



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Sean's Bar, Main Street, Athlone

Jan 77.

All is quiet on the western front - or is it the lull before the storm. The Athlone Branch of the I. W. A. I will hold their Annual General Meeting in the Jolly Mariner on Friday 21st Jan at 8.30p.m. very sharp. Rather later than usual due to the Safari of about 45 members to the London Boat Show - more about that later on. It is hoped all members will make a special effort to attend so as to get the 1977 season off to an enthusiastic start.

Agenda	Apologies
	Minutes
	Chairmans Report
	Hon. Secretaries Report
	Treasurers Report
	Election of Officers
	Any other business.

Drops of Water

Frostbite sailors are a rare sight in these parts & sure isn't good to show sense in some aspect at least, and a Happy New Year to you all. At the New Year changing of the Guard our ancient mariners renewed their leases and the Moses baskets are as yet silent although the margarine bird tells me he has a few flights booked. Go forth and propagate he said, but would they listen.

Sequoi & crew and 40 m. g. t. (new engine) threw their annual hooley & fire works display. Its always a great night for batchelors.

103B's bottom is nearly completed and expects to arrive in Athlone under tow by Millicent shortly as the Athlone Lock is now open. It took some feet to complete the lock gates. The Portsmouth yard stick will replace the Imperial measure in the future.

Declan Walsh, of unhappy hooker fame, has just bought "ODIN" from Gerry Lynch in Carrick. I think he is happy with result. She came by road early January. Thats one way of getting Power back to the Midlands. Buy them out.

For Sale 17'foot Double ended clinker built Lifeboat, quarter Decked, with Mast, Sails, O. B. bracket in excellent conditions. Contact Shane Mathews.

Wanted: We have had several enquiries for 25-28 foot Cruisers powered by Inboard Diesels. Branch Secretaries, anything in your area. Please send details to Editor.

Build'ing a Boat: We would like to hear from you. An account of your interprise would be of great interest to others contemplating a similar undertaking.

Our deepest sympathy to Paddy Naughton and family on the death of sister, May she rest in peace.

Operation Sail 1976 Organised as a seagoing Salute to the U.S.A. Bicentennial 14-17 square riggers from all over the world were scheduled to enter New York Harbour on the 4th July and in their wake a vast armada of more than 200 Barques barquentines, brigantines, schooners, yawls, Ketches & sloops. Has any of our readers any information on how the affair went off? Is there a film available in 16mm that we could beg borrow, steal, or even, in the last resort hire? If you know please contact the editor.

Boat Show Spectacular.

On the evening of Thurs 6th Jan 1977 forty odd people assembled on Dunlaoire pier. The Crewsade to Earls Court was on. A crisp starry night with a gentle roll from the Caledonian Princess. Hollyhead midnight, London 8 ish. All tired but present and correct.

Hotel Kingshill, Westbourne Tee, snatches of sleep, breakfast then a scatter to the Show, Soho, Oxford St, relations or relationships. Early bed Friday.

Sat. show for most, Boats, boats, boats, G.R.P. mostly. Biggest 43' smallest £650 - . Chandlery massive with genuine value in rope, weather gear and Knick-Knacks. Having been described as a bus load of paupers there were few boats moored at the Hotel but most people got good milage out of our green pound.

Sat. night Northumberland Arms, Kings Cross Road, our host Davy Henshaw for a wild Irish Night. Our bus collected most at 4am. Sun. Petticoat Lane or Flea Market. Homeward bound 5pm.

E.G.

Sailer Leisure 20' £4110. Waterproof Kit Bag - £4.95

Yamaha 54p £283. Reefer Blazer £27. 30m 10mm Terl £3.50

Good Porter 33p @ pint. Most cruisers of any size all seemed to have £25,000 tags so when you'd see an £8,000 tag on impulse you'd rush over and snap her up. That sort of feeling anyway.

Costing	PAB Tours	Trip	£26
		Jar	£13
		Food	£18.55
	General	Smoker	£1.90
		Extra's	<u>£7.60</u>

£67.05

This was for 1 single guy not going mad but eating well and enough

Without too much effort expenditure could have been cut to £50
all told. The trip was a great success without a dull moment
incident free and practical to suit all tastes. Nearly everybody
made the Show at some stage.

Who travelled, most of the Athlone fleet, with John & Bert Suiter
James Brady, Des Dolan, Teddy & Pauline Knight, John Lefroy, Brendan
Smith and a host more. Thanks Ann, well done.

Paris Jan. '78 what offers.

PLEASE TEAR OFF



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Feb. 77.

The A. G. M was held last month at which the chairman pointed out the problems to be faced in the future, together with a request for camping outings for open boats at remote areas of the Shannon.

In his report the Hon. Sec. reviewed the past year and expressed his gratitude to all who helped at work-ins and other activities, especially the work of his assistant Hon Sec. Eileen O'Neill.

Following this the Treasurers report of accounts was adopted which showed the branch to be in a healthy financial position.

The following officers were elected for the 1977 season.

Chairman	Berchs Hannin
Hon. Sec.	Eileen O'Neill
Assist. Hon. Sec.	Denis Byrne
Hon. Treasurer	Sean Fitzsimons
Slipway Officer	Pat Benson
Vice Chairman	Damian Delaney

Drops of Water

Oh! so you didn't go to your A. G. M. Well you'll get no snippets of gossip or learn any new words that I heard. Anyway we managed with out you, thanks to those good people who did make the effort, so there.

As a penance you are required to submit suggestions as to worthwhile projects for the Branch to undertake. Should you fail in this, your identity & shortcomings will be read out on the pulpit of the Sequoia on Easter Sunday morning. The project should be local, realistic & may avail of voluntery personpower, Your idea if feasible will be undertaken by the Branch and or by the forthcoming barge rally.

The Athlone Lock is again fully operational. The major work of fitting same having been done by Kevin Madigan and the crew of the Coill-an-Eau. New lock gates are at present awaiting shipment North for the Lock Allen Canal.

Love Story:

Roger the Muskivy Drake dropped into Chattertons, Portaneena last March or April. You know him, the squat colourful little fellow. Well, despite adds in the found coloumns, from whence he came still remains a mystery. With the required time of nullity for Muskivies expired Roger now has two Lady friends match arranged by a thoughtfull boatman. Bridal ensemble by Downers.

Book Review

Learning to Sail, or teaching others: The Royal Yachting Association commissioned the British National Sailing coach to write "The Sailing Manual" specifically for those engaged in the R. Y. A. 's National coaching scheme, both at adult and juvenile level. It is, however, a book for all beginners, whether or not they are attending a teaching establishment. The authors approach is both methodical and sensible, viz "The language of basic sailing covers some 200 words and phrases, a new language to many of those learning to sail. The teaching of sailing should not be a language lesson. He

"First Steps in Small Boat Sailing" by P. G. Hansen and Bent Aarre is a two in one book: a sailing primer and an Optimist dingy handbook. The Optimist is probably the most popular children's dingy afloat and the object of the book is to show young sailors all they need to know about sailing, racing, and seamanship. Well illustrated with drawings, it also includes some good photographs of Optimists in Action, It is translated from Danish and published by Adlard Coles Ltd., at £1.10.

To the many owners of thirsty outboard motors, the idea of conversion to an inboard engine seems a very attractive proposition. For one Norman Wood, the proposition became a reality. Step by Step details of his low cost conversion to inboard power for his "Norman 22" are described in the Jan 77. Practical Boat Owner Pages 76 to 78

This feature may be of interest to some of our readers as many of us are in a similar plight.

Doctor Dilemmas column.

How did your boat / dingy last the winter is she out of shape, suffering from that complaint of a chill in the bowels from her inside being full of water and ice? Has she got that rotten gut brought about by old Reef congestion? Has your outboard suffered a stroke from piston seizure, or have you lubricated it as well as yourself during the past months? Beware! Beware! there is a rowing boat epidemic of major proportions in Athlone of Dropsy (a morbid collection of fluid in any of the cavities of the body).

Chandlers Corner.

For Sale. 45 HP McCullough Outboard Motor. P. M. O offers to Ml. Geraghty Phone Athlone 2577.

Wanted. Left hand propeller. Preferably 28"x12" or 26"x14" or 24"x18" Details to Sean Fitzsimons "Seans Bar" Phone Athlone 2358. Potential Boat owner with £800 to spend requires 18ft two Berth Day Boat. Details to Ed. of Aerial.

A new automatic switch for bilge pumps, which is a departure from the more conventional, float switch, is now available. the switch operates on a sensor unit installed in the bilges. The water level is monitored by two stainless steel probes which are housed in a plastic tube. The sensor is also fitted with an earth. Operation is perfectly simple with the high level probe switching the bilge pump on when it is touched by the water and the low level probe switching the pump off when the water falls below it. The unit comes with a control box with automatic, manual and off settings and runs off a 12v or 24v system Price about £19.00.

Here and Then/Now & Soon.

The Hotel Shalamar in Roosky will be opening shortly under the management of Enda Mc Loughlin, one of our own members. This will be a great amenity, and a warm welcome is assured to all who pass up and down the river. We wish its future every success.

How about the time last year an Ocean Liner had a man overboard rescue, the Liner retraced her course by means of her track of discarded rubbish. The man was picked up alive 8 miles astern".

Miranda Weekend: Teddy and Pauline Knight's Easter Weekend will happen at Terryglas this year. Previous years venues included Shannon-bridge, Rooskey, Lecarrow. Primarily a Shannon-one-Design sailing weekend with opportunities for all and sundry to have a go. Derg at Easter with frost winds should see our portly sailors having lean times.

Boat Show Stand.

I. W. A. I. again will have a stand at the R. D. S. Boat Show and again Athlone will be involved in the staff roster. Its early days yet but keep some morning or evening free to help out and let us know.

EVENTS: March 18th tentative date for Branch Annual Dinner.

Shannon Boat Rally '77

Tues	Quaker
Wed.	Hudson Bay.
Thurs. & Friday	Shannon-bridge
Sat.	Prize Giving & Closing Dinner

Officers: Chairman: Bill Child. Secretary: Eileen O'Neill. Treasurer: Donie O' Riordan. Commodore: David Kileen. Vice-Commodores; Tom O'Neill, Tom Maher.

A hot tip for anyone having difficulty extracting wood screws. Provided that previous attempts have left the slot somewhat useable, then apply the tip of a soldering iron to the head for four minutes. The heat passes down the screw causing the metal to expand thus breaking any "seal".

Next Meeting will be held in The Jolly Mariner, on Friday Feb 4th at 8.30p.m.

AGENDA	Apologies	Annual Dinner Dance
	Minutes	Rallies
	1977 Projects	A. O. B.



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March 77.

At the February meeting of the Athlone Branch the response to the "Project" scheme was very good and four runners emerged. A sub committee was formed to look into each one and to come up with a recommendation. No odds being laid at the moment as to which one will be selected, come to the next meeting and find out.

It was agreed at the last council meeting to abandon the plan to investigate and have a register of Boats. A sub committee was formed to draft new Rules and Constitution of the I. W. A. I. which when ready will be forwarded to each branch for their consideration. A decision was made to have a head count of all private boats on the Shannon which will include Cruisers, Yachts, Rowing boats etc, this is NOTHING to do with registration but an attempt to establish the approximate number of private craft on the river which, other than Hire boats, is only officially estimated at 250.

Here & Then/Now & Soon.

Congratulations to Joan Corcoran R. N. L. I. Organiser in Ballinasloe who had a collection three weeks ago and raised £140 for this very worthy cause with the help of three of our members, Damian Delaney, Dennis Byrne, and Martin Hanley. A very sincere "Well done" to all concerned.

The Athlone Branch are holding their Dinner Dance on Friday 11th March in the Prince of Wales Hotel, we look forward to seeing you all there, the Menu is great the price only £3.50 and no speeches, That's a promise.

Carrick-on-Shannon are holding their Annual R. N. L. I. function on Sat. 18th March in the Bush Hotel.

Lough Ree Yacht Club hold their A. G. M. on Sunday 6th March.

Forthcoming Boat Show Stand will see involvement from Athlone, Carrick, Dublin, Tullamore & Lough Derg branches. Up to now Dublin has been carrying the can with help from Athlone.

CHANDLERS CORNER.

For Sale: Maureen, 19foot Fiberglass 2 Berth Cabin Cruiser, Teleflex Steering and 45 H. P. Electric Crysler OB. Telephone S. McCann 4450.

Wanted: A Practical design for sound-proofing a diesel engine in a clinker-built wooden boat. It has been suggested that glaswool attic lagging, held in place with chicken wire and staples, will do the job. If so what are the do's & don'ts? replies to Ed.

CANAL DRIBBLES

There are all sorts of troubles to be encountered while boating on the canals. For starters, there's the old "polythene bag trick". There you are belting along when sudden "clunk" - and your engine stops dead. Ten to one its a plastic bag around your prop. The most effective way of dealing with this is with a bread knife (saw edge type) so bring one with you.

Next you should look out for fixed bridges. As some people have the nasty habit of bropping bedsteads old bikes etc., into the canal from bridges, it is often advisable to cut out of gear and glide through. Some of these bridges are very low and will sweep off life bouys, sunbathers, and any other loose objects from your roof.

Swans, these arn't all as innocent as their picture suggests. Some actually attack boats.

Waternaps come in two sizes "too big" and "too small" it is advisable to arm yourself with an adaptable hose connection.

Weeds appear in all shapes and sizes - the cotton wool kind, the wire netting type, the Cabbage leaf kind and the innocent tiny leaved duckweed which can count up and halt you dead. Needless to say weeds love propellers, so have that bread knife handy.

Despite all that's said many hundreds of us enjoy every minute of it each year.

BOOK REVIEW. "The Lifeboat Service in Ireland" gives a brief history of the R. N. L. I. and an explanation of its organisation with particular reference to Irish Stations, lifeboats, and Crews. The booklet ends with a record of some of the most memorable services by Irish lifeboats including those to the Daunt lightship by Ballycotton lifeboat. Written by Phillip O'Mahony assistant national organiser in Ireland. Price 75p including Postage, from R. N. L. I. 10 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. or at the Boat Show.

DROPS OF WATER

With the recent takeover of Mitchell Marine by Emerald Star Line the heretofore long term mooring facilities have been rescinded and as and from 1st March private mooring in Carrick will be critical. Carrick branch are at present seeking alternative facilities.

60. m. afloat: Yet another barge recovered & under repair to join the now famous Hotilla of floating fortresses. Having been sunk at tidal New Ross for the last number of years she came into the hands of John Corbett. Faced with 60 feet of boat full of silt & failing a direct lift attempt John & his wife both the dignified side of middle age took during lessons & had a go. After emptying the hold with suction pumps they channeled hawsers underneath the hull. With the aid of pontoon floatation she was shifted to shallow water on the rising tide. Being one of the younger "M" barges she is in good shape and at present under conversion.

Congratulations to all those alert readers who spotted our misinformation last edition. A Bucket and a pair of tights is on its way to the first reader out of the hat with the correct solutions. (i) Coill an Eo, (eau insane spelling) (ii) Eric Gregan is adamant he is the vice commodore despite what Tom Maher the Rally P. R. O. maintains.

Offaly Co. Co have allocated a sum of £16,000-00 for work in Banagher during 1977 which will see the completion of Public lighting, kerbing, complete entrance to Marina & Tree planting also demolish existing pumphouse and erect new public toilets. Future plans include the building of two further jetties.

Next Meeting of the Athlone Branch is on Friday 4th March at 8.30pm. in the Jolly Mariner.

Agenda.	Minutes	Projects
	Apologies	Council Meeting Report
	Correspondence	Dance
		A. O. B.

The Cruiser Sailing Series last year were not so successful due to many not knowing when the races were on. These are very enjoyable get-togethers and if you are interested in about 4-5 races please let us know by filling in and returning the form hereunder, & we can contact you & let you know of the arrangements.

Are you interested in the Cruiser and Dingy Racing Series

YES please tick
NO

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No _____ Class of Yacht _____

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April '77

The Boat Show has come and gone for another year with the I. W. A. I. represented by a stand. Comment on the show - lots of engines, lot of V. A. T. expensive boats, poor selection of chandlery - Would you believe full order books? - doubtful!!'. Rumour has it the English chandlers will be there next time. Even the Navy don't stop the Rum ration after three days. You'll find no Teashock at the House-show I'll bet.

The Annual Dinner Dance of the Branch was a great success, grateful and sincere thanks to Denise Griffin & the Dance Committee for all their hard work. Our thanks to Oliver Shaughnessy & the Staff of the Prince of Wales Hotel - the bar showed a profit.

Irish Shell have produced a new edition of their now famous Shell Guide To The Shannon. It is indeed an excellent production in three languages & is available in Sean's Bar.

There was a meeting in the Town Hall concerning the Athlone Canal & the Policy of the Athlone Branch was stated as follows: We support the immediate restoration of running water through Athlone Canal and also support the study of the possibility of eventual navigation providing that such a study did not hinder or delay any short term objective.

This Is Your Life · 42 B

72 feet long, build in 1918 by Portadown Foundry Ltd. for Egans of Tullamore 42B was captained by Mr. Gavin of Ballycommon for 26 yrs carrying malt & general cargo. In the 1950's Mr. Raymond Costello brought and converted it to a houseboat & a 50 HP Leyland bus engine was installed by Michael Corcoran. From the 1960's to 1973 the "Snark" passed through five owners, at one state being used as a restaurant in central Dublin.

In 1973 Donie O'Riordan bought the Snark & with his wife Joan converted it into one of the most delightful houseboats on the Shannon. Externally painted light grey and white trimmed with red which is offset in the summer with a profusion of geraniums. The entrance through a lovely wheelhouse again rich in potted plants makes a fabulous Solarium.

Down below one passes by the bathroom complete with shower, separate w/c & hand basin all with H&C running water. The varied cabins are all very comfortable with sleeping for nine. Entering the spacious saloon which measures 19' by 13' by 10' high one is immediately struck by the very tasteful decor which is rich in autumnal shades from the maple floor to the cream & mahogany woodwork. The saloon is adorned by an antique solid fuel stove along with modern amenities as T. V., phone, mains-, 12v/24v electric system & is fully centrally heated throughout.

The galley which Joan presides with lavish hospitality rivals any on dry land has an electric fridge, hot press, gas cooker & sink with h&c. There is a load of storage space & lots of working top area.

The laws of libal prevent the recounting the stories which Donie relates about the Snark & its various owners. It has been known to happen that plugs are pulled out, lines are slipped when the word spreads that up to twelve grandchildren are on the road to Athlone & the Snark vanished into the evening mist. Joan & Donie are known to enjoy the fruits and malt of a happy retirement, both are keen golfers & lead a very full life, they have made the Snark a wonderful home.

Safety.

Safety, with emphasis on Fire. There is no such thing as a small fire, they're all big ones getting started. With the ever increasing number of accessories for "Creature Comfort" such as cabin heaters, portable T. V. 's, electric water systems, etc., the fire potential is greatly increased.

The danger arises from the use of flammable fuels, gases and the large amount of electric wiring, often fitted in far from ideal conditions. Once lit, a fire can spread with alarming rapidity, aided by the natural draught that blows through a well ventilated cabin.

So, the thing to do is contain the fire before it gets out of control. It is now most important to use the correct type of fire extinguisher for each type of fire. You will see from the following chart the appropriate fire extinguishers for the various types of fire.

ENGINE/BATTERY	FIBERGLASS HULL	FUEL/GAS	COOKER & T. V.	CUSHIONS
DRY POWDER	FOAM	DRY POWDER		ETC.
B. C. F.	BCF	BCF	BCF	WATER
CO2	CO2	CO2 FOAM	CO2	

Never use WATER on a Fuel, Gas or Battery Fire. It could spread the fire. BCF and CO2 are common denominators in the chart.

BCF gets our vote. It can be stored at a pressure of 20lb/in². This means that an extinguisher using BCF is very much lighter and smaller than a CO2 one which needs a thick walled container to withstand the pressure of 800lb/in². In practice a 9Lb BCF extinguisher equals a 20Lb CO2.

Three to avoid are (1) CTC, (2) CBM, (3) Methyl bromide. All three are Toxic and No. 3 can cause corrosion in resinglass.

Up to a 15ft cruiser	you would require	Two	extinguishers @	5Lb. each
" " 30ft	" " " "	Two	" @	6Lb. "
" " 40ft	" " " "	Two	" @	8Lb. "
Over 40 ft	" " " "	Three	" @	13Lb. "

I hope the above will help in the task of choosing your equipment.

Next meeting of the branch in the Jolly Mariner on April 1st at 8.30pm. sharp

AGENDA

Minutes	Brady, Shipman & Martin Report.
Apologies	Athlone Canal Report
Corr.	A. O. B.
Projects	

We depend on your subscription to cover expences, postage etc, If you see an "X" in the box below your sub. is overdue, please remit to Hon. Treasurer, Sean Fitzimons, c/o Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

Subscription	£2.00
Family	£3.00



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MAY '77

An Appreciation.

I have only known Denis Byrne for about 5½ years, but during that time came to admire him not only as a kind and generous person ready to oblige, but also as a stubborn, argumentative and aggressive foe, but this side of Denis came to the surface only in the face of a wrong to be put right, and never held against an adversary.

How well these characteristics were typified at branch meetings and other many informal discussions over several pints. His varied interests were shown by his love of Conservation, Wild Life, Music etc.,. Our sympathy is sincerely extended to Valerie and the children, her loss is shared by all of us. A mass has been arranged in Shannonbridge by Killeens on Friday 6th May at 7.30 pm, and as a mark of respect for Denis the monthly branch meeting called for the same day has been cancelled, which will allow as many as possible to travel to Shannonbridge.

To Paddy Dolan our deepest Sympathy on the sudden death of his brother. May he rest in peace.

EDITOR

New News

Over the past year or so with the high cost of petrol, there has been an increased swing to diesel power. So it was only to be expected that the petrol engine manufacturers would try to get back into the market.

One such manufacturer is B.R. Outboard Ltd., - They claim their Panter Cub Petrol engine is the lightest, most compact, four cylinder 4-stroke marine inboard ever produced. Total weight of engine and gearbox is 178 lbs about a third the weight of a comparable diesel unit.

It is based on the Reliant 850 cc automotive engine, developing 41 BHP Din. On test the unit has returned a petrol consumption of 2 pints to the hour at 5 knots on a 20 foot craft, giving virtually diesel consumption say the makers, without diesel vibrations, smell or noise.

The Panter Cub comes complete with closed circuit water system, rev-counter, amp-meter temp. gauge, oil warning light, ignition switch all wired and connected to a 12 foot loom.

The cost £975 + V. A. T. from B. P. outboard Ltd., High St., Sevenoaks Kent. (Kits are also available).

Drops of Water

It was felt with all the rain which has fallen over the last two months everyone has had enough drops of water - so article held over till next month.

Reminders

Wear your life jacket, not only the children, but also yourself.

Please think of others and go slow past moored craft.

If you have not done so, your I. W. A. I. Subscription is now overdue.

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Safety

Following the article last month on Fire Safety we have had correspondence from branch member Alec Feldman, Managing Director of Gendist Fire Protection Co, Ltd., 4 Lower Kevin St., Dublin which stated limited agreement to our choice of B. C. F, but their recommendation was for a Multi purpose Dry Powder Extinguisher.

Mr. Feldman also correctly pointed out an omission in our last article on B. C. F. which reacts with flames, and in doing so produces a toxic gas. Its first action is to irritate the lungs, so much so that you would be forced out into the open air long before it becomes dangerous. It is therefore not entirely recommended in enclosed spaces. However the choice is yours, at least we have put fire safety into your mind - or have we?

Alec Feldman as a gesture to the Athlone Branch for their concern has very kindly offered to put up a prize of a Fire Extinguisher unit for a competition which is fire safety oriented. Samples of Extinguishers, compliments of Gendist can be examined at Seans Bar, Athlone and orders placed.

Here & Then / Now & Soon.

A Rough count has shown about 35-40 yachts available for the coming Cruiser Series. Race dates 28th May, 25th June, 20th Aug, 10th Sept, a cruise in company on 9th July. Briefing 2.0pm Sat., 28th May at L. R. Y. C. Entrance £1.00 for series or part thereof. Racing under Portsmouth Yardstick Handicap system, and I. Y. A. Rules, which means All in the yacht must wear a life jacket.

Stay turned to Community Radio Athlone 2nd to 7th May. I. W. A. I. will be featured.

The Peoples Regatta will not take place this year in Athlone due to the lack of interest shown by some of the clubs involved. I. W. A. I. are not guilty.

Let us know of any overcharging on Diesel fuel, but beware for shocks, it has gone up a lot since last year.

S. G. S. Marine Ballykeetan have obtained planning approval for the installation of Marine Diesel storage and Pump under stringent regulations. Pollution watchers take note!!!

Rally Dates - Lough Erne 3rd - 6th June
Co. Offaly, Tullamore 4th -5th June
Lecarrow 4th - 6th June.
Shannon 22nd -30th July.

Short Story.

German visitor had leg crushed between Boat and Jetty. Patient brought to off duty Dr. Furlong who recommended an X-ray at Ballinasloe. Transport to and from Hospital provided by Alan Furlong in Family car. Visitors leg was OK but badly bruised. The age of chivalry and kindness is not yet dead. Congratulations.

Canal Dribbles - some news items courtesy Roy Redmond.

David Wheelers new (?) barge has been spotted on the hard, with work on the hull already started. John du Moulin hopes to arrive Athlone / Carrick with his 34 foot Swedish built Royal "Nordic" timber - twin Voves - Automatic Pilot. What odds two feet being removed from Slate Rock !! "Ituna 111" will be seen on the Shannon shortly new skipper Leslie Vard is finding Sea legs on the Canal.

The Royal Canal Rally suffered lack of support due to weather and other conditions.

No doubt Dr Ian ~~Baths~~ disappointment of attendance will be tempered by I. W. A. I. Councils generous grant to aid his fine work in restoring, the Royal. It has been heard, a continental work force may descend on Mullingar for two weeks to work on the Mullingar - Ballinacargy stretch.

Chandlers Corner.

For Sale - Diesel Logs, Lousy Timber, (timber with wood lice) Rusty nails, contact Iron Lung, The Quay Athlone - or will exchange same for paint and Swafeega.

Wanted - Free gifts of Red lead or any paint at all - contact rusty Barge near Athlone Bridge

Urgently required Left Hand 24" x 12" propeller notify Seans Bar, Main St, Athlone or Ed.

Council Meeting Report.

Dr. Alf Delaney was unanimously re-elected President of the I. W. A. I. for 1977/78 Season. The I. W. A. I. made a profit at the recent Boat Show in Dublin. The drafting of the new rules and constitution has not yet been completed, when it comes to hand we shall let you know its contents. The next Council meeting will be devoted entirely to a discussion on the Brady, Shipman, Martin Report on the Shannon.

Lock Hours.

The 1977 Summer lock hours on the Shannon are as follows.

Monday - Saturday		Sunday
May 1st - May 19th	9am - 8 pm.	10 am - 6 pm
May 20th - July 29th	9am - 9 pm.	9 am - 6 pm
July 30th - Aug 12th	9 am - 8.30pm.	9 am - 6 pm
Aug 13th - Aug 26th	9 am - 8.0 pm.	9 am - 6 pm
Aug 27th - Sept 9th	9 am - 7.30pm.	9 am - 6 pm

Please note it is essential to be at the lock half an hour before closing time to allow for locking operation. Remember lock-keepers have to eat as well, so please co-operate.

Denis Byrne Tragedy Fund.

The Marist P. P.U. ran a concert and Dance for the Denis Byrne Tragedy fund the best excerpts from the Athlone Tops of the Towns, our grateful thanks to them and all who contributed to such a memorable night. Our acknowledgement and gratitude will be expressed to all who participated to make this concert and dance possible. Your contribution to this fund which is so important can now be sent to Denis Byrne Tragedy Fund - c/o 13 Main St, Athlone or to above account Bank of Ireland, Pearse St., Athlone.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone

June '77

The hardworking Editor & Staff of the Aerial will be taking their summer vacation till our next edition in September so we would like to take this opportunity of thanking our readers for their restraint, help and criticism. At the time of going to press the weather has picked up and the season is off to a slowish start, but the Whit-week-end rallies should provide plenty of stories.

The Aerial has constantly emphasised the need for safety on board: craft properly equipped with fire extinguishers, life jackets, anchors with sufficient chain/rope, engines in perfect working order etc., please ensure your boat is river worthy so you may voyage in safety to yourself and others.

Congratulations to Denise and Declan Griffin on the arrival of a brand new daughter, Mother and child took the event in their stride, it was rumoured Father suffered morning sickness after the event.

Other arrivals came upon the scene in Athlone though the good offices of the U. D. C. we now have for our use 100 yds of Jetty north of the woolen mills and ample litter bins (It is too be hoped they will be emptied regularly) congratulations to Mr. Joe Murphy U. D. C. Engineer and all others concerned.

Anglers In our Oct '76 issue we gave you details of a project being undertaken by the Athlone Anglers Association to erect a shelter on a clearing on the Little Yellow Island. Well we are now glad to report that the Athlone Branch of the I. W. A. I. has lent a hand to this project by way of Dermot O'Brien and "The Harp". The necessary concrete blocks were transported from the Quay wall in Athlone to the site on Little Yellow Island by the Harp and building has now begun.

A fine example of the friendly co-operational spirit of river folk.

Canal Dribbles.

The Barrow Rally at St., Mullins had a small turn-out but was most enjoyable. Fr Paddy Dowling in "Eistamiad" went on down to New Ross afterwards and explored the Nore and the Estuary. The Corbetts of New Ross came along in the 60m which they raised from under New Ross Bridge. It has no engine yet, so the tug "Ross I" brought them to and fro. Did you ever see a barge doing 14 knots - Wow!

The Narrow boat "Celtic Knight" was seen recently in the vicinity of Co. Kildare - the crew looking suspiciously like "Iron Lungers" heavily disguised as hirers!

Reg Redmond's "Crannagh" is having a re-fit. Lots of Damp de-laminated ply for Sale cheap at the 15th lock.

Paul Clandillan will be on his way down the Canal to the Shannon soon in his new Del-Craft cruiser fitted out by himself.

SAFETY Have you ever seen a powerful runabout careering away on her own - with nobody at the helm? It's a frightening sight. You don't know what or whom she will hit nor whether she may blow up and catch fire and spray Petrol all over the place.

The boat was motoring around in circles and he could neither climb back aboard nor reach the engine to stop it. Yet he dared not let go for fear the boat would come around and give him a permanent hair cut. You get the point? So I can get to mine which is that Volvo Penta fitted a simple safety stop switch on all their engines from 3.6 HP upwards.

The Gadget itself is quite simple - a tapered plastic wedge which fits under a spring loaded button, with a line to the wrist or clothing of the helmsman. If he goes overboard he pulls the wedge out and the engine stops.

RESULT: - Safety of Boat and Helmsman.

Drops of Water.

Raymond Gardiner author of our latest book on our waterways is at present back on the Shannon, holidaying we think, but judging by peoples attitudes he thinks the left of Irish laughter tends to have a type set ring about it. His book "Land of Time Enough" makes easy reading and is an eye opener in ways as to our own Irish, Johnny come lately attitude to what we have. Available in Sean's Bar £4.95.

Moreover judging by our Whit Rally itineraries this year his book title makes one wonder. Your choice can be our annual outing to Lecarrow where the original and best blend of Coffee remains untainted by inflation.

Then we can have a flight of the wild geese or a wild goose chase to the Erne for their rally. Our own Sean Fitz will no doubt be in full flight for his Vice Commadore wings. And then there's the Grand Canal Festival and Rally at Tullamore which promises to have a big turn out. Sequoia, Millicent, & 95B expected there. Unconfirmed reports that Minister Oliver J. will be recruiting vessels and skippers for our own fishing protection at this venue. Can one imagine the material that C. S. Forrester would have. Admiral Donegan, Read Admirals Mathews, Bailey, Spiers, Flag Captains Oakman, Barry oh! sure leave it so.

O. P. W. 's fleet and equipment are at present going all out in Athlone to equal the private boat owners fleet. The latter thanks to Brady, shipman & Martin are insuring that their Jaws are strengthening with the passing of each green pound.

Following a directive from O. P. W. in Dublin the crane in Athlone is now out of commission. Whilst the chain reaction cannot be condoned please Mr. O. P. W. have a re-think about their removal from service. To remove services already existing surely is a retrograde step.

To finish on a long note a recording for the radio programme of the same name took place on or near our waterfront last weekend with celebrated artists like Tony McMahon, Peter Browne, Barney McKenna, Willie Coughlan, Pat Kilduff and a host of other celebrities coming together to put on a feast of traditional music for national broadcasting. This followed a night in the Prince of Wales Hotel for our dearly missed sailor Denis. As a close friend was overheard "that sure already he has a hole cut in the fence to let the rest of us in" May we sail in safely and benefit through our great loss, kind winds.

Here & then/Now & Soon.

A Report has been published on the Inland Waterways recreational Development in or around Athlone and explores such ideas as a Marina below Burgess Park, Beach facilities for Open Boats, Wharf development along the promenade etc. , this report may be loaned for study from Eileen O'Neill or M. Martin.

It is to be hoped that entries will start to arrive for the Harry Rice Cup, the only rule is that the essay should be on a voyage on the inland Waterways and open to children under 15 years. Entries can be sent to Mrs Rosemary Furlong, Garden Vale, Athlone.

Congratulations to Ann Fitz & Michael Martin on their introduction to broadcasting by way of their talk on Athlone Community Radio, the image of Branch activities created was excellent as indeed was the prominence given to the River during the week. To Sean Fitz on presenting the morning programme all we can say is "Look out Rodney Rice"!

If you are thinking of buying an outboard Motor there is a very comprehensive "Buyer's Guide" to the April/May issue of Irish Boats and Yachting. All members of C/O/B

Dates for your Diary.

Rallies Lecarrow	Whit	Shannon Harbour	18-19 June
Tullamore	Week-	Shannon Rally	22-30 July
Lough Erne	end	Lough Derg	2nd - 7th Aug.

Athlone Rowing Club Regatta & Championships Ballykeeran 11th June

Lough Ree Yacht Club - Sailing Races Sundry Boats.

Sat 28th May	Meet C. R. Y. C.	2-opm	Race 3-05pm
Sat 25th June	Race 3.05pm		
Sat 9th July	Cruise in Company - Sallers & Motor Cruisers		
Sat 20th Aug	Race 3.05 pm	R. N. L. I.	Pennant.
Sat 10th Sept	Race 3.05 pm.		

All races under I. Y. A. Rules - which means ALL hands must wear lifejackets.
Handicap under Portsmouth Yardstick.

Branch Meeting Friday 3rd June at Jolly Mariner At 8.30pm Sharp - This is the last meeting till the Autumn.

Agenda. Minutes of last Meeting
Apologies
Correspondence
Brady, Shipman, Martin Report.
Report on Inland Waterway Recreational Survey. - in Athlone.
O. P. W. Policy
Presentation of cheque by Marist P. P. U.
A. O. B.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone

Sept. '77

Oh Yes! here we are again - Signs of Winter, Do you expect more of the same stuff as last years contents - clever witticism, scintillating editorials, controversial comments, up to the minute news, if so you are out of luck.

Tenders are now being taken for Editors for the Aerial, perhaps its just your opportunity to buy type-caste.

Having left you all at Whit or thereabouts amidst the Erneites, The tall ships at Lecarrow and the Irish Mist at Tullamore. All went off nicely, ship shape and Bristol Cream fashion. Whit Monday crossing of Lough Ree in a force Seven from Lecarrow compelled one sailor I know to invest in a storm jib.

Athlone regatta followed with a record breaking number of entries including the Maiden eight Championship. Despite inclement weather with the efficient boat club committee assisted and facilitated by our good Coosan residents most of the races were run off as scheduled.

Shannon Harbour rally in splendid sunshine, now a very popular home for boaters. Perhaps next year the tug-of-war be ommitted, the physical strain of just watching is enough to put most off, but once involved superhuman efforts are achieved with not necessarily good medical reports, just a point.

Cruiser Sailing Series really got off the ground this year thanks to efficient L. Y. R. C. handling and marked improvement in cruising performance must result. Next and last race in this series is on September 10th start at 3.0pm. The cruise in company to St. Marks after a Strawberry and Cream get together ended up with the fleet giving a Cowes display at Hudson Bay jetty. A sign of the times, its the rattle of the rigging that turns me on. They may not be the good old creaking blocks like Pat Henry but what a sight.

Then came the North Shannon Rally with Rally competitors at some stages so far apart as Tarmonbarry to Garrykennedy. A lively passage on the opening Saturday was had on Lough Ree and serious but relieved faces showed up at Lanesboro, wet but willing. Under the able commodore - ship of our Wexford sailor David Killeen the fleet finally assembled at Lecarrow and competitions not running any later than the odd Irish hour. Our Athlone Secretary Eileen O'Neill was paid fitting tribute for all her dedicated work at the closing dinner. Reggie and Sheila Redmond, Crannagh were the very popular recipients of the premier award with Frank Blake, Francielle coming second. Competitions were more stringent this year and achieved general approval with the willing participants. More silver went to the Mathews family who rallied in various methods. Sailors trophies were equally divided with the Commodore taking the Bacardi, Mich Webb the Lough Ree and Declan Walsh the Boderg Cup.

Lough Derg again exceeded the North Shannon in entries by streets and commodore David Knight insisted on everybody enjoying themselves to the full and by all accounts achieved his aim. Fr. Dowling the premier here while Syd Shine captured the best

Somewhere around this time the Shannon became the Liffey, but not with the pong. The Liffey swim was held on the Shannon with up to 80 competitors from all over the country taking part. Congratulations to the Round Table for mounting this event at such short notice with the able help from The Iron Lung, The Harp & Sequoia. Can this be made an Annual event so as to revive the Shannon Swim & build the "Peoples Regatta" around it?

Whilst not the best weather in the world for boating there was a marked increase in the number of new and old boats plying the river, exactly what the river needs to offset the increase of Hire craft. The latest addition to the Athlone Barge fleet is Nora Griffins "Liverpool Lou" a magnificent 75 footer with a 6 cyl 120 H P Gardner engine, powered steering (ex Shannon Queen Barge) - Happy cruising Nora.

Lets hope that all our new private boat owners will sail under the I. W. A. I. burgee - if not why not.

Mountshannon now has a fleet of two Galway Hookers (Pucans). God give them sense or a good caulking iron. Portumna Bridge is still working on reduced openings so intended pilgrims should make themselves aware of these.

The mooring bouys on Lough Ree have been in full use all Summer, the Hire craft seem to use them like parking meters and even if full are prepared to share, I ask you.

There's talk of boating to Ballinasloe perhaps local branches could have a serious look at this possibility. Big and all as our waterways is the adventure seems to have subsided after all our years of foraging. Perhaps theres still some work like the Late Harry Rice used to do, the odd can or stout branch to guide the adventurer and pray that will all respect the hireboats will stay on the proscribed hand rails of their new guide.

The Subscriptions will show an increase this year with more family members, congratulations to Catherine & Patrick (Boy) Denise and Declan (girl) Jack and Aideen (Boy). More happy events to follow Dermot O'Brien and Eileen Bell take off southwards on their Honeymoon on September 9th our every good wish for their happiness goes with them.

Have we an Alex Rose among our members? Rumour has it Louis Smith took off from Athlone to go West, North, East & South around Ireland no mean feat for a sailor with a few years experience. Any chance, Louis, of a chat or note about your voyage. Michael Martin is thinking of doing the same he is looking for a 26 foot Bermudan rigged Sloop with Bilge keel, in board engine, Fiberglassed, any offers.

To wrap this Aerial up it is hoped to have a number of functions this winter - Film & Slide Shows of old and new Rallies, Fancy Dress Party, Cheese and wine etc., lets have your views.

The Sept. meeting will take place in the Jolly Mariner on Friday 2nd Sept at 8.30pm. sharp.

AGENDA - Minutes of last Meeting
Apologies
Correspondence
A. O. B.

N. B. Shannonbridge End of Season Rally will take place on 1st and 2nd October with options open to move on to Lough Derg afterwards.



ATHLONE AERIAL

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October '77

After what could only be described as a mediocre summer our season may now be extended with a gentle Autumn. Already the boats are homing if not already there preparing for winter wraps. Portaneena is already dotted like I've never seen before with a beautiful flotilla a bobbing that must make A. E. nostalgic for Portsmouth.

Four social activities are planned for the branch this winter - and original suggestions are welcomed. The 1st one is scheduled for Halloween weekend - "A Fancy Dress & Games Party" in Harmony Hall, Glasson. All participants must be in fancy dress and branch members. A simple supper will be served for the £1.10p entrance fee and tickets available the week before from Sean's Bar.

A recent notice seen aboard a yacht in Poole Harbour read "Please be careful of my pet snake who lives aboard this boat". I wonder would similar notices deter the vandals in Athlone, assuming the vandals can read.

Alec Feldman (who generously donates fire extinguishers to each & every rally) has deserted his cabin cruiser "Plika" and bought Jack Roberts "Sara", another convert to the gentle art of sailing. A new arrival to the Athlone fleet is Liam Dwans 26ft. Mac Wester "Manatee". Her red sails are now a familiar sight on Lough Ree. Purchased in Scotland the "Manatee" was sailed home by Liam and friends via Dublin, & Grand Canal. Safe & happy sailing Liam

Suck Developments

A meeting was held under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, Ballinasloe on 8th Sept. Present were Senators, members of the Dail, representatives of U. D. C., Galway Co. Council engineers, Roscommon Co. Council, O. P. W, Bord Failte & Athlone Branch I. W. A. I.

The meeting was called to explore the feasibility of opening up the Suck to navigation as far as Ballinasloe. Prior to the meeting four cruisers went as far as Correen Ford, five miles from Shannonbridge with a full compliment of passengers. The depth of water was from 15' to 20' and the scenery & bank mooring excellent. There are three Fords on the river these being Correen, Reilly & Poolboy. It was felt by many at the meeting that there would be little difficulty in making Correen & Reilly Fords navigable & that there should not be any major difficulty or expense in bringing pleasure cruisers up as far as Poolboy.

Various problems were raised which had to do with the O. P. W. with regard to drainage water levels and the Shannon Navigation Section of the O. P. W., also the Inland Fisheries Trust. Finally it was agreed by all that nothing further could be gained at this meeting until some sort of a feasibility report on the navigation of the Suck be obtained from the O. P. W. & it was requested that another meeting be held when the Chamber of Commerce had received a reply from the O. P. W. in relation to the queries raised at the meeting.

Snippets

Ruth Heard & Terence Mallagh have started work on a new Shannon Guide - a companion to the excellent Grand & Barrow Guides. Terence was seen recently running a tape rule over Albert Lock!

Work had commenced at Lanesboro on the extension of the new jetty up to the harbour

Dublin City Council's general purpose committee agreed in principle yesterday to co-operate with the Inland Waterways Association in the development of a Marina at Grand Canal Dock, Ringsend, Dublin. The Assistant City & County Manager in a report to the members, said the Corporation approved in principle of the concept and accepted the Associations offer of more detailed plans and costings.

Dublin Branch is alive & doing well!!!

Crash Courses.

Portumna Emerald Star & Athlone Cruisers certainly have the edge on the other bases. Where would hirers get more good and practical tuition than from that old, river dog John Weaving and our own lovable Paddy Dolan. If that doesn't get them off to a great start then I think perhaps they shou'd stick to tanks or something. You see its you, the river people that makes the river. Stay with it but put a little back.

Secretary's Change.

Due to pressure of business Eileen O'Neill has resigned as our Secretary. During her term of office she has shown great dedication and attention to all the work which came her way. Welcome, our new Secretary Paddy Doyle, Moydrum, Athlone, Phone home 4749, office 2039

Chandlery:

For sale, 20 H. P. Chrysler outboard. Short Shaft, engine in perfect condition complete with remote controls. Ring Ballinasloe (0905) 2159.

Foam.

If any of you were considering the recovering of mattress for your boat the following may be of some help.

To supply and cover 2'x6'x3' foam - £18 each. To recover your old foam £9 each. If you supply the material work is £3 each. Beading if required is £3 extra.

From the Upholsterer in Payne's Lane, 1st turn right after Singers shop in Sean Costello St., Athlone.

Wind Up.

To those people who on more than one occasion have been smothered with clouds of black smoke from the Lung - owners apologies - Thinking in particular of the St. Patrick, who, five minutes before they belched by her, had put new grey paint on her hull in the narrow confines of the Lecarrow Canal. New engine on the way this winter without the "Puff the Magic Dragon" action of the old one.

Congratulations to Louis Smith on sailing his boat Rindoon southcoast - Limerick to Dublin. Details next issue.

It has been a bumper season for hire boats, read that anyway you like. Its time I think that Mr. O. P. W. should be looking at a more obvious method of markings on the big lakes of middle grounds and bay marks as distinct from channel marks.

We welcome the new sluice at present under construction at the Strand on east of Athlone weir. Im sure a safety cage of some sort is envisaged to prevent anybody being swept down. This will require maintenance but well worth it. Maybe U. D. C. or ourselves could do a Strand clean up, that is after we have done something with the slipway. Lets be frank about it, its a bloody heartbreak launching or taking out a boat there. Possible is the boat is small, if its big, well?!

Those of you that have the time and the money to read the Times will have seen the James for sale. Here's hoping she remains on the Shannon & another unconverted barge for sale. O. P. W. are giving 2 to 1 on, that she's bound for Athlone. We'll see.

While we're getting our digs in, the go slow signs expected must be the goest slowest signs ever to come off a drawing board. Perhaps there is someone, somewhere, in a trance looking at the blue print. Won't somebody prod him.

Manouvers should round up with our end of Season to Shannonbridge & Carricks jaunt to Grange the week after. (i. e. 7th & 8th) Peace.

Next meeting will be held in the Jolly Mariner at 8.30p. m. sharp Friday 7th Oct.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

Nov '77

All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone

Council Meeting,

A meeting in Athlone of various Branch representatives will complete the I. W. A. I. views on the Brady Shipman Martin Report. This has been a long slow job and the result will be the basis of a policy document on the Shannon together with I. W. A. I. views on Navigation, Boat operation, Moorings, Development etc., Many thanks are extended to Alan Algeo for his work in correlating all the reports and data.

All Branches on the Shannon were asked to give a detailed boat count of Private Craft. For the Area Lanesboro to Clonmacnoise the following was the breakdown. Cabin Cruisers 140, Sailing Cruisers 31, Barges 11, Day Sailers 22, Power Day Boats 23, Lake Boats 275, Total 502.

A Draft of the new Rules was not discussed as most branch members had not got a chance to discuss same. Since these rules are on the agenda at our next Branch meeting those of you who wish to see them beforehand contact our Sec. Paddy Doyle as we shall not have time to read through and discuss all the sections.

In the near future it is proposed to hold a meeting in Dublin between Shannon Private boat owners and the Hire boat operators to discuss any problems, it is understood the meeting is open to all.

Drops of Water. The book has now been officially closed on the disorganised organised Athlone Boys manouvers for the season. Where the Boys are, well the libbers are never far away, sometimes stirring the pot, sometimes in the other pub letting the pot go to pot. Thats the way it was in Shannonbridge anyways.

The early boats arrived at dusk with the more experienced preferring to travel in the dark. Much more interesting. One doesn't see half the problems on a moonless night. At one stage it looked like Milford Haven at 0400 -hrs, enhanced by lack of troublesome occutting lights and professional pilots. If one can visualise Eight boats deep at the harbour and a barge coming downstream allowing for a liberal seven, well what's a rubbing strake here or there. Emerald Stars dont even shine green in the dark. Oh! such fun, Oh! such recklessness, Oh! such luck.

A terrible great crowd of people looking comfortable in worn sea boats, clobber that smelt of fish fingers and not a sign of running Mascara. Old faces and New faces, we even had a Judge. The coming thing for Lough Derg end of Season Rallies. Maybe theres a case.

Paddy Fitzsimons, thank God he usually loses the voice on the third day, otherwise the ralliers would have been taken away, still laughing.

"Rindoon"

Congratulations to Louis Smith on sailing his boat "Rindoon" out the Shannon Estuary and round by Kerry and Cork to Dublin during a two week holiday with Seamus Hudson of Lough Derg as able seaman.

The following is an extract from his letter to the Aerial - Only sound boats with competent crew, able to wait an extra week if weather be foul, should attempt it: Fuel and stores are not easy to get on the way - and water itself is scarce in Valencia. Weather forecasts are often the exact opposite to experience. Only one other Irish boat...

wonder Anglers had a poor season.

Here and There / Now and then.

Our own "Fiddler" has bought the converted Lifeboat "The Christine". Her size is no indication of her heart - as she had made trips to Waterford and the Isle of Man. She even boasts a set of Sails - Happy voyaging Larry.

The Athlone Sub-Aqua Club appear to have come back to life. The "Tig-na-Mara" has got an internal face lift with the addition of Electric light and heat. It is to be hoped the face lift will include painting the exterior.

Moorings between the bridges were checked by a joint party from the Branch and Sub Aqua. The work of making the necessary replacements is in hand.

The Harry Rice Slipway has been cleaned it took a J. C. E. two hours with the help of navey gang D. Walsh, J. Breslin and B. Hanhin. Users please note dont leave chocks/Blocks in the Slip.

Following a trial run on the Long Shoal it is rumoured "Larsaw" is being converted to a Sand Yacht this winter prior to crossing the Sahara. This is a real possibility due to a Catamaran's ability to store large quantities of water under the floorboards in each hull.

The newest and largest Barge had a slight argument with something on the way to Lanesboro - result water in Engine room. Joh Earls dispatched (in stocking feet) for quick setting cement. Barge in hurry to Dry Dock so he gets forgotten about. Hitches by car and train to B. na. M. Bridge and with Phantom like ease lands on the roof as the barge goes under Bridge. The following shanty was heard coming from the engine room "The Sound of the R'ever/keeps telling me ever. That I can't neglect you/Like I never got you O' Tell me that Hole, love. Is the one and Sole, Love. Please keep me afloat, Love. My Liverpool Lou."

Ships Chandlery. Among the tools which show a wonderful investment, of one pound, is a punch and die set for fitting brass eyes into cloth. The set comes with a dozen eyes and full instructions. Uses include, weather clothes, awnings, cockpit covers, canvas carry bags etc. available in Athlone.

Work will commence next year on the erection of Jetties at Shannonbridge and Clonmacnoise providing access to the National Monument and a suitable site has been purchased, Mr Wyse Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance has told Deputy Ben Cowen.

The Committee of L. R. Y. C. using the Portsmouth Yardstick have declared the results of the 1977 Cruiser Series (Points in brackets) 1st B. Hannin (6) 2nd D. Crossdell (8) 3rd T. Abraham (30). A revised yardstick will be in use next year following the assiduous use of a calculator. Our thanks go to Liam O'Gara Sailing Sec and other members of the yacht Club for running this series.

In September Aerial THE SHANNON RALLY was referred to as the North Shannon Rally. The Aerial Staff wish to apologise to the Shannon Rally Committee and others for any embarrassment occasioned by this deviation from the right course (error).

Dates for your Diary. Boat and Barge films plus a great chance to review the Golden Oldies in Rosemary Furlongs older rally films in Killeagh Hotel on Friday Nov. 25th. Assemble in Hotel at 8.30 films 9-11 with tea and Sandwiches at interval. (the other beverage will of course be available) Adm Tea & Sandwiches 50p. Any Interest in this years London Boat Show, around 6/7/8 January - or did last years epic Bus voyage frighten you. There are two alternatives 1) Flight Dublin-London-Dublin with two nights B&B (Three days there) approx £50 2) Or as last year Athlone-Athlone Bus Boat B&B 2 nights approx £34.00 Could we have a feed back of enquiries please to Sean or Ann Fitz.

Canal Dribbles. Did you hear about the Saga of the 36th lock? Seems the new deep gates were an unbelievable one foot short when fitted! Out they came and old one back in - repairs done and in again - still short! They've been in and out three times. Tut! Tut! What's going on at the 1st lock of the Naas branch? A work party is believed to have been there recently, lifting sluices and testing gates. Is this the start of something exciting? Watch this space! More than 60 children were rescued unhurt after being trapped in a Canal for seven hours last week. They were trapped during a school outing on the electric powered narrow boat, Electra, in the two mile long Dudley Tunnel, West Midlands (The English one) The Boat was wedged by Debris including wood, Beer crate & Polythene, one thousand yards from the entrance to narrow tunnel. In the old days the Barges in this type of tunnel were propelled by



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Dec 77.

So Dear Reader you take it for granted the ink flows like porter on the floor of our headquarters, good luck to you - just try and write 1200-1300 words each month so as to be of interest to one and all. Hows that for 46 words already!

Right lets go - the anonymous staff of the Aerial would like to take the yearly opportunity to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and in particular our Carol Dribbler, our Sexy typist Pauline and Staff of Temple Press. Believe it or not but the Subs for 1978 are coming in already one from Fred Ashford (Luck Penny), who has retired to take-up gardening and the odd pint in Yorkshire, writes, "The change from navigation to horticulture this season turned out to be a little less traumatic than expected. Of course the Yorkshire moors and Dales are sufficiently lovely to take ones mind off anything. But, I should still like to Cash down from Barley Harbour to Portaneena in a hard sou'wester, to be tied up at our favourite pocket of the Canal, to be watching the superb sunsets from our moorings at Portaneena and to be meeting again all those folk one encounters from Boyle to Killaloe" Do we take it all for granted?

Social Calander.

The London Boat Show is a mere 6 weeks away, and another trip is being organised by the Athlone Branch to view it together with the Sights, Shops and Shows. The arrangements are by Boat from Dun Laoire and our own Coach waiting in Hollyhead. Drive to London with Breakfast stop on the way. Friday 6th Jan to Sunday 8th in London - Leaving by Coach 4ish Sunday evening for Hollyhead - Tea Stop on way Boat arrives Dun Laoire around 7 a. m.

Last year was a huge success, and the price of £34 includes all travel, Bed and Continental Breakfast for two nights. Rail fare from any town in Ireland is included. If interested send Money, name and address to Anne Fitzsimons, Seans Far, Main St., Athlone Latest Date Dec 16th for inclusion. Phone 0902 - 2358. All members of I.W.A.I are welcome.

Halloween night saw a deluge of strange apparitions with 54 people in Fancy Dress for the I.W.A.I.'s party in Harmony. The gathering of the clans took place in the hostleries of Glasson Village before going on to Harmony Hall for the party. The ingenuity was amazing and the song and crack good, with special praise due to Johnny McGonigal as Rasputin, Maeve Mathews as an incredibly erie witch and Jenny Shannon's amazing Sex change operation. Damian Delaney and Michael Webb as the "Ugly Sisters" - it certainly fooled some of the older "locals" in Grogans. Everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion with the help of the two great musicians Sean Mathews and Pearse O'Brien.

Chandlers Corner. In the November 77 issues of yacht and yachting there is a two part Sailing Cruiser index. Part one from A to K is in the 11th Nov issue while part two L to Z is in the 30th Nov. issue. The information given for each type of Sailing Cruiser runs as follows: Tyre of Keel, Designer, LOA, LWL, Beam, Draft, Displacement, number of berths, Hull material, Rig, Sail Area, recommended engine, standard inventory, builder supplier, Price ex. V.A.T. & Engine.

Now coupled with this in the Practical Boat owner of Feb '77 and Mar '77 there are full details of 60 small outboards up to 20 H.P.

This combined information is most useful for one who may be searching the "Boats for

some old clo's a rest. First committee meeting for Rally '78 will be held in the Bush Hotel Fri 9th Dec 8.30p. m. The financial report for '77 was unavailable, the treasurer and his wife wintering in the Mediteranian.

The Athlone Boat Club are holding their Annual Dinner Dance in the Shamrock Lodge Friday 2nd Dec. Tickets available at Seans.

On a hire note, it has been felt that hire boaters are falling in for undue criticism. Looking objectivley as one can at the hire boat; by God I do believe there's truth in the comment. Lets evaluate the situation. The Private Boat owner *thinks* his or her boat is the last word in her particular Class - True. The Private boat owner needs fall guys to relate the tales of the terrificl horrific, specific incidents - True. The private boat owner generally is on his best behaviour boating wise when cruising to make sure he doesn't become the fall guy of the other guy, - True. The Private boat is a specific boat known to having particular peculiarities to which one grown^saccustomed. - True.

Now lets look at the Hire Boats. They come in various sizes from small to large. They come in different colours, white, blue, green etc., Agreed they all have names 5.3, Bay Such, Lady X. They are similar they are numerous. Like us all they make mistakes, but lacking the individual character and characters they tend to fall into the blanket hire grade which collectively provide fall guy material for the ever watchful private eye. True or false, right or wrong me thinks that's the way it happens. Perhaps we have deviated from the specific comments having been "bowled" over, but in any given instance, be it private or hire, the book stops at the skipper. The difference being the name stays with the Private boat whilst it can move from one hire boat to another dependant upon impressions. The hire boat is responsible, true or false.

Canal Dribbles. Latest news on the saga of the 36th Lock, the new gates have a small winch and hawser holding them closed! They're chained and padlocked and carry a very pernament - looking sign saying they "Must not be operated without the lock-keeper until further notice" What do they expect us to do anyway? Pick the Lock!!

The 4 old Barges which were moved from Tullamore for the Rally last Spring are now sitting at the bottom at the 21st Lock - a great pity. To the Rescue Mick Webb!!

Notice for Sailors travelling the Canal through Ballycowan the Lock keeper now lives at the 28th not the 29th.

The Tatch now has a nice line of white painted tyres fendering the Jetty - even more difficult to pass it now.

Christmas Crackers.

Singood, widow of Sinbad, failed miserably to get him to work during his life time. After cremation she had him interred in an egg timer.

Found: Parcel of delightful confectionary. Lost: Quantity of turf, Similar packaging, possible mistake, Vicinity of waterfront premises. Enquiries Box No. ECL - AIRS.

Christmas Suggestions - I. W. A. I. gifts. Burgees £3.50, Ties £2.00, Ladies/Gents Pins 80p, Cuff Links £2.50, Tie Clips/taos £1.80, Thanks for the Memory £3.75, Grand Canal Guide 75p Barrow Guide £1.10. Other Suggestions also available at Headquarters. Irish Flags £3 Courtesy Flag £1.26, Green & Silver £5.44, Sheil Guide to the Shannon £3.85, Land of Time Enough £5.45. Nautical Linen Glass C'oths £1.10. Gifts Yule Like R. N. L. I. Sub £3, Fishermen Socks from £1.50, Fog Horn £5, Rope Ladders £10, Sailing Boots £8, Sea Searcher Magnet £7, Holdall Bags £7, Insulex Mugs 4 for £3.50 & that Life Jacket Anorack trade name "Floater" in all sizes by Mustang available at Perry Dun Laoire around £30. Yes Please!!

A word to people not living near the Shannon about conditions on the river. The level above the lock has risen 3½ feet. The weir wall is only a memory and below is like the great Salt Lakes. A Hire boat with French people (complete with C. Q. R. plough Anchor) went 'spring' sowing ploughing into the field above Shannonbridge. "Oh give me land lots of land and the starry skies above, dont fence me in"!!

Next Meeting will be held in the Mariner on Friday 2nd Dec at 8.30 p. m. sharp.

<u>CRUISER SERIES</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>OFFICER OF THE DAY</u>
Sat. 28 May	3.05 pm	Mrs. L. Leech
Sat. 25 June	3.05 pm	P. O Cleirigh
Sat. 9 July CRUISE	11.30 am	A. Algeo
Sat. 20 August RNLi PENNANT (during L. Ree Regatta)		
Sat. 10 September.	3.05pm	C. Kearon.

CRUISER TANKARD SERIES

This is a handicap series open to all miscellaneous sailing craft. Points will be awarded on the Olympic marking system on the basis of corrected placings according to a handicap system devised by the Sailing Committee (based on the Portsmouth Yardstick of the boat) In the event of all 4 races in the series being sailed, the best 3 will count. Otherwise all races will count.

ENTRANCE FEE: £1.00 for series or part thereof; payable to L. O Carra, Sailing Sec.

A briefing will take place in preparation for this series at 2.00 pm on Sat. 28 May at the Clubhouse, Ballyglass.

CRUISE

The cruise on Sat. 9 July is not a race but a Sail-in-company. We hope to see as many cruisers as possible taking part. It will be an all day affair, so bring a picnic lunch.

JUNIOR SAILING

A separate programme for junior sailing will be produced and circulated.

NOTE: Many junior sailors have the impression that they are too old for Optimist sailing at thirteen; this is not so - indeed very few of the top class national and international Optimist racers are much under sixteen. For this reason we would like to see our junior sailors staying with the Optimist for longer than is generally the case.

WORK-INS

MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE TO THE CLUB PREMISES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON, TO GET THE PLACE LOOKING SHIPSHAPE AFTER THE RAVAGES OF THE WINTER. IN THE PAST THIS WORK HAS BEEN DONE BY THREE OR FOUR MEMBERS. This year we hope everyone will do something and (in order to give everyone a chance) there will be FOUR work-ins. The dates are:-

Sat. 23 April from 11.00 am onwards (bring a picnic lunch)

Sat. 7 May from 11.00 am until race time

Sat, 14 May " " " " " "

Sat. 21 May " " " " " "

BRING A SHOVEL.

WHIT WEEKEND (4th, 5th, 6th June)