

TRIBUTE TO MASTER WALSHE & MICHAEL FOX

Brian Ó Flannabhra

A NATIVE OF County Cork Jack Walshe arrived in Co Leitrim in 1937 to take up a teaching appointment at Allen View School near Drumkeerin Co Leitrim, where he taught for two and a half years.

While there he met and married Beatrice Fallon Tarmon, Drumkeerin Co Leitrim daughter of Myles Fallon and Mary McLoughlin Fallon NT, Tarmon NS, Drumkeerin and Grand-daughter of Thomas McLoughlin NT Drumkeerin and Mary O'Rourke Mc Loughlin NT Tarmon NS Drumkeerin Co Leitrim.

Beatrice was a niece of Rev Fr Michael Mc Loughlin CC a native of Litter Drumkeerin. Fr Michael while a Curate in the Parish of Inishmagrath was Principal of Manorhamilton Intermediate School. His last four years were spent in Belturbet Co Cavan. He died in Dublin after a brief illness on 18th May 1920 and was laid to rest in his native parish beside St Brigid's Church Drumkeerin where a large tombstone inscribed in Irish marks his grave.

Jack and Beatrice moved to South Leitrim to teach at Lisduff NS Drumsna. From his arrival in Leitrim Jack took an active interest in sport, hurling, football and camogie. I'm told his own team

"The Lisduff Dreadnought's" were the terror of the land. He was a playing member of the Leitrim Hurling team of 1937-1948.

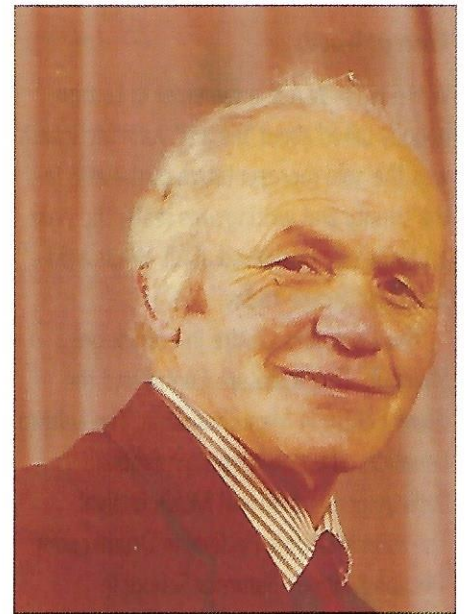
A brilliant scholar and teacher, he had a prodigious knowledge of History, local and otherwise. He had a command of all academic subjects. He gave up his free time to give tuition to the young people who were ambitious about their education.

The results could be seen later in the Marist Convent Secondary School, Carrick on Shannon.

Jack and Beatrice returned to Cork. Jack was appointed Principal of Ballyhass NS, near Mallow, Co Cork. Jack retained close links with Leitrim and with Leitrim people in Cork. He, it was, who instigated the formation of a *Leitrim People's Association* in Cork in 1973.

During this time, Jack and Beatrice became close friends with the Leitrim Guardian Founder the Late Michael Fox. A native of Manorhamilton he lived and worked in Kilfinane Co Limerick. Michael got involved and trained young people in the skills of Hurling and football. It was he who organised the fundraising for the New €300,000 sports complex in Kilfinane Co Limerick.

Both men shared a persistence



of the necessity and importance of a New Leitrim Magazine. I have been informed that Aunt Betie, as she was affectionately called, would keep the lads awake with plenty of strong tea and homemade *Leitrim Boxy*. *Leitrim Gunpowder Gin* was yet to come!

It is only fitting that these two great Educators, Sportsmen, and Life long Patrons of the *Leitrim Guardian* be remembered as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the First Edition of the *Leitrim Guardian*, Published Christmas 1968.

Brian is a native of Lough Allen, son of Tom and Carmel Flannery. He is a grand-nephew of the late Beatrice and Jack Walshe. Brian is a teacher of History.