.

FIDDLE (11-14).

Antonette Nic Uaith, Cootehall, Boyle.
Cionnaith O Braoinain,, Morrison Tce., Ballina.
Padraig Mac Suibhne, Druim Caol, Druima Da Eithir.
Mella Ni Ceanglaigh, Acad Mor, Cara Droma Ruisc.
Rita Cumiskey, Deerpark, Carrick-on-Shannon.
Olive McCormack, Gurteenpadden, Portumna.
Brian Cahill, Cashel Curry, County Sligo.

FIDDLE (14-18).

Martin Cunningham, Maurevagh, Headford, Co. Galway.
Billy McCormack, Gurteenpadden, Portumna.

Saturday, 28-4-1962—Technical School.

MOUTH ORGAN (Under 14).

Padraig Padden, Ballygart, Leitrim P.O.

MOUTH ORGAN (14-18).

Cepta Ni Seacnasaigh, Scoil Mhuire na Toirbearta, Tuaim.

PIANO (Under 14).

Antoinette Nic Uaith, Cootehall, Boyle.
Lil Nic Uaith, Cootehall, Boyle.
Sean O Braonain, An Cuar, Bothar, Tuaim.
Sinead Peyton, Carrick-on-Shannon.

PIANO (14-18).

Maoliosa Nic Uaith, Cootehall, Boyle.
Eilis Ni Tuathail, Scoil Mhuire na Toirbearta, Tuaim.
Phyllis Keane, Jamestown, Carrick-on-Shannon.

SINGING—IRISH (Women; under 14 years).

Carmel Ni Fuarain, Druimseanbo.
 Sinead Ni Duigneain, Cill Tocairt, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Pamela Ni Morain, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Carol De Faoite, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Maire Ni Duin, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Caitlin Nic Loclairn, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Eilis Ni Diarmada, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Mairin Ni Coirce, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Mairead Ni Treanlaimhe, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Peigi Ni Braoin, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Magella Ni Stancard, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Caro'in Ni Catain, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Jean Lenehan, Cara Droma Ruisc.

SINGING—IRISH (Women; 14-18).

Maire Ni Giolla Cionnaigh, Mota Graine Oige, Co. na Gaillmhe.

SINGING—IRISH (Men; under 14).

Cionnaith O Braonain, 2, Morrison Tce., Ballina.
 Prionsias O h-Ogain, Cealltrach, Beal an Atha Sluagh.
 Tomas O h-Ogain, Cealltrac, Beal an Atha Sluagh.

SINGING—ENGLISH (Women; under 14 years).

Carmel Ni Fuarain, Druim Seanbo, Co. Liathdroma.
 Nuala Curran, Corloughlin, Drumshanbo.
 Jean Lenehan, Carrick-on-Shannon.

SINGING—ENGLISH (Women; 14-18).

Maire Ni Giolla Cionnaigh, Mota Grainne Oige, Co. na Gaillmhe.
 Irene Maguire, Ardmoreen, Glenfarne.

SINGING—ENGLISH (Men; under 14).

John Early, Aughaguinea, Drumshanbo.
 Donal Corrigan, Lisadaly, Croghan, Boyle.
 Cionnaith O Brionain, 2, Morrison Tce., Ballina.
 Padraic O h-Ogain, Cealltrach, Ballinasloe.
 J. P. O'Dowd, Knockadalteen, Carrick-on-Shannon.

SINGING—ENGLISH (Men; 14-18).

Gerry Moran, Drumrahill, Mohill.

Saturday, 28-4-1962—Marquee.

CHROMATIC ACCORDEON (Under 11).

Michael Kitt, Lehenagh, Castledakenny, County Galway.
 Iomair Barrett, Mountbellew, County Galway.
 Patrick Gavin, 21, Morrison Tce., Ballina.

CHROMATIC ACCORDEON (11-14).

George Frayne, Rooskey, Dromod.
 Leon O Criocain, Gallach Ui Ceallaigh, Co. na Gaillmhe.
 John Forde, Drumgriffin, Currandulla, Co. Galway.
 Una Ni Neachtain, Gort na bFuinnseog, Co. na Gaillmhe.
 Sean O'Toole, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Michael O'Rourke, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 John Mu'hern, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Mairtin O Mainnin, Canog, Geallach Ui Ceallaigh.
 Padraic O Mainnin, Canog, Geallach Ui Ceallaigh.
 Tomas O Feargail, An Creaghain, Co. Gaillmhe.
 Padraic Carroll, Mountcashel, Kilrooskey, Co. Roscommon.
 Harry O'Donnell, Curroghroe, County Roscommon.

CHROMATIC ACCORDEON (14-18).

Augustine Murray, Gortletteragh, Farnaught P.O., Co. Leitrim.
 Martin Cunningham, Maurevagh, Headford, County Galway.
 Eibhlin Nic Eil, Tuaim.
 Lawrence Gavin, 21, Morrison Tce., Ballina.

PIANO ACCORDEON (Under 14).

Eileen McDermott, Summerhill, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Antonette Nic Uaith, Cootehall, Boyle.
 Lil Nic Uaith, Cootehall, Boyle.
 Sean O Braonain, An Cuar Bothar, Tuaim.
 Nollaigh O Cearbhaill, Cortober, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Margt. F. Connolly, 48, St. Patrick's Park, Carrick-on-Shannon.

PIANO ACCORDEON (14-18).

Eilis Ni Tuatail, Scoil na Toirbearta, Tuaim.
 Michael O'Toole, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Saturday, 28-4-1962—Presentation Brothers' N.S. TIN WHISTLE (11-14).**FEADOG MOR (Under 18).**

Peggie McGrath, Derrycashel, Corrigeenroe.
 Maire Ni Giolla Cionnaigh, Mota Grainne Oige.
 Matt Molloy, Kilcolman, Ballaghaderreen.

TIN WHISTLE (Under 11).

Francis Foley, Eslin Bridge, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Brian Stenson, Mohernameela, Eslin Bridge.
 Noleen Stenson, Mohernameela, Eslin Bridge.
 Gerald Bohan, Eslin Bridge.
 Mary Moran, Drumcolligan, Eslin Bridge.
 Bernadette Noone, Croghan, Boyle.
 Angela Noone, Croghan, Boyle.
 Caroline Hogan, Kilclare, Caltra, Ballinasloe.
 Gerald Mitchell, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Barry Breen, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Martin Lenchan, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 John Lennon, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Jimmy O'Dowd, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Michael Curran, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Brian McDermott, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Martin Denny, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Martin O'Dowd, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Geraldine Lyster, "Hermitage," Croghan, Boyle.
 Patricia Lyster, "Hermitage," Croghan, Boyle.
 Aine Ni Treanlaimhe, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Rois Ni Mathuna, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Mairead Ni Treanlaimhne, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Caitlin Ni Loclainn, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Magella Ni Stancard, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Libian Ni Lugadha, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Maire Ni Canain, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Stefanai Ni Flanncadha, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Eilis Ni Guill, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Carolin Ni Cathain, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Maire Ni Treanlaimhne, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Poilin Ni Neill, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Eilis Ni Diarmada, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Aine Ni Feargail, An Creagain, Co. na Gaillmhe.

TIN WHISTLE (11-14).

Martin Cunningham, Mausrevagh, Headford, Co. Galway.
 Cionnain O Braoinin, 2, Morrison Tce., Ballina.
 Damien Mitchell, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Adrian Wrafter, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Bertie O'Rourke, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Fionnuala Breathnach, Scoil Mhuire na Toirbearta, Tuaim.
 Brian O Seasnasac, Scoil Mhuire na Toirbearta, Tuaim.
 Poilin Ni Annaid, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Maoiliosa Mic Muimnigh, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Iacint Ni Deannanaigh, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Maire Ni Duinn, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 Antoine Ni Mathuna, Scoil Mhuire na Toirbearta, Tuaim.

TIN WHISTLE (14-18).

Iarflait O Cannaigh, Clocair na Toirbearta, Tuaim.
 Eilis Ni Tuatail, Clocair na Toirbearta, Tuaim.
 Bernadette Nic Diarmada, Cara Droma Ruisc.
 M. Ni Giolla Cionnaigh, Mota Grainne Oige.

Saturday, 28-4-1962—Gaiety Cinema.**DUETS (Under 18).**

Billy and Olive McCormack, Gurteenpadden, Portumna.
 Patrick and Geraldine Lyster, "Hermitage," Croghan.
 M. O Mainin and C. O h-Ogain, Canog, Geallach Ui Ceallaigh.
 E. Ni Tuathail and C. Ni Seacnasaigh, Tuaim.
 Seamus Leonard and T. Underwood, Carroweel, Ballymote.

TRIOS (Under 18).

M. & P. O Mainin & P. O h-Ogain, Canog, Geallach Ui Ceallaigh.
 E. Ni Tuathail, B. and C. Ni Seacnasaigh, Tuaim.
 I. Barrett, M. and A. Farrell, Mountbellew.

CEILI BANDS (Junior).

1. C/O M. Mannion, Banog, Geallach Ui Ceallaigh, Ballinasloe.
 St. Cecilia's, Carrick-on-Shannon.
 Dromod Ceili Band, Dromod, County Leitrim.

Sunday, 29-4-1962—Gaiety Cinema.**FIDDLE (Senior).**

Sean Lavin, Carronmore, Lacken, Ballina.
 Terence Early, Effernagh, Kilclare, County Leitrim.
 John Henry, Charlestown, County Mayo.
 Seamus McGuire, Ballymote, County Sligo.
 Phil McConnell, Ballyrush, Boyle.
 M. Beirne, Bealragh, Elphin.

BALLADS—IRISH (Women; Senior).

Maire Ni Donncaidha, Caoran Mhor, An Ceathru Rua.
 Breege McGrath, Derrycashel, Correegenroe, Boyle.
 Seosaimin Ni Conmara, Carrickavoher, Aughavas, Co. Leitrim.

BALLADS—IRISH (Men; Senior).

Tomas Mac Eoin, An Ceathru Rua, Co. na Gaillmhe.
 Peadar Mac Donncaidha, Bothar Bui, Ceathru Rua.

BALLADS—ENGLISH (Women; Senior).

Ann O'Hagan, Killargue, Dromahaire.
 Breege McGrath, Derrycashel, Correegenroe.
 Josephine McNamara, Carrickavoher, Aughavas.
 Peggie Cosgrove, Carrick-on-Shannon.

BALLADS—ENGLISH (Men; Senior).

Thomas McKeon, Carraroe, County Galway.
 John W. Kelly, Aughnacloy, Geevagh, County Sligo.
 Tommie Kearns, Castlebaldwin, via Boyle, County Sligo.
 Josie McDermott, Coolmine, Ballyfarnon.
 Miceal Mac Giolla Cionnaigh, gCarana, Moth Grainne Oige.
 John Roche, Dromod, County Leitrim.
 Tadhg O h-Oistin, Doire-Mor, Dromainn, Cathair na Mart.
 Michael O'Rourke, Carrick-on-Shannon.

AMRAN GAEILGE—NUA CUMHA.

Maire Ni Donncaidha, Caorain Mhor, An Ceathru Rua.

WHISTLING (Senior).

Miceal Mac Eachmharcaigh, Main St., Ballinamore.

LILTING (Senior).

Martin Brehony, Toonagh, Riverstown, Co. Sligo.
 John Brehony, Cambs, Ballymote.
 Josie McDermott, Coolmine, Ballyfarnon.

Sunday, 29-4-1962—Marquee.**CHROMATIC ACCORDEON.**

Kevin Dowler, Kiltubrid, Drumcong, Co. Leitrim.
 J. J. O'Gara, Cambs, Ballymote, County Sligo.
 Sean O h-Aoda, Bothar Baile Atha an Riogh, Tuaim.
 Brendan Stanton, Knockduff, Corrowdulla, Co. Galway.
 James McGreevy, Ballymacurley, Co. Roscommon.
 John Flynn, Corrow Castle, Geevagh.

CONSAIRTIN (Senior).

Seamus Ryan, Charlestown, County Mayo.

PIANO-ACCORDEON (Senior).

Antoin Mac Gabhann, Druim Seanbo, Co. Liathdroma.
 Brian O Dolain, Ross, Manorhamilton.

DUETS (Senior).

Killimor Duet, Killadisk, Killimor, Ballinasloe.
 Shannon Star Duet "A," Drumshanbo.
 Shannon Star Duet "B," Drumshanbo.
 J. Henry and M. J. Ryan, Charlestown, County Mayo.
 J. McDermott and T. Flynn, Ballyfarnon.
 J. Flynn and U. McDermott, Corrineenboy, Ballyfarnon.

TRIOS (Senior).

Shannon Star Trio "A," Drumshanbo.
 Shannon Star Trio "B," Drumshanbo.
 St. Joseph's Trio, Charlestown, County Mayo.
 St. Joseph's Trio No. 2, Charlestown, County Mayo.

SENIOR CEILI BANDS.

Glenview Ceili Band, Collooney, County Sligo.
 Shannon Star Ceili Band, Drumshanbo.
 St. Joseph's Ceili Band, Charlestown, County Mayo.
 Buion Cheoil Naomh Padraic, Beal Easa, Co. Muigheo.
 Carrick-on-Shannon Comhaltas Ceili Band.
 Moonlight Ceili Band, Crossna, Boyle.

Sunday, 29-4-1962—Town Hall.**CONCERT FLUTE (Senior).**

Seamus O Blioscain, Gurteen, County Sligo.
Miceal Mac Giolla Cionnaigh, gCarana, Motha Grainne Oige.

TIN WHISTLE (Senior).

Seamus Ryan, Charlestown, County Mayo.
Josie McDermott, Coolmine, Ballyfarnon.
Miceal Mac Giolla Cionnaigh, Motha Grainne Oige.

UILEANN PIPES (Senior).

Michael Padian, Main Street, Ballinamore.

Sunday, 29-4-1962—Technical School.**MOUTH ORGAN (Senior).**

James O'Dowd, Castleblackeny, Ballinasloe.

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENTS.

Maoiliosa Nic Muinigh, Cara Droma Ruisc.
Seosaimh O Dolain, An Ross, Cluainin Ui Ruairc.

Sunday, 29-4-1962—Square at Smith's Garage.**PIOB MOR.**

Sean Lavin, Carrowmore, Lacken, Ballina.
Sean O Lionaith, Bealtra, Creathru Mor, County Mayo.
Tomas Mac Eil, Rathleacain, Creathru Mor, County Mayo.
Brian Mac Giollarmath, Rathleacain, Creathru Mor, Co. Mayo.

MARCHING BANDS (Junior).

Presentation Brothers' Band, Carrick-on-Shannon.
De La Salle Band, Manorhamilton.
Dromod Junior Marching Band.

MARCHING BANDS (Senior).

St. Brigid's Pipe Band, Kiltubrid, County Leitrim.
St. Michael's Band, Cootehall, Boyle.

**CARRICK-ON-SHANNON
SCHOOLS****Presentation Brothers**

The Presentation Brothers came to Carrick-on-Shannon in 1894 at the request of Very Rev. J. Canon Hoare, P.P., V.G., who was later consecrated Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. The standard of education at the time was at a very low ebb and facilities for the religious training of the boys was anything but satisfactory. Both Catholic and Protestant children attended the local "mixed" school. At 12 noon the Parish Priest and Protestant Minister gave instructions to the children of their respective Creeds. Many parents, however, sent their children to the outlying Schools, while quite a large number of the boys seldom or never darkened a School door. With the arrival of the Brothers this situation was quickly changed.

Rev. Bro. Celsus (R.I.P.) was the first Superior appointed in Carrick-on-Shannon, of whom one of his pupils has written: "an ideal teacher, strict but never severe, seemingly stern, but at heart most loveable, and I cannot describe how we boys of that time loved him . . ." Along with Bro. Celsus in the early days was Very Rev. Bro. Aloysius (R.I.P.), a gifted teacher, scholar, and Gaelic poet and later Superior General of the Presentation Brothers. Under their care and within a few years of their arrival "boys from the School were passing into various branches of the Civil Service. . . others found through Brother Celsus' influence that they had vocations and became members of the Secular and Regular Priesthood. Thus within a few years after 1894 the Presentation Brothers' School in Carrick had built up a great tradition for itself."

The Brothers resided in those days opposite St. Mary's Catholic Church (where Harman's Chemist shop is to-day) and their School was on the Main Street (where the Gorman family now lives).

A new National School was built for the Brothers in 1898 on Gallow's Hill where the Catholic boys of Carrick have been taught ever since. It would indeed be a long litany were one to recount some of the list of famous men on the School's Registers—suffice it to say that many have carved for themselves brilliant careers in all walks of life at home and abroad.

The Brothers moved into the Leitrim Militia Military Barracks shortly after the turn of the century and finally Bro. Cyril, Superior, purchased the entire property from the British



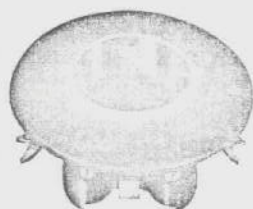
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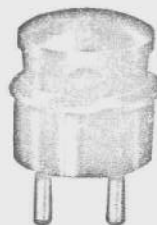
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War Office in 1911. It was a strange twist of fate when the Golden Jubilee of the Brothers' arrival in Carrick was being celebrated in 1944, it was decided to utilise this same Military Barracks as a Secondary School. The buildings that were the symbols of British tyranny were converted into modern classrooms, the rifle-racks replaced by the Crucifix—the indestructible Celt had conquered once again—grandsons of the oppressed had replaced the Militia, sons of freedom devoted to higher studies—the wheel had come full-circle!

The Secondary School, under the Patronage of Most Rev. Dr. McNamee, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, and Very Rev. M. Canon Kearney, P.P., V.F., Carrick-on-Shannon, has proved a great blessing to the people of Carrick and the surrounding areas, as boys are now catered for with a first-class Secondary Education at their very doorsteps. The College as it is now called had a meteoric rise from a modest eighteen pupils in 1945 to the present grand total of 108 registered students. The College has a staff of six highly qualified teachers, seven beautifully furnished classrooms including a magnificent Science Laboratory.

Pupils have flocked to the Brothers' Secondary School and have attained remarkable successes in Public Examinations. In Scholarships alone £6,640 has been won during the past few years; these include State Scholarships in open competition with the whole country and University Scholarships awarded by Co. Councils. The Religious Orders have claimed quite a few pupils, also the Secular Clergy; a very large percentage have entered the Universities and more especially to the faculties of Engineering, Agriculture, Arts, Commerce and Medicine. In the short few years since its foundation it is amazing how many pupils have been placed in the various professions—as teachers, junior Executive Officers, Civil Servants, Bank Clerks etc. etc.

These outstanding results are mainly due to the good foundations laid at the Brothers' National School where scarcely a year has passed since the early thirties that the boys have not won several Co. Council Scholarships. Now that the old National School is being replaced by a new one of modern design old boys will look back with pride on the solid Christian principles inculcated within its old but haloed walls, principles that stood them in good stead in the rugged paths of life.

Finally there is no yard-stick by which we could truly assess the impact of the Presentation Brothers on the town of Carrick-on-Shannon. They were best recorded in the Book of Life. But it is true to say that the self-sacrificing labours of that long line of dedicated Presentation Brothers had a profound influence on the impressionable minds of the boys. To-day Carrick is singularly free from the scourge of modern towns—juvenile

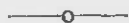


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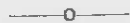
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delinquency; its citizens are hard-working and law abiding, a contented community, justly proud of this progressive town. By fostering Gaelic culture from the earliest days the Brothers too have left their mark—all vestiges of the garrison-town mentality has been obliterated; Gaelic games are played and loved by all, and the language and music of the Gael are held in high esteem. Men like Bro. Celsus, Bro. Niocles, Bro. John, Bro. Alphonse, Bro. Mark, Bro. Damian etc. have not laboured in vain. "They that teach others unto justice shall shine like stars for all eternity." Go dtuga dia.

Rosary High School

On the 8th September, 1942, with the approval of the late Most Rev. Dr. Doorly, and during the time Very Rev. M. T. Casey, now P.P. of Cliffoney was curate in Drumlion, this school was founded by its present Principal, Mrs. M. K. Lynch.

At that time it was felt that there was need for the establishment of a Secondary School to cater for the boys of the neighbouring districts of North Roscommon and South Leitrim and with determination, courage and fixed principles, Mrs. Lynch set about the business of bringing together in her own house and at great expense, those boys who have since done credit to their Alma Mater. Scholars have emerged and taken their places all over the world as priests, doctors, surgeons, veterinary surgeons, agriculturalists, horticulturalists, science technicians, teachers, and keen business men in every walk of life.

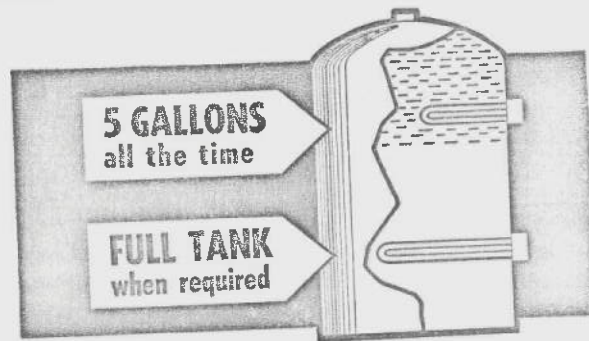
The school is run on the basis of a large family where every student confides in sympathetic, highly qualified teachers, who are devoted to their pupils and to their work and who take an interest in the individual pupil until after he is placed in a suitable position.

Careful attention is paid to the moral, physical and cultural development of the pupils who are prepared for all public examinations in the following subjects—Irish, English, Latin, French, Mathematics, History, Geography, Commerce and Art.

In July, 1961, with the blessing of the present Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Hanley, D.D., a successful function launched a Past Pupils' Union, whose motto is "Rosario semper Fidelis" and which was patronised by alumni from as far away as New Zealand, America, Africa and Japan. To these and all other friends, the school authorities take this opportunity to extend felicitations and good wishes.

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Marist Convent

The Congregation of Marist Sisters was founded in the Department of Ain, France, on December 8, 1824. Its special aim was to labour for the sanctification of souls. Foundations quickly followed in France and in England. From there at the request of Rev. Father Dawson, then P.P. of Carrick-on-Shannon, the first group of Marists came here in 1873.

The zeal and ability of these first Sisters soon attracted more pupils than could be accommodated in the private residence in Main Street, in which they first took up their abode. But through the ever generous parishioners and benefactors a spacious Primary School finally rose. It has now been replaced by a more suitable building for modern requirements. On the old site now stands our present Assembly Hall, Domestic and Art Rooms and Commercial College — monuments to the memory of a past pupil who during her term of office as Superior had them constructed.

During its first decade of existence members of the most Catholic families in the County and surrounding Counties entered the Congregation, and helped admirably in the developments that followed.

Many pupils were called to Training Colleges in later years and now there are few Counties in which there is not a teacher who has passed through the School. The Department of Education appointed from among them Inspectors of Music and Domestic Science.

Pupils from the Secondary A. School have been successfully prepared for Intermediate, Matriculation, County Scholarship, Civil Service Examination, etc., since first established in 1911. Many have graduated with distinction in University Colleges at home and abroad, obtaining high degrees in Science, Law, Art, Music, University and Travelling Scholarships. The Novitiate, established in 1941 under the gracious patronage of Most Reverend Dr. MacNamee, counts many pupils from our Schools who are rendering admirable service far and near.

Our Sisters, too, give unremitting attention to the aged, infirm and poor in St. Patrick's Hospital. In the course of years many pupils volunteered to labour as Pioneer Marists in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Canada and U.S.A. In 1959, Sisters left us to staff our first Primary School in Dublin, in which are enrolled over 600 pupils.

Numbers at present availing of the education offered testify to continued progress, Deo Gratias.

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County Leitrim's Musical Tradition

By Father Canice Mooney, O.F.M.

The old school text-books used to describe the Tuatha De Danaan as one of the five peoples who invaded Ireland in pre-historic times. Modern scholarship has demonstrated that there was no such invading group and that the Tuatha De Danaan were really the gods and divine ancestors of the ancient Gaels. Yet, it is worthy of note that for over a thousand years the tradition of their arrival in a magic mist on the side of Sleevanerin, Co. Leitrim, was handed down and accepted as genuine history. They were said to have been accompanied by three skilful musicians, Ceol, Binn and Teidbhian, that is "Music, Melody and String-Harmony," so that out of all Ireland it would have been the little hills of Breffny that first re-echoed the wondrous strains of those magic musicians!

If the people of Leitrim have any feelings of regret that modern scholars should dare to shatter such a beautiful legend, they have reason to be thankful to them on the other hand for saving their honour by debunking another historical myth. Anybody consulting older works on the history of Irish music, such as those of Warren, Sullivan, Conran, and Grattan Flood, will find a description of the destruction of the organ of the church of Clooncraff near Elphin in the year 851. Those writers were proud to be able to show that Ireland at such an early age could boast of church organs. The shame for Leitrim people was that this earliest reference to an organ in Ireland told how it had been destroyed in a raid on the place by the men of Breffny with their allies. It can be proved, however, that our Breffny ancestors were not guilty of such a crime against musical culture, for the simple reason that the church of Clooncraff did not have an organ in 815. Those writers we have mentioned were misled by Doctor Charles O'Connor Don, who in his edition of the "Annals of Ulster", translated the Irish word *orgain* or *argain* as "organ" or "organs", although it really signifies "plunder" or "destruction". All the men of Breffny did was to make a plundering raid on Clooncraff—quite a legitimate pastime in those days!

Two Breffny musicians of medieval times are known to us by name.—Sioghraidh O Cuirnin, described as a poet, professor, and musician; and Matthew O Cuirnin, described as immensely learned in history and music (*seinn*). Both are given the title

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of "Ollav of Breffny." Sioghraidh died while on a pilgrimage in 1347. Matthew died in his own house in the year 1429.

There would have been many harpists, tympanists and pipers in Breffny O'Rourke in medieval times, but unfortunately their names have not been preserved. Harpists from other parts of the country would also have visited it regularly on their circuits, exchanging tunes with the local executants, and composing new pieces in honour of the O'Rourke chieftains. We are told in the "Annals of Connacht," for instance, that Brian Ballach O'Rourke, Prince of West Breffny who died in 1562, offered the best hospitality and the greatest gifts to musicians, entertainers, and men of art, and that he gave rewards for more poems than any man of Adam's seed.

This was probably the chieftain, and not, as some have thought, his son, Brian of the Ramparts, who was commemorated in the rollicking song of Hugh MacGauran, to which Turloch O'Carolan set the music—"Plearaca na Ruarcach", "The Revels of the O'Rourkes." "The Revels of the O'Rourkes will be remembered for ever. Seven score cows, sheep, and pigs for each day's feast, with a hundred pails of whiskey being poured into the wooden drinking cups each morning. Strike up the harp and start off the revels; pass round the snuff and something to drink!"

This was the song that became so popular among English-speakers because of Dean Swift's translation of part of it:

"O'Rourke's noble fare will ne'er be forgot

By those who were there, or those who were not."

Carolan was a native of Co. Meath but had close associations with Co. Leitrim. One of his earliest compositions, "The Fairy Queens," was inspired by those two well-known landmarks of South Leitrim, Sheemore and Sheebeg. His "Planxty Peyton", on which Thomas Moore based his "Young May Moon," was composed in honour of Theobald Peyton of Lisduff or Laheen, and other songs were composed by him in honour of some of the Reynoldses of Letterfian, the O'Donnells of Larkfield, and of Mary O'Rourke, wife of the O'Conor Don. Another song attributed to him is one in praise of Co. Leitrim:

"Go mba mile slan do Chontae Liatroim,

Agus uilleacan dubh O. . .

Ta an chlairseach chiuin agus orgain a seinm gach
trath ann,

Agus uilleacan dubh O."

Charles Fanning, who carried off the first prize at the three Granard harp festivals of 1781, 1782 and 1783, and at the Belfast harp festival of 1792, is sometimes stated to have been born in Co. Leitrim, but it is equally likely that he was a native of Mayo who settled first in Co. Leitrim, then in Co. Cavan. His contemporary, Charles Beirne, who also assisted at

those festivals was, however, a native of the county. As a young boy he accompanied his blind uncle, also a harpist and a Leitrim man and his full namesake, on his journeys through Ireland. Edward Bunting, who did so much to preserve our heritage of Irish music, writes that he was not distinguished as a performer but possessed an extraordinary fund of songs and anecdotes of which Bunting was able to avail himself in his writings. He was born about 1712 and, unlike so many of his contemporary harpists, was not blind. A drawing of him playing the harp at the age of ninety-two is still extant.

Jeremiah (Diarmaid) O'Duigenan of Drumshanbo, who was born about 1710, is described as a tall, handsome man, a charming musician, not blind, and an excellent Greek and Latin scholar. On one occasion he and a famous Welsh harper then visiting Dublin played before the members in the Irish House of Commons. This was to decide a bet of a hundred guineas about which was the better harpist, and by common acclaim O'Duigenan won. He went to Dublin on that occasion dressed in a suit of cateog, that is, pressed plaited rushes set off with serge and plaid, and for headress a tall, conical tasseled cap of the same materials. This was evidently to impress on the English and Welsh visitors that excellent music and proficient musicians still flourished in Ireland even among the less privileged classes and far from the silks and satins and other amenities of contemporary Britain.

In his memoirs, Arthur O'Neill, the famous eighteenth century harpist from Co. Tyrone (whose music teacher, Hugh O'Neill, lies buried in the same grave as Carolan at Kilonan), tells of visiting Andrew O'Rourke of Creevy, Co. Leitrim, a man of learning, wit and humour, who had composed several songs in Latin, Irish and English, and played them handsomely on the harp. He is more critical of another musician he met in Co. Leitrim. This was John Sneyd, whom he described as an indifferent harpist but a great thief!

During the first half of the nineteenth century Leitrim continued to be one of those counties regarded as especially rich in traditional musical lore. Patrick Lynch of Co. Down, commissioned by Bunting to go to Connacht to collect Irish songs, visited Manorhamilton, Killarga, and Dromahaire in 1802. He got six songs from a Mr. Bartley of Killarga and about sixteen more in the public house of that place. Daniel Malone, a school teacher who used to travel through Co. Leitrim and Co. Roscommon about the year 1828 collecting songs, was able to sell a manuscript containing eighty-eight of them to the Dublin historian, William Monck Mason, for ten guineas. He sold another manuscript containing about thirty more to the historian of Galway, James Hardiman. William Forde of Cork visited Co. Leitrim before the famine and succeeded in noting down hundreds of unpublished airs from the professional fiddler

of Costrea and Ballinamore, Hugh O'Beirne, who had an immense collection of fine old Irish tunes, including, it seems, many of the compositions of Jeremiah O'Duigenan.

Let us hope that the Fleanna Ceoil of our own day will be successful in maintaining and stimulating interest in our rich heritage of folk music and in rescuing from oblivion many more delightful airs.

CARRICK - ON - SHANNON . . .

. . . Almost 125 Years Ago

In 1838 Carrick-on-Shannon had a population of 1,870 and had 321 houses. The streets were badly paved and not lighted. The regatta had its beginning at this time. The bridge was built in 1846. Great quantities of butter were sent to the Dublin and Newry markets. The Jail was built in 1815 or thereabouts. In 1817, P. McGowan and Thomas McEniff were executed in it, for the "crime" of petty theft. The priest, who attended them on the scaffold, was the reverend John McKeon, P.P. (1815-1832) whose grave is frequented in Kiltoghert. The next parish priest of Kiltoghert, Dr. Slevin (1832-1847), lived at Lismore Lodge and is buried in Jamestown Chapel. The population of Kiltoghert parish in 1838 was 16,434. The present St. Mary's Catholic Church was built in the 1870's and opened on October 19th, 1879. Prisoners were confined in the Jail up to 1921. On March 11th of that year, the bodies of the men slain at Selton Hill were brought to this grim fortress, before being surrendered to their relatives for burial. Carrick-on-Shannon has thrown off the shackles of thralldom, and is a pleasant, friendly Irish-Ireland town to-day, worthy of being host to a host of Connaught musicians. In it, they will find a congenial place to "raise the merry strains of our dear native land."

THIS Souvenir Booklet and all printing in connection with Fleadh Cheoil Chonnacht at Carrick-on-Shannon, April 28 and 29, has been designed and printed at the "Leitrim Observer" Printing Works, St. George's Terrace, Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim. (Proprietor: Patrick Dunne).

THE LATE VERY REV. FR. CONEFREY, P.P.

The late Father Conefry, born in Mohill, County Leitrim, in 1880, was the forerunner of Comhaltas as we know it today. In all the parishes in the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise in which he ministered, he left a rich tradition behind him of love of Irish music, love of the land and a true sense of values.

"Have your factories," he used to say, "to make your industrial goods, but leave every process of the land to the farmer. Let the butter be made at home, the grain milled in the parish. Let all the employment that comes from the land be kept among farmers."

He never tired of describing his system for keeping the people on the land. In the Parochial field at Cloone, he had built a timber hall for the people, and there he gave every year what he termed an industrial exhibition.

This was a display of carding, spinning and weaving; of basket-making; rug-making, knitting and garment making, of home baking, jam-making and boxty mixing. He never forgot the boxty.

At his own hospitable table, he always had boxty and sowans. Partly because he liked the old-fashioned dishes as they reminded him of the old, self-subsistent, healthy, prosperous economy in which his boyhood years were spent, and partly because he believed that the revival of these things would save the race in his day.

He was indisputably right. The countryside can thrive if it depends on itself as it did in the past.

He knew what statesmen seldom realise, that it is the non-material things that move people even to material action. If everyone loved the land and old life like him, there would be no flight from the countryside as now grieves every patriot. So he turned his people's eyes to their heritage, with word and example.

He hardly knew any Irish, but he knew the value and vital importance of the national language. Therefore, in his schools, Irish was taught splendidly, and he required his teachers to be men and women who could teach Irish dancing and song.

In his kitchen in Cloone, on an evening, young men would come in with a flute or a fiddle in hand and seat themselves. After a few moments, without signal from anyone, the music would start — flight after flight of rich, traditional music, pure and spontaneous and perfect, like a blackbird's song. Maybe, one of his lads would dance. Later there would be a shanachie's talk.

That was the Prince of Cloone, in his house of holiness and hospitality and love of Ireland.

Father Conefry died in 1939, at an early age, but, particularly in Cloone, his spirit is still very much alive.

—(Partly reproduced from the "Irish Press")

SHEEMORE

.... BY

T. N. O'FLYNN, KILTYCLOGHER.

What a host of tender memories are enshrined in that word and what nostalgic thoughts it awakens in the hearts of exiles from Gowel, Kiltoghert and South Leitrim. "What do they know of England, who only England know" sang Kipling, with sad yearning for the quiet English countryside he loved. We may well ask the same question of Sheemore. How little those, who never lived 'neath the shadow of that picturesque hill know what its very name means to those exiles from there, who now dwell in alien lands.

Sheemore entered into our infant minds with the first gleam of reason. Its mighty form was indelibly etched on the retina of our minds at the very instant that our mothers told us of God and His Heavenly Kingdom. In our childish innocence we thought that Paradise rested on that towering crest and the golden glow of the evening sun was but a momentary overflow of celestial glory, when Heaven's gates were opened to receive a soul. Thus God, Heaven, Mother and Sheemore became for ever entwined around our hearts.

After a few more years another potent urge came into our lives. The tales, forged in the glowing furnace of Celtic imagination, began to interest us. The old story tellers told us of the Good People, who dwelt in the caves of the hill. How it was thrown up by giants leaving the bottomless lake at its foot. It was then we first heard of the great battle fought between the fairy hosts of Sheebeg and Sheemore, when the latter host obtained supremacy, and next morning the domestic utensils in every house in the Sheebeg area were besmeared with blood. Then the mysterious drum that started beating, at the hour of midnight, in an island on Annaghsellering lake a week before the outbreak of the Crimean War. It rose into the air, circled Sheemore, and then returned to the island again. This continued every night for a month, then stopped a few nights before the war. Several old people told me they, themselves, heard this drum. Its mystery has never been explained.

Are these stories still told around the hospitable hearths of Gowel? I fear not, the motor car, the picture-house and the dance hall have driven the Good People from Sheemore to dwell in less sophisticated lands and the world is the poorer of their exodus.

The name given to one of the caves 'S'eabac Dearmid,' and the cairn on top, connects the hill with the Fenian cycle of Pagan mythology. Finn and the fickle Grainne, according to local tradition ended their days here and are buried on the neighbouring

hill of Sheebeg. Many legends of the pair linger in the area, and had taken such a strong hold on the imagination that one of the local gentry erected a statue of Finn on Sheebeg a couple of hundred years ago. History asserts that Finn and Grainne are burned on the Hill of Allen. The learned O'Donovan held that when History and Tradition were at variance as in this case, Tradition is invariably right, and, as if to confirm the great antiquarians contention, the skeletons of a huge man and a medium-sized were found, some years ago in an ancient grave on the side of Sheebeg.

Let's leave the realms of romance, and from the cairn of Sheemore gaze down the vista of the years. What a panorama of local and national history is unrolled before us!

At the time of Hugh O'Neill's rebellion, Sheemore was the back-screen of many notable events. The head of the patriot Prelate, Dr. Edward McGauran, was carried in sorrow, by the defeated Ulster clansmen on their retreat from the battle field of Tusk and buried, secretly, in the holy soil of Kiltoghert. Here, at the foot of Sheemore, the great Brian Oge O'Roarc trained his iron-clad Leitrim men, that routed Sir Clifford's force, in the famous battle of the Curleus.

After a few glorious years the star of victory set in the gloom of defeat, and the dark days of Cromwell settled on the land. When the dread edict of "To hell or Connaught" went forth, a memorable event occurred in Sheemore. A large contingent of Ulster people, marshalled by a force of Cromwellian soldiers, arrived at Sheemore, as night was falling, on their way to Connacht. They decided to encamp there, rather than cross the Shannon in the darkness. The guards, worn out with their long march, fell asleep and the whole party of prisoners made good their escape, and settled in South Leitrim. On three different times, previously, Ulster men had been driven into Leitrim, so this last contingent were at home. These evacuees intermarried with the former inhabitants, a fact which accounts for the number of Ulster names — Guckians, Riellys, Mahons, Ear'ys, Flynns, McHughs, O'Neills, Dohertys — in the census of South Leitrim today.

The famous highway men, Captain O'Hara, and his followers sheltered in Sheemore, and from there preyed on the local gentry. In Ballinwing the father of Willie Rielly resided for a time until his jealous landlord, Lauder, of Lauderdale, evicted him. He then went to Ballinacfad, Co. Sligo, where Willie was born, and met his beautiful "Cailin Bawn." At the base of the hill you still see a pile of stones which mark the site of the duel where Squire Reynolds was treacherously shot by Robert McKeon. This Squire Reynolds of Letterfine was the father of George Nugent Reynolds, the author of "The Exile of Erin," which Thomas Cambell, the Scotch Poet Laureate of Eng'and, stole and published as his own. McKeon

was tried for this murder by the famous Judge Norburry, who sentenced Robert Emmet to death. This event was commemorated by a local bard in a ballad at one time very much in vogue in that area. The opening lines began thus:

"My name is unfortunate Robert McKeon,
Round the sweet County Leitrim I'm very well known;
I never did any bad action before,
Until that fatal day at the foot of Sheemore."

Forty years ago the spotlight of history again rested on Sheemore. It threw into bold relief a handful of gallant youth carrying on the fight for freedom against a large body of Black-and-Tans. After a grim struggle, the enemy, carrying their dead and dying, fled vanquished from the field. Another victory was blazoned on the standards of Ireland.

Our story is coming to an end. The last rays of the setting sun are gilding the Cross, erected by loving hands on the top of Sheemore, to proclaim to the world our undying loyalty to Faith and Fatherland.

SOME FRAGMENTS OF LOCAL HISTORY

Carrick-on-Shannon is not mentioned in any of our ancient annals. The name is new, and indeed a misnomer, for Cara not Carraig is the operative word. Cara means a weir; and the older and present Gaelic name of Leitrim's capital—Cara Droma Ruisc is mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters under date 1530. It was not a town then, but a crossing place on the Shannon. Leitrim village, however, is dignified by the title of town in the same Annals A.D. 1540. Carrick and Jamestown both received their "Charters" as towns in the reign of James I (1603-1625). South Leitrim was known, in ancient days, as Muintir Eolius and there was a sub-division of this territory, known as Moyniahy, which roughly corresponds to the present barony of Leitrim. The "Annals of Lough Key" record: "A.D. 1245, the Castle of Athanchip on the border of Niagh-Nisse was built by Miles Costello." The place name is now lost, but some scholars have placed it, in the vicinity of Battlebridge. What follows gives strength to that view.

BATTLE OF ATHANCHIP 1270

By this time, the Norman invasion was a century old and to their discredit, it may be said, that Irish chiefs had done very little to roll back the tide of conquest, they fought among themselves instead. However Athanchip is a notable exception. Here the war was between the Gael, under O'Connor or Connaught and the Normans under Walter Burke, Earl of Ulster, and spoiler of Connaught. The Normans sustained a disastrous defeat. "The Annals of Connaught" say: "At this moment, the men of Connaught fell upon them, their rearguard was dislodged and their van broken and nine of their noblest Knights were killed on that moor, including Richard of the Wood and Seoin Butler and they left a hundred horses on the field with their saddles and poytrels." In the same account, these annals mention "Port na Lace beyond Elphin and Ath Caraid Conneill on the eastern bank of the Shannon." These places have not been identified.

HOW CARRICK BECAME A TOWN

Over three centuries later, we have an old record containing a grant from King James I, to one, Captain Maurice Griffith Esq., Leitrim County—the castle or forth of Drumruske, otherwise Carrowdromruske, newly built and erected and some 15 townlands around it, on the Leitrim side of the Shannon as well and the island of Innismucker; the fishings on the river and the ferries to the Boyle water were also licensed and leave was given to hold a Friday market and a two day fair on August 1st and 2nd. This deed is dated 16th February 1611. The ruined remnant of the castle, above mentioned, is in the grounds of the present Garda Barracks. It was taken by Roger Maguire, acting for Owen Roe O'Neill, in 1648 and surrendered to the Cromwellians in 1652.

THE WALLS AND GATES OF JAMESTOWN

In the same reign of James I, the ancient Shannon-side village of Kilshrinan was made a Royal Borough, with all the trappings, and renamed Jamestown. The architect and designer of this was Sir Charles Coote. He built a castle there and raised massive walls around it with a southern and northern gateway, which were both probably as large as the present archway. At any rate this arch marks the spot where the northern gate stood. The scheme was not of any permanence. The place was taken in the rising of 1641, a Franciscan Friary was erected three years later, and Lord Carlingford, acting for the Confederates, broke down the Southern Gateway in 1645. In this period too, occurred the event, which is forever the glory

of Jamestown—the famous National Synod of Irish Bishops in 1650. At that time three of Ireland's provinces had fallen to the Cromwellians. Two years later Jamestown was occupied by them. In the Williamite War (1689-1691) Jamestown had another spell of glory, being occupied and garrisoned by no less a figure than the great Patrick Sarsfield himself. He battered down the Northern Gateway. What we see to-day is a reconstruction, dating from 1780.

THE MOST FAMOUS LEITRIM IN IRELAND

There is a Leitrim townland in every one of the 32 Counties, but the Village, on the Drumshanbo road, is the only one to give its name to a County, and to a Barony within that County. It is famous besides, in its historical associations. It was a town in 1540 and in that year too, Brian Ballach O'Rourke erected a castle there. It must be said that O'Rourke was trespassing here, for this was the territory of the McRannals. Some fifty years later this castle was occupied by Brian Og O'Rourke, grandson of the founder, Dromahair at that time had been given by the English to Teige O'Rourke, half brother of Brian Oge. Brian Oge fought at the battle of the Curlews 1599, under O'Donnell's leadership, and at Kinsale, as the ally of O'Neill and O'Donnell. Teige also fought at Kinsale, in the English ranks. The aftermath of defeat at Kinsale and Dunboy brings into prominence the name of Donal O'Sullivan Beare, who after an epic march from Glengarriff reached the safety of Leitrim Castle on January 14th, 1603. This castle was destroyed by the English in the March of that year, about the same time as Hugh O'Neill surrendered at Mellifont. Brian Oge avoided capture and ended his days in the Franciscan Friary of Rosserilly, Co. Galway. With his departure, Leitrim town became a place of faded glory and broken battlements and planted acres.

THE DARK NIGHT OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

From the beginning of the later Penal period, which followed Limerick's broken Treaty of 1691, down almost to the Famine of 1847, the history of Carrick, and indeed of most places in Ireland, is the history of barracks, work-houses, jails, big houses, local gentry, magistrates, courts, squireens, duels, hangings and transportations. The real Gaelic and Religious history of those years—the things we would like to know are for the most part unrecorded and unknown; for these were the years of (what Daniel Corkery has aptly titled) the "hidden Ireland." The struggle for survival left no time for mirth or gladness, music, song or games. However in these tragic years Irish music, instead of dying, had a rebirth. In nearby Kilronan lived

Turlough O'Carolan, the great harper-composer and it is probable that he was a frequent visitor to the English family of George, at Carrick-on-Shannon, between the years 1700-1738. One piece of music, ascribed to him, is the tune "Molly St. George." He also wrote "Planxty Peyton" and "Sheemore and Sheebeg", which have a decidedly local association. In the registry of priests compiled by Dublin Castle in 1704 the name of Brian MacEagan is given as Parish Priest of Kiltoghert. His residence was at Lisseaghan.

LEITRIM IN 1798

In the second phase of the '98 Rising, Leitrim played its part. With the landing of Humbert in Killala on August 22nd of that fateful year, Ireland "looked for revenge to the West." After an early crop of all-too-short-lived-victories the French forces pervaded Mayo and Sligo and entered County Leitrim on September 5th. They passed through portion of the parish of Killennumery and encamped in Dromahair late that night. Humbert's first intention seems to have been to cross into Ulster. However on the forenoon of September 6th when approaching Manorhamilton, he changed his mind and wheeled sharply to the South reaching Drumkeeran in the early afternoon. That same night he camped on Moineer hill over Drumshanbo. Early next morning he crossed the Shannon at Ballintra. His revised plan was to link up with the Granard and Westmeath insurgents, who were still in arms. With this purpose in mind, he pushed on through Keshcarrigan and reached Cloone where he encamped on the night of September 7th. Lord Cornwallis was in pursuit. Here is some of his dispatch: "Having obtained satisfactory information that the enemy had halted for the night of 7th September, at Cloone, I marched with the troops at Carrick at ten o'clock on the night of the 7th to Mohill." At daybreak next morning, the fatal 8th September, Humbert proceeded through the parish of Gortletteragh and reached Ballinamuck, County Longford, before 10 o'clock. Here the French-Irish forces were surrounded by two English armies comprising in all 30,000 men, commanded by General Lake and Lord Cornwallis. The French surrendered at once. The Irish, with the courage of despair, made a last stand. The inevitable happened: "the ground was covered with dead rebels to the number of at least 500." Many hundreds more were captured. Of these at least 120 were marched to Carrick-on-Shannon. Instead of a trial, they were given a "lottery of death." A number of bits of paper were rolled up, some blanks, some with the word "Death" written on them. The prisoners were forced to draw out of a hat, and as soon as a man drew the fatal ticket he was hanged. 19 men were put to death on this occasion. They suffered on Gallows Hill, as the jail was not then in existence.

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