

# MILLTOWN NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2

23rd November, 1980

## EDITORIAL

We hope that by now you have all recovered from our first edition and that you are eagerly awaiting our second issue.

Although our first issue was not met with the enthusiastic response we had hope for, 250 copies were sold and on the strength of this we have gone ahead with our second issue which is being pushed under your noses this morning.

We were told that the historical items in our last issue were enjoyed by many people and we have included two very interesting articles of local historical interest in this issue. There is also an up-date of events from various clubs in the parish and we know that the Births, Marriages and Deaths will be of interest to everyone.

On a final note, if you are reading this over your friend's shoulder, please go back to the church gate and get your own - someone at home might like to read it.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES

It was decided at a recent Community Council meeting that the "kitchen" of the Hall be renovated with a view to converting it into a comfortable meeting place. Work on this project started a few weeks ago and to date a sink unit has been installed, the ceiling lowered and a new ceiling put in. Further improvements are also under way with regard to the walls and floor. This room will be available to all organisations using the hall and I'm sure this will be good news for all who have spent many a cold night shivering in the hall.

We are also investigating the possibility of heating the hall and it is hoped that this will be done in the near future.

The Community Council are also running a Sale of Work on December, 14th, proceeds of which will go towards the Senior Citizens Party. Details of this will be distributed to all parishioners by the Youth Club.

But it's not all work and no play for the Community Council and on the social scene a very successful dance was held in the hall on Friday, 14th Nov. There was a good attendance and apart from the financial benefit (hopefully) and occasion such as this strengthens community spirit.

Plans are under way for a concert before Christmas and we hope to see a packed hall as this promises to be an enjoyable night (anyone wishing to audition, can contact any member of the Community Council)

A FURTHER EXTRACT FROM A HISTORY OF MILLTOWN PARISH  
~~WRITTEN~~ BY M.J. MOLLOY

The Fenians did most of their drilling in the Millbrook woods, especially in the old Mill at Russelstown bridge. In 1881, they shot at the Millbrook Grand Gate, a Petty Sessions clerk named McDonagh, whom they suspected of giving the police information which led to raids on their houses. Joe D'Alton then manager of Glynn's shop and an active Fenian was supposed to have delayed McDonagh in his bar while two Fenian members of his staff crossed the fields with the gun to the ambushing point. D'Alton was the father of the late Cardinal D'Alton; and three years before that Michael Logue, the father of Cardinal Logue of Armagh was strongly suspected of being party to the murder of Lord Leitrim, the notorious landlord. Logue was driving the second car containing the police escort, and as they approached the ambush point he took the horse into a forge alleging that the shoe was loose and got the smith to prick the horse's foot enough to slow her up. So the police were too far away to save his Lordship or catch the assassins. Roche, the assassin of McDonagh was never arrested and went abroad and disappeared. Not long afterwards the local Fenian leader, John O'Keane got a tip and escaped dressed as a woman, just before the police came to arrest him. D'Alton was arrested but was not kept long in jail.

The local Fenians were active during the Land War and one of them 'Broc' Nally of Killerneen was its Poet Laureate in the neighbourhood. One bailiff escaped death only because an unsuspecting old woman came into the line of fire at the same time as the bailiff. Another bailiff was put alive into the coffin in his own kitchen in presence of his family. He was a very tall man and as the coffin wasn't long enough a saw was sent for to cut the superfluous parts of his legs off. While this was awaited frantic appeals by his wife and frantic oaths and promises of good behaviour, resignation etc. by the bailiff, induced the masked raiders to postpone the burying-alive ceremony. A coffin inscribed 'From Captain Moonlight' was left outside the main door of the Bodkins, by far the biggest landlords around. Next day, Bodkin's wife, a rich Australian ran away from the Big House and her half-mad rake of a husband, and without her money the huge but heavily mortgaged estate had to be abandoned. It was said that the last two sisters walked to Claremorris station on their way to Canada. They could not afford to hire a sidecar, although the estate still comprised 2,500 acres. Probably the No Rent Campaign had finally ruined them as it ruined so many other landlords. Fenian activity revived after the Parnell Split, though nothing was achieved. But land trouble with cattle driving and arrests and boycotting continued right into the Free State era, until finally all the old estates were divided.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind read.

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Alcohol is good for preserving practically everything but secrets

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