

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL

Hon. Secretary: Miss M. W. JONES,
56 CUNNINGHAM ROAD,
LIVERPOOL, 13.

SPECIAL SALES NO. 10

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MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

In less time than it takes to recite "Home Thoughts from Abroad" we can expect kinder weather for rambling - the debut of Spring, no less! Bowing trees in new dress and dancing flowers will wave us on our way to distant hills. The Elysian fields are not shown on any of our maps, but who will deny that the fields we cross shall be any less endowed - Fields by any other name tread as sweet!"

In contrast to the sombre black and white of the landscape as we now see it, we shall be witnessing the birth of that colour that transforms the garden that is England into the Ramblers' Eden.

Now! after that poetic outburst we should, I think, come down to earth. In short, fast approaching us is the season that all ramblers have been awaiting; so fast that we barely have time to brace ourselves. I'm speaking now for those of us who left the winter to its own icy solitude and preferred rather the fireside (or their beds).

I'm speaking too for any that are new to rambling, many of whom we hope to have in our ranks this coming season. To these I would like to say "welcome to the C.R.A." We trust our spirit and company will induce you to take a permanent interest in discovering and becoming better acquainted with your rural heritage, with (it goes without saying) added benefit to your knowledge and health.

Get out that old rucksack then, and those walking shoes and boots! Bring your maps too, and "follow" the leader in more ways than one! More than that, be prepared to lead a ramble yourself. How else can you be a Rambler? How better can you enjoy yourself?

THE EDITOR

PERSONAL

We extend to Mr. Michael McCallen our heartiest congratulations on receiving the B.E.M. This award was granted for meritorious service in organising escapes from a P.O.W. Camp, and as we know his organising ability at first hand, we can believe that in the Camp everything would be organised by him down to the smallest detail. Congratulations, Michael.

It is with deep regret we advise the death of Miss Prendergast's father. Made is an old and tireless worker for our Club, and our deepest sympathies are with her on this sad occasion. The Committee have arranged for a Mass to be offered.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION YET?

SALE OF WORK - The C.R.A. is shortly holding a Sale of Work on behalf of the Catholic Holiday Guild (our parent body). We will be glad to receive material or finished articles, which may be handed to Mr. Mark Walsh or Miss Kathleen Collins. Your assistance or any ideas you may have will be gratefully accepted.

ROVING REPORTER

Eileen is 'urt! It would seem that in between two News Letters her outstanding effort slipped through the Editor's net, and it is thus belatedly, and with apologies, that we record her ramble to Parkgate. Although the day was well and truly in the grip of icy winter, nine staunch supporters turned up to view the Wirral in frosty mantle. Benediction at Neston was not possible as it had been cancelled on account of the weather. Incidentally, our leader was one of the four who really finished the ramble. Well done!

Many are the lengths to which some people have had to go in order to procure 'spuds' in these hard times, but John Miller's worthy aim was masterly, and he has even been credited with 'statesmanship'. Even I am torn between regard for C.R.A. Rules and respect for 14 lbs. of potatoes! His ramble, nevertheless, was quite interesting and included not a few of the attractive features of Ince-Blundell and Formby.

UPHOLLAND

In spite of the exceptionally fine weather, the attendance on this ramble was very disappointing, six members in all finding their way to Skelthorpe Street. Fortunately, the sexes were well balanced.

After some preliminary hold-ups and minor transport difficulties at both Liverpool and Ormskirk, we finally set off on the first stage of our walk from Parbold to Ashhurst. This was uphill most of the way and a good pace was set to make up for the earlier delay, so that it was a somewhat hot and perspiring party that arrived at the Beacon Farm. Not a moment too soon - before we had time to attack our lunches, we were joined by the St. Helens' party, which brought our number up to a grand total of fourteen. Stella and Mark requisitioned an oven for the ever popular meat pies and sausage rolls.

On setting out after lunch, the leader handed over to Frank King in deference to his greater knowledge of the district, and there were no regrets on this score. After keeping to plan sufficiently to give a view of the College to those desiring it, Frank then led off on an impromptu route through Dene Woods, and this was by far the most enjoyable part of the ramble.

By way of Roby, the party returned to the Farm where arrangements had been made for tea. Poached eggs on toast! (double or single, please?)

Tribute is due to one of the ladies (no names, no blushes) who turned out in spite of a severe attack of chilblains.

(N.B. Kathleen has a 100% method for keeping warm in buses).

GREAT SAUGHALL

Blue skies and a warm sun were happy augury to 19 eager ramblers as they crunched through the deep snow to Great Saughall via historic Shotwick Hall. Views of the Welsh Hills, gilt by the sun, suggested happy promise of the Spring and Summer days to come when there would be springy green turf underfoot in place of an ice-cake layer of snow. Many were the macabre musings entertained as we passed Gibbet Mill of gruesome story. After tea, which was at Two Mills, we had the moon to guide us back, but nevertheless shrieks testified to our plunging through

drifts of snow as deep, or deeper than any we had encountered during the day. This account would be incomplete without mention of the mighty snow battles. So fierce were these that one new member was more tired in his right arm than ever he was in his 'old dogs.'

TREASURE HUNT

Many little rhymes composed by Kathleen found their way into the clues for the hidden treasure. I thought she might care to add the following 'gem' to her literary collection - it's all my own work:-

We looked for it here, we looked for it there;
We looked for it almost everywhere.
We searched in the snow, then reached to the sky,
And John, Win and Kathleen just stood by.

We looked for a calendar and found a date;
We hunted the news which proved quite a feat.
The boys found the treasure - but always too late.
'Twas Pete saved t'musketeers from defeat.

CAPENHURST

Despite a tremendous amount of pioneering effort by Stella and Peter, the weather struck a foul blow on the appointed day of the ramble to Capenhurst, with the result that Peter was left to carry the 'flag.' Their story is best sung as an example of conscientious pioneering.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

- 4th April SOCIAL CANCELLED (GOOD FRIDAY)
- 11th April INDOOR SPORTS Host, MR. T. INIGHT
- 18th April CRAZY WHIST Host, MR. M. WALSH
- 25th April GUESS WHAT? Host, MR. F. NORBURY
- 2nd May LUCKY DIP Hostess, MISS K. COLLINS
(BENEDICTION 7-30 p.m. St. Oswalds)

RAMBLES PROGRAMME

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 30th March BARNSTONDALE | Meet 12-30 p.m. | Leader |
| | Pier Head | Mr. P. Carlen |
| 7th April LOGGERHEADS | Meet 9-30 a.m. | Leader |
| | Pier Head | Miss W. Jones |
| 14th April CALDY | Meet 2-15 p.m. | Leader |
| | Pier Head | Mr. M. Walsh |
| 27th April SHOTWICK | Meet 10-15 a.m. | Leader |
| | Pier Head | Mr. G. Penlington |
| 4th May NESTON (BENEDICTION) | Meet 10-15 a.m. | Leader |
| | Pier Head | Miss K. Collins |

CRAZY WHIST

As will be noted from the printed programme, a Crazy Whist Drive will be held on the 18th April. The Social Sub-Committee have introduced this idea not without a little fear and trembling. Past experience has shown that games of any duration are frowned upon, a racing being preferred.

The Drive will, therefore, begin at 8-15 p.m. sharp. It will be short, and will be finished before the interval.

Please note the following points and help to make the evening a success:-

1. Crazy whist can be enjoyed by both players and non-players of whist. The accent is on the 'CRAZY'.
2. Please come early so that a prompt start can be made.
3. Full instructions will be given.
4. Bring a pencil.

CATHOLIC HOLIDAY GUILD

Organised holidays will be possible from Easter onwards at "The Hollies", Keswick, and names of those wishing to take holidays in Lakeland should be handed to Miss Win Jones, together with a deposit.

Descriptive literature will soon be available to all members of the C.R.A. who are interested.

SOCIAL NOTES.

Another of Bill Roberts' "Experimental" nights has gone by with many of us still wondering what our 'Man of Mystery' has up his sleeve. We may yet see!

Once again we thank our compatriots from St. Helens for a rip-roaring "Old Lyme Nite". Judging by what I hear, "Cotillions" still means as much gymnastics for the tongue as for the feet.

Vi Duffy's ideas for games and prizes are still providing much food for thought. Thank you, Vi, for a very pleasant evening!

Peter Carlin's "Irish Night" was quite a success, despite the fact that it had to be held in the Junior School, and not in the Hall. The 'Irish' atmosphere was present, nevertheless, added to considerably by the very pleasant singing of Miss Pat Moloney.

Incidentally, I would like to congratulate the winners of our recent "Treasure Hunt". They were:-

- First Prize (5/-).....Miss Peggy Toes.
- " " ".....Mr. Peter Carlin.
- Second Prize(4/-).....Miss Terry Smith.
- Third Prize (3/-).....Miss Eileen Ashton.

HISTORY OF C.R.A. (Contd.)

RAMBLING

The years 1930 to 1935 will be remembered as the years when our Association developed rambling as an important, nay, vital part of its activities. The original motive which gave rise to the Guild - a Catholic Guest House - receded in an effort to build a strong organisation which would have regular weekly attractions to Catholic Youth. Many believed that the Holiday Guild in itself could not succeed unless it was backed by strong Rambling Clubs in many towns. This, then, was the feeling of our Association in the year 1930 to 1935, and we again changed our name to The Liverpool Catholic Rambling Association and Holiday Guild.

When we look thro' the records of the Club, we cannot but express admiration for the care and attention which was given to a Rambling programme. Leadership was and is always important, and in spite of the duties which fall on a leader, the C.R.A. always had a most reliable panel. Such names as Messrs. F. Harvey, F. King, T. Knight, F. McCarthy, J. Duffy, J. Shaw, T. & R. Joyce, C. Nealy and C. Kelly, to mention but a few, were ever at the service of the Club. Whilst rambles like Beeston Castle, Caerwle, Loggerheads, Llangollen, recall not only happy memories, but are examples of well-planned walks.

It was during this period that one ramble per month was planned to include Benediction, and such places as Pantasaph, Neston and Simonswood became very popular among the members. The average attendance on rambles was about 30 with 50 to 60 on Bank Holidays. These figures are quoted to give some idea of the strength of the Club.

The records taken after every ramble gave much valuable information. They included distance covered, amount of footpath compared with road walking, name and address of tea-place, time of meeting, departure and return of trains or bus, and any additional points which the leader might wish to make.

Truly can it be said that the years 1930 to 1935 was the period when we "put rambling on the map" and built up a tradition and practice for which the C.R.A. is truly proud.

Mr. Harvey, who was Chairman in 1932, felt that the Club had made such good progress and was so well established, that we might solicit an audience with Archbishop Downey with a view to seeking his patronage. Accordingly, on 8th November 1932, an interview was granted to Mr. Harvey, after which His Grace agreed to become patron of the C.R.A.

During these years, the holiday aspect was never overlooked, for an annual holiday was always included in the Club's attractions. Even as our rambles included joint walks with Manchester, Bolton and Preston Rambling Clubs, so our annual holidays invariably attracted members from outside Liverpool, and slowly but surely helped to propagate the idea of a Catholic Guest House.
