



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

January '79.

The Annual General Meeting of the Athlone Branch of the I.W.A.I. will be held in The Prince of Wales Hotel on Friday 19th January at 8.30p. m.

Agenda. Minutes of Last Meeting.
 Chairmans Report.
 Hon. Secretaries Report
 Treasurers Report
 Election of Officers
 Election of Shannon Boat Rally Committee
 Election of Aerial Staff
 Venue of Branch Meetings
 Any other business.

Motions to be included in the Agenda should be submitted to the Hon. Sec. Mrs E. O'Brien not later than 12th Jan.

As you can see from the above notice the next meeting of the Athlone Branch is the A.G.M. As Chairman for the last three years it is not my intention to seek re-election. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to thank all who gave me their help and advice, and to those who by acting on various sub-committees made life so much easier. In addition the assistance, courtesy and in some cases the financial help extended by Lakelands Tourism, Athlone U. D. C., O. P. W. to the Branch. B. H.

Idle Thoughts (including Drops of Water

Having received, like so many other old salts, christmas presents of various useful & useless forms it makes one wonder why items with life saving features and safety equipment carry 20% V. A. T.

The sun was shining on crystal snow and frost when we all set off on a short Sunday morning barge trip:- up to the Yacht Club, on navy blue water, a (desert) weather of lap-wings and oyster catchers out grubbing! "numberless" cups of tea to heat both the tummy and hands. Colours beyond belief, making us all wonder why we don't "short winter hop" more frequently. Today our very small gold-fish pond is frozen to a depth of 3" tempting Frank Farrell, Jack Roberts, Baby George and others on to its surface, and proving watching olympic ice skaters on T.V. qualifies no one. Impossible to believe, come spring, the 150 Gold fish will be darting around again and encouraging the Heron to call for its dinner - How do they survive?.

Apropos O. P. W. taking over the Canals from C. I. E.:- Think of walking down Main St., Mullingar, (circa 1937) in sea boots, saluting the monument in the Square erected to honour John Carty and Ian Bath.

Billy Henshaw and the family hoped to have free travel with C. I. E. on the canals in their new boat but the Coosan adventurers will not be deterred by ownersh'p of a national right.

Duncan, why are 50p pieces multisided? To enable them to be wrenched from Scotsmens hands! Our Five Punt Prize this month to R. Walsh.

Pat Benson requires for the floor(or ceiling as it is called in a Canal boat) is a maple floor preferably being thrown out, all information would be gratefully received.

Our Sincere sympathy are extended to Derry O'Dowd and his family on the death of his Father Tom, and to the family of Sean Nangle Lock keeper at Battlebridge may they rest in everlasting peace.

Canal Dribbles.

As forecast exclusively in last Months Aerial, the Government decision on the future of the Canals has now been announced. The official Statement, which your Dribbler obtained from the Government Information Bureau, is so very carefully and exactly worded that we think it worth while quoting it verbatim for the information of all members:-

"The Government has given approval for the transfer of the Grand Canal System and the Royal Canal from C. I. E. to the office of Public Works and the development of the Grand Canal System for navigation and general amenity purposes. The Royal Canal is to be developed as resources permit by the carrying out of improvement works at selected stretches. The nature and financing of the works involved will be a matter for discussion between O. P. W. and Bord Failte and, where appropriate, local authorities and voluntary organisations. Legislation will be necessary to give effect to the transfer and the Minister for Tourism and Transport will introduce a Bill for that purpose in due course".

This decision is greatly to be welcomed, assuming of course that it implies the allocation of a greatly increased budget for the development of our hitherto much neglected Canals. Let us also hope that the necessary Bill is introduced soon and given a reasonably high priority in the legislative procedure.

I. W. A. I. Dublin Branch Supper Dance with Syd Shine and his Band on Friday 26th Jan in Trinity College Boat Club, 9-1.30 £3.50. Tickets available from B. Hannin or member of Dublin Branch.

Born to I. W. A. I. Newsletter a fine healthy bouncing son, Carrick Waterlines, a brother of the Aerial, may he have a long life and prosperity.

Chandlery.

Treatment for wooden decks "Decks Olje" was developed some 15 yrs ago to preserve the wooden Decks of Norwegian deep sea fishing fleets. A second type of "Decks Olje" (D2) has now been developed which gives a gloss finish. The D1 is used as the saturator and is applied by brush virtually to fill the wood. The D2 provides a sturdy gloss finish. It is not a varnish and it is claimed will not crack, peel, craze or go white. D1 and D2 can be applied to any known yachting wood. Antifouling can be applied after 48 hours to D1 where it has been used below the waterline. This could solve a lot of people's problems. Further information from Gædon Marine Ltd., P.O. Box 11, Colchester, Essex.

Magnetic Security:- Onward Marketing Co. of Bedford can now supply a Pick-Proof padlock which can only be opened with a special magnetic key. Ordinary magnets will not work and there is not key hole to be picked. Heat treated for strength, the padlocks come with a short or long shackle at £3.50 and £3.75 each complete with two "keys".

New Formula Jizer now comes in a handy aerosol can (400g for 86p) a quick spray and grease and tar will be removed. Can be used on almost anything that requires degreasing.

Council Members please note, Council Meeting on Friday 9th February at 8.30p.m. in the Jolly Mariner.

Recent articles on the Shannon have appeared in the Readers Digest and National Geographical Magazine, Good Reading and nice to have.

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Larsaw is the name of a Ship
Pat Benson was her absent skip
She really is nice
Along comes the ice
And Stuck fast She was in its grip

Tony Towed the boat from the Drink
And Saved it from going down the Sink
Then Damian the Mate
Who didn't hesitate
With a patch put her back in the Pink

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Then the Sun Shone on Lough Ree
Three inch bergs moving there be
The Cat gets a Gash
But slick as a flash
Come Tony Chat and Damian D.



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FEB '79

The A. G. M. was held on Friday, 19th January. The attendance was poor, less than 20% of the membership. The outgoing officers presented their reports, which were adopted. The usual keen competition for the elections was much in evidence. The losers are as follows:

Chairman	Pat Benson
Vice Chairman	Michael Martin
Secretary	Eileen O'Brien
Treasurer	Sean Fitzsimons
Asst. Secretary	Ruth Casey

An almost new aerial staff was elected and they hope that members will forward any news they hear or raise any issue they feel strongly about. Out of town members it's up to you to prevent us becoming parochial.

The coming year is the 25th Anniversary of the Association which was formed at a public meeting held in the Crescent Ballroom, Athlone, in 1954. It is intended to hold an Anniversary Cruise in Company on Lough Ree on the Whit Week-end. Suggestions for this Cruise would be welcomed by the sub-committee elected to organise it.

It is hoped to commemorate the founding of the Association in a number of ways this year. Any ideas you may have would be helpful, particularly suggestions for a major project which could be undertaken by the branch.

The Annual Dinner Dance is being organised by a sub-committee and it is hoped they will have some information at the next meeting.

Some time ago members were asked to forward photographs suitable for the boat show stand - there has been no response. Surely there must be one member somewhere with an active camera. Next meeting last date for submitting same.

I would like to make a very strong appeal to you (yes you) to come to branch meetings this year - start right away, come to the meeting on Friday, 2nd February.

To end on a kinder note, I overheard a conversation recently where it was suggested we should have about four social gatherings during the Winter - maybe the Secretary will put this on the Agenda for the next meeting. Another item on the Agenda is the production of a short history of the Association covering the first 25 years, also ways and means of increasing public awareness of our existence.

See you Friday, 2nd February.

Pat Benson.

Next Branch meeting - Friday, 2nd February, 8.30p.m. in the Prince of Wales Hotel.

AGENDA:

- Minutes
- Matters arising
- Apologies
- Correspondence
- Social Evenings
- Public Awareness

Helpful Hints and Gadgets.

One of the most useful tools which I have come across in a long time is a "Red Devil" product called Dragon Skin. It is a super hardened steel sandpaper which will shape any D. I. Y. material. The Dragon Skin is perforated by five edged steel burrs at each hole. It cuts equally in all directions with its 750 cutting edges per square inch. It zips off old paint or varnish with amazing speed and effect. The cuttings go through the Dragon Skin thereby preventing "clogging up" resulting in the same skin lasting for ages. Great value at 35p at most hardware stores.

London Boat Show.

As the forty inland mariners converged on Dublin Airport on Thursday, January 4th, all BEA Flights to London were cancelled because of conditions at Heathrow. The Aer Lingus Official suggested that we travel by boat to Liverpool and from there by train to London. The forty mariners answered in one voice "travel by boat? You must be joking." So the forty were boarded out in the International Hotel with an evening meal all on the house. We were flown to Liverpool at 08.50 hours. There was time for a meal and exploration of the two fine cathedrals of that city. Departure from Liverpool at 13.00 meant arrival at Heathrow 14.00. By coach to Hotel Ivanhoe and we had arrived.

Members of the group went their own ways - some shopping, some "resting", some in search of show tickets. A number of us got tickets for Victoria Palace on Friday night and for Sadlers Wells on Saturday night. Our visit to the Boat Show was on Saturday morning. It would take a few days to see all the stands in detail such was the extent of the display. New craft prices were very high with the minimum of equipment included. There is a lot to be said for buying a secondhand well-equipped boat either here or in England.

Chandlery too was quite expensive. There is a comprehensive catalogue from Captain O. M. Watts Ltd. complete with prices available for inspection at "Sean's Bar", Athlone, for those who might be interested.

Sunday morning was spent sight-seeing in London. About ten of the party returned to Dublin Sunday Evening, while the remainder arrived on Monday afternoon (by choice). The trip was well worthwhile and great value at £68. Our thanks are due in no small way to Anne Fitz. Also to the Aer Lingus Officials, Mr. McCabe in particular, who looked after us so well at Dublin Airport. What about the Mirage Holidays to the Greek Islands next year Anne?

For those of you who do not have an oven in your boat, or own a pressure cooker, here is an easy to cook complete meal. It takes a small amount of preparing, but once it has started to cook, you can pop up to the pub for a few jars. (you may need them)

Ingredients. 2½ lbs. rib roast or pot roast
 3 onions
 1lb. carrots
 3 sticks of celery
 ½ pint beer, stock or water (according to taste).

Method. Brown the meat on all sides in a little oil or fat, using a heavy saucepan. Slice onions and fry for one minute. Add carrots, celery and stock, water or beer. Season well, cover pot with a tight fitting lid and cook slowly for 2 hours on a very low heat. If the lid does not fit tightly, use a double thickness of greaseproof paper or tin foil.

Hints that help - if everything sticks to the pot and burns in, soak the pot in cold water with plenty of salt added.

Boat Show 1979 - R. D. S.

As you may already know Boat Show 1979 is on from February 27th to March 4th in the R. D. S. Special emphasis is being given to the Clean Water Campaign on the I. W. A. I. Stand this year, and you are asked to submit good quality photographs with a water theme in mind for display on the stand. Photographs will be returned after the Boat Show and, as a bonus, enlarged copies of the photographs used will also be returned. Don't forget to put your name and address on the back of your photographs.

Volunteers to man the stand should indicate when they would be available before or at the February meeting.

We see that the Irish Independent are running an essay competition with 3 Express Sailing Dinghies to be won. The competition is open to post primary students in three sections

- (i) Under 14 years on January, 1st 1979.
- (ii) 14 years but under 16 years on 1st January, 1979.
- (iii) 16 years and over on 1st January, 1979.

Entrants are invited to submit an essay not exceeding 1,000 words in Irish or English on one of the following subjects before February, 13th 1979:

- (i) What I would do if I had my own boat
- (ii) Ireland's fishing industry
- (iii) A holiday on Irish Waterways.

Details and entry forms are in the Irish Independent. Prizes will be presented at the Boat Show. So get at it Boys and Girls.

"Race Nite"

Athlone Sub-Aqua Club are running a "Race Nite" on February 10th in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel to raise funds to buy a search and recovery boat. These have been very successful in the past and a most enjoyable night is guaranteed.

Congratulations to Berchs Hannin on the arrival of an 18½ ft Alacrity 3 berth sailing cruiser. Cases who intends "walking away" with the sailing cruiser series this year.

Congratulations also, to Louis Sleator on his acquisition of the barge "Linquenda" (late of Mount Shannon). Louis has her at present in Athlone and he intends altering the superstructure in the near future.

For Sale. I. D. R. A. 14 No. 25. Inventory includes 2 sets of sails, spare mast and plastic cover. £480. Boat presently in Athlone. Contact - Christa Lilge, 42 Friary Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Telephone 01 886615.

I. W. A. I. A. G. M. The I. W. A. I. A. G. M. is to be held on March 2nd, in Buswell's Hotel, 25 Molesworth Street, Dublin, 2.

Rumours of U. F. O's being seen under the Railway Bridge during the Christmas period were discredited when it was found that all the flashing lights, etc. were due to Pat Benson putting a new steel superstructure on the 31E.

Jim Breslin tells us he intends to have his fleet of La Belle, Albatross and Phoenix available for hire from July onwards.

Portaneena Iceberg watch are happy to announce that Larsaw was taken out, hole and all, at the weekend.



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MARCH '79

The attendance at the February meeting included some faces we had not seen for some time - thank you very much for attending and keep up the good work. Those of you who were unable to attend, please make a special effort on the 2nd of March. The March meeting clashes with the A.G.M. of the Association to be held in Buswell's Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin. This clash is deeply regretted by your Officers; it appears that the Council when fixing the A.G.M. decided on the above date even though they are aware that Athlone Branch meetings take place on the first Friday of each month. This was taken to facilitate country members who wish to attend the A.G.M. on Friday night and the Boat Show on Saturday.

At the February meeting it was decided to publish a history of Athlone Branch's first 25 years. A sub-committee was elected and publication is due in early June. Please contact Michael Martin if you have material you think suitable (photos, etc.)

The Dance Committee have arrangements well in hand for the Annual Dinner Dance (see below). A social evening has been arranged for Friday, 23rd March, at 8.30 p.m. in Killeagh Park Hotel, consisting of a slide show and supper.

A discussion concerning involvement in a major project is to continue at the next meeting. The itinerary for the Anniversary Cruise has been fixed - see details below.

Finally, I would like to thank those who wrote to us, giving encouragement and airing their views.

Pat Benson

Next Branch Meeting, Friday, 2nd March, 8.30 p.m. in the Prince of Wales Hotel.

AGENDA:

Minutes
Correspondence
Moorings
Projects
Plaque
History
Any other business.

L.R.Y.C. A.G.M. was held in the Jolly Mariner on Sunday, 11th Feb. The Officers for the coming year are: Commodore - Peter Mulvihill; Vice-Commodore - H. Murtagh; Rear Commodore - E. Hunter; Secretary - D. O'Dowd; Treasurer - Comdt. Flan. Cleary; Sailing Sec. - Peter Quigley. Tankards for the Cruiser Series were presented to Pat Benson, Irwin Catherwood, Michael Martin and Declan Walsh.

The A.G.M. of Lough Derg Branch of I.W.A.I. was held on 16th February. Officers for 1979 are: Chairman - Bill Knight, Golden Hours; Secretary - Tom Duffy, Lotus Two; Treasurer - Richie Donoghue, Brijella; P.R.O. - Nick Coady, Catalina, outgoing Chairman. Commodore for the 1979 Rally is Frank Van Den Berg, Argent Breach.

Nick Coady's address is Bank of Ireland House, Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary, for all your queries on Lough Derg affairs.

Athlone Branch Annual Dinner Dance will be held in the Prince of Wales Hotel, Friday 20th April, 9 p.m. sharp. Music will be supplied by Syd

Helpful Hints and Gadgets

We recently featured a Scandinavian replacement for marine paint and varnish, called "Deks Olje" 1 and 2. There was much interest in the product and as a result we have received some literature on the subject. D1 is used to saturate the wood. This penetrates the timber to some depth, thus hardening and sealing. Up to a litre and a half per square metre of D1 may be used on new timber. After 48 hours D2 may then be applied at the rate of one coat per day. Prices ex Colchester are - 3 litre D1 = £9.90 and 3 litre D2 = £12.50. Full details may be had from the Aerial Staff.

If you've ever spent a wet day cooked up in a small cabin with hatch closed and duckboards in place, the feeling can be claustrophobic. A simple help for this situation is a spare duckboard cut from a piece of perspex. A disc type ventilator cut in the perspex completes the transparent duckboard. Result - light, visibility and air circulation.

This month's compliments must surely go to the organising committee of Dublin Branch's 25th Anniversary Dance held in Trinity Boat Club on January 26th. A most enjoyable evening was started with a buffet meal of 57 varieties of meat, poultry, savoury rices, coleslaws, deserts, all topped off with a magnificent birthday cake. Lively music with the big band flavour was supplied by Syd Shine and the boys. Athlone Branch with words by Sean Fitzsimons, were well represented we are happy to report - Well done Dublin Branch.

Syd Shine proudly announces the arrival of "Vixen" to the Athlone Watergate. "Vixen", a baby sister to Fox, is a 27 ft. Vosper harbour launch, 7 ft. beam drawing 2 ft. She was originally used on harbour duties in Wexford and later in Howth. She is built in mahogany throughout with clinker topsides and double diagonal bottom. Syd is presently giving her a general overhaul and doing some modifications to have her ready for Summer cruises on Lough Ree. He is looking for an inboard diesel engine and gearbox 10-15 H.P. Also a 12-14 inch propellor. If you can help out with any of these items, please contact Syd at (0902) 4282.

N.B's.

Please note that the new address of the Hon. Sec. of Corrib Regional Branch is: Adrian J. Ryder, 44 Beech Court, Grattan Road, Galway.

The water level on Lough Ree and in the river below the lock at Athlone has dropped considerably in the past few weeks. The level at Athlone lock is 8 ft. at present. We hear that Lough Derg is at low summer level - so check your moorings.

Subscriptions are now due - £3.00 single or £4.00 for family membership - to the Treasurer C/O Sean's Bar, please.

Boat Show '79 is on in the R.D.S. from 27th February to 4th March. If you can be available to man the I.W.A.I. stand, please contact Terence Mallagh or any of the Dublin Branch Committee.

Who ever heard of a rally in February - well the first in the "Sunseeker" series was held on Sunday, 18th February with competitors from Ireland, England and Scotland taking part. Pike fishing and hot whiskey making competitions were held en route from Portaneena to Athlone and back to Portaneena, with a huge prize-giving ceremony in a well known establishment in Glasson - Hardy men!

Letters to the Editor

Sir,

I believe this year's Shannon Boat Rally intends to visit the Tinn

Canal Dribbles

Here to dispel the rumours that he had retired to a pool hall and juke box parlour in Pollagh is Canal Dribbler himself -

Where was Canal Dribbles last month, we can hear you asking? (You really noticed?) Well, at enormous expense (Your subs have gone up) the Editorial Staff despatched your Dribbler to report on European canals for our readers. As always the Aerial is first in the field and ahead of the opposition (what opposition?).

The canal which runs through Bruxelles is the Canal de Charleroi a Bruxelles and is used almost exclusively for commercial traffic. Here our Dribbler saw "peniches" 4 times the size of our familiar barges passing through locks where not merely are the sluices electrically operated, but the gates are moved by hydraulic rams and the lock-keeper sits in his little hut and presses buttons! But the "piece de resistance" was a visit to the inclined plane at Ronquieres. Here the new structure together with its access canal replaces 16 locks on the old line up the Samme valley. Over a distance of more than $\frac{3}{4}$ mile it lifts the navigation through a height of 222 ft. Imagine, if you can, a wedge-shaped tank larger than Athlone lock running up and down on rails. Two of these travel on parallel tracks and each is supported by 236 wheels. The barges enter through twin guillotine gates similar to Ardnacrusha, one of which retains the water in the level and the other is part of the travelling tank. The lock-keeper (if that's the right name) travels with the tank in a control tower. Interestingly enough, when we visited it on a Sunday, the only traffic was a visiting cruiser and the entire monster went into action for him. If you think about it, you will realise that it uses practically no water at all, so the water that has to be piped down to supply the lower levels was tapped by the ingenious Belgians to run a small power station on its way down, which is sufficient to run the whole thing for free with some to spare! The inclined plane is a major tourist attraction with viewing tower, platforms and souvenir postcards.

Meanwhile back on our own more modest waterway, some good news is that the Muintear na Tire Hotel in Robertstown is undergoing some major repairs with the assistance of an AnCO work project. The public entertainment rooms are getting new joists and floors - the work should be finished in the Spring.

Arrangements for Dublin Branch's Easter Rally on the Circular Line are well in hand and the organisers have received a boost with the news that the Tanaiste and Minister for Finance, George Colley, has agreed to open the Rally on Easter Saturday at Grand Parade.

Judging by the feedback from last month's recipe, we have decided to give you another quick and easy meal in minutes, with little preparation and expense. Ingredients for 4 servings.

1 lb. Minced Beef	2 Tablespoons of oil or dripping
4 Tablespoons Breadcrumbs	1-2 Tablespoons water or stock
1 Egg	1 Pkt. Oxtail, Mushroom or Thick Veg. Soup.
1 Chopped Onion	Salt and Pepper
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Mushrooms (optional)	

Method: Mix together the beef, breadcrumbs, chopped onion, beaten egg, with the water or stock (or water and tomato ketchup). Season to taste. Shape into about 24-26 small balls, with wetted hands. Brown in hot oil or dripping, add mushrooms (if using). Make up the soup, add the meat balls. Simmer gently for 15-20 minutes. Serve in a border of boiled rice or mashed potatoes.

You won't believe what I'm going to tell you but I met this man in Sean's Bar who said he wasn't going on the 5 day 25th Anniversary Cruise - well, I nearly dropped my Dubonnet, ooh, I said, you'll be the only one left dear, what with the huge get together in Sean's Bar on Thursday, 31st May and the cruise north around Inch Turk and down to Portlick on Friday; and the cruise to Saint's Island on Saturday, 2nd June; then cruise to Rindoon for lunch and on to Barlev Harbour on Sunday: Inch Clearaun for



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APRIL '74

I would like to apologise again for the clash between the last Branch meeting and the A.G.M. of the Association. This no doubt was the cause of the small attendance, a situation which in turn led to the deferment of a number of important matters which I felt warranted the backing of a larger percentage of the membership. Among these was the question of a major project and the moorings. Some decisions were taken, and one of these was a commitment to bring some of the pupils of St. Hilda's School for the Mentally Handicapped on a river outing. Also, a commitment was given to help in the organising and running of the Shannon Festival Week. A request for support from Corrib Branch in their objections to a new bridge was referred back to them for details of location, height, etc. The various sub-committees reported back and the current position is as follows:

- Annual Dinner Dance - all details finalised.
- Cruise in Company - itinerary fixed, Commodore appointed, posters printed and brochures in production.
- Branch History - layout decided, commitment to write articles received from a number of people.
- Madigan Plaque - still awaiting drop in water level.

The present postal dispute has meant that a large number of our members did not get their copy of last month's Aerial. Hopefully, they will receive this one. Again apologies.

Please try to make the next meeting on Friday, 6th April, 8.30 p.m. in the Prince of Wales Hotel.

AGENDA:

- Minutes of last meeting
- Matters arising
- Correspondence
- Project
- Moorings
- Madigan Plaque
- St. Hilda's Outing
- Electricity, Shannon Harbour
- Reports from Sub-Committees
- Festival Week
- Any other business.

P. Benson

Signs of Spring

Spring is here and signs of a new season are already to be seen on a walk along the docks and promenade. The "Glider" completes her trial run and is ready for her trip up the canal for the Dublin Branch Circular Line Anniversary Rally. "Diddley Idle" lies in waiting for her new owner, alas no more to resound to "the bog below Belmullet in the County of Mayo". Frank is taking up sailing (under the same name of course). The morning coffee conversation is now about sanding, painting and curing condensation. That familiar duo Patch and Strings playing on the quay wall with two Corgis - two Corgis? - there must be royalty around. The Coill an Eo loading repainted

The continuing trend towards the quieter art of cruiser sailing has prompted local boatbuilder, Peter Quigley of Killenure Point, Glasson, to expand his production into this field. Peter says that the potential demand is there and he intends to fill the need with the new 28 ft. Family Cruiser from Calvic Craft. He will initially import two hulls and superstructures for completion at his workshops. The first order has been placed by Dr. Tony Claffey of Fardrum, Athlone, with a completion date in early August.

The 28 ft. Family Sailer has a beam of 10 ft. 2 inches and a twin keel draught of 3 ft. 10 inches. Full standing headroom allows live-aboard comfort throughout. She will sleep 6/7 adults in two separate cabins including an enormous saloon with loo to port and hanging locker to starboard. However, layouts may be partially designed by customers. Therig is Bermudan. The engine being fitted by Peter is a 12 H.P. diesel from Hydro Marine with stern tube and shaft drive. The basic hull and superstructure will cost £4,200 approx. and the completed craft, about £13,500. However, the Family Sailer may be purchased at any stage of completion.

Quigley Boats are also producing their own G.R.P. lake boat from a mould designed by Peter for Lough Ree. This new 17 ft. by 4.ft.10 in. craft, which is now on display at Killenure Point, is very keenly priced for its introductory sale to the public. We wish Peter every success in this new venture.

L.R.Y.C. Cruiser Series - Meeting in Jolly Mariner 8.30 p.m. on 5th May. Those interested please attend.

Item from 'Progressive Architecture' November 1978

"Barges recycled into real estate. One off beat yet profitable preservation project currently underway in San Francisco involves the recycling of 70 25 ton barges for use as personal or commercial properties. The 30' x 60' barges, which float in only 2 ft. of water, are fireproof, watertight (obviously) and contain 1,800 sq. ft. of potential floor space. Marketed as floating facilities or shells for structures by Sam Kalman and Co., the barges have a negotiable price tag of \$10,000 each.

Once part of the now defunct Pacific Far East Lines, the barges were built in the early 1970's as part of a program to speed up cargo unloading in non-modernized ports. Rather than unload the cargo into small boats the cargo filled barges were taken off the ship and floated into the harbour.

So far, ten of the barges have been purchased, eight by a marina and two by Michael Ralleigh, who "thought it would make an interesting project to redesign them". Raleigh plans to float one in San Francisco Bay for use as a second residence, but he's not sure what the other will eventually become. "Anyway," he says "I thought it a good price for that amount of space."

Should we tell them its been done before!!!!

Slide Show

A most enlightening insight into how the Shannon looked in 1890 was enjoyed by Athlone Branch I.W.A.I. in Kilcleagh Park Hotel on Friday 23rd March, when Mr. Shackelton presented a lecture and show of slides taken by his grandmother, an archaeologist, who made a trip from Lough Allen to Limerick photographing and recording the various items of archaeological interest along the river and on the islands of Loughs Allen, Key, Ree and Derg. The clarity and quality of the slides was truly remarkable. The show left many of us with the urge to go back to the various places to see just how much change, good or bad, has taken place since then.

R.N.L.I. Flag Day

The Athlone Branch of the R.N.L.I. will hold their Annual Flag Days

Canal Dribbles

A recent visit to Mullingar gave the opportunity to have a look at the Royal Canal there. Those of you who drive rapidly through the town may not realise that Mullingar Harbour lies (in two equal halves) on each side of the bridge as one leaves on the main road to Carrick. Containing a good level of water (from the summit feeder Lough Owel) the harbour presents quite a pleasant appearance with well-kept stone-work, canal buildings, and even its own dry-dock. The canal approaches Mullingar in a big sweep on a high embankment, which covers a small aquaduct and a pedestrian tunnel, which at the time of our visit was as busy as a railway station underpass!

Readers contemplating Springtime navigations on the Grand may like to know the current repair situation. The news from C.I.E. is good. The laying of Corporation pipes between the 5th and 6th is complete and the level is full. By the time this appears in print the repairs to the 3rd, 13th, 30th and 31st should be almost complete and your scribe has been informed that the season's work on the Main Line will then be finished. After that work will commence on 7 or 8 locks of the Barrow Navigation, which surely must now require some urgent repairs. Next Winter the 11th, 16th, 18th and 35th of the Main Line are due for attention. Full marks to C.I.E. for what must be a record number of locks repaired in the past 15 months.

Offaly Branch report that their Tullamore Rally is taking place as usual on Whit week-end and they are hoping for a bumper entry from the ever-increasing number of boats using the canal.

Dublin Branch claim to have at least three entries from Dunlaoire for their Easter Rally - a great boost for Terence Mallagh's Ringsend Marina Project.

Tailpiece - Looking up at the Officer Board sitting at the top table during the A.G.M. of the Association (held during Boat Show week) one wit was heard to remark "Did you ever hear the story about Paddy the Irishman, Paddy the Englishman, and Paddy the Scotsman?" !!!

King of the Castle

Athlone Boat Club is currently running a "King of the Castle" election as a fund-raising campaign. Candidates for election are Liam Dwan, Sean Fitzsimons, Anthony Magliocco, Tom Moore, Seamus O'Brien and Brendan Shine. Ballot papers are 10p each and the proceeds are to benefit Athlone Boat Club, Athlone Hospital Committee and a local charity, to be drawn from a list of local charities by the King on his coronation on Sunday, 22nd April, 1979. The Boat Club intend making this an annual event.

Don't forget

Athlone Branch I.W.A.I. will hold their annual dinner dance on Friday, 20th April, at 8.30 p.m. in the Prince of Wales Hotel. Music by Syd Shine. Tickets available from Sean's Bar - phone 0902 2358 or from Bridie Delaney - phone 0902 4288.

I.W.A.I. Council meeting Saturday 21st April in Jolly Mariner, Athlone 11.00 a.m. (sandwich lunch provided)-----

This month we include free of charge a tear off supplement of dates and lock times for your information.

Did you hear about the fellow from Carrick who thought that Hertz Van Rental was a Dutch Painter.

Supplement

APRIL	Friday, 6th	R.N.L.I. Flag Day (Athlone)
	Saturday, 7th	" " " " " "
	Friday, 13th - Monday, 16th	Dublin Branch Circular Line Anniversary Rally
	Friday, 20th Saturday, 21st	Athlone Branch Annual Dinner Dance I.W.A.I. Council Meeting, Jolly Mariner, 11.00 a.m. Athlone
	Saturday 28th Sunday, 29th	Royal Canal Long Level Rally " " " " " "
MAY	Saturday, 5th	Visit to Russborough House; and L.R.Y.C. Cruiser Series Meeting, Jolly Mariner 8.30 P.M.
	Saturday, 19th Sunday, 20th	L.R.Y.C. Cruiser Series 1st Race Royal Canal Twelfth Level Outing.
	Saturday, 26th - Monday, 28th	Erne Rally
JUNE	Friday, 1st - Tuesday, 5th	Athlone Branch Anniversary Cruise
	Friday, 1st - Monday, 4th	Tullamore Rally
	Saturday, 9th Sunday, 10th	L.R.Y.C. Cruise in Company L.R.Y.C. Cruiser Series 2nd Race
	Saturday, 16th	Athlone Boat Club Regatta
	Saturday, 23rd Sunday, 24th	Shannon Harbour Rally " " " " " "
	JULY	Friday, 6th - Sunday 8th
Saturday, 14th Sunday, 15th		L.R.Y.C. Cruiser Series 3rd Race Athlone Junior Chamber Festival Week starts (proposed)
Sunday, 22nd		Junior Chamber Festival ends and Shannon swim.
Friday, 27th		19th Annual Shannon Rally starts
AUGUST	Saturday 4th Tuesday, 7th	Shannon Rally ends Lough Derg Rally starts
	Saturday, 11th	Lough Derg Rally ends
	Saturday, 25th	L.R.Y.C. Cruiser Series 4th Race
SEPTEMBER	Saturday, 15th	L.R.Y.C. Cruiser Series 5th Race

Opening Hours of Locks and Movable Bridges

<u>Period</u>		<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>Sundays</u>
March 25	- April 15	9.00 - 18.00	11.00 - 17.00
April 16	- April 29	9.00 - 19.00	11.00 - 17.00
April 30	- May 19	9.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 18.00
May 20	- August 12	9.00 - 20.30	9.00 - 18.00
August 13	- August 26	9.00 - 20.00	9.00 - 18.00
August 27	- September 9	9.00 - 19.30	9.00 - 18.00
September 10	- September 23	9.00 - 19.00	9.00 - 18.00
September 24	- October 14	9.30 - 18.00	9.30 - 18.00
October 15	- March 24	9.30 - 12.30	10.00 - 12.30



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

MAY 79

At our April Branch meeting the following topics came up for discussion:

Project - after much discussion it was decided to investigate the possibility of having a marina constructed at the North end of the old canal. A sub-committee (Michael Webb, Ofko Holtkamp, Niall O'Shea) was elected to draw up plans, prepare a report and meet local officials.

St. Hilda's Outing (School for Mentally Handicapped) - a sub-committee (Bridie Delaney, Ann Fitzsimons) was elected to arrange details and fix date. Any person willing to offer assistance should contact either of the above immediately; as this will be a mid-week event chaparones (male and female) will probably be in short supply. Contributions of cakes, crisps, soft drinks, etc. would be appreciated.

Shannon Harbour - the provision of electricity at above was deemed to be a priority, but it was decided to ask Tullamore Branch to arrange this as it was in their area.

History of Branch - the sub-committee urgently require old material, i.e. photos, newspaper cuttings, etc.

Wild Fowl Sanctuary - rumours of a revision of the wild fowl sanctuary in the Inner Lakes were discounted by the Department, but it was decided to write to the Minister to object to any reduction in the number or extent of any of the sanctuaries on the Shannon. The Athlone Wild Fowl Association have offered their full support in this campaign.

The attendance at meetings is improving. Those who have not yet attended, please make a special effort to attend the next one on Friday, 4th May, 8.30 p.m. Prince of Wales Hotel (this is the penultimate meeting before the Summer).

AGENDA:

- Minutes
- Matters arising (Project)
- Correspondence (St. Hilda's Outing)
- Apologies (History)
- Reports from Sub-Committees.....(Cruise in Company)
- Wild Fowl (Shannon Festival)
- Venue June Meeting
- Lock Hours
- Any other business

Lough Ree Yacht Club has issued its Programme of events for 1979. Important meetings in May are:

- (i) Cruiser Tankard Series - meeting in Jolly Mariner 8.30 p.m. 5th May.
- (ii) A special meeting of Junior Sailors, Parents and Sailing Committee will be held at L.R.Y. Clubhouse on Sunday 20th May 5.00 p.m.

P.R.O. for 1979 is Tony Claffey, Fardrum, Athlone.

Athlone U.D.C. are arranging to release one of their staff to act as River Warden from 1st May. 1979.

Canal Dribbles

The big event of the month on the canals was undoubtedly the Circular Line Rally run by the Dublin Branch over the Easter week-end, and most successful it was too. Your Dribbler was there, bearded and heavily disguised, and noting all for the Aerial.

A total of 25 boats, including nearly 20 cruisers, took part and gathered at Harcourt Terrace where the official opening was performed by An Tanaiste, Mr. George Colley accompanied by his wife Mary, who themselves are most enthusiastic users of our waterways. The local canoe club held a race, Padraig and Sue O'Brolchain organised a very novel childrens watersports session and Douglas and Ruth Heard ran a film show in Carroll's Theatre, while to top off the day Cora O'Leary hosted a wine and cheese party in the marquee.

However, the highlight of the afternoon was certainly the sensational falling-in of Gay and Kathleen Bushe (Harbour Belle) who performed a classical "splits" between quay and dinghy. Gay reported afterwards that the water was quite warm, but didn't taste too good. There is no truth in the rumour that their boat is to be re-named "The Crew's Inn".

Two boats came in from Dunlaoire and one came from Shannon Harbour, the Suitors arrived from the North, while part of Crannagh's crew came over specially from Belgium. So that it can truthfully be reported that the Grand is at last re-open from Liffey to Shannon.

A pleasant Sunday morning was spent entertaining large numbers of visiting friends, including Frank Farrell who was spotted drinking white Carlsberg (white what?) Then commenced the long haul home and back to moorings. The journeys in and out were accomplished with a remarkable absence of incidents or trouble, and thanks are due to C.I.E. officials, Brendan Daly, John McNamara and Inspector Liam Maher who laid on squads of men to assist with the locking.

Altogether, a very successful and enterprising venture on the part of the Dublin Branch, which secured excellent publicity for the city line of the Canal. Congratulations are due to all concerned.

Tips

Deck leaks of any description are most annoying and at times difficult to remedy. One of the most common is the drip leak around the bolt fixings of the deck plates of stanchions and pulpits. The correct procedure to cure such leaks is to remove the offending bolts and replace them liberally coated with a mastic sealant. However the nuts on these bolts are not always accessible for one reason or another. They may be situated behind a built-in unit or they may have been glassed over. In such cases the remedy may be effected by the use of a few drops of one of those "Super" Bond Glues. A few drops of the glue placed around the head of the bolt forms a transparent convex dome. This becomes steel hard and waterproof.

A new lubricant called TRI-FLOW bonds Teflon onto a surface without the need for heat. It will coat anything on your boat that slides, glides, rolls, spins or pivots with a micro-film of Teflon particles which act like tiny bearings to reduce friction and wear.

90g Aerosol £2.50. 450g Aerosol £5.00

Black mould or mildew spots on resinglass interiors, textured plastic covered fabrics and linings are effectively removed by a 20% solution of Domestos and water. The surface should be wet all over, left for 20 minutes and wiped clean. (When using, watch your clothes, I have a blue shirt with pink spots.)

Athlone branch held their 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance on Friday, 20th April, in the Prince of Wales Hotel. Among the large attendance were some of the founder members and Mr. P. Benson, Branch Chairman, complimented those present and absent for their foresight in forming such an Association at a time when few could have imagined the vast potential of our waterways or the ever growing need for an association of this type. He thanked the Office of Public Works, Lakelands Tourism Organisation, Athlone U.D.C. and Longford, Westmeath and Roscommon County Councils for their work in developing the waterways and in particular for their increased co-operation in recent years, but he stressed the need for vigilance on our part to ensure that increased development does not lower the quality of these amenities.

Syd and the boys entertained us until the small hours and by all reports everybody enjoyed themselves, congratulations to the organising committee..

There was great excitement in Athlone on Good Friday morning when a Blue-arc Welderbird was spotted near the Railway Bridge across the river at 8.30 a.m. Fortunately Andrew White-Shannon, a keen ornithologist, who was staying on a boat nearby heard and recognised the characteristic tapping of the bird (much like a Woodpecker) and found the bird feeding near the bridge. The bird creates a tapping sound to arouse the curiosity of its prey thus bringing them out in the open. The Blue-arc Welderbird is very rare in this country and in fact has only been spotted twice in the past three years, once at Bellurgan near Dundalk and last year on the Sloblands near Wexford. Unfortunately the bird was frightened away by the gathering of onlookers (some still in pyjamas) and hasn't been seen or heard since, so keep your eyes peeled this year you might be lucky enough to catch sight of this rare specimen.

True Story

The place - Athlone, the scene - a barge under construction with welding and gas cutting operations in progress.

Act I - Hire boat passes full steam ahead to shouts of "Slow down ya" etc. etc. from the barge. Our story continues as the wash settles down and the cutter resumes his operations. Suddenly he sees the hire boat coming alongside. - Enter the hire cruiser skipper, a big blond muscular German gentleman, who, to the amazement of the cutter proceeds to tender his apologies for his lack of consideration by speeding through a mooring area, he then produces cans of beer and they all drink to goodwill and success. Skipper and hireboat exit left and then re-enter opening scene very slowly and exits right.

The story is true I know the cutter, but how many of us could fill the role of the hire boat skipper.

Athlone has a new "King of the Castle" but instead of his fiddlers three he has two guitars and an accordion. The winner of the recent competition run by Athlone Boat Club was Brendan Shine of Radio, TV and Record fame who returned a massive 40,000 votes. The coronation took place in the Castle on Sunday 22nd April, and a celebration medieval banquet was held in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel on Sunday night. The competition was a huge success, bringing in almost £9,000 for the beneficiaries, thanks to the magnificent effort from all the candidates and the generosity of the public at large. Well done all concerned.

You've heard the song about the "silly old ram who tried to butt a hole in a dam", well you can add another verse about the fellow in Athlone who tried to widen the navigation arch in the town bridge by alternatively banging two barges, tied together, between the quay wall and the buttress. Full marks for effort but none for boat handling.

Monica Hereagain has returned from a retreat on Nuns Island, where she prayed for the victims of the last two recipes, and received this divine recipe in a vision of Jimmy Flahive. It is for a Cottage Meat Loaf, which can be served hot as a main dish, cold with salad, or as a snack on crackers.

Cooking time 1 hour 25 minutes. Cooking utensil 2 lb. loaf tin

Ingredients for six people

- 1 slice bread $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick
- $\frac{1}{4}$ pt. beef stock
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. uncooked minced beef
- 2 - 3 teaspoons Worcester Sauce
- 1 tablespoon Tomatoe Ketchup or Puree
- 2 tablespoons Chutney (Optional)
- 2 rashers chopped small
- 1 stick of celery chopped small
- A few mushrooms
- 1 Egg and seasoning.
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Margarine
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Potatoes
- (1 tomatoe and few sprigs of parsley to garnish)

Method

1. Soak bread in the stock for 15 minutes. Beat until smooth.
2. Blend with the minced beef, sauce, ketchup, chutney, bacon celery and mushrooms.
3. Bind with egg and season
4. Grease the loaf tin with margarine. Press in the mixture and bake for 1 hour. (Gas mark 4 - middle shelf)
5. While the meat is cooking boil potatoes. strain and mash, season to taste.
6. Turn the meat mixture on to an ovenproof serving dish.
Pour off any surplus liquid before doing this.
7. Coat the meat loaf with the mashed potatoes and mark into a neat design. Return to oven for a further 25 minutes.

Reminder

Annual subscriptions are now overdue. Ordinary Member £3.00
Family membership £4.00.

The Committee of the Aerial would welcome any news items, useful hints, reports on events, details of future events, etc. etc. etc. from any member/branch.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

JUNE '79

At the May meeting held on Friday, 4th May, the following came up for discussion:

Marina Project The sub-committee appointed to carry out a feasibility study on this project presented a comprehensive report. Following some discussion it was decided to consider this report in detail at the June meeting. In the meantime, a number of copies of the report would be available at Sean's Bar to provide details for the members.

St. Hilda's Outing The date for this event was fixed as 13th June. The Branch decided to subsidise the purchase of minerals and crisps for the occasion. Members were asked to come along as chaperones.

Shannon Harbour The Secretary reported that Tullamore Branch would follow up the question of providing electricity at the Dry Dock in Shannon Harbour, as this is in their area.

Wild Fowl Sanctuary The provision of a grant to the Athlone Wild Fowl Association was deferred to September, as it was too late to raise ducklings this year.

Anniversary Cruise in Company Members were asked to send in their entry forms to Ruth Casey C/o Sean's Bar.

History The publication date for the history is changed to July due to postal dispute and other difficulties.

Venue June Meeting Following discussion it was decided to hold the June meeting on Friday 1st June at 8 p.m. on board Liguenda on the Anniversary Cruise. As this is the last meeting this season, please make a special effort.

Agenda

Minutes
Apologies
Correspondence
Marina Project
Reports from Sub-Committees
A.O.B.

JOHN JOE COFFEY R.I.P.

It was with deep regret we learned of the recent death of John Joe Coffey, a long time member of the Athlone Branch. He will be remembered for the part he played in getting the Lecarrow Canal re-opened and for the warmth and hospitality extended to all who visited his establishment at Lecarrow. Let us pray that the Lord extends the same hospitality to John Joe in Heaven.

Canal Dribbles

Despite the weather the signs of Summer are in the air. All along the canal in Counties Dublin & Kildare boats are being hurriedly prepared, varnished, painted, repaired or altered. Not merely at weekends but most week nights the sounds of hammering, drilling or sawing can be heard. Boats are taken on test runs with anxious owners and "experts" from Dublin listening intently for that knocking noise in the engine or vibration in the shaft.

Soon the winter bases will lie almost deserted as boats move on for the numerous June rallies. The journey down the canal, now newly repaired and cleaned, can be most enjoyable if taken slowly, leaving time for chats and a bit of gossip at locks, pubs and villages. Then Shannon Harbour where similar scenes of preparation have taken place, a welcome from Peter Guinan, hellos to skippers not seen since October, exchange of tales of winter woe and so out through the 35th & 36th.

Then does the long winter wait and the hard work all seem worthwhile - the broad Shannon welcomes, the bridge signals "Full steam ahead" to engine room, the dancing water glistens in the sunshine, Shannonbridge, Clonmacnoise, Percy's lock and Sean's Bar - summer has arrived.

Saturday 19th May saw the first of the sailing cruiser series races organised by L.R.Y.C. The continued cold weather left many sailors late in getting their craft ready for the season. Thus only four cruisers took part in the initial encounter. These were Tom Abraham, Tom Hogan, Berchs Hannin and Michael Martin. Winds were high and sailing was thrilling and exhilarating. Broken battens were the order of the day. Berchs Hannin was forced to retire on the last lap with a broken rudder. The handicap results were 1st Tom Abraham 12 seconds ahead of Michael Martin with Tom Hogan in 3rd place, two minutes further away. Next race is set for June 10th at 2.05 p.m. It is hoped that all craft will be ready by then and a full turnout is expected.

As the season is getting under way, we again feel we should stress the safety aspect of boating. All craft should be equipped with life jackets, dinghy, life belt, flares, first aid kit, fire extinguishers, anchor and a boarding ladder. Know your equipment and how it works. It's no use reading the instructions on your fire extinguisher by the light of your burning boat. Life jackets should be worn whenever there is any possibility of falling in - for children this means always. Practise the drill for man-overboard so that your crew know what to do should they be faced with the real thing. Take care with the use of petrol and gas and always turn off the latter at the bottle at night.

Remember your responsibility towards other boats and their crews. Fast travelling boats can cause boiling saucepans to overturn resulting in serious scalds, children to fall overboard, ankles to be caught between boats, dinghies capsized, etc. etc.

Always take care when fending off a quay wall or converging boat. Injuries to hand and foot while doing so are the most common form of boating accident. Do not attempt to cross Lough Dera or Lough Ree in very rough uncertain weather. Seek advice and allow sufficient daylight hours for the crossing.

Remember the rules of the river. Meeting other craft - keep to the right. Overtaking another craft - leave it to your right. Converging with another craft - give way to boat approaching from the right. At bridges or narrow channels, the craft proceeding downstream has the right of way. Craft under power should give way to craft under sail.

Protect the environment: do not throw refuse overboard and never pump bilges with oily waste overboard.

Finally remember the long tradition of good manners and consideration for others on Irish Waterways. The I.W.A.I. ask you to maintain this tradition.

Congratulations to Denise and Declan Griffin on the birth of a baby boy, Kevin Donal. Father and child are both doing well.

Congratulations to Bridie and Damien Delaney on the launching of "PHILOS", a S.R.P. 23 ft. Shipman sailing cruiser 8 ft.6 inch beam drawing 4 ft. This boat should be of particular interest to those of you in the "home construction" market because it all started when a partly damaged hull and superstructure was bought in Limerick about 3 years ago, was then repaired, bonded together and fitted out in Delaney's back yard. First of all the hull was repaired and repainted with a waxed Resin 3 gelcoat, which was then sanded with wet & dry sandpaper until the desired finish was obtained. This was a very laborious and time consuming process and Damien tells me, with hindsight, that possibly a better surface could have been achieved using 2 part polyurethane paint.

Next a laminated teak gunwale was then bonded inside the top edge of the hull to take the superstructure retaining bolts. The superstructure was a moulded coach, deck and cockpit all in one piece; this was turned upside down and the inside of the coach roof & deck was lined with 1" sheets of polyurethane foam which was then covered with fibreglass to form a sandwich.

A trailer was then constructed and the hull was put sitting right side up on this. The superstructure was then hoisted up, put sitting on top of the hull and the two were bolted together. A teak toerail & rubbing strake were incorporated in the bonding together. The main bulkheads were then fitted.

The original Shipman 23 had a cast iron keel & drew 5 ft. which was felt to be too deep for cruising on the river. It was decided to construct a lead keel of the same weight with a consequent saving on draught. Lead pipes, batteries, etc. were collected and melted down into ingots until 1 1/4 tons of clean lead was to hand. A wooden plug of the keel was made and from this plus a concrete mould in two halves was made. The complete 1 1/4 tons was melted down in a big cauldron and poured into the concrete mould. The two halves of the mould were then separated, the lead keel was lifted out and bolted to the moulded "shoe" on the hull.

A BMC 1.5 diesel engine was acquired, at the right price, and fitted with a homemade water cooled manifold & exhaust system etc. and coupled to a Watermota variable pitch propeller unit.

The inside fitting out then got underway, 2 berths in a forward cabin, hanging wardrobe, toilet, & main cabin containing double berth cum dinette, galley, full size quarter berth & optional berth on port side.

A Bowman 35 ft. mast kit was bought and assembled & fitted with stainless steel rigging.

The Chief Architect behind this project was Pat Benson, but so many other people helped along the way that it fouled up the owners' original intention of making a name for the boat out of the initials of the people who helped, because the hull wasn't long enough to include everybody, so they simply called her "PHILOS" which means Friendship. So it wasn't just a boat that rolled down the slip at Portaneena but a monument to co-operation and neighbourliness - long may this spirit reign.

Did you hear about the showjumper from Cloondra (we daren't say Carrick again) who broke his nose jumping against the clock.

This month's recipe is for a very nice Chinese dish. It can be prepared and cooked in advance and would be ideal for the day tripper or week-ender, who prefers not to spend too much time in the galley.

Cooking time 15 minutes. Main cooking utensil Frying Pan.

Ingredients for 4 people

For the sauce

10 - 12 oz. lean pork
2 teaspoons cornflour
seasoning, pinch of sugar
2 tablespoons oil
1 small green pepper
1 small red pepper
4 oz. mushrooms

3 rings pineapple
1 dessert apple or pear
2 teaspoons cornflour
¼ pint chicken stock
1 tablespoon sherry
1 tablespoon Soy sauce
2 tablespoons vinegar (or to taste)
4 tablespoons pineapple syrup.

Method

1. Cut the meat into neat pieces.
2. Blend the cornflour, seasoning and sugar and roll the meat in this.
3. Fry in hot oil for about 5 minutes, then add the diced red & green peppers (discarding the core & seeds)
4. Continue cooking for several minutes.
5. Core, slice but do not peel the apple or pear.
6. Blend the cornflour with all the other ingredients
7. Add to the meat with the fruit, bring to the boil and cook until thickened, and very hot,
8. Serve with boiled rice.

Seeing as how the summer is supposed to be here, we decided to give you all a hard earned rest from the Aerial for a few months, but we'll be back again in the Autumn so make the best of your reprieve - may we wish you all health, happiness and safe sailing from the newsletter that loves ya!!



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

SEPT 79

Hello dear Friends and welcome to another series of the Aerial. It just flew, didn't it? and not as much as a week continuous without rain. However, one thing about us Boat People is that we are adaptable and we tend to make the most of our aqua travels. The sun, when we get it, is taken as a welcome bonus.

Our Summer saw the Jubilee Cruise in Company start on 31st May and run to a very successful conclusion on the 5th June. With comings and goings the numbers ranged between twenty and thirty craft and as one committee member was heard to say on more than one occasion 'Sure isn't it a grand little rally'. The weather on this outing was the best we had all season.

St. Hilda's outing and the Athlone Festival free boat trips both proved successful and worthwhile.

The main Shannon Rally attracted 71 entries and despite the bad weather everyone seemed to have a ball, with the Premier Award going to Noel Murphy - Snow Panther. The Cruiser Award was won by Ray Billington on Samantha II, the Open Boat Award was won by Fergus Daly in Wicked Lady and the new Barge Award presented for the first time was won by John Webb on 347. Maxi Matthews won the Ships Dog Race. There were 80 competitions not counting the sports, so forgive us for not listing them all.

The L.R.Y.C. Regatta ended on 25th August. A Black Flag flew at half mast as a mark of respect to the Fastnet Rock victims. The man of the week was Teddy Knight winning The Campbell Cup and the Overall Trophy (Lough Derg and Lough Ree) to name but two. A special award for the best wooden Optimist was won by Colin O'Dowd. The IDRA 14 National Championship was held during the regatta with the honours going to Ian Sargent. Damien Delaney's 'Philos' came home an easy winner in the Cruiser Race for the RMLI Pennant. The handicapper is sharpening his axe for next season, so Damien look out. The Cruiser Series has now only one more race to go - this will take place on 15th September. The overall result is still very much in the balance.

Finally, after many delays the History Booklet is ready for distribution. Copies will be available at our next Branch Meeting which takes place in the Prince of Wales Hotel on Friday, 7th September at 8.30 p.m. Your attendance is earnestly requested.

Michael Martin - Vice Chairman

AGENDA:

- Minutes
- Correspondence
- Moorings
- Plaque
- Marina Project
- History Booklet
- A.O.B.

News from Nick Coady, P.R.O. Lough Derg Branch

We would apologise to our friends in Lough Ree Branch for our inability to support their two big events of 1979 as fully as we had wished. The fuel shortage meant we were represented only by our Commodore at the Silver Jubilee Cruise. The water shortage cut down on the number of our members afloat for the Rally.

At the time of writing the waters of Lough Derg are back to normal after five weeks of record low levels. The many private boat owners whose craft were left high and dry, often to be damaged on unsuitable bottoms, and whose holiday plans were left in tatters, will remember the Summer of 79 with horror. The Lough Derg Branch's Rally 5, which had to be cancelled at short notice, was another casualty. The cancellation was all the more to be regretted as it promised to be the best ever - Commodore Frank Van Den Berg and his men having bought some very handsome trophies, and having put in a staggering amount of preparatory work. I understand the Committee will shortly meet again to pick up the pieces and to lay the plans for next year.

It's an ill wind that blows no good however. The harbours of Terryglass, Kilgarvan and Dromineer have had major improvements. The slipway at Garrykennedy has been extended and deepened. The small boat mooring in Mountshannon has also had some work done. It is possible that some private cuts have also been improved, but of this we will not speak!

Kilgarvan Harbour - The rocks which formerly lay in the channel on the North Eastern side of the mole have been removed. With the exception of one rock, situate at the North Western or outer end of the mole, which is covered to three feet approx. at normal water levels, the way is clear for most craft to proceed to the mouth of the small boat basin without difficulty. The approach to the slipway has been dredged and will accommodate a draft of three feet six inches when normal levels resume.

There is seven to nine feet available off the new concrete pier adjacent to the Kilgarvan Angling Club clubhouse.

The magnificent structure to be seen inland, which will, God and Tipperary North Riding County Council willing, one day be the long awaited toilets, is alas not open for this season. The reason - no water supply has been provided!

Thank you Nick for your Lough Derg news. We were sorry to hear about the cancellation of your rally, but now that things are back to normal, we're looking forward to your 'bigger and better' rally next year.

And now we have a special treat from Canal Dribbler who had to go to France to recover from a severe dose of rainburn on the Rally.

Parlez vous Francais this month, mes amis? Well you'd better, because that is where your Dribbler has been, exploring the rivers and canals of central and western France on behalf of the Aerial. We found ourselves at the helm of a forward-control 28' Calypso 4 Berth with a hydraulic drive 1½ litre BMC diesel - slightly difficult to handle with a great big blind spot to the aft.

The river Yonne which we navigated is in Burgundy; it runs through Auxerre (Chablis country to you wine guzzlers) and eventually joins the Seine south of gay Pareae.

Proudly flying our IWAI burgee (Athlone Branch!), tricolour and an IRL sticker just to emphasise the point, we set off up river and found that while broad, slow-moving and hazard free, the river was otherwise extremely Barrow-like with tree-studded hills sweeping down to the water's edge.

And so we came to our first lock. Avoiding the weir and approaching slowly and professionally we entered through the deep gates and found to our horror that the chamber had sloping sides. What to do? Desperately trying to avoid looking like hirers in Albert Lock on a Sunday morning, we persuaded the keeper to take our warps and then it was all hands on deck, with some holding the warps to keep the boat in and others with boat-hooks keeping it off! All very French. The locks are huge by our standards. Some are the width of 3 barges, some the width of only 1, but the length defies description. In some places it was common for the lock-keeper to use his bicycle to get from one end to the other when working the lock. The gates are operated by a winch moving a rack going out to the gates. The sluices are very quick and easy to work. A large quadrant lever moving through 180° works directly on the rack - moving it up or down- The disadvantage is that the movement and therefore the sluice is small, and once the big lock is half full (or empty) it takes ages to finish. The keeper in fact goes back into his house and reappears 10 minutes later to release his prisoners.

Two long canal cuts proved an interesting change from the river. A black and white direction arrow and a speed limit sign (!) indicating the start of each. At the top end each was equipped with flood gates. Unlike at home, small villages and towns appeared with frequency, each with their inviting bistros and restaurants - so our progress was rather slow and erratic!

We came across 2 other small hire bases, making in all a total of about 25 hire boats on the river. We would meet 2 or 3 barges and a similar number of private boats per day. It must be one of the most undiscovered waterways in Europe. Jetties are non-existent and all rather like the Shannon about 20 years ago - very peaceful. When mooring for lunch and a bottle of vin blanc we would slip in under the trees for shade and tie up to an overhanging tree trunk.

On arrival in the city of Auxerre, the picture changed a little - a cathedral and 2 lovely churches looking down on the river, at least 20 boats and half a dozen barges tied up and a pleasant little marina with wash-room facilities run by a Dutchman who charged 1 franc per metre per night. Some of the barges were loading

Canal Dribbles (Contd.)

But one sight which remains in your scribe's mind is that of a huge pusher barge with another equally large peniche up front, the lot handled solely by the bargee and his wife. As they approached the narrow navigation arch in Auxerre, the wife made her way right up to the bow of the dumb barge, and standing up high signalled with her arms to the Skipper about 100 yards behind. They slowed to a crawl and the signals got more and more urgent before they successfully navigated the bridge. Imagine Sean Fitz and Dermot trying that one!

During our return down-river we locked up overnight into the Canal du Bourgogne at Migannes. This was a lock of a more familiar size, with a single chamber as deep and as fearsome as the double at Belmont. The sluices were operated like our own, but the gates were opened by an ancient looking wheel with spindly handles which was connected by cables and rods to the gate. Undoubtedly a very old canal presided over by a similarly aged lock-keeper.

And so like all hirers we responded to the call "Come in No. 4 your time is up!" and we sadly parted with our craft. During our drive back to Cherbourg, we spent some days in La Roche Bernard at the mouth of the River Vilaine in Brittany. This is a Kinsale type estuary town with a sheltered harbour, a suspension bridge of dizzy heights, hundreds of yachts and a new "barrage" and lock which turned 20 miles of river into non-tidal waters. It also has its own "Seans Bar" called Le Skipper which we duly discovered and patronised. A small hire base (are they all small in France?) caters for those cruising the river which gives access at Redon both east and west to the canal de Nantes a Prest. A visit to the hire-base revealed a Seamaster 30 up on the hard with its rudder torn off by a hirer, who when given a brand new replacement promptly did the same again and a hole in the hull for good measure. So its not only on the Shannon that "they" do it.

So there you have it. Interesting? a change from our own Canal and Shannon. Expensive? not as dear as hiring at home. To be recommended? very definitely yes, if only because it's then so nice to come home to one's own craft on our own lovely waterways. Au revoir.

Bits and Pieces

Plans to organise a trip to London Boat Show are already under way. If you're interested please contact Sean's Bar, Athlone.

Please note that due to Pope John Paul's visit, the end of season rally to Shannonbridge has been put back to October 5th to 7th. (34B has a new bed fitted - Eord Failte please note)

Our History Booklet will be ready for distribution at our next Branch Meeting - cost £1.50 per copy.

Reminder to all children under 12 - have you completed your essays for the Harry Rice Trophy. This competition involves writing an essay describing a trip/holiday on any of our inland waterways. Entries should be sent to Rosemary Furlong, Coosan, Athlone.

Alas! the sad news - if X marks this spot on your Aerial _____ it means your subscription is overdue and this could be your last Aerial. We would hate that such a catastrophe should happen to you, so please pay up - to Sean Fitzsimons, Sean's Bar. Ordinary subscription £3.00, Family Membership £4.00.

See you soon.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

OCT 79.

The first meeting held after the Summer recess was on Friday, 7th September. The attendance was quite small, but nevertheless a fair amount of business was concluded.

The Silver Jubilee History was launched and has been distributed to all the local book shops. The publication received favourable comment. As there was a delay of seven weeks in having the booklet available to the public, we may have missed many of our potential boating customers. It will be necessary, therefore, for each member to encourage the sale of the remaining copies.

A Fancy Dress Party has been arranged for 28th October in Harmony Hall. A limited number of tickets will be available, so get yours soon from Seans Bar. A "Birds" theme has been suggested for the fancy dress.

The London Boat Show is to be held at Earls Court from 2nd January - 13th January 1980. Our usual trip is being organised for the weekend 4th-6th January. Contact Seans Bar for further details and bookings.

Marina Project - The preliminary report of the Sub-Committee on mooring facility developments was prepared last May. This is a comprehensive report, copies of which were circulated at the last meeting. It is proposed to give the matter a full airing at the October meeting. A large attendance is earnestly requested for this important meeting. A synopsis of the report is enclosed so that you may be familiar with the subject and take part in the discussion at the meeting.

Next Branch Meeting on Friday, 5th October, in The Prince of Wales Hotel, at 8.30 p.m.

See you there - Michael Martin

Agenda: Minutes
Correspondence
Marina Project
A. O. B.

Precis of Marina Report

The committee were asked to investigate the feasibility of constructing a marina close to Athlone, and particular mention was made of the Northern end of the old canal as a possible site. The report before going into the merits or snags of particular sites, first asks the questions

- will private enterprise cater for this need in the foreseeable future?
- can the I.W.A.I. offer anything better, cheaper?

The report does not endeavour to provide answers but proceeds to examine various possible sites.

1. 'Number 1' The Northern end of the old canal was not deemed suitable for marina development because among other defects
 - (a) canal width limited berthing facilities
 - (b) security problems
 - (c) site above town water intake
 - (d) possibility of insufficient water flow in canal.
2. 'Brick 1' site - with the U.D.C. having acquired river frontage facing Brick 1. The report presents an outline plan for linking Brick 1 to the mainland with a causeway and using this causeway for 'bow-on' mooring together with moorings around the island itself. Again this site is North of water works intake and security could prove a real problem.

3. The third option which the report recommends is to endeavour to have the new jetties controlled from say October to April inclusive, and use them as secure winter moorings. Summer moorings could be provided by using the mid-river mooring space more economically with fore-aft moorings. If this plan got off the ground the branch might think of having a "club boat" and summer time "boat man" for looking after boats, etc.
4. Any site South of the Athlone Lock was not considered practical for this type of development.

In reviewing the options above no research was undertaken as to the possibility of obtaining permission and assistance from the various public bodies that would of necessity be involved. This would only be undertaken after deciding on a particular project.

Canal Dribbles

Now that the official decision has been made to transfer the canals to the Board of Works, may we hope that some action will be taken reasonably soon to implement it. This could even be done on a caretaker basis pending the passing of legislation. But the sooner the better, so that the interim period with all its doubts and indecision is as short as possible. Given that this proposal becomes fact, how do we see the future of the Grand Canal?

There are at present 2 hire bases operating and 3 boat-building enterprises on or near the banks. It is certain that this trend will continue and the Grand Canal will become a real tourist amenity. Private boat use is also growing rapidly and the number of boats journeying up and down and availing of moorings has increased greatly in the last 5 years. Small canoe clubs can be seen enjoying the facilities, while small-boat owners slip their craft in for a Sunday family outing.

So, therefore, how should the O.P.W. develop its newly acquired possession? Regular and frequent maintenance goes without saying, but other needed items are mooring facilities above and below locks (especially below), a small ladder set into the lock walls, and water on tap at more frequent intervals. But above all in the long term the question of lock-keepers is going to be of critical importance. Ultimately, each lock will require its own keeper, and most regrettably many of the original lock houses have been sold off. Some lock-keepers are presently tending to as many as 4 locks - an impossible task if traffic grows. C.I.E. have even found great difficulty in replacing the older keepers. The performance (or rather non-performance) of the resident lock-keepers during the Dublin Easter Rally raised some very serious questions.

If, therefore, the O.P.W. are taking over the Canals, we are entitled to expect an ambitious programme of development, accompanied by the drive and the will to see it carried out. Will it ever happen - yes - if we keep after them!

Lough Ree Yacht Club ran the 5th and final race in the Cruiser Series on September 15th. The result of this race was : 1. Damien Delaney (Philos) 2. Tom Abraham (Beaver) 3. Michael Martin (Small Slam). The overall result of the series of 5 races was: 1. Tom Abraham, 2. Michael Martin, 3. Tom Hogan, 4. Berchs Hannin.

Also in conjunction with Lough Ree Yacht Club end of season regatta, a cruiser race with 5 boats taking part over a 12 mile course with a staggered start was won by Berchs Hannin. Full credit must go to Liam O'Carra for his handicapping throughout the series, and for this race in particular, since there was less than 2 minutes separating first and last at the finish.

Athlone Anglers had their big day out on Sunday, 23rd September when they competed for the Nat Fishman Trophy for the heaviest trout. Big catches were returned with the winning fish 3 lbs. 9 oz. caught by Michael Daly. A reception was held later in the Royal Hotel and you should have seen the size of the ones that got away there.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of ...

Breath of Fresh Air

To get away from the heavy pressure of the Aerial Newsroom, we took off for the sunny south east to be entertained lavishly by our hosts David & Eleanor Killeen for the weekend at their farm at Bridgetown near Wexford. The farm overlooks a broad plain stretching down to the sea at Kilmore Quay with the Saltee Islands on the horizon, a truly magnificent view in the morning sunlight.

On Saturday night we ate, drank and were merry among a host of wonderful people at the home of Eleanor's brother, Tom. Oh! to have a few of these voices on the rally. On Sunday we had a nice relaxing sail on Gilaroo Too around Wexford Harbour where we saw Eclipse owned by Dan Hannevig being moved, with assistance from Knocknagow, to the harbour jetty where she is being prepared for her trip around the Hock and up the Barrow.

Later we met Cecil Miller and talked at length about the rally, the Shannon, the Grand and the Barrow. Calloo is presently at Graiguenamanagh but will be moved down to New Ross as soon as repairs to the Barrow line below Graigue are complete.

Alas, all good things must end and we had to bid farewell to our kind hosts. Many thanks David and Eleanor for a breath of fresh air and a wonderful weekend.

Our congratulations go to the following:

- To Declan Walsh & Gill McGregor on their recent marriage.
- To Moreen Griffin and Gerry Flannery on their marriage.
- To Mike Roberts on his new Snapdragon 26
- To Bob & Marie Moran on their new boat 'Leonora'
- To John Coffey and Oriel on their new baby girl.
- To Roy Redpath on his new appointment with the ESP fisheries.

FOR SALE:

1. "Hein Godewind" 27 ft. Norfolk Broads Cabin Cruiser, Excellent condition, Lister Diesel Engine, 4 berth in 2 cabins, centre wheelhouse. Seen afloat at Ballykeeran, Athlone. Contact Christa Lilge 01/886615.
2. Eventide Sloop "Sara". All gear perfect. 12 H.P. Kohler Engine 12 months old. Hull needing slight repair £2,500. Contact Seans Bar, Athlone.
3. Cruiser forehatch of protected glass and aluminium. Contact H. Murtagh, Bridge Street, Athlone.

The first pair of Colin 28 ft. Family Cruisers has arrived at Peter Quigley's Boat Yard at Killenure Point, Athlone. These generous sized mouldings will be completed and fitted out by Peter and will be available at any stage of completion.

This month's issue of Sail & Power has some interesting Inland Waterways news which includes a report on the rally by Margaret Blake, news from all over by Ruth Heard and a report on Pollardstown Fen - Incidentally Dublin Branch are planning a rally on the Fen for Mid-October.

DON'T FORGET

1. Our end of season rally to Shannonbridge on October 6/7th.
2. Our Fancy Dress on October 28th, Harmony Hall.
3. Entries for the Harry Rice Trophy. Essays from under 16's (we incorrectly said under 12's last month) should be sent to Rosemary Furlong, Garden Vale, Athlone.

PAPAL VISIT

As you may have heard already, Pope John Paul II is to visit Clonmacnoise on Sunday, September, 30th, but this is to be a private visit and strict security is being enforced. We would advise you to go to your own official venue if you want to be sure of seeing His Holiness.

Food In a Bag

Max-Craft from Poole stock a wide variety of "foil-pack" provisions ranging from Duck a L'orange and Coq au Vin to Irish Stew. There are nineteen choices. Each portion of food is vacuum sealed in an aluminium foil and plastic bag. The pack has a shelf-life of more than a year. All you have to do is to pop the sealed bag into boiling water for ten or fifteen minutes then snip off the top of the bag and serve on a plate. They could be a best seller here. So you delicatessen members please take note.

Monica Hereagain with an end of season recipe. In case you cannot get the prepacked kind, here is the real thing:

Coq au Vin

1 oz Margarine	2 tbs. tomatoe puree
2 tbs. oil	½ pint chicken stock
1 chicken divided into 4 or 8 pieces	8 fl. oz. RED wine
4 oz. streaky bacon diced	Pinch thyme
1 large onion	1 Bay leaf
1 clove garlic (crushed)	salt & pepper
	2 heaped tsps. cornflour

Garnish: 4 oz. button mushrooms, 12 small onions.

Oven temperature: Gas 4, middle shelf.

Method:

1. Heat margarine & oil. Fry the chicken joints until golden brown, then place in casserole.
2. Fry the bacon, onion and garlic until golden brown, add to chicken.
3. Blend the tomatoe puree with the chicken stock and pour over the chicken with the red wine.
4. Add the thyme, bay leaf, seasoning and cover. Bake in the preheated oven for 45 minutes - depending on the size of the chicken.
5. Trim and wash the mushrooms. Peel the onions and simmer for 10 minutes in lightly salted water.
6. Remove casserole from oven and skim off excess fat.
7. Stir the cornflour and water paste into the remaining juices.
8. Bring back to the boil, stirring all the time.
9. Add the onions and mushrooms, cover with a lid and cook for a further 25 minutes.

Serve with mashed potatoes or boiled rice.

For those of you who have no oven on board, this recipe can be done in half the time in your pressure cooker, but don't add the cornflour until the end of cooking time, making sure to stir all the time.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

Nov 79.

A representative gathering attended the Branch Meeting in the Prince of Wales Hotel on 5th October 1979.

The agenda was short with most of the meeting's time being devoted to the Marina Sub-Committee's Report. The discussion which followed resulted in the adoption of the proposal that "The Branch would continue to lay moorings as the need arises, and on the same basis as before i.e. that such moorings would be free to all who wish to use them." It was also agreed to draw up a plan of the most beneficial way in which moorings could be laid in the area north of the town bridge as far as Brick Island.

The Sub-Committee were further asked to investigate with Athlone U.P.C. and O.P.W. the possibility of implementing the Erick Island/Causeway system of mooring.

Other items dealt with arising out of the September minutes were:

1. Madigan Plaque: order placed with the Stone Cutter.
2. London Boat Show: see details later
3. Pollardstown Fen: The I.W.A.I. Rally took place on 14th October as arranged. Full report appears further on.
4. Harry Rice Essay Cup: Final closing date for entry is the end of November. So all you young ladies and gents (up to age of 16) get writing - time is running out. Entries to Rosemary Furlong, Garden Vale, Athlone.
5. History Booklet: Sales of the booklet continue at a moderate pace. I would appeal to members to make the effort to sell a few copies each to their friends. Thanks to Michael Mackey for his write-up on the History in the October issue of Irish Boats and Yachting.

Next Branch Meeting on Friday, 2nd November in the Prince of Wales Hotel at 8.30 p.m.

See you there,

Michael Martin

Agenda: Minutes
Correspondence
Clean Water Project
Sale of History
London Boat Show
Any other business

Safety: Concern has been expressed by several members at the lack of safety precautions in and about the new harbours being built by O.P.W. The chief danger being that if one falls into the water in one of these harbours one is faced with a sheer wall without a handhold or any means of getting out. The weir at Tarmonbarry is considered another danger area. The Branch intends to draw up a list of such areas for the attention of O.P.W. If you know of a danger spot in your area, please let us know.

Lough Ree Yacht Club: The AGM has been brought forward to November and will take place in the Jolly Mariner on Sunday 4th November at 7.00 p.m. The agenda includes a comprehensive Secretary's Report and the fact

Athlone Boat Club: Athlone Boat Club are holding their annual Dinner/Dance in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel on 23rd November 1979. Tickets £6.00

The Branch has booked the film "Bargee" for a showing in Athlone during December. Full details in December Aerial.

Canal Dribbles The Small Boat Rally on the Pollardstown Fen in Co. Kildare organised by Dublin Branch proved to be a most successful and enjoyable outing. A flotilla of 25 craft took part, including Ted Barrett in the "Maid of Allen" and most amazingly Mick Thomas' "Celtic King" which navigated the whole way into the Fen. Many dozens more supporters followed the rally by road. The event commenced with an explanatory talk by Brendan Daly of C.I.E. who described the history and function of the Fen and the Milltown Feeder by means of a special map.

Starting from the quaintly-named pub of The Hanged Man's Arch (apparently a love-lorn swain), the rally soon found itself in the heart of the Fen. According to Brendan Daly the area is a collecting point for a vast quantity of water flowing from underneath the Curragh. It holds this water in reserve like a sponge and delivers unlimited quantities to the Canal Feeder as and when required.

The drainage work which has taken place and which is threatening the Fen was only too obvious. The banks were lined with "Tresspassers will be prosecuted" notices and in the area between the two branches of the waterway a bright green field of grass showed where drainage and cultivation had taken place and that part of the Fen irreversibly destroyed.

The Rally visited both arms which commence at the Point of Gibraltar (where has the rock gone?) and suitable commentaries were given at various places by Brendan Daly and John McNamara. The occasion attracted excellent publicity with attendance from TV cameras, newspaper scribes and university dons. Indeed one reporter doing his duty was threatened with prosecution and had the wit to reply that the bank he was standing on was C.I.E. property.

So now what? Where do we go from here? As this scribe sees it action is needed most urgently. The "decision" of Kildare Co. Council this month to take no decision and to await the report of the geological survey commissioned by the Minister for Forestry and Fisheries places the responsibility neatly in the Minister's court. He is also the only authority in a position to pay compensation if it is eventually decided to take over the area. At the moment expert opinion differs as to the long-term effects of the drainage, but one biologist has stated that as the Fen dries out it will sink below the level of the canal which will collapse and thus destroy the feeder supply. Can we take this risk while the experts argue? It is up to all members (and the branch?) to pressurise the Minister by all means possible to make his decision quickly and put a Preservation Order on the Fen. The alternative is too frightening to contemplate.

Your Dribbler's annual autumnal report on the Grand Canal maintenance programme - the inside story. By and large C.I.E.'s entire resources this Winter will be devoted to construction of lock-gates - 22 pairs in all (of which 10 are already built or started.) Most of these are for the Barrow Line and the fitting will commence in the Spring. The 16th and 18th Main Line may also get new gates early in the New Year. But the big news is that the Canal Section of C.I.E. have got permission to acquire and equip a large residential barge which will be used by the maintenance staff working on the locks and thus eliminate the ridiculous waste of time in ferrying the men to and from Tullamore every day. Finally, a whisper tells us that some Board of Works officials accompanied C.I.E. staff on a recent week-long inspection of part of the canal - a briefing session? Perhaps, but pressure is still needed here also to ensure that the transfer goes ahead quickly.

Stop Press

The "Clean Water Week" planned for November 5-11th has been cancelled indefinitely, possibly until January, due to a delay with the booklet for the schools. Branches were asked to organise clean-ups in their area during this week, and some may already have their events planned - so why not go ahead, 2 Clean Water Weeks wouldn't do any harm. We'll give you more details later.

Papal Visit

By now each of you will have your own memories of the visit of Pope John Paul II, having attended the ceremonies at your own local venues or followed the events on television, one way or the other the vastness and emotional impact of the whole event will remain with us forever.

We went to Clonmacnoise where His Holiness paid a 40 minute visit en route to Galway on Sunday 30th September. Approximately 12,000 people congregated in the field adjoining the settlement. The mood was set by the recitation of The Rosary and the playing of medieval monastic chants giving some idea of how things must have been when this place was a living monastery. His Holiness arrived in that familiar red helicopter, landing on a prepared pad near Temple Finian at 9 a.m. Representatives of the various bodies associated with Clonmacnoise were presented before the papal party walked past Temple Connor, O'Rourke's Tower, North Cross, Cross of the Scriptures and South Cross to a podium set up beside Temple Doulin, where Pope John Paul addressed the congregation. The party then proceeded past Temple Ri and Temple Ciaran to the new altar at the foot of the hill beside MacCarthy's Tower. His Holiness prayed before St. Manchan's Shrine and again addressed the eager congregation now gathered within the settlement perimeter. Sadness twinged our hearts at seeing him go from our midst but we had seen the Man close-up and nothing else mattered.

The boating fraternity were well represented. Boats anchored north of the red marker at the bonds and south of the jetty - no boats were allowed between these points but many people came ashore in dinghys to join in the ceremony.

A booklet on Clonmacnoise, "Cluan Chiarain, The City of Ciaran" by Canon John Corkery has been published to coincide with the papal visit and is on sale at £1.50. A most interesting booklet tracing the history of Clonmacnoise from its foundation through its many destructions to the present day.

Shannonbridge Rally The end of season rally to Shannonbridge took place on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th October. Despite heavy rain all day Saturday, 25 boats braved their way downriver to assemble at the quay wall and along the new jetty which helped to keep the rally together. The main body crammed into Killeens on Saturday night where we were entertained by Big Sam (Herrachty) and a host of singers. We all then went back to our own get togethers on the boats and talked, laughed and sang into the small hours. Sunday morning was bright and sunny and we took up where we left off the night before in the various establishments in town. Poets started to depart at 3.00 p.m. to reach Athlone before the "last lock". A relaxing weekend set at a nice easy pace.

Fancy Dress By the time you read this it may be too late and you'll have heard all about the Fancy Dress in Harmony Hall on Sunday, 28th October, and you'll be kicking yourself for not going, or if you did go we hope you get well soon, or if its not too late - get your tickets in Seans Bar - there's only a limited amount available at £1.50. Includes supper. Draught and miniatures bar available. See you there.

Sub-Aqua Club AGM: Athlone Sub-Squa Club will hold their AGM on Friday 9th November in the Jolly Mariner - new members welcome.

London Boat Show The annual trip to London Boat Show is organised for 3rd to 6th January. Travellers will stay at the London Ryan Hotel, Kings Cross Road. All in fare £83. Extra days may be spent there for an additional £10 per night to cover bed and breakfast. Closing date for tickets 30th November, so hurry.

Did you hear about the Carrickman who thought that the new washing-machine in Sean's Bar was for the Clean Water Campaign

O.L.D.E.R. - Original Lough Derg Exotic Rally - 30Sept-5th Oct.

The ninth 'end of season rally' was held during first week of October. Unfortunately the 'Barge People' were not in Shannonbridge this year to combine the first night of our rally with the last night of theirs. By rising at 7.00 a.m. on Sunday morning (a most unusual occurrence after Killeens on Saturday night) we were in time to greet the Pope at Clonmacnoise.

The 'Pilgrimage' proceeded on its usual route to Banagher, and then Derg - led by this year's Commodore Wally Stevens. The weather was excellent and many breakfasts were taken in the open air.

Memorable visits to favorite 'shrines' included:- Mountshannon, where we held the cheese wine party postponed from Sunday, Dromineer where the crack in the Whiskey Still was fast and furious, Garrykennedy, one of the jewels of the Shannon - a most hospitable village.

Friday night at Kilgarvan was fancy dress and prizegiving night, held as usual at Elsie Hogans in Fallinerry. The committee after careful deliberation and many re-counts awarded the following prizes:- Navigation Aware to Des Kerr for navigating overland by night from Shannonbridge to Clonmacnoise. Fishing Competition for catch of the week to Jean Kelly (an unusual species believed to originate in the Indian State of Madras) Wildlife Observance Test to John Ryan Sanatogen Shield (for the most dramatic nervous breakdown of the rally) to John Byrne and the Smylie Cup for the best joke of the week went to Mike Webb (Hello Maureen!). Many other pilgrims were awarded prizes, some say for endurance. By the way Eithne Mooney won the Fancy Dress prize with a spirited version of a Punk Rocker that banjaxed several of the local drinkers.

A most enjoyable week which the Committee hope will be followed by a bumper rally next year for our 10th Pilgrimage to Lough Derg. The motto for this rally will be - you're getting O.L.D.E.R. and better!

Our own Monica Hereagain is in London this month with her new series of Irish pork recipes. She thought the market over there should be ready now after you know who said you know what. Whaddya mean bacon - she only ordered a Bucking Ham sandwich.

Glad to see Athlone UDC have started tree planting operations along the quay wall

We hear that Eridie Delaney's training a "sure thing" for next year's Ships Dog Race so Maxi Matthews look out.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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

December 1979

Our November Branch Meeting coincided with the formal opening in the Prince of Wales Hotel of the new Town Hall and Car Park off Church Street. The Powers that be attended in large numbers - the "opening" that is, not the Branch Meeting. However, Councillor Niall O'Shea, our man on the inside, availed of the opportunity to set up a meeting with the County Manager, Mr. Dan Hurley, and three Branch members to discuss the possibility of implementing some or all of the mooring proposals in the Brick Island area. Mr. Hurley gave the deputation a favourable hearing and promised to meet us again on site on 13/11/79. That meeting took place, and to find out more you'd better come to the next Branch Meeting.

A Sub-Committee of Declan Walsh and Damien Delaney placed before the meeting a comprehensive scaled plan of the area between the town and railway bridges in which they set out details as to how the area could best be used in providing the greatest number of moorings. The plan is to be implemented.

The winner of the essay competition for the Harry Rice Cup will be announced at the December Branch Meeting. There is still time to enter. Parents please encourage your younger folk to get writing and send their efforts to Mrs. Rosemary Furlong, Garden Vale, Athlone, not later than Wednesday, 5th December.

The film "Bargee" has been deferred to the New Year.

The next meeting of the Branch will take place on Friday, 7th December at 8.30 p.m. in the Prince of Wales Hotel.

Try to be there,

Michael Martin

AGENDA. Minutes
Correspondence
Mooring Plan
Brick Island Project
Council Meeting Report
A.O.B.

London Boat Show

At present there are thirty places booked for this year's trip. Departure is Thursday evening 3rd January and returning Sunday evening 6th January. Accommodation is B & B at the London Ryan Hotel. All in fare is £83 Dublin to Dublin. This is your last call. If you are interested in going, contact Mrs. Eileen O'Brien without delay. Phone 0902 2358.

Lough Derg news

Better than ever, the Lough Derg Rally five postponed from 1979 for lack of water will take place from Monday August 4th to Saturday August 9th 1980. Assembly at Kilgarvan on the Monday evening as usual.

The auction of nautical items which was first held in the Kilgarvan Angling Club's...

Lough Ree Yacht Club

L.R.Y.C. A.G.M. took place on 4th November in the Jolly Mariner. The Hon. Secretary read his controversial report and went into great detail to explain his point of view on the matters contained therein. At the conclusion he received a warm applause from the large attendance. Officers elected for the coming year were:

Commodore	Peter Mulvihill
Vice Commodore	Harmon Murtagh
Rear Commodore	Edwin Hunter
Hon. Sec.	Vincent Rafter
Hon. Treasurer	Hugh Hanley
Hon. Sailing Secs.	Michael McNamara & Des Croasdell

Canal Dribbles

1. The contribution of Dublin Branch to the Clean Water Campaign was the recent clean-up of the short level between Portobello and Charlemont Street at the Barge Inn (very adjacent!) and a mucky job it was too. The turn-out of members was a little disappointing, but the condition of the drained level was surprisingly good - no bedsteads or old cars! Indeed the main "finds" were safes with backs cut off, slashed handbags and bits of bicycles - so it would seem that its not the "honest citizenry" who dump things in the canal but the dishonest ones. One wall safe in quite good condition may end up in the home of one of the Committee - they're waiting for Athlone Sub-Aqua Club to dive for the key!

2. More recently, Dublin Branch held a showing of Fr. Paddy Dowling's new film in Clontarf Y.C. This is a very professionally produced work complete with sound commentary and background music and it's called "The Good People" - who must surely be us - it didn't say who were the bad ones! It has beautiful shots of activity on the Shannon, Barrow and Canals, including quite a lot of various Shannon Rallies and also some aerial photography by the "spy in the sky". Strongly to be recommended to our Branch for a future film night. Incidentally, Athlone types spotted at the well-attended function included Pat Henry, Des Barry, Johnny Harris, Redmonds and the Magniers, plus Shannon Rally Champions Noel and Ber Murphy.

Kilbeggan Canal

The first steps towards restoring the eight mile stretch of canal from Kilbeggan to Ballycommon were taken on Monday 19th November at a public meeting in St. James' Hall, Kilbeggan, organised by the local Development Committee. The meeting was attended by Public Representatives from Westmeath & Offaly and by representatives from Inland Waterways Association, Midland Regional Tourism Organisation and Hire Boat Operators, as well as local interested parties.

The canal was once the lifeline of Kilbeggan bringing cargoes of coal, Guinness and whiskey from Locke's Distillery and merchandise for Kilbeggan and the surrounding area, and it is hoped that the reopening would bring a similar boom in the form of tourists to the area.

Deputy Keegan pointed out that the canal had been closed for 17 years and roadways were made over it. Private interest had to be met and a huge amount of work lay ahead. The representatives of the bodies present wished the project well. A report from the meeting and a discussion on the project will be given at our next meeting.

Sympathy

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Mrs. Kitty Conroy, at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe. Kitty will be sadly missed by her wide circle of friends both on and off the river. To her bereaved family and friends may we extend our deepest sympathy.

Athlone Boat Club Dinner Dance

Athlone Boat Club held their annual dinner dance on Friday 23rd November in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel. This year the club paid special tribute to three outstanding members of the club for the service they have given to the club over the past 50 years. Club President, Bart Flanagan, said that "Frank Keane, Colm Mulvihill and the late Charlie Mills R.I.P. have been examples of all that is desirable in good clubmen. Each has given tremendous service to Athlone Boat Club as oarsman and administrator". He then made a presentation to the three men. Colm Mulvihill accepted on his own behalf, Michael Keane accepted on behalf of his father who is in hospital, and Lesley Mills accepted on behalf of his late father.

The family of Charlie Mills then presented a plaque to the club to be awarded to the best "clubman" for each year, and a cheque for the erection of an Honours Board in the Clubhouse.

The President then announced that an international quadrangle regatta is to be held at Coosan next year in addition to their own annual regatta - a tremendous honour for the club and we wish them every success.

A most enjoyable night was had by all present.

Only Joking!

Athlone U.D.C. have provided mounds of clay for the children to play in along the quay wall, and to add to the beauty of the place they have planted lovely red and white tar barrels around each mound.

S.A.C. News

Athlone Sub-Aqua Club held their AGM on 17th November. Officers for the coming year are Chairman - N. Folan, Vice Chairman - D. Carr, Secretary - D. Delaney, Treasurer - B. Delaney - Diving Officer - D. McMahon, Training Officer - G. Murphy.

A call for new members was extended, if you're interested contact B. Delaney at 0902 75620.

Marine Sales, Dalkey, presented an exhibition of Sub-Aqua equipment and a film show in the Royal Hotel on 23rd November, to a small but enthusiastic gathering.

Hints

By this time most people will have their boats either taken out or safely moored for the winter. One way or the other, here are a few suggestions that might save you some trouble in the spring.

1. Remove cushions, sleeping bags, clothing, sails, etc. dry them and store in an "airy" spot to prevent mildew, etc.
2. Remove outboard engines, clean and oil and store safely
3. Empty water tanks and wash out, clean other water and food containers, it's easier to do it now than later if contamination sets in
4. If your boat is taken out, drain all water lines, engine cooling and toilet pipes, bowl and pump, to avoid frost damage. Make sure cockpit drains are clear and open and pump out the bilges.
5. If your boat is afloat ensure it's securely tied and remember that flowing water is less likely to "freeze" than still water, ice on the surface no matter how thin can work its way through your hull from the inside or outside. It's recommended that engines should be started and run regularly (every 2 weeks) If your cooling system is indirect, you can add antifreeze, but if it is a direct system you may need to drain it in severe frost conditions.

Whatever you do don't just abandon the boat, keep a regular check on it over the winter, it might save you a lot of heartache and money next year.

The pantomine this year will be "Jack in the ~~X/Y~~ Corridor". It's about an association whose leaders leaked a secret policy document to the Government before discussing it with the members of the association (this could never happen in real life) Well this angers the culchies and there's a revolution. The culchies capture the leader with the help of a spaniard called EL FEETZO and torture him but he bluntly refuses to disclose the contents of the document, then they threaten to bring him to next year's Fancy Dress in Athlone, and that does it. He tells all and they all live happily ever after.

Christman Gifts Suggestions

Choose from I.W.A.I. Burgees, Ties, Ladies/Gents pins, cuff links, tie clips, Thanks for the Memory, Grand Canal Guide, Barrow Guide and our own Silver Jubilee History. There's a host of other nautical items and publications available. Contact the Treasurer, Sean's Bar.

Slán agus Beannacht