

Traditional May Sunday

Festival of Music Song & Dance

at

Killeagh, Co. Cork.

on

May 7th, 1967.

with



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(Imokilly)

(Ballyduff-Portlaw)

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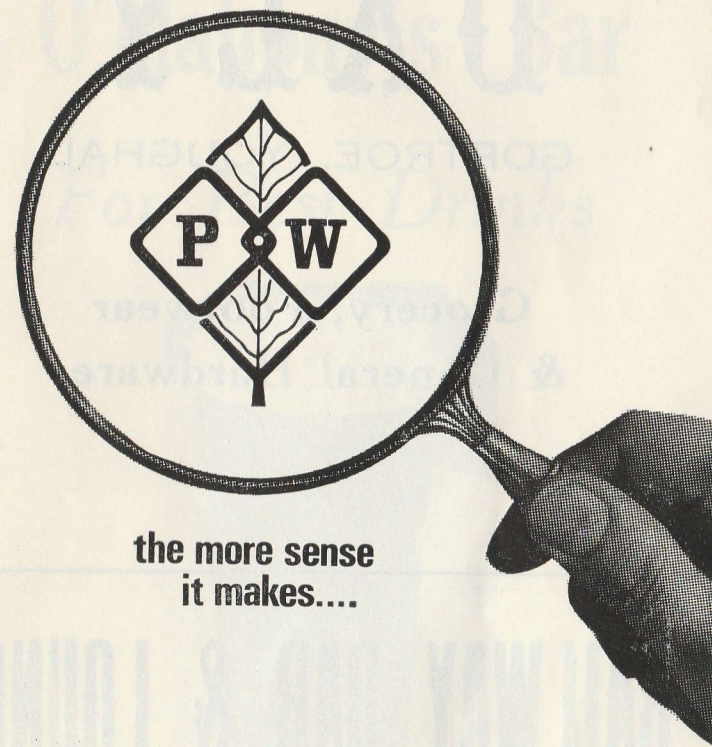
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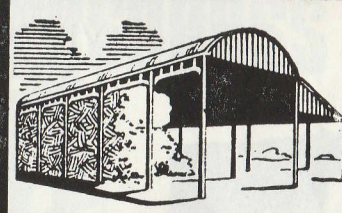
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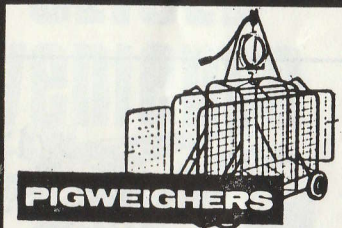


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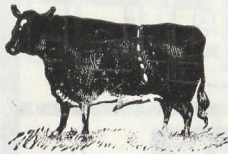
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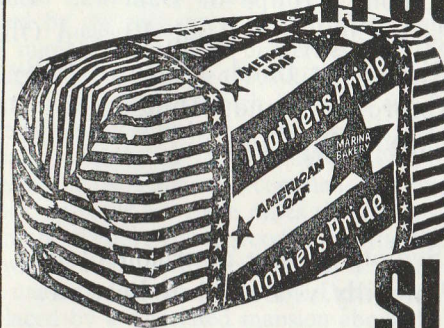
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★ Festival Programme ★

2.30 p.m. Massed Bands Parade plus Boy Scouts, Weight-lifters, O'Mahony Troupe of Dancers. Bands include: Cork City Pipe Band, Blessed Oliver Plunkett Girls Pipe Band, Fermoy; Ballymacarbery Accordion Band, Dungarvan Brass Band, Dungarvan Pipe Band.

3 p.m. Glenbower Senior Hurling Tournament at G A A. Grounds: Imokilly v. Ballyduff-Portlaw.

Following Parade there will be a non-stop Musical Exhibition by Pipe, Brass and Accordion Bands, Conna Youth Orchestra, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann Irish Step-dancing, singing, Irish ballads, & other attractions.

7 p.m. Fancy Dress Parade (open) for valuable cash prizes.

7.45 p.m. Crazy Ball Game at G.A.A. grounds.

Open Air Musical Sessions.

10 p.m. Torchlight Parade.

GLENBOWER OR "THE DEAFENING VALLEY"

Killeagh, a town and parish in the barony of Imokilly, Co. Cork, had 2,785 inhabitants in the year 1837, of which number 698 were in the town. A Nunnery was founded there in the 7th century by St. Abban, near the spot now occupied by the parish church. The principal seat at that time was Ahadoe House, the residence of Sir Capell Brooke Bart., not more remarkable for its natural beauties than for having remained in the same family for more than 600 years, while all the other estates in the south of Ireland had been confiscated. It was granted in 1172 to Philip De Capell by his lineal ancestor and was called by the peasantry "The Maiden Estate", to distinguish it from the numerous forfeited properties in its vicinity. From its elevated situation it commanded beautiful views of the ocean, while the deep wood of Glenbower which is one of the few remnants of the ancient forests stretched below. This romantic glen, which is thought to be equal in beauty to the celebrated Wicklow Dargle, and for its size Glengarriff or Killarney, commences above the town of Killeagh and winds upwards for some miles till it is lost in the mountains. Its precipitous sides are richly wooded and the Dissour which runs through it, in winter dashes with the fury of a mountain torrent, fully justifying the name of Glenbower or "the Deafening Valley". Ahadoe House was replaced by a castellated mansion about the year 1838 for which a site was selected with great taste; and a fine new road, nearly a mile in length, was opened up by the owner. This road which passes over a deep ravine by means of three bridges commands some beautiful views.

It is stated the name Capell was connected with the Fitzgeralds of Imokilly under the following circumstances. In or about the year 1550 a Welsh nobleman named Capell had three sons viz., John, Edmond and Richard. One day the three set out on a fowling expedition to an unnamed island between Wales and Ireland. They were well supplied with provisions, powder, ball and shot and a good musket each of the type then in use. Thus provided for, they set out for the island in a small boat, but on their way a storm arose which drove them off course until they didn't know where they were, and eventually landed at Imokilly, Co. Cork, on a small island almost 50 perches from a peninsula, within 3 miles of Youghal. The Island is to this day called Capell Island, although Irish speakers in the district call it Oilean na gCapall or Horse Island. The Capells were forced to live for some weeks on the island by the help of their firearms, which provided them with plenty of wild fowl. Those, by the way, were the first firearms known in Ireland.

At that time John Fitzgerald of Castlemartyr was threatened by a strong party which was on its way from Ulster to dispossess him of his property. Having heard that the three gentlemen on the Island were able to kill wild fowl at a distance, Fitzgerald thought they could probably save him from the enemy who were marching from Ulster to dispossess him of his estates. He therefore lost no time in sending for the Capells and on their arrival entertained them royally. He then informed them that he would give them three of his Estates, vi.,

Ightermurragh to John, Dromada to Edmond and Ahadoc to Richard if they could conquer his enemies and free him from his forces then encamped at Conna by the Bride. The three consented and went with Fitzgerald to the enemy's camp, where, at the first volley they killed eight or nine men; at the second fourteen men and at the third eighteen men. The enemy, seeing the sudden and unexpected slaughter, ran quickly away and left their cattle, horses and all their instruments of war, behind them.

The Island on which the Capells were cast ashore is by many people known as Cable Island. It is between 10 and 11 acres and is only about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile in extent and about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile off Knockadoon Head, the most eastern part of the County of Cork.

About the beginning of the 17th century the then shenascal of Imokilly, having no son but three daughters, left his property to them to be divided by themselves, each to choose according to seniority which portion she wished as her inheritance, when the eldest said: "Beidh Inse na Cruineachta agam-sa," i.e. "I will have the Wheaten Inch," now called in English "Castlerichard," and which is still remarkable for its wheat growing properties. The second daughter said "An Cnoc Glas Domh-sa", "The Green Hill for me", which has been anglicised "Knockglass", a townland near Ladysbridge. The third and youngest daughter said, "Agus an tIochtar mo Rogha", "The Lower is my choice", which is rendered "Ightermurragh", and this name it bears to the present day. She also said she would build a castle on her property far superior to her father's castle (which with the surrounding lands her eldest sister chose) both in dimensions and comfort.

She, having married a gentleman named Supple, built the castle of Ightermurragh, but they did not long enjoy it for they were obliged to flee with their infant daughter during the rebellion of 1641. This child afterwards married Capell or De Capell the one time owner of Glenbower.

The ORIGIN OF The MAY-DAY PATTERN At GLENBOWER

When the new castelated mansion which replaced Ahadoc House was completed and the new road built through Glenbower by Capell, it was, according to tradition, the last week of April, and he was so proud of his achievement that he invited the people of the surrounding districts to come on the following Sunday, which was May Sunday and rejoice with him on the completion of such a beautiful castle. They were generously entertained by their host and an evening of music, song and dance followed, which re-echoed the merrymaking of the bards of old who used to meet in the vicinity in bygone days.

It is common tradition that in former times a wild boar infested the neighbourhood, and had his lair on Cnoc an Chollaigh, the "Hill of the Boar", and a place still called by this name forms part of the townland of Knockane which is about a mile and a quarter to the east of Castlemartyr. It is said that this wild boar laid waste the country from Cnoc A' Chollaigh to Coill na Muice, a distance of about a mile and a half; the last mentioned place means "The Wood of the Pig", and which is anglicised Killamucky.

The people being terrified by the ravages of this animal, the then chieftain offered a reward for his destruction, and a man named Fitzgerald, having killed him in single combat, after a terrific fight, by slitting his head with a sword, and in which the horse that Fitzgerald rode was killed under him, he got as an acknowledgement a grant of the surrounding lands, and adopted as his arms a boar's head to perpetuate his prowess.

He and his descendants were seneschals of Imokilly, which title appears to have been hereditary and had their seat at Inse na Cruithneactan, "The Wheaten Inch" now called Castlerichard, a townland about four miles to the east of Castlemartyr. It is possibly, in consequence of their office as Seneschals (Judges) that they got the unenviable name of Madrai na Fola, "Dogs of Blood". They are remembered traditionally as being of sanguinary, blood-thirsty dispositions, and one member of the family who, in particular, so much excelled the others in atrocity, that the place of his abode was called Baile na Martra, i.e. "The Town of the Martyrs" from the countless numbers of people martyred by him. This place is known today as Castlemartyr.

It seems that at one time (about the year 1600) the seat of the seneschals was transferred from Castlerichard to Castlemartyr.

The burial place of the Fitzgeralds was in Ballyoughteragh graveyard, which is inside the demesne walls of Castlemartyr.

When their properties shared the fate of other Irish properties, and was confiscated, it was given to Boyle, the ancestor of the Earls of Shannon. It is said that at the funeral of the late owner of the confiscated estate, Fitzgerald, the gates of the demesne at the town of Castlemartyr were closed, and locked by the orders of Boyle so as to prevent the corpse of his predecessor being brought to the graveyard of his ancestors by the usual way. The people attending the funeral, however, laid down the coffin at the gates and proceeded to a neighbouring forge and procured a sledge with which they smashed open the gates, and carried the corpse in triumph by the hall-door of his mansion to its last resting place. Boyle was struck with consternation at this open defiance of his orders by the followers of Fitzgerald, that the privilege of carrying a corpse through the main entrance is ever since only conceded to a member of this family, all others having to go round to the back gates.

The barony of Imokilly derived its name from Iomad-Choille "much wood", iomad "much" and coille, the genitive case of coill "wood". It is from the wood on the plain through which flows the river Womanagh that the barony derived its name. There is no doubt as to the borders of the river Womanagh being wooded, because when the river was deepened and straightened under drainage works immense quantities of trunks of trees, some of which were of enormous size, were found and in all probability, the whole plain was one wood. In the Youghal bog which is a portion of this plain, trunks of trees are to be found and in various parts of the barony.

The river Womanagh derived its name from "Abha Mhna na Coille, i.e., "The River of the Women of the Wood". According to local tradition some insane women inhabited the wood on the banks of this river, as at that time no asylums were built for the safe keeping and restraint of insane persons, so they were driven from the haunts of man and inhabited the woods to the terror of the surrounding people. Omitting the last two words we have Abha Mhna, which is anglicised "Womanagh".

The "Womanagh" has two tributaries, Dissour and Dower. The Dissour which was remarkable for bleaching linen, and was resorted to for that purpose from far and near, as, from some chemical substance in the water, one wetting in this river had more effect in bleaching than two wettings in other rivers when the "bleach" was called Dis Ur, i.e., twice wetted from dis "twice" and ur "wet". From this circumstance the river got this name which is anglicised Dissour.

Half a mile to the east of the demesne wall of Castlemartyr a remarkable subterranean river issues from a limestone rock. This river is fed by two tributaries, one of which enters the ground near Mogeely, and the other at Ballyvorisheen and flow under ground for upwards of a mile. It is known as the Dower River. The word "Dower" is derived from the word Dur which means "water".

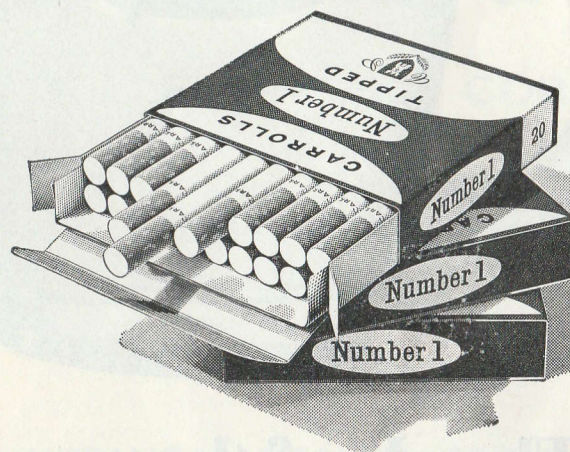
The first Earl of Shannon was on a visit to England and was taken by his host (a nobleman) to see a magnificent bridge which was just only erected over a large river, his host's resident. This bridge was justly admired for its enormous proportions, splendid workmanship, architectural design and the engineering skill displayed in the building of it.

Addressing the Earl of Shannon, his Lordship said, "Have you ever seen a bridge like this in your country?" "Yes, my lord", replied the Earl of Shannon, "I saw a bridge in Ireland upon which His Majesty's whole army could march past together, and could even hold a review on it". "Nonsense! that is impossible", said his host, "this is so absurd that I am prepared to lay a wager of £100 that your statement concerning that bridge is untrue, and to test its accuracy I am inclined to visit your country to see this wonderful bridge, if you guarantee that my life is not jeopardised".

Earl Shannon replied "I am most happy, my lord, to guarantee your safety and I invite you and your friends to accompany me on my return home and be my guests while in Ireland". Having seen the bridge, he was satisfied that Earl Shannon's description of it was correct and that he had won the wager, which he handed over to the Earl. Earl Shannon gave the wager to the people of Castlemartyr to drink the "Health of the visitors", and it is this circumstance that has mainly contributed to the handing down of the anecdote to the present time.

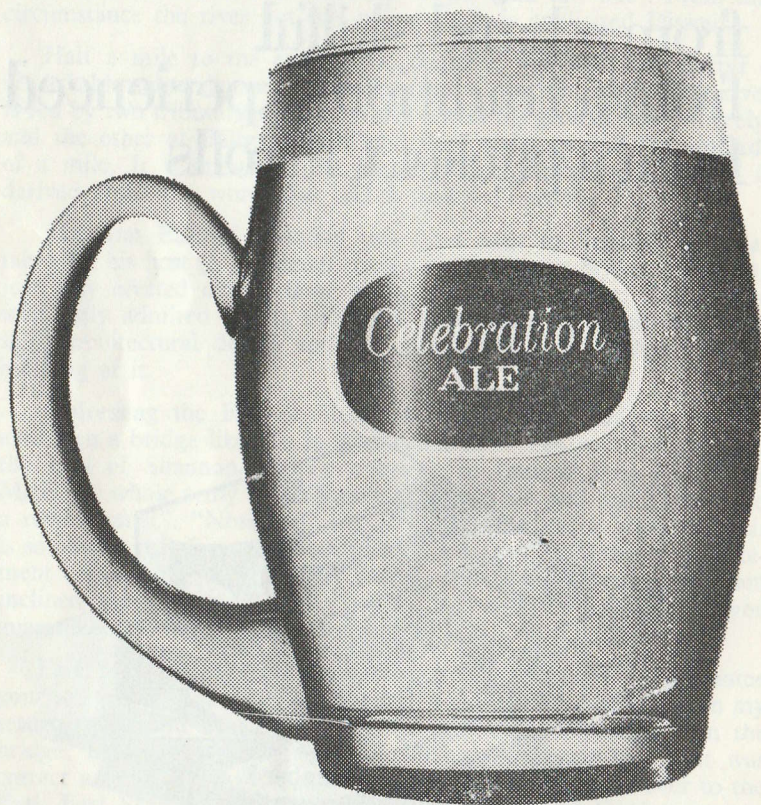
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Sweet Glenbower

As we rambled through its woodland on this cold December day,
And the trees all around us white with snow.
There is no cuckoo singing and no corncrake to hear,
The fish in the lake they do not rise.
But the ripple of the waterfall I can hear for half a mile,
In the cold and isolated Sweet Glenbower.

As we walked up to the metal bridge the swinging gate to see,
And down the boat-house path we went—our hearts were full of glee.
A new fish pass is built now beside the waterfall,
For the fishing in the lake to give its best.
As we strolled along the path of the lake to see next the white bridge,
Where many a dance was held there in the good old days gone bye.
The old one it is gone now and a new one takes its place,
But it still gives more beauty to the scenery of Sweet Glenbower.

The light is fading fast and return we must now,
For the sky high above us looks like snow.
So down we went the old wood road a last great sight to see,
We stood and gazed admiringly on the lonely monkey tree.
So now our walk is ended and please God some other day,
We'll stroll again some more to see of good old Sweet Glenbower.

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