ENJOYABLE DAY AT GLASSLOUGH

Not even the dull rain-threatening weather of Sunday afternoon could mar the brilliant success of Glaslough's fourth annual parochial fete. A bigger crowd than any of the previous three occasions assembled at Castle Leslie, and it was estimated that the attendance was 4,500.

People from both side of the Border were present; special trains and buses were crowded and people travelled from far afield by car. The energy put into the organisation of the fete added to the attractions of the beautiful Leslie Demesne, has established this event as an eagerly anticipated fixture.

Sir Shane Leslie recently returned from a lecture tour in America, was present to perform the formal opening ceremony. He said that the fete had now become almost a national event. It was a gathering of the clans from North and South. The Border made no difference and all were welcome from the North and from the South, so long as the Leslie family held that place. A month or two ago their Protestant friends were welcome there and all were welcome there now. He was delighted that so many had shown they were not afraid of the weather —it was not a fine day but he had seen worse. Although the sun had left them, he was sure it was better to have a cool day than a terrific heat-wave, such as he had recently experienced in New York.

"No one will be the worse for the day" said Sir Shane. "The air is fresh, the trees green — the fragrance of health. Here you see a corner of Ireland which proves this country was meant by the Creator to be a land of trees; a land such as the Gaelic poets told us of "Bamba of the Trees." You will see here trees, some of them the greatest of their kind in Ireland. They protect you from the sun and now they protect you from the rain and wind.

Sir Shane went on to say that here at the joining of ancient Irish Kingdoms where the ancient Irish might well have held their games, they were celebrating what the Irish celebrated in all their festivities at Tara—music, dancing and sports.

"This place is full of beauty" said Sir Shane, "and we gladly entrust you with it. The Irish are sympathetic with nature and we have always found not the slightest injury has been done. No crowd could be better behaved than the crowd that comes here." He concluded by expressing his regret that thier Parish Priest, Rev. J. McDermott, was unable to be with them.

Rev. P. E. Larkin, C.C., said he regretted that their Parish Priest could not be with them. His first duty was to thank the Leslie family for granting them the privilege of entering the beautiful grounds of their home. He thanked Sir Shane for performing the opening ceremoney. He also thanked all who had worked so hard for the past three weeks to prepare for the event, as well as the band and artistes who had travelled so far to make the day pleasant.

Also on the platform at the opening ceremony were Rev. R. Doherty, Dalgan Park; Rev. S. McCreevy, Rev. C. Marron, C.C., Garrison: Mr. P. J. O'Hanlon, N.T., presided at the ceremony.

AERIDHEACHT PROGRAMME

Following the official opening a busy evening started for those in charge of the programme. Bands from far afield paraded while the stalls provided valuable prizes as well as amusements for those who patronised them. The following bands were present: St. Macartan's brass and reed, Keady (accordion), Keady (pipers), Emyvale (harmonica), Donagh (Accordion), Tullyallen Pipers, Clara (Accordion), Derrynoose, Smithboro' (Accordion), Ballinode, Daragh (Fife and Drum), Aughamackalin Girls' Band; St. Mary's, Castleblayney (Accordion).

Mr. P. J. O'Hanlon, in charge of the Irish Concert, had a wealth of talent at his disposal and the large crowd that surrounded the platform throughout the evening enjoyed Irish music and dancing of the highest quality. A feature of the dancing items was the performance by the Irish Champion Troups from the McCoy School, Belfast. There was also some very accomplished dancing from Miss Monica Clerkin's School of Dancing in Tydavnet and Donagh Parishes, and by an accomplished Troupe brough by Rev. Victor Marron, C.C., from Garrison, Co. Fermanagh.

Vocal music was provided by Mrs. Tina Hogan's Tydavnet Choral Society. This well-known group as well as providing some excellent choral singing also contributed a number of soloists to the programme. That noted instrumentalist, Mr. T. Conway Keady, with members of the local Craobh of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann contributed many lovely Irish airs to a high-class programme.

The gardens and the lake, as always, were the attraction for many. Boats were kept busy plying on the lake and there was keen competition for seats in the motor driven boat. Members of the Monaghan Red Cross Branch Water Safet Section were on duty in a boat on the lake in case of a mishap. The life-saving team was in charge of chief instructor Mr. Roy Baldwin and included Messrs Ray Griffiths, Colm Martin and Sean McCleary.

Both afternoon and evening sessions on the lake were enjoyed by large numbers. Dancing in the Castle Ballroom on a perfect floor was a real pleasure to the music of the Pioneer Rhythm Sextet An innovation this year was an open-air ceilidhe on the Tennis Court where the Irish dances were performed to the music of the Glen Emy Ceilidhe Band.

Fancy Dress Parade

Evidence of the amount of organisation put into the event and the enthusiasm of everyone in the district was the large entry in the fancy dress parade. It afforded a magnificent spectacle as it wound through the wooded lawns headed by a band. The costumes were picturesque, topical and ingenious. —Prize Winners were: — "The Dustman at the Guinness Wedding" (John Andrews, McAree, Bridget McQuaid); "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" (Ballinamon School Children); "Sybil Connoll's Latest" (Miss M. Shields, Glaslough); "Japanese Ladies" (Patricia Morrow, Gleinan and Bernadette Kingston, Glaslough); "Toni Twins" (Noreen Gilmore and Bridie Hughes, Emyvale); "Bride Who Won the Sweep Both Ways" (Maura McMeel and Pat Ross, Daragh); "Coming Through The Rye" (Anackalin Girls, under Miss Dympna Finnegan); "Myxomatosis"—"Ma I Miss Your Rabbit Stew" (Lawlor Children, Emyvale); "Rat Week in Ballybay" (An Emyvale Group); "Special Power's Act, Northern Ireland" (Emyvale Children's Group).

The judges, who had an unenviable task were: Dr. and Mrs. O'Donnell and Mr. P. V. Turley.

Some excellent play was seen in in the seven-a-side football competition which attracted a big Monaghan held Ballbay for a spell crowd and was eventually won by a strong Ballybay team. Though in the final they eventually ran out easy winners.

Results:—Ballybay, 6-4; Smithboro, 1-3. Monaghan, 1-5; Emyvale, 0-4. Scotstown 2-4; Tyholland, 1-4.

Semi-Final—Ballybay, 3-3; Scotstown, 0-2. Monaghan a bye. Final —Ballybay, 5-7; Monaghan, 2-5.

Children's Sports

Boys under 11—1, S. McCarron, Emyvale; 2, N. McDonnell, Clones; 3, E. Hughes, Emyvale.

Girls under 11—1, T. Murtagh, Leitrim; 2, G. Brady, Middletown; 3, M. McCarren, Emyvale.

Boys under 14—1. D. McMurrough, Dublin; 2, J. McEntaggart, Armagh; 3, F. Coyle, Monaghan.

Girls under 14—1, K. McCarron, Emyvale; 2, B. Hughes, do.; 3, P. McCarron, do.

Three-Legged Race (Boys) — 1, T. Swift and M. Lavery, Monaghan; 2, N. McDonnell and T. Hand, Clones.

Three-Legged Race (Girls) — 1, K. McCarron and P. McCarron, Emyvale; 2, A. McCourt and F. Toner, Armagh.

Obstacle Race (Boys)—1, F. Hughes, Armagh; 2, F. Coyle, Monaghan; 3, T. Swift, Monaghan.

Obstacle Race (Girls)—1, M. O'Reilly (Monaghan); 2, S. Boylan, do.; 3, A. McCourt, Armagh.

Balloon Race (Girls) — 1, K. McCarron, Emyvale; 2, S. Thornton, Glaslough; 3, A. McCourt, Armagh.

Wheelbarrow Race (Boys) — 1, Lavery and P. Gallagher (Monaghan; 2, J. Hand and R. McDonnell (Clones).

Book Race (Girls)—1, E. Clinton (Monaghan); 2, R. Duffy, do.; 3, P. McMahon, Castleshane.

Boys' High Jump—1, O. Mulligan, Keady; 2, K. Forde, Emyvale; 3, L. Dixon, Armagh.

A fitting and spectacular windup to a successful day was the impressive fire-works display over Glaslough lake when darkness fell.