

# Leitrim Observer

Snippets selected by our Roving Reporter Tommy Moran 1969

## BALANCING THE BOOKS

The Leitrim Observer explained that due to increasing wage and production costs, there was no option but to increase the cover price to 7d. A one year subscription was fixed at two pounds ten shillings, but air mail to USA or Canada would be "extra".

## REMOVING AN EYESORE

Carrick Jail, built in 1815, but last used in 1921, was reduced to rubble as part of the Shannon Development Scheme.

## "ON THE HEN" FROM DOWRA?

The Lost and Found column carried an advertisement from a lady seeking to recover 2 pairs of shoes and 2 pairs of bedroom slippers, lost either in Carrick or on the road to Dowra.

## ALL DRESSED UP

The Co Leitrim Branch of the Vocational Teachers of Ireland held their annual Dinner Dance in the Bush Hotel. Tickets were 30/- and dress was formal.

## PROGRESSIVE DRUMSHANBO

The Leitrim Guardian prize for the county's most progressive town was won by Drumshanbo.

## CELEBRATING THE TWELFTH

A fiver of a fine for using a pedal cycle while drunk; two quid for disorderly behaviour and a three pound fine for not having lights on the bike, on July 12th 1969, made it an expensive visit to town for a farmer from the Mohill area.

## FASHION SHOW

A row broke out at a Leitrim wedding, when a female guest remarked that another lady was wearing "a flour bag mini skirt". Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, so there were all kinds of shenanigans, until peace was restored.

## BEST DRESSED MAN

One of the main attractions at the Annaduff Parochial Carnival was a prize of A Complete Wardrobe of Clothes for the best dressed man. Another crowd puller was the appearance of Minnie and Batty from the cast of "The Riordans" TV show at a Ceili featuring the Johnny Pickering Ceili Band. It was great value for the eight shillings admission.

## SEAN O'CASEY IN CARRICK

The Breffni Players celebrated their 25th Anniversary by staging Sean O'Casey's masterpiece "The Plough and the Stars" to packed houses.

## NEW BREATHALYSER LAWS

The proposed new laws, which carried a maximum fine of six months or a one hundred pounds fine, were expected to "probably bring a minor revolution in social habits".

## CARRICK BULL SALE AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

The sale added to its growing reputation when auctioneer Harry McGowan sold an 11 month old Dairy Bull for 320 guineas to Mr H Armstrong of Butlersbridge.

## VALUE IN AUGHACHEL AND GLENFARNE

Jackie Lee, Aughacashel, had Max Value Top Bargains ----- Marietta biscuits 9d; large Ribena 3/2; Solus bulbs 1/6; large Brillo Pads 2/- and Red Oxo 1/3. The Clancy family who opened the first supermarket in the Glenfame area had super savers like Birds jellies, 2 for 1/7; Salad Cream 1/4; Parazone 1/6 and 3 toilet rolls for one and tuppence.

## SCOIL NUA

Marian College, a new Co-ed school, was officially opened by Deputy Brian Lenihan, Minister for Transport and Power and blessed by Dr Cahal Daly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. A Guard of Honour was provided by Mohill 17th Battalion FCA.

## PUBLICANS ON THE RUN

The winner of the Publicans' Race at Ballinamore Festival was Mrs Annie Martin of Martin's Hotel, the only female competitor, who left her male counterparts in the shade.

## REST IN PEACE

A letter to the Editor, from a disgruntled emigrant in Birmingham, remarked that Leitrim was "nothing more than a name on a coffin".

## SOUTH OF THE BORDER

The NFA was concerned that at least 5,000 pigs per week were being smuggled across the border, despite constant patrol by the Gardai and Custom officials. There were suggestions that the smugglers had the very latest in electronic equipment and that they could even cut in on patrol car conversations.

## GOOSEY GOOSEY GANDER

The tracing of ancestors had apparently reached new heights in the county, judging by a Leitrim farmer's claim in the Observer's small advertisements column ---- *For Sale, Goose and Gander, not related.*

## ROUGH JUSTICE

Two under the influence Carrick men warned a bartender that, if he didn't serve them more drink, they would close down the pub. After been ejected, they proceeded to break down the door with kicks. The judge hearing the case was not amused, so the exercise was a costly one.

## BLESS ME FATHER

A motorist, who was fined ten shillings for a bald tyre and another ten for defective lights, had told the guard he was on his way to Confession, in a plea for leniency. "Did he tell the priest about it in Confession?" wondered the judge. "He should have, he was putting people in danger". Anyway he got a severe penance from the judge, a total fine of a fiver.

## SHARPSHOOTING PETER

When St Mel's defeated Belcamp in the Leinster Colleges' Final by 1-20 to 1-3, the star on the day was Peter Burke, who scored an amazing fourteen points. Peter would later become a Longford star, become a priest and be on the staff of St Mel's and guide the college teams to win many more titles. Later still he became Parish Priest of Drumshanbo and is now ministering in Ferbane. Also starring in that 1969 Final was Gerry O'Connor of Annaduff, one of many Leitrim players to feature on St Mel's teams over the years

## BUSY AS BEES IN AUGHAVAS

Charlie Lee, Michael Casey and Sean McKeon set up a beehive manufacturing business, supplying to a wholesale firm in Dublin

## HAIL GLORIOUS ST PATRICK

The Manorhamilton GAA Club, defunct for a few years, came back to life by amalgamating with the 1968 Junior League winners, Glencar, to form the St Patrick's Glencar/Manorhamilton GAA Club. Thomas Gilmartin was elected Chairman; John Rooney, Sec; Tommy O'Connor Assis Sec and Vincent Devaney and T. Murphy Joint Treasurers.