



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

Date JAN 1978

Drops of Water.

In this season of good will, the craft asleep, the crews still, however, enjoying this, that, and the other on the rocks. A time for compliments, thanks to the veterans who guided, thanks to the novices who listened. Thanks to him who controls the elements whilst we bungle though the elementary.

To those people that control our waterways as their daily function, our thanks. To the voluntary bodies who nibble away may you devise satisfaction from your efforts. To one and all may '78 be a year of contentment.

With our New Year chimed, hooted and piped in it was a calm jovial night on the Athlone Waterfront. One of the many social indulgences during this festive season, creaky shoes, razor-bill pants, claustrophobic ties, elegant dressage with acceptable levels of "just Musk". Daytime skiffs a rowing, sub-aqua divers in action, sometimes planned othertimes the unavoidable task of recovery. Still the mighty Shannon thunders south, arrogant, majestic, beautiful, alive.

Sub-Aqua News

Athlone Sub-Aqua Club held their A. G. M. in the Jolly Mariner on the 16th Dec '77. Officers for the coming year are: President, Pat Benson, Secretary Joe Llewellyn, Treasurer Bridie Delaney. Diving Officer, Derry McMahon. Training Officer, Robbie Walsh Equipment officer, Gerry McCabe.

The club was called out on St. Stephens day to help the Lanesboro Gardai to locate the victim of a drowning accident. The conditions were atrocious and the ten divers and back up boatmen were unsuccessful in their search. On the following day seven divers continued the task but again to no avail. Well done "club" for the effort.

Social News

Congratulations and years of happiness to David Knight and Itty Van der Berg on their forthcoming marriage - Scariff 14th Jan.

Sean and Maeve Mathews are leaving town (great) to join the O'Riordans in Alicante and onwards to a safari to North Africa to Marrakesh. Pub Spy has it Sean is bringing his bucket and spade. Are the Foreign Legion looking for recruits. Just an idea, Oh! but what a lovely one!

The Skipper and Crew of the Lady Avialon had a lucky escape in December when their Barge leaned against the eel net at Athlone, however many hands made "t-t" work and got her to safety - Skippers showered thanks and spirits to all concerned.

Cynthia Rice has after many years relinquished the post as Hon Sec Athlone Branch of the R. N. L. I. due to business reasons. Our sincere thanks are due to her for all the hard work she put into this very deserving body. The new Secretary is Berchs Hannin.

Canal Dribbles.

The sand-bank below the 14th which was caused by the discharge of the Mcuell feeder has been dredged by C. I. E. This caused serious delays to Barges and boats last summer.

Boat owner Gerry Cox has taken his first cruise in the "Welded - Wonder". Navigated by Frank Diddley-Idle they made their intrepid way from the 15th in the gathering dusk and not a bottle of Carlsberg on board! Bumping their way along and aided by the lights of a friendly car, they eventually reached "The Hatch" and all was well. Seriously though, Gerry is taking it home to his fire side for major works and hopes to be on the river

Here & Then / Now & Soon.

Interesting meeting held last month in Dublin between I. W. A. I. members and Irish Boat Rental Assoc. A welcome exchange of views took place, they are not really as wicked as we sometimes paint them. They really do want to co-operate and it is intended to hold further exchange of views from time to time. Great to see what a bit of common sense can achieve to foster harmony & Good will. One interesting point which emerged is that, unless a boat or crew are in immediate danger, we should not pull their boats off the rocks as further damage could ensue.

Rumours of a gi-normous boat of 125 feet to live on the Shannon - the front (bow) must come off to come through Ard-na-Crusha. More later.

A request for an ESB meter at the Dry Dock in Shannon Harbour, the pole is already there and if fitted with a Metal box and coin meter it would be a great asset. Perhaps the Lock Keeper could help with L. S. D. & Key. Offaly Branch please note.



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February '78

The Annual General Meeting of the Athlone Branch took place on the 20th January and out of 145 members approximately 30 turned up so for those 115 who for various reasons couldn't make it the following officers were elected.

Chairman	Berchs Hannin
Vice-Chairman	Damian Delaney
Hon. Secretary	Paddy Doyle
Assis. Hon. Sec.	Eileen O'Brien
Hon. Treasurer	Sean Fitzsimons
Trustees	Dr N. Furlong & S. Mathews.

Other items of interest- The Annual Subscription has been raised to £3 and Family Membership to £4 by a majority vote. The main reason for this increase is to cover higher printing and postal charges accruing from the Aerial.

The Hon. Sec. was asked to write to the local Press and the Minister for Fisheries expressing our objection to the proposed legislation to introduce Rod licences to Inland Waters. During the course of his report the Hon. Sec. stated the average attendance at Branch meetings throughout the year were 16. Not Great. So how about making a special effort to come along each month during '78.

Drops of Water.

A Winters Tale 1946

"The lake looks very peaceful this afternoon, Peter", I remarked by way of starting some conversation. "Its very different in winter, I suppose there should be a good wave out there around Christmas?" "Yes, the lake has its moods, Sir", he answered slowly. "But not always in being rough. "

"I mind a time me father an' me walked out to Beam Island, and from there across to the Hare," he announced without shifting his gaze. "Walked, Peter"? I asked in surprise. "Yes, Sir, Walked," he repeated with a nod of his head. "An' many did it too".

"It was the winter of the long frost, nigh fifty years ago" (c 1896) he said. "The river frauz' up, an' then the lake took it, and for two weeks it was all frozen over except for a small channel down the middle. Folks began to walk out on it, at first timid but then with courage as they found it safe, and after some days it became a sport for lake folk, what with skating an' slidin' an' running small sledges.

"Some officers from the barracks built themselves an ice boat, a big "yoke" on skids with a lug sail, an' knowing me father an' me, who used to lake them out trout fishing, they got us to give them a hand when they were tryin' it out. We used to push it to the Beam Island an' start them off, two of 'em sittin' in it, an' away they would go tearing across the ice like a yacht in a gale. It worked well on'ey that they couldn't stop it at the finish; if they tried to 'go about' it hurled over, so all they could do was to lower the sail an' let it run up among the trees on the island.

"Extract Vol 1 No 4 Journal of Old Athlone Society"

Chandlery The following might have helped the above: By now most of the boating magazines have done an article on the new Bruce Anchor. Its many features now seem worth a mention here.

This new type of anchor was devised to match the fiercely precise needs of the offshore oil drilling industry. It is claimed, and proved true under test that the curious looking, one piece, three palmed hook has more holding power than its counterparts. It holds on a

Yachts up to 16 feet would require	4.4lb	Bruce
" " " 25 " " "	11.0lb	"
" " " 36 " " "	22.0lb	"
" " " 46 " " "	44.0lb	"

Full information and prices from The Bruce Anchor Ltd., Northfield, Broadway, Edinburgh
EH. 7. EZ.

Damian Delaney of Coosan 28 foot D.I. Y. Sailing cruiser - is progressing remarkably well. He still needs 'lead' for the keel and if anyone knows where it can be picked up - do let him know. Phone (0902) 4288.

Here & Then/Now & Soon.

The London Boat Show trip with 44 people mostly I.W.A.I. members was a great success. Every taste was catered for from the sublime with a boat at £170 to the ridiculous i. e. 60-70 year olds ogling at a naughty show - They call it Ballet - others had more sense they explored Soho!! One wine-ridden lady who before sleeping traversed the boards for two hours to "sober-up" - was plastered to the ceiling with fright when the fire alarm went off accidentally at 4 am in the Hotel. Thats all we are allowed to print although there have been vague insendos about scrambled eggs and speckled footpaths.

The round up of adventurers to go on the Erne Rally - Sat May 27th to Monday 29th - is on. Fitzer is Commodore, and open boats and tents will be made very welcome up there - or Cruisers can be hired from Des Dolan Eniskillen, these are much cheaper than Shannon rates. (1978 Rally programme in Next Aerial).

David Knight - Golden Hours - of Lough Derg Branch was married in great style by Father Dowling (Eastmaid) in Scariff and a regular Boating reunion it was. Congratulations to Frank Van der Berg on two counts the purchase of Michael Gills "Argent Brach" and his forthcoming wedding to Maeve O'Kelly of the lovely voice from Gay Boylans Barge.

Teddy Knight and his Tablers successfully re-floated the Giolla Rua from her own little island. She now floats at Waterloo Lodge awaiting insertion of two engines. De-eems is at present putting in a Smaller engine. I believe out of Johnstons Motor Car.

The "Black Demon" of the Lungs engine has been exorcised - and a new diesel-free replacement is to be installed in the next two weeks.

Sean and Maeve Mathews with the O'Riordans were seen in the Alhambra in Granada - Sean measuring up the walls for Kingscourt Bricks.

The Annual Branch Dinner Dance is scheduled for sometime in April, more about that later on.

For the Birds - Did you know that Bird droppings are most injurious to fibre-glass causing star-cracking, something to do with acids etc., same goes for wood & Metals. Our regular Canal Dribbler is I am afraid not represented this month -double helping next issue. Talk of Double helping your Editor had many double & even a treble helping at Sheila & Reggie Redmonds recent Party, the Athlone gang had a ball. Frank 'Diddle-idle' also had a feast (left breast of Pork, I think!) Many thanks "Crannagh".

The Next Branch Meeting will take place on Friday 3rd February at 8.30p. m. in the Prince of Wales Hotel. AGENDA. Minutes of Meeting, Apologies, Correspondence, K. Madigan and H. Rice Plaques, Draft Rules and Constitution, A. O. E.

A Council Meeting will take place on Friday 17th February at 8 pm in Bushwells Hotel, Dublin.

Subscription

It is very important to pay your subscription as soon as possible and we would ask for your co-operation by filling in the tear off slip below.

To P. Doyle
Moylum, Athlone



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March 1978.

Next Meeting on 3rd March in Prince of Wales Hotel at 8.30p. m. AGENDA, Minutes, Apologies, Correspondence, Report of Council Meeting, Rallies, Hodson Bay Development. A. O. B.

News Flash. - The Aerial has been publicly praised by at least three people, have we got swelled heads - Yes !! Keep up the good work readers and lets make it four next month.

Our Oscar this month goes to Athlone U. D. C. for their generous contribution towards our expense in putting down the moorings north of the Railway bridge, and to Lakelands for agreeing to contribute to the maintenance of the moorings between the bridges.

Our Boo goes to Anne Fitz for trying to blow up Arthur Guinness, vigilant security staff thwarted her efforts, the sequel had a happy ending, Suitcase & Clothes were returned intact.

Drops of Water.

Rod Licence:- At the Feb branch meeting the proposed expansion plan of our Inland fisheries was welcomed. However, despite representation from the angling clubs, the meeting maintained strong opposition to the enforcement of Rod licence. It was felt that it would deprive the individual right at present enjoyed, and would by enforcement prove ineffective and non-productive. It has now come to our notice through an official of Lough Derg Anglers that over 90% of Anglers in the lower Shannon Area are totally against this licence and have taken the matter up with the Minister. Comment Please from Athlone Anglers.

Three Men in three Boats:- Pat Benson has bought Alan Algeo's Barge on the S. E. Coast, Harmon Murtagh another Norfolk Knight G Class same as Webbers & Michael Martin a well found 24' Snapdragon from Poole Dorset in December '77 through an adv. in "Yachting Monthly". "Small Slam" was transported from Poole to Athlone by an Athlone Haulage Company and launched by Mobile crane. Much valuable information was gained by the owner in the completion of this purchase and transport and he would be most happy to pass on same to any prospective buyers of craft from England

Athlone Bypass:- Whilst we await the National Primary bypass of Athlone the wheels of vandalism are turning away the overnight hirecraft from our quays. Celtic Cruisers of Tullimore are directing their hirers on no account to stop overnight at Athlone and boats not to be left unattended whilst visiting. Have we really reached this stage, if so their loss is ours. What Now?

Here & Then/Now & Soon.

Athlone Branch of the R. N. L. I. will be holding their Flag Day on Sat 8th April, volunteers will be required and your support will be greatly appreciated, names to Rosemary Furlong or Berchs Hannin.

Athlone Sub-Aqua Club hold their meetings on the 2nd Friday of each month in the Jolly Mariner, they are open to accept Associate members which will enable one to participate in all the Clubs activities except diving.

We hear Wilhelm & Medina Petrat (w Germany) are only bursting to get back to the Shannon, we also hear that in w Germany to hold a Rod licence (and pay for it) one has to pass a test to be able to fish and even a test to be entitled to sail or run a boat. The way we are being subjected to E. E. C. regulations how long will it take for us to become slaves to bureaucracy, not long the way some Ministers are behaving. Anyway Relax Wilhelm, Mike Webb is lending a stack of Brushes, Bait and Quenelle for an attended Week to

It is with deep regret we note the deaths of one of our founder members Billy English and Harry Waters we would like to express our sincere sympathy to their families, both were well known Athlone and River people; May they rest in Peace.

Facts and Figures.

These are a bit jumbled, we leave it to you to sort out. In 1976 there were 292 Cruisers for Hire. In 1977 an estimated 347. The breakdown of 17500 visitors in 1976 was as follows. W. Germany 6140 (43%) Holland 2120 (13%) France 1660 (8%) Switzerland 1090 (6%) Belgium 1100 (6%) Other Areas 370 (1%) Britain 1660 (8%) N. Ireland 300 (1%) Republic of Ireland 3060 (14%). The percentage figure represents Boat weeks sold or number of boats by number of weeks hired out. The Estimated Cruising Holidaymaker for 1978 is 2300. Bord Failte expenditure 1977 was £330,000 and 1976 expenditure by oversea tourists (including Carrier receipts) was estimated at £4.3 million. Bord Failte target is to increase the number of Inland Cruising Holidaymaker by 60% from 1976-1983. I.W.A.I. Boat Count Survey shows 500 Lake Boats, 450 Cabined Motor & Sailing Boats, 200 Day Sallers, 80 Power day boats & 26 Converted Barges

Canal Dribbles. Drama at the 27th lock - "A Tullamore man this month was discovered in the 27th lock at 3 am his cries were heard by lock-keeper Joe Smith. The lock was down and efforts to get a rope to the victim were not successful. Mr Smith then raised the level and succeeded in "fishing" the now unconscious man out with a grappling hook. Well done Joe. We wonder did Mrs Kelly come down to issue a lock permit and collect the fee.

Aer Lingus pilot Jack Bagnalls under powered "Lady be good" has been fitted with a fine new engine, courtesy of Gay Bushe, at the 15th Lock. Jack is strenuously deaging all rumours that the engine is out of a Beeing 737.

Member Jack Roberts got the fright of his life a few weeks ago when bringing "Mallard" to Ringsend for lifting out. While he was standing off waiting for the 4th To fill, there was an enormous crash and one of the deep gates burst outwards sending a tidal wave down towards the 3rd! As Jack said afterwards if he had been in the lock at the time, his number was up. Your Dribbler visited the scene and the sight of the torn and damaged gate hanging outwards at a crazy angle was enough to send a shiver down the sping of the most enthusiastic canal traveller. The Safety of the locks below the 9th must be put in serious question and there would seem to be a need for a comprehensive investigation and campaign by the Dublin Branch as a matter of urgency. How about it Dublin? On a happier note C.I.E. lifted "Mallard" out onto trailer for Free! An ill-wind etc.,

Council News The recent Council Meeting accepted the Sub Committees report on the Brady Shipman Martin report and are sending our views in draft to the OPW & Bord Failte for their comments prior to them being sent to the relevant local authorities. Likewise the Draft Rules & Constitution are taking shape following some lengthy discussion on various points and will be coming up for ratification at the A. G. M. After the mammoth task of examining and reporting on the B. S. M. Report & Rules we now have a proposed I. W. A. I. Shannon Guide to comment upon this publication is the inspiration of Rugh Heard & Terance Mallagh and it is a reflection on their limitless dedication.

Rally Dates: Naas Branch Grand Canal Rally assembly at Sallins late afternoon on Fri 17th Mar. Departure 11am Sat Morning. Barbecue Odiums Mill. Erne Boat Rally 26th to 29th May Contact Mr. Ian Brown 12 Drumclay Rd., Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh - More details next month.

Shannon Boat Rally - Itinery is out & it looks good. Fri 28th July Informal Opening Carrisk & Athlone, Sat 29th Rooskey, Sun/Mon Grange, Tues/Wed Coothall, Thurs/Fri Lough Key, Sat 5th Closing Dinner Carrick-on-Shannon. Commodore Reggie Redmond, Chairman Bill Child, Secretary Declan Walsh.

Dont Forget your Sub is still due.



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APRIL '78

Branch Meeting on Friday 7th April at 8.30p. m. in the Prince of Wales Hotel
AGENDA - Minutes, apologies, correspondence, dance, vandalism, Boat show, I. W. A. I., A. G. M. cranes, slipway, A. O. B.

There is a special General Meeting of the I. W. A. I. on Wednesday 12th April, at 8.00p. m in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, to consider adopting the new Rules of the Association followed by the A. G. M. at 8.30p. m. All Members should try and make it. Don't forget the Boat Show in Dunlaoghaire and the I. W. A. I. stand Tuesday 11th - Sunday 16th April

A Headless Column :- No drop of Water - We've seen enough rain.

If Mick Tully has any ideas of resurrecting the file on the Oil Refinery in Galey Bay he had better think again, we have seen our Torry Canyons, our Iron Lungs, now there is the massive pollution caused by the Amoco Cadiz 5,000,000 gallons off the Brittany Coast. On the Labradore Coast in the first 10 days 43,000 baby seal pups have been clubbed to death, the quota is 180,000. In Shannon harbour area some trigger happy Al Capones are even shooting hatching ducks and swans. Has the world gone mad? Lets see if we can put some joy your way in this issue.

Thanks to David Baynes, 17 Blackthorn Park, Lisbeg, Lawn, Galway, there is now a Branch of the I. W. A. I. covering Lough Corrib, to date they have 10 members and many more expected. We wish them every luck and assistance.

To VINNEY HANNON on his retirement as lock operator in Athlone we wish him every happiness and contentment. During his years on the lock he was always extremely kind courteous and very co-operative with all who went through the lock.

CANAL DRIBBLES:

Naas Branch Rally: = Well, it finally happened! A most successful Rally last month saw 20 boats of various sizes locked up through the 1st lock, the first-boats to passthrough that lock for 25 years. The fleet included 8 Cabin Cruisers, including the "Charles Whitten", plus of course waterbus "Clonskeagh". A very enjoyable barbeque took place at Odiums Mills, thanks to Duncan and Aggie Bain and Ruth Heard. Although the 2nd poses more serious problems the sight of the colourful fleet assembled below the 2nd was a joyous one indeed. The Naas branch is so attractive it must be conquered. Well done Terence Mallagh.

A recent visit to Carrick gave this column an opportunity to visit a canal of a different type - the Lough Allen. The restoration work although slow is most encouraging. The two locks are now complete and in working order, while a nice lifting bridge is being constructed on the first level. The trip up to Acres Lake should be delightful this summer, although there are stretches where the "Lung" couldn't pass the "Harp" (why would they be going in opposite directions anyway?). Moorings in Acres are in short supply although there is a slip and just 1/4 mile up the road is Drumshanbo - a most attractive village with more pubs to the square inch than we have ever seen. Why not visit it after the Shannon Rally?

Shannon Harbour Canal Boat Rally (17th-18th June) held a Chine and Weese Party recently in Clontarf y.c. Athlone members spotted were the Roberts, Mathews, Bretts and Redmonds together with vice Commodore Sean Hanahoe. But wine and cheese really is a deadly mixture-- o'h' my head!

HERE AND THEN/NOW AND SOON.

Our Annual Dinner Dance is scheduled for Friday April 28th in the Prince of Wales Hotel with the Syd Shine Brass Band to make your feet tap. Wine included in the price of £4.50 should encourage our wines to join us. 9-2a.m. on the night tickets "Seans" Bar or committee. Book early and try to make it early.

Athlone Sub-Aqua club are having a "Race-Nite" in the Shamrock Lodge on Friday 14th April if you haven't been to one of these they are great fun, and the club is very deserving of all our support.

Royal Canal Rally and other events see enclosed newsletter.

We had quite a large Parade on St. Patrick's day with Waterway activities well represented. S.G.S. from Ballykeeran had a very impressive float, the Sub-Aqua were garbed in their Black "Uniforms", only recognisable by their faces and Fitzers Van can carried I.W.A.I. flags and towed boat and engine.

The beautiful, but huge "St James" has changed hands to another Lough Derg, we believe, and our end of the lake has gained yet another sailing boat with Denise and Declan Griffins 26 foot G.R.P. Searider "Trudel" - whose new sails were spotted blowing on the clothes line this week! Happy and safe boating to both new owners.

Enormous "Work-In" on Pat Bensons new Barge in Wexford - with Pat himself cracking the whip very hard all during daylight hours, believing that eating, drinking, or being merry can all take place after working time!

CHANDLERY

Micron 25 is a new anti-fouling from International Paint. It is claimed Micron 25 will resist the most persistent fouling organisms. The company has a new system for painting resinglass boats. Its called Perfection 709 a two component polyurethane system with up to 10 years without any refection in protection. Drying time 3-4 hours.

Shackles with pins that cannot fall out are being made by the Frech company Wichard. As the pin is always retained in the U boat, the shackle can be operated with only one hand if necessary. The threading is bigger than the diameter of the pin so giving a stronger link.

Overheard in a train compartment from two yachting friends discussing their last years holidays. "In Lyme Regis you have to pay £2.60 a night against the wall-----" Suddenly the whole compartment took interest in the conversation.

BOAT TRAILING Here are a few general rules covering Boat /Caravan Trailing, if you want more information contact National Safety Association of Ireland, Carrisbrook Ho., Ballsbridge Dublin 4

1) Lights on a Trailer should cover - Two each of Red Rear lamps, red rear stop lamps, red rear red reflectors, Amber Direction indicators and light number plate.

2) If the trailer exceeds 5cwt in unladen weight the maximum speed limit is 35 m.p.h.

3) Towing - make sure towing device is strong enough and secure. If the trailer exceeds 15

it must, in general be fitted with brakes. In certain circumstances a trailer must be fitted with rear and/or side markings

General. If you intend to draw a boat/caravan check with your insurance company. Make sure your trailer tyres are ok and carry a spare hub bearing. Check your load periodically. Keep your distance and watch overtaking, you need plenty of room. Know your brakes and ratio between speed and stopping. Have wing mirrors fitted to your car.

To date we have 62 paid up members for 1978. It is coming up to red "X" time for those who have not yet coughed up and alas and alack you won't get an "Aerial" - so there £3 individual, £4 family

EASTER RALLY. Weather conditions dictated the Athlone Easter Rally had to travel north to Lecarrow instead of Shannonbridge. As usual a most enjoyable weekend was had by all, and Lecarrow did its usual trick - Hurricanes. At time of going to press a good few are still licking their wounds, - "Lecarrow can be heaven, With Coffey at Eleven"

BILLY ENGLISH

Billy English of Athlone who died on 17th February 1978 was a founder member of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland and a very active participant in its proceedings especially in the earlier years of its existence. His interest in boating on the Shannon was inherited from his father, the late R. S. English. Billy's own involvement was primarily in the Lough Ree area Yacht Club in whose regattas he sailed regularly for many years. With Syd Shine and the late Tommy Gallagher he built the three I. D. R. A. 14 foot dinghies in Athlone in the early 1950's that were so superbly named ACIDITY, ATOMIC AND ABILITY.

In recent years his contribution to the inland waterways of Ireland has largely been as an historian, archaeologist and antiquarian fields of activity in which he enjoyed a national reputation. He compiled a short history recording the achievements of the Inland Waterways Association in the first decade of its existence, which was originally delivered as a lecture to a special meeting of the Athlone branch on 1st January 1965 and subsequently published by order of the council. He wrote a fine Memoir of Lough Ree Yacht Club which was published to coincide with the club's bi-centenary in 1970, and two years later organised a fascinating exhibition of Shannon sailing miscellanea at Lough Derg Yacht Club as part of the golden jubilee celebrations of the Shannon-one-Design class. He lectured at the Grand Canal Festa and a contributor to Canaliana, the annual bulletin of Robertstown Muintir-na-Tire. In the old Athlone Society, whose devoted secretary he was since its foundation, and in its journal, which he edited so well, he delighted in emphasising inland waterways items, and he worked extremely hard to interest scholars and the general public in archaeological sites of Lough Ree, organising parties to visit Inch Cleraun, Inch Bophin, Hare Island, Nun's Island, Inch Mor Rindoon, Saints Island and Rathcline Castle. He was diligent in seeking the conservation of these important monuments and a fund of information on them.

To his wife Dorothy - herself the sister of Mr. Percy Fiewitt, lough keeper at Athlone - and to his five children, the branch offers sincere sympathy.

HARRY WATERS

It is with deep regret that his Shannon friends heard of the passing of Harry Waters R.I. P.

I first met Harry in 1933, when as a boatmad teenager I was allowed to apply gallons of red lead to his new boat "West Wind" which was then being built by Willie Wilson at Wards boatyard, alas now a car park at the Strand Athlone.

In those days Harry was closely associated with the Late Charlie Back house and I have many happy memories of their well attended weekend camp on Horse Island in Ballybay.

Harry was totally devoted to boats and the shannon and after his unlooked for retirement due to the Athlone Woolen Mills fire in 1940, he took up a very successful boat building career, building many fine boats including a fine new cruiser for himself when already in his seventies

He also became instructor to the Vocational Schools in Athlone and Mullingar thus passing on his considerable skills to many others.

Harry's wonderful collection of old boat gear, propellers, anchors, chains etc., was often the salvation of many a shipwrecked mariner while his helpful advice was always available to visitors and locals alike.

He crewed with me on "Mayfly", "Changsha" and "Fox" for many years where he was always the most popular crew member.

Being a keen fisherman he always seemed to know where to find the big pike or trout. When I think of Harry, I will always picture "West Wind" tucked in at anchor in unusual little sheltered bays on Lough Ree in fair and foul weather.

I would like to tender our sincere sympathy to his widow Rosie, who made the best tea on Lough Ree, his son Jack and daughter Lottie.

May he rest in the peace he loved.

Syd.



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MAY 78

Next Meeting will take place on the 5th May at 8.30p.m. in the Prince of Wales Hotel: Agenda. Minutes of Last meeting, Correspondence, Vandalism Report, Railies, Rescue Service, Report from A.G.M. Moorings, AOB.

Congratulations to Bill Child from Carrick-on-Shannon on being elected President of the Association at the recent A.G.M. and an enormous thank you to Alf Delaney and his charming wife Pat for steering us through many troubled waters, we hope Pat's present illness is of short duration. Other officers elected were Vice President Donal O'Leary, Hon Treasurer Cyril Irwin, Hon Sec. Duncan Barr. The Council consists of Dr. Bath, Ruth Heard, A. Algeo, Dr. Delaney, T. Mullaigh, J. McNemara, Fr.P. Dowling, S. Fitzsimons, D. Walsh, Col. M. Coll, D.Knight, P. Benson and all chairmen and secretaries of Branches. The Revised Constitution and Rules of the Association were adopted and Lough Corrib was elected as a new branch.

BOAT SHOW: The general opinion was that an open Boat Show is not the answer, bad enough for visitors but the elements were dreadful for the exhibitors with no visible signs of being able to give everyone a new slant on the value of their old boats. Criticism again at the lack of availability of Chandlery and the viewing of larger boats by appointment only. Most Athlone visitors considered the Galway Bay Pucan the pick of the bunch.

DROES OF SALT WATER: Tidings from Wexford.

A drama in several acts,

The Cast: Owner/Skipper,- Pat Benson.
 Radio Officer,- Mick Webb.
 Ist Engineer, - Frank Farrell.
 Helmsman, - Dec. Walsh.
 Bosun, - Damien Delaney.
 Adviser, - Sean Mathews.
 Quartermasters- Ruth Casey & Bridie Delaney.

Supporting Players: John Hasset.
 Cecil Millar.
 Richard Millar.

The Scene:Wexford Harbour.

The Time:Recently.

Props: 1 "B" Barge, Williams & Woods, 1 Avon dingy, 1 Ten Man Rubber Monstrosity, 1 Yamaha 8, 1 Sea Gull Silver Century, 1 Gale O/B, Wet Suits, Life Jackets, etc., etc.,
 Special Effects: The Sea.

Audience: The whole of bloody Wexford.

The scene opens midnight Fri. 21st April,

Under a full moon the players work swiftly making ready for an early departure for the Hook. Forecast indicates fair weather. Fuelling proceeds and necessary inventory shipped with life raft at the ready on an almost waterproofed deck. Tides and time are discussed amid an air of expectancy. Around 4 a.m. the more human retire and fight for sleep, the more successful achieving about forty winks before the general alert at 6 a.m.

With the quartermasters flitting around in night attire the voyagers struggle into wet suits and communicate in typical early morning grunts and scorts. The adviser arrives complete with his bag of tricks. It has dawned on all, the tides on the turn and time to bid adieu to the ham drum and safety of the landlubbers cage. The Perkins is kicked into life, moorings slipped and the Willywood steals away on a new lease of life.

Clipping along she heads for the open sea and for freedom. With a nod to the boat club and a sly wink at the Maritime Museum this proud Lady bore her mottled

to refloat and return from whence they came. Dissappointed yes, forlorn no, safely back it was Passport whiskey on the rocks and comfortable armchairs to watch C.T. Wilkinson and what he was he was born to do.

FOR SALE 25ft. 4 Perth Cruiser, Mahogany on Oak $\frac{3}{4}$ " hull, 46 HP 2.2 BMC Commadore Diesel, Full inventory asking £3,000. Peter McKeown c/o Aerial.

Converted Barge, lying at Athlone, Central Heated, complete with Curtains and Carpets. David Dolan - Athlone 4077.

SOLD Eat your heart out Bill Murray, Roy Redpath has bought the "Incredible Hulk" as affloating work boat, as a kind gesture he has a jeep roof for sale. Martin Rosslair has purchased Sean Fitz's Pucan, anybody got a ton of Tar, Pitch and concrete for sale!!

RALLIES: The Erne Rally is at last upon us, starting on Friday May 26th in Bellinabregh and journeying around the upper and lower lakes winding up in Canny Bridge with dinner in Lisnaskea. Sean Fitz is Commadore, first time they have had one in an open boat, 10 other open boats have been promised from Athlone, so other members rally around, music hospitality and fun assured. Camping sites laid on again this year at the overnight stops. Sean is organising the southern flotilla and would like all entrants to contact him now, so as we can organise transport, tent space and music together. Please, send in entries immediatly.

Rather sad comment on our own non-active branch with no entrant from ourselves to the Royal Canal Rally where a super night was had in Moyvally with music and fun.

Whispers whistling around the Grape Vine include mention of a barge work-in again this year, perhaps more safe moorings in quiet places, further news later but all boats will be welcome.

SAFETY: It is worth repeating that the prime cause of fatality in the cruising boats is "Man Overboard". Although the numbers are very small it would be nice if they were smaller still.

It is now generally recognised that at least one life buoy on every boat should be rigged so that it can be dropped instantly over the stern.

The life buoy is the first need in the case of "Man Overboard" while under way. Then follow the manoeuvres to get the boat back to the victim. Last and most difficult stage (especially for a family crew) is to get the water-logged victim back on board. Every skipper-owner should make sure that he can provide a boarding ladder at a moments notice. Better still is a set of permanent boarding steps.

UNWELCOME WATER; It needs only a little water in a diesel fuel system for all sorts of nasty things to happen. So far those who like to be warned beforehand in time to prevent any impending disaster, there is a little "black box" on the market that electronically senses water as soon as it enters the fuel tank. Presence of water is signalled by an audible alarm thus warning that water should be drained from the tank before starting the engine. The sensor is easily installed at the bottom of the tank and operates from a 12v or 24v supply. Costs £39.50 from Alan Taylor Marine, 17 Pitchford Road, Warsash Southampton.

HERE AND NOW/ THEN & SOON

It must be true, the Athlone Oracle told us so - that the development surrounding Portlick Castle is taking shape as a nature trail and is well worth a ramble also car parking developments are taking place by Galey Bay.

The Race night held by Athlone Sub-aqua club was a great success for the club some punters were lucky some were not but the Champagne flowed and more nights are planned.

Thanks to the volunteers who turned out on the R.N.L.I. flag day, collection came to £312 and the National Organiser Lieut-Col Brian Clark has expressed his gratitude to one and all.

CANAL DRIBBLES: The long Easter week and should have provided an opportunity to visit the Barrow (and Bill Duggan) but alas it was not to be. The lifting bridge at Monastrevin broke down again! Seems it was dropped the last few feet. There really must be a jinx on Monastrevin with all the goings on (or not goings) Some say it's all because of the priest who was hanged in the orchard during the Penal days.

For anyone wishing to use the Dublin city line, the news from the 4th Lock is that work is progressing and C.I.E. hope to have it operational again in about four weeks time.

Already good drudging job is being done on the Circular line with tons of vile muck and rubbish coming out. The promise is that a channel fit for a

Harbour in time for the Rally.

Sorry to hear that John McGarry lock keeper of the 15th is in hospital
All his many friends wish him a speedy recovery.

The Harry Rice Cup: Entries for this Cup are open to children under 16 years
and should be an essay on a Journey on an Irish Waterway. This competition is
open to all Branches and all boat owners should encourage their young passengers
to take part. Entries should be sent to Mrs Rosemary Furlong, Garden Vale, Athlone.

The Back page of this issue should be kept as a handy reference we give Rally
Dates, Cruiser Series Races and lock Times

If you see a Red "X" your sub is overdue. Please send cheque, P.O. etc., to P. Doyle
Moydrum, Athlone or to Seans Bar, £3.00 individual £4 family.

RALLY DATES

Erne Boat Rally	26th - 29th May.
Tullamore Rally	3rd - 5th June.
Lecarrow Rally	3rd - 5th June.
Shannon Harbour	16th - 18th June.
Shannon Boat Rally	29th July - 5th August.
Lough Derg Rally	7th - 12th August.
Grand Canal Festa Robertstown	30th July - 13th August.
Erne Mini Rally	9th - 10th Sept.
End of Season Shannon Bridge	29th - 30th Sept.
End of Season Carrick on Shannon	6th - 8th October.

LOUGH REE CRUISER SERIES

Sat 20th May	3.05 p.m.
Sat 10th June	3.05 p.m.
Sat 1st July	11.30 a.m. Cruise in Company and Picnic.
Sat 22nd July	3.05 p.m.
Sat 26th August	R.N.L.I. Pennant (during L. Ree regatta).

£1.00 entry fee for Series or part thereof, payable to Liam O'Carra (Sailing Sec)
Meeting Fri. 19th May 8.00 p.m. in Prince of Wales Hotel to discuss Series and
future of same.

LOCK TIMES

	<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>Sundays.</u>
April 30th - May 19	9.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 18.00
May 20 - August 12	9.00 - 20.00	9.00 - 18.00
Aug 13 - Aug 26	9.00 - 20.00	9.00 - 18.00
Aug 27 - Sept 9	9.00 - 19.30	9.00 - 18.00
Sept 10 - Sept 23	9.00 - 19.00	9.00 - 18.00
Sept 24 - Oct 14	9.00 - 18.00	9.30 - 18.00
Oct 15 - March 24	9.00 - 12.30	10.00 - 12.30

Lunch break 12.00 - 14.00 hrs. Please allow $\frac{1}{2}$ hour prior to closing
time to lock through.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

JUNE '78

The next meeting will be held in the Prince of Wales on Friday 2nd June at 8.30p.m. sharp - Agenda, Minutes, Correspondance, Vandalism Report, Rallies, Moorings, Slipway, AOB.

This is the last Aerial till September, the staff are once again off on the annual vacation. So if its news you want just do as we do, sneak around the waterfront pubs or any pub and pick up the gossip and as many free pints as you can get - like us, you'll be lucky!

To more serious items :- Vandalism has been the subject of urgent discussion in Athlone, instigated by the brance and incorporating, UDC, Co Engineer, Bord Failte, Traders IBRA and other bodies. Instruction by some Hire operators have put Athlone in a most unfavourable light and it is hoped by immediate action to put matters right by the appointment of a waterfront "Informations" officer. We urgently ask all members to help in keeping vandals in check, to report every case to the proper authorities and to make our visitors enjoy their stay. We also imported some trouble by way of two foreign visitors were seen at a distance on one of the small Islands near the Blacks on L-Ree where they wen ashore and systematiccally smash and trample to death hatching eggs and gull fledgings in their thousands, unfortunately they got away unidentified. On Quaker a lamb was killed and the hind-quarters removed for roasting. Can this disease be ever cured, or is it spreading to epidemic proportions?

DROPS OF WATER:The Willywood Eides Again: The further adventures of inland sailors at sea.

Act 2; Success: Whether it was yellow fever in the guise of prior commitment we'll never know but the Ist Engineer, Radio Officer and the Adviser were not to be had. Peter Mulvihill of S.O.D. and Pucan fame volunteered, under pressure, his services. The crew thus stood or cringed at four.

Dawn, moderate northerly, end of flood, away. At a cautious rate the bar was approached, echo sounder "blib-blib" 6',5',4',5',4',4', steady lass, steady. Blib-blib"5',5',7',9'±14', And so it went, 5 fathom line blipped, she's away. Swinging West bearing Rosslare, 4 knots, following seas abaft the beam starboard.

A cold but jubilant crew tucked into an English breakfast on the Irish sea. Ship to shore walkie talkies crackled on the half hour, "Willywood to Rosslare, over" "Will write, over". Patricks Bridge with the Saltees to port, sunshine, the infamous Hook ahead. Lady Luck smiled, a genuine smile, Hook Head a mill pond.

Swinging north Dunmore East to port, riding the ebb, knots seven. Bouyage system a blessing. An air of matter of fact prevailed as Bell Shipping Line was saluted, later a British Merchant vessel. "Where are ye bound and whats your business?". "Athlone, concrete, " the retort.

A ten minute stop at New Ross to accept laurels from Archie Corbett and on to St. Mullins. Wexford to St. Mullins 12 hours. After locking, the Willywood drank deeply on the freshwater she's almost forgotten about.

Congratulations.

HELPFUL HINTS.

Since the use of resinglass rapidly increased in boat-buildin, the maintenance of such craft by boat owners has decreased accordingly. Despite the use of this "wonder material", resinglass has its own ailments. The most alarming of which is "Osmotic Blistering" or Boat pox. This varies from micro-blisters to large sores. There are all sorts of causes, though largely guessed at, there is only one cure. Temporary repairs may be carried out by patching with resin putty. The "Horse" is a

In all cases it is best to paint the hull in vertical bands working from right to left and keeping the wet edge going.

Resin glass will burn fiercely. It is therefore practical to paint high risk areas such as galleys and engine room with Fine Retardant Paints.

L.R.Y.C.

Following a well attended briefing meeting last Friday the cruising shaps mustered for their opening race on the following day. With blue skies, little wind and revised handicaps the final placings were a tribute to Liam O'Carra sailing Sec., and Alan Algeo officer of the day, little over 3 minutes separating the first 5 boats with P. Benson getting the first place 30 secs ahead of D. Walsh and T. Abraham 3rd. Next race 10th June - anyone can win is our motto. N.B. to race, your boat must be insured for racing and bring proof of same when entering.

CONGRATULATIONS.

To Mary and Jim Breslin on their son and heir, to Nora and Johnnie McGonagall with their latest girl and to Ann and Harmon Murtagh on the arrival of their girl.

We also hear Jerry Crean, Ferbane has a bouncing Royal blue Lysander and Declan Walsh has announced the arrival of a flat bottomed barge 56m - ye gods another one.

Writing about the in thing have you noticed the number of experts around who could tell you how to put a wheelhouse on a barge, if stuck for materials Gerry Oakman has just bought a forrest - just ask for OAK, man he DEALS in the SPRUCEST woods; ok, ok, just a TEAK joke.

SHIPS CHANDLARY.

Eric Timon of Howth has purchased a 28' Lobster boat with twin 7HP. KLEVIN Recardo engines of unknown vintage but in good looking nick, wait for it, he can't get them started - the agents hav'nt any books on them. If anyone has or knows the whereabouts of a handbook on same for loan Eric will photostat and return phone Dublin 323/30

MISLAID:

I red electronic loudhailer during the Shannon Boat Rally 1977. The property of the S.B.R. Any advice as to its whereabouts would be appreciated, details to the Hon. Sec. S.B.R. '78, 7 St. Francis Tc., Athlone. Waterways media please copy.

Larry Benson's particularly attractive 14' sailing boat is for sale. She boasts a Jib and Main is A.I. (Lloyds of course) and price £500. Phone 2358.

For anyone launching a cruiser "Colm Industries" Athlone had a huge mobile crane capable of lifting 10 tons and a very reasonable cost of £20 min. charge for 3 hours, 24 hour service. No spreaders or slings so bring your own.

Something new to us anyway is a 6 inch tube of fluorescent light called "Cyalume" with two separated liquids which merge when the cylinder is bent to provide full reading light for two hours and dimming for 6 hours after. Useful for children in tents/Emergency Engine repairs in dark/ Finding a boat on lake at night or anywhere a naked flame has to be avoided. Cost £1.10 in Seans Bar.

It was with deep regret we learnt of the death of Eric Gregan last month, Eric was a member of the Athlone Branch and a great lover of the Shannon, to his Family and friends we extend our sincere sympathy. May he rest in peace.

HERE & NOW/THEN & SOON.

An amazing rowing feat was undertaken last Sunday Eoin Noonan and Jim Breslin rowed from Athlone to Lanesboro and back taking 7 hours uphill and 8 back down, no mean endeavour of 34 miles for two amateur rowers. This was not an end in itself but a practice run for an envisaged voyage by curraugh from Galway to Limerick to Athlone, a sponsored run to aid Gorta, they both looked extremely well and sunburned after it all - Well done and good luck on the next stage.

The Athlone Canal is getting a weeding and general clean up prior to major work.

If any readers are in Portumna go and have a look at the back of Portumna House at the new harbour being built by O.P.W. its a smashing job and the whole scheme will be beautiful.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

SEPT. 1978

The September meeting of the Athlone Branch will take place at 8.30 pm sharp on Friday 1st in the Prince of Wales Hotel.
 Agenda : - Minutes, Correspondence, Moorings, AOB.

For the staff of the Aerial it's like going back to school again, another nine months of hard labour. And once again the cry for help goes out, any contributions, letters, and criticism will be very welcome. For our out-of-Athlone members the events of the last three months were varied, (note the absence of the word Summer) apart from rallies which will be covered later on, the Branch were involved in a very successful Barge trip for almost 100 members of the Irish Wheelchair Association and assisted in the running of the Shannon Swim. Jim Breslin & Eoin Noonan raised over £500 in a sponsored row from Killaloe to Drumshambo for charity. Congratulations to Patsy Mullins & his fellow Anglers on the completion and opening of the shelter on the Little Yellow.

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Here & There/Now & Then

John Carty of the O.P.W. has let it be known that the crane on the jetty in Athlone is to be replaced in the near future, this is good news indeed as it has been badly missed. The O.P.W. are proceeding with the extension of the harbour at Hodson Bay and it is hoped the existing Slipway which has been covered up will be replaced. Their harbour in Portumma is well advanced and will be in use next year - a very fine job indeed.

The facelift on the Athlone Canal is well under way and can be nothing but an improvement on the eyesore it was in the recent past.

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Safety Afloat

To put right common emergencies and to have the answer to a sailor's prayer, all mariners should carry a supply of spare parts which will be relevant to his own craft. The sort of thing I had in mind was a water pump impeller - simple to fit but without one, a pump break-down can be disastrous. The outboard man should carry spare plugs and sheer pins. For the inflatable a repair kit is a must. The list can be endless so have a good look at your own boat and note the small items which could leave you stranded due to failure or breakdown and then make up your own spare parts box.

New from Ladyline - a low gas indicator. You attach it to your gas bottle and when there is two hours gas left a buzzer rings. No more frustration of running out of gas unexpectedly. Could be fitted to a 12v or 24v circuit. Cost £13 + p&p 54p.

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Drops of Water

According to the Annals of the Athlone Aerial and the memories of our cruiser brethren we've passed more water under the bridges this season since the time of our founder member Noah. 'Tis a wonder it weren't recorded how he But then again it wasn't Morgan Giles

imagine, by Mudlarks at Searriff.

Anyways, congratulations to the Corrib branch and their Commodore Chris Crowley (Popeye) for what was an interesting, enjoyable if somewhat wet rally, well worth another bash.

It is no wonder that the open boats on the rallies appear to be a vanishing species, being replaced by large and opulent river liners complete with Radar for navigating the perils of Meelick and Portumna.

Sincere thanks to the Commodores and hard working Committees of both main Shannon rallies and to the old reliables who provide the music and act as master of ceremonies. Premier Award Shannon Rally, Frank Blake of Francielle, open Boat Fergus Daly in Wicked Lady, David Killeen - Boderg Cup. Lough Derg Rally Premier award The Hughes Family in Margeritta. Open Boat Maureen Mathews.

No truth in the rumour that our treasurer bought out the Reader's Digest, his name made the pages in the August Edition article on the Shannon, God help us all now.

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Grouser's Niche

Could we, perhaps, hope that "Jasper Crud" would consult his calculator again (and some boating people) and revise the opening times of the bridge at Portumna. Some people do want to move before 9.45 am.

A previous Aerial stated the Grand Canal would be open for navigation by Easter, you will note the particular Easter was not specified. Later September, again no year stated, was the definite date. This failure to open caused wild problems to people coming from the Dublin Area, whatever about those heading eastwards. It was also stated at the A.G.M. that boats drawing 4'6" would have no problems, at variance with this optimistic pronouncement and from experience a 3'6" draft will collect bumps under many bridges etc., e.g. the viaduct near Ticknevin and the horse bridge going into Edenderry.

However full marks to the lockkeepers on the Grand for their help and courtesy.

It is regretfully noted yet again that our Germanic cousins are still aquaplaining past moored boats in their hired cruisers, thus doing absolutely nothing to encourage the spirit of detente or of E.E.C. Finally back to "Jasper Crud" again for those "Please Slow" signs so many times requested.

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Canal Dribbles

The saga of the Grand Canal continues. Latest news is that the 10th lock collapsed recently with a boat in it (they survived!). The up-to-date situation therefore is:-

2nd lock - repaired.

4th lock (the Jack Roberts Memorial) - repaired.

5th lock, 10th lock and Maquay lock (circular line) - each awaiting a pair of deep gates. Obviously, with 3 pairs of gates to be made in Tullamore, the line will be closed for many months to come. Also until the 10th is re-opened, the slip at the 9th is inaccessible. Please Minister, give C.I.E. the money and the men or our Canal will stagger from crisis to crisis.

On a more pleasant note, the aftermath of the Shannon Rally gave your Dribbler the chance to navigate the Lough Allen Canal - a trip to be strongly recommended and well worth while. Sean Nangle (of Green and Silver fame) is only too pleased to welcome boats into his canal, which is narrow and twisting in spots and requires the use of a loud horn. The lockkeeper at the 2nd lock is temporary and goes off duty at 4.30 each day. Acres Lake has a fine new jetty and behind it the Sports Complex boasts a heated swimming-pool, tennis,

Lough Ree Yacht Club

With revised handicaps the cruiser series got off to a great start, good winds and close sailing. The Winners so far are: Pat Benson, May; Irwin Caterwood, June; and Micky Martin, July; so the overall winner is anybody's guess. The next race is on the 26th August and also combines the Lifeboat Penant to close the Lough Ree Regatta, note start (2.55) and finish are at the Yacht Club.

A Cruise in Company is to be held on Sat 2nd and Sun 3rd September, meet at Yacht Club at 11am on Sat or congregate around Beam Island around 11.45, from which the assorted fleet will meander to Blackbrink Bay or thereabouts, bring enough grub to last till tea-time on Sunday. The general idea is to overnight with cruisers supplying as many berths as possible, or those who wish to camp may do so. Weather permitting, there will be a fireside sing-song and the unusual crack as the main idea is to have a stop away from any pub. All are welcome, Barges, Cruisers, Sailing Craft and open Boats.

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Vandalism

Declan Walsh and Michael Martin as the members involved on the Committee instigated by the branch to combat Vandalism on the Shannon in Athlone are to be congratulated in the manner they got the ball rolling and gathered together such a strong Committee to meet the County Manager that Michael Tumulty was appointed River Warden for the Summer. Apart from Bord Failte, no public money was involved in this venture, and the Committee will now have to fight hard to get the Government to bear the cost next and subsequent years. Both the people of Athlone, our Tourists and ourselves, owe Michael a very sincere thank you for a difficult job done with tact and diplomacy combined with vigilance. A job which was highly successful and despite a slight language difficulty was very much appreciated by our visitors as Michael acted, as was also intended, as an information officer and guide. The hours were long and sometimes late and more often than not in dreadful weather.

To all concerned our congratulations.

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Council News

Shannon Guide -- arrangements have been made to finance the publication of the new Shannon Guide on behalf of the I.W.A.I. in conjunction with Emerald Star Line.

Association Archivist Mrs Ruth Heard has agreed to act as I.W.A.I. Archivist (go on look it up in the dictionary - I had to).

Boat Show Raffle Proceeds of the raffle for the mirror dinghy raised £1161.

It was agreed that the Association should seek representation on the following Committees:

- a) Water Pollution Council
- b) Wildlife Preservation Council
- c) Midland Region Development Organisation Shannon Management Committee.

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Past & Future

It was with deep regret we learned of the death of John Quigley, Killimure, our sincere sympathy to Peter and the Family.

Congratulations to Ann and Jim Keane, a son David, brother to Carol and a future Captain of the Coill an Eo.

Congratulations to Gillian McGregor and our very own Declan Walsh who announced their engagement recently.

Welcome to Athlone to Ruth Casey from Dublin and late of A. Guinness, The Wild Geese are coming home to roost.

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ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

October '78.

The October Meeting of the Athlone Branch will take place at 8.30p.m. sharp on Friday 6th October in the Prince of Wales Hotel.

Agenda, Minutes, Correspondence, 1978/79 Events, Moorings, Archivist, A.O.B.

Here and There Now & Then.

Good news is the renewal by the authorities of the Athlone river Wardens position for the 1979 Season. Michael Tumulty will be spending part of the Winter learning German. If he is in trouble he can always dial Nein, Nein, Nein!!

Don't forget to ensure the junior members have their entries for the Harry Rice memorial in to Rosemary Furlong by the end of October.

Our wings are spreading Council have ratified the application by Scarva Branch for Membership to the I.W.A.I. their Secretary is Denis McCartney, Scarva, Banbridge, Co. Down. Scarva is on the Bann to Newry Canal, their first task is to clean up their own Section of the Canal & then set to opening the Canal for Navigation. Some members of Council will be visiting them shortly to welcome them into the Association.

The number of Members practising for the 1979 Swim are increasing Paddy Dolan & Gerry Henry have started slowly taking no chances they are beginning in 12 inches of water but Ruth Casey is really showing them how - no messing but right in at the deep end, all have one thing in common no bathing togs! no no not streaking!! but clothes and all!!!!. Watch out for Sean Mathews he does it all the time.

This Weekend sees the wind up of the water borne activities on the Shannon. The Rally to Shannonbridge along with a Work in at Terryglass on George Spiers Harbour, and the Lough Derg Rally. 6th - 8th October is the End of Season Rally at Carrick - on - Shannon - Friday get together Bush Hotel & Sailing Supper, Sat Grange River & Dinner in Silver Eel, Sunday Carnadoe Quay, all in all it sounds only great. See Notice Board in Seans.

Congratulations to Pat Benson on Winning the Cruiser Sailing Tankard for 1978, and Michael Martin 2nd. Declan Walsh 3rd.

Declan Walsh had some compensation for he won the Cruiser Lifeboat Pennant.

It was with deep regret last month say the demise of Des Barry's Father, to Des and his family we extend our very deepest sympathy, may he rest in everlasting peace.

DROPS OF WATER.

A novel idea envisaged by Peter Connellon, proprietor of the Silver Eel in Grange Lake is the provision of a vegetable patch near the harbour where you can pick your requirements and subscribe accordingly to a nearby money box. Lets face it, flower beds are pretty but you can neither lie on them or stuff your gut.

The Shannon navigation dredger what sank suddenly in despair having thought it had been forgotten about has been readopted and at present at Athlone Docks under welfare care. Members of the family did not wish to divulge the exact reason for sinking as it was felt that it would only appear in the Athlone Aerial.

So we really don't know why it sank. Admirable loyalty.

There's a clatter of new bolards fitted in Athlone Lock which will assist the smaller boat & lock staff greatly, work on the new jetty south of the bridge at Shannon bridge is processing. Thing to watch here would be excessive mooring abreast making through

The end of Season, original @ Boat Rally is believed to be on again this year. Heading south after the Athlone end of season at Shannonbridge the itinerary is as follows, Ard na Cruacha, for the bright lights, Foynas for groceries, Tarbert - Killinor trips to make a few bob for the rest of the week, and home by Mullingar. Johnny Gleeson was unavailable to confirm this as he is at present butterfly hunting in Moscow. Something about a red admiral for the rally. wgh!

Speaking of that part of the country the editor of *Rascals's* Motor Boat & Yachting has indicated interest in the Shannon Boat Rally. Emerald Star I believe are at present seeking tenders for submarine & factory ships to be kept at Portanna. So if you see odd comings & goings next season it is only our comrades on their bellies.

Laying Up.

Well its hard to believe that we have arrived at the time of year when thoughts of "Laying Up" are taking the place of cruising plans.

Many people feel that Spring Time fitting out starts at laying up time. With a restiglass hull, a good wash followed by a coat of wax polish will prevent winter grime building up to a state where you have a long hard struggle back to clean topsides.

Stanchions, Mastpit / pulpit fastenings need checking over for tightness as do cleans tabernacle etc. All deck fittings, winches and the like will benefit from a good clean followed by a spray of W.D. 40.

Lockers should be emptied and their gear inspected and taken home. Clean out and paint with bilge paint. (Damboline) Masts should be unstepped, minutely examined around stress fittings, washed and waxed to protect them while stored. If used as a ridge pole it must be adequately supported to prevent droop and possible distortion. Remove, clean and inspect rigging screws. Sails should be checked for wear and tear but repairs are best left to the sail maker with his expertise and facilities. If you feel like washing your sails, use hand-hot water and detergent - not biological. Rinse well and hang out to dry.

For Gas cookers check the pipe run from bottle to installation paying particular attention where the pipe goes through a bulkhead. Make certain that all mechanical connections are sound. All suspect parts should be replaced.

Wintertising the lee depends on the make. Give it a thorough cleaning followed by a spray of W.D. 40. (a great man is the WD40.) on all moving parts. Strip down and clean diaphragm and valves and pump mechanisms. Replace where necessary. The very least you can do for a marine W. C. is to give it a generous slug of washing-up liquid and gently pump through. This will lubricate the neoprene components.

Or you can always buy an extra bucket.

Next Month - The Power Plant.

Summer of 1978 is nearly over and its rather nice to review the special things that made life pleasanter on the boating scene.

Louis and Sheila Smith's "improvised" wine and Guinness party on their newly acquired Barge. Among the water lilies of Lough Key on the Shannon Rally - had that lovely quality that makes a group of people into a unit, and rated very highly with us.

Peg and Pat Benson had a "Thank You" outing for all who helped either manually or with the loan of equipment, in order that 31B, could undertake the journey from Westford to Athlone. 30 ; i microns left the Docks in 3 Barges to lie in the lee of yellow island for a gloriously sunny Sunday afternoon. Food for the Body; wine for the mind and music for the soul were the order of the day - children and dogs having been despatched to "Treasure" Island well away from the Adults who continued the serious work of enjoyment. Super Brass clocks suitably inscribed were presented to the men who undertook the "marine" part of the voyage while the Ladies received Barge broaches.

God help the next potential Barge owner seeking assistance with that afternoon to live up to.

The end of season rally on Lough Erne was held on what must surely have been the wettest week-end of the year. Its highlight (for us) was when an anonymous Athenian fell in the Rain & Mud returning to his boat and slithered on his bottom into 12" of water. Paddy Dolan wishing to be the recipient of the Victoria Cross, endeavoured to 'rescue' him and into the brink tumbles Paddy. Both of them recovered in the misery of their cockpit having

off your shoulders and can be reached by letter to "Hio". c/o Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

Canal Dribbles.

Is 'nt is about time we said something about That Other Canal - The Royal? Anyway, what's the difference now - neither of them are navigable! C.I.E. 's problems have called a halt to progress, and the new gates for the 13th are still sitting idly by waiting to be fitted. The job is now promised for October/November. However Ian Bath reports most encouraging progress on the AnCo project, which involves hard surfacing the tow-paths of the 11th and 12th levels at Castleknock to make them attractive to the walking public.

R. C. A. G. Royal Canal Amenity Group supply the materials from their own resources and Anco provide the labour. Finally, the Royal Canal Annual Dinner Dance will be held at the Zoo (no jokes please) on Sat. 7th Oct. 8 till 1. Tickets £4.50. Contact Ian Bath, 39 Park View, Castleknock.

Meanwhile, back on the Ranch (the Rio Grande), the gates for the 5th at Inchicore which are being made by Verolme Dockyard are due to be fitted within the next 2 weeks and hopefully the other two locks will be ready by the end of October (would you believe Christmas)? However, a recent inspection of the 10th reveals that in addition to the deep gates it awaits, vandals have now smashed and cut off the beams of the breast gates and they now lie floating pitifully in the weeds. You can't blame C.I.E. for that one!

Now is the time when Canal enthusiasts start leaving our beloved Shannon and wend their way back to Lowtown, 15th, 13th and Hazelhatch.

We appeal to all such travellers when locking through - make sure the deep gates are properly mitred before filling the lock - whether with a lock-keeper or locking yourself.

We've had enough narrow escapes!



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

Nov '78.

The November meeting of the Athlone Branch will take place at 8.30p. m. sharp on Friday 3rd November in the Prince of Wales Hotel.

Agenda. Minutes, Correspondence, Moorings, Aerial, Madigan Plaque, Boat Show, A. O. B.

On Friday October 20th 1978 the E. S. B. had the following Notice in all the daily papers "To Boat owners on the Shannon. This year, there is unusually high demand on generation from the Boards hydroinstallations. This is likely to result in a lowering of Lough Derg on the river Shannon to a level which has not been experienced in recent years.

Boat owners are advised to ensure that craft are moored or used in locations which are safe if the level of Lough Derg is reduced to 105ft. O.D. Lower levels than usual are likely to persist until January 1979. Enquiries with regard to the water levels in the Shannon can be directed to the Hydrometric Engineering, Ardnacrusha Power Station."

As far as we can gather this could mean a drop of up to 4.5ft. on L. Derg and therefore there appears every likelihood of a drop in the levels on L. Ree. It is up to each boatowner to make certain their craft is safe in the event of such a drop, also when the levels fall difficulty may be found if you wish to slip your boat out of the water. Naturally it could be a great opportunity to carry out any type of private slip or jetty work,

Laying Up - Part Two - The Power Plant.

Winterising an engine is fairly straightforward work requiring the minimum of materials and not more than a couple of hours. The prudent owner will of course check his handbook for special recommendations.

Petrol 4 Stroke Inboards:- Engine should be lightly run until working temperature is reached. Then while the engine is hot, drain the sump, gearbox and/or reduction box and refill with the correct oil. Change the oil filter, refill the waterpump greaser and sterntube greaser. Run the engine for a few minutes, turn off and drain the cooling water from block, & exhaust and leave all drain taps open. Squirt a small amount of inhibiting oil into the carburettor air-intake. Remove spark plugs and pour a teaspoonfull of inhibiting oil into each cylinder. Lightly oil threads of plugs and replace. Remove rockerbox cover and adjust tappets. Generously oil all moving parts while turning engine by hand. Check gasket and replace rocker cover. Store water pump impellor in a closed jar of fresh water to prevent drying out. Strip off and take home starter motor, dynamo or alternator. Spray voltage control unit and engine instruments and switches with WD 40 or similar de-wetting fluid.

Check and grease all controls.

Carburettors should be stripped down thoroughly cleaned, lightly oiled and reassembled.

Outboards:- Run the O/B minus its propeller in a freshwater tank at half trottle for a few minutes. Turn off fuel and wait for engine to stop. Clamp to a suitable support taking all weight off the skeg. Pull the starter cord several times to assist draining. Remove carburettor and drain tank. Remove spark plugs and pour a teaspoonful of inhibiting oil into each cylinder. Turn motor over several times to distribute oil. Replace spark plugs with lightly oiled threads. Drain gearbox & replace with fresh gearbox oil. Drain waterpump & grease all mechanical moving parts and remote controls. Store upright in a dry ventilated area.

Diesels:- Run the engine up to working temperature and then drain and refill sump, gearbox and/or reduction gear with fresh oil. Renew oil filter. Repack waterpump greaser and sterntube greaser - grease both systems.

Strin and clean fuel pump and replace fuel filters. Drain fuel tank and filters. Check quantity

serviced at a Diesel workshop. Pour a teaspoonful of inhibiting oil into each cylinder.

Since our last issue many activities have occurred involving members of the branch. The 'heaviest' of these was the casting of a 1½ ton lead keel by Damien Delaney. This effort, the first of its kind, in the Athlone area (another 1st for us?) took place 3 weeks ago. Many of the members assisted and lots more came to gape (as was to be expected). Bridie generously wineed and dined all comers, and except for some difficulty with some Scots friends who tried to mould 50p pieces - the job was a great success. The sight of 1½ tons of lead bubbling in a pot prompted some people to practice "stirring" things accompanied by the usual incantations (Bubble - Bubble toil etc.) On the lighter side the annual end of season rally took place to Shannon Bridge. The Saturday was wet and windy but about 20 boats braved the elements all with thoughts of the traditional Shannon Bridge welcome to sustain them on the journey. Sunday a Sunny one; followed the usual pattern. The 30 year old "Host" - of the pub announced plans for a holiday to the U. S. A. with his delightful Horse backing spouse - So no one is ever too old to go journeying. Most boats returned upstream on Monday but a few took the wrong turn and ended in Banagher with the "original and Best Derg Rally". As a counter attraction a "work-in" at George Speirs Harbour" was designed for those who were defaulting past it or who were never able for it at Shannon Bridge. Saturday morning was spent inspecting the site, retiring to "Paddy Pub" to overcome problems posed by wind - by closing time, that problem was solved. Sunday dawned calm & sunny amply repaying all the hard thinking on Saturday. The job meant collecting huge rocks from Carrigahorig Bay and dropping them on the outside of the Northern Breakwater to protect against winter storms. Ken Simmons's super work Barge with a digger - lifted ½ ton rocks like feathers - making the whole job possible, - future harbour builders remember. It was a pleasant, picnicing - paddling day for both adults and children.

Drops of Water.

Nov. 1978

Lough Ree. At present Lecarrow Canal is for the most part un navigable due to low water levels and silting. Barley Harbour whilst a fine edifice is in completion for safe usage. Portrun again unsuitable in its present stage. You know its food for thought that when Hodson Bay's new jetty is completed it will be the only really suitable stopover point in the seventeen miles of the lake.

When compared to Lough Derg's Terryglass, Kilgarvan, Dromineer, Garrykenedy, Scariff, Mountshannon, Rossport and now Portumna Castle. This coupled with the fact that their water levels are generally constant leaves A7 to 8 stopover points against our 1 to 3 at best.

There seems to be justification for planned development to open up the potential of the lake. Barley Harbour for the sake of a few thousand could be improved for berthage, a fraction of the initial cost. Portrun is worth looking at as it has some facilities. Lecarrow, will always be "the" spot on the lake, every effort should be made to sustain navigation throughout the season. Even with this work done the north end of the lake is undeveloped submissions and views welcome.

Tighe na Mara, At present under going a refit consisting of a steel wheel-house having removed pidgeon house and false decking. An interim program which with a coat of paint will give her a welcome lift.

Colin McGraths barge has arrived in town. Colin a student of Exorceto and later Danielle acquired her in Wexford and like all the more recent subjects for conversion followed the road to the Mecca at Athlone.

David and Itty Knight are now the proud owners of a Sailmaster 22'. Designed no doubt for another generation of Golden Hours.

Man Overboard

The cargo liner was homeward bound for Southampton from South Africa when 'man overboard' was reported and the alarm raised. The Captain put his ship about and steamed back on a reciprocal course, both passengers and crew looking for the head of John Howiwell. A pretty forlorn hope, you would think, in the vastness of the eastern Atlantic.

However, the effort and that skill and tenacity were rewarded, for Howiwell was found doing a gentle breaststroke, twelve hours after he had fallen over the side of the Veal. A reporter interviewed him on his return. 'Mr. Howiwell, what were your thoughts when you came up and saw the lights of the ship disappearing?' 'I thought I must have fallen overboard'. 'What happened then?' 'Well, I realized I was in a bit of a mess and started to swim. I think I blacked out for a bit and when I came to I was still swimming and it was morning'. 'What did you feel

life line. I looked at my right one and that was even longer, so I knew I would be picked up. 'I saw a ship once and was frightfully excited and began waving my arm frantically but then I realised the distance was a bit great - rather like trying to catch a bus in Oxford Street when you are a street away.'

'You must have been very pleased when the Vaal found you'. 'Well, I had mixed feelings, as a matter of fact. You see I took my coat off and waved that. The result was that my wallet fell out and it had £2.00 in it.'

'Tell me, Mr. Hontiwell, what were you doing the night you fell overboard.' 'Mind your own business'.

Canal Dribbles

The Winter Season has arrived - Dublin Branch held a very interesting social in Clontarf Y. C. this month. Mr. Richard Shackleton of Shackletons Mills, 12th Lock gave a fascinating slide show and talk. The "slides" were taken by his grandmother during a trip down the Shannon & Canal in 1899! Pictures shown included Meelick canal cut with not a bush or tree in sight, the old bridge at Portumna and the canal horse jetty across the river at Shannon Harbour. One shot of the public quays below the bridge at Athlone showed the shed (now Advance Tyre) and the slip, but not a sign of Sean's Bar!

Whatever we may have said about C.I.E. in the past, John McNamara & Co. in Tullamore really have things humming now. There are six pairs of gates now ready to go in - the biggest number seen together for many a long year. The 5th is repaired and complete, within the next 2 weeks both (Maquay) and the 8th will be finished, to be followed rapidly by the 10th. The 11th is getting new breast gates and the 18th has already had some necessary repairs completed. If this type of pressure could be kept up for the next 2 or 3 years, we would really have a canal worthy of the name. Dublin branch certainly seem to have chosen a fortuitous time to hold their City Line Rally next easter - it should be smooth sailing - right into Baggot St.!

Reports coming in from Autumn travellers indicate a very high level of "plastic-bag" problems, with various people seen up to their necks in cold canal water in the middle of the bog. The solution?-----Festive fence - slow down! Fast speeds pull up the plastic bags onto your prop. and what's more it's very bad for the Canal banks.

R. R.

Boat Show.

In the spring of '79 the Boat Show will be with us again and the organisers of the I. W. A. I. stand would like any Photographs, Black & White or colour, 10x8 unmounted to exhibit, and which will be returned, the theme this year is clean water. If you have any suitable material please leave in Seans Bar, (we shall arrange any necessary enlarging).

Here & There / Now & Then

The Black Perch South of Sattle Yellow has been replaced by a Black Bouy good for those who like cruising clinging to a boat.

The Lough Ree Yacht Club are doing a great job in laying a concrete launching apron which will greatly facilitate their members, this is stage one of their planned development. Council Meeting will take place in the Anno Santo Hotel, Threadneedle St., Salthill, Galway at 8pm. on Friday 3rd November.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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DEC. '78.

Harry Rice Cup. Results of the essay competition for the Harry Rice Cup are now to hand. First Place goes to Suki Webb, Athlone. Second was Alison Marcuse, Dublin. Book Token awards have been sent to Michele Marcuse, Deirdre Martin, Eoin O'Brochain and Olive Rowe for their efforts in the competition.

Our thanks are due to Rosemary Furlong for organizing and adjudicating the competition.

Presentation of the Cup will be made to Suki Webb at the next Branch Meeting on Friday 1st Dec. We would hope for a large attendance.

THE RALLY.

It was coming near July and Daddy was having trouble with the engine because he could not get it started. He had to go up the town to get easy start. He got it in a car accessory shop in the shopping centre. We went back to the boat to find a dog was on the boat and had scratched all the fibreglass and had muck all over the boat and inside to it was all on the table on the tea towel on the bunks. I took him out and put him on the key wall. Daddy put easy start on the engine it would not start so Daddy remembered he had no diesel in the tank so we got a tow down to the Jolly Mariner to get some. We got ten gallons of diesel which cost a fiver. We left the boat desolate until the twentyfifth of July nineteen seventy eight. That day we went shopping for the Rally we got scones, lemonade, fruit, meat, vegetables and other things. We went back put the shopping away. It was such a lovely day we went up the lake as far as hare island there we had a swim and a picnic we went back to the key wall and went in to the Rally opening in Seans Bar. We got our programme and the Rally plaque. There was eighty three boats on the rally including our boat which is called Moon drifter. We went back to the boat had supper and went to bed I read a book that was called Five go to mystry moor. I went to sleep and had quite a lot of pleasant dreams and one night mare about I was chased by frankenstien but wasent caught.

I woke at ten past nine. Dad and Ruth were up preparing we had breakfast and set off. Daddy had to go to work so there was only Ruth, John, Michael and Myself. We left and had niada to help us up the lake. We arrived at termonbarry in time for the cheese and wine party. There was "pinard" and "hirondelle" wine and white and red cheddar. There was also minerals for the children. I had orange. The children had a game of chasing the boys after the girls. At nine o'clock we went up to the bar. There was music there the guitar and tin whistle. At eleven o'clock we went back to the boat. We had supper and went to bed. We woke up brought Michael to Dublin as he had to go on the "Creidne" to plemoth. We came back and moved to Grange river. There I met lara Decey Alice Kileen and others. We went on a picnic up the back of the river. We had Coke, biscuits, popcorn, apples oranges and other things. We went back to the boat, We entered the mooring competition and did not win it. Later we went sailing and had dinner. We stayed onboard for the night. The next day I got up and went rowing for about half an hour with Lara and Alice. We had a race and I came second Lara came first. We went and got a few friends and played chasing. We changed it into a game of hind and go seek.

When the game was over it was seven o'clock time for tea. So I went back to the boat and had my tea went to bed finished my book and started another one which was called five on a hike together. I went to sleep and ~~taked~~ in my sleen. I woke up at twenty past twelve. I

got quite a few. We had them with our fry, in the morning. We stayed in Cootehall for another day. We entered the rescue of cruiser competition and did not do to well. We went for a sail and came in and Daddy went out for the dinghy Sailing race and because of no wind he came second last. He came in dissapointed that he came in the place he had come in. We went up to the watersplash inn and had a few drinks and I went for a walk through the fields and got a few mushrooms which Daddy ate raw. (But he did wash them') At half eleven we went to bed.

I woke up at about eleven o'clock, We had breakfast and left for Lough Kee forest park, It took us an hour and ten minutes to get there. When we arrived I met Carla and Youlaine and we went picking wild raspberries while Daddy was dropping the anchor. When it was down he borrowed a mirror sailing dinghy and went for a sail with Mister Blake for about an hour. At half past three Lara and my self went fishing. Lara caught a perch but alas I caught nothing but plenty of weeds. We came in at about half past four, and went for a rowing race I came fourth. Lara came third. I went for a sail in the lynoches boat with Daddy. We must of "gone about" a million times. We came in and had tea. And were in the cockpit when the people coming back from the comitee water battle threw water and splached us. Daddy filled a bucket and threw it at them. Daddy and Ruth made dinner and we had it at six o'clock, We went up to the pub for two hours and then we did the wash up and went to bed. I read my book for a while and then I went to sleep. At a quarter to eleven the next morning I got up had a wash and had my fry. I found Carla and we rowed over to castle island to see what it was like. It was a ruined castle with plenty of old rooms. We went back to the boat started the engine and arrived over just intime for the water croquet I had to push the ball along while she rowed. We didnt win but Carla fell in. We went to Hollandeire and Carla changed in to another set of clothes. It was now half past four so I had to go for my lunch which was a salad. When it was finished I went out sailing again with Daddy. We had a nice calm sail. At exactly six o'clock we came in cooked dinner and had it at a quarter past eight. When it was finished we went up to the bar until eleven o'clock. Then we came down went to bed. About ten minutes later Michael arrived back from the "Ceirdne" He had presents galore for everyone. He went to bed. We woke at twenty past twelve and left for Carrick-on-Shannon. It took us an hour and a half to get there when we arrived we were all getting ready our clothes for the dance. We visited the bush Hotel for an hour came back had dinner. Messed around until six o'clock and then got ready for the dance. We had a great time at the dance.

S. W.

Canal Dribbles.

Seen, heard, & noted - on the annual autumnal journey back to base in Co. Kildare.

- 1) Levels between Shannon Hbr. & Tullamore are currently very low and the journey involved a dertain amount of bumping along the bottom - but not as bad as the sad tale of the "Janney" (draught 4ft) - Les Anderson had be to towed off the sill of the 32nd by a tractor and deciding that discretion (return to Shannon Hbr) was the better part of valour, had to reverse for 2 miles before he could turn! Water is as scarce as in the Sahara!
- 2) Nice to see that Walter Mitchell's daughter and her husband have returned from England to help out with the lock and keep it in the family. Walter must be near retiring age - if there is such a thing for Lock-keepers. Incidentally, his two locks are next in line for the "Big Job" and don't they need it.
- 3) Sorry to report the death of John Pender lock-keeper for many years at the 20th Tick-nevin, only a few months after he retired. R. I. P.
- 4) Strong rumours along the canal of negotiations on a "Productivity Deal" for Lock-keepers etc., - God bless the Mark!
- 5) A minor traffic jam in Lowtown as passage is held up by repairs to 18th, 17th & 16th but hopefully only for a few weeks.
- 6) Finally, Shannon Harbour boasts a nice new addition to the fleet - Noel Murphy's Moonraker "Snow Panther" with twin turbo - charged Perkins Vard Bros. Look out!

Query: What was a beardless (and unrecognisable) Pat Henry doing in Lowtown? We have our spies everywhere.

Royal Canal. A. G. M. of the R. C. A. G. on 28th November in Phoenix Park Racecourse at 7.45p. m. The Group are still awaiting C. I. E. 's pleasure for the fitting of the gates to the 13th. Meanwhile, with lots of boats (and dingies) off the Shannon for the winter, why not take the dingey & family for a Sunday afternoon trip on the very pleasant 12th level of the Royal.

Recently Dermot and Sean assisted by umteen volunteers launched "the glider" at Peter Quigleys slip. The Glider is an "Edwardian" launch, originally from Lake Windemere, which is to be used to carry passengers on the river. She has successfully completed her first voyage, from Killinure to Athlone, Skipped by Gerry Oakman, the rest of the passengers having being "detained" in Glasson.

Paul Malloney, owner of the "El Dori" is reported to have purchased a new craft in which we hope he has many happy days cruising the River: The El dori, we believe is for sale. Speaking of Sales Michael Webb is selling a Honda 50 in p.m.o. for £75. This is ideal for any Barge owner to carry aboard for ready transport back to his car. Gerry Cox has (at last) started to rebuild his 'Eventide' - it is reported that Gerry Oakman is assisting.

The Sub Aqua club held their A.G.M. on Nov. 10th - only change in the officers, being the election of Damien Delaney to the post of Secretary - his address being Castlequarter, Coosan, Athlone. Fulfilling their reputation for attempting to obtain money they ran a race night in the Shamrock Lodge - this was a most enjoyable nights entertainment - the only problem being the demand created for stabling by all the people who "purchased Horses".

For Sale.

17ft Marine Ply 3 Berth Cabin Cruiser complete with 18 H. P. Johnston outboard. Tel. Tulsk 3.

Boat Show.

We still require Photographs depicting "clean Water Campaign" The Stand will also reflect 25 years of Archivist in regard to our Waterways.

Obituary.

To Declan Walsh and his family we would like to express our very sincere and deep sympathy on the sudden death of his mother. May she rest in everlasting peace.

General.

The following is the number of boats that passed each station during 1978 up to and including October.

		Monthly breakdown (not including Battlebridge)	
Knockvicar	5750 + 2.1%	March	759 + 183.2%
Albert	7628 + 7.3%	April	1731 - 86.7% (Phone & Telex dispute.)
Roosky	6814 + 6.9%	May	6449 + 38.9%
Termonbarry	5494 + 13.2%	June	7321 - 4.5%
Clondra	1000 - 23.5%	July	10071 + 7.2%
Richmond	479 + 0.4%	Aug.	11332 + 13.5%
Athlone	6963 + 16.2%	Sept.	6115 + 13.3%
Victoria	6406 + 17.6%	October.	1893 + 20.6%
Portumna	5183 + 15.1%		
Battlebridge	551 -		
Total	46268 +9.6%		

The E. S. B. Policy to run the Shannon Hydro Station to its maximum, coupled with the low rain fall in Sept. and Oct. had left the Shannon, north of Athlone, at a very low level. This resulted in boat owners being unable to slip their boats out of the water for wintering on the land. However, the rains came and with all but one gate at Athlone Sluices closed the result was a rise of one foot in the level of Lough Ree up to 20/11/78. On that date the depth of water at the end of the concrete at the Harry Rice Slip was 3ft 6ins and rising daily. Those who wish to slip their boats may do so now.

Paddy Doyle our Sec. for the past two years has tendered his resignation due to business commitments, Paddy carried out his duties quietly and efficiently during his stint for which we wish to express our gratitude. In her capacity as Asst. Sec. Eileen O'Brien will carry on for the time being.

We apologise for the illegibility of the Aerial in the last two issues, this was beyond our control but we hope matters have now been rectified.

A Meeting of the Athlone Branch will be held in the Prince of Wales Hotel on Friday 1st Dec.