

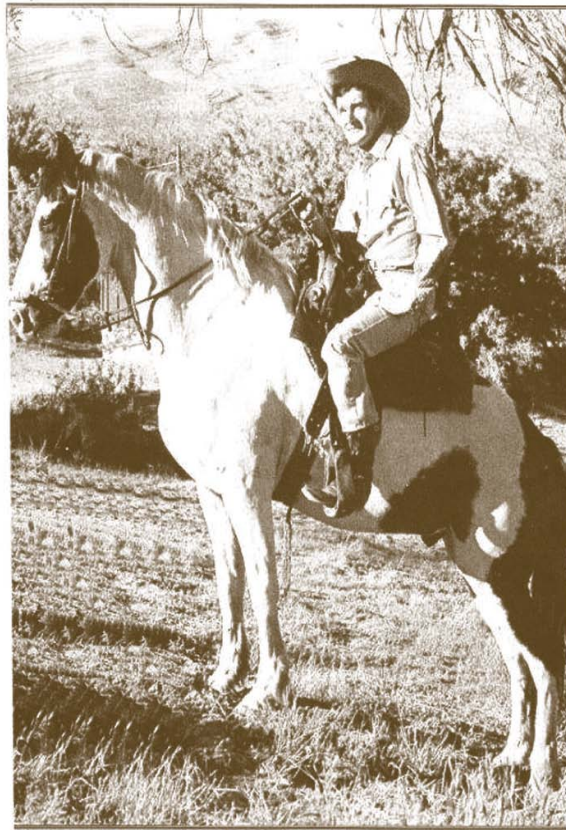
TOM DUNPHY MEMORIAL EVENT

John Flynn

On Tuesday 29th July 1975 Brendan Bowyer and the Big 8 were booked to play at the Mary from Dungloe Festival in Co Donegal. Forty year old Tom Dunphy, bass player with the band, was killed at Annaduff on his way. To mark the 40th Anniversary of his death Des Shanley, Pdraig Gilbride and John Flynn met in Cryans Hotel, Carrick on Shannon on a weekly basis to plan a tribute.

Des, as Chairman, had taken care of the memorial site since it had been erected in 1978. Pdraig our treasurer, worked tirelessly on raising sponsorship. We appreciate all who came on board. Tom Dunphy had a single released in 1962 called "Come down the mountain Katie Daly" when he played with the Royal Showband. During this golden era of the Showbands when you had up to a thousand bands playing in over to 600 venues around Ireland, the Royal was the top attraction packing in numbers of about 4000 people. In those days you learned to dance on sixpence or just go with the "flow".

With the full support of Fr John Wall P.P at Annaduff and the Church Choir, a Mass celebrated by Fr Brian Darcy took place on



Country Legend Tom Dunphy


This photograph was used on the front of Tom's album called "Tom Dunphy Country" released by Release Records, 64 Parnell Street, Dublin, Cat. Number SPRL2005. Photograph was taken by John Snye and sleeve notes were by Jimmy Magee. Album producer was Tommy Ellis and production by Johnny Tate. It was recorded at Carron Andrews Studios, Dublin. It featured 12 tracks including Branded Men, Millers Cave, Last Word in Lonesome, Middle Of Nowhere, Spot Of The Freight Train, Old Doc Brown, Five Hundred Miles, Just Between You & Me, Orange Blossom: Special, Apartment no 9, Mama Tried, Engine No Nine.

Friday 31st July in St Mary's, just up the road from the site where Tom Dunphy was killed. Members of the Dunphy family, Brendan Bowyer and members of the Royal showband attended and participated in the Liturgy. Other guests traveled from Waterford, Kilkenny, Limerick, Cork, Mayo, Donegal, Northern Ireland and England as well as near and far.



40th anniversary
tribute to
Tom Dunphy

Friday 31st July 2015



TOM DUNPHY

7.30 p.m. Open-air Mass at the Tom Dunphy Memorial site,
Drumsna, Leitrim, celebrated by Fr. Brian Darcy

9.30 p.m. Function in the
Lough Allen Hotel, Drumshanbo

Music by the
**Dave Moynihan Showband,
Emerald Storm**
and guests from the showband era

poster courtesy of irishshowbands.net

Leitrim County Council with the help of Local Councillors had helped to prepare the site for a fitting prayer service after Mass, again attended by a large crowd. We then moved to the Lock Allen Hotel, Drumshanbo where the Moynihan brothers from Wexford supported and backed a musical tribute including local artists with guest attraction on the night, Brendan Bowyer.

Here, a large crowd took a trip down memory lane, dancing their shoes into slippers, making for a very memorable night. Gerry Finneran had an exhibition of posters and photos from the era displayed around this beautiful hotel.

We are so grateful to the Management and staff of Lough Allen Hotel for making this an experience to treasure and cherish.



■ Helen Cunningham in her restaurant in the Phoenix park called Among the trees.
In the photo are: Anna, Petra, President Michael D Higgins, Vinob, and Helen Cunningham—Holder.
Michael D Higgins is a near neighbour in the park .