

Leitrim A Republic

Men have leaped into space and conquered it—ORLA O'CARROLL, M.A.—having no particular desire to become the Eve of the Moon's Sea of Tranquillity—envisages Leitrim conquered by "bureaucratic imperialism" and leaping into the future sufficiently to retreat to the "archives of one of our daily newspapers" relates from same her account of the day to day happenings of a memorable occasion in 1975 when Leitrim was declared a Republic. From the archives of one of our daily papers.

"The Irish _____"

23 June 1975

☆

By our War Correspondent

Manorhamilton, 6.30 p.m.

TODAY, at twelve noon, Leitrim was declared a Republic. Proclamations were posted simultaneously on all main and sub-post offices throughout the county, calling on all its citizens to rush to its defence, and promising civil rights to all. Barricades and road-blocks have been erected at all entry points to the county, and a check is being made on all incoming traffic. Non-natives of the county have been requested to take an oath of allegiance to the Revolutionary Council, and telephone lines between Garda Stations have been cut. Prominent dissident personalities have been placed under house arrest. However, this is no hardship as the weather is unusually inclement. Otherwise the atmosphere is quite calm here in Manorhamilton, the centre of activity in the northern half of the county, and the home of the Revolutionary Council. The Council has called a Press Conference for tomorrow in the Courthouse, where the Constitution of the new Republic is to be announced. The Proclamation issued today gives the reasons for this drastic step. It accuses the Central Government of wilful exploitation of the territorial integrity of the county, and it invites all like-minded counties to join in this stand against bureaucratic imperialism. It demands recognition of the unassailable right of the people of Leitrim to existence as a separate entity and not as an irrelevant postscript to Donegal, Sligo and

Roscommon. It calls on all natives of the county to make any sacrifice necessary to ensure the continuance of their new Republic, and it pledges that all citizens will be equally cherished.

Central Government Reaction

By our Political Correspondent

When asked by me what he thought of the situation in Leitrim, the Minister for Local Government replied: "Where is Leitrim? Is it animal, vegetable or mineral?" The Minister for Finance wanted to know if it had any animals, vegetables or minerals and he suggested that we contact the Department of Industry and Commerce to see if a favourable balance of trade existed between it and Ireland. The TDs representing the area in Dail Eireann were found playing Beggar-my-Neighbour with the County Councillors of Donegal, Roscommon and Sligo. On receipt of the news the game continued and it was observed that at the end all participants had made a profit. The Minister for Defence has issued a statement indicating his readiness to send troops to the area if the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation should desire it and the Navy is understood to be standing by. The soldiers of Eastern Command have been issued with tropical uniforms in readiness for this great venture.

When questioned about his reaction to this possible trip, a high-ranking officer told our reporter: "Trips abroad, like this one, are very good for the men."

Manorhamilton, 24 June, 6.30 p.m.

By our Political Correspondent

According to the statement issued at the Press Conference held today, in the Court-house, Manorhamilton, by the Press Officer of the Revolutionary Council, Mr. Ben Bow, the new Republic of Leitrim is pressing for international recognition on political and economic levels. Prominent members of the Leitrim community in New York are to press for Leitrim's admission to full membership of the United Nations Organisation: they feel that the new Republic is well qualified to speak for and with other undeveloped and oppressed areas of the world. On the economic front, Mr. Bow announced that the question of applying for membership of the European Economic Community was under review. Diplomatic recognition is to be extended to China, Antarctica and the Aran Islands and the Revolutionary Council hopes that an amicable relationship may soon be established with the Central Government. Central Funds will be realised by nationalisation of all non-Leitrim controlled wealth in the Republic, e.g. threequarters of the television transmitter on Truskmore, the ESB Power Station at Arigna and the thousands of acres of forest in the area. Tolls will be payable on all cars belonging to aliens passing through the Republic. They will be especially high on cars belonging to TDs and Central Government Ministers. If necessary the Shannon will be diverted to form a circle round the Republic, flowing into the sea at Tullaghan. It is possible that a deep-water channel may be dug there and that an inter-planetary airport may be built there. Also under review is a plan to issue Republic of Leitrim Bonds among Leitrim exiles in Ireland, the British Mainland, Australia and America. The Leitrim GAA Board is to apply to Central Council for permission to

play in the World series and the possibility of participation in the next Olympic Games is being considered. It is to be suggested to the Vatican that Sean MacDiarmada and Tom Clarke be included in the Universal Calendar of Saints.

Mr. Bow refused to disclose details of the course of action to be undertaken by the Revolutionary Council should there be an invasion by the military forces of the Central Government. He said, merely, that citizens of Leitrim were willing to die for their country and that the Central Government, understanding by experience, the miraculous speed with which martyrs influenced world opinion, would probably be reluctant to create some. The County Council is to be stripped of its power and the Revolutionary Council is to rule in the name of the citizens of the Republic. He added that telegrams of congratulations and support had been received from Gibraltar, Gael-Linn and Monaco. The conference ended with the reiteration of the Republic's determination to do all in its power to bring prosperity and progress in all fields to its citizens.

Manorhamilton, 23 June 1976

By our Political Correspondent

The Republic of Leitrim is here to stay. Exactly one year ago when the Proclamation of Independence was issued no one expected that the Republic would last for longer than a few days. Within one year, however, the miraculous has taken place. Leitrim is obviously very wealthy. The population has increased, new factories have been erected and there is talk of establishing a University at Ballinaglera. There is no unemployment: in fact, there are so many jobs that labour permits have been issued to workers from outside the Republic. Walking around the new Industrial and Housing Estates with Mr. Bow, I was amazed at the variety of accents to be distinguished: clotted Kerry, nasal Dublin, clipped Cavan and the flat accent of the natives. All developments are being financed by the Revolutionary Council.

Their plans for gathering money are in full operation and seem to be successful: viz. the large amounts paid by RTE and the ESB in Dublin for Rights of Access to the Truskmore Transmitter and the Loch Allen Power Station. Large sums of money have been sent by Leitrim exiles and relief has been offered by Caritas, Castro and Mountnugent GAA club. All help, except that from Leitrim sources, has been rejected.

The main source of Leitrim wealth is, however, most surprising. In the past year Leitrim scientists have patented a new form of Rocket Fuel which has a ten-times higher output per gallon than any other fuel in use. The main source of the fuel is the rushes, which abound in Leitrim. Leitrim rushes, however, seem to possess properties all their own. The Leitrim formula, when applied to rushes from other parts of the world was a fiasco. It was announced that the Revolutionary Council has sold the formula to an unspecified Foreign Power for an undisclosed amount, which, however, is rumoured to run into billions of pounds. It is not known which power was involved but a public announcement that the Bonet will in future be called Red River may give some clue to the destination of the huge consignments of rushes exported daily from Tullaghan. Mr. Bow brought me on a tour of the extensive Rush plantations and marvelled at the Providence that decreed that Leitrim be neglected by the Central Government, which neglect resulted in the superabundance of rushes which are now such an unexpected factor of wealth.

The past year, however, has not been without its crises. Perhaps the most serious was that brought about by the dispute over the design of Postage Stamps for the Republic. It was discovered that the Committee charged with designing the stamps was being infiltrated by subversive elements from the Kilkenny Design Centre. Luckily these elements were eradicated before any serious loss of confidence had resulted and the final designs, featuring such items as the Borna-coola Rocket Launching Centre, the Aughna-

DROMOD CARNIVAL

AUGUST 21 — SEPTEMBER 1, 1970

Come and enjoy dancing at its best
in one of Ireland's largest marquees.

plus

☆ Special Attraction ☆

MONSTER GROUP BALLAD
FESTIVAL COMPETITION

Finance for Cars, Vans, Trucks, Tractors, etc.
from

The Hire Purchase Co. of Ireland Ltd.

34 MAIN ST.,
LONGFORD

100% Irish financed :: 100% Irish staffed

Phones: Longford 6553 or 6567

Manager: Brian Nerney.

sheelin Ashtray and the words "Lovely Leitrim" superimposed on a picture of Glencar waterfall are already universally sought and indeed treasured by philatelists. The Republic of Leitrim has also the distinction of having one of the hardest currencies in the Western Hemisphere, and its Finance Ministry and Central Bank are undergoing tremendous pressure from Bonn and Washington to revalue the currency upwards. (At current exchange rates, the Leitrim £ is worth two Central Government £s.)

Manorhamilton, 23 June 1985

By our Political Correspondent

It was announced in Dublin and Manorhamilton today that Ireland is to seek admission into the Commonwealth of Leitrim. The Commonwealth was established two years ago when the Stormont regime asked Leitrim to take it over. Mr. Bow assured me that Leitrim reaction to the Dublin request was likely to be favourable. It is, of course, common knowledge that the Dublin Government has for the last five years been financed by Leitrim and today's announcement is but the logical corollary to the present economic trends. It is envisaged that Ireland will preserve a certain amount of local autonomy but Manorhamilton will in fact become the Capital of the New Ireland. Following on this decision, the editor and managerial Board of this newspaper announced that it is moving its Head Office to a new skyscraper which it has acquired on Revolution Circus, Manorhamilton. It assures its readers and advertisers of its continued support for them and their interests and it predicts a dazzling future for the new State.



Our ace photographer
John Keaney,
Carrick-on-Shannon



Orla O'Carroll, M.A., B.Comm., H.Dip. in Ed.

Arrange your 1970 Holiday to include . . .

THE 18TH

An Tostal

("Ireland at Home")

in **DRUMSHANBO**

From **SUNDAY, JUNE 21** to
SUNDAY, JUNE 28, inclusive.

Programme includes: All-Ireland Ceili Bands and Ballad Singing Competitions, An Tostal Feis, Bonfire Cross-Roads Ceili, Marching Bands.

An Tostal traditional Fair on Thursday, July 16. In addition to the selling and buying of cattle, sheep, pigs and horses, there is an Open Air Concert of Irish music, song and dance in the Town Square.

If you want to enjoy yourself in a truly and distinctive Irish manner, then come along and bring the family to Drumshanbo—the only centre in Ireland where An Tostal has survived.

For further particulars contact:
The Hon. Secretary,
Mr. Joseph M. Mooney, M.C.C.,
Drumshanbo.