

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Founded 1927.

Under the Patronage of His Grace The Archbishop Of Liverpool.

SEPTEMBER, 1950.

SECOND SERIES NO. 42

EDITORIAL

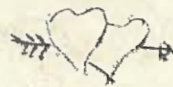
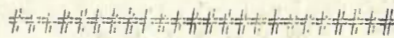
We extend to the past year's committee our thanks for a job of work well done and to the new committee, our good wishes for the coming year. This association is not run by personages whose names are well known throughout the Archdiocese, nor is our policy affected by influential beings who are, so to say, sleeping partners in the association. No - the club is run by yourselves. A majority of the Committee attend the socials every Thursday evening. They are ever present in all the activities which they organise and we are happy to note the generous support which members in the past have given to the committee. This is what they appreciate most; we ask you in the coming year to do all you can to advance the cause of the C.R.A. Its activities have a wide appeal to Catholic youth. You can help to spread the knowledge of the C.R.A. by talking about it to your friends and bringing them into the club.

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PERSONAL

CALLING ALL BABY SITTERS!

We extend our heartest congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Mulhall on the occasion of the birth of twin daughters.



It is with pleasure we learn of the engagement of Mr. Bill Wilde to Miss Kath Gould. Our very best wishes to them both.

As the last Newsletter was going to print, we learnt of the death of Mr. Cyril Kelly's Mother. We take this opportunity of extending to him our deepest sympathy. R.I.P.

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GREETINGS: One of our overseas members; Miss Vi' Duffy, who before her departure for the U.S.A. was one of our most stalwart supporters, sends her regards to the club.



SOCIAL NOTES BY I. C. ALL



I hope you are all planning your costumes for the coming Fancy Dress Carnival. I've heard a rumour that there will be very valuable prizes for the winners, so get weaving.

up

Can anyone tell me why we have had so many volunteers for washing recently? I must try it sometime and find out the secret.

Our record player has occasionally been having fits of temperament, but fortunately we have had some engineers in the house to repair the damage. Whilst waiting, we had some very nice music from Mrs. Wilton. Incidentally, a certain party didn't care who was listening but wanted it to be known she wasn't a wallflower any more. (O.K Lil, I got your message.) Mentioning no names, but it has been brought to my knowledge that one young lady recently 'separated' a man and his wife (she's got more courage than I have.) Fortunately I hear the parties concerned have

now been reconciled.

By the way Mark, next time we have an elimination dance, please may I have a clean tennis ball? I was carrying the sign of Cain on my forehead for days afterwards.

If you have'nt seen those etchings yet Miss Sandham, I have it on very good authority that 'man' has a big record collection as well.

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A N U A L M A S S

The Annual Mass will take place in the Pro-Cathedral at 11a.m. on Sunday 15th October. This is the one opportunity in the year when members are privileged to attend Mass in a body, for the intentions of the Association. Please do your utmost to be present.

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R A M B L I N G P R O G R A M M E

Table with 5 columns: Date, Location, Station, Time, and Name. Rows include Sept. 10 Puddington & Shotwick, 17 Barmouth Line, 24 Bidston, Oct. 1 Mawdsley Moss, 7/8 R. A. Chalet, 15 Neston (Benediction), and 22 Rivington Pike.

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R A M B L E S

NETTLEFORD WOOD



Sunday dawned rather showery but did not deter the numbers arriving at Lime Street station for the 9.30 train. The length of the queue for tickets coupled with the late arrival of several of the party gave cause for a little uneasiness and it was with a sigh of relief that we managed to fit into the crowded train.

Helsby was reached and twenty two people began the first part of the walk to the "Boot Inn" at Kelsall. Unfortunately this was unavoidably a very long walk indeed, but our first rest and break for tea was all the more enjoyable. At the "Boot Inn," two male members who had gone to church Chester rejoined us, actually getting there long before us!

Our second part, the return journey, through lovely Delamere Forrest, was worth the delays and discomfort of the morning. We tramped on and on along quiet and shady paths and it seemed ages before we emerged into the open again, to find ourselves at Birch Hill our last Tea Place. Here we managed a wash and brush up after tea and we all were fit for the few miles left to go for the train home. We arrived at the station with about twenty minutes to spare. The train came at 8.p.m. so we were all home quite early after our long day.

Our thanks to Frank for a very enjoyable day.

K.G.

ARLEY HALL

On perhaps one of the best days of this doubtful summer 22 enthusiasts old and new, set out in bright sunshine from Lymm Church. They went past the picturesque Lymm Dams and onward through a mile or so of pleasantly green plantation, brushing their way through fern and bracken.

From High Leigh their way took them along country lane and over pasture land and through a patch of woodland here and there, by an old watermill and on to

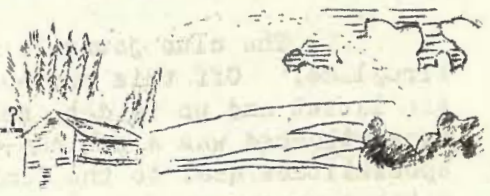


Arley Park. They found the park an expanse of rich meadow fringed with many kinds of old and stately trees, its turf springy under foot. They found all the stiles except the last one which was only discovered after they had negotiated some barbed wire. That there was more barbed wire further on the ramble did not detract from the very pleasant ambling by pond and hedgerow.

Some of that party no doubt, will be surprised to learn that this ramble contained so much of pleasure to country-lovers, but that can be ascribed to the counteracting popularity of the Radio Quiz game "who's who." They can rest assured however, that they undoubtedly benefited by their sojourn in the open air and sunshine, and I feel sure that somewhere their minds eye has retained a valuable mental picture.

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WILL IT COME TRUE?



A Fantasy of 1999. Golden Jubilee Year C.R.A.

Two men, one old, one young, were walking along a footpath, across a waste which was covered with gorse in bloom. It was an afternoon in the spring of 1999 and they were approaching the country club house of the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers Association. The older man in conversation to his son Richard said. "This is the day to which I have been looking forward for many years. At last we see the fruit of our labours and of those pioneers who had the vision to start this club." The son in reply - "Dad! I will be glad if you will tell me something of the early pioneers and of their troubles in carrying on the club." The father replied - "My Boy! It will become clear to you when you see the club house, "Marymount" You can ask questions of many who are better qualified than myself in the early history of the club." At that moment they topped a rise in the ground and on a Hillside facing, the Chalet and its surroundings became visible. Set against a background of pines with a rippling hill stream in the fore-ground which had been dammed at one place to make a bathing pool, it formed a romantic picture in the sun.

"A poor life this, if full of care
We have no time to stand and stare."

Simultaneously they both stopped to take in the view. It was worth while, because of the years of unremitting effort in saving and making which went to dissipate the Association Fund because of the lack of vision on the part of some members and a lack of faith in the accomplishment of anything. However, that had been overcome and with the passage of years and with energy and foresight, this site with an old broken down bungalow had been secured and with hard work and enthusiasm on the part of a few it had been made habitable. Now the old place had been transformed. A clever young architect had planned the reconstruction of the bungalow, which was the central building and on the sides had been added and adapted, huts which served as dormitories and offices.

On a nearer approach the facade showed a veranda with pillars on which were trained creepers of roses and other plants. From its roof were suspended flowering plants in pots. Skylights had also been introduced which had tarpaulin curtains which could be raised or lowered at will. The whole front appeared to be like a "stoep" or a Colonial frontage of a building in one of the Southern States U.S.A. Walking up the pathway, to the centre of the building, they went up three steps and inside the veranda to the main entrance. Inside this entrance was a room or hall which was generally in use as a Common Room. It occupied the larger portion of the front of the building. In height it went up two storeys to the roof of the Chalet. By the door was a staircase to a balcony which went round a mezzanine floor. This mezzanine floor contained the principal bedrooms. On the right, those reserved for the ladies, on the left, those reserved for the gentlemen. One of the rooms on the left side was reserved for a Chaplain if in residence. On the ground floor in the Common Room a large fireplace with a log fire was a conspicuous object. Above the fireplace, a mantelpiece of oak, which was the work of one of the handicraft members, had a crucifix of silver and ebony in a central position. Worked on a scroll underneath the mantelpiece was the motto of the club "A.M.D.G." "Per Aspera Ad Astra." On the other walls were a few portraits of the past officers of the club and some etchings of mountain and lake scenery at home and abroad. A large scale map of the district was also displayed. The far end of the room to the right had a low stage with the usual two doors for entrance and exit. On touching a panel the wall between these two doors parted and slid into sockets disclosing a recess. This recess contained an ordinary looking bookcase which had plain wooden doors instead of glass. These when opened disclosed an altar which was fully furnished. Here Mass could be celebrated if necessary. Application had been made to the Bishop of the Diocese for the necessary permission. For the celebration of the Jubilee the Common Room had

been turned into a banqueting chamber. On the stage was arranged one table for the officials and guests. Two other tables were arranged below along the sides of the room for the members and other friends. A miniature grand piano was in one corner of the stage. The room was illuminated by concealed lighting of the latest type, supplemented by fairy lamps which were arranged over the stage, in the motto of the club and the year 1999.

A door at the other end of the room on the right led into the ladies' powder room. This room was furnished by a fund raised amongst the gentlemen of the club. For comfort and elegance it could not be surpassed. On the wall facing the windows was a beautiful etching of Raphael's Madonna and child. Underneath, on a small bracket, a lamp was kept burning.

The club journal and ladies' magazines were in a small bookcase near the fireplace. Off this room were the Ladies' bathroom, showers, etc. fitted up with the latest and up to date refinements. It is of special note that in the dressing room attached was a cabinet which an enterprising firm had filled with toilet specialities dear to the feminine heart. At the back of the common room was the kitchen which was fitted up with every labour saving device and with cooking stoves of the latest pattern. Here were turned out meals of the most delectable variety, for hungry ramblers. Adjoining and to the left of the Common Room was a dining room, well suited to its purpose. To the right and left of the main building and at right angles to it were two large huts. These huts were fitted on the chalet system as dormitories for ladies and gentlemen. The accommodation was arranged so that proper provision could be made for the usually larger numbers of ladies than gentlemen. All the rooms had Saints' names such as e.g. St. Francis of Assisi etc. In some cases they had been furnished by the effort of different families and a plate suitably inscribed was affixed. It was noticeable that comfort and simplicity was the aim and luxury was avoided. One picture only was allowed in these rooms. A good etching or a painting of the patron saint or of an incident in the life of the saint was the usual thing. It showed evidence of good judgment and taste on the part of those responsible. At the end of the gentlemen's dormitory were the usual showers etc., and a boot room was also provided. The water system was operated from an outhouse at the rear of the kitchen. A large boiler heated by a slow combustion system gave a plentiful supply to the places where it was required. This room also served as a drying room.

During the passage of the years, the Wirral having become a built up area, ramblers had of necessity to go regularly farther afield for their excursions. This was facilitated by an arterial road which led directly across the Wirral to the shores of the Dee estuary. Here a wide causeway led over the estuary to the Flintshire Coast. It carried traffic of all kinds, rail, road, and pedestrian and by the speeding up of communications led to easier access to North Wales. The spoilation of the countryside by too haphazard a development was controlled by a special act of parliament. The club was fortunate in securing this place before these developments were foreseen.

The advantage of this nook in the Lelwydian Hills were fully realised in the circumstances. The programme of the celebrations showed that music and the Dramatic Art were fully represented. A play entitled "The Way To The Hills" had been set to music by another. A recited of Liszt's Spanish Rhapsody was also an item on the programme. It was evident that although there had been a large increase in membership, the quality was maintained. Cultural activity had expanded with this increase in a way that past officers had hoped for, but considered not possible to realize.

T. M.

Have you paid your subscriptions yet???

Look out for further news of the FANCY DRESS CARNIVAL, but get your thinking caps on now!

Your football reporter is very proud to inform you that our team started off the season with a swing last Saturday with a 2 - 1 victory. Why not give them your support. Details will be given at the Club each Thursday of each coming game. Watch, too, for the Team Sheet which it is hoped will be posted up in the club each Thursday.