

# IRISH LIFE AND LORE SERIES

## SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COLLECTION

### 2<sup>nd</sup> SERIES

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## CATALOGUE OF 16 RECORDINGS

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Irish Life and Lore Series

Maurice and Jane O'Keeffe, Ballyroe, Tralee, County Kerry

e-mail: okeeffeantiques2@eircom.net

Website: [www.irishlifeandlore.com](http://www.irishlifeandlore.com)

Telephone: + 353 (66) 7121991/ + 353 87 2998167

Recordings compiled by : Maurice O'Keeffe

Catalogue Editor : Jane O'Keeffe

Secretarial work by : NB Secretarial Services, Tralee

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NAME: PETER LAWLESS, BORN 1927,  
BLESSINGTON ROAD, TALLAGHT (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County  
Collection, CD 1

Subject: Urney Chocolates

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 61:06

Description: Peter Lawless was recorded with his wife Maureen at their home in Blessington Road, Tallaght. Initially Peter recalls his employers prior to his days at Urneys, including the Turf Development Board and Clondalkin Concrete. He grew up in Old Bawn Road, and his father Peter worked in haulage, drawing sand from the banks of the River Dodder. Peter himself worked at Urneys for ten years in the milk plant initially and later as a gardener for the Gallagher family, owners of the factory. He recalls the sanatorium in Brittas in the 1950s to which he delivered the daily newspapers, and the conditions there for the people who suffered from tuberculosis.



NAME: PETER LAWLESS, BORN 1927,  
BLESSINGTON ROAD, TALLAGHT (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County  
Collection, CD 2

Subject: Work and sport in South Dublin

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 24:28

Description: Peter Lawless spent twenty-four years, from 1960 to his retirement, working with Abbey Textiles, until their closure. He speaks anecdotally about his time there. Peter's wife Maureen, nee King, discusses their family home, Gibbon's Cottage, which has been in the King family since 1910 and Peter passionately describes his association with St. Anne's Football Club, and his tenure as chairman for twelve years in the 1950s and '60s.



NAME: WILLIE ROCHE, AND BERNIE ROCHE, TALLAGHT

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County Collection, CD 3

Subject: Urney Chocolates

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 51:00

Description: Willie Roche grew up in Bohernabreena and he began work with Urneys in 1915, joining several friends and family in the factory. Bernie Roche, nee Carroll, was born in Balrothery, where many generations of the Carroll family had lived. She recalled the fact that many of the local people gained employment at Urneys. Her father was employed as a boilerman there, and in 1959 she began work at Urneys with her two sisters. Willie and Bernie discuss the management of the factory, the workplace, and the takeover by H.W. Grace. Willie recalls the various jobs he undertook at Urneys including working in the dairy and the milk production. He describes the social life among the employees of the factory which provided wonderful entertainment until the closure in the early 1980s.



NAME: MAURICE KELLY, BORN 1938,  
WALKINSTOWN ROAD, TALLAGHT

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County  
Collection, CD 4

Subject: Urney Chocolates

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 53:29

Description: Maurice Kelly, better known as Sonny, grew up in Bohernabreena. His father worked at the nearby quarry and Sonny tells some very interesting stories about his days there. Sonny joined Urneys at the age of 17, and worked there until 1981. He was employed at the chocolate plant where they made chocolate crumb. Factory life during these decades is clearly described in all its variety, as Sonny moved to various departments. Sports played a major part in his life at the factory and he says it was a very good place to work, due partly to the social aspects of employment there. Sonny recalls many of the staff by name, and later discusses life in Walkinstown where he moved with his wife in 1962.



NAME: MARGARET WILLIAMS, BORN 1924,  
TALLAGHT NORTH

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County  
Collection, CD 5

Subject: Urney Chocolates

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 49:09

Description: This recording was compiled at the home of Margaret Williams, where she was accompanied by her daughters Carmel, Bernie, Emily and Mary and a neighbour Helen Keogh. All of these ladies have worked at Urneys. Margaret Williams grew up in Capel Street, and the family later moved to Cabra. She married her late husband Joe and they moved to the cottages in Tallaght in 1951, when Joe got employment at Urneys. While browsing through old photographs



illustrating good times and the social life associated with Urneys, the company of ladies recall their memories of the factory.



NAME: WILLIE MURPHY, BORN 1932 AND LILLY MURPHY, BORN 1940, TALLAGHT NORTH

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County Collection, CD 6

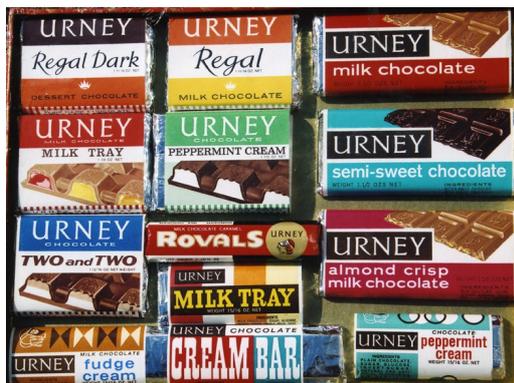
Subject: Urney Chocolates

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 41:36

Description: Willie and Lilly Murphy both spent most of their working lives at Urneys, where they met. Willie explains that he was adopted as a baby, and was reared by the Corcoran family. At the age of fifteen he joined Urneys where he worked in the Labels Department. He describes the work there, the designing and creating of attractive packaging for the product. Lilly, nee Cantwell, joined Urneys in 1954 at the age of fourteen. She worked in the Moulding Room, making chocolates, until 1965. This recording is very descriptive, and paints an oral picture of factory life in a very positive environment in a world very different from that of today.



NAME: MAÍRÍN GALLAGHER, BORN 1951,  
SAGRA, SPAIN

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County  
Collection, CD 7

Subject: Urney Chocolates

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 48:18

Description: Maírín Gallagher, nee McGrath, was recorded at Tallaght Library. Her mother was Kathleen Fitzgerald from Ventry, Co Kerry. Kathleen qualified as a teacher from Carysfort College in Dublin and later was appointed Headmistress to The Virgin Mary School in Ballymun, where she spent all her teaching life. As a young girl, Maírín would often assist her mother in her duties at the school. Following her graduation from Trinity College, Maírín worked as a chemical supplier in Cork Street for Jim Hayes, who introduced her to Redmond Gallagher, whom she later married. Maírín Gallagher is joined by Ciara Nolan, nee Gallagher, granddaughter of Redmond Gallagher, during the recording at Tallaght Library. Life in the Gallagher family, up until Redmond's death in 2006, is discussed in light-hearted detail. Redmond's early life at Urneys, his passion for cars and car racing, his various enterprises involving racehorses and cattle, over many years is affectionately explored.



NAME: RORY DOYLE, BORN 1923 AND ITA DOYLE, KILBARRACK STREET, CLONTARF  
Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County Collection, CD 8

Subject: The Printing Trade

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 63:07

Description: Rory Doyle grew up on Main Street in Tallaght and in this recording he recalls his early childhood there with his large family. He has clear memories of travelling on the Blessington – Dublin steam train. He was educated in a one teacher school in Tallaght by schoolmaster Jim Manning. From 1940-1947 Rory worked as a typesetter with The Gael Linn Press in Liffey Street, and later with The Independent. He also worked as a teacher in Bolton Street Technical College from 1952 until 1969. Rory and Ita, nee Bolger, married in 1947, and Ita explains that she attended school at Eccles Street, and completed a commercial course at Skerries. She then attained employment in the library at UCD. Her father, Jim Bolger, was a journalist who was involved in the events of the Civil War. Rory Doyle retired in 1988. The couple discuss their son Roddy, and his wonderful achievements in writing, and explain that the family home was always full of books and was a centre for good humoured and lively debate.



NAME: MARGARET LENNOX, BORN 1913,  
ORWELL LODGE NURSING HOME AND  
BALLYBODEN

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County  
Collection, CD 9

Subject: A long and eventful life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 62:57

Description: Margaret Lennox, nee Smyth, was recorded at Orwell Lodge Nursing Home. Initially she recalls her early memories of life in Sandymount where she grew up. On Easter Monday 1916, she remembers her father lifting her onto the railings outside the house so that she could listen to the gunfire in the city. Margaret's mother came from Galway. She was a teacher and was very involved in the promotion of Irish culture and the language. Margaret's father worked as a clerk in Guinness's. When Margaret left school she worked as a bookkeeper in a grocers in Ballsbridge, and later in Leverett and Fry's in Sandymount. She chronicles the events of the Civil War as they were related to her mother by her friend who worked as a midwife. Margaret married Hedley Lennox from Co. Down in 1942. He was an accountant, and she discusses his working days. The couple moved to Seafield Avenue, Clontarf where they reared their family. Margaret recalls the local street gangs in the city in the 1930s, the Blueshirts and their activities and her family's employment with the Irish Sweepstakes.



NAME: PADDY ROCHFORD, BORN 1926,  
STILLORGAN (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County  
Collection, CD 10

Subject: New Ireland Assurance Company

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 64:22

Description: Paddy Rochford was recorded at



his home in Stillorgan. He is retired from the New Ireland Assurance Company, where he worked for 47 years since 1943. He recalls his family background and explains that his father Patrick came to the area to farm for the Carmelite Nuns in 1930. He had had an eventful life prior to this, as he was a member of the Volunteers in Co. Wicklow. Paddy relates the facts of his father's involvement in those turbulent times.

NAME: PADDY ROCHFORD, BORN 1926, STILLORGAN (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County Collection, CD 11

Subject: A life working in Insurance

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 46:03

Description: In this second recording Paddy Rochford discusses his working life with the New Ireland Assurance Company, delving into the origins of the company, and mapping its growth and development over many years. He recalls the Lemass era in Ireland, and he also discusses his later promotion within the company to Officer of Personnel. He served as a member of the LDF during the Emergency, and he provides a clear account of his experiences of those days.



NAME: SISTER CORA FERRITER, BORN 1935, RATHFARNHAM

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County Collection, CD 12

Subject: Missionary Work

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 79:53

Description: Sister Cora Ferriter is a Mercy Sister, who hails from West Kerry. She entered the convent in 1956, and she attended Careysfort College and graduated as a teacher. She taught in Coolock for two-and-a-half years, and then spent a short time



teaching in Drimnagh. She studied for her B.A. and H.Dip at UCD, and in 1963 she volunteered to work as a missionary sister in Nairobi. Until 1976 she remained there teaching secondary school students, and she describes the place, and the fact that she was one of the first white women to teach there. She became involved in the physical work of building a school and a hospital. A significant advance to the local population came about, due to her presence, as she taught home sciences and languages. In 1976 she returned to Ireland and began to teach at Carysfort College for a short time, and then took charge of the Dublin Mercy Group for six years, at a time when many changes were instigated. She then returned to Nairobi where she continued to teach until 1994.

NAME: PATRICK LAMBERT, BORN 1928, KILLAKEE

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County Collection, CD 13

Subject: A life in farming

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 72:42

Description: Patrick Lambert is a retired farmer and he was recorded at his home in Rathfarnham, which was once part of the Massy Estate. In the 1940s Patrick's father, Bob Lambert, was allocated the land by the Land Commission. He had taken a prominent part in the War of Independence in Wexford and Patrick explains his involvement. Bob Lambert was a member of the first Dáil and supported de Valera. In 1926 he emigrated to Australia, where Patrick was born. The family returned to Ireland and set up home in Coolock, and Patrick has a clear memory of helping his father drive all their livestock from Coolock to Killakee when they relocated there. The Lamberts became famous for the great potatoes they produced, and when Patrick inherited the farm he developed the business



by improving the dairying, tillage and fruit growing.

NAME: KATE LITTLE, BORN 1923,  
BALLYBODEN VILLAGE

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County  
Collection, CD 14

Subject: A varied and productive life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 77:35

Description: Kate Little begins the recording by recalling her father, her grandfather and great-grandfather, who together built Rathfarnham Church. She was born in Hollypark, the eldest of six children and she grew up in Grange. While looking through her old photographs she recalls her early adult life and discloses that she managed a local group of musicians who played in concerts and musicals. During her childhood, Margaret Pearse, sister of Padraig Pearse was "like a second mother" to her, who would buy her boots every Christmas. Kate worked in the Pye Radio Factory in Dundrum for 22 years, and she discusses factory life – the management, staff and working conditions, and she describes the progression from radiograms to television sets. She later worked for the Health Board, caring for people with special needs, having previously spent some time working as a cook with the Augustinians. Kate tells an extraordinary story of an event in Ireland's bleak history. Her grandmother, who lived with the family when Kate was a child, was a young girl during the Famine in 1848. As she walked along a road one day, she plucked a living child from the arms of his dead mother and brought him home, where he was reared with the family, who named him Bill.



NAME: MARY KELLY, BORN 1917,  
BALLYBODEN

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County  
Collection, CD 15

Subject: A life of courage

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 67:04

Description: Mary Kelly, nee Clare, grew up in Sandyford, and at the age of fourteen she left school to begin work for a company who manufactured car seats in Grange. She later took employment at a laundry, where she remained for eight years. She moved to Liverpool and married her late husband, Des Kelly, there during the war years. She clearly describes conditions in Liverpool in those dark days. The couple returned to Dublin during the 1950s and settled at Pearse Park. The great community spirit which existed there in those days was very much evident as Mary describes her life there. There were many challenges in her life, and she worked very hard to rear her family.



NAME: MAISIE WILLIAMS, BORN 1926,  
KILTERNAN

Title: Irish Life and Lore South Dublin County  
Collection, CD 16

Subject: Sheep farming in the Dublin  
mountains

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 78:25

Description: Maisie Williams, nee Mahon, lives in an old gamekeeper's lodge, high in the Dublin mountains, surrounded by forestry. She recalls six generations of her paternal family, who lived in her present house since the 1860s. Maisie's parents spent their working lives sheep farming on the mountains. Maisie recalls the shearing, the meitheal, the long and hard working hours. In the 1940s the IRA maintained a training camp in the area and on one occasion they came to the rescue of Maisie's father, who desperately needed help to save the hay. In 1949 Maisie married the late James Williams, who spent most of his working life driving a sand lorry for Bob Butler. James, Maisie's son, now runs the farm and he has reintroduced sheep farming on the land.

