

## Tinryland Emigrant's Letter

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### *Introduction*

*by Maureen Byrne*

Welcome to the seventh "Reaching Out" Emigrant newsletter from St. Joseph's Parish, Tinryland, Co. Carlow which has been produced each Christmas since 1990.

Whether you are a parishioner of many years, a newcomer to the parish or indeed now living away from Tinryland either in Ireland or abroad, I hope that you find it informative and interesting.

There are a lot of activities going on in the parish. If you have recently moved to Tinryland you might like to find out what is going on in the place. There is a section in the newsletter, which will give you the contact name for the Clubs and Societies, which are in the area. If you are interested in joining any of these just contact the relevant person on the list for details. You can be assured that you will be welcomed with open arms.

If you have moved away you might like to catch up on what has been happening in the place over the past 12 months. No doubt you are kept informed by letters and phone calls and maybe the occasional ~Nationalist" from home but there may be some event which you have missed.

For our parishioners there is the chance to recall the happy and sad occasions which

occurred since the last edition with the highlights from the weekly newsletters and the details of the Christenings, Marriages, First Communions and Funerals registered at the Church during the Year.

Wherever you are reading this, we know that you are proud to be associated with Tinryland and are interested in what goes on there. If you get an opportunity to return you will be assured of a welcome at the Sunday Masses which are held at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday evenings and at 8.30 am and 11.00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. You will then have a chance to chat with your friends and neighbours in the Square afterwards. For those of you who return during the Summer another very good occasion to meet your neighbours and friends is at the Cemetery Mass which is held annually around the first week of July and to which current and former parishioners come in their hundreds.

Finally I would be glad to receive any comments, ideas or feedback regarding this newsletter. Maybe for next year's "Emigrants Letter" you might like to submit a short article on any subject whether to reminisce on times gone by or to share with our readers a little of your life since you moved away from Tinryland. If so please forward to Fr. Peter Dunne P.P. or myself at the address below.

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sentence of hanging, this concentrates the mind wonderfully. A little more thought will be given to packing. In will go only what is needed and necessary. There is a financial penalty for being overweight so the grand piano will be left behind. One problem however remains. The suitcase will be weighed but what is packed into the head and the heart won't show on the scales. The great but foolish expectations, the bitterness and hatreds, the resentments and angers cannot be weighed. They are however often the useless baggage we retain to blight our lives and cram our brains.

### **Baggage**

Twelve shirts and one pair of socks, two shaving sticks and no razor! You wake up in Killamey and feel an ass - yet all is not lost. If you have money you can make the necessary purchases or else stick it out and come home *after* a fortnight smelling to high heaven with a face like a hedgehog.

I am reading at the moment a historical novel. It gives a most harrowing account of Russian peasants and villagers fleeing before the advancing German army during the First World War. The account focuses on a pathetic old peasant farmer carrying a broken rusty plough on his shoulders, an implement he had not used for years and never would again. Yes, we humans so often make strange decisions when by choice or by force we leave our homes behind us. Philosophers tell us we are rational beings, at the top of the ladder in the animal kingdom, but our choices and our actions are often quite irrational. Running for your life with a plough on your back is stupid, but it says something that on the day of our permanent get away from it all, one shirt will do and the razor may not be necessary.

Flying is a good way to travel. It's fast, comfortable, and reasonably safe. It has another great advantage in that the amount of luggage one can take is limited. Like a

It is said that nature abhors a vacuum so when the baggage is thrown out what fills the space? Thank God there are lighter things, more needed and more valuable, which we can pack to make life better. It is always worthwhile trying love and friendship instead of bitterness and hate. A spirit of forgiveness can oust a lot of resentment and anger. Then of course there is faith and trust in God, sometimes overlooked or rejected. In my youth I knew a man who declared he hung up his faith on a nail at the North Wall and picked it up when he returned two years later. Talk of travelling light or perhaps should we say travelling with nothing!

In spirit or in fact all of us will be travelling for Christmas. May we travel with the lighter but more valuable and precious things in our hearts and minds.

Emigrants, if you are coming home, come with love, the most precious gift. and may you be welcomed and feel strengthened by a very warm reception. May all who travel go safely, unburdened of any fear that would make the journey daunting. Travel with God. Jesus came to "thumb" a lift on our life's journey. He is worthwhile picking up.

Happy Christmas.

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### *Tinryland memories from the 30's*

*by Peadar Mac Murcadha*

I must say I have many pleasant and happy memories of my childhood growing up around Tinryland in the 1930's and early 1940's. I lived with my grandparents, Peter and Kate McMorrow at Mac's Cross which is the junction of the Arms Road, the Ballybar Road, Ballinacarrig Road, and the Chapel Road. : They had a small shop on the junction of the Arms Road and Ballinacarrig Road. Tom and Kate Dempsey lived in a house on the junction of the Arms Road and the Chapel Road. The Priest field with its majestic beech trees bounded the Chapel Road junction with the Ballybar Road while Dowling's field with a lone sycamore tree bounded the remaining junction of Ballybar Road and Ballinacarrig Road.

This latter junction was bounded by a hedge from whence grew the lone sycamore at the crown of the corner. Beneath the tree on the roadside was a grass bank in which was set a small flagstone on which cards were played in the long summer evenings. The Priest field had a stone wall inside of which stood the beech trees, from one of which was strung the aerial serving the battery wireless in my grandparents home.

From the cross I could see the Clogrennane hills and in the summer evenings often watched the white plume of steam curl up from passing trains on the railway line between Milford and Carlow. One could also hear the putta-putta sound of the passing canal barges on the river Barrow.

Local men regularly played "Nap" and "Solo" beneath the sycamore during the summer months and in Dick Hayden's house

during the winter. The younger men often played pitch and toss under the canopy of the beech trees on a Sunday and during summer evenings.

Regulars met under the beech trees after Mass (II am) on Sundays the whole year round, discussing crops, harvest, ploughing, and community gossip, driving many a wife to distraction trying to keep the dinner warm for her gossiping husband.

My grandparents sold Paraffin oil, Candles, Clarendon meal, Oatmeal, Washing soda, Bread soda, N-K-M toffee, Palma and Fry cream chocolate, Half-time Jimmy chocolate, Peggy's leg, Bread, Cigarettes, Tobacco, Snuff, Biscuits in small paper packs and Minerals. The bread was supplied by Slaters and McDonalds both of Carlow and Paisley of Tinahely. It was the Oil deliveryman who brought the news of the Pope's death and also of the passing of the English Monarch.

The four roads were water bound sand and gravel and the only place to spin a top was the flat tombstones above at the Chapel providing you avoided the Priest or the grave owner. You could also spin a top at Kane's Cross or Jordan's Cross on the Carlow/Wexford Road as it was tarred, but not as good as the limestone slab on the grave, where your top spun so fast it seemed motionless. Such a top was said to be sleeping! .

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The Schoolmaster got the daily paper, which was delivered by the postman on his rounds. The time of delivery depended on the postman's weight of delivery but generally coincided with our 5-minute mid-morning break. In the summer evenings the schoolmaster would, with paper under his arm, arrive at our cross and read the main items of the paper out loud for the benefit of the locals gathered there. He would often say "If you read the leading article and understand it you could hold your own in any company".

Often on a Saturday during the year he would take you in tow on his stroll and educate you in the grasses, sedges, wild flowers and weeds along the hedgerow. He would name all the birds and often took us down the Black Bog to watch the snipe twist and turn in flight when disturbed.

I have many other happy memories of Tinryland at that period of time. It was a great spot to grow up in childhood and I pray that today's scholars are as happy as we were then.

*Peadar Mac Murcadha now resides in Galway.*

## TINRYLAND G.F.C

by Michael Keyes (Secretary)

The Club has become virtually a community centre, with events taking place every night of the week.

Monday is Ceidhle Dancing night with a qualified instructor.

Badminton is on most nights with two teams participating in County Championships.

Handball is serviced by two alleys, one of international standard. Both these courts are also used for Racquet Ball while Squash can be played on one of them.

Social amenities include a Bar and Lounge in which music is provided. In the upstairs area is a kitchen with a large dining area attached.

The Club's roots are in GAA and therefore football from Juveniles up to Senior standard is catered for with a fine pitch. The Club currently fields four adult teams and the Senior team reached the semi-final of the Championship in 1996. There is also a Ladies football team, which did very well this year.

The Athletic Club use the facilities of the Club when hosting major events. The facilities are available to all and new members are welcome at all times.

It is proposed to establish a Heritage Society in the Club. Copies of Photos or anecdotes about former players will be made available to anyone requesting this type of material from the Club. The Society would also be very glad to receive items of interest of this nature.

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### Echoes of the Fifties

*by Fr. Eamonn Hayden*

Last August when I was home on holidays in Tinryland I had a very pleasant experience. One Sunday as I was driving past the Tennis Club, I was surprised to see many cars parked near by and an unusually big number of youngsters gathered near the entrance. My curiosity was aroused so I decided to investigate what was happening. As I approached the children several of them were in animated conversation and it took some minutes before I was noticed. On enquiring what the excitement was about, one of the children explained that the Club was organising a tournament and they were just waiting to get the exercise on its way. The group of children in heightened conversation was trying to sort out their partners with some of them wondering if their partners were really going to turn up at all.

I was delighted to see such activity in the Tennis Club as over recent years it seems the Club was not very active. But I was particularly interested to see so many of the local kids experiencing such wholesome and healthy sport so near their own homes. I was not able to delay very long that day but as I left the tennis grounds my mind wandered back to the 1950's when I as a teenager enjoyed many many hours of laughter, amusement and friendship in that same Club.

Tinryland in the fifties was best known for its Gaelic Football teams but during the same years the Tennis Club also carried the Tinryland banner to a fair slice of Leinster. During the stewardship of people like Eddie

Darcy, Tom Sheehan, Peggy Timmons and the late Nan Doyle and my own term as Secretary of the Club, we travelled to what seemed far-off places then - Tramore, Gowran, Portlaoise, Athy, Inistiogue as well as to near by Carlow Town club and Myshall. The name and in its own way the fame of the Club was spread round the County and further afield through the successes of Tess Delaney and Brendan McCormack.

As I travelled on my journey that August day, many memories of the Tennis Club were sparked off in my mind by seeing this generation of the Tinryland Parish kids preparing for their tennis tournament on that August day.

One of the memories that resurfaced again and again as I drove southwards was the diplomacy and ingenuity that was exercised by the Tennis Club committee in seeking permission from the late Father Dunny. As a clerical student, then, I was always selected on the delegation to seek permission for use of the Parish Hall for the Social that always concluded the hosting of a visiting tennis team. I don't think we were ever refused permission but our trump card was always played, namely, "Of course Father, we will have an intermission for the evening Benediction". And sure enough it was no trouble to tell our guests that this would be so. In fact a similar pattern was followed especially in Gowran and also in Myshall.

*con/d.*

Today a very different pattern of entertainment is available to young people everywhere. There are all kinds of sophisticated entertainment and wonderful sports opportunities - unimagined in the fifties. But for those who were young in the fifties the limited sports facilities were enjoyed with as much vigour and satisfaction as can be experienced today when people have so many choices in entertainment and recreation.

*Fr. Eamonn Hayden (from Kilmeaney) is a ...  
Patrick's Kiltegan Father currently  
working in California.*

Davitt's in the "B" semi-final. However the season finished on a winning note with the U-12's winning a blitz in both Ballon and Rathvilly and the U-13's winning the winter league defeating O'Hanrahan's by a point.

Our younger teams also did the club proud on the field. The U-10's under their coach Pat Kenny reached the "A" Final of the annual Maurice Nolan tournament. This is a tournament consisting of eight teams run on a league basis.

The U-9 team under their coach Paddy Townsend took part in a blitz in Eire Og losing out to Sarsfields of Newbridge in the Semi-final. The Club's annual U-9 blitz for the Mick Brennan Cup took place in October with eight teams from Laois, Wicklow, Offaly and Carlow taking part. After a long day and some great football skill our lads lost out in the "A" final to Eire Og. It should be noted that we had a panel of 31 players for this tournament so the future looks bright.

Away from the field of play a very enjoyable day out was had in Clara Lara Funpark. Fund-raising activities during the year included a Table Quiz and a very successful Race Night held in conjunction with Tinryland Tennis Club.

The next undertaking for the committee is a proposed weekend away to Oisins G.F.C. in Manchester.

## Michael Doran reviews the past year for Tinryland Juvenile GAA

Our juveniles have just completed another successful year. Our year started back in February when our U-12's travelled to Navan to play a challenge match against local club Simonstown. Training started in mid March for the older groups in preparation for the Championship. All of our teams reached the closing stage of the Championship and when one considers the size of the Parish this in itself was a great achievement.

The U-12's lost very narrowly to a very big O' Hanrahan's team in the "A" Final. The U-14's reached the "A" Semi-final losing to local rivals Palatine while the U-16's lost after a replay to Michael

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### Rev Thomas Tyrrell P. P. Tinryland *A Political Priest by John Scott*

Fr. Thomas Tyrrell was a native of Ballyroan, Co. Laois. He was PP of Doonane from 1815 to 1823 when he was transferred to Tinryland where he remained until his death on 24 August 1842. Many of his parishioners at this time were tenants of the landlords Bruen and Beresford and this probably began his interest in politics.

At this time in Carlow the Borough of Carlow sent one representative to Parliament and the County sent two. The bill giving Catholic Emancipation was made law on 13 April 1829. A separate bill was passed at the same time, which raised the county franchise from forty shillings to £ 10. This had the effect of reducing the number of people who could vote in the County constituency from about 4000 to 530. This was an attempt to limit the effect of the emancipation bill and it deprived many forty-shilling freeholders of the vote. The very people who had forced the question of emancipation were to be deprived of the fruits of it. This just added to the feelings of bitterness, which had built up over the previous decade.

However a Reform Bill was passed in August 1832 and it increased the electorate in the County to about 1246. Also, the borough franchise was extended to £ 10 householders, the same as in England. Special sessions for the registration of new voters were set up and the number of people entitled to vote in the next borough election would be considerably greater than the thirteen who had the vote in the last one. In the 1832 election 278

people had the right to vote in the Borough. It must be remembered that at this time voting was not secret and sometimes the local papers published a list of the voters and how they cast their votes. The landlords expected that their tenants would vote as directed by them.

The previous elections in the County from the Act of Union in 1801 were just contests between various landlords. Now with the coming of Catholic Emancipation and the passing of the Reform Act the power of the landlords could be challenged. This was the situation into which Fr. Tyrrell threw his energies. In May 1830 he addressed a Poor Law meeting in Maryborough and he also proposed a motion at a Reform meeting in Carlow on 24th May, 1832. He seconded Wallace, the Liberal candidate, at the election in December 1832. Wallace and the other Liberal candidate, Walter Blackney were elected. The Conservatives tried to have the result overturned and a Parliamentary Committee investigated the election. Fr. Tyrrell travelled from Tinryland to London and gave evidence before this committee in May 1833.

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When Fr. Maher wrote a letter to the Dublin Evening Post claiming that the landlord Beresford was replacing Catholics with Protestants in Knockbower, Fr. Tyrrell publicly disagreed with him. Fr. Tyrrell said that he himself was in the process of negotiating with Beresford's agent, Charles Doyne, the renewal of the leases. He accused Fr. Maher of giving credit to "every flying report". Fr. Tyrrell was not as radical as Fr. Maher. Although deeply involved in political agitating he seems not to have particularly enjoyed it. The Secretary of the Liberal Club in Brown Street in Carlow, Edward Fitzgerald, said that Fr. Tyrrell sometimes "don't go the whole hog with us".

He was not at first an admirer of Daniel O'Connell but after he met the Liberator in London in 1835 during the inquiry into what became known as the Raphael Affair he had a change of heart about him. He nominated many of the Liberal candidates at the various elections during the 1830's. Henry Faulkner of Castle town said that Fr. Tyrrell was one of the priests that the Conservatives thought most of in the County. This remark was made in the context of a libel case Fr. Tyrrell took against *The Carlow Sentinel* so it may not tell the full story of his standing with the Conservatives.

However, Fr. Tyrrell seems to have become more radical by 1841. He allegedly rounded up the voters for the election in that year and ensured that they voted for the Liberal candidates, Yates and Daniel O'Connell junior, whom Fr. Tyrrell proposed. He was a strong supporter of Nicholas Vigors of Leighlinbridge and he seconded him for the by-election of 1837 and also for the general

election of that same year. Vigors was a Liberal who also supported the repeal of the Union. Fr. Tyrrell it would seem did not support repeal, which is not that surprising as Bishop JKL was against repeal also.

During the election of 1841 he rounded up voters in his parish and had them taken to Kilkenny where they were held until the day of the election when they were then brought to Carlow to exercise their vote. He allowed cribs to be used in Tinryland Church into which were put voters who failed to support the Liberal candidates. This was a practice, which was first used in Clare and was recommended in a speech in Carlow by Daniel O'Connell. It seems surprising that Fr. Tyrrell allowed such a practice in Tinryland but it may be that he felt that he could not prevent it. Cribs were also used in other churches in Carlow so it was not totally unusual.

After the defeat of the Liberals in the election of 1841 the strong priests in Carlow such as Fr. Maher and Fr. Tyrrell seem to have withdrawn somewhat from the political scene and it meant that the Conservatives controlled the County for the next forty years with only one exception. The curate in Tinryland in 1841 was Fr. McArdle who seems to have taken little or no part in politics.

When Fr. Tyrrell died *The Carlow Sentinel*, a conservative paper, did not even mention his funeral. I have failed to locate Fr. Tyrrell's grave in Tinryland. Does anyone know where it is?



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### The Apostolic Work Society

Apostolic Work began in 1923 with the purpose of assisting missionaries by prayer and in a material way. The objects of the Apostolic Work are in essence the same today as in 1923 i.e. to share in the missionary apostolate of the Church by prayer, and by providing material needs to those areas where the Church is not fully established.

Many people think that we simply knit and sew for the missions. Of course we do, but that is only one aspect of our work. The needs of missionaries have changed enormously over the years; computers, photocopiers, audio-visual aids etc., are very much in demand. Funding is essential for churches, transport, education and health, to name but a few. The missionary must look after the welfare of his flock, i.e. feeding the hungry, educating the young and caring for the sick.

Apostolic Work provides funds for:

- Church buildings, Church furnishings, liturgical goods
- Support and transport for missionaries
- Education for native clergy
- Support for native sisterhoods and catechists
- Medical and office equipment
- Education, food, medicine, clothing. Health and Welfare clinics
- Equipment for well-digging
- Self-help projects

There are eighteen branches in the Kildare & Leighlin Diocese with 300 Active members and 1000 Honorary members. Those who cannot actively engage in the work of the Association can become honorary members by making a small donation once a year. There are also Junior Branches as helping the missions has a special appeal for young people.

1996 Project.

It was decided to allocate £10,000 to Fr. Eddie McColgan, for the building of a Church in Nasomolevu, Fiji. This is the most westerly island of the Fiji Group. The former Church was damaged by a hurricane in 1991 and they have been striving to rebuild it since. All their materials have to be transported by boat, there are no roads and the sacks of sand and gravel required are carried on the backs of the parishioners. This is voluntary labour.

Money has also been allocated to our own diocesan mission to Brazil.

Presently we are looking for people to knit Teddy Bears as these are of therapeutic value to children in Mission Hospitals.

We would like to thank all our members both active and honorary who continued their commitment to the work of the Society during the past year.

Have you ever thought of joining the Association? There is a branch in Tinryland. Enquiries welcomed by Stacia Townsend, Ballyloo, Betty Delaney, Tinryland and Pauline Cleary, Tinryland.

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### An update of Tinryland N.S. from Head Master Denis Shannon

Tinryland N.S. has a present enrolment of 163 pupils, 93 Boys and 70 Girls.

This year the school had an intake of 16 new pupils. There are 6 staff members with a remedial teacher Mrs. Mary Doyle N.T. (retiring in December '96) shared with Bennekerry N.S.

In addition to the academic subjects the school caters for Irish Dancing, Music, G.A.A., Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, Athletics, and Rounders. The school has had great success in Basketball, G.A.A. and Athletics over the last few years.

The positive response to various fund-raising events has been most encouraging. £1,000 was raised by *the* school children during the "Skipathon" for the Happy Hearts. This venture was very efficiently co-ordinated by School Secretary Mrs. Margaret Townsend. The Annual Book Fair raised £655, while a Fun Quiz took in £617.

At present, a number of parents conduct co-educational knitting classes on Friday afternoons.

The school is very well served by the Parent/Teacher Association. Mr. Paddy Holohan - Quinagh is Chairman, Mrs. Rita Byrne - Linkardstown is Secretary and Mrs. Brenda Whelan - Rathcroogue is Treasurer.

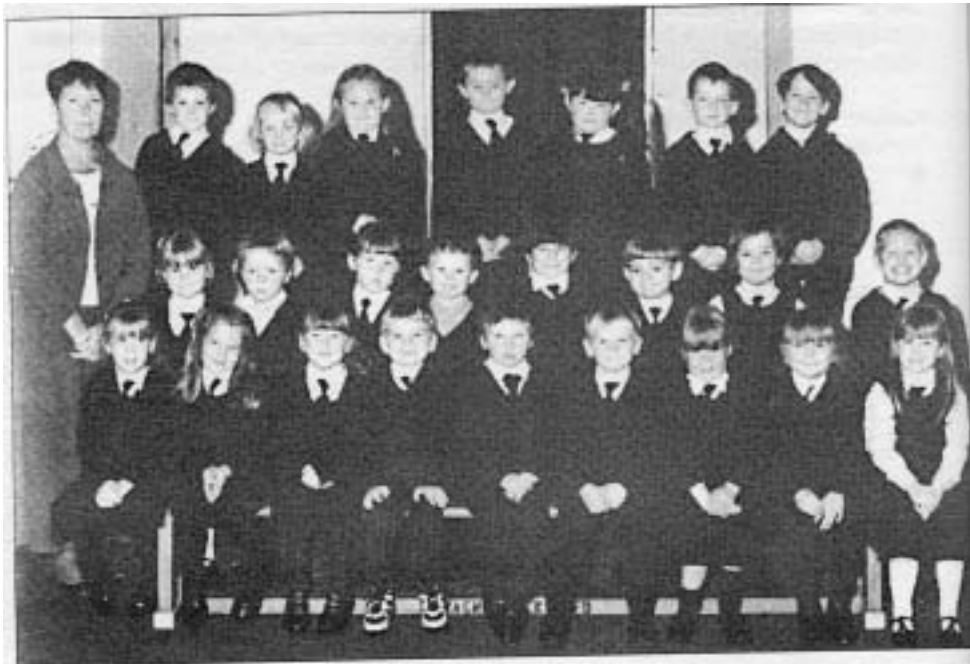
Forthcoming Events include:

- Parents Day                      December 6th, 1996
- School Raffle/Concert        December 19th, 1996
  
- First Confession                March 12th, 1997
- First Communion                May 3rd, 1997
  
- Confirmation                    May 28th 1997 at 5.00 p.m. (Weds.)

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MR. SHANNON'S CLASS OF 1996.



MRS. FOSTER'S CLASS OF 1996.

Christmas 1996



MRS. FLYNN'S CLASS OF 1996



MS. BURKE'S CLASS OF 1996.

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**MRS. FINNERTY'S CLASS OF 1996.**



**MR. DOHENY'S CLASS OF 1996.**

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# E.S.B School's Environmental Award

*by Denis Shannon*

LEINSTER PRIMARY SCHOOLS WERE targeted this year by the E.S.B for their environmental competition. The felling of a shelter hedge by the graveyard and the need for external improvements in the school environs were the necessary ingredients for the Tinryland school staff and pupils to take up the challenge.

An outline plan of action was drawn up by Joe Doheny N.T. with an emphasis on restructuring, painting, rockery, shrubberies, additional trees and hedging.

Saturday May 4th, work began with parents and staff rolling up their sleeves to get the project underway. The school boundary with its overgrown hedges were cut back by Tony Pender, Liam Foster and their families. Joe Roche, Shay Byrne and staff members tackled the front lawn and laid new shrubs.

Kerbing at the front of the school and steps to the basketball court was the voluntary contribution of Sean Doyle (Tarmac). Pat Meaney & Co. plastered the wall at the left hand side of the school while Pat & Josephine Cleere painted and put a mural on same.

Some days later J.C.B. operator Paddy Moore and Tony Pender moved some dangerous stumps at the graveyard side and also unearthed some large rocks which Mrs. Foster's class converted to a rockery. Unsightly windows on the pumphouse were built up, glazing was carried out by Noel Farrell. Doors and entrances were painted by caretaker Joe Stynes.

Up to £300 worth of plants were purchased from a County Wicklow nursery. A feature during the month of May was the amount of spades, shovels, and sprongs the senior pupils took to school each day. The Senior Classes were responsible for planting the new shrubs to the left of the school, a beech hedge around the school field and window boxes at the front of the school.

Sean O'Neill of the Game Council provided some additional trees. The amount of plants brought to school by the pupils showed the good will of the parents for the project. To meet the costs a successful table quiz in the G.A.A Centre raised £600.

A prize of £200 from the E.S.B. was a welcome bonus coupled with the enhancement of the school environment. The prize was collected by Joe Doheny, Mrs Bridie Pender and eight pupils in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra on September 25th 1996.

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### Highlights of the Year December 1995 to November 1996

December 1995.

A most enjoyable evening was had by all at the Tinryland Senior Citizens Christmas Party in Rathcroogue House on 3rd December.

Tinryland Athletic Club held their AGM on Monday 4th December

A Goose Club was held in the G.A.A. Centre on Sunday 18th December with prizes of Turkeys, Hams, Hampers and lots of other goodies.

A ramp and steps were installed by Mr. Pat Meaney, Rathcroogue to provide easier and safer access to the cemetery.

A Christmas party was held for the children in the G.A.A. Clubhouse with Santa being the guest of honour.

January 1996.

The set dancing resumed in the GAA Centre on Monday 8th January at 8.30 p.m. and continued on each Monday through to May. Dances include: "The Walls of Limerick", "the Haymakers Jig", "Siege of Ennis Shoe the Donkey", "the Wolfe Hill Set" and many more. Great fun was had by all.

Carlow Regional Game Council supplied Tinryland National School with a number of Oak, Beech and Birch trees. The pupils of 6th class had a tree planting ceremony on Monday 22nd of January. It is hoped that the trees will supplement the green shelterbelt on the left hand side of the graveyard wall.

Swimming lessons commenced for the school children in Graiguecullen Pool on Tuesday 23rd January. Over 65 children availed of the classes.

The A.G.M. of the Juvenile G.A.A. was held on January 23rd.

Tinryland G.F.C. held a night out in the Clubhouse on January 27th.

February 1996.

Eight local athletes represented Carlow in the Leinster Southern zone sports hall athletic Final in the C.B.S. gymnasium on February 3rd. The athletes were: Christopher Cleary, Alan Barrett, Niall Barrett, Mark Townsend, Brian Foster, Andrew Doyle, Louise McArdle and Nicola Ryan.

Fr. P.J. Byrne was the celebrant for the Television Mass on Sunday 4th February with a group of his parishioners and the Portarlinton parish choir.

The biggest sporting event ever staged in the village was held on Sunday 11th February when Tinryland Athletic Club hosted the National Intermediate and Veteran Cross Country Championships over the Parish land. Over 500 athletes representing 20 counties and 40 clubs competed and the many spectators had a very enjoyable afternoon's sport.

The Tinryland Juvenile Football Club brought a group of adults and children to Navan for the All-Ireland Club semi-final on Sunday 18th February.

Once again House Masses were celebrated in different areas throughout the Parish for Lent.

March 1996.

The first ever Tinryland Sports Stars Awards were presented at the Annual G.F.C. Dinner dance held in Rathcroogue House on Friday March 22nd. Clem Ryan of CKR Sport made the presentation to the following sports people for achievements in their particular sport:

Athletics:	Tommy Payne
Badminton: G.A.A.:	Mary Doyle
Juvenile G.A.A.:	Michael Murphy
Handball:	John Doyle
	Michael Doyle



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A cabaret organised by the Set Dancing Committee was held in the clubhouse on March 15th.

The children in 1st Class made their First Confession on Wednesday 13th March.

Our Parish Priest Fr. Peter Dunne went into hospital to undergo surgery in mid-March. Alternative arrangements were made during Fr. Dunne's hospitalization and subsequent convalescence. The usual attendees at morning Mass gathered together for Rosary recited by Jack McArdle and Holy Communion distributed by Eucharistic Ministers Frankie Cole and May Byrne. Priests from Carlow supplied the week-end Masses during this period and the number of Sunday Masses was reduced from three to two with the cancellation of the First Mass at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday morning.

The First meeting of the newly revived Tinryland Tennis Club was held on 28th March in the G.AA Clubhouse.

### **April 1996.**

A "Nite Out" in aid of Area 11 Community Games was held in Rathcrogue House on Monday 15th April. Music was by Brose Walshe Brothers.

Congratulations to the U-13 and U-16 Girls Community Games Basketball teams which won the County Finals. The U-13 boys were unlucky to be beaten by St. Lazarian's in the Final. The U-13 Girls Team was: Jane Meaney, Anne Marie Meaney, Louise McArdle, Donna Mullins, G. Cunningham and N. Ryan. The U-16 Girls Team was: Aine Kelly, Emer Byrne, Jennifer Morgan, Claire McGuill, Aoife Kavanagh, Claire Matthews, Ashling Nolan, Orla Delaney. Bernie Murphy and Elaine Delaney.

A skipathon by the pupils in Tinryland National School raised over IR£700 for the Heart Foundation.

Girls U-14 Football Training commenced in the G.AA Club.

A Fun Table Quiz in aid of Tinryland N.S. was held in Tinryland G.F.C Clubhouse on Thursday 25th April. Thirty-two teams of four people participated raising IR£460 for the school.

### **May 1996.**

The Parish Social was held in Rathcrogue Guest House on Sunday 5th May. A great night was had by all.

Seventeen children from First Class received their First Communion on Saturday 11th May 1996.

The Cake Sale/Raffle in aid of Tinryland N.S raised IR£70.40. The funds were used to buy shrubs and flowers for the schools entry for the E.S.B Environmental Awareness competition.

Area 11 Community Games Finals were held in the G.A.A Grounds, Rathcrogue on Friday 24th May.

### **June 1996.**

Fr. Dunne returned from convalescence following his operation and was warmly welcomed back.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society annual pilgrimage to Knock took place on 22nd June.

The Sunday Mass time changed from 11.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

Fr. P.J. Byrne celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination with Mass in his home parish of St. Joseph's Church, Tinryland.

## Christmas 1996

### July 1996.

Fr. Dunne performed the official opening and blessing of Tinryland Tennis Club on July 3rd.

The Cemetery Mass was held on Friday 5th July.

The Senior Citizen's outing to Leinster House took place on Thursday 11th July.

Tinryland U-12 Footballers did us proud when they faced the "Blues" O'Hanrahans in the County U-12 'A' final. In a very close and entertaining match the Tinryland lads put on a fine display of skill and sportsmanship and only went down by 4 points after a thrilling hour of football.

Area 11 - Bennekerry/Tinryland Community Games won the Hosey Cup at the County Finals held in St. Patrick's College.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society held their Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Island on 21st July.

### August 1996.

Sr. Cecilia - a Franciscan Missionary Sister made an appeal at the Sunday Masses for support for the Missions. She subsequently sent her thanks to the people of the parish for their generous donation of £254.

The U-14 mixed Rounders team won the "B" Final in the County Carlow Rounders League. Their coach Yvonne Brennan was very happy with their performance in this their first match.

Team: Niall Barrett, Samantha Stynes, Caroline Byrne, Celine Dempsey, Raymond Byrne, Emmet Furlong, Louise McArdle, Nicole McArdle and Christopher Cleary. Subs: Colette Byrne, Ian Spring, Rachel Chall.

A fun tournament for Juvenile members of the Tennis Club was held on Sunday August 18th.

The 23rd Annual Tinryland A.C. Autumn Road League commenced on Wednesday 28th August.

The P.T.A.A Pilgrimage to our Lady's Island took place on Sunday August 25th.

### September 1996.

The Regional P.T.A.A meeting was held in the Parochial House on 20th September.

Tinryland G.F.C. commenced the planning of a trip to the U.S.A. in 1997.

A.G.M of the Badminton Club was held on the 16th September.

### October 1996.

Breda Brennan Murphy of Clochrisc came 3rd in the Farmerette Class of the National Ploughing Championships held in Oak Park.

The Tinryland branch of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society held its A.G.M on 4th October.

The Tennis Club organised an American Tournament on Sunday 6th October to wrap up the season.

Tinryland/Bennekerry U-14 girls football team defeated Ballinabranna in the County Finals their third title in 4 years.

The photographer visited the school.

Work commenced on floodlighting the Church to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Rural Electrification in Tinryland.

The 14th AGM of Area 11 Community Games was held in Rathcrogue House.

The 17th Annual Rockford Roof Tile Road Race sponsored by Dan Morrissey (Ireland) Ltd. took place on Sunday 20th October.

## Tinryland Emigrant's Letter

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### November 1996.

Tinryland Set Dancers presented the O'Moore Traditional Irish Set Group after their successful German tour in the Clubhouse on 1st November.

A night out was held in aid of the Senior Citizens in Rathrogue on Monday 4th November.

Tinryland G.F.C commenced a Silver Circle Draw in aid of their Development Fund.

Elaine Curtis won First Prize in the Taispeantas na Sionnaine Young Designer Fashion Event in Athlone.

Tinryland girls G.A.A - Classes 3rd, 4th and 5th won the Ghlor na nGael trophy with a fine win over the Gaelscoil. Girl of the match was Eileen Moore who scored 2-2.

The floodlights outside the Church erected to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Rural Electrification were formally switched on.

From the first weekend in December the Mass times revert back to their original times i.e. 7.30p.m on Saturday evening, with First Mass on Sunday at 8.30a.m and Second Mass at 11.00a.m.



*Mr. Jack Stratton, Paddy Dowling and Fr. Peter Dunne PP at the unveiling of the Plaque commemorating Rural Electrification in the area.*

## . Christmas 1996

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### *Let there be Light*

The Golden Jubilee of the electrification of Tinryland was appropriately commemorated by the illumination of the Parish Church and Grounds. The idea was the brain child of Jackie Stratton and it was eagerly taken on board by Paddy Houlihan and a group of ESB past and present employees who over the months of October and November worked to bring the idea to fruition. Luminaries and equipment for the project were donated by local electrical companies Carlow Electrical Wholesale (Tom Nolan) and Seamus Byrne Electrical Ltd. .

On Saturday November 30th, the lights were officially switched on. The special guest for the occasion was Mr. Paddy Dowling formerly of Inkerinstown who 50 years ago was the pioneer within the ESB of the electrification of rural Ireland. Mr. Dowling unveiled a plaque in honour of the occasion at a ceremony just inside the gates of the Church. The lights were officially switched on by Louise Costello, granddaughter of Paddy Costello, the supervisor of the electrification of Tinryland parish in 1946, and Kelly McGill granddaughter of Jim

### **WELL DONE ELAINE**

Elaine Curtis (22) daughter of Paudge and Brigid Curtis, Tinryland, who already has six national fashion awards under her belt has just won first prize with her knitwear designs in the RTE Taispeantas Na Sionnaine event. Her knitwear collection entitled "The Precious Collection" was also featured on RTE's "Head to Toe" programme on December 3rd, modelled by top Irish model Sonia Reynolds.

McGill, ably assisted by Nicola Houlihan whose father Paddy - a current employee of the ESB - worked alongside Jackie Stratton to have everything in order for the big night. Paddy also acted as Master of Ceremonies for the occasion.

Following the switch on, Fr. Peter Dunne celebrated Mass by candle light in remembrance of the way life was before the coming of electricity. The Church however was ablaze with candles in beautiful candelabra and despite the dark there was an atmosphere of warmth and joy. During the Offertory procession items representing the work required to provide electricity were brought to the altar by Paddy Houlihan, Donie Redmond, Peter Brennan and Mr. Dowling's son - and included a spade, climbing apparatus, and a safety helmet.

There can be no doubt that the end result of the project to commemorate the Golden Jubilee has established the Church as a focal point of the village and by night now - like our President Mrs. Mary Robinson's candle - it's welcoming light can clearly be seen for miles around.

Well done to everyone involved in the project.

Elaine's collection, made up of delicate knitwear in soft shades of oyster, cream, peach and blue and comprising of 10 garments was part of her third year work at the Limerick School of Art and Design, where she attained an honours degree in Fashion Design. She is currently doing a Post Graduate course in Limerick which will involve a 24 week placement in Italy.

We look forward to future Collections from this talented designer and wish Elaine every success in her career.

## Tinryland Emigrant's Letter

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### *The Church*

*by Peadar Mac Murcadha*

In the 1930's Tinryland Church was a haven of peace and quiet. I often spent time of a sunny evening watching the effect of the sunrays shining through the coloured glass of the narrowed windows onto the altar. The white altar cloth would be covered in a magic collection of blues-yellows-greens-purplesreds all mingled in an array of mixtures giving hues of all shades that changed with the moving sun as it sank into the west, leaving me mesmerized.

The altar setting for the forty hours adoration was something to behold. Candles of all sizes and flowers by the armful arrayed in serried ranks with hardly space between them to allow attention. The parish priest and curate with a platoon of altar boys - candles all aflame, incense rising to the ceiling, the monstrance standing on the altar surrounded by, and reflecting the light of a million candles seemed to give to us children a vision of heaven itself.

The same church however was nearly the cause of me losing my innocent faith in the mystery and mystique of Catholicism. I had just started serving mass on my own having been trained in the Latin by the schoolmaster and on the altar movements by the senior altar boys. I was allotted a place on the weekly roster to serve the daily morning Mass. I now had certain perks one of which was that I did not have to be in school until 10 o'clock instead of the regular starting time. This was to enable you to go home after Mass for your breakfast. You were allowed to serve at weddings, on the Bishop's visit,

funerals, forty hours and the May procession. Up to this you were only filling space with no power.

However, back to my threatened loss of my faith. When serving and prior to that elevation of status I was always intrigued by the tabernacle. No matter how many people came for communion the tabernacle never failed to supply. It was simply a never-ending source of sacred hosts.

One morning I was serving the Parish Priest when he turned around on the altar and beckoned me to come to him. I rose and ascended the steps to his side. He placed his hand on my head and told me to go to his house (a 100 yards away) and ask Molly the housekeeper for the biscuit tin. Is he out of his mind said I to myself? But a well-trained altar boy never questioned His Reverence. I backed down the steps, genuflected and took off for the house. Molly was at the hall door and seeing me in my altar boys attire of black soutane, laced edge surplice and black altar slippers, came towards me not knowing what to expect. I puffed out that His Reverence wanted the biscuit tin and she apparently knew what to do for she disappeared inside and came out with a small round tin of about 8" diameter and about 2" deep. There you are now says she, run with it, but do not let it fall whatever you do. I ran back up the avenue, in the wicket door and up the steps to the sacristy door, where with the devil's prompting I took a look into the tin. Holy Moses it was full of hosts!! I nearly fainted with awe at what I held in my hand.

*contd.*

## Christmas 1996

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*contd.*

I had been trained to have the greatest respect for the sacred host - "never, never touch it," said the schoolmaster, not even with your teeth - "on your tongue only. Only a priest can touch the host. It's so precious it can only be kept in a gold or silver chalice in the Holy Tabernacle." Holy God what was the world coming to when an altar boy would find himself with a biscuit tin of Hosts. I slapped on the lid, entered the sacristy, went out on the altar and handed the box to his Reverence. He opened the box and filled the chalice, which he blessed and placed inside the Tabernacle. For days I was dumbfounded until eventually I told the schoolmaster who with profound wisdom put his hand on my head and said, "You did what you did but the Priest has the power!".

### **A Little Bit of Our Heritage.**

Recently the people of Tinryland have become more aware of their heritage with the placement in front of the Church of the large granite Baptismal font which came from Linkardstown Church. It is centuries old and still in good condition and it provides a reminder to us our entire Christian heritage and the faith of our forefathers.



## Tinryland Emigrant's Letter

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### The Golden Jubilee of the Electrification of Rural Ireland

1946- 1996

by Jack Stratton

The electrification of rural Ireland was foreseen as early as 1925 when Dr. Thomas McLaughlin envisaged the Shannon Scheme. The estimated cost was 5.2 million and it was completed in 1929. The scheme was called a white elephant by some politicians. However it was in fact the acorn that became the magnificent oak of electricity for every house in Ireland.

In 1937 with all towns connected to the system a plan was put to Government to start work on rural areas. The estimated cost was 14 million but World War Two put this plan on hold until 1944. The Plan was approved by the Dail in 1945 as the war had ended. By this time the estimated cost of connecting 430,000 homes in 792 rural areas was 27 million. Canvassing started in 1946. Pre ESB canvassing was often done by the Irish Country Women's Association, Macra Na Tuaithe, Muintear Na Tire and others. The first areas to be selected were based on a good sign up. Tinryland was the first area in County Carlow and one of the first in Ireland. It was also the homeland of P.J. Dowling the assistant engineer to W. F. Roe the Chief engineer of the ESB.

There was a very good response in Tinryland and work started in May 1947. The temporary offices were set up on the priest's lawn with materials stored along side. The poles came from Finland and Sweden with a few native, transformers came from England and the U SA while wire came from Canada. With the world ravaged by war, materials were very hard to obtain and it seemed we were always short of something.

I can still clearly remember my first morning starting work with the ESB. The previous night was very cold with a hard hoar-frost. The mature

sycamore trees on the south side of the priest's lawn were decorated with ice crystals, and the glow of the rising sun gave all the colours of the rainbow.

In early rural days all work was manual. Pole holes were dug by hand, while poles which were delivered and dumped on the roadside were pulled to positions by horses. The main method of transport was the bicycle while the ESB transport was a Ford va truck and two cwt Ford vans.

The first house to be officially connected in the Tinryland area was Jordan's of Kilmeaney. However it was not the first house to have supply as the home of William Rose, Kilmeaney was connected some three hours earlier. Mr. Rose, the supervisor and a linesman were well down a bottle of Powers whiskey before the first official connection.

In Ireland 1945-46 one had a ration book for food and clothing. A tyre for your bicycle would cost £2.10/6 on the black market. Motorcars were few as only the main roads were tarred. Water was carried in buckets from the nearest pump or well, only 5% of houses had any sort of sanitary facility, while cooking was normally done on an open fire. As there was no light or power in the farmyard, farming was by day light hours only, milking was by hand, and the back breaking job of drawing water for stock in Summer time by horse and cart. The rural electrification banished all the drudgery of those years.

In conclusion those faithful staff of early year! who have gone to their reward are very mud in our thoughts and prayers at this time - **Ma**: they have the light of Heaven.

## JACK STRATTON

by Caroline Delaney

On May 8, 1995 Jack Stratton retired after 47 years service with the ESB - during which time he saw the progression "from pick and shovel to computer". In that long career, Jack of 'Rockdale', Kilmeaney, Carlow, missed only 11 days, an employment attendance record which takes some beating.

The parish of Tinryland, in which Jack Stratton now lives, has a very close association with the ESB, being the first country parish in Ireland to avail of the Board's rural electrification programme. That was in 1948 and Jack Stratton says it was the degree of sign-up interest among Tinryland parishioners, which swung things their way. In 1891 Carlow had become the first Irish town to have electrified street lighting.

Jack was born in 1930 at The Kennels, Moyle, Co. Carlow. He attended Tinryland National School and Carlow CBS Secondary School before finishing his formal education at Carlow Vocational School, then in Dublin Street, the present location of Carlow Library. His interest in electricity originated as a 12-year-old. Jack's departure from school, at the age of 16, coincided with the take-off of rural electrification. Willie Delaney from Tinryland, an electrician with Carlow Sugar Company, was contracted to wire houses in Tinryland and asked Jack if he would be interested in the work. To say that Jack was interested is an understatement. While knowing the principle of house wiring, the practicality was something he had to undertake. Under supervision, he wired Jack Bennett's house in Tinryland, now owned by Mrs. Mina Foley.

The biggest challenge was presented by some of the older houses, with yellow clay walls and nothing on which to pin the wires. At that time all wires were on the surface and not concealed as today. Jack wired the Moore and Byrne houses, as well as Murphys of The Forge Murphys and Deanes of Kyle. In those days, many people could not afford to have their house fully wired. It was often just two lights, a plug and a yard-light that was connected. There was a greater demand for electrification from the farming community.

On January 7, 1948 Jack Stratton joined the ESB. That came about through a friend of his family, Paddy Costello, who was the supervisor on the rural electrification scheme in Tinryland. The ESB operational centre was a three-section prefabricated wooden structure on the lawn of the parochial house in Tinryland. Jack's work for the first months was to run the cables from the end poles into the metre positions. Jack says Paddy Costello had 20 years experience with the Board at that time, having started with the German firm of Siemens in the construction of the Shannon Scheme at Ardnacrusha, Co. Clare.

Jack's first away from home job for the Board was in Clonaslee, Co. Laois. He stayed in digs with Jim and Rose Young in Clonaslee village. A lot of people feared homesickness but that was something that never bothered Jack, as he had plenty to occupy his mind. After four years he was made permanent which was a tremendous relief, given the huge level of emigration in the late 1940's and early 1950's.

In the early 1950's, Jack Stratton's work changed from his initial 'servicing' to what he considered his forte - "pegging the lines through virgin country, using 6" maps, a

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theodolite and scaled rulers. This aspect of the work came naturally to me - I did not have to learn it." He remembers there was no chainsaws at that time. They had to cut through hedges with an axe and a slash hook.

In Kilkenny City during the early 1950's Jack had to work with live wires. This was because it was not practicable to knock off



*This is Jackie Stratton in 1946 working on rural electrification in the Tinryland area.*

the power to large sections of the city. But Jack says he has always treated electricity with the respect it deserves. During his working lifetime, three colleagues died from electrocution in the course of their work.

None of the fatalities were caused by carelessness, he says, simply a combination of factors conspired with fatal consequences. "Electricity does not smell, it does not taste, but yet it can kill instantly," Jack Stratton comments, adding that one always has to be thinking ahead when dealing with it. The busiest time for ESB workers is when the elements frown and deliver snowstorms, electric storms or wind storms, he says. "It can take five to six days to restore full power and ESB workers do with as little as two hours sleep a night in such situations."

Jack moved to Bagenalstown in the mid-1950's, living at Fair Green and having the title of Network Operation Collector. He remained in Bagenalstown for 26 years. Subsequently the Board decided to re-run the rural areas, offering the service to people who had initially refused it.

Jack was taken out of Bagenalstown in the late 1960's and was appointed a Rural Development officer, which involved going back over the rural areas "taking a map and putting a red circle around each house that had not taken up the option of being linked up to the ESB supply." Around 1970 Jack was appointed engineering officer and retired with the position of senior engineering officer. Since his retirement, Jack Stratton has had many jobs to do around his house which he built totally himself, over a period of 10 years. He says that his interest in fishing/boating and shooting dovetail nicely. "I am very much a country man," Jack Stratton concludes, adding that he was one very tiny cog in the huge machine that is the ESB.

Christmas 1996

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David  
Smith

## Tinryland Emigrant's Letter

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### PADDY DOWLING OF LINKARDSTOWN

#### A pioneer of rural electrification

By Caroline Delaney

Paddy Dowling was born in Linkardstown near Tinryland. Co. Carlow in the year 1904. He was one of seven children. His father died when he was 13, leaving his mother to raise the family on her own.

From his simple beginning, Paddy Dowling helped change the whole face of rural Ireland - where there was darkness. He brought light. Coming from a rural background himself, he did more than perhaps any other man to ease the burden of rural life in Ireland. He spent his whole working life in the ESB and is now retired, and living in Dublin, at the age of 92 years.

He attended Tinryland National School where he was taught by Mr. Shine and Mr. Brophy. When he was about 13 he went to Clongowes Wood College in Kildare. Mr. Dowling went on to attend the College of Science in Dublin where his Uncle Patrick was registrar and professor of Science.

After obtaining his degree in Engineering, Paddy did a short project in the College of Science on electricity generators and then went to work for the ESB. He was one of the first eleven people to be employed by the ESB. His first years in the ESB were exciting for this young engineer. He, along with those first engineers, had the responsibility of connecting all the major



towns in Ireland up to the ESB grid, which was supplied with electricity from the Shannon Hydroelectric Scheme at Ardnacrusha, which was the brainchild of Dr. Thomas McLoughlin. The ESB was set up under the Electricity (Supply) Act in 1927 with Dr. McLoughlin as Executive Director and member of the Board.

At that time, few towns in Ireland, outside of the major cities, had a local electricity supply. For example, Kilkenny had no electricity supply while others like Carlow had a local supply. The Carlow supply came from a dynamo in the old mill at Milford. It gave enough power to light the streets and also power for 1,500 incandescent bulbs for private use. If each house had five lamps, this would mean only 300 houses out of ~ total population of 6,000 made use of the new power.

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## Christmas 1996

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In 1894, three years after the supply was first switched on, the Carlow supply system was taken on by the Alexander family of Milford. The engineer in charge was Mr. Hooper who later set up an electrical supplies shop in Dublin Street, when the town was connected to the main ESB grid in 1928. The towns were being looked after but nothing was happening about bringing electricity to the rural areas. Paddy Dowling, around 1937, was the person who put forward the idea of bringing electricity to the rural areas. He did this in typical Irish fashion. He asked his cousin, Jim Hughes, who was a Shadow Minister in the Fine Gael Government *for* advice on how to best push the idea.

Jim Hughes raised it in the Dail and, luckily, Sean Lemass who was then Minister *for* Industry and Commerce, took up the running. He had the vision to foresee the great need *for* rural electrification to improve the lot of the rural dweller and, typical of Lemass, when he saw a need, he did something about it. In May 1939, he asked the ESB to prepare plans *for* supplying rural areas with electricity. A detailed investigation was undertaken, directed by Dr. Thomas McLaughlin with two assistants, one Paddy Dowling and the other Alphonsus McManus, from Donegal, both of whom were qualified engineers.

With the outbreak of World War 2 in September of that year, the ESB thought that an end would be put to any immediate plans *for* rural electrification. During the Emergency, they had enough problems getting supplies to keep their existing network going without worrying about extending their supply lines into rural areas. They had reckoned without Lemass, and in the Autumn of 1942 he wrote to the ESB Board asking were their plans *for* rural

electrification completed. You can imagine their surprise, with all their problems with the war and a severe electricity shortage threatening' And yet here was Lemass demanding that they continue with rural electrification. Paddy Dowling's memory of this is that he was on his holidays and got a telegram from McLoughlin to come back to Dublin. After much hard work, McLoughlin assisted by Paddy Dowling and McManus, completed the report and delivered it to the Department of Industry and Commerce on December 22, 1942.

Rural electrification was approved by the Government in August 1943, and in October of the following year Paddy Dowling was given one month to come up with a report on how the scheme could be organised and implemented. He did this within the time limit and this report was used as the basis for the rural electrification scheme, which so changed people's lives in rural Ireland. The report prepared by Paddy Dowling was widely acknowledged to be a model of its kind and, in later years, Paddy Dowling was a respected figure at electricity conferences throughout the world.

W. F. Roe, a native of Kilkenny City, was appointed to run the scheme with the assistance of Paddy Dowling. Paddy later took over *from* Roe. The problems, which faced them, were immense. For example, they estimated that they would need over one million poles to carry the cables: this would need copper cable to cover the whole of Ireland and they would also need transformers for the substations. They had to start travelling over the world seeking these in the midst of a war which was tearing the world to pieces. In operating the scheme, they decided to supply electricity initially to one district in each county.

## Tinryland Emigrant's Letter

These districts worked on the basis of a local canvasser signing up people in a local area. Enough people would have to sign up to make connection economically viable. Seamus Murphy of Pollerton Little was one of these local canvassers for Carlow. They also decided to use the parish as the unit with which they would work. By doing this, they were able to tap into the very strong parish organisation throughout Ireland.

In talking about the scheme, one of Paddy Dowling's great words is "skull-duggery". It was very important from the very start to avoid any accusation of any underhand dealings in allocating areas, which would get a supply.

The one area which Paddy accepts might have been chosen for more than just economic reasons was Kilsallaghan, Co. Dublin, which was the first parish to get a supply in November 1946. As well as wanting to choose a district close to Dublin for publicity purposes, it also happened that Larry Kettle, the local councillor, was on the ESB Board.

Not surprisingly, Tinryland parish, Paddy's home parish, was one of the first rural areas to be linked up, in May 1947. Paddy was adamant that no skull-duggery was involved in this decision. He agrees that it was helped by the fact that his brother, Brendan, had a large farm there and was willing to join in the experiment. Among the first to get a supply was Patrick Wall of Wall's Forge. Mr. Wall was a small farmer and had a blacksmith business.

Rural electrification was still news in 1955 when T. P. Kilfeather of the Sunday Independent did a tour of the farms of

Carlow to look at the revolutionary changes brought about by rural electrification. He did a profile of farms from all over Co. Carlow including Brendan Dowling of Linkardstown; Patrick Wall of Walls Forge; Michael Esmonde of Graiguenaspigogue; James Cole of Ballybar and Reginald Maher of the Fighting Cocks, which was the last district in Carlow to be connected.

Among the very last places in Ireland connected was the Black Valley, Co. Kerry, in 1976. In the intervening years, the whole face of rural Ireland changed; electric milking machines were brought in; electric water pumps and group water schemes were introduced. It was even suggested in the Dail debates on the Rural Electrification Scheme in 1945 that the day would come, "when a girl gets a proposal from a farmer, she will enquire not so much about the number of cows but rather concerning the electrical appliances she will require".

This is what Paddy Dowling, one of Tinryland's sons, helped bring about. It is a revolution he, and the people of Tinryland and Carlow, can be proud of. The Golden Jubilee commemorations are a timely opportunity to show our pride in him and his achievements.

*Caroline Delaney is a student in St. Leo's College, Carlow. Her articles on Paddy Dowling and Jack Stratton were written and researched as part of a transition year project on "The Coming of Electricity to Carlow".*

## Christmas 1996

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### **BADMINTON** by Clem Delaney

In case you didn't know, badminton originated in India where it was known as Poona. When the English soldiers 'visited' there they took up the game in their spare time. They took the game, among other things, back to England where it was played at Badminton, Gloucestershire, the country home of the Duke of Beaufort, a gas man who was more than likely a couple of stone overweight at the time and was even more than likely fed up with the young ladies who were in his service. This was how the name originated, in case you didn't know. The good Lord himself played and we are told was Div. 5 standard, and had black/grey hair.

Anyway it reached Tinryland III years after in September 1984. This 'foreign' game was set up as part of Tinryland GAA Club. Many a staunch GAA person would have started to vomit or turned in his/her grave if they had been 100% sure where this badminton or 'auld woman's game' originated.

Anyone who has tried this 'auld woman's game' will tell you that you need to be very fit, not fat, to be able to survive a full, competitive game. Indeed the same GAA Club might even encourage some of their so called stars to get off their lazy backsides, play some badminton, and maybe they will not look like 'auld women' themselves when it comes to the GAA matches. Unfortunately the sight and sound of women squealing, screeching and laughing their way through some games, enjoying themselves even, does give the impression that the game is a joke. Ask Bernie Whelan about the joke. Bernie's achilles tendon snapped in her two legs in the last five years in competitive games. Hardly a joke, a heavy price to pay for this 'auld woman's game'.

But joke it is not, competitive games can put you on the verge of a heart attack. This sounds like all who play the game are overweight, over age and over the hill. This is true, almost, except for the legion of juveniles who play the game but seem to

give it up before they reach 18, or are gone to college, or are working away from home.

Anyway that's neither here nor there and in 1984 when the club was formed the first chairperson was Bridget Townsend. Yes! the same Bridget Townsend 'Doyle' who is the driving force behind the resurgence in tennis in the area. Bridget will make a great county councillor and eventually T.D. when she gets going. The vice-chairperson of that first committee is another believer in that area, Maureen Byrne, treasurer Cora O'Reilly, secretary Maura Foster and assistant secretary Josie Hutton. All are still alive and doing well.

The present committee is: Chairperson, Bernie Whelan; secretary, Karen O'Keeffe; treasurer, Tony McGuill; committee, Mary Doyle, Ann Hennessy, Joe Redmond and Clem Delaney.

The club had two teams in 1984 and still have two in 1996. Not the same two by the way, although Ann 'Townsend' Kavanagh and Eilis Costello were on one of the teams in 1984. Isn't it great the way they keep going all the same, at their age. The 1984 teams were - *1st team*: Eileen Myers, Eilis Costello, Ann Townsend, Theresa Townsend, Joe Doheny, Kevin Costello, Pat Finnerty and Edmund Hayden. *Subs*: Ita, O'Connor, Maureen McDaniels, Pat Whelan. and Declan O'Connor. *2nd team*: Joan Wall, Breda Whelan, Josie Hutton, Maura Foster; Ned Deane, Liam Foster, Jody Townsend, Jimmy Townsend. *Subs*: Breda McDonald, Bridget Townsend, Maureen O'Connor, Marie Farrell, Rita Farrell, Margaret O'Neill, Pat Moran and Ollie Townsend.

The 1996 teams are - *1st team*: Eilis Costello, Pauline Cleary, Bernie Whelan, Helen Byrne, Ann Kavanagh, Pauline Barrett, Pat Meaney, Clem Delaney, Joe Redmond, Larry Barrett, Willie Kavanagh and Mick Roche. *2nd team*: Ann Hennessy, Margaret Burke, Karen O'Keeffe, Mary Doyle, Jimmy Farrell, John McAssey, Donal Murphy, Tony McGuill and Richard Matthews.

# The revival of Tinryland Tennis Club

*recounted by Bridget Doyle*

Tinryland Tennis Club was founded in the late 1940's and was originally situated beside the Parochial House. Sometime later it was moved and found a home where it now stands, a stone's throw from the centre of the village at the top of the Moate Hill. It consisted of three grass courts, which were tended to by the community and were always in very good condition.

The Club thrived during the fifties and early sixties with many good teams winning tournaments in Carlow and surrounding areas. The Club's most famous player during that era was Mrs. Tess McLoughlin (Nee Delaney) who won Leinster and National titles.

For a few years during the 1960's the Club fell into decline until it was revived once more in the early 1970's when the committee of that time converted one of the grass courts to a hard court. This was a very good period for Tinryland Tennis Club. It was the "IN" place to be for the young people of the area and places on teams were much sought after.

During the long summer holidays from school, the members as well as playing tennis, worked around the Club, cutting grass, marking courts and keeping the clubhouse ship-shape. Teams from the Club travelled to play against other clubs in the County such as Myshall, Tullow, Carlow and Bagenalstown and enjoyed the social events as much as tennis. This usually involved a fine supper put on by the host dub followed by a "HOP" in the local hall.

Unfortunately in the 80's the Club lost favour with the young people and interest in tennis was no longer a factor in Tinryland. For years, many good committees tried in vain to rescue the Club but it fell into disrepair.

On the 17th June 1996 a committee meeting was held and it was decided to try and to revive the Club. This committee has great heart and determination and all work to date has been met with open arms from the local community.

The Club is open again and has a very healthy membership. It consists of two new hard courts with the old hard court serving as a third. This third court is in need of repair or replacement but of course funds are very low and so work at the moment is carried out on a priority basis by voluntary workers. The current priorities are to wire the surrounds of the courts followed by repairs to the Club House.

The tennis season is more or less over for 1996 but the work to raise money will continue over the Winter months so that by April 1997 a very good facility will be available to the locality.

It is my fervent hope that with the hard work and dedication which I know our committee will provide, not forgetting our voluntary workers who are not on the committee, Tinryland Tennis Club will regain its stand in the Parish and take its proper place in the heart of the Village of Tinryland.

## Tinryland Emigrant's Letter



*Tinryland tennis star Tess Delaney (McLoughlin) with Caroline Delaney, Brigid Doyle (chairperson), Michelle Galway, Elaine Delaney and Claire Matthews at the official opening and tennis courts.*



*Committee members of Tinryland Tennis Club pictured at the re-opening of the Tinryland pavilion Front 1 to r: Maura Foster. PRO: Bridget Doyle. Chairperson; Ann Redmond. Secretary; Ann Kavanagh Back L-R: Pat McArdle, Mary Whyte, Michael Cleary Paddy Galway, Pauline Cleary and Paudge Curtis*



## Christmas 1996

### Tinryland Athletic Club 1996 Round-Up

by Eamonn Byrne

After the 25th anniversary celebrations in 1995 and the publication of the Club History, the past year was another active one for Tinryland AC

The highlight of the year was the staging of the National Cross Country Championships on Sunday 11th February. Three hundred and thirty athletes from the four corners of Ireland came to Tinryland to compete in the Championships. The Cross Country course on the Parish lands received great praise from the competitors and journalists with the organising committee also receiving many compliments. So impressed were the National Athletic Body B.L.E. with the course, that Tinryland has been asked to host another National Championship on 15th December 1996 In National Championship in Tinryland, the local club Won the bronze medal in the Veteran's race with a scoring quartet of Peter Murphy, 11 Murphy, Denis Shannon and Pat Corcoran.

Other highlights during 1996 included the staging of the 17th Rockford Roof Tile Race on Sunday 20th October. 1995 winner Noel Richardson of Don ore Harriers - Dublin, was once again the winner from African athlete Daniel Gidumbanda. Bennekerry's international athlete Geraldine Hendricken was an impressive winner of the Women's race. The Men's team event for the Paddy Byrne Trophy went to Dublin Club Raheny Shamrocks while the Sean Delaney Cup for the Women's Team event was won by Carlow Town Club St. Laurence O'Toole.

Tinryland AC. also staged a very successful Autumn Road League this year with numbers up from recent years. An added incentive for the runners in this year's league was the first running of the Seamus Galway Memorial Trophy. Gowran athlete Pat Byrne, an army corporal who lives in The Royal Oak was the winner of the league after scoring wins in all four stages.

The Annual Christmas Handicap Road Race was won by local G.A.A. player Keith McGrath with Mark Shannon in second place and Sylvia Spring coming in third.

On the juvenile front the highlight was undoubtedly at Community Games level where the Area II U-14 Relay team won National Gold. Included in the squad were Tinryland athletes Mark Townsend, Christopher Cleary and Niall Barrett. These athletes are among the most talented to emerge from the area for a long time and they are capable of more success in the future.

The women athletes of Tinryland A.C. once again put Tinryland on the map winning at Cross Country, Road and Track & Field. Among the successful women runners were Tina Doyle, Jane Swayne, Laura & Louise Barrett now attending Loughborough University in England and Sinead Duggan who is on an athletic scholarship in the USA.

The Club is always on the look out for new members and anyone interested in joining will be very welcome.

## Tinryland Emigrant's Letter

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### *Bennekerry/Tinryland Community Games 1996 by Ann Brennan*

Bennekerry/Tinryland Community Games had a very successful year for 1995/96 with medals at County and National level. We took part in the following:

#### Team Games

Draughts:- U-10 and U-14 mixed,  
Basketball:- U-13 Boys and Girls,  
U-16 Boys and Girls, Soccer:-U-12 Boys, Gaelic Football:-U-10 Boys and U-12 Girls, Hardcourt Tennis: U-16 Mixed.

#### Individual Events

Art. Gymnastics, Swimming, Grand Prix Cycling, Modelling Boys and Girls 10 and U-14, Mountain Bike and Athletics.

Bennekerry/Tinryland with 106 pts won the Hosey Cup for Best Area

The U-14 Mixed Draughts team had a comfortable win in the semi-final over Shillelagh on a scoreline of 14-6. In the final they defeated Moate 16-4 giving them a very impressive win.

In Basketball the U-16 Girls defeated Lucan. Co. Dublin in the semi final by an impressive 39 points to 26 points. In the Final they lost to Ballymahon. Longford by 35 points to 29 points. The team were Aoife

Kavanagh, Claire McGuill, Elaine Delaney, Aine Delaney. Claire Matthews, Aine Kelly. Aishling Nolan. Jennifer Morgan, Bernie Murphy and Eimear Byrne.

We had 25 competitors representing the area and County in Mosney over the two weekends.

In Art Coman Burke won Gold in the U-14 age group. He got Silver last year. Coman has been to Mosney for the last 5 years, winning gold in U-10 Modelling and Gold in U-12 Art in 1993 and 1994.

The Boys U-14 Relay team won their heat, semi final and final in great style and were crowned National Champions. The team consisted of Andrew Doyle, Stuart Connolly, Mark Townsend, Christopher Cleary and Niall Barrett. Well done also to Andrew Doyle who got a bronze medal in the U-14 100M - a great individual performance.

The U-14 Draughts team took the bronze medals after a marathon session. They beat Six Mile Bridge of Clare 12-8 and then they defeated Kingscourt, Cavan 20-0. They lost in the Final to Roscommon. The team was: Elaine Breen, Paula Barrett, Sarah Kavanagh, Nora Kavanagh, Claire Murphy, Aoife Murphy, Lorcan Walshe.

In all we brought home 6 gold and 8 Bronze medals from the National Finals. The following competitors also gave a good performance:

Boys U-8 60m

Padraic Townsend (Final)

Girls U-10 100m Karen

McGrath (Final)

Boys U-14 Mountain Bike  
Maurice Nolan (Semi-Final)

Girls U-17 100m

Clare McGrath (Semi-Final)

Boys U-16 Grand Prix Cycling  
Barry McDaniel (5th)

Girls U-8 60m

Lisa McGill

Girls U-17 Relay Team

Clare McGrath, Jill Ryan, Aoife Kavanagh, Pamela O'Donoghue, Lorraine Clifford.

U-10 Art

Doireann Burke

U-10 Gymnastics

Catrina Barrett

I wish to thank all the participants who competed at Area, County and National level. Thanks also to the parents for their co-operation. To my fellow officers and committee members sincere thanks for all your help during the year.

## Christmas 1996

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*The Area 1 boys u-14 relay team who won the National Community Games Relay in Mosney L\_R  
Christopher Cleary, Stuart Connolly, Andrew Doyle, Mark Townsend and Niall Barrett.*

### Tinryland Set Dancers *by Eileen Condron*

One of the great successes in Tinryland are the Set Dancers who meet each Monday in the Clubhouse. Since the beginning the group have very devoted dancers who come along and really enjoy the fun, the music and the dancing. The group at this stage has even given demonstrations at some functions. The only difficulty is in getting the males to join!!

Everyone looks forward to Monday night and some of us even feel at a loss when we break for the summer.

A' big occasion for us this year was the visit to Tinryland Clubhouse by the O' Moore Traditional Irish Group from Durrow. This group who recently performed in Germany treated the crowd in the Clubhouse to a magnificent show.

Our hope for the future is to attract lots of new members. So come and join us in the G.A.A Clubhouse on a Monday evening at 8.30 for an hour and a half of ceoil, craic and caint. You will find it a great slimming and stress relieving exercise!!

## Tinryland Emigrant's Letter

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### Deaths

Mrs Nora Corcoran, Talbot Terrace  
Mai Dowling. Cllocristic  
Mrs Enid Delaney, Tinryland  
Mrs Kathleen O'Neill. Ballycrogue  
Mrs Nancy Moran, Tinryland  
Ann Byrne. Crumlin and late of Graignaspideog'  
Leo Murphy. Tinryland !  
Ned Galway. Oldtown ,  
John Byrne. Cloughna & England  
Bridie Mullins. Castletown & Cooisneachta  
Tom Fitzpatrick. Moyle  
Uly Scully. Ballyhade  
John Nolan. Leigh  
Charles Byrne. late of Ballybar  
Austin Crowe, late of Graigcullen & Chapels town  
Pat Oowling. Chapels town  
Mrs Nancy Nolan. Garryhundon ■  
Mrs Audrey Foley. Ballinacarrig.  
Mrs Nancy Ward. linkardstown.

### First Communion 1996

Feena Monahan Marie  
Hayes Colm Delaney,  
Amanda Doyle' Sinead  
Lyons. Darren  
Costelloe. Mark  
Roche. Jason Curran.  
Ian Scully'  
Karen Larkin' aria  
Glancy. Willie Cassidy.  
Catherine Tiernan'  
Christine Scully.  
Danny Lawter  
Ambrose Doran  
Padraic Townsend.

### Baptisms

Nicole Scully. Tinryland  
Ellen Curtis, Tinryland  
Kate Ann Curtis, Tinryland  
Jillian Tobin, Kylebaltyhue  
Aoife Hayden. Ballinacarrig  
Diarmaid Walshe. Ballybar  
Dylan Moore. Tinryland  
Eric Nolan. Powerstown  
Erica Oow'ing. Tinryland  
Eoin Fields. Tmryland  
Kate Guidera. Tinryland  
Adam Murphy. linkardstown  
Niamh Kennedy. Ballycrogue  
Declan Byrne. C10ughna  
Ian McGrath. Linkardstown  
Patrick Doheny. Castletown  
Dillon Murphy, Carlow  
Patrick Monahan. Castletown  
Conan o'se, Ballybar

### Marriages

Ann Moran, Powerstown & Malcolm Nolan, Goresbridge  
Yvonne Brennan, Carlow & Patrick Daly, Myshall  
Mary Brennan. Cllocristic & Eugene OsOOrne,Kilkea  
Siobhan Butler, Castletown & Michael Walsh. Carlow  
Bernadette Clarke, Kylebaltyhue & James Tobin, Carlow  
Sinead Hyland, Graigcuilen & Robert Rice. Graigcullen  
Helen Doran, Baltycarney & Matthew Kennedy, Kylebaltyhue  
Claire Foley. Tinryland & Paul O'Donovan, limerick  
Noel Farrell, Ballybannon & Esther Hawe, Bagnetstown  
Thomas Corcoran. Powerstown & Jacinta Ingram, 'Carlow  
John Townsend, linkardstown & Agnes Murphy. Nurney  
Miriam Purcell, Ballinacarrig & Kevin O'Donnell. Gowran

## Christmas 1996

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### Clubs and Societies In the Parish

Club/Society	Contact Name	Phone No
Apostolic Work Society	Statia Townsend Betty Delaney	46185
Athletic Club	John Farrell Denis Shannon	46267 42570
Badminton Club	Karen O'Keefe	42374
Choir	Pauline Cleary Jack McArdle	43918
Community Games	Ann Brennan	40594
GAA - Juvenile	Michael Doran	43364
GAA - Senior	Michael Keyes	40083
Gun Club	Sean O'Neill	43149
Handball	Martin Clancy	43107
I.C.A	Mary Moore Nuala Phelan	31859 43844
Parish Council	Breda Aylward	46364
Pioneer Total Abstinence Association	Josie Kelly	46286
Racquet Ball	Liam Foster David Power	46281 31540
Senior Citizens	Mary Nolan	46221
Set Dancing	Eileen Condron	42756
St. Joseph's Young Priest's Society	Josie Kelly	46286
Tennis Club	Bridget Doyle Ann Redmond	46345 32075
Tinryland N.S Parent Teacher Association	Rita Byrne	46110