

# IRISH LIFE AND LORE SERIES

## BORD NA MÓNA COLLECTION



## CATALOGUE OF 28 RECORDINGS

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Irish Life and Lore Series  
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NAME: PADDY MCEVILLY, BORN 1928, DUBLIN, FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR, BORD NA MÓNA.

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 1

Subject: A life of great endeavour.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 72:20

Description: Paddy McEvilly is a native of Castlebar, and following his schooling, he got a scholarship to U.C.D., graduating with a Degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. He spent a year working in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and in 1952 he joined Bord na Móna. He spent some time initially as Junior Engineer in Timahoe and later in Bellacorrick in Co Mayo. In 1950 he moved to Derrygreenagh in the Midlands and two years later to Mount Lucas, where he managed the operation for 15 years. He speaks at length about the production, harvesting and marketing, the staff and the social life in Edenderry. Following his time in the Midlands he was moved to Bord na Móna headquarters in Dublin where he worked as Product Manager, heading up the Briquette Division. Part of his brief was to become involved in the resolution of industrial disputes, which was a difficult period in his working life. From 1979 to his retirement in 1987 as Managing Director, he worked closely with all the site managers around the country, but two disastrous years of poor weather in 1985 and 1986 created enormous difficulties. On his retirement from Bord na Móna in 1987 he was appointed Director of the Odlums Group.



NAME: JOHN COLLINS, BORN 1919, DUN LAOGHAIRE, FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SECRETARY, BORD NA MÓNA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 2

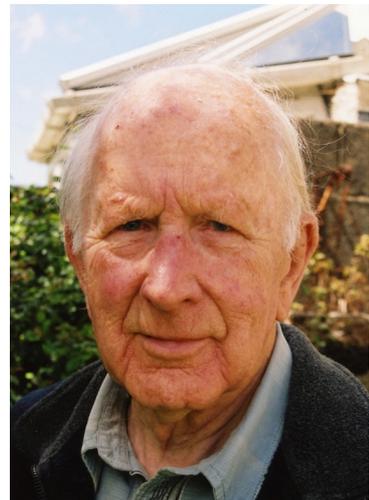
Subject: Integrity in business.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 73:17

Description: John Collins grew up in Dun Laoghaire, where he spent most of his life. In his recording he recalls his involvement with the Associated Seed Growers during the emergency period, his later involvement with the County Production Section, and later still, with the Turf Development Board. He



witnessed the inception of Bord na Móna, and the setting up of its administrative structure. John Collins began work for Bord na Móna in the Accounts Department in Dublin at the age of 28. He details the circumstances of his later appointment as Assistant to the Chief Engineer Paddy Cogan, and the work that this position entailed. He spent almost all of his long working life with Bord na Móna and much time in the later years working with the unions.

NAME: TOM O'DONNELL, BORN 1935, DUBLIN, FORMER SURVEYOR AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANT WITH BORD NA MÓNA.

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 3

Subject: Infrastructure design

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 71:58

Description: Tom O'Donnell is a Mayoman, born and reared in Dooleeg, Crossmolina. In 1954 at the age of 18, he began work with Bord na Móna at Oweninny, near Crossmolina. In 1956 he was transferred to Dublin as Trainee Draughtsman at Head Office, and attended Bolton Street College by night, graduating with a qualification in Building Construction. His working life with Bord na Móna involved designing railways, bridges and roads through the bog lands. He qualified as a Chartered Engineer through the Adult Education Mature route. He discusses the policy of centralisation at Bord na Móna in 1989. He retired in 2000.



NAME: JOHN CLOHESSY, BORN 1920, ROBERTSTOWN, CO. KILDARE.

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 4

Subject: Stock keeper.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 57:18

Description: Clare is the birthplace of John Clohessy, who joined the army during the Emergency years. When Bord na Móna was recruiting staff in 1944, he obtained a position with them and began work in Timahoe. After a short time he was transferred to Killinthomas where he was placed in charge of the orderlies. He was later moved to Mucklon. He describes the Nissen huts and



the food, and he recalls the pastimes such as handball and football. He was promoted to Stock Keeper in charge of all requirements, and the dishing out rations. He recalls the work clothes and the motor bikes for the gangers. He retired in 1985, having spent 42 years with the Bord.

NAME: MARK NUGENT, BORN 1940, DUBLIN,  
FORMER SHOP STEWARD BORD NA MÓNA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 5

Subject: A shop steward remembers.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 51:21

Description: At the age of 19, Offaly man Mark Nugent joined Bord na Móna and his first job was digging railway drains at Derrygreenagh Bog. In 1959 he joined the Union when Christy Rochford was the local organiser. In the early days piece work was the norm and this was the incentive for hard work. Mark Nugent recalls the work conditions, the improvements over the years and the bonuses which were given. He also recalls his time as shop steward and discusses the pecking order which prevailed among the management and staff at the Bord. He maintains that the workers felt that being employed by Bord na Móna was a source of pride and became a way of life rather than just a job.



NAME: FERGUS BARRON, BORN 1928, DUBLIN,  
FORMER ENGINEER AT BORD NA MÓNA (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 6

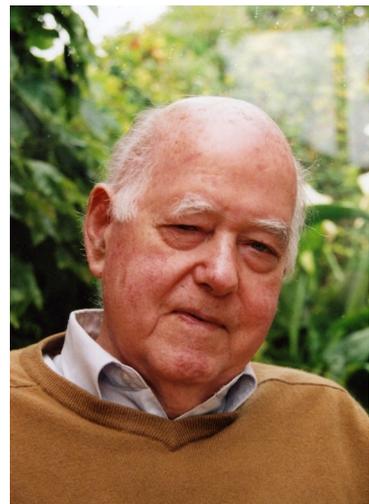
Subject: Versatility in the work place.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 51:58

Description: Fergus Barron was born in West Cork and at the age of eight he and his family moved to Ennis. His father, James, was imprisoned during the Civil War, and his Cavan born mother was a member of Cumann na mBan. Fergus Barron graduated with a degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering from U.C.C. At the age of 24, he began work with the E.S.B., and worked at the Department of Posts and Telegraphs in Limerick for 27 years, where he found the level of performance very poor. In 1952 he joined Bord na Móna and his first



appointment was to Lanesborough in Co. Longford. Two years later he was moved to Mountdillon as an Assistant Manager and then to Derrygreenagh. In 1956 he became Manager at Lullymore until 1959, when he went to Derrinlough. A year later he was appointed to Head Office in Dublin where he was in charge of maintenance in sod and milled peat bogs. He later was appointed to the post of Personnel Manager. In the first section of this double recording he discusses in great detail all these various appointments.

NAME: FERGUS BARRON, BORN 1928, DUBLIN,  
FORMER ENGINEER AT BORD NA MÓNA (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 7

Subject: Post-war years in Ireland.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 41:54

Description: In this latter part of the recording compiled with Fergus Barron, he discusses the post-war years in Ireland. There was real belief in the necessity to develop the midland bogs by Bord na Móna throughout the 1950's and 60's. Fergus's main interest was in the utilisation of hydraulic systems on heavy machinery as a Junior Mechanical Engineer. He recalls the various types of machinery which came in to the workshops in Mountdillon and Derrygreenagh. He also discusses the effects on the workforce of the milled peat dust, and discusses pollution of the lakes and rivers.



NAME: P.J. COFFEY, BORN 1935, NEWBRIDGE,  
FORMER SCIENCE OFFICER, BORD NA MÓNA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 8

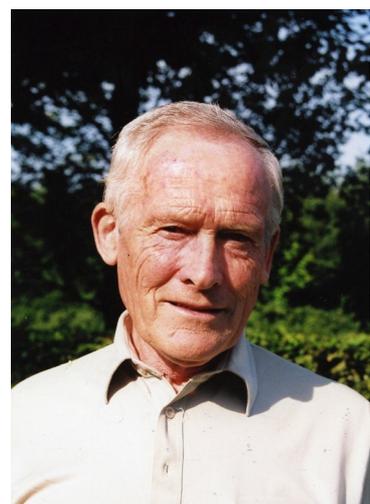
Subject: An innovative career.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 60:12

Description: P.J. Coffey was born and reared in Killarney and graduated from U.C.D. in 1964 with a degree in Science, Chemistry and Mechanics. Prior to this he has worked for a short period with the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. He was appointed to Bord na Móna in Newbridge and worked in the Scientific Laboratory. He discusses the major importance of the library there and the great work done by John Cooke,



who was in charge of the library. P.J. Coffey's brief was to ensure that the water was of a high quality in the briquette factories. He recalls his research work in Finland and Russia during his career with Bord na Móna. Products which P.J. and Jim Dalton initiated for sale by Bord na Móna were also detailed.

NAME: JAMES MARTIN, BORN 1915, DUBLIN, FORMER ENGINEER WITH BORD NA MÓNA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 9

Subject: Bord na Móna – the early days.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 72:45

Description: Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick is the birthplace of Jimmy Martin, who at 22 years of age, graduated as a Mechanical Engineer from U.C.D. He began work with the Turf Development Board in 1946. He has in his possession some early drawings, illustrations and photographs of the machinery to be used in the production of milled peat in the Midland Bogs, and he recalls his determination to have peat briquettes produced from these bogs. With the assistance of his daughter Mary, he discusses his tenure as Assistant Manager at Lullymore, the Nissen huts, the migrants, the mechanisation of the work on the bogs, and the purchase of 500 Massey Ferguson tractors in the early days.



NAME: VAL MARTIN, 1922, BALLINASLOE, FORMER CIVIL ENGINEER, BORD NA MÓNA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 10

Subject: A long and varied career.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 77:54

Description: Val Martin came originally from Portumna and graduated from U.C.G. with a Civil Engineering degree in 1943. He discusses the post-war road programmes on which he worked with Galway County Council, as a temporary engineer. He also supervised the Forced Peat Cutting, both in Galway and Clare and he was employed by Bord na Móna in 1947 at Newbridge. His job was to oversee the hostels and the wellbeing of the workers. In 1948 when the Coalition Government came to power, they downgraded Bord na



Móna and many staff were left go including Val Martin. After a brief period of work once again with Galway and Clare County Councils, he was reinstated with Bord na Móna and assigned to Boora Bog. He discusses his innovative work there and production in detail and his later assignment to Mountdillon. Later still he was moved to Headquarters Production Control in Dublin and his responsibilities included the entertainment of overseas visitors and travel to places such as Indonesia and Java to give papers on the work of Bord na Móna.

NAME: HORACE M.S. MILLER, BORN 1918, FORMER TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR, BORD NA MÓNA (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 11

Subject: A witness to innovation.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 49:04

Description: Horace "Dusty" Miller is a native of Kent. He qualified in 1939 with a B.Sc. in Engineering from Woolwich Polytechnic. That year he joined the British Army and he discusses his wartime career, during which he worked in General Mountbatton's headquarters. He met his future, a Cork lady named Neville, in Burma and he subsequently came to Ireland having obtained a position with Bord na Móna in 1946 as a Technical Development Supervisor. He recalls his job interview board, which included Aodhagan O'Rahilly, Todd Andrews, Robert Barton and T.S. Wheeler. He was assigned to the Experimental Station at Newbridge. Paddy Cogan, General Manager, accompanied Horace Miller as they travelled around the bogs. He also travelled overseas, and clearly recalls his trips to Russia, where he accessed information on the production of milled peat for the home market. He set up an International Peat Committee and remembers overseas visitors coming to the first symposium on the subject in Dublin. He is proud to discuss the development of a unique tractor and the Móna Jack Burner, which he feels is his major contribution to Bord na Móna.



NAME: HORACE M.S. MILLER, BORN 1918, FORMER TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR, BORD NA MÓNA (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 12

Subject: A varied and colourful career.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 54:13

Description: When Todd Andrews took responsibility for C.I.E., he rang "Dusty" Miller and informed him that he was to go to America and Canada on a promotional tour in his place. He recalls his very successful trip on that occasion and the great interest in Bord na Móna and its work. In 1966, in a change of career direction following some disillusionment with Bord na Móna, "Dusty" worked on a three year project as Deputy Director to Professor Paddy Lynch on a study of Irish Technical Colleges. He then set up the Irish Science Council and later worked for four years with the Investment Bank of Ireland. The last segment of his most interesting working life was spent in the Irish subsidiary of the French company, Total Oil.



NAME: THOMAS MURTAGH, BORN 1929, FERBANE, FORMER ACCOUNTS INSPECTOR, BORD NA MÓNA (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 13

Subject: A varied career.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 50:12

Description: Thomas Murtagh grew up in Longford and at an early age he began work with the Fuel Importers, weighing in lorries of turf and coal at the Phoenix Park during the Emergency Period. He later got a job with Bord na Móna and was appointed as a Wage Clerk at Timahoe in 1951 when the workforce totalled 1,850 people. All the men were doing piecework and he recalls the supervisors who would keep an account of the scale of the work. The local people would bring their loads of turf to Dublin, as they worked independently of Bord na Móna. Thomas Murtagh discusses the management and staff at Timahoe. In 1961 he was promoted to Costing Standards at Ballivor where he spent four years and then he was assigned to Boora where 1,000 tonnes of peat were cut each day. In 1972 he began his days at



Turraun Bog.

NAME: THOMAS MURTAGH, BORN 1929, FERBANE, FORMER ACCOUNTS INSPECTOR, BORD NA MÓNA (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 14

Subject: Keeping good accounts.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 45:16

Description: In this recording Thomas Murtagh provides a detailed history of the Turraun Bog, the good and the bad harvests, the local farmers who worked side by side with the Bord na Móna workers and who sold their own turf independently. He recalls the huge disappointment in Ballinasloe when a new state of the art briquette factory was abandoned due to the cost of labour and bank charges. £9,000,000 had been invested in the venture. During the final nine years of his career, Thomas Murtagh spent much of his time travelling to the various Bord na Móna works as he provided his expertise on costings.



NAME: KIERAN EGAN, BORN 1928 AND DANIEL EGAN, BORN 1930, BALLINAHOWN, CO. OFFALY (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 15

Subject: The footmen of Bord na Móna.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 49:20

Description: Kieran Egan and Daniel Egan are natives of Ballinahown and are neighbours. Daniel Egan began work with Bord na Móna in his early twenties. He was given a German shovel in the Blackwater Bog, where he proceeded to dig trenches. He recalls the topography of the area before the advent of Bord na Móna and the huge uplift in the economic lives of the people once the Bord was set up. Kieran Egan began his work with the Bord as a seasonal worker in 1965. He was managing the rail line, and describes in detail what his job entailed. He also worked on heavy machinery, such as the Harrow and the Miller, from 6pm to 6am. Both gentlemen recall the years before Bord na Móna was set up and the involvement of the army in cutting and loading turf and its delivery to Athlone.



NAME: KIERAN EGAN, BORN 1928 AND DANIEL EGAN, BORN 1930, BALLINAHOWN, CO. OFFALY (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 16

Subject: Discussion and banter.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 41:31

Description: In this recording Kieran Egan and Daniel Egan provide detailed information on the exact numbered divisions of the bogs and they named each bog in turn. Kieran Egan remembers his pre Bord na Móna days as a cattle jobber and his work at haulage. Daniel Egan recalls the purchase of land by two Kerry men during the early days of Bord na Móna and the process involved. They both discuss the good and less positive times during their days with the Bord, when good harvests and bad harvests had to be dealt with in turn.



NAME: ALBERT (BERTIE) BAKER, BORN 1919, NEWBRIDGE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 17

Subject: Driving in the early days.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 51:45

Description: Bertie Baker was born in Kildare and joined the army during the Emergency as a driver of the Command Staff. In 1946 he began his work with Bord na Móna and remained with the Bord until 1984. He began his career with the Bord as a driver of an artic from the docks in Dublin, carrying heavy machinery to all the Bord na Móna works. He also drove a C.I.E. bus which was used for recruitment of men to work for the Bord. He describes in detail a six cylinder A.E.C. which he drove for many years and recalls that it did the princely mileage of 5 miles to the gallon! Bertie Baker was one of the first Bord na Móna employees at Boora in October 1946 and he was based there till 1972. He also recalls the early days as he drove apprentices to vocational school in Athlone, carrying them in the back of his lorry – not an easy tack he says! Christopher Daly, a Kerryman from Kilcummin, is recalled as a brilliant champion turf-cutter, who would throw up as many as 90 sods in 60 seconds.



NAME: LARRY CONCANNON, BORN 1930, CROSSMOLINA, FORMER MANAGER OF WORKS (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 18

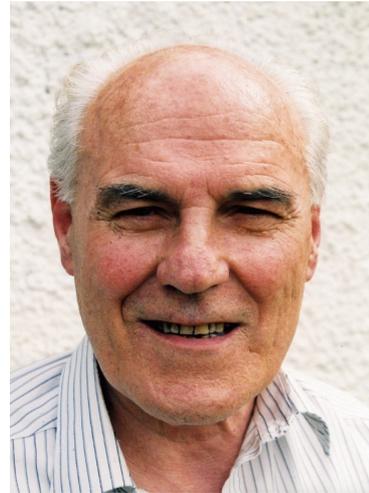
Subject: A pioneering spirit.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 56:31

Description: Larry Concannon is a native of Armagh, who joined Bord na Móna in Dublin. He was employed as a surveyor at Bellacorrick and later at Bangor Erris and later still he managed the works at Bellacorrick. He has great praise for the pioneering spirit of the men and their great loyalty. In 1957, the new Coalition Government closed the Bangor Erris works and downgraded the Bellacorrick works. In 1961 Larry Concannon was placed in charge of production and he describes the shifts and the workers who would be covered in milled peat dust on their way home after a shift.



NAME: LARRY CONCANNON, 1930, CROSSMOLINA, FORMER MANAGER OF WORKS (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 19

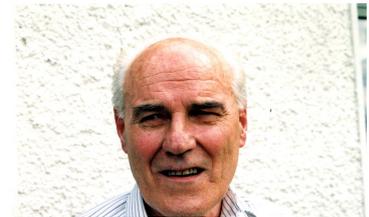
Subject: Managing Bellacorrick.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 42:57

Description: In this second section of his recording, Larry Concannon talks about the problems and difficulties he encountered in the removal of bog deal, birch and pine. During his time at Bellacorrick, many urns of butter and tallow were unearthed. In the early days the men were all brought to work in trucks. A hostel had been built initially for the workforce and Larry explained the reasons why it was used only by E.S.B. workers. He also discusses the introduction by the Bord of sod, peat and turf (Foidín) at Bellacorrick and its implications. Larry Concannon retired at the age of 60 and he now lives in one of the twenty four houses at Crossmolina, built by Bord na Móna workers for the administrative and technical personnel.



NAME: MIKIE MOYLES, BORN 1939, CROSSMOLINA, FORMER TRANSPORT SUPERVISOR, BORD NA MÓNA.

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 20

Subject: A driving force.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 58:01

Description: Mikie Moyles is from Crossmolina and he joined Bord na Móna when he reached the age of 17 years. At that time things were very bad economically and he was attempting to get together the financial means to emigrate to America. He settled for a car instead! All the local men employed by Bord na Móna were seasonal workers, which suited them very well because of their small holdings. There was great competition amongst them to progress to driving duties. He recalls working 10 hour shifts from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., seven days a week during the production period. It was good to have local knowledge of the area and its terrain because of the danger of the sinking of machinery in the bogs. In 2004, Mikie Moyles retired when Bord na Móna and the E.S.B. left the area and he recalls the real disappointment and devastation locally when the news of these closures became known.



NAME: PATRICK HOPKINS, BORN 1928, BELLACORRICK, FORMER FOREMAN, BORD NA MÓNA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 21

Subject:

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 44:56

Description: Bellacorrick is the birthplace of Patrick Hopkins who never strayed far from his home place. He was the very first employee of Bord na Móna at Bellacorrick, having previously spent one year with CPS (County Production System). His working life with Bord na Móna began as a machine driver and he describes the preparation work for the laying of the railway lines and buildings. He was eventually promoted to Foreman, and he recalls the difficulties and challenges the workers encountered during the 1960's and 70's. Patrick's wife Eileen nee Flynn, who is a local lady, remembers tough



days and difficult times with little money as she reared a large family when her husband was regularly absent during the production periods. At the end of this recording Patrick Hopkins describes the layout of the bog and its exact location. The works were built along the Oweninny River, hence the name of that bog and he also gave an account of the other place names in the area.

NAME: JOHN 'DAVEY' NOLAN, BORN 1926,  
LYRECROMPANE, CO. KERRY, FORMER  
LOCOMOTIVE DRIVER BORD NA MÓNA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 22

Subject: 37 years with the Bord.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 56:08

Description: In 1938 The Turf Development Board began work at Lyrecrompane and in 1946 local man John 'Davey' Nolan began his working life there. He was initially employed as a labourer at Carrigcannon and shortly afterwards he was promoted to driver at Lyrecrompane. During this recording Davey walked through forested land which was the location in the earlier days of Lyrecrompane Bog and he describes the area which encompassed the highest blanket bog which was owned by Bord na Móna. He also provides details of the local placenames and their meanings. He recalls that during his time with the Bord the workforce comprised of a couple of hundred men and included some Travellers at various times. 'Davey' Nolan spent 37 years driving the locos up and down the bogland and he remembers clearly the management and staff with whom he worked over those years.



NAME: ENA MURPHY, BORN 1920, DUBLIN.

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 23

Subject: The social aspect.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 60:33

Description: Ashbury Nursing Home in Deansgrange in Dublin is now the residence of Ena Murphy. During this recording Ena's niece Gabrielle Veale helps Ena recall the details of her time as a secretarial employee of Bord na Móna. Ena Murphy grew up in Clontarf with her aunt and uncle. She spent 42 years as a secretary working with Bord na Móna, beginning in Harcourt Street, Dublin. She describes the working conditions and the fact that the work was not too taxing. She worked for many staff members and sometimes she found it necessary to go to the top to get clarification about the technical details in letters which she was told to draft. She very much enjoyed the social aspect of life in Bord na Móna as her major passion was music, theatre and dance.



NAME: MONA CAMPBELL, BORN 1928, DUBLIN, FORMER SECRETARY, BORD NA MÓNA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 24

Subject: A secretary in Management.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 70:33

Description: Mona Campbell was born and grew up in the Blackrock area of Dublin and she gained employment as a shorthand typist with Bord na Móna in 1947. She was initially assigned to work for Chief Accountant Bridget Flynn. Later she worked for Tim Wyse in Hatch Street before returning to Headquarters. She became friendly with Todd Andrews and would later help him by typing his book "Man of No Property". She worked as secretary to Dermot Lawlor, Lewis Rhatigan and Paddy McEvilly and she has extremely positive memories of her work in those days. Mona Campbell retired in 1988 and she touches briefly on her reasons for this.



NAME: PEGGY FLEMING, BORN 1933, DUBLIN  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 25  
Subject: The Personnel Department at Bord na Móna  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2009  
Time: 60:00

Description: Drumcondra in Dublin is the birthplace of Peggy Fleming. In July 1952 her employment by Bord na Móna began in the Personnel Department on Pembroke Street. Her duties involved dealing with the administration of sick leave, recruitment and conditions of employment. Later, she also dealt with pensions and she describes her work in some detail. The Personnel Manager in the early days was Kevin Howard and when he died unexpectedly his job was taken over by Bill Foley. In the 1960's, Bord na Móna staff had a Drama Group and a choir in which she was involved. In this recording, Peggy describes the departments and their managers, the location of each department in Pembroke Street, and makes a special mention of Miss Flynn, Chief Accountant "who ruled the roost from the top floor". Peggy retired in 1993.



NAME: JOHN DALY, BORN 1934, KILCUMMIN, CO KERRY AND KATHLEEN DENNEHY, NEE DALY, BORN 1937, MILTOWN, CO KERRY  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 26  
Subject: Christopher Daly RIP  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2009  
Time: 34:48

Description: Christopher Daly was a Kerryman born in Kilcummin in 1921. He joined the Turf Development Board in his early days and was to become a famous turf cutter, who was known for his skill and strength. Christopher's brother John declares that at the height of his powers Christopher could throw up 98 sods of turf a minute during the course of his day's work. Both of Christopher's siblings, John and Kathleen, were recorded in the old Daly home in Kilcummin, near Killarney. They explain that Christopher was the oldest of nine children in the family and when John Daly was seven years old, Christopher went to live with his maternal grandparents, the Lawlors in Gueveguilla. A few years later he bade farewell to his family, and left for the Midlands to join the



Turf Development Board, and was never to return to his native county. His two siblings recall the day a letter from Christopher arrived at the Daly home in Kilcummin, telling of his decision to marry a lady who was working at Newbridge Headquarters, and who was of the Protestant faith. When approval for the marriage was withheld by his parents and grandparents, Christopher married his fiancée, and they left for England, never to return home again.

NAME: JOHN TURRELL, BORN 1950, WICKLOW,  
JANE WHITAKER, DUBLIN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 27

Subject: A Crannóg unearthed

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 57:56

Description: In 2006, work by archaeologists began on the excavation of a unique site on the south east portion of Ballykean bog, south of Daingean, Co Offaly. In 2004, the site was discovered by a team of archaeologists while field walking the bog. Archaeologist Jane Whitaker was present on site on the day this recording was compiled. She was there on behalf of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, which is part of the Department of the Environment. On the day of the recording, the site was about to be closed, having been excavated since 2006. Jane Whittaker introduces John Turrell, the archaeologist who is the Director and licence holder at the site. He has been in charge of the site since 2006, and has the responsibility of writing up the Report. Both archaeologists describe the site of a large habitation, which measures 22 metres in diameter and is surrounded by palisade posts and has an internal house structure – a crannóg style building in a bog environment. It dates from between 600-700 AD. Garret Sheehan, a well known archaeologist who has carried out over 200 surveys on the bogs since 1999, explains that this site is the most exciting and fascinating of them all.



NAME: TOM EGAN, BORN 1950, KATHLEEN FARRELL, BORN 1975 AND JERRY McNALLY, BORN 1959

Title: Irish Life and Lore Bord na Móna Collection CD 28

Subject: The Lough Boora Parklands

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 42:38

Description: Tom Egan, Kathleen Farrell and Jerry McNally are employed at Lough Boora Parklands by Bord na Móna. Jerry McNally has worked for the Bord for 3½ decades, and he describes, in the recording, the suitability of the cutaway boglands for the production of forestry and the prairie land conditions. Earlier in his career with the Bord, he was in charge of a large herd of cattle at the Clonsart cutaway bog. He discusses the interesting geology in Lough Boora. Kathleen Farrell holds a PhD in Ecology and she is in charge of wildlife at Lough Boora since 2001. She describes the wildlife of the wetlands at Lough Boora and she explains how she monitors the wildlife in the park. Jerry McNally and Tom Egan discuss the ancient bogwood which they have uncovered from the lower levels near the topsoil, and the ancient pathways through the bogs. The recording concludes with an interview with CEO, Bord na Móna, Mr Gabriel D'Arcy. He was recorded in his office at the Bord Headquarters at Newbridge, where he discussed his first impressions of the company when he became CEO in 2007, the company structures and his plans for the future of Bord na Móna.

