

# CARTHY'S BAKERY, MY AUNT KATHLEEN'S SHOP & WORLD CUP '66

Seamus Hanney

I'M WAITING FOR Tommy Carthy to deliver bread to my aunt's shop here in Culfadda, Ballymote. She has arranged that Tommy will bring me home to Carrick after my two weeks holiday here. Carthy's Bakery is just down the road from us in St Patrick's Park. As well as delivering bread to towns and villages in Leitrim, Roscommon and Sligo, Carthy's have a shop beside the bakery and that's where we are sent for batch bread, pan loaves and sliced pans. If Mrs Carthy is delayed coming out to the shop you can look in the small window to their sitting room and watch snatches of programmes like Juke Box Jury. Depending on the way Mrs Carthy pulls one batch loaf away from another, there might be a bit extra on the one you get so you eat that on the way home, being careful not to be too greedy. My mother will have something to say if there's a gaping hole in the bread. I've enjoyed my holidays in Culfadda. Aunt Kathleen is busy in the shop from early morning and doesn't close until eight in the evening. I help her to weigh tea into 1lb bags from the big tea chests, I restock the wooden shelves with boxes of Tide and Omo, Sunlight Soap, tins of peas, beans, peaches and fruit cocktail, Ovaltine and Fry's Cocoa and then refill the big glass sweet jars with Yorkshire Toffee, Irish Roses,

Lucky Numbers and Scots Clan. In the storeroom there's a wooden table, on it big sides of bacon with lumps of salt in them, and my aunt cuts off a piece for the customer before weighing it on the shop scales. People spend ages in the shop chatting to each other as we pack groceries into cardboard boxes and I help carry them out and put them on the carriers of bicycles, onto ass carts, pony traps, tractors and a few cars. The old men buy plug tobacco and light their pipes after cutting the tobacco with a pen knife and mashing it in the palm of their hands. The shop is opposite Culfadda church so Sunday morning after mass is really busy. People buy the Sunday Press, blocks of ice cream, packets of Woodbine and Sweet Afton cigarettes, jelly and custard and sweets.

*Tommy Carthy*



*Aunt Kathleen*

Tommy Carthy will be here soon. He'll bring in the fresh bread to the storeroom and chat to my aunt. Then we'll be off to Carrick. He will have been to Ballymote with deliveries and on the way home will stop off at McDonagh's shop in Kesh, at Fox's a little further down the road, then across the Curlews into Boyle and onto Carrick. I will miss my time here in Culfadda with my aunt Kathleen but she has given me the best going away present, arranging that I will be home in time to watch the World Cup Final between England and West Germany and that I can watch it in Carthy's. Gerry Martin buys football magazines in Bennett's and we've got to know the names of the England team, Gordon Banks is a great goal-keeper and there's Bobby and Jack Charlton, Nobby Stiles and Bobby Moore. Gerry says England will win. I hear Tommy Carthy's van pulling in at the front door of the shop.

