

A celebration of life in Leitrim: featuring extensive coverage of Shannon-Erne waterway and G.A.A. Connacht Champions 1994.

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Kate McTernan, mother of Teresa (McTernan) Levis 1954

The Woodside Inn

Lurganboy: 1960s

Lurganboy

## "Black and White Pub of the Year" for County Leitrim 1994



Teresa Levis



Left: Catherine Boylan, Grandmother of Teresa Levis, July 1935, Right: Ms Higgins, siste- in-aw of Mary Eames Shanvaus

Many will ask "Where is Lurganboy"?

No doubt many won't know of it. It has been said "you don't go to Lurganboy: you arrive in it". But that's another story and for another day. He wasn't trying to pretend it was located in fairyland - t'was just that he arrived there without intent.

LEITRIM GUARDIAN

LURGANBOY IS A SMALL VILLAGE in North Leitrim, about a mile from Manorhamilton, but it has been in the news recently, it's only Pub having gained the "Black and White Pub of the Year" for County Leitrim for the second time. That, we think, is a reason why more people should know about Lurganboy and about its prize winning Pub "The Woodside Inn."

In a survey of County Leitrim published about 1801, Lurganboy seemed to be a place of more importance than Manorhamilton. It would appear to have been the location of many establishment homes. In later years, some time in the eighties, it was the seat of the

head office of The Sligo/Leitrim and Northern Countries Railway and later still was the home of the Killasnet Co-Operative Diary Society Creamery.

In the early part of the century it was a relatively exclusive place. Many smaller villages would have more than one public house. Maybe the residents didn't favour such establishments. Anyway, it seems to have had none until a building and licence were acquired by one Edward (Ned) McLoughlin. Edward McLoughlin left the property to his daughter Catherine. Kate married Patrick Boylan. Their daughter, Catherine, married

## North Leitrim West Cavan London Association 1994 Dance

ABOVE LEFT: Joe McGovern of Dowra Builders, winner of crate of wine with Peter O'Keefe, Ballinaglera of 'Captains's Cabin', Piccadilly Circus who donated & presented the prize. Also in the picture Fr. Cusack of Ballinaglera.

ABOVE RIGHt.: Cepta Gilleran from Dublin, winner of 'Gerry Feeney' Travel Voucher.

BELOW LEFT: Vincent McGovern from Glangevlin winner of AlB cheque with Brigid Molloy, Asst. Manager of AlB Hammersmith.

BELOW RIGHT: *Mrs Annie McMorrow* Manorhamilton, winner of Aer Lingus Travel Voucher.

CENTRE:: Gerry Duke of Ballinaglera, winner of B&I Travel Voucher.











Paddy McTernan in 1926 and their daughter Teresa, now Mrs. Ross Levis, is the present proprietor of the establishment. It must be a unique record this—four generations of the family were in occupation of the property for almost two centuries.

The original building was thatched and remained so until 1972 when it had to be re-roofed and extended to meet modern expectations. The clients of the pub in 1806 would feel more than a little impressed in the spacious premises of today, with it commodious furnishing and unique interior decoration featuring polished cuts of native wood, all contributing to an atmosphere of relaxation and tranquillity.

In 1886 when the Irish Land League was pursuing the 'Plan of Campaign' the proprietor of the time Patrick Boylan gave a room on the 21st December to accommodate a meeting of tenants of the Wynne Estate. They were addressed by Michael Conway the local M.P. It seems it wasn't altogether a private meeting since the local R.I.C. Sergeant muscled his way in and was told he wasn't wanted.

There really wasn't or isn't anything new about a Sergeant not being the most welcome person in a Public House - but this happened in the afternoon more than 110 years ago.

Some of us may say "things don't change much", but that wasn't what we were thinking of - just that history was enacted here long long before our time.

It may be a sense of history that prompted Teresa, the landlady of "The Woodside Inn" of today, to establish a kind of museum in the premises. On exhibition are some 185 or more items - old advertisements, old photographs of local interest, old bottles, plates, ashtrays and no doubt other relics of the licensed trade. A place for antiquarians, amateur historians of the semi-idle curious.

Using press verbiage "as we were about to go to press", news came that Teresa was awarded third place in Ireland in the Window Box competition by the National Garden Association of Ireland.

To Teresa warmest congratulations are offered. Her successes bring a feeling of satisfaction to all in the area, clients and potential clients. And maybe 1995 will see her as All Ireland Champion in some field.

Her fans and supporters tend to think, if we don't succeed in getting an All Ireland with the "Green and Gold", there's a more than good chance with the "Black and White".