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THE NORTHERN STATE AND THE VOLUNTARY LANGUAGE MOVEMENT

Ba mhinic le bliain anuas Airí agus urlabhraithe Oifig Thuaisceart Éireann (OTÉ), an Dr. Brian Mawhinney go háirithe, ag maíomh gur cás leo an Ghaeilge agus ag geallúint go bhfuil gach iarracht idir láimhe acu éilimh iomadúla lucht na Gaeilge a shásamh. Cinnte, tugadh airgead d'lontaobhas Ultach sa dóigh is go ndeirtear anois nach bhfuil an t-lontaobhas spleách a thuilleadh ar chiste an rialtais. Ach tá teorann ar an méid atá an t-lontaobhas in ann a dhéanamh. Ní thig leo, cuir i gcás, crios tarthála a theilgint chuig Ghlór na nGael i mBéal Feirste mar tá ceangal na gcúig gcaol curtha ag OTÉ ar bhallaíocht an lontaobhais. Fostaithe de chuid OTÉ a dhreáchtáigh is a cheadaigh bunreacht an lontaobhais agus mar sin tá an t-lontaobhas féin nasctha le dearcadh OTÉ maidir leis an Ghaeilge, eadhon, más ann don teanga ar chor ar bith, go mba cheart dí a bheith scartha scun scan ón náisiúnachas, agus, innmholta mar chuspóir, go mba chóir dí a bheith mar dhroichead leis an dhá dhream sna Sé Chontae a dhlúthú. Ní bheadh sé cothromach, ámh, go mbeadh na freagrachtaí seo mar laincisí ar na heagrais Gaeilge go léir agus muid ag iarraidh tacaíochta ón Stát. Onár dtaobh féin de i gConradh na Gaeilge, 's í ár bpríomhaidhm an Ghaeilge a shlánú. Cinnte dearfa, má tá muid ábalta athmhuintearas a chothú idir aicmí éagsúla an tuaiscirt le linn don Ghaeilge a bheith á theagasc is á chur chun tosaigh againn is amhlaidh is fearr é. Ní cuid dár ngó, áfach, leithcheal a dhéanamh ar an náisiúnachas i saol na Gaeilge agus cuirfear fáilte roimh achan duine i gConradh na Gaeilge, náisiúntóirí, aondachtóirí nó eile. 'S í teanga na nGael amháin ár gcúram, bíodh dúnghaois eile ag OTÉ nó ná bíodh.

Níl Conraitheoirí buartha fá lontaobhas Ultach nó faoi dhiongbháilteacht chomhaltai an lontaobhais i dtaca leis an Ghaeilge de. An rud atá ag déanamh scime dúinn ná go bhfuil an chontúirt anois ann go mbeidh leithscéal ag OTÉ gan a dhath eile a thionscnamh ar shon na Gaeilge. Tá an chosúlacht ar an scéal go gcreideann OTÉ go bhfuil a sáith curtha chun críche acu tar éis an t-lontaobhas a bheith maoinithe acu. Is follas dúinne áfach go bhfuil neart le tabhairt faoi go fóill. Níl polasaithe deimhneacha ar bith ag OTÉ ó thaobh forbairt na Gaeilge de. Agus má tá na puntaí á chaitheamh ag OTÉ ar lontaobhas Ultach níl Airí Rialtais ó thuaidh leath chomh flaithiúil (nó baol air) is atá Airí Rialtais thall i Cymru i leith na Breataine.

Ní cuidiú do na heagraíochtaí deonacha Gaeilge an feachtas leanúnach atá sa tsíúl ag aonaráin áirithe le huirlis pholaitiúil a dhéanamh den Ghaeilge. Tá an teachtaireacht chéanna ag na daoine seo ar fad - 'sé sin go bhfuil seilbh faighte ag poblachtaigh ar an Ghaeilge sna Sé Chontae. Tá oll-iarracht á dhéanamh mar shampla leis an Ghaeilge a chur faoi amhras agus a ceangal le "sceimhlitheoireacht". Baineadh stangadh asainn nuair a dúirt an Dr. Mari Fitzduff, atá ina Stiúrthóir ar an Community Relations Council, ina céad ráiteas maidir leis an Ghaeilge:

".... the use and preservation of the Irish language can be seen not necessarily as an expression of subversion, but as a desire to preserve an endangered expression of culture..." ("Community Relations" - Magazine of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council No. 1, leathanach 5).

Tá an port céanna fiú ag daoine atá in ainm is a bheith báuil leis an teanga agus tuisceanach ar na fadhbanna atá ag lucht na Gaeilge ó thuaidh. I slíocht atá neamhréireach ar fad le buntéama an téacs ag tús an leabhair "Scian A Caitheamh Le Toinn" (scéalta agus amhráin a bhailigh Cosslett Ó Cuinn, 1990) tá scríofa ag Seosamh Watson agus Aodh Ó Canaínn, an bheirt a chóirigh na scéalta a thionsaigh Cosslett Ó Cuinn:

"Le fada anall tá dreamanna éagsúla, nach í an teanga a bpríomhaidhm, ag iarraidh gluaiseacht na Gaeilge a ghabháil

agus a chur chun a leasa féin. Is beag an tairbhe dóibh é ach éiríonn le gach dream acu an teanga a theorannú" (leathanach 6).

Ní dócha gurb é Oifig Thuaisceart Éireann a bhí i gceist mar dhream de na "dreamanna éagsúla" in intinn na gcomhúdair seo, gidh go bhfuil iláiseanna an Stáit á n-úsáid faoi choim leis an Ghaeilge a thachtadh faoi eite an Rialtais agus gluaiseachtaí na Gaeilge a cheansú. De dheasca líomhaintí/leideanna den tsaghas thuasluaite, tá Glór na nGael i mBéal Feirste fágtha ar an trá fholamh mar tugann ráitis den chineál sin creidiúint do chinneadh OTÉ a rinne deontais Ghlór na nGael a chealú.

Tá sé thar am do na heagrais gaelacha ó thuaidh Plean don Ghaeilge a fháil réidh le chur faoi bhráid an Rialtais. Má tá muid ag brath ar OTÉ féin chun Plean don Ghaeilge a dhreachtú beidh muid ag feitheamh go dtí lá Sheon Dic. Tá go leor grúpaí deonacha neamhspleácha ar an bhfód leis an Plean a chumadh. Go mór mór sna réimsí oideachasúla tá gá práinneach le seasamh OTÉ a chur ar aon chéim le polasaithe Rialtas na Breataine i leith na Breataine nó i leith Gaeilge na hAlban fiú. Cé gur chruthaigh muintir Bhéal Feirste agus muintir Dhoire gur féidir gaelscoileanna a bhunú agus a dtodhchaí a chinntiú gan airgead ón Stát, mar tá na Gaeilíonmhar sna cathracha siúd, i gceantair mar Ard Mhacha, Iúr Chinn Trá, Dún Phádraig nó Crois Mhig Lionainn tá dea-thoil agus acmhainní an Rialtais riachtanach má tá seans réadúil le bheith ag gaelscolaíocht feasta. Má ligtear do Airí OTÉ éalú ó dhuán na Gaeilge anois beidh sé iontach doiligh iad a cheapadh arís.



OLD GASWORKS SITE IS IDEAL FOR NEWRY'S BUNSCOIL

Newry's Irish language Primary and Nursery Schools, based at the Old Gasworks site on the Warrenpoint Road, continue to progress. The Bunscoil, which opened in September 1989, now has sixteen pupils receiving their Primary education through the medium of Irish. The Nursery School, which acts as a supply school to the Bunscoil, is also in a healthy state. Siobhán Ní Chathmhaoil, Newry's Bunscoil teacher, has made real progress with the pupils in her care. The children are following the National Curriculum and when members of Conradh na Gaeilge, who are full-time teachers themselves, visited the Bunscoil lately they were duly impressed by the quality of teaching, the happy atmosphere conducive to learning, the fluency and confidence of the pupils, though the cramped conditions left something to be desired.

Fully fitted mobile classrooms are currently being made ready at the Gasworks site and the children should have moved into them by Christmas 1991. Those who worked voluntarily at preparing the mobile classrooms included Frank Bradley, Raymond Carroll, Malcolm Scott, David McKeown, Maurice Mulgrew, Peter Mallon, Immanúel Ó Mealláin, Petesy Fallon and Ciarán Lennon. The Old Gasworks site would make an ideal setting for any future permanent Bunscoil development. The Bunscoil is only temporarily based at the Old Gasworks and the local Council hasn't yet decided what to do with the site. The site is central enough to make it accessible to Newry parents who might be considering sending their children to the Bunscoil. The Gasworks frontage onto the Warrenpoint Road lends it a prominence which any school would envy, making it a conspicuous landmark on this stretch of road. The Gaelic League, which is totally independent of the Bunscoil Committee, though clearly supportive of it, can only hope that Newry & Mourne Councillors will at some future date view favourably the Bunscoil's request to remain permanently at the Old Gasworks site. It is likely that there will be fierce competition for the site from other groups but we can think of no more deserving group than the Bunscoil. The Bunscoil receives NO funding from the Department of Education - the teacher's salary, heating, insurance and equipment bills, and the whole multitude of costs pertaining to the running of a small primary school, all have to be met out of the money raised by the Parents' Committee. This is a genuine community effort; the parents give selflessly of their time and energies; and there is absolutely no indication that the Department of Education will review its regulations so that it might give full recognition to the Bunscoil. Newry Council support therefore is all the more vital. A permanent site would be a fantastic fillip for the hard-working Parents' Committee.

During this past year, the Bunscoil received financial assistance from a variety of sources. The Gael-Linn draw continues to provide a large part of the Bunscoil's income, and the G.A.A. in counties Down and Armagh have been most co-operative, having facilitated the Bunscoil on many occasions. A recent raffle of a football signed by the All-Ireland winning Co. Down team realised a substantial sum of money for the Bunscoil. Members of the business community too have been more than helpful: David McVeigh, Chemist; Maguire's Garage; Cunningham's in Meigh; O'Hanlon's in Mullaghbawn; the Four Seasons Garden Centre; the Elliott-Trainor Partnership, have been prominent amongst the many businesses who have helped with different schemes and functions. Acadamh na Lianna, a national association of Irish speaking doctors, has also made a contribution this year.

Parents interested in Irish medium education for their children are advised to contact Malcolm Scott at 60712 or to make an appointment with Siobhán Ní Chathmhaoil at the Bunscoil itself. Parents can be assured that their children will be well instructed and that they will engage in all the activities normally associated with Primary education. This year saw Bunscoil an Iúir appearing for the first time at the Newry Schools' Drama Festival, and the children were interviewed on B.B.C.'s "Rud Eile" and on Raidió na Gaeltachta's "Raidió na bPáistí". Rearing children with two or more languages is common in Europe, and hopefully it will not long remain exceptional in the north of Ireland.



Daltaí óga an Iúir



plc. le Ian Magennis, Ard Mhacha

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JOEY DONNELLY REFLECTS ON ST. JOSEPH'S BAND

On August 23rd 1990, "CUISLE NA nGAEL" interviewers visited the home of Mr. Joseph (Joey) Donnelly in Kilmorey Street. Mr. Donnelly, since deceased, Go ndéana Dia trócaire air, was then the oldest surviving member of the illustrious St. Joseph's Brass and Reed Band. In Newry band circles, the same St. Joseph's Band is either held in the highest esteem or the band's achievements viewed with some envy. The interviewers' intention with Mr. Donnelly was not to elicit a full account of St. Joseph's Band's history - that would likely warrant a magazine in its own right - but to ascertain some details about the band's unique practice of enlisting the musical talents of the orphans of British bandsmen.

For decades the St. Joseph's Brass and Reed Band, known more simply as "Terry Ruddy's Band", dominated the local band scene. Mr. Ruddy would summon the band together for all sorts of occasions : St. Patrick's Day Parades; Foresters' Conventions; Corpus Christi Processions; local shows, but never anything party political. Ruddy's ensemble was versatile, being both a marching and a concert band. On the 16th March 1899, for example, St. Joseph's Band played to a packed Newry Town Hall on the occasion of a Newry Gaelic League Concert. The Band was based in the Independent Club, though Mr. Donnelly advised us that Terry Ruddy had previously organised a flute band based in Church Street. The Independent Club in Kilmorey Street proved a congenial setting for the band's affairs but the band's progress was often fraught with difficulties. On Sunday 18th September 1910, fire broke out in the Independent Club. The conflagration gutted the card room, the bar and the band room. The band's instruments, valued at over £300, were destroyed but were fortunately covered by insurance. The band too, largely because of the high public profile of its conductor, Terry Ruddy (Urban Councillor), drew adverse criticism at times. The columnist "Clanrye", who penned a caustic commentary on Newry affairs in the "Newry Reporter", attacked the band and its leader in the June 17th 1911 edition of the local paper. Urban Councillor R.H. O'Rorke (also a member of the Newry Gaelic League) had apparently used the forthcoming Newry Show as a pretext for "snarling about British bands" ("Clanrye"). "Clanrye" proceeded to lambast Councillor Ruddy :

"Anything British to Mr. O'Rorke is like the red flag to the bull, and he dashes headlong into a ridiculous course of foolish conduct when he is excited by the appearance of anything that comes from the Saxon. In making so virulent an attack on 'British' bands Mr. O'Rorke must have been badly instructed, for is it not a fact that time and again the St. Joseph's Band have secured freely

the advice and assistance of 'British' bandmasters, and did not some 'British' bandsmen assist the band at its last contest in Dublin? Mr. O'Rorke is apparently spokesman in the matter for Mr. Ruddy. It would be too barefaced of Mr. Ruddy to throw the balls he has made himself, and he finds in Mr. O'Rorke an able henchman. The whole situation has only been rendered possible by the fact that Mr. Terence Ruddy can do apparently as he likes with Newry Urban Council, the members of which, in connection with the question, have shown themselves sadly invertebrate. Thus, however wrongly Mr. Ruddy may have acted, he certainly is to be credited with the power which he exercises so freely as Grand Dictator to the other weak-kneed councillors who vote on his side of the table."

St. Joseph's Band was to labour for years under the shadow of having employed British military bandsmen and this has somewhat tarnished the band's reputation. (The military bandsmen were based in Linenhall Barracks at the time). A frank admission that British soldiers advised the band, and indeed played in it, would have been the more prudent course. When St. Joseph's Brass and Reed Band won the coveted British Band Championship at Belle Vue, Manchester, March 1923 (and this was truly the band's claim to fame) a number of British military bandsmen stood in for Newry musicians and contrived to secure the title. This takes nothing away from the band though, as such substitution was a common ruse, and a number of Newry players did help to win the day. Included in the famous 1923 band were : Gene O'Hanlon; Mick McGivern; Johnny Brown; Sandy Wright; Rev. Fr. Toman; Jackie McGivern; John McGawley; Paddy Burke; Jimmy Burke; Pat Campbell and Tommy Mulligan. The test piece at Belle Vue Gardens was Mendelssohn's "Fingal's Cave" (which owes its origins to the composer's Highland tour in 1829) and the Newry Band, classified as a 'military band' for the purpose of the competition ! was drawn 8th in the playing order. The victory at Belle Vue brought with it a prize of £20, a 15 guinea clarinet and a 15 guinea cornet. The achievement caught the imagination of the Newry public and the bandsmen were feted as heroes upon their return to Newry via Greenore. St. Joseph's Band holds the singular honour of being the only Irish band ever to win the British Championships. To this day, the photograph of the Championship winning band hangs in the Independent Club with no names attached. Newry minstrels and British soldier bandsmen stand side by side, proud but anonymously triumphant.

At a packed complimentary concert in Newry Town Hall, held on Thursday 9th October 1924, a number of presentations were made to Mr. Ruddy

on his band's success. All sections of the community attended. Mr. William Robinson, J.P., U.C., congratulated Mr. Ruddy and commented on the integrity of his character :

"We all know what Mr. Ruddy is in the town of Newry, for he has never hidden his light under a bushel. We know what he is politically and as a member of the Urban Council. We are here this night, every man and woman, to show our admiration and respect for Mr. Ruddy and his achievements. I hardly know any man in Newry who has commanded the same united admiration as Mr. Ruddy has on this occasion."

Joey Donnelly himself joined Terry Ruddy's Band in 1917, aged 17. He was born in the family's house on the Mall, behind the Post Office. Marley's fish shop was to one side of the Donnelly house while Mc Parland's was to the other. Joey was a painter and decorator by trade, having served his time with Wards. Joey earned 3s. a week while serving his apprenticeship and then moved to 1s.6d. an hour when his time was served. The working week was normally 45 hours. Joey moved from Wards' to Adams' in Sugar Island, then to Sammy Mc Kee's in North Street and finally to Felix O'Hare's. In 1934 he was on a contract at the GNR Hotel in Bundoran but all the while retained his loyalty to Newry's St. Joseph's Band. The seasonal nature of his work as a painter meant that Joey could devote a lot of time to the band. Joey informed us that Terry Ruddy himself was a self-taught clarinet player who turned to conducting when his fingers became stiff. Newry was the home of a number of bands at this time. The Newry Victoria Flute Band had been established in the 1840's. Cowan Street's Victoria Fife and Drum Band was also flourishing and some of its members in Joey's early days included A. Cowan, A. Baird, Henry C. Lyons, Charles F. Rigby, J. Dealy and R. Carney. The Altnaveigh Flute and Drum Band was formed in the 1890's but broke up when some of its members went off to fight in the Great War. It was re-established in 1922 with Mr. W. Patterson as conductor. St. Catherine's Band was also established on 14th September 1922, under the baton of Mr. William Byrne. St. Patrick's Band, based at St. Patrick's Hall, Merchants' Quay, had been founded in the early 1870's. Mr. H.J. Mc Conville was this band's President in the 1920's and W.B. Locke was the band's instructor. Best soloist in St. Patrick's Band in 1923 was Denis Mc Anehey while individual members included

J. Hughes; Herbert and William Mallaghan; Samuel Magee; Cyril Crothers; E. Sheridan; Hugh Mullan; J.J. Patterson; H. Goodfellow; W. O'Hagan; Thomas Kearns; L. Kennedy; J. Mc Keown; P. Turley; M. Carr; M. Smith; B. Mc Caig; Samuel Kidd and J. O'Doherty.



Joey Donnelly advised us that Terry Ruddy's Band never wore a uniform, never produced a professional musician from its ranks, and charged no tuition fees. They played at Croke Park and won competitions at the Mansion House in Dublin. Radio broadcasting began in Dublin on January 1st 1926 when the station 2RN came on the air. On June 5th of that year St. Joseph's Band, under the direction of Terry Ruddy, broadcast on the station. In the early 1940's too, the band played on British radio on a programme called "Newry on the Air". Frank Gallagher, the baritone, sang on that particular programme. By this stage, the band was being conducted by Pat Campbell, one of the orphans alluded to earlier. After the Great War, Terry Ruddy, in a gesture of solidarity with bandsmen's families, used to go to the north of England to a school which looked after the sons of bandsmen who had been killed during the war. On different occasions Ruddy brought youngsters back with him to Newry. One of the earliest was Bill Mc Cormick. Bill was a clarinet player who stayed in Paddy Gillan's boarding house in Castle Street. He became a tailor by trade and worked in Wasson's in Kilmorey Street. Others included Ted Hunt, a trombone player, who became a butcher and worked with Terry in Ruddy's shop; Geordie Sullivan, a saxophone player, who was a bootmaker and ended up owning a business in King Street; Pat Campbell himself, a trumpet player, also stayed at Paddy Gillan's and worked in different bars, including a spell in the Star and Garter. Pat Campbell had immediately succeeded Terry Ruddy as St. Joseph's conductor but when Pat relinquished the conductorship, the band, lacking guidance, gradually disintegrated.

Joey Donnelly's early interest in music had been instilled by Rev. Bro. Hayes at the Carstands School. Bro. Hayes led choir practice and taught Latin hymns to his charges. Joey's interest in music was to be life-long and his allegiance to, and respect for, Terry Ruddy remained undiminished.



H.J. McConville

PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED BY
Mr. JOSEPH ALPHONSUS MORGAN



TERRY RUDDY'S BAND

Cainnteoirí Dúchais Oirghialla

Ciarán Ó Duibhín

Duine ar bith a amharcas ar chóipeanna de "An tUltach" ó chéad bhliadhanta na hirise sin sna 1920í, ní thiocfadh leis gan iontas a dheánamh den mhéid de Ghaedhilg Oirghialla atá le léigheamh orthu. Ba bheag iomrá a bhíodh ar Thír Chonaill ar chor ar bith, ach na leathanaigh lán de scéaltaí agus de cheoltaí as Óméith agus as Deisceart Árd Mhacha agus as Fearnmhaigh, iad cruinnithe, don chuid is mó, ag an tSagart Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh, a bhunaigh an iris agus a chuireadh eagar uirthi.

Diomaite de Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh, bhí daoine eile ag cnuasacht leo: Seosamh Laoide, Éinri Ó Muirgheasa, Éamonn Ó Tuathail, Seán Ó hAnnáin, agus Pádraig Mac Con Midhe ina measc. Bhí beirt acu sin - Ó Muireadhaigh féin agus Ó Tuathail - ar ghnáthach leo gléas taifeadtha den deánamh Edíphone a bheith acu, ach níl fhios agam an maireann cuid ar bith den taifeadadh sin inniu. Creidim gurbh é an nós ins an am an "ceirnín" a ghlanadh lena úsáid ath-uair nuair a bhíodh an píosa cainte scríobhtha amach.

Cibé eolas atá againn ar na cainteoirí dúchais deireannacha sna ceanntreacha seo, is óna cnuasairí seo is mó a thig sé. Is fiú fosta trí dháta ar leith a luadh, ar a bhfaghann muid léargas ar an Ghaedhilg ar fud Chúige Uladh:

1931: Sa bhliadhain seo rinneadh ceirníní Gaedhilge, a n-ainmníghtheas de ghnáthach as Gearmánach a rabh baint aige leis na gnáithe, Wilhelm Dögen.

1943: Foillsigheadh tuairisc ag Pádraig Mac Con Midhe ar áireamh neamh- fhoirmeálta ar na cainteoirí dúchais Gaedhilge i gCúige Uladh, taobh amuigh de Thír Chonaill (An tUltach 20, 4, 1943).

1950: Is fán am seo a bhí Heinrich Wagner i mbun oibre ar a mhórshaothar, "A Linguistic Atlas and Survey of Irish Dialects".

Is fiú cupla focal a rádh fá na ceirníní Dögen, nó an chuid acu a rinneadh i gCúige Uladh. Tugadh cainteoirí as Antruim, Doire, Tír Eoghain (Muintir Luinigh), Árd Mhacha, Lughbhadh agus an Cabhán go Béal Feirste agus rinneadh an taifeadadh i n-Ollscoil na Ríona eadar 22 agus 25 Meán Fómhair 1931. Rinneadh an taifeadadh ar mhuintir Thír Chonaill agus ar mhuintir Thír Eoghain (Tearmann Ó Mongáin) i dTeach na Cúirte i Leitir Ceanainn, eadar 29 Meán Fómhair agus 5 Deireadh Fómhair. Tá an chuid is mó den ábhar seo diomaite de Thír Chonaill curtha in eagar ag Colm Ó Baoill in imleabhar 4 de Atlas Wagner.

ÁRD MHACHA

Fá thús an chéid, bhí cainteoirí dúchais Gaedhilge le fagháil go fairsing i n-áiteacha mar Cill Shléibhe, Lios Liath, Mullach Bán, Droim an Toighe, Foircheall agus Crois Mhig Fhlionn. Nuair a chuaigh dream as Connradh na Gaedhilge ins an Iubhar ar turas i ndeisceart Árd Mhacha i mí na Bealtaine 1898 "to visit the Irish-speaking districts of Meigh and Killeavy" ba é seo an tuairisc a d'fhág siad: "From the time we left Clohogue until we came to Ballymacdermot on our return we had plenty of Irish... Every grown person in that great tract of country seems to understand it, though only the middle-aged and old people speak it habitually."

Ar na daoine a rinne cnuasacht ar Ghaedhilg Dheisceart Árd Mhacha, bhí Seán Ó hAnnáin. Connachtach a bhí ann, a chaith tamall ina mháistir scoile, gur bhris ar a shláinte. Tháinig sé go Crois Mhig Fhlionn, agus bhí siopa beag aige annsin. Fuair sé bás san otharlainn in Iubhar Chinn Trágha i 1930 nó 1931. Chuir sé sraith alt i gcló ar "An tUltach" sna bliadhanta tosaigh fán teideal "Ráisteachas an Fheadha". Bhí fear eile den ainm - mac leis, is dóiche - a bhí ag teagasc i Scoil an Ghlasdromáin i 1916 agus a bhí beo in 1973.

Bhí beirt cháileamhail as ceanntar Dhroim an Toighe a d'fhág eolas againn ar an Ghaedhilg san áit sin: Michael J Murphy (rugadh 1913), fear mór an bhéaloidis, agus Pádraig Mac Con Midhe (1896-1975), a bhí ina uachtarán ar Chumann Lúthchleas Gaedheal agus ar Chomhaltas Uladh de Chonnradh na Gaedhilge. Níor tógadh ceachtar acu le Gaedhilg, ach bhí si agna muintir dhá ghlúin rompu. Tá eolas ar an Ghaedhilg le baint as cuid leabhar Michael J. go háirithe "At Slieve Gullion's Foot" agus "Ulster Folk of Field and Fireside". D'fhoghlaim Pádraig Mac Con Midhe Gaedhilg ó na seandaoine (ó Mhaighréad Uí Cheallaigh, go speisialta) agus é óg. Scríobh sé trí alt ag cur síos ar Ghaedhilg an cheanntair ar "An tUltach" (1965-67). Ba é a scríobh an tuairisc ar áireamh 1942-43, agus d'fhoillsigh sé liosta de na cainteoirí deireannacha i ndeisceart Árd Mhacha (Irish Press, 10-11/3/1966).

Fear eile a chruinnigh cuid mhór de Ghaedhilg Oirghialla, ba é sin Tomás Mac Cuileannáin (c.1883-1963) ón Mhullach Bhán - nó Carrive, Foircheall - a rabh cónaí air ar na Creagacha Dubha, Dún Dealgan. Níor chainteoir dúchais é go hiomlán, ach chaith sé dornán bliadhanta



"Mrs. Mary Nugent, Dernaroy, Dromintee. She died December 1948 aged over 90 years. She was the last native speaker in Dromintee parish, possibly the last in South Armagh." *Letter from M.J. Murphy, folklorist, to Mr. Tempest, the Dundalk printer, 26 January 1958.*



"Mrs. Margaret Kelly, Carrickasticken, Forkhill. She was the last native speaker in the Carrickasticken area (Paddy McNamee used to visit her, I think). I feel she died in the late 1920's.

She was a relation of mine, but when I used to visit her thatched house beside Urney river (Forkhill river) I'm afraid I hadn't much of a notion of folklore. She was the last woman I saw keeneying, over an aunt of mine in Dromintee."

Letter from M J Murphy to Mr. Tempest, 26th Jan. 1958.

agna sheanmháthair ar thaobh na máthara, agus d'fhoghlaim sé buntús na teangtha ó bheith ag éisteacht léithe ag cainnt leis na seandaoine eile i nGaedhilg. D'fhoghlaim sé a thuilleadh gan amhras ar na ranganna i nDún Dealgan ó Phroinsias Mhac Uinseannáin (as Lios Liath, a fuair bás i 1901) agus ó Aindrias Ó Marcaigh, a mbéidh trácht arís air.

I measc na gcainnteoirí Gaedhilge is minicí a luaidheann na cnuasairí seo, tá:

- . "An Doctúir" Mac Eoin, Loch Rus, Crois Mhig Fhlionn (bás roimh 1915);
- . Aindrias Ó Marcaigh, Baile na gCléireach (c.1845-1924);
- . Maighréad Uí Cheallaigh, (Margaret Modartha) Carraig an Stólcín, Droim an Toighe (1845-1926) - aintín le máthair Micheal J Murphy;
- . Brighid Nic Eoghain (Uí Aghartaigh), Cláirineach, Creagán Uachtarach (bás 1926);
- . Máire Ní Arbhasaigh, Cluain na Llog, Crois Mhig Fhlionn (1856-1947);
- . Sorcha Ní Dhuinn (Ní Amhlaidh, Mrs. Humphries), Ceathramhain an Doctúra, Lios Liath nó Cill Shléibhe.

Ar na daoine ba mhó cliú de na cainnteoirí deireannacha seo bhí Aindrias Ó Marcaigh, a rugadh in Áth na gCasán, ach a tógadh le Gaedhilg agna aintín i mBaile na gCléireach (Ballsmill) ó bhliadhain an Ghorta, 1847, ar aghaidh. I ndiaidh naoi nó deich de bhliadhanta annsin, tháinig sé go Dún Dealgan, mar ar chaith sé an chuid eile dena shaol. I 1923, tugadh go Baile Átha Cliath é go labhradh an teangeolaí Alf Sommerfelt leis. Mar thoradh ar an lá cainte sin le Aindrias, scríobh Sommerfelt cunntas cruinn ar chanamhaint dheisceart Árd Mhacha.

Nuair a bhítheas ag deánamh na gceiríní i 1931, is ar Mháire Ní Arbhasaigh (anglicé Harvassey nó Harvey), as Cluain na Llog (nó Siolach a deirtear in amannai), Crois Mhig Fhlionn, a tharraing siad. Bhí sí 75 bliadhain de aois i 1931. Ní dhearn Máire cómhadrádh ar bith ar na ceiríní, ach d'aithris sí amhráin, de chuid Airt Mhic Chubhthaigh go speisialta. Thug sí cuid mhór de na hamhráin céanna do Énrí Ó Muirgheasa agus do Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh na bliadhanta roimhe sin. Fuair sí bás in 1947.

Seo go beacht an t-ábhar a fuarthas uaithe ar na ceiríní:

- LA1224: (1) Focla amhráin: Úirchill an Chreagáin
- (2) Focla amhráin: Aige bruach Dhún Réimhe
- LA1225: (1) Focla amhráin: Tá mé buaidheartha
- (2) Focla amhráin: Triona Ní Mhordha, an óigbhean mhaiseach
- (3) Focla amhráin: Sé mo léan go bhfaca mé
- (4) Uimhreacha

Cuireann sí guth le corr-véarsa acu.

Ba iad P Ó Fearáin, F Mac Aonghusa agus an Sagart Éamonn Ó Doibhlín a chruinnigh an t-eolas i gCo Árd Mhacha don áireamh ar na cainnteoirí dúchais i 1942/3. Do réir seo, bhí seachtar fágtha sa chondae:

- . Mrs McKeown, Killeen, Cill Shléibhe;
- . Mrs McGinnity, Killeen, Cill Shléibhe;
- . Séamus Ó Fearáin, Tamhnach Bán, Cill Shléibhe;
- . Mrs Mary McDonald, Tate nó Eanach Dhubh, Mullach Bán (bás 1950, aois 90);
- . Terence Toner (Tarlach an Chroidhe Mhoir), Coilleach Eanach;
- . Máire Ní Arbhasaigh, Cluain na Llog (bás 1947, aois 90);
- . Mary Martin, Teach na Connadae, Iubhair Chinn Trá.

Is féidir triúr eile as Droim an Toighe a chur leobhtha, ó liostaí Mhic Con Midhe:

- . Susan Murphy (bás 1952, aois 102)
- . Mary McShane (bás 1954, aois 81)
- . Mrs Mary Nugent (bás 1959, aois 87)

Ba i Susan Murphy (née Jordan) seanmháthair Michael J., agus ba chainnteoir dúchais fosta a céile fir, Owny Murphy (bás 1927, aois 84). Do réir Michael J Murphy, ba i mí na Nollag 1948 a fuair Mrs Mary Nugent, Dernaroy, Drumintee, bás, tráth a bhí sí thar 90. Deir sé gurab í "the last native speaker in the parish, possibly the last in South Armagh", rud a thiocfadh ní b'fhearr le dátaí Mhic Con Midhe daoithe.

Nuair a bhí Heinrich Wagner i mbun a chuid oibre c.1950, ní rabh trácht aige ar chainnteoir dúchais ar bith i ndeisceart Árd Mhacha.

Ach níl an focal deireannach ráite ag Michael J Murphy go fóill ! Seo arís é, ag innse dúinn fá Mick McCrínk, Ballinamada, Carraig an Bhrághaid, Droim an Toighe, a fuair bás ar 22/2/1977 agus é thart ar 85 bliandhna de aois : "as far as writer can ascertain, [he] and his surviving sister Mrs. Essie Toal of the same parish, were the last Irish speakers in the entire area."

ÓMÉITH

Bhí an Ghaedhilg láidir in Óméith ag tús an chéid. Is in Óméith a cuireadh ar bun an chéad "Choláiste Bhríde", in 1912, agus is chuici a tháinig leithéidí Sheáin Mhic Mhaoláin agus Shéamais Uí Cheallaigh a chleachtadh na teangtha. Seosamh Mac Grianna féin, chaith sé tréimhse ag teagasc i gColáiste Ó Méith i 1925.

Ba liosta ró-shada lena thabhairt annseo na cainnteoirí dúchais uilig a bhfuil trácht orthu ón tréimhse seo. Ach caithfear cuid acu a luadh:

. Clann Pheadair Duibh Uí Annuain, Cor na Muclach - Nelly, bás c1906; Siorcha, bás c1916; Eoghan, mairnéalach a chaith deireadh a shaoil i mBéal Feirste. Ba i Nelly a chum "Patrún Óméith", "probably the last piece of native Oriel poetry", i 1902.

. Paidí Bhrianaidh Ó hAnnuain, Lios Liath, bás c1926/7.

. Caithtí Bn Uí Bhinibigh (Caithtí Shéin, Mrs Dobbins), Bádhbhdhúin, bás 1922 - scéalaí, ceoltóir, sníomhadóir.

. Brian Ó Baoighill(te), a bhí 96 bliadhain de aois i 1914.

. Clann Mhic Cheamhna (Caulfield): Neans Bn Uí Cheamhna (Neansaidh Shéamuis), bás 1918; Roibeirt; Brian.

. Áine Bn Uí Lorcáin (Ní Mhuireagáin), Lios-Liath.

. Ailidh Ní Mhaol Chraoibhe (Bn Uí Raghallaigh), Baile an tSeascainn.

D'fhoillsigh Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh an t-uathbhás ábhair ó na cainnteoirí seo uilig ar "An tUltach" agus ina chuid leabar.

Triúr as Óméith atá ar na ceiríní Dögen ó 1931. Tá an mhórchuid den ábhar a fuarthas uathu ar lgh. 295-300 de imleabhar 4 de Atlas Wagner.

. Brian Mhac Cuarta, Árdachadh, a rugadh thart fá 1847.

LA1217: Scéal: Míicil Rice agus a ghamhain.

LA1218: (1) Scéal: Brighid Ní Chuarta agus an cat.

(2) Uimhreacha.

LA1219: Scéal: M'athair agus an tslat lascaireachta.

. Brighid Ní Chaslaigh (Brighid na gCeoltaí, Brigid Casserly). Dromlach. Rugadh i thart fá 1861.

LA1220: Scéal: An Buachaill Láidir

LA1221: (1) Scéal: Cearc Ghoir

(2) Scéal: Mac Dé agus Muire

LA1222: (1) Scéal: Ceann Gamhna

(2) Amhrán: Patrún Óméith

(3) Uimhreacha

(4) Laethe na seachtmhaine

In letters to the Dundalk publisher Mr. Harry Tempest, Michael J Murphy, the folklorist, had this to say about the two native Irish speakers featured below, Anne O'Hanlon and Betty O'Hagan:

"I have found two genuine native (Irish) speakers surviving in Omeath; two others did have their Irish 'polished' in Ardagh school.... the best of the speakers, an Anne O'Hanlon of Lislea, aged over 80, enjoys her tv! And is quite active." (2nd December 1957)

"Betty O'Hagan lives in Knocknagorran (or Balinteskinn) while Anne O'Hanlon lives in Lislea, a few miles apart. Anne at 86 is still active, but the other lady, aged over 90 years, is blind.....These are two genuine native speakers. (I think Anne O'Hanlon has a sister, also a native speaker, around Portadown, but her Irish, for lack of use, must be poor by now)." (8th December 1957)



. Caithtí Bean Mhic Uibhrín (née O'Rourke), Baile an tSeascann nó Árdachadh. Rugadh í thart fá 1853.

LA1223: (1) Focla amhráin: A Nellie Bhán a théagair

(2) Focal amhráin: A bhrollaigh ghléigheal

(3) Focla amhráin: A Nellie bhán go mbeannuighidh Dia dhuit

(4) Uimhreacha

(5) Paidir: An Eiséirghe is binne dá gcuala

San áireamh a rinneadh i 1942/3, ba iad Tomás Mac Árdghail agus Brian Mac Craith a sholáthruigh na liostaí as Óméith. Cúigear déag a bhí siad, Bean Mhic Uibhrín in a measc:

. Mrs Betty McDonnell (née Dobbins), Ardaghy

. Mrs Caití McGivern (née O'Rourke), Ardaghy, aois 90

. Mrs Sarah McQuaid (née O'Hanlon), Ardaghy, aois 81

. Pat Dobbins, Ardaghy, aois 60

. Mrs Mary McKeown (née McKinley), Lislea, aois 95

. Mrs Ann O'Hanlon (née Dobbins), Lislea, aois 72

. Mrs McCann, Lislea, aois 90

. Owen Kane, Lislea, aois 67

. Mary O'Rourke, Bavan, aois 85

. Patrick Caulfield, Bavan, aois 70

. Stephen Boyle, Cnoc na nGabhrán, aois 80

. John Hollywood, Cnoc na nGabhrán, aois 80

. James Boyle, Cor na Muclach, aois 80

. Peter Sloan, Bavan, aois 50

. Michael O'Hanlon, Drumlagh, aois 75

Nuair a tháinig Wagner an bealach in 1950, ní bhfuair sé de chainnteoirí roimhe ach Anna Bean Uí Annluain. Deir sé: "I was able to collect a considerable amount of material from a person who is considered the last native speaker of Omeath Irish. Anna O'Hanlon (maiden name Dobbin), age 78, townland Bavan. Our informant could not converse freely in the language anymore. She had been brought up by an old aunt (Alice Dobbin) who had no English. Mrs O'Hanlon's mother did not speak Irish to her daughter."

Ar iarratas ó Harry Tempest, rinne Michael J Murphy fiosrú in Óméith in 1957, agus dubhairt sé go rabh beirt chainnteoir dúchais ann go fóill: Anna Bean Uí Annluain arís, agus Betty Bean Uí Agáin (née Connolly), Knocknagorran nó Ballinteskinn, a bhí 94 bliadhain de aois, agus arbh as Co an Dúin dona máthair. Luaigh sé go rabh beirt eile ann comh maith, nár ainmnigh sé, a rabh a gcuig Gaedhilge "polished in Ardaghy school"! I measc na ndaoine a ndearn sé teangmháil leo an bhliadhain sin bhí Peter Sloan, Bavin (aois 72, Gaedhilg aige) agus Charlie McQuade, Ardaghy (aois 68, a rabh "still much of the native Gaelic" aige). Comh dóiche lena mhalairt ba iad seo a bhí i gceist.

MUINEACHÁN, TUAISCEART NA MIDHE, OIRTHEAR AN CHABHÁIN

Bhí an Ghaedhilg ní ba láidre, má bhí a dhath, i bhFearnmhuigh i ndeisceart Cho. Mhuineacháin ná bhí sí i ndeisceart Árd Mhacha ag tús an chéid. Ins na paróistí Domhnach Maighín, Machaire Cluana, agus Inis Caoin ba láidre a bhí sí, agus bhí iarsmaí díthe i dtuaisceart na conndae fosta, i gceantar Shliabh Bheatha. Ba as Fearnmhuigh dona cnuasairí Énri Ó Muirgheasa (1974-1945) agus Pádraig Ó Dubhthaigh, agus bhí Seosamh Laoide, Éamonn Ó Tuathail agus Séamus Ó Searcaigh gnoitheach ann comh maith, ach cibé ba chúis leis nior cuireadh mórán suime ins an áit ó 1915 ar ghaidh.

Do réir Énri Ó Muirgheasa, ba í an Ghaedhilg teangaidh choitchianta na ndaoine i bhFearnmhuigh thart fá 1850. Ach bhí athrú mór ann fá 1896: "The present state of Irish in this district [Farney] is this: the older people, say those over 65 or 70, all can speak Irish well; most of the middle-aged people, the grown-up men and women of today, understand Irish, and many of them can speak it fairly; but of the rising generation, say those under thirty years, not one can speak or understand it."

Ba é an scéal céanna a bhí ag Éamonn Ó Tuathail agus é ag cur síos ar chroidhe-lár Ghaedhealtacht Fhearnmhuighe i 1913: "Cha shaoilim go bhfuil áit ar bith i n-Oirghiallaibh go bhfios damh atá níos Gaedhealaighe ná é... Is tearc duine os cionn chúig bliadhain a's dá fhíchid nach bhfuil cuid mhaith Gaedhilge [aige], acht is é an chuid is measa de'n sgéal nach ndéantar úsáid de'n Ghaedhilg sin acht go hannamh. Is é an Béarla atá dá labhairt anois ag na daoine idir óg agus aosta."

Ar na cainnteoirí a bhfuil trácht orthu ón tréimhse seo, tá:

. Eoghan Mac a' Bháird, Cúl Fuar, athair mór Énri Ó Muirgheasa

. Tomás Ó Corragáin, Caisleán Thoir in aice le Lios Dúnáin (bás 1898)

. Tomás Mac Bhruadair, Cairgeach Lios na nÁirní, Inis Caoin (bás roimh 1904)

- . Parra Ó Dálaigh, Dubh-Ráth, Seantonnach, as Bocks ó thúis (c. 1820 -c. 1907)
- . Séamus Ó Cruadhlaoidh (James Crawley), Inis Caoin (bás c.1912)
- . Bean Mhic Cába, Dún Dealgan, as Inis Caoin (c. 1837-c. 1915)
- . Cáitríona Ní Chumasgaigh, Áth na bhFarcán, Domhnach Maighin
- . Máire Ní Dhálaigh, Leacht an Albanaigh, Machaire Cluana

Ní rabh aon duine as Fearnmhuigh ar na ceirníní Dögen, ach dearc go rabh an méid seo le rádh ag Éamonn Ó Tuathail sa bhliadhain chéanna sin 1931 fá Mháire Nic Mhathúna (Dian, Domhnach Maighin) : "she is nearly eighty years of age... she is a very capable singer of Irish folk-songs... during the writer's last visit... she sang four songs and recited, in addition to some prayers, charms, etc., the whole of Mac Cuart's 'Dán Breac', a poem containing one hundred lines. Dictophone records of all the material she could call to mind have been made."

Ní luaidhtear ach beirt as Fearnmhuigh in áireamh 1942/3, ach ní as na cearntracha is láidre Gaedhilge iad agus aidmhithear nach bhfuil an liosta iomlán:

. P McIlroy, Knockatallon, Scotstown

. Patrick Carragher, Broomfield, Castleblaney

Comh maith leo sin, bhí cainnteoir amháin eile beo in 1941 do réir cosamhlachta: Pádraig Ó Mearáin, Druim Gabhna, Fearnmhuigh.

Níl trácht ar bith ar Fhearmmhaigh ins an chéad imleabhar ag Wagner, ach fuarthas amach an cainnteoir deireannach agus tá ábhar uaidh sa cheathramhadh imleabhar. Ba é sin Dónall Tuite as Mullach Uinnseanach, Inis Caoin, a fuair bás i 1957, in aois 82.

Le scéal na Gaedhilge in Oirghialla a dheánadh iomlán, caithfear a luadh gur mhair cainnteoirí dúchais i dtuaisceart Cho na Midhe agus in oirthear Cho an Chabháin go dtí na tríochaidí den chéad seo. (Cha gcuirim Gleann Gaibhleann, in iarthar an Chabháin, san áireamh, nó dar liom go mbaineann sé le Liathdruim agus le Connacht níos mó ná le hOirghialla.)

In oirthear an Chabháin, thart ar Achadh an Iubhair (Virginia), bhí triúr seanfhear beo in 1931 a rabh Gaedhilg acu, iad uilig fá na ceithre scór: Peter Fitzsimmons agus Hugh Fitzsimmons, Carrigbruse (fuair Hugh bás in 1937), agus Owen Coyle, Clonkeiffy.

Bhí cainnteoir amháin i dtuaisceart na Midhe beo i 1938. Ba é sin Tomás (the Badger) Mac Eochagáin, Bail' Gnaoi, an Potail Riach, comhgharach do Loughan ar an taobh thiar-thuaidh de Cheanannas. Rugadh é in 1858. Ní miste a chuimhneamh go rabh an fear seo ina bheathaidh nuair a thoisigh muintir Chonamara a chur fúthu i Ráth Carn i 1935.

Below left : Charlie Mc Quade (68), Ardaghy, Omeath. Photo by M J Murphy, taken May 1957. Below right : Mary Nugent and her great-granddaughter at Dromintee.



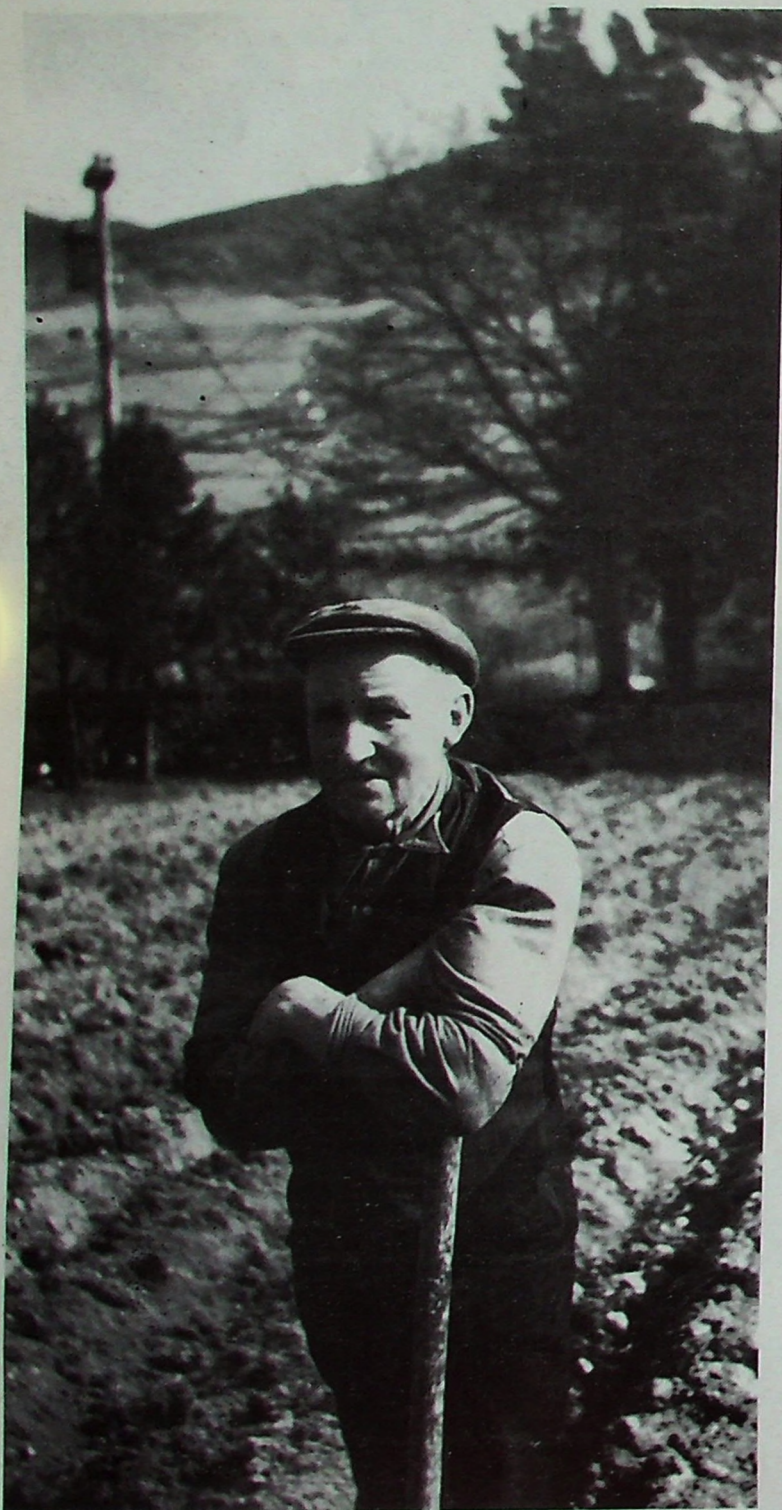


Mrs. Harvissy and her daughter from Sheelagh, Crossmaglen (both native Irish speakers). The photograph was probably taken by Peadar Ó Dubhda in the mid-1920's.



TOP LEFT : Mrs. Byrne, a native Irish speaker from Forkhill.
TOP RIGHT : A Co. Louth Irish speaker. This photograph appeared in "Tempest's Annual" of 1912. All photographs accompanying Dr. Ciarán Ó Duibhín's article were supplied by C. Tempest McCrea of Ravensdale, Co. Lú.

Below, left : Peter Sloan (72) of Bavan, Omeath. Photo taken by M.J. Murphy, April 1957. Below, right : Mick Mc Crink (83), of Ballinamada, Carrickroad, Dromintee.



Is le
caoinhead
Roinn
Bhéaloideas
Éireann
a chuireann
muid bunús na
bpictiúr seo
i gcló





Anseo agus ansiúd

Dódh go talamh Ionad an Phobail sa Chluain in eachtra a tharla i Meitheamh 1991. Bhí muinntir na háite ar buile agus cead acu mar bhí an-dúil acu sa Chlub. Gidh go raibh cuma ghránna ar Ionad an Phobail agus tú ag breathnú air ón taobh amuigh, bhí sé seascair, fairisíngiúil, lán d'áiseanna laistigh. Cháin an comhairleoir áitiúil Pádraig Mac Giolla Rua, SDLP, an scrios mar creidtear gur dódh an áit d'aon turas ag amhais. Tá cónaitheoirí na Cluana ag clamhsán le fada go mbíonn déagóirí ólta ag tarraingt ar an Chluain ó achán chearn agus gan uathu ach damáiste a dhéanamh. Meastar nach fada go mbeidh Bunscoil Phádraig mar thargaid acu. De réir cosúlachta, níl na péas sásta dul chuig an Chluain le linn na hoíche ar eagla oirchill nó bobghaiste a bheith rompu.



Ar chlé tá na filí Cathal Ó Searcaigh agus Aodh Ó Murchú i dteannta a chéile i Leabharlann Scoil Phádraig, Ard Mhacha. Bhí Cathal ann le léacht a thabhairt ar chúrsaí filíochta agus bhí Aodh ag freastal le rang dá chuid atá ag dul don Ghaeilge ag leibhéal 'A' i Scoil na Mainistreach, an t-Iúr. Bhí daltaí sa lucht éisteachta go deimhin ó scoileanna éagsúla agus ba thairbhreach dóibh bualadh le scríbhneoirí a bhfuil an fhilíocht á chumadh acu go fóill. Trua nach bhfuil dánta Chathail agus scríbhinní Aoidh ar na siollabais scoile mar is fearr go mór filíocht a chluinstin ná filíocht a léamh. Roisín de Faoite, múinteoir i Roinn na Nua Theangacha i Scoil Phádraig a d'eagraigh an teacht le chéile. Mar bhónas do mhuintir Ard Mhacha chaith Cathal Ó Searcaigh tráthnóna ina gcomhluadar in Ostlann Charlemont. Tá an taobh sóisialta d'fhoghlaím na Gaeilge forbartha go maith in Ard Mhacha, a bhuíochas sin den grúpa áitiúil CAIRDE NA TEANGA.



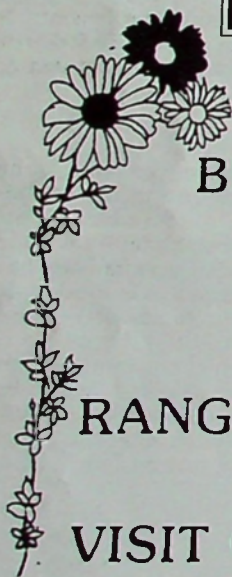
Ar scoil domh chreid mé go raibh an lucht léinn ar fad cosúil le Casaubon san úrscéal "Middlemarch" le George Eliot. Shamhlaigh mé iad mar sheandaoine tur leamh smúitiúil, ag tochailt fríd "tomes of casuistry". Baois na hóige ba chiontach le mo dhearcadh. Nuair a chas mé don chéad uair leis an foclóirí clúiteach Tomás de Bhaldraithe dornán de bhlianta ó shoin ba léir domh go raibh an fear acadúil seo beodhúil agus inniúil do shaol ár linne. Bhuaile mé leis in athuair i mBÁC le deireannas agus bail ó Dhia air tá sé chomh brúfar is a bhí sé riamh. Cén fath nach mbeadh? Baineann sé le gach dá bhfuil ar siúl ag Conradh na Gaeilge ar shon na Gaeilge.



Bhí an-diospóireacht fá lion na ndaoine a ghlac páirt sa pharáid i mBÁC a d'eagraigh an Coiste Náisiúnta de "Reclaim the Spirit of 1916". Dar le nuachtán amháin ó dheas, ní raibh i láthair ach 5,000; mheas na Gardai go raibh corradh is 10,000 ann; chreid iriseoirí "LÁ" go raibh amuigh is istigh ar 20,000 sa mhórshiúil. Rud amháin a thig linn a bheith deimhneach faoi ná go raibh tacaíocht Chonradh na Gaeilge suntasach feiceálach le linn na paráide mar bhí plugaí móra an Chonartha i láthair. Thug mé faoi deara, áfach, go raibh ceannairí Chumann Lúthchleas Gael tearc go leor ar an talamh. Duine eile a bhí in easnamh ná Bernadette McAliskey, rud a chur iontas orm d'éis an méid a dúirt si ar Shráid Uí Chonaill um Cháiste anuraidh.

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RANGE OF IRISH JEWELLERY
VISIT OUR FRIENDLY STORE.

Gaelearraí
lontaofa

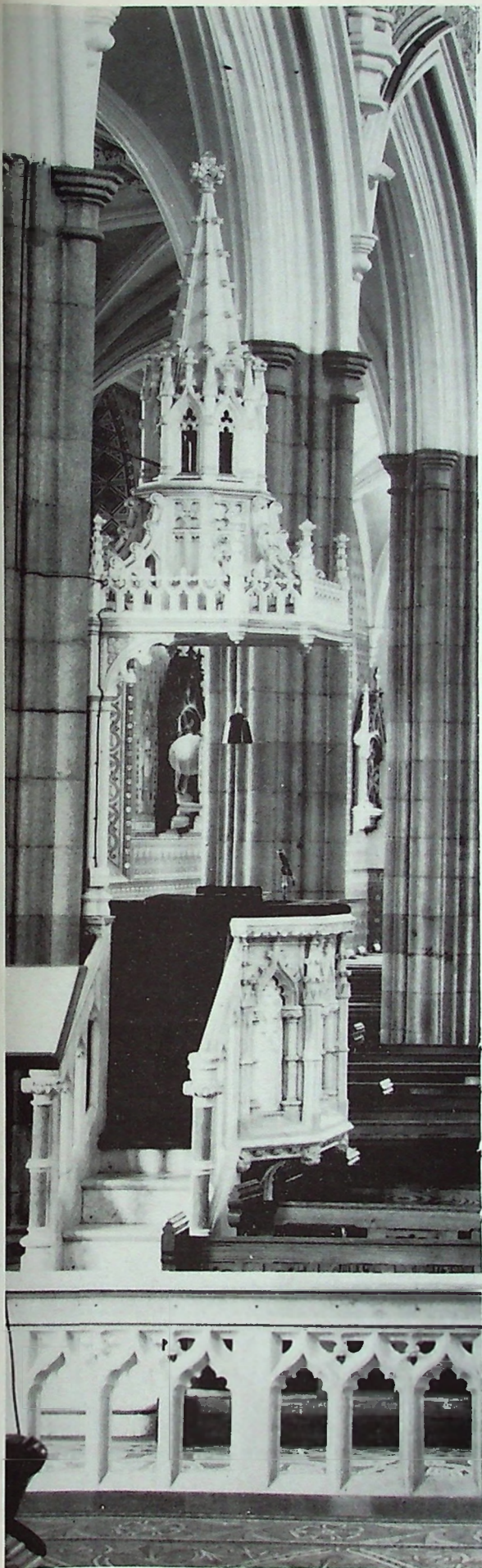


Molann an obair an saor

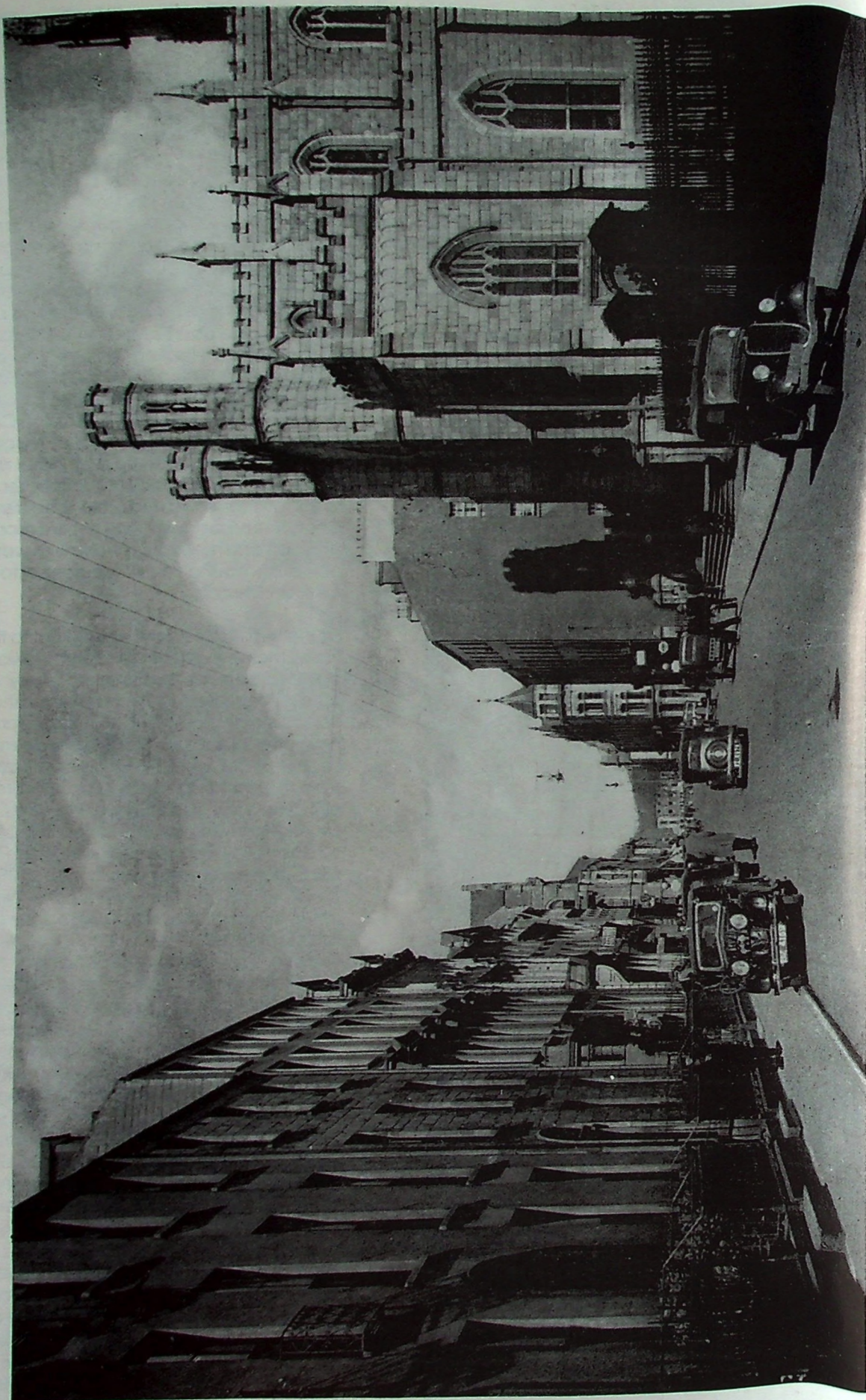
The alterations to Newry's Cathedral have been well received. Many parishioners were initially less than happy with the proposed Cathedral renovation scheme and the Church authorities in the Dromore Diocese quickly became aware that their decision to alter the Cathedral's sanctuary had caused consternation throughout the parish. Consultations with parishioners had not taken place and the whole plan was presented to the people as a *fait accompli*. Such was the general dissatisfaction about the projected changes that Bishop Francis G. Brooks issued a letter in September 1989 justifying his decision to proceed with the renovations to the Cathedral. The letter went some way to allay misgivings but the fear lingered that the Cathedral might irrecoverably lose its traditional character. Added to this, of course, was the prolonged disruption of Church services during the twelve months construction and renovative work, with weddings in particular having to be transferred to the Dominican Church.

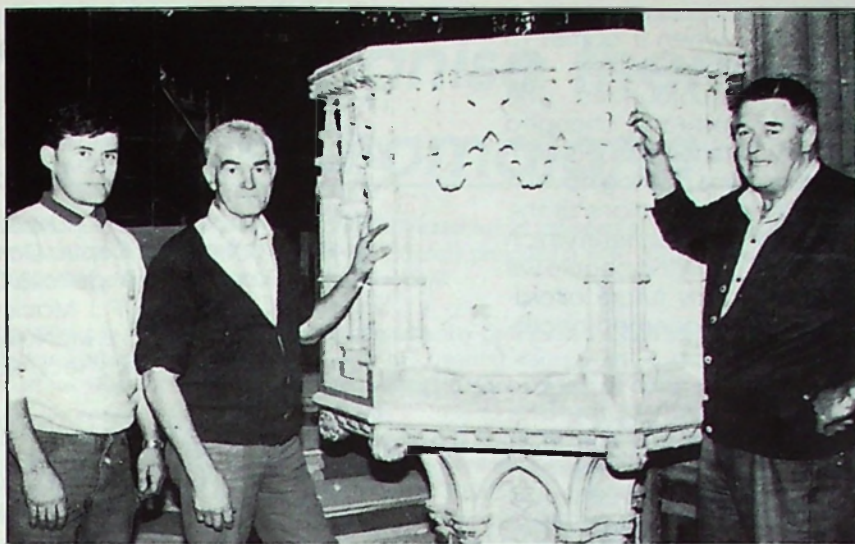
Of the many alterations carried out to the sanctuary, the new altar is the most noteworthy and has become the cynosure of every eye. Its present central position and artistic ornamentation command attention. The front panel of the new altar is actually the fine representation of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" transferred from the Cathedral's previous high altar. Relics of St. Malachy and St. Oliver Plunkett (donated by the late Tomás Ó Fiaich, Cairdinéal, Go nDéana Dia Trócaire Air) have joined the earlier relics placed beneath the altar in 1925. One of the more radical changes has been the removal of the altar rails, the aim being to unite more fully the people with their priest. (The decision to remove altar rails in other churches has been controversial especially in view of the fact that some defunct altar rails have been acquired by modern designers and have subsequently appeared in such diverse settings as public houses and restaurants.) Those Newry Catholics wishing to receive the Eucharist in a kneeling position have been accommodated in that a section of the rails has been retained at each side of the altar. This was a judicious design decision, given the obvious conservative temperament of a considerable number of worshippers in the Cathedral.

The Bishop's Chair has been moved from its previous position, near the old high altar, to a more conspicuous situation to the left of the extended sanctuary as the congregation faces the altar. The tabernacle, with its richly decorative golden door, has been thrown into greater relief by being edged forward somewhat, and is now resting on a plinth. Additional floor space,



ARDEAGLAIS AN IÚIR





Left The pulpit, during the alterations with Eamon Nogher, Matt McKevitt and Charlie McCann from Felix O'Hare & Co, who were present throughout the full period of renovations.

occasioned by the changes in the sanctuary area, meant that an Italian firm of mosaic specialists, Centro Domus Dei of Rome, had to be commissioned to add to the mosaic floor decorations. The traditional Irish designs in mosaic which already featured in the Cathedral have been retained in the newly covered area. It was heartening to see that Irish made carpet, with its Celtic design border, was utilised to cover the steps leading to the new altar and to the tabernacle.

Other alterations, this time for the greater comfort of the parishioners and not necessarily changes of an aesthetic nature, include a more powerful lighting system which, thankfully, has not necessitated the removal of the very distinc-

tive lanterns which have been such a feature of the Cathedral, at least in this writer's lifetime. Sound and heating systems have also been ameliorated and much of the interior of the Cathedral has been cleaned and refurbished. The baptismal font has been re-sited from its position in the cramped and uncongenial setting under the Cathedral's tower to an altogether more spacious and befitting setting in St. Joseph's Chapel.

As earlier indicated, the original decision to implement the changes at the Cathedral sent ripples of dissatisfaction throughout the catholic population of Newry. The Church's own hierarchical structures do not readily transpose to a community which values a collective decision-



Taobh amuigh d'Ardeaglais an Iúir, 1932.

making process, especially when it comes to spending that community's own money. Still, some of the discontent was unfounded. The Cathedral has been changed (and changed radically one might add) in times past, so contrary to popular belief there was nothing novel in effecting structural or design alterations at the Cathedral. Perhaps though the manner in which the changes were imposed upon the people will merit some reflection when any future alterations to Church properties are deemed necessary in the Diocese.

Newry Cathedral, Mother Church of the Diocese of Dromore, and easily one of the most imposing edifices in County Down, has emerged resplendant after twelve months of innovative and restorative work to its interior. The Cathedral's ornate character has been enhanced, its dignity retained and its prayerful ambience restored. The work has been a credit to the workmen and women involved, and to the Church authorities who undertook the alterations in the firm conviction that what they were doing would make worship in the Cathedral more meaningful to Newry's Catholics. The old has been preserved, if occasionally re-positioned, and the new has been artistically blended with the old. Bishop F.G. Brook's aim of retaining the existing style of architecture and ornamentation of the Cathedral and of

"..... facilitating the greatest possible participation by the assembled congregation - through good visibility, effective acoustics, clear lighting and adequate space for movement"

has been achieved to the satisfaction of all.

FIRMS INVOLVED IN THE ALTERATIONS :

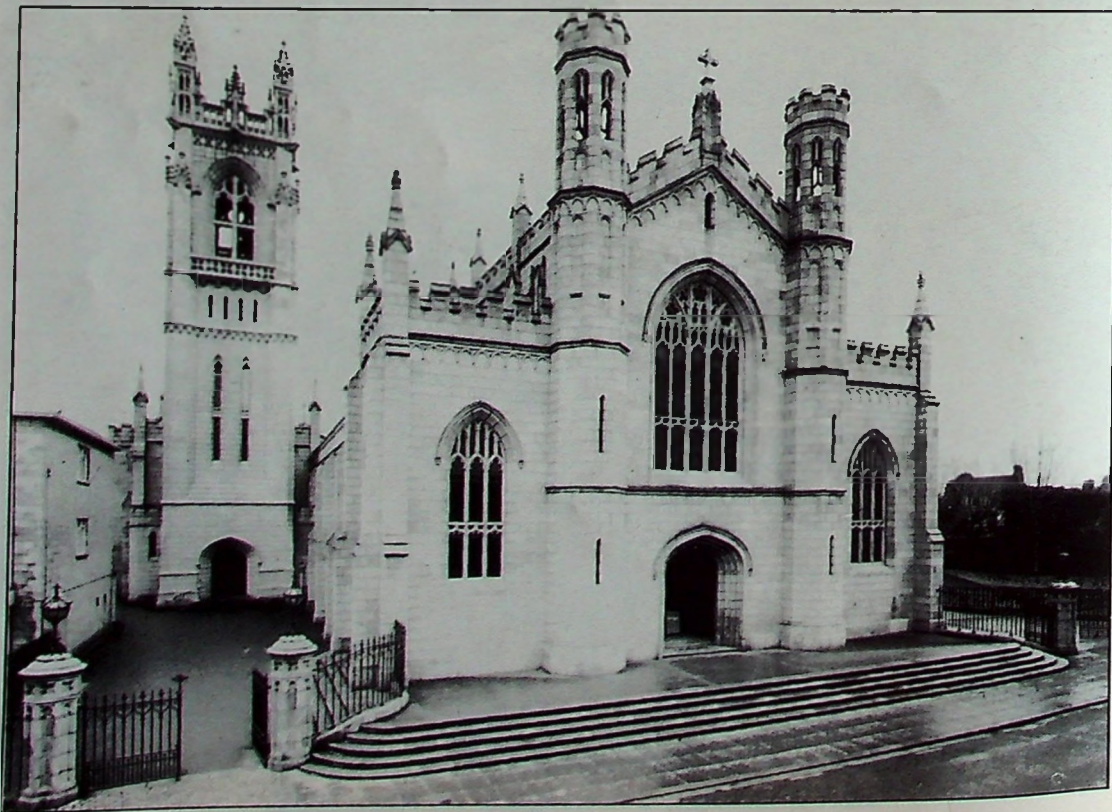
Architect : McLean and Forte, Belfast.
Consulting Engineer : Nicholas O'Dwyer, Newry.
Quantity Surveyor : Lonergan Lawless Partnership, Newry.
Main Contractor : Felix O'Hare & Co. Ltd., Newry.
Mosaic Contractor : Centro Domus Dei, Rome.
Marble Contractor : A. dePol & Co. Ltd., Belfast.
Painting Contractor : P.J. Mackin, Warrenpoint.
Electrical Contractor : E. McNulty & Sons, Newry.
Heating Engineer : Hinds Heating Ltd., Portaferry.

IN ATTENDANCE AT THE CATHEDRAL OF SS. PATRICK AND COLMAN, NEWRY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOLEMN CONCELEBRATED MASS OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION OF THE NEW ALTAR, SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER 1990, THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING :

Rev. Dr. Francis Gerard Brooks.
Papal Nuncio Archbishop Emmanuele Gerada.
Rev. Dr. Cathal Daly.
Bishop John Magee of Cloyne.
Bishop Edward Daly of Derry.
Bishop Joseph Duffy of Clogher.
Bishop Francis Mc Kernan of Kilmore.
Bishop Patrick Walsh and Bishop Anthony Farquhar, Auxiliary Bishops of Down and Connor.

Cathedral Choir Organist : Florence Mc Mahon.
Musical Director : Fr. Terence Rafferty.
Soloists : Deirdre O'Hara; Kathleen Mc Coy; Malachy Delahunt; Janice Mc Elroy.

THE CATHEDRAL



Cathedral Publications.

Women organise themselves in Dromalane

Dromalane Mother and Toddlers' group was originally established ten years ago but sadly had to disband after an arson attack on the local community centre. When the Council provided a new purpose-built centre three years ago, the Mother and Toddlers' group re-formed in September 1989.

The group operates each Friday morning in the community centre from 11am to 1pm. It is open to all women living in the Dromalane/Fathom Park area regardless of age, marital status, with or without children. The group's primary function is to allow women to have time to themselves, in the company of other women.

Newry Volunteer Bureau and Ms Marie McStay have been instrumental in helping the group to re-establish itself and in getting the committee up and running again. Since September 1989 Marie McStay has worked constantly with the group in providing courses, initially as a tutor with the local Adult Education Centre and more recently in her new role as manager of the training division of the Warrenpoint based agency, Business World Ltd. The Volunteer Bureau has helped and supported the group's committee in its work and has provided two volunteers to run a creche facility for the pre-school children. This allows the mothers to attend the training courses. The group now has a wide range of toys and equipment designed to meet the early learning needs of the children attending. The mothers are assured that the children are constantly supervised and encouraged to play with the toys.

Since September 1989 the women who attend the group have completed a number of short courses with Marie McStay including Assertiveness Training and Confidence Building, Basic Maths, Healthy Eating and Relaxation. Last winter, the group did a course which was based on an appreciation of Anglo/Irish Literature. The highlight of the course was a visit to the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, to see a play, a new opportunity for most of the group members. More recently the women have done a ten week course on Women in Health and a further course on Women in the Environment which was designed to raise awareness of environmental issues.

Marie McStay reflecting on her experience of working with the group said, "I believe that attending the Mother and Toddlers' group has had positive spin-offs for a lot of the women. By taking the time out to look at their own needs and their own self development, some women have gained the confidence to return to education or have taken up further training with the Volunteer Bureau or have become more actively involved in the local community in helping provide activities for the young people and the Senior Citizens."

At present the Dromalane Mother and Toddlers' Group is the only group of its kind operating in the Newry area and perhaps other communities in Newry might be encouraged to look at setting up a similar service for their members. The Dromalane women would certainly recommend it.



Gairdeas agus meanma mhór ar shráideanna an Iúir.

Ba ardú meanman do mhuintir an Dúin an gaisce a rinne peileadóirí an Chondae nuair a bhain siad Corn Mhig Uidhir i Meán Fómhair 1991. Dar le daoine a bhfuil cuimhne níos fearr acu ná mar atá agam féin, ní raibh a leithéid de cheiliúradh ann siar i 1960 fiú nuair a thóg foireann an chontae an Corn trasna na teorann ar ais leo don chéad uair.



Bhí dhá scór míle duine ag fanacht go foighneach ag bun Bhóthair Bhaile Átha Cliath an oíche a d'fhill na laochra ar a bhfód féin. Fearadh fáilte roimh na peileadóirí is a lucht bainisteoireachta a chuir ag smaointiú mé ar an fáiltiú a tugadh ar an lá stairiúil úd a tháinig An Pápa, Eoin-Pól, chuig Droichead Átha. Ach bratacha an Dúin a bhí ar foluain in Iúr Chinn Trá an babtha seo, chan bratacha phápacha. Agus na bratacha luaite agam, ba thrua nach raibh "An Dún" scríofa ar níos mó acu in ionad "Down". Dúshlán d'Oifigeach Gaeilge ar Bhord an Chontae a chinntiú go mbeidh i bhfad níos mó caipíní píce, scairfeanna, t-léintí 7rl., agus manaí as Gaeilge orthu, nuair a bheas bunadh an Dúin i bPáirc an Chrócaigh arís ar an bhliain seo chugainn.





Was this photo taken outside the Newry Bridewell?

THE R.U.C. IN NEWRY

Const. Deignan, Shanks and Jimmy Donnelly
Grianghraf le caoinhead ó H. Golding



**Funeral of Head Constable Trainor, RUC,
as it moved along Catherine Street.**

(The civilian in centre is Mickey Hollywood)

PHOTOGRAPH FROM C.McDONALD COLLECTION



Charles Mc Donald

Photograph courtesy of the SAVAGE FAMILY.



**BOB SAVAGE LEADS THE
COLOUR PARTY AT A 1960's
EASTER PARADE**

Bíonn dhá thaobh ar an mbileog

Fuarthas an cuntas seo a leanas ó Cholste "Reclaim the Spirit of 1916" in lúr Chinn Trá. Tá tagairtí ann do alt a chum Fabian Boyle, Iriseoir gairmiúil, ar an "IRISH NEWS" Sathairn na Cásca 1991. Ar éigean sásta a bhí poblachtaigh an lúir le tuairisc áirithe seo Fabian agus is léir ón méid atá le rá acu go mbíonn dhá insint ar achan scéal. Beidh a b(h)arúil féin ag gach leitheoir.

"For Catholics and nationalists in the North, Easter has a dual symbolism, uniquely uniting the twin strands of religion and politics in their ethos, commemorating both the 1916 Rising and the Resurrection."

Until the outbreak of the Troubles, this unity was best illustrated as the congregation poured out of Newry Cathedral after Mass for those who 'died for Ireland', joining the parade en route to St. Mary's Cemetery.

And despite the pluralism of the 1916 Proclamation, read out at the Republican Monument, pledging to 'cherish all the children of the nation equally', the recitation of a decade of the Rosary in Irish sent a clear message to Protestant nationalists."

(All extracts in the English language from FABIAN BOYLE'S, "Gone are the days of innocence on Easter Week", 'Irish News', 30 Márta, 1991).

Ag an mórshiúil a ba mhó a bhí ann leis na blianta in lúr Chinn Trá ar Dhomhnach na Cásca, shiúil na mílte poblachtach ó Shráid Phroinsias, a bhí maisithe le mionbhratacha, go dtí reilg N. Muire ar Bhóthar Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua. Bhí idir óg is aosta rannpháirteach ann agus bhain an lucht máirseála taitneamh nach beag as imeachtaí na maidine. As siocair cúig bannaí ceoil a bheith i láthair agus an aimsir a bheith cineálta, tharla go raibh níos mó páistí agus cuairteoirí ann ná mar is iondúil. Ceiliúradh ar leith a bhí ann, dar ndóigh, mar bhíodar ag comóradh 75 Bliain ó Eirí Amach na Cásca 1916. Daoine nár ghlac páirt in aon pharáid na blianta beaga aniar, d'fhill siad i gcomhair na hócáide.

Ní le holc a chur ar Phrotastúnaigh atá deichniúr den phaidrín á rá as Gaeilge ar Dhomhnach na Cásca. (Ní dócha ar aon nós go mbeadh Protastúnaigh, ar náisiúntóirí iad, ró-bhuartha fá paidreacha i dteanga ar bith). Glacann poblachtaigh leis nach le dream áirithe amháin an Ghaeilge agus is deargamaidí a rá gur mar uirlis chun neamhchaitlicigh a choimhthiú ar Dhomhnach na Cásca atá urnaithe as Gaeilge ráite. Tá sé mínósach ag an tUas. Boyle a dhéanamh amach gurbh í an aidhm sin a spreag macasamhail Patrick Lavery, Johnny Southwell, Malachi Quinn, Dr. Quinn, Brian Mac Pheadair, Tomás Mac Ardghail nó duine ar bith eile síos fríd na mblianta chun deichniúr den Choróin Mhuire a rá ag uaigneanna na bpoblachtach san lúr.

"For the next 20 years (1948-1968) all aspects of nationalist life in the locality participated (in the Easter Parade), including Irish National Foresters, Ancient Order of Hibernians, GAA clubs plus many bands, most





of the marchers adjourning to some hostelry where the strains of 'Kevin Barry' and other patriotic ballads came loud and clear.....

But that vague sense of national identity was exposed to sharp scrutiny by the upheaval of the Civil Rights Movement, focussing simply on the rights of the minority within the Northern State, and later with the 'armed struggle' of the Provisional IRA.....

And there was the paradox that those who most publicly paraded their anti-British sentiments were readers of British tabloids, passionate supporters of English soccer teams, devotees of 'Eastenders' and 'Coronation Street' and had a total ignorance of the importance of the Irish language, history, music and Gaelic games.'

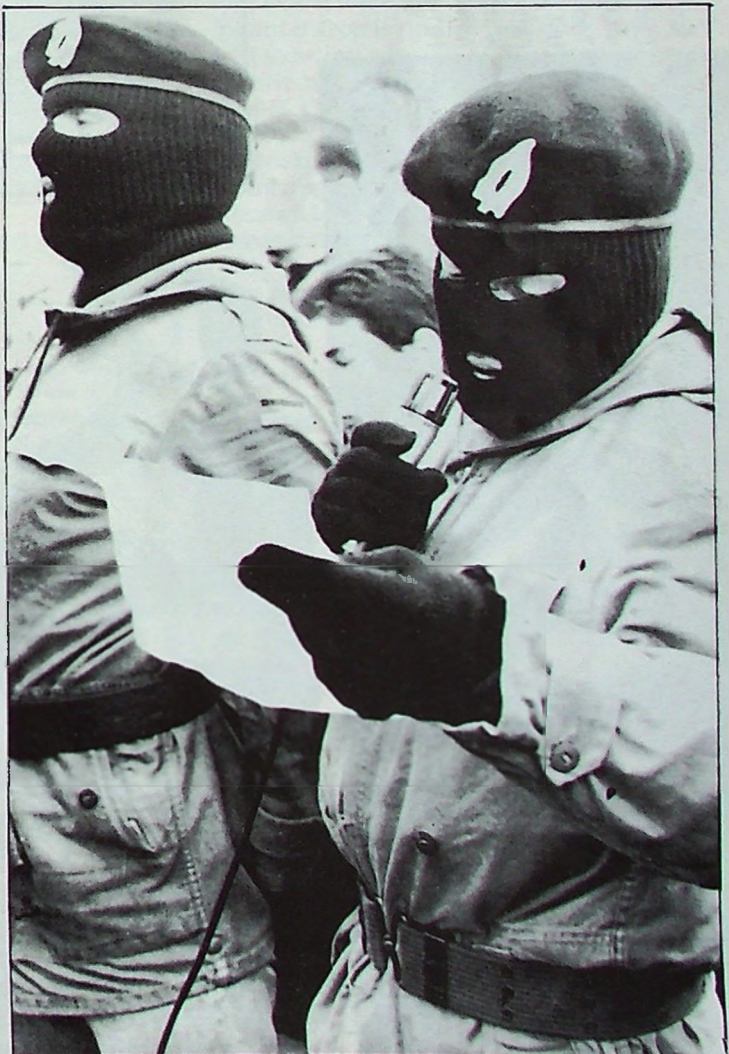
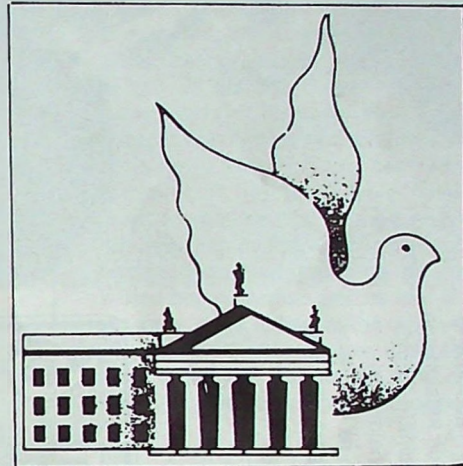
Ar na daoine a bhí ann mar aionna speisialta ag an Pharaid i mbliana, tá duine amháin acu ar Choiste Gnó Chonradh na Gaeilge; duine eile atá ina pheileadóir aithnidiúil de chuid Chumann Lúthchleas Gael; bean atá dlúthcheangáilte le Gluaiseacht na Poblachta le dhá scór bliain anuas; agus iar-mhúinteoir scoile a ligeadh saor ó na Blocanna-H le deireannas. Ba í Bairbre de Brún an t-aoi-chainteoir ag an tionól a chruinnigh thart fá leacht cuimhneacháin na Poblachta. Níl 'fhios agam go beacht, ach tá trí nó ceithre cinn de theangacha ar a toil aici agus is duine dúthrachtach í nár chóir d'éinne a coimhínt do chuspóirí Gluaiseacht na Poblachta a dhíspeagadh. Astu siúd a chuaigh chuig reilig N. Mhuire, is cosúil go léann roinnt acu nuachtáin cáidheacha na Breataine ceart go leor, ach cén dochar? Ní bhaineann caitheamh aimsire de na cineálacha atá roghnaithe ag Fabian Boyle le cúrsaí polaitíochta. Pé scéal é, tá sé tábhachtach in ammanáí truíl a léamh sa dóigh is go mbeadh freagra tugtha agus claonargóint curtha ina gceart. Níl sé cothromach ach oiread gach aon phoblachtach a fhluchadh in aon chith amháin mar atá déanta ag an tUas. Boyle. Ní dúramáin iad poblachtaigh an cheantair seo, ainneoin a mhalairt á chraobhscaoileadh ag Fabian Boyle. D'eagraigh an coiste áitiúil de "Reclaim the Spirit of 1916" comórtas Tráth na gCeist sa teach tábhairne "Hermitage". Cuireadh ceisteanna fá stair logánta, stair náisiúnta, cultúr, spóirt agus litríocht na hEireann. Díoladh corradh is dhá chéad go leith cóip de leagan Gaeilge de "Forógra na Cásca" a cuireadh i gcló ag Gaeil an lúir agus a scaipeadh i ndiaidh na Paráide. Go bhfios domh, ba é an t-lúir an t-aon áit sa tír ina raibh an cháipéis fíor-thábhachtach seo athfhoilsithe as Gaeilge um Cháisc.

Meanwhile the Tricolour will be carried along Newry's main street by opposing 'republican' groups..... a sad reflection on those who claim to represent the Spirit of Easter Week, 75 years after that flag was first raised over the GPO in Dublin."

Tá barúil amuigh ann, cumtha ag lucht athscríobh na staire, go raibh Ré Órga tráth ag Gluaiseacht na Poblachta, gur loiceadh ar an aisling ó shin, agus nach bhfuil san eagraíocht atá inniu ann ach scroblach. Tá an t-alt úd le Fabian Boyle ag cur leis an miotas sin. Tá anailís Fabian Boyle ar Gluaiseacht na Poblachta suibíochtúil, maslach, bunaithe cuid mhaith ar mheathchuimhní mhaoithneacha agus lomlán le míchruinneas. Ní raibh ach an t-aon pharáid amháin ann i mbliana - mar a bhí anuraidh. Lena chois sin, ní ar phríomhsráid an lúir atá bealach na Paráide ar chor ar bith. B'fhéidir go bhfuil Fabian Boyle sásúil go leor mar

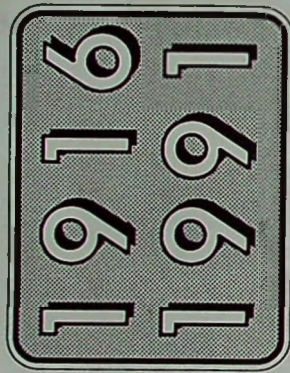
scríobhnóir ficsin agus é ag maíomh as na heachtraí áitéiseacha a tharla le linn dó a bheith fostaithe mar ghrianghrafadóir leis an "Armagh Observer", ach ó thaobh Gluaiseacht na Poblachta de ar an lúir níl aige ach smeareolas. Alt lóipíneach leatromach a scríobh an tUas. Boyle agus ba bhocht an mhaise dó déanamh amhlaidh. Bhí Paráid na Cásca 1991 in lúir Chinn Trá gach uile phioc chomh dínítiúil is a bhí Paráid ar bith riamh. Is díol trua nach raibh Fabian Boyle sa lucht féachána.

Breandán Ó Curráin.





↔ Lucht ceannasalochta
an Chonartha, agus
Tomás Mac Anna, a
bhí chun tosaigh sna
himeachtaí i mBÁC
le haghaidh Éirí
Amach na Cásca
1916 a cheiliúradh.



Saoithe ón húr a ghilac
páirt i gcomórtas
Tráth na gCeist
sa Hermitage. Bhí
na ceisteanna
bunaithe ar an
téama 1916.



LETTER LITIR

A chara,

The Irish language section of your page entitled "Tuairimí/Opinions" in the last edition (1991) of "Cuisle na nGael" made some pertinent comments about the destruction of Newry's quays. Each time I return to Newry, I find to my dismay that the town's traditional character is being steadily eroded. The historic Newry quays, to put it bluntly, have been devastated by "developers". Planners have shown a blatant disregard for Newry's (albeit limited) architectural heritage. Most of the old warehouses and commercial buildings have been obliterated, monstrosities erected in their place, and no one has batted an eyelid. Public representatives have remained curiously mute on the issue and good-willed but powerless bodies like the Civic Trust can only stand aghast at the ongoing destruction. The business fraternity too, it must be added, has been a party to the almost total erasure of any semblance of our past as a major port and trading centre.


One look at the restored warehouse where Toner's electrical shop is situated behind the Town Hall will show just what can be done to preserve our historic buildings. The Clanrye Project at the former Christian Brothers' Abbey is further evidence of renovative work which has been undertaken and which has retained the original character of the buildings in question. Meanwhile though, the Sugar Island Quays area in particular has been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that some of the buildings will soon become dangerous to passers-by. It should be remembered that it was precisely this argument about safety that was used to justify the levelling of old North Street/Castle Street some years ago.

Are Newry citizens so oblivious to their environment and heritage that they can quietly acquiesce in the spoilage of some of the few remaining older parts of the town? Is Newry to lose all its native character and become merely a centre for building society offices and fast-food outlets? Newry ratepayers who object to what is happening to their town must make their feelings known at local authority and Dept. of Environment levels. My own sources in Newry inform me that plans are afoot to effect fundamental alterations to the town's courthouse. If such is the case, why not persuade the Court Service to acquire a new site and to sell the courthouse to the Council? The courthouse, if now unsuited to the transaction of the town's legal affairs, would make a first class museum and tourist information centre.

M. Mac an tSaoir
Bóthair Edgware,
London.

*(Top and left)
Some of the
warehouses at
Sugar Island
Quay which
have been
recently dem-
olished to
make way for
road 'improv-
ements'.*





Craobh an Iúir de Chomhaltas Uladh CONRADH NA GAEILGE

NEWRY BRANCH GAELIC LEAGUE

Tá CRAOBH AN IÚIR de Chomhaltas Uladh ar an Chraobh is mó de chuid Chonradh na Gaeilge atá ag feidhmiú sa cheantar seo. Bunaíodh an Chraobh san aois seo chuaigh thart, sa bhliain 1897, agus tá muid ag freastal ar lucht na Gaeilge sna bólaí seo ó shin. Tá ranganna á chur ar fáil againn do dhaoine fásta agus le linn an tSamhraidh chuaigh thart fá scór ball de chuid na Craoibhe chuig cúrsaí Gaeilge a bhí á reachtáil ag Comhaltas Uladh sa Ghaeltacht.

Má tá fonn ort an mheirg a bhaint de do chuid Gaeilge níl le déanamh agat ach teagmháil a dhéanamh le duine de na múinteoirí thíosluaite :

Ardrang : Seán Mac Dhaibhéid

Meánrang : Róisín Bean Mhic Thréinfhir

Meánrang : Marcas Mac Alasdair

Bunrang : Pádraig Ó Maonaile

Tá fáilte roimh chách i gConradh na Gaeilge

The Gaelic League is a voluntary independent organisation

Gearr-chuntas ar stair Chraobh Ard Mhacha de Chonradh na Gaeilge

Tús Ré an Chonartha i gCathair Ard Mhacha

Seacht mbliain i ndiaidh bhunú Chonradh na Gaeilge cuireadh tús le hobair na Gaeilge in Ard Mhacha nuair a tháinig sagart óg, an tAth. Seosamh Mac Brádaigh, isteach ar an bhaile agus é go mór i bhfách le soiscéal na hathbheochana a chraobhscaoileadh. Rugadh i ndeisceart an chontae é i gceantar Choilleach Eanách.

Le linn a óige chuaigh a mhuintir a chónaí in Oméith Mara agus ba ansin a chuir sé lena stóras Gaeilge. I ndiaidh theacht go hArd Mhacha dó chuir sé ranganna Gaeilge ar bun faoi stiúir iar-mhúinteora scoile, fear a raibh Mag Uinseannáin air, as deisceart an chontae. Bhí muintir Ard Mhacha páirteach i gcomórtaisí Fheis Oméith a tionóladh ar an Domhnach, 18 Lúnasa, 1901, agus thug leo an chraobh i gCór-chomórtais na Feise. Dála an scéil, bhí an Cairdinéal Ó Luadhóg mar phatrún ar an ócáid. An dara bhliain, fostaíodh Conallach óg mar mhúinteoir, Brian Ó Cianáin, ach níor mhair sé ach tamall, agus b'éigean don Athair Mac Brádaigh agus a chomh-shagart, an tAth. Micheál Ó Coinne, dhul i mbun na hoibre iad féin. Is cosúil nár éirigh go ró-mhaith lena n-iarracht, nó bhí orthu na ranganna a athbhunú i 1907-8 agus mhair siad ar chineál de dhóigh go dtí 1913.

Ba sa bhliain sin a tháinig Séamus Ó Maoileóin a theagasc Gaeilge i Scoil na mBráthar ar an bhaile. Deir Séamus ina leabhar, "B'fhiú an Braon Fola" gur chaill sé a phost i gceann na bliana de bharr é a bheith ag obair "in éadan an Réamonnaigh". Cibé ar bith, le cois é a bheith ag cur chun cinn na Gaeilge tá sé soiléir go raibh an mhór-chuid dá dhúthracht á chaitheamh aige ag neartú na Bráithreacha ar fud an chontae i gcuideachta Shéamuis Uí Chonghaile as Ard Mhacha agus Sheáin Southwell as Iúr Chinn Trá. Maíonn sé gur tairgeadh halla Oráisteach in aice le Ard Mhacha dó le haghaidh ranganna Gaeilge agus céilithe, nuair a dhiúltaigh an sagart an halla Caitliceach a thabhairt! Deir sé fosta go raibh roinnt Protastúnach ag freastal ar na ranganna, ina measc ceann feadhna na nOráisteach!

Cuireadh Craobh de Chonradh na Gaeilge ar bun i 1917. "An Chraobh Rua" a tugadh uirthi. Ba iad seo na múinteoirí a bhí ann: Seán Ó Raghallaigh, Pádraig Mac Cionnaith, Enri Mac

an Ghirr agus an Máistir Mac Meanman. Ba é Dan Gibbons as Banbrook an duine a b'fhearr a d'fhoghlaim na Gaeilge. Sa bhliain 1919 fuair sé scoláireacht go Coláiste Oméith agus thúsaiigh sé an bhliain ina dhiaidh sin a theagasc na Gaeilge. Ba é Micheál Mac Cuarta an duine a ba líofa Gaeilge, fear a bhí ní ba mhoille ina shagart in Nua Eabhrach.

Faoi bhliain 1921 bhíodh ranganna ar obair ag múinteoirí na Craoibhe i mBaile Mac an Aba, Baile Uí Agáin, in Ard Mhacha agus i bPortmór, agus, chomh maith le sin, ranganna damhsa faoi stiúir Mhíchil Mhic Shuibhne agus Dhónaíl Mhic Ghiobúin. Ní raibh rang damhsa de dhiobháil in Ard Mhacha: bhí na damhsaí ar eolas acu ansin, agus céilithe go rialta acu i Halla na Cathrach - sa Halla Beag an chuid is mó den am, ach anois is arís sa Halla Mór.

An tAth. Mac Eoin a bhí ina Uachtarán ar an Chraobh agus Séamus Ó Raghallaigh an Leas-Uachtarán. Ar an Coiste bhí Enri Mac an Ghirr, Séamus Ó Conghaile, Pádaí Baxter, Johnnie Mac an Ghirr agus Pádaí Ó Corragáin. Ar na mná a bhíodh ann, bhí Níonacha Uí Cholgáin, Lal Ní Throdáin agus Treasa Ní Ghormaile.

Bhí dornán maith airgid sa chiste nuair a tháinig an bhliain 1920-'21. Socraíodh fleá a reachtáil do pháistí an bhaile agus socraíodh fosta múinteoir a cheapadh do na ranganna. Reachtáladh an fhleá - ní raibh cuideachta go dtí i, de réir cosúlachta - agus ceapadh múinteoir. Ní go réidh a glacadh leis an ceapachán. Strainséir a bhí ann, Mac Uí Chonghaile, a bhí ina sháirsint ar na Gardáil lá ní b'fhuide anonn. An tAth. Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh a thug ann é, a mhol é, agus a d'áitigh ar an cruinniú glacadh leis, d'ainneoin toil an chruinnithe a bheith le Dónal Mac Giobúin as an bhaile. Bhí tuarastal ag dhul leis an post. Socraíodh ranganna don Chongháileach i bPortmór, i gCéide agus in Ard Mhacha. D'fhág an tAth. Ó Coinne, Cloch Fhuaráin, an cruinniú nuair a nach raibh a bhaile féin curtha san áireamh.

hAthraíodh an t-ionad cruinnithe go dtí na Seomraí Léachta i Sráid Ogle. Cuireadh ar bun Cumann de Chainteoirí Gaeilge agus thigeadh siad le chéile gach oíche Dhomhnaigh. Orthu siúd a tháinig, bhí Una Ní Fhril, bean Pheadair Uí Ádhmaill, agus Gallchóireach éigin, cainteoirí dúchais iad beirt. I 1922 tháinig an scoill. Shocraigh an Sagart Mac Eoin cruinniú i Halla na Cathrach agus nhol rún go ndéanadh Rúpaírt Ó Dochartaigh a bhí ag teagasc i Scoil Banbrook, go ndéanadh sé ranganna Gaeilge a reachtáil sa Cheard Scoil. Chuir Pat Ó

Gairbheith go tréan in choinne. Dúirt sé, "an áit nach bhfuil an spiorad, ní hí sin an áit don chorp." D'fhág an sagart an cruinniú. Scar an compánach.

FOINSÍ:

"Ard Mhacha", iris Chraobh Ard Mhacha, 1943. Béal-insint Enrí Mhic an Ghirr, 1977.

"B'fhiú an Braon Fola", le Séamus Ó Maoileóin (Sáirséal agus Dill, 1958).

An Dara Ré 1926-1980

Ag Comhdháil Ghael Uladh in Ard Mhacha ar Lá Fhéile Maolmhaodhóg, an 3ú lá de Mhí na Samhna, 1926, bunaíodh COMHALTAS ULADH DE CHONRADH NA GAELIGE. Bhí an Cairdinéal Ó Dónaill i láthair. De réir na miontuairiscí toghadh mar ionadaí ó Chontae Ard Mhacha ar Choiste an Chúige an tAth. Enrí Ó Muireadhaigh a bhí an t-am sin ag teagasc i gColáiste Phádraig in Ard Mhacha. Ins na blianta ina dhiaidh sin - an t-am, de réir cosúlachta, nuair a bhí idir Bhéarla is Ghaeilge a n-úsáid ag cruinnithe an Choiste - luaitear ar Choiste an Chúige corr-dhuine as an bhaile a bhí báúil leis an Ghaeilge, ach de réir dealraimh ba é Pádraig Mac Giollarnath an chéad ionadaí ón chathair a raibh líofacht na Gaeilge aige. Ceapadh é ag Dáil Mhór an Chomhaltais 1932, ach bhí sé gníomhach roimhe sin in obair na Gaeilge ar an bhaile. Ag teagasc i gColáiste Phádraig a bhí sé agus d'eagraigh sé an chéad bhailiúchán ar son na teanga a chuala mise fá dtaobh de ar Lá Fhéile Pádraig 1932, le linn ceiliúrtha míle go leith bliain ó theacht Phádraig go hÉirinn.

An bhliain ina dhiaidh sin cuireadh dlús le hobair na Gaeilge ar an bhaile nuair a ceapadh an Sagart Seán Ó Coinne mar shagart cúnta sa pharóiste. Fear suailceach, éirimiúil, deabhriathrach a bhí ann a bhí suaite i dtraidisiún na tíre. Scoláire clasaiceach a bhí ann. Lena chois sin ba mhór an réimse eolais a bhí aige ar Ghearmánais, ar Fhraincis agus go fiú ar an Eabhrais, ach ba é mian a chroí an Ghaeilge. D'fhág sé rian a phearsantachta agus a intinne ar an iomaí duine a casadh dó, ina measc scoláire óg a bhí daite le bheith ina Chomharba Phádraig insna blianta níos faide anonn. Ba ghoirid i ndiaidh theacht an tSagairt Uí Choinne go raibh ranganna Gaeilge ar siúl ar fud an bhaile, scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta á ndáileadh agus na scórthaí ag tarraingt ar Rann na Feirsde. Faoin bhliain 1942 bhí an obair faoi lán tseoil agus na céadta ag foghlaim na Gaeilge faoi scaifte de dhíograiseoirí. Orthu siúd bhí an tAth. Ó Coinne féin, Pádraig Mac Giollarnath agus a bhean Brid, Seán Ó Baoill, Peadar Ó Raithbheartaigh, Diarmuid Ó hIocaí, Caoimhín Ó Floinn, Séamus Mac Gairbheith, Gráinne Ní Dhaeid, Micheál Mac Grianna, Seán Mac Gioll Ailealla, Tomás Mac Gearailt, Pádraig Ó hÁdhmaill agus a bhean, Máire. Go fiú, Gaeilgeoir ar bith a tháinig isteach ar an bhaile, chuirtear i gcionn oibre é/i, ina measc an tOllamh le Gaeilge anois in Ollscoil na Ríona.

Le cois hallaí a bheith in úsáid le aghaidh ranganna, bhí buan-árus ag an Chonradh i lár na príomh-sráide le haghaidh cruinnithe agus ranganna fé leith. B'ann a bhí leabharlann na Craoibhe agus b'ann a bhíodh cruinnithe claisceadail faoi stiúir Sheáin Uí Bhaoill; as sin a tháinig an Cór Gaelach.

Bunaíodh Coiste Ceantair faoi stiúir Chraobh Ard Mhacha le freastal ar éileamh as na bailte máguaird :- Port Mór, an Mhátgh, Eanach Sámhraidh, Baile Mac an Aba, Tulach Sairm agus an Ghráinseach. Maraon le ranganna Gaeilge, bhíodh léachtaí staire a dtabhairt ag baill áirithe den Chraobh insna bailte thart agus ranganna rinci Chéili ag baill eile. Orthu siúd a thug teagasc bhí Peadar agus Maoileachlainn Ó Gairbheith. Rothair amháin an gléas taistil a bhíodh in úsáid ag na múinteoirí, agus obair dheonach ar fad an obair a bhí ar siúl acu, gan de luach saothair acu ach an sásamh intinne. Duine proifisiúnta amháin a ceapadh, Aodh Ó Duibheanaigh as Rann na Feirsde (Aodaí Phadaí Aodaí), a tháinig chugainn i Mí na Samhna 1942 agus a d'fhan againn go dtí gur diúltaíodh a cheadúnas cónaí (rud a bhí riachtanach in aimsir an chogaidh) a athnuachan. Tugadh báta agus bóthair dó um Cháisc 1944. Ba le linn dó a bheith in Ard Mhacha a chuir sé féin is Seán Ó Baoill agus Réamonn Ó Frighil an cnuasach luachmhar ceoil le chéile a d'fhoilsigh Comhaltas Uladh sa bhliain 1944 faoin teideal "Cnuasach de Cheoltaí Uladh". Suaimhneas síoraí dóibh; d'fhág siad oidhreacht fhiúntach againn.

As an obair seo uilig d'fhás Feis Ard Mhacha. Bhí Feis Chontae ann i 1937 agus Seán Mac Gioll Ailealla ina bun, ach rannadh seo i dtrí chodanna idir an Lorga, Camloch agus Baile Ard Mhacha. Tionóladh Feis Ard Mhacha i 1943 agus mhair sí ar obair go dtí 1949, nuair a b'éigean stad di cheal airgid. I 1959 rinneadh an Fheis a athnuachan. Mhair sí ceithre bhliain eile. Níor tionóladh an Fheis ó 1962.

Blianta an chogaidh agus na blianta iar-chogaidh, blianta ghnoitheacha iad i saol na Gaeilge. Bhí borradh náisiúntachta san aer a chuir go mór le hardseasmh na Gaeilge agus bhí a thoradh sin le feiceáil go soiléir i ranganna an Chonartha sa Ghalltacht agus in sna coláistí sa Ghaeltacht. Bhí an oiread sin brú ar an Ghaeltacht is nuair a bheartaigh an Comhaltas coláiste úr-nua a bhunú i Loch an Iúir i 1945, chinn muintir Chontae Ard Mhacha ar an Coláiste a líonadh iad féin, rud a rinne siad go ceann traidhfil maith de bhlianta. Bhí an Ghaeilge in ard réim. D'fhoilsigh an Chonradh in oirthear Thír Eoghain bliainiris a dtug siad "Tír Eoghain" uirthi. Rinne Chraobh Ard Mhacha mar a gcéanna, ach gur "Ard Mhacha", ar ndóighe, a thug siad ar an iris. An Sagart Pádraig Mac Aoidh a tháinig go dtí an baile i 1943 a rinne an eagarthóireacht agus an mhór-chuid den obair. Faraor, níor mhair an iris ach bliain, chan ionann is "Tír Eoghain" a mhair roinnt bhliain.

D'fhág an Sagart Ó Coinne muid i 1950 nuair a ceapadh é ina Shagart Paróiste i gCairlín. D'fhan an Sagart Mac Aoidh mar chrann taca

na Gaeilge ar an bhaile s'againne gur dtearnadh Sagart Paróiste de ar Pharóiste Chill Shléibhe i 1967. Lena linn-se, i 1966, a rinneadh lúbhaile Órga Éirí Amach na Cásca a cheiliúradh tre chomórtaisí staire agus liteartha. Lena am fosta seoladh feachtas an Fháinne Nua agus léirigh Cumann Drámaíochta na Craoibhe dráma, "Bearnas na nDreasógai" ag Feis Dhún Geannáin, an dara uair don Chumann dráma ar bith a léiriú. Mhair an Chraobh faoi bhláth i rith na mblianta sin. Sa bhreis ar na ranganna Gaeilge, bhíodh Céili seachtainiúil ann (agus buíon cheoil dár gcuid féin ag seinm ann !) agus Mór-Shiamsa na Craoibhe gach Samhain. Bhí sé de phribhléid againn gur ghlac Aisteoirí Ghaoth Dobhair le cuireadh ón Chraobh theacht chun dráma a léiriú in Ard Mhacha. Leanadh i rith an ama fríd na 1940í go dtí an bhliain reatha le sgéim na ndéontaisí

Gaeltachta trena chuirtear sa mheán idir 70 is 80 dalta scoile chun na Coláistí Ghaeltachta. Tá sé le maoidheadh ag an Chraobh go dtógtar 'pro rata' an bailiúchán bliantúil is airde in Éirinn ar son na teanga.

Ó thúsaigh na trioblóidí i 1969 tá meath ag teacht ar obair na Craoibhe ar an bhaile. B'éigean, ar mhaithe le sábháilteacht na ndaltaí, deireadh a chur leis na ranganna Gaeilge gach tráthnóna agus oíche. Mar a gcéanna is annamh ócáid mhór cheiliúrtha againn mar a bhíodh. Nuair a ceapadh ár sean-chara Tomás Ó Fiaich ina Chomharba Phádraig, thug sin deis dúinn oíche shóisialta a reachtáil lenár n-ómós agus ár meas a chur in iúl dó. Oíche mhór spóirt is cheoil is fhilíochta a bhí ann, oíche a thug arais aoibhneas na sean-laethe.



FIRST SLIEVE GULLION WINTER SCHOOL



Photographs by George Duffy and
Paddy Traynor

The 8th to the 11th of November 1990 saw the first ever Slieve Gullion School, Scoil Shliabh gCuilinn. The events over the long weekend took us from the Presbyterian Church Hall, Dundalk, to the pubs of South Armagh on what was for some a fascinating voyage of discovery. Others of us had travelled the road before with the Éigse Oiriaila Committee, a body which has done much pioneering research work on literary projects in this past 21 years, but we still enjoyed the company and the music, and we too had something to learn from the new light cast on our poetic and musical heritage by the panel of erudite guest speakers. The Winter School had taken "Focail agus Ceol" as its theme and was organised by the Newry & Mourne District Council in collaboration with a committee which included members of Coiste na Gaeilge, Glór na nGael in Crossmaglen, and the Creggan and Mullaghbawn Historical Societies.

The speakers included Professor Breandán Ó Buachalla, UCD, who, in the Cardinal Ó Fiaich Memorial Lecture, "Ó Rí go Rámhainn : An Litríocht iarBhóinne", addressed the topic of the development of Gaelic Literature after the Boyne. Another university man, Dr. Diarmaid Ó Doibhlin, gave a talk on Gaelic Learning in Down and Armagh 1700-1850. The poetry workshop was led by Seán Mac Réamoinn, broadcaster, and it examined the Oriel Poetry Tradition. Among the many musicians who participated in the weekend events were Crann, the Bradley family, Eithne Ní Uallacháin, Màiri Nic A'Ghabhann from the Isle of Lewis and Cathie Ann Nic A'Phí from Barra. It was this Scottish dimension indeed which set Scoil Shliabh gCuilinn apart from the previous Eigsí which have been organised in Oriel and the impressive, witty, Màiri Nic A'Ghabhann delighted listeners at her performance in the Stray Leaf Folk Club. The success of the Winter School depended not a little on the already thriving Folk Club and the Ring of Gullion CCÉ Branch who provided receptive and eager audiences for many of the School's events.

The School's programme was varied and full. Dr. William Neilson's "An Introduction to the Irish Language", first published in 1808, was re-issued during Scoil Shliabh gCuilinn. The re-publishing of Neilson's work, which was sponsored by the Ulster Trust, should be welcomed by all those involved in the Irish revival in Co. Down as the book provides a record of stories and dialogues in the Irish language as spoken in Co. Down in the early 19th century. Children, too, were catered for during the School when the Armagh Rhymers made an appearance, and children mixed with adults at the Traditional Dance Workshop organised by the talented Newry dance tutor, and linchpin of Newry's Bunscoil, Raymond Carroll.

Scoil Shliabh gCuilinn was a major success and all credit is due to the organising committee, especially to Malcolm Scott, Newry Council's Language Development Officer. The committee secured the necessary substantial funding from Newry Council, Co-operation North, Ulster Trust, Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Arts Committee of Dundalk Urban District Council. The committee's stated aim of building on the bilingual tradition of SE Ulster and North Leinster was achieved. Visitors came from areas well beyond the confines of Oriel, and South Armagh was promoted as culturally rich and geographically captivating. RTE though were only adequate in their coverage of the School's programme.

Schools/Éigsí, especially those with literary themes, have a tendency to be elitist and it's hard at times to justify the large fees demanded by some guest speakers and musicians. The first Scoil Shliabh gCuilinn, however, went some way towards drawing in more of the ordinary people of South Armagh to events of this nature, and can only have reinforced an awareness of our native language in an area where the love of all things Irish is deeply rooted.



SAOL

Cuid den aitheasc a thug Pádraig Ó Maolchraoibhe tráth a nochtadh leacht i gCamloch i gcuimhne Réamainn Mhic Raois, Bealtaine 1991.

Is onóir agus is pribhléid domhsa cuireadh a fháil pilleadh ar mo cheantar dúchais chun labhairt ag an ócáid seo nuair a bheas Réamann Mac Raois, fear óg de bhunadh Chamlocha a fuair bás go hantráthúil deich mbliana ó shin ar shon saoirse na hÉireann, á thabhairt chun chuimhne againn. Ni mór meabhrú anois go raibh níos mó ná coinníollacha príosúin i gceist i 1981 nuair a bhí an Stailc Ocráis sa tsiúl. I lár na 1970í bhí straitéis chuimsitheach ceaptha ag Rialtas na Breataine d'fhonn lámh in uachtar a fháil ar náisiúntóirí na Sé Chontae. Mar chuid den straitéis bhí "Ulsterisation" agus b'ionann sin agus comhaltai den RUC agus den UDR a chur ar thús cadhnaíochta insan tsreachailt in éadán náisiúntóirí an tuaiscirt. Cuireadh sa líne tosaigh iad le haghaidh urchair a stopadh agus ba rí-chuma le muintir Shasana beo nó marbh iad a fhaid is nach raibh a "gcuid trúpaí féin" i mbaol a mbeatha.

Gné eile de straitéis an rialtais ná "Criminalisation" nuair a rinneadh iarracht cogadh na saoirse ó thuaidh a dhéanamh amach sna meáin mar "chomhcheilg choiriúil". Mionlach ar mire nach raibh bá an phobail leo a bhí i mbun troda, dar leis an bholscaireacht a chum Oifig Thuaisceart Éireann is a scaipeadh ar fud an domhain. Chualathas go minic foclaí mar "mafia", "godfathers", "psychopaths" nuair a bhí iriseoirí ag cur síos ar bhaill Ghluaisceacht na Poblachta. Na cimi polaitiúla a daoradh go héagórach sna cúirteanna Diplock, ní raibh le bheith i ndán dóibh feasta ach stádas an ghnáthchoirpigh faoin polasaí "Criminalisation". Ach ní coirpigh iad na poblachtaigh a bhí faoi ghlás. Daoine óga a mbunús agus ba chuma iad a bheith tógtha i lár na cathrach nó insna contaethe cois teorann rinneadh an leatrom céanna orthu le linn dóibh a bheith ag fás aníos. An Stát inar rugadh iad bhí sé lofa go smior. Agus ba bhrúidiúil mhídhaoonna amach an fheachtas a d'eagraigh na húdaráis i gcoinne na bpriosúnach nuair a cruthaíodh coinníollacha insna carcair a bhí, dar le Tomás Ó Fiaich, an Cairdinéal nach maireann, "níos measa ná séaraigh Chalcúta". Dofhulaingthe mar a bhí an saol sna Blocanna H bhí spiorad leithéidí Réamainn Mhic Raois dochloíte agus bhí sé réidh dúshlán an rialtais a thabhairt.

Bhí Réamann i measc leo siúd a chuir rompu an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim is a chur chun tosaigh sna Blocanna. Tá sé tábhachtach cuimhneadh inniu nach bhfuil an Béarla á labhairt i ndeisceart Ard Mhacha anseo ach le céad go leith bliain anuas agus má tá éinne ag smaointiú ar chloch a chur i leacht Réamainn Mhic Raois níl bealaí níos feiliúnaí le sin a dhéanamh ná naíoscoil a bhunú i gCamloch agus cuidiú a thabhairt do Bhunscoil an Iúir.



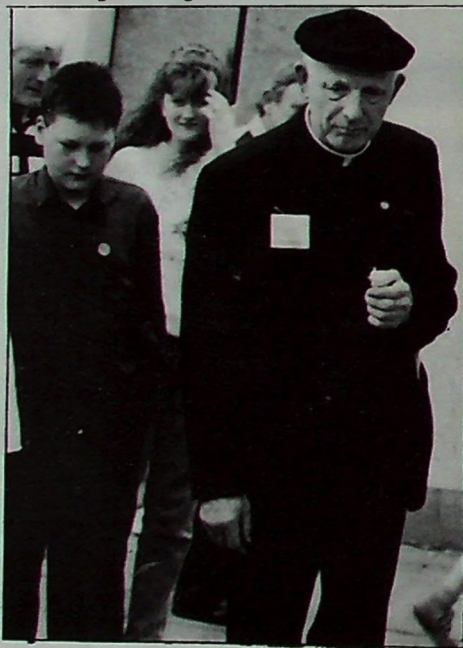




COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN



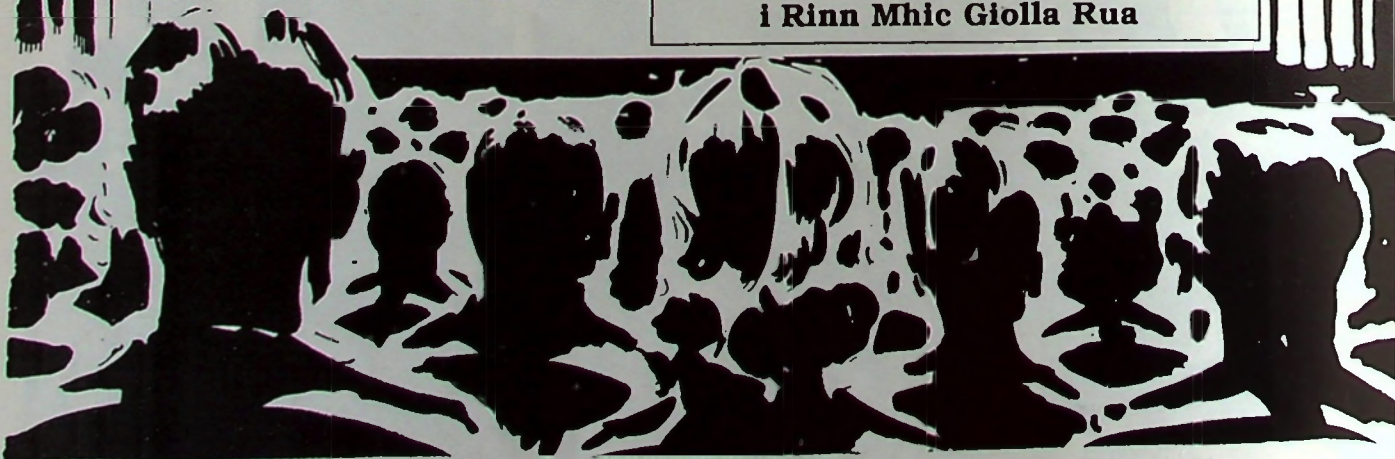
D'fhill na sluaithe ar Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua i mbliana chun páirt a ghlacadh i bhFleadh Uladh agus, cé go bhfuil sé deacair a chreidbheáil, d'fhéadfá a rá go raibh feabhas tagtha ar an caighdeán ó bhí na ceoltóirí ar ardáin na Rinne anuraidh i gcomórtais na Cúige. Meastar go raibh 50,000 duine, neart turasóirí ón Eoraip ina measc, i ndeisceart an Dúin 'flaoid is a bhí an Fhleadh ar siúl. Bhí daoine ag clamhsán, mar is gnách, go raibh déagóirí ag ól ar na sráideanna agus cnáimhseálaithe eile á rá nach raibh go leor ceoltóirí sásta seisiúin neamhshoirmeálta a bheith acu amuigh faoin spéir. Ní raibh ábhar ghearáin ámh ag muintir CCE féin agus tá brú ann anois taobh istigh de Chomhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann le Fleadh na Cúige a reachtáil gach bliain feasta i Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua, ach tá baill áirithe de CCE imníoch go ndéanfaidh a mhacasamhail de shocrú damáiste den eagrafocht in áiteacha eile i gCúige Uladh. Mar sin féin, caithfear a admháil go raibh gach áis curtha ar fáil i Rinn Mhic



Giolla Rua, go raibh iomlán tacaíochta tugtha ag Comhairle an lúir agus Mhór don bhféile, agus go raibh an comhlacht HARP a rinne urraíocht ar an Fhleadh iontach sásta le gach a thit amach i Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua. Tá ceann de na craobhacha is láidre sa tír de Chomhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann lonnaithe ar an Pointe agus tá bualadh bos tuille acu as an Fhleadh a láimhseáil go proifisiúnta. B'iad na coisteoirí a d'oibrigh go dícheallach leis na himceachtaí a cagrú ná Patsy McDonald, Peter Keenan, Cathal McAnulty, Ciarán Hanna agus Mickey Hourican. Ag cuidiú leo mar is iondúil bhí an tAth. Tom McConville, crann taca CCE i gCondae an Dúin.

Bhí an sagart McConville i measc leo siúd a chuir Craobh an lúir de Chomhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann ar bun siar sna mall 1950í. Ar 14 Deireadh Fómhair 1959 bhí Tom McConville i láthair i Sráid an Uisce nuair a saolaíodh Craobh an lúir. Bhí deichniúr ar an coiste, an tAth. Tom mar Chathaoirleach, Jackie O'Driscoll mar Rúnaí, agus Bertie Trodden mar chisteoir. Ar ball bhí ceithre scór comhaltaí ann agus bhí Craobh an lúir ar na craobhacha is mó sa tír. Is ait an peata an saol mar tá Craobh an lúir marbh sa lá atá inniu ann cé go bhfuil Craobh Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua i mbéal an phobail mar cheann de na craobhacha is éifeachtaí in Éirinn. Níor bunaíodh Craobh Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua de CCE go dtí 1975 agus bhí an tAth. Tom McConville chun tosaigh arís le ceol traidisiúnta na tíre a athbheochaint, ar an Pointe an babhta seo. Ag fás atá an Chraobh ó shin agus nuair a d'éirigh leo Fleadh Chondae an Dúin a reachtáil tamall ó shin chonacthas dóibh go raibh siad lán ábalta Fleadh Chúige Uladh a stiúradh gan stró. Bhí an thréimhse ann nuair a nach raibh de cheoltóirí traidisiúnta sa cheantar ach an Jackie Hearst Céilí Band ach anois tá CCE beo gníomhach ar fud dheisceart an Dúin. An chéad dúshlán eile atá le tabhairt faoi ag CCE sa chondae ná Craobh an lúir a dí-adhlacadh agus beocht a chur inti arís. Tá foireann bhunaidh cheana ag seinn le chéile le scaitheadh anuas i dTeach tábhairne an Iarnróid, Sráid Mhuineacháin, ach tá treoir de dhíobháil orthu.

**Ar chlé : an tAth. Tom McConville
i Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua**

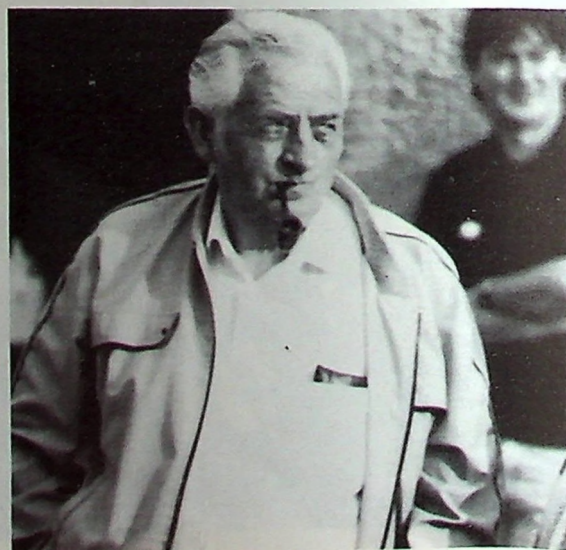


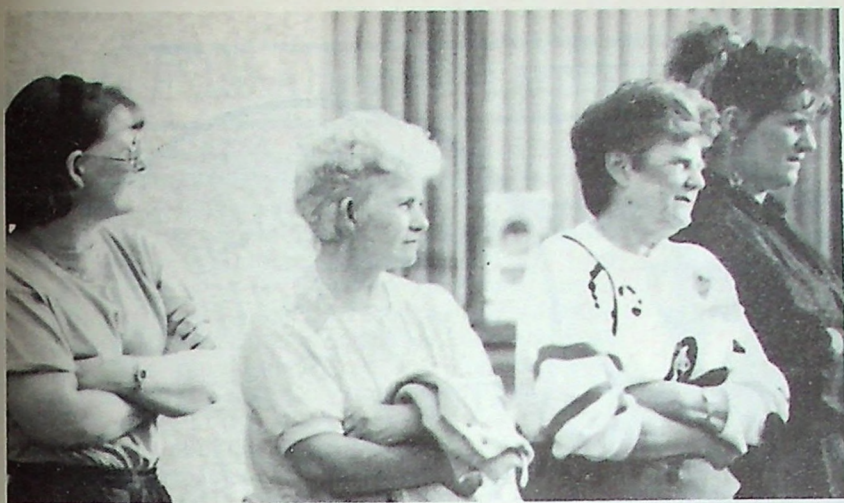


F ***L*** ***E*** ***A*** ***D*** ***H*** ***U*** ***L*** ***A*** ***D*** ***H***



A glance at the "EARYWIG FESTIVAL" -
an expression of community solidarity







An cnag á
bhualadh arís
i ndeisceart
Ard Mhacha

I ndiaidh ciúnas na mblianta tá "clash of the ash" le cloisteáil arís i gceantar Chamlocha. Tá foireann nua iománaíochta bunaithe le traidhfil anuas i gCill Shléibhe Iochtarach ag Labhras O Brolcháin, Breandán O Luais, Pádraig Mac Fícheallaigh agus Pádraig Mag Fhinn. "Laochra Bhricre" an t-ainm atá ar an cumann úr agus bíonn siad ag imirt i Sraith Ard Mhacha do ghasúir faoi bhun 12 bl. d'aois. Fuarthas a lán tacaíochta leis an cumann a lainseáil agus tá an Coiste buíoch dóibh siúd a chuidigh leo. I measc na ndaoine a tháinig chun tosaigh lena saineolas a roinnt le muintir Chamlocha bhí Paul Doyle, imreoir ar fhoireann an Chontae; John O'Reilly, Oifigeach Forbartha le Bord an Chontae; Malachy McGeeny; Séamus McGatten; Danny O'Connor agus Pauline Lamph.

Tá 'fhios againn go bhfuil sé doiligh go leor foireann peile a choinneáil ag dhul agus caithfidh go bhfuil sé i bhfad níos deacra foireann iománaíochta a bhunú i gceantar nach bhfuil traidisiún na hiománaíochta láidir ann. Déanann muid comhghairdeas leis na bunaitheoirí agus tá súil againn nach fada go mbeidh laoch óg de phór Chamlocha ag imirt ar fhoireann an Chontae.

Do you spot any familiar faces in this former Armagh panel ?



Educationalist urges parity for Irish language

Mícheál Ó Máirtín, a Senior Lecturer at St. Mary's Teacher Training College, Belfast, at a meeting of Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge held in Dungannon on June 8th 1991, presented a strong argument for increased government expenditure on the Irish language in schools. An tUas. Ó Máirtín, who is Editor of the Ulster Gaelic League monthly magazine "An tUltach", indicated a number of particular areas where the government has been remiss in its treatment of the Irish language in northern schools. Successive British Governments have invested millions of pounds in the promotion of the Welsh language yet their provision for the Irish language has been belated and can be measured only in thousands of pounds, maintained Ó Máirtín. "As taxpayers", asserted an tUas. Ó Máirtín, "northern Irish parents deserve educational provision for their children equal to that afforded to children in Wales." The audience of seventy professional teachers of Irish heard Ó Máirtín call for : 1) more In-Service courses for teachers of Irish; 2) the appointment of Irish Advisers in all the Education Board areas; 3) statements of policy regarding the teaching and promotion of Irish from all those charged with providing education in the north, including DENI, the various Boards, and the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools.

Statistics provided by Mr. Ó Máirtín revealed the sorry state of the Irish language in schools in the Six Counties. Neither the quality of instruction nor the standards achieved by students give cause for concern but what is worrying is that fewer students are opting for Irish at GCSE and 'A' levels. "Most teachers of Irish feel that Dr. Mawhinney did the language a great disservice when he attempted to relegate Irish to a position of inferior status in the curriculum" commented Mícheál Ó Máirtín. Ó Máirtín also alluded to the all too prevalent attitude held in government circles that the Irish language and its supporters are somehow "suspect".

Teachers of Irish from across the north attended the One Day Seminar which was sponsored by Iontaobhas Ultach/Ulster Trust who appear to have replaced Comhaltas Uladh as facilitators of Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge. A simultaneous translation service was available for those visitors who may have had some difficulty in following the day's proceedings. Before the programme got underway, a presentation was made to Dominic Bradley from Bessbrook, in appreciation of his work in keeping Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge alive in the north of Ireland and in recognition of his personal involvement in organising the Seminar.

Among those in attendance were Helen Ní Mhurchú, the National Chairperson of Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge, Aodán Mac Póilin and Malcolm Scott from Iontaobhas Ultach, and Headteachers from some of the large Catholic second level schools in the north, including Fr. Denis Faul of St. Patrick's Academy. Fr. Faul has long been an advocate of qualified people coming together and using their professional judgement to comment on injustice where it exists and exercising their influence to effect the eradication of iniquities.





CRAOBH NUA BUNAITHE

Anuraidh d'iarr Coiste Gnó Chonradh na Gaeilge ar na Craobhacha is láidre sa tír tabhairt faoi craobhacha úra a bhunú i gceantair atá lánh leo, go mór mór craobhacha a athshíolrú sna ceantair siúd ina raibh an Conradh beo iontu tráth ach inar mheathlaigh sé ó shin. Ghlac Craobh an Iúir go fonnmhar le treoir na hArd-Oifige agus cuireadh ar bun Craobh Uí Fhiaich i gCill Shléibhe Íochtarach. Le fírinne a dhéanamh, tá an Chraobh nua lag go leor cé go bhfuil comharthaí fáis ann cheana. Tógadh an Bailiúchán don chéad uair le fada ar Lá na Féile Pádraig i mBaile an Chláir, i gClochóg, agus ag an séipéal nua i nGleann a'Mhuilinn. Fuarthas níos mó ná £200. Bhí an Chraobh in ann leathscólaíreachtaí Gaeltachta a thabhairt do thriúir i gCathair Ard Mhacha agus do thriúir eile in Ardscoil N. Pól i ndeisceart an chontae. Craobh Uí Fhiaich atá freagrach fosta as "Cuisle na nGael" a fhoilsiú feasta.

I gComórtas Cuimhneacháin Pheadair Uí Riain, atá á riaradh ag Conradh na Gaeilge sa cheannáras i mBaile Átha Cliath, tugadh aitheantas ar leith d'obair Chraobh Uí Fhiaich i 1991 mar d'éirigh leis an Chraobh : 1) rang Gaeilge a thosnú; 2) túspeántas de sheanghrianghraif a reachtáil; 3) £190 a thabhairt do Bhunscoil an Iúir; 4) Forógra na Cásca a athfhoilsiú; 5) poiblíocht a fháil arís do obair Chomhaltas Uladh ar na nuachtáin áitiúla.

Tá sé tábhachtach, dar linn, go mbeadh bonn neamhspleách fuinniúil faoi Ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge. Chuige sin ní mór Conradh na Gaeilge a threisiú ar fud na tíre, agus le bunú Chraobh Uí Fhiaich thóg muintir an Iúir coiscéim níos faide anonn sa phróiseas sin.

EASPAG NUA

Déanann muid comhghairdeas le Gerard Clifford atá ceaptha ó Aibreán 1991 ina Easpag Cúnta in Ard-deoise Ard Mhacha. Ba as Co. Lú ó dhúchas do Gerard Clifford agus fuair sé a chuid oideachais i gColáiste Mhuire, Dún Dealgan, agus i gColáiste Phádraig, Magh Nuad. Rugadh Gerard Clifford caoga bliain ó shin i bparóiste Ghleann na bhFiach agus oimíodh ina shagart é i 1967. Ba fheirmeoirí iad a thuismitheoirí. Ó shin i leith bhí sé gafa ar feadh na mblianta le cúrsaí oideachais agus ina dhiaidh sin leis an ghluaiseacht éacúiméineach. Leoga, tá luí ag Gerard Clifford leis an éacúiméineachas ó bhí sé ina mhac léinn i Magh Nuad. I gcomhar le William Arlow, Canónach, d'eagraigh sé oilithreach éacúiméineach chuig Í Cholm Cille i 1984. Sa bhliain chéanna ceapadh ina Rúnaí lánaimseartha é ar Chomhdáil na nEaspag in Eirinn.



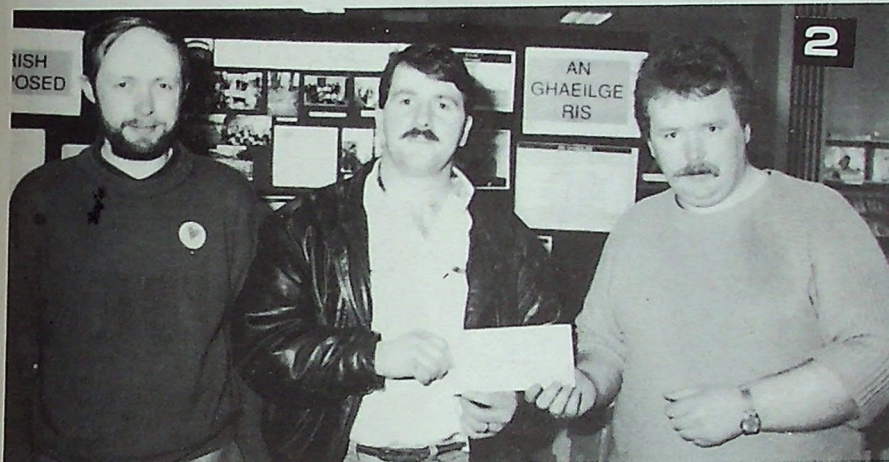
Is Gaeilgeoir é Gerard Clifford agus ar an lá a rinneadh Easpag dó, léigh Rónán Mac a'Bhaird, atá ina Phríomhoide ar Ghaelscoil Chríost Rí, Dún Dealgan, an chéad léacht le linn an searmanais. Bhí ról ar leith freisin ag an Ath. Mícheál Ó Saoráí, Sagart Cúnta i gCill Shléibhe Íochtarach, mar chuidigh Mícheál leis an Easpag nua sa sanctóir. Oimíodh Mícheál Ó Saoráí agus Gerard Clifford ar an lá céanna. Is Gaeilgeoir é fosta an tAth. Ó Saoráí agus déanann sé freastal ar Ard-rang Chraobh an Iúir de Chomhaltas Uladh.

1



Ócáidí ar leith

1) Faighteoirí an Iúir ag an Bronnadh de chuid NIVT i mBéal Feirste. 2) Seic á thabhairt ar shon Chraobh Uí Fhiaich do Bhunscoil an Iúir. 3) Arthur Ruddy (SDLP) ag déanamh comhghairdis leis an Br. Beausang i Halla an Bhaile. 4) Cuid den slua a thaispeáin a meas dá n-iarmhúinteoir lách, an Br. Ó Dónaill.



2



3



4

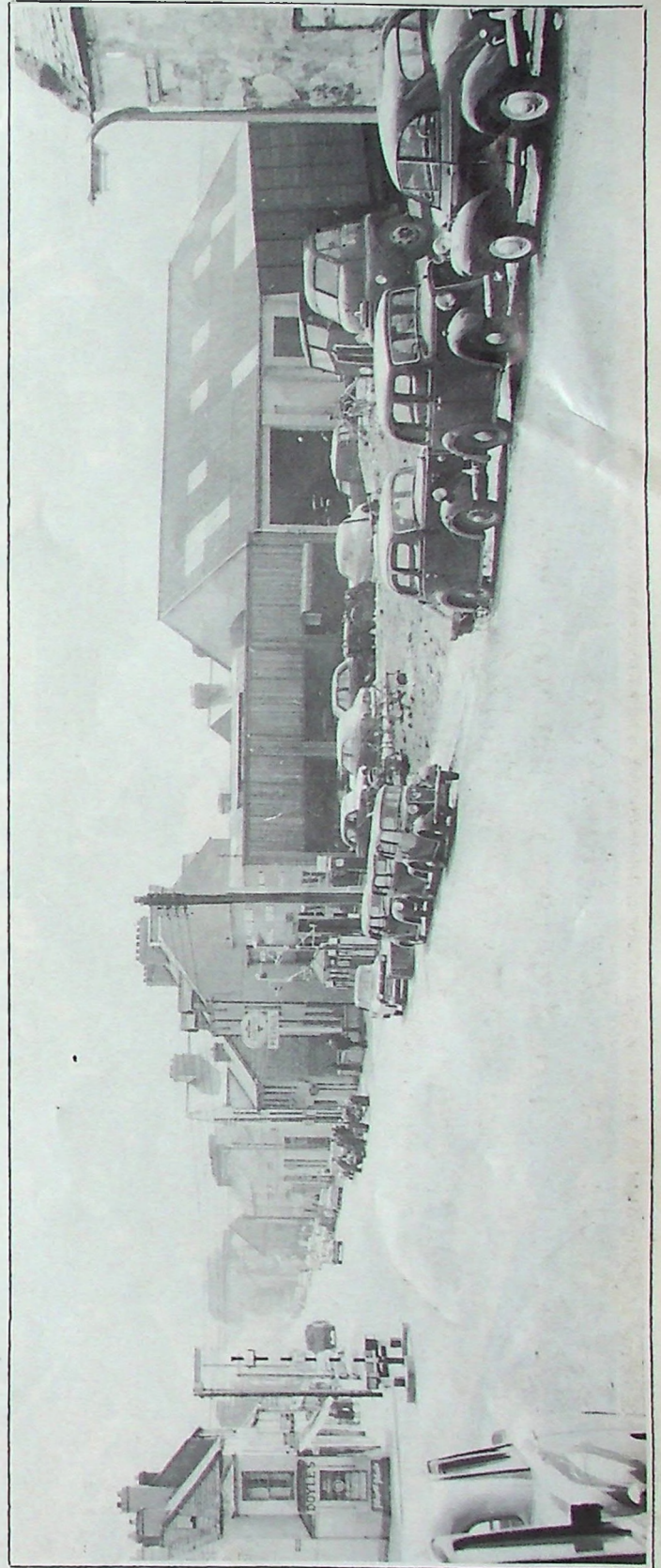
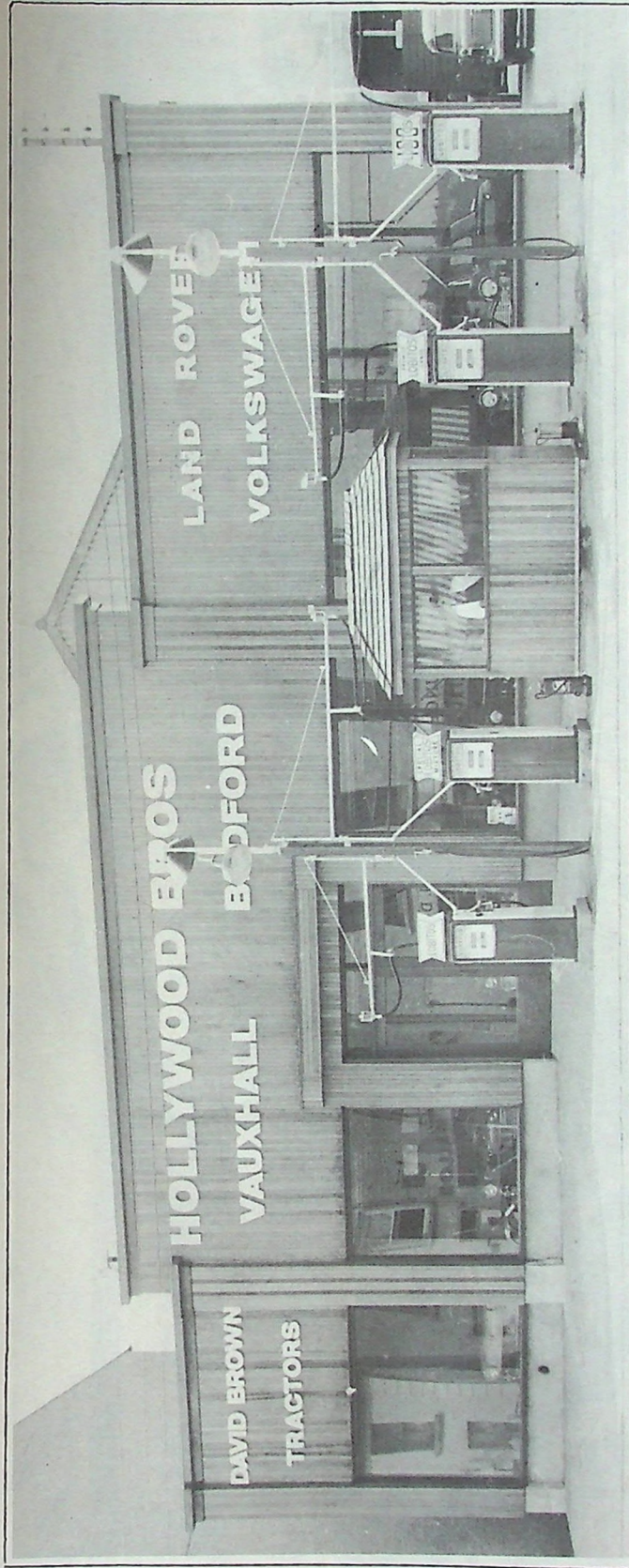
NEW UNIONIST CHAIRPERSON FOR COUNCIL

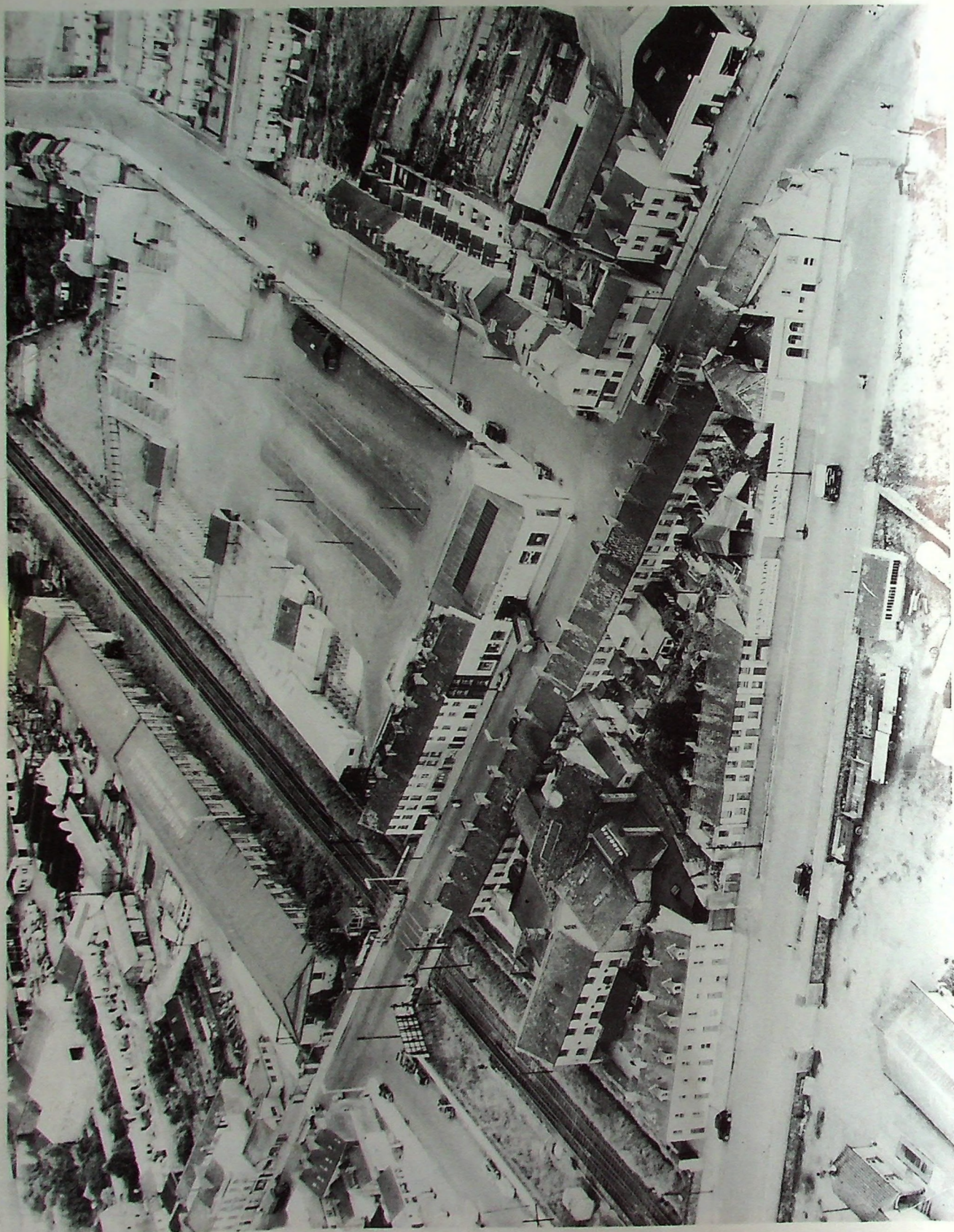


Is é Andy Moffett (Aondachtóir Oifigiúil) atá ina Chathaoirleach ar Chomhairle an Iúir agus Mhór ó bhí Meitheamh 1991 ann. Tá seanaithne ag muintir an Iúir ar Andy Moffett agus meas acu air mar fhear atá cairdiúil agus mar ionadaí atá éifeachtach féarálte. Tá an tUas. Moffett ina chomhairleoir ó 1977 agus le dhá bhliain anuas bhí sé ag feidhmiú mar Leas-chathaoirleach na Comhairle. Réitíonn Andy go maith le gach páirtí ar an Chomhairle agus táthar ag súil le 'fair-play' le linn dó a bheith sa Chathaoir. Tá Andy buartha nach bhfuil go leor Protastúnaigh fostaithe ag Comhairle an Iúir agus Mhór agus tá earcaíocht á dhéanamh aige le líon na bProtastúnach atá ag obair leis an Chomhairle a ardú. Guíonn muid gach rath ar a shaothar. Is éadóigh go mbeidh aon dul chun cinn suntasach déanta ag an Ghaeilge i rith réimis Andy ach ar a laghad ar bith ní thig leis níos lú a dhéanamh ná mar a rinne na cathaoirligh a bhí ann roimhe.

This 1950's view of Monaghan Street, and those on the following two pages, were kindly given on loan to us by the Hollywood Family, Needham Villa, Patrick Street, Iúr Chinn Trá.







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WARRENPOINT

Denis Donoghue's book "WARRENPOINT", first published in Great Britain in 1991, has provoked quite a stir in South Down. Donoghue, who currently holds the Henry James Chair of English and American Literature at New York University, came to live in Warrenpoint in the late 1920's. His family remained in Warrenpoint until the Autumn of 1946. Donoghue's father, Sergeant Denis Donoghue (referred to hereafter as Sergeant Donoghue) had been a member of the RIC but joined the RUC after Partition. Much of the book "WARRENPOINT" is concerned with the author's relationship with his father, and with his father's relationship with the RUC.

Sergeant Donoghue seems a reluctant member of the RUC and according to his author-son never became fully assimilated into the force :

"The RUC was obviously a Protestant organisation, its chief aim to keep Catholics in check. The fact that my father was one of the few Catholics who joined the force is easily explained : he had no choice; no other job was available, and the RUC could not reject his application."

According to Denis Donoghue, the sectarian nature of the RUC meant that further promotion eluded his father :

"If my father had been twenty or thirty years younger and in the same profession, he would probably have been selected as a token Catholic and raised perhaps to the rank of Head Constable or even District Inspector to placate the natives. In the event, he retired on pension before such a concession became necessary."

Denis Donoghue provides a useful description of the police barracks in Warrenpoint and reveals interesting details about RUC activities. "Meet patrols", for example, occurred occasionally when sergeants-in-charge from Warrenpoint, Rostrevor and Mayobridge would get together after midnight at a pre-ordained meeting place to exchange notes on what was happening in their respective areas. The young Denis though, was none too impressed by some of his father's colleagues :

"My father was in charge of seven or eight regular constables and about the same number of part-time policemen, called B-Specials, whom I hated and feared because they were, to a man, Protestants and Unionists."

Still, the Donoghues were afforded some social standing because of their connection with the police : *"We were Sergeant Donoghue's family in a town that knew how to estimate such things."*

The primary quality of Denis Donoghue's book is its refreshing honesty. Donoghue doesn't equivocate in his deprecation of the northern state nor does he wax sentimental in his recollections of school days. *"I have always regarded Northern Ireland as an artifice"*, he freely admits, though later accepts that given British support the State might survive. Donoghue too has a profound sense of the chasm between Catholics and Protestants, and of the felt superiority of one side over the other :

"In the North a Protestant walks with an air of possession and authority, regardless of his social class. He walks as if he owns the place, which indeed he does. A Catholic walks as if he were there on sufferance."

For Denis Donoghue, a latent if unspoken sectarianism pervaded all walks of life in Warrenpoint. His family shopped in Catholic businesses only - in Curran's for groceries and at Fitzpatrick's for meat. When the Donoghues left Warrenpoint and moved south of the border in September 1946, the young Denis Donoghue found it a novel experience to *"cease distinguishing between Catholics and Protestants."*

Denis Donoghue's reminiscences of school days show him a sensitive, not very athletic, gauche individual. *"I hated Newry, the Abbey most of all, mainly because it was there I discovered that my body was wrong."* (Donoghue grew to reach six feet seven inches). He has fond memories of Mr. Crinion his Latin master, and of Bro. Nagle his teacher of Irish. The Irish language was one of his strongest subjects and Denis won a medal at the Newcastle Feis for singing in Irish and participated in the Oireachtas competitions in Dublin. Sergeant Donoghue was also an Irish speaker, as were other relations on Denis' mother's side of the family. Overall though, the Abbey disappointed Denis Donoghue:

"Even as schools go, the Abbey went badly. Bro. Cotter taught me English, but not well; mechanically, as if all poems written in the same century were necessarily similar."

Poems, even if sharing many characteristics, all possessed their own individuality for Donoghue. Protestants, however, were to have no such individual traits and appear to have been some sort of unwelcome species. *".....when I was growing up in Warrenpoint, I could spot a Protestant at a hundred yards,"* is Denis Donoghue's remarkable claim. This isn't the only absurdity advanced by the author. The Christian Brothers, apparently, were so lost in a catholic celtic mist of their own making that the concept of a 'protestant nationalist' appeared a contradiction in terms to them :

"It was an embarrassment to the Christian Brothers that Davis, like so many of the great exponents of Irish nationalism, was a Protestant."

Denis Donoghue's own knowledge of history can be superficial and overly simplistic. The decline of the Irish language, (a complex linguistic phenomenon), is blamed on the Penal Code - a tenuous argument indeed :

"Under the Penal Laws in the eighteenth century, the Irish language was nearly defeated."

Rather more subtlety is evinced by the author when he deals with the prevailing ethos in the Christian Brothers' school, an ethos which reflected political loyalty to Dublin and which drew its spiritual guidance from Rome :

"The Christian Brothers did not encourage us to become rebels, but they recognised that a Catholic growing up in the North must live by a certain stratagem, spiritual secrecy."

Donoghue argues that disaffection from the northern state did not manifest itself in overt support for strident Irish nationalism, rather it was submerged to a type of cultural passive resistance. Catholic schools, for example, didn't encourage British games; feiseanna were favoured to musical festivals; English history was largely ignored. *"In practice we defined ourselves by not doing certain things",*

maintains Denis Donoghue, with a good deal of truth in what he says.

Donoghue argues convincingly against those Irish revisionist historians who inveigh against all expressions of Irish nationality. In an ironic, incisive shaft at Conor Cruise O'Brien, he writes: "*Nationalism is a fine flower, so long as it is grown in Israel, Tibet, Poland and Lithuania.*" To those of Dr. O'Brien's ilk who would strip Irish history of its "*sacrifices and martyrdoms*", Donoghue warns:

"Revisionism is a project of slow history, or confounding the drama, thwarting the narrative. Unfortunately, Ireland without its story is merely a member of the EC, the begging bowl our symbol."

"WARRENPOINT" is a controversial, curious mélange of political commentary, reminiscence and literary treatise. Some of its historical analyses are open to question and its rather uninspiring passages on music and literature seem incongruous given the essentially simple narrative of most of the work. The book is infused with humorous anecdote, most memorably Donoghue's account of confession, page 60; Sergeant Donoghue's panacea for all ills, pages 85 & 86; and Mr. Fitzpatrick's chemistry classes, pages 108 & 109. The book's frankness will do little to endear it in certain quarters. Christian Brothers' schools, long immune to "Brother bashing" in modern Irish writing, will still buy a copy or two for their school libraries, but are unlikely to place the book on their list of prescribed reading. RUC image-makers would probably rather the book not there at all. One can only wonder if Irish literary circles will consider Donoghue's trenchant criticism of the RUC as somehow giving sustenance to militant republicans. Or is criticism of this nature somehow more palatable when it comes from someone with the intellectual clout of Denis Donoghue, and an RUC man's son at that?

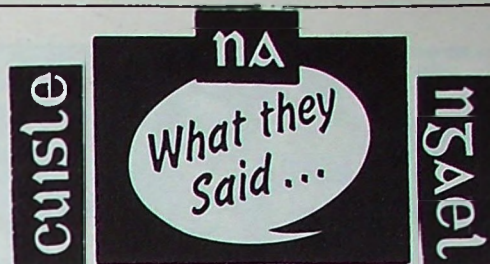
The more vociferous champions of Warrenpoint were early in their denunciations of Donoghue's work. Donoghue has shattered the typically soporific, charming, picture-postcard image of Warrenpoint and some of the town's residents have taken umbrage. Warrenpoint - comfortable, commercial, conservative, has had a mirror held up to its recent past and may not like its image.

Gobnait Uí Dhaibhéid

("WARRENPOINT" is published by Jonathan Cape London, and retails at £12.99. It is available at Eason's and at all good book shops in the area).

Bhí John O'Donnell scé go leith bliain ina Eagraí ar an AT&GWU in Iúr Chinn Trá nuair a d'éirigh sé as ar phinsean i Mí na Bealtaine 1991. Tháinig John anseo sa bhliain 1961 mar ba sa bhliain sin a shaothraigh Paddy Golding bás agus fuair John post Paddy mar Eagraí ar Chraobh 11/71 den AT&GWU. D'oibrir John O'Donnell i gCo. Thír Eoghain sna 1950í agus chuir sé spéis i gceardchumannachas le linn dó a bheith fostaithe sa tionscail linéadaigh sa chontae sin.

Ní raibh an tsláinte ró-mhaith ag John le blianta beaga aniar ach lean sé leis ag obair san oifig ar Shráid Hill. Tá baint mhór aige le cumainn carthanacha ar an bhaile fosta. Cúis áthais dó go bhfuil BÁCÚS Mhic Anna ag trádáil go maith go fóill, agus go bhfuil corr-mhonarcha, cosúil le Synthetic Industries, préamhaithe san Iúr anois. Udar dioma dó, ar ndóigh, an oiread sin de chomhlactaí maithe a tharraing siar ón Iúr síos fríd na mblianta. Ba dheas an rud John a fheiceáil i measc lucht an W.E.A. san Iúr feasta.



"The frank and fascinating interview with Mr. Cronin, with its many illustrations, was worth £2 alone." Translated from Raidió Éireann's Irish Magazine Review Programme on Saturday mornings.

"There's something in 'Cuisle' for every reader - for the Irish speaker, and for those who like light reading; for those with literary interests and for historians... The editor has found just the right formula." Translated from C. Ó Duibhín's review in "LA".

"This lively magazine is always in great demand and one should ask why? It contains lots of photographs of people and of old buildings and streets. The articles are short, readable and enjoyable, but the most important reason for its success is that the writers are proud of their heritage, their history and their language and it's apparent that they love every tree and every stone of their locality. Little wonder that the magazine finds a ready echo in the hearts of its readers." Translated from Fr. Raymond Murray's Review in "Seanchas Ard Mhacha".

"... a veritable feast of articles and photographs which will be of especial interest to Newry and district Gaels... The aim of the Newry Branch has been to broaden the appeal of the language to all sections of the community and it has succeeded in doing this with 'Cuisle'." Peadar Ó Ruairc in the "IRISH NEWS".

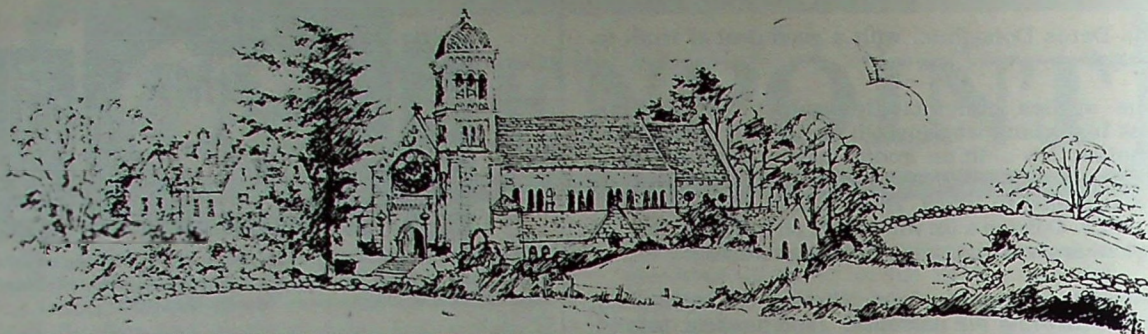
"It is interesting and important that the magazine isn't restricted to one section of the community." Translated from Fr. A. Mac Giolla Chomhail's review in "An t-Ultach".

"Getting bigger and better - quite an achievement." National Executive of the Gaelic League.

"In my long association with the language revival this is the only Irish publication, in my experience, which people have literally queued to buy." Tomás Mac Árdhail.

Seirbhís 30 bliain don lucht oibre





Another 75th Anniversary

Canon Felix McNally



Ceann de na fathanna go bhfuil mé féin ag dúil go mór le Bailiúchán Allison de sheanphictiúir le bheith foilsithe ag Músaem Uladh go luath amach anseo ná go bhfuil 'fhios agam grianghrafanna fíor-spéisiúla a bheith i measc na bpictiúr a ghlac an Comhlacht Allison sa bhliain 1911. Bhí stúideó ag Allisons in Iúr Chinn Trá ag an am, ar ndóigh. Tharla go raibh mé ag cuidiú le cara de mo chuid nuair a bhí sé ag dhul fríd na plátaí gloine a bhí i seilbh Músaem Ard Mhacha bliain ó shin nuair a mhothaigh mé Eaglais an Chroí Ró-Naofa, Clochóg, agus gan ach an leath-chuid de tógtha.

Sa bhliain 1916 a rinneadh an eaglais a choisreacan agus siar i 1910 a leagadh an cloch bhoinn ag Mícheál Ó Laodhóg. Cairdinéal. Ba mhíne Mícheál Ó Laodhóg i gceantar an Iúir mar bhí suim as cuimse aige insan Gaeilge, go mór mór i nGaeilge Ard Mhacha agus i nGaeilge Uí Méith. As eibhear an Iúir ar fad a rinneadh Eaglais an Chroí Ró-Naofa agus tá a shliocht uirthi, mar eaglais chomh maorga léi ní fheictear ach go hannamh. B'iad Denis Neary & Sons, comhlacht ón Iúr, a bhí i mbun cúrsaí tógála agus nach slachtmhar an jab a rinne siad? Fíric nach bhfuil eolas ag mórán faoi ná gur bhronn an Earl Kilmorey suíomh na heaglaise ar Felix McNally a bhí ina shagart paróiste ag an am i gCill Shléibhe Uachtarach. Lean an tAth. McNally ar aghaidh ag obair i gCill Shléibhe go dtí go bhfuair sé bás sa bhliain 1944.

**Cuairt Chathail Uí Dhálaigh,
Ardeaspag, ar Chill Shléibhe
Íochtarach.**



Mórshiúl Chorp Chríost





Photograph courtesy of David Mc Veigh, Chemist, Hill Street.

Photograph donated by George Hughes.



LETTER : IS COMMUNITY POLICING THE ANSWER TO DROMALANE'S PROBLEMS ?

Families and supporters of the six Dromalane men who were ordered out of Ireland by the local I.R.A. mount a picket outside the Newry Sinn Féin Offices.



A chara,

The severe beatings meted out to two young Republican sympathisers in Dromalane in August '91, and the subsequent I.R.A. order to six men (later reduced to five men) in the Dromalane/Fathom Park area to leave Ireland, gave the British and international media the human interest story it needed to enliven the otherwise uneventful Summer, prior to the crisis in the U.S.S.R. that is. Dromalane, one of Newry's oldest housing estates, achieved a notoriety it little sought and will soon want to forget. After years of intimidation, which included house and shop break-ins, burning of cars, damage to property, disorderly drinking sessions, and the razing of the Community Centre, the I.R.A. eventually took action against those whom it claimed were responsible for the wave of criminality against the people of Dromalane. I.R.A. representatives in South Down had been asked time and again to move against the minority who terrorised Dromalane, but only took positive action when two of their own supporters became the latest victims of vicious assaults. The R.U.C. too have long been aware of the names of the hoods in this area, hoods who could be identified by any child in the Park, but they made no efforts to apprehend them. Is it that the R.U.C. has determined on an "acceptable level of crime" in Newry, so long as the hoods supply low-level intelligence to the Police on the activities of suspect Republicans? By failing to act against the criminal element in Dromalane, the R.U.C. may have unwittingly bestowed a legitimacy and a credibility on the paramilitaries who are now seen to be in the vanguard in the fight against crime in this area. The I.R.A. is traditionally reluctant to become implicated in community policing issues, and in placing exclusion orders on five of the six men, it handled the whole affair with a ruthlessness which shocked many people but which simultaneously afforded relief to many others.

The whole situation in Dromalane in August merely brought to a head a long incubating social problem here. What the people of Dromalane didn't need was outside vested interests capitalising on their misfortunes. Politicians and churchmen, especially from the Catholic establishment, made one-off visits to Dromalane in the full glare of media coverage, chose to ignore the subtleties of the

Na péas ar diúité i nDoire Beag, an t-Iúr





situation here, and simply reinforced their own pre-conceived notions of what was happening in our estate. Ecclesiastical and political bigwigs know as much about Dromalane as the people of Dromalane know about the Concistory or the Knights of Columbanus.

The Dromalane/Fathom Park area is most unlike any other housing estate in Newry. A nucleus of hardened hoods has been thriving in our community where, even in 1991, Official I.R.A./Workers' Party supporters still vie with Provisional sympathisers; where Sinn Féin has lost a handful of its oldest allies to Republican Sinn Féin in a bitter split; where long-standing grievances between present and former residents are unlikely to be resolved in the near future; and where unemployed young people have turned to a life of crime and, prior to August '91, had met all warnings from paramilitaries with a reckless disregard.

Other nationalist estates in Newry have overcome their problems with hoods. Most notably, Derrybeg, Carnaget and Barcroft Park have witnessed little anti-people crime in recent years. The 9th August Anti-Internment commemorations in particular, once excuses for orgies of destruction, have been transformed into open-air folk music sessions and are attended by young and old alike. Responsible adults assume organisational and monitoring roles of bonfires and celebrations, and ensure that youths do not engage in conflict with the British Army and R.U.C. Dromalane/Fathom, however, riven with rivalries, has been unable to produce a body of adults strong and cohesive enough to counter the criminal gang in our midst. It remains to be seen whether the action taken by Oglagh na hÉireann in banishing the young Dromalane men from Ireland ameliorates our situation or simply exacerbates it.

In the meantime, the drugs problem grows apace throughout Newry. It will be interesting to see if the I.R.A. is pressurised into acting against unscrupulous pushers before the R.U.C. Drugs Squad gets its act together.

"DROMALANE RESIDENT"
(Name and Address supplied)

Given the sensitive nature of this letter's theme, we have agreed to respect the Dromalane writer's request to remain anonymous. It is not our normal policy to print letters from writers who wish to remain anonymous. Nor do we wish to receive letters which deal with Newry Council issues. These letters should be addressed to the local newspapers. Editor/ Eagarthóir.



DAVID McVEIGH

PHARMACY

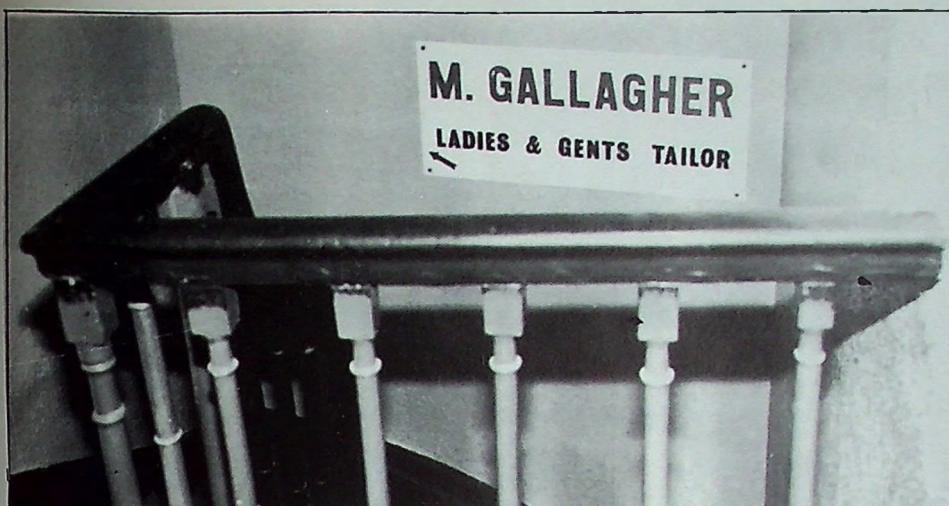
*For all your Health and
Beauty Care Needs*



Beannachtaí na Nollag

**EXTENSIVE RANGE OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS
NOW IN STOCK**

HILL STREET NEWRY COUNTY DOWN

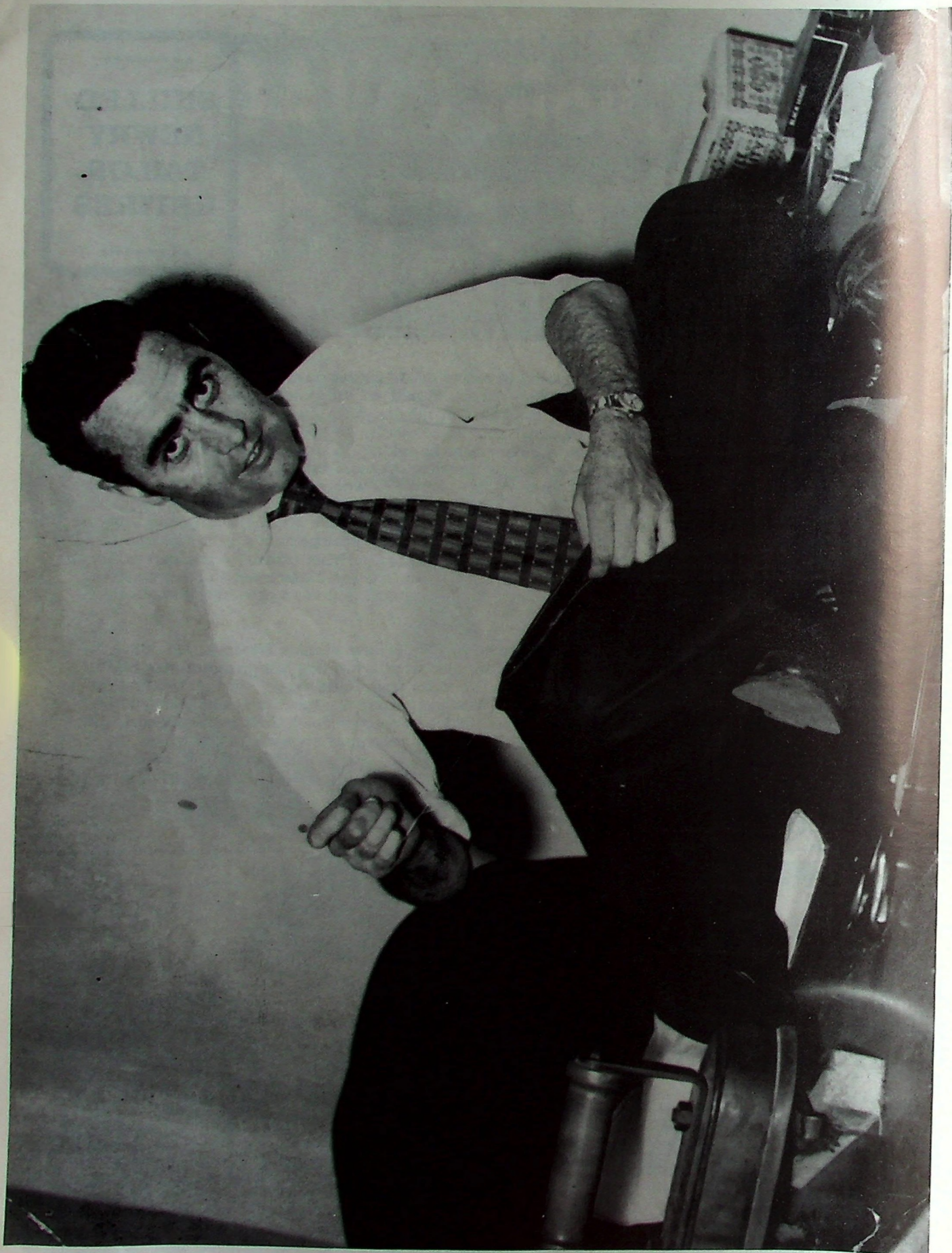


SKILLED NEWRY TAILOR RETIRES

Michael Gallagher's tailor's shop closed in Newry in the recent past and, tucked away as it was above Devine's barbers in Kildare Street, it had an inconspicuous presence in the commercial life of Newry. Modern designs and fabrics have meant that many items of clothing today are intended to be disposable, their quality so poor that they don't warrant repair, and the principal work for a tailor might be taking-up trousers, altering waists and replacing zip-fasteners. Maybe surprisingly therefore, Michael was kept busy in his Kildare Street workshop until he decided to call it a day. For those who knew it, Michael's shop was a quaint establishment, its walls lined with Old Newry photographs and press cuttings, the floor strewn with trimmings of various materials, a place where Michael's old style tailor's equipment and paraphernalia caught one's eye. Michael's retirement marks the end of a family tradition which stretches back to the early years of this century. His career also merits our attention as his was one of the last Old North Street businesses to have survived. Michael having campaigned, with others, in a rearguard action to preserve Newry's once famous North Street shopping precinct.

Michael's father, Thomas (Tom), was born on the family farm outside Westport, Co. Mayo, in 1901, while Michael's mother, Anne Morgan, also from a farming background, was born a year earlier at Drumlee, Ballyward, about five miles from Rathfriland. In the 1920's Anne Morgan went to work in a draper's shop in Westport, where she met Tom Gallagher who was then a tailor. The couple got married in 1923 and soon opened their own tailoring and dressmaking business in Westport. They became the parents of six sons, one of whom, Tony, died in 1937 at the age of four. The five surviving sons, Patsy, Michael, Frank, Lenny and Eugene, are all well known throughout Newry. The sons, especially Michael, are staunch supporters of Gaelic games in County Down.





The Gallagher family moved to Newry in 1933, Mrs. Gallagher wanting to be nearer her own people, though she was very fond of Westport itself and of her husband's family there. Thomas, Anne and children settled at No. 33 North Street where they quickly opened another tailoring and dressmaking business. The business thrived and at its busiest times employed up to twelve people. Among those to have worked for the Gallaghers we can mention : Hughie McGeough; Tom Doyle; Michael John Manley; Michael McArdle; Julia O'Mahoney; Mary Kenny; Delia Fahy; Lala Fitzpatrick; Lily O'Hanlon; May Mallon; Annie Connolly; Mary White and Hughie Quinn.



No. 33 was a four storey house. The shop had two big bay windows, divided by double glass-panelled doors in the centre. Tom Gallagher ran his tailoring business to the left of the doors, while Anne concentrated on dressmaking to the right. There was a fitting room at the back of the shop, with a work room on the top floor. A side-door from North Street opened onto a big yard containing a cow byre, hayloft, pig and henhouses, where Tom kept milking cows, a few fattening pigs and laying hens. The Gallaghers made their own butter and churning was done once a week. At the back of the yard, a steep flight of steps took one to a big garden. The garden, situated to the right of Lindsay Hill and to the rear of St. Clare's Avenue, had to be dug and planted each year. What with the cleaning, whitewashing etc. that went with running what amounted to a small farm in the middle of Newry, there were few idle hours for members of the Gallagher family.

Michael Gallagher was the only one of the Gallagher family to continue the tailoring trade after old North Street had been demolished. He moved to Kildare Street where he worked until he retired. He still lives in North Street, almost on the site of the old home at No. 33. Sadly, there's not a trace of the original North Street building left.

Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a chur in iúl do Patsy Gallagher a chuir ar fáil dúinn na fíricí thuasluaite. Ba bhreá linn a thuilleadh scéalta mar seo don chéad eagrán eile. Is spéis linn fosta seanphictiúir a aimsiú de North Street mar a bhíodh sna 1940í agus sna 1950í.



NAN RICE'S BAR

Sraid Phroinsias

***Relax and
enjoy a quiet
drink in
the convivial***



***atmosphere
of NAN RICE'S
Francis Street
Baile Bocht***

A SHORT TRIBUTE TO BAILE BOCHT - by Mickey Brady

Ballybot isn't just an area of Newry, it's a community with a whole way of life, and a community into which I was lucky to be born. It is an area which over the years has had a wealth of characters who enriched the lives of the people who lived there.

When I was a child, Alfie Matthews and his wife Nora lived in Dominic Street. They had a 'farm' where Dominican Court is now. Alfie kept pigs, chickens, ducks, guinea fowl, geese and bees. His garden was full of vegetables and fruit - gooseberries, blackcurrants and red currants. When we were children we helped in the garden and on summer nights Alfie would take us back to his house in Dominic Street and tell us stories about the 'little people' on Tara Hill in Meath. The house had gas mantles which added to the atmosphere and as children we sat enthralled listening to the stories. Alfie had a very interesting background, having been a member of James Connolly's Citizen Army, and having at one time shared digs with the playwright Seán O' Casey who was secretary of the Citizen Army. Alfie also collected the Y.P. Pools around the town and was well known in areas outside of Ballybot.

My own Granny Finnegan lived beside Alfie Matthews in Dominic Street, at number 17. She possessed various cures for jaundice, the 'sore head', sprains and the spool of the breast. Her house was an open house, always full of people waiting for cures and their faith in her powers of healing was generally rewarded. She lived to the age of 93 and I well remember her wake when people celebrated the passing of one of the best known Ballybot personalities.

Next door to Granny Finnegan lived Mrs. Kinney, her bosom pal. The two of them acted as local midwives (Mrs. Kinney delivered me) and also 'laid people out' when they died. She also lived well into her nineties and was blessed with a fund of stories and sayings.

A game of football was always a source of pleasure in Ballybot. Mc Kinstrey's field at the bottom of Bull's Hill was a weekly, sometimes a daily venue for games of football which could last for hours. Football in Ballybot cannot be mentioned without the name of Eddie 'Biff' Grimes following on. Biff lived for his football and inspired Ballybot to many triumphs when he was their manager in the 1950's - '60's. He was a man possessed of diverse talents and wrote poems and songs relating to Ballybot and the deeds of its footballers. Many's the night we spent in Felix Larkin's Bar listening to Biff's crack. Felix's was a focal point for the people of Ballybot. The old pub was unique and its like will never be seen again. In Felix's I had the pleasure to drink with many local characters. There was Willie Creggan, Luke Carr and Joe Moan Sen., all sadly deceased. They were experts in the art of slagging and could keep the crack going. They were mentors and friends agus ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann ach oiread.

In more recent years Ballybot has changed physically with the building of new houses and the removal of a lot of the old landmarks like Larkin's pub and Maguire's Corner. However, the very real community spirit still prevails and the wit and humour are always close to the surface. Like many others, I feel fortunate to have been born and reared in Baile Bocht.





**THE PEOPLE
OF BALLYBOT**



BALLYBOT UNITED 1947



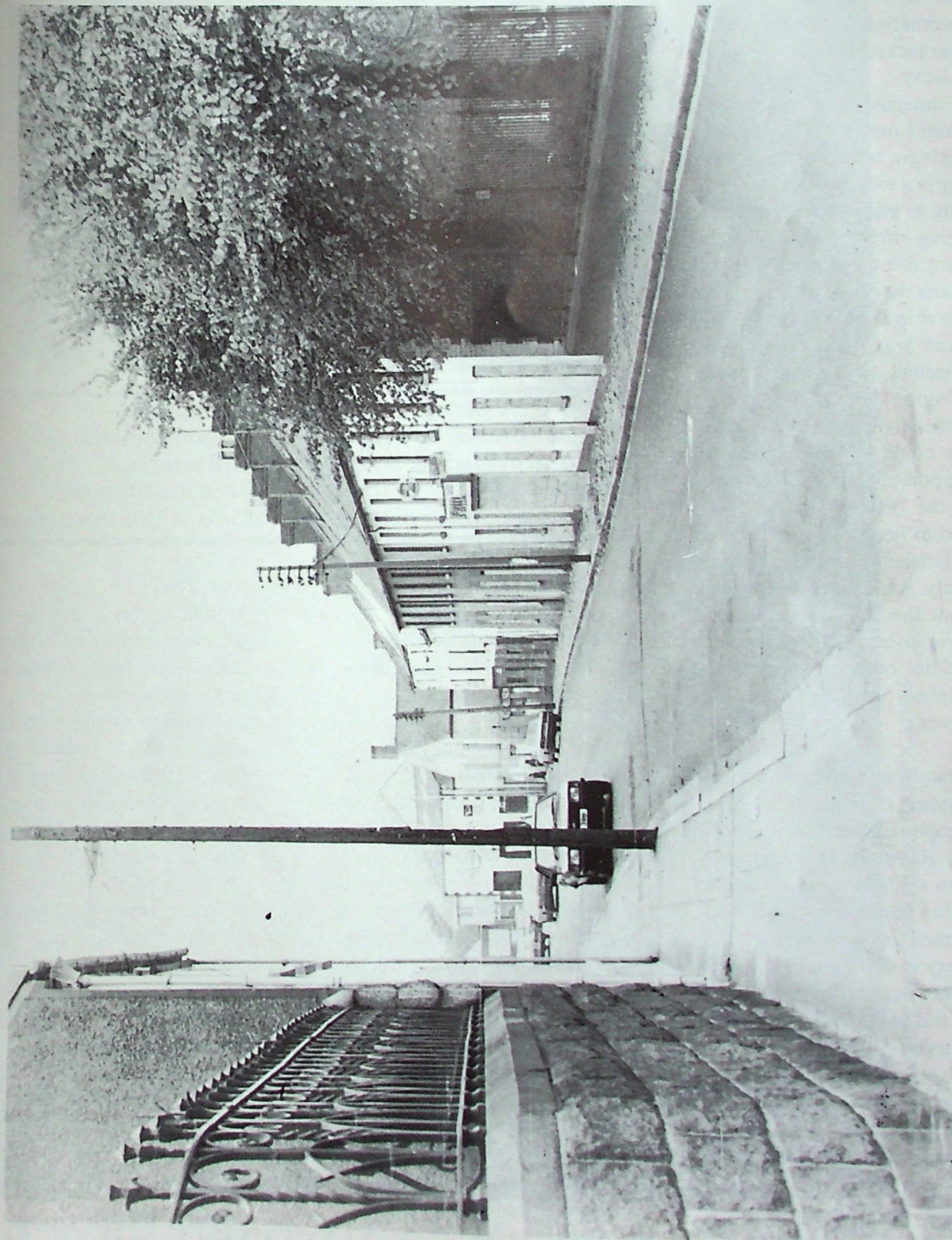
BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT : Michael Burns; Jimmy Heaney;; Mc Givern; (Doot)
 Craven; Oliver McGawley; Gerry Donaghy; Frankie Matthews.
 FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT : Eamonn Toner; Peter Burns; Pat McCaffrey; Liam Blair;
 Séamus Loughran

Teach Tábhairne Mhic Fhinneachta



**Grianghraf le caoinchead ó
Charles Mc Donald**

**Photograph of old Quinn Place,
taken by Mr. Liam Blair, Editor,
"BRASS TACKS" Community Magazine.**



THE COURAGE OF ABLE SEAMAN RAYMOND KELLY

On the 19th March 1947, an international distress signal was picked up from the Bay of Biscay. The motor ship "Famagusta", carrying a cargo from London to Cyprus, was taking a tremendous battering in a violent storm. Traveling as passengers were managing directors of the company that owned the ship. For hours the crew battled to keep the ship afloat but as the situation was rapidly becoming hopeless, she signalled to the "Empire Plover" which was some 90 miles away, asking if she could be taken in tow to the port of Culunna. The crew of the "Empire Plover" hurried to her aid, but on arrival found the "Famagusta" listing badly. A lifeboat was launched from the stricken vessel but was capsized by the heavy seas and its occupants were left helpless by the pounding waves.

Scrambling nets were then dropped over the side of the "Empire Plover" but Able Seaman Raymond Kelly, without even a life-line, dived into a raging sea to help those who seemed too weak to reach the safety of the "Empire Plover" by themselves. Twice he swam out and twice he brought back a survivor, but as there were still others struggling in the water he bravely set off for a third time. Seaman Kelly was nearly a hundred yards from his ship when he reached another swimmer in distress.



Above : A rare photograph of Raymond Kelly (back row, second from left). The photograph was provided by Mr. C.Mc Donald who has agreed to allow us to use several of his historic photographs in next year's edition of this magazine.

At that point a wave swept over the struggling pair. Able Seaman Raymond Kelly and the person he had gone to save were never seen again.

For his outstanding bravery in saving two lives, and for attempting to save a third despite fatigue and atrocious weather conditions, Raymond Kelly was posthumously awarded the George Cross (the highest civilian award for courage that can be bestowed in Britain and the north of Ireland), and the Lloyds' Silver Medal for saving life at sea.

Raymond Kelly was born in River Street, Newry, the eldest of a family of six. He was only 10 years old when his father died and consequently, as

a mere boy of 14, he joined the Merchant Navy to help his widowed mother provide for his younger brothers and sisters. For some six years he sailed the seven seas but tragically, on his 20th birthday, 19th March 1947, when he was on his way home after a two year absence on the high seas, he was destined to give his young life in his gallant endeavours to rescue survivors from the perishing "Famagusta".

A portrait of Raymond Kelly hangs in the vestibule of the Town Hall and the Newry Urban District Council honoured his memory when they named a housing development off Barcroft Park RAYMOND KELLY PARK.

**John McAleavey
Joe Morgan**



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MORGAN FAMILY

A fine portrait of Raymond Kelly

Seán Óg Mac an tSaoir

Nuachtánaí Sráid an Droichid

**Newry's Official Agent for
Gaelic League Publications**

Irisí de chuid Chumann Lúthchleas Gael ar díol anseo fosta



Ballybot at work in the last century.

Many Ballybot people see themselves as belonging to Ballybot first, and Newry second. This is entirely understandable given that for years Ballybot functioned as a self-contained area, beyond Newry proper. The Ballybot community today is mostly Catholic and the Dominican Church acts as a focal point for those living in close proximity to the Church and for those who reside in the large, sprawling, working class estates which merge with Altnaveigh, Ballinlare and Carnaget. The public houses, and Kiln Street corner, also serve as communal gathering points. Ballybot people rightly judge themselves as being special and in some respects removed from the rest of Newry. Some of them openly admit to being "Dominican Catholics" and they prefer not to worship in any other church in the town. Doctors, too, have helped set Ballybot apart - haven't they labelled one particular complaint the "Barcroft back" (suffered mostly by women who push prams up Barcroft hill) ?

This short essay will examine some aspects of the history of employment for the working class of Ballybot (Baile Bocht = Poor Town) in the last century and is intended only as a spur to the fine people of the locality who this year launched a community news bulletin, "Baile Bocht News", and who are interested in the social and economic history of the area.

Thomas Bradshaw's General Directory of Newry, 1820, makes a number of references to Ballybot. The first comments on Ballybot's court house:

"The sessions-house in Ballybot has a good gaol connected with it."

The court and the gaol gave employment to the people of the area. In 1820 John Thompson was the "bridewell keeper" in Ballybot. We know from other sources that in 1868 John Bourke was keeper of the bridewell. The court also helped to reinforce the Ballybot sense of independence. Writing in the "NEWRY REPORTER" on 11th June 1923, James Cusack recounted an incident which occurred in Ballybot Court and which indicates again the strong feeling that Ballybot was a place in its own right, and not just an extension of Newry :

"Ballybot was, up to late years, independent of Newry (proper) as regards the law. It had its own gaol, its own courts (Quarter, Petty Sessions, and Borough). Regarding the procedure of the last named, a very nice point arose in the 1870's. The late Mr. John J. O'Hagan was the Chairman of the Commissioners and presided over the court by virtue of his office. An irascible military gentleman was sent to town as R.M., and he insisted on appearing at the Borough Court and taking the chair, which Mr. O'Hagan held was the prerogative of the Chairman of the Commissioners. It went before the Law Officers of the Crown, and the R.M. was advised to clear out and leave 'well enough' alone. Knowing Mr. O'Hagan as I

did for many years, I consider the Law Officers gave the R.M. very wise and kindly advice indeed."

Bradshaw's other references to Ballybot relate to industries and markets :

"A commodious corn market-house has also been erected in Ballybot."

"In Ballybot there are two extensive breweries, both of which are working at present."

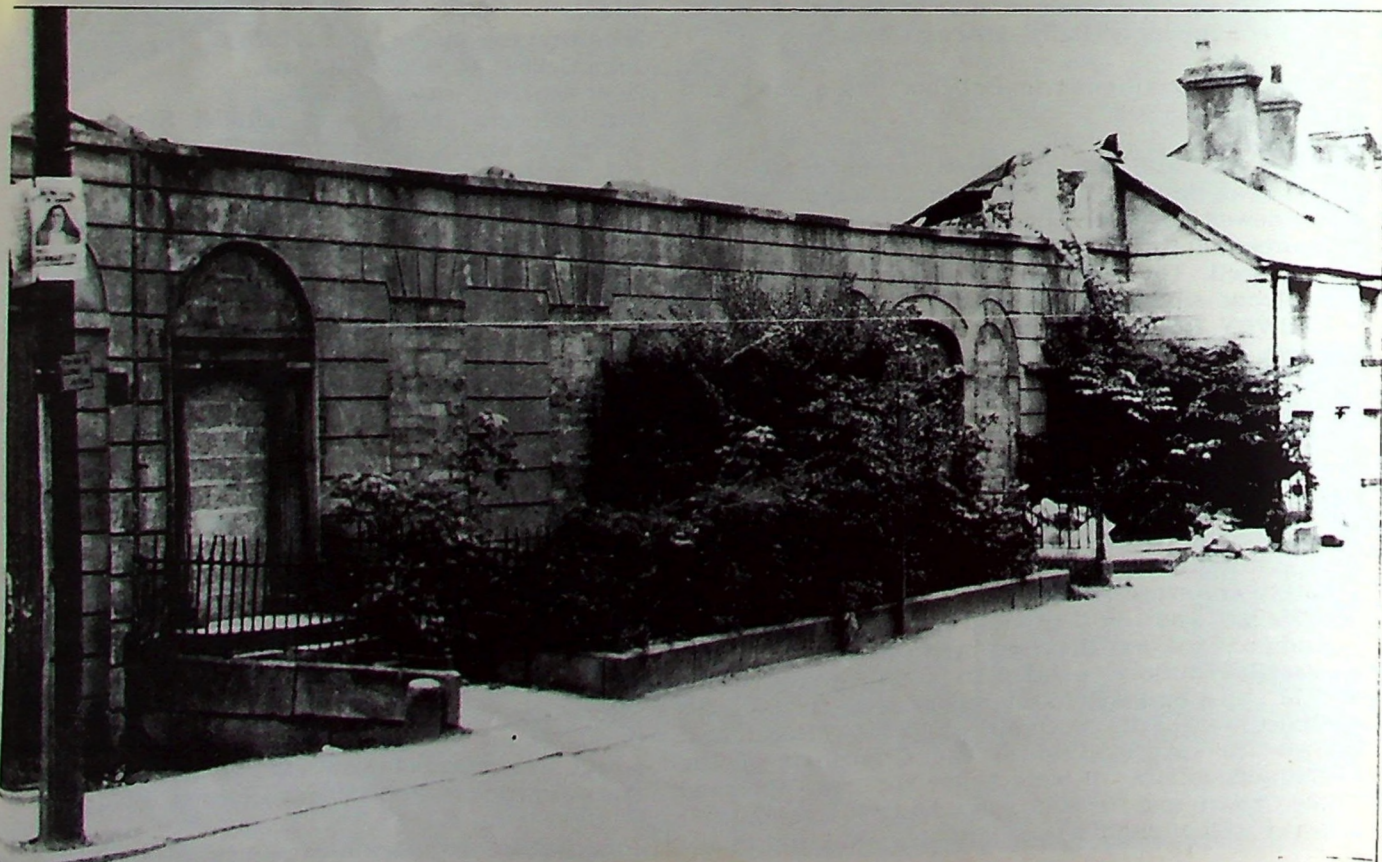
"Newry has two fairs, and Ballybot, also called Southwark, may hold four in the year. The latter were obtained many years ago, at the instance of two considerable merchants named O'Hear, but are not now held."

We can imagine that the breweries, which will be alluded to again later, were the big employers in the area. North Street, Boat Street, Merchants' Quay and Hill Street were obviously the commercial centres of the town, and a look at Bradshaw's list of occupations confirms that Ballybot was home to tradesmen primarily and not to businessmen :

Samuel Boyd, merchant, Queen Street.
Charles Boyle, nailer, King Street.
Moses Craig, cooper, King Street.
Patrick Doyle, cooper, Ballybot.
Laurence Duffy, cap and harness-maker, Queen Street.
John Grayson, cooper, Queen Street.
John Griffen, mason, Kiln Yard.
Peter Kearney, weaver, Kiln Yard.
Henry Murphy, journeyman chandler, Kiln Yard.
George Mc Calpin, publican, King Street.
William Mc Calpin, publican, Kiln Street.
Matthew Mc Convill, tailor, Kiln Street.
James Mc Conway, surveyor and gauger, King Street.
David Mc Kay, weaver, Queen Street.
Terence McKenna, brewer and malter, Queen Street.
Patrick Mc Mahon, reedmaker, Kiln Yard.
John Nicholson, cooper, Queen Street.
Corbett Pix, shoemaker, King Street.
Hugh Rooney, blacksmith, Queen Street.
William Ryan, carpenter, Queen Street.

In Edward Wyly's list of Newry's gentry, (Directory & Handbook, 1868), we find mention of only one member of that class resident in Ballybot, namely Mrs. Annett of Needham Street. At that time though, Robert H. Doherty, Newry's Town Clerk and one of the town's most respected citizens, also lived in Ballybot, at 29 King Street. It is clear, however, that Ballybot was no middle class precinct and the existence of W. Tweddle's pawnbrokers, also in King Street, shows that some people experienced hard times. At the same time, Wyly's own trade list does reveal a movement towards larger firms in Ballybot and away from independent tradesmen :

John Balmer, posting establishment, Kiln Street.



William Henry & Co., brewers, Queen Street.
 Thomas Hollywood & Sons, chandlers, King Street.
 Henry Jordan, builder, Queen Street.
 Edward Mulholland, butter and egg merchant, King Street.
 John Mc Auley, flax merchant, Cornmarket.
 John O'Hare, cartwright, Needham Street.
 Joseph Sergeson, bootmaker, Needham Street.
 John Small, flax stores, King Street.
 Joseph Lupton, corn merchant and miller, Queen Street.

Joseph Lupton, as recounted in an earlier "Cuisle na nGael", opened his flour mill in 1862. Dempster's Spinning Mills in Cornmarket and Soho Place, employed 500 people between them in the 1870's. Robert Dempster, a Scotsman, later built an additional mill at Monaghan Street, making him one of the biggest employers not only in Ballybot but in the whole of Newry. Dempster's manager at Cornmarket was Robert Kerr who succeeded to Mr. Dempster as owner of the mills. Kerr himself sold the mills to W.H. Hennessy. By 1870, William Henry's Brewery, as listed by Wyly, was the only brewery still operating in Newry.

George Henry Bassett's Directory and Guide to County Down, 1886, lays emphasis on the drinks industry in Ballybot. We find Peter Boden, of 7 King Street, as a Wholesale Bottler of Porter and Ales; the Spirit Retailers, William McAlpine, Kiln Street, John Mc Knight, Needham Street, Robert O'Rorke, Needham Street; and James Rice of Queen Street. Mineral Water Manufacturer. Mr. Rice placed an interesting advertisement in Bassett's Guide, and it's worth looking at it in full :

QUEEN STREET MINERAL WATER FACTORY.

THIS factory occupies the premises which formerly belonged to Henry's Brewery, famous for over half a century in the North of Ireland. Queen street is in the Armagh part of the borough of Newry, and is most favorably situated for tapping the currents of mountain springs. One of the purest of them was found upon the brewery property at a depth of one hundred feet through the solid rock. It cost over £1,000 to get at it.

Mr. James Rice, owner of the mineral water factory, soon after beginning his enterprise in 1881, sent a sample of the water to be put to the test of analysis by Professor, now Sir Charles, Cameron President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland. In the certificate of Sir Charles the fact is set forward that "this water is free from color and has no peculiar flavor or odor." I may say that the ingredients are favorable for mineral water manufacture."

Mr. Rice had previously, for some years, been engaged as a wholesale bottler of porter and ale, a branch of business which is made a feature by many of the mineral water manufacturers in Ireland. Having a large and growing constituency in the Counties of Down, Armagh and Louth, for porter and ale, it became a comparatively easy matter for him to popularize his aerated waters, and finally to turn his attention to the working of an export trade.

The factory, stores, stables, &c., occupy about an acre of ground, and there are two entrances, one from Queen street and the other from Dorrian's Hill.

Mr. Rice has spared no expense in the matter of machinery, and having a thoroughly qualified manager, was enabled to compete successfully at the Dublin Artizans' Exhibition of 1885. The gold medal, illustrated on the opposite page, was awarded for the excellence of the exhibit made for his factory in lemonade, ginger ale, sarsaparilla, soda water, champagne cider, and kali water. Only one other gold medal was given in this department of the exhibition.



JAMES RICE.

Rice's business concern was acquired by the O'Hare family who carried on the lucrative business at Ballybot under the name of The Frontier Mineral Water Works. By 1900, the plant was turning out 4,000 bottles of mineral water per day. The Mineral Water company provided a lot of employment in the Ballybot community and apparently was equipped with the most up to date machinery. An early copy of "THE OPEN WINDOW" (probably 1901) had this to say about the Ballybot mineral water industry :

"The bottling department, bottle washing, and the syrup factory are equipped in accord with the more important departments, and the packing rooms are heated with hot-air pipes. The famous well - 150 ft deep in solid rock - whose water is utilised in their manufacture, is a further guarantee of the purity and quality of these aerated waters. In fact, the entire concern, indoor and out, factory, cellars, stabling and yard premises, are a credit to our community, and worthily bear the name of the Frontier Town."

JOHN O'HARE & SONS,

MANUFACTURERS OF

HIGH CLASS MINERAL AND AERATED WATERS.

SIR CHARLES A. CAMERON'S ANALYSIS.

CITY LABORATORY, 15 CASTLE STREET.

DUBLIN, 1ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 1901.
 I have examined a collection of Mineral and Aerated Beverages submitted to me for that purpose by Messrs. JOHN O'HARE & SONS of Newry. I find them to be free from lead and copper, traces of which poison metals have been detected in Mineral Waters. The Beverages are evidently made from good materials, and are well Aerated. The Champagne Cyder is particularly good, and I am sure is a favourite beverage. These articles have been kept for some time in my Laboratory in order to note whether or not turbidity might take place in them. After several weeks' observation I found all the specimens clear and bright.

CHARLES A. CAMERON, M.D., F.R.C.S.,

Professor of Chemistry and Hygiene, R.C.S.I.

SPECIALITIES:

New style Ginger Beer, Champagne Cyder & Shandy Gaff.

Large holders of Danks & Co.'s season brewed Pale Ale guaranteed at least three months in bottle before delivery to customers.

Frontier Mineral Water Works, Newry.

It was about the turn of the century too, that the Steam Laundry was opened at 25 Queen Street. The Glenavon Steam Laundry Company, which was Lurgan based, had been sending a van to do collections in Newry, and found that the volume of business warranted a laundry based in Newry itself.



J C Nicholson.

Mr. J.C. Nicholson (whose family possibly gave their name to Nicholson's Court in Ballybot) was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Steam Laundry. Mr. Nicholson, it might be added in conclusion, had the further distinction of being the last Chairman of the Newry Town Commissioners who managed the Town's affairs in the days before Town Councils.

Garáiste Uí Chriagáin mar a bhí i Sráid Phroinsias



Photos courtesy of **Mr. B. Cregan**, Hawthorn Hill, Newry.

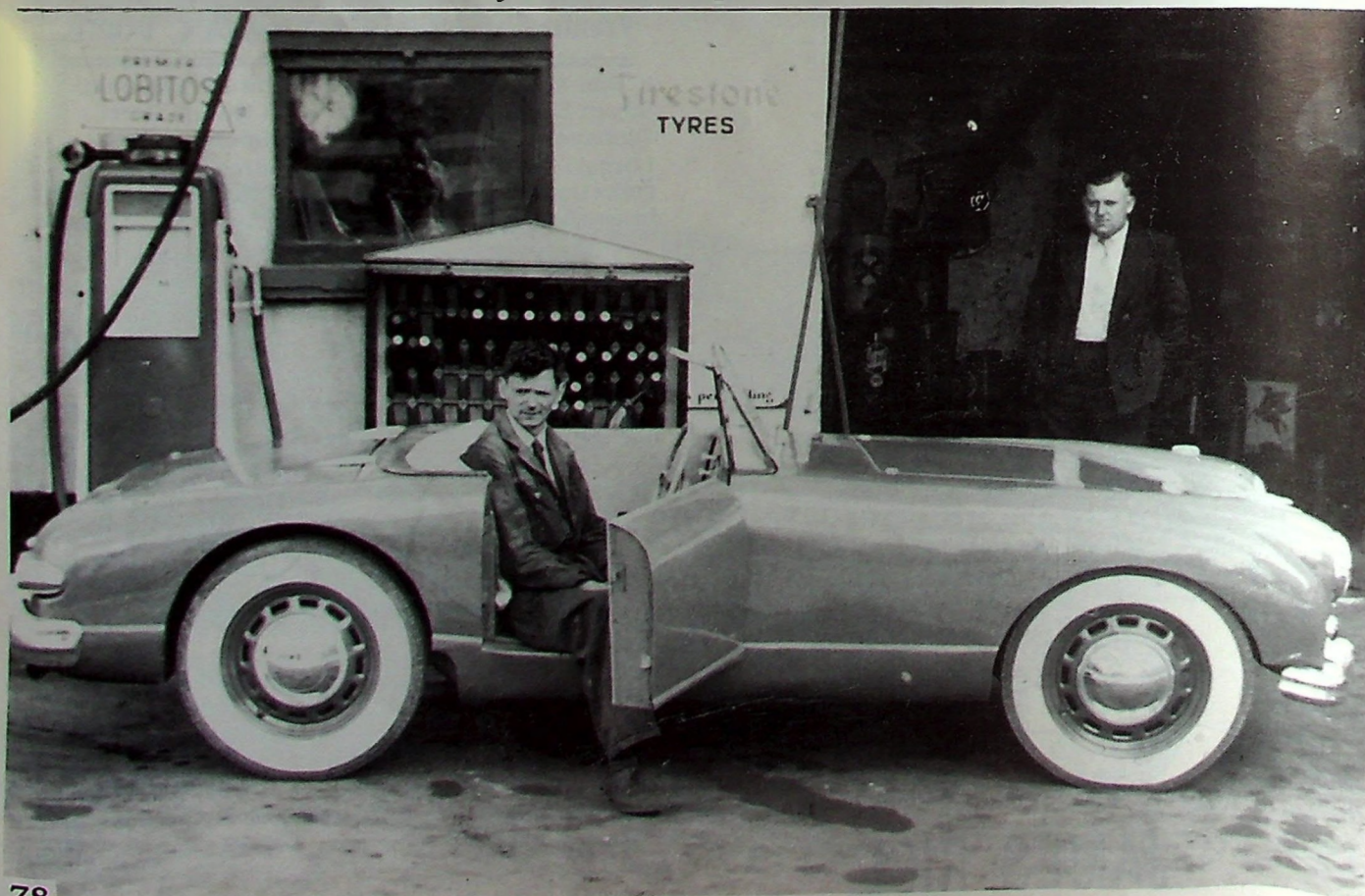
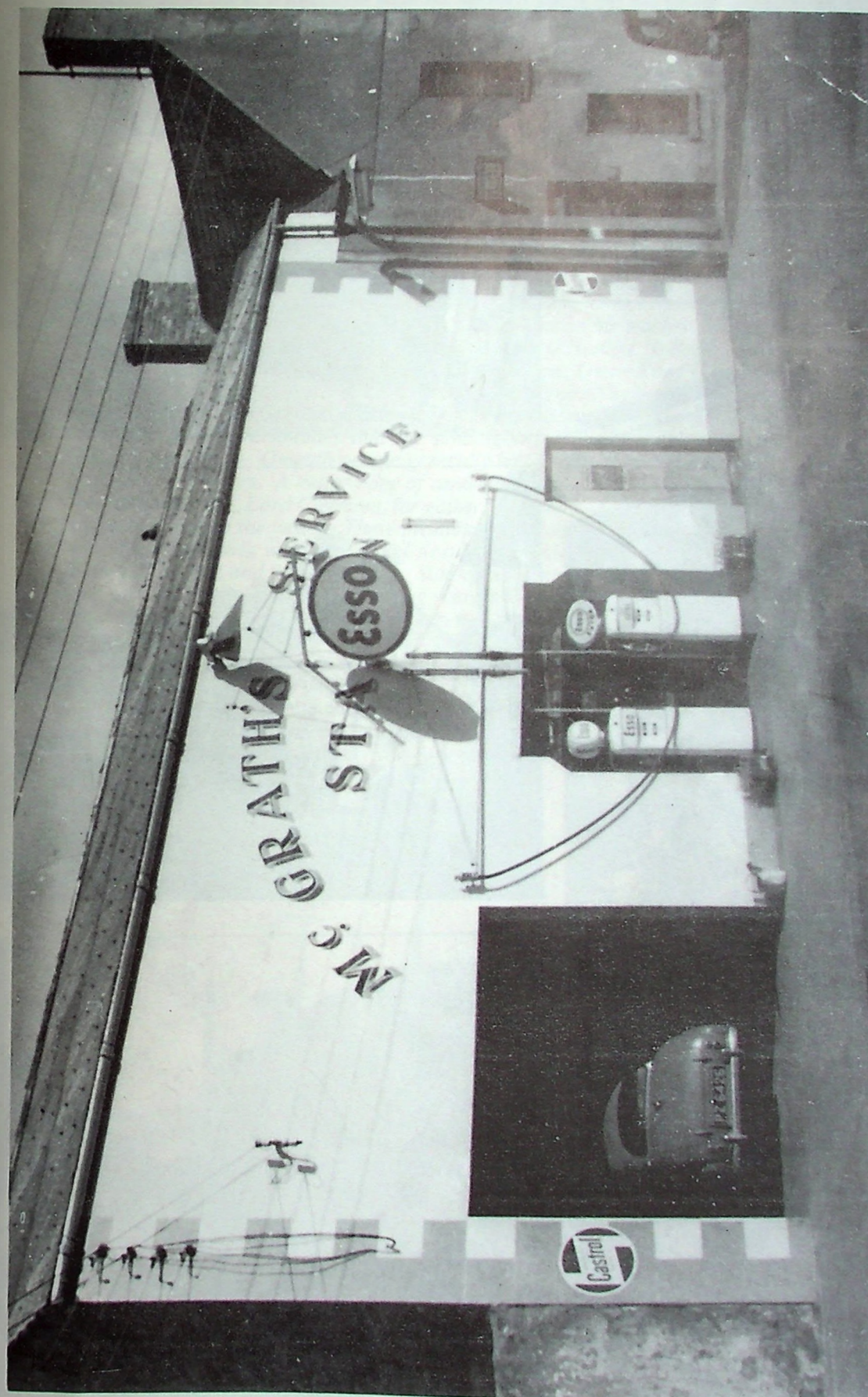


Photo courtesy of **Mc Grath Family**, The Glen, Newry.



**Garáiste Mhic Craith mar a bhí
i mBaile Bocht**

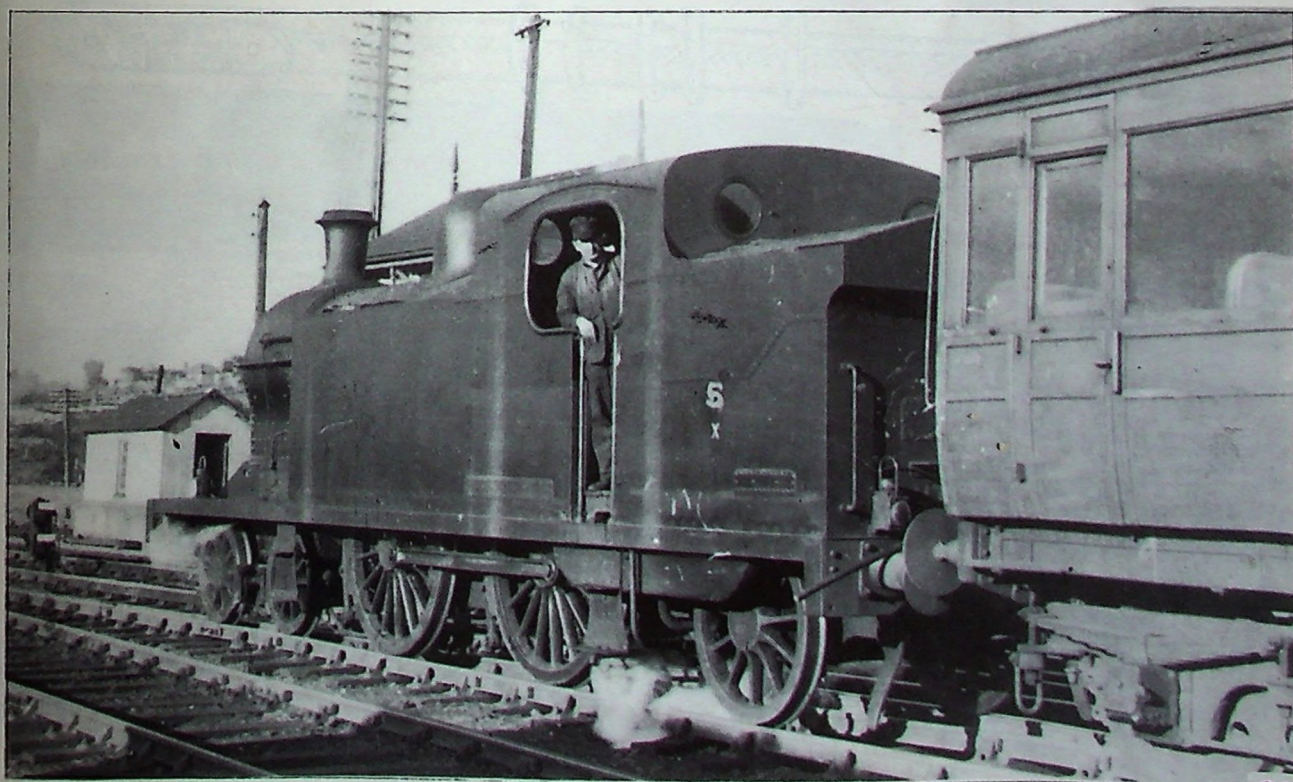
THE OLD
AND THE
NEARLY NEW
IN
BAILE BOCHT



THE END OF THE LINE

The following account was supplied by Michael Boyle of Millvale Road, Newry, and relates Michael's experience as an employee of the G.N.R.. Michael, a boiler man in Daisy Hill Hospital and part-time agent for Gael Linn, will be better known to our Irish speaking readers as Mícheál O Baoill. He is both a railway and an Irish language enthusiast and regularly visits Gort a'Choirche in the Donegal Gaeltacht. Mícheál was born on a small farm in the townland of Derrybeg, Newry, though he is mostly associated with Omeath. Mícheál's father, grandfather and greatgrandfather had been born in Omeath and Mícheál's own father was an Irish speaker, if a reluctant one. Educated at Ardagh National School, Mícheál remembers his teacher, Master McGrath, engaging in Irish conversation with the local postman, Michael O'Hanlon. Indeed, there were numerous Irish speakers still in Omeath at the time : Ann O'Hanlon; Owen Kane (known as "Oweny Dip") and Mary Rua McKeown. A list of O'Hanlons, all recognised by their sobriquets, also spoke Irish : Paddy Judy; Paddy Gréasai; Paddy Briney; Paddy Bán; Paddy Dargle; Paddy Shot. So prevalent were the family nicknames that the schoolgoing Mícheál didn't know the above 'Paddys' as O'Hanlons at all ! Omeath people generally had small farms and dabbled in the sale of cockles, mussels and oysters. A major bone of contention in the area was that local people had to pay the "cockle landlord", Lord Clermont, for gathering cockles. The Hall family too had to be paid if one wished to pick up the wrack. These invidious payments caused much resentment in the area. Some of the Omeath folk went to Kilkeel to buy fish which they subsequently sold in Armagh City, Newry, Dundalk and South Armagh. Side-cars were common in the village with up to fifty of them operating during the summer, ferrying visitors to Calvary, Carlingford or simply to the Half-Way House (Essmore House). Mícheál's interest though was to be in another type of transport.

I began my railway service in 1947 as an engine cleaner at Newry Loco. Department, Edward Street. It was a dirty job which entailed cleaning the engine, tender, wheels and moving parts with diesel oil. The tubes in the boiler had to be cleaned, as well as the brick arch. Smoke boxes had to be emptied and the ash pans had to be raked. We worked a six day week and sometimes Sundays as required. The rate for Sunday was time and a quarter. My starting weekly wage was £2. 2s.



After some time I was passed as a fireman, having been successful in a written and practical examination. The examination was sat in Dundalk Locomotive Running Department and involved answering questions on railway rules etc. The Newry Depot itself was quite a busy place at the time. Some of the drivers I remember based in Newry were : Barney O'Hare from Caulfield Place; Barney's brother, Jimmy "Rocky" O'Hare; Big Bob McKee from Merchants' Quay; Ricko McKee from Ballinacraig; Jack "the dozer" Kane from Maginness Street; Bob "the snob" Irvine who was born at Mullaglass; Billy Rodgers, originally from Dominic Street; Frank Shevlin of Edward Street; Herbie Patton, another Mullaglass man and known affectionately as Dean Swift; Paddy "bacon" Quinn from Dominic Street; Isaac Copeland from Craigmore; two other Caulfield Place men, Reggie Hunter and John Mitchel; Willie "the Rhineman" Clarke from Mary Street; Tommy Keely from Chapel Lane; Gerry Donnelly of Dundalk and Jemmy Black of Ballinacraig.

Among my fellow firemen I recall : John O'Hare; Paddy Culligan from Clones; John Hillen; Jack Black; Gerry Fegan from Michael Mallin Park; Jimmy Dennison; Rocky O'Hare, Junior; Davey Brown from Mullaglass and Sammy Patton (son of Herbie), also from Mullaglass but now settled in Australia to the best of my knowledge.

In addition to the above there were 6 engine cleaners, and 1 steam raiser who worked nights all the time. Paddy "middle cut" Quinn (to distinguish him from Paddy "bacon" Quinn), was the steam raiser. Jimmy Neary was the fitter and he had a fitter's helper. There was a storeman and four coalmen, and, of course, the foreman. The foreman when I started was William Mears, a man who constantly whistled hymns. "The old rugged cross" was his favourite, closely followed by "Abide with me". I remember on one occasion going to his house at 4.00 a.m. to inform him of a derailment and he answered the door whistling, you've guessed it, "The old rugged cross". Mr. Grey was the stationmaster when I started and he was followed by Mr. Evans, then Mr. Brown from Dundalk, and George Wright who came to us from Portadown. Jimmy Cromie from Warrenpoint was the stationmaster when the G.N.R. line finally closed in Newry. The stationmaster was to be distinguished by a rather more elaborate cap than that worn by the Guards or the Porters. The stationmaster's cap was black with gold piping, with a patent leather peak and adorned by gold lace. The G.N.R. cap badge was within gold oak leaves on a ribbon. The Guard's cap was a more humble affair. Again it was black, with yellow piping and gold lace on a patent leather peak. It bore the word "Guard" in gold on black ribbon. (The cap would seem to have been a likely souvenir to retain when the Newry line closed but Micheal chose instead to hold on to the NEWRY-WARRENPOINT staff. The staff was used only on single lines and gave possession of the track to the train bearing the staff. It could also be used for opening points and its key opened the bridge in front of what is now the Buttercrane Centre.)



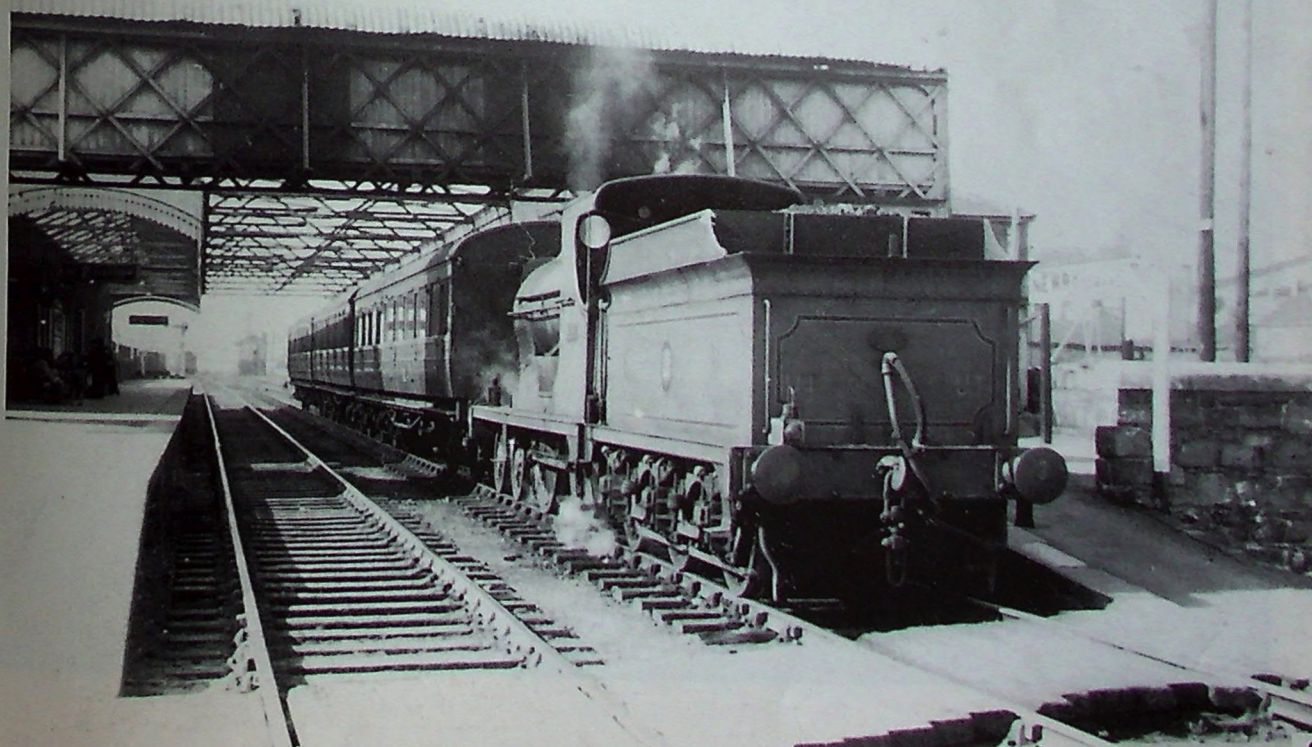
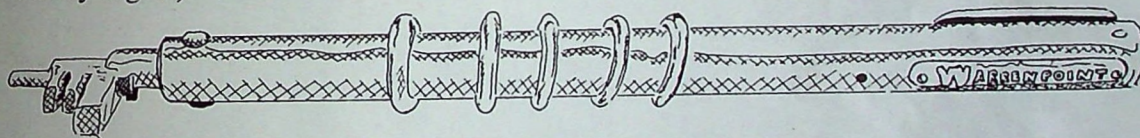
J D FitzGerald





J D Fitzgerald

Newry station was a busy place at the time. The Greenore Railway (D.N.G.R.) ran from Greenore to Newry giving a connection to Belfast, Portadown and Derry. There was a good freight train service to Greenore port and at one time a fine passenger run. Newry passenger station itself was also busy, the first train leaving at 5.50 a.m. for Belfast. At 6.25 a.m. a mixed train went to Warrenpoint. (A 'mixed' train meant that the passenger carriages were followed by goods trucks. The goods might include bags of flour; bags of sugar; furniture; carpet; bread etc. Goods trucks had special markings on them - BX signified cattle wagons; BU meant bread wagons; CX indicated coal wagons). Other morning trains included the 7.38 a.m. to the Point; the 7.40 a.m. to Belfast; the 9.00 a.m. to Belfast; 9.10 a.m. to Dublin; 11.00 a.m. to Belfast giving a connection at Goraghwood to Dublin. The schedule went on until the 11.20 p.m. to Warrenpoint (12.20 a.m. on Saturday nights).

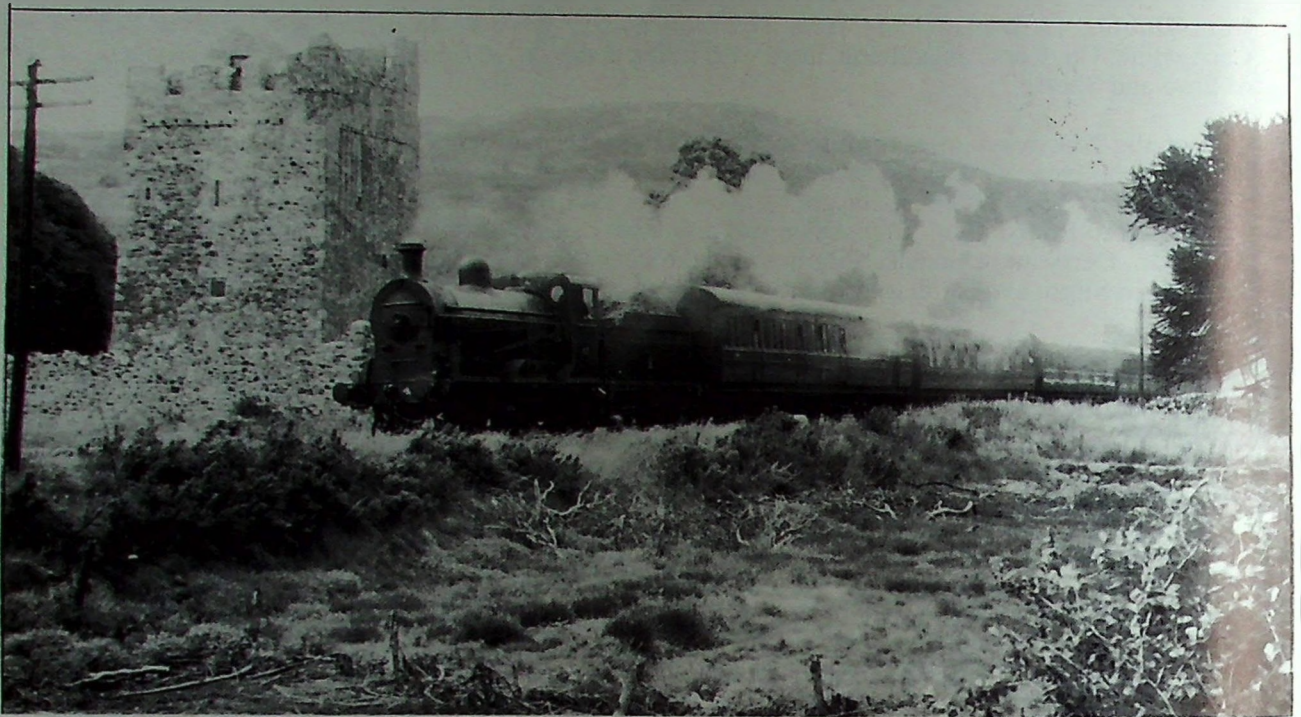


J D Fitzgerald



This photograph of DUBLIN BRIDGE STATION, taken by Des Fitzgerald, Armagh, should evoke many memories for our readers.

Faoi iomlán gaile



J D Fitzgerald

Cé gur tógadh mé fá ghrág asail den stáisiún traenach san Iúr, uimhir 30 Sráid Cecil le bheith beacht, d'fhéadfá a rá go raibh an stáisiún ann i ngann fhios domh formhór an ama. Gné normalta i ndáiríribh de ghnáthimeachtaí an lae fuaimeanna ilchineálacha ag teacht ionsorainn ón iarnród. Níor chuir na traenacha isteach nó amach orainn agus ba bheag ár n-aird orthu. Ba nós linn mar ghlas-stócaigh a bheith i mbun pleidhchíochta ar na ráilí ceart go leor, ag pocléimnigh linn ó thrasnán go trasnán, gidh go raibh a mhacasamhail in ainm is a bheith contúirteach agus toirmiscithe ag na tuistí. Bhí an stáisiún agus na línte ann mar áit shúgartha dúinn agus níor chreid muid riamh go rabhamar ciontach as a dhath ar bith as a bhealach.

Rinneamar talamh slán den seirbhís a chuir an G.N.R. ar fáil dúinn nuair a bhí fonn orainn éalú ó "shraideanna chaidheacha" an Iúir agus ár n-aghaidheanna a thabhairt ar Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua. Níor mhair an turas chuig an Phoinnte ró-fhada agus níorbh rud eis-ceachtúil an trúp ach an oiread. Lá brothallach griamhar ar bith i rith an tSamhraidh thug muid aghaidh ar an stáisiún i Sráid Éadbhard - Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua mar cheann scribe againn. Bhíodh plód ann romhainn ar an ardán go hiondúil, ag feitheamh ar an traein cheanna : ceapairí reidh ag na maithreacha,

scillingí sna spagaí acu fá choinne sceallóga sa Genoa nó sa Cosmopolitan; agus liathróidí, fáinní snámha, buicéid, spáda agus raicéid leadóige faoi ascaill na ngasúr. Ba éadrom an t-ualach.

Le fírinne a choíche, bhí an stáisiún féin gránna mar fhoirgneamh ach níor mhothaigh muid sin ag an am. Ba theoranta ár n-eolas ar chúrsaí ailtireachta. Samhlaíodh dúinn ámh go raibh an stáisiún broidiúil i dtólamh, obair chrúógach ar siúl i ngach chearn - traein eallaigh ag fáil reidh ar line amháin nó traein earraí, a hinneall faoi ghal, ag bog-ghluaiseacht fá dhein Goraghwood. Muise, b'in an áit. Ma' ghlac muid le stáisiún an Iúir mar ghnáthchuid dar dtimpeallacht, b'áit faoi dhraíocht i Goraghwood. I gcaitheamh laethanta saoire an tSamhraidh má chualathas an t-ainm "Goraghwood" fá theach s'againne, bhí barúil againn go raibh turas lae chuig Butlins beartaithe ag ár dtuismitheoirí agus treat ar dóigh i ndán dúinn. B'annamh a tharla, ach tá cuimhní ón turas chuig Mosney, agus na tréimhsí a chaitheamar sa champa ansin, neadaithe go buan ionam.

Bím corr-uair ag smaointiú siar ar na traenacha in Iúr Chinn Tra mar tá speis ar leith agam i gcorais iompair. Ar mo bhealach chuig Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua domh

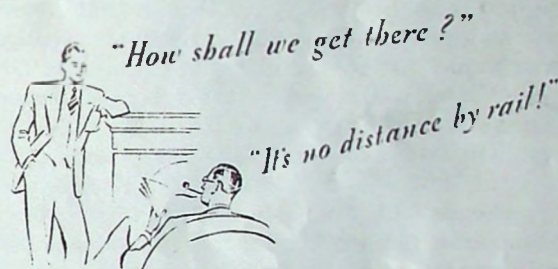


J D Fitzgerald

cuimhnim scaiti ar an vearsa a chum Stephen Spender,
oir nuair a chuirtear na linte i gcomhtheasc an Iúir
cluintear faonmhacallai ón ré ata thart:

*After the first powerful, plain manifesto
The black statement of pistons, without more fuss
But gliding like a queen, she leaves the station.
Without bowing and with restrained unconcern
She passes the houses which humbly crowd outside
The gasworks, and at last the heavy page
Of death, printed by gravestones in the cemetery
Beyond the town, there lies the open country
Where, gathering speed, she acquires mystery,
The luminous self possession of ships on ocean.*

(from "The Express" by Stephen Spender, Collected Poems, Faber and Faber).



G·N·R
GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY

*the Iron Roadway to the
lovely parts of Ireland*

THE MOUNTAINS OF MOURNE,
BOYNE VALLEY,
DONEGAL HIGHLANDS,
LOUGH ERNE.



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apply to Traffic Manager's Office, Belfast (Tel. 26881); District
Supt.'s Office, Dublin (Tel. 72941); District Supt.'s Office,
Omagh, (Tel. 96); or from Principal Tourist Agencies.
GEO. B. HOWDEN, General Manager.

The GNRC, the Port and Newry's economy, 1910.

Numerous explanations have been proffered to account for the ultimate closure of the railway system in Newry in 1965. Of the factors most likely to have influenced those in charge of the railways to finally terminate the Newry operation one can mention the following : the service had been running at a financial loss for some years; freight and passenger transport by road had drastically cut rail business; the Newry Port was in decline, and the number of day visitors to the Warrenpoint resort had fallen. In any case, the proliferation of level-crossings in Newry meant that the increasing road traffic in the town was being delayed and the commercial world didn't brook kindly the interruptions. The UTA, which had come to control the northern business of the GNR, was much more concerned with road transport than with rail. Added to all this was the fact that the Stormont Government was unwilling to invest in infrastructure in nationalist areas of the Six Counties.

It might justifiably be argued though that Newry's demise as a railway town was on the cards even from the early part of the century, and that the GNR Company itself acquiesced in the moves to promote Belfast as a rail centre and port at the expense of Newry. On two occasions in the first decade of this century, in 1907 and in 1910, the GNR Company was at loggerheads with the business fraternity in Newry. Problems arose because the Newry Port was capable of handling cargoes from steamers faster and more efficiently than the railway company was at distributing the imported goods. The average annual tonnage of goods carried by steamers at Newry in the period 1907-1910 was 300,000 tons, 200,000 tons of which was coal or minerals. Newry was essentially a distributing port, there being comparatively little local demand for the goods imported. Belfast Port however had a substantial local demand for coal and minerals and distribution to other parts of the country wasn't such an urgent consideration there as it was in Newry.

A large number of rail waggons was needed at Newry in order to speedily shift the coal and minerals landed at the town's port. The fact that the GNR kept the number of waggons based at Newry at a level well below that deemed necessary caused acute concern in Newry's commercial circles. At busy periods it was estimated by the trading and shipping concerns that 230 waggons should be in operation; GNR managed to provide only 120 waggons at the best of times. This shortfall in waggons had several ramifications. It was becoming difficult to get shipping companies to use the Newry port because of the constant delays. Orders for coal, once placed at Newry, were transferred to Belfast where there were fewer delays. Goods sometimes had to be stored in Newry before they were transported by rail, and storage fees added

to the importers' costs. Local owners of steamers found that their vessels were not being chartered because of the notorious delays occasioned by the lack of rail waggons at Newry Port. (It should be borne in mind that 85% of the carrying trade of the Newry Port was done by locally owned steamers). In addition, demurrage claims had to be met by charterers of the vessels. Slow turnover at the port meant that Newry's imports were being limited and profits restricted. Dock labourers were underemployed, their wage-earning potential severely curtailed as steamers were only unloaded at the pace at which the GNR decided to shunt the imported goods from the docks. The 1907 Newry Dock Strike had already left dock labourers in a vulnerable position, and the fact that they were but occasionally required at Newry Port left them little leverage when it came to pay negotiations.

At a public meeting held in Newry Town Hall on Monday, July 18, 1910, to discuss the crisis at the port, the following resolution was proposed by Thomas Irwin, Chairman Newry Port and Harbour Trust, seconded by J. T. Cardwell, Chairman of the Carlingford Lough Commission, and carried unanimously by the assembled business magnates :

That we, the merchants, traders, shipowners, and ratepayers of Newry, being as we are deeply interested in the welfare of the town and port, desire to call attention to the urgent necessity which exists for immediate steps in bringing prominently before the Directors of the Great Northern Railway Company the serious situation which has arisen by the undue detention of vessels in the harbour, owing to the action of that Company in failing to supply sufficient waggons to complete the discharge in reasonable time, and thereby diverting the traffic to other ports which apparently are not suffering as Newry, and occasioning serious financial loss owing to the inability of shipowners to keep their engagement with shippers at loading ports.

Local GNR officials maintained that sufficient rolling stock was available within the Company to cater for the demands at Newry Port but that for some reason the stock wasn't allocated to Newry. Newry's businessmen didn't impute any blame to the GNR staff serving locally and they were appreciative of the work done on their behalf by the Edward Street Stationmaster, Mr. Agnew. The refusal to adequately provide rail stock at Newry was blamed squarely on the Directors of the GNR. Thomas Irwin, indeed, intimated that the GNR wasn't simply incompetent but was engaged in more insidious machinations :

Can it be that there is any fixed purpose on the part of the great corporation (GNR) to destroy the trade of

Grianghraf a thug Pat McArdle (SNAUBS) dúinn



leury, and to damage entirely the districts that naturally lie in to it as their source of supply ?

The town's businessmen provided all sorts of evidence to show that Newry's trade was being disadvantaged by the dearth of rail waggons. In his submission to the Public Meeting already alluded to, Mr. Frank Fisher (of the firm of Joseph Fisher & Sons, shipbrokers and timber merchants) gave the following details :

The steamer SEAPOINT was badly delayed at Newry the week before last, and in consequence when she got to next loading port she had to sail 100 tons short owing to the falling tides. Take the OLIVE, which arrived in Newry on Thursday afternoon last. She was not cleared until Saturday night, and had to lie over till Sunday to load an outward cargo of stones, when with ordinary despatch she would have been cleared on Friday, loaded on Saturday, and at her destination for discharge on Monday. Take the RETRIEVER, arriving on Friday morning; she should have been cleared the same day, loaded again on Saturday, and back here yesterday again..... On Saturday morning two steamers were actually sent over to the east side out of the way till the mess at the railway berths was cleared away. On Saturday morning the position was OLIVE and PRASE, which arrived on Thursday, were waiting waggons, and only cleared on Saturday night..... I am told that at present in Belfast there is no undue delay..... I am also told by a Newry shipping man that he counted 34 empty waggons in Dundalk yesterday...."

Figures show too that there were increasing demands on the Newry rail system from other quarters. Passenger trade to Warrenpoint had almost doubled with the volume of excursion traffic. The Greenore express service was also popular and added to the congestion at Newry. The demand for a better rail service was there for all to see but the GNR Directors dragged their feet. They had effected some improvements such as extending the siding at the Albert Basin and doubling the line from Edward Street to King Street, thereby relieving delays at level crossings. They had also constructed a goods shed at Edward Street. These improvements though offered only temporary respite. Newry businessmen argued that the four miles of single line from Goraghwood to Newry should be made into a double line as freight traffic delays at Goraghwood had further aggravated their mounting difficulties in meeting delivery deadlines. The GNR also prevaricated when requests were made to arrange a stop for the limited mail train from Dublin to Belfast and vice-versa at the Bessbrook Station. It was believed that this stop would ease some of the demands made on Edward Street Station. The GNR Directorate summoned up the forbidding figure of the Postmaster-General who was apparently in such a hurry to have the nation's mail delivered that he couldn't countenance a delay at Bessbrook. Meanwhile, sufficient rolling stock was to hand in Belfast and in Dundalk - both towns having rapidly eclipsed Newry as commercial centres.

Agitation for an improved rail service at Newry was to continue throughout the 20th century and even at present there is a demand for more comfortable passenger facilities at the former Bessbrook Station (now Newry Station). The commitment of rail companies to Newry appears at times to have been a begrudging one. When the Goraghwood-Newry-Warrenpoint Service was terminated, the tracks were consigned to the scrapheap, the permanent way sold off and the railway buildings levelled - all with an unseemly haste. None of the same urgency was ever apparent in improving the local rail service. This was unfortunate when one considers the volume of freight traffic which could have been carried by rail from the now thriving Warrenpoint Port, and when one brings to mind the intolerable living conditions of residents who must endure the constant drone of heavy duty vehicles as they wind their way through some of Newry's narrowest streets. Throughout Europe too, the running of steam train special excursions has attracted thousands of tourists to areas which were far-sighted enough to retain their tracks and railway buildings even when trains had seemed to become redundant.

BELOW : Mr. Jack Hillen and Mrs. Hillen. Photograph taken at Aileen Terrace, Newry. Jack Hillen worked for some forty years with the rail service in Newry.



DOWN TRAINS.

15th day of July 1941

The log entries reproduced below were made by Mr. Jack Hillen, Aileen Terrace, Newry. Jack started work as a shunter with the GNRC. On 1st April 1936 he moved on to assume duties at the King Street Cabin. Working with Jack at that time was Mr. Bobby Agnew. The logs were kept in meticulous order and fortunately for us Jack's son, Seán Hillen, held on to the logs as souvenirs when the rail service closed down. It is interesting to note how often the staff was out for the drawbridge - an indication of how busy the Newry Canal was in 1941. Also worthy of note is the number of Passenger Excursions to Warrenpoint on this date, the 15th August.

Description of Train	Is Line Clear? Signal received from Box in rear		Section Clear but Junction blocked Signal Box given to rear	Train entering Section Box in rear		Is Line Clear? Signal received to Box in advance		Section Clear but Junction blocked Signal Box in advance	Arrived		Train entering Section Box in advance		Train out of Section given to Box in rear	Departed or passed	BLOCKING BACK to Signal Box in rear				BLOCKING BACK received from Signal Box in advance				TRAIN OUT OF SECTION received from Signal Box in advance						
	Signal accepted			Hrs	Mins	Hrs	Mins		Signal refused		Hrs	Mins			Hrs	Mins	Inside Home Signal		Outside Home Signal		Hrs	Mins							
	Signal	accepted							Hrs	Mins							Signal	refused	Hrs	Mins				Hrs	Mins	Hrs	Mins	Hrs	Mins
3.15 PM Co. W.P.R.		3.28		3	40		3	38				3	40		3	41						3	44						
3.45 PM Co. W.P.R.		4.18		4	12		4	10				4	12		4	14						4	24						
4.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		4.44		4	48		4	44				4	48		4	50						4	54						
4.35 PM Co. W.P.R.		5.14		5	15		5	14				5	15		5	14						5	32						
5.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		6.10		6	22		6	20				6	22		6	25						6	35						
6.15 PM " "		6.36		6	40		6	36				6	40		6	44						6	44						
6.40 PM Co. W.P.R.		6.51		6	51		6	44				6	51		6	53						6	55						
7.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		7.21		7	14		7	11				7	14		7	19						7	21						
7.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		7.31		7	22		7	21				7	22		7	38						7	42						
7.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		7.43		7	28		7	22				7	28		7	45						7	50						
8.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		8.15		8	22		8	11				8	22		8	43						8	46						
8.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		8.21		8	26		8	11				8	26		8	48						8	41						
8.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		8.43		8	28		8	16				8	28		8	50						8	49						
8.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		9.05		8	50		8	46				8	50		8	50						8	50						
9.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		9.15		9	15		9	15				9	15		9	18						9	16						
9.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		9.21		9	16		9	16				9	16		9	18						9	11						
9.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		9.43		9	18		9	16				9	18		9	20						9	19						
9.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		10.05		9	50		9	46				9	50		9	50						9	50						
10.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		10.15		10	15		10	15				10	15		10	18						10	21						
10.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		10.21		10	16		10	16				10	16		10	18						10	21						
10.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		10.39		10	24		10	20				10	24		10	26						10	26						
11.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		11.28		11	33		11	29				11	33		11	36						11	38						
11.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		11.38		11	33		11	29				11	33		11	36						11	38						
11.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		11.48		11	38		11	34				11	38		11	41						11	41						
11.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		12.08		11	50		11	46				11	50		11	53						11	53						
12.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		12.18		12	00		12	00				12	00		12	03						12	03						
12.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		12.28		12	04		12	04				12	04		12	07						12	07						
12.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		12.38		12	08		12	08				12	08		12	11						12	11						
12.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		12.58		12	12		12	12				12	12		12	15						12	15						
1.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		1.10		1	00		1	00				1	00		1	03						1	03						
1.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		1.20		1	04		1	04				1	04		1	07						1	07						
1.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		1.40		1	08		1	08				1	08		1	11						1	11						
1.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		1.58		1	12		1	12				1	12		1	15						1	15						
2.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		2.10		1	16		1	16				1	16		1	19						1	19						
2.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		2.20		1	20		1	20				1	20		1	23						1	23						
2.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		2.40		1	24		1	24				1	24		1	27						1	27						
2.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		2.58		1	28		1	28				1	28		1	31						1	31						
3.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		3.10		1	32		1	32				1	32		1	35						1	35						
3.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		3.20		1	36		1	36				1	36		1	39						1	39						
3.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		3.40		1	40		1	40				1	40		1	43						1	43						
3.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		3.58		1	44		1	44				1	44		1	47						1	47						
4.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		4.10		1	48		1	48				1	48		1	51						1	51						
4.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		4.20		1	52		1	52				1	52		1	55						1	55						
4.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		4.40		2	00		2	00				2	00		2	03						2	03						
4.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		4.58		2	04		2	04				2	04		2	07						2	07						
5.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		5.10		2	08		2	08				2	08		2	11						2	11						
5.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		5.20		2	12		2	12				2	12		2	15						2	15						
5.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		5.40		2	16		2	16				2	16		2	19						2	19						
5.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		5.58		2	20		2	20				2	20		2	23						2	23						
6.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		6.10		2	24		2	24				2	24		2	27						2	27						
6.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		6.20		2	28		2	28				2	28		2	31						2	31						
6.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		6.40		2	32		2	32				2	32		2	35						2	35						
6.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		6.58		2	36		2	36				2	36		2	39						2	39						
7.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		7.10		2	40		2	40				2	40		2	43						2	43						
7.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		7.20		2	44		2	44				2	44		2	47						2	47						
7.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		7.40		2	48		2	48				2	48		2	51						2	51						
7.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		7.58		2	52		2	52				2	52		2	55						2	55						
8.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		8.10		3	00		3	00				3	00		3	03						3	03						
8.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		8.20		3	04		3	04				3	04		3	07						3	07						
8.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		8.40		3	08		3	08				3	08		3	11						3	11						
8.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		8.58		3	12		3	12				3	12		3	15						3	15						
9.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		9.10		3	16		3	16				3	16		3	19						3	19						
9.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		9.20		3	20		3	20				3	20		3	23						3	23						
9.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		9.40		3	24		3	24				3	24		3	27						3	27						
9.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		9.58		3	28		3	28				3	28		3	31						3	31						
10.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		10.10		3	32		3	32				3	32		3	35						3	35						
10.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		10.20		3	36		3	36				3	36		3	39						3	39						
10.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		10.40		3	40		3	40				3	40		3	43						3	43						
10.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		10.58		3	44		3	44				3	44		3	47						3	47						
11.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		11.10		3	48		3	48				3	48		3	51						3	51						
11.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		11.20		3	52		3	52				3	52		3	55						3	55						
11.30 PM Co. W.P.R.		11.40		4	00		4	00				4	00		4	03						4	03						
11.50 PM Co. W.P.R.		11.58		4	04		4	04				4	04		4	07						4	07						
12.00 PM Co. W.P.R.		12.10		4	08		4	08				4	08		4	11						4	11						
12.10 PM Co. W.P.R.		12.20		4	12		4	12																					

DOWN TRAINS.

The day of May

19.41

Of special interest in the log entries below from the King Street Cabin is the fact that Jack Hillen signed off duty at 1.55 a.m. Jack's normal time for signing off was 11.50 p.m. Seán Hillen's explanation for his father's late signing off was that special goods trains would move from Warrenpoint at unexpected hours. The railway staff were given bare details, the ongoing Second World War making security considerations of vital importance.

Description of Train	Is Line Clear? Signal received from Box in rear		Section Clear but Station or Junction blocked given to Signal Box in rear		Train entering Section given in advance		Arrived	Train out of Section given in rear		Departed or passed	BLOCKING BACK to Signal Box in rear		BLOCKING BACK received from Signal Box in advance		TRAIN OUT OF SECTION received from Signal Box in advance	
	Signal refused	Signal accepted	Signal refused	Signal accepted	Hrs	Mins		Hrs	Mins		Signal Box in rear		received from Signal Box in advance			
											Inside Home Signal	Outside Home Signal	Inside Home Signal	Outside Home Signal		
	Hrs	Mins	Hrs	Mins	Hrs	Mins	Hrs	Mins	Hrs	Mins	Hrs	Mins	Hrs	Mins	Hrs	Mins
3.10 Pm E. to P. r.		3 24		3 24		3 24		3 51		3 51					3 51	
Home Road		4 15		4 20		4 20		4 20		4 20					4 24	
4.10 Pm E. to P. r.		4 49		4 49		4 49		4 55		4 55					4 59	
Home Road		5 24		5 25		5 25		5 28		5 28					5 40	
4.35 Pm E. to P. r.		5 45		5 45		5 45		5 49		5 49					5 51	
6.10 Pm E. to P. r.		6 56		6 56		6 56		7 11		7 11					7 15	
Engine to W. P. r.		7 40		7 40		7 40		7 43		7 43					7 47	
Home Road		8 03		8 09		8 09		8 11		8 11					8 16	
4.50 Pm E. to P. r.		8 18		8 18		8 18		8 24		8 24					8 32	
4.10 Pm " "		9 24		9 24		9 24		9 51		9 51					9 57	
Home Road		10 19		10 19		10 19		10 23		10 23					10 24	
4.10-15 Pm E. to P. r.		11 11		11 11		11 11		11 16		11 16					11 18	
Home Road		1 22		1 22		1 22		1 24		1 24					1 40	
4.10 Pm E. to P. r.		1 22		1 22		1 22		1 24		1 24					1 40	
Home Road		1 22		1 22		1 22		1 24		1 24					1 40	

They started as Boy Porters

Two local men who started working with the GNR in Newry in the 1940's are Jimmy Mulholland, who came originally from Dundalk, and Philip McCorry who was born in John Martin Street. Both men are well known as railway enthusiasts and both commenced their railway careers as Boy Porters.

When Jimmy Mulholland started in October 1941 his first wage was £0. 13. 4d but by April 1944, when Phil McCorry joined the company, the weekly wage for Boy Porter had risen to £1. 2. 6d . Both men had a family tradition of working with the GNR. Jimmy's father, Thomas, had been employed as a fitter in the Dundalk rail works; while Phil's father was first a shunter at Edward Street Station and then promoted to the position of Guard until finally retiring from the railway service at the age of 65.

Among the many duties carried out by Jimmy Mulholland were :- attending to passengers' needs; lighting and trimming the signal lamps; greasing and oiling the axle-boxes and repairing of same. Jimmy worked outside Newry on the mainline (Bessbrook) as holiday relief, and at Adelaide, Belfast, where he was training to be a Carriage and Wagon Examiner. Phil Mc Corry's first duties were in the Parcel Office at Edward Street Station. He was transferred from there to Dublin Bridge in May 1944 and stayed at Dublin Bridge throughout that Summer. He was promoted to Number Taker and Lamp Boy and carried out these responsibilities until 1948. Phil was transferred to Warrenpoint in 1948 and worked for a while as Porter/Ticket Collector. He next became a shunter in 1949 and two years later was transferred back to Newry's Edward Street, becoming Basin Shunter. Phil eventually became Head Shunter. From then on, until the system closed in 1965, Phil performed duties throughout Newry, at Edward Street Cabin, Monaghan Street, King Street, Dublin Bridge and Buttercrane. He was, at times, a Guard and a Goods Porter.



Danny Doran and Michael Boyle



*The Warrenpoint Line on a misty day in Newry.
Photograph donated by Danny Doran*



(negative supplied by Jimmy Mulholland, developed by Liam Murtagh)

Outside the Edward Street Station

One of Phil's early duties as a Boy Porter was to carry messages which had been sent by morse code to the Telegraph Office, and take them from there to the Engine Shed, Goods Office, Cabins and Station Master. The morse code messages received at the Telegraph Office were handled there by operators who were employed by the Post office and not by the railway company. Mrs. Mc Govern, Catherine Street, and Miss Mc Williams, Patrick Street, were the two women who looked after the Telegraph Office. The morse system was replaced by telephone in the 1950's, though the new system wasn't all that

efficient in its initial stages. Other Boy Porter duties included : brushing the platforms, and lighting fires in the waiting rooms, Master's Office, Goods Office, Booking Office and Foreman's Room. Looking after these fires proved quite a burden for the Boy Porter. The ten ton wagon of coal for the fires stopped ten yards short of where the coal had to be deposited (under the engine water tank) and the coal had to be shovelled by hand until the wagon was emptied. This was a demanding task since it had to be completed in a limited time.



J D Fitzgerald

During Phil's time as Head Shunter he worked three shifts : 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 3 p.m. - 11 p.m.; 1.30 a.m. - 8 a.m. Life was somewhat more predictable for Jimmy Mulholland, who for a period of four years worked six days a week from 4 p.m. to midnight. Some of their fellow GNR employees remembered by both men include Joe McCrudden, Davy Madill, George Mc Whirter, A Bittles, Rosie Mc Bride, Jack Mc Alinden, N. Mc Court, T Boyd, Henry Cowan, B Caldwell, L Bodell, C Mc Donagh, Nancy Rafferty, Patsy Doherty the office clerk who married Reg Hunter, Engine Driver, Pat Quinn, Aidan Lawless

and Johnny Clarke the chief clerk in the Ticket Office.

Jimmy Mulholland was working for seven years with the GNR before he was given a uniform. Phil was more fortunate and hadn't to wait long on his cap, waistcoat, short coat and trousers. Both men joined the National Union of Railwaymen, though in the 1950's Phil moved to the N.A.T.E. which had its Head Office in Dublin. Neither man was greatly impressed by the staff facilities provided by the GNR. There was no formal canteen area and



J D Fitzgerald

employees prepared a meal where they could. Work was hard too. The two-platformed Edward Street Station was always busy in the 1940's-'50's, but especially between 8.00 a.m. and 5.50 p.m. There were two waiting rooms at Edward St. Station and a Foreman's Room which doubled up as the Telegraph Office. In the late 1940's the two foremen were Bruno Clark, who resided at Edward Street, and Bill Mc Cutcheon who lived at Vimy Terrace. Station Masters over the years included A B Gray, who lived at Altnaveigh, Mr. Evans, Mr. Egan, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Brown and Mr. Bradley who was the last Station Master.

Jimmy Mulholland informed us that the Goods Shed was one of the busiest sections at Edward Street. There were 15 sidings for shunting purposes, a water tank, a signalbox, and a workshop where W. Mears was the foreman and J. Neary the fitter. Coal and meal were the main goods in transit.

Any conversation with Jimmy Mulholland or Phil McCorry can quickly divert into a discussion on the railway days in Newry. The railways for them still possess a charm and an immediacy, and one railway anecdote always borrows another. This is in spite of the fact that these two former railway workers, and most others like them in the town, feel disappointed yet that the railway age came to an untimely end in Newry in 1965.

NEWRY RAIL PHOTOS - THIS PAGE
Supplied by J. Mulholland and Pat Duffy



Edward St. Railway Sidings

Railwaymen gave each of the sidings at Edward Street Station a special name. Some of the names elude me now while others come readily to mind. The siding next the tram-line was called "Bucky". This was where the empty cattle wagons were washed out. Some of the engine drivers kept potato plots here and the regular supply of manure from the cattle wagons meant that these potatoes were among the best grown in the locality. We also had the "Long Siding" and the "Short Siding", and the "Far Den" and the "Near Den". Fishers' coal wagons were weighed at the 'Far Den'. The "Store Road" and the "Down Straight" were utilised for storing carriages, while I recall the "Long Dock" and the "Short Dock" being used for storing British Army equipment during the Second World War.

Another siding was the preserve of the two local companies Fishers and Shiells. Fishers always sent their own men over to empty the cement wagons, a job, indeed, the railwaymen preferred not to do, especially on hot summer days. Other prominent Newry firms which used the sidings were O'Hare's Mills, Sands' Mill, and Mc Govern's of Monaghan Street. Chivers were also good customers of the rail freight service, and Lyons had their own shed beside the dock and employed a Mr. Walker there in my time. All in all, the goods area at Edward Street Station was a busy place to work and shunters had to keep their wits about them to see that wagons were sent to their proper sidings.

Philip Mc Corry

C.A.R.S. of NEWRY

Main Dealer



Phone
(0693) 60606

Cúis áthais dúinn a bheith
ceangáilte le Gluaiseacht
na Gaeilge in Iúr Chinn Trá.
Tá muid araon ag obair
ar shon muintir an Iúir.



JOHN O'HARE, ROONEY'S MEADOW
One of Newry's well-known train drivers,
now retired.

Seo thíos sceideal a bhí i gcló ag tús an chéid insan iris fíor-spéisiúil "THE OPEN WINDOW".

RAILWAY.

CHIEF TRAINS FROM AND TO EDWARD STREET STATION.

TRAINS LEAVE—

For Belfast—8.5, 9.8, 10.50 a.m.; 12.58, 3.30, 7.12 p.m. The majority of these include intermediate stations, and all stop at LURGAN and PORTADOWN, and carry passengers also for ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE, and CLONES (except 10.50 a.m. and 7.12 p.m.)

For Dublin—8.5, 10.50 a.m., 3.12, 6.20 p.m. The majority of these include intermediate stations, and all stop at DUNDALK and DROGHEDA.

For Londonderry (Edward Street)—10.50 a.m., 12.58, 4.30 p.m. This is also the train for OMAGH.

For Greenore (Edward Street)—8.35 a.m., 12 noon, 3.0 and 7.0 p.m. Ditto for CARLINGFORD and OMEATH.

TRAINS ARRIVE—

From Belfast*—8.58, 9.50, 11.33 a.m., 3.49, 6.57, 9.25 p.m. Ditto, LURGAN and PORTADOWN; ARMAGH and BANBRIDGE (except 9.50 and 9.25; CLONES (except 8.58 and 11.33).

From Dublin*—11.33 a.m., 1.35, 5.0, 8.0 p.m. Ditto, Drogheda and Dundalk, and the latter has one extra, viz.—leaving Dundalk at 8.48 a.m., and arriving at Newry at 9.50.

From Londonderry—11.33 a.m., 3.49, 6.57 p.m. Ditto OMAGH.

From Greenore—7.56, 10.40 a.m., 2.0, 5.0, 6.46 p.m. Ditto Carlingford and Omeath.

SUNDAYS.

Trains run from Dublin Bridge Station for BELFAST, BANBRIDGE, LURGAN, PORTADOWN, &c., 7.5 p.m., and ARRIVE FROM same places at 3.50 p.m.

N.B.—Cheap Saturday to Monday tickets are issued, for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class (Belfast and Dublin). To Banbridge, market tickets are issued by first train on Mondays at 2/-, and to Dundalk by first train on Mondays, at 2/1.

*Passengers can travel from Belfast by mail train (10.0 p.m.), and arrive at Main Line at 2.30 a.m. (this means a wait of three hours at Portadown); or from Dublin at 8.20, arriving at Main Line at 10.46 p.m.

WARRENPOINT (Dublin Bridge).

Newry leave.	W'Ppoint arrive.	W'Ppoint leave.	Newry arrive.
7. 0	7.15	7.45	7.57
8.25	8.40	8.50	9. 2
9. 2	9.12	10.30	10.42
9.55	10.10	12.40	12.52
11.38	11.55	2.50	3. 5
1.40	1.55	4.10	4.22
3.57	4.10	6. 0	6.12
5. 5	5.15	6.50	7. 5
7. 5	7.15	8.30	8.45
*8. 5	8.20		

* Saturdays only.

Sundays.

2. 5	2.20	3. 0	3.15
3.50	4. 5	6.50	7. 5
7.45	8. 0	8.10	8.25

Trams (Warrenpoint and Rostrevor Tramway Co.) run to Rostrevor to suit all trains. Fares—To Best's Row, 2d; Moygannon Bridge, 3d and 2d; Rostrevor, 6d and 4d.

Market Tickets (return) to Newry from Rostrevor, 1/-, by 8.15 and 9.55 a.m. trams from Rostrevor, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

RAILWAY FARES.

	SINGLE.			RETURN.		
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Belfast,	8/-	6/-	3/6	13/4	10/-	6/5
Dublin	13/3	10/-	6/3	22/-	16/8	10/5
Warrenpoint, 10d	8d	6d	1/4	1/-	9d	
Greenore,	2/7	1/11	1/2½	4/-	3/-	1/11

Saturday return tickets are good for return on Monday mornings.

NEWRY CAR FARES.

Within the Municipal Boundary direct, without any delay, not more than two persons, and not exceeding 56lbs of luggage, 6d.

Two children between the ages of 3 and 12 count as one adult (no charge for one child). Rates to be doubled when hiring terminates between the hours of 10 o'clock p.m. and 7 a.m.

Three or four persons, and not exceeding 112lbs of luggage on the whole, 1s.

Hiring by time—1s for each hour or fraction of same.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JIMMY MULHOLLAND



NEWRY WORKERS AT EDWARD STREET





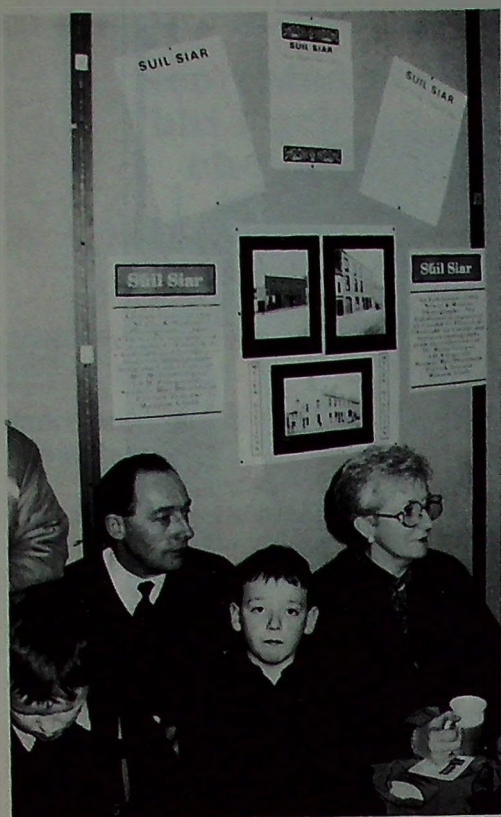
J D FitzGerald



Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil le J.D. FitzGerald as Ard Mhacha a thug cead dúinn cuid mhaith dá phictiúir a úsáid insan iris seo. We thank J.D. FitzGerald from Armagh who allowed us to use several of his Newry railway photographs. Mr. FitzGerald had many more of his railway photographs on display in Newry Library in early 1991.



J D FitzGerald

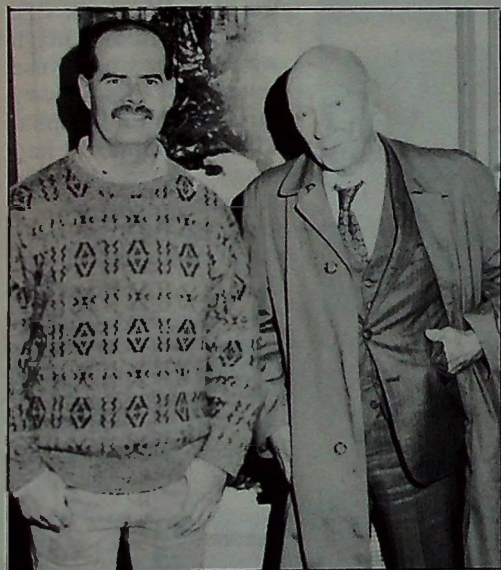


LÁ 'LE PÁDRAIG

Nuair a thig cith tig balc

Milleadh imeachtaí na Féile Pádraig i mbliana ag an fhearhainn. Is ar éigean a bhí paráid ann ar chor ar bith mar bhí sé ag greadadh báistí gan stad gan staonadh le linn na maidine. Na daoine óga a raibh de mhisneach iontu páirt a ghlacadh insan 'mionshiúil' fríd baile an Iúir bhí siad báite go craiceann. Ní dhearna sé turadh am ar bith i rith an lae.

Cuireadh fearg ar a lán nuair a chonaic siad nach raibh ionad ar leith curtha i leataobh ag an Chomhairle, nó imeachtaí speisialta pleanáilte acu, dá dtarlódh sé an lá a bheith doineanta. Agus bhí drochaimsir ann. Duirleoga an 'Mall' mar shampla, bhí siad ar maos ar fad. Bhí daoine dóchasach go ndéanfaí an spéir a ghlanadh ach cith gan dealán a bhí i ndán dóibh. Um nóin bhris fearhainn amach a rachadh trí chlár darach. An t-aon foscadh a bhí ag daoine ná Teach na hEigse/Arts Centre an Iúir. B'in an áit inár chaith mise an lá mar bhí taispeántas de sheanphictiúir ón limistéar á reachtáil ansin ag Craobh Uí Fhiaich de Chomhaltas Uladh. De dheasca na drochaimsire ní raibh an dara rogha ag muintir an Iúir, agus ag na cuairteoirí a tháinig leis an Fhéile a chaitheamh inár measc, ach madhmadh isteach i dTeach na hEigse.





Ach ab é Teach na hÉigse a bheith ann mar ionad dídine bhí an lá ina phraiseach. Chuir cócaire an Arts Centre stobhach gaelach neamúil ar fáil ar phraghas réasúnta agus b'in an béile a raibh éileamh air. Bhí John McAtasney, an fíodóir, ag cleachtadh a cheirde taobh amuigh den músaem, na sluaite bailithe uime. I mbun ceoil bhí Muintir Vallely as Ard Mhacha, agus Clann Uí Bhroin, na hoirfidigh áitiúla ó Chloch Riabhach. Ar feadh an ama ag caitheamh sceana grásaí a bhí sé amuigh agus leis an t-uisce ag scairdeach anuas den díon bhí sé doiligh in amannaí an ceol a chluinstin.

Tháinig an Dr. Myles Gilligan, an té a ghlac na grianghrafanna a bhí ar thaispeáint ag Craobh Uí Fhiaich, i rith an bhealaigh ó Dhún Laoghaire lena shaothar a fheiscint curtha os comhair an phobail don chéad uair riamh. Sheas sé ina lipíneach, a chóta mór ag púscadh uisce, ach é bródúil go raibh gnáthmhuintir an Iúir ag breathnú ar a chuid pictiúir. Buntáiste amháin fán aimsir a bheith cáidheach ná gur thug daoine cuairt ar an Arts Centre agus ní raibh a bhformhór dóibh insan Arts Centre riamh roimhe sin. Tá an tuairim amuigh ann go fóill go bhfuil an Arts Centre teoranta don lucht rachmais amháin agus nach mbíonn ach imeachtaí ardnósacha ar siúl ansin.

An céilí a bhí le bheith ann faoin spéir rinneadh iarracht é a reachtáil i dTeach na hÉigse, ach bhí spás in easnamh. Mar sin féin, bhí a dhícheall déanta ag Réamonn Ó Cearúil bua a bhreith ar an ócáid agus gidh go raibh na damhsóirí brúite a chéile agus ag bárcadh allais, bhain siad sult as an céilí. Ar leithéidí Réamonn Uí Chearúil agus cairde na Bunscoile atá an Fhéile seo ag brath feasta. Na himeachtaí a d'eagraigh oifigigh na Comhairle, an choirmcheoil le Mary O'Hara cuir i gcás, theip glan orthu. Is trua fosta gur socraíodh an pharáid a bheith ann ar an Luan (18ú Márta) in áit a bheith ann ar Lá Fhéile Pádraig féin (lá a bhí cineálta i dtaca na haimsire de). Is follas go raibh tionchar nach beag ag lucht tráchtála an Iúir orthu siúd a chinn ar an pharáid a athrú go dtí an t-ochtú lá déag den mhí. Caithfear an cheist a ardú - an bhfuil an Fhéile ann le haghaidh fir gnó a shásamh nó an ann í i gcomhair pleisiúir a thabhairt do bhunadh an Iúir agus seans a thabhairt dóibh a bheith mórtasach as a n-ionannas mar Éireannaigh?



Dánta

Máthair móiri.

Théadh sí ar a cromada
go clós an tí fá choinne conaídh.
crapchósach,
fál an phinsin sáraithe aici
le scór bliain nach mór.

Sceoin orm
go raibh de dhánacht inti
aibhleog dhearg a thit ar an tinteán a láimhseáil.
a haimsiú ar ais sa chraos.
Níor mhothaigh sí puinn, b'fhollas.

Thaitin léi a bheith ag fuadráil fán tí -
foirgneamh gan fairsing
a thóg úinéiri an mhuilinn.
Ait ró-chúng don mhórshéisear
a chothaigh sí inti le dua.

Glinnchuimhne agam ar plóg-úll dá déantús
a rinneadh d'aon turas domh
's a d'íth mé seachtain roimh bás di.
In earr a haoise
bhí sí garach go sea.

Ina haonair seal thit sí
de phlomp.
Fritheamh fuar í
ina cnap.

Créice cois na tíne snigeáilte.

Cronaim uaim í
ach déanam sméaróidí mo chuimhní a fhádu scaití
agus bíonn saintréithe mo mhamó beo liom athuair -
ciall cheannaithe
cráifeacht shimplí.

Séamus Mac Dhaibhéid.

**Details of photos, opposite,
taken at John Mitchel's grave**

Top Photograph : Denis Ireland
(1894 - 1974), the prominent Ulster
Presbyterian and Irish nationalist,
visits Mitchel's grave. Also in the
photograph are Eddie McAteer and
Gerry Duffy.

Bottom Photograph : On the occasion
of Mrs. Tom Clarke's visit to
Mitchel's grave she was accompanied
by Pat Cunningham, Eddie McAteer
and Mr. Quinn.

Poems

An ancient town that's cradled at the feet
Of granite grey and green encircling hills;
A market town where once the workers fleet
Made daily journey to the busy mills.
A place where idle men now mark the time
Until the afternoon's slow-falling pace
Brings forth the news of first past the line,
And tells the betting of the following race.

Yet, once from out this gateway of the North
There rode a fury and a storm of men;
To join the great Cúchulainn they went forth
To fight, to vanquish, and return again.
And with them brought from Southland and the West
A winding column made of men of might;
All that were noble, all that were Ireland's best,
The Frontier Clansmen conquered in fair fight.

And in the cycle of much nearer years
As brave a patriot worked for Erin's cause,
As ever laboured through a mist of tears
In high defiance of the oppressor's laws.
His name is known and loved in Newry Town,
No noble symbol lights its scroll of fame;
Time but upholds the glory and renown
That folds in reverence John Mitchel's name.

Joseph Conway Guinan R.I.P.

Transit

Clog tic
Mac mic
Imeacht ama.....
Go gasta

Rith reatha
Bua 's beannachta
Imeacht ama.....
Go gasta

Ann go has
Breith go bás
Imeacht ama.....
Go gasta

Labhrás Ó Brolcháin



A CHRONICLE OF THE IRISH REVIVAL IN THE NEWRY AREA IN THE YEAR 1899

Bhí ceolchoirm ag Craobh an Lúir i Halla an Bhaile ar 16 Márta 1899 agus bhí scaifte mór i láthair. Bhí Banna N. Iósaeif ann faoi stiúir T Uí Rodaigh agus bhí páirteach ann : Iníon Uí Choltair agus Líl Ní Rothlín a chan amhráin i mBreatnais, Iníon Mhic Eoin, Máirín Nic Bheinéid, Iníon Mhic Mhaoláin, Bean Mhic Phéice, Iníon Uí Ghallochóir, Seán Ó Bradáin, A S Seách, P Mac Beinéid, Seán Óg Ó Beirn, Aodh Grant agus P Mac Crabhagáin. Labhair Seán Proinsias Mac Caoilte (Leasuachtarán) a rá nach call dó apologia a dhéanamh ar shon Chonradh na Gaeilge nó é a mhíniú. Bhí a fhios ag cách nárbh cuspóir don Chonradh caomhnú na Gaeilge amháin ach forbairt na Gaeilge.

Thigeadh Craobh an Lúir le chéile oíche Chéadaoin in Earrach 1899. Bhí Leabhair 1 agus 2 Uí Ghramhna in úsáid. Ó Céileachair an múinteoir. Bhí ranganna Chraobh an Lúir ag Siúlán an Duga oíche Aoine i Márta 1899. Bhí Ceolchoirm bhreá ag an Chraobh Lá na Féile Pádraig agus d'éirigh go maith léi. Labhair an tUas. Ó Caoilte go bríomhar leis an lucht éisteachta a thabhairt tacaíochta do Ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge.

Ag an cruinniú seachtainiúil de Chraobh an Lúir i lár Aibreáin 1899 thug an tUas. Mac Grianna le fios go mbeadh an Dr. Ó hIcí, Ollamh le Gaeilge i Maigh Nuad, ag tabhairt léachta in lár Chinn Trá i Meán Fómhair. Moladh ag an cruinniú go mba cheart múinteoir a fhóstu le Craobhacha a bhunú i dtír nó ceithre de na ceantair Ghaeltachta a bhí i dtimpeallacht an Lúir. [Creidim go mba seo an chéad uair ariamh i stair Chonradh na Gaeilge gur moladh go bhfostófaí múinteoir taistil do ranganna Gaeilge. G Mac G D].

Shocraigh Craobh an Lúir i mí Bealtaine go ndéanfaí cuairt uair sa choicís ar na ceantair Ghaeltachta.

Bhí an tAth. Ó Raghallaigh i gceannas chruinnithe de Chraobh an Lúir ar 31 Bealtaine agus bhí i láthair : an tAth. Ó hIc, Mac Grianna, Mac Beinéid, Mac Gafragh, Mac Pháidín, Ó Maolchraoibhe, Ó Céileachair, Mac Canna agus T Ó Buacháin (Rúnaí). Fuarthas litir faoi cheapadh Mhig Uinseannáin mar mhúinteoir agus eagraí ar thuarastal don cheantar. Fágadh faoi Mac Pháidín, Ó Maolchraoibhe agus Ó Buacháin "liosta a chur le chéile de na háiteanna sin a bhfuil síol na Gaeilge iontu go fóill."

Ghlac Bord Bardachta an Lúir i Lúnasa le rún a thabhairt tacaíochta don Ghaeilge agus a dh'iarraidh go mbeidh tuilleadh acmhainní ar fáil do theagasc na Gaeilge sna scoileanna.

D'eagraigh Múinteoir Taistil Chraobh an Lúir, Diarmuid Ó Foghlú, cóisir go hOméith ar 7ú Lúnasa ar iarratas ó Chraobh Bhéal Feirste. Bhí an Cairdinéal Ó Laoghóg le bheith ann mar aoi speisialta. Nuair a shroich suas le céad duine An Pointe bhí bádóirí le Gaeilge ag fanacht leo ach d'imigh an scaifte ar bord galbhád, an "Píolóta". Ar a fheiceáil seo do cheann des na bádóirí ghuí sé os ard go ngreamódh an "Píolóta" ar an ghrinneall thall - rud a tharlaigh taobh Uí Méith den loch. Bhí ar na bádóirí ag deireadh na dála an grúpa a thabhairt i dtír - "rud a bhí tairbheach i gceart leo." Bhí scaifte breá ag an cruinniú poiblí a tionóladh os comhar theach an phobail. Bhí banna ceoil ann ó An Caisleán Nua, Co. an Dúin. Dúirt T. Mac an Bhaird (Béal Feirste) agus S A

Lóid (Baile Átha Cliath) cúpla amhráin i nGaeilge na Alban. Mhol an tOllamh Ó Cléirigh (Coláiste Mhaolmhaóg, Béal Feirste), Mac Thréiníth a chuidigh leis, go mbeadh an Cairdinéal Ó Laoghóg i gceannas. Chuaigh an Cairdinéal sa chathaoir gur labhair leis an tslua. Mhol an Dr. St. Clair-Boyd (Uachtarán Chraobh Bhéal Feirste), go gceapfaí Ó Buacháin (an tLúir) agus an tOllamh Ó Cléirigh mar chomhrúnaithe don tionól. Léigh an Cléireach na rúin:

a) "ní ligimid dár dteanga náisiúnta bheith goite uainn, sí ár n-oidhreacht í; cinnimid ar gach dícheall a dhéanamh chan amháin le cosc a chur ar a meath ach a chinntiú go mbeidh sí ar ais ina teanga tí agus teallaigh ar fud na tíre.

b) iarraidimid ar gach duine a bhfuil labhairt na Gaeilge acu í a labhairt leis an aos óg ina dtimpeall agus grá dí a chothú iontu.

c) éilíonn muid, Éireannaigh, go gcuirtear go leor acmhainní ar fáil le oideachas ceart Gaelach a thabhairt dár bpáistí agus iarraidimid ar bhainisteoirí bun- agus meánscoileanna in Éirinn múinteoirí a cheapadh arbh fhéidir leo ár dteanga agus ár stair a theagasc agus iarraidimid ar Chomisinéirí Um Oideachas Náisiúnta na rialacha a athrú le go gceadófaí teagasc na Gaeilge ón 3ú rang ar aghaidh agus i rith gnáthuaireanta scoile in áit go bhfuil sin de dhíth ar thuismitheoirí nó ar bhainisteoirí.

d) go gceaptar ollúna Gaeilge i ngach coláiste oiliúna atá ann agus a bheas ann feasta.

e) is oth linn a laghad spáis a bheirtear do ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge sna nuachtáin in Éirinn.

f) go mbunaítear Craobh de Chonradh na Gaeilge in Oméith."

Mhol an Dr. Boyd na rúin agus chuidigh P.S. O Sé leo i nGaeilge. Labhair S P Ó Caoilte, an tUas. Lóid, agus an tAth. Séarlas Ó Coinne (Camloch) a dúirt nach raibh oiread is scoil amháin ina pharóiste nach bhfuil an Ghaeilge á theagasc ann. Chuidigh Mac An Bhaird agus T.P. Mac Fhionnlaíoch (Béal Feirste) i nGaeilge leis na rúin fosta. Glacadh leis na rúin le bualadh bos.

Thug an tUas. Ó Meára buíochas, thar ceann bhunadh Uí Méith, don Chairdinéal as bheith ina measc an lá sin.

Bunaíodh Craobh den Chonradh in Oméith ar 27 Lúnasa 1899 agus bhí na daoine seo ann de bhunadh Uí Méith : Ó Rathallaigh, Ó Donghaile, Ó hÓgáin, Ó Conghaile, Ó Maolchraoibhe, Mac an Ultaigh, Ó Cearúil, Ó hEachaidh, Mag Uidhrín, Ó hEára, Mac Cárthaigh, Ó Coinne, Ó Leathlobhair, Guidh, Mac Cearbhaill, Mac Thréinir, Mac Dónaill, Mag Uidhir, Mac Canna, Iníonacha Cúisín, Gonoud, Uí Agáin, Uí Chearnaigh, Mhic Choncoille, Uí Anluain, Uí Bhaoill, Bean Uí Agáin agus Bean Uí Mhéara as Glaschú. Toghadh an tAth. Ó Mórdha mar Chathaoirleach agus M Ó Meára (Comhairleoir Contae) mar Rúnaí.

Bhí thar 100 daltaí i ranganna Chraobh Uí Méith um Nollaig 1899 "agus iad uilig i bhfách leis an Ghaeilge a labhairt chomh maith agus a labhairt ar sirsir í." Bhí siad uilig ag scríobh na Gaeilge chomh maith.

Ag caint dó ag An Rinc i Ros Treabhair ar 7 Lúnasa (roimh dhul dó chuig Oméith) dúirt an Doctúir St. Clair-Boyd go raibh sé ag caint le Mac Thomáis, Cathaoirleach Pháirtí Parlaiminteach na Breataine Bige agus gur gheall sé gach tacaíocht do Chonradh na Gaeilge uaidh féin agus óna chomhbhaill Pharlaiminte.

Bhí cruinniú ar an Sruthán ar 10 Lúnasa le Craobh de Chonradh na Gaeilge a bhunú go foirmeálta ansin. Bhí an tAth. Ó Coinne, S.P., i gceannas. Léigh D Ó Céileachair na rúin seo :

a) "gur cúis sásaimh dúinn bunadh an tSrutháin obair uasal agus thírghrách Chonradh na Gaeilge; is é príomhghné ár náisiúntacht é athbheochan na Gaeilge; déanaimid lán-chomhoibriú lenár gcomh-Éireannaigh ina hathbheochan.

b) Bunaímid craobh de Chonradh na Gaeilge do An Sruthán agus dá cheantar agus geallaimid go leathnoidh muid tionchar an Chonartha is go gcuirfidh muid labhairt na Gaeilge chun cinn i measc an phobail.

c) Cláraítear an Chraobh le Lárchoiste Bhaile Atha Cliath.

d) Déanaimid comhbhrón le muintir agus le paróisteoirí an tSagairt Mhic Giolla Mhaodhóg (Cill Shléibhe Uachtarach), ina gcaill ar a bhás gan choinne ar na mallaibh."

[Ba Leasuachtarán ar Chraobh an lúir an sagart ar dhúradh faoi nach ndéanfaí dearmad a choíche den éacht a rinne sé ag fóirithint ar na daoine a bhí thíos leis an bholgach fhorleata sa cheantar tamailín roimh a bhás. G Mac G D]

Cuireadh tús le ranganna Chraobh an tSrutháin Dé Domhnaigh 24.9.1899. Bhí Proinsias Mag Uinseannáin i mbun an ranga sa tseomra scoile agus bhí scaifte mór ann. Bhíodh Mag Uinseannáin ag teagasc Dé Domhnaigh i Lios Liath, i gCamloch agus ar an Sruthán, agus 200 daltaí ar fad aige.

Toghadh ar Choiste Chraobh an tSrutháin na daoine seo a leanas :

Uachtarán : An tAth. C. Mac Dónaill

Leasuachtarán : Tomás Ó hIrl, B Iníon Uí Ir agus Laoiseach Uí Bhaoill

Coisteoirí : Dónal Ó hIrl (Cearnóg Charlemont), R Mac Gabhann, S Ó Baoill, A O Maolchiaráin, S O Daimhín, D Ó hIrl (Sráid Ard), S Ó hAgáin, M Ó Cearnaigh, A Mac Cuarta, L Ó Baoill, S de Búrca, S Ó Maolchraoibhe, S Mac Seáin, T Ó Raghallaigh, P Ó Maonaigh, S Mac Giolla Domhnaigh agus M Ó hIrl.

In achaine a scríobh D T Ó Céileachair, Rúnaí "Choiste Stiúrtha Cheantar an lúir" (a bunaíodh ar 20 Lúnasa 1899 ar iarratas ón Lárchoiste i mBaile Atha Cliath) go dtí an Lárchoiste :

"gur ceapadh Mag Uinseannáin mar mhúinteoir/timire taistil ar 1 Meán Fómhair go 1 Nollaig 1899 ar £1 sa tseachtain móide costais taistil nuair a bhí níos mó ná trí mhíle slí i gceist agus liúntas cothaithe leath-choróin an oíche nuair a bhí air bheith as baile thar oíche."

Bhí cruinniú i Halla N. Pádraig, An Pointe, ar 12 Meán Fómhair le Craobh de Chonradh na Gaeilge a bhunú. Mhol Pádraig Mac Crabhagáin "go mbunaítear 'Craobh Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua' in An Pointe" agus chuidigh Mac Uí Peitíid (An Pointe) leis an mholadh. Toghadh mar a leanas :

Uachtarán : an Sároirmhinneach Anraí Ó Néill (Ministireálai)

Leasuachtarán : An tAth. A Mac Fhíobhuí, S.C.

Rúnaí Oinigh : Pádraig S Mac Crabhagáin.

Bhí Proinsias Mag Uinseannáin agus an tUas. A Wray Ó Cléirigh, M.A., sa lucht éisteachta nuair a cuireadh an Chraobh ar bun.

Bunaíodh Craobh Lios Liath i mí Mheán an Fómhair 1899 agus toghadh an tAth. Tomás Mac Dónaill, S.C. mar Uachtarán agus Eoghan Ó Ceallacháin mar Rúnaí. Bhí Proinsias Mag Uinseannáin ag teagasc thart fá 75 duine ag ranganna na Craoibhe.

Ní raibh ach Coiste Chontae Bhéal Feirste agus Coiste Ceantair an lúir i gConradh na Gaeilge (mar chomhchoistí) um Shamhain 1899 - d'imigh Coiste Chontae Chorcaí. Os rud é nach raibh na sean-seomraí ag Basin Walk mór go leor do ranganna Chraobh an lúir d'aistrigh siad go Scoil na mBráithre Críostaí ar 25 Samhain.

Bhí cruinniú i nDromainn Tí, 8.10.1899 le craobh a bhunú. Bhí an tOirmhinneach Ó Luachráin i gceannas. Bhí S A O Laoide ón Lárchoiste (BAC) i láthair agus na huasail Mac Beinéid, T O Buacháin (Rúnaí Chraobh an lúir, 3 Cnoc Windsor), Mac Pháidín, Mac Gafraidh, agus D T Ó Céileachair. Labhair an Doctúir Ó Luachráin i nGaeilge agus mhol Ó Céileachair :-

a) "Is oth linn meath ár dteanga náisiúnta agus geallaimid gach dícheall a dhéanamh ina hathabheochan agus ina forbairt ar fud na tíre.

b) Leis an obair seo a dhéanamh bunaímid Craobh de Chonradh na Gaeilge do cheantar Dhromainn Tí agus geallaimid go ndéanaimid staidéar go dícheallach.

c) Sásta le dátheangachas mar atá sé faoi láthair i réim sa Bhreatain Bheag iarraidimid ar An Bord Um Oideachas Náisiúnta (in Éirinn) an dátheangachas a thabhairt isteach i scoileanna na Gaelteachta sa tír seo." Glacadh leis na moltaí.

Shocraigh Conraitheoirí ag cruinniú i gCamloch ar 26 Lúnasa go ndéanfaí timireacht ar Chraobhacha an cheantair. Bhí siad seo i láthair : an Sároirmhinneach S Ó Coinne, S.P., (Uachtarán); G Mac Grianna, an tIúir (Leasuachtarán); T Ó hIrl (Giúistís Síochána), an Sruthán (Cisteoir) agus D T Ó Céileachair, an tIúir (Rúnaí).

I dtuairisc de chuid Mhig Uinseannáin ar 26 Samhain 1899, scríobh sé go raibh na ranganna seo a múineadh aige :

Dé Domhnaigh : Lios Liath, 11.30 a.m. agus 75 ann.

: An Sruthán, 2.30 p.m. agus 80 ann.

: Camloch, 6.30 p.m. agus 45 ann.

Dé Luain : An tIúir, 6.00 p.m. agus 45 ann.

Dé Máirt : An Pointe, 6.00 p.m. agus 30 ann.

Dé Céadaoin Dún Dealgan, 6-9.00 p.m. agus 250 ann.

Déardaoin : Dromainn Tí, 7.00 p.m. agus 80 ann.

Dé hAoine : O Méith, 5.00 p.m. agus 70 ann.

Bhí 35 múinteoirí scoile agus 17 eaglaisigh ina ranganna.

Gearóid Mac Giolla Domhnaigh
(Rúnaí Chomhaltas Uladh)

'Glór' petition signed by some, ignored by many at Páirc an Iúir.

Is fíor-annamh lucht na Gaeilge pairteach in agóidí sa cheantar seo. Shílfeá, go deimhin, go raibh gach dá raibh uainn riamh bainte amach againn agus nach raibh aon chall ann a bheith i mbun gnímh ar shon na Gaeilge. B'fhéidir go bhfuilimid ró-chotúil lenár gcearta a éileamh. Ach an amhlaidh go bhfuil roinnt againn ró-mheasúil le seas os comhair an tsaoil is a fhógairt do gach mac máthair go bhfuil cearta bunúsacha á cheilt orainn? Is cinnte go bhfuil daoine ann agus a ndearcadh ar an cineál iompair atá inghlactha sa saol atá inniu ann bunaithe ar bhréagchaighdeáin búirgéseacha. Ní bheadh sé deas nó dinístuil ag piarda duine uasail a bheith feicthe ar picéad agus postaer ina ghlaic aige, cuir i gcás. Táid ann inar measc atá ró-ghalánta fiú airgead a thiomsú don Bhaillúchán ar Lá na Féile Pádraig, gan ach sampla amháin a lua. Níor mhaith leo a gcomharsan a ghoilleadh de réir dealraitmh. Ina gcaolthuisctint siúd, rudaf "comónta" iad an baillúchán agus an picéad, rudaf a bhaineann leis an chosmhuintir amháin.

Tugadh cúis dúinn anuraidh cás na Gaeilge a chur ar ardán poiblí. Nuair a rinne Rialtas Shasana deontais Ghlór na nGael a chealú bhí dualgas orainn a thaispeáint dár gcomhshaoranaigh go bhfuil an Rialtas céanna naimhdeach leis an Ghaeilge. Is oth liom a admháil gur theip orainn ag an leibhéal logánta seo a dhéanamh. Nuair a dhiúltaigh an nuachtán áitiúil preas-ráiteas dár gcuid a chur i gcló, d'umhlaigh muid do thoil an eagarthóra. Níl á mhaíomh agam gur gá dúinn a bheith callánach clamprach i gcónaí ach ar ócáidí áirithe ní bhíonn an dara rogha ann ach a bheith le cluinstit go hardghlórach agus le feiscint in áit shuntasach más mian linn an svae a thabhairt linn. Ba ócáid den tsaghas seo feallbheart Rialtas Shasana i leith na naíoscóileanna anuraidh. Is dócha go bhfuil leithscéal bacach againn sa chaoi is nach bhfuil mórán taithí againn mionagóidí, picéid, léirsithe 7rl. a eagrú. Rinneadh iarracht, cinnte, feachtas a chur ar bun le sínithe a bhaillí ar shon Achaine Ghlór na nGael. Mar a thit amach, is ár éigean a bhí deichniúr ag geafat Pháirc an Iúir (tráth an cluiche peile idir Co. An Dúin agus Co. Thír Chonaill) lá a bhí na sínithe á lorg againn. Níos measa arís, ba sholléir do chách gur cuireadh áifealtas ar dhaoine áirithe nuair a hiarradh orthu a n-ainmneacha a bhreacadh sfos ag an tábla a bhí againn. B'eagal leo, tá mé ag déanamh, go dtabharfaí faoi deara iad ag tacú go poiblí leis an Ghaeilge. Bhrostaigh daoine tharainn (daoine a bhfuil cliú orthu mar chraínn cosanta na Gaeilge i gCo. an Dúin) agus iad leithscéalach go leor. Chuir duine nó beirt acu i gcéill go raibh siad mall agus go raibh fuadar futhu gan tús an chluiche a chailliúint. B'ardú meanman dúinn a dtacaíocht. An baicle a chuir masmas ormsa ná na Gaeilgeoirí a lig orthu féin nár mhothaigh siad lucht na hagóide ar chor ar bith! Bhí sé dochreidte an oiread sin de "Ghaeil" a

shleamhnaigh tharainn. Ní móide ná go bhfuil na daoine seo go mór faoi thionchar an Rialtais. An n-alpánn siad siar gan cogaint an bholscaireacht atá á chraobhscaoileadh ag an N.I.O. de shíor gur rud comhcheilgeach tréasach í an Ghaeilge, go mbaíneann sí le "sceimhlitheoirí" ró-mhinic, gur ciallmhar fanacht siar uaithí ar fháitíos na truaillíochta? Más mar sin atá is truamhéalach an scéal. Corradh is scór bliain ó shoin chomhairligh Máirtín Ó Cadhain dúinn a bheith chomh glic leis an sionnach. Tá an comparáid sin uaidh dátaithe mar anois tá orainn a bheith chomh clannógach leis an Sasanach, agus ní beag an dúshlán sin.

Is éigean dúinn stráitéisí éagsúla a thriall má tá ár gcearta le bheith againn choíche. Ceann de na tacticí a mba chóir a bheith inár n-armhlón ná an léirsiú poiblí. Tá go leor nuachtáin, bainc, stáisiúin raidió, comhlachtaí teiliúise, institiúidí stáit 7rl. a dhéanann leithcheal ar an Ghaeilge agus tá sé in am dul i ndeabhaidh lainne leo, le baghcailt agus le picéid agus le pé uirlis eile atá oiriúnach. Tá a leithéid idir láimhe le fada ag díograiseoirí na Breatnaise agus tá ag éirí go seoiigh leo. Tá ródadh mór orainne.

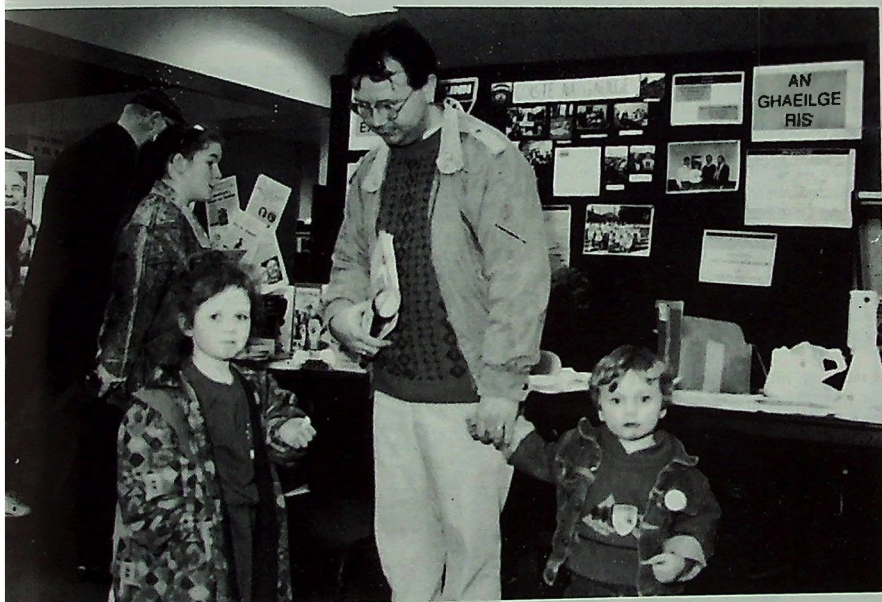
P. S. Mag Uidhir





Baill Chraobh Uí Fhiaich, Coisteoirí na Bunscoile agus ionadaí ó NICVA a rinne iarracht cás Ghlór na nGael i mBéal Feirste Thiar a phoiblíú taobh amuigh de Pháirc an Iúir.

LANGUAGE DAY IN NEWRY LIBRARY



Newry Public Library was the setting in March 1991 for an Irish Language Open Day - An Ghaeilge Ris : Irish Exposed. The day was organised by Newry Council's Irish Language Officer, Malcolm Scott. Information leaflets, posters, stickers and promotional literature were provided by Gael-Linn, Comhaltas Uladh de Chonradh na Gaeilge, Bunscoil an Iúir, and the Council's own Irish Language Committee. Books and tapes in the Irish Language were also available for sale. Irish language manuscripts from the Local History Library in Armagh were on display, courtesy of Joe Canning.

Using Newry Library as a venue for this event was a wise decision when one considers the volume of library members attracted to this local branch every Saturday. Should a similar event be organised in September we have no doubt that many more adults would be joining Irish language evening classes. Is iontach anois an cuidiú atá leabharlanna sásta a thabhairt don Ghaeilge. Chun tosaigh orainn (mar is iondúil !) tá muintir Dhoire agus go bhfios dúinn tá leabharlannaí le Gaeilge ceaptha anois ag an Linenhall i mBéal Feirste. Is mór idir inniu agus inné mar is cuimhneach liom go maith an lá sna mall 1970í nuair a chláraigh mé le Leabharlann Ard Mhacha - cuireadh iallach orm m'ainm a thabhairt don leabharlannaí i mBéarla.

An Dáil Mhór

Ba dheas an rud tinreamh níos fearr a fheiceáil ag Dáil Mhór Chomhaltas Uladh i mbliana ná mar a bhí ann anuraidh nó arís anuraidh fiú. Agus más freastal níos líonmháire a bhí ann bhí spiorad níos anamúla le mothú ann fosta. Tionóladh an Dáil i bProinnteach Dhún Eoghain, Dún Geanainn, ar an 22 Meitheamh 1991, agus tháinig Proinsias Mac Aonghusa ón Ard Oifig lena thacaíocht a thabhairt dá chomhghleacaíthe ó thuaidh. I gceannas bhí Seán Ó Labhra, Uachtarán Chomhaltas Uladh, agus eisean a thug aitheasc na Dála.

Shroic muintir an lúir ionad na Dála mall agus chaill siad cur agus cúiteamh na maidine dá dheasca. I láthair ar shon Chraobh an lúir bhí Marcas Mac Alastair agus Pádraig Ó Maonaile; ar shon Chraobh Uí Fhiaich bhí T. Mac Ardghail, I. Ó Mealláin agus S. Mac Dhaibhéid; bhí Seán Cúlpear ann thar cheann Chraobh Ros Treabhair. Don chéad uair leis na blianta chuir muintir Chrois Mhic Lionáinn ionadaí chuig Dáil Mhór an Chomhaltais, mar a bhí, Pádraig Mac Con Midh. Ba thrua nach raibh ball ar bith ó Chonradh na Gaeilge i nDoire Cholm Cille inár measc mar tá fios a ngó ag muintir Dhoire a mba chóir a roinnt lena gcomhbháidóirí ar fud sean Chúige Uladh.

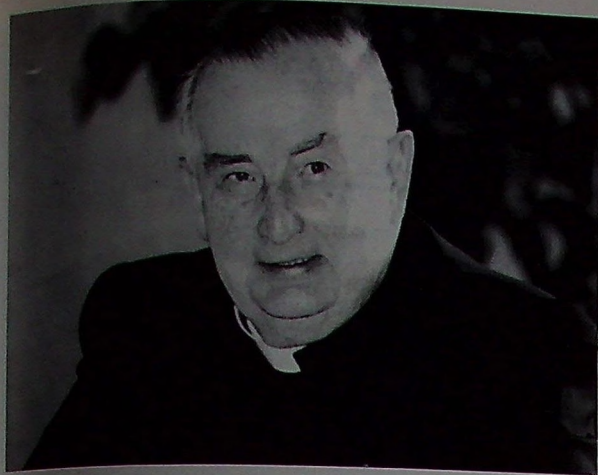
Tá plean cuimsitheach leagtha amach ag Coiste an Chúige de Chomhaltas Uladh, plean ar glacadh leis ag an Dáil Mhór, le haghaidh Comóradh 100 Bliain Chonradh na Gaeilge. Tháinig fo-choiste le chéile leis an plean a ullmhú agus má tá na Craobhacha agus Coiste an Chúige in ann an leathchuid de na beartanna a fhóru beidh comóradh cuí déanta ar bhunú an Chonartha.

Le tamalt anuas tá oifigigh an Chonartha agus oifigigh Chomhaltas Uladh abhus, ag cur fearadh na fáilte roimh daoine nach bhfuil fonn orthu, b'fhéidir, a bheith ceangáilte le Bunreacht nó le hidé-eolaíocht an Chonartha ach a bheadh toilteanach leas a bhaint as taithí agus as flaithiúlacht na heagraíochta. Tá buntáistí d'achan chineál ag grúpaí/coláistí/feiseanna/cumainn/aonaráin as a bheith nasctha i slí inteacht le Conradh na Gaeilge agus moltar do dhaoine atá ag streacáil leo gan tacaíocht i láthair na huaire teagmháil a dhéanamh linn le fáil amach cén sórt pacáiste atá muid ábalta a thairiscint dóibh. Ar eagla na míthuiscena, ní "empire building" atá á dhéanamh ag Conradh na Gaeilge. Tá iarracht mhacánta dháiríre idir láimhe againn 1) comhairle a thabhairt dóibh siúd atá ag obair go deonach ar shon na Gaeilge agus 2) pátrúnacht a sholáthar do scéimeanna atá ag cuidiú le dul chun cinn na Gaeilge.

Ní raibh ach an t-aon tagairt amháin ón ardán le linn na Dála do na hionsaithe a rinne "LÁ", Nuachtán Laethúil na nGael, ar lucht an Chonartha le bliain anuas, ach mar sin féin, ba shoiléir go raibh céatadán de na teachtaí meallta gur tháinig Eagarthóir "LÁ" chomh fíochmhar neamhbhalbh amach i gcoinne an Chonartha. Glactar leis go raibh cuid dá raibh le rá ag Eagarthóir "LÁ" réasúnta, inghlactha, agus dlíte againn, agus gur mithid ról agus todhchaí Chonradh na Gaeilge a athmheas, ach d'admhaigh roinnt de na teachtaí go príobháideach go raibh díomáid orthu gur dhamnaigh Eagarthóir "LÁ" Conradh na Gaeilge ó bhaitis go bonn. Tá "LÁ" ar na bhfiontair is bisiúla agus is tábhachtaí a tharla i dtaca le dul chun cinn na Gaeilge de le domán de bhlianta anuas. As siocair an nuachtán a bheith lonnaithe i mBéal Feirste, áfach, bíonn muintir "LÁ" aineolach scaití ar an obair chiúin leanúnach atá á dhéanamh ag Craobhacha an Chomhaltais in áiteanna cosúil le Port an Dúnáin, Dún Phádraig, An Lorgáin, an t-Iúr, Baile Raghnaill, Dún Geanainn, Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua, Ros Treabhair, Doire Cholm Cille - agus i neart sráidbhailte agus bailte eile. I bhformhór de na bailte ar fud na tíre ina bhfuil borradh faoi ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge, níl ach Inis, Co, an Chláir, le lua againn mar eiseamláir, faightear díograiseoirí an Chonartha chun tosaigh insna feachtais éagsúla leis an Ghaeilge a athbheochaint. Ba í tuairim na deachtaí, a raibh ionadaithe an lúir ag caint leo ach go háirithe, nach bhfuil an Conradh chomh bríomhar láidir is a d'fhéadfadh sé a bheith, ach go raibh meastachán "LÁ" ar Chonradh na Gaeilge bunaithe go príomhda ar éifeachtacht/mí-éifeachtacht na heagraíochta mar atá sí i mBéal Feirste agus i mBaile Átha Cliath agus nár tugadh cothrom na féinne don eagraíocht mar atá sí ag feidhmiú go ginearálta insan tír ar fad.

Ritheadh rúin ag an Dáil Mhór agus táthar ag súil go gcuirfidh siad dlús le hobair an Chomhaltais amach anseo. An rún is praiticiúla ar cinneadh air, dar linn, ná go ndéanfar iarracht gasraí d'Ógras a bhunú i gceantar an Chomhaltais. Tá forbairt ar Ógras glactha anois mar phríoracht ag Conradh na Gaeilge agus ag Chomhaltas Uladh de Chonradh na Gaeilge araon ach braitheann cuid mhaith ar choimmitmint na ndéagóirí a bhí inár measc ag an Dáil Mhór. Má tá a dhath de dhíobháil orthu ó thaobh áiseanna de gheobhaidh siad éisteacht bháil ag leibhéal Choiste an Chúige.





*Spléachadh ar
imeachtaí na Dála
22 Meitheamh 1991*



An bhfuil fhios agat ?

Leis AN CREIMIRE

Who grumbled audibly and often during last year's Slieve Gullion Winter School that the official press photographs were always taken when he was off arranging his hair and borrowing a tie ? Is this the same Coiste na Gaeilge member who maintains that he has been unceremoniously elbowed out of every official Coiste na Gaeilge photograph taken during this past three years ?

Which local schoolteacher has been in a tizzy for two years now trying to get a refund on her school's annual subscription to "Pobal Rúraf" (remember "Pobal Rúraf"?) ?

Who bought up 20 copies of last year's "Cuisle na nGael" and sold them at inflated prices around the pubs ?

Which journalist writing in a leading provincial paper used two photographs from the 1991 "Cuisle na nGael", without acknowledging them, and thought that by reducing the photographs in size that we wouldn't notice ?

Who's trying desperately for a change of image ? Iontaobhas Ultach/Ulster (that is Northern Ireland) Trust, described recently by a prominent language activist in Newry as "the cultural wing of the Northern Ireland Office", is apparently anxious to present itself as having numerous financial backers. The Trust now says in its literature that its Major Sponsors are the International Fund for Ireland, the Central Community Relations Unit, and the European Regional Development Fund. Interestingly, the Republican Movement, which acted as the catalyst for the founding of Iontaobhas Ultach, also has a European dimension to its operations.

Who sold Newry Council's bilingual calendars (which had been issued gratis by the Council) in the public houses and social clubs of Newry ?

Who is the Newry man referred to often by a "LÁ" weekly gossip columnist and known affectionately to all readers of "LÁ" as 'Eamonn Ó Broimín' ?

Who has more hats in his wardrobe than Máirtín Ó Muilleoir (Belfast Council, Glór na nGael, NUJ, Clubleabhar Feirste, Conradh na Gaeilge, Sinn Féin Cultural Department etc.) ? None other than our very own Malcolm Scott (Newry Council, Glór na nGael, Newry Bunscoil, Iontaobhas Ultach, Cumann, *et al*). Funny how one is condemned for having a finger in too many pies, while the other appears the very essence of every pie.

Which former member of Comhaltas Uladh in the Newry area recently described the organisation's Ulster Executive as "superannuated sinecurists" and went on to claim that he only joined Comhaltas Uladh as a "sleeper" intent upon wresting power one day from the "old guard of Knights, aspiring Knights, Legionaries and lackeys" ? He was even more lavish in his praise for the local Comhaltas Uladh branches, but we're much too self-effacing to print his comments.

Which Newry Council Coiste na Gaeilge member submitted the advertisement (next column) for the 20th June 1991 edition of the "Newry Reporter"? "Meitheamh", it appears, signifies "May" in Councilspeak, this year anyhow.

Councilspeak itself is a mongrel language which never fails to engage linguists. The "May/Meitheamh" example shows that Councilspeak, like Irish, can be highly alliterative. Experts though have detected strong Scott-ish influences in Councilspeak. By the way, the Thursday in question actually fell on the 27th June, not the 26th as indicated on the ad, so Councillor George Graham should now understand why so few turn up for Coiste na Gaeilge meetings. We wonder, in passing, if this *faux pas* marks a hat-trick for a Coiste na Gaeilge member who botched the Council's bilingual plaque at the Paupers' Graveyard, and who later saw to it that Council painters were kept busy carrying out amendments to the Arts Centre's bilingual sign ?

Comhairle an lúir & Mhorn
Cruinniú Bliana de
Choiste na Gaeilge
A.G.M. of Irish
Language Committee
7.30 tráthnóna
Déardaoin an 26 Meitheamh 1991
THURSDAY, 26th MAY, 1991
Teach na hEigse, An tIúr
ARTS CENTRE, NEWRY
Fáilte roimh chách — ALL WELCOME

Which local reviewer, writing in March's "Anarchist Weekly", referred to "Cuisle na nGael" as follows :

"With its novel approach to Irish spelling, refreshing disregard for grammatical conventions and erratic use of accents, it marks a healthy shift in modern Irish writing" ?

Which prominent Newry Councillor gave a strong hint of a rise in salary for a Council employee when he said:

"One of the best things the Council has done has been to appoint Malcolm (Scott) as Irish Officer in Newry and Mourne" ?

Which other, even more prominent, Newry Councillor astounded Newry's long-term unemployed when he welcomed the erection of the 'Welcome to Northern Ireland' signs in the locality and stated unashamedly that Northern Ireland was one of the most prosperous areas in Europe ?

Who is the champion of public morals in Newry and front-runner for the next vacancy on the Censorship Board ? Who else but the Coiste na Gaeilge member/prisoners' rights advocate/founder and only member of the Newry Anti-Video Nasties League, who tried to make Newry Council's £200 grant to last year's "Cuisle na nGael" conditional upon Coiste na Gaeilge exercising editorial control over the magazine's content .

Who tried to tarnish our street credibility when, in a one-liner in "An Phoblacht/Republican News", s/he dismissed the 1991 edition of "Cuisle na nGael" as - "Equivocal on the national question. N.I.O. backed" ?

Who removed the Irish language stickers from his car, having been told that they were an impediment to his career prospects?



***Spléachadh thart
ar shaol na Gaeilge***



Ben Corr Photographer of the Mournes

Death of
Séamus Mallon
Talented
Newry
Photographer

Rugadh Ben Corr i nDoire gidh gur tógadh é i nlúr Chinn Trá airm ina bhfuair sé scolaíocht ó na Bráithre Críostaí ag Scoil na Mainistreach. Ach thar áit ar bith eile ceanglaítear a ainm go dlúth le ceantar an Mhór mar ba ansin a d'oibrir sé agus ba ansin fosta a ghlac sé na mílte grianghraif den limistéar máguaird.

Fuair Ben Corr fostaíocht le Roinn Talmhaíochta an Tuaiscirt sa bhliain 1939 agus chuaigh sé don chéad uair (go sealadach ag an tús) go dtí limistéar an Mhór i 1947 le cúraimí cigireachta na Roinne a chomhlíonadh. I Mí na bhFaoilleach 1954 a d'fhill sé ar na Beanna Boirche agus d'fhan go buan ansin ó shin i leith. Bhí a oifig lonnaithe i gCill Chaoil, baile ina raibh sé cónaithe fosta. Bhí aithne fhorleathan air cion is gur dhéileáil sé go rialta leis na mionfheirmeoirí insan ceantar. Feirmeoireacht mheasctha a bhí á chleachtadh i Ríocht an Mhór - caoráir ar na sléibhte agus prátaí ar an mhíntír don mhórchuid. Bhí na prátaí, Arran Banner a bhformhór, le bheith easpórtáilte.

Ní raibh sé go dtí le tíordeireannas a fuarthas amach go ciotanta fá na pictiúir a ghlac Ben Corr. Rinne cara dá chuid teagmháil le Daonmhusaem Uladh agus thaispeán sé na grianghraif do Brian Walker. Bhí cara Ben éiginnte má bhí fiúntas ar bith insna pictiúir, ach, ní gá a rá, bhí gliondar ar an Dr. Walker na pictiúir a aimsiú. Idir 1955 agus 1975 a tógadh na grianghraif le ceamara Rollietflex. Pictiúir dubh agus bán iad uilig agus tugann siad léargas dúinn ar shaol na ndaoine i gceantar an Mhór ó na 1950í ar aghaidh. Tá 'fhios againn go bhfuil teacht ar rogha fairsing de phictiúir a tógadh thart fá Chill Chaoil sna 1920í, ach rinneadh neamart ar an áit ó thaobh grianghrafadóireachta de go dtí na 1950í, an tráth a thosaigh Ben féin ag saothrú leis. Foilsíodh na pictiúir a ghlac Ben Corr i leabhar gleoite a d'eisigh Friar's Bush Press i 1989, "From the Mountains to the Sea", agus bhí an-ráchairt go deo ar an leabhar. Bhí Ben féin thar a bheith bródúil as an leabhar agus cúis aige. An lá a adhlacadh é i 1990 cuireadh cóip den leabhar sa chónra taobh leis.

De thaisme mar sin a thángthas ar na pictiúir stairiúla seo. Dá phléisiúr féin a ghlac Ben Corr na grianghraif ach anois tugann a shaothar sásamh nach beag dúinn uilig.

Nuair a fuair Séamus Mallon bás i 1991 cailleadh duine de na grianghrafadóirí is fearr in Éirinn. Is ar éigean teach in Iúr Chinn Trá nach bhfuil pictiúir ann a glacadh i stúideo Duffners, áit ina bhfuair Séamus Mallon traenáil, agus tá achan seans gurb é Séamus féin a thóg cuid mhaith de na pictiúir atá inár seilbh againn sa bhaile.

Bhí Séamus breoite le roinnt mhaith blianta aniar cé nár chuir sé sin stop lena shaothar mar ghrianghrafadóir. Is fada an lá anois ó bhí siopa ag Duffners ar Shráid Hill agus bhí Séamus féin ag obair mar 'freelance' ó d'fhag muintir Duffner Iúr Chinn Trá. Ba mhíne le feiceáil é ag freastal ar bhainiseacha agus é ina sheasamh, a chuid trealamh réidh aige, ar chéimeanna na hArdeaglaise. Bhí an-dúil aige i gcúrsaí ailtireachta agus scileanna ar leith aige nuair a bhí grianghrafanna proifisiúnta de dhíth ar dhaoine de na heaglaisí nó de na foirgintí is mó agus is tábhachtaí in Iúr Chinn Trá. Má bhí jab gairmiúil de dhíobháil ar dhuine nó ar chomhlacht, cuireadh fios láithreach ar Séamus Mallon.





D r á m a

A. Cumann
drámaíochta
GATEWAY a ghlac
páirt don chéad
uair i mbliana i
bhFéile Scoil-drám-
aíochta an Iúir.

B. Aisteoirí óga ó
Choilleach Eanach.

C. Oirfidigh deis-
bhéalacha Scoil an
Chroí Ró-Naofa.

Pictiúir leis an
"Newry Reporter".



SÚIL SIAR

LANGUAGE GROUPS CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

"Súil Siar" (Urraithe ag an Cultural Relations Group) was the title given to a major Old Newry & Mourne Photographic Exhibition which was organised by the O Fiaich Branch of the Ulster Gaelic League and which opened in Newry's Arts Centre/Teach na hEigse on 16th March 1991. The exhibition has since moved to a number of public centres and has been out on loan to several community groups. Such has been the interest generated by the exhibition that even individual families have borrowed the photographs to show them to relatives who have lived abroad for some years and who have returned to Newry on holiday in recent months.

An exciting feature of the exhibition was the display for the first time of photographs from the Dr. Myles Gilligan Collection. Dr. Gilligan worked in Daisy Hill Hospital in the late 1940's and photographed several of the town's important buildings at that time. His

work was largely unknown until "Cuisle na nGael" researchers traced Dr. Gilligan to his present home in Dún Laoghaire. Dr. Gilligan proved to be a fascinating discovery and one of his prints of the old Dutch Houses in Newry has been used for this year's "Cuisle na nGael" front cover. The Ulster Folk Museum has since developed many of Dr. Gilligan's negatives and catalogued the prints. Craobh Uí Fhiaich takes some pride in being to the fore in gaining recognition for Myles Gilligan's work. While in Newry, Dr. Gilligan produced a book entitled "NEWRY: A Short Account of its Growth and its Buildings" (1950). Regrettably only one copy of the book was ever printed, though this undoubtedly adds to the book's value and appeal.

A series of twelve colour prints on display came from slides taken in the early 1960's by one of Ireland's foremost railway photographers, J.D. Fitzgerald from Armagh. Mr. Fitzgerald has kindly permitted Craobh Uí Fhiaich to use a number of his black and white railway photographs in this edition of "Cuisle na nGael". Other photographs came from Paddy Traynor and Séamus Mac Dhaibhéid, both of whom are members of Newry and Mourne Camera Club.

Mr. John Keyes, Arts Centre Director, was most co-operative with O Fiaich Branch members who mounted the exhibition and to thank him for his assistance. Craobh Uí Fhiaich regrets that not everyone who wanted to see the exhibition actually got a chance to do so. Those disappointed should understand that a tight schedule had been arranged so that the maximum number of people from different areas got a chance to view the photographs.

Slide shows, though not based on the "Súil Siar" material, have also been a feature of O Fiaich Branch community involvement. On Cardinal O Fiaich slide show in particular has been a great success. Among the many groups to have seen one of our slide shows were Mullabawn Senior Citizens, Forkhill Senior Citizens, Dromintee/Jonesboro Sixties Plus Group, Annalong Senior Citizens, Barcroft Senior Citizens, Newry Workers' Educational Association, Kilkeel Senior Citizens. The Gaelic League as a voluntary independent organisation will continue to support adult education programmes in 1992, especially those programmes which examine our cultural heritage.



Lucht na Bunscoile ag cuidiú le Children in Need

Jimmy Keenan's

ARMAGHDOWN BAR

Sráid Mhuineacháin, an t-Iúr

is pleased to be associated with Newry's
bilingual local studies magazine

cuisle na nGael

***Buail isteach chugainn fá choinne
pionta - béidh fáilte romhat***

**Old photographs needed
Seanghrianghrafanna de dhíth**

If you have any old photographs based on the theme of 'Newry People At Work', and if you are willing to let us have them on loan, this magazine will endeavour to have them published and thereby enjoyed by hundreds of fellow Newry citizens at home and abroad. We are also interested in any photos, written materials or illustrations which relate to the history of Newry and District. We have published 1,500 copies of "Cuisle na nGael" this year and we are confident that our target of 2,000 copies can be reached by 1993. Help us make our 1993 Centenary Edition a true 'collector's item'. Contact : "Cuisle na nGael", c/o 3 Wilton Grove, Newry.





WORKERS AT NEWRY POST OFFICE IN THE 1920's

The photograph on the left is of John Pat Doran, Postman and Driver, with his Model T Ford which plied between Newry and Kilkeel. In the background, though barely discernable, is Matt Lavery, Head Postman.

The full page photograph opposite features John Pat Doran again, and his brother Peter, with motorbike and side-car. This photo was taken in 1924 at the old Post Office yard, the Mall, Newry. We thank Danny Doran for supplying the photographs.

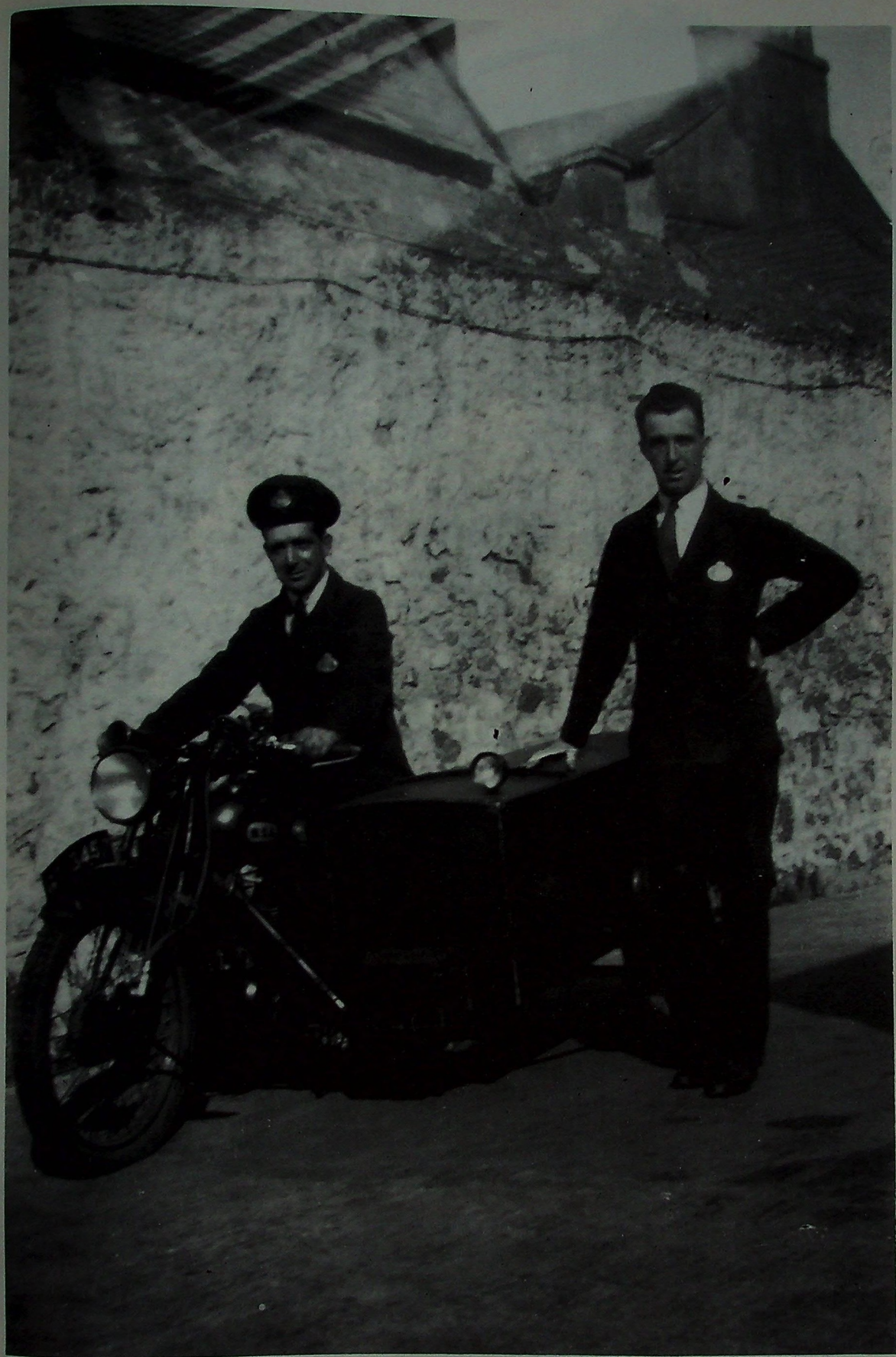
Buíochas



Tá muid buíoch do
Choiste Chondae Ard Mhacha
agus do

Choiste Chondae an Dúin
de Chumann Lúthchleas Gael
as deontais a thabhairt dúinn.

Many thanks to the Newry John Mitchel
Branch of the I.N.F. for their ongoing
co-operation in the Irish Language Revival





Seán Mac Ruairí, agus é ag seinm ar fhidil,
i lár Rinn Mhic Giolla Rua.
Pictiúr le Andy Tohill, An Pointe.

Cúis bhróin

Ar an 5ú Márta 1991 a cailleadh Seán Mac Ruairí, Gael. Ní raibh ach an trí scór bliain caite aige nuair a fuair sé bás. Chónaigh Seán sa "Hollow", Bóthair Ghlasdromainn, Ath na Long, deisceart an Dúin, agus rugadh é cóngarach do Dhún Droma sa chontae céanna. Bhí an-luí ag Seán le Comhaltas Uladh de Chonradh na Gaeilge agus ba chara é le Rúnaí an Chomhaltais, Gearóid Mac Giolla Domhnaigh. Bhí ard-mheas ag Seán ar obair an Chomhaltais agus bhí sé ina PRO ar Choiste Fheis an Dúin, coiste a d'oibir go dícheallach riamh anall ar shon chuspóirí an Chonartha. Ba mhinic baill Chraobh an Iúir i gcomhlúadar Sheáin i nGlasdromainn, áit ar cuireadh fáilte chroíúil rompu i gcónaí.



Cailleadh Biddy Sheáin Néill Uí Bhaoill, scéalaí as Rann na Feirste, tráthnóna Dé Domhnaigh 7 Aibreán 1991. Duine ar bith a fuair a c(h)uid Gaeilge ag Coláiste Bhríde ba chóir aithne a bheith aige/aici ar Biddy Sheáin. Casadh ormsa í don chéad uair i 1984 nuair a bhí mé ag freastal ar chúrsa Gaeilge do dhaoine fásta i Ros Goill. An tAth. Jack Gallagher a thug Bríd Sheáin leis ar chuairt chuig Coláiste an Chomhaltais a bhí díreach athbhunaithe i Ros Goill. Chaith sí an oíche ar fad ag insint scéaltaí agus ag caint fá na cuairteoirí clúiteacha a mba ghnách leo seal a chaitheamh lena muintir i Rann na Feirste. Ba léir go raibh féith na scéalaíochta go smior inti agus bhí an tAth. Jack féin faoi dhraíocht aici cé go raibh na scéalta céanna cloiste aige go mion is go minic roimhe sin. Ba í Biddy Sheáin an chéad chainnteoir dúchais Gaeilge a chuala mé riamh agus chuaigh an ócáid go mór i bhfeidhm orm. Níor thuig mé ach an leathchuid dá raibh le rá aici ach rinne mé a cuid scéaltaí a thaifeadh an oíche sin agus tá an téip agam go sea. Ba bheag a cheap mé an uair úd go mbeadh Biddy Sheáin básaithe agus gan ach ceithre bliain is trí scór aici. Is dócha go bhfuil sí ag imirt bingo anois i nGaeltacht Dé ar neamh, a cuid gaolta ina suí in aice léi agus Tomás Ó Fiaich, mar ba dhual leis, i lár an chomhlúadair.

Bhí spéis ag Seán i dtólamh i gceol traidisiúnta na hÉireann agus ba fhidléir den scoth é. Le linn dó a bheith lonnaithe i mBéal Feirste bhí Seán ceangailte le Clann Mhic Péice agus leis an ceoltóir clúiteach Seán Mag Uidhir. Ar ais i gCaisleán Nua leis, chuidigh sé le Cathal Ó Baoill agus le muintir Mhic Phóilín craobh de Chomhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann a bhunú is a choinneáil ag dhul sa bhaile sin. Chuir sé suim fosta i gcluichí náisiúnta na tíre agus chuidigh sé go ciúin le scrídeach leo siúd sa cheantar a raibh arracht ar bun acu aisling an Phiarsaigh a híorú. Más gearr a sheal inár measc, fós éin bhí sé in ann cion fathaigh a dhéanamh r son an náisiúin.

Cúis áthais

Ó bhíomar i gcló anuraidh ligeadh saor seisear Birmingham. Seo seisear ón Iúr a bhí sásta seasamh os comhair an phobail lena rá go raibh éagóir déanta ar a gcomhshaoránaigh.



WHERE CAN I BUY 'Cuisle na nGael' ?

This magazine is produced by members of the Gaelic League in Newry and District primarily as a service to our own members. It can be purchased, if ordered in time, from any of the following Gaelic League teachers

Seán Mac Dhaibhéid
Marcas Mac Alasdair
Róisín Bean Mhíe Thréinfhir
Pádraig Ó Maonaíle

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Bennett's, Hill Street

Savage's, Monaghan Street
Lily's Shop, Warrentpoint Road

McCavitt's Shop, Kilmorey Street

(The above shops are all supportive of Irish language ventures in Newry)

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Guth ón Astráil Voice from Australia

Last year's "Cuisle na nGael" provoked quite a response from Newry folk now living abroad and we received many letters from America and England. Most letters were complimentary of the work undertaken by the voluntary Irish Language Movement in Newry and a majority of correspondents expressed their appreciation of our interview with Mr. G. Cronin. The communication from abroad which gave us most satisfaction was a tape-recorded interview we received from South Australia. Mr. Eamonn Hanna, an Alderman in S. Australia, noticed that his father's name was mentioned in Pat Carr's reminiscences of the old Gasworks ("Cuisle na nGael" 1991) and Eamonn himself decided to share with us some of his thoughts on his native town.



Eamonn Hanna & Frankie Kearnis
Erskine Street, Newry 1936

Eamonn Hanna has lived for 40 years now in Australia, but Erskine Street/Canal Street residents will remember him as 'Ancient' Hanna. Eamonn had a habit of standing outside Sullivan's pub in Canal Street and would engage in conversation with neighbours much older than himself. He obviously had an old head on his shoulders and was duly baptised 'Ancient'. Eamonn possesses a strong sense of his Irish identity and reflects with pride on his early attachment to Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (GAA) in Newry. He credits the Christian Brothers with giving him a taste of the richness of Irish culture, and held Bro. Newell in special regard as the man who was "a force in promoting Gaelic football at the Abbey school."

Old Abbey hurlers fondly recalled by Eamonn Hanna include Raymond Carroll, Tony Carroll and Paddy Murray. Eamonn himself played Under-16 football with Lámh Dearg, a team based at that time in the Erskine Street area. Among his fellow players were Patsy McElroy, Oliver McCann, Liam McAllister, John and Eddie McNeill. Their arch rivals were Glendoran - a team based in Ballybot and including Denis Larkin, the Morgans, Jimmy Heaney, Pat McDonald and Maurice Toner. Eamonn has reared 10 sons in Australia, eight of whom play Gaelic football and six of whom have played for the State of South Australia. "I've tried to pass on what was best in my native culture to my sons and to my grandchildren. I myself was shaped by my own often impoverished environment in Newry, though, to our advantage, we were always well taught in the Carstands Christian Brothers' School, by men like Johnny Walker and Bro. Hennesey. My own Catholic upbringing has stood by me too and even though it's unfashionable to be dealing with religious topics today, I will never forget the influence of the Holy Name Confraternity and the Sunday Benediction on the attitudes and philosophy of life I hold today."

Eamonn Hanna was a member of the Cathedral Boys' Choir, at a time when the Choir went on strike! Pickets were mounted on the Cathedral steps because football jerseys were to be purchased for the Choir members at the expense of their Christmas party. The resourceful Fr. Burke decided to break the strike and contacted his allies, the Christian Brothers, who promptly terminated the strike in their own inimitable way. Eamonn doesn't remember all of the choir boys but mentions Frank Hall, Tony McAlinden, Gerry Rankin, Larry Kennedy, Michael Carroll, Terry Rafferty and Maurice Toner. The relief organist at that time was Seán Crawford who later became Archbishop of the Solomon Islands.

For Eamonn Hanna, there was no more talented individual in the Newry of his youth than the late P.J. McKay. "I've travelled to 73 countries over the years, but the likes of the entertainment and pantomimes organised by P.J., his sister Kathleen, Susanna Patterson, and starring the very attractive Winnie Carroll, I've never seen." One of Eamonn's best friends in the town was Joe McArdle (RIP) proprietor of the bicycle shop in Monaghan Street. Joe acted as godfather to Eamonn's eldest son Brian. Another of Eamonn's sons, Liam, is the Director of Aborigine Affairs in the Federal Government, and Eamonn's family, as a whole, have done well for themselves. "I regret that economic circumstances forced me to leave Newry and I doubly regret that my sons aren't using their talents in Ireland and for the betterment of Ireland. Still, we have retained a strong sense of being Irish and I return to Newry quite often."

The Hanna's themselves hail from a strong sea-faring tradition in the town. Eamonn's uncles, Tommy and Eddie Hanna, worked on the timber boats which came to Newry. Eddie Hanna was a noted musician who made and played his own fiddle. Eddie, too, was a trusted friend of the political activist Paddy Fearon, and was shot in an ambush at Markethill. Eamonn himself has been an Alderman in local politics for 13 years and has stood unsuccessfully for parliament. He is a former Australian Organiser of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. He longs for peace in Ireland:

"In my old age, I yearn for peace in the north of Ireland and ask my former neighbours in Newry to live in harmony with one another. I pray for a peaceful resolution of Ireland's problems, and aspire to a unitary state in which the evil of sectarianism will be eradicated."

Eamonn Hanna comes across on his cassette as a man tolerant of others and fiercely proud of his town and its people. "I've met Newry men all over the world, going back to my days in Birmingham when I stayed with Danny O'Hare, Micky Burns and Danny Cunningham in the Dorans' house, and my fellow townfolk have always done me proud. I've yet to meet abroad a Newry man or woman who has caused me to feel embarrassed."

Eamonn Hanna has proved to be a vital contact person for Newry people emigrating to Australia and, to his credit, he has helped quite a few of them establish a new life for themselves.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Would you kindly accept from the outset that I was most impressed by Mr. Sonny Owen's account of "Schooldays in Bessbrook" as it appeared in your 1991 journal. I had expected, however, more than a fleeting reference to the fact that Poppy Fearon's School, which has acquired something of a legendary status throughout the whole county, was needlessly disposed of and demolished. Could I advise readers that they should keep an eye on old, historical properties, with a view to having these buildings classified as 'listed'. I suffer a premonition at times that a similar fate is in store for the vacant Altnaveigh Primary School as befell Poppy Fearon's establishment in Bessbrook.

I had also hoped for a photograph of Poppy Fearon's School, though I am told that photographs of both the Master himself, and his school, are rare. Keep up the good work.

Is mise, le meas,
Seán Ó Néill (Cloch Riabhach)



(Editor) Could we assure readers that the Editor, Mr. Sonny Owens, a curate based in Bessbrook and a number of Bessbrook residents, combed the village in search of a photograph of St. Malachy's Primary School. Ironically, last year's magazine hadn't been long published when this photo of the school came our way. It was in the possession of Patsy McKeown. Patsy readily admits that the quality isn't great, but we're very happy to oblige Seán Ó Néill with an image at least of the old school. "Cuisle na nGael" remains very interested in anything historical pertaining to Bessbrook. Mr. Owens' article stimulated the interest of Bessbrook readers and a handful of old Bessbrook photos have come our way. Needless to say, we're still on the look-out for more, for a future edition of our magazine.

A chara,

"Cuisle na nGael" has struck a chord with many Newry residents, especially those involved in the revival of our native culture. Could I suggest though that you are missing out on a broader market? I was not one of those lucky enough to be in the know as to when the journal was published last year and I'm afraid that I only got a copy on loan. The same holds for a number of my acquaintances. The following suggestions, while critical in their purport, might enhance a magazine which I feel is otherwise making a valuable contribution to Local Studies:

8. Avoid ecclesiastical history - there are already enough societies involved in researching church history.

Le gach dea-mhéin,
Pádraig Ó Ruanaidh (Doire Beag)

1. Print more copies and engage more outlets.
2. Go for occasional colour photographs and increase the cost of the magazine accordingly.
3. Indicate on all photographs when and where they were taken - guess work appeals to some but frustrates many.
4. Provide written material, and not just illustrations, based on the non-Catholic sections of Newry's population.
5. Make sure that all fonts (print types) are legible - a lot of older people enjoy reading reminiscence interviews.
6. If you must retain a high proportion of material in Irish, provide translations for those of us who wished we spoke Irish but shamefully can't.
7. Don't replicate material which is likely to have been covered in the local press. In other words, give a voice to minorities (not just the Irish speaking minority) and to those groups normally denied access to local media.

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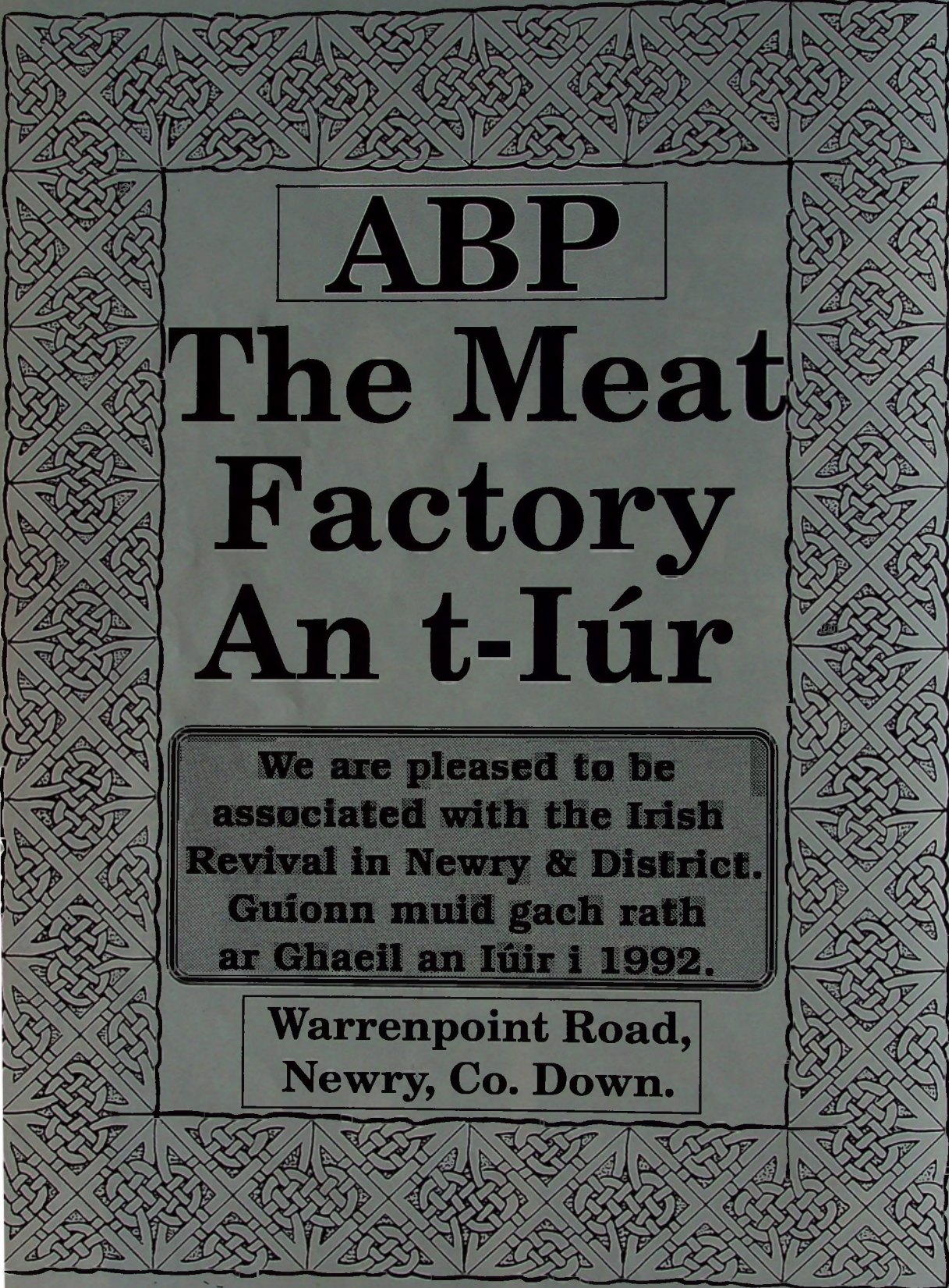




BESSBROOK GERALDINES 1907-1908

(Photo and names supplied by Patsy McKeown, Maghernahely)

Back Row : P Mooney, T Mc Crudden, F Carroll, P Fearon, R Short, J Kane, W Mathers, P Brady,
D Kennedy, R Foster, M Cochrane, J Burke, D O'Hare.
Seated : T Chambers, T Rushe, P Carroll, L Rushe, O'Hare, Rev F Rodgers, T O'Hare, J Carroll, J
Mooney, P O'Hare J Feighan.
Front : D Carroll, D Donnellan, B Toal, J O'Hare



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JOHN MC ANULTY PROFILE OF A PROFESSIONAL

The year 1991 marked sixty years in journalism for one of Newry's most popular and well-known adopted sons, Mr. John McAnulty. Mr. McAnulty, of Ashgrove Park, Newry, is mostly associated with the former "Belfast Telegraph" office on Newry's Mall, but, as we shall see later, he was editor of the "Newry Reporter" for a period of seven years in the 1940's. It is believed that John McAnulty is the oldest working journalist in Ireland today.

John McAnulty was born in the village of Milford, Co. Armagh, in 1913, the second youngest in a family of eight. His father, Thomas John, was a good provider and a painter-decorator by trade. The young John attended Milford National School from the age of three and a half, from where he progressed to the Cathedral Grammar School. He completed his formal education in the Armagh Technical High School. John was an accomplished boy soprano. He took an early interest in cricket and his scout-master, Mr. William McCrum, had played a decisive role in fostering John's life-long interest in the game. Milford had a 5 Street Summer Cricket League and Catholic and Protestant boys participated. John's memories of Milford, while tinged by the undoubted poverty endured by some of the residents, are generally happy. The Milford Institute, built by the local linen manufacturers, was a veritable leisure centre by any standards, and way ahead of its time. The Institute was the venue for concerts; it housed two full-sized billiard tables; it catered for badminton and gymnastics enthusiasts; and even provided a room where women, mostly, learned cooking. Films were also shown at the Institute.

John McAnulty's career as a journalist has been a long and eventful one but in all of 60 years as an active reporter he has been on the staff of only three newspapers. John has been fortunate in that he has never had to apply for a job in his life and was first of all invited to join the "Armagh Guardian"; was later asked to assume the editorship of the "Newry Reporter"; and was finally approached by the "Belfast Telegraph" to take the reins of the Newry and Dundalk local edition of the "Tele". John considers his formative years with the "Armagh Guardian" as the most important period in his development as a professional journalist. Old Mr. Trimble (Charles Trimble's father), owner of the "Armagh Guardian" when John joined the paper in June 1931, was a stickler for detail and an expert on the law of libel. He used to detain John for hours on end commenting on libel court actions and John himself took on board all of Mr. Trimble's advice. John worked for more than 10 years on the "Armagh Guardian" during which time he married Molly Gray of Lisanally, Co. Armagh, in 1939; became familiar with many notables in the north of Ireland including politicians like Harry Midgley, former Labour man turned Unionist, and Sir Norman Strong and his family. John has also covered several particularly gruesome murder cases in his career. Much of John's time, then, as now, is spent in courthouses and he is fully familiar with the vagaries of the legal system and with the idiosyncracies of several of the Judges and Resident Magistrates of Northern Ireland. One of John's most vivid memories is the awesome sight of a Judge donning a black cap when passing a sentence of capital punishment.



John came to work as Editor of the then tri-weekly "Newry Reporter" on Nov. 3rd 1941 and remained in that position until the end of June 1948. Nowadays the "Newry Reporter" has a monopoly on local news in print but up until the early 1970's the "Reporter" had to compete with other Newry newspapers. The late Edward Hodgett, then proprietor of the "Newry Reporter", advised John on his first day that the "Newry Reporter" was an "independent newspaper", that it wasn't to follow a party political line, and that all content was to be assessed solely on the criterion of its news-worthiness. John was also informed on his first day with the "Reporter" that he had to start planning for the paper's special 42 page Christmas Edition - this was a tall order indeed for a newly appointed editor and a man unaccustomed to the town. Some readers will recall these special Christmas Editions with their Reviews of the Year and their articles of historical interest. Prominent Newry citizens, like James Heather, contributed their reminiscences of days gone by, and some excellent material came from men like Fr. Barney Mooney of Hilltown.

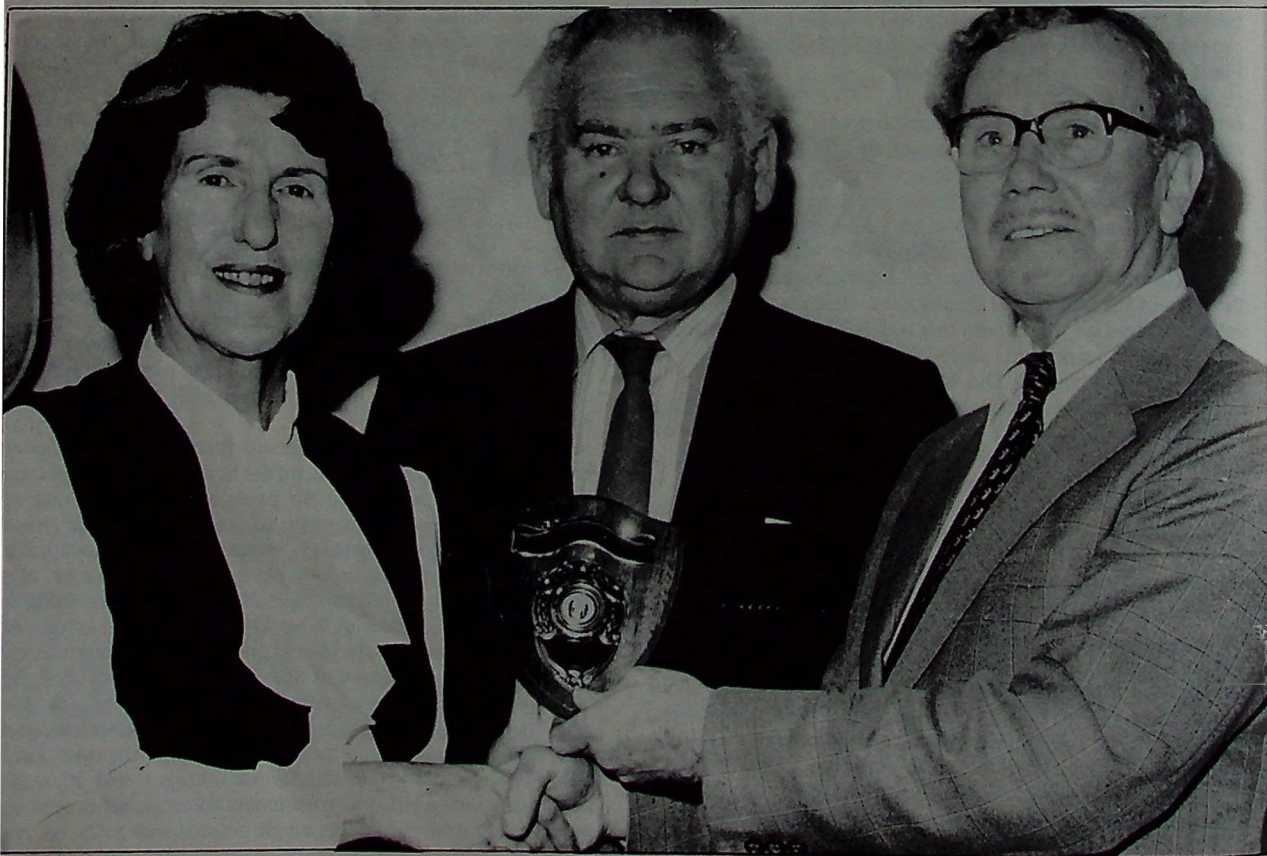
John McAnulty is happy to record that Mr. Hodgett never interfered with the editorial side of the newspaper and John soon had a free-hand to develop the paper as he saw fit. One of John's first innovations was to augment income from advertising. Throughout 1941, Foster's large shop took out a three quarter page advertisement in the "Newry Reporter" at a price of 4d. a single column inch. John advised Mr. Hodgett that the "Armagh Guardian", a weekly paper, charged 1s. 6d. per single column inch as its lowest price to regular advertisers. Mr. Hodgett, competing with the "Frontier Sentinel" and the "Newry Telegraph" was reluctant at first to put up his advertising rates. John finally convinced him and produced a card of advertising rates which he circulated to the other local editors in an effort to standardise charges and increase advertising income. Local government advertisements went up immediately from 1s. 3d. per single column inch to 2s. 6d. per

single column inch. The other papers accepted the card and the rates, and John's system of regulating advertising rates lasted for some years.

John disagrees with the view held by many people that there are too many ads in local newspapers. "From a purely pragmatic point of view, advertisements pay for staff wages," commented John. In the 1940's papers were allowed to carry 60% ads and 40% news. It should be remembered that paper was rationed during the Second World War years. Other restrictions imposed on editors at this time included censorship of any news which might be of use to Britain's enemies. Details of troop movements, shipments of supplies etc. were all, naturally, to be kept secret. Even weather conditions were to be ignored by the local press. John McNulty was further hampered by the rather parsimonious nature of many newspaper proprietors of this time. Mr. Hodgett deemed photographs a waste of money and rarely sanctioned their use. John, too, had little assistance. Gerry Duffy was his Junior Reporter, but only for a few months, and ten days after John started with the "Reporter" the paper's advertising manager, Mr. George Hanna, died.

During the War years, the "Newry Reporter" went to print at night. John started work at 8.50 a.m. and worked to midnight on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Relations weren't always cordial in the printing workshop and one distasteful incident stands out in John's memory. In a bid to create discord, a certain employee used to lift lines out of one article and place them in another. This was tolerated until he lifted a line out of "Kelly the Knacker's" ad and placed it in the death notices section of the paper! The "Newry Reporter" printing works, of course, handled more than the local paper. Girls were employed in the paper bag making department and lots of H.M. Stationery work was carried out by Harry O'Brien, Frank McLaughlin and Joe Hughes in the bookbinding department. John McNulty rated Harry O'Brien (Hal O'Brien's father) as one of the best bookbinders in Ireland.

John concurs with the belief that newspapers have a responsibility to inform and to educate. He objects to recent trends towards features in many newspapers and would rather see much more news as such. In John's days with the "Newry Reporter" news reports were lengthy and factual. All relevant background material to particular stories was given and nothing was sensationalised. The purely transactional nature of the writing meant that reports were free from bias and didn't provoke letters from irate readers. Few letters for publication were received by John in his years with the "Reporter", though John himself views a lively letters page as a healthy sign in any newspaper. In the 1940's too, reporters had to go out and find stories, and there wasn't the same level of stories being spoon-fed to newspapers by organisations and societies as there is today. The best source of news in the '40's was the local constabulary and John established a network of contacts from District Inspector Poots to the constable who checked that bicycle lamps were fitted and working. He never missed a County Court either in his years with the "Reporter". Cases in those days were more eventful because they were much more likely to be contested. John laments that the current trend towards pleas has taken some of the pleasure out of covering the court scene. He suggests too that the acoustics in Newry Courthouse must be among the worst in all Ireland and make the journalist's job especially trying. Journalists were also allowed at one time into the Separation Courts and these often provided stories to be followed eagerly by the reading public of Newry. There is now no such intrusion into family life. The most noticeable trend that John has witnessed in all his years of reporting from the Newry Court is the phenomenal increase in instances of theft. In the 1940's theft cases were few and far between but nowadays "the scale of theft is frightening". John himself, over the years, has been offered sums of money, up to a total of at least £17,000 in his estimation, to keep particular stories out of the Press. "To accept such payments is unethical and would only serve to compromise the journalist. You have to be straight in journalism". John has thought, of his own



volition and based on his personal judgement, held back a very few individual stories when he felt that to publish them would cause acute distress to families.

Throughout his time with the "Newry Reporter" John McNulty encountered people from all walks of life and from all areas of the town. Some public representatives impressed him by their integrity and probity while others fell far short of what one might expect of a figure in the public domain. John lists Mr. Joe Connellan, former Stormont M.P. for South Armagh, and later for South Down, among those whom he admired:

"Joe Connellan was a great type of Irishman, who never unduly imposed his political views on anyone in conversation. He used his newspaper, the 'Frontier Sentinel', to good effect to promote his political aspirations, as did Mick Keough in later years. Mr. Joe Connellan was a gentleman".



Mr. Joe Connellan

Paddy Agnew, also a former M.P. for South Armagh, was another politician favoured by John McNulty:

"One could say that Paddy was an opportunist M.P. I can visualise him yet - small stature, frayed tweed suit, ragged collar, neat and shiny face. Immaculately clean. He was a genuine Labour man who represented everyone, a man who truly lived his socialism".

Another public figure who worked hard for Newry was Mr. W.M. Cronin:

"He was an eminently clever man who lived every minute for the welfare of the town. He was an acknowledged expert on the workings of local government and a reservoir of information pertaining to Newry. He used to keep every copy of the 'Newry Reporter' and had them bound at the end of each year. Council affairs were covered in great detail in the Press in days gone by and when James Bell was editor of the 'Reporter' he used to print verbatim accounts of Council business. Mr. Cronin formally based his Council minutes on Bell's reports!"

John McNulty has much to say about the commercial life of Newry. He is especially saddened by the decline in the contribution of Protestant businessmen to the commercial development of Newry. "When I came to Newry fifty years ago, much of Hill Street, right up to Mill Street, was made up

of Protestant owned businesses. Since then some of the premises have been bombed and never re-opened, or re-opened only to be bombed again. In other cases, the sons and daughters of former prominent Protestant businessmen decided not to pursue careers in commerce and have sold the family firms". One of John McNulty's own school-fellows; from the Milford National School, was the Mr. Sam Brooks who used to own a shop called "Moneyworth" in Newry's North Street. He subsequently bought Warnock's famous shop at Margaret Square and finally sold out to the Abbey National Building Society. John regrets too that the Newry Junior Chamber of Commerce has been allowed to lapse: "As a forum for young entrepreneurs it had much to offer and never really reached its full potential". John has strong views on the former Newry Port and Harbour Trust:

"The Trust members were too protective of their privacy and didn't utilise the Press to the Port's advantage. As soon as details of tonnage were issued the ritual shout would go up 'That's all for the Press' and the Trust would go into private session to discuss the real business of the Port. As Gerry Duffy used to say, 'all I can tell my readers is that the tide came in and the tide went out'. The Trust was much too insular for its own good."

By no means disparaging of the "Newry Reporter", John McNulty is of the firm belief that Newry could easily sustain another newspaper and opines that competition would be beneficial to the Press locally. "There is a market in Newry for a predominantly nationalist newspaper. The old 'Frontier Sentinel' should never have been allowed to die and when the 'Newry Reporter' bought out the 'Newry Telegraph' we knew that that purchase sounded the death-knell for the 'Telegraph'. Competition sharpens up everyone, improves standards, and, importantly, the more newspapers there are, the more people are in employment." John rates highly the "Newry Reporter" and considers its advertising revenue ("the life-blood of any newspaper") to be one of the highest for any local paper in the country. If he was back in the Editor's chair with the "Reporter" today would he effect any changes? "I would certainly re-introduce a weekly editorial and make a point of critically examining any decisions taken by public bodies in the town, such as the Council and the Housing Executive, for example. I would welcome material in the Irish language, providing of course, that it was well written, informative and in keeping with the independent ethos of the paper." John has known the present editor of the "Reporter", Mr. Dónal O'Donnell, for years now, having helped secure Dónal's first job as a trainee journalist with the then almost exclusively Unionist "Armagh Guardian". He finds the whole "Reporter" staff welcoming and supportive.

"If you trained as a journalist in Newry, you could work anywhere" - so asserts John McNulty, and even though John was never to move from Newry he was destined to leave the "Reporter" and joined the staff of the "Belfast Telegraph." In 1948, the late Mr. R M Sayers, then editor of the "Belfast Telegraph" invited John to work for the "Tele" and to become the paper's Manager/Editor of the Newry-Dundalk local edition. John accepted the challenge and transferred to the "Telegraph's" office on the Mall, Newry. Copy from Newry could be phoned to the Belfast office right up to 4. 10 p.m. and the Newry edition would duly arrive by train at 5. 50 p.m. John quickly established a list of over 500 names and useful telephone numbers in the locality, and especially during the 1956-1962 I.R.A. border campaign John, using his contacts, could often be ahead of the R.U.C. with news. John's coverage of the '56-'62 campaign helped establish his reputation beyond Newry. He regularly met with Republican leaders such as Tomás Mac Giolla, Cathal Goulding and Tom Greene, and was supplied with information from the Gardaí. "Buying a Garda an odd pint

in the Border Bar always paid dividends", reflects John. It was at this time that T.M. Roberts, the then political correspondent of the "Telegraph" dubbed John the "King of Newry" and John was asked to move to Head Office in Belfast. He declined the offer and chose rather to work on in Newry. "Newry's a great town for entertainment and we journalists were feted at social functions. It was a case of eternal turkey and ham at Christmas, though life was generally varied and unpredictable. I remember going with Gerry Duffy to the opening of Butlin's, Mosney, and we ended up that night at a Knights of Columbanus dance in the Alexandria Hotel in Warrenpoint. When the Radio Caroline ship was fitted out in Greenore, I covered the story. I built up a stock of thousands of photo negatives in the "BT" office on the Mall and J.V. Kelly once gave me an original list of the passengers who voyaged on the first ship to sail from Warrenpoint to New York. We had a local reference store of information which was second to none. Regrettably all this was lost when the "BT" office was bombed".

John's only reference work now in use, and always to hand, is the telephone directory, because he believes that names, addresses, company titles etc. are almost invariably entered correctly in the directory. John's main advice to anyone taking up a career in journalism is to "verify everything". "Accuracy is vital in journalism. When the 'Newry Reporter' or the 'Belfast Telegraph' received birth, death or marriage notices, it was a matter of course to check their authenticity. One should be careful too not to embellish a story. I remember a number of occasions when journalists came over from England to cover a story and they used my office phone. We had covered the same incident but one wouldn't think so when reading our respective reports in print. 'If we don't splash some colour around, John, the story won't be printed,' was the English journalists' normal justification. It's important also to mix freely in all circles and be accepted by all shades of opinion. 'Hail fellow, well met' has been my approach and it has seen me through many's an awkward situation."

By the time the "Belfast Telegraph" decided to close down the local editions of the paper and centralise the whole operation in Belfast, John had thoroughly developed the Newry-Dundalk edition:

"We were at saturation point with stories and coverage, and the circulation figures were impressive." John had a special Wednesday evening column under the title "Gap of the North" and it proved very popular. "The dismantling of the local editions network disappointed me but that's not the only change in journalism which has caused me concern. I simply hated the day that the tabloid format was introduced. Banner headlines and photos are now the order of the day with little attempt made to provide actual news. We have a duty to inform the public and objective journalism is one of the most satisfactory ways of helping the public form educated opinions on the issues of the day." John supports the N.U.J. stance that the censorship of various organisations, north and south, is not in the public interest. John indeed, is an active member of the N.U.J.. He flies to London about three times a month to attend meetings of the National Executive Council of the N.U.J., and travels to Dublin once a month to attend the Irish Council. He has been Chairperson of the Mid-Ulster Branch of the N.U.J. for this past quarter century.

Since 1982 John McAnulty has been working as a freelance journalist. A meagre enough pension meant that John had to keep working when the "Belfast Telegraph" paid off all its journalists over the age of 65, though John writes now primarily because reporting has been an inseparable part of his daily routine this past 60 years. His income is assisted largely from writing soccer reports for radio stations and for British newspapers. In addition, he gets an odd "credit" for supplying "tip-offs" for potential stories to newspapers. The "Irish Press" is at present the best payer for soccer reports and John can earn extra money if he spreads stories in correspondence. John's own approach to writing has been to involve the reader from the first sentence, and not to skimp on detail. He is proud to see other Newry journalists doing well. "Eamonn Rafferty, Paddy Rafferty's son, has already made it with the English newspapers, and Ian Heaney with the 'Reporter' shows the meticulousness and openness required of a fine journalist."

John McAnulty's span as a northern Irish journalist has taken him round many a corner. From meeting I.R.A. leaders at secret rendezvous, to being asked to stand as a Unionist candidate for the South Down seat, John has witnessed the northern Irish scene from all angles. John intends to start writing a book shortly and his reminiscences no doubt will shed much light on our recent and at times turbulent past.



John McAnulty receives presentation from Newry & Mourne Council.

Historical anecdote -
Wolfe Tone and 'Tory' Rostrevor

Just over a year ago I had the pleasure of attending a lecture at Scoil na mBráithre, an t-Iúr, delivered by Fr. Raymond Murray, on the theme of "Newry and the French Revolution, 1792". (This lecture has since been published in 'Seanchas Ard Mhacha'). I enjoyed the lecture and was enlightened by Fr. Murray's general discourse, being particularly intrigued to learn that Wolfe Tone had visited the Rostrevor area and that he may even have dined at Arno's Vale. As I now reside in Rostrevor, in fact adjacent to Arno's Vale, one can readily appreciate how my interest was stirred. I determined to follow up Fr. Murray's leads and to further disseminate his research by contributing this short piece to "Cuisle na nGael".

It seems that Wolfe Tone made at least two visits to Rostrevor, both in August 1792. Details of these are recounted in his diary. They took place at a time when he was making substantial progress in advancing the cause of the United Irishmen in the north. He did, it must be admitted, encounter instances of serious sectarian divisions, in the Rathfriland area, for example. On the whole, however, both politically and socially, Tone relished his experiences in the late Summer of 1792. Indeed, on the social level at least, he appears to have considered his trips to Rostrevor among the most 'delectable' of all.

Tone first visited Rostrevor on 12th August 1792. The relevant extract of his diary reads: "After dinner ride to Rosstrevor along shore. Beautiful! Mourne, the sea, etc. Sit up very late and talk treason. Sad!" It is clear, even from these brief remarks, that Tone was instantly impressed, even enchanted, by the beauty of Rostrevor's location. It is not evident, on the other hand, why he concluded his remarks with the word 'Sad'. It is a possibility that he regretted that his sojourn in the village was of such short duration. Certainly, his diary entry about his second visit to the area seven days later lends at least some support to this contention.

Tone remarked of his second trip to Rostrevor on 19th August 1792:

"Ride to Rosstrevor; more and more in love with it; dinner; thirty people, many of them Protestants, invited on the occasion. Dr. Moody, the Dissenting minister, says grace; bravo! all very good; toasts excellent. United Irishmen mentioned again, and the idea meets universal approbation; hope it may do; wonderful to see how rapidly the Catholic mind is rising even in this tory town, which is one of the worst spots in Ireland; sit till nine; set off for Dundalk, and arrive about twelve."

Fr. Murray believes, plausibly, that this mini-banquet was held at Arno's Vale, the residence of a prominent United Irishman in the area, Thomas Mercer.

Arguably the most interesting aspect of Tone's remarks about Rostrevor on the occasion of his second visit is his reference to the predominantly 'tory' (pro-British establishment) ethos of the village in the late eighteenth century. This may come as a surprise to many of its modern day inhabitants. Perhaps this is because if Tone visited the area today he would undoubtedly be reaffirmed in his viewpoint about the beauty of the village's location. By contrast, largely due to his legacy, it could be maintained that the village is substantially less 'tory' than he last found it.

John McCavitt
Rostrevor

ARNO'S VALE, ROSTREVOR



Catholic Church responds to requests for services in the Irish language.

For the first time in well over a century, the year 1991 saw a number of different religious services, involving Newry Catholics, conducted through the medium of Irish. Brendan Jackson, from Rooney's Meadow, married Siobhán Campbell (who is Newry's Bunscoil teacher) in an Irish language celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. Two Newry children, Eimear Curran, daughter of Brendan and Jane Curran, and Cathal, son of Deborah and Séamus Mac Dhaibhéid, were baptised at a bilingual service in Bessbrook. Caoimhín Ó Cearúil, (pictured below), son of Raymond and Teresa Carroll, received his First Holy Communion at one of the monthly Irish language Masses held at Newry Christian Brothers' chapel. That religious services through the medium of Irish are requested is a further small sign of the ongoing cultural revival which is taking place in Newry. The families involved wish to thank again the Priests who participated in the various services.



THE GHOST OF FRANCIS BERRY

In my childhood, my mother used to tell me a story of how her grandfather, one Joseph Gormley, served on a jury which convicted a man who was subsequently hanged in Armagh Gaol. At the time, the story was only of passing interest to me but as I grew older I became more intrigued by the story and by the circumstances surrounding it. Before I commence the actual narrative itself, I will shed some light on the background of my great-grandfather pertaining, as it does, to how he came to serve on the jury that convicted one of his neighbours, the unfortunate man who faced the gallows in Armagh.

In 1852, Joseph Gormley worked as a gamekeeper for a certain Captain Alexander, a Scotsman, who had a modest estate on the road between Forkhill and Dundalk, at Carrickasticken. Joseph Gormley was a Catholic himself, but his mother, Jane (née Dawson), was of planter stock. Jane's father was a local magistrate and tithe collector for the Rev. Edward Hudson, the resident Church of Ireland rector at Forkhill. Magistrate Dawson was a much despised man, and was the victim of an assassination bid in 1789 when his horse was shot from under him. When his daughter, Jane, married in to the Gormley's, she was ostracised by her family not only for marrying a Catholic but also because she married beneath her station. Joseph Gormley, though of the labouring classes, was often in the company of the local gentry. He accompanied them on shoots both in the locality and in Scotland. Gormley's skills, as a gamekeeper and as a marksman, were much in demand and as a result he built up a considerable collection of quality shooting pieces donated to him by grateful gentlemen over the years. (These same weapons were confiscated by the Irish Republican Army in the 1920's). It is thought that Joseph Gormley, although as already stated a Catholic and a member of the working classes, was still selected to serve as a juror in such an important trial in 1852, mainly as a result of his family connections and his own acceptability to the landed gentry.

Meredith Chambre was a landlord and magistrate who resided at 'Hawthorn Hill House' between Killeavy and Meigh. On 20th January 1852 he was returning from the Petty Sessions at Forkhill and in the company of his valet and brother, when, at the top of Drumintee Hill, two shots were fired at him, wounding him severely. Chambre was taken home and, according to local legend, some of his tenants carried him into the house using an old door as a stretcher. The tenants, thinking Chambre dead, took the opportunity to roundly curse him. Chambre, though rendered incapable and unable to speak (he was wounded in the mouth) was certainly conscious and heard their vilification of him. Upon recovery, he saw to it that the men who carried him that fateful night and who cursed his name, were promptly evicted from their holdings.

Within weeks of the shooting, the police, acting on information, arrested one Francis Berry of Adavoyle, and charged him with conspiracy to murder Chambre. Berry and Chambre had already crossed swords, Chambre having seized Berry's possessions in lieu of arrears of rent on his peasant holding. The rest of the story is well recorded in the history books - a verdict of guilty was returned; Francis Berry was hanged in Armagh Gaol on 16th August 1852, his sister being present at the scene; and Berry's last words were : " I beg you all to pray for me for I was a great sinner. If ye Roman Catholics took the advice of your clergy, ye would not see me, or the likes of me."

Francis Berry was buried in the graveyard of Killeavy Old Church and it is said, to this day, that his ghost stalks the section of the road next the graveyard. My mother relates that some folk used to be afraid to walk there and she tells how her grandfather, while walking this road, would often have to escort locals along the stretch of road favoured by Berry's ghost. It was indeed ironic that my great-grandfather, was not afraid of the ghost though he had played a part in the conviction of Francis Berry.

Meredith Chambre died in 1870 and is buried in Killeavy Church of Ireland graveyard, a short distance from Killeavy Old Church graveyard where Francis Berry was interred. Chambre's house can be seen to this day, nestled at the foot of Slieve Gullion, where the drama was acted out almost a century and a half ago.

The house of Captain Alexander is partly demolished, although the servants' quarters are still visible and indeed lived in. I had occasion to visit the house recently and stood in the room where Joe Gormley would have stood in 1852.

The house of Joseph Gormley, given to him by Capt. Alexander, still sits at the bottom of Forkhill ("Vize's") mountain, cushioned beside the little river that runs through the village. Although inhabited until recently, the ravages of time have overtaken it, and like the remains of Berry and Chambre, it will soon be consigned to the dust of history.

I remain unaware of the whereabouts of Francis Berry's house. Perhaps one of our readers can advise me.

Michael McArdle
Meánrang Chraobh an Ióir

A Review of Ciarán Ó Duibhín's "IRISH IN COUNTY DOWN SINCE 1750"

Dr. Ciarán Ó Duibhín's booklet, "IRISH IN COUNTY DOWN SINCE 1750" (published 1991, price £1.75, Pp. 40) is the latest in a series of short publications in Irish, or about Irish, to emanate from the Lecale Irish Society. Cumann Gaelach Leath Chathail is a semi-autonomous body affiliated to the Gaelic League. The Society held a Gaeltionól in Downpatrick in May 1990 and Dr. Ó Duibhín's booklet is based on a talk given by him to that gathering.

Ciarán Ó Duibhín's brief was to examine the statistical and other evidence for the existence of native Irish speakers in Co. Down. Remnants of Irish still survive of course in Co. Down placenames, though the last stronghold for the spoken language started to wane by the turn of the nineteenth century. As Ciarán Ó Duibhín puts it (page 29):

"It would appear that native Irish survived longest in County Down in a strip of territory on the north side of the Mourne, corresponding roughly to the two halves of the barony of Upper Iveagh: from Scarva, through Loughbrickland, Glaskermore, Annaclone, Rathfriland, Mayobridge, Hilltown, Leitrim, Kilcoo, Casilewellan and Bryansford; and also in the upper parts of Kilkeel, in Lecale particularly around Ardglass, and possibly in the Ards. Around 1800, Irish was still widely spoken in all of this area, and even beyond it, but declined rapidly thereafter."

"IRISH IN COUNTY DOWN SINCE 1750" draws on, and acknowledges, the work of earlier scholars such as Séamus Ó Casaide, Pádraig Mac Con Midhe, Brendan Adams, and others. It also analyses in detail for us the Census Returns from 1851 to 1911. As one would expect, the numbers of those declaring themselves speakers of Irish increased in the 1901 and 1911 Censuses as this decade marked the heyday of the Gaelic League revival in the county, although most of those who maintained they spoke Irish would have acquired their Irish at League classes and couldn't be classified as native speakers.

The influence of two eighteenth century County Down schools of learning, (one in Aughnagun, near Mayobridge, the other in Loughinisland), on the Irish of County Down is commented upon, though the Aughnagun details are based more on speculation than on hard information. The involvement of Protestants with the Irish language gets attention, especially Rev. William Neilson's "An Introduction to the Irish Language" (1808). Excerpts are taken from Neilson's dialogues to highlight for us some of the idiosyncracies of South East Ulster Irish. References abound from 19th and 20th century commentators on the Irish language in Rathfriland, Hilltown, Mayobridge, Kilkeel, Warrenpoint, Ros Trevor, to name but the local towns encompassed by Ó Duibhín's work. Some of the Newry references should whet the appetite of those who haven't yet seen "IRISH IN COUNTY DOWN SINCE 1750":

"As recently as the youth of the present writer's father, Protestants in Newry (an industrial Ulster town where complete anglicisation might be expected) talked Irish to the incoming country folk on market days, and many were proud of whatever Gaelic they knew - few seemed to have regarded it as 'not theirs'" - Aodh de Blacam, "The other hidden Ireland" in *Studies*, Vol. XXIII, no. 91, September 1934, p.451.

"The hinterland of Newry on the Co. Armagh side contained large numbers of Irish speakers until well into the twentieth century. In 1898, for example, a group from the Newry Branch of the Gaelic League spent a day visiting 'the Irish-speaking districts of Meigh and Killeavy... From the time we left Cloghogue until we came to Ballymacdermot on our return we had plenty of Irish... Every grown person in that great tract of country seems to understand it, though only the middle-aged and old people speak it habitually' (quoted by Ó Saothraí, "An tUltach", 54, 1, 7, 1977)."

Other strengths of Ó Duibhín's work include an explanatory survey of the peculiarities of pronunciation of County Down Irish (pages 30-32); an invaluable list of reference works; and a chronology of the chief dates and events pertaining to the history of the Irish language in Co. Down. On the debit side, Gearóid Mac Giolla Domhnaigh's (Rúnaí Chomhaltas Uladh) data-base on the Gaelic League revival in County Down wasn't tapped, and the booklet, priced at £1.75 (though sponsored by the Community Relations Council) is unlikely to attract many beyond those already interested in the Irish language. Some locals who have seen the booklet have also expressed dissatisfaction that it was written in English. From our own experience in Newry and district though, we find that individuals who initially possess a curiosity about the history of the language, very often become the raw material of future Irish classes.

It will take little more than thirty minutes to read "IRISH IN COUNTY DOWN SINCE 1750" and anyone seriously interested in the linguistic and cultural strands of their county's recent history couldn't spend a more valuable half hour than perusing Dr. Ó Duibhín's work. The booklet provides a compendious and compelling read which will sadden some of us when we ponder on what has been lost, but may simultaneously re-invigorate us to regain what was once ours. It is heartening too, that Co. Down, the first northern county to be completely anglicised, is to the fore in the Irish language revival. That the Irish language is back on the agenda in the Lecale area owes much to Cumann Gaelach Leath Chathail, publishers of "IRISH IN COUNTY DOWN SINCE 1750".

**Gobnait Uí Dhaibhéid
(Newry W.E.A.)**



Leabhair seolta in Iúr Chinn Trá

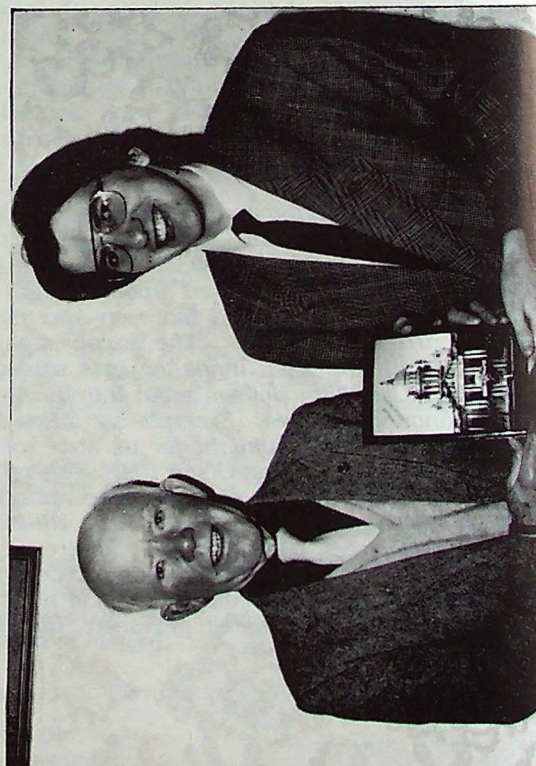


BOOKS



BOOKS

Eddie McKee agus
"Railways Around
County Armagh";
Réamonn O Muirí
agus "The SAS in Ire-
land"; Máirtín O
Muilleoir agus
"Comhad Comhairle
-ora."



REVIEW OF "ULSTER LOCAL STUDIES", THE JOURNAL OF THE ULSTER FEDERATION FOR LOCAL STUDIES.

The Summer 1991 edition of "Ulster Local Studies" (volume 13, No. 1 68 Pp) has a strong Newry bias to it, perhaps reflecting Tony Canavan's ongoing interest in the history of the Frontier Town. (Tony Canavan was formerly the Curator at Newry Museum and is now the Development Officer of the Ulster Federation for Local Studies). In an article reproduced from the community magazine "Brass Tacks", Seán Brown recalls for us that the playwright Brendan Behan once sojourned in Newry. An adapted account of "The Memoirs of Patrick Rankin", as first published in "Cath Saoirse an Iúir" by Raymond Watson, also appears. Rankin was one of two Newry men who cycled from Newry to Dublin in 1916 to participate in the Rising there, and while this résumé of the insurrectionist's story is interesting, Rankin's actual Memoirs, as published in "Cath Saoirse an Iúir", might have been more successfully reproduced in their original form.

The other article pertaining to South Down is written by Professor Alun Evans and deals with the life and achievements of Dr. Samuel Black of Newry. Samuel Black, a noted expert on heart disease, set up practice in Newry in 1788 or 1790. He resided at No. 7 Marcus Square (where the Oxfam shop is situated today). According to Prof. A. Evans, Dr. Black made a valuable contribution to the study of heart disease, particularly in relation to angina:

"There is no doubt that Samuel Black established at least half a dozen important facts during his life..." Black also made significant contributions to the understanding of neurology and diabetes. He published a book in Newry in 1818 entitled "Clinical and Pathological Reports". The book was published by Wilkinsons in the town and it should be remembered that Newry had a thriving printing industry in the early part of the 19th century.

Some readers' morbid curiosity will be aroused by Evans' description of one of Dr. Black's methods of research:

"Black got permission to dissect (the) four male victims of angina pectoris and they all, like himself, appear to have belonged to the Church of Ireland. He dissected out the ossified coronary arteries of each of these patients and kept three of these specimens in his possession. Later he did not seem to need to gain consent to dissect two 'habitual drunkards'. How dissection was viewed in Newry around this time is hard to say. Legally only those who had been executed for murder could be dissected although this was made a nonsense of by the activity of the anatomists and those who supplied them with bodies."

Dr. Black, from Evans' account, was an austere if caring man, possessed of a genuine concern for the medical welfare of the people of Newry. In 1816 Black was temporarily resident in Dublin but returned to Newry in 1817 to help treat the victims of a typhus epidemic which raged in the town. Dr. Black died in Newry on 6th July 1832 and was buried in St. Patrick's graveyard.

Evans' account was well written and informative. It was frustrating though to find that not all the footnotes had been appended to the article, probably as a result of a printer's oversight.

The Summer 1991 edition of "Ulster Local Studies", like others in the series, has brief reviews of books and journals, and occasional photographs. The use of more photographs would further enhance the Federation's journal. More articles too, from the three Ulster counties outside the Northern Ireland boundary, would equally increase the appeal of the journal.

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Carrickarnon, Ravensdale, Dundalk

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"Cuisle na nGael" is willing to review any books, magazines, musical cassettes or artistic performances which have been produced by, or which involve, the people of Newry & District. Our own research shows that each copy of our magazine is read by at least ten people. Any group wishing to avail of this service should contact "Cuisle na nGael" at 3 Wilton Grove, Newry.

Photograph courtesy of Raymond Fitzpatrick.



*Thomas Davis Pipe Band on the
march some years ago.*

A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE LAST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OF
NEWRY'S FAMOUS "WOLFE TONE BAND."



Photograph courtesy of the Quinn family.

THALL AGUS ABHUS

NEWRY ADULTS SUPPORT COMHALTAS ULADH COLLEGE IN ROSGOILL



pic. le Róisín Bean Mhic Thréinfhir

Nach iontach go deo é go raibh thart fá scór duine fásta ón Iúr ag freastal ar na cúrsaí Gaeilge a bhí á reachtáil ag Comhaltas Uladh i Rosgoill, Gaeltacht Thír Chonaill, le linn an tSamhraidh? Dornán de bhlianta ó shin ní raibh ach daltaí scoile ag pilleadh ar a ndúchas ach anois, as siocair iarrachtaí leithéidí Sheáin Mhic Dhaibhéid, Mharcais Mhic Alasdair, Róisín Uí Threinfhir 7 Shéamuis Mhic Dhaibhéid, tá an Ghaeilge á theagasc do dhaoine fásta an Iúir, agus bíonn sonn ar na daoine céanna gach deis a thapú lena gcuid Gaeilge a fheabhsú.

CANALS, MILLS, RAILWAYS AND THE DOLE



A LOOK BACK AT NEWRY'S EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

NEW IRELAND GROUP FOUNDER SUPPORTS THE IRISH LANGUAGE

John Robb, founder of the New Ireland Group, and one of the few prominent politicians from a Protestant background to speak rationally on the use of the Irish language in Northern Ireland today, has been forthright in his support for the Irish revival. "Language," commented Mr. Robb, "is not just a method of communication, it preserves the right of a people to be different - it preserves the means of communicating the colour and nuances of life which are unique to us."

POPE SUPPORTS AMAZONS' RIGHTS IN BRAZIL

During his recent tour of Brazil, Pope John Paul advocated that the rights of Brazil's native Amazon population should be respected. The culture of the Amazons has been steadily eroded in recent years and the Pope is concerned that this unique culture might disappear altogether. John Paul urged the government of Brazil to take all necessary steps to preserve Amazonian culture.

WEA resurrected in Newry.

Cuireann muid fáilte roimh Craobh an Iúir den Workers' Educational Association, Craobh a thit i léig roinnt blianta ó shin ach atá ar ais ar an bhfód. Tá Alan Wadforth ceaptha le deireannas mar Stiúrthóir lánaimseartha ar an WEA sa limistéar seo agus táthar ag súil le an-chuid cúrsaí le bheith ar fáil do dhaoine fásta as seo amach i gceantar an Iúir.

Cúrsa a bhí ann cheana ná sraith léachtaí fá stair eacnamaíochta an Iúir. B'iad na haoi-chainteoirí : an tUas. Waddle, a labhair fá Chanáil an Iúir; Séamus Mac Dhaibhéid, a thug trí léacht, leis na córais iompair, na muillte, agus tionscail eile nach bhfuil againn a thuilleadh, mar théamaí aige; Seán Canavan, a thaispeán an fístéip atá aige ar a bhfuil sean-footage a ghlacadh in Iúr Chinn Trá sna 1920í; agus Seán Mag Uidhir, a thug cur síos dúinn ar thurramh an Iúir mar bhaile ina raibh neart tionscail tráth den tsaoil, ach ina bhfuil ganntanas de thionscail sa lá atá inniu ann.

SOUNDS *Music* GOOD

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**Déanann muid comhghairdeas
le CONRADH NA GAELIGE
in Iúr Chinn Trá**



The Holy Father greets Fr Lambert and members of his staff

FR LAMBERT GREENAN RETIRES AS EDITOR OF ENGLISH EDITION OF L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Newry citizens are likely unaware of the fact that Fr. Lambert Greenan, O.P., a fellow Newry man, has retired as Editor of the English language version of "l'Osservatore Romano" after 22 years working with the Vatican newspaper. The newspaper is circulated in more than 90 countries worldwide and Fr. Greenan was present on 4th April 1968 when the first English language edition came off the presses. Fr. Greenan, something of an institution at the Vatican, has been in the Dominican Order for over 50 years. He was noted for being punctual in going to press and dedicated to spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church.

FIRE-BOMBERS STRIKE AGAIN IN WALES

Members of Meibion Glyndwr (Sons of Glendower) have fire-bombed a vacant house on the shores of a North Wales reservoir. The reservoir, built in 1965 to provide water for Liverpool, is seen by many Welsh language activists as a symbol of English exploitation of Wales. A Welsh village had to be submerged to allow for the development of the reservoir. The fire-bombs are not considered sophisticated and were also used in an attack at the tourist information offices at Llangefni, Anglesey. Two prominent members of the Welsh Language Society were jailed this year for causing damage to government property. Welsh police expect a renewed fire-bombing campaign against English-owned properties and are constantly vigilant lest a re-grouped Free Wales Army emerges.

Chuir díograiseoirí na Breatnaise brú ar an Comhlacht Burtons i mblíana. I suirbhé a rinneadh ar fud na Breataine Bige, fuarthas amach, de réir cosúlachta, go raibh 36 siopaí éadaigh de chuid Burtons nach raibh sásta seiceanna a bhí scríofa i mBreatnais a ghlacadh. Bhí Burtons féin buartha an scéal a chloisteáil, agus d'eisigh siad bileog dá gcuid fostaithe ina bhfuil abairt úsáideacha sa Bhreatnais inti. Tá Burtons in Iúr Chinn Trá toilteanach seiceanna i nGaeilge a ghlacadh.

LANGUAGE PROTESTS

There is ongoing strife in Algeria regarding a new regulation which becomes law after 5 July 1992. The law will make the use of Arabic compulsory throughout the Civil Service. Already over 100,000 protesters have marched through the streets of central Algiers.



ASPECTS OF UNIONISM

- 1) Orangemen on the march in Warrenpoint.
- 2) Leading Unionist politicians posing outside Rostrevor's Great Northern Hotel.
- 3) The Henry Thomson Memorial Orange Hall (now demolished).





3

Dr. Myles Gilligan

Maurice McCavitt

**Family Butcher
and Wholesale Meats**



Nollaig shona daoibh go leir

**The following photographs of old
butcher's shops were supplied by
Mr. Keenan, Warrenpoint; the Col-
lins Family, Bessbrook; and the
Daly Family, Chapel Street, Newry.**

H. & T. KEENAN



E. COLLINS. VICTUALLER.





Glór na nGael

Ba é Malcolm Scott, atá ina Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge le Comhairle an Iúir 7 Mhór, a d'fheidhmigh mar Chathaoirleach le linn C.C.B. Ghlór na nGael i mBéal Feirste Thiar. Bhí an tUas. Scott i láthair ar shon Iontaobhas Ultach agus léigh sé amach ráiteas ón Iontaobhas - ráiteas a thug tacaíocht do mhuintir Bhéal Feirste ina n-larrachtaí lena gcuid deontais A.C.E. a fháil ar ais ón rialtas. B'ábhar misnigh é do Choiste Ghlór na nGael urlabhra ón Iontaobhas a bheith ar fáil don ócáid mar faigheann an t-Iontaobhas bunáite a gcuid puntaí féin ón rialtas agus tá meas ag an rialtas ar thuatraim chomhaltai an Iontaobhais.

Bhí ionadaithe i láthair ó na grúpaí éagsúla a sheas le Glór na nGael le bliain anuas. Ina measc bhí Patsy McGlone, atá ina Ard-Rúnaí ar an S.D.L.P.; Bairbre de Brún ó Shinn Féin; Mary McMahon, Workers' Party; Inez McCormick ó N.U.P.E., agus neart cuairteoirí ó na hollscoileanna agus ó ghrúpaí pobail. Bhí beirt ón Iúr sa lucht éisteachta - Séamus McAleavey, atá ina Stiúrthóir Cúnta ar N.I.C.V.A., agus Séamus Mac Dhaibhéid a bhí ann thar ceann Chonradh na Gaeilge in Iúr Chinn Trá. Bhí sé suntasach nach raibh mórán de Ghaeil Iarthair Bhéal Feirste ag an cruinniú agus

rinneadh 90% de ghnó an chruinnithe i mBéarla. Ní raibh i láthair ach oiread duine ó Ard-Oifig Ghlór na nGael i mBaile Átha Cliath agus bhí Timire Ghlór na nGael i gCúige Uladh in easnamh fosta.

Níor briseadh aon uibheacha le linn an chruinnithe. Léamh amach tuairisc an Rúnaí; chualathas aitheasc an Chathaoirleach; tugadh cuntas an Chisteora. Figiúr a chuir iontas ar a lán ná gur bhailigh Glór na nGael breis is £27,000 ó cuireadh a gcuid deontais ar ceal. An t-aon chonspóid a tógadh ná na pointí a rinne Gearóid Ó Cearraláin (eagarthóir 'LA'). Dúirt Gearóid go raibh an Ghaeilge féin thíos go mór le feachtas Ghlór na nGael mar, dar leis, bhí coisteoirí Ghlór na nGael ag díriú ar 'political vetting' go príomha, agus ag déanamh dearmad ar fad ar an leithcheal a rinne an N.I.O. ar an Ghaeilge.

Anois, agus cath Bhríd Níc Dhomhnaill thart i gConamara, níl ach an t-aon 'cause célèbre' fágtha ag Gaeil na tíre. Tá seasamh prionsabálta ionraic glactha ag Gaeil Bhéal Feirste, agus fiú mura bhfuil daoine iomlán sásta le gach dá bhfuil á ní acu, ní mór tacú leo ar an ábhar éagóir uafásach á dhéanamh orthu ag an rialtas. An té atá thíos ní foláir cuidiú léi/s.

NEWRY WINS MAJOR Glór na nGael PRIZE

For the first time in the history of the Glór na nGael Competition, Newry has lifted a major prize for its efforts to promote the Irish language. Newry came second in its section in a competition which attracts entrants from all over the country. A prize of £300 was awarded to Newry, and a special trophy was won by the local committee for their efforts in increasing the sale of reading material in the Irish language.

The actual presentation of the Glór na nGael Awards at Ennis proved to be something of a disappointment for the local Gaelic League activists who had played an important part in securing the award. No member of Newry Gaelic League was invited to attend the Awards Ceremony in Ennis and the decision to exclude the Gaelic Leaguers from the ceremony has caused great consternation in Irish language circles in the town. Newry and Rostrevor Branches of the Gaelic League as well as the newly-founded Cardinal Ó Fiaich Branch, have all condemned Glór na nGael's decision to deliberately ignore Conradh na Gaeilge's role in helping to win the Newry prize. Commenting on the whole sorry affair, Mr. Tomás Mac Ardghail, a long-standing member of Newry Branch Gaelic League, said: "We are really quite astounded by all this. That those of us who have worked consistently for the Irish language in Newry should be upstaged by one or two opportunists who don't even come from the town is a travesty of justice." Gaelic League sources have speculated that political mavericks may have hijacked the Newry victory and used it to further their own objectives. To date, neither Cearú Page, at the Glór na nGael Head Office, nor Colm MacEoin, the Ulster Organiser, have offered any explanation as to why an invitation to attend the annual prize-giving was not extended to the Newry Gaelic League members who largely made up the Newry Glór na nGael Committee.





Pádraig Ó Gallchóir, Séamas Ó hEaráin agus Henry McRory.



Seán Ó hEaráin agus an seoladh in Ard Mhacha



FOINN AGUS FÓGRAÍ

SÉAMAS Ó hEARÁIN

Important new teaching pack launched by Minister of State

An impressive new learning resources package aimed at students of Irish at GCSE level has been published by Séamus Ó hEaráin of St. Patrick's Grammar School, Armagh. The package, "Foinn agus Fógraí", has been produced in co-operation with the staff of Raidió na Gaeltachta in the Derrybeg studio, and the teaching pack has maintained the professional standards normally associated with Raidió na Gaeltachta productions.

The "Foinn agus Fógraí" package was launched in St. Patrick's School Library on 7th June 1991 by Pádraig Ó Gallchóir, T.D. Minister of State at Roinn na Gaeltachta. The Minister said that he was delighted to be associated with "Foinn agus Fógraí" because the Irish language as spoken on Raidió na Gaeltachta in his native Donegal was now to be used by dozens of secondary schools in the north of Ireland. He complimented Séamus Ó hEaráin on providing Irish lessons which were stimulating and relevant to the concerns of young people. The package was also welcomed by Mr. Henry McRory, HMI with DENI, who commented that "Foinn agus Fógraí", although published by Séamus Ó hEaráin in his personal capacity as a teacher of Irish, compared favourably with packages for other modern European languages which had been commercially produced. Also in attendance at the launch were a number of teachers of Irish from neighbouring schools, School Principals, and prominent figures in Gael-Linn and Comhaltas Uladh.

"Foinn agus Fógraí" consists of 30 trial listening tests with a series of additional follow-up exercises. Eight cassettes, lodged in a smart and durable case, accompany the teacher's notes and pupils' work books. Material on the cassettes comes from the Raidió na Gaeltachta programme "Foinn agus Fógraí" so the content is authentic and pertinent to modern Gaeltacht life, and the speakers are professional radio broadcasters who are natural in their diction. The quality of the sound reproduction on the cassettes is, in fact, first rate, while the whole course has been attractively presented and reasonably priced.

The pupils' book (128 pages) is liberally illustrated with photographs from the Ulster Gaeltacht and from various language projects in the north of Ireland. The teacher's file will prove something of a godsend to any hard-pressed pedagogue who is desperately seeking material to satisfy the demands of the National Curriculum. Advice is given on preparatory work to be undertaken before each listening exercise commences; peculiarities of accent and dialect receive attention; the script of each exercise is given; and a complete marking scheme for each exercise is appended.

The original concept of utilising in the classroom the Irish language as spoken on a daily basis on Raidió na Gaeltachta was imaginative; the realisation of the concept has been achieved with an eye to detail and in full cognizance of current curricular requirements. The whole endeavour deserves the highest praise and the package warrants a place in all second level schools in the north where Irish is taught. Schools throughout Ulster, be they Gaeltacht or Galltacht based, should at least arrange a consultation with the author of the package and assess for themselves the merits of "Foinn agus Fógraí". This magazine has no hesitation in recommending "Foinn agus Fógraí" and looks forward to the time when individual copies will be made available to adults who are striving to learn the language in their spare time.

NEWRY AND THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE EASTER RISING Sile Ní Mhurchú

Sociologists are still bemused by what can only be described as an unprecedented attack of mass amnesia which struck Newry during Easter Week 1991. The medical profession too was stunned by the severity of the attack and couldn't explain its causes. Some Newry folk therefore sought explanations from alternative sources. One local astrologer reassured the afflicted who visited him, and explained :

" This is a temporary aberration which has occurred because of uncertainty in the stars and the fact that historical objectivity has been eclipsed, with revisionism now in the ascendancy."

A Keatsian torpidity enveloped much of the town with many of Newry's leading citizens being left insensate, as if having "emptied some dull opiate to the drains." Councillors from divers electoral wards sank Lethe-wards. Of particular interest to outside observers was the fact that the events of Easter 1916 were wiped clean from many people's memories. There were, of course, numerous instances of individual acts of valour as some struggled to break the geis. One local dignitary, Art (Wrap the green flag round me) Ó Rodaigh came near to actually mentioning 1916 when he alluded to the plethora of tricolours festooning his area. Another, this time an intrepid investigative journalist from Newry, escaped the worst ravages of the amnesia attack when he sought refuge in the Belfast offices of the "Irish News". He fell victim, however, to an altogether more dangerous form of the illness which left him with distorted memory. One of the side-effects of this complaint is that its victim must indulge in subjective narrative at least once a week.

The amnesia was wide-ranging and left few unaffected : the remnants of the Workers' Party forgot to organise their Easter Parade; the local radical press forgot to republish the Memoirs of Newry's 1916 veteran, Patrick Rankin; the Gaelic League (remember their 1966 Commemorative Concert?) forgot to arrange a lecture on the theme of the Rising; the Newry SIPTU office forgot to emulate its Head Office and didn't sponsor a single commemorative event (local SIPTU representatives were said to be awaiting telephone instructions from Trevor Hill, but forgot that the lines had been disconnected). The SDLP alone remained nonchalant throughout the outbreak of amnesia; they, apparently, having had 1916 surgically removed from their memory banks some years ago. The only local group remaining largely immune to the amnesia bug was the Easter Commemoration Committee and its supporters, three to four thousand of whom took part in the Annual Easter Parade. But they too suffered from partial amnesia, remembering the names of only some of those who died for Ireland (mysteriously forgetting Colman Rowntree and Martin Mc Alinden). The RUC appeared to have been inoculated against this particular strain of amnesia and they all remembered to turn up for their treble-time shift on Easter Sunday morning.

Thankfully, this bout of freak forgetfulness lasted but a short while. Doctors are concerned though that the amnesia-inducing virus might strike again and obliterate all fond memories of 1798, John Mitchel and the Penal Laws. Even the Famine is viewed as a potential future victim. The virus is known to be selective in what it inclines people to forget. This year, in particular, it didn't allow the various anti-imperialist groups to forget their differences and march as one body to the Republican plot.

In a remarkable example of the resilience of collective memory, the amnesiacs, when they eventually came through their illness, all recalled the same salient point about Newry's 1991 Easter Commemorations. They realised that if one particular organisation was seen to have monopolised the celebrations, it wasn't a case of that group having hijacked the occasion. 1916 was handed to that organisation on a plate.



Rival Easter Parades of some years ago.
Pic. le Seán O hIoláin



A 1960's EASTER COMMEMORATION PARADE IN WARRENPOINT
Grianghráf le caoinchead ó Paddy Traynor
Newry and Mourne Camera Club

31-33 Monaghan Street, Newry

Savage



★Tobacconist

★Fancy Goods

★Greeting Cards

★Newsagent

★Ice Cream



BUS SERVICES IN NEWRY

This outline of the development of passenger road vehicle services in Newry will only look at motorised transport in the town, rather than at the history of companies using horse-drawn vehicles. We may return in a future edition of this magazine to examine horse-drawn passenger and freight services, but suffice it to say for now that the area known to all of us as the "Car Stands" was once the centre for up to 100 horse-drawn passenger and goods vehicles. The whole area around Margaret Street, Water Street (remember "The Stables" public house of recent times ?), and much of Hill Street from the Northern Clothing Company to O'Hagan and O'Hare's Chemists, was bustling in former days with wheelwrights, farriers, posting companies, spring smiths and coach builders. Taxis, of course, still wait on fares at the Car Stands.

One of the earliest motorised vehicles offering services to fare-paying commuters by road in Newry was the char-a-banc. The char-a-banc had originally been a popular horse-drawn carriage but by 1905 a number of mechanised char-a-bancs were operating in the north of Ireland. The char-a-bancs were the forerunners in many ways of the omnibus (bus). The termination of the Great War 1914-1918 meant that many ex-servicemen who had driving experience were now available and motorised vehicles became more common on the roads of Ireland. Safety standards on the char-a-bancs in particular were often atrocious and the operators had a free hand to charge whatever prices they saw fit and could take little heed of proper servicing and maintenance of their vehicles.

In addition, char-a-bancs were notoriously difficult to manoeuvre and the number of accidents increased as more motorised char-a-bancs took to the road. Even McNulty's Yellow Line Service of Warrenpoint, who have been involved in road passenger services since 1829, had problems with their early char-a-bancs and couldn't foresee all the problems associated with running a motorised char-a-banc operation. On the morning of January 7th 1924, for example, one of McNulty's char-a-bancs left the Quay in Rostrevor to connect with the 10.20 a.m. train at Warrenpoint. The vehicle went out of control when one of its tyres burst. It careered into a wall at the Lodge Demense and finally overturned. Luckily there was only one passenger on board, a Ms. Twomey, and she was attended to at the nearby Great Northern Hotel.

Motor cars at this time were owned by the wealthy only and the char-a-banc was often referred to as "the poor man's car". A speed limit of 20 mph had been set for motor cars by an Act of 1903, but a Local Government Board had set a speed limit of 12 mph for char-a-bancs in 1905. The result of this was that in the 1920's, by which time char-a-bancs had developed substantially and were capable of much faster speeds than they were in 1905, a number of char-a-banc drivers found themselves in Irish courts charged with exceeding the speed limit. Court fines for this offence in the 1920's were normally 10 shillings. Many char-a-bancs could rival cars for speed but the fact that they were long, considered unwieldy and accident-prone, militated against them in the courts.

Such was the official concern about char-a-bancs that the year 1924 saw the introduction of the Char-a-banc Registration Act (Northern Ireland). In brief, this Act extended the 1854 Town Improvements (Ireland) Act to include char-a-bancs as well as hackney carriages. This Act invested local authorities with the

powers of licensing char-a-bancs and controlling the movements of these vehicles within their respective areas. Under the new Act, local authorities couldn't determine the fares of char-a-bancs operating long-distance, but could, as under the 1854 legislation, fix fares within four miles of the chief post office in each town. Section 4 of the 1924 Act was intended to control the over-crowding of char-a-bancs, while a further Section of the Act stated that a char-a-banc stand at any railway station could only be established with the permission of the railway company concerned. Needless to say, the railway companies were unwilling to facilitate those who vied with them for custom. When the 1924 Act was applied to local considerations in Newry, after a meeting of the Newry Urban Council on the 21st Sept. 1925, the following Bye-laws were approved :

.... that by Clause 16 of the Bye-laws the several places specified in the following list shall be the authorised Stands for such number and description of Char-a-bancs as is specified in such list.

a. Stands for Char-a-bancs propelled by Mechanical Power plying for hire within the prescribed distance - On the Armagh road, Camlough road, Dromalane road, Downshire road, Dublin road, Omeath road, Rathfriland road, Warrenpoint road, Abbey Yard, Catherine Street (Lower) west side, Railway Avenue (west side), The Mall from O'Hagan Street to Margaret Street (west side), William Street (Upper), McAllister's Terrace, and Trevor Hill.

b. Stands for Char-a-bancs drawn by animals plying for hire within the prescribed distance - On the "Car Stands" at Margaret Square.

c. Stands for Char-a-bancs starting from outside the prescribed distance and bringing passengers within the prescribed distance, but not used for plying or standing for hire within the prescribed distance (stands as per a. above).

d. Places specified at which six Char-a-bancs may stop a longer time than is necessary for the taking up or setting down of passengers desirous of entering or leaving the same, but for not longer than one hour at one time (stands as per a. above).

It was about 1924 too that Mr. Jack Bannon formed the Newry bus company, the Frontier service. Jack's first buses, the Bee and the Wasp, were common sights in the town, and Mr. Bannon is largely accredited with having pioneered bus transport in Newry. Jack Bannon saw the potential for a profitable business and further expansion but was personally not in a position to develop his company to meet the demands for a bus service. He eventually merged the Frontier service with the Poots and Dunlop operation in Portadown. The railway lobby in Newry was strong in these years and included such influential personalities as the Town Clerk, Mr. W. Cronin. When Poots and Dunlop tried to introduce a bus service from Newry to Belfast in 1924 and undercut the rail price for the same journey by 40%, those with a vested interest in the railway companies rallied round and endeavoured to prevent buses encroaching further on railway business. The railway supporters though were fighting a losing, if at times heroic battle to preserve railway supremacy over road transport.



McAnulty's Char-a-banc in Warrenpoint
Grianghraif le caoinchead ó Chathal Mac An Uilthaigh

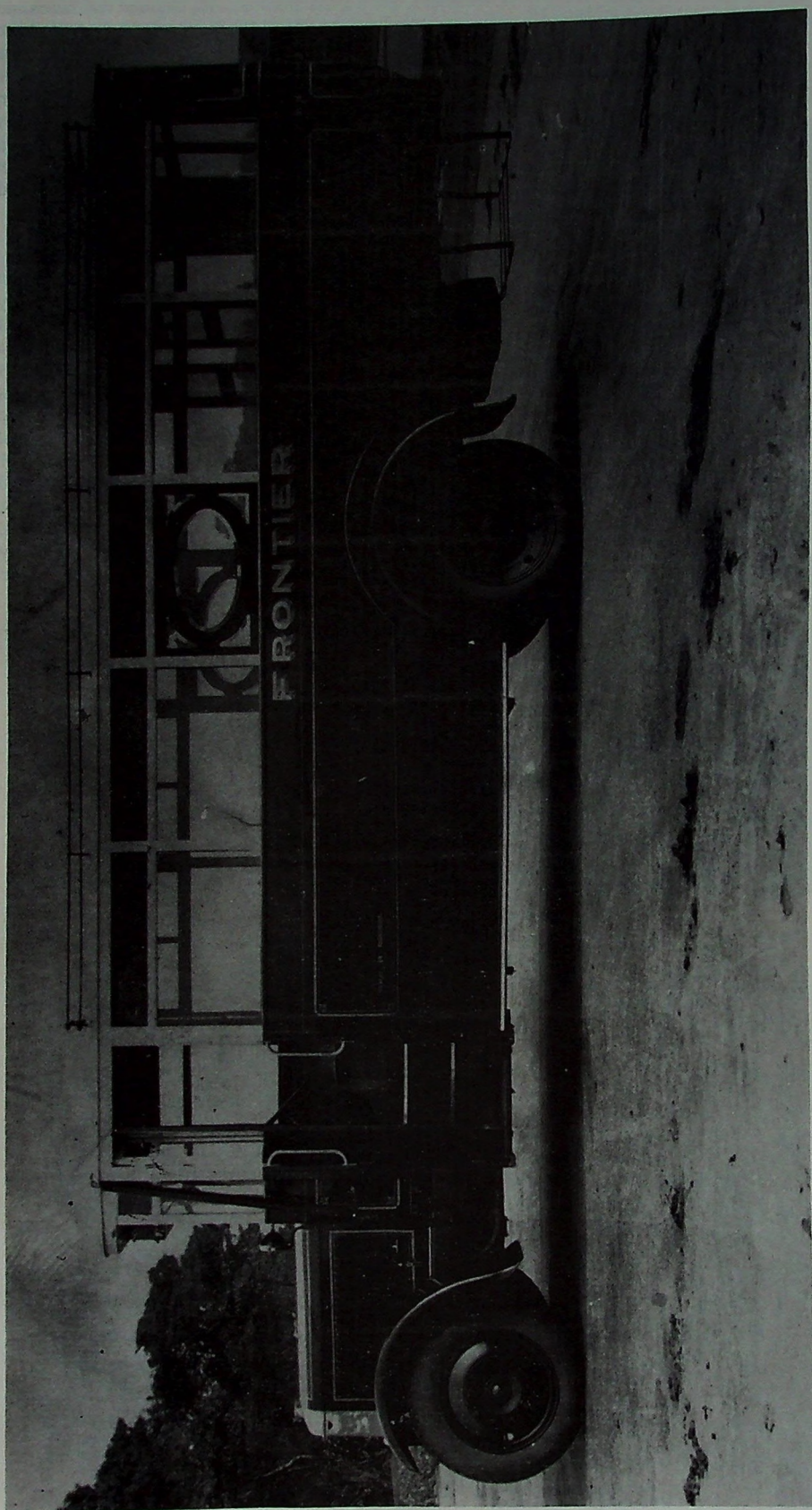


Buses, like char-a-bancs, were soon to be regulated by the government, and a 1926 Stormont Act required that buses and their crews be licensed. Most bus companies only owned one or a few buses, though larger companies did exist. In 1927 the Belfast Omnibus Company was founded and this combine eventually spread into County Armagh to Fermanagh, and to Co. Down. Jack Bannon himself was to work for the BOC in Newry. The railway companies were still engaged in a rearguard action and contrived to have a further Act passed in 1927 which allowed the railway companies to purchase and operate buses.

The public transport system in Northern Ireland was in disarray and the Stormont Government decided to commission a report to be headed by Sir Felix Pole. Pole's committee duly reported and recommended the nationalisation of all commercial road transport in the north. As a result of Pole's report, the Northern Ireland Road Transport Board was established on 23rd August 1935. It was anticipated that this nationalisation would secure the future of rail transport. The Board began the compulsory purchasing of buses and freight vehicles and in all 5 major bus operators and over 50 smaller operators were bought out. A total of 687 buses and 1,600 freight lorries were acquired, though rationalisation within the N.I.R.T.B. quickly whittled the 687 buses down to 478. Nothing though could prevent the slide of the railway companies and by the start of the Second World War they were in dire financial straits.

Tá an bheirt seo ar chlé ina seasamh taobh amuigh den Óstlann Great Northern i Ros Treabhair. Is dócha go raibh siad ag obair leis an seirbhís FRONTIER a chur Jack Bannon ar bun. Sna pictiúir thíos feictear bus de chuid an Belfast Omnibus Company ar Shráid Hill in Iúr Chinn Trá, agus ceathrar den fhoireann a bhí fostaithe ag an BOC ag an stáisiún ar chúil an Grand Central Hotel, Sráid Hill.





*Photograph courtesy of the
Bannon Family, Hawthorn Villas,
Iúr Chinn Trá*



Two of Cregan's Buses, with staff, pictured where the John Mitchell Statue stands now at the foot of Hyde Terrace.
(One bus has **Adavoyle** as its destination)

Among the local independents who were bought out in 1935 we find Bernard Cregan. Mr. Cregan had been involved in passenger transport in Newry from just after the First World War and had a bus service running in the late 1920's. By 1929 he had three buses on the road, two 14 seaters, and a new Guy 20 seater. His workshop was in Hide Market though he later moved to Cornmarket. Bernard Cregan operated his service from Newry to South Armagh. His route started at St. Mary's Church on Hill Street and moved via Mill Street to Felix Larkin's pub. It then moved along Dominic Street, up to Meigh, and from there to Dromintee and Forkhill. After the compulsory acquisition of his buses, Mr. Cregan concentrated again on his taxi service but this was to suffer lean times during the Second World War. It was at this time that the Cregans (by the end of the War, Bernard's son, Bernard Junior, had joined him in the business), turned to the novel idea of mending prams. New prams were scarce commodities during the War and the Cregans adapted their garage by converting one part of it into a showroom for repaired prams. Bernard Cregan Junior, though now retired from the motor servicing business, is still prominent in transport circles in Newry and takes a keen interest in vintage cars.



BERNARD CREGAN, Senior

One of Cregan's buses at Forkhill.

Grianghraf le caoinhead ó Bernard Cregan, Hawthorne Hill



For an idea of fares in the 1930's we can turn again to Hugh McNulty's Yellow Line Motor Service. McNulty's daily omnibus service ran between Warrenpoint and Rostrevor, though special circular tours of the Mourne were also organised during the summer months. Just before the formation of the Northern Ireland Road Transport Board in August 1935, the following were the fares charged by McNulty's:

Warrenpoint to Moygannon : 2d. Single, 4d. Return.
 Warrenpoint to Drumsesk : 3d. Single, 5d. Return.
 Warrenpoint to Rostrevor : 4d. Single, 6d. Return.

A combined bus/rail ticket from Rostrevor to Newry, as offered by McNulty's, cost one shilling for a return fare valid for one day. Interestingly, when it came to the sale of monthly bus/rail tickets from Rostrevor to Newry, women received preferential treatment - men paid 22/- while ladies only paid 17/4d.

In the post Second World War years the Northern Ireland Road Transport Board was replaced by the Ulster Transport Authority. The U.T.A. also acquired some northern based railway companies, but not the G.N.R. The G.N.R. continued independently of the U.T.A. but in 1958 the G.N.R. itself was divided and its Northern Ireland operation was fully merged with the U.T.A. The staffs of the former independent railway company and the bus company didn't always get on and some of those at managerial level within the U.T.A., even at a local level, strongly favoured either the rail or the road concerns of the U.T.A.'s operation. The late 1950's too witnessed increased use of double decker buses in Newry. Bus passenger services performed reasonably well through the '50's and '60's, while rail and freight continued to lose money.



Jack Bannon with UTA staff in Newry

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Series G		Series G	
U.T.A. OMNIBUS SERVICES			
FROM 12.00 PM			
TO 12.00 PM			
Issued subject to Conditions on back to			
By J. G. T. Anderson, Secretary			
FWD	1-1-63	1st	2nd
RET	1-1-63	1st	2nd

Series E		Series E	
U.T.A. RAIL SERVICES			
SECOND CLASS			
FROM NEWRY			
TO BELFAST			
Issued subject to Conditions on back to			
By J. G. T. Anderson, Secretary			

Ticéid de chuid an UTA

Ní ró-mhlaithiúil a bhí an UTA agus ar feadh i bhfad ní raibh saor-thaisteal acu siúd a bhí fostaithe ag an comhlacht. Tugadh ticéad saor don té a raibh gnó ar shon an chomhlachta idir lámha aige agh an ticéad a bheith sinthe ag bainisteoir agus an ceann scríbe scríofa air. Níos moille, bhí cead ag fostaithe de chuid an UTA dhá thuras déag in aghaidh na bliana a dhéanamh saor in aisce ar na busanna.

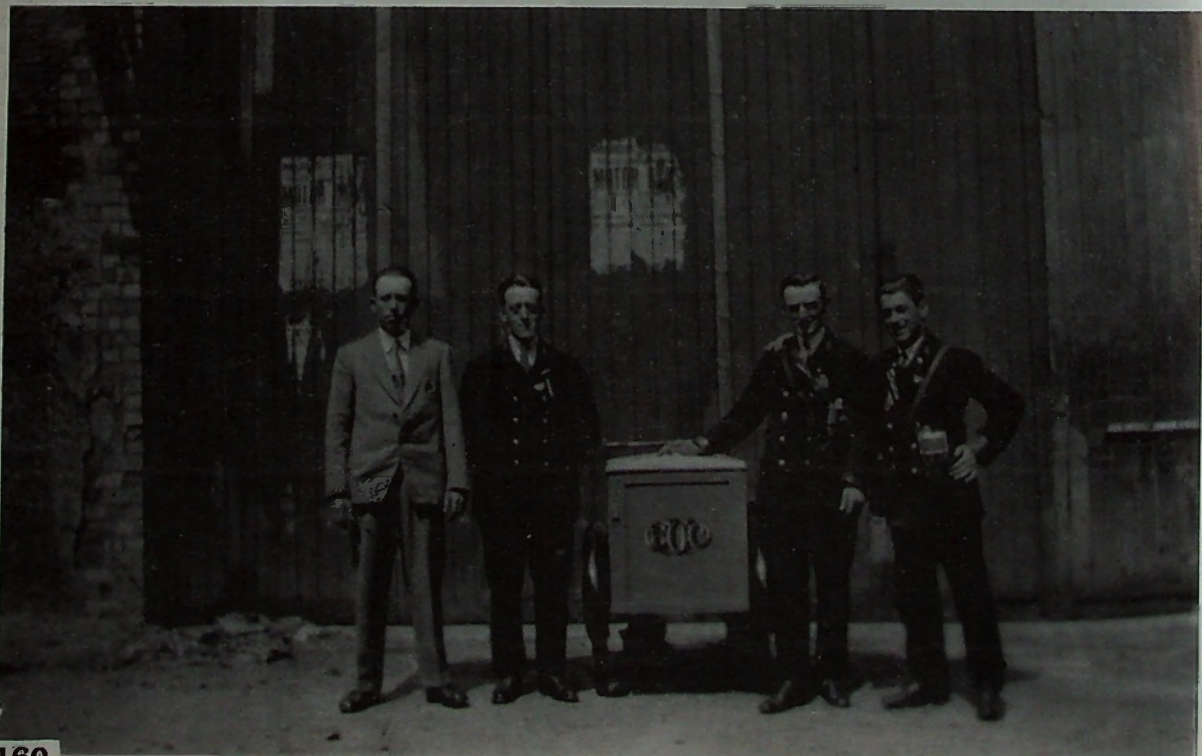
In 1966/67 the U.T.A. was replaced by the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company. The N.I.T.H.C. was divided into three subsidiary companies : freight was to be looked after by Northern Ireland Carriers Ltd.; rail was to be the concern of Northern Ireland Railways Ltd.; while buses became the charge of Ulsterbus Ltd.

All U.T.A. bus services had been taken over by Ulsterbus by April 1967 and a number of radical changes were executed by the new company. The proportion of managerial staff was cut and an increasing use was made of one-man operators. Bus conductors, many of them household names in Newry, like Leonard Gibney and Jackie Reed, were kept on for the double decker buses (in 1967 over 30% of the Ulsterbus fleet was made up of double deckers). By 1972, however, all conductors had been phased out. The 1970's in Newry was an especially violent decade during which dozens of buses had been hijacked, or robbed, or burned. The Newry Depot has been bombed and drivers throughout the north of Ireland have been placed in stressful and dangerous situations. Still, the Ulsterbus operation in Newry can be described today as professional and profitable. It competes with an increasing number of private taxi firms and finds that it must be resourceful if it is to stay ahead of the opposition.

The Ulsterbus Depot at Edward Street houses 60 big buses and smaller Busybuses have been introduced to work routes hitherto not deemed viable by the company. The staff at Newry includes four inspectors; sixteen engineers in the servicing department; three clerks; a parcels messenger, and the Newry District Manager, P.J. Darby. There was a time when the Derrybeg service was one of the busiest routes in Newry, but the black taxis now offer stiff competition to Ulsterbus on the whole Newry-Bessbrook route. The most popular routes in the area include the Crossmaglen run, the Forkhill run, and the Goldline Express Service to Belfast. Bus congestion on Newry's Mall (where there are 120 bus movements per day) is likely to be alleviated in the near future as Ulsterbus is keen to build a new, fully serviced passenger waiting area in the town centre. It is to be hoped that Council and Planning Officials co-operate fully with Ulsterbus in this matter.



Sa ghrianghraf thuas feictear bus ar a bhealach chuig an stáisiún a bhí suite taobh thiar den Grand Central. Thíos, tá oibrithe eile de chuid an Belfast Omnibus Company.





Above : A high-powered Stormont delegation visits Newry to assess public transport in the town. **Below :** a photograph, supplied by Mr. George Hughes, of a double decker at the foot of the Dublin Road (Lupton's Mill chimney is to be seen in the background).





**PHOTOGRAPHS FROM A BUS MAN'S
FUNERAL IN NEWRY,
PROBABLY TAKEN IN THE 1950's**



UTA employees had a vibrant social committee and ran many functions in the Newry Town Hall. These two photographs, supplied by the late Paddy Golding's son, Hugh, should evoke many memories for those who were in the employ of the



UTA employees had a vibrant social committee and ran many functions in the Newry Town Hall. These two photographs, supplied by the late Paddy Golding's son, Hugh, should evoke many memories for those who were in the employ of the





A PRESENTATION TO INSP. J. KERRIN AT NEWRY DEPOT, LATE '60's
In photo : Conductors A. Kelland, J. Hughes, P. Duffy, N. Cromie, C. Connor, J. Reid, J. Hillen; Drivers L. McVeigh (with Mrs. McVeigh), N. McCann; Inspector J. Kerrin.



One of Newry's first one-man operators.

BUÍOCHAS

We wish to especially acknowledge the assistance of the following individuals who helped us gather the foregoing series of bus photographs, most of which are published for the first time.

Pat Bannon

Teresa Bannon

Hugh Golding

Cathal McAnulty

Bernard Cregan

George Hughes

Seán Hillen

We also appreciate the efforts made by **Mr. PJ Darby** on our behalf.

Ba mhaith le

PAT DUFFY

THE SHOE HOSPITAL

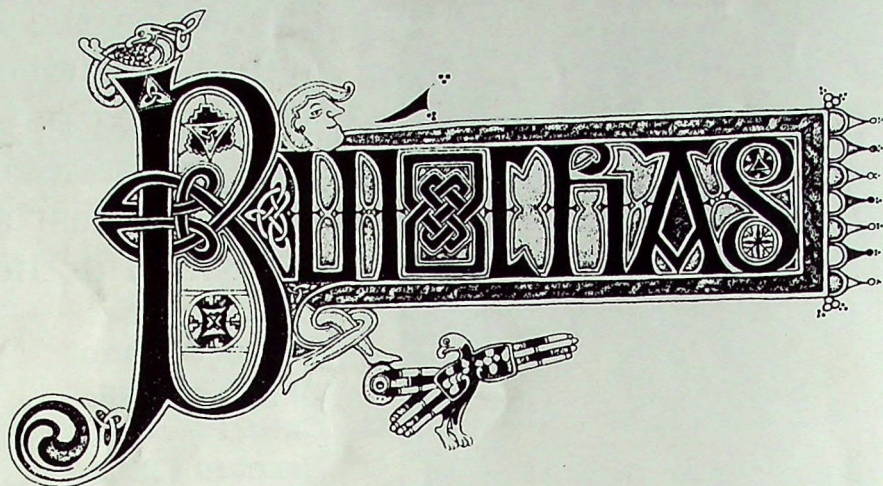
Sráid Mhuineacháin

comhghairdeas a dhéanamh le COMHALTAS ULADH
as

cúisle na n-áel

a fhoilsiú. Gach dea-mhéin chuig ár gcuid
custaiméirí an tráth seo bliana.

Bliain úr faoi mhaise daoibh.



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**Beannachtaí
na Nollag**

NEXT YEAR'S EDITION

Up to now, we have been in the habit of issuing "Cuisle na nGael" in the month of November, and we continue with that tradition this year. Our next edition, however, which will be our Special 1993 Edition celebrating the centenary of the founding of the Gaelic League, will not be published until the Spring of 1993. This will coincide with a number of Gaelic League activities planned locally to commemorate the birth of our organisation and will give us a chance to make our 1993 edition a worthy tribute to the voluntary work carried out by Irish language enthusiasts in this area during this past one hundred years.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. John McCavitt, formerly of Derrybeg Park, now resident in Rostrevor, has agreed to act as Editor of our Centenary Edition. Dr. McCavitt, a teacher in second level education in West Belfast, is a member of the Dromore Diocesan Historical Society. It is expected that the "popular" appeal of "Cuisle na nGael" will be retained by the new Editor. Materials for the 1993 edition have been received already. Of particular interest to our readers will be a fascinating series of photographs taken in the 1940's and 1950's by Mr. Charles McDonald of Cloughreagh and we are sure that these photographs alone will make "Cuisle na nGael" 1993 a magazine worth supporting. Others who have donated photographs of historical interest for our next edition include Andy Tohill, Betty Fitzpatrick, Patsy McKeown and Kathleen O'Hanlon. Tomás MacArdghail will re-join our panel of writers in 1993 when he will contribute an Appreciation of the work of Phelim Magennis in the Irish Revival in Newry. Our readers both in Newry and Armagh will find Mary McVeigh's article on the Life and Times of Paddy Agnew a valuable insight into the history of working class politics in these two towns in the 1940's. James McKevitt, one of the town's leading authorities on Old Newry, will enlighten us about what it was like working as a docker in Newry in times past. Other articles will deal with the early days of Orangeism in Newry; the former School Meals Kitchen in Linenhall Square; and there will be an account from the late Mr. McGovern of Carnaget on his years working in the famous Daisy Hill Nurseries. Seán Cooper will supply us with some more *seanchas* from Rostrevor, and we're likely to have a host of other articles by the time we go to print. As usual, we welcome materials from any source. We are especially keen, given our commitment to Adult Education, that people from working class backgrounds should examine their own history and their cultural identity.

"Cuisle na nGael", this year again, has failed to attract any funding from the Cultural Traditions Group of the Community Relations Council. The Northern Ireland Office, via the Cultural Traditions Group, has made substantial sums of money available to promote projects which explore cultural diversity in the north of Ireland, but our magazine, apparently, falls outside the criteria laid down by the Cultural Traditions Group. Following guidelines originally devised by Dr. Brian Mawhinney, "culture" is being insidiously refined and sanitised by Civil Servants and Government appointees on the Community Relations Council. Most of these individuals have no knowledge of the Irish language, while some are thought to only begrudgingly accept that the language has anything to do with culture at all. Dr. Mawhinney and Lord Belstead themselves seem to tolerate the Irish language, providing that it doesn't venture much beyond etymological research into place-names, and so long as the study of Irish unearths a few Protestant language enthusiasts of former days. Culture, too, is being increasingly presented, not in an Irish or even in an Ulster context, but in exclusively Northern Ireland terms. Instead of culture enabling us to broaden our horizons and to enrich our experiences, it is steadily being pared back to concentrate on the "culture" of the Northern Ireland State. The whole thrust to realise an officially sanctioned 'Northern Ireland cultural identity' is a waste of taxpayers' money, just as the elusive 'Northern Ireland cultural identity' itself is bound to be artificial. Little wonder that many Irish language enthusiasts, and others, are becoming cynical about the prescribed culture being dosed out for popular consumption by Dr. Mawhinney's marionettes on the Cultural Traditions Group.

Not all publishers seeking funding in the north of Ireland encounter difficulties in being accepted by the Cultural Traditions Group, and the Group has, in fact, supported several worthwhile publications. Commercial publishing houses, in particular, appear to have forged a very cosy relationship with the policy-makers of the Community Relations Council and can attract grant-aid for many of their projects. Yet the publishing company in the north which benefits most from C.R.C. hand-outs has still to issue a single book in the Irish language.

The Cultural Traditions Group will see its way to subsidising community arts projects, such as our magazine, when it becomes genuinely interested in what Irish speaking communities in Northern Ireland have to say. When small, local, independent publications like "Cuisle na nGael", get the "Supported by the Community Relations Council" imprimatur, the Cultural Traditions Group will then have achieved the credibility that the Arts Council of Northern Ireland earned some years ago.

The main sponsors of "Cuisle na nGael" are : the Ulster Executive of the Gaelic League; the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action; Tomás MacArdghail; Gearóid Mac Thréinfhir; Séamus Mac Dhaibhéid; Newry & Mourne District Council. Donations from individuals for our 1993 Centenary Edition would be gratefully received and should be sent to "Cuisle na nGael", 3 Wilton Grove, Newry.

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