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WICKLOW



REGATTA 82
FESTIVAL

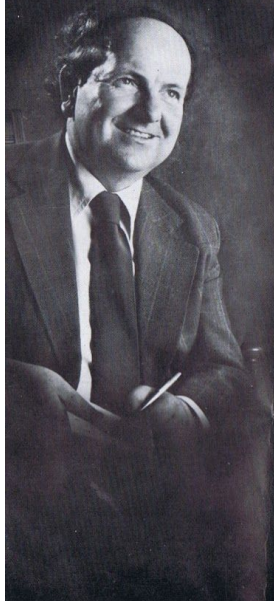
July 24th - August 8th

PROGRAMME

PRICE 50P

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As chairman of the Wicklow Regatta Festival Committee it is my pleasure to welcome you to all the events of this the 1982 Regatta Festival Fortnight.



It is my pleasure also to welcome back our friends, the Maelgwn Male Voice Choir, on their fourth visit to Wicklow.

This year we have tried to expand and improve the various events and also to introduce some new items in the programme. This was made possible by the tremendous support which we have received this year as in other years from all the clubs, organisations and most important of all our sponsors.

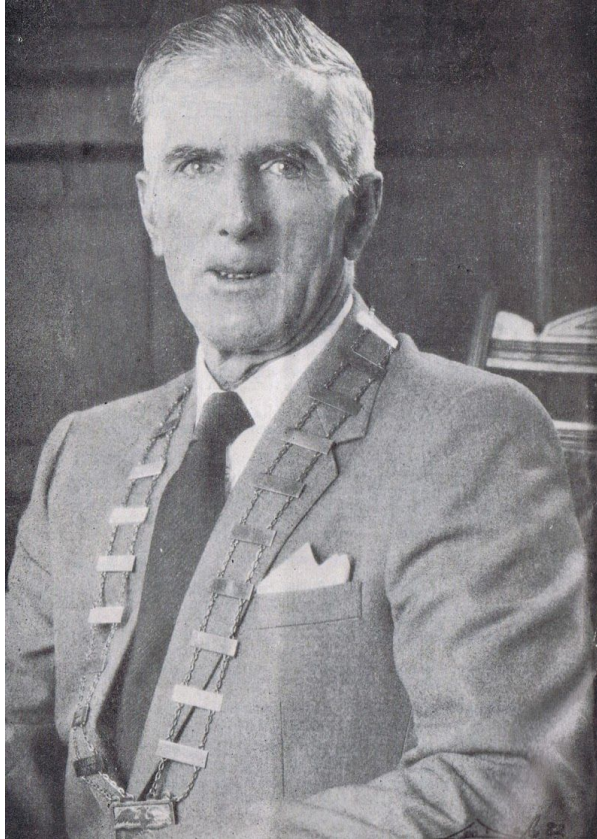
I would like to thank my dedicated committee without whose support and effort our festival would not be possible.

Finally, to you the people of Wicklow, friends and visitors alike, please come out and enjoy all the events, thereby making this another memorable Wicklow Regatta Festival.

Bob Jackson, Chairman.



Regatta Queen Finalists : Misses Verna Belton, Evelyn Byrne, Adrienne O'Brien, Paula Wilson, Michelle Hamilton and Denise Lambert.



Mr. Tom Byrne

By Leo Doyle

As one of Wicklow's best known and much loved citizens, "Backers" Byrne, as he is known to one and all, plays an active and important role in the everyday goings-on within the Wicklow Urban area. A very enthusiastic supporter and member of the Wicklow Labour movement for 47 years, Tom was co-opted onto Wicklow Urban District Council in 1967 following the death of one of Ireland's foremost Labour T.D.s of the time, Mr. Jim Everett. Since then "Backers" has fought two local elections and has remained a member of the Council ever since. Around '74-'75 he was chairman of the Council and in June 1981 - June 1982, he proudly wore the chain of office for the second time in his life. It was during this period that Tom's character and interests in the local community really came to the fore. Rarely missing a function, no matter how small, when the chairman was invited, "Backers" was there and wore the chain with pride.

"Backers", the nickname is handed down from his father, is now 65 and has in recent years retired from the construction trade, where his family have been active since his grandfather's time, in fact three generations of Byrnes worked for Willie Clarke, the well known Wicklow builders.

Since his retirement, Tom now plays an even more active part in local affairs. Up to this year he was president of Wicklow Rovers Football Club. He is currently a member of the Burial and Harbour Boards. He is also the president of Wicklow Rowing Club, a club which has held a deep interest for Tom for over 30 years, since he became a member. He remembers with affection, his earliest recollections of the rowing club and Regattas of long ago. In the late 30's men like Dolly Quinn, Sniper Kelly, Jack Cleary, Joe Darcy and Sniper Vickers were the rowers of the time in the much remembered skiff, the "Colleen Bawn". Tom Byrne enjoys an active family life here in Wicklow town, a town he has never left in all his 65 years, and a town which he hopes to play an active part in its development and culture in the years that lie ahead.

DON'T FORGET

Regatta Queen Ball in the Grand Hotel on Wednesday, 28th July

Tuesday, 27th July

7.30 p.m. Car Treasure Hunt, organised by Wicklow County Council and Eastern Health Board Social Club—start and finish at Wicklow Rugby Club.
Officers: Chairperson, Bernie Hughes; Vice-Chairperson and P.R.O., Jim Cullen; Secretary, Mary Angela Byrne; Treasurer, Frances Nicholls. Committee: John Reidy, Anita Byrne, Bernie Rossiter, Jemma O'Flaherty, Mick Doyle, John O'Gorman, Peter Kavanagh, Joe O'Sullivan, Adrienne O'Brien, Alan Sheane.

9.00 to 9.45 p.m. Judging of Singing Pubs Competition, sponsored by Clarke, Delahunty & Co. (1980) Ltd., Auctioneers at Ros Dúin.

Wicklow Tourism Organisation — Ceili in G.A.A. Clubhouse from 9 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 28th July

10 p.m. to 2.00 a.m. Regatta Queen Ball in the Grand Hotel. Music by The Cantons. Admission by ticket only (including supper). Tickets £7.50 available from Earls Newsagent, Abbey Street.

Regatta Queen Competition is co-sponsored by Leo Doyle Studios, Grace O'Shaughnessy Model Agency, Mr. George Murray, Raffels Hairdressing Salon, Shine's Chemist, Fiat (Ireland) Ltd. and Bollarney Motors. The Queen will be crowned at the Regatta Ball by Miss Fiona Franey, Regatta Queen, 1981 and presented with the James E. Cox Trophy.

Wicklow Golf Club—I.P.G.A. Tankard.

Thursday, 29th July

7.00 p.m. Walking Race, organised by the Regatta Committee and sponsored by Mr. Victor Fitzell, Passant's Drapers, Main Street. Open to individuals and teams of three from firms and organisations. Starting at Abbey Service Garage.

Wicklow Golf Club — Men's 18-hole fourball stableford.

9.00 to 9.45 p.m. Judging of Singing Pubs Competition, sponsored by Clarke, Delahunty & Co. (1980) Ltd. at Fitzpatrick's Lounge.

9.00 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. Seisúin, presented by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann at the Boathouse. Admission £1.50.

9.00 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. Young at Heart Night. Music by The Sunlights. Organised by Mrs. Jill Haughton.

Friday, 30th July

7.00 p.m. Terrier Race at Bachelor's Walk. Sponsored by Wicklow Trophy Centre (Tom and Christine Dunne).

7.30 p.m. Adult Walking Treasure Hunt, organised by Sam Kavanagh and Eugene Copeland, sponsored by C.B.S. Records. Starts at Fitzwilliam Square.

9.30 p.m. to 12.30 p.m. Over 25's in The Grand Hotel. Music by The Birds. Organised by Regatta Committee.

Saturday, 31st July — CHILDREN'S DAY

11.00 a.m. Walking Treasure Hunt. Start and Finish at Leitrim Lounge, The Murrough. Sponsored by Stan and Marie O'Reilly, General Stores, Main Street.

2.30 p.m. FANCY DRESS PARADE. Starting at the Rialto and on to Bachelor's Walk. Sponsored by Pat Byrne, Victualler, The Mall. Children's Party after the Parade and judging of Fancy Dress. Sponsored by B. Riley (Wicklow) Ltd., Bookbinders, Monkton Road and Margaret McCloskey.

Children's Disco with D.J. Pat Davis. Magic Show by Quentin Reynolds. Sponsored by O'Reilly Bros. (Wicklow) Ltd.

3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. R.N.L.I. Ladies Guild Annual Sale at Assembly Hall.

R.N.L.I. Flag Collection.
Officers: President, Mr. J. T. O'Byrne; Chairman, Mr. P. Gale; Vice-Chairman, Rev. S. Pettigrew; Honorary Secretary, Michael W. Jones; Honorary Treasurer, J. T. Headley; Assistant Honorary Secretary, Kevin Desmond.

7.00 p.m. Pet Show, sponsored by Mr. Stan Lalor of South Quay Motors, at Bachelor's Walk.

Wicklow Golf Club—9-holes Open Mixed Foursomes. Play as often as you like. In aid of R.N.L.I.

5.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club—C. A. Hopkin's Boat Competition at the Packet Pier. Check in 4 p.m.
Officers: President, Matt Bolger; Chairman, John Rice; Treasurer, Stan O'Reilly; Recorder and Conservation Officer, John Flaherty; P.R.O., Val Devitt; Club Development Officer, Tom O'Reilly; Trophy Officer, Tom Hanlon.

WICKLOW TOURISM ASSOCIATION

To the south of the city of Dublin lie ridges of the spectacular mountains, deep wooded valleys, cascading waterfalls and rivers and still lakes which are the essence of Co. Wicklow. Bounded on the east by miles of golden beaches and to the west by the great reservoir of Blessington, this beautiful county justly deserves its title — The Garden of Ireland. For the holiday maker, Wicklow provides excellent accommodation, first class restaurants, places of great archaeological and historical interest as well as excellent facilities for Golf, Horse-riding, Sailing, Fishing, Tennis and all the other activities that are part and parcel of a good holiday. Add to this list, the fact that Wicklow has the lowest rainfall and longest hours of sunshine of all holiday destinations in Ireland and you should have a holiday maker's paradise. But do we? Do we in Co. Wicklow get the number of tourists we need and deserve? The answer is, at the moment, NO. Statistics show that Wicklow comes quite far down most Irish people's list when thinking of their main holiday. We pick up good week-end business but where are the long stay tourists? We have also discovered that most foreigners know little or nothing about Wicklow and it is annoying for them and disappointing for us in the trade, to see them shoot through our lovely county en route to the West or back to the boat.

The County Wicklow Tourism Association was formed five years ago to combat this state of affairs and up to date, we have been reasonably successful. We aim to promote tourism into the county, by actively marketing both at home and abroad. We have published several pieces of promotional literature and run two tourist offices, one in Wicklow town (0404-2904) and one in Arklow (0402-2484). We organise courses, lectures, etc. to help those people directly involved with the tourist industry and seek, through the media and open meetings to make the general public aware of what we are trying to do and to enlist their assistance. This is a vital part of our work, as tourism is, quite genuinely, everyone's business. To make Co. Wicklow one of the foremost tourist counties will need the wholehearted support of everyone living here. Never has it been more important that we present the proper image and get our fair share of the market. Tourism is one of the largest employers of labour, both directly and indirectly. That there exists in Wicklow a serious unemployment problem, cannot be denied and the Co. Wicklow Tourism Association would like to see that the tourist industry gets the chance to provide the many jobs which can be created if the tourist comes.

Finally, we would like to congratulate the Wicklow Regatta Committee for their contribution to tourism. Over the years, they have done wonderful work in putting the name of Wicklow on the front pages and thus promoting the whole county. May we wish them many more years of success and assure them of our constant support. Well done Regatta Committee and well done Wicklow!

The Chairperson of Wicklow Tourism is Mrs. Dorothea Geoghegan, Avonbeg House, Rathdrum.

Miss Regatta Festival Queen '81 — Fiona Franey, Rathnew →



Wicklow Rowing Club

MONDAY, AUGUST 2nd, 1982

SKIFF - RACING COMMENCING 2.30

First Race:

Competitors:	Draw	Result
STELLA MARIS I, RINGSEND
STELLA MARIS II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK III, RINGSEND
MANTAN I, WICKLOW
MANTAN II, WICKLOW
STAR, WICKLOW
SHAMROCK I, GREYSTONES
VENTURER, BRAY
ENDEAVOUR, BRAY
M. O'CARROLL, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY I, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY II, DALKEY
ST. MICHAEL, DUN LAOGHAIRE
EILEEN, DUN LAOGHAIRE
DUNLEARY, DUN LAOGHAIRE
ST. JOSEPH I, SANDYCOVE
MARIE THERESE, SANDYCOVE
COLEEN BAWN, LEITRIM CLUB

NORTH QUAY FISHERMEN PERPETUAL TROPHY

Second Race:

Competitors:	Draw	Result
STELLA MARIS I, RINGSEND
STELLA MARIS II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK III, RINGSEND
MANTAN I, WICKLOW
MANTAN II, WICKLOW
STAR, WICKLOW
SHAMROCK I, GREYSTONES
VENTURER, BRAY
ENDEAVOUR, BRAY
M. O'CARROLL, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY I, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY II, DALKEY
ST. MICHAEL, DUN LAOGHAIRE
EILEEN, DUN LAOGHAIRE
DUNLEARY, DUN LAOGHAIRE
ST. JOSEPH I, SANDYCOVE
MARIE THERESE, SANDYCOVE
COLEEN BAWN, LEITRIM CLUB

This event is sponsored by ANN AND GARRETT O'REILLY

Third Race:

Competitors:	Draw	Result
STELLA MARIS I, RINGSEND
STELLA MARIS II, RINGSEND

A PUBLIC HOUSE RACE WILL BE HELD IN THE COURSE OF THE AFTERNOON.

SCHOOLBOYS' RACE

Competitors:	Draw	Result
ST. PATRICK II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK III, RINGSEND
MANTAN I, WICKLOW
MANTAN II, WICKLOW
STAR, WICKLOW
SHAMROCK I, GREYSTONES
VENTURER, BRAY
ENDEAVOUR, BRAY
M. O'CARROLL, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY I, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY II, DALKEY
ST. MICHAEL, DUN LAOGHAIRE
EILEEN, DUN LAOGHAIRE
DUNLEARY, DUN LAOGHAIRE
ST. JOSEPH I, SANDYCOVE
MARIE THERESE, SANDYCOVE
COLEEN BAWN, LEITRIM CLUB

This event is sponsored by WICKLOW ROWING CLUB

Fourth Race:

Competitors:	Draw	Result
STELLA MARIS I, RINGSEND
STELLA MARIS II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK III, RINGSEND
MANTAN I, WICKLOW
MANTAN II, WICKLOW
STAR, WICKLOW
SHAMROCK I, GREYSTONES
VENTURER, BRAY
ENDEAVOUR, BRAY
M. O'CARROLL, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY I, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY II, DALKEY
ST. MICHAEL, DUN LAOGHAIRE
DUNLEARY, DUN LAOGHAIRE
ST. JOSEPH I, SANDYCOVE
MARIE THERESE, SANDYCOVE
COLEEN BAWN, LEITRIM CLUB

This event is sponsored by WICKLOW ROWING CLUB

Fifth Race:

Competitors:	Draw	Result
STELLA MARIS I, RINGSEND
STELLA MARIS II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK III, RINGSEND
MANTAN I, WICKLOW
MANTAN II, WICKLOW
STAR, WICKLOW

THIS TROPHY IS SPONSORED BY ROS DUIN, MARKET SQUARE.

SHAMROCK I, GREYSTONES	.....	.....
VENTURER, BRAY	.....	.....
ENDEAVOUR, BRAY	.....	.....
M. O'CARROLL, DALKEY	.....	.....
ST. MALACHY I, DALKEY	.....	.....
ST. MALACHY II, DALKEY	.....	.....
ST. MICHAEL, DUN LAOGHAIRE	.....	.....
EILEEN, DUN LAOGHAIRE	.....	.....
DUNLEARY, DUN LAOGHAIRE	.....	.....
ST. JOSEPH I, SANDYCOVE	.....	.....
MARIE THERESE, SANDYCOVE	.....	.....
COLEEN BAWN, LEITRIM CLUB	.....	.....

This event is sponsored by THE GRAND HOTEL

Sixth Race:

Competitors:	Draw	Result
STELLA MARIS I, RINGSEND
STELLA MARIS II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK III, RINGSEND
MANTAN I, WICKLOW
MANTAN II, WICKLOW
STAR, WICKLOW
SHAMROCK I, GREYSTONES
VENTURER, BRAY
ENDEAVOUR, BRAY
M. O'CARROLL, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY I, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY II, DALKEY
ST. MICHAEL, DUN LAOGHAIRE
DUNLEARY, DUN LAOGHAIRE
ST. JOSEPH I, SANDYCOVE
MARIE THERESE, SANDYCOVE
COLEEN BAWN, LEITRIM CLUB

This event is sponsored by HAMMILL CUP

SEVENTH RACE:

SENIOR ALL-IRELAND OPEN SKIFF RACE

Competitors:	Draw	Result
STELLA MARIS I, RINGSEND
STELLA MARIS II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK II, RINGSEND
ST. PATRICK III, RINGSEND
MANTAN I, WICKLOW
MANTAN II, WICKLOW
STAR, WICKLOW
SHAMROCK I, GREYSTONES
VENTURER, BRAY
ENDEAVOUR, BRAY
M. O'CARROLL, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY I, DALKEY
ST. MALACHY II, DALKEY
ST. MICHAEL, DUN LAOGHAIRE
DUNLEARY, DUN LAOGHAIRE
ST. JOSEPH I, SANDYCOVE
MARIE THERESE, SANDYCOVE
COLEEN BAWN, LEITRIM CLUB

This event is sponsored by VEHA LTD.

What about Killarney ?

There we sat, surrounded by holiday brochures collected by our offspring from the various travel agencies, our thoughts months ahead on sandy beaches. Where would we go? Majorca would be nice. Our young Billy fancied himself at Disneyland. Names of holiday resorts, exotic and otherwise, were thrown around as if money grew on trees. Eventually it was my turn. "My mind is made up", I said, "It's Ireland for us". And so it was.

Driving through Wales was pleasant and we had an easy crossing. We piled eagerly into our trusty chariot and drove off the ferry and on to Irish soil. We had planned our route beforehand hoping to see as many places as possible in the two weeks.

Passing through beautiful Wexford we arrived at Arklow where stomachs began to rumble and a decision was made to eat in Wicklow Town. We lunched at the Grand Hotel and after an excellent meal we prepared to continue on our journey. As we were leaving the hotel we saw a huge crowd of people gathered outside. Having heard of the hospitality of the Irish our first thoughts were that we were receiving a traditional Irish welcome particularly when we saw the Wicklow Pipe Band. Then we heard someone shout "here comes Bernie Ferguson with the Welsh Choir", and a large bus appeared on the scene. The door opened and about sixty Welshmen dressed in blue emerged. They formed up behind the Pipe Band, marched forward and as the crowd followed we were swept along with them.

A while later we stopped in a square which had a large statue in the centre. Suddenly people started to throw their arms around these Welshmen and hugged and kissed them. Then there appeared on the scene an official looking gentleman wearing a chain of office. Later we found out that this was Tom Byrne, affectionately known as "Backers". After the official welcome we heard several renderings from the choir namely the Maelgwn Maie Voice Choir from Llandudno in North Wales.

Suddenly everyone was gone and we were left all alone. Looking across the square we saw a magnificent building and then we realised we were standing close to the Wicklow Tourist Office. Inside we met a lovely Irish girl called Valerie Cleary who told us that the arrival of the choir was the start of festivities which would last a fortnight. We left armed with programmes of the various events to be held.

Looking through this beautifully printed programme my wife, who dabbles in oils, thought she would like to see the exhibition of paintings at Bachelors' Walk. In the main Street we stopped John Dowling who very kindly directed us to the Painters' Gallery. The next half hour was a very pleasant one indeed viewing the paintings of Stanley Pettigrew. While admiring these pictures we met the president of the Wicklow Rugby Club Billy Clarke who kindly invited us along to the Rugby Club that night as his guests, to meet the Welsh Choir.

"It should be a very pleasant evening" said the wife, "maybe we should stay the night". So it was back to the Grand Hotel to look for accommodation. Sean McCafferty looked after us and even though business was hectic managed to provide us with comfortable rooms for the night.

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the venue for the next round and we met Joe Fitzpatrick who pulls a great pint. This was the last opportunity to see the girls before the contest on Wednesday night. We still couldn't decide who was the loveliest. Back at the hotel it was an early night for the lads and it was the De La Salle Ladies Committee's Over 25s for us. A great night thanks to all the work put into it by Mary Kavanagh and her committee.

The atmosphere in the Grand Hotel was electric on Wednesday night and the judges had a very difficult decision to make. Fiona Frenay was a very popular winner and how proud her parents were. On Thursday our Billy had walked in the Fitzell sponsored Walking Race. His heart was willing but his legs were weak and he got no further than a place called the Big Bridge. The lads were off to a great disco and met Linda O'Toole and Pat Davis. We ourselves had an evening at the Bridge Tavern and enjoyed a great show organised by Anne and Garrett O'Reilly. I will always remember local artist Budda Kavanagh's dramatic entrance through a window.

Saturday was full of excitement with all the children taking part in the fancy dress parade. Little Siobéal Byrne was a charming "Miss Piggy" with the Regatta Queen appearing again thanks to Carolyn Doyle. John and Wendy Doyle brought us Prince Charles and Lady Diane and Alison Dover advised us to buy Irish. The Indians were well represented by Owen Maxwell and Co. We saw some lovely animals at Stan Lalor's Pet Show and later on finished off the evening with a barbecue at Tinakilly. Before leaving the hotel on Sunday we dropped in to see some Table Tennis and met John O'Brien, Des Davitt, Des deCourcy and Freda O'Sullivan. While the lads "enjoyed" the Rock Concert we retired to Wicklow Golf Club with Owen O'Toole and John Conway. The Soapbox Derby was very enjoyable and so was the Cabaret back at the hotel. Decision time again, should we stay or should we go on. Our John, having met the lovely Queen finalist Margaret McCloskey, had no problem deciding, and Billy who had eyes only for lovely Petula Lambert didn't mention Killarney again.

Monday was a day full of excitement with Sailing and Swimming in the harbour. We met Jimmy Cleary and Vincent Byrne, expert swimmers themselves, who explained the various races to us. We had a little flutter on the Wicklow boats in the Skiff Racing, ably advised by Margaret McCloskey and Tony Quinn. We had been looking forward to the Historical Walk to learn something of the history of this charming seaside town and we were not disappointed. The walk included a visit to the Old Jail thanks to Jack Flynn. This walk was arranged by Matt Murphy and Lar O'Toole who were minds of information. What a memorable night!

It was then off to Ros Duin and more singing pub entertainment. This was in the open and we sat on straw bales. Kevin Desmond, compere, kept the show rolling and here I learned to speak some Gaelic. . . . Cead Mile Failte. . . from the owner Aodhan MacSubhine. We looked in on the Rowing Club's Supper Dance and heard Sean Olohan and his Cantons.

On Wednesday we watched the Irish game called camogie and met Miriam Walker and Ann O'Brien who explained how the game was played. John and Billy tried Spaghetti Eating in Sandro Cavellere's Palma Grill while we were entertained by Tony and Dolores Cunningham at their Leitrim Lounge. Nicholas Quinn was so funny and we enjoyed the singing of Lorraine. Later at the Over 25s Dance we were advised by John and Nora Wallace to try our hand at the Waltzing Competition (next time we'll try our feet).

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On consulting our programme we saw that the Wicklow Bay Sea-Angling Club were holding a competition and being a bit of a fisherman myself, decided to have a look. Got chatting to Tom O'Reilly who suggested I go fishing with him next day if I was still around. We then went back to our hotel for tea and a bit of a rest.

Suitably refreshed we headed for the Rugby Club. Our host welcomed us and managed to find us seats. What a night! We met so many charming people. Billy introduced us to his lovely Joan. We met Jack and Mary Roberts, Tommy and Rosemary Morrissey, Syl Delahunt and Harry Meredith, Brian O'Rorke and Joe Roberts and ALL the Welsh Choir.

Sunday morning saw us at a religious service in St. Patrick's Church and we were delighted to hear the Welsh Choir sing during the Mass. Afterwards we were greeted like long lost friends. Phil and Peggy O'Sullivan, whom we had met at the Club the night before, asked why we had to leave that day. We had no answer. They introduced us to Bob Jackson, Chairman of the festival and the Grand Parade. A family conference was held and we decided to stay for at least another day. Our teenager Billy said, "but what about Killarney", but the majority won.

The parade started in a place called The Ball Alley. There we had our picture taken with some characters from the Muppet Show by Leo Doyle. What a great sight this parade was with the beautiful contestants for the Regatta Queen contest driven in some beautiful old cars, also the bands and floats. We were standing beside a very friendly couple Pat Lalor and his wife Phil who gave us a lift to Bachelors' Walk where the official opening was to be held. This ceremony was performed by a V.I.P. Minister for Labour and the Social Services, Liam Kavanagh. After some very pleasant entertainments we nipped over to Annsleys Amusements where the lads had some fun.

On our way back we stopped to see a very realistic Red Cross display which was organised by Phil Curley. Not realising it was so late, it was a mad dash to Earls for tickets for the Welsh Choir Concert. Eileen and Michael Earls went to great trouble to provide us with good seats. We really enjoyed this concert. The Master of Ceremonies Pat Byrne was not only an excellent M.C. but also a very amusing one. What a lovely voice the soloist Jackie Curran-Olohan has. We got chatting with Pat and Kitty Byrne who were seated beside us at the concert and who invited us to the G.A.A. hall later that evening, where they were entertaining the Welsh Choir. This was a great "do". How well we were entertained by the G.A.A. Joe Cummiskey rounded off the evening with a lovely rendering of the famous "Holy City".

The next day we decided we were hooked. Billy said "what about Killarney", but with a little less conviction and we decided to stay for a week.

We started out very early each day and tried to see as many local beauty spots as we could, wandering through Mount Usher Gardens, swimming at the Silver Strand and driving through the lovely Vale of Avoca. The days just flew by and the nights were great. We watched the Seven-a-Side (Soccer) Tournament at Ashown Lane, competed, not very successfully, in the Co. Councils Social Clubs Car Treasure Hunt and met Phillip Duffy.

The first round of the Singing Pubs was at the Old Forge and the M.C. was Nick Lalor. This was our first time at a singing pub contest and we found it so enjoyable. Frank Coyne made us very welcome here. Fitzpatrick's Lounge was

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While the boys were at the Youth Disco Anne Lait took my wife to the Seisun at the Boathouse and Pat Kavanagh took me along to Jamesons for the final round of the singing pubs. Pat himself was M.C. and I enjoyed a couple of drinks with Paddo Murphy and his friend Bimbo.

On Friday we decided to enter the Adult Walking Treasure Hunt and met Sam Kavanagh and Eugene Copeland and their charming friends Carolyn McCarroll and Norma Scanlon. We were lost in a place called Church Hill and were found by Anne Doyle who put us back on the straight and narrow.

On Saturday Jimmy Kavanagh showed us around the lifeboat and we met Paddo Keogh and Paddy Goodbody. We chatted with Wally Hill who brought us out in his boat. Later we went along to see the models on display in Pauline and Vincent Byrne's new hall. There we saw lego, racing cars, dolls and jig-saws. My wife who is interested in the Mentally Handicapped decided we would support their dance that night.

On Sunday we had a lovely time at the Family Picnic on Ned Dickenson's farm. The lads borrowed a kite from Fergus O'Conchobhair who as usual was flying his own, and I had a run in a racing car. After our tea we went along to see the Vartry swim and met Larry Cullen and Major Brennan.

That night at the Grand Finale dance we felt a touch of sadness. Our fortnight in Ireland was just over and we hated saying goodbye to all our new friends. Billy said, "Dad, we never got to see Killarney". "Never mind, son", I said, "next year we'll come again and after we spend maybe one or two days here in Wicklow we'll go to Killarney. . . . Maybe ! ! !"

Sponsors of Events

Tony & Dolores Cunningham,
Leitrim Lounge
Grand Hotel
Clarke Delahunt, Auctioneers (1980)
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Bollanney Motors, Bob & Pearl Jackson
Raffels Unisex Salon, John Dowling
Leo Doyle Studios
Fiat Ireland Ltd.
Maddens Newsagents, Main Street
Passants Drapery, Main Street
South Quay Motors
Mr. Pat Byrne, Victualler, The Mall
B. Riley Ltd., Bookbinders, Monkton
Row
Mr. & Mrs. Stan O'Reilly
McAulay Haulage
Wicklow Trophy Centre
Sheane Oil
Mr. Finbarr Shine
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Nora Wallace
Mr. Mark Jackson, Ballinahinch, Ashford
Nolan Shoe Shop, Main Street
Mrs. Pearl Jackson, Woodlands,
Bollanney
Mr. Vincent Byrne, Church Hill
C.B.S Records
Restaurant Juniper, Paul Taube
Wire Ropes Ltd., North Quay
Sandro and Eileen Cavellere, Palma
Grill
Mr. John Conway
Mr. Colm Manifold
Mr. Jim O'Neill
Wicklow Glass and Glazing Co.
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie McCloskey

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Mr. S. R. Sheane

Well-known motorsport personality, Sydney Sheane, who lives on Church Hill, Wicklow, was without doubt the fastest man on wheels. That was back in 1932 when Sydney participated in some gruelling qualifying races and then took part with his M.G. Racer in the big Phoenix Park races.

In those days he had plenty of help from his home town people like Paddo Flood from Floods Cafe (now The Coffee Shop), Art Fitzpatrick of Bridge Street and Mick McDonald of Ashford who were his mechanics and supported him at all the races.

With a fair degree of success in those early days, Sydney procured a speedily built M.G. car two years later. He had the pleasure of travelling over to Abbingdon in Wilshire to collect his new machine direct from the M.G. factory. The number of that car was NI 2780. One interesting point here is that the number of his earlier car, bought in 1932, was NI 2576 and that just 200 cars were sold in the county in two years, a little different from nowadays. In those early days parts were a bit of a problem so the mechanics had to make all spares. Sydney, who holds a degree in engineering, spent his early years studying and training in Lincolnshire where he worked with a firm making engines. Later he returned to Wicklow where he taught in the County Vocational

Schools for four or five years. After that he became manager of Haskins Oatmeal Mill on the North Quay. This all happened around 1934, and at that time Haskins were agents for Perkins Diesel Engines. They succeeded in replacing a petrol engine with a diesel engine, thereby making it the first diesel powered car in Ireland. No so long afterwards he built on a subsidiary to Haskins, called Wicklow Motors, who were the Main Morris Agents. This building complex is still there today and is currently occupied by Wire Ropes Ltd.

In 1955 Sydney founded his own company, Sheane Oil Distributors Ltd. which is still very much in operation today. He is now semi-retired but continues to hold the post of company secretary. Apart from his driving in motorsport he is also responsible for creating one section of motorsport history. It was he who brought Wicklow the Leinster 200 Motorcycle Races in May 1950 and the Leinster Trophy Motorcar races in July 1950. Sydney's job at these meetings was to open and close the circuits in his Bugatti and Morris cars. This circuit was to become very famous and is considered to be second only to the Isle of Man circuit.

Engineering is well and truly in Sydney Sheane's blood as his father was the proprietor of the famous Sheane Foundry in the Main Street in Wicklow where he turned out many patented pieces of machinery. Even today some very sturdy but beautifully ornate iron gates can be seen all over the town. His father also had the distinction of registering the first car in the NI series, NI 1. Not being one to let a tradition die quietly, Sydney himself has a distinction in that area, he registered his Morris Minor NI 9999 the last in fact in the NI series.

Sydney has many other and varied claims to notoriety. He was, for instance, once arrested at the top of Marlton by the Black and Tans while innocently selling tickets when he was 9 years of age, and driven through the streets of Wicklow to H.Q. on the back of a Tan truck. He was later released after his story was verified.

In those early years he was involved in the Regatta Festival and in fact was a committee member in 1930-31. But it is in the circle of motorsport that Sydney is so well known with most of his life spent participating and supporting the sport. It is interesting to note that tradition is being followed on by Sydney's son Kevin who is involved in Formula V racing at Mondello, and more recently Midget Auto Racing.

AMUSEMENTS ON THE MURROUGH EACH EVENING AT 7.30 p.m. AND ON SUNDAYS AT 2.30 p.m.

9.00 p.m. to 12.00 p.m. Over 25's Dance in the Grand Hotel. Music by Sun-lights, featuring Mr. Jay Byrne. Waltzing Competition sponsored by John and Nora Wallace.

Thursday, 5th August

Wicklow Golf Club—2 Club Singles Stroke Competition.

Youth Disco in 'Club B'—8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Sponsored Madden's Newsagency.

9.00 p.m. Seisuin, presented by Comhaltas Ceolteoiri Eireann, at The Boathouse. Admission £1.50.

9.00 p.m. to 12.00 p.m. Wicklow Musical Society Social Evening in the Grand Hotel.

9.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. Old-Time Sing-Along at the Leitrim Lounge. Music by Colm Manifold.

Friday, 6th August

Fossetts Circus—4.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.

6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Best Dressed Doll Competition. Please bring dolls to Club B, Seafont this evening. Results Saturday 7th (afternoon).

8.30 p.m. Spagetti Eating Competition in Club B.

9.00 to 9.45 p.m. Judging of Singing Pubs Competition, sponsored by Clarke, Delahunt and Co. (1980) Ltd., Auctioneers, in Old Forge.

Saturday, 7th August

2.15 p.m. Wicklow Golf Club—Men's Fourball Competition.

2.30 p.m. At Club B Best Air-Fix Model, sponsored by Nolan's Shoe Shop, Fitzwilliam Square.

Best Model of a Racing Car, sponsored by Bob Jackson, Bollarney.

Best Dressed Doll, sponsored by Pearl Jackson, Bollarney.

Best Lego Display, sponsored by Lego and Maddens.

Lego Competition (Lego to be assembled in hall), sponsored by Mark Jackson, Ashford.

7.00 p.m. Lightening Chess Competition—Children and Adults at the Bridge Tavern. Officers: President, Jack Halpin; Captain, P. Farrell; Secretary, James McNamara; Treasurer, Alan Grimes; P.R.O., T. Murphy. Children's Competition sponsored by Web Alarms.

7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. Fishing Competition—Cunningham Cup. Check in 6.30 p.m. at the gates. Presentation in Leitrim Lounge.

7.30 p.m. Bridge Tournament at Wicklow Golf Club.

9.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. Old-Time Sing-Along at the Leitrim Lounge. Music by Colm Manifold.

Sunday, 8th August

10.00 a.m. Club 'B' Jig-saw Competition.

11.30 a.m. Wicklow Swimming Club — Junior, Senior and Beginners—Mixed for Spinabifida Cup—Relay Race.

2.00 p.m. Spinabifida Sponsored Swim at the Pier.

Wicklow Golf Club Competition — Open Men's Singles, 18-holes Strokes. In aid of Spinabifida.

3.00 p.m. A Family Picnic will be held at Keatingstown by kind permission of Mr. Ned Dickenson. Come along and bring your picnic and fun and games will be provided for all the children (weather permitting). Sponsored by Palma Grill.

Kite Competition. Bring along your kites. Prizes for the best home-made kite. Sponsored by Web Alarms.

10 p.m. to 2.00 a.m. Grand Finale Dance in the Grand Hotel, organised by Regatta Committee. Music by The Cantons. Admission (including Supper) £7.00. Tickets available from Earls Newsagents, Abbey Street.

Results of Singing Pubs Competition, sponsored by Clarke, Delahunt and Co. (1980) Ltd., Auctioneers, will be announced at the dance.



ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION

WICKLOW LIFE-BOAT STATION

A meeting held in the Town Hall, Wicklow in October 1856, for the purpose of considering the formation of a branch of the Institution at Wicklow, was followed by the establishment of a life-boat there in 1857. The first life-boat was a 30 feet rowing boat and it remained on station until 1866.

1866 - 1889	R.N.L.B. "Robert Theophilus Garden"
1889 - 1898	R.N.L.B. "Robert Theophilus Garden III"
1898 - 1911	R.N.L.B. "Robert Theophilus Garden III"
1911 - 1937	R.N.L.B. "Robert Theophilus Garden IV"
1937 - 1956	R.N.L.B. "Lady Kylesant"
1956 -	R.N.L.B. "J. W. Archer"

For more than a 100 years, the Wicklow life-boat has stood guard on a difficult part of the coast. In that time the life-boatmen of the town have launched on over 270 services and saved over 275 lives. Like their fellow life-boatmen in other stations about the coast, these men offer no clear explanation as to why they are prepared to risk their lives to help those in distress. Some put it down to tradition, others regard it as a calling.

The Wicklow Life-boat, "J. W. Archer" was named in 1956 by Mrs. Sean T. O'Kelly, wife of the late President. Since then its crew of seven have carried out a number of rescues and upheld the great traditions of the Station. Wicklow has a number of outstanding rescues to its credit. The men of Wicklow have been awarded 3 medals for gallantry, 2 silver and 1 bronze.

In 1831 a silver medal to Lieut. Dabine for his rescue to the schooner "June", four lives saved.

In 1839 a silver medal to Mr. Jones for his part in the rescue of six lives from a brig in Wicklow Bay.

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In 1950 a bronze medal awarded to the late coxswain Edward Kavanagh for the dramatic rescue to the m.v. "Cameo" where 11 lives were saved. On that occasion, September 12th 1950, when the life-boat drew alongside in gale force winds coxswain Kavanagh had to hold his life-boat alongside for over sixteen minutes in heavily rising and falling seas, while the crew of the shipwrecked vessel jumped down onto the life-boat one by one.

After thirty years of loyal service to the life-boat Cox. Edward Kavanagh retired, his place being taken over by Coxswain Charles Byrne, whose family have been associated with Wicklow Life-boat over many years. Coxswain Byrne's grandfather was a previous cox and his father was later on second cox of the life-boat. At present Charles Byrne's sons are all members of the present crew. Having served 23 years with Wicklow Life-boat, retiring as Coxswain in June 1976, he received the Vellum of thanks from the Institution for his services.

A very important man on any life-boat is the engineer; he maintains the boat at all times, ready to go to sea when the call comes. Under the past two coxswains, there served a very able man named James Bonus who has lived in Wicklow since 1945, although he first joined the life-boat service in 1939. Jim retired in 1975 having served 36 years and received the Institution's Vellum for his loyal services.

The present coxswain is Patrick Keogh, who joined the Service some 31 years ago, served under the late cox Edward Kavanagh and was second coxswain under cox Charles Byrne, and took over from him in 1976.

The present engineer is Paddy Goodbody who joined the Station in 1975 and was appointed when James Bonus retired. The upkeep of the "J. W. Archer" is now in Paddy's care and it must be said it is a great credit to him in the way she is now kept, following on the traditions of previous engineers.

At each life-boat station the man in charge is the Life-boat Secretary, who is in fact the launching authority and the agent for the Institution and works with a local Management Committee. Following on from 1943 a Wicklow man named J. T. O'Byrne took on the job of Hon. Secretary and held that position, serving the Life-boat Station for 27 years, and during that time he was also involved in that famous rescue on the m.v. "Cameo" in 1950.

Mr. J. T. O'Byrne, B.E., M.I.C.E.I., retired from the position of Station Honorary Secretary in 1969, being succeeded by the then D.L.A. Mr. James Kavanagh. Mr. O'Byrne remained on as Branch Committee Chairman.

James Kavanagh took over the running of Wicklow Life-boat in January 1970 and worked hard during his eleven years as Hon. Secretary, building up a team of new crew members to supplement the already existing members and recruited new branch workers to help on the fund raising side of the branch. The branch and indeed Wicklow town was honoured when in December 1981 it was announced that James Kavanagh had been appointed Deputy National Organiser for the 26 Counties and has at this stage, now been appointed to the top position of National Organiser for the Institution in Ireland.

James Kavanagh resigned his position in January 1982 and he was succeeded by Mr. Michael W. Jones, D.L.A. Michael has served the station as deputy for the past ten years and is now in the position of Honorary Secretary to carry out the good work that previous secretaries have done.

R.N.L.B. "J. W. Archer" O.N. 933.

DON'T FORGET . . . SUPPORT WICKLOW LIFE-BOAT

GRAND LIFE-BOAT BALL

on FRIDAY 8th OCTOBER, 1982 at CULLENMORE HOTEL, ASHFORD

Music by Ken Stuart Sound

Champagne Reception 8.30 - 9.15 followed by Dinner. Dancing till 2 a.m.

Subscription £20.00 each

Monster Raffle—14" Portable Colour TV. Tickets £1.00 each—now on sale.

Tickets for the Ball may be obtained from Mr. Leslie Bradshaw, The Mall, Wicklow or any Branch Committee member.

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Norma Scanlon
Secretary



Vincent Byrne
Vice-Chairman



Leo Doyle
P.R.O. and Programme
Director

Wicklow Regatta 1982 Festival Committee



Eugene Copeland
Committee



Pearl Jackson
Programme Director



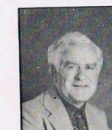
Ann Lait
Committee and Welsh
Choir visit Co-ordinator



Bob Jackson
Chairman



Pat Davis
Committee



John Conway
Treasurer



Carolyn McCarroll
Committee



Willie Kavanagh
Committee



Margaret McCloskey
Committee

The Regatta Committee take this opportunity of thanking the following:

Rev. Mother Prioress and Community, Dominican Convent for the use of Fatima Hall for the concert on Sunday, 25th July and to all the families who kindly host our Welsh friends on their visits.

Mrs. Anne Lait for co-ordinating the Welsh visit.

Michael and Eileen Earls, Newsagents, who so kindly look after the sale and distribution of tickets each year. Their help is much appreciated.

Miss Norma Scanlon for her invaluable help as Secretary.

Mrs. Pearl Jackson and Mr. Leo Doyle for all their work in compiling this programme. Special thanks is due to Mr. Louis Carroll and Mr. Joe Roberts of Wicklow Press Ltd. for all their help and advice.

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