

LEITRIM (GUARDIAN) MAN OF THE YEAR

MOONEY HEADS POLL OF 2,677 VOTES

The Leitrim Guardian Man of the Year Award was first presented (last year) to Edmund Shanley, President, Leitrim Society of New York, on behalf of that Society. The Editor of the Leitrim Guardian made the nomination while on the "Hands Across the Sea" trip to the States.

This year it was decided to submit the decision to an open poll in the Leitrim Observer Newspaper. The poll was conducted during August and September (1970) by courtesy of the Editor, Gregory Dunne, B.A. Auditors of the poll were the Editors of the Leitrim Guardian and the Leitrim Observer—two unconnected publications.

No fewer than 47 nominees resulted from the initial write-ins, and of these the six highest on the list were submitted to the public for a final ballot.

These six were:—

Cox, Annie (Mrs.), Mohill.
Mc'hell, Francis, Manorhamilton.
Mooney, Joseph, M.C.C., Drumshanbo.
O'Toole, George, Carrick-in-Shannon.
Quinn, Patrick, Cloone & Dublin.
Young, Revd. John, C.C., Ballinamore.

The final ballot in which 2,677 votes were cast resulted in a victory for Joseph Mooney, M.C.C., Drumshanbo, who headed the poll with 741 votes.

(A poll is a means to an end, the end in this instance being to determine the people's choice for our Man of the Year Award. Having achieved this end it is not deemed necessary or ethical to reveal the actual figures recorded for the other finalists. In a way we have encroached on their privacy in involving them in this vote, and we do not propose to go farther than we have gone above.—Editor.)



Revd. Fr. Young, C.C.



George O'Toole

"THANK YOU" FROM NEW YORK

This year seems to have flown by and once again you and your staff are working arduously on the 3rd Edition of your annual "Leitrim Guardian". It is a treasured journal on our bookshelves here. The credit goes to your unselfish efforts in making the Guardian, a journal of quality and a credit to Leitrim. Your articles are humorous, enlightening and historical thus making this a book for everyone. The pursuit of turning out a quality product must remain undaunted as the "Guardian's" circulation grows.

We, the officers and members of the County Leitrim Society of New York wish you good luck and every success in this venture.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to you for bestowing on us the honour of holding the treasured "Man of the Year" award. It is a beautiful trophy and a credit to the artist (Mr. George Bellew) and to Drumkeerin for producing such fine marble. The trophy was widely acclaimed here as a masterpiece of fine art. Our good luck goes to its next holder.

Best wishes to you and all our friends at home.

Sincerely Yours,

Edmund J. Shanley, President.

Barbara E. Mahon,

Corresponding Secretary

A Politician

NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH POLITICS

It would be safe to say of Joe Mooney that though he be a politician his name is synonymous with Leitrim, more than with politics. Perhaps this has been the man's undoing in the political field. It is to his credit, however, that Leitrim came before political beliefs or the statutory toing of any party line. For this sense of unexploited and unexploitable fidelity he well deserves the unique honour which this magazine (through the people) now bestows upon him.

Nominated to Senate

Heading the poll is nothing new to him for since his co-option to the Leitrim County Council in 1943 (his father's seat) he has headed the poll in three of the four County Council elections he has had to contest. At national level his political fortunes brought honour and disappointment, but never frustration. He was an unsuccessful Dail candidate on a number of occasions, both as an Independent and on behalf of Fianna Fail. The greatest honour to come his way in politics was perhaps his nomination by the then Taoiseach, Sean Lemass, to Seanad Eireann in 1961. He was the first Leitrim man to be so honoured.

For Joe Mooney the honours have been

to this, have been his election as President of the Leitrim People's Association in London in recognition of his work for his native county. He and his wife were then Guests of Honour, with his Lordship, Most Revd. Dr. Cahal B. Daly, Bishop of the Diocese, at the Association's Annual Dinner two years ago. He has also been featured in "Who's Who in Europe", which contains notices of men of prominence in the continent. In 1956 he was appointed a Commissioner for Oaths by the Chief Justice.

It would be less difficult to list the organisations with which Joe Mooney is not associated, than those in which he is actively involved. It would be but fair, however, to record here that he is a **founder member** of the Leitrim Historical Society, Comhaltas Ceoltori Eireann in Leitrim; Leitrim County Tourist Development Association; Drumshanbo Angling Club and An Tostal (Drumshanbo). He has been much sought after by these organisations at the highest level, being a member of the National Executive of An Comhaltas and Chairman of the Connaught Council and the Leitrim County Board. He is also a member of the National Council of the Inland Water-

One of the first to recognise Leitrim's tourist potential, he has never lost an opportunity to promote the development of the county in this sphere. In this, as in his many other commitments to Leitrim's cause, his ideals are shared by his Ballyshannon born wife, Eva. Together they run a Voluntary Visitors' Information Service as a result of which they meet people from many continents, seeking information regarding their forbears.

Brother to Fr. Canice

A past pupil of the local National School (under the tuition of Mrs. J. J. Dodd, ex-N.T., Dublin, and the late J. J. Dodd, N.T.), and the Franciscan College, Multyfarnham, he is now a representative of the New Ireland Assurance Company Ltd., and an Auctioneer. He is brother of the late Very Revd. Fr. Canice, O.F.M., Franciscan House of Studies, Killiney, and Sr. M. Angela of the Congregation of the Missions, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Joe Mooney is a dedicated man, not to himself but to his community and county. He is perfect to whatever degree humanity can claim perfection—as a Leitrim man he

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Joseph Mooney, M.C.C.

Colour/Photo John P.