Head of Caughoo

The winning jockey in 1947, the late Eddie Dempsey with the head of Caughoo in 1986.

Item: Stuffed head of Caughoo – winner of the Grand National in 1947

Date: 1961

Find Location: Donore, Drogheda.

Current Location: Whereabouts unknown

Description:

The head of the horse that won the 1947 Aintree Grand National was preserved in Frank Godfrey's Country Cottage in Donore. The 1947 Grand National was won by 100/1 Irish outsider Caughoo. The eight-year-old was ridden by 35-year-old jockey Eddie Dempsey and trained by Herbert McDowell, for owner John McDowell who had bought Caughoo for £50.

Godfrey purchased the head from an apprentice taxidermist in Dublin. In 1987 on the 40th anniversary of Caughoo's win Godfrey travelled over to Aintree and brought the head. The head was saved from destruction when the cottage was burned down in 2008 by a piece of galvanise which fell on top of it and prevented it from being totally destroyed.

Caughoo was trained at Wheatfield in Malahide. The horse was ridden by Eddie Dempsey and he had quite a day. A mist descended on the course and much confusion followed. But Caughoo clearly enjoyed the conditions and came in at 100-1 to win. Some say the 23 length win could have been put down to the horse only running one circuit of the course but that has since been disproved. Jockey Dempsey was accused of hiding behind a fence at the fog-bound Aintree course, only re-joining the race towards the end. But two photographs of Caughoo and Dempsey going over Becher's Brook on two different occasions were deicovered . After his win, Caughoo became a well known figure in the Malahide area and died in 1961.

Caughoo is actually a townland in Cavan but his name lives on in Gibney's of Malahide where a bar is dedicated to him.

Further Information:

Meath in the late 20th and early 21st centuries - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Crannac Chairs

Item: Edwards Designed Chairs from Crannac

Date: 1962

Find Location: Associated with Navan

Current Location: Unknown

Description: In 1945 John Hogg and Co. Ltd. furniture manufacturers was founded in Navan. Wilfrid S. Elliott joined John Hogg as joint manager in 1957 and in 1960 the Elliott family purchased the company. In 1961 with the assistance of Coras Trachtala Teo John Hogg and Co. changed over the style of furniture it was producing. In April 1961 the firm employed Arthur Edwards to design a new style of chairs and settees. This new style, Crannac, was launched in Dublin in early 1962 on the home and export market. The word "Crannac" is derived from the Irish word for "a little copse or wood." The designs were aimed at the hotel, public lounges, public buildings and offices but were also suitable for private homes. The Crannac frames were made from afromosia, a wood which was imported from Ghana. The finish was not stained or varnished but oil finished by hand which preserved the natural features of the wood. The seats and backs were of special quality polyester, the seats resting on Vitaweb rubber strapping. The coverings were in specially designed Irish tweed, woven by Magee of Co. Donegal. Nine shades of tweed were selected from 500 different combinations. The tweed was 100 percent wool and moth proof. John Hogg and Co. were positioning themselves as specialist chair manufacturers. In 1972 the factory was taken over and run as a co-op until 2003. Crannac was the longest running worker's co-operative in Ireland.

Nelson's Pillar

Item: Piece of Nelson's Pillar

Date: 1808 Associated with 1966

Find Location: Dublin

Current Location: Asigh, Bective.

Description:

A piece of Nelson's Pillar, which once stood on O'Connell Street, and was blown up in 1966 by a group described as 'socialist republicans' now sits in John and Lorraine McDowell's rockery at Asigh, near Bective.

The statue of the British admiral Horatio Nelson standing 134 feet above the main thoroughfare was blown to smithereens at 1.32am on 8th March 1966. All that was left was a 70 feet high stump, blown up by the Irish Army later in the week in a controlled explosion. John McDowell's uncle, Jack, was running the family jewellery business, the Happy Ring House, at the time. The stone arrived at his home at Sutton, Warren Villa, and was used as a base for a sun dial."Jack McDowell had a racehorse, Caughoo, which famously won the 1947 Aintree Grand National. When Caughoo died, he was buried at Warren Villa. The piece of the pillar was used to mark his grave. Later, the property was sold for development, and Caughoo's remains were moved to Fairyhouse, where Peter McDowell was living at the time. The farm is now the Tattersalls complex, and Caughoo still lies in the front garden. The stone remained in Sutton until the house was cleared and some of the contents were moved to Asigh.

Nelson's Pillar was designed by Francis Johnson and erected in 1808-'09 to commemorate Nelson's victory and death at the great naval battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The pillar was a Doric column topped by a 13 feet tall statue in Portland stone by Cork sculptor Thomas Kirk. All the outer and visible parts of the pillar were of Wicklow granite. One of the men believed to be responsible for orchestrating the demolition job, barrister and maverick republican Joe Christle, founder of the Rás Tailteann, lies in Kilmessan Cemetery.

Further Information:

Arkle Skeleton

Item: Skeleton of Arkle

Date: 1970

Find Location: Associated with Dunboyne and Ashbourne

Current Location: National Stud, Kildare

Description:

The famous racehorse, Arkle, was bred at Ballymacoll Stud, Dunboyne. Arkle, bred by the Bakers of Malahow House near Naul in County Dublin, was born at Ballymacoll Stud, then managed by Charlie Rogers for Dorothy Paget, in 1957, and present at the birth was the late Dan Daly of Dunshaughlin, the stud groom at the time.

The bay gelding was owned by Anne Grosvenor, Duchess of Westminister, and trained by Tom Dreaper. His jockey was "Pat" Taaffe a National Hunt jockey who rode Arkle to win three Cheltenham Gold Cups between 1964 and 1966. In 1965 Arkle won the Gold Cup beating Mill House by an incredible 20 lengths. However the following year, he won again by an amazing 30 lengths even though he ploughed through one of the fences.

Sadly in December of 1966, his hoof hit a guard rail during the King George VI Chase, but the horse gamely finished the race with a broken pedal bone. He still came in second. He did recover but never raced again, and was used as a hack by his owner. He died at the early age of 13 from advanced arthritis.

He became a star and gained a following just like the Kennedy's, the Beatles and other celebrities and stars of that era. Arkle finished first in 27 of his 35 races, but his most outstanding race, and the one which elevated him to almost mythical proportions was the Gallaher Gold Cup run at Sandown in 1965.

A life size statue of him was erected at Ashbourne in April 2014, the nearest town to his trainer Tom Dreaper's base at Kilsallaghan. At the time there was a suggestion of an Arkle Museum in Ashbourne.

Further Information:

http://www.meathchronicle.ie/news/roundup/articles/2014/04/18/4029694-unveiling-of-arkle-statue-in-ashbourne

Stamp

Item: Stamp

Date: 2002

Find Location:

Current Location: GPO, Dublin.

Description:

Peter 'The Man in the Cap' McDermott (1918 – 2011) was an inter-county Gaelic footballer for County Meath. During his playing career he won 2 Senior All Ireland medals (1949 & as captain in 1954) as well as 6 Leinster medals. He played in 4 All Ireland Finals. He refereed the All-Ireland senior football final between Kerry and Armagh, in September 1953. Peter McDermott had the unusual distinction of participation in five All-Ireland final matches in the four years between 1951 and 1954. He played in the 1951, 52 (draw and replay) and 54 finals and refereed the 1953 final. He is also the only man to referee an All-Ireland final both before and after winning one. In the sixties he was coach on the Meath team and held this position when Meath won the All-Ireland title in 1967.

He is jointly credited with starting the International Compromise Rules Series. McDermott collaborated with Harry Beitzel of Australia to arrange a two-match tour by an Australian Rules side, which played (and defeated) reigning All-Ireland Champions Meath at Croke Park in October 1967 under Gaelic football rules. When the International series started formally in 1984 Peter was manager of the Irish Team. In recognition of his skills and long-running contribution to the sport, McDermott was awarded the 1989 All-time all-star award as no GAA All Stars Awards were being issued at the time of his playing career.

Peter McDermott was nominated for induction into the GAA Hall of Fame in 2002. He joins the 15 footballers from the Millennium Team and the two inductees in 2001.

Further Information:

http://www.hoganstand.com/meath/ArticleForm.aspx?ID=112885
http://www.meathchronicle.ie/news/kells/articles/2008/08/06/29630-a-legend-at-90

Maple Cross

Item: Maple Cross

Date: 2011

Find Location: Navan, Ontario.

Current Location: Navan, Meath

Description:
Celtic cross of maple presented to St. Mary's Church, Navan, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Navan, Ontario. It symbolises the links between the two Navan towns. The shape at the centre of the cross is a Trillium, the provincial flower of Ontario.

Navan2Navan is a Volunteer Community Group dedicated to developing social and economic links between Ireland and Canada using the two towns of Navan, County Meath, Ireland and Navan, Ottawa, Canada as the central hub for development. Navan, Ontario, Canada was given its name by Michael O'Meara from Navan, County Meath, who set up a trading post in Canada in the 1840s which became a Post Office called Navan. Navan, Ontario is now a village on the outskirts of Ottawa with an approximate population of 3500 people. The *Navan2Navan Community Initiative* was set up in 2012 to develop links between the two towns.

Further Information:

1916 Proclamation

Item: 1916 Proclamation

Date: 2016

Find Location:

Current Location: County Library, Navan.

Description:

Donal O'Hannigan, the commander of the Louth /Meath forces for the 1916 Rising, was told by Padraig Pearse, three weeks before the Rising, to mobilise all the Volunteers on the Hill of Tara on Easter Sunday at 7.00 p.m. and he was to read a copy of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic on the Hill. Later on Good Friday O'Hannigan pointed out that Tara was an inconvenient place for mobilisation but Pearse said that Tara was all important for historical reasons and he wanted a copy of the Proclamation read there.

The Volunteer companies of Carnaross and Drumbaragh, Kells, arrived on the hill of Tara on Easter Sunday night 1916 but there was no-one from Louth or the rest of Meath there. The men were sent home by Sean Boylan. O'Hannigan and the Louth men did arrive at Tara later that week and went on to join the Dunboyne men at Tyrrelstown House at Blanchardstown. The Proclamation was not read on Tara in 1916 as Pearse had meant it to be.

The members of Comhaltas Ceolteóirí Eireann from County Meath came together on Easter Monday, March 28th 2016 to finally carry out the wish of Pádraig Pearse. An Aeríocht was organised with a collection of community groups under the flag of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann. The highlight of this event was Ann Finnegan Uachtarán CCE and Donal O Hannigan, grandson of the man, who received the orders from Pearse in 1916, reading the Proclamation to all assembled. A copy of the proclamation was signed by those who attended the event which was then lodged in the County Library.

Further Information:

Meath in the late 20th and early 21st centuries - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Payphone

Item: Last payphone in Trim

Date: 2017

Find Location: Market Square, Trim.

Current Location: Eir Company.

Description:
The last payphone in Trim was removed from Market Square in January 2017. If a pay phone is used for less than a minute a day over a six month period then Eir will remove the phone. At the end of 2015, there were some 900 public payphones remaining in Ireland, but 621 were being used for less than a minute per day on average, with less than 30 seconds of this usage relating to freephone and emergency services calls. Eir is permitted to remove a payphone unit if the average usage over a period of six months falls below these thresholds.

Further Information:
https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2017/02/object-lesson-phone-booth/515385/
https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/10/26/as-line-goes-dead-for-payphones-fans-mourn-a-lost-era.html