



ATHLONE AERIAL

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

January 1994.

The next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. will take place in Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone on MONDAY, 10th January, 1994, at 8.30 pm.

May we wish you all a very happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

In boating terms, may the weather be warm, sunny and with just enough wind to fill your sails but not enough to frighten the galley slave tied to the galley-sink.

And may it be peaceful, no rowdy singing in the small hours of the morning, especially if you're not the one doing the singing, and may everyone get the berth they want (some chance!) but no harm in hoping.

And may it be prosperous, especially for those inevitable repairs.

But most of all, may it be a year of safety for all.

A.G.M. Athlone Branch Report.

We had a very lively meeting, helped along by a couple of glasses of wine, and a very warm room in the Prince of Wales Hotel. There was a good attendance with plenty of comments from the floor!

All the officers were re-elected:-
Chairman: Damien Delaney, Vice-Chairman: Harry Nugent,
Treasurer: Sean Fitzsimons, Secretary: Cynthia Rice,
Auditor: Reggie Redmond. Last year's Shannon Rally Committee volunteered again for this year's rally, which will be on the North section of the River. The Aerial Committee consists of Eileen O'Brien, Editor ably assisted by Damien & Bridie Delaney, Rosemary Furlong, Reggie Redmond and any of you who feel like contributing articles, letters to the editor, or anything you feel should be written about our inland waterways. All

contributions will be gratefully received. (My thanks to all who helped last year with their many articles -Ed.).

Chairman's Report:-

The Branch donated £500. to Kenagh Branch of R.C.A.G. and also ran a function which raised a further £243. which helped them meet Insurance Bills to cover their work on their section of the Royal Canal.

The progress of Kilbeggan Branch was of great interest to us because of their work in getting started on the restoration of the Kilbeggan branch of the Grand Canel.

The Ballinamore/Ballyconnell Canal will officially open on 28th May next and a rally in conjunction with this will be organised by a Council sub-committee details of which will appear in future Newsletters and in the Aerial.

The main problem this summer on the Shannon was the very low levels which occurred at the latter part of the boating season. We are also keeping up our interest in the future developments at Portlick, Glasson and Ballykeerin but Damien said it looked as if it would not be until 1996 that money would be available for work to start.

We continued to monitor safety in harbours especially in regard to provision of ladders and barriers and we are in constant contact with the O.P.W.

We also opposed planning permission for a development which we and others felt was unsuitable in the Killinure area and were relieved when permission was refused.

Continuing pressure is being kept up on Roscommon Co. Co. in relation to the sewage treatment plant at Hodson Bay which is far from satisfactory and in view of the proposal for an extension to Hodson Bay Hotel we feel it is of utmost importance that this problem should be solved immediately.

Council has asked all members for their views on a proposed policy on the Environment and a preamble has been produced by Galway Branch for discussion. Damien asked us to be sure to express our views at the next meeting of the Branch, so if you have strong views on this subject, please attend.

The Branch members laid moorings in various places on Lough Ree during the year. We also attend meetings of the Shannon Forum, but were a bit disappointed in that the farmers lobby were using it to try to secure funds for compensation for farmers who were effected by seasonal flooding of the Shannon and tributaries.

Sean Fitzsimons was congratulated by Damien on the very successful launch of the 3rd edition of "Green & Silver".

Treasurer's Report:-

The Treasurer's Report was given by Reggie Redmond who made Sean's successful work during the year clear to the meeting, so much so, that the adoption of the Report was proposed by Mr. Burks Hannon! Reggie was also pleased to note that this year no loud hailers had fallen off the "Lung" and that there were not problems with chain-saws. The deficit of £498. was explained by the purchase of a Computer and Printer.

The income was made up of Subs. - 140 a record number, Slide Shows - Walter Borner £43; Sean Fitzsimons £67; Ruth Delany £44; Supper Dance; attendance was down from 96 in '92 to 48 last year and no raffle was run. All in all, the Branch funds are in a very healthy state of £5389.

A.O.B.

Arch-deacon Cave reported that the residents who live near Hodson Bay had formed an association to voice their objections to the failure of the Sewerage Plant at Hodson Bay and he deplored the fact that Co.Co's are not obliged to look for planning permission for their developments which makes it difficult to bring problems to public attention.

Declan Walsh, who is our delegate to the Lough Ree Conservation Group, reported on their objections to the treatment of effluent at S.G.S. in Ballykeerin. Our Branch is also very interested in this problem and will keep close touch with the Group through Declan.

Reggie Redmond congratulated Damien Delaney on his term as Chairman of Council. He said Damien had done excellent work in relation to the Bye-laws of the Shannon liaising with the O.P.W. He also did much work in connection with the Ballinamore/Ballyconnell Canal. He said the work done by Damien was not the stuff of "Headlines" but without it, awful mistakes could have been made which would have caused "Headlines" of a type we could all do without!

The meeting unanimously voiced their appreciation of Damiens hard work on all our behalf during his term of as Chairman of Council.

Coming Events:-

- 22nd January. An evening of music and crac in the Lough Ree Inn, (Duffy's) Coosan, to raise funds for Kenagh Branch, R.C.A.G., a repeat of last years very successful evening so come along and give your support and have lots of fun as well.
- 11th February. Walter Borner's slide show.
- 18th March. Ruth Delany's Film Show. Remember the Harry Rice Cup, you are still in time to put in your entry.
- 25th March. A.G.M. of Council in R.I.A.C., Dublin.
- April. Date and venue in next month's Aerial.

N.B.!!! Your Subscription is now due for 1994!!!

DOWN MEMORY LANE.

From the Archives of the Aerial.

March 1981. " Canal Dribbles."

A visit to the Ballinamore & Ballyconnell Canal.

"To call the B & B a canal is really a misnomer - it is really a Navigation - 12 miles is canalised Woodford River, 7 miles is lake, 13 miles is channel connecting rivers or lakes, and only the last 4 miles at Leitrim is a true still-water canal.

After over 100 years of disuse, one is not surprised to find some rebuilt flat bridges. On the other hand we discovered some locks with masonry in almost perfect condition. At Kilclare, a few miles N.E. of Leitrim we found what must be the most magnificent skew bridge in the country. Well worth a look.

When we checked at one of the bridges we found that, despite the fast flood like flow, the depth was only about one and a half feet. This emphasized the basic problem of re-opening the navigation, for the solution lies in only two directions - up or down. That is, lower the level (which means a complete re-construction) or

revert to the original level (and flood a lot of agricultural land bordering the lakes and rivers). Of the two, the second alternative would seem the most practical even though it would involve compensation.

It is quite wrong to think of this navigation as only a potential link between the Shannon and Erne. It is in fact a cruising ground in its own right - Garadice Lake is almost 3 miles long and looked very beautiful even from the road.

So what are the prospects? Rumour has it that official interest is increasing and that there is a serious long-term intent. Given the availability of enough cash, this column ventures the guess that the next 5 years could see the start of a serious Survey and feasibility study. And that would be a start, wouldn't it?"

(Editors note: 12 years ago! Our motto is "If you want to learn about it first, get the Aerial every month!")

STOP PRESS. STOP PRESS. STOP PRESS!!!!

Ballinamore/Ballyconnell Canal.

Shannon-Erne Waterway.

Official Opening - Thursday 26th May -
Erne Rally - 27th May - Monday 30th May
Shannon=Erne Festival - Monday 30th May -
Monday 6th June.
More detailed information later.

Skippers seriously thinking of taking part in the festivities should advise the branch of the length, draft of boat, number of crew etc., so that the plans can be finalised.

ATHLONE BRANCH I.W.A.I.



Income & Expenditure A/c - year ending 30th September 1993

INCOME	1993	1992
Subscriptions	£ 1,415	1,250
Donation	-	100
Surplus on slide & film shows	155	(36)
" " Supper Dance	24	439
" " Sales	162	30
" " B. & B. Outing	-	56
Deposit Interest	250	256
	<u>£ 2,006</u>	<u>2,095</u>

EXPENDITURE

Athlone Aerial - Paper, envelopes	£ 81	97
" " - Postage	453	463
Meetings	49	-
Insurance - I.W.A.I.	250	233
Capitation Fees - I.W.A.I.	188	150
Moorings Project	512	-
Harry Rice Competition	63	20
Midlands East R.T.O.	75	25
Bank Charges & Interest	53	42
Grant to R.C.A.G. Kenagh	500	-
Sundries	30	353
Depreciation on Computer	250	-
	<u>£ 2,504</u>	<u>1,383</u>
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	<u>(£ 498)</u>	<u>£ 712</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 1993

ASSETS	1993	1992
Bank - Current A/c	£ 167	567
Bank - Deposit A/c	187	695
Building Society A/c	3,794	4,765
Cash on hands	60	414
Stock for sale	277	115
Prize Bonds	105	105
Computer & Printer	£1,069	-
Less Depreciation	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>£ 5,409</u>	<u>6,661</u>

LESS LIABILITIES

Creditors	£ 20	774
NET ASSETS	<u>£ 5,389</u>	<u>£ 5,887</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
Accumulated fund at 30/9/92	£ 5,887	
Deduct : Deficit for 1993	498	
	<u>£ 5,389</u>	

I have examined the foregoing Balance Sheet and Accounts which are in agreement with the books of the branch and have obtained all information and explanations which, to the best of my knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In my opinion the Balance Sheet and Accounts give a true and fair view of the branch's financial transactions for the period and of the state of its affairs as at 30th September 1993.

R. Redmond

Reginald Redmond, B. Comm.
Hon. Auditor



ATHLONE AERIAL

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

February 1994.

The next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. will take place in Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone on Monday, 7th February, 1994 at 8.30pm.

If you are one of the many who haven't yet paid this year's subscription - £10.00 - then that is what the red "X" means, it is now overdue. If there is no red "X" it means you have already paid and we thank you very much. No, sorry, there is no free draw for tickets to matches in the U.S.A. for those of you have paid early!

On January 22nd, we had a very enjoyable and successful evening in Duffy's Pub, Coosan Point in aid of the Kenagh & Foigha Branch of R.C.A.G, where we raised almost £400.00 and enjoyed the craic and music and great singing. The music was supplied by the "Lough Ree Islanders" who played with their usual vitality. The generosity of people was greatly appreciated, and also, the number of spot prizes donated meant hardly a table didn't win a prize. The pints were mighty, and there was a goodly number of sandwiches.

We were delighted to welcome not one, but two bus loads of people from Kenagh & Foigha Branch. It is a marvellous to see the enthusiasm of these people. With commitment like this, the restoration of the Royal Canal will surely be quickly and successfully completed.

COMING EVENTS:-

- 11th February: Mr. Walter Borner's slide show. This has always been a lovely evening's entertainment, as many of you know, showing our inland waterways in their full beauty, as seen through the eyes of an artist. The evening takes place in the "Jolly Mariner" at 8.30pm.
- 18th March: Ruth Heard's Film show and the presentation of the Harry Rice Cup. Entries can still be submitted, so do please send them in. The venue is the "Jolly Mariner" at 8.30pm.
- 25th March; A.G.M. of Council in R.I.A.C., Dawson St., Dublin 2 at 8.30pm.
- 15th April: Mr. G. O'Brien's talk on historical aspects of the River Shannon.

January meeting of Athlone Branch.

The following were some of the items discussed at the meeting:-

Brady Shipman and Martin Report.

Where is it now, or what is its status as far as the Minister or the OPW are concerned. The report contains all of the recommendations that were submitted by the IWAI so we must support its adoption and implementation. The problem seems to be that the Minister has other ideas on the development of the Waterways and he may not follow the BSM recommendations.

Draft Environment Policy.

We agree in principle with the draft document. We would suggest that the IWAI interest in developments should be limited to those which would impact aesthetically or operationally on the immediate waterway, whereas developments which might cause pollution should be investigated on both the immediate waterway and its tributaries.

Matters for the OPW Meeting.

Development on Lough Ree at :-

Barley Harbour: Takeover & Develop existing harbour.
Portlick: Takeover & Develop existing harbour.
Glasson: Dredge channel & build new harbour.
Rindoon: Takeover and preserve castle.

Water levels.

The problems caused by the low water levels during September to November '93 were blamed on the ESB. The OPW must share some of the blame, as custodians of the navigation they have a responsibility and the power to maintain, at least, reasonable levels for navigation.

Safety.

More and more safety in the workplace, in the home, in playgrounds etc. has become a major issue. Its time that OPW took safety to the users and the public seriously. We have been campaigning, in vain, for some time to have the safety aspects around harbours improved. Ladders, lights, crash barriers etc. should be provided at all harbours, before an accident occurs.

"Ireland's First BOAT SHOW AFLOAT".

This event will take place at the Jolly Mariner, Athlone from April 29th to 2nd May 1994. There is an excellent brochure available from Athlone Chamber of Commerce, Jolly Mariner Marina, Athlone, giving full details, rules, exhibition area, and entry form, so if you are interested in selling or buying do send for the brochure. Tel:(0902) 73173 Fax: (0902) 73326.

Congratulations!

We were delighted to learn that Mrs. Ruth Heard has been recognized by Trinity College who conferred her with an honorary M.A. degree in Conservation. It is a honour richly deserved.

"Voyage in a Bowler Hat" by Hugh Malet.

Everyone is getting the Bug! This lovely narrative has been re-issued in paperback. Price £7.50 + 95p. p. & p. from M. & M. Baldwin, 24 High St., Cleobury Mortimer, Nr. Kidderminster, Worcs, DY148BY. I believe Sean Fitzsimons has a couple of copies in stock, so try Sean's Bar first!

Festival Itinerary.

Shannon Erne Link.

Friday	27/5/94	Belturbet
Saturday	28/5/94	Killyhevlin.
Sunday	29/5/94	Belleek
Monday	30/5/94	Ballanaleck
Tuesday	31/5/94	Lisnaskea Boat Club.
Wednesday	1/6/94	Ballyconnell
Thursday	2/6/94	Ballinamore
Friday	3/6/94	Kescarrigan
Saturday	4/6/94	Leitrim
Sunday	5/6/94	Ck-on-Shannon
Monday	6/6/94	Ck-on-Shannon

Dinner in Killyhevlin on Saturday 28/5/94
Dinner in Ck-on-Shannon Sunday 5/6/94

Helicopter sight seeing trips from Keskarrigan
overflying Shannon-Erne Link, carrying 4 people per trip
at £14 per head.
Changes may be made to events on itinerary at the
discretion of the Committee as circumstances dictate.

(We should point out that the dates from 27/5/94 to
31/5/94 are the Erne Rally and the remaining dates are
the Shannon-Erne Link Festival. - Ed.)

N.B. See Entry Form enclosed.

Down Memory Lane. - From the Archives of the Aerial.

December 1979.

Kilbeggan Canal.

"The first steps towards restoring the 8 mile
stretch of canal from Kilbeggan to Ballycommon were taken
on Monday, 19th November at a public meeting in St.
James's Hall, Kilbeggan, organised by the local
Development Committee.

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

The representatives of the bodies present wished the project well."

January 1981:-

Canal Dribbles.

"A leisurely drive from Athlone one recent Saturday gave an opportunity to explore the Kilbeggan Branch line of the Grand Canal. The harbour is very fine - but now alas dry. The canal appears to have been back-fed from the main line - not having any locks in its 8 mile length. We examined all the bridges which are in good condition. The bed and banks seem in reasonably good order, but of course very much overgrown. The only black spot we encountered was where a farmer has filled in a 10 foot length to construct a ramp across to his fields.

So what about restoration? In theory all that is required is:-

1. Sort out problem above (there may be others).
2. Clean the bed and banks.
3. Probably staunch the canal in various places.

This canal may not have long to live, if it is neglected much longer. A large length of it is dry and could easily be irreparably destroyed. Action is urgently needed. It is a quite beautiful branch line worth restoring."

[Editors note: This article was re-printed in the Westmeath Independent the following week!]

Inland Waterways of Ireland - Environmental Policy

A Document was put forward to Council regarding the necessity of formulating a policy for the environment under the following headings - Development, Pollution, Restoration, Heritage, Environmental Impact, Conclusion, and Present Aims and Objectives.

The full text is too long to reproduce here, but it may be of interest to print the section dealing with Conclusions.

6

"The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, is a network of 13 closely knit Branches on a wide variety of water courses in Ireland, including Lakes, Canals, Rivers, and Streams. The main uses of our Waterways, traditionally, have been, fishing, trade and passenger transportation.

Therefore, we can accept that we are dealing with working aquatic highways which have been evolving over the years where fishing is still a valuable tourist and commercial activity, trade has been replaced by hire craft on the Erne, Shannon and Canal systems and passenger transportation has developed into tourist charter and private cruising.

Each community has a stake in fostering the continued good-health of their respective waterway. It is only activities removed from watercourses that use them as dumping grounds. There has been, and there will continue to be, changes under the listed headings, whether it be hatcheries or harbours, navigation or nets, roads or rafts, mansions or moorings. There will be people who will view any change as an environmental disaster, and will object for objections sake, and therefore we must look at the overall picture and formulate our action policy intelligently, or we will be stuck in a negative rut.

We have a document called *The Memorandum of Association*, and in it the IWAI has striven to put on paper, the aims and aspirations of our members, in concise form. With minor additions we can cover the Environment and Heritage aspects adequately.

As previously stated, the National Constitution has endeavoured to do the same thing with regard to the rules and regulations whereby we conduct our affairs, as with any organisation.

We have seen in recent years, that we are in a state of social change, and Rules drawn up in one era, do not now fulfil it's obligations once evolution takes place. We have been asked for branch guidance on this document, and it has become clear that each Waterway sees these aims through different coloured glasses, and this is to be expected. In the published *Objects of the Association*, the guidelines are laid down, and they have stood in good stead, but you cannot analyse each word individually for hidden meaning or for meaning that was not intended, they are to be accepted at face value as written.

The document is not a rule book for every eventuality, to be consulted at the first sign of storm.

The definitive document does not exist, while the *GUIDELINES* do, and they do not tie the Association into a

course of action that may not be in the best interests of the members, once embarked upon.

If the accepted Objects are read in the light for which they were intended, then very little addition, if any, may be necessary.

We are a National Body, and if at the end of this exercise we can instil a little more respect for the life of our waterways, and courtesy for others then we will have succeeded."

If you have a real interest in your waterways, and shouldn't we all have this interest, you can get in touch with your branch and read the full document.

The waterways give us all so much, why not give back a little, even if it is only your active interest?



ATHLONE AERIAL

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

March 1994.

The next meeting of Athlone Branch of IWAI will take place in Sean's Bar on Monday, 7th March at 8.30pm.

Very sorry to say, but if there is a double red X on your copy of this Aerial, this is the last Aerial we can afford to send to you.



If, however, you have paid, please let us know as it is possible that your payment has crossed in the post, or we have incorrectly identified your name and address.

More important than not getting the Aerial, we really don't want to lose you from our Branch, as we value each and every one of our members. So please, send on your subscription - £10.

Social Evening - Walter Bornor's Slide Show.

The evening was as usual, a very pleasant experience. It's lovely to view our waterways on a cold winter evening, nearly as good as a cruise on the river. Walter's slides are so beautiful, capturing the colours, and especially the fantastic light of our Shannon. The dawn and sunset slides were really breath-taking and I was taken by one particular slide which was taken in misty conditions, on the inner lakes I think, which looked like a landscape done in pastels. Thank you Walter, for a very pleasant show.

Developments in Sewage Treatment at Athlone.

It was recently announced that the sewage treatment plant, now under construction, is to have a Tertiary treatment stage included. This is a most welcome development which will remove the dangerous amounts of phosphates being discharged into the Shannon from Athlone at present.

This extra stage has been looked for by ourselves and a local group - The Lough Ree Conservation Society -. It was also a strong recommendation made in the Lough Derg survey carried out on the Shannon from Athlone to the Estuary. It is hoped, that as well as Athlone, tertiary treatment plants will be installed at Ballinasloe, Birr, Moate and other locations down stream.

So what is so bad about phosphates you may well ask? Nothing in the right place and in the right amount. In fact, phosphates are great growth promoters in plant life. But dumped into waterways in large amounts, they are the cause of excessive growth of water plants, which in turn does severe damage to the balance of BOD in the water.

To give an example; the BOD of water quality in the Shannon in the 1980's, on a scale of 10, was 8 out of 10, at present it stands at 4 out of 10. Fish cannot survive below 2 or 3 out of 10.

This development, if carried out at all the other recommended locations, has come just in time. Maybe we will see the waters of the Shannon turning from murky to clear, if not crystal - although why not?

I'm not too well up on phosphates, but if they are a valuable commodity, maybe the phosphates extracted from sewage could be sold to poor quality farm land in other countries and thus earn some money to cover the costs of extraction?

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to Minister of the Environment, Mr. Ml. Smith who gave the go ahead for the Athlone tertiary treatment plant, and hope that he can see his way to sanctioning the rest of the Tertiary Treatment plants at the other locations as soon as possible.

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Royal Canal Opening Postponed.

As we go to print, word has just been received from the Royal Canal Amenity Group that they have reluctantly been compelled to call off the Royal Canal Opening which was scheduled for the end of April.

In a circular letter the R.C.A.G. state that the tidal stretch of the Canal, i.e. from R. Liffey to 1st Lock, is not yet restored (dredged) and that work has only just commenced on the installation of the lifting railway bridge - below 1st Lock. O.P.W. have informed them that the scheduled completion date is a mere 48 hours before the start of the Rally and that even this could not be guaranteed.

This short time-frame would not have given R.C.A.G. the scope to make the necessary preparations and testing of a tricky section of tidal navigation.

R.C.A.G. state that they regret the disappointment all round, particularly for the 30 cruisers and barges entered.

As soon as this outstanding work is finished within the next few months, preparations will commence a-new for the Official Opening. What odds a Rally to Mullingar in the Autumn?

Coming Events.

- 18th March. Ruth Heard's Film Show. Ruth will once again entertain us with film from the IWAI archives on Friday, 18th March in the Jolly Mariner at 8.30pm. This is also the night when the Harry Rice Cup will be presented to the winners of the competition. Always a very enjoyable evening, so put it in your diary.
- 25th March. The A.G.M. of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland will take place in the Royal Irish Automobile Club, Dawson St., Dublin 2 at 8.00pm. (See page 14 of the enclosed Newsletter for the full agenda.)

15th April. Mr. G. O'Brien's talk on historical aspects of the River Shannon.

22nd July to
31st July.

The Shannon Rally - Itinerary as follows:-

Fri, 22nd - Ck-on-Shannon and Athlone

Sat, 23rd - Tarmonbarry.

Sun, 24th - Rooskey

Mon, 25th - Carnadoe Waters

Tue, 26th - Carnadoe Waters

Wed, 27th - Ck-on-Shannon

Thr, 28th - Cootehall

Fri, 29th - Lough Key

Sat, 30th - Lough Key

Sun, 31st - Ck-on-Shannon -Dinner - Bush
Hotel.

Commodore: Derick McCann,

Vice-Commodores: Margaret Murphy, Fiona
Furey.

SPECIAL NOTICE. - Grand Canal.

The O.P.W. have announced that the Grand Canal will be closed to navigation from 1st March for a maximum period of 2 months. Urgent work is being undertaken on the Long Level at Killeen near Daingean due to a leak and potential breach. This would appear to be near the site of the major breach which occurred in the 1970's.

Pollution Particles.

During last summer (if there was such a thing) I came across a pamphlet issued by ENFO - the Environmental Information Service - on water pollution, which, I understand was intended for distribution to schools. In emphasizing the importance of an adequate supply of dissolved oxygen in the water if fish are to survive in it, I read "the actual amount of dissolved oxygen present in even the cleanest water is extremely small".

But what is extremely small? I had read elsewhere that it was nine parts per million by weight. Let's say ten parts per million to make it easy. At first glance that looks like 1/100,000. Say 100,000 silver balls like you had on the Xmas cake and one of them is red. Surely that couldn't be right?

So I looked again and it's nine parts per million by weight. But what does that mean. I'm not a scientist. I could weight water, but as far as I'm concerned oxygen is like air and so has no weight. So I then realised that I was not comparing like with like, and having gone to find help ended up in Athlone R.T.C. with Dr. D. Morris who explained to me that in the scientific discipline everything has an ATOMIC weight - oxygen is 16 - and she proceeded to convert the whole thing to volume, where the layman can compare like with like and understand it.

We will skip how to do it and go straight to the answer which is 14 mls. in a litre, that is 14% or about one whiskey glass in a bottle. Not infinitesimal like 1 in 100,000, but not much to play about with.

Spill a quarter of it and the trout die, half of it and all fish will die.

I.W.A.I. National Council.

Report from the Athlone Delegates.

A meeting of the National Council took place in Mullingar on Fri. 25th February, and the following items were on the Adgenda.

I.S.A. Training Certificates; Matter still pending. I.S.A. will be appointing a Training Executive soon and the matter will then be re-activated.

Lough Ree Levels; Athlone Branch are making submissions to O.P.W. with a view to a joint meeting with O.P.W. and E.S.B.

Brady, Shipman Report; Minister Ml. D. Higgins has deferred a meeting with I.W.A.I. until his Department's policy is more clearly determined - i.e. Brady, Shipman may be modified.

Insurance; The Hon. Treasurer reported on our Insurance Policy and after a long discussion it was decided to increase our Indemnity cover from £500,000 to £1 million. The extra cost of this will mean an increase in the insurance charge on branches from £2. to £3.50 per member, which was approved.

Shannon-Erne Link Rally; Entry Forms are now available.

Royal Canal; See report elsewhere in this issue.

Environmental Policy; Submissions have been received from several branches (incl. Athlone) and these will be examined with a view to drafting a final policy document.

Holding Tanks; This was the most important and urgent matter to arise at the meeting. O.P.W. have submitted draft Bye-laws to come into operation on 1st April next. They lay down that any boats first registered with O.P.W. after that date must have holding tanks fitted and any boats currently registered (i.e. before 1st April) must comply before 1st April, 1996.

All this, despite the fact that on their own admission, there are only 3 pump-out stations on the River Shannon! Letters of protest are flying out to O.P.W. and various Ministers.

A.G.M.; See notice in this issue and in Newsletter.

Next Meeting; - of Council - 13th May 1994.

New Restaurant.

Best wishes to Jim and Jill Ridgway, who will be opening their dining room at Canal House at Easter. This is situated on the Grand Canal at Lock 30, Rahan, Co. Offaly. The restaurant will be open from Thursday to Sunday throughout the season. For more details phone
0506 55831



Athlone Aerial

NEWSLETTER OF ATHLONE BRANCH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

April 1994.

The next meeting of Athlone Branch of I.W.A.I. will take place in Sean's Bar, Athlone on Monday, 11th April at 8.30 pm.

Once again, we had a very enjoyable evening in the Jolly Mariner, when Mrs. Ruth Heard showed films from the Archives. Every year we enjoy seeing and remembering the rallies and events we took part in, but oh how time flies!

There were two commentaries going on - Ruth's informative one and others "Oh look! is that me!" or "will your ever forget" or "Wonder how they are now?". Thanks, Ruth, for reviving great memories of 1982.

Ruth also showed us film of the rally which went up the River Liffey. There was great interest in this, as many present had not gone on this rally.

It was strange to see Dublin from such a view point, and there was much drawing in of breaths when the camera view showed impossibly low clearance under the new bridge over the Liffey. It looked as if even a row boat would find it hard to get clearance never mind a cruiser!

Well done to those who organised the right timing and the tide levels, so that all got safely through.

After the films, the presentation of prizes for the Harry Rice Cup were made:-

- 1st. prize and Cup to Jess and Eleanor Kearon.
- 2nd. prize to Kieran and Andrea Sloyan.
- 3rd. prize to Andrea Nugent and Oona Herraghty.

I am so sorry that I cannot reproduce the Art work on the word processor but I can assure you that it was excellent. We can reproduce the essays, however and some are in this Aerial and others will be in future Aerials.

1st Prize Essay.

A Perfect Place.

It was a sunny day in mid summer. Eleanor and I were lying lazily in the blazing sun. When a car pulled up on the stones.

It was the Delaneys. The Delaneys were some of our best friends. When they came inside, Dad said he'd bring us out in the boat. So after a meal we packed a Lunch of sausages, marshmallows, crisps, popcorn and bread and 7 Up. Then we set out for Robin Island. We were going to have fun!

After about half an hour of taking turns driving the motor boat, we saw a little island come into view. When we were there, Dad sent us to get sticks for the fire. We got sticks and lit a fire. Then we all went swimming. We swam under water and dived but it was all green under the water.

After we swam, we got dressed and sat around a warm fire Dad had prepared. Then we roasted sausages on a hot stone fire then we ate marshmallows which turned into a sugarie mas. Then we went home. Well that was a perfect place.

Sailing Life.

I was having a pleasant dream when Dad said "Get up! Get up!".

I yawned and stretched lazily.

"What time is it?".

He said "Half seven."

"Goodness" I said. "I'm late."

I put on shorts, a polo top and jersey and runners. Then I put my life jacket and oily on and went down to our motor when I got down Dad was there as usual. I went down to the boat and got in. Today I was sailing 3 races in the sea whale. I rigged my boat got the dagger board and tiller. I got in. I was now sailing between marks the race had begun. I had started badly and gradually got better. I was first in the Silver fleet. After this I went to the Bar and got cakes and tea. Then I went to Vickey's caravan and played a game before the next race.

Jess Kearon, Aged 9

**NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING OF I.W.A.I.**

Report from Athlone Delegates.

An attendance of almost 60 were present at the Associations' A.G.M. held in Dublin on 25th March. The following were the main items on the Agenda.

President's address:- At the end of his first year in office, Des Leyden expressed his thanks to O.P.W. and all the officers and members of the Association who had helped him in the many tasks undertaken during the year. He referred to the forthcoming openings of the B. & B. Canal, the Royal Canal and Lough Allen as evidence of further great progress in the National Waterways programme.

He complained about the overlapping responsibilities of many different Government departments and agencies, and pointed out the confusion which this caused. He hoped to have a meeting with Minister Higgins shortly.

Secretary's report:- The Secretary, Colin Becker, reported on all the many activities of the Association during the year.

Treasurer's report:- Reggie Redmond was pleased to be able to present audited and signed accounts to the meeting for approval. He stated that the Association now had 1,037 members.

Elections:-

President: Des Leyden.
 *Vice-President: Liam D'Arcy.
 Secretary: Colin Becker.
 Treasurer: Reggie Redmond.
 Editor: Ruth Heard.
 Auditor: Robert Duffy.
 Legal Adviser: Arthur Lavery.
 Council: Chairman & Secretary of all
 branches, plus 12 elected:-

Alan Waterhouse, Owen Ganly, Peter Hanna, Jed Mulloy, Tom Murphy, Eddie Slane, Denis Tracey, Alan Giff, Sean Fitzsimons, Les Saunders, John Geraghty and Kieran Walsh.
 *Ian Bath announced his retirement for personal reasons.

Branch Reports: Reports from 12 of the 13 branches were read to the meeting, and the Athlone report from Damien Delaney is reproduced elsewhere in this issue of the Aerial. Highlights from some of the more interesting reports are:-

BELTURBET - are very optimistic about the opening of navigation to L. Oughter and an official study is to be undertaken.

CARRICK - now have 120 members. A meeting is being held in Clontarf Y. C. on Tuesday 12th April for B & B. Rally participants at which up-to-date information on procedures will be given.

NORTHERN IRELAND - membership has increased to 90.
SHANNON HARBOUR - a harbour development report has been published in conjunction with O.P.W. and the County Council. Congratulations were extended to the Branch.

A.O.B. a) Dr. John Fleetwood raised the issues of pollution in mooring places and the lack of ladders in harbours. The President promised to raise these matters with O.P.W.

b) The President initiated a discussion on the proposed new Bye-Laws for holding tanks and the meeting unanimously decided to reject the proposed charge of £5. which it was felt would inhibit the use of such facilities. The President said he was pleased to announce that as a result of representations made, the O.P.W. have agreed to defer the implementation of these new Bye-Laws. After a further discussion the meeting adjourned.

ATHLONE BRANCH REPORT 1994 A.G.M.

Activities of Athlone Branch during 1993 ranged from conservation to communication, safety to security, development to devarision and boating to books.

Branch meetings are held on the first Monday of each month and are open to all members. Attendance tends to be small, due to the geographical spread of our membership, but our full membership of 143 are kept fully informed through the Athlone Aerial which is produced and distributed each month by a dedicated committee.

Much of our attention and correspondence during the year was with Longford, Westmeath and Roscommon County Councils relating to the prevention of pollution and un-desirable developments in ecologically sensitive areas. The findings and recommendations of the Lough Derg Water Quality Report have had a major influence in our area and we are eagerly awaiting the results of a similar report on Lough Ree.

Water levels, both high and low caused much concern, particularly the low levels from September to November which caused difficulties embarking and disembarking and were allowed to drop to the level where navigation became hazardous and at the point of closure. Better control of water levels is required and hopefully a solution can be negotiated with the ESB and OPW.

The river warden scheme continues, which contributes to the reduction of vandalism incidents to boats in Athlone. The branches' proposal for the provision of 60 additional mooring spaces on floating jetties at the Apparel jetty, upstream of the town bridge is receiving active support from Athlone UDC and we feel confident

that the jetties will be provided in 1995. This will considerably improve the security of boats in Athlone.

The branch laid 5 new courtesy mooring buoys for public use in Ballykeeran Lough, one at Rindoon and one at Blackbrink Bay. Other areas for development which we are pursuing are Barley Harbour, Ballykeeran and Glasson. There are also the matters of (1) safety at quays and harbours which is being pursued with OPW, and (2) VHF communication with hire bases which is being pursued with IBRA and (3) Pump out stations which are under discussion with Roscommon Co. Co. and Athlone UDC.

On the social side, Ruth Heard and Walter Borner entertained us with their respective film and slide shows. We also had two very enjoyable musical evenings with our friends from the Kenagh/Foigha branch of RCAG which raised almost £500 towards their funds, special thanks to Billy Henshaw and Larry Benson who organised the music free of charge.

In addition to weekend rallies at Easter, Whit and end of season, branch members co-ordinate the Athlone Peoples Regatta, and together with Carrick-on-Shannon branch organise the Shannon Rally, which, this year, was graced by the participation of Minister Michael D. Higgins and his family.

By far our most ambitious project this year was the re-issue of the book Green and Silver which was launched in October by Minister Noel Dempsey. Full credit for the drive behind the project must go to our treasurer, Sean Fitzsimons. If you haven't already got a copy, don't delay too long, they are going like hot cakes.

Kilbeggan Branch - Grand Canal.

As reported recently in The Westmeath Independent, the Kilbeggan Grand Canal Amenity Co. Ltd., a very active group, has plans to restore a building at Kilbeggan harbour as a hostel to accommodate nearly 40 people. Congratulations to all involved and we wish them every success.

In their efforts to fund raise, they are having an auction which will be held at the harbour on Sunday, April 24th, and a sponsored walk which will take place on Sunday, May 15th (their 4th sponsored walk). Mr. Dick Warner of "Waterways" fame will officially start the walk.

Good News From Shannonbridge.

We have just heard that OPW have agreed to hand over the Navigation building to Mr. Derry Killeen, of Tidy Towns committee and Mrs. M. Kenny of the enterprise group, providing they can come up with a good use for the building. And knowing of their commitment to Shannonbridge, we are sure they will come up with a suitable scheme.

6.

Athlone Sub Aqua Club.

Recently this club held a record breaking underwater relay event, and raised almost £8,000. which is divided between St. Aloysius College, Athlone and the club. They also earned themselves a place in the Guinness Book of records. Well done on a great effort.

Coming Events.

- 15th April. Mr. G. O'Brien will give a talk on historical aspects of the River Shannon. This, we hope, will give boating on the Shannon, an additional interest as we make our way on this so interesting river. The event will take place in the Jolly Mariner at 8.30pm., and will be illustrated by slides.
- 15th April. Closing date for entries for the Shannon-Erne Waterway Rally.
- 23rd April. Musical evening at McPhillips' Pub, Foigha. Mini bus will take people from Athlone. This event is in aid of RCAG, Kenagh/Foigha Branch. Enquiries to Sean's Bar.
- 22nd July -
31st July The Shannon Rally.

CANCELLATION!

In our February Athlone Aerial, we announced the event of "Ireland's First Boat Show Afloat" to take place on April 30th to 2nd May at the Jolly Mariner Marina, Athlone. We have just learned that this event has been cancelled.



Athlone Aerial

NEWSLETTER OF ATHLONE BRANCH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

May 1994.

The next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. will take place in Sean's Bar, Athlone, at 8.30pm on Monday, 9th May.

Since our last Aerial, we have had quite a lot of very entertaining and informative events.

The first was our advertised evening, when our Athlone Librarian, Mr. Gearoid O'Brien gave us a talk on the inhabitants of some of the islands in Lough Ree.

The second was a further fund-raising outing to Foigha to help our RCAG friends.

And the third event was an afternoon organised by OPW.

Plenty to keep up our spirits during our non-existent spring.

Once again a good crowd attended Mr. O'Brien's talk on the history of some of the islands in Lough Ree. He told us about the early monastic settlements on Quaker Island. He asked us did we ever wonder where all the large stones came to build the churches and oratories? Legend says there was a large floating stone which was used to carry stones from the main land to the island! Nuns island got it's name because a group of nuns fled from Cromwell and lived for a short time on the island until it was safe to go to the main land again. He told us of the many families who lived on the Black Islands and on Inishmore and finally talked about Charley Backhouse who lived on Charley's island just outside The Jolly Mariner. Plenty of food for thought as we make our way across Lough Ree which was evidently a very busy thoroughfare from early times and very rarely just for pleasure.

Our second outing was to McPhillips Pub at Foigha. A mini bus left Sean's Bar with supporters and musicians and we spent a great evening being entertained by the "Inland Waterway's Band"! who gave their time free. Our thanks to Billy Henshaw, Snr. & Jnr., Sadie and Jim Byrne and Larry Benson. Thanks also to all who donated Spot Prizes and to the ladies who provided loads of fresh sandwiches and sausages. We raised nearly £200. for the working fund. As usual the entertainment continued on the bus home.

The third outing was held in the Royal Hoey Hotel, Athlone on Sunday afternoon, 23rd April. This was organised by the OPW. and consisted of talks by Mr. Dick Warner of "Waterways" fame, Mr. P. Piggot of OPW, Engineering Department and Mr. G. O'Brien, Athlone Librarian. Mr. Don Conroy of R.T.E. entertained the children during the talks.

Mr. Warner spoke about the Geology of the Shannon Basin which he said about 8800 BC was just one large lake stretching from Killaloe in the south to near to Carrick-on-Shannon in the north and east across the Bog of Allen and west to east Galway and Mayo. In fact, Ireland was much like a ring of mountains surrounding a large lake or lagoon! So the inhabitants of the time just had to be inland waterways users. (Mind you, this winter the Shannon basin made a good attempt to create the same size lake again!).

Gearoid O'Brien then spoke on the Islands of Lough Ree, which was very interesting for those who missed our evening and then Mr. Piggot spoke of the difficulties, from an engineering point of view, in maintaining the two canals, the Royal and the Grand. He showed marvellous slides of the damage done on the Grand when the Canal was breached on the long level a few years ago. It was enough to think it could never be repaired but it was. (The canals will have to be treated with tender loving care by us all if we want to preserve them.) He also showed us slides of the Shannon Erne Waterway now in operation.

An awful lot of information was covered in the very enjoyable afternoon, attended by a good crowd of interested people, but unfortunately there was not enough time for the many questions to be asked or answered afterwards as the room had to be vacated for another function.

Thanks, OPW, for organising this event. Maybe it would be possible to do something similar again now that you have whetted our appetites.

Correspondence.

We are delighted to have received the following letter from a very kind member in the U.S.A.

"Dear IWAI Members:

Please do keep my husband (Walt Keeshen, Jr.) and me on the mailing list for the Athlone Aerial. We always enjoy so much hearing about the IWAI activities. We've had the good fortune to spend nine weeks on the Shannon now, thanks to Derg Lines and advice from the newsletter.

Our membership in IWAI has been special to us, and if we have any regrets, it's that we can't be there to enjoy many of the get togethers described in the Aerial or, of course, being able to spend even more time on the River. At the minimum, we look forward to our next cruise. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Kathleen K. Keeshen, Ph.D."
California,
U.S.A.

(Hope it won't be long before you and Walt can come over again. Let us know when you do decide and we'll have a welcome for you. Ed.).

Harry Rice Cup.

2nd. Prize. Kieran Sloyan, aged 11.

Our Holidays on the River Shannon.

On our Holidays we went to Coosan Point. It took us a half an hour to get there. After a while I went fishing. I caught a pike that day. Soon, after it was lunch then after Andrina and I played chasing. Sometimes the weather was not so good. The next day I went fishing. Every cast I caught a pike but then a massive pike snapped the line.

The next day we went on to the lake. Near the islands was a sort of green slime. The name of the island is called Inishmore. I saw a school and houses and cows on the island. Daddy's friends lived on the island. He also went to school on the island. Daddy showed us where his friend was born. We headed out on to the river again. It was rough.

Then another day we went to Lecarrow. The canal was full of weeds like every year.

The next day the rally came into Lecarrow. I met some friends. That night we went to a quiz. I answered some questions. Later we went to the Pub. We did not go to bed till late. I saw bats and a stream. I saw small trout in the stream.

Early in the morning we went to Hodson Bay. When we got there I found a golf ball. That night we went up to the pub and we saw Niamh Kavanagh singing.

In the morning I found a bait in the sand before we went. The waves were big and the boat was rocking from side to side. In the evening we were at Shannon Bridge. At Shannon Bridge there is a Barracks and a long bridge. We stayed in the cut. Then I caught a Bug. We stayed in the cut over night. But the next day we moved up to the quay wall. I bought floats and hooks. I did not go fishing because there were too many boats. The water was low over the other side. Andrina and I bought sweets before we left. We went home because the holidays were nearly over. I enjoyed the holidays but the weather could be better.

3rd. Prize - Andrea Nugent Aged 8 years.

The Sinking of "Saga".

On Wednesday the 8 of December, the day of the Big Storm, my Mum, Dad and myself went to see if the boat was OK at Barrymore, but when we got there SAGA was drifting away out into the lake. I started to cry, but my Dad said that he would get it back. Ofko, Eric and my Dad got a boat and started to go after her, but my Mum said NOT to go and she was very angry with my Dad. Alan Furlong also said NOT to go, but they did. In a few minutes we could NOT see them or the boat and my Mum got very worried. She was walking up and down but after a while they all came back in Dr. Norman Furlong's car because they went all the way to Coosan Point. My Dad said that they could NOT turn back because the waves were too high.

The next day Mr. Mick Webb my Dad's friend phoned and said that SAGA was on the rocks on Hare Island. My Dad and his friends went to try to get the boat home but they could NOT. The day after they all met at Dr. Norman Furlong's house and went to get her off the rocks, but just as they had her off the other boat started to get into trouble also and they had to give up and come home.

The next day that was a Saturday the weather was very stormy again and they could not go out to poor SAGA. They had to work all day fixing the other boat. It looked very funny what they were doing but my Dad said it was not.

On Sunday they all met again to try and get SAGA home. We went home and started to make Tea and Sandwiches for them. When we got back to Peter Quigley's Marina, Damien Delaney was towing SAGA with his boat "Philos". She looked OK in the water to me, but when they got her out I got a fright, there was holes in her starboard side but I was delighted to have my boat back. My Dad said that Peter would fix it and we would be able to go sailing in the summer - I hope so. They all then went to Seans Bar, and you know what happened after.

My Dad said that he could NOT have got SAGA home without the help of his friends and said that he would have a Party when he launched SAGA in the summer.

THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING SAVE MY SAGA.

Coming Events:-

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Whit Weekend Rally. | This will take place from 3rd. to 6th June. Details in next Aerial. |
| Peoples Regatta. | Sunday 3rd. July. Volunteers required to help run events - water croquette, one-oared race, etc., also we will again have a cruise in company to arrive in Athlone at lpm. Again details will be in next Aerial. |
| Shannon Rally. | 22nd. to 31st. July. |

Athlone Aerial

NEWSLETTER OF ATHLONE BRANCH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

June 1994

At last it's summer! The rivers are back between their banks, almost, the rain has stopped, nearly, and it's warm again, slightly.

Here's hoping it will be a long hot summer with plenty of enjoyment for all of us on our many waterways.

God knows, we can't complain about lack of events. You'd nearly need to be retired to find time to do them all.

Quite a few are going to make the journey to the Erne via the newly opened Shannon Erne Waterway, so a word of warning, from one who has been there, it's very hard to tear yourself away from the warm welcome and beauty of the lovely Erne. And please don't make ejitts of yourselves by looking for a lock keeper to open the lock gates - they're all electronically operated now!

Well whether you do one rally or many, here's "Bon Voyage" and safe return to us all.

I.W.A.I. National Council.

Report from the Athlone Delegates.

A meeting of the National Council took place in Mullingar on Friday, 13th May and the following were the main items discussed:-

"Keep Ireland Open" - Eoghan Ganly reported that he had attended this meeting as requested, but that the attendance was not really interested in the waterways.

"Seascapes" - The Hon. Secretary Colin Becker was congratulated on the success of his monthly contribution to this R.T.E. Radio programme, which is broadcast every Friday at 7.40pm. Branches and Rallies who wish to avail of this should contact Colin with details of any of their activities.

Shannon Forum - Damien Delaney reported on the latest meeting, which discussed a) Treatment plants for the Shannon catchment area, b) Work currently being carried out on Lough Ree for a water quality report already shows signs of toxic effluent! c) Lough Ree levels - last winter had the 3rd heaviest rainfall this century! d) Low levels on Lough Ree in Summer-time are to be discussed again at the next meeting.

Heritage Day - O.P.W. have fixed 11th September for this annual event and branches are encouraged to organise suitable functions. O.P.W. will co-operate, if contacted.

Royal Canal - a letter from O.P.W. explained that an insurance indemnity problem has arisen with C.I.E. in connection with the lifting railway bridge. The two State bodies are at logger heads and work is at a stand-still.

Holding Tanks. - the President Des Leyden confirmed that the Bye-laws on holding tanks have been postponed until agreement is reached on the infrastructure to be in place.

Registration of Boats. - the branches were asked to remind their members who may be selling a registered boat, that for their own protection, O.P.W. should be advised of sale and name of new owner.

Next Meeting - 23rd. September 1994.

V.H.F. RADIO

Many boat owners have now equipped their boats with V.H.F. radios.

Some, unfortunately, seem to think these radios are like a new toy, or a telephone and use them in a very irresponsible way.

Last summer, the Shannon Rescue people had to ask, repeatedly, for someone to stop interrupting with a rescue taking place in the area. This showed a total lack of understanding of the use of the V.H.F. Radio.

THEY ARE NOT TELEPHONES.

They are useful aids in emergencies.

The skipper of the boat has an onus on him to make sure that all crew members know the importance of only using the V.H.F. in the correct manner and only in emergencies.

Ideally, the radio should not be used at all.

If you get the urge to use the V.H.F., think how did you manage before you had the radio. If you managed a similar situation without the radio, do so now.

Below is some very good advise from Reggie Redmond - take it to heart, or better still, pin up this page near your radio on board!

1. Operators and Boats must be licensed by Dept. of Communications. (Particularly important now, if going to the Erne, it is understood that the River Warden may ask for evidence of Licence).
2. Channel 16 is for Calling (and emergencies only)
3. Children not to be allowed to use radio - banned! (This frequently happens when parents are not on board).
4. Discipline is required. Keep messages and conversations short. Don't call nearby boats frequently - all day long "How are you getting on?", "Would you like another Gin & Tonic?".
5. Gross abuses - singing songs, interrupting other conversations with rude remarks, etc.
6. The system is "Open Line" - everyone can hear you - always remember that. Thus, in certain places on the River, conversations can be heard by Shannon Radio or Galway Port - by misuse of Channel 16, lives can be put at risk, i.e. during a May-Day emergency.
7. If there is no reply to your call, don't repeat again and again every few seconds. Call once, wait 3 minutes and call again - then give up.

All the above comes back to Licensing. With licensing comes responsibility and accountability.

Coming Events.

Erne-Shannon Rally. 27th May - 5th June.
Run jointly by Northern Ireland, Belturbet, and Carrick branches. Starting at Belturbet on Friday, 27th May and ending at Carrick on 5th June. Includes Erne Rally.

Cong to Galway Sailing Race Sunday 5th June.

Run by Corrib Branch and open to cruisers, dinghies and sailboarders, it covers the steamer course from Cong to Galway. Starts at Lisloughery and finishes at Friar's cut.

Shannon Harbour Rally. 25th - 26th June.

Doesn't go anywhere! But it's great fun.

Athlone People's Regatta. Sunday 3rd. July.

Cruise in Company from Yacht Club leaving at 12.30pm. to arrive in Athlone at the jetties above the Town bridge at 13.00 hours.

Corrib Rally. 9th - 11th July.

At this time, the whole event seems to be a bit of a mystery! If you are interested in going, contact Peadar Canavan, Orbsen Lodge, Bushy Pk. Galway. tel. 091-24423.

Shannon Rally. 22nd July - 31st July.

Brochure enclosed with all details.

Lough Derg Rally. 31st July - 6th August.

Unofficial assembly at new jetty
above bridge at Killaloe and ends
at Portumna Castle. Full details and
entry forms from rally secretary,
Maureen Duffy, Lindesfarne, North
Circular Rd., Limerick.
Tel. 061-451478.

Our final two prize winner's entries in the Harry Rice
Competition:

Joint 2nd Prize winner -

"On my Holiday" by Andrina Sloyan.

On my holiday we went to Coosan Point, but first we
went to Hodson Bay. The place I really like to go is to
Coosan Point. I like to fish there. There are lots of
fish at Coosan Point.

Sometimes I go for a swim. One time when Kieron and
I went for a swim a fish jumped up and gave me a fright
and I got afraid.

I like to sleep on the boat. On my holidays we do
not go to bed until late at night.

Another day we headed up to Lecarrow. We had a
great time there. There were lots of boats and I made
lots of friends.

At Lecarrow I had my birthday and we went up to the
Pub. We also visited my Aunty and Uncle.

During our holiday we went around the islands on the
lake. It was really calm and the sun was shining. There
was green slime in the water and it looked very dirty.

Another day we went to Shannon Bridge. Kieron made
friends with a cow, but I was afraid. The first day we
went to Shannon Bridge the two of us were afraid of the
cow.

We had a great time when the people were singing
songs in the pub.

We came home and we told our friends where we went.

Joint 1st prize.

A brilliant visit to Nun's Island
by Elenor Kearon Aged 8.

One lovely morning our family decided that we would like to go on a trip up the lake to an island. But the trouble was where were we to go? Jess decided we should go to Yellow Island and I decided we should go to Nun's Island and in the end we went to Nun's Island.

We had packed a picnic and brought our life-jackets and newspapers and a bottle of milk. Since daddy had the longest boots on, he went out and pulled up the boat.

We heard the sound of terns and seagulls. We all helped carry the bags of things that we brought. We then all helped to pick twigs and sticks and we chose a nice spot for a fire. Jess and I had one cooked sausage each and then we went into the lake and boy was it freezing! We jumped up and down and swirled the water and then we got out and had more sausages and what's more we had never had cooked marshmallows so we tried them and they were yummy when you had them straight out of the packet but when you had them cooked they were absolutely youkey! After the sausages were all gone Mummy and Daddy helped push in the rocks and they boiled some water in a saucepan and put the water in plastic cups and put in some milk and made coffee and when we went home a lovely fire was waiting. It was one of the best days in my life.

Correction:-

In last month's Aerial we mentioned a Whit Weekend Rally. Well, due to so many going up North it was decided at our last branch meeting that no official rally would be held this year. Unofficially - it's all up to you!

HAVE A NICE SUMMER!

See you in September if not before.

Athlone Aerial

NEWSLETTER OF ATHLONE BRANCH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

September 1994.

The next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. will take place in Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone on Monday, 5th September at 8.30pm.

TERRYGLASS REVISITED.

On a bright sunny afternoon this August, I got itchy feet and decided to head for Portumna. So into my trusty Suzuki and off through Ballinasloe and via Laurencetown I finally arrived into the bustling town of Portumna.

Wow! how it has changed from the dull, quiet village of 17 years ago since I was last there. All, I suppose, the result of the effect of the many tourists coming to boat on the Shannon.

Portumna certainly has risen to the challenge, and it has obviously gained by its welcome to the many tourists who come both for the Shannon and to see the beautifully restored Abbey and the ongoing restoration of Portumna Castle.

After a good look at Portumna, I thought of Terryglass which I remember with affection,- the little awkward jetty, the muddy land up to the village, the cautious arrival at the jetty hoping there would be room, (two medium sized boats would fill it), the welcome in Paddy and Anne Wilkinson's pub.

Well what a change! It is still the same village with it's two pubs and grocery but all spick and span.

I walked on clean concrete to the edge of the little stream opposite "Paddy's Pub" instead of wallowing through sloppy cow dung as I had when last there.

The ruined Church has been renovated and now contains a pretty craft shop.

Then the muddy, pot-holed lane to the lake was all tidied up and I arrived at the new harbour opened in 1990.

I was very surprised at the marvellous improvement the O.P.W. had made of the whole area. There must be berthing for a hundred boats not to mention safe places for dinghies. The banks are well landscaped and looked peaceful in the late afternoon sun.

It is still the same as I remember, I'm glad to say, rather as if a scruffy friend had had a bath and was now clean but still a friend.

Went home, very pleased knowing that Terryglass will continue to be a place for happy memories of boating for those young sailors of today and tomorrow.

34th Shannon Boat Rally.

The Rally this year was under the able direction of Commodore Derek McCann and Vice Commodores Fiona Furey and Margaret Murphy, and attracted a very respectable entry of 52 boats, particularly since many of the competitors had already been on the long trek to the Erne and back.

The rallyists from Athlone and Carrick met as usual at Tarmonbarry and proceeded the next day to Rooskey where the rally festivities were somewhat overtaken by the celebrations of the Leitrim G.A.A. fans. Rooskey didn't know what hit it! The stay in Rooskey was the scene of the only seriously bad weather encountered during the entire week, but was enlivened when at the urging of the Commodore the entire rally formed a consortium to buy Lottery tickets for the £1.25 million prize! If any fancy new boats are seen on the river the reason will be obvious!

Kilglass was the setting for the nicest and most enjoyable interlude of the entire rally when for 2 nights and days a cosy community formed one big pool of boats between the jetty and the reeds. Loads of competitions were run, a whole pig was roasted and lots of new friendships were made

As is customary on the S.B.R. there were activities for the junior crews every day and the kids had a ball.

An over-night stop in Carrick enabled the Fancy Dress Competition to be held and the winner was the Commodore himself and friends with a very clever reproduction of the "Flintstones". The R.N.L.I. Auction in Cootehall raised the whopping total of over £1,000.00 - the first time ever into 4 figures.

Rockingham, the Moorings and back to Carrick saw the wind-up and prize giving. The entry included several boats down from the Erne, and it was no surprise when Robert and Avril Maitland in the new craft "Argonaut" were declared the winners of the Premier Award. Fred Rountree in his newly acquired sailing cruiser was a popular 2nd., while Donie Herraghty of Athlone was once again up there with the best - this time in 3rd. place.

First and second places in all the major competitions were almost monopolised by the first 5 boats overall and the only "intruders" into this charmed circle were Norman and Rosemary Furlong (2nd in Boat inspection) and David Killeen (1st in Mooring).

As usual the thanks of all competitors are due to the Commodore and his Committee for their hard and enthusiastic work, done in the best traditions of the Shannon Rally.

ODDS AND.....

1) Final Dinner was held in the newly renovated Bush Hotel - Quality of meal voted excellent.

2) Michael Brody lost the prop. of Gemini at Cootehall and was last seen taking lessons in Scuba diving.

3) Thanks to all the ladies and gents who provided daily coffee mornings - and a regular "fix" of Kit Kat.

4) Andy Fitzsimons is rumoured to have ambitions to take over the R.N.L.I. Auction from Uncle Sean - well, it sounded like it!

5) One of the questions in the Quiz - "This off-Shannon town sounds like it is the Alma Mater to all in politics".
The answer? Strokestown.!!

Shannon Boat Rally 1994.

Results.

Premier Award.	Robert Maitland - Argonaut - 606 mks.
2nd. Overall	Fred Rountree -Leamore Lady- 589 "
3rd. Overall	Donie Herraghty -Dunross - 570 "
4th. Overall	Patrick Ennis -Lapwing - 561 "
5th. Overall	Paul Kenny - Inny - 555 "
Cruiser Class	1st Dunross 2nd Lapwing
Sailing Class	1st Leamore Lady
Barge Class	Piaras O'Brien - Palo Alto -
Man Overboard	1st. Argonaut 2nd. Inny
Boat Inspection	1st. Argonaut 2nd. Norman Furlong -Francesca -
Time Reliability	1st. Inny 2nd. Leamore Lady.
Mooring	1st. David Killeen - Gillaroo II 2nd Dunross
Navigation.	1st. Argonaut 2nd. Leamore Lady.
1st. Mate	1st. Argonaut 2nd. Lapwing
Rescue of Cruiser - over 25'	1st. Dunross 2nd. Argonaut
under 25'	1st. Lapwing 2nd. Leamore Lady
Boat by Canal	1st. Inny
Charter Boat	1st. E.O'Brolchain (Greenwood)
Ladies Boat Handling	1st. Shelia Herraghty
Boderg & Bacardi Sailing Races	1st. Gillaroo II
Dinghy Races	1st. P.O'Brien & Jos. Kiernan

Young Mariner Comp.1st. Ciara O'Brien (Palo Alto)
2nd. Ian Miller (Duiske)

Denis Byrne Trophy Dr. Deirdre Furey
(for special merit)

Doc.Farrell Trophy Mr. Paddy Healy
(for special contribution)

For Sale

LASER in good condition complete with road trailer.
Lying in Portaneena - phone 01 8376283

A Wee Tale From the Erne.

There we were, bank moored up the Abbey River (a cul-de-sac from the navigation point of view) not far from Carrybridge, enjoying ourselves in the peace and quiet. Suddenly we noticed a small little simi-day boat approaching from the main river. It weaved it's way up the river - into and out of the reeds. The reason for this, we discovered, was that it had no steering wheel and the skipper had to stand upright in the stern (to enable him to see ahead) whilst holding the handle of a grossly under-powered outboard engine.

It staggered it's way up towards us and sure enough slowed down and came over.

"Is this the way to the locks?" (Loughs?) - sez he.

"The locks?" said I, thinking quickly. "Do you mean the new canal?"

"Aye" said he, "the locks".

"Well, you're a long way from it, you have to go right to the end of the Upper Lough and you're not even at the start of it. When you see Crom Castle, turn right

and you're there".

"Thanks" said he.

"It will take you quite a few hours" I shouted after him as he disappeared back down the Arney.

Now at this stage it was after 6pm. and with his painfully slow progress and obvious lack of charts there was no way he was going to make it before dark. I often wonder since was he ever seen again?

As twilight falls these evenings and we sit on board, sherries in hand, watching the sun sink down, a vision comes to mind. It is of a small boat (perhaps named the Flying Dutchman) totally lost and endlessly circulating amongst the many islands and channels of Upper Lough Erne and above the put-put of a little engine a voice cries out plaintively "Is this the way to the locks?"

Well Done!

During the month of August, it was reported in the Westmeath Independent, members of Athlone Angler's Association did a voluntary clean up of the Shannon in Athlone.

The Angler's own the fishing rights in this part of the river which was given to them by the E.S.B.

"While it is in our best interests as anglers to clean up the river, it also shows that we are looking after our fishing rights" said Mr. C. Hannon, Chairman of Athlone Angler's Association.



Athlone Aerial

NEWSLETTER OF ATHLONE BRANCH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

October 1994.

The next meeting of the Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. will take place in Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone on Monday 3rd October at 8.30pm.

It's just the end of the boating season. Doesn't it fly?

And what a long season - starting with the fine opening of and rally on the Shannon Erne Link and ending with our End of Season Dinner and Rally on Friday 30th September.

We hope you all had a great time on our waterways and we would love to hear your comments or even a few lines about your own holiday or adventure or even mishaps - perhaps?

One thing we would like to remind you of - Bilges!

This summer, unfortunately, there were a few oil spillages into the river in Athlone and the source was the pumping out of oil filled bilges..

It is just not on - we all know the damage oil does in our rivers.

Because of the trouble caused to Athlone U.D.C. in their effort to remove the oil, they have warned all boat users, that they will be keeping a close eye on any boat discharging oil into the river and they will be taking action against anyone found guilty of such a stupid act.

And quite right too.

Please, please do not be careless about this. There is no excuse for such an act of vandalism.

Theme Children's stories on Shannon Rally 1994.

The Three B - oats.

Once upon a time, fado, fado, there were three boats.

A great big hulking Diddley Idle, Lazybones, Daddy Boat called Palo Alto. A medium sized, newly got up plastic Mummy Boat called Corbiere, and a tiny wee baby boat that sailed through life in an Aisling and was called Gillaroo.

They all moored together in a beautiful snug harbour on the Shannon near Carrick, and one Early Dawn they all slipped their moorings and headed off through the Quiet Waters on a little Shantrek before the coffee morning.

Meanwhile, in Tigin Eile there lived a sleek, sexy, Lady of Dublin alias the Lady G but more commonly called Kelly Ann and sometimes even Samantha Two.

This morning, this Silver Lady was out and about looking for an Adventurer or a Marauder! She hoped for an encounter with Bachus in the woods (though Philos or Argonaut J might just do as well.) As she motored along on her Monawai ringing her little Plurabelle nothing exciting happened until she saw a Lapwing and a Kingfisher, and then a very rare bird - the three breasted Merlin.

But suddenly "Wiwo-o-o" she said to herself, "That looks like a nice little harbour. I'm going Inny right Namow". In she popped and tried out all the berths till she found the very one she liked and settled down for a little Daydream.

Quite soon Big Daddy Palo Alto, medium sized Mummy Corbiere and little Baby Gillaroo headed back for base. On the way they met a Mastercraft and Rabam soon they were Barcaroleing all over the place.

However they soon got back and "Aloma! Aloma! Aloma!" shouted Palo Alto at the top of his Iron Lungs. "Who's been mooring in my berth?". "What a to-Duiske" said Corbiere. "Someone's been mooring in my berth". "Oh Mammy, Mammy" said Gillaroo, "Someone's been mooring in my berth and I Crannagh get in because she's still there.

Well the sexy Lady of Dublin came out of her Daydream right quick and was seen to Stealaway like a Silverline Cruiser with her rudder between her bilge keels!

While little Gillaroo was soon settled down in her own berth with her favourite fairy story about the Tara Dun where lived Oberon King of the Fairies, the Jamaica Queen and the Tara Princess.

But when all was said and Dunross, the story ended differently because when they grew up Gillaroo had his eye on the Iron Lady and he eventually married the sexy Lady of Dublin and they produced a whole fleet of little boats. A pair of Gemini called Selime and Ester and then Francesca, Dorald Gereen, Estelle and Avril and the three lovely ladies Leamore, Ailleach and Rona (and any others that weren't on the list or I didn't mention).

And - they all rallied happily ever after.

(Many thanks, Sue O'Brolchain, for a witty and scandalous story! - however I won't Harp on about it! - Ed.)

W A N T E D

Very urgently required - new members to attend our monthly meeting of Athlone Branch of I.W.A.I. - vacancies will definitely exist after the branch A.G.M. in December next.

Age Limit;- Apres Adolescent - Pre Mort.

Special Skills Required:- Knowledge (a little),
Interest (a lot),
Love of Waterways (a must)

N.B. Without your help, it is impossible for the Branch to function, and we hope you will take this request on board and if you have a couple hours free on a Monday evening your help would be gratefully appreciated.

4.

Coming Events.

- 30th. Sept. End of Season Dinner, Lakeside Hotel,
Ballykeeran, Athlone at 8.30pm.
Tickets - £12.00 from Sean's Bar,
(0902 92358) or Bridie Delaney,
(0902 75620).
- 1st-2nd Oct. End of Season Rally. Venue to be decided
at the Dinner on Friday 30th Sept.
- 1st. Dec. Last date for receipt of entries for the
Harry Rice Competition.
- 2nd. Dec. A.G.M. of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I.
Venue will be advised later.



Athlone Aerial

NEWSLETTER OF ATHLONE BRANCH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

November 1994.

The next meeting of Athlone Branch of I.W.A.I. will take place in Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone on Monday, 7th November at 8.30pm.

Wasn't October a beautiful month - warm and dry almost to the end - but the change of weather unfortunately coincided with our end of season Dinner and Rally.

It didn't effect the Dinner, which was very well attended. We all had a very enjoyable evening with lots of talk, before, during, and after dinner, and it was great to meet again friends from Galway and Dublin. Sean, as usual, ran a raffle for spot prizes and raised some more money for the funds and some very gusty lads provided background music.

I could only hear words of praise for the lovely dinner, both for the quality, quantity, and service.

However, we were messed about by the weather and the weather forecast which lead us to believe that we were in for stormy weather on both Saturday and Sunday, so Damien quickly arranged for a visit by mini but to view the progress of local work to the Royal Canal in the Keenagh, Foigha and Ballymahon area.

This outing was enjoyed by those who went, but the actual day was a lovely day weather wise, no sigh of the stormy weather, so on the Sunday the Lough Ree part of the Rally took to their boats and went across to Hodson Bay for a final get-together. Meanwhile, those who had planned to go south to Shannonbridge, did so on Saturday and had a very enjoyable rally in the unexpected good weather.

ATHLONE BRANCH - I.W.A.I.
- RIP?

The above heading may not be so daft! Unless some of you who are members of the I.W.A.I., and who regularly support our many functions, rallies, fundraising ventures, and work-ins with great enthusiasm over the years, are now prepared to give the further commitment to running the branch meetings, - well, goodbye Branch!

Those of us who have been doing the various offices of the branch, to the best of our abilities, are very aware of the long years we have been active in the running of the activities of the Branch, and many of us are not attending the Branch out of a sense of our own importance to the Branch, but out of a perception that no one else seems to be interested in doing the work, and also because we all share a love of our Inland Waterways and, in doing our stint in various ways in the Branch we are saying thanks to those who influenced our first love of the Shannon.

In December next, we will hold our A.G.M. and the following people have said they will not be going forward for election:-

Chairman, Damien Delaney.
Secretary, Cynthia Rice.
Treasurer, Sean Fitzsimons,
Aerial Ed, Eileen O'Brien.

The Branch will also be looking for people to go on the Shannon Rally committee.

Speaking personally, I would be very sad to see the end of Athlone Branch of the I.W.A.I., but although it will be a loss to the Inland Waterways Association, luckily there are plenty of dedicated people in the many other branches of the Association around Ireland.

Anyway, we have in the last two Aerials, brought this matter to your attention. We cannot force anyone to do this work, all we can do is let you all know how things stand and ask you to consider helping the Branch survive. I hope you do.

Coming Events.

- Sat. 19th Nov. Another fund raising outing to Keenagh, to help with their ongoing work on the Royal Canal. A bus will leave Sean's Bar at 8.30pm. A good evening of song & craic assured. Booking at Sean's Bar, Phone 0902 92358, or Damien Delaney, Phone 0902 75620
- 31st Dec. Last date for receipt of entries to Harry Rice Cup Competition.
- 2nd. Dec. A.G.M. Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. This will be held in the Prince of Wales Hotel, Church St., Athlone at 8.30pm. All members very welcomed.

Shannon Levels. Autumn Drought.

Once again we note, with regret, that the levels seem to have reached a new low! If you have a deep draught boat, you certainly won't be able to lift same out at present. I don't know how our visitors in hire boats are managing to get into harbours and up onto quay walls. But when I looked at the gates in Athlone yesterday, the Shannon was still flowing without any restraint. Hope someone has influence with the powers-that-be that either the gates will be closed or we will have heavy rain soon!



Athlone Aerial

NEWSLETTER OF ATHLONE BRANCH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

December 1994

The next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. will be our Annual General Meeting and will take place in the Prince of Wales Hotel, Church St., Athlone, on Friday, 2nd December 1994 at 8.30 pm. All members are very welcome.

In our November Aerial, we made a very strong request for members to take up various officerships which will become vacant at our A.G.M. We hope that we will have a very good attendance and that some willing and able members will allow their names to go forward to fill these vacancies.

Looking back over this year, we can certainly say that two great changes have occurred which had a big effect on Inland Waterway users. The first was the opening of the Shannon Erne Waterway early this year and then the marvellous news of the cease-fire in Northern Ireland.

During the years of turmoil some of our members supported the Erne Rally - Sean Fitzsimons and Dermot O'Brien, R.I.P., being great fans of the rallies up there and then later, in the late seventies and the eighty's, more people from the Athlone Branch went and enjoyed the friendship and welcome of the Erne.

I know many of us have visited the Erne this year using the S.E.W. and many more hope to make the journey again and others for the first time. We also extend a Cead Mile Failte to our many friends on the Erne to come and visit us.

Finally we wish to extend to all our members at home and abroad - A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.

The following is a letter we received from Mr. Derry Killeen, Shannonbridge, Co. Offaly.

"To Athlone Aerial,

We were glad that jetty mooring space was highlighted during Michael D. O'Higgins link up with the Rally visit to Shannonbridge. Since then Deputy Pat Gallagher has been working to have Shannonbridge included in the Development plan and the enclosed letters were very welcome. Ethel Power works for Offaly Tourism and we invited her to visit Shannonbridge outside office hours some evening to see for herself the utter chaos that existed most evenings with late arriving holiday cruisers finding the jetty full, night fast approaching and doing the lost goose routine around the bridge.

A feasibility study has been prepared for the old Navigation Office. The Local Enterprise Group have been asked to get the O.P.W. to hand over the keys to the Offaly Co. Co. and get working on the inside. Basically the E.G. hope to have a Tourist Information Point that will that will make information available on what's in the area and how to get there. Examples; Bog Rail Tours, Open Farm, Walkways, Clonfert, Clonburren, Wildlife, Nightlife, Eating out, Accommodation, Boat Hire, Bicycle Hire, Car Hire, Guided Walkways, Guided Bus Tours, Fishing, Mass times etc., Hopefully it will get off the ground in '95. Signed Derry Killeen"

The enclosed letters mentioned by Derry, were from a) Ethel Power, Marketing and Development Officer, Offaly Tourist Council and b) a statement by Labour Deputy, Pat Gallagher, dated 14 November 1994 and we quote from in part as follows:-

"Last year, Minister Higgins visited Shannonbridge and saw the need for himself. He included the proposal in his Heritage Development submission to Brussels under the National Plan, and I am very happy for the people of Shannonbridge and surrounding area that £400,000 will be provided under the Waterways Sub-Programme. This, along with the development of toilet and pump-out facilities and the recent public lighting improvements, will significantly enhance the attractiveness of Shannonbridge for visitors and so yield more income for the area."

Our comment: After initial speechlessness, our congratulation to all the people of Shannonbridge for their hard work, they deserve every pound of the £400,000 and could we ask if we could borrow Pat Gallagher to do the same for us in Athlone as so far none of our Deputies seem to have asked for money for our approved marina. Apologies for our green faces!!!

Small Scale Hydro Electric Schemes.

This item came out of the blue from correspondence to Mr. D. Leyden, Chairman, I.W.A.I. from South Western Power, a company involved in development of the above type schemes, who have tendered for some in this country.

These schemes came about because the E.U. has directed member countries to encourage the generation of electricity from renewable sources. This is called the Alternative Energy Requirement - A.E.R.

Anyway, S.W.P., an English Company are interested in developing schemes in Ireland and gave a presentation on Friday 11th November which was attended by our Reggie Redmond and we quote some of Reggie's observations:-

"....the main point to remember is that S.W. Power are only one of several asked to tender. They might not be successful and if so, the sites and proposals would be different. We have no knowledge or details of other proposals.

Alternative Energy Resources - A.E.R. is a Government project and E.S.B. have been asked to manage it.

S.W.P. are tendering for 4 Hydro sites totalling 3MW., to be in commission by mid-1996. These are located:-

Athlone Weir- East side	- 3	generating	units
Tarmon Weir - Lock side	- 2	"	"
Bagenalstown Weir	- 1	"	"
Fenniscourt Weir	- 1	"	"

The houses to contain each unit are 12 metres x 5 metres x 3 metres high plus a sloping roof.
(Approx 40ft x 18ft x 10ft.)

The usage of the 3 units at Athlone would depend on the levels.

They estimate they could use 1 turbine for 80% of the year but 3 turbines for only 50% of the year."

All this is bringing up many technical questions which will have to be answered but the immediate thought we have in reading about these schemes in Athlone is what kind of turbulence will be caused by the turbines and visually speaking how will 3 structures of the above described size look on the weir wall?

R.C.A.G. Keenagh Branch.

Our fundraising outing to Keenagh was well attended and the usual evening of music and craic happened with the help of our musicians Billy Henshaw, Sadie and Jim Byrne, Elane Brett and James Donoghue, many thanks to you once again. At time of going to press, I haven't hear how much was raised but going by previous evenings I'm sure it was generous. We hope a return event will take place in the new year in Athlone.

Harry Rice Cup.

IWAI Members are reminded that this cup is awarded each year for a log/account of a waterways trip and/or an illustration with a waterways theme. There are two categories, under 15 years and 15 years and over and there are book token prizes awarded in addition to the overall cup winner. Entries to Rosemary Furlong, Coosan Point, Athlone, Co. Westmeath before the end of December 1994.

The following recipe was given to us, and will probably be a necessary part of the coming merry season!

Tira Misu

This is an Italian pudding and I believe the name means "Pick me up".

2 packets of boudoir biscuits (sponge fingers)
 8 fl. oz. of strong black coffee (3 tsp. to 8 oz.)
 4 tablespoons brandy, 2 tablespoons Jamaica Rum
 3 ozs. plain dark chocolate
 3 eggs separated, size 3
 4 tablespoons castor sugar
 8 oz soft cream cheese. Mascarpone cheese is recommended but Philadelphia (225g size) is much easier to buy and is what I usually use.
 1 dish about 8" by 10" or an oval or round one about the same size. It should have low sides.

1. Mix coffee with brandy and rum.
2. Grate chocolate finely
3. Whisk egg whites stiffly
4. In another basin whisk egg yolks till pale and creamy and then beat in the cheese to this mixture
5. Fold egg whites into the cheese and yolk mixture.

You can now put the pudding together. Put the coffee mixture into a soup plate and dip the biscuits into the mixture and arrange side by side in the dish. Spread half the cheese and egg mixture over the biscuits and sprinkle on half the grated chocolate. Top with another layer of biscuits dipped in the coffee mix. Spread on the rest of the cheese and egg and lastly the grated chocolate. Cover and leave overnight.

If you have any Amarette biscuits (Italian macaroons) they look quite good as decoration. I cut them in half and stick them round the edge.

Pump-out Stations.

We have been advised by the O.P.W. that they intend introducing a bye-law under the Shannon Navigation Act which will require boats to have holding tanks fitted.

The bye-law will require all boats registered after the 1st June '95 to have a holding tank before they will be registered.

Boats registered prior to 1.6.95. must have holding tanks installed before 1st April 1996 to comply with the bye-law.

Pump-out facilities are to be provided before the 1st June 1995, at Lough Kee, Carrick-on-Shannon, Dromod, Lanesboro, Athlone, Shannonbridge, Portumna, Dromineer, Mount Shannon, Ballina/Killaloe on the River Shannon and Belturbet on the River Erne.

Also on the Grand Canal/Barrow line at Lowtown, Edenderry, Tullamore, Carlow, Tinnahinch, and Athy.

This list falls far short of a network which we would consider to be adequate particularly on Lough Ree where only Athlone and Lanesboro will have facilities. Sailing boats with masts will have to go to Lanesboro for a pump-out assuming that the facility is provided down stream of the bridge.

We had requested a pump-out station at Lecarrow and Hodson Bay but these would appear to have been dropped from the O.P.W. list. The lack of facilities could defeat the purpose of the whole exercise.
