

counties which could be seen from the tower, they began walking through the rushes towards the field which held the small spring. John Mollahan was leading the way. She knew him well as he had lived on Leganomer as a youth and had spent many a day at the spring, filling the water containers for his family and their cattle. The visitors were telling John about their grandmother Rosie, who was Pat Donohoe's granddaughter. They related how Pat had worked as a miner in Scotland and how his descendants had spread to England, Canada, Australia, Mexico and even Brazil.

The visitors brought a shamrock from the family plant that they grew. They wanted

a photo of the shamrock in front of the spring where their ancestors found their water. The little fairy was so excited. She wanted to hear their story and thought she should be in the photo too. She was so quick that when they released the shamrock into the wind, she immediately caught it and flitted this way and that, so that it would land not on the ground, but in the very spring their ancestors had used so many years before. She was so quick that she even missed being in the photo!

Now the visitors were not sure that they believed in fairies, but once they saw this unusual occurrence they decided the fairies must have guided that shamrock into the spring. "That's our story and we are sticking to it," they were heard to say.

And so the *Hawthorn Fairy of Leganomer* was honoured with a story all of her own. The visitors would tell their families in the new world and one of them, who was an artist, would paint a picture of the fairy who missed being in the photo. And the fairy herself would have a wonderful story to tell at the next fairy gathering.

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■ My Lovely Leitrim Home—Drumristan, Ballinaglera



■ Music on Slievenakilla Mountain after open-air Mass (under watchful eye of Pat Loughlin)



■ Preparation for Annual Mass at Ballinaglera Mass Rock (Slievenakilla)



■ Time for a Bovine Bath (Fahey, Ballinaglera—Lough Allen)!