

# IRISH LIFE AND LORE SERIES

## KILDARE COLLECTION

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### CATALOGUE OF 34 RECORDINGS

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Irish Life and Lore Series  
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NAME: JACKIE BRACKEN, BORN 1932: NAAS, CO. KILDARE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 1

Subject: Memories of Naas

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 51:09

Description: This recording was compiled with Jackie Bracken as he strolled along the canal banks in Naas, and recalled the rich experiences of his life in the town. He still lives in the old canal house inhabited by his grandmother in 1904. Arriving at the old graveyard beside the canal, Jackie recalls many of the people who lie there. He has great memories of the horse drawn barge boats plying the canal, and their crews, whom he named. Their responsibilities and their cargos were described. Occasionally a jennet was used to pull the boats and it must have been a wonderful sight to watch the young lad who was paid to coax the jennet along with a handful of straw. Jackie's first employment was with a slipper factory in Naas, and he later worked at the shoe factory. He also spent some time working in Whites Hardware Shop, as did his father. He has a real passion for Gaelic football and has served on the County Board. He discusses local and county players and the work undertaken by the Co. Board. He has a clear recall of the old businesses in the town, such as harness makers, blacksmiths, tailors and seamstresses, shoemakers, bakers and pub and grocery businesses, and also recalls the proprietors and their business achievements. Jackie concludes the recording by singing a local ballad which he learnt during his early years as a wrenboy out and about on long ago St Stephen's Days.



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NAME: MARY COYLE, Née ROCHE, BORN 1944: KILL, CO. KILDARE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 2

Subject: Growing up in Allenwood

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 59:17

Description: Mary Coyle has spent the last 41 years in Kill, but her story in this recording relates to her early days growing up in Allenwood Middle. She was born into a large family that inhabited a thatched mud cabin. All of the children in the family were assigned their own tasks and Mary's job was to bring the ass and cart along the old bog pathway where she would pile turf onto the cart and draw it home for fuel for the fire. She recalls the primitive living conditions of those days, without electricity or running water, and the real contentment achieved despite those hardships. Everything was kept brilliantly clean, and Mary describes the beesmon which was a bunch of tough heather tied to a stick for sweeping the floors. The storage of food for the winter was vital work, and one of her father's tasks was to save the potatoes by placing them in a hollow in the



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ground and covering them with thick straw. Mary's mother was a great accordion player and would bring her young daughter along to the local house dances where she played. She recalls the wakes, the marriages and religious practices, nicknames for local people, fieldnames and pastimes.

NAME: STEPHEN TALBOT, BORN 1943: KILDARE TOWN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 3

Subject: A family business

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 50:53

Description: The Talbot family has been strongly associated with Kildare town for several generations. Stephen Talbot's father was a publican who ran a very successful business on the spot where 'Silken Thomas' stands today. Stephen's two aunts were also businesswomen in the town, proprietresses of 'The Railway Hotel' and 'The Vatican.' Stephen has a clear recollection of the town as it was in the 1950s – the shops, the family businesses, the cinemas, and places of entertainment. He was always interested in music and in earlier years he formed a band, and later joined the Derby Showband which toured the country. He has many stories to relate about those exciting days. He worked in Dublin for some years, but returned to Kildare to assist his father who had become unwell. He became an assistant to veterinary surgeon, Stan Cosgrave, and came to recognise the absolute importance of the horse breeding industry to the county and beyond. He recalls the setting up of the Racing Apprentice School and the great benefits which accrued to young people involved in horse racing. He has a great love for his native place and discusses the factors which benefited the town over the years since the days of the garrison, the racing connections, the markets, and Bord na Mona. The loss of jobs and revenue when turf-cutting declined was keenly felt in the town and surrounding areas. Stephen Talbot's passion for the motor trade and his keen interest in Gaelic football are clearly evident in this recording.



NAME: KATHLEEN DOHERTY, Née HUGHES, BORN 1938:  
TIMAHOE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 4

Subject: Life in Coill Dubh

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 43:52

Description: The Hughes family came from the area around Coolcarrigan, which was deeply set into the countryside. Kathleen Doherty's father's family lived there in a thatched cottage until they were rehoused close by the Land Commission, and given additional land at Timahoe East. Kathleen clearly recalls watching the Army cutting turf during the war years, and the later establishment of Bord na Mona. The Bord decided to have a village built for the migrant workers who came in their hundreds from all over the country. This village was named Coill Dubh and consisted of 160 houses. The traditions of each county were brought with the migrants, and Kathleen recalls watching GAA games being played between the various counties, and the fierce competition and rivalry which transpired. Some unrest also manifested itself between the local menfolk and the migrant workers, in the area of relationships with the native females. Each summer a festival atmosphere would prevail in the village when Bord na Mona organised a carnival, complete with a marquee, music and fine entertainment. Kathleen emigrated to London where she worked for a short time in the 1950s, but her heart was drawn home, and she settled in Timahoe where she married a Mayoman, and there she reared her family.



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NAME: LUKE DEMPSEY, BORN 1926: KILKEASKIN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 5

Subject: A Kildare farmer reminisces

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 61:23

Description: In the hours prior to this recording, Luke Dempsey, now in his 83<sup>rd</sup> year, had arisen at 6.00 a.m. and ploughed many acres of land. He is an agile and vibrant man who has many fine stories to relate. He explains how his present home and farm came to him, in a fascinating series of events. He recalls his maternal grandfather, Jim O'Keeffe who was a member of the IRB, who led a very interesting life. Luke's father, who was also named Luke Dempsey, was a close friend of Frank Burke who was in the GPO at Easter 1916. Luke has a clear memory of Frank Burke calling to see his father, and the elderly men would sit and talk for hours about those stirring Easter days. Todd Andrews was a frequent visitor to the area to oversee the establishment of the briquette factory at Lullymore, and Luke remembers the huge sense of excitement and anticipation engendered by the opening of the factory. He was also there to watch the factory being dismantled in more recent years.



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Before the recording concludes he describes a vivid memory from his childhood. He would watch the inhabitants of the little thatched cottages which lined the banks of the canal close to his house, as they cut turf from the bog, stacked it and loaded it onto the canal boats, for transport to Dublin.

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NAME: PATRICK LYNCH, BORN 1925: KILCULLEN  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 6  
Subject: Memories of Kilcullen and the Curragh Camp  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2009  
Time: 77:18

Description: Patrick Lynch was introduced on this recording by Nessa Dunlea, while sitting at his fireside at Kilcullen. His father was in the Army, a motor mechanic stationed at Portabello Barracks in Dublin. He worked on the 'Sliabh na mBan', the Rolls Royce car used by Michael Collins, and on an occasion when he was driving Collins around Dublin, they were shot at by the IRA on Mount St. Bridge, but were unharmed. On returning to the Barracks, Collins turned to his driver and remarked "we were lucky there Lynch boy." Patrick Lynch joined the Air Corps at Baldonnell but was discharged because of a health concern. He then joined the Army, and worked as a motor mechanic. He has a clear and vivid recollection of a day during the 1970s when the Northern Ireland Troubles were ablaze, and he was travelling back from Donegal and stopped at the Custume Barracks at Athlone. He was amazed to see thousands of soldiers, armed and at the ready while they waited for a phone call from Dublin with instructions to march to the North. He speaks about his native Kilcullen, the strong tradition of boxing which exists there and his own involvement since 1941. The townspeople of earlier days are discussed, the pastimes and entertainments, the older people and some of the old sayings which he learnt from them, which are now recorded here.



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NAME: MICHAEL McWEY, BORN 1931: KILDARE TOWN  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 7  
Subject: A family business  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2009  
Time: 62:42

Description: Michael McWey ran an auctioneering and undertaker's business in Kildare town. He is a member of the Fine Gael party, and is probably the longest serving Councillor in County Kildare. He discusses in detail his work on Kildare Co. Council. He has an early memory of the Republican prisoners whom deValera's government had imprisoned arriving at the Curragh Camp. He is proud to have handed on his business to the safe keeping of the next generation.



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NAME: JOHN (JACK) NOONAN, BORN 1953: CLANE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 8

Subject: A haunting experience

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 48:01

Description: Jack Noonan lives on the outskirts of Clane, where his family home was always known as an Open House in earlier days. His mother was a unique storyteller with immense local knowledge. All of his ancestors on his father's side worked as ploughmen on the Clongowes Estate. Jack relates an extraordinary story about Baltracey Cross and the occupant of the cottage there in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



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NAME: NESSA DUNLEA, NÉE O'CONNELL, BORN 1948: KILCULLEN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 9

Subject: A Kilcullen Family

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 54:59

Description: Nessa Dunlea is passionate about her native place. Her family, the O'Connells have been in business in Kilcullen for four generations. Her grandfather Michael O'Connell set up a bakery business, and had ten horse drays delivering the bread daily to the surrounding towns and villages. His son, one of a family of ten children took over the business and as a child, Nessa remembers the flour being stored in lofts at the mill to protect it from the regular flooding which occurred. In Nessa's father's time, the business expanded as he set up a travelling grocery trade. He developed a great camaraderie with the customers, and enjoyed the lifestyle. In Nessa's youth the Liffey was used as an amenity for swimming and boating, and in fact her brother Brendan O'Connell later became an Olympic competitor in canoeing. She married Paddy Dunlea, a local man, who has just recently passed away, and they both became involved with local community affairs. The local Town Hall was the centre of entertainment in the town, as it housed a cinema and was the venue for live performances of drama and music. She has a clear recollection of a travelling church which was established in Kilcullen thirty years ago. A Baptist minister had decorated a bus in an ornamental ecclesiastical way, and he would travel to neighbouring areas to preach the faith.





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NAME: NIALL BRADLEY, BORN 1943: NEWBRIDGE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 10

Subject: Former County Manager

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 54:12

Description: Niall Bradley is a native of Kilkenny, who joined the Civil Service in 1963 as a clerical officer in Kilkenny. He was appointed Town Clerk in Cavan and later in Arklow from 1969 to 1975. He then moved to Meath as Middle Manager and in 1979 he acted as Co. Secretary in Carlow. Here he remained through the 1980s and in 1989 he was appointed Assistant City Manager in Cork city. In 1993, he moved to Laois as Co Manager and 1997 saw his final appointment as Co Manager in Kildare. Niall recalls his experiences, his brief in each of these counties and the challenges and successes he encountered. He discusses at length his years as Co Manager in Kildare and explains the direction of development in 'The Triangle' – Kildare, Naas and Kilcullen. During his tenure he addressed many problematic situations in the county with regard to employment, traffic and amenities. He feels that it is vitally important to the progress of a region to have a local politician working in National Government.



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NAME: REGGIE DARLING, BORN 1938: CURRAGH CAMP

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 11

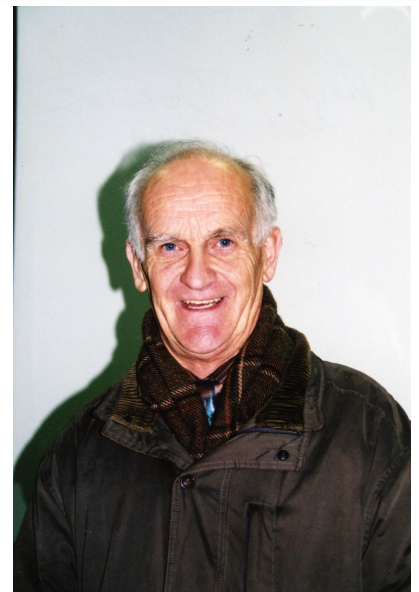
Subject: Life in the Curragh Camp

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 78:35

Description: Reggie Darling was recorded at the old Vocational School of which he is a former pupil, in the Curragh Camp. This building now serves as a museum. Reggie's grandfather came to the Curragh in 1903 and opened a barber shop, which was leased from the War Office, and in 1925 Reggie's father took over the business and ran it until his death in 1950, when Reggie became proprietor. He has now retired and his son has taken over the business. Reggie maintains that this unbroken chain of four generations of a family of barbers must be almost unique in the country. There have been many changes in the Curragh Camp over the last century and Reggie lists some of these in this recording. As a child he recalls the class structure within the Camp, and explains that you were expected to abide by the strict social order. Reggie's sisters were denied access to the tennis club as this would breach the social etiquette. During the Emergency Period, all civilians were evacuated from the Camp, but in 1946 the families were invited back to replace the soldiers in the old family quarters. The civilian population increased to 3,500, and shops opened and expanded, social activities and games such as cricket, GAA and squash became very popular. In 1972, when Northern Ireland was in



turmoil, Chief of Staff of the IRA, Sean Mac Stiofán was flown to the Curragh Camp by helicopter to begin a term of imprisonment. The security structure at the Camp became much more restrictive as a result, and life for the civilians became very difficult, resulting in mass migration from the camp. The Camp is now named the Defence Forces Training Centre, and the Curragh Camp as Reggie knew it is no more. Demolition of some of the old buildings has taken place, and will continue and this is something which is a cause of great regret to Reggie Darling.

NAME: HARDRESS WALLER, BORN 1917, DROMINEER, NENAGH, CO. TIPPERARY (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 12

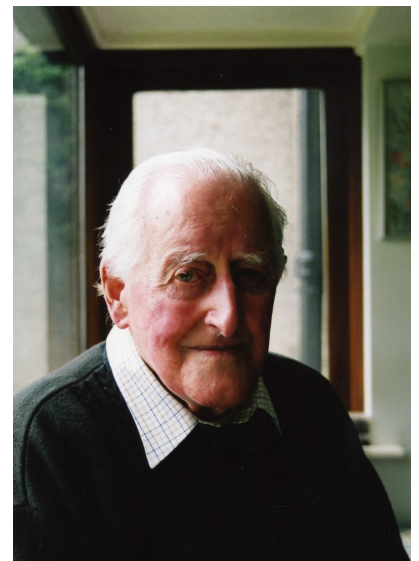
Subject: The world of Horse Racing

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 55:48

Description: Hardress Waller, better known to his friends in the racing community as Sam Waller, discusses his love of horses and horse racing, and its origins. When he was a young lad growing up near Nenagh, his father regularly brought him to meetings and show jumping competitions. As a young man he enlisted in the British Army and served in Egypt during World War II. After the war he became a semi-professional polo player in England, but always maintained contact with his Irish friends at home, who were involved in the horse breeding industry, particularly Peter Fitzgerald and Lord Adare. Later he was head hunted by the newly formed British Racing Board. He was the instigator of several innovations which are now taken for granted, such as racecourse commentary, starting stalls, photo finish and a doping laboratory at Newmarket. When his parents passed away Hardress Waller returned home, and was requested by Lord Harrington to take up a position with the Hunt Committee, and then the Turf Club. All this work was undertaken on a voluntary basis. He was elected Chairman of the Turf Club and for ten years he ran the Programmes Committee. He was at this stage facing into his 75<sup>th</sup> year, which would have forced his retirement but the rules were changed to allow him work as steward for three years. He is pleased to say that unlike earlier days when the Anglo Irish community more or less ran the world of racing, things had radically altered in more recent times as funding from Government sources and generous tax breaks have greatly benefited the horse industry in Ireland. He clearly recalls the kidnapping of *Shergar*, and he strongly feels that the kidnappers were unable to control the highly bred horse and so they shot him and buried his body in an unknown location. He also recalls the day the Irish Derby was stopped because of a bomb scare at the course. This recording forms part 1 of a longer compilation.



NAME: HARDRESS WALLER, BORN 1918: DROMINEER, NENAGH, CO TIPPERARY (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 13

Subject: The Irish Turf Club

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 55:49

Description: In this recording Hardress Waller recalls his involvement in the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes, and steeple chasing, while also coordinating fixtures at home to suit the Racing Calendar while he was a member of the Turf Club. He discusses the funding which came to the racing industry through the Fianna Fail Government over the years. This recording provides some excellent material in relation to the world of horse breeding and horse racing in Ireland.



NAME: JOSIE RYAN, NÉE RYAN, BORN 1929: NEWBRIDGE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 14

Subject: Early days in Newbridge

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 53:43

Description: The Ryan's old council cottage at Hawkfield Newbridge was the setting for this recording. Josie grew up in Roseberry beside Newbridge College. Her father, Patrick Ryan, hailed from Tipperary and was gifted as an expert on horses and their condition, who would often be brought to fairs by neighbours who needed a good horse. He met his wife in the 1920's at the Curragh Camp where he worked as a blacksmith. The couple emigrated to England but after a short time they returned to a job in Irish Ropes in Newbridge. Josie was one of 10 children, all of whom were eventually to be employed by Irish Ropes. Life was hard during Josie's childhood, and the family relied greatly on the American parcels which arrived regularly. She remembers the crossroad dancing on St. John's Eve, and the fun to be had in the Liffey during warm summer days. She recalls a spell of cruel weather during the 1930's when the Liffey at Newbridge froze, and great enjoyment was had by skaters of all ages. Josie names all the family businesses in Newbridge in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and she also recalls fair days and horse sales, when tinkers would come to sell their animals.



NAME: SEAMUS WALSH, BORN 1944: MONASTEREVIN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 15

Subject: A Monasterevin business

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 57:56

Description: Seamus Walsh grew up with bicycles. His father owned a bicycle shop in Monasterevin, which he set up in 1946, during a time when people cycled everywhere and business was booming. Seamus recalls the setting up of the Midlands Cycling Club in which his father was closely involved, and he remembers great days out at sports meetings where cyclists would race around a grass track. Seamus Walsh's grandfather was a carter from the area who transported stone and gravel from the local quarry for road construction. Seamus's father drove a lorry for CIE prior to 1946, and also ran a hackney business which was busy during the war years transporting people to the dances in the CYMS Halls in the local towns. Seamus tells a most interesting story about transport during the Emergency period, when two CIE lorry loads of turf were regularly driven from Monasterevin to Dublin and once unloaded, one lorry would tow the other home to save petrol which was heavily rationed.



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NAME: PAUL CONNOLLY, BORN 1944: LEIXLIP

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 16

Subject: The Apprentice School

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 52:33

Description: The Osprey Hotel in Naas was the venue for this recording with Paul Connolly. The hotel was built on the site of The Apprentice School, which was a boarding school for boys run by the Army to educate and teach crafts to the students, aged 15 – 17 years from all over the country. Paul Connolly relates the circumstances which led to his attendance there as a student of Mechanical Engineering. He speaks about the schedule at the school, the various departments, such as mechanical engineering, woodworking and electrical. The school prepared its students for a trade as well as for an army career. In 1999 a reunion of his old class was organised, and it was fascinating for Paul to rediscover his comrades and to hear about their life experiences. In 1965 Paul bought himself out of the army and joined Aer Lingus as an aircraft fitter. In this recording he recounts all the aircraft which were in use by Aer Lingus in the 1960s, when all the maintenance work on the aircraft was undertaken manually. In 1968 the Viscount was replaced by the Boeing 737, which marked the beginning of the enormous changes which were to occur in Aer Lingus over the following years.



NAME: MICHAEL KAVANAGH, BORN 1944: NEWBRIDGE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 17

Subject: A lifetime with books

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 43:43

Description: Michael Kavanagh is a native of Ashford in Co. Wicklow, who remembers his love of books and reading as having been present even in his very early years. Following his Leaving Certificate he obtained a position in the library in Greystones in 1963. Six years later he was appointed to Newbridge. He recalls John Connolly, a previous librarian in Newbridge whose private residence was over the library which was an unusual situation at the time. Michael Kavanagh details the duties of librarians during his career. In 1980 he was appointed Assistant Librarian, a title now known as Executive Librarian. He explains the great importance of the library to the local community and details the many and complex changes which have come about within the library service over the last decade or so. He is proud to be able to say that he was never regarded as an outsider in Newbridge, and from the beginning was accepted warmly into his adopted home.



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NAME: LARRY SLEVIN, BORN 1926: CLANE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 18

Subject: Memories of Blackhall Estate

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

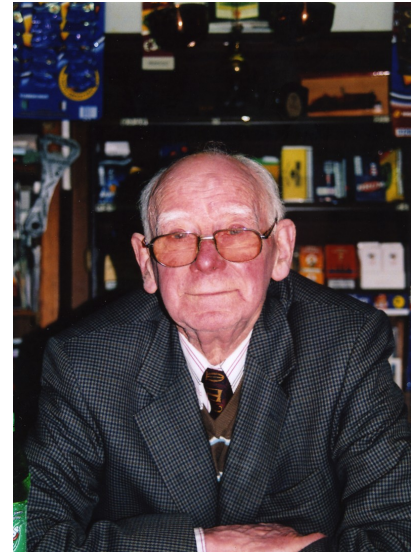
Time: 53:42

Description: A native of Clane, as were all before him, Larry Slevin spent all his adult life working as a groom at Blackhall Stud. His father drove a bread van for Boland's Bakery during Larry's childhood. John Noonan facilitated this recording at Hazelwood Nursing Home, where Larry recites some old local rhymes, and recalls his long working life with Lord Astor. He remembers the hay mangers, people who used to transport loads of hay on horses and drays with side boards all the way to Dublin. Larry declares that one could barely see the horses' heads protruding from the hay loads. He mentions Josie Doyle, who would come to Clane on her ass and car to sell sweets and Chester cake, and also recalls Aggie Weir who ran a boarding house in the village for 'tramps.' He remembers some local people who had the gift of curing ailments such as shingles, which was known as 'wildfire.' Larry's mother was an unusual lady in that she sometimes dreamed of the funeral of a local person, and before too long, the person in question would leave this world! Larry's grandfather was captain of the local football team in 1887, a very successful team in its heyday. The team wore white flour bags fashioned into football jerseys, which lead to the Kildare team's present name 'The Lillywhites.'



NAME: FRANK O'BRIEN, BORN 1922: ATHY  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 19  
Subject: Recollections of a publican  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2009  
Time: 77:21

Description: This recording was compiled during a busy day in the O'Brien pub and grocery business, which has traded in Athy since 1875. Frank O'Brien recalls his grandfather's and his father's working lives as they delivered mineral water in the locality by horse-van. Frank was educated by the Christian Brothers in Athy, and later emigrated to England for a short time. He returned to Athy to help in the family business. The latter part of the recording was compiled in a small dark room behind the pub, in which the old IRA would meet in former days. Frank's father was a Captain in the Volunteers prior to 1916, and as a young man, Frank witnessed many of these meetings where very important decisions were made. He recalls stirring times in the town when Jim Larkin, Eamon DeValera and William J. Cosgrave, amongst other famous men, addressed the population. Frank has in his possession two old business ledgers, and he proudly recounts the goods sold to people such as the Duke of Leinster and Lord Fitzgerald. Other subjects discussed are the merchants, the tradesmen and the canals.



NAME: PETER GORRY, BORN 1931, RATHANGAN (PART 1)  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 20  
Subject: Memories of old Tullylost  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date 2010  
Time: 75.21

Description: Peter Gorry was recorded at his home at Tullylost, Rathangan. He traces his paternal and maternal families and explains that his paternal ancestors were evicted from their holding and eventually settled at Tullylost in 1921. His mother's family were the Martins, and Peter's uncle was involved in the fight for freedom against the Black and Tans. He later joined the Free State Army and was fatally shot at Farranfore, Co. Kerry in 1922. In this recording, Peter discusses the local townlands, the people and the surnames, and he recalls his own early life. Following his schooling, he worked with the local farmers until 1949 when he got employment with Bord na Móna at Ballydermot, where he stayed until his retirement twenty years ago. He provides details about the work conditions, the drainage carried out, the staff and management and the migrant workers.



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NAME; PETER GORRY, BORN 1931, RATHANGAN (PART 11)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection CD 21

Subject: A Passion for History

Recorded by: Maurice O`Keeffe

Date 2010

Time 58.00

Description: In this recording, Peter Gorry talks about superstitions and folk cures, and great belief in the power of holy water. He has created a small museum in his garage, and amongst his collectables is a piece of bog butter, discovered fourteen years ago in the Midland bogs where he worked. He also has in his possession a prehistoric axehead which his mother discovered in 1928, which planting a hedge around her home. Peter also discusses lamping rabbits, fishing, and his work, since his retirement, of taking care of the two graveyards. He also talks about the local kileen, where one of his fourteen siblings is buried, as was the custom due to its death prior to being baptised.



NAME: NOEL CLARKE, BORN 1926: SMITHSTOWN, TAGHADOE (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 22

Subject: An old garage business

Recorded by: Maurice O`Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 45:33

Description: Noel Clarke's forefathers came originally from Scotland, and his grandfather came to Banagher to work as a gardener at Lord Rosse's estate. In 1914 following an argument with his own father, Noel Clarke's father joined the British Army and fought in World War I. At war's end he was employed as a motor mechanic at Dawson's in Maynooth, and two years later he started his own garage business in the town. Noel has great memories of his youth in Maynooth and attending primary school run by the nuns in St Patrick's seminary. He always had a keen interest in radio, and during World War II he kept constantly in touch with unfolding events. During these years of war, Noel's father worked at servicing farm machinery as no cars were being sold. He became Group Leader of the LDF and Noel witnessed much of the activity of the local force. After the war, the economic climate began to improve and people generally regained their interest in cars. Noel has a clear recollection of the models of cars which gained favour at this time.



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NAME: NOEL CLARKE, BORN 1926: SMITHSTOWN, TAGHADOE (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 23

Subject: An old family business

Recorded by: Maurice O`Keeffe

Date: 2008

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Time: 36:08

Description: During Noel Clarke's young adult life, Maynooth was a less than vibrant town, which would come to life annually for the ordination of the seminarians, who would come to the gates of St. Patrick's Seminary to bless the local people. The existence of the seminary ensured the survival of local tradespeople, such as tailors, shoemakers, barbers and grocers. Many of the local people were also in employment at the seminary. Noel Clarke's great interest in radio technology has persisted throughout his life, and here he describes the models of old radios and the wet and dry battery sets.

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NAME: GEORGE BYRNE, BORN 1911: BALLYKELLY, LACKAGH (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 24

Subject: Kildare in the 1920s

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 79:18

Description: The Byrne family have farmed at Ballykelly for generations. George Byrne was an only child whose mother died in childbirth when he was two years old. His father passed away when George was 17, so the farm was run for several years by his parents' executors. George was reared by his maternal grandmother near Monasterevin and his uncle, John Kavanagh, who commanded the Second Battalion Old IRA locally, would send his young nephew around the area carrying dispatches on his bicycle during the War of Independence. George has a clear memory of seeing the British Army Barracks at Portarlinton smoulder following an attack by the IRA during these turbulent days. George Byrne maintains his schooling was minimal, but "if you could read, write and count money, you were all right!" he declares. He emigrated to England where he stayed for a short time and returned in his early 1920's to work for Peter Byrne's hardware business at Portarlinton. He provides a vivid description of the truck he drove – a Model T with solid wheels. Later in the early 1930s when he had returned to his farm at Ballykelly he found it very difficult to make a living from the land due to the Economic War, and its effects. Around this time he and a group of friends formed The Midlands Cycling Club which provided enjoyable days of entertainment over many years.





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NAME: GEORGE BYRNE, BORN 1911: BALLYKELLY, LACKAGH (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 25

Subject: Farming traditions

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 36:39

Description: George Byrne farmed at Ballykelly for most of his adult life. The major sources of income were beet, corn and milk. He describes in detail the growing, thinning and harvesting of the beet, and its transport. He recalls the setting up of the creameries and explains that prior to this, each farming family would make their own butter. When the creameries began to operate in 1929 an arrangement was made where one farmer would collect the milk from all the neighbouring farms for delivery to the creamery. George lists many of the local field names, and the reasons for each individual name, which was fascinating to record. This list proves the importance of the oral tradition, as it was through word of mouth that these field names were preserved.



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NAME: SARAH TRACEY, NÉE SLATTERY, BORN 1916: BALLYMORE EUSTACE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 26

Subject: Memories of Ballymore Eustace

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 70:28

Description: The Slattery family came from Harristown and Sarah Tracey's grandfather was First Huntsman to Lord la Touche in Harristown House. Sarah has clear memories of her early days in Ballymore Eustace, the forge, the local bar and groceries, drapers, the post office and the thatched houses. She recounts the names of all the family owned businesses in the town. She recalls the activities of the Black and Tans in her native area, and also her own early days in employment as housekeeper for a Jewish family in Dublin. She remembers the advent of the creameries around the countryside, and the employment provided by the big estates. Sarah's mother came originally from Carrigmacross and she brought with her the tradition of lace work, and sold her craftwork to the local people.



NAME: BILL GLENNON, BORN 1936: NAAS  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 27  
Subject: Recollections of a shoemaker  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2009  
Time: 57:39

Description: The Glennon shoemaker business has existed at New Row, Naas since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The existing workshop is exactly as it was in Bill Glennon's grandfather's time, and the same tools are still in daily use. Bill discusses in fascinating detail the shoemaker's craft, and the fact that his father would make riding boots for the local gentry. He remembers the tannery at Portlaw which supplied leather to the business. He also recalled the old family names and street names in the town and the pastimes he enjoyed in his rare days of freedom.



NAME: SR. TERESA MARGARET McCARTHY, BORN 1911: KILCOCK  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 28  
Subject: a religious Sister's legacy  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2009  
Time: 65:23

Description: Sr. Teresa McCarthy is now resident in Presentation Convent in Kilcock where this recording was compiled. Sr. Immaculata initially introduces her friend, Sr. Teresa, and describes her long life of achievement in Mountmellick where she taught music and helped to revive the Quaker tradition of embroidery work. Sr. Teresa was born and reared in Abbeyfeale in West Limerick and she recalls her early life and her decision to join the Presentation Order in Mountmellick. The nuns in Mountmellick lived in a large old house which had been previously owned by the pim family who were Quakers. On exploring the attic of the house one day, Sr. Teresa came across an old trunk, which on opening she discovered a treasure trove of designs for embroidery work. These exquisite designs and patterns had a profound effect on her, but due to her busy teaching career, in music and other subjects, she found no time to pursue her interest in the needlework. In 1974 she decided to revive the tradition of embroidery work in the town, having initially worked on a small square piece of material, which was much admired and commented upon. She describes in great detail the way in which she engendered local interest in the craft, and at this stage in the recording, Sr. Teresa was joined by two local ladies, a mother and daughter who had both been taught the stitch by this fine woman. Annie Kelly and her daughter Rita Conroy recalled the wonderful legacy Sr. Teresa bestowed on them during her long teaching career.



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NAME: CHA CHANDERS, BORN 1935: ATHY  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 29  
Subject: A family tradition in milling  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2009  
Time: 59:19

Description: Cha Chanders was born in St. John's Lane in Athy, but after his mother's death when he was seven, he was reared by his grandparents in St. Martin's Terrace. All his people worked for Minch Norton's Malthouse in the town. He describes in fascinating detail the work undertaken by his grandfather, his father and himself in the Malthouse, loading the 16 stone bags onto the canal boats. The Guinness trucks which would arrive from Dublin were recalled, as were the working conditions which prevailed. The dust which pervaded the workplace and the lack of protective masks wreaked havoc on the workers' health and Cha explains that the health of his grandfather and his father was compromised as a result, just as is his own. He has wonderful recollections about the town of Athy in earlier times, the fair days and market days, the craft of basket weaving, and collecting turf in a barrow to be wheeled out of the bog onto the road for loading.



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NAME: ROSIE CUMMINS, NÉE CLOONEY, BORN 1920:  
CELBRIDGE  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 30  
Subject: Celbridge Woollen Mills recalled  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2009  
Time: 61:55

Description: Rosie Cummins worked for 44 years with the Celbridge Woollen Mills beginning at 15 years of age. She recalls the owner, the management and staff and the work practices. Rosie grew up in Celbridge and she remembers clearly her early days there. Sean Collins, a brother of Michael Collins, was a neighbour in Celbridge and Rosie's mother worked for the family. Sean Collins worked for the Land Commission and Rosie had several stories to relate about the Collins family.



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NAME: GABRIEL D'ARCY, BORN 1959: NEWBRIDGE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 33

Subject: CEO – Bord na Mona

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 42:04

Description: Gabriel D'Arcy was born and grew up in Ballinamore in Co. Leitrim. He is one of 10 children, and his parents ran a grocery shop in the village. He was educated at Garbally Boarding College in Ballinasloe and entered the Army Cadet School in 1976. He recalls the tough regime there and his graduation as a Cavalry Officer. He played inter-county football with Leitrim at this time, and also studied for a degree in bio chemistry from UCG. Following his graduation from the Cadet School he served in Castleblaney for 3 years and then studied for his Masters in Bio Chemistry in UCD. His career took a change of direction and he was appointed to a position with [the] Kerry Group in Tralee where he worked for eleven years. He was then appointed CEO at Bord na Mona and he discusses the opportunities and challenges which faced him on his arrival at Bord na Mona and his hopes for the future of the company.



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NAME: JIM ROCHFORD, BORN 1932: KILCOCK

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 34

Subject: A family history

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 50:18

Description: Jim Rochford is a local historian who spent many years researching the Rochford family history. The family were large landowners, initially in Wexford and later in Co. Kildare. Jim's direct antecedents came from Co. Meath, and settled in the vicinity of Kilcock in 1690. He discusses their reasons for locating there and the means by which they later lost their lands. In Jim Rochford's grandfathers' time, some of the land was regained and remained in the family until the present generation. Jim's father supplied milk to Maynooth Seminary and Jim discusses the advantages of the seminary to the whole locality.



NAME: JOHNNY BELL, BORN 1930: BALLINDRUM, ATHY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 35

Subject: A life in farming

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 71:52

Description: Kilmead is the native place of Johnny Bell and in this recording he recounts a fascinating history of his family's arrival from Co. Meath. His grandfather was a herdsman and his two granduncles were a horseman and a steward, and they all settled locally. Johnny worked for local farmers all his life, ploughing with horses and undertaking general farm work. He declares that he worked as hard as any man from the age of 16. His father worked as a Prison Officer in Mountjoy Jail during the Civil War and his mother's people, the Kellys, were strong Republicans and members of the local Fife and Drum Band who would perform at election rallies for Fianna Fail in the 1920's and '30's. Johnny discusses local cures, field names and their meanings, the tradition of blacksmithing, his love of farming, and problems with the distribution of land by the Land Commission.



NAME: JOSHUA ROSE, BORN 1940: DONADEA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Kildare Collection, CD 36

Subject: Clane and its vicinity

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 44:28

Description: Joshua Rose is a bachelor farmer who lives on the outskirts of Clane, beside the castle wall. He recalls his father's origins in Edenderry, and his purchase of lands at Clane from the Cooper family, who were Quakers. The Cooper family had an annual tradition of erecting a tent in the haggard at the farm, for use as a place of prayer and Christenings at the well by the Quakers. One of Joshua Rose's earliest memories is of watching soldiers from the Army standing on a lorry load of turf in Maynooth as they threw the sods down to the local womenfolk who gathered them in their aprons, during the Emergency Period. The great changes which have come about in farming practices over the last couple of generations is discussed, as is the reclamation of land, local placenames and their meanings.



