



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch ,Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

January 1989

Next Branch Meeting
Monday 9th January 1989
Seans Bar at 8.30p.m.

Annual General Meeting Report:

The Chairman Damien Delaney welcomed the good attendance and outlined the Branch position in his usual detailed fashion.

- Quayside: Phase I completed and transferred to Athlone U.D.C. Phase II delayed to allow exchange of plans between ourselves and U.D.C. and O.P.W.
- Ballykeeran: Await news from Westmeath County Council re land acquisition.
- Portrunny: No further development due to non allocation of funds by Roscommon County Council.
- Moorings: Hoped to check and replace lake courtesy moorings this season.
- Pollution: Inny Fish Kills - Not a lot of success from Longford County Council either unable or unwilling to come up with answers.
Banagher Meat Factory - Anxiety expressed over potential pollution on a grand scale. Political decisions balancing jobs against environment.
- Fishing Licence: Mixed feeling within Council but hope that attitudes are softening and may result in early solution.
- Harbour Hoggers: The continued abandonment of private boats particularly in the smaller harbours continues to be a problem and may result in OPW enforcing law with further legislation.
- Ballinamore-Ballyconnel: Recent reports bb the media regarding optimistic signs for development may be just that.
- Shannon Rally: The 1989 Rally will be North-South with the major planning to be done by Athlone. Hoped that the 'them and us' attitude should be resolved for the minor rallies and a united front be implemented for this years Branch activities.
- Secretaries Report: Eileen O'Brien outlined the Branch Calender of Events

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starting with Ruth Heards Film Show and the OPW Survey of Canals. The Millenium Rally was attended by seven Athlone Boats and Branch participated in the Arts Festival. These as well as Slide Shows by John Scully and Walter Borner culminated with the again great Annual Dinner at S.G.S.

Treasurers Report: The Hon.Auditor Reg Redmond utilised the law of the lever once more in balancing Sean Fitzsimon's books. Accumulated fund at 30/9/88 was £3,730 (black)

Election of Officers:

Chairman: Damien Delaney
Vice Chairman: Declan Walsh

Secretary: Eileen O'Brien

Treasurer: Sean Fitzsimons

Hon Auditor: Reg Redmond

Pollution Officer:Archdeacon Cave

Rally Committee: Denis Skehan, Michael and Rosaleen Miller, Sean Fitzsimons, Damien and Bridie Delaney, Frank Farrell, Pat Henshaw, The elected members also have power of cooption.

Aerial Committee: Declan Walsh, Reg Redmond, Damien Delaney, Rosemary Furlong, and Hugh Hanley.

Quayside Committee: Sean Fitzsimons, David Dixon, Pat and David Henshaw and Declan Walsh.

---oOo---

Particles of Pollution

What is pollution? Anything which adversely affects the surroundings or environment in which we live is pollution. In the environment there are two things in particular which are essential to Human life, namely air and water. Without air three minutes is about the maximum that one can survive. Without water, something longer, maybe four or five days before irreparable damage is done. There are of course other things, such as food, without which man cannot survive, but without air and water there would be no food, so these are the two basic elements in the environment which we should seek to protect at all times in the realization that our very existence depends on them. But while we care about the air, as members of the I.W.A.I. we are more particularly concerned about the water, because it is on and in this element that we seek

our pleasure. To swim, to fish, to cruise, is to pollute (just as to breath the air is to pollute it) so dont unnessarrily add to the damage - More next month.

---oOo---

Canal Tow Path Restrictions

The A.G.M. promised to pursue the recent policy changes by the O.P.W. with regard to erection of gates across the tow paths on the Grand Canal.

**The MIDLAND TRIBUNE
COMMENT**

Tribune, 26th November, 1988

Curbing Public Freedom

The erosion of people's traditional right to walk the riverbanks and beaches, to ramble in the countryside, and to stroll in the mountains, is steadily diminishing our freedom to enjoy the God-given gift of a beautiful environment.

The most recent curb, and possibly the most absurd, is the decision by the Office of Public Works to place gates on the Grand Canal towpath in the vicinity of Belmont to prevent pony trekking along the canal bank.

For generations horses plodded their way from Portobello Harbour in Dublin to Shannonharbour and back, pulling barges laden with commercial goods and in all those years nobody ever suggested that the horses 'damaged' the towpaths.

Now that the canals are being converted for use as a tourist amenity it seems illogical that the Office of Public Works should declare that because of possible damage to the towpaths and interference with anglers and walkers they are banning horse riding on the paths.

This daft decision is now being challenged by local people and, hopefully, through their public representatives they will prevent the bureaucracy from depriving the public of one of the few freedoms still left to them to enjoy to the full our wonderful environment.

We will report further on this situation.

---oOo---

Council News from our Delegates

A meeting of I.W.A.I. National Council took place in Mullingar on 25th November, and the following were amongst the items on the Agenda.

- 1) Banagher Meat Factory - serious concern is still being expressed regarding the proposed discharge of effluent and Athlone Branch were asked to continue investigations as a matter of urgency.
- 2) Misuse of Public Harbours- after another lengthy discussion it emerged that there are major legal problems in enforcing the regulations, mainly the powers to move boats and the liabilities in doing so. Branches on the Shannon are to be asked to survey the scene in their areas, identify boats and report back.
- 3) Forum - our President, Peter Hanna, is to represent the Association at a Forum on the River Shannon being organised by Minister Noel Tracey T.D.
- 4) E.S.B. Wires - our Vice President Damien Delaney has written to the E.S.B. with facts, complaints and suggestions arising out of his survey report.
- 5) Canal Bye-laws - these are now in operation and the cost of locking is now 50p per lock, with an Annual Permit £100 p.a.
- 6) Shannon Guide - Ruth Heard's new Guide is ready and will be launched in March '89
- 7) Boat Show - this is being revived after last year's cancellation. It will be held in Dublin at the Point Depot, North Wall on 9th, 10th, and 11th March 1989.
- 8) A.G.M. - the A.G.M. of the Association will be held in the R.I.A.C., Dawson Street on Friday 10th March '89. All members are welcome.

---oOo---

Skipper of the 'Coill an Eo' retires

Micheal McMahon has retired after forty one years service with Shannon Navigation. Micheal a Limerick man was guest of honour at a pleasant pre Christmas reception in Seans where many friends of many years came to pipe him ashore after his long and distinguished career.

May we wish him many years of fulfillment in his retirement and every good wish for the future.

---oOo---

EARLY SEASON BOAT AUCTION.

THE FIRST ANNUAL EARLY SEASON AUCTION OF BOATS AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE HELD AT THE JOLLY MARINER, ATHLONE, IN APRIL. ENTRIES ARE NOW BEING TAKEN. CONTACT ATHLONE CRUISERS LTD., JOLLY MARINER MARINA, ATHLONE. TEL:0902-72892. TELEX 53021 ACL EI.



ATHLONE AERIAL

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All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Scans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

February 1989

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE.

Subscription for membership to the Athlone Branch is now due.

Subscription £10.

to

Hon. Treasurer,
Mr. Sean Fitzsimons
c/o Sean's Bar,
Main St.
Athlone.

Branch Meeting Report.

Quayside Project.

The sub committee are presently considering the changes requested by both Athlone U.D.C. and Shannon Navigation. The former has suggested an up market decking such as Liscannor Stone. A further option would be the brick as laid at Lecarrow. The Shannon Navigation have included provision for a loading area north of the lock. Harbour Hoggers.

The meeting felt that a line of action be taken to address this ongoing problem. The restriction of berthage particularly in the smaller harbours due to abandoned and long term mooring is of grave concern. If the situation is not improved it was felt that the Shannon Navigation would have no option to legislate and enforce by laws. A possible solution might be the provision of courtesy moorings for occasional use as stopover.

Inny Pollution Conviction.

The meeting congratulated the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board on the successful prosecution resulting from the Fish Kill last summer.

The press report of the Irish Independent 5th Dec. 1988 below outlines the case. With the welcome introduction of the new Pollution Legislation one wonders how Athlone's Authorities are placed with regard to the disposal of the towns sewage ?.

Cyanide '100 times over limit'

CYANIDE levels of more than 100 times the permitted limit were poured into the River Inny, near Ballymahon, Co. Longford last summer, it was admitted at the weekend.

Metal Treatments (Ireland) Ltd., with a registered address at Main Street, Longford, pleaded guilty, at a local court, to breaches of the Water Pollution Act on dates in May and June last.

The company has since spent £50,000 rectifying the problem but District Justice Peter Donnellan, postponed a decision on penalties until he also gets assurances that there will be no further pollution. "Ballymahon

would be better off without your employment if you are going to destroy the Inny," he said.

Four other charges, were struck out against the company which has a licence to discharge cyanide levels of 0.05 milligrammes per litre of water. However, levels of 6.05 mgs. were detected on June 3 last, 421 times the permitted level. In a separate sample, on the same date, cyanide levels were 82 times the allowed limit, while levels, on earlier dates, exceeded by 21.8 times and 42 times.

Cyanide is not used now in 35 p.c. of production and, over the next three months, it is hoped to switch to 90 p.c. not using of it, company chemist and works manager John Mulholland said.

The pollution happened in a high ame-

nity area used by canoeists and children and the levels of cyanide could well be harmful if swallowed, said prosecuting solicitor, Mr. Pearse O'Sullivan.

The court was told that the company, Longford County Council and the local Midland Health Board had ignored earlier warnings about cyanide pollution and that it had been "a one-man effort" by Shannon Regional Fisheries Board officer John Fallon, which had tackled the problem.

In a separate case Master Meat Packers, with a registered address at MMP House, Wilton Place, Dublin, was fined and ordered to pay almost £475 expenses for permitting non-toxic animal waste to fall into a tributary of the same river, also last summer.

Date-for your Diary.

Waterways Eighty Eight.

Our President Presents.

Mr. Peter Hanna, President of the I.W.A.I. and the Athlone Branch invite you to

Film Show of Waterways Eighty Eight.

in

The Shamrock Lodge, 8.30p.m.

Sat. 11th Feb. 1989. Adm. £1

The night promises to be excellent with coverage of The Dublin Millenium Rally, The Corrib and Shannon Harbour.

Particles of Pollution

What causes Pollution? If one is to answer that question in a word, it would be 'Civilisation'. In primeval times when our forefathers roamed this island in search of food with which to keep body and soul together, mainly birds, animals and fish, the water in our rivers and lakes would have been of (to us) an unbelievable clarity. When there was exceptionally heavy rain there might have been some muddying of the water, but because so much of the land surrounding a river like the Shannon would have been swampy the rise and fall in levels would have been gradual, with none of the fast run-off which today can cause such havoc in August and September in the middle Shannon, between Athlone and Banagher. Most of the time you could have seen the bottom through 15 or 20 feet of water, water like the limped stuff which can only be seen today in a well. But then comes Civilisation and the beginning of a long slippery slope leading to disaster.

HOUSES are but badly built boats, so firmly aground that you cannot think of moving them. They are definitely inferior things, belonging to the vegetable, not the animal, world, rooted and stationary, incapable of transition. The desire to build a house is the tired wish of a man content thenceforward with a single anchorage. The desire to build a boat is the desire of youth, unwilling yet to accept the idea of a final resting place. —Arthur Ransome. *'Rucundra's' First Cruise*
(Allen & Unwin)

Dramatic Canal Burst

By Roving Reporter

On Sunday afternoon 15th January, Mrs Catherine Byrne of Edenderry, went for her customary walk with her dog along the banks of the Grand Canal. It was a fine day, but cold and a very strong S.W. to W. wind had been blowing along the canal for some days. She walked out along the Edenderry line and down the main line towards the "Tunnel"(Aquaduct). Looking at her watch, she decided not to walk the curcular route back to the town, but turned and retraced her steps. Mrs Byrne had not gone very far back towards the Horse-bridge at the junction of the two lines, when she thought she felt the ground shake under her. Putting it down to imagination she walked on, when suddenly ahead of her the earth split and a gap about 6 inches wide and 5 feet long opened up. She blinked, wondered had she been seeing things and hurried home. One hour later, she had just finished telling her story to a disbelieving family when word started spreading like wild-fire through Edenderry - the Grand Canal had burst its banks and houses, farms and livestock were in danger from millions of gallons of water!

When your "Aerial" Reporter visited the site some days later, the scene resembled that of an earthquake. The site of the burst is on the north bank about half-way between the "Tunnel" and the Horse-bridge and the breach is about 200 yards long. But that's only for starters! This was no mere "overflow" of water wearing away a groove through the bank. The canal along this stretch is built on an embankment across the bog, this embankment is about 30 feet high and slopes gently down on each side for a width of about 100 yards to the level of the surrounding country-side. The burst had sheared away the bank down to the bed of the canal and below it! For 50 yards on each side of the breach the rush of the ever-accelerating water had scoured a trench out of the centre of the canal which was 8 feet deep below the bed.

The bottom of this trench marked the depth of the breach, which swept its way through the embankment, cutting a canyon 200 yards wide and 100 yards long until it disgorged the contents of the 18 mile long level into the surrounding countryside - an estimated 60 million gallons of water! At the edge of this gigantic cutting (in which one could lose a double decker bus) huge segments of earth with grass still on top hang at crazy angles. 50 yards back from the edges, earthquake-like splits - 2 feet wide - appear on the surface. Many of the fields around are covered with silt - it was these fields which held most of the water - in some places 6 or 8 feet deep until it ran away through drains and ditches into small tributaries of the River Boyne. It was a miracle that no-one was drowned or injured.

The O.P.W. now have the canal closed with stop-planks at the "Tunnel" and at Colgan Bridge beyond the Edenderry branch. The rest of the long level beyond these points will hold some water to keep the canal in good condition and to preserve some fish life. The breach of the canal which occurred near Baingean in the mid 70's was repaired in 3-4 months, but one would have to say that this one could be a monumental task. Highly skilled engineering planning and work will be needed, not just to repair but to ensure that such an incident does not occur again. Just one suggestion - surely it should be possible to instal Flood-gates at strategic points on the Long Level, so that if a breach occurs again the entire contents of the level are not emptied? We have a recollection of seeing such on the Boyne Aquaduct of the Royal Canal.

When will the Grand be open again? This year? Goodness knows. Arn't

we lucky to have the Millennium Rally behind us. What about all the boats in Lowtown? Cranes and trailers will be much in demand or else a lot of people will be spending their Season down the Barrow!

And as for Mrs Byrne - she's living quietly in Edenderry thanking her stars that her watch keeps good time.

Loosan Cream

This syllabub makes a good dinner party choice. It is based on Irish Mist, cream and marmalade. It freezes well.

To serve 4-6

6 level tablespoons marmalade
1 oz caster sugar
4 tablespoons 'Irish Mist'
juice of Lemon
 $\frac{3}{4}$ pint cream

Mix marmalade, sugar Irish Mist and lemon juice.
Beat cream until floppy and beginning to hold its shape.
Gently beat in marmalade mixture until cream stands up in soft peaks.
You can serve in small glasses or leave in one bowl.
Decorate with orange peel or strawberries or what have you.

For Sale: Beeston Stove - Pot bellied type
Will heat water and radiators.
Suitable for Barge: Small bit of welding required.

Tel: 01 971002

SPRING BOAT AUCTION.

THE FIRST ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION OF BOATS AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE HELD AT THE JOLLY MARINER MARINA IN APRIL.

ENTRIES ARE NOW BEING TAKEN. CONTACT ATHLONE CRUISERS LTD., JOLLY MARINER MARINA, ATHLONE. TEL:0902-72892. TELEX 53021 ACL EI.



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March 1989.

Next Branch Meeting
Mon. 6th March, 8.30
Sean's Bar.

Subscription Renewal.
If there be an (x)
in the box, according
to our records your
subs due.

Subscription £10 to
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Hon. Treasurer,
Sean's Bar,
Main Street,
Athlone.

Quayside Progress.

Agreement has now been reached as to the final plans for Phase II. The decking is to be of inlaid brick as done by the O.P.W. at Lecarrow. It is hoped to now fix a date for the commencement of work.

Shannon Rally Itinery :

The Ups and Downs.

The February meeting aired the dilema that the Athlone boats find themselves in on alternate years when the itinery is north south. The difficulty for the Rally Committee is that with both the Carrick fleet and the Athlone fleet meeting and sailing south the main options then left are on Ree. The Athlone lads sure dont regard Ree as being that exciting for their holliers.

This I fear is the price one pays for taking a middle venue start such as Tarmon or Rooskey. This patern has evolved in recent years to overcome the long haul from Athlone to Carrick and visa versa in the one day.

Pollution Particles.

Civilisation and a settled community go hand in hand. But, ^{in a} unsettled community also go hand in hand. When man settles down farming becomes an essential element if the community is to be fed, and while farming is, basically, a purely natural process, as it becomes concentrated even intensive, it can become a serious source of pollution.

E.G. A pig-sty, a sow and three litters a year is of no consequence, but a hundred sow unit and 3,000 porkers a year (occupying an area not much bigger than an old fashioned farmyard) is a logistical problem of no mean order, and if not managed properly will be a major source of pollution. The effluent from a 3,000 pig fattening unit is equivalent to the sewage discharge of a town of 18,000 people. As big a problem as that faced by Athlone U.D.C.

But to go back to the beginning - once farming starts it is soon discovered that the best land is available when the swamps around lakes and rivers are drained, but drainage means fast run off, which in turn means Eutrofication, part of the slippery slope and a subject to which we will return to at a later date.

Council News from our Delegates :

A meeting of I.W.A.I. National Council took place in Mullingar on the 10th February and the following items were discussed.

Banagher Meat Factory.

Planning application still being processed and monitored.

Harbour Hoggers.

Reports from branches still awaited.

New Shannon Guide.

Launch date is now mid April and will be available from branches.

E.S.B. Wires.

A meeting with the E.S.B. is to be arranged.

Ballinamore Canal.

For publicity purposes this should be referred to in future as Erne - Shannon Link. There now appears to be active and serious interest by Government and Ireland Fund and hope is rising. Council formed a sub committee of Carrick, Belturbet and Erne Branches for promotion and publicity purposes.

John Weaving Memorial.

Planning permission now granted and installation to commence at Easter.

Slaney.

A new Slaney Branch of I.W.A.I. was approved. David Killeen is the Chairman. Other officers are Peter Miller and Jim Maguire. A hearty welcome was extended.

Grand Canal.

O.P.W. are still surveying the breach. Tullamore and Shannon Harbour may suffer from shortage of water. Council are to seek a meeting with O.P.W.

Review of O.P.W.

I.W.A.I. have been asked by Government to make a submission on the future structuring and functions of O.P.W.

Allocations for Inland Waterways.

It was announced that amongst special O.P.W. allocations for 1989 was provision for additional landing facilities on the Shannon and also for a survey of the River Suck with a view to making it navigable.

Harry Rice Cup Competition.

Last entries now being accepted.

The closing date is Friday 31st March.

Remember :

Open Competition

A Painting, essay or a ships log are eligible.

Childrens Section

Adults Section.

Have a go :

Entries to

Mrs Rosemary Furlong
Coosan Point,
Athlone.

Carmel Custard :

Carmel

2 oz granulated sugar. 2 tablespoons water
 (2 rounded tablespoons)

Custard

3 eggs large 1 oz castor sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint milk (1 rounded tablespoon)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla

Oven; Pre-heat to very slow (275 F Gas no 1)
 Shelf; Fourth from the top.

1. Grease a 1 pint ovenproof dish. Fill a roasting tin quarter full with warm water.
2. Place sugar and water in saucepan and heat slowly until sugar dissolved.
3. Boil without stirring until sugar has turned a deep golden brown.
4. Pour into warm dish and leave to set (2 minutes)
5. Beat egg in bowl. Heat milk and sugar together until sugar dissolves. Pour into eggs.
6. Add essence and beat lightly.
7. Strain egg and milk mixture onto carmel. Bake in the water bath in pre heated oven for $1\frac{1}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Remove dish from roasting tin and leave 3 hours. Loosen edge by pulling gently with fingers and turn out onto serving plate.

Serves 4.

For Sale.

24ft Freeman Cabin Cruiser.
 4 berth, in excellent condition.
 Phone 0902-81003.

Shetland Cabin Cruiser 535
 16ft in perfect order.
 40 hp Mercury Outboard
 and trailer.
 Phone 0902-81003.

Wanted.

Optimist Sailing Dingy.
 Phone 0902-74275.

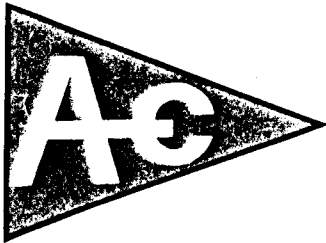
Sympathy;

The recent death of Mr. Johnny Moran of Killeenmore caused deep regret amongst the people of Athlone. Johnny was a well known and popular friend on the lake.

THE SMILING FACES OF LOUGH REE

What a way to start a poem you're saying to yourself,
the smiling faces of Lough Ree is title to this verse,
Who are the faces mentioned, why should they wear a grin,
Have they a secret hobby or is it from within.
To venture in their pleasure where has one got to go,
where choppy waters dance in tune to Ripples on the shore
Hoist up the sails to catch the breeze, hasten us to
start,
glide along the wavetops t'is dancing of the heart,
Plot out a course to follow, lets be on the way,
the waters parting underneath sending up a spray.
The sail it bellows to the breeze clutching in the power,
for all on board the endless joy no heed is paid to showers.
Where be the jib they talk about as I have never sailed a
spinnaker what can it be, is it for telling tales.
The rigging as they call it to hold the mast in line,
is made by binding fibres and platting lots of twine,
The skyline blends behind the sails as others join the
breeze,
To leave on shore their worries relaxing so with ease.
Smile on ye jolly sailors, glide softly ore the foam,
tease out the power of the wind as waters call to roam,
Glance sometime at the shoreline at us, oh not so brave,
as ye flutter by on wavetops smiling as ye wave.

Christopher Relihan.



Athlone Cruisers Ltd.

Shancurragh, Athlone, Ireland.
Telex: 4221 ACL EI.

Telephone: (0902) 2892.
Cables: 'Cruisers Athlone'.

FIRST ANNUAL SPRING BOAT AUCTION

SUNDAY 16TH. APRIL 1989 @ 2.30PM., AT THE JOLLY MARINER, ATHLONE.

PRELIMINARY VIEWING: SUNDAY 9TH. APRIL
FINAL VIEWING: SAT. 15TH. APRIL FROM 11.00AM.
SUN. 16TH. APRIL 11.00AM TO 1.00PM.

ENTRY FORM

PLEASE ENTER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

RESERVE PRICE (IF REQUIRED):.....
GIVE PRECISE DETAILS FOR CATALOGUE ENTRY AND IF MORE THAN ONE
ENTRY PLEASE CONTINUE OVERLEAF.

CHEQUE VALUED £..... ENCLOSED, TO COVER:

LISTING FEE: ITEMS @ £5.00 EACH
RESERVE FEE: £..... (1% OF RESERVE MIN £10.00)
JUMBLE STALL: ITEMS AT £1.00 EACH

I AM ENTERING THESE ITEMS ON THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT NO
RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER IS ACCEPTED BY THE AUCTIONEERS, ATHLONE
CRUISERS LTD., THE JOLLY MARINER, THEIR EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS FOR
THE SECURITY OR KEEPING OF ANY OR ALL OF THESE ITEMS.

SIGNED..... DATE.....

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

TELEPHONE NO:.....

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

AUCTIONEERS: WHEATLEY BROTHERS, NORTHGATE STREET ATHLONE.

BUYERS FEES: UP TO £5000: 5%, THEREAFTER 3.5%
SMALL ITEMS: SEE DETAILS OF JUMBLE STALL OVERLEAF

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY 3RD. APRIL TO ATHLONE CRUISERS LTD.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

RESERVE PRICE (IF REQUIRED).....

RESERVE PRICE (IF REQUIRED).....

RESERVE PRICE (IF REQUIRED).....

J U M B L E S T A L L

A SPECIAL JUMBLE STALL WILL BE OPEN FOR THE SALE OF ITEMS VALUED AT UNDER £50. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH THE PRICE REQUIRED. ENTRY FEE IS OF £1 PER ITEM AND THIS WILL BE REFUNDED IF THE ITEM IS SOLD. A FEE OF 10% WILL BE CHARGED ON ALL ITEMS SOLD.

ITEMS FOR THE JUMBLE STALL SHOULD BE ENTERED ON THIS FORM, PREFACING THE DESCRIPTION WITH THE WORDS 'JUMBLE STALL'

ENTRIES AND DELIVERIES

ENTRIES WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IF MADE ON THIS FORM, DULY SIGNED AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPROPRIATE FEE. THIS APPLIES BOTH TO THE AUCTION AND THE JUMBLE STALL.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE JOLLY MARINER NOT LATER THAN 11.00AM ON SATURDAY 15TH. APRIL. WHERE POSSIBLE THEY SHOULD BE DELIVERED THE PREVIOUS WEEKEND SO AS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PRELIMINARY VIEWING ON SUNDAY 9TH. APRIL. THIS APPLIES BOTH TO ENTRIES FOR THE AUCTION AND THE JUMBLE STALL.



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April 1989.

Next Branch Meeting,
Mon. 3rd April, 8.30.
Sean's Bar.

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subs overdue.
Last Aerial.

Subscription £10 to
Mr. Sean Fitzsimons,
Hon. Treasurer,
Sean's Bar,
Main St.
Athlone.

Inaugural Meeting of The Shannon Forum.

On March 21st the inaugural meeting of the Shannon Forum took place in the council chambers of Athlone U.D.C.

The aim of the Forum will seek to provide a basis for discussion and action on areas of mutual interest and concern for all aspects of commercial, environmental and recreational development.

The Forum is representative of O.P.W. Shannon Navigation, E.S.B., Bord na Mona, Bord Failte, I.B.R.O., An Taisce, I.W.A.I., I.Y.A., Irish Wildlife Federation, Regional Fisheries and all local Authorities and the Irish Farmers Association.

The meeting elected Mr. P. J. Coghill, Westmeath Co. Co. as Chairman and Mr. Adrian Leddy, I.F.A. as Secretary.

The geographical concern of the Forum will cover all of the Shannon Basin excluding the estuary.

The creation of the Forum is a welcome step towards co-ordinating this great resource. The composition whilst large is capable of great achievement in the development and protection of the river. Beware however of vested interests .

Date for your Diary.

Ruth Heard's Film Show.
Fri. 14th April, 8.30pm
in
The Jolly Mariner Marina,
Athlone.

We are delighted again to have Ruth to Athlone to share memories from then and now , always a most enjoyable night . The ladies as usual will top off the night with loads of cream and gooey things.

The Irish Times, Sat. March 4th, 1989.

FIRM FINED FOR WATER POLLUTION.

A firm in Co. Longford, Metal Treatments (Irl.) Ltd., was convicted on six counts under the Water Pollution Act (1977) yesterday. The company, based in Ballymahon, had been discharging cyanide, lead and zinc into the River Inny, a tributary of the Shannon.

Pollution Particles.

Farming has been noted as the first cause of pollution solely because it is the first alteration to the natural environment resulting from civilisation and not because it is the worst or most serious source of pollution.

Indeed, as already mentioned, farming is, basically, a natural process and when well organised and managed is beneficial in every way. The truth of the matter is that civilisation, especially as it becomes industrialised, produces other and far more serious forms of pollution.

Sewage in Dublin Bay or below the weir in Athlone, chemicals in Cork, factory effluent in the River Inny. Abstraction of water for cooling purposes at Lanesboro and Shannon Bridge may be o.k. but on a smaller river it would be fatal. There are so many things that could be noted, but just one small one that one might never think of - it has been noted on many rivers that fly life on the down side of bridges has been adversely affected by the run off from the tarred road running across the bridge.

If the slippery slope is to be avoided or negotiated eternal vigilance and care by everybody is needed. Never throw or discharge anything into your river which can conveniently be disposed by other means.

Boat Show 89.

The first view your reporter had of the Boat Show was of a large yacht sailing down the Liffey past the Customs House. Well that was a change for the better -- at least there were boats at it.!

"Point Depot spells Success" First impressions were of a clean, bright display hall, more exhibitors, more boats, civilised facilities including bars and snack counters everywhere, an escalator up to the balcony and above all satisfied customers and satisfied exhibitors.

One of the major features was the floating jetty across the road at which were moored about 10 boats and Asgard II. Welcome exhibitors were the Naval Service, the Air Corps (Helicopter rescue) and the Dept. of the Marine (who were holding a V.H.F. Radio exam on the stand.)

Our own I.W.A.I. stand was doing a roaring trade, answering questions about the canal breach, selling badges, posters and T shirts and distributing bright newly designed brochures for the Shannon Rally. The R.C.A.G. had their own stand for the first time and were "showing off" the progress on the Royal.

Although many of the large hire boat companies were notable by their absence, we did have a chat with Kerry Sloane of Athlone Cruisers who is a very long standing supporter of the show. He claims that the middle and south sections of the river are the in-places nowadays. Brian Cullen of Derg Line was present as usual, while Heather Thomas on the Celtic Cruisers stand confirmed that they will be lifting some of their fleet over the breach and operating them from Ticknevin.

All in all, Boat Show '89 had that feeling of being on the way back. A note of optimism was present and now with renewed drive, we can look forward to an even bigger and better show next year.

I.W.A.I. National A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in Dublin on 10th March, with an attendance of over fifty.

The President, Peter Hanna, in his report mentioned the progress towards restoration of the Royal, the Boyne and the Ballinmore and Ballyconnell. He expressed concern at the lack of weed control on the eastern section of the Grand and pointed out that during the season some boats had been forced to turn back. He concluded by expressing his conviction that all possible navigations would be restored by the end of the century.

The elections to Council resulted as follows:

President	:	Peter Hanna	
Vice President	:	Damien Delaney	
Hon.Secretary	:	Peadar Canavan	
Hon.Treasurer	:	Alan Waterhouse	
Members of Council Elected for 2 years	:-	Colin Becker, Mary Gallagher Sean Fitzsimons Ruth Heard Marie Hyland Noel Murphy	
Remaining 1 more year	:	Ian Bath Brian Hatfield Reggie Redmond	Eddie Slane Louis Slator Joyce Waterhouse

Also Chairmen and Secretaries of all Branches.

Each Branch made a report to the meeting on its activities and the meeting concluded with a discussion on the breach of the Grand Canal.

Regrettably only 8 of our 15 branches were represented at the meeting.

For Sale

24ft Freeman Cabin Cruiser
4 berth, in excellent condition.
Phone 0902 81003

Shetland Cabin Cruiser 535
16ft in perfect order
40 hp Mercury Outboard and trailer
Phone 0902 81003

Wanted

Optimist Sailing Dingy.	VHF Radio and Aerial
Phone 0902 74275	Phone 0902 94126

Moorings

The Branch meeting has decided to survey and replace as required the moorings at Athlone. This will again be undertaken through the help of Athlone Sub Aqua Club.

Orange Cake

2 eggs and their weight (approx 4 or 5 oz) in
sugar, flour and margarine
Grated rind of $\frac{1}{2}$ orange
1 tablespoon milk
1 teaspoon Baking powder
1 tablespoon orange juice

Mix all together for about 5 mins.

Cook $\frac{1}{2}$ hour approx until a knife comes out clean

If you have a microwave cook for $7\frac{1}{2}$ mins on high. Stand 10 mins and turn out.

To Ice Use other half of grated rind, 1oz butter and 1 or 2 tablespoons orange juice with about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb icing sugar. I never measure this so you are on your own!

At long last,

we have sufficient quantity for
each reader to have one of his own.....

These "tuits" have been difficult to obtain
and are indispensable for procrastinating
supervisors. For years we have heard such
supervisors say: "I will do this as soon as I
get a 'ROUND TUIT'". Now that you have a
round tuit of your very own, many things
that you have failed to do will
now, we hope be
accomplished.

S P R I N G B O A T A U C T I O N

ENTRIES ARE ROLLING IN FOR ATHLONE CRUISER'S FIRST ANNUAL SPRING BOAT AND EQUIPMENT AUCTION, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE JOLLY MARINER MARINA ON SUNDAY APRIL 16TH. AT 3PM. ADMISSION IS £1.00.

PRELIMINARY VIEWING IS ON SUNDAY 9TH. APRIL AND FINAL VIEWING ON SATURDAY 15TH. AND THE MORNING OF THE AUCTION. ENTRIES ARE STILL BEING TAKEN. DETAILS FROM ATHLONE CRUISERS LTD., JOLLY MARINER, ATHLONE, TEL 0902-72892.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch ,Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

May 1989

Next Branch Meeting
MONDAY May 1st
Seans Bar 8.30

*Dont Forget----- WHIT RALLY TO LECARROW 3rd - 5th JUNE

Branch Meeting Report

New Bridge Development: The question of provision of jetty facilities north of the new road bridge is being pursued with Westmeath Co.Co. Whilst smaller sailing craft could de-mast at anchor a jetty would be essential to enable larger craft to lower rigging safely.

Navigation Marks to Ballykeeran Lock : The branch have requested Shannon Navigation to replace mark on out into Ballykeeran.

Mooring Bouy Replacement: A low cost mooring bouy is being designed by branch members to be used in the forthcoming mooring overhaul between the bridges at Athlone.

Ruth Heards Film Show : Attended by a good gathering in the Jolly Mariner once again an enjoyable night. Our thanks to Ruth and Bridie Delaney and all.

Branch Chairman presented the winners of the Harry Rice Cup for 1988 to:-

Rory and Jane Walsh
Junior Section
Winners

Reggie Redmond
Senior Section
Winner

Congratulations to all three, well done to Rosemary Furlong competition organiser.

---oOo---

Before a man can hope for his ship to come in, he must send one out.

---oOo---

'Shannon-Erne area to be specially designated'(Irish Times Tuesday 25th/4)

The River Shannon is described in the plan as "potentially the greatest of Ireland's natural resources." It is, however, underdeveloped and requires a "critical mass" of boat traffic in order to develop the level of shore developments which are needed.

The plan proposes that the Shannon-Erne system, with a potential link through the Ballinamore-Ballyconnel Canal, be designated a "special development area" with incentives. Athlone is envisaged as the major centre on the river with other major centres at Carrick on Shannon, Portumna and Killaloe, smaller centres at Rooskey, Lanesborough, Ballyclare, Shannon Bridge Shannon Harbour, Terryglass and other places along the water.

A meeting of the I.W.A.I. National Council took place in Mullingar on 21st April and the following items were discussed.

Canal Breach A letter from O.P.W. indicates that the main repairs may be completed by September, but the navigation will not be re-opened then, as other works must be undertaken. Suspect portions of the Long Level will be lined with plastic. I.W.A.I. are pressing for a commitment to re-open in time for 1990 season.

Mink The problem of wild mink and effect on bird life is being investigated further with the National Wildlife Service.

Limerick Waterways Summer Festival

Mr. Brian Raftery was invited to address the meeting and announced that Limerick Development Committee are holding a Festival in the Wet Dock and on the River on 9th July. They hope to encourage some cruisers from L.Derg to attend. Their long-term objectives are to get a Financial Incentive Package for the Docks area, to encourage business and development to turn around and face the river, to establish a Marina and to improve the navigation from Killaloe to Limerick.

Harbour Hoggers

It was agreed that local Branches should make their own representations to "Hoggers" and report any difficulties to Council. O.P.W. estimate that there are now 860 private boats.

E.S.B. Wires A meeting with E.S.B. is to be held in Athlone on 12th May.

Shannon-Erne Link

(B & B canal) this restoration has been included in Government plans sent to E.C. for Regional Funding. Council is of the opinion now that real progress could be sooner rather than later.

Summer holidays Next meeting of Council is mid-September.

POLLUTION PARTICLES

Civilisation has been identified as the prime cause of pollution, resulting in agricultural pollution, and I suppose the next form, which follows as naturally as day follows night, is the pollution which flows down the sewer-pipe from urbanisation. Modern industrialisation produces pollution in many forms several of which are deadly poison, such as cyanide, which was discharged into the River Inny below Ballymahon last July. It is almost beyond belief that anyone would do such a thing when one remembers that cyanide in a capsule was carried by those who preferred death to interrogation by the Gestapo, as when broken in the mouth it causes almost instant death. But many things which are in no way poisonous can be lethal to fish and all forms of aquatic life if released in quantity in water. e.g., milk which is essential for the rearing of the young of all mammal offspring, is especially deadly. (Do you watch Glenroe? and Dinney and the saucepan of milk). Silage effluent 40 gallons per ton - is absolutely deadly, yet cattle can drink it, or it can be advantageously spread on the land. Even town sewage can be recycled - in many parts of the world it is - and the products used to offset the cost. As fossile fuels become scarce perhaps we will be glad of the gas produced to drive our cruisers, or will we all have to learn how to sail.



Irish Boat Rental Association

PRIORITIES - INTERIM SUBMISSION TO THE SHANNON FORUM
30TH MAY, 1989.

ENVIRONMENT.

1. FOR TOURISM PURPOSES THE ENVIRONMENT IS THE PRODUCT AND MUST BE PROTECTED AT ALL TIMES.
2. MAINTENANCE OF WATER QUALITY.
3. FISHERY AND WILD LIFE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

CONTROL OF POLLUTION SOURCES

4. BORD NA MONA SILTATION
5. URBAN SEWAGE.
6. INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS.
7. AGRI POLLUTION EITHER LAND OR WATER BASED.

WATER LEVELS.

8. MANAGEMENT OF WATER LEVELS TO ENSURE SAFE NAVIGATION IN SUMMER AND TO CONTROL FLOODING IN ALL SEASONS.

NAVIGATION.

9. MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES TO AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD.
10. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FACILITIES FOR INCREASED TOURISM.
 - A. NEW MOORINGS..
 - B. NEW HARBOURS
 - C. NEW AREAS OF NAVIGATION

INDUSTRY

11. NO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN VIEW OF THE RIVER.
12. STRINGENT ANTI-POLLUTION CONTROLS IN THE ENTIRE CATCHMENT AREA.

SHORE BASED DEVELOPMENT.

13. VISUAL AMENITIES TO BE PROTECTED AT ALL TIMES.

BYE-LAWS.

14. STRINGENT ENFORCEMENT AND UPGRADING OF SHANNON BYE-LAWS TO INHIBIT THE ABUSE OF UNAUTHORISED LONG TERM PUBLIC MOORINGS IN THE BETTER INTERESTS OF TOURISTS AND OTHER RIVER USERS. "

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND
SUBMISSION TO SHANNON FORUM

The aims and objectives of The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland can be summarised as follows :-

- To advocate the use, maintenance and development of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, and in particular, to advocate and promote the restoration to good order, the maintenance in good order of every navigable waterway and a fullest use of every navigable waterway by both commercial and pleasure traffic, provided such is not injurious to the environmental health of the waterways and the surrounding waterways.
- To oppose by appropriate action the abandonment or neglect of Irish canals, river navigations, the pollution of waterways, the obstruction of navigations by fixed bridges, aquaducts, overhead cables, or otherwise, the obstruction of towing paths, and any other action calculated to injure or destroy the navigation or immunities of the waterways of Ireland.

In the context of the River Shannon, the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland would advocate :-

1. The development of the maximum number of harbours/moorings on the river.
2. That all necessary steps be taken to ensure that the quality of the water from the Shannon Pot to Limerick is of the highest possible level and that all necessary steps are taken by Government and Local Authorities to ensure that this objective is achieved.
3. That studies be undertaken with a view to reopening the navigation to Lough Allen and navigation to Ballinasloe.
4. That constructive discussions take place with the Electricity Supply Board in relation to the ESB wires over the navigation which are a hazard to navigation and are inhibiting the safe development of sections of the river.

3rd April, 1989

Shamrock Sailing Cruiser, 30 '
6 berth draught 6'6"
01-525644.

Wanted.

Lakeside Properties.
0902 -78523.

Branch News.

At the time of writing Phase II of the Quayside Development is about to start. In conjunction with the major development of Athlone Castle the quayside will be paved complete with lighting and services from the Lock House to the Shannon Navigation Shed. We eagerly await agreement between Athlone U.D.C. and Shannon Navigation for the demolition of the shed which will then allow final completion of current quayside development. The present phase is again being undertaken through the good offices of Fás with the much appreciated assistance of the U.D.C.

The Shannon Navigation have been requested to consider the provision of

Public Lighting at Athlone Lock.
Marking entrance to Ballykeeran Lough.

Westmeath County Council have been requested to provide lifebuoys at the new pier at Coosan Point and negotiations are continuing for the provision of jetty facilities north of the new road bridge.

Pollution Particles.

We have established that since mankind became civilised he has been polluting the environment and water in particular, so it is natural to ask- How come that long ago the rivers, lakes and oceans have not become stinking cesspools ? The answer is that in many cases they have. E.G. For maybe half a century or more the Thames was impassable to Salmon in the London area, while one of the Great Lakes in America, Lake Michigan, got to such a sorrymess that if you fell in while the kiss of life might not be necessary, immediate hospitalisation, to have your stomach pumped out was essential in case you swallowed some water.

But such extremes can be reversed, and for one whose experience of the ocean was limited to both sides of the Irish Sea, a visit to that part of Spiddle, west of Galway, which at one time was sub-tropical it was a revelation to look down through 12 or 14 feet of water, crystal clear to see the beautiful blue coral bottom faintly dappled by the sun passing through the ripples on the surface. How come ? How come that in many parts of the world glass bottomed boats reveal a really astounding panorama ? And the answer is that water has the most wonderful powers of self purification which we hope to explore after the summer break. Meanwhile remember that our environment is very fragile, so use it as something you hope future generations will appreciate and enjoy as you have done in the summer of 1989.

Recent Publications.

History of St. Mary's Parish , by Gearoid O'Brien.

Of great interest to any Athlonian.

Shannon Guide, Latest production by Ruth Delaney.

Guide to Westmeath, Lakelands.

Athlone, Visitors Guide and Street Map.

Chamber of Commerce.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

September 1989

Branch Meetings will resume on MONDAY 4th September
8.30 p.m. Seans Bar

These meetings are open to all branch members to attend.

AGENDA Quayside Development
 End of Season Rally Itinerary
 Mooring Programme
 Shannon Forum Update

Despite the deterioration of the weather in the latter part of the season it has been an excellent year for boating, for both private and commercial interests. The Boat Hire Companies have recorded excellent returns even allowing for slow early season. The beautiful weather will auger well for next years bookins also.

The fishing dispute however remains unresolved and further delays will undoubtedly create great difficulties in launching marketing programmes.

Thames Tragedy : Whilst the results of the inquiry into this great tragedy are awaited the overriding factors of safety are of utmost importance. There rests with all commercial enterprises the responsibility of eliminating all areas of danger in the pursuance of their trade. It is evident that the human factor as in the Thames, as with the Herald Free Enterprise has shown that standards are just not good enough. Whilst individual failure has been ultimately the cause the overall structures have allowed these failures. This is not acceptable.

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Athlone Boat Club Success.

Athlone Boat Club this season have had an outstanding record of achievement. Not alone did they bring home the National Novice Four Championship, (the 2nd championship ever in the clubs history) but Tom Colsh brought honour to Athlone upon his selection for the Internation Squad. Caymen Moloney also represented Ireland in the Home Countries Regatta.

The Club is to be congratulated for this fine performance

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Sympathy Kevin Madigan

On behalf of Athlone Branch we extend sincere sympathy to the Madigan family on the recent death of Kevin, late of Shannon Navigation, ex skipper of Coll an Eo.

29th SHANNON RALLY 1989

The Rally this year was under the control of well-known Athlone man Syd Shine on board his barge "Fox". The Commodore was himself a winner of the Shannon Rally in its early years (1963 and 1965). The fleets started as usual from Athlone and Carrick meeting at Tarmonbarry and for once the weather was to be kind all week. Entries were low at only 40 and obviously the Committee will need to give serious thought to this problem for next year. However, an encouraging feature was the number of newcomers who took an active part in all the competitions.

A wine and cheese party on arrival in Tarmonbarry broke the ice and it went a proverbial "bomb". Sunday saw the competitions start and the arrival of the fleet in Lanesboro was filmed by an R.T.E. crew. Two nights spent in Lecarrow was an occasion to show off the newly completed harbour and despite the low water levels the entire entry successfully negotiated the canal. Regrettably the visit to the Inny River was cancelled due to low levels and also bad pollution. However the alternative venue was a great success - this involved anchoring over-night at Inchmore opposite Killeenmore. Many rally participants had never done this before and thus overcame their "fear" of such a procedure. The rally had not anchored out since 1983 and it certainly should be repeated since it is all a part of the learning process. Thursday saw the fleet at S.G.S. (again another first) and the R.N.L.I. Auction that night under the baton of Sean Fitzsimons raised £500. Dinghy and Board sailing was made a special feature this year and daily tuition and racing was organised by Kerry Miller.

At the closing dinner Chairman Denis Skehan said that he was delighted to see so many young people helping organisation. He stated that the rally should be adventurous and be an occasion for new experiences - travelling from village to village did not fulfil this aim, he said.

The rally results gave a well-deserved and popular win to Robert Maitland who has been bringing his magnificent cruiser "Second Glance" overland to the rally from Lough Erne for the last 4 years. The sailing contests gave a clean-sweep to local racers Damien Delaney and Harry Donegan, while it was pleasant to see several newcomers winning awards. Finally thanks are due to the entire committee and especially the hard working Secretary Pat Henshaw. An enjoyable week.

Results

<u>Premier Award</u> :	Robert Maitland (Second Glance)	
<u>2nd Overall</u> :	Tom Murphy (Corbiere)	Time Reliability; 1st Iron Lady
3rd " :	Paul Garland (Samantha II)	2nd Corbiere.
4th " :	John McNamara (Jarra)	Mooring; 1st Corbiere.
5th " :	Sam Herraghty (Dunross)	2nd Mirabooka.
6th " :	Donal O Siochain (Iron Lady)	Navigation; 1st Lady G
		2nd Iron Lady.
Barge Class :	Jarra	First Mate; 1st Corbiere.
Sailing Cruiser:	1st Fiona Furey (Aloma)	2nd Maisric.
	2nd David Killeen (Gillaroo Too)	Rescue of Cruiser
Motor Cruisers :	1st Corbiere	under 25' Lazy Bones
	2nd Samantha II	over 25' Second Glance
Insp. of Boats :	1st Second Glance	Boderg Cup. Philos.
	2nd Jarra	Bacardi Cup Philos.
Man Overboard :	1st Samantha II	L. Ree Cup. La Giaconda.
	2nd Second Glance	Dingy Sailing. Janet Moffett
Ladies Boat Handling.	Julie Garland (Samantha II)	Quiz Corbiere.
Best Newcomers; Lady G.	Young Mariner Award; Jonathan Fildes (Maisric)	

To the memory of Dermot O'Brien.

The Queen of Connemara.

O! my boat can safely float
 In the teeth of wind and weather,
 And outrace the fastest hooker
 Between Galway and Kinsale;
 When the black floor of the ocean
 And the white foam rush together,
 High she rides in her pride
 Like a seagull through the gale

Oh, she's neat, oh, she's sweet,
 She's a beauty every line,
 The Queen of Connemara
 Is that bounding bark of mine.

When she's loaded down with fish
 'Till the water laps the gunwale,
 Not a drop she'll take on board her
 That would wash a fly away.
 From the fleet she'll slip out swiftly
 Like a greyhound from her kennel,
 And she'll land her silver store,
 The first at ould Kinvvara quay.

There's a light shines out afar,
 And it keeps me from dismaying,
 When the skies are ink above us
 and the sea runs white with foam;
 In a cot in Connemara,
 There's a wife and wee one praying
 To the one who walks the waters once,
 To send us safely home.

The Waterways have lost a kind friend who will be fondly remembered by all who knew Dermot in his long association with Athlone and our Inland Waterways.

Following in footsteps of his Mother who faught in the G.P.O. in 1916, he was very much himself, proud of his heritage and enjoyed the fact that despite his republican background bore his 12th July birthday with humourous defiance.

Like in the verse that he loved to sing, he akin to the elements, had great debth that touched many in so many ways. He could be very cross, he was very kind. He is sadly missed, he was Dermot O'Brien.

To his wife Eileen our Secretary, to the O'Brien family, to Sean our deepest sympathy.

Shannon Forum

Submission by Commissioners of Public Works on Arterial Drainage

The powers of the Commissioners of Public Works to undertake drainage works are derived solely from the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945. These relate to the carrying out of schemes on a comprehensive, catchment basis and preclude the execution of piecemeal works.

The problem of drainage in the Shannon Basin is long standing and has a history of reports and investigations over the last 150 years. These reports all highlight the complexity of the problem in both technical and financial terms. The most recent studies were carried out at the request of the Government by

- (1) Louis E. Rydell of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the mid-1950's and
- (2) the Office of Public Works and the Electricity Supply Board in the late 50's and early 60's -

these bodies jointly examined and reported on the proposals contained in the Rydell Report.

All these reports were published. They concluded that there is no simple or obvious solution to the flood problem in the Shannon Basin; any solution would be both costly and complex. This is further substantiated by the Report commissioned by the Irish Farmers' Association, and launched in Athlone in October, 1988.

The earlier reports recommend that second stage, more detailed investigations should be undertaken whereby costs and benefits could be established with sufficient accuracy to decide whether and how certain selected works should be proceeded with. These investigations have not, so far, been carried out.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch ,Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

October 1989

The next Branch Meeting Monday 2nd October
 8.30 p.m. Seans Bar

Agenda: Fishing Rights
 New Bridge Developments
 Moorings

End of Season

Supper Dance:
This Friday 29th September
 in
The Jolly Mariner Marina
 8.30 p.m.
Music by the Evergreens
 Dinner

Egg Mayonaise
Lamb
Desert
Tea or Coffee

Tickets essential Adm £11 Bookings Seans Bar 0902 92358

End of Season Rallies: The Branch has decided this year to have two itineraries for the End of Season Rally. In recent years the traditional trip to Shannonbridge has proven to be divisive, posing particular problems to sailing craft. The itineraries are as follows:-

South Rally

Sat.30th Sept. 13.00 Athlone Lock
Cheese and Wine en route (bring your own)
B.B.Q. Shannonbridge (weather permitting)
Sun 1st Oct. Treasure Hunt
Mon 2nd Oct. Mystery Tour

North Rally

Sat. 30th Lough Ree 12.00 noon
Itinerary to be announced at
Supper Dance.
Lecarrow weather permitting.

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Quayside Development The next stage of the quayside development awaits availability of manpower by FAS.

Sympathy The September Branch meeting extended a vote of sympathy to our Secretary Mrs Eileen O'Brien on the recent death of Dermot a life long friend to the Athlone Branch.

Cabin Cruiser for Sale

5 berth 25' Marine Ply on Parana Pine Framing.
9'Beam, 2'6" Draft. Volvo Penta 100, 4 cylinder Petrol
inboard/outboard, Toilet, Fridge, Cooker, Sliding roof
4 wheel road trailer and cover.
Price £ 4,800 neg. 045-68886

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Council News from our Delegates

A meeting of I.W.A.I. National Council took place in Mullingar on 15th September and the following items were discussed.

Harbour Hoggers - Athlone Branch informed the meeting that Longford Co. Council have responded to representations re Barley Harbour and there are hopes of having it cleared very soon.

Canal Breach - O.P.W. have reported that "work is well under way and progressing satisfactorily" However, the view of delegates who visited the canal recently indicated that the promised September completion date will not be achieved. Council agreed to ask for another meeting with O.P.W. to maintain pressure and to stress the urgency of re-opening navigation early in 1990.

E.S.B. Wires - Two meetings with E.S.B. have now been held and while some progress has been made on specific details, Council re-affirmed that a clearance of 10.6 metres is not considered a satisfactory standard. A meeting with O.P.W. is to be held about the provision of warning signs which E.S.B. have promised to pay for.

Shannon - Erne Link - The President, Peter Hanna, reported that optimism is now high. E.S.B., International Ltd., have become project managers and borings and analysis have already started. E.S.B. itself are funding their subsidiary to the extent of £2 million for this work. The restoration is due to commence next year and the President is now convinced the Link will be re-opened by 1992/3

Kilbeggan Branch Line - This is a lock-free branch of the Grand Canal and it was reported that the Harbour at the Kilbeggan end has now reverted to O.P.W. ownership. This now clears the way for a re-opening of the line and local interests are starting to survey and make plans.

Royal Canal - It is hoped to run a Rally from Blanchardstown to Mullingar in about 6 weeks time, and it is anticipated that the section through Dublin to the Liffey will be opened in 1 or 2 years time.

Boat Show - It was announced that this is to be held every 2 years in future and therefore there will be no Show in 1990.

---oOo---

Pollution Particles

The Summer season is over now and it is good to be able to report that on the whole Ree and its tributaries escaped without serious fish kills, except for a kill of coarse fish at Lanesborough on Monday June 19th. This in itself was interesting as it is a case of 'too much of a good thing'.

The 'Good thing' is the warming of the water by the Power Station at Lanesborough. Large quantities of water are abstracted from the river for cooling purposes and this warmed water is returned to the river some 250 metres above the bridge. This warmed water causes increased plant life in the river with a resultant increase in all forms of aquatic life, including a stock of coarse fish which are both larger and more plentiful.

But then comes the moment when it is 'too much'. On the fateful Monday in the middle of the very best of the June weather, calm and very sunny, the temperature of the water in Ree, in parts at least, rose to 74° F (not far short of the temperature in Athlone Swimming Pool), and that combined with the out-flow from the power station was too much even for coarse fish, which were perhaps caught unawares and had't time to escape to deeper and cooler water. I wasn't there but this seems a reasonable conjecture from the facts published in the press.

For Sale

The HARP converted barge, lying Athlone 0902 92358



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch ,Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

November 1989

Next Branch Meeting
Monday 6th Nov.
8.30 Seans Bar

Shannon Forum Report - October Meeting

River Shannon Levels: Background

The Shannon drainage or rather the lack of has historically been the subject of various reports and surveys. The problem being extensive flooding. The various reports have all concluded that the natural water course is geographically physically unable to handle flood situations without flooding extensive land. There were no realistic solutions offered, as the amount of remedial work required would be cost prohibitive.

Present Deliberations: The Shannon Forum has been formed without doubt to address this difficulty as its main objective. The I.F.A. have grave reservations as to the present policy on flooding and water level management.

I.F.A. Proposals: The proposals are two fold;

1. To shed water and keep to the minimum acceptable level at all times to enable better control and reduction of flooding.
2. To improve management in the use of sluices and weirs with regard to day to day co-ordination as dictated by climatic conditions.

The Defence:

Both O.P.W. and the E.S.B. maintain that waterflow is managed to the highest standard in its day to day running. They maintain that in flood, which is when the problem arises, the weirs and gates ability to shed water is of no consequence. The problem they maintain, as in all previous reports, lies in the inability of the system overall to handle excessive volume.

The Experiment:

This year a request to lower the normal summer level by 3" in the Athlone - Meelick section has been implemented.

The Result:

The I.F.A. have been very pleased with levels this season. That is until the rains came in October.

Cont.....

However

There are a number of factors that need to be studied here.

1. We have had an exceptionally dry season.
2. This 3" level reduction sought. How much in fact if any did this benefit the situation?
3. Does this mean that next year the reduction may be 6"

Consider

The Shannon channel cross section as to a funnell



Water volume at A relative to C where flooding starts is very debatable as to whether it is of major consequence when one considers the vast areas of flooding experienced. Look at it another way. If an intelligent man could assess the volume of water involved in this 3" reduction and subtract that from the volume of the flood, any significant amount when taken overall?

Remember a 3" reduction at low water is not a 3" reduction of flood.

The Gain I'M not sure if anybody can actually state that reduction in level has gained anything

The I.W.A.I. Position

Flooding is a problem, the I.W.A.I. are not disputing this. The retention of the statutory level of 121'O.D. by the E.S.B. and the agreed management of 123' until mid-August or 122' until September here to fore has been found to be essential.

The Navigation Problem

With levels of 122'1" by end of July difficulty was experienced at Lecarrow from both weed growth and low water.

Main Channel North of Bord na Mona Bridge between Lanesboro and Tarmon again boats hit bottom.

Difficulty at Long Island south of Athlone

Barley Harbour badly affected and reports of striking at Coosan narrows and S.G.S. harbour mouth.

Slipways and private harbours hard pressed at the best of times at low summer levels of course also in trouble.

Overall

Whilst appreciating the difficulties of the farming community we would contend that the manipulation of already marginal summer levels to the detriment of safe navigation does not in fact assist the fundamental problem.

End of Season Dinner/Rallies

With great support from fellow branches an enjoyable evening in the Jolly Mariner. Good food, cosy atmosphere good music, plenty of spots. Thanks to all concerned.

Both rallies adhered more or less to their original loose itinery. Puppies to Shannonbridge and Yuppies to Hodson Bay.

Sewage Treatment Plant for Athlone

This year brings good news on the pollution front. Not alone has the resiting of Athlone Dump been agreed but the Government has sanctioned proposals for the provision of sewage treatment plant for Athlone.

This is indeed great news and must auger well for eventual uplift in appearance for Athlone in hopefully the not to distant future.

The cost involved although major is a factor that always had to be confronted at some stage. We waited far too long.

Athlone without "Old smokey" and specimen bream will never be the same again. Thank God.

Pollution Particles

Looking back over the summer one has the impression that on the whole Ree showed less signs of pollution than in previous years. This is a personal opinion and has no scientific basis. To be scientific it would require daily readings of e.g., the clarity of the water, which is done by lowering a white disk into the water and observing when it disappears, and of course records from previous years for comparison.

Three things are worthy of note:- In the last week of April there was a spell of very cold weather with a strong east wind, and the amount of foam on the water was quite unusual. Where the foam rubbed - i.e. on walls and rocks - it left a black line. The line is still there. Any theories as to its origin? 2. If you live close to the water flies can be a problem, particularly in the autumn when sedges can be plentiful and a small midge in millions should you by chance leave a window open after dark. Duck flies were plentiful for a short while in April. There was a good rise of May-fly. The autumn flies were practically non-existent, with never a sedge to be seen. This might well be a cause for concern. 3. Algae blooms were less frequent and of shorter duration than usual. Blooms are an interesting phenomena, indicative of eutrophication, two subjects to which we will be returning.

London or Bust. Boat Show 1st Week January 1990

A feasibility study will take place early December to decide if a crew will be entered for this years Boat Show.

Criteria: Applicants to be either Idle Rich or Just Idle

Reddies: IR £145 includes return flight and three nights B & B

Applicants with CV to Sean Fitzsimons, Seans Bar, Athlone O902 92358
(before 2nd week December)

MARMALADE

1 tin of Marmalade Pulp (Mamade)
1 lemon
1 grapefruit
1 Orange
1½lbs sugar (as well as that required on tin)

Cut up lemon, grapefruit and orange and boil with pips (tied in muslin bag) for about ½hr. until soft. Make up tin as directed adding extra fruit and sugar. Boil until setting point is reached.

RIVER SHANNON FORUM

Submission by J. Mulqueen of Teagasc for 14/4/89

1. Importance of Farmers in Shannon Floodplain

The River Shannon flood plain is as it is because of the management of the land by farmers. For example, undergrazing below the present level will result in an expansion of scrub woodland. Therefore the farmers' interest must rate important in the management of the waters of the river.

2. Quantifying the Loss to Farmers from Summer Flooding

Area, duration and frequency of flooding could be quantified using aerial photographic techniques and hydrological analyses. Models are now coming on stream in the Netherlands to quantify losses in physical and money terms from high watertables and these could be used or modified for Irish conditions. This would assist in putting farm losses from summer flooding in the context of gains or otherwise from other activities e.g. power generation.

3. Areas of High Farm Value

These could be identified from aerial photos in conjunction with limited ground survey. Such areas could be considered for embankment and pumping. Even embankments from peats and calc-tufas (marls) can now be successfully designed and built.

4. Areas of Environmental and Wildlife Value

The concept of nature management is now well established in the EEC. Such areas in the floodplain could be identified and management agreements worked out with the farmers who would get annual supplementary payments for agreed management procedures.

5. Use of ESB and OPW Models

These could be used to predict options for minor flood control works.

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Cecil Miller.

We take this opportunity on behalf of the Athlone Branch to extend our deepest sympathy to the Miller Family on the recent death of Cecil.

Cecil Miller was a pioneer of our Inland Waterways. The fact that he was a Oxfordman, this did not deter him taking his annual holiday on the Shannon. Nor did he come by bus. No, all the way by Barrow, canal and river his self built boat Calloo arrived for the Shannon Rally. His presence, like the swallow, was expected as part of the way things were.

Cecil was interested in all that life had to offer. The Waterways have benefited, the Lifeboat Institute has benefited, We have benefited. Warm memories of a special friend will be held by all who had the privilage of spending a quiet hour by the river bank with Cecil Miller.



ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

December 1989

MEMBERS NOTICE

Athlone Branch I.W.A.I.

Annual General Meeting

Friday 1st December

8.30 pm.

Shamrock Lodge Hotel

Cheese and Wine

Agenda: Minutes
Matters Arising
Reports - Chairman, Secretary, Treasurers
Election of Officers
Election of Rally Committee
Election of Aerial Committee

All members are requested to attend.

---oo0oo---

November Branch Meeting Report

The meeting expressed concern for the continued defacement of quayside with glazier's storage and skip. This matter to be taken up with Urban District Council.

Harbour Safety: A request for an improvement at Hodson Bay to allow easier recovery from the water. At present in low water it would be almost impossible to get out of the water on to jetty. The provision of hanging chains may improve situation.

---oo0oo---

London Boat Show

Last call for travellers, details from Sean Fitzsimons.
Tel: 0902 92358

Lifeboat Fundraiser

Support what promises to be
a great night

LIFEBOAT DANCE

on

Friday 8th December

in

ATHLONE RUGBY CLUB

music

by

SYD SHINE ORCHESTRA

Proceeds towards new R.N.L.I. ARUN Class Lifeboat
'The City of Bradford' now based at Ballyglass,
Co. Mayo serving the West Coast.

Pollution Particles

No water as we normally know it is chemically pure. Pure water is only to be found in the laboratory where it has been freshly distilled, and it would not be capable of supporting any form of life. Lake or river water, on the other hand, contains many elements. It is acid like in the West or alkaline like Ree and other midland Lakes, because it contains minerals dissolved from the rocks of the catchment area - such elements are calcium, magnesium, iron, sodium, silica, phosphate and nitrate to mention some of the more common ones. Water will also contain gases which it absorbs from the atmosphere - carbon dioxide, nitrogen and most important of all, oxygen. These are natural impurities and their presence in normal amounts makes a lake or river capable of supporting life, and the actual percentage or mix determines whether the water will be rich like the midland lakes and able to support large numbers of big fish, or poor like the lakes in the west where the native fish are small. One thing will be more or less constant if the water is what we would call good, and that is the amount of oxygen present. Indeed oxygen is the lynch-pin which keeps the revolving wheel of water life in place. Without it disaster is just around the corner.

---ooOoo---

TURKEY, FLOTILLA SAILING

Two week Rally in MAY?

6 Berth Flotilla Sailing

£388 p.p. Ex London

Interested, yes , contact Sean Fitzsimons.

- Submission from Athlone, An Taisce to Forum
- 1 Tourist revenue is now our second industry any Body, individual or industry that injures this resource must be stopped.
 - 2 Role of Co. councils and Urban councils is to implement the peoples law that safeguards this public resource. Being in breach of the law renders them morally impotent to implement the law against others.
 - 3 Lough Derg is dying fast. In the upper reaches the bottom is deep in sludge and lifeless. To help redress this problem there must be an urgent and co-ordinated campaign against slurry pollution of the upper lakes, especially Sheelin & the Inny. Other polluters to be identified and the law invoked.
 - 4 The Government should acquire marginal lands suitable for re-forestation, for planting with broadleaves (Oak) ~~hills~~
Compare the east shore of Lough Forbes with the west shore, and consider the effect of the trees.
 - 5 All towns within the system to operate modern treatment plants.
 - 6 Hire cruisers should use sealed effluent units, to be emptied on return to the marina. At the moment such a step is pointless, as the urban sewage is pumped into the river in any event!

- 7 Housing development within the vicinity of the river to be carefully monitored.
- 8 Activity holidays could extend the cruiser season i.e. holidays centered around bird watching in Autumn, photography - flora, early spring. See Lusmag pilot project.
- 9 The V.P.W has done excellent work on harbour building, but sometimes toilet facilities are omitted i.e. Lecarrow, Portumna Roscommon Co. Co is lax when it comes to collecting rubbish from harbours ships.
- 10 The essence of the Shannon is its tranquility if, or once this is tarnished, our major financial asset, and natural inheritance is destroyed forever - let us not stand idly by!