

# Lil Monahan (née O'Connell)

Female

File 1 - 0:00:00 - 0:02:08

INTRODUCTION -

Lil was born in Ballyea, Tiermaclane in 1911. She will be 99 in Sept 2010. Chat about her relations O'Connells; oldest person in Kilnamona; chat about Mrs Marrinan, Inagh recently 100, now the oldest person in Inagh-Kilnamona parish Health good, reads big print without glasses, well-looked after by her family; has walking frame; prefers radio to television - she got rid of television to save her sight.

0:02:08 - 0:05:06

SCHOOL DAYS -

School days in Ballyea; walked to school  $\hat{A}$ ½ mile away; 4 classrooms - boys & girls separate; teachers; story about a female teacher (name erased) & probable death of a girl as a result of a blow on her head. Loved knitting, sewing & writing; did v. little Irish; teachers sometimes did summer courses to learn Irish - pupils often go longer holidays.

0:05:06 - 0:06:26

FAMILY -

Her 9 siblings - 6 brothers and 3 sisters, Lil second eldest in family; she names the ten of them and other details, 2 alive now - Lil and her sister; her parents from locality "they didn't go far" then, family life - part of big family.

0:06:26 - 0:07:00

MUSIC & DANCING -

Her father going on cuaird; family dancing to gramophone music; they loved music and dancing.

0:07:00 - 0:08:08

HOUSE, FARMING & FAIRS -

Description of the house, yard and farm; location in the parish - 4 miles from Ennis, O'Connell, her nephew now owns the farm; jobs in the house & farm; fairs in Ennis; family life - part of big family.

0:08:08 - 0:09:32

SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT -

Dancing sets & half-sets; house dances on Sunday nights in Markhams, a local house, gramophone or live music; house dances not held in her own house; walking to houses.

0:09:32 - 0:09:52

TRANSPORT -

Lil talks about bicycles and the ass and car.

0:09:52 - 0:11:10

FAMILY -

Growing up, siblings scattering around Ireland and abroad - England and US, her sister Therese, the eldest left at 18, became a Mercy nun & only came home once; their Mother's passing away at age 59, their Father died pre-deceased her - age/year not given. Her brother took over the family farm.

0:11:10 - 0:13:05

SPORT & GAMES -

Games played, sport, her brother Joe best of family at hurling - played with

Clarecastle senior team. Ballyea had Junior team then.

0:13:47 - 0:13:56

TRIPS TO TOWN -

Trips to Ennis four miles away.

0:13:56 - 0:14:33

FAMILY & EMIGRATION -

Relations living abroad and information about them; letters home

She compares life then & now for women.

0:14:34 - 0:16:12

LEAVING SCHOOL, WORKING AT HOME & TRANSPORT -

Lil left school at 14 to help Mother at home; minding younger siblings & story about minding the younger children; ass & car for transport.

0:16:12 - 0:19:17

MARRIAGE & MOVING TO KILNAMONA -

Moving to Kilnamona in 1937 following marriage to Tom Monahan 2 years after her made match at age 24; matches & how couples didn't know one another before hand; her grandmother came from Kilnamona; the original thatch house - now a shed; relations and neighbours in Kilnamona; names for female neighbours.

0:19:17 - 0:19:50

WAR YEARS -

Few memories of war years; recalled fears of hearing lorries with soldiers in Ballyea.

0:19:50 - 0:20:18

## JOYCE FAMILY, NEW HALL -

Memories of the Joyce family in New Hall- names & other information.

0:20:18 - 0:21:28

## SCHOOL DAYS & BRINGING THE TURF -

Memories of school; learning off by heart; often came home at lunchtime; bringing turf to school - by ass load or horse load if her father had a big load of turf & pupils unloading â€œgabhailsâ€

File 2 0:00:00 - 0:00:56

## HOUSES -

Description of the old house in Kilnamona; her home house was the only slated house in Ballyea & was a storey and a half, now un-lived in.

0:00:56 - 0:02:38

## CHURCH & TRANSPORT -

Recalls crossing fields to Mass in Kilnamona with the neighbours; prayer & religion; she says â€œ30 days prayerâ€ during Lent; she got married in Clarecastle Church; names of priests in Ballyea/Clarecastle & their transport- the curate cycled, the canon had a horse and side-car and had a driver.

0:02:38 - 0:04:59

## FAMILY -

Her own family of 5 children- three in Clare (Joe living beside her, Brigid in Quin & Mary) & a son a priest in Sligo & spent 17 years in missions in Argentina; more information about her children; her son Matt died young of cancer; 13 grandchildren & 2 great-grandchildren at Limerick.

0:04:59 - 0:05:45

## FAMILY & BUTTER-MAKING COURSE -

Homemaking and bringing up her family, farm work in Kilnamona, milking cows & separating the milk, course in Kilnamona on how to use the churns & make butter (woman paid by the Government provided training)

0:05:45 - 0:05:59

CLOTHES -

Often made their own clothes; no parcels from abroad.

0:06:00 - 0:06:30

HOUSES & HEARTH -

Discussing photo of the hearth in "Cuimhneamh an Chláir" brochure, similar to one in her home house but they didn't have a hob.

File 3 0:00:00 - 0:01:14

CLOTHES -

Lads in her brothers' young days often wore "skirts" V shorts or pants without underpants. PJ Greene's story about adult neighbours who wore skirts to save on laundry & when cutting hay in the summer. Lil remembers her the same for her brothers.

0:01:14 - 0:01:34

TRANSPORT & SCHOOL -

Lil asking Geraldine about herself; she never went to the school with or regarding her children V present day. No cars then except for teachers & priests. She didn't recall first time they got a car.

0:01:34 - 0:02:44

GAMES & SPORT -

Playing games or sport - not much time for play because of hard work,

description of skipping.

File 4 0:00:00 - 0:01:00

PLEDGE -

Pledge taken at Confirmation & not broken; Lil never drank anything stronger than tea, milk or water; her brothers had porter.

0:01:23 - 0:02:15

BALLYEA -

No pub in Ballyea; no shop in Ballyea; travelling shop in later years run by Paddy Markham.

0:02:15 - 0:03:45

VISITING NEIGHBOURS, ST. JOHN'S WELL & KILLONE ABBEY -

Recalls visiting neighbouring houses especially for house dances. They did rounds at St. John's well at Killone Abbey (she knew it well); the annual Mass & crossroad dances were not held in her youth (but have been held since 1990s).

File 5 0:00:00 - 0:00:55

HOUSE DANCES -

She recalls attending a house dance once in Henry Greene's (Geraldine's grandfather) in Kilnamona. She didn't socialise much at night when her family were young.

0:00:55 - 0:02:17

STATIONS & CHURCH RELATED DISCUSSION -

Stations were held at Monahans in the past. Parish now only has one priest for three chapels.

0:02:17 - 0:02:59

#### TURF CUTTING & FAMILY JOBS -

Turf cutting in Kilmaley in her youth by the males; females did the cooking; Lil and her son Joe remember going to O'Callaghan's bog in Kilmaley; Kilnamona people went to bogs in Inagh.

0:02:59 - 0:05:00

#### TRAVEL & LISDOONVARNA -

Little travel outside Clare except a few trips to Lourdes, France on a diocesan pilgrimage; she didn't mind flying; she recalls trips to Lisdoonvarna in Septembers with local ladies and remembers seeing the morning dances; taking the sulphur water in Spa Wells; her husband didn't travel much; he enjoyed smoking his pipe.

0:05:00 - 0:06:42

#### ELECTRIFICATION -

Recalling electricity coming to Kilnamona - she remembers the poles being put down. Comparing life now to past & many changes. People have more money now. 6p in her youth meant lots; 1p worth of sweets!

0:06:42 - 0:09:13

#### HEALTH & LONGEVITY -

Talking about her longevity, life & health now. Her grandmother lived a long life too; recalls a rhyme she said.