

MY MEMORIES OF YESTERDAY

Tony O'Reilly

I'M WRITING THIS to let you know the great place Mohill was in the years 1948-2013, and the number of shops, etc. that brought people from far and near into the town. It was a noted business town on fair days, buyers came from the four corners of Ireland. I feel compelled to mention this, as the past and future begin to blend. Remembering back the years when Joe Quinn had 75 people employed. Bradshaw and Clarke's had 35 employed and Sean O'Beirne had 10 employed. There were four garages: Geelan's, now Walpole's, McIntyre's, Booth's (now closed), and Cashin's. A number of men were working at the railway station. In the Garda station we had a superintendent, a super's clerk, two detectives, a squad car, an inspector, one sergeant, and five Gardai. There were five hairdressers, three barber shops, three hotels, twenty six pubs, three banks and twenty two grocery shops, that I as salesman for Kellys of Kilcock delivered bread to every morning. The people were lovely, hard working, honest and always willing to



help when needed. Our spiritual needs were always catered for. We had St Patrick's church and St Mary's, whose spiritual directors were always a great inspiration to us all. We had the schools under the management of the Sisters of Mercy which produced some notable scholars; the boys school where Master Kelly, Master Mannion, Mrs Flynn and Mrs McNally taught their pupils well, the Hunt School and the Vocational school, all preparing their students for life in

An outing of Mohill Vintners to the Harp Lager Brewery in Dundalk in the 1970s when there were approximately 25 licensed premises in the town.

PHOTO COURTESY ANNA GALLAGHER

further education, jobs, and the world.

Once again, I still remember when The Canon Donohue Memorial Hall was a noted venue for dancers, concerts, bazaars etc., and thanks to the new management it is once more up and running and a great asset to the community, as is the Hunt Hall and the Hunt School. We have the Enter-

prise Centre formed by the then Mohill community association who together with members of the community helped raise £65,000. This is a purpose built light industrial centre whose units are always occupied by young entrepreneurs. Many students down through the years have completed their computer training at this centre, gone onto 3rd level education and, most important, have got employment. The success of the enterprise centre is the co-operation between local people and state bodies. The County Leitrim Partnership, Leitrim County Enterprise and others including director Gerry McGee, secretary Lourda McGowan, treasurer Tony O'Reilly, and manager Liam O'Brien. Before I conclude I must mention the great work done by the various organisations in the town, the tidy town committee, the pastoral council, Mohill GAA. I am not forgetting the wonderful work done by Mohill Legion of Mary and Mohill St. Vincent de Paul but I have just named a few of the great community organisations. I trust you will pardon any mistakes in my simple narrative and that some of you may remember the business premises in Mohill by reading my memories of yesteryear so read on.

Mohill Town 1948 to 2013 History shops

Main Street Upper

Mrs Winters' sweet shop, Jane Reilly's sweet shop, Faughnan's, McHugh's, M Reynolds, Cusack's 40yrs pub, Liz Hair, Peter Henry, Reynolds and Co Draper, Hibernian Bank of Ireland, Northern Bank (closed), Credit Union, Ellis'. Haughey now Paul's, Crown's chemist, Brady dentist, Willie Duignan's sweetshop, then became McGovern's chipper, Dolan's became O'Callaghan's Pub and Grocery (closed), McKeon's, Murray's which became Feeley's (closed), Gallagher's Hotel, became the Parting Glass, then ACC Bank, Delaney Gannon solicitors, now Noel Quinn solicitors, Gordon Vet (closed), Pauline's hairdresser, Beirne's, Farrell's, Carroll's pub, Mrs Flynn, May Higgins, Early's Pub, Grocery and undertakers, Brennan's, Aiden Mc Govern post office was Meehan's, now Lloyd's, Mrs Gibson

Draper, Knots, Gallagher's Vet, Bradshaw and Clarke general store, O'Malley grocery and chemist, Quinn's Pub and Fitzpatrick's Pub. Miss Casey's pub became Chris Reynolds, Cashin's garage (old boys National school), Canon Donohue Hall, Garda Barracks, Teresa hairdresser, (Canning's Forge) Brady's pub, Doreen's Hairdresser, Kelly's hotel now Jay's, Jim Boyle Shoe Repairs, Agnew's became Rogers, Bradshaw shoe shop, Kerr's (closed), Canning's became McKeon's Ivy Tree, later McHugh's (closed), Quinn's grocery and hardware, Duignan Bookies, McKeon's Corner House pub (now Gordon's), P Logan butchers, Rowley's Undertakers, Dunleavy's Drapery, O' Beirne's supermarket, now Kieran's chemist, Greene's restaurant (closed), Griffin's

Tony O'Reilly and his late wife Teresa RIP, who were Grand Marshalls of Mohill Parade 2013, are pictured in Tommy Leslie's 1964 jaguar.

PHOTO BY THÉRÈSE FOY



Agricultural Show 1930



Agricultural Show Committee 180s



◀ Mohill Agricultural Show 1930

Back Row: --, --, --, **Earl of Granard, Canon Masterson.**

Third Row: **Rev Philip McGiveny, Tom Dolan (judge), --, --.**

Second Row: **Tom McGiveny, Frank McGuinness NT, Paddy McGiveny, --, -- Tom Gannon.**

Front Row: **Johnny McGarry, Barney McKiernan, Peter Henry, Tom Gordon MRCVS, James Gordon, John Gordon, Tom Gordon Jnr.**

Photo presented to Mohill Library by the Kenny Family, Kenny's Bookshop, Galway, May 2003

◀ Show Committee from the '80's

Back: **Gerry McGee, Luke Early, Michael Duignan, Liam Ellis, Stephen McGuinness, John McKeon, Lloyd Donnelly, Frank Canning, Sean McGuinness, Frank McLoughlin, Gabriel Moran.**

Middle: **Charles Crowe, Bernie Reilly, Gerry Mulligan, Sean Kilrane, Johnny Rowley, Paddy Keating, Pat Gallagher MRCVS, Chris Reynolds, Frank Scollan, John Reynolds.**

Front: **Mae Logan-Crowe, Peggy Ellis, Harry McGowan, Maureen Kelly, Robert Logan, Aideen Huston, Johnny Duignan, Frances McGlynn, Peader Flynn, Joseph Beirne.**

Front: **Lourda McGowan, Trease McDonagh, Carolaine Moran, Bridie McIntyre.**

Thank you to Mohill Show Committee for these photographs which appeared in their Souvenir Catalogues of the 80th Annual Agricultural Show

pub, now bookies, Gannon's drapers, Dobson's drapers, now Ann Duignan's, Conway's, H Logan Butcher, Donnelly's barber and Crowe's.

Glebe Street

Fair Green now cattle mart
Mrs Moran, Doherty's Bakery (closed), Farrell's pub, Kenny's pub now flats, McGovern's Pub, Beirne's pub, Flynn's Post Office, John Bohan's, Gilmartin's Butcher, John Dolan's now O'Carolan's Pub, McTaggart's Photography, Levinge's, Crossan's Drapers, Canning's, Reynolds' pub now Mc Keon's , Casey supermarket- Reilly's, Reynolds' Hardware formerly the Ritz cinema, O'Brien's pub. Water Street C&D Chemist, Doctor's clinic, Library, Nursing home (Gurwin's bakery, Private), L McGovern (McGowan?) Auction Agents , Boddy Bros (Closed) and Miss Heeran's (Closed). Frank Heeran Shoemaker.

Station Road

Baxter's Centra moved to larger store. Dr. Dorr, Dr. Duignan, Casey's pub, Casey's Grocery (closed) Chemist C Nolan (closed), Central Motors was Geelan's, Kilrane Solicitors, two small shops, Jim Guckian (Closed) Shannon's, Dorr's: Latimer's, T.V and Bicycle Shop (Closed), O'Rourke's hardware

(closed) Booth's Garden Centre., and Jimmy Gilmartin's Forge

Hyde Street

McGarty shop(closed) Maureen Rowley Hairdressing (closed), Fanning's (closed), Sharon's Hairdressers, Chemist (now moved), Colm O'Reilly, Dr Scollen's , Nicholson Drapery (closed), Sheila McGarry's pub (closed) McManus and McHugh Bakery (closed), Tom Wilson grocery (closed), May Nicholson's now barber shop, T Mulligan Taxi Co., McIntyre Bros Garage (retired), Euro Spar supermarket (closed), Ashbrook home (closed), Gerry McLoughlin Auction Agent, Connaught Gold, Flower Shop, Mc Nabola's Garage. Hyde Terrace had Odie O'Donnell, cobbler and Paddy O'Shea, tailor whilst Gerry Murphy barber was in Boeshill.

Hill Street

Had Cox's Hotel, Tommy Donnelly barber, Baxter's hairdressing, Dr Cadden and Teagasc office. I couldn't conclude without mentioning the town cryer, Walter Beatty, who made everyone aware of forthcoming events by walking up and down town ringing his bell.