

Milltown Newsletter

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Easter Sunday

*Flowers sleeping 'neath the snow,
Awakening when the Spring winds blow.
Leafless trees so bare before,
Gowned in lacy green once more.*

*Hard unyielding frozen sod,
Now softly carpeted by God;
Still streams melting in the Spring,
Rippling over rocks that sing.*

*Barren, windswept, lonely hills,
Turning gold with daffodils ...
These miracles are all around,
Within our sight and touch and sound.*

*As true and wonderful today,
As when "the stone was rolled away".
Proclaiming to all doubting men
That in God all things live again.*

By Maureen McCormack, Kilgevrin

Editorial

Welcome to the Easter 1996 edition of the Milltown Newsletter. We wish to thank all our contributors and those who offer constructive criticism and ideas. Your help is always welcome.

In this issue we have a story by Christy Molloy on "The Cleggan Disaster", a look back at Milltown Carnival, pictures from the past, an article by Anthony Liddell a young Australian pilot who is related to the Nestor family, Russelstown and our usual Hot Seat which on this occasion features Paddy Joe McHugh who was a popular first winner of the Milltown G.A.A. Lotto. For the first time we devote some space to the local national schools for their "School News" section and an advice column by M.A.B.S. (Money Advice and Budgeting Service). These and much more will, we hope, provide an entertaining read and all for only £1.00.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR READERS

We send special greetings to a Milltown exile Michael Ruane who is a loyal friend of Milltown Newsletter. He now lives at Elizabeth, New Jersey, U.S.A.

The Hot Seat



1. Full Name: Paddy Joe McHugh.
2. Occupation: Retired Farmer.
3. Favourite Food: Bacon, Cabbage and Golden Wonder Potatoes.
4. Favourite T.V. Programmes: Emmerdale & Questions and Answers.
5. Favourite Actor: Joe Lynch.
6. Favourite Song: The Fields of Athenry.
7. Favourite Singer: Charlie Landsborough.
8. Favourite Colour: Black.
9. Earliest Memory: In 1949 I remember going to Croke Park to a pioneer rally. I remained a pioneer until I was over 40 years.
10. Early School Days: I remember Miss Acton as my first school teacher.
11. Worst Moment at School: No bad moments at school.
12. First Job: Farming. In those days it was dig with the spade and shovel and ploughing with horses.
13. First Dance: Was in Ballindine. I walked down the railway line from Milltown station to Ballindine with John Joe Walsh and Paddy Mallon. Music was by Paddy O'Loughlin and his band.
14. Person you Most Admire: My wife Bridie – we are now 41 years married.
15. Favourite Memories: The day I got married, and the day I won the Milltown Lotto.
16. Favourite Drink: Guinness.
17. Favourite Pastimes: Darts and Cards. Some years ago we used to play cards in neighbouring houses.
18. Person admired locally: Christy Molloy – my former school teacher.
19. If you won the Lotto: I'd take care of my family – 14 children and 20 grandchildren.
20. If you had power to Rule the World: My ambition would be to have peace all over the world.
21. Any Regrets in Life: None – I'd do the same all over again.
22. Favourite Quotation: Go mbéirimid beo ag an am seo arís.

The Cleggan Disaster

The storm of the last Friday in October 1927 was a night that brought death and disaster to the fishermen of Galway and Mayo. On that calm evening the fishermen set out for the fishing grounds as darkness fell. Some like the fishermen from Inishkea, off the north Mayo coast set out in two-man currachs, others were in larger boats manned by six crew members, but all depended on oars.

After they had reached the fishing grounds and cast their nets, a storm struck with sudden and savage ferocity. Despite their best efforts, boats were capsized and others smashed on rocks. But one of the six currachs from Inishkea survived. One Connemara boat was cast ashore after a twelve hour battle, its crew members blinded by spray and their hands skinned by constant rowing. Three brothers perished in one boat, a father and a son in another. All told 47 fishermen lost their lives, nine were from Inishboffin, 16 from Rossadilisk, eleven from Inishkea, and nine from Lacken. A National Appeal was launched in aid of the widows and orphans. Among the contributions was one of £25, a considerable sum in 1927, from The North German Lloyd Shipping Co., Bremen.

Nearer home, not a tree remained standing, in what was known as the "Black Wood", situate opposite the road leading into Russelstown. Roads were blocked by fallen trees, in many counties. One of the few haysheds in the parish in 1927, that of the parish priest (Fr. Diskin), was wrecked, and its contents scattered over neighbouring fields.

Before the tiny handful of us, who arrived at the school, were sent home again, we watched our teacher Pat Diskin and Jim Higgins, straining sinew and muscle, trying to place a large blackboard in place of a shattered window in the girls' school.

Hurricane "Debbie", which struck on the 16th September, 1961 is remembered by many. It too, left a trail of destruction in its wake. It was a storm of short duration, which raged in daylight hours,

between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. It did not inspire the fear and terror associated with the storm of 1839 and it has faded from memory.

Two never forgotten events of the 19th century were The Night of the Big Wind and The Famine. Every strong gale after 1839 led to a recall of the horror of the night of the 6th January, 1839. Indeed the 6th January 1839 became a "bench-mark" date. For 50 to 60 years afterwards events were recalled, in the visiting houses, as happening prior to the "Night of the Big Wind" or after it.

The old age pension was introduced in 1909. To qualify, a person had to have reached the age of 70 years. Many claimants had no birth certificates. They based their claims on the fact that they were born before the "Night of the Big Wind".

C.M.

"The Town I Loved So Well"

By Noel Burke

I was asked by Trudi, in Milltown Post Office, if I would write some notes to contribute to your superb monthly magazine and I decided that now, with the advent of Easter and the anniversary of the Milltown Races and Carnival, I would get inspiration and write some memories of "The Town I loved so well".

I was born in Milltown in the mid-forties and lived there and in its environs for the greater part of my youth.

The first memory that springs to mind is that of going to Mass on Sundays. This was a big occasion with the men gathered outside the Church before Mass, for a smoke and a chat and, all the time, observing the ladies, in the latest fashions, as they entered to pray. Not until the bell tolled would they disperse and make a dash for the men's gallery.

After Mass, my friends and I rushed to the handball alley, beside the river Clare which flows through the town. There we enjoyed many hours on a Sunday afternoon playing handball. It was a great meeting place in those years and gave the youth much enjoyment.

I always looked forward to the races on Easter Monday. The horses came from all over Ireland and the prize money was good. Until this day, I do not know the name of the grey horse that won the Farmers Race year after year.

Tofts amusements came to town before the races and I loved getting rides on the Hobby Horses and swinging boats and, for the more daring, there were the chair-planes.

On Easter Monday, we all went to the races, pockets laden with half-crowns extracted from Parents and Uncles. We thought we owned the world. The boys from Tuam were there, with their lively wit and doing the three card trick. "Bhí rí rá agus ruaille buaille ann."

Another venue for entertainment was the C.Y.M.S. hall which was used for concerts and school plays. I learned a little bit of Riverdance from Miss Fahy, from Tuam, with her "toe, heel and toe" routine. She had us fit as fiddles. I went to my first dance there when I was fifteen. The Esquire Showband from Derry was playing and Margaret Barry, the singing traveller, who was to be the main guest of the evening, failed to show.

Another great asset which kept Milltown in the picture - was its Cinema. This we frequented on Friday and Sunday nights. "Little Nellie Kelly" was a film that was popular then as was "The Bells of St. Mary's" as well as great cowboy films.

Those were the days of the fifties and early sixties and they passed quickly.

I am glad to see that Milltown has progressed since then. A new Church has been built; so too have tennis courts. The Clare river still flows and on its banks are seats where I may sit and enjoy "The town I loved so well".

Happy Easter to all.

*Noel Burke, now living in Tuam, was born
and reared at Knock, Milltown.*

HAPPY



from

MILLTOWN GUN CLUB

*We would like to take this
opportunity to
THANK ALL FARMERS
for their co-operation
during the year.*

**ALL MEMBERS ARE
FULLY INSURED.**

Pictures from the Past



Retirement of Mrs. Julia Egan, who taught at Milltown N.S. for many years.
Rev. Fr. Louis Berry making a Presentation to Mrs. Egan, March 1968

Pictures from the Past



*George Garvey, Nancy Garvey, Teresa Callaghan, Mrs. Julia Egan, Christy Molloy and
Rev. Fr. Berry. Presentation to Mrs. Julia Egan, March 1968.*

Tales with Tam

Thomas Patrick Corley was born in Cloonagh, Milltown in 1909. Before he emigrated he lived there with his parents John and Delia and brother Johnny. He went to Dalgan National School and he worked for some time in Glynn's of Milltown. The following is an excerpt from a Huddersfield Newspaper where he now resides at the age of eighty nine and is famous for his tales of long ago.

Old Tam has a Galway brogue as deep as the bay, even though he has been drinking in the Fleece at Sheepridge since 1937.

His Irish eyes always seem to be smiling and he has a simple reason for his health and longevity: "Clean living and Guinness". He lives just around the corner from the pub where he imbibes the black stuff twice a day, lunchtime and early evening. It is not a compulsory ritual but you might expect to see pigs fly before he breaks his routine.

Thomas Patrick Corley, to give him his Sunday name, was born in Cloonagh, Milltown in County Galway 89 years ago. "The time I was at school, the teacher turned out nine priests. There was never sixty of us at the school. There was 59 one day, but never 60".

His memory stretches back through Anglo-Irish history and social change to days of poverty. His stories are endless. They can be tragic and amusing and best taken with a pint or two.

He tells me what Eamon De Valera said in a speech from the back of a lorry, has second thoughts, even though it was 53 years ago, and says: "You'd better not put that". His head shakes, still unable to understand the sense, as he recounts how the local police sergeant in the next village was shot dead before his wedding day. And he remembers when he and his fellow schoolmates were out playing one time in 1921. "There we were, kids running around, and a lorry of the Black and Tans came along and we shouted 'Up the Republicans!' You know, we were kids," he says, explaining childish taunts. "Eleven or 12 years old.

"They backed up and we ran. Down the wood we ran, and the leaves were threaded with bullets around us. They fired at us. Good God a'mighty, they were shocking." Then he laughs and he's away again on a different tack.

"When I was 12, I was a bugger for poaching. Rabbits, hare, wild ducks, geese, waterfowl. My father had two brothers home from America and this evening, I took one of them out after rabbits. We had a shower of rain and I got wet through and let the clothes dry on me, and I put them on again next morning and didn't I get double pneumonia? If I wiped the sweat off my hand I could see it bulging out again."

The doctor diagnosed the illness and the inevitable outcome. But he had reckoned without Tom's constitution and a good dose of whiskey. He went to bed expecting to die but survived. "I got up in the morning and I thanked that whiskey or I would be dead," says Tom.

He first came to England when he was 19 in 1928. "There was no work in Ireland. We came haymaking. We went to Oldham first and then down to Lincolnshire. It was an awful place to work. An awful dry spot. You could drink the ocean. We picked spuds and beet and everything. It was murder." It was murder of a different kind for one of the farmer's poultry.

"A cock came in the Paddy hut. It would not go out and I threw a lump of coke at it. It

got it in the head and killed it. The farmer would have gone mad. So we plucked it and boiled it in a bucket. Tom, he says, what have you in the bucket? My shirt, sir, I says and we got away with it. We ate the cock and buried the bones in the field."

On another trip they arrived at Denton in Lancashire in the early hours of the morning. "We went along the road and it was a quarter to three and I said we will go in there. They said we will get nothing at this hour. We knocked on the back door of this pub and he lets us in. A grand little man, he was. Six of us there, and six pints we said. By the time he finished pulling the sixth, he had to start all over again. We had six pints each and he says 'I'll let you have one on the house now.' We could drink then. We were young. It was 4d a pint so we gave him two shillings each (10p) and he says no, put that back in your pocket. 'This pub is our hobby, he says. We won £100,000 on the Irish Sweepstake and we made a vow that we would never take for a drink from an Irishman."

In 1930, the young men of his village were making the annual journey to England for seasonal work but Tom was undecided. "It was 10 o'clock on the Monday morning and I went to this ganger. If he gives me a job I'll stop, I thought. If not, I'll go to England." There was no job but the ganger took him to the pub.

"I had two bob," says Tom. "Two pints and 10 cigarettes. So the ganger borrows a pound off the landlord and gives it to me. But I've still not got enough. I'm riding home on my bike and I see Christy. Give me a pound for me bike, I says, and he did, and so I had two pounds. I got ready and was off. It was the quarter to three train and all I had in the world was £2. I wanted a ticket to Manchester, going by Liverpool. 'You can't have it, he says. Your mates have gone by Hollyhead.' But it was £1 7s 6d by Liverpool and £1 12s by Holyhead. Anyway he gives me the ticket by Liverpool and £1 19s 8d change. He made an awful mistake. He only charged me 4d."

For a moment he remembers his guilt and blushes. "He was the only man I ever cheated for a penny in my life and that was in 1930." That was the year he got a job in Barkisland. The farmer told him to take an untamed pony to the fair at Halifax. "First thing we meet on the road was a lorry piled with baskets and the pony rears up and rips off me waistcoat, but I stuck to him."

They took lanes and side roads and he found a pound note on the ground. "What's that," says the farmer. "An old Woodbine packet, I says."

The pony caused trouble all the way to Halifax but the farmer only gave Tom two shillings. He told Tom to sell the animal for £8 but he got £8 10s from a gypsy and pocketed the difference. "I went in the pub and met the farmer's brother and said the farmer had only given me two shillings. His brother told him to give me a pound. So I had his pound and the pound I found, and the 10 shillings and the two bob." He grins at a small triumph in a life of laughter and hard work.

Tom married Ellen Cassidy, an Irish girl from Philadelphia. The family had moved down to Dewsbury from America. He is now a widower. He worked at David Brown's, ICI and in the building trade. Later, he was school caretaker at St. Gregory's, the old college in North Road, Mount Pleasant, Deighton School and Ashbrow.

"There is this bus driver in Lancashire and he has a load of women in his bus. It's a grand summer's evening and he sees this old Irishman at the side of the road smoking his pipe. The bus stops and this feller says, I beg your pardon, sir, but have you got a match? I have a match, says the Irishman, and he takes him a match and looks in the bus at all the ladies and says, 'That's a lovely lot of women you have. Where are you taking them?' I'm taking them to Burnham, says the driver. Will you wait five minutes, says the Irishman, I'll bring my bugger and you can throw her on at the same time." It was at this point I stopped trying to take notes and enjoyed the crack. Anybody can, twice a day at The Fleece.

North Galway Money Advice and Budgeting Service

Social Services Centre, Dublin Rd, Tuam, Co. Galway

Tel: (093) 24421

WHAT IS IT?

It is a service which helps families and individuals with debt problems. If a person is in difficulties with rent, mortgage, E.S.B., T.V. licence, moneylenders, banks etc. then the service can help them.

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE SERVICE?

The aim of the service is to enable the person to pay off debts at a rate that they decide whilst ensuring that all their essential requirements (food, housing, fuel etc.) are protected, through budgeting. Also there is an opportunity to plan for credit in the future through the local Credit Union. This will provide the opportunity of getting out and staying out of debt.

WHAT KIND OF SERVICE IS IT?

The service is free, independent and confidential. Trained advisers will listen to problems without judging and help a person to make their own decisions by giving the information and advice they will need to bring their situation under control. It is not important why or how a person got into difficulties - what is important is to deal with the situation as it is now.

WHAT HELP IS PROVIDED?

The service will negotiate on a person's behalf with creditors if wished to help negotiate repayments at a rate that can be afforded.

DOES IT WORK?

So far similar projects throughout the country have assisted thousands of families with multiple debt problems. Many have been able to overcome their difficulties by paying off their debts over a period of time and learning how to budget according to their income.

WHO FUNDS IT?

The Department of Social Welfare. It is one of over 30 projects set up throughout the country to help people overcome debt problems.

WHERE IS IT?

The service is available at the above address from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Alternatively a location can be arranged to suit people not living in the Tuam area.

Funded by the Department of Social Welfare

School News • School News • School News

CARROWNAGEEHY N.S.

Carrownageehy N.S. has been involved in the North Galway Schools Football League involving two teacher schools for the last few years. Last year they reached the semi-final in this league. This years league begins on April 19th. Mr. Martin Joe Garvey (Principal) trains the schools football team. Miss Annmarie Greaney has commenced dancing classes in the school this year. The children have made great progress at both Irish dancing and line dancing. There will be a concert for the parents of the children involved before the end of the school year.



*Master Denis Kirwan,
Dalgin, Milltown.*

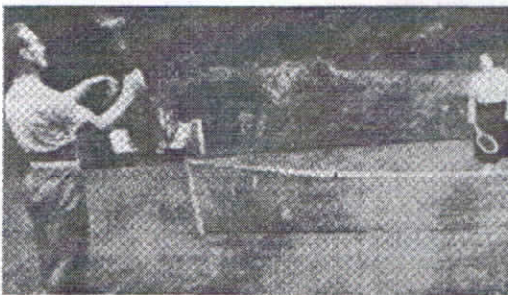
BELMONT N.S.

Soccer fever is high in Belmont N.S. at the moment, with the pupils trying to match the goal scoring exploits of their Premiership heroes on the school pitch at break times! Thanks to the efforts of Michael Oates, our national game is not being neglected. His training sessions with the football team will hopefully pay dividends as the year progresses. At the time of writing the Parents' Association are busy preparing for the school fund raising social to be held in Sheridan's on Easter Sunday night.

After the Easter break the pupils are looking forward to the start of swimming lessons in Claremorris pool. Who knows - we may have a budding Michelle Smyth in our midst? Finally, congratulations to Emer, Claire Feerick, Ronan Connolly, recent art competition winners.

MILLTOWN N.S.

There was a general meeting of all parents of Milltown National School held on 25.1.96. It was attended by teachers, Fr. Gill and 45 of the 65 families in the school. Cathy Dillon of the National Parents Council also attended. There was a unanimous



*Jimmy Killeen and Ciss Barrett playing tennis in
1933/34. They later became husband and wife.*

yes in favour of setting up a Parents Association. The parents elected a committee and from this committee the following nominations were made: Chairperson: Mary Ruane; Secretary: Trina Nolan; Treasurer: Teresa McWalters. The next committee meeting is on 22/4/96 at 9 p.m. which will be attended by Cathy Dillon. Watch this space for further details.

Christmas Senior Citizens Social in Milltown Day Care Centre.



*Maureen Hughes and
Paddy McGagh*

*Ann Burke, Delia
Connolly*

*Martin Singleton in the
background.*

*Front row:
Liz Walsh, Nora
Feerick and Mary
Varley*

*Back row:
Tommie
Shaughnessy, Mattie
Walsh, R.I.P., Tom
Kirrane and Maura
Sandborn.*



*On the dance floor:
Cis Healy and Paddy
McGagh*

*Bridie Kirrane and
Tom Kirrane*

*Teresa Quinn and
Nora Ruane*

*Mary and Breege
O'Toole*

Working off the Turkey Dinner!!!

Christmas Senior Citizens Social in Milltown Day Care Centre.



*Dancing: Tom and
Bridie Kirrane.*

*Cis Healy and Paddy
McGagh*

*Nora Feerick and
Chrissie McGagh*

*Breda Molloy and
Mary Singleton*

*Whose next to take
the floor?*

*Musician: Kieran
Ansboro*

*Paddy McGagh, Nora
Ruane, May Diskin*

*Breda Molloy and
Maureen Hughes.*



*May Diskin and
Maureen McCormick*

*Mary and Breege
O'Toole*

*Delia Connolly and
Ann Burke.*



Dancing to "Shoe the Donkey"

Social and Personal

BIRTHS

Glynn, Milltown, to Barbara and Liam, a girl.
Costello, Cartron, Milltown, to Deirdre and Martin, a girl.
Molloy, Cloonacurry, Milltown, to Margaret and Johnnie, a boy.
Ryan, Milltown, to Tim and Nadine, a boy.
Noone, Emmercly, to Noreen and Padraig, a boy.
Coyne, Musicfield, to Anne and Padraig, a girl.
Redmond, Belmont, to Caroline and Barry, a girl.

ENGAGEMENTS

Caitriona Molloy, Cloonacurry, to Martin Devanney, Kilconly.
Marie Luz Gilpérez to Michael Ryan, Milltown.

WEDDINGS

Caroline O'Donnell, Davris, and Peter Comer, Dunmore.
Marie Keaveney, Gortnagoyne, Garrafrauns and Vinny McGagh.
Teresa Dolan, Ballyhaunis to Ronan Walsh, Pollaturick.

DEATHS

John Walsh, Liskeavy
Julia Walsh, Liskeavy
Martin Walsh, Liskeavy
Michael John Monaghan, Cloonbrisk
Michael Burke, Cartron
Mrs. McCafferty, Clashaganny
Peter Cunningham, Carrownageeha
Eileen Concannon, Russelstown
Michael Connolly, Belmont
Tom Carney, Parkroe.

LOTTO AND
MINI MARKET

PETROL &
DIESEL

SHERIDAN'S NEWSAGENCY

MILLTOWN

Telephone: 093-51404

Under New Management

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for the Summer months.*

Midnight Reality

Suddenly awoke at midnight to sounds of 'Tick, Tick, Tick' from the alarm clock, also noise of cars from the highway.

In the distance two people are having a conversation. All this happens in a few seconds after becoming awake. If alone or with people in similar circumstances, be calm, confident. Don't be uneasy, great powers beyond the universe are helping you.

In a restless world many things are happening. The distant conversation. 'Tick, Tick, Tick' of the alarm clock, just to mention those. Bend, Bend, Sway, Sway in the gentle breeze. It's all happening around the world.

A new morning has begun in a persons journey throughout life. Many things will happen in the coming twenty four hours. Be calm, confident. It's reality for everyone in a world of turmoil as the journey goes on. Each one is unique. Some happiness, some sadness in the new day. Be still, be calm, when this happens, whether on the mountain top or at the palace ball. Many things will happen today.

By Paddy O'Grady

Milltown on the way up!

MILLTOWN is on the way to gaining one of the principal awards in the Tidy Towns Competition.

By improving its marks to 73 this year, the village near the Galway-Mayo border won a £50 prize for the centre in Category A (200 population) with the greatest increase in marks—12 more than in 1963.

"Milltown has again improved and deserves great credit for the work the villagers have put into brightening up their village," the adjudicators state in their report. "The marks are still going upwards and quite soon will be a serious challenge to the leaders of the competition."

FREE OF LITTER

The report notes that there is practically no litter on the streets, the river is clean and well kept, and rusted corrugated iron has been practically eliminated. It is suggested that more attention be paid to broken walls and gates on approach roads from Tuam and Dunmore. The Garda station is very well decorated and the grounds of the C.Y.M.S. Hall have been improved.

Milltown's marks were: 23 out of 30 for effort; 13 out of 15 for general tidiness; 12 out of 15 for condition of streets; 8 out of 10 for appearance of public and private premises; 7 out of 10 for colour harmony; 4 out of 10 for gardens and planting; 6 out of 10 for absence of unsightly objects.

who knows maybe this could be the year we strike gold if all concerned put in a special effort.

Councillor Willie Burke, who is chairman of the local development association, says that the people of the village are very pleased with their success. The £50 prize will be spent on carrying out further improvements.

The committee consists of all traders in the village—Messrs. C. J. Sheridan, Joe Farragher, Kevin Feeney, Paddy Flannery, Frank Glynn, Richard Mullarkey, Christy Grogan, Michael Ryan, Luke Hehir, Mrs. Mannion and Rev. Fr. Berry, C.C.

As well as carrying out a village improvement plan, the committee have also built up a fund of about £2,000 with the aim of getting a small industry.

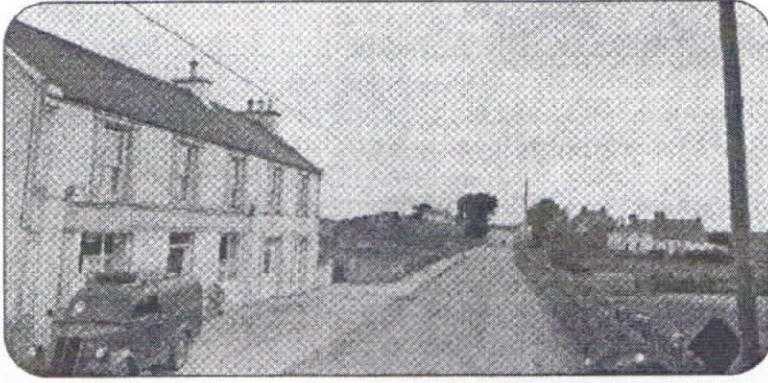
Councillor Burke and other members of the committee will go to Virginia, Co. Cavan (winner of the overall award) on Sunday week to receive the prize and certificate.

MILLTOWN 1996

As preparation for yet another Tidy Towns campaign are about to get under way it is interesting to note that Milltown was making a big impression right from the very beginning when the idea first started back in the early sixties.

The article alongside was taken from a Tuam Herald of 1964. Now over thirty years later we are still putting in a tremendous effort but the elusive first prize has still eluded us. However a steady but consistent improvement each year has put Milltown right to the forefront and

MILLTOWN PAST



MILLTOWN PRESENT



LIFE IN THE OUTBACK

Anthony R. Liddell

Anthony R. Liddell is a young Australian pilot related to the Nestor family Russelstown, Milltown.

It has now been over a month at Walhallow station, I am only just starting to get used to the way this station works, breakfast time, lunchtime it can vary some days depending on what the stock camp does.

The Walhallow station size is a total area of 10,300km² (2.5 million acres) about all of the land is flat, Barkly Tablelands of which it is a part of. The station has a manager Mick, his wife Gail and three small girls, his job is to keep the station running well within budget. He will check on all that is happening on the station, I might see him once a day.

Next is an overseer, Max. He makes sure everyone is working and organises the next jobs more so for the stock camp. The station has a head stockman who is in charge of the camp, men during the full days work. That involves horses to be used, their feed, tucker boxes for the stockmen also Toyota landcruisers and bikes.

These three men are all married with children, all have houses provided to live in, side by side. They are the organisers for this station, the same principal applies to other (Heytesbury) stations, Anthony's Lagoon and Eva Downs. The major decisions are made in Perth by the Home's-a-Court empire. Janet Home's-a-Court often will come out to these properties to check on procedures.

The stockmen, ringers as they are called in the Northern Territory consist of about nine men on this station, most around my age, and except three are single. There are four aboriginals who are friendly and easy to get along with. However they live separately in sheds away from the homestead area.

Most days I will only see the stockmen for dinner, their days start at 4.00 a.m. in the morning. Walhallow has a full time grader driver regrading roads on the station each year as they get washedout during the wet season, also the airstrips (four) become unservicable and have to be graded. A diesel mechanic is employed who repairs station vehicles, Toyota landcruisers, some 2 years old and have done 800,000 km. There are also tractors, cattle trucks, motor and bore pump motors to repair. Two men are employed as bore runner/mechanics, their job is to service and restart the water bores on the station of which there are over forty. The bores pump water up from underground 250 - 300 feet via steel (12 feet length) pipes into turkey nests (dam) or water trough for cattle to drink usually near cattle yards. The bore pumps get refueled and started once a week, once started they are left going till they run out of fuel, pumping twenty or thirty litres a minute.

For us single people we have a station cook (female) who cooks for fourteen days then gets two days off. She has only just been employed, the previous cook had been with the company two years (longest serving), she now works in Darwin. The meals are very good with plenty of food and fruit, left overs go to the pigs or chooks. Breakfast is at 5.30 a.m. usually hot beans, spaghetti or steak (bacon and eggs every Sunday), cereal also. The mornings are very cold as the wind blows through the open areas, morning tea is at 7.30,

scones and tea followed by lunch at 12.30 p.m. with a variety salad/meat or soup and hot food. Lunch break is one hour so after lunch I will go to my room and read for half an hour. Afternoon tea is at 3.30 p.m., tea and cake or biscuit, with my days work finishing around 5.30 p.m. We have a recreational building here, with pool table, darts and table tennis, this is where the bar is located where most drinks alcohol, coke, lemonade, and snack foods can be purchased. What you buy (drinks) is recorded and comes off your wage so no money for station staff changes hands.

Saturday is the best night as most of the camp is back with around twenty five or more people in there, followed by a barbeque at the managers home. During the week and Sundays dinner is served at 6.30 p.m. being steak, plenty of vegetables, it varies each night and a roast at least once a week.

So as you can see we eat pretty well on this station, I am the first to know what is for eating during the week as one of my jobs is to unload the road train from Mt. Isa each Wednesday morning as it brings in all our perishable foods, bread, fruit, also fuel supplies, machinery parts e.g. 30 dozen eggs, 40 loafs of bread. Wallhallow station also has a store room/shop where washing powder, soap, food except perishables can be purchased, deducted from our wage for station staff. This building is run by the book-keeper/accountant, so if she is not refuelling vehicles or minding the store she will organise accounts and wages.

The station employs a full time gardener five days a week, who plants new trees, flowers and keeps the area mowed and watered. The gardens do look very nice, especially now being in flower, people have commented on how nice the station looks compared to others in the territory, it looks like an oasis from the air.

There are still more people employed on the station - school teacher, road train driver, so in summing up what I have written so far the station is like a small town truck stop. Some days can be very quiet while others can see cattle trucks, road trains lined up all around the homestead, planes and vehicles usually being cattle buyers.

As for me, I am referred to as the pilot, however there are two contract helicopter pilots who are based on this station but are usually out with the stockmen mustering. They get paid by the flying hour. I have flown over twenty hours so far. Pick up people from the bus stop, Barkley Homestead Road house which is over an hours flying time from Walhallow. Flown into Mt. Isa two hours 30 minutes to pick up a builder to inspect the station house at Anthonys Lagoon (sinking) then back into Mt. Isa that day, eight hours flying. If I am not flying then I am doing just about anything, am based around the homestead, fixing hoses (gardening), putting up fences, fixing coke machine, changing lights or repairs to toilets. Hay bales get loaded and unloaded by me however I am usually in the workshop helping Allo the diesel mechanic with repairs. If something needs to be replaced there is no point getting too excited its a week you have to wait before the parts will arrive if your lucky. Sundays seem to be my day off so I have taken this time to write this letter before I do my washing or something breaks down. I am now repairing washing machines to the point where they have to be sent into Mt. Isa to be fixed. Well I hope all are well at home, thanks for the letters, its nice to know what's happening as the Northern Territory is a long way from home. Until next time I get the opportunity to write, I hope this explains a bit of station life.

Scenes and Places

*Moonlight on the Moy River Ballina Street lights on a shivering.
It flows peacefully under the bridge to night.
Quiet street cathedral on right, statue on left all observed in a
fleeting glance leaving an impression of tranquillity.
The moon, the great luminar revolves around the earth.
These objects so important each fulfilling a purpose in a world of
reality. Its worth a thought where make belief does not matter.
The moon revolves around the earth gives light.
The Moy river drains keep the fish alive as it flows to the sea.
The cathedral is a place of worships.
Lights alight the street.
The bridge is erected to cross over and arches underneath.
We have left Ballina behind, my chauffeur and myself, winding
roads, thorny bushes, peaceful.
Roads unchanged its all around us.
The thorny bushes lend enchantment its part of old Ireland
of the Leprechauns and the crock of gold, and the fairies.
The ring forts so elusive.
My chauffeur and myself are at hilltop overlooking Enniscrone.
We gaze in wonder at the bright lights of the town our destination
of sail boats and fishermen, also sandy beaches.
A popular holiday and golfing resort.*

By Paddy O'Grady.

17th Century Prayer

The following is a 17th Century Nuns Prayer which has as much relevance now as it had then.

LORD Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody:
helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all,
but thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;
give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains.

They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter
as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains,
but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory,
but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my
memory seems to clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet;

I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with –
but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places,
and talents in unexpected people.

And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

AMEN.

MILLTOWN RACES AND CARNIVAL

APRIL 22nd - MAY 6th ★ Dancing in Spacious Marquee

EASTER SUNDAY, April 22nd:

JIMMY WILEY

NEW STYLE SHOW BAND, Mitchelstown.

EASTER MONDAY, April 23rd:

RACE DANCE.

JIMMY STURROCK

AND HIS ORCHESTRA, STRABANE.

ASTER WEDNESDAY, April 25th:

THE BLACK ACES

SHOW BAND, KILKENNY.

EASTER FRIDAY, April 27th:

Big Double Attraction.

SENSATIONAL AMERICAN COLOURED

SINGING STAR

-- **MEL DEAN** --

and the Danny Dean Trio

SWINGTIME ACES

SHOW BAND, GALWAY.

ADMISSION TO ALL DANCES, 6/-

Dancing 8 to 1 Nightly.

FREE DOOR PRIZES EACH NIGHT.

• SPOTS AND NOVELTIES. •

Sensational Door Prize!

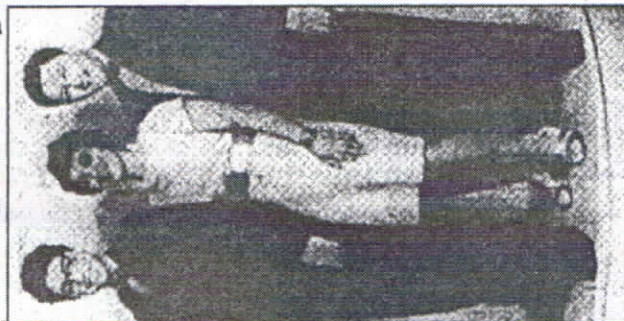
20 FREE DRAWS EACH NIGHT FOR

DE LUXE T.V. SET

Final Draw on Closing Night, May 6th.

Carnival Amusements Nightly.

Sensational Attraction!



THE MEL DEAN TRIO

SUNDAY, April 29th:

JACK RUANE Show Band

BALLINA.

TUESDAY, May 1st:

JOHNNY FLYNN

ORCHESTRA AND SHOW BAND, TUAM.

FRIDAY, May 4th:

DRIFTERS SHOW BAND

MULLINGAR.

SUNDAY, May 6th:

GRAND CLOSING DANCE.

CLEFONAIRES COMBO

MODERN SHOW BAND, SLIGO.

RACES EASTER MONDAY

£120 IN STAKES

FIRST RACE AT 2 P.M.

Irish Grand National Broadcast on Course.

PROGRAMME:

PONY RACE (13.2 hands) ... £12

BANAGHER PLATE (Open) ... £25

TUAM PLATE (11.2 hands) ... £15

MILLTOWN PLATE (Open) ... £40

FARMERS' RACE ... £10

CONSOLATION RACE ... £10

From The Herald Saturday April 21, 1962