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AND The Wall came tumbling down: the division of Berlin ended and the people of Germany became Joshua; Freedom has been sought in all ages and in all nations. “Veni, Vidi, Vici” said Caesar; to Ireland came the Normans, but they assimilated and became Hiberniores Hibernicus ipsis. Yet we have our tribulations still.

When the Berlin wall was knocked the East Berliners poured in seeking “freedom” and got a free-market but no jobs. Myth? Communism, we were told had failed. So also had Capitalism, but no one said so. It’s driving force is greed and seems to offer wealth; Christianity is also claimed to have failed. Shrewd observers point out that it has never been tried.

Freedom is raising its head as a child of perestroika. It has with the collapse of The Wall ended the Cold War and brought Russia and Europe together and induces a form of friendship with the U.S. of A. This could be ascribed to a desire for peace as promulgated in the form of Christianity; does it prove the Irish adage “nuair a throidid na fathaigh is ri an t-abhaic” (when giants fight the dwarf is king).

Of course, freedom takes many forms: from oppression, from poverty, from hunger as well tyranny. Remember the Wedding Feast at Cana the wine ran out and Our Lord said “Quid est mihi?” But He acted: at a later stage to the rich young man’s question “what shall I do”, He told him to sell his goods and give to the poor. The Young Man went away saddened.

Are we in the Pilate mould “Quid est Veritas?” (What is Truth).

TOMAS MAC GABHANN, 
The County Carlow Museum is fortunate to have on display a type of coiled straw chair which was once a common sight in small farm houses, but has now become extremely rare. Such chairs should not be confused with the ash framed, straw rope seated 'sugan' variety, but belong in a class of their own. They are however related to the many other coiled straw and brier work objects such as bee skeps, cradles, kidney shaped seed baskets, food baskets, hassocks and bosses (stools). Many things were also made of plaited rather than coiled straw. Plaited straw work required no split bramble binding and a few plaited mattresses, cushions, mats and hens' nests do still survive in museums. The Irish Agricultural Museum at Johnstown castle, County Wexford, has a fine example of a plaited straw hen's nest.

Arched hoods of coiled straw

In Wales and England, where the technique of coiling straw and binding it together with split bramble bark was known as 'lip work', surviving examples of chairs are more common. In Scotland, Orkney chairs were made with arched hoods of coiled straw, which were attached to a substantial timber base, sometimes with a contrasting drop-in seat of rush or seagrass. Unfortunately, in Ireland, although there is ample documentary evidence to prove that coiled straw chairs and stools have been used for centuries, only about half a dozen examples are known to the author to have survived intact.

The fragile nature of their construction has resulted in their disappearance, straw is inflammable and prone to attack by vermin. It is ironic that the very fact that they were once so common has also contributed to their destruction. Former Carlow Museum curator Pat Purcell remembers these armchairs as once being commonplace in the smaller houses of County Carlow, popular among those who could not afford the expense of wood. In his book 'The Banks of the Boro', Patrick Kennedy recalled County Wexford in the early eighteen hundreds, and described how the farmer 'was taking his rest in a straw chair'. While in 'Legends of Mount Leinster' he related how the farm servants lounged on 'benches, stools and straw bosses around the fire.' Many people can still remember how these bosses (stools) and armchairs were favourite fireside seats, although they might seem dangerously inflammable nowadays. Amazingly, straw
was such a widely used material that in the 1830's it was even fashioned into chimney pots, which were 'ornamented with thick circular ropes of straw, sewed together like bees' skeps, with the peel of a brier'.

Straw seating was commonly used all over Ireland within living memory. In nineteenth century County Clare, seats were made even more cheaply by covering scraws of turf with plaited straw. While in some hedge schools, the children set on bosses, or on round stones 'capped with a straw collar or hassock'. In County Cavan straw chairs were well known and sound similar to our surviving Carlow Museum example; 'The seat was made of wood covered with straw ropes. The back contained no wood. Some people made a name for themselves by making these chairs. One man living on the Sleive Russell Mountain was called John McKeown, and another well known maker lived in the townland of Tomessan. These men also made large straw mats, which were common everywhere in this district but are never seen now.'

**Cut carefully with a scythe**

Coiled and bound seats required the longest possible lengths of straw, which were necessarily cut carefully with a scythe rather than by the threshing machines. The best time to gather the blackberry briers, to make the binding, was around November, when the sap was no longer rising. Each one then had to be stripped of its thorns, cleaved into two or three pieces and cleaned of pith. The resulting long lengths had to be smooth enough to use as a tough thread, for sewing and securing the coiled straw firmly together. Only two basic tools were needed once these raw materials had been prepared. A section of cow horn was usually used to funnel the continuous length of straw into a regular round coil. A tubular 'needle' or awl several inches long and large enough to accommodate the brier binding was used to pierce the straw coils and anchor them with interlocking looped stitches. In Ireland this needle was sometimes wooden or bone, but horn or metal tubing were also probably used. In this way the coils could be built up, beginning with the centre of the seat and working gradually outwards in the manner of a clay coil pot. Chairs, stools and bee skeps usually had coils of between one and two inches in diameter, but smaller objects like food or seed baskets were sometimes made with much smaller finer coils. Such straw work was well suited to the winter months, when both materials had been gathered in and there was less work to be done on the farm. Chair making was more skilled and complex than boss making, as it necessitated the incorporation of truncated lengths of straw in the arms and back.

**Like a slightly swollen drum**

Plaited boss stools usually have a round seat plan and are often shaped like a slightly swollen drum. Examples of coiled and bound straw stools from Counties Clare and Galway were each biconical in shape; narrowing inwards towards the middle with a central waist. Other coiled bosses, conveniently illustrated in various paintings, had round seats which broadened outwards towards the base.

Nowadays commercial makers of straw bee skeps rarely go to all the trouble of preparing briers for the binding, preferring instead to use split cane or rattan. I have seen skeps bound with blue bailer twine, and although this may at first seem another sensible form of recycling, beware of using twine which may have been pre-treated with degrading chemicals.

Some of the old straw chairs and stools had their seats stuffed with densely packed straw, this avoided the need to use valuable timber, but made the whole thing surprisingly heavy. Other ones had a rudimentary sub framework of rough timber around which the straw coils could be wound. This provided some firm support and prevented undue wear on the straw at ground level. The example in County Carlow Museum is of the timber framed variety, hence its rectangular shaped seat. Seat plans from square or rectangular to circular or even D-shaped. The enclosed arms and backs of these chairs made them cozy and excluded the draughts of an open fire. The thermal quality of coiled or plaited straw was also perfect for cradles, which were warm as well as lightweight, although so far none of these cradles has come to light.

Plaited straw stools and chairs required no bramble binding. They were made by the same technique as the once common straw mattresses and certainly in a few instances by the same people. Many householders very probably acquired the art of making these things for themselves, rather than buying them in the markets. In Ulster in the 1830's a straw mattress sold for between five and six shillings, which was the greater part of the average labourer's weekly wage of seven shillings and six pence. We know that bee skeps were sold at the same fairs for 10 pence each, so it is safe to assume that straw seating would have cost even more.

**Were made in Graignamanagh**

Names of the straw bosses vary from one place to the next. Twentieth century dialect terms — saoisteog (used still in County Donegal and pronounced shaystog) or saoistin (in Counties Cork and Kerry) seem to be the most common probably derive originally from the Irish seas, (a term used in County Monaghan) meaning a bench. In County Kilkenny, the term boss referred to a 'cushion made of special wheaten straw called cotton straw' and such things were known to have been made in Graignamanagh.

The aforementioned technique of coiling and binding could be employed not only with wheat, rye or oat straw (the latter was particularly admired for its golden colour) but also from a wide variety of grasses, irises or flags. Materials were doubtless chosen from what was locally abundant. In County Armagh
At four in the afternoon on March 12, 1847, seven brave men on a rescue mission from Sutter’s Fort reached the head of the Yuba River in the Summit Valley, seven thousand feet elevation in the High Sierras of California. There they found a pit in the snow, twenty-four feet deep, created by a camp fire that had been kept burning for nine days and nights, gradually descending as it melted the snow. At the bottom of the pit around the campfire were huddled eleven miserable human beings, barely alive. At the surface were the mutilated bodies of three other human beings, a woman and two children, their flesh stripped from their arms and legs, their hearts and livers and brains removed. A pot was boiling on the fire. It was one of the most pitiful sights in the history of the American West.

The eleven survivors numbered two adults and nine children, ages one to fifteen. The adults were two immigrants from County Carlow, Patrick Breen, fifty-one, and his spouse Margaret, whom he called Peggy, forty-one. They were members of the tragic Donner Party, of which Patrick Breen was the main chronicler. He kept a diary of the four months of entrapment near what has come to be known as Donner Lake. The original document is today a most prized possession of the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, California.

From Ireland to Canada to rural America

The saga of the Breens is worth the telling, reflecting the behaviour of an ordinary family in a time of great crisis, as well as a migration of one family among many who travelled a path from Ireland to Canada to rural America, avoiding the big cities which have been the sole focus of so much of the literature on Irish emigration.

Patrick was baptised on June 11, 1795, the son of Edward (Ned) Breen and Mary Wilson of Barnahasken Townland, near the tiny village of Killedmund. Patrick’s paternal grandfather and grandmother were Patrick Breen and Bridget Ryan. They and their son Edward, and a daughter Mary, are buried in the Old Kiltennel Cemetery under a headstone with the following inscription, still readable today:

Erected by Patrick Breen in memory of his wife Bridget Breen, also Ryan [maiden name], who Departed this life December 29th 1799 aged 73 years also lieth the body of Patrick Breen who Departed this life January the 1st 1802 aged 77 years. Also his son Edwd. Breen who depd August the 9th 1816 aged 50 years. Also Edwd Breens daughter Mary who dept January 2, 1819 aged 23 years. Reqt in Pace. Amen.

Mary’s age should read 26, not 23, a kind of error frequently occurring on records for women approaching the age of what would then be considered spinsterhood. Edward Breen and Mary Wilson had at least nine children, of which Patrick Breen was the oldest son. Father Nicholas Moore, Parish Priest of Borris, recently searched the old register and found the record of baptisms of seven of the nine children.

After the death of Edward in 1816, the land was divided among his widow and her three oldest children, as evidenced from entries on the Tithe Applotment Book, year 1826.

Paid tithes to the Established Church

It is evident that the Breens were, if acreage is an indication, substantial tenant farmers. The land measures were given in Irish acres, roods, and perches. The 161 Irish acres occupied by the widow Breen and her sons in the townlands of Ballonvalley and Barnahasken equalled about 257 English acres, most of it first and second quality and, I presume, tillable. The sum of £4.14.11, which the Breens had to pay annually in tithes to the Established Church of Ireland, equalled what they might have had to pay a landless cottier for five or six months of hired labour.

The head landlord in the civil parish of Kiltennel was the Earl of Courtown. His lands included the Breen leaseholds in Barnahasken and...
Patrick Breen, age thirty-three, sailed for Canada in 1828, perhaps from the port of New Ross in County Wexford. That port had long served the Canadian trade. It was timber into Ireland and passengers out from many small ports, and by 1828 the fare had been considerably reduced to about £1 and much less for children. Margaret Bulger, Patrick’s wife-to-be, emigrated about the same time. The register at Borris notes that she was baptised on March 2, 1806, the daughter of Simon Bulger and Margaret Bulger, no doubt distant cousins, of Rathgeran Townland. Both the Breen and Bulger families attended the Catholic chapel at Ballymurphy. Margaret carried with her to the New World a letter from the priest who served that chapel:

I, John Walsh, Parish Priest of Borris do certify that I know Margaret Bulger the bearer of this letter and of my Parish since she was a child. I never heard or knew any thing of her prejudicial to her character. [I] always esteemed her an honest and well conducted girl. Given at Borris this 5th day of March 1826 [last digit hard to decipher, perhaps 1828].

It was a six-week journey across the ocean. Patrick and his brother William purchased lots in Southwold Township near the village of St. Thomas in southern Ontario. On September 7, 1830, ten residents of that area addressed a petition to Bishop Alexander Macdonnell of Kingston, requesting a resident priest for two hundred Catholic settlers in sixty-seven families. About that time Patrick Breen married Margaret Bulger, and sons John and Edward were born in 1832 and 1833.

**Bible Society meeting ended in riot**

Among the zealous missionaries toiling in the south of Leinster was the Reverend Robert Daly, described by one Protestant historian as the “most narrow-minded, bigoted and intolerant man in the Irish [Anglican] Church” with an “invincible dislike of any man, especially any clergyman, who dissented from his opinions.” In November 1824, the Reverends Daly, Richard Pope, and Edward Wingfield debated four prominent priests at a meeting of the Carlrow Bible Society. The meeting ended in a riot, with the three evangelicals being helped over an eight-foot wall to escape from an angry mob.

Economic pressure must also have weighed heavily on the Breens. Following the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, when continental European markets were again opened for trade, there had been a dramatic fall in grain prices. Landlords were busily consolidating their holdings either by eviction or by not renewing leases as they fell in. Grazing became more profitable than tillage. Protestant as well as Catholic leaseholders were adversely affected, but not necessarily equally. Landlords “imbued with the spirit of the New Reformation,” reports historian Kerby Miller, “or angry at Catholic tenants for opposing their political wishes, discriminated openly against papists when consolidating farms or granting leases.” In Kings (Offaly) County, a tenant said that “a combination headed by some of the local Orange Magistracy forced [him] to fly from Ireland.” The destination of these emigrants in the years before the Great Famine was almost invariably British North America.

The decision of the Breens to emigrate in 1828 came one year before the Emancipation Act, and a few years before the bloody Tithe Wars provoked by the continued evictions of Catholic tenants for non-payment of the tithes.
On October 31, 1846, Breen and Dolan, with their Scottish and perhaps even Polish roots, according born in County Armagh, a Protestant with weaknesses, and starvation, one (perhaps two), killed by other members of the party, and another accidentally shot by his brother-in-law in the act of carelessly handling a loaded pistol. Meanwhile, four men had gone ahead on horseback to California, and it was hoped they would obtain supplies at Sutter's Fort in the Sacramento Valley and return. One of these men, Charles Staunton, had returned with two Sutter's Fort Indians and six mules loaded with provisions, meeting the party as they were ascending the canyon leading to the lake and the high pass. Staunton and the two Indians would soon meet a sad end.

**Were bogged down in heavy snow**

On October 31, 1846, Breen and Dolan, with their wagons, were the first to try the pass, but were bogged down in heavy snow and had to return to the eastern end of the lake, six miles away. They took occupancy of a rude log shelter, about 16 x 24 feet constructed two years previously by members of the Murphy Party. Several other families constructed shelters at campsites nearby. The Donner brothers and their large families, along with several teamsters, trailing behind, were caught in a snowstorm and had to make camp about six miles away at Alder Creek. Another try for the pass was made but was again unsuccessful. The Breen and others returned to the lake in five feet of snow over one hundred miles from Sutter's Fort. At the beginning of the entrapment there were fifty-six persons at the lake camps and twenty-five at Alder Creek, for a total of eighty-one. Only forty-six of them would live to see the California settlements.

The Breen and Dolan settled in for the winter, and they seem to have been more prudent, and even luckier, than other families. They quickly accepted their fate, killed their cattle, horses, and mules, and dried the meat before the animals were breathless and even twenty feet of snow. Other families later probed the deep snow, usually unsuccessfully, for livestock which had wandered off in search of grass and had been buried. The Breen also were careful to hoard what meat they had in favour of eating, first, the hides of the animals. The hairs had to be removed by scorching, after which the hides were boiled for many hours into a gluey mass which some stomachs could not take.

In the Breen cabin were ten souls. Beside Patrick and Margaret Breen and their friend Dolan were the seven Breen children: John (14), Edward (13), Patrick Jr. (11), Simon (9), Peter (7), James (5) and Margaret Isabella (1). In January and February, the Breen in his *Guide to Oregon and California* (1845), but he had travelled the route only on horseback and he vastly underestimated distance and obstacles.

Eighty-seven people and twenty-three wagons

The Donner Party consisted of eighty-seven people with about twenty-three wagons as it crossed the Wasatch Mountains into the valley of the Great Salt Lake. Huge problems ignored by Hastings in his *Guide* were encountered. It took almost three weeks to cut a new trail through the Wasatch. It took almost a week to cross a stretch of seventy-five miles of desert in Utah (Hastings had described it as a 48-hour march). Indians in Nevada, with primitive bows and arrows, maimed their cattle, horses, and mules, or stole off with them in the night. Some livestock just lay down and died of starvation and thirst. Provisions were running low and time was running out if they were to cross the mountains before the first snows. It was already late in October before the company reached Truckee Meadows, now Reno, Nevada. Before they had arrived at Truckee Lake (soon to be called Donner Lake) below the final pass in the High Sierras, five men were dead, three by disease,
The Breen family were the only Catholic family in the Donner Party. In addition to the Reeds, the Breen's took in Augustus Spitzer, a German immigrant, shortly before he died beside their fireplace in early February, 1847.

Patrick Breen made the first entry in his famous diary on November 20 in a little book which he made from eight small sheets of letter paper, trimmed and folded to make a book of thirty-two pages. He filled twenty-nine of these pages with over one hundred entries by the efforts of his numbed fingers.

Friday, Nov. 20th 1846 came to this place on the 31st of last month that it snowed we went on to the pass the snow so deep were unable to find the road, when within 3 miles of the summit then turned back to this shanty on the Lake, Stanton came one day after we arrived here we again took our teams & waggons & made another unsuccessful attempt to cross in company with Stanton we returned to the shanty it continuing to snow all the time we were here we now have killed most part of our cattle having to stay here until next spring & live on poor beef without bread or salt it snowed during the space of eight days with little intermission, after our arrival here, the remainder of time up to this day was clear & pleasant freezing at night the snow nearly gone from the valleys.

"Snows faster than any previous day"

Other entries, always very brief, tell the story of the long ordeal:
Sunday 13th [Dec.] Snows faster than any previous day wind N:W Stanton & Graves with several others making preparations to cross the mountains on snow shoes, snow 8 feet deep on the level [sic].
Thursd. 17th [Dec.] Pleasant sunshine today wind about S.E. Bill Murphy returned from the mountain party last evening Bealis [Baylis Williams, employee of the Reeds] died night before last . . .
Sund. 20 [Dec.] Night clear froze a little now clear & pleasant wind NW thawing a little Mrs. Reid here, no account of Milt [Milford Elliott, a Reed teamster] Dutch Charley [Burger, a Donner teamster] started for Donnghs [Donners] turned back not able to proceed tough times, but Not discouraged our hopes are in God. Amen.
Mond. 21 [Dec.] Milt got back last night from Donos camp sad news. Jake Donno Sam Shoemaker Rinehard & Smith aredead the rest of them in a low situation, snowed all night with a strong S-W wind . . .
Tuesd. 22nd [Dec.] Snowd. all last night Continued to snow all day with some few intermissions had a severe fit of the gravel [kidney stones] yesterday I am well to day, Praise be to the God of Heaven.
Wend. 23rd [Dec.] Snowd. a little last night clear to day & thawing a little . . .

began this day to read the Thirty days prayer, may Almighty God grant the request of an unworthy sinner that I am. Amen.

The entries continue almost daily through January and February, with reports of sickness and death and burials in the snow, difficulties in obtaining kindling wood and food for some families, and always the weather. On February 26 Breen noted talk of cannibalism for the first time:
Frid 26th [Feb.] . . . Marthas [Martha, known as "Patty," Reed] jaw swelled with plenty hides but the folks will not eat them we eat them with a tolerable good apetite. Thanks be the toothache; hungry times in camp, to Almighty God. Amen. Mrs. Murphy [Lavinia Murphy, a widow with seven children] said here yesterday that [she] thought she would commence on Milt [Elliott] and eat him. I dont [think] that she has done so yet, it is distressing. The Donnos told the California folks [members of first relief party] that they [would] commence to eat the dead people 4 days ago, if they did not succeed that day or next in finding their cattle then under ten or twelve feet of snow & did not know the spot or near it, I suppose they have done so ere this time.

On February 27 Breen noted a "beautiful
morning sun shining brilliantly” and, as a first sign of spring, “heard some geese fly over last night...” On the 3rd of March, Breen’s last diary entry reads:

... there has 10 men arrived this morning from Bear Valley with provisions we are to start in two or three days & cash [cache] our goods here there is amongst them some old [mountaineers?] they say the snow will be here until June.

The ten men were members of the third of four relief parties that brought out surviving emigrants in February, March, and early April. The first of the emigrants to reach the valley did, however, bring themselves out, as survivors of what came to be known as the Snowshoe Party. They numbered fifteen, ten men and five women. Equipped with snowshoes and six days’ rations, they left the high camp on December 15, got lost on the trail, and took thirty days to reach the first settlement. All five women survived, but only two of the men, William Eddy and William Foster. To do so they had consumed the bodies of seven of the eight dead. One of them was Patrick Dolan, who received the unwanted distinction of being the first person cannibalised by Donner company members. Two others were the Sutter’s Fort Indians, whose deaths were hastened a little bit when Foster or Eddy shot them through the head when they were gathering acorns.

The first relief party led out eighteen emigrants in late February, two of them being Edward and Simon Breen. Eighteen survived the seventy-mile journey, two children and one adult dying en route.

Entertained the party with fiddle-playing

The second relief party of seven men in early March left the high camps with another seventeen survivors, including Patrick and Margaret Breen and five of their children. Three relievers were sent ahead to bring back food at a cache. Things went well the first two nights on the trail. Patrick Breen even entertained the party with his fiddle-playing around the campfire. But on the third night, a terrible storm began. It raged for three days. Before it was over, Isaac Donner, age five, was dead.

The four relief party members — James Frazier Reed, Hiram O. Miller, William McCutchen, and Brit Greenwood — took with them from Starved Camp only three children, and two of them were Reed’s own. It was not a magnificent performance, considering that the first rescue party had brought eighteen people safely to the valley). The Breen had refused the invitation to accompany the weakened rescuers any further, figuring it was no better to die at what came to be known as Starved Camp than on the trail; it would be better to take their chances that another rescue party would arrive soon with food. Besides, it would mean leaving the weak behind. Margaret Breen was the strongest of the thirteen and would have had to carry her year-old infant, leaving her other children to their own devices. Her husband was very weak, as was her oldest son, John. She was not about to leave her husband and family to certain death, not to mention the Graveses and the Donner child. So, the rescuers left behind the seven Breens, Mrs. Graves and her four small children, and little Mary Donner, age seven. They left some firewood but no food.

Ate human flesh for the first time

Mrs. Graves and her five-year-old son died the first night after the rescuers had abandoned them. The emigrants were to spend another four nights in the pit created by the fire, which gradually descended to earth level, over twenty feet below the surface of the snow. Margaret Breen held her own infant at her breast that had long before ceased to produce milk, and gave what comfort she could to the one-year-old Graves infant and the other children. Without food, save for a few seeds, some tea and coffee, and a one-pound ball of sugar that Margaret Breen had stashed on her person, the Breen ate human flesh for the first time, after the Donner girl, who had eaten of her uncle and her father’s bodies at Alder Creek, had innocently suggested doing so. The starved bodies of Mrs. Graves, her dead child, and Isaac Dormer were quickly consumed, giving the survivors the strength to be led out by a member of the third rescue party, a giant of a man named John Stark who took the responsibility for nine of the eleven survivors.

Of eighty-one persons — twenty-five men, fifteen women, and forty-one children — who were entrapped at the high camps, over two-thirds of the men perished, and most of them died during the first two months of the ordeal. The adult men travelling without family tended to perish first, only two of nineteen surviving (Noah James and John Baptiste, both Donner employees). About one-third of the children died, mostly in the beginning and middle of the entrapment, and boys in the highest ratio, about one-fourth of the women died, mostly toward the end of the tragedy.

The Breens settled in San Juan Bautista with the encouragement of Father Jose Anzar, who gave Patrick Breen the use of the Mission orchard, in run-down condition. The priest also introduced the Breens to General Jose Maria Castro, once head of the Mexican Military District. (California had been conquered by United States forces during the time the Donner Party had crossed from Missouri). Castro kindly gave the Breens the use of a two-story abode house he owned but used only occasionally. All of the Breens quickly became fluent in Spanish, the language of all of the residents of San Juan before they arrived. In 1849 Patrick Breen purchased the abode from Castro with money his oldest son, John, had made in the gold fields, and also 401 acres adjoining the Mission. The house unofficially became “The Inn” as it was opened to wayfarers needing lodging for the night on their way to the Mother Lode. Another son, William Breen, was born in 1849.

By 1850, Patrick had 29 milk cows, 6 saddle horses, 30 “wild cattle,” 30 sheep, and 4 hogs on his 401 acres. By 1854, his livestock had increased to...
Gift of cross and bell for Ballymurphy chapel

Widow Margaret Breen received an interesting letter from Father P. Carey, Parish Priest of Borris, dated December 30, 1869, in which the priest thanked her for a gift of £9 towards the erection of a belfry and bell and also a Cross for her native chapel at Ballymurphy. After giving some details on the present chapel, on the total cost of the new additions (£200), including £60 for the bell of seven cwt to be constructed in Dublin, and mentioning that the congregation had already raised £60), the priest wrote: “I announced from the pulpit in Ballymurphy where you have so many relatives, your generous donation, that came 3,500 miles across the Continent of America and 3,500 miles across the Atlantic and asked the Congregation’s fervent prayers for your family and also for your deceased husband... I have said the number of Masses I promised and everyday I make a memento for you at the altar.”

Margaret Bulger Breen died six years after her husband. Both are buried on a hill in the district cemetery a short distance from the old Mission at San Juan. The Breen children fared well.

“May you forever be touched by loving hands”

It is fitting to end with reference to the scene which began it. At Starved Camp where the Breen’s were huddled in that pit as the storm raged about them, the old Irish blessing “May the wind be at your back” took on an ironic meaning. A more appropriate blessing for Patrick and Margaret Breen might be, “May your ears be forever filled with the sweetest of music,” much as Patrick uplifted the spirits of his family and companions with his fiddle-playing during these terrible days of entrapment and who put hope in despairing hearts every evening by firelight with the Thirty Days’ Prayer to his Maker. And a special blessing for Margaret Breen might be, “May you forever be touched by loving hands,” much as Margaret gave the warmth of her touch to the infants and other children during the ordeal at the shanty near the lake and at Starved Camp. Without her strength and willpower and love, all would have perished. But they endured, a testimony to human nobility and the triumph of human beings have ever had to endure. Patrick and Margaret Breen of County Carlow are among the brightest of heroes of the Donner Party. Requiescant in pace.

In 1880, the historian of the Donner Party, C. F. McGlashan, wrote that Breen was “a man of more than ordinary intelligence... his life furnishes a rare type of the pioneer Californian.”

The last straw?

Continued from page 3

chairs used to be made from plaited rushes.

The advent of relatively cheap mass produced chairs, wooden rather than straw beehives and machine threshing and binding of straw have all contributed to the decline in the craft of straw work. Add to this the fragility of these objects and it becomes clear why so few have survived except as memories.

The author, whose book on Irish Vernacular Furniture is near completion, is keen to hear from anyone who remembers such straw chairs or bosses. Any information about their makers, costs, regional variations in design and use would be welcomed and acknowledged accordingly. Perhaps readers might even know the whereabouts of such a chair, stool or cradle preserved in an attic or outhouse, which could still be photographed. Please write to Claudia Kinmonth, 36 Kelfield Gardens, London W10 6NB, or to her, care of Dr. A. O’Sullivan, The Irish Agricultural Museum, Johnstown Castle, Wexford, County Wexford.

Main Documentary Sources:
F. Alston, Sheps, their History, Making and Use (Yorkshire, 1987).
W. Carleton, Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry (Dublin, 1835).

Glossary

seas = bench in hayride, or seat in a boat.
suidhe = seat (verb).
suidhiste = seat.
suidhisteín = seat (diminutive).
suidhisteóg = is a straw mat also.
saoistín or saoisteog are alternative spellings.
T is a great honour to be asked to give the ‘Sean O’Leary Memorial Lecture’. Those of you who are members of the Old Carlow Society will have your own fond memories of a kindly and widely respected gentleman, who was one of your highly efficient officers over many years of dedicated service.

My memories of Mr. O’Leary are those of the schoolboy for a beloved master. For I was one of hundreds of boys who were privileged to have been taught by him during his half-a-century or so of teaching in Graiguecullen Boys’ School.

There is no way of measuring the debt which the whole parish community and beyond owes to such a man and such a career. What he gave to individual boys like myself was priceless and can never be repaid.

“Few taught as effectively”

During many years now of education at primary, secondary and university level I have had a number of great teachers and I have worked with many more. If I were asked to name the best teacher that I have met in all that time, it would be a very difficult task, for teachers are good for many different reasons and by many different standards. But by any standards that I can think of, the name of Sean O’Leary who taught me during my last few years in the primary school would keep on surfacing to the top. Of course I have met in the community and beyond owes to him during his half-a-century or so of teaching in Graiguecullen Boys’ School.

He was remembered for his gentleness. At a time when corporal punishment was the order of the day in our school, he rarely used the cane. And when he did I can still hear him say: ‘This takes more out of me than out of you’, and I believe he really meant it. His ‘aha’ as he brought the cane down with mock force was remembered by us hardy lads from Graigue but the slap itself was hardly felt at all.

Deep interest in all his boys

He had a deep interest in all his boys and a concern for their welfare. I can still taste the ham and mustard sandwiches which were left over from an INTO dance in the town which he procured as a treat for his boys in Graigue — the Berks as he sometimes jokingly called us.

His endless good humour was another of his class-room characteristics. His sense of boyish fun made him acceptable as though he was one of the lads himself. He enjoyed nicknames and christened half the boys of Graiguecullen with those nicknames by which they were ever afterwards best known.

I believe his contribution to Graiguecullen football during its years of glory was as important as the contribution made by some of our most famous players. He encouraged us to finish every job we took on and he held up the best of models to use: ‘Come on’, he was fond of saying, ‘let’s have a Kerry finish’.

He instilled in us a great pride of place. He reminded us that we lived in a vastly rich historical environment in the parish of Gleann Oisin, with Mt. Leinster on our horizon and the very names of the little streets in which we lived full of history — Castle View, St. Fiac’s Terrace, Sleatty St., ’98 Street and the Croppy Hole with its three majestic trees in the centre called Allen, Larkin and O’Brien.

The scar from a cut on my knee which I got from barbed wire near the Croppy Hole I still have some 50 or more years later. I like to think that the stamp which Sean O’Leary gave to my young mind has never worn away ever.

In Mr. O’Leary’s classes we lived again with Oisin and the Fianna on the slopes of Killeshin. With the O’Moore of Laois or Fiach Mac Hugh O’Byrne we planned to invade the Pale and seize Carlow Castle. We fought and died in Tullow St. with the ’98 rebels and were buried in the Croppy Hole. Behind Fr. James Maher P.P. of Carlow-Graigue we marched to O’Connell’s monster meetings, or we brought the cholera victims of the Great Famine across the Barrow to the mass grave.

We lived our history

Thorough Sean’s own enthusiasm we lived our history. And we sang it, too, in all the many great ballads of ’98, ’48 and ’67 which we learned around his blackboard. For Sean knew that history

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...to make Irish History familiar to the minds, pleasant to the ears, dear to the passions and powerful over the taste and conduct of the Irish people... to give to the imagination the arms and homes, and senates and battles of other days... and to set up in our souls the memory of great men, who shall then be as models and judges of our action — these are best taught by a Ballad History".

Continued page 11
RECENT events in the Soviet Union call to mind a visit I made to Russia before the advent of Glasnost.

During the days which followed the recent coup the Television screens showed scenes of people described as “attacking statues of Lenin” etc.

Viewers who watched carefully would have seen the people take down the statue of Feliks Dzierzynski from outside KGB headquarters and the Lubianka Prison. They did not tear the statues down, they were not blasted with explosives, care was taken not to damage them.

Recognised as part of their history

Given the fear and hatred that the KGB inspired in previous times it might have been understandable had these symbols of oppression been irreparably damaged and consigned to the rubbish heap. But this did not happen.

The statues and the people they represent were recognised as part of their history and as one Russian commented “we cannot pretend that they did not exist.”

The Russian people that I spoke to, knew of Ireland as an ancient country with a long history and tradition of civilisation. The respect for Irish people was in stark contrast to their attitude toward other nationals notably Australians and Americans who are not held in the same esteem by the Russian people.

They talked about the ancient castles and monuments and ruins of Ireland amazed at a nation so rich in tradition that old buildings are pulled down or allowed to decay. That is not the Russian way.

Their respect for their heritage is so great that teams of restorers are continually at work restoring and protecting buildings. Their statues are covered by wooden boxes to protect them from the snow and ice of winter.

The Chairman outside the Winter palace at Pedravorets on the frozen gulf of Finland.

In our own small way the Old Carlow Society seeks to foster a similar respect for the antiquities of Carlow. Some years ago Wakeman’s Archaeologia Hibernica commented on the vandalism that destroyed various aspects of the Church at Killeshin. Things have not changed. The recent deplorable vandalism of the Kavanagh tomb in St. Mullins show the need for our members to foster respect for things ancient and cultural in our county. The Russians need our help but we have a lot to learn from them.

The Skibereen Eagle had its eye on the Tsar of Russia: We were there.

May I extend my thanks to the officers and members of the society for their help and support throughout the year and take this opportunity to wish all our readers a joyous and happy Christmas.

Das Vadanya,
Martin Nevin,
Chairman.

Continued from page 10

The words of Francis Thompson apply very aptly to Sean O’Leary – the great teacher:

Then, as you search with unaccustomed glance
The ranks of Paradise for my countenance
Among the bearded counsellors of God;
For if in Eden as on earth are we
I sure shall keep a younger company

Sean O’Leary Memorial Lecture

Look for me in the nurseries of Heaven.

In Sean’s case, however, he will be found, in one of the classrooms of Heaven from which will be coming the sounds of an Irish historical ballad sung by a male-voice choir of the hosts of Graigue Bays, many of whom had preceded the old master himself, and who had found their way there because of his early guidance.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dílis.
The records of early Irish court cases deposited in Dublin Castle in the sixteenth century contain information on proceedings in the court of Justiciar of Ireland. This court presided over by the Custos of Ireland sat at Welles, Co. Carlow on Wednesday 13th July, in the year 1295.

13th Century Law in Carlow
By Michael J. Farry
Lecturer in Law, Austin Waldron R.T.C., Carlow

The court of Justiciar was the Irish equivalent of the English Curia Regis (The King’s Court). The chief Justiciarius of England presided in the King’s court and was vice regent in the absence of the King. In Ireland a similar capitalis justiciarius presided over the Irish supreme court and was Vice-Regent of the country.

The justiciar travelled on circuit to hear pleas but because the office was vacant at the time, Thomas, son of Maurice, the head of the Munster Geraldines who was created Custos of Ireland (temporary justiciar) presided over the court at Welles on Wednesday before the feast of St. Margaret, 1295.

There were two interesting cases tried that day. The first case concerns a debt due to a Florentine merchant. The debt was acknowledged as being due and agreed to be paid for by transferring crops and cattle in Co. Cork.

The records state: “Lopo Tynache, merchant of Florence complains of Patrik Ralph, Patrik Thomas from and Patrik, Ralph junior. Peter Lopin and Rycher Ferman of Co. Katurlach for the goods of theirs to the value of 100 1. should have been taken into the King’s hand by writ of the Exchequer, until they should come to the Exchequer to answer for a debt of 1741. 5s. 10d. of the one past and 311. 5s. 10d. and 100 crannoes of wheat and oats in the other.”

Acknowledged debt to merchants of Florence

Although the debt was acknowledged as due there appears to have been a dispute as to who would pay it. Afterwards one of the defendants Lopin give half a mark for licence to agree by pledge of Ralph and the others who ought to pay. Patrik Ralph and Patrik Thomas acknowledged themselves bound to Lopo Tynache, and their fellows, merchants of Florence in 54 marks 10s. 8d. for which they gave Lopo the whole crop (vesture) of their land in Co. Cork and all cattle there. If those did not amount to the required value, they were to pay the rest of the debt in money.

They are to put Lopin in prison before the assumption of B.V.M. next.

The case gives no indication of how the debt was accrued. It could indicate that people in Carlow were engaged in trading with merchants in Florence but it is more likely to have arisen from a money lending transaction.

In 1305 foreign traders were granted licences to trade in Ireland by the King. These included the Spini, Alemanni, de Castyloun and Frescobaldi families of Florence. Merchants and moneylenders, they imported wine, silks, spices, salt, etc and they exported wool and hides. The Frescobaldi family are to day among the richest in Italy.

Abbot of Duisk in debt to moneylender

Their moneylending is illustrated by a transaction recorded on 27 January 1305 in which the Abbot of Duisk obtained 70 marks from a moneylender to pay the Papal Tenth being collected by the Bishop of Meath. In return the Abbot transferred land in Fethard to the money lender for 20 years.

Jan 27, 1305 John de Fresingfeud acknowledged that the Abbot of Dowysky (Duiske) demised to him the grange called Batesgrange in Fethard, for 20 years from Christmas provided that John would hold the grange for life, the Abbot to enter and add it after 20 years completed. Besides this he will aquit the Abbot against the Bishop of Meath and Dean of St. Patrick, Dublin, collectors of the Papal Tenth, of 70 marks for the issue of the grange for said 20 years.

The King also found the presence of the Florentine traders useful when there was no money in the treasury.

On Dec. 14, 1305 the Justiciar, by writ of the King “because the King’s treasure did not suffice to pay the wages of the men at arms crossing from Ireland into Scotland for the King’s war there took from the merchants names 185l. of sterling which he delivered to the exchequer of Dublin. He took 865l. 18s 1ld of pollands and delivered them to the merchants of the society of the Frescoboldi in Ireland for 400l. which he delivered to the exchequer to pay said wages.”
(This was King Edward's expedition) Cusack, (The Illustrated History of Ireland, Kenmare, 1868 at page 338) points out that “The crown revenues and customs were frequently pawned out to associations of Italian moneylenders; and the ‘Ricardi’ of Lucca, and ‘Frescobaldi’ of Florence, had agents in the principal towns in Ireland.”

The Second case, a criminal assault where the defendant made an unsuccessful plea about the writ system. A witness testified that he had committed the assault. Two persons went bail for him but ultimately he was found guilty and sent to prison in Dublin Castle.

“Had to fly to the church of Lechlyn”

“John, son of Gilbert complains of Nicholas Cheucre, that when he was in the King’s peace, in the Highway (regia strata) at Lechlyn on Monday before the feast of Nat. S.J.B. Nicholas assaulted him, so that he had to fly to the church of Lechlyn until help came to him.

Nicholas says he is not bound to answer this complaint without a writ, because a writ in Chancery lies for this. He says moreover that he never assaulted John and puts himself on the country.

Jury says that Nicholas assaulted John against the peace; therefore let them be committed to prison. Afterwards Regin de Lynet of Co. Katterlac and John Haket of Co. Tipperary became pledges for Nicholas to satisfy the king at the next coming of the Custos to those parts, or to have his body; also to John as shall be just, and to make security of peace to him and his. Afterwards he came to Lechlyn on Monday before the feast of St. Martin, and is sent to Dublin to prison of the Castle there.”

Another case was a dispute over land. Involved a false claim made by a desperate widow.

English controlled ten counties

“Margery, widow of William, Senekyl complains of Maurice, son of Adam sergeant of the King in the Cross of Leighlin, that where as William her late husband held to farm 3 acres of land in Hannonston, and 6 acres in Welles and bequeated said land to Margery in discharge of his debts; Maurice took the farm(firma) which ought to have remained to her for 7 years.

Maurice says that he did not take the farm unjustly or on his own authority, but Hammond Cheucre gave him 3 acres to farm and Simon Madok 6 acres.

The jury found against Margery and “Margery mercy for false claim is pardoned because she is poor.”

The Cross of Leighlin is often mentioned in reports of the time. It was not a cross in the monumental sense but rather a term used to denote land held by the Church or religious communities. The English controlled only ten counties and the Liberties. Carlow and Kilkenny were Liberties under the control of important Lords. Cusack refers to them as absolute palatines who exercised high justice within their territory and erected their own courts.

The Kings writ did not run within these territories except in church lands called the “Cross” where the King appointed a sheriff. There were thus two sheriffs one of the “Cross” and another of the Liberty. The nobility did not want the benefits of English Law extended to the native Irish because it would have restricted their activities and meant sharing their wealth with the crown. An Englishman could not be subject to Brehon or Irish law, and Irishmen did not have a right to appeal to an English judge.

Four years later a case of assault was heard by Richard de Burgo Earl of Ulster, locum tenens of John Wogan, Chief Justiciar on the 3 Nov. 1299 at Cassell.

Arnold Doneden by his attorney appears against master Jordan de Kildenen and Nickolas’s son, of a plea that they assaulted and wounded him at Lechlyn, and took the goods to the value of 40s to his damage of 20l. They do not come.

And the sheriff returns that master Jordan was attacked by Richard Aylmer and Nickolas son of Philip, who now have him not: therefore let them be in mercy.

The sheriff is commanded to distrain him by all his lands and have him on the quinzaine of S. Hilary. As to Nickolas, the sheriff says he is not found, nor has he anything. He is commanded to take and have him at said term.”
A Tale of Two Bishops

Michael J. Farr
Lecturer in Law, Austin Waldron R.T.C., Carlow

Two Bishops figure prominently in the early Irish Justiciar Rolls involving Leighlin. Bishop Nicholas in 1297 and Bishop William in 1305.

Bishops and clerics at that time were often political appointees, who occupied these positions as a source of livelihood. In most cases they were not Irish and were not renowned for their moral standards.

The Justiciary Rolls for the 6th of March 1305 at Carlow before Edmund Le Botiller, Custos of Ireland record an attack on the Bishop of Ossory and his retinue.

The sequence of events which led to the attack and the later court proceedings are reminiscent of tales of Robin Hood and Sherwood forest.

The Bishop complained that on the previous Sunday while en route to “Tristledermot” on the affairs of his church, he was attacked by the Provost (Thomas le Chapman) and people of New Leghelyn in the King’s street and beaten and wounded.

Struck dog with spear

The jury found that “When the Bishop on the said Sunday passed through the said town of Leghelyn, it happened that Simon Purcel, one of his valets, rode at a distance after the Bishop, and a dog of one Ralph le Tannere, a man of the town, coming out of his master’s house attacked the servingman (garcio) of Simon and tore his clothes, on which the serving-man with his spear struck the dog.

Which Ralph, being in the house from which the dog issued, seeing, taking a short stick, went out of the house, and threw it at the servingman, stricking him on the neck, from which he fell to the ground, his face being badly wounded.

Simon and one Robert de Raceford, one of the Bishop’s valets, seeing this rode towards Ralph threatening him for that blow. Ralph for fear of them entered his house and shut the door. Simon and Robert alighting (from their horses) tried to break the door (of the house) to take vengeance on Ralph.

But Ralph going into his yard by another door came into the street, and he and his wife raised hue-and-cry.

On which William son of Geoffrey Cachpol, and others (except Thomas le Chapman, Edmund de Valle, Adam Gregol and Oliver Dayncourt) and their households, men and women, came out with arms and stones, attacking Simon and Robert.

The Bishop being in the outlet of the town perceiving this,

*This issue of Carloviana makes a little bit of history in publishing its first example of Computer Art. The illustration of St. Laserian’s Cathedral was executed on a computer by O.C.S. Chairman Martin Nevin.
peacefully returned, and gave as 
is customery the benediction, 
asking those assembled to cease 
from doing evil to his men, and 
pledging himself to make 
satisfaction immediately for any 
trespasses done by his men to 
each person of the town. 

But they, not accepting his 
request, although often made, 
surrounding the Bishop, and 
Simon, Robert, and his other 
valets and servants, attacked 
them on every side; so that in the 
conflict a stone was thrown at 
the Bishop and one of his valets.

Michael de la Lyserne, was 
struck almost to death, so that 
his life is despaired of, and it is 
believed that he will die within 
three days, and Robert de 
Racheford was badly wounded 
with an arrow”.

The Jury found Thomas 
Chapman and Ric. Clement not 
guilty (they said that they were 
not present), but their wives and 
families were. And of said 
Edmund, Adam Gregori and 
Oliver, they say that they were 
not guilty.

The judgment given in the 
case was that “the Bishop 
recover against Thomas and the 
others convicted his damages 
taxed at a 100 marks, and 
William, son of Geoffrey 
Cachpol, and others convicted 
be committed to gaol, and 
Thomas Chapman and Ric. 
Clement, whose families were 
participants, be guarded. 
Edmund de Valle, Adam Gregori 
and Oliver Dyencourt go quit”.

Bishop Nickolas 
of Leighlin

Bishop Nickolas of Leighlin 
came before the courts some six 
years earlier on a number of 
occasions. He appears to have 
been a fearless type of person. In 
1295 he was arrested and 
charged with harbouring felons. 
Later in 1297 he went bail for two 
accused persons.

The events which occurred 
after his death afford us some 
insight into the calibre and 
character of those who occupied 
clerical office at the time. 

On Oct. 18th 1295 the Sheriff 
of Dublin was directed to take 
into the Kings hand (to take 
control of) the temporalties of 
Bishop Nickolas of Lechlin 
because he was charged with 
recent harbouring of felons. 

On the 8th November 1295 The 
Chancellor was commanded to 
write to Walter Purcel, Knight of 
the custody of the Cross of 
Lechlin, “to fight and take the 
enemy of the King until the next 
parliament of the King of 
Kilkenny.

Bishop Nickolas was directed 
(because he was indicted of some 
heavy charges) “not to go 
outside the walls of Waterford 
city, but to be there as if 
imprisoned and that his 
temporalties remain in the 
Kings hands. He is to do this 
under pain of forfeiture of all his 
temporalties”.

On the 9th Dec. 1295 he was 
released.

Walter de la Haye was 
“commanded to deliver by 
sufficient mainprise, Nickolas 
Bishop of Lechlin, arrested at 
Waterford by precept of the 
Custos of and to replevy the 
Bishop's goods and lands taken 
to the King’s hands”.

On the 22nd Sept. 1297 
Nickolas, Bishop of Leighlin 
went bail for Pt. Cheurce and 
Geoffrey Cheurce who were 
remanded in the prison of 
Dongarvan.

29th Dec. 1310 John Chevers, 
Dean of Leighlin, and master 
Ralph le Brun, Archdeacon of 
the same, charged that after the 
death of Bishop Nickolas they 
retained the Seal and sealed 
letters relieving Chevers from 
rent that he owed and giving 
profits to the archdeacon.

This photograph was taken on the occasion of the opening of St. Fiacc's Terrace, Graiguecullen, 
Carlow, in 1934. Included (from left) are: Mr. Sean T. O Ceallaigh, then Minister for Local 
Government and subsequently President of Ireland; Dr. Matthew Cullen, Bishop of Kildare and 
Leighlin; Fr. T. H. Burbage, PP, Tinryland; Fr. E. I. Campion, CC, Graiguecullen; Mr. Michael Clarke, 
UDC, and Mr. J. Cuddy, chairman of Carlow UDC.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. R. Dunne.
For the last few years *Carloviana* has been recording newly discovered items of antiquity within the County Carlow, but this year we have the sad duty to record the disappearance of an artefact.

During the year it was reported that portion of the arch of the south doorway of Cloydagh Church with its sculptured "head" was missing.

The ruins of this ancient church are situated at Clongrennan in the parish of Leighlin. This living belonged to the Augustinian Priory of Great Connell, Co. Kildare, according to a grant dated 1603.*

*Collections of Kildare and Leighlin by Bishop Comerford*  
*Photo: W. Kis (1984)*
HIGH CROSS AT ST. MULLINS, CO. CARLOW

The representation (right) is a reconstruction of the cross by Margaret Stokes and is reproduced by kind permission, from AN INTRODUCTION TO IRISH HIGH CROSSES by Hilary Richardson and John Scarry, published by The Mercier Press, 4 Bridge Street, Cork.

Rev. J. F. M. Ffrench, M.R.I.A., in his article on St. Mullins in the journal of the Royal Society of Antiquities of Ireland, vol. XXII, 1892, describes the cross as follows:

"The stone cross which is at the east end of the largest of the churches has a stunted appearance that leaves little doubt that a considerable portion of the shaft has been broken off and lost. On it there is in low relief a representation of the Saviour crucified, with extended arms, clothed almost down to the feet. There are also the remains of six other figures depicted on the cross; three over the Saviour's head; two on a small panel beneath his feet, and one at either side towards the termination of the arms of the cross. These figures have been much injured and defaced; the sides of the cross are decorated with a kind of lozenge-pattern, and some quaint markings adorn its base."

The details of the cross are now, 1991, barely discernible. The photograph below was taken in 1983.
This report concerns a brief programme of field walking to locate stone-age sites in the lower Burrin River Valley, near Carlow Town, carried out between November, 1990, and May, 1991. The project was an outgrowth of the Bally Lough Project directed by Drs. Marek Zvelebil (University of Sheffield) and Stan Green (University of South Carolina) (Zvelebil et al 1987). While the Zvelebil-Green project is aimed primarily at locating prehistoric sites on the floor of the River Barrow, where they may be partly buried and preserved by alluvium, the Burrin River programme aimed to survey in detail a smaller tributary valley, including its upland flanks, in order to map the distribution of surface scatters of prehistoric artifacts, and thereby to sketch out patterns of prehistoric land use in different environmental zones. Approximately 15 days was spent in field walking between November, 1990, and May, 1991, as an initial exploratory step, and a kind of feasibility study, in what it is hoped will be a long-term project in this part of County Carlow and adjacent County Wicklow.

The area surveyed lies on the south-eastern outskirts of Carlow Town, in the Townlands of Carlow, Quinagh, Ballinacarrig and Monacurragh (Fig. 1). The primary focus of interest was the identification of artifact scatters relating to the Mesolithic period, of approximately 9000 to 5000 years ago, relating to the earliest human inhabitants of Ireland.

Early Irish prehistory

While there is archaeological evidence to show that Great Britain was occupied, probably intermittently, since the Lower Palaeolithic period, perhaps as long as a half a million years ago, there is no convincing evidence that people lived in Ireland until after the end of the ice age, about 9000 years ago. During the Pleistocene, the era of the great ice ages, the geography of northwestern Europe underwent several cycles of dramatic changes. During periods of glacial advance, not only was the northern part of Europe covered with ice, but sea levels worldwide dropped as a result of the vast amounts of water that were locked up in the glaciers rather than recycled back into the ocean basins. Thus, for long periods
During the Pleistocene, the North Sea was a low, marshy plain, and Britain was connected to the rest of Europe by stretches of dry land.

It appears, however, as though Ireland remained relatively inaccessible during these times, largely because most of the country, like the dry Irish sea bed connecting it to Britain, was ice-covered. The extreme south of Ireland, that was probably ice-free, was probably still separated from Britain by a channel, and thus not reachable by people lacking sea-going water craft. In the intervening ‘inter-glacial’ periods, when the glaciers temporarily melted leaving the land inhabitable, the sea levels rose again, isolating both Britain and Ireland as islands.

Thus, the colonisation of Ireland on any significant scale was probably not feasible until the invention and widespread use of efficient boats, which may not have been until after the end of the Pleistocene about 10,000 years ago. This is the beginning of the era of prehistory known as the Mesolithic, which throughout much of Eurasia is marked archaeologically by the widespread use of very small stone tools known as microblades. These were made in a wide variety of forms by retouching sections of microblades struck from prepared cores of flint. Mesolithic sites are common in Atlantic Europe, including the British Isles, and in conformity with our expectations, they also occur in Ireland.

Probably the best known Mesolithic site in Ireland is at Mt. Sandel, on the River Bann just south of Coleraine (Woodman 1985). The evidence excavated from this site allows a rare and vivid glimpse of the lives of the earliest settlers in Ireland. It appears that a group of Mesolithic foragers occupied the site for a substantial portion of the year, living in small dwellings made of bark or hide-covered saplings. The surviving dietary evidence included the bones of wild pig and several kinds of fish, as well as charred hazel nuts and fruits. The age of the site is indicated by several radiocarbon dates between 8500 and 9000 years ago. Other Mesolithic sites of comparable age are known from several parts of the country, including Lough Boora in the midlands (Ryan 1980). At present, no Mesolithic sites of this age are known from the Carlow/Wicklow area.

About 8000 years ago, the Mesolithic culture in Ireland underwent a quite dramatic change in stone technology that sets it apart from the rest of Europe. While other Mesolithic groups continued to use microlithic tools, the Irish Mesolithic changed to a large-bladed industry. Typical artifacts of this later Mesolithic are broad, triangular or ovate flakes or blades, with retouching along the edges (Woodman 1978).

There is no satisfactory explanation of why this change took place, nor of why Ireland should have been so distinctive at this time. However, it is generally felt that it has something to do with increasing isolation from Britain and the continent, and the development of an idiosyncratic and strictly ‘local’ lithic technology. Characteristic later Mesolithic artifacts are known from most parts of Ireland, including the River Barrow. The National Museum in Dublin has late Mesolithic specimens collected from Castlereban in Co. Kildare, and Moyle in Co. Carlow, to name only two.

In general, the Mesolithic occupants of Ireland are characterised as being heavily dependent on the fish resources of major rivers and post-glacial lakes, as well as wild plant foods (O’Kelly 1989). Because of the early isolation of Ireland from Great Britain in the post-glacial era, only a limited number of terrestrial species were able to colonise the country (Mitchell 1987). As a result, the wild resources of Ireland, upon which a society of hunters and foragers might subsist, were somewhat impoverished relative to the rest of Europe.

**The River Burrin survey**

Background: The field walking survey of the lower part of the River Burrin, just east of Carlow Town, was undertaken to investigate some specific problems relating to the Mesolithic period in this part of the country. First, information on the distribution of Mesolithic artifacts in this area was sparse, and it was necessary to acquire some more systematic information about the density of Mesolithic settlement. Second, although late Mesolithic artifacts had been found in the Carlow area, there was no indication of an early Mesolithic occupation, and I wanted to see whether this reflected the real situation.

Third, Mesolithic settlement is generally considered to be concentrated along major river valleys, and to be sparse to non-existent in areas away from these rivers. By contrast, settlements of the later Neolithic period, following the introduction of farming after about 4000 B.C.,...
appear to be more common in upland areas on lighter soils. However, systematic search for Mesolithic sites has been generally restricted to river valleys, and so it may be that upland Mesolithic sites have simply escaped notice. So, one reason for beginning a survey of the River Burrin is that it leads up out of the Barrow valley into the surrounding uplands, and can thus serve as a convenient unit for searching both river bottom and upland areas.

Another problem of interest in the consideration of the Irish Mesolithic is the question of the kinds of changes that took place at the end of the Mesolithic and the beginning of the Neolithic in the 4th millennium B.C., with the introduction of farming. Although it is generally acknowledged that there were substantial changes in subsistence and in the nature of settlements, there is still a great deal to learn about the precise nature of those changes, and the reasons for them. It was hoped that some information relevant to this issue could be derived from comparing the distribution of Mesolithic and Neolithic artifact scatters along the River Burrin.

Results: Fig. 1 shows the fields that were walked over a total of about 15 days. Twenty ploughed fields were walked, by one person, using a walking interval of 5 metres to provide 50 per cent coverage of each field. In 13 of the fields, lithic artifacts relating to either Mesolithic or Neolithic periods were recovered.

Eight of the lithic scatters are assigned to the Mesolithic period, by virtue of producing characteristic retouched flake or blade artifacts (Fig. 2). These artifacts are made of dark grey to black chert, and range from minimally retouched flakes and blades, to more extensively retouched end-of-blade scrapers (Fig. 3). Most of these Mesolithic artifacts are located on the floor of the Burrin valley, with the exception of one substantial cluster of artifacts, and two other isolated artifacts, located on hills above the valley floor, at elevations of about 200.’

Most of the Mesolithic artifact scatters consist of one or two isolated artifacts in a field (Fig. 4). These occurrences may be indicative of low intensity resource gathering activities. There are two more substantial cluster of artifacts that probably represent different kinds of activities, and may be the traces of camp sites. One is close to the bank of the river, and the other is the previously noted site on the hill above the valley.

Mesolithic artifacts occurring on the floor of the valley tended to be located on raised knolls of glacial till, rather than on river alluvium (Fig. 5). This might suggest the selection of relatively high and dry ground for locations of settlement, or it may mean that the alluvium is of relatively recent origin, and that much of the Mesolithic landscape lies buried beneath it.

Relatively few occurrences of Neolithic artifacts were noted in the survey area. Two isolated artifacts of flint were recovered from areas of light-textured soil on the floor of the valley, and two clusters of three or more items occurred on light soils above the valley floor (Fig. 6). In addition, evidence of what may be a ploughed-out monument, perhaps a burial mound, was recorded on top of one hill.

In addition to prehistoric material, most fields surveyed produced artifacts on the post-medieval period. The bulk of this is 18th to 19th century in date, and probably reflects the spreading of barnyard refuse on tilled fields. As such, its distribution might be of interest to someone studying 18th and 19th century agricultural economy in Carlow.

The value of this 'recent' material to me is as a very rough index of the intensity of historic use of fields that produce prehistoric material. Since all the material I have collected occurs on the surface of tilled fields, there is no way to be sure of how it got there. A correlation between the amount of recent debris and the amount of prehistoric material on the surface of a field might suggest that both sets of material had arrived there as a result of field manuring. In that case the prehistoric material would clearly be out of its original context, and its present location would tell us nothing about prehistoric behaviour. In fact, however, as Fig. 7 shows, there is no consistent relation between the amount of historic debris, as reflected by the number of clay pipe fragments, and the amount of prehistoric debris on fields. This suggests that while the intensive use of fields through the historic period may have destroyed some evidence of prehistoric occupation, the prehistoric material that remains on field surfaces is not the result of recent deposition.

Conclusions

The most important conclusions to be drawn from this preliminary study are that prehistoric artifacts are widely distributed through the Burrin valley east of Carlow Town, that they occur in a variety of situations, and that they pertain to both Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. There is no doubt
that further study of surface scatters of prehistoric artifacts in this area would be extremely fruitful, and would add significantly to our understanding of the earliest periods in Irish history.

Beyond these general conclusions, there are some specific questions raised by the survey that warrant further consideration. First, although several localities produced artifacts characteristic of the later Mesolithic period, no artifacts diagnostic of the early Mesolithic came to light. One obvious question for further investigation is whether this simply represents an accidental absence from this particular survey sample, or whether there really was no early Mesolithic settlement in this area.

With regard to the location of Mesolithic sites, most occurred as expected on the flood plain of the River Burrin. It is of interest to note, however, that while some isolated artifacts occurred in (now on top of) alluvial sediment, occurrences of more than one artifact were usually on knolls of glacial till that protruded above the alluvium. The alluvial plain today is flooded or extremely wet during the winter and spring, and even at other times when rainfall is high. Prior to modern field drainage, and particularly in the early post-glacial period when the level of alluvial sediment was lower than at present, the areas of valley bottom now covered with alluvium may have been marsh or wetland. If that were the case, then it is likely that the artifacts occurring in those sediments were lost or discarded in the course of harvesting of marshland resources, such as edible plants. On the other hand, camp sites, where a greater number and variety of artifacts would be discarded, would be more likely to occur in well-drained locations above the flood level. Such locations would today be the knolls of gravelly and sandy glacial till where clusters of Mesolithic artifacts occur.

The small sample of upland area included within the 1991 survey was sufficient to show that Mesolithic people used that zone as well. It is of particular interest that the densest cluster of Mesolithic artifacts recorded occurred at an elevation of 200' on a hilltop overlooking the valley floor. While this is at present only suggestive, it raises the possibility that Mesolithic people in this area made greater use of upland areas outside the river valleys than would be expected based on data from elsewhere. Certainly, a priority for future work in the area will be more extensive survey in the upland zone.

Compared to the late Mesolithic, there are relatively few occurrences of Neolithic material in the survey area. One explanation that comes to mind to account for this is that, in conformity with prior expectations, Neolithic settlement does tend to occur at higher elevations, and the survey encompassed only a small sample of the upland zone. It is true that of the six Neolithic sites in the area, four are at elevation of over 200'.

Two of the Neolithic sites are single isolated artifacts on the valley floor, both of them on sandy soil rather than heavy alluvial sediment. The other two artifact-bearing Neolithic sites are clusters of artifacts, also in areas of sandy soil, on hills above the valley. The remaining two sites are monuments: the Browneshill dolmen, in the hills to the northeast of the Burrin valley; and a ploughed-out remnant of what may have been a burial monument just a few hundred metres from the end of the artifact clusters.

In spite of the small sample of sites, some interesting comparisons can be made between the distributions of Mesolithic and Neolithic artifacts. On the one hand, artifacts of both periods occur in both valley floor and hilltop situations. Moreover, artifacts of both periods occur either as single isolated specimens, or in larger clusters. On the other hand, there may be a greater tendency for Mesolithic artifacts to occur on the valley flood plain, and for Neolithic artifacts to occur at higher elevations. While Mesolithic artifacts occur in a variety of sediments (silt, sand, glacial till), Neolithic artifacts seem to occur exclusively on sandy soils, whether on the valley floor or on hilltops.

So, while the general perception of changes in settlement location between Mesolithic and Neolithic periods may appear to be confirmed by the results of this survey, at the same time it is important to note the apparent continuities. For both periods it is possible to suggest clusters of artifacts representing camp sites, and isolated artifacts representing resource harvesting activities. Similarly, people in both periods appear to have made use of both valley flood plain and upland environments. Without attempting to minimise the legitimate differences between the two periods, it may be reasonable to suggest that the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic

■ Continued page 27
Local Events in Carlow in 1991

By Madeline Merne

The year 1991 was a memorable one for all nations with so much war and unrest in the world — the Gulf War, the Russian Coup, unrest in Central Europe and famine in so many places.

The face of Carlow Town keeps changing, and many new houses and shopping complexes have sprung up almost overnight. The one in Hanover blends in well with the environs. Thank goodness they have left Thompson’s lovely gateway intact. Several in-fill houses have been built. The ones at Bridge Street and opposite the Mercy Convent certainly improve the approach roads to the town. It was a bit sad to see Melville’s big shop in Tullow Street converted to three shop units but I suppose this is progress. We older folk will remember it as “Murphy’s of the Cross”. The proposed bridge across the Barrow has not yet materialised. Let us hope it will eventually come to pass and thus be a further link with our friends in Graiguecullen.

Plans to restore Carlow Castle

The Carlow Chamber of Commerce has just revealed plans to restore Carlow Castle. The Castle, built around the year 1180, was blown up in 1814 and has since remained in ruins. The restoration, including development of the surrounding area, will hopefully emerge as a big tourist attraction. It is proposed that the rear of Corcoran’s premises will be transformed into medieval style shop units and apartments. A Stone Age Village will also be part of the development. Local Arts and Crafts are to be promoted and sold in the new shop units, and substantial parking space is to be provided.

This year Mary Robinson was installed as the first lady President of Ireland. The inauguration ceremonies were attended by our own lady “Chairman” of the County Council, Mrs. Carmel McDonnell. Carmel made a great recovery after a serious illness and carried on on the Council for some time. She then retired from Public Office — but not from public life as she is very much aware of, and interested in, matters concerning the welfare of Carlow. We hope she will enjoy many years of happy retirement.

Teleton people in need appeal

Carlow Red Cross Society continue in their good work. They were presented with a cheque for £3,000 during the year. This money came from the proceeds of the Teleton People in Need Appeal in May, and it was used to purchase another Ambulance which enables the Society to expand its services to the local community.

There were many sporting honours won during the year in the schools in the area. Pupils from Gaelscoil and Gael Choláiste did extremely well in Slíogadh in the all-Ireland finals. Jane Hennessy, a daughter of well known Bernard Hennessy, reached the final eight of the National Song Contest, and did us proud when she tied for first place in the finals. However, the casting vote did not go to her, so sadly she did not represent us in Europe. It was a great achievement for her and we are all proud of her success.

The Gaéelcholáiste got off to a great start, and the new Halla was completed in the Gaelscoil in time for the opening of the new term in September.

In Askea Holy Family Parish there were great celebrations this year. In July Fr. John Clery, Tullow Road, Carlow was raised to the Priesthood by the Auxiliary Bishop of Johannesburg. Dr. Mvembv. Fr. Cleary is now serving in Johannesburg. Crowds packed the Holy Family Church for the ceremony and again for Fr. Clery’s First Mass there. This was a first ever ordination in Holy Family Church. The Mass was followed by a party in the Parish Hall. The following weekend Askea celebrated its first birthday as a parish. Bishop Mvembv celebrated the evening Mass and there was an outdoor Mass the following day to mark the anniversary.

Continuing events in Askea Parish — Fr. Arthur Francisco Juliati de Santos was welcomed by Madeline Merne

In Askea Holy Family Church. The Mass was followed by a party in the Parish Hall. The following weekend Askea celebrated its first birthday as a parish. Bishop Mvembv celebrated the evening Mass and there was an outdoor Mass the following day to mark the anniversary.

Anyone remember Carlow Septet?

Does anyone remember the Carlow Septet? This group was formed by the late Aidan Murray N.T. in 1935. A special Mass for the repose of the souls of the deceased members was said in the Cathedral. These men gave of their services without payment in concerts in the area, and sang the Mass on many occasions for the nuns in Tullow on Feast Days. They reached great fame in their time when they were called on to broadcast
The Book of Mulling

This account of the Book of Mulling is reproduced by courtesy of Trinity College, Dublin.

The Book of Mulling contains a Latin text, of the Irish type, of the four gospels of the life of Christ, with some prefatory material, and is one of the group of Irish 'pocket-gospels' surviving from the eighth century. In contrast to larger gospel books like the Book of Kells, which were made for display on the altar on ceremonial occasions and were intended to be read at a distance, the pocket gospel books were easily carried around by missionaries or by scholars for private devotion. The manuscript is written in a minuscule script with many abbreviations, and is distinguished by fine portraits of the evangelists Matthew, Mark and John. The evangelist John is portrayed standing upright while clutching with both hands a square book, representing his gospel, which is composed of a frame round blank ground. He wears shoes, and is dressed in a blue tunic, beneath a mauve cloak with curious, tubular drapery. The hem of tunic and cloak are prominently outlined in an olive brown. The tunic is composed of triangular panels decorated alternately with trefoil motifs and a motif similar to branches curving from a stem. He establishes a direct, almost hypnotic, eye contact with the reader, in the manner common to portraits of the insular school. Unusually, he is smiling. He is flanked by panels of partly zoomorphic interlace on a blank ground in a frame broken at the top by his halo.

Like many major illustrations in Irish gospel books, the portraits were painted on separate leaves of vellum, and became detached, so that by the nineteenth century they were placed incongruously at the end of the manuscript. When the manuscript was rebound (and extensively repaired) in 1977, the opportunity was taken to replace the portraits in their original positions. The evangelist John thus faces the opening words of his gospel, In principio erat verbum ... the first word of which is decorated with interlace, spirals and animal heads.

A colophon, Nomen scriptori mulling dicitur ('the name of this scribe is Mulling'), at the end of the gospel of St. John identifies the manuscript as the work of St. Moling, the founder of the monastery of Tech-Moling, Co. Carlow. St. Moling, otherwise known as St. Dairchell ('oak cell', after his dwelling) died at the close of the seventh century. It is likely that the colophon was copied from an older manuscript, since, on palaeographical grounds, the Book of Mulling is best placed in the second half of the eighth century.

Provenance: written at the monastery of Tech-Moling (now St. Mullins), Co. Carlow, Ireland, in the second half of the eighth century. In the eighteenth century it belonged to the Kavanagh family of Borris Idrone, Co. Carlow, near St. Mullins, and was presented by them to Trinity College Dublin.

Select bibliography:

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Museum report

By Kevin Kennedy

The National Lottery is to make available £2,000 this year 1991 to finance stage one of an Interpretative Centre within the museum. This use of Audio Visual equipment will inform visitors to the museum (particularly school groups) of the history of Co. Carlow in a much more informative and imaginative way. This development will make a visit to the museum an added tourist attraction.

To facilitate the development it was found necessary to close the museum. Work is at present underway so as to have all equipment in place for the summer of 1992. Unfortunately we had to postpone our exhibition on "The Emergency Years" to a future date.

Our thanks to our caretaker/curator James Mulhall; to the staff of Carlow U.D.C.; our thanks to the committee, Seamus Murphy (secretary), Martin Nevin, James Moore, Michael Denieffe, Paddy Maddock.

We look forward to 1992 in the knowledge that Co. Carlow Museum is entering into a most exciting phase of its development.

Once More

The Magi

Once again the cavalcade appears of kings and camels from the gorgeous East.
The Bible story glows upon the page while trumpets sound and colours make a feast.
The Star refound is singing in the sky and dances with delight upon the way.
Along the road to Bethlehem at last there is more speed impatient of delay ... 
O may we sight our Star with each fresh day,
we who are Magi of an era new, seeking peace that only justice gives, all through the coming year of ninety-two.

A.S.

23
"... I was not a little surprised at night when I found my surroundings lighted by electricity, bedrooms, coffee room, corridors and the rest. The street too, as well as the hotels and business houses, have the electric light which points out Carlow as one of the most up-to-date county towns in Ireland, Good for Carlow! ..."

— Edmund D. Whelan in the Western Catholic News, Chicago, 10/8/1895.

Electricity comes to Carlow

On June 24, 1891, the large water wheel at Milford Mills was set in motion once again, not to grind corn, but to drive a dynamo to generate electricity. The current was carried by cables on poles along the bank of the river Barrow to service Carlow Town.

A precis of Carlow Town Commission discussions leading up to the formation of Carlow Electric Company has been compiled by William Ellis from the files of The Nationalist & Leinster Times.

Electricity for the experimental lights was generated at Kelly's Mill, Burrin Street, which was situated beside Burrin Bridge. The demonstration lights were switched on in November, 1890.

Carlow was surely in the forefront of the electric age when we realise that the first practical generators were operating in 1870, the first arc lamp in 1878 and the ordinary bulb developed commercially in 1880.

WHEN the project of lighting Carlow town by electricity was first proposed to Carlow Town Commissioners, at their meeting of November 18, 1890, the members present were: Messrs. John Hammon, J.P. (presiding), S. Johnson, T. Byrne, E. Morris, John Clovary, W. Douglas, P. J. Conlan, J. O'Brien, B. Coleman, M. Molloy, Thomas Murphy, M. Governey, L. McCaul and John Whelan.

During the course of the meeting the following letter was read:

To the Chairman and Town Commissioners of the Borough of Carlow.

GENTLEMEN—We beg to apply for permission to supply electricity in your town.

If you accede to our request we will undertake to light your streets with 12 arc lamps of 1,200 candle power each, and 40 incandescent lamps of 16 candle power each (equivalent to 15,040 candle power) during the usual lighting season, and for the usual lighting hours for the sum of £170 per annum, on condition of your giving us a guarantee that you will not oppose but will as far as possible assist in our application for the right of private supply.

The sum of £170 per annum includes all attendance, repairs, and renewals. We beg further to apply for permission to erect and light specimen lamps in your streets this week or next.

We have secured subject to your consent to our application an offer of the lease of Milford Mill, and are ready to commence work at once.

We propose to form a small company to be called the Carlow Electric Light Company, and will offer shares — ourselves subscribing for all not taken up.

We are, gentlemen, your obedient servant.

J. E. H. GORDON & Co., LTD.
THOS. TOMLINSON, (Chief Engineer).

After the reading of the letter, Mr. Tomlinson was invited to address the meeting.

In reply to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Tomlinson said he had gone over the whole lighting area, and he noticed every lamp, numbering in all, he believed, 110, and the light they proposed supplying would cover the whole of that area.

He would submit to the board a map of twenty inches to the mile, showing the exact position of the arc and incandescent lights. The arc lights would begin at the end of Tullow-street, where the several roads met at the end of Barrack-street, and would end at the police barrack in Graigue, and it was intended that eight arc lights should extend along that line, each of 1,200 candle power.

In Dublin-street, from the Courthouse to the far side of Burrin Bridge, there would be three arc lights, and the remaining arc light would be in College-st., at the end of Browne-street.

Beyond the reach of these twelve arc lights they proposed to replace the present oil lamps with incandescent lamps, each of 16 candle power.

He took it that the present lights were about 10 candle power, which would give a total lighting of 1,100 candle power, while the proposed electric lighting would be 15,040 candle power.

In the experiments they proposed they would show, if permitted, the actual lamps they promised to supply.

Chairman—You ask for permission to light specimen lamps. Of course that will be free of expense to this board?

Mr. Tomlinson—Altogether free of expense.
On Saturday, July 13, 1991, the 100th anniversary of the generating of electricity at Milford Mills, Co. Carlow was commemorated by the unveiling of a plaque (inset) and also to mark the fact that electricity is again being generated at the mill and fed into the national grid. Pictured from left: Mrs. Mary McDonald, Co. Council chairperson; John Browne, T.D.; Sean Whelan, U.D.C. chairman; John Alexander, mill owner; Ray Conlon, Carlow Chamber of Commerce president; Dr. Laurence Ryan, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and Old Carlow Society patron; Paddy Dowling, pioneer of rural electrification; M. J. Nolan, T.D.; Michael Sheil, author of The Quiet Revolution and Martin Nevin, Old Carlow Society chairman.

After some considerable discussion the board decided to give permission for the experimental lights to be erected.

Members present at the December 9, 1890 meeting which took the decision in principle to have electric street lighting were: Messrs. John Hammond (Chairman), M. Governey, Stanley Johnson, John Clowry, B. Coleman, L. McCaul, J. O’Brien, M. Molloy, T. Murphy, E. Morris, J. Bolger, John Whelan.

To start the discussion the Clerk read the proposal of Messrs. Gordon and Company to light the streets of the borough by twelve arc and forty incandescent electric lamps, for £170 a year, providing any extra arc lamps that might be required at £15 each for the season, and incandescent lamps at £2 each. They also gave the option to the board to purchase the lighting after six months.

The cost of lighting at present was £100 a year for 104 oil lamps, and that sum included repairs and labour.

A very detailed discussion took place, every member having their say. The Chairman speaking of the experimental lights said:

“During the last fortnight they had seen specimens of the electric lighting in Dublin-street and Burrin-street, but as yet they did not know how it would look in Tullow-street.

No doubt whatever that Dublin-street, which might be regarded as the boulevard of the town (laughter), looked to great advantage by means of the electric light.

He thought they were all, the townspeople generally, as well as the commissioners, so pleased with the spectacle presented that they would all like very much that it should be the mode of public lighting for the future.

He had no hesitation in saying, without wanting to influence their decision, that he was delighted with the electric lighting, and with the spectacle presented by the appearance of Carlow during the previous few nights. It quite altered the look of the town, and he was sure would add new lustre to their nice town of Carlow, which was generally regarded as comparing most favourably with most other towns in Ireland.

It was unanimously agreed that the proposal of Messrs. Gordon and Co. to provide street lighting by electricity be accepted, subject to agreement on both sides.
A draft agreement was considered at the January 13, 1891 meeting, and the company's (Messrs. Gordon & Co.) request that they have the exclusive rights to supply electric light to the town for 42 years was considered to be too long. It was decided that 21 years should be the maximum time.

Mr. Bridie, who represented Messrs. Gorden at the meeting said that it was just a formal matter, and he would say, unofficially of course, that the Co. would agree to the shorter time.

After some other minor changes were made, the amended contract was ordered to be sent to Messrs. Gordon & Co. and also to Mr. Malcomson, solicitor to the Commission for approval.

The Commission next considered the question of the sites for the 12 arc lamps. The following sites were approved without discussions: The Market Cross; The Post Office, Core's Corner; Courthouse Square, Willi's Corner; Pembroke, McDonald's Corner; Tullow St., corner of Charlotte St.; Bolger's Corner, Tullow St.; Junction of Barrack St., Tullow St., etc.; Coalmarket; Graigue Police Barracks; Wellington Square; The Quay. After a long discussion, the site of the 12th lamp was postponed until the others were erected.

It was also decided at this meeting to give permission for the erection of poles to carry the wires.

Town Clerk informed the January 21, 1891 meeting that Mr. Malcomson, solicitor thought it would be necessary to have counsel's opinion on the contract. Commission were not disposed to "waste" money on counsel, it was decided that two members, chairman J. Hammond, and J. Whelan meet with Mr. Malcomson.

"Bid a long farewell to oil lighting"

It appears that Mr. Malcomson's advice was heeded as it was decided at the meeting of February 21, 1891 to submit the proposals to counsel's opinion. One outcome of counsel's (Mr. J. Samuel Edge) opinion was, that Messrs. Gordon's exclusive right to supply electricity to Carlow should not be for more than 3 years.

After considering Mr. Edge's opinion at their April 4, 1891 meeting it was decided to accept his advice.

A resolution was finally passed at the Carlow Town Commission meeting of Tuesday, April 28, 1891 authorising John Hammond (chairman), James Bolger and Michael Governey to sign the agreement with Messrs. G. H. Gordon & Co. to light Carlow town by electricity for 3 years.*

At the May 5 meeting the Commission decided to discontinue lighting the streets with oil lamps as from the following Friday night (22-5-1891). The chairman, Mr. John Hammond, J.P., observing that they would bid a long farewell to oil lighting.

The chairman, Mr. Hammond said at the June

30 meeting, "that an event of great importance, lighting the town by electricity, had taken place during the week, which, he thought, it would be well to note on the minute book of the corporation, which, no doubt, would be kept for generations".

On Monday, July 13, 1891 a banquet was given in the Town Hall by Messrs. Gordon & Co., for 70 guests to celebrate the lighting of Carlow town by electricity. Earlier in the evening the visitors who had been invited to the banquet, together with the Town Commissioners were conveyed in three horses and cars to Milford to inspect the works.

This is how The Nationalist & Leinster Times described the setting for the banquet in the Town Hall:

The public hall on Monday evening presented a beautiful appearance. It was transformed into a floral palace so profuse was the array of flowers.

The decorations were entrusted to Messrs. Morris & Co. (under the superintendence of Mr. Dugan), and were carried out in a manner which reflects credit on the firm.

Electric lights were placed in the ceiling, and on the table, twenty lamps with coloured globes gave an extremely pretty effect.

Covers were laid for 70. Mr. J. H. Gordon presided, and on his right hand sat Mr. Hammond, M.P., Chairman of the Town Commissioners and Mr. McGee, Londonderry and on his left Major Everard and Mr. T. Murphy, Kilkenny. Mr. Revington (Managing Director, Gordon & Co.) occupied the vice-chair.

Amongst the guests were the members of the Carlow Town Commissioners. Alderman Johnson, Mr. Richards, Portadown; Mr. O'Connell, Kilkenny; C. J. Kenealy, Kilkenny Journal; H. Power, do., Dr. T. P. O'Meara, P. A. Brown, solicitor; G. Langran, Sentinel; J. R. Lawler, Irish Times; P. J. Conlan, Nationalist; Mr. Mackay, Fall Mall Gazette.

"It was a great waste of capital"

Mr. Gordon in the course of his address said:...
enough, but the difficulty really was with the people they had to deal with.

They found that local authorities had all sorts of ideas about electric lighting, and consequently very often great difficulties were thrown in the way.

Things, however, had been different here, and consequently they had been able to make considerable progress in the way of lighting Carlow. He wished to say a few words on what he meant.

All over Ireland he believed, ever since the Repeal of the Corn Laws milling industries had declined, and the consequence was that they had throughout the country large mills standing idle, and wasting the use of a large amount of capital. At the same time they were sending large sums of money to England to pay for coal to make gas. If they only knew it this was a great waste of capital . . .

Messrs. Gordon & Co. also entertained their employees in the Town Hall on the night following the banquet.

The Commissioners asked Messrs. Gordon to allow the electric plant in the hall to remain until after the forthcoming bazaar which is being organised by Colonel Vigors and others for the purpose of restoring the old Cathedral at Leighlin.

Like all new ventures the Carlow Electric Light Co. had its teething problems, a letter was read at the September 8, 1891 meeting of the Town Commission from Messrs Gordon & Co. apologizing for not being in a position to light the public lights for two nights. The river being unusually high for time of year, they were unable to complete the permanent plant.

The following letter appeared in The Nationalist & Leinster Times, October 10, 1891.

11 Pall Mall, London,
9th October, 1891.

DEAR SIR,—I wish on behalf of my co-directors and myself to thank the Town Commissioners for the kind expression of satisfaction they have been good enough to authorise you to send to us with regard to the electric lighting of Carlow.

It has also given us great pleasure to note the opinion you held as to the manner in which we have carried out our engagement.

We may assure you that we shall endeavour to the utmost to retain this good opinion. I wish to take this opportunity to express the pleasure it has given us to have had dealings with the Carlow Town Commissioners, and to thank them for the assistance they have always readily rendered to us whenever it lay in their power.—Yours faithfully,

W. J. REVINGTON.
Managing Director.

John Hammon, Esq., M.P.,
"Chairman, Carlow Town Commissioners."

"The price paid by Major Alexander for the lighting installation, plant, machinery, and goodwill of the Carlow Electric Co., is £3,500.

The original cost of the works was £20,000, so that the venture was the reverse of successful.

It is to be hoped however, that the business will turn out a profitable one to its present owner, as there is no doubt but that the electric light is a great boon, not only for public lighting, but as a means of inducing wholesome competition for private supplies."

- Nationalist & Leinster Times, 19/5/1894.

Prehistoric Archaeology in the Burrin River Valley

Continued from page 21

involved not so much a complete change in subsistence and settlement behaviour, as a change in emphasis. Even from a commonsense point of view, it seems unlikely that perfectly good and traditional foodstuffs would suddenly have passed into disuse because of the availability of porridge.

References:

Local Events in Carlow in 1991

Continued from page 22

from Radio Eireann in 1936. This broadcast went out from the old Radio Eireann station in Henry Street, Dublin. They were very generous with their time and travelled many miles to various badly lit and badly heated parish halls all over Leinster. The members of the Septet were Aidan Murray N.T. (founder), Jack Kirwan N.T., Billy O’Connor N.T., Stan Reynolds N.T., Tom Meighan (all deceased) and surviving members Joe Donohue and Pearse Prendergast.

Corcorans Mineral Waters joined forces with United Beverages Soft Drinks Manufacturers. Sadly the making of the mineral waters no longer takes place in their old premises at Governey Square, but the delivery depot is still there. The closing down of the actual manufacture led to many job losses.

Sad, too, to say our own weekly newspaper The Nationalist & Leinster Times is no longer being printed in Carlow. This, too, meant a lot of job losses. The office and shop are still open, but the actual printing of the paper is done elsewhere. Corcorans and The Nationalist must have been two of the oldest businesses in Carlow.

C.S.E.T. became privatised during the year and the shares were floated on the stock market under the new of Greencore. Present at the first “floating” was Mr. Albert Reynolds TD. The shares were immediately sold out.
Soilsí do Cheatharlach i 1760
le Séamas Mac Páirc

Cead bliain ó shin tugadh an aibhléis isteach go baile Ceatharlach chun sráideanna Cheatharlach a lasadh le lampáí. Thug J. H. Gordon, a bhí i mbun an chomhchacht a fuair an comradh ó Coimisinéiri Bhaille Cheatharlach chun na solísí aibhléise a sholathair, thug sé árd-mholadh do mhuintir an bhlaí.

The little town of Carlow with only about 6,000 inhabitants has, through its Town Commission and general inhabitants, put larger towns in the background. It is the first inland town in the whole of Great Britain and Ireland to be lighted throughout with electricity.

Ag éirí as ceann de na h-íarrachtaí seo chun teacht ar réiteach, tugadh bille ós comhair na Parliaminte i 1760. Bhí an bille seo dirithe ar Bhaille Átha Cliath amháin. Athar 31 Eanár, 1760, chuir sabhráin, buirgeisigh, saoránáigh is aithgheoirí Cheatharlach atchuaigne isteach ag long cead chun lampai a chu. Ach ina seasamh in limistéiri bhailéidigh Cheatharlach.

Glacadh leis an achainti seo agus ar 11 Máirta, 1760, nuair a tugadh an t–acht ós comhair na Parliaminte, ní darbh fhéin, bhí aon diogla leis a chur i bhfeidhm. Ach ní thuigfeadh na h-earcáidí le feiceáil in i mbun an chomhlachta a fuair na solísí.

Photograph: Courtesy The Nationalist and Leinster Times.

Tagairtí
1. L. D. Bergin, Carlow — switched-on town in 1891, sa Nationalist and Leinster Times, Cenidhern Issue, 1960, 1, 73.
3. Stair na gConndaí, III, Cheatharlach, Ogfann Soladhair, Baile Átha Cliath, 1941, 1, 327. (Ní tuilleadh leis an pragais bolaidh leis an pragais leathbháis ar Shinn Pháirti, 1917.)
Secretary's Report
By Rose Murphy

The 45th annual general meeting of the Old Carlow Society was held in the Royal Hotel on the 24th January, 1991. The chairman, Mr. Martin Nevin, welcomed the large attendance and he explained that the change of date from April to January was to comply with a directive from the Federation of Local History Societies.

Highlight of the year was the “Sean O’Leary Memorial Lecture” during the Eígsé Festival. The lecture, on Charles Stewart Parnell, was given by Dr. Donal McCartney, Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD who was a pupil of the late Mr. O’Leary when he taught in Graiguecullen National School.

Before commencing his lecture, Dr. McCartney paid tribute to his former teacher and recollected for his listeners his memories of those early schooldays. As 1991 is the centenary of the death of the “Uncrowned King of Ireland,” it was very interesting to hear a factual account of the politics of this great man.

At the end of the lecture Miss Iona McLeod presented a bouquet of flowers each to Mrs. Eileen O’Leary and Mrs. Mona Fenlon on behalf of the members of the OCS.

Another centenary celebrated during the year was that of the public lighting of Carlow town by electricity generated at Milford. To commemorate this event the OCS erected a plaque on the mill at Milford which was unveiled by Mr. John Alexander on the 13th July last. Mr. Alexander spoke of the involvement of his family from the early days up to 1928 when Carlow Town was connected to the main ESB grid which was supplied with electricity from the Shannon Scheme at Ardnacrusha. Mr. Alexander also said that electricity is still being generated at Milford.

After the unveiling ceremony the ladies of Ballinabranna Guild of the ICA provided a lovely tea which was thoroughly enjoyed by the members and their guests.

Outings
On May 19th a very pleasant afternoon was spent visiting the gardens of Lisnaghe courtesy of Lord and Lady Rathdonnell. Mr. Eddie McDonald, Clonmore, then conducted the group to the Folk Museum at Knockananna where the old church has been converted to house a fine display of farm implements and artifacts from a bygone era. This museum deserves to be better known and I am sure the hard-working committee are making every effort to promote it.

Our annual outing was a full day trip to Clonmacnoise on the 30th June. Here an official guide told us the history of this famous monastic site. We visited Athlone in the afternoon and enjoyed the various events that were taking place to commemorate the tercentenary of the Siege of Athlone.

Mount Usher was our destination for another afternoon outing on August 18th where in pleasant sunshine we strolled leisurely among the various tropical trees and shrubs and admired the picturesque layout of the gardens.

September 8th was Heritage Day and as its contribution to the day the OCS arranged for some members to visit the Cathedral at Old Leighlin where the chairman Mr. Martin Nevin, gave an account of its history and that of the locality. We also visited St. Lazerian’s Well and the chairman Mr. Martin Nevin, gave an account of its history and that of the locality. We also visited St. Lazerian’s Well and on our homeward journey Mr. Nevin showed us the last resting-place of the ancestors of Mr. Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada. We took the scenic route home and the mist were coming down as we arrived back in Carlow.

Lectures
A series of interesting lectures and slide shows for the Winter season has been arranged. The first of these, a talk by Mr. Sean O’Brien on the Tithe War was held in the National School, Borris. As Carloviana goes to print before November we are looking forward to a lecture by Dr. Donal McCartney on the Leckey Family of Ballykeale House on the 21st November. Slide shows by Messrs Paddy Godfrey, Billy Ellis and Seamus Murphy are sure to be enjoyable. The final lecture will be given by Col. Doyle on the Emergency.

Museum
The museum is open every day except Monday, from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm. The committee, with chairman Mr. Kevin Kennedy, ensure that the exhibits are attractively displayed and they are always pleased to get artifacts, either on loan or as a gift. The donor's name is displayed with each item.

Carloviana
Our annual journal, Carloviana, is still in great demand and its Editor, Mr. Tomás MacGabhann deserves great praise for compiling such fine articles and photographs into a very attractive magazine. Our thanks also to the contributors of the articles and to our sponsors.

Before concluding this report I should like to thank all who helped during the year: The Nationalist for the publicity they always give our activities and Mrs. Dooley of Dooley's Fruit Shop for taking names for our outings. New members are always welcome and we would like to see many young people joining the Old Carlow Society.

Organ Recital
“We observe by an advertisement in the Times of Wednesday last that Messrs Bevington & Sons have announced two performances of classical music in London on Thursday and Friday (yesterday) evenings, on the new organ intended to be erected in Carlow Cathedral.”

- Carlow Post, 24/3/1860.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSORS</th>
<th>BOOKS AND THINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HIGH STREET, BAGENALSTOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Books, Stationery and Greeting Cards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R. HEALY &amp; SON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funeral Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLLERTON CASTLE AND COLLEGE STREET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone 31866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPEROVALU, TULLOW ROAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free Car Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY SPECIALS EVERY WEDNESDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Hours: Mon., Tues., Sat. 9-6, Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOLEY'S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDICAL HALL LTD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 TULLOW ST., CARLOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOOLEY'S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-class Fruit, Sweets, Cigarettes and Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62, TULLOW STREET, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BANK OF IRELAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POTATO MARKET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in your future - Save with Bank of Ireland today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager: Frank Holden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OGLESBY AND BUTLER LTD.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, DUBLIN ROAD, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturers of Portasol Soldering Irons and Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/43333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JACK McDonalD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New and Used Tractors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSNEEN, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/31455</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAN MORRISSEY LTD.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BENNEKERRY 31464, GRANGEFORD 46629, CLONMELSH 46142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readymix Concrete * Concrete Products * Ground Limestone * Rockford Tiles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DARY'S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Carpets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33-35 TULLOW STREET, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE AND SHOP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE STREET, CARLOW (opposite Cathedral)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours: 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday-Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/32132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE IRISHMAN'S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Prop: J. J. Hargaden)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COURT PLACE, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/31171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wines and Spirits: High-Class Lounges and Bars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAMES JONES LTD.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 TULLOW STREET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top value in Irish made footwear always available at keenest prices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOSCO'S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>132 TULLOW STREET, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/31093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Meat, Fish and Poultry. We are the specialists. Don’t settle for less!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O'DWYER'S PHARMACY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TULLOW STREET, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/31467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BERNARD JENNINGS, F.A.O.I.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmic Optician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 DUBLIN STREET, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/43808</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALLIED IRISH BANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TULLOW STREET, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving Carlow since late 1860s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager: Michael Begley, Assistant Manager: Barry Hickey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GAELESCOIL EOGHAIN UI THUAIRISc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOTHAR POLLERTON, Guthnán 0503/31634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olideachas Lán-Ghaelach do pháistí bunscoile</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JON'S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lounge Bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LENNON'S REAL ESTATE HOUSE, 121, TULLOW STREET, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/31575</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORMAN D. SIXSMITH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural and General Engineer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUBLIN ROAD, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/31593</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEIX PHARMACY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNEY SQUARE, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/31341</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O'BRIEN TRAVEL LTD.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DUBLIN STREET, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/31613, Telex: 33006, Specialists in Air and Sea Travel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECURE YOUR HOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call and see our full range of Security Locks and Fittings at our Showroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLIGHT HAWK SECURITY LTD., MILLVIEW HOUSE, GRAIGUECULLEN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGAN LESSONS for all ages at the YAMAHA MUSIC SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BARRACK STREET, CARLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HENNESSY'S MUSIC CENTRE, Phone: 0503/42402</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEAN AND MICHAEL BYRNE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publican and Grocer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLYNN, ST. MULLINS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| "Don't Pass, Call."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE NATIONALIST &amp; LEINSTER TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper Publishers, Typesetting and Office Stationery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TULLOW STREET, CARLOW</td>
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<td>Invest in your future - Save with Bank of Ireland today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager: Eamonn Delaney</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEADAR DOYLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LONDIS SUPERMARKET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAIGUECULLEN, Phone: 0503/31179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open to 6.30 p.m. every day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RATHCROGUE HOUSE, CARLOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE ACAIA ROOMS RESTAURANT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Seven Nights 5-Midnight. Also Nite Bite Menu 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY LUNCH 12.30 - 3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M. J. REIDY LTD., GARAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOYOTA AND B.M.W. DEALER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 0503/31093</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HANLEY'S HOUSE for MEN</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARLOW</td>
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</table>
ABOVE: To mark the retirement of Mr. Alec Burns from the committee of County Carlow Museum, an illuminated address was presented to him as a token of appreciation for his efforts on behalf of the museum since its foundation. Pictured from left: Messrs. Martin Nevin (chairman Old Carlow Society), Alec Burns, Kevin Kennedy (chairman, museum committee); Back, Michael Deane, Seamus Murphy (secretary, museum committee), Paddy Maddock and Jim Moran.

BELOW: Knockroe, Co. Carlow is remembered as one of the places in Ireland to experience the horrors of modern warfare, when a plane jettisoned its bomb load on January 2, 1941, killing three members of one family, Mary Ellen Shannon, her sister Bridget and their niece Kathleen. The 50th anniversary of the tragedy was marked by the offering of Mass and the laying of a wreath at Rathanna on January 2, 1991. Pictured from left: Mr. Ray Shannon (survivor), Father Nicholas Moore, P.P., Borris, Mr. Martin Nevin (chairman Old Carlow Society) and Mrs. Margaret Minchin, Borris Historical Society.

Photos: Courtesy "The Nationalist & Leinster Times."