

Durrow Parish Newsletter

Compiled by Durrow Scouts

Fr. Jackie Robinson's Outlook

THE WAITING ROOM

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The door opened and an elderly lady with a heavily bandaged wrist entered and sat on the only available seat. After a bit of turning and twisting she at last seemed comfortable, smiled and said, to no one in particular: "That's a grand day now, thank God". We all nodded and grunted in agreement - no one quite willing to break the silence - get involved in conversation.

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Her neighbour nodded indifferently. She was obviously in a similar mood to myself.

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As I rose to go to the surgery a middle aged man came in and took my place. "That's a grand day now, thank God", I heard the old lady greet him. I hoped to God that he would be a little more sympathetic, a little more caring, a little more Christian than we had been in that waiting room.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT NOTICE

Transport to St. Fergal's College, Rathdowney will leave the car park (opposite R.C. Church, Durrow) at 8.30 a.m. sharp each morning. 1st year students back to school on Monday 3rd September. All other students back to school Tuesday 4th September. Any queries re transport, contact (0502) 36202.

HARPS G.A.A. CLUB

The Harps G.A.A. Club golf outing and cabaret will be held in Rathdowney Golf Club on Saturday September 8th. With members already limited, you are advised to contact Morgan Kelly, Liam Holland or Hughie Sheppard if you intend playing. Tickets are now on sale for the cabaret in Rathdowney Golf Club on the same night, admission is £1 and all are welcome.

The Harps send best wishes to John Shortall on the occasion of his "Passing Out" ceremony in Templemore and good luck in his career as a Garda in Dublin.

Juvenile Secretary Vera Fogarty has been appointed to represent The Harps on the Durrow Community Council.

The Harps senior hurlers play Clonad in the semi-final of the Brady Cup on Saturday September 1st in Rathdowney at 6.00p.m.

Winners of All Ireland tickets in the recent club members draw were:
Hurling:- Martin Brophy and Declan Phelan.
Football:- Johnnie Bowe and John Phelan.

Three members of the Harps club represented Laois in a recent U/14 inter-county hurling tournament in Waterford. They were Alan Doran, James Shortall and Alan Dwyer.

The Intermediate football final has been fixed for O'Moore Park, Portlaois on September 22nd between the Harps and Portarlington and the U/21 hurling semi-final between the Harps and Castletown fixed for September 1st has been deferred. Training continues for both teams on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

HISTORICAL SNIPPET

by J. Conroy.

Sometime ago in our little snippet we mentioned place names around the area of Durrow and many young people were at a loss to know where they were situated so we will recall some of them and where situated:

"The Duke's Parlour" is a part of Capponellan Wood.

"The Old Glesh" was at the end of Bowe's Lane, Cork Road. The stream flowed by the side of the road.

"The Horse Pond" was situated also on Bowe's Lane for watering horses and its outline can be seen to this day. The people residing in Bowe's house then were Delaneys and they reared big farm horses called Clydesdales.

"The Peelers Garden" was located where Donal Carroll's residence is now. R.I.C. police force were nicknamed "Peelers" and as a result it was thus named. For exercise they would march up in line spades on shoulders and dig there each day. The Tennis Court was where Donal's Garage is. It was a beautiful court, many big tennis matches were held there. It was out of bounds for us young lads so we used to be content to peep in.

"Pass if you can Street" was a nickname on the present Patrick St., then "Gallows Hill". Every house had a half-door and if a stranger walked the Street they would never pass unnoticed as after passing it is said a head would pop over the half-door to observe the stranger and as a result got its nickname.

Well as promised we will continue more placenames next issue.

ARTEK - U.S.S.R. continued:

As we mentioned in earlier articles on our Camp in the U.S.S.R. the food was exceptionally bad, I remember one morning after a particularly bad breakfast on our third day there, saying to our Scouts "Never mind lads, only 26 breakfasts to go" as we had to go down and climb back up nearly 200 steps in the searing heat. The response that statement got cannot be printed in a family Newsletter!

By the 29th day we were starting to get used to the food!

We left the Ukraine on the 27th July to spend 3 days in Moscow, a large crowd came to the Bus Stop to see us off, a sad part of our trip was saying goodbye to people and new friends we knew we would never see again - such is life.

As we had done at the start of our Trip our main goal in Moscow was to return to Red Square, for all the pictures you've seen, you still won't quite believe the architectural marvel that is St. Basil's Cathedral with eight unmatched onion shaped domes. Over 400 years old, it was built during the reign of Ivan the Terrible. Legend has it that the Czar ordered the architects to be blinded in case they built another Cathedral for a different Patron.

Another must for a visitor to Moscow is the Metro, the underground Rail system, the equivalent of a 2p. coin buys you unlimited travel on the trains but the trip is almost beside the point. It's the stations themselves which amaze the visitor - heroic sculptures, mosaics, paintings, carvings and stained glass. Passengers are plunged from street level to platform level on express escalators - an amazing experience. During our month in the U.S.S.R. two phrases which we used a lot come to mind, "Hang on in there" in the Ukraine and in Moscow especially in the Underground "For God's sake keep together lads". The amount of people who use the Metro is mind boggling and if we had to get split up I dread to think what the outcome would have been.

We also paid a visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier who is buried just behind the Kremlin Walls, a poignant reminder of the role of the Red Army in the Victory over the Nazi's during the Second World War. The main victims during the war were the Soviet people with over 20 million killed, vast compared to the casualties from the other countries.

The main highlight of our stay in the city had to be the visit to the Moscow State Circus. This Circus is rated the best in the world and it is hard to disagree as one amazing act followed another. This was a fitting end to what will always be remembered as a truly memorable trip.

We left Sheremetyevo Airport on the 30th July and arrived back in Ireland at 1.00p.m. approx. After the trip everyone agreed it was indeed an unforgettable experience.

Final next issue.

The Parents & Friends Committee of the Scouts will hold a meeting in the Durrow Inn on Thursday next 6th September at 8.30p.m. All members please attend.

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