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SPOTLIGHT ON THE UNKNOWN

By THOMAS TOBIN

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Once again we say farewell to a year that will soon fade into the past and welcome another with a future unknown to all of us.

To my many readers every where I take this opportunity of wishing them happiness here and every success in 1952. It is a joy to bring about the realisation of all your most valued ambitions and here's hoping we will all live on to enjoy a brighter future.

WORTH NOTING
While this week's column is devoted mainly to what we might call the special features, there are a few little items which I feel must get a place. Number one—Last week we had a meeting of the local Urban Council and a fact that was most noteworthy was the absence of any representation of the Ratepayers Association. This is a portent of things to come I wonder.

And while I am referring to the last meeting of the Council, I should like to pay tribute to the excellent manner in which the business was done on the occasion. The agenda was a big one containing 16 items. There was no dilly-dallying with the result the meeting was finished exactly 70 minutes after the start.

MAN AGAINST THE SEA
THE TRAGIC STORY OF THE ILL-FATED MORSBY WHICH FOUNDED IN DUNGARVAN HARBOUR ON CHRISTMAS EVE 1895

In a miniature dockyard in Runcorn Cheshire shipworkers have now transformed an old hulk into a sleek modern lighter. Among the sea-faring folk on both sides of the Irish sea, the launching of this new vessel will be regarded as yet another incarnation that will be spoken of along the seashores of the wide world. The hulk was all that remained of the old three-masted schooner 'Morsby' a vessel that was at one time salvaged by a Dungarvan man, Capt. Michael Moloney father of the well known industrialist Moloney family who did something for the advancement of industry in Dungarvan and whose business still flourishes.

Behind the transformation of this old hulk lies a story that is closely associated with Dungarvan. It is the story of the birth of a ship that brought him down the Bristol channel. He became restless as he brought to mind once again the torments of the cruel sea as his vessel was lastingly wrecked on the rocks of the coast and there he related in admiration the clever tactics of the Dungarvan Captain whose grave danger knowledge of Ireland's treacherous southern coast led him to shelter.

But the night that now lay before him held a future as dark as his very name and it was not long before he got the first taste of doom. As the hands of the treasured clock in his home-like cabin approached midnight the storm became a hurricane and the vessel heaved to and fro. All 23 of the crew jumped to and prepared for the worst. Suddenly it was noticed that the vessel was drawing her anchors. More cable was left out but here again fate played a damning part—the port cable ran out of the hawse hole—and now the vessel had but one anchor. Now Capt. Comer held no hopes for the survival of his vessel—his soundings home on the sea distress signals were lighted and on shore were seen and ignored by the coastguards on Ballinacorney Head.

This was the real tragedy and one that will never be forgotten in the history of Dungarvan. A number of volunteers in Ballinacorney wanted to go to sea to the rescue of the doomed crew but they could not get the lifeboat—the coastguards would not co-operate in rescuing the captain and his crew of a vessel that had refused their aid when it was offered. The vessel was then sent to Dungarvan for more volunteers and to Helvick on the other side of the Bay. In Dungarvan the message was delayed by one man's error and it may now be recorded that because of this delay 26 young and precious lives were lost.

Harbour with that fierce south easterly gale lashing against his side and throwing the sea across his bows and over his deck. As he gallantly steered his vessel along the Mary Sinclair's cabin from the deck of his firmly held vessel watched in pity. Only too well he realised the pains that were being endured by his fellow captain. The vessel too well did he realise the danger that lay before him as he made for the shelter of Dungarvan Bay.

Once again Comer remained on deck all through except for the brief spell during which he went below to comfort his wife and to assure her that there was no need for her fears—and they were not. He was around the vessel on shore for their first time in Ireland together and united. But unfortunately fate was not so kind. As the Morsby drew near the treacherous Blackrock at the entrance to the harbour her skipper had to think and act quickly. His sails were tattered and the power against the gale weak and his hope for survival faint. Every little accomplishment was a joy and an added fan to his little spark of hope. Eventually he was around the rocky Ballinacorney Head and slowly moving in closer to land and life in safety.

When the anchors had been dropped the vessel rested about half a mile west of Ballinacorney. All on board felt that they were now safe and they thanked God for what they regarded as their most amazing escape from the clutches of the deep.

On land the coastguards realised that the vessel was in distress and the lifeboat went out breaking through a rough sea and sea. On reaching the stricken vessel the lifeboat crew were amazed when Capt. Comer made it very clear that he did not want any assistance. He said that as his vessel was short of provisions and the storm passed over. He gave orders there and then that no one was to leave ship and without further ado the lifeboat returned to land.

As nightfall approached and all on board the Morsby began to settle down to a night's rest. Capt. Comer recalled the events that had transpired and he called the scenes of farewell as his splik and span vessel pulled out from Cardiff sharply at 3 p.m. He recalled his jovial farewell to the crew of the tug that brought him down the Bristol channel. He became restless as he brought to mind once again the torments of the cruel sea as his vessel was lastingly wrecked on the rocks of the coast and there he related in admiration the clever tactics of the Dungarvan Captain whose grave danger knowledge of Ireland's treacherous southern coast led him to shelter.

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CAPPOQUIN ROWING CLUB
CINDERELLA DANCE
IN BOAT HOUSE HALL
ON NEW YEAR'S NIGHT
DANCING 9-2
Music—Marino Dance Band
Admission (inc. tax) 2/6
MINERAL BAR

Renovations At Presentation Convent To Cost £15,000
Renovations to the extent of £15,000 are to be carried out at the Presentation Convent Schools, Dungarvan. This was announced at a special meeting held at the Presentation Convent on Wednesday night, Dec. 19th by Very Rev. T. Canon O'Brien, P.P. V.F. Present at the meeting were: Rev. Fr. P. Farrell, C.C. and Rev. Fr. Murphy, C.C. Dungarvan.

Addressing a very large attendance of about 100 pupils, Very Rev. T. Canon O'Brien stated that the old schools were in very great need of renovation. New sanitary arrangements were needed and a new cookery school was essential. Canon O'Brien pointed out that the cost of the scheme of renovations would be £15,000. Two-thirds of which would be put up by the Department of Education. They would have to raise £5,000 through their own efforts and he felt that all those present realised fully the extent of the work. Very Rev. Canon O'Brien said that the Presentation Convent was a part of Dungarvan. On its work grew many great achievements and out of its classrooms came boys and girls who became leaders in their country's development and advancement. This was their first appeal to the people of Dungarvan—an appeal that was of major importance to all future townsmen and women. He felt that with co-operation and a good effort they would with God's help realise their ambitions, and play their part in ensuring the advancement of the very high standard of education set by the Presentation Convent in Dungarvan.

Canon O'Brien opened the fund with a cheque for £100. His action was loudly applauded by all present. Rev. Fr. Farrell also spoke and urged the support of all young and old in their drive to assist in the raising of the fund and within a short time launch an all out campaign with the hope of raising the required amount.

POSTSCRIPT

With reference to the wreck of the 'Morsby' I have come across a few verses of a song composed by the late Capt. Christopher of Abbeyside who himself lived with the ill-fated 'Morning Star' of Dun-abrattin about 40 years ago. I have failed to obtain the entire words of the composition but the following is what I have picked up and perhaps some of my readers may be able to supply the verses that are missing.

Kilgobinet Parochial Fund
45 DRIVE
(In aid of above)
In Coolnasmar N. S.
Sunday night, Jan. 6th, '52
£30 IN PRIZES
FIRST PRIZE £12
SECOND PRIZE £8
THIRD PRIZE £4
RUNNERS UP £4
Householder's Prize £2
TEAS SERVED
The Committee reserve the right to appoint substitutes for absentees.
Cash and cards to be returned to Rev. D. Power, P.P., Rev. J. Morrissey, C.C., M. Brennock, N.T., P. Hickey, N.T., James Kivan, Thomas Wall or F. Whelan

Photography Has Many Uses
COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY—For business men with keen eyes and a good picture sells what he has to offer—more so if presented with a formal and unusual interest. Production of photographs right through to publicity blocks handled if required, for newspaper advertising and catalogues.
PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY—Always a family favourite. And as it is definitely meant to be from the baby to the grand-dad—and not forgetting the ladies, my pictures immortalise a life-like impression.
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY—Often referred to, and rightly so, as an occasion when the camera-man is of high importance. On his skill depends the pictorial record of an occasion—of an expression that are unrepeatable.
SCENIC VIEWS—Of local interest. A wide and colourful selection of up-to-date local view postcards are at present in the course of production. Orders from Newsagents in Dungarvan and round County Waterford, will receive immediate attention, and if there is a Village, a Street or some old place of memories that is so much needed—your wish shall be my command.
YES—PHOTOGRAPHY HAS MANY USES AND FOR THEM ALL—SEE—
THOMAS TOBIN,
33, T. J. MURPHY PLACE
ABBEYSIDE, DUNGARVAN. 'Phone 109

THE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas, 1951 is now but a memory of the past and has faded into its place with the memories of all the other years as in former years, but before it. Somehow or other it was almost over before it began as it seemed to have stolen upon us silently. During the weeks prior to Christmas the atmosphere which most of us long for but are unable to create was absent and we went from day to day putting things on the long finger until it was almost too late.

That the economic position had hardened a great deal was evident in the shops. Shoppers were not inclined to spend as freely as in former years, and the great spending spree which is usually the prologue to Christmas did not take place. Shoppers were out as usual but at the same time they looked for the very best bargains they could get.

Several large business concerns said that the volume of business done was nothing like what was expected. This was blamed on the scarcity of money. The shoppers faltered because prices generally had greatly increased and with one thing and another they were forced to make little cuts here and there which taken generally made for a considerable slackening. Turkeys for the home market were scarce and in many cases difficult to get, even though prices were high ranging between 4/6 to 5/- per lb. Many households went without the traditional bird for Christmas and compromised with geese, chickens and ducks. It is not everyone who can now afford to purchase a turkey and ham for the festive season so many other calls to be met.

However each household had its own good Christmas cheer and enjoyed the festival as usual. It was only at the very close—at the eleventh hour—that anything like a shopping rush took place with purchasers making last minute selections of presents so that no one would be forgotten. Christmas Eve saw the streets well filled and as night approached celebrations began in earnest. As midnight grew near the great fun of Christmas in Dungarvan began to fill up the streets bringing people to the Midnight Masses, and it was good to hear the age old wish on every lip. A Merry Christmas! The annual parking places in Christmas Carols were sung in all the Churches while at the Parish the massed choir again rendered Handel's majestic 'Hallelujah' chorus in inspiring manner. When the Masses had concluded the wended their way to their homes where the Christmas trees and stockings were got ready for the visit of Santa to the children. This is one of the greatest joys of Christmas being topped only by the expressions of delight which usually light up the countenances of the little ones on Christmas morning when they find that Daddy has brought them a gift. When they find that Daddy has brought them a gift. When they find that Daddy has brought them a gift.

After the rush to the toys on Christmas morning the rest of the day was quiet except of course for the good wishes who had to prepare the cheer for the Christmas Day—and then followed the joys of those little family gatherings, when Pat and John, Mary and Peg are breathing 103,040 times St. Stephen's Day brought the early morning knocks of small presents of wren-boys—a fastidious custom—and in the day things quietened down again until night-fall when happy bands of merry-makers prepared to move off to the various Christmas dances where the acquaintances were renewed. And so Christmas came to a close and once again business was resumed as usual and we face a new year wondering what it has in store for us.

IF YOU THINK YOU AREN'T DOING MUCH
If you are adult weighing about 160 pounds, here is what your body is doing in 24 hours. Your heart is beating 103,070 times and your blood is circulating about 168 million miles. You are breathing 103,040 times, inhaling 438 cubic feet of air. You are eating about three pounds of food and drinking 29 pounds of liquid. You are losing close to 7 1/2 pounds in water. Your body is expending heat at about 85 F., and the energy you are producing is equivalent to 540 foot-tons. You are keeping about 750 muscles in action and speaking about 4,000 words. During your sleep you are turning from one side to the other about 25 times. Now of all things, we even know that your fingerprints are growing about 0.014 inch and your hair 0.0171 inch.

OUCH!
A man was humming in on the radio when he got a sudden twinge of pain in his back. "I believe I'm getting lumbago!" he explained. "What's the use?" answered his wife. "You won't understand a word they say!"

Co. Waterford Committee of Agriculture

Department Control Of Nurseries Urged

Grave Concern Voiced Over Fruit And Forest Trees Scheme

Mr P. R. Power Chairman presided at the usual meeting of Co. Waterford Committee of Agriculture held in the Court-house, Dungarvan on Saturday last. Present were Messrs M. McGrath N Walsh R. Baron W. Dower D. Hesklin J. Mansfield L. Leahy J. Fives M. Hartly J. Quirk T. Morrissey and J. Meade.

In attendance were the Instructors and Mr P. Conroy. Nurseries Should Have Departmental Control. Two years ago the nurseries of this county were given every protection by the Government with the hope that the fruit growing industry would develop as it should but evidently no such state of affairs had developed. It seems that the nurseries gave no undertaking to the Minister responsible at the time and no undertaking was asked for with the result that today the fruit-growers of Ireland are suffering the consequences and unless the present Government takes immediate action in the matter there will be little hope for the proper development of Irish fruit-growing. This was stated at the meeting by Mr P. O'Shea Horticulture Instructor during a long and interesting discussion on fruit-growing conditions in Ireland at present.

The discussion arose when Mr O'Shea gave notice of motion that the Minister should issue a horticulture calling for an increase in applicants' valuation in the committee's fruit-growing scheme. He said that the present valuation of £40 applicable under the scheme was a figure and deprived many of those anxious to avail of the scheme of an opportunity of so doing.

Mr O'Shea Instructor pointed out that the position was that they were not in any way kept on encouraging farmers to grow fruit in small quantities. Half acres or even a few acres would be a great deal more a nuisance as it meant a great deal of work in the collection of the fruit which in turn meant a delay that would equal an acreage of ten times as great. Mr O'Shea said that it was his hope and his intention to develop the fruit growing industry in Co. Waterford at least, in a real business like manner and with their up-to-date packing station now under completion, they would soon be on the right road to their goal. He pointed out that if they should increase the valuation of the fruit growing scheme as advocated by Mr Hartly, it would very soon have more applicants and this in turn would mean more money to keep the scheme going. The position today he said that the committee have only enough money to keep the scheme as it is going and now I am given to understand from the CAO Mr Conroy, that we have not a hope of getting more money.

At this stage, Mr Conroy read a letter from the nurseries which supply the Committee with their requirements of fruit trees stating that they were not in a position to meet the requirements of Mr O'Shea in reply to a question by a member stated that there was no doubt but the position regarding the present supply of fruit trees was a great factory and one that would have to get the serious consideration of the Government without delay.

He went on to say that the nurseries had received a great deal of attention from the Government years ago but had made little use of it. He said that had they not received such protection the position in the country today would be a far different one. Mr O'Shea added the nurseries are working away on the same old stock and are giving the grower a type of tree that is not right for the country. He referred to a letter received in October last by a local grower which stated that the nurseries concerned were unable to supply Lord Lambert variety. That in his opinion, said Mr O'Shea, is indeed a shocking state of affairs for any nursery at this time of the year. The variety in question was introduced in 1912 and became popular, yet the nurseries of the country have not yet realised the fact that it is today the most popular of the lot. Mr O'Shea went on to say that in England stock No. 2 is the most popular and during a recent visit when he asked them if they grew No. 16 which is being used mainly in Ireland, the British growers replied that they would not grow it. If they got it for nothing, Mr O'Shea stated that some of their own officials in this country would not favour the change over to No. 2 stock because they say there is no proof of its superiority. He wondered what the British growers thought of the Irish attitude.

Mr O'Shea stated that something would now have to be done.

THE NATURAL FRUIT WITH HEAPS OF SUGAR AND CLEAR CRYSTAL SPRING WATERS ALL HELP TO MAKE **POWER ORANGE** GOOD FOR YOU

could say what their experience was if any in the use of concrete pipes as against clay pipes. He said that the Department would not recommend the use of concrete pipes yet he could not see their reason for such an attitude. Concrete was being used for all types of work in the building line and there was never fault with it. A number of industries in Ireland were producing the concrete pipes and they had valuable machinery for the purpose but now it appeared that their machinery would be useless to them and a grave loss yet the Government allowed the export of clay pipes from Holland.

The Instructors could not comment on the qualities of the pipes pointing out that the material would be one for the attention of the Rehabilitation Officers. Mr Hesklin stated that if it was a thing that clay pipes were the better type there was a suitable clay for their production in Ballinatra near Clashmore, Co. Waterford.

Price Of Turkeys
Mr R. Barron referred to an article which appeared in a Dublin newspaper in connection with the price of turkeys and stated that although he had replied to a similar article at the last meeting, he would repeat to his opinion on the price being paid was not all sufficient even at 4/6 a lb as had been paid in Dublin last week. He suggested that the Editor of the newspaper concerned should take up turkey rearing and find out for himself the many difficulties associated with it which would be felt, soon change his tune.

Temporary Appointments.
Approval of appointment as temporary instructors was received in respect of Mr D. Walsh Mr P. Brennan and Miss E. O'Shea. Approval of increase in salary was received in respect of Mr Walsh's appointment. An application for a transfer of residence from Kilmacthomas to Bonmahon was granted to Mr P. Brennan in connection with a scheme of subsidies for the encouragement of purchase of new type farm machinery to be used on hire was unanimously approved.

F.C.A. NOTES

DUNGARVAN BATTALION

Training—This is the time of year when a stock-taking of the progress of the Battalion is taken. It is a time when considerable progress was made with the training of a reasonable proportion of the Battalion. Those men who parade regularly are now showing how well they are able to do their job and can take their places with the more seasoned members. The credit is all theirs because they took the training parades seriously and got down to the job in real soldierly style. It is hoped that they will continue the good work during the coming year and reach the Three Star Grade before they go to Annual Training in 1952.

Full-Time Training—Members are again reminded that full-time training will be continued at Collins Barracks, Cork. In the New Year every member who is in a position to do so should go to Cork and avail of this training. If members let slip past now they will probably find later on in the year that they will be unable to do so. That would mean that along with missing excellent instruction, they will also forfeit their gratuity. Think it over during the next couple of weeks and let Battalion HQs know you have decided to go. All arrangements will be made at Batt. HQs and members need have no further worries.

21st and 22nd Courses
which was run recently at Battalion HQs. Pte's John Dunford and Martin Grant passed all tests and are now in line for promotion to the rank of Corporal. Centre is at present in Collins Barracks, Cork, undergoing Basic Training which we understand he is enjoying to the full. He recommends it to all new recruits.

Remember!
Advertising doesn't cost... it Earns!

