

People we met

The Editors

THE MANOR

VEGETABLES

It was a sharp October evening when we crossed the fields to a neck of the Manor valley to interview and photograph Padraig and Christy. They were working their vegetable fields. Both men have been growing vegetables for years. Now they are members of the newly formed North Leitrim Vegetable Growers Co-operative and they hope that it will develop. Growing is difficult enough because help is much scarcer than it used to be and in late years Spring has been invariably harsh. It is most important that the co-operative develop the marketing of the vegetables, say Padraig and Christy. People simply have not the time to go out and sell themselves. They are particularly pleased that a new instructor has been appointed for North Leitrim. He is Loman O'Dowd, and he has been of considerable help to all growers.



Padraig Diamond Christy Fehily

ASKILL, KINLOUGH PRAISE GOD I

Mrs. Mary Gallagher, Askill, Kinlough, is a young married woman with three small children. Her husband is Pat. Two years ago she was taken to hospital in Galway with pain in her left leg. Twelve months later after operations, she came home on crutches with a stiff leg — for life.

Mary loved to dance, to go around to act. She was the life of the party. All that had to cease. So Mary gave way to depression, to ill-humour.

"I tried several things," she says, "self-pity, drink yes, write it, I drank too much, just to relieve pain, misery and depression. It landed me back in hospital. Some people from the Charismatic movement visited me; they prayed with me, prayed for healing. I started to go to the Charismatic meetings in Ballyshannon — looking for healing. I wasn't healed, but I found peace and joy. I stopped drinking. I found God, for the first time really."

"Oh I'm no saint. I can still be depressed, still impatient, but not for long. I'm going to tell you this, I'm almost glad all this happened to me. When I'm alone in the kitchen I talk away to God, out loud. Pat must think I'm mad. Ah well, praise God".



Mary Gallagher with husband Pat and children.

TUG OF WAR CLUB

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Last July the All-Ireland Tug of War Championships were held in Carrigallen. Almost one thousand people attended, gate receipts were a record and in the words of Tommy Elmor, President of the Irish Tug of War Association, "They were the best organised and supported finals ever". As to show that they were not only efficient organisers, but also skillful performers on the field, the Carrigallen Club, on the same day, competed against nineteen other teams from all over Ireland in the 106 Novice Finals and came second to a Mayo team.

Initiative was shown by Loughlin McManus, Kevin McManus and the late Pakie Reilly in forming a club without the comforting bulwark of tradition — Carrigallen never had a Tug of War Club before and dedication is shown by the small party of fourteen who train for two hour periods twice weekly and shun the inactive and undemanding life-styles of lesser mortals.

In Carrigallen Gerry Lyons and Seamus Mulligan look after training while Loughlin McManus plots their opponents' downfall. Tactics play an important part in a team's chances of success. Loughlin says, "We might decide to sit and hold some team whereas with others we might try and take them straight away. The eight member team is chosen with a view to our opponent's strengths and weaknesses. On some occasions we may need more weight, so the formation of the team will change accordingly. Our weights vary from Jimmy Kiernan at 9½ stone to Joe Reilly — our anchor man — at 19½ stone."

A feature of the club is that five brothers — The Grimes brothers — are members of the panel.

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Carrigallen Tug of War Team

MOHILL BREATHE IN — BREATHE OUT

Mohill's Speech and Drama School offers the likelihood of future generations being better speakers than criers. For the past three months, thirty of Mohill's four to fourteen year olds have been learning, among other things, to pronounce "the" instead of "de", "mother" for "mudder", "door" for "dour" and "snow" for Leitrim's very own "shnow".

Mrs. Cochrane runs the Speech and Drama School in her own house in Mohill. Originally from Sligo, she had lengthy experience teaching in elocution and drama in Britain before returning, some years ago, to Ireland. Indeed she is not only a qualified, experienced teacher but has also performed with distinction on stage, notably at Sligo Feis where she has won for the last three years the prize for best recitation of one's own composition.

A collection of her poems was published recently, and if a poet tries to put the world into a nutshell then Mrs. Cochrane has succeeded admirably in this delightful collection, *Golden Links in an Emerald Chain*.



Mrs. Cochrane.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

INVENTOR - DIVINER

Neil Boyle, formerly from Carrick, is a driving instructor at the Garda Training Centre, Templemore, but in his capacity as an instructor he also teaches First Aid, Self-Defence, Life Saving and Swimming. In his leisure hours he finds time to be an inventor and a diviner. Indeed, it is as an inventor that he is probably best known. Earlier this year he was interviewed by Gay Byrne on "The Late Late Show" about his latest invention — The Multi-purpose Calendar. This calendar is capable of giving accurate days and dates for events both future and past. It covers a span of 450 years (1700-2150) and is not only helpful to historians and researchers looking backwards, and hotel managers wishing to look ahead, but also to the general public.

Neil was born in Glasgow. He was four when the Second World War broke out and like many other youngsters he was forced to evacuate. He came to live in Carrick with his grandmother Mrs. Catherine Harvey, R.I.P. Schooling and a few years in the building trade in Carrick with J.J. Jennings, Paddy Harvey and Johnny Davitt preceded his joining the Gardaí in 1956. After training, his terms of duty included Ballyconnell, Mallow, Wexford and Ballinamore before moving to The Templemore Centre in 1965. He recalls his four and a half years in Ballinamore as having been the happiest of his Garda career: "Marvellous digs" in John Joe Cox's and friends such as John English and Michael Hegarty helped to make his sojourn there a memorable one.

Divining, like inventing, is another of his sparetime activities. A diviner is usually a person who professes to discover water or minerals underground, but a diviner can also seek to know the whereabouts of missing people. Neil falls into the latter category. He has had notable successes in finding missing people. In 1975, a Fr. Clancy from West Cork asked Neil to locate his brother who had emigrated to London five years previously. Using his divining rod and a street map of London Neil was drawn to a particular street in London. Inquiries followed and the brother was found to be living in the street pinpointed by Neil. An Englishman, Terry Copeland, who had spent twenty five years tracing his mother, engaged Neil's services and eventually found her living in Brighton.



Neil Boyle's Multipurpose Calendar.

MOHILL

SADDLERY

Saddlery is a term usually associated with Horse Show Week in Ballsbridge or with the days when the saddler supplied the needs of farmer and huntsman. Leitrim fields have rarely echoed to the cries of "tally ho!" Yet, ironically, we have one of Ireland's dwindling number of saddlers living in the county.

Seamus O'Callaghan is nineteen years old. Born and reared in Mohill he can trace the family harness and saddle-making tradition back to his great-grandfather who plied his trade in Limerick. During his school holidays Seamus regularly worked with a saddle-maker in Wexford. Later, he attended classes in saddlery in a London College before returning to his own workshop in Mohill.

Seamus confines his talents to saddlery as he thinks harness-making is another trade in itself. His customers come mostly from Dublin and the midlands to buy saddles, bridles, martingales and other accessories. He also supplies dog-collars, waist-belts, watchbands and handbags made to order. Most of his products are handstitched and the relative absence of equipment in his workshop is evidence of this specialised craft.



Seamus O'Callaghan.



Theresa McGoey (in front); Extreme left — Mrs. Sean McGoey; Extreme right — Sean McGoey.

GLENANIFF TO THE FORE

Theresa McGoey AND Nephew Sean McGoey

Theresa McGoey remembers that Glenaniff Church was built by her grandfather with the aid of voluntary labour. She herself was born in Glenaniff as was nephew, Sean. She bought a business in Dublin in the 1940s which became known as The Swiss Chalk, an hotel, restaurant, bakery, shop and ballroom. It employed 50 people, and was a great haunt for North Leitrim people. It was sold in 1962.

Sean was born in 1930. He remembers Tom Bredin as an exceptional teacher at Glenaniff N.S. He went to Dublin in 1948 and became a director of The Swiss Chalk. When it was sold he became a chartered accountant, and is now a partner in his own firm. He still takes a keen interest in the affairs of Glenaniff and has helped in various ways.

Among the 'characters' he singles out Fr. Pat McPhillips who was parish priest for 20 years. Someone asked Fr. McPhillips during the War what he thought of Winston Churchill. "I would lock him in the war closet," he replied, "and pull the chain on him". Some older women will remember that a lift in his car 'down the road' often ended up as a shopping day in Garrison, so with their aprons on.

Sean loves to go back to Glenaniff to experience once again the unrivalled hospitality of a gentle loving people.

BALLINAMORE

CATERING / SOCCER BOSS

In recent years, a growing number of emigrants have been returning to settle in Ireland. Jim Shortt from Greagh, Aughavas spent thirteen years as a plasterer in Luton, England. Eighteen months ago he decided to exchange his trowel for a frying basket and chance his luck in the catering trade. He and his Westport born wife — Margaret — bought a shop in Ballinamore, changed it into a cafe and called it "The Singing Kettle". The cafe interior is pleasing to the eye and its food equally pleasing to the palate. Margaret worked in a catering business in England so their venture has a sound basis in experience.

For Jim the world gets better every day, but it can get worse again some evenings or rather early mornings around 1 a.m. when thirty customers have to be served and he is feeling the exhausting effects of having worked for fifteen hours non stop. But he is always good humoured and realises that long hours are synonymous with the catering trade.

On Sunday mornings he manages affairs of a different kind — the fortunes of Ballinamore's Abbey Rovers soccer team. This is their first competitive season and already they have gained the scalps of more experienced teams in the Sligo/Leitrim League.



Jim Shortt

KILTOGHERT

A FACE BEHIND R.T.E.

People watching the light entertainment T.V. series "Mike Murphy in America" may have noticed and been impressed by the introduction to each programme. An animated, illustrated U.S. flag rather than a real U.S. flag is a feature of the introduction. The animation is an example of the imaginative flair of Jeanette Burke, (formerly Dunne) from Carrick-on-Shannon. For every second the flag moves Jeanette had to make thirty four drawings, because thirty four frames of film per second flit across your screen.

"Basically", she says, "it is cartooning. One takes the first movement, the middle movement and the end movement and fills it in between."

Her role in T.V. production is graphics — a title we see at the end of a programme when the credits are being rolled on screen and we pass comment on the programme or re-adjust glazy eyed to our surroundings.

Her role, like that of other members of the production team, may not seem significant because the actors and actresses usually collect the kudos or criticism. But the production team provides the necessary groundwork and surroundings in which the acting appears credible.

Apart from her T.V. work she does illustrations for books. The next time you happen to be in a book-shop have a look at "The Ulster Cycle", "The Celtic Way of Life" and Liam O'Flaherty's "The Wilderness". All are testimony to the extraordinary talent of Jeanette Burke. Or just look through The Leitrim Guardian, she is there too.



Johnny Mulhern

KILTYCLOGHER

POET

*Oh Ireland true, I long for you,
But the place of birth is the dearest spot.
True love retain on my sadder brain,
For thou, sweet home, forget me not.
I long for all both great and small,
If God assents I will remain
As a wish I gave to make my grave
By the tranquil shores of Lough MacNea.*

Johnny Mulhern of Straduffly Cross, Kiltyclogher, has been writing poetry for nearly 60 years. He started to write lying on a cell floor in Sligo Jail during the Civil War. He was on the Republican side. When he was transferred to the Curragh the officer-in-charge took away his poems because Ned Balfour's name featured in them.

Johnny went to Coracloon N.S. He was in infant class when Sean McDermott was in the class. Johnny is a near relation of Denis Healey, British Chancellor of the Exchequer.

What did he do when the Civil War was over? "I worked a bit of bad land up there", he answered, as he pointed up the hills. He now lives with his sister, Mrs. Maguire, and talks to young and old.

Jeanette Burke.



GLENCAR

LEITRIM IN DUBLIN

Thomas Feely is 80 years old and is living in Dublin. He was born in Glencar, and went to Dífreen N.S. He joined the Volunteers and saw active service in Fermanagh. He joined the Gardaí in Manorhamilton on the recommendation of Tom Carter, T.D., and James N. Dolan, T.D. His vital statistics were just right — he was 6' 1" in height and weighed 15½ stone. He was a member of the opening party sent to Lucan, one of the first Garda Stations to be opened in Ireland. He retired in 1961 after 44 years service and 16 years in Store St., Dublin.

One of his more notable exploits was the rescue of a young chemist, Seamus Fox, from a fire in Roche's Chemists in 1941.

From 1941 he was on protection duty at Radio Eireann and the G.P.O. Here he met all the personalities of the day. He is a great personality himself.

"I agree wholeheartedly with what William Bulfin wrote in his book 'Rambles in Erin'," he says, "In writing about County Leitrim he says that the trouble about visiting it is to have to leave it".



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MANORHAMILTON NEW ORTHOPAEDIC UNIT

Leitrim people are pleased to hear a new orthopaedic unit has recently been opened in Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton. This will allow the hospital to avoid being downgraded. Our photograph was taken from left — Sr. Martina, Asst. Matron, Mairead Brady, Theatre Sister, Regina, Matron, Mr. Fintan Shanahan, Orthopaedic Surgeon. The patient is Seamus McGovern, Castlefore.

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TULLAGHAN HAPPY CENTENARY

Mrs. Catherine Quinn, Wardhouse, will be 100 years old on January 27. That means that she was born in the year of the Knock apparition, of Davitt's founding of The Land League, of Parnell at his peak.

Born in Drumquin, Co. Tyrone, Mrs. Quinn almost died of fever at the age of eleven; she was even anointed. Her father died when she was twelve. She went to work when she was 15. Her longest job was with Dr. St. George of Lisburn, the doctor for the passing of recruits for the 1914-1918 War. She remembers well the jubilation of those boys who passed, only to be sucked into the 'Mincing Machine' of the Western Front, and the dejection of those who failed — and lived.

She married Michael Quinn of Ballyshannon in 1916, and they ran a guesthouse in Bundoran. There were only two motor cars in Bundoran then, but the summer trains were packed to the doors.

Her husband died in 1962. Since then she has been living with her daughter, Mrs. Owen Daly. She is a delightful lady to visit; she is just a little hard of hearing.

The Leitrim Guardian hopes she will have a happy 100th anniversary on January 27, and many more years.



Mrs. Catherine Quinn with members of the Daly family, Tullaghan.