

CURIOSITIES

Curious objects, structures, monuments, landmarks, sights, etc. For example, Wishing stones or "chairs," freaks of nature (i.e. grotesque rock formations)—in fact, any scene or object which may be regarded as queer, quaint or worth-remembering. Location and description. Any story or legend to be related.

The "Holy Stone" of Lencoveel. On the roadside in the lowland of Lencoveel, and inserted in a field wall (land of Mrs. Biddy), is a stone, earth-embedded, which is 46" high, 26" wide at the base (widest), and about 6" thick. In the face of the stone near ground level, is a small, roughly circular depression, 5" wide and barely $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. In the upper face a cross is indely scratched. The latter, however, may not be ancient and does not appear so.

The legend goes that when a church was once being built at Lencoveel, the stones were transported from Holywell along the Lencoveel road. On one occasion, this stone fell from the cart conveying it and despite the efforts made to transport it further, it repeatedly fell off the cart. The carters, regarding it then as a holy stone, left it where it fell. It was later erected in its present position and became an

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC. (CONTD. ON PAGE 13)

Brief account of old customs, traditional courses, etc., still practiced in the district. Pilgrimages to Holy Wells, Shrines, etc. Patterns.

There is a pattern to Tubus Trump on the first Sunday of August each year. The pattern, which was once a full affair, now merely consists of the visiting on this day by the people around who kneel and say whatever prayers they please and request favours. Sometimes the water is brought from the well and used to cure very minor ailments.

August 28th is St. Augustine's feast day. On the Sunday following this is a pattern and aspects in Holywell in commemoration of the founding of the Augustinian Abbey in the town. There is a aspects, sometimes a fair or bazaar and usually a boxing tournament. Actually there is no pattern in the town save that people include a visit to the Abbey Church on this day.

In winter whenever the shallow lakes around are frozen over the young folk "lap" for fish. The fish is run under the ice which is tapped overlead with a netted club. The fish comes off the fisher follows, then again. The chase goes on until the fish has staved by the situation. The ice is broken and it is taken out. (Contd. on PAGE 14)

(Signed) Donald A. Fenaghan.

DATE Sept. 14th 1944.

Surveyor.

object of much veneration and many people came here to pray and offer petitions.

In particular the stone was supposed to have a cure for foot-troubles. The afflicted person placed his knee three times in the circular depression which is said to be the track of St. Patrick's knee. [Holywell, from where the stone was taken, is a Petician site]

The custom has long since disappeared.

In the Abbey cemetery is an olden granite stone with the inscription:

Ta me sive a quo an t
 bio me a unval, me an tceget me in
 Zuvi am anet me anis de
 bye me by o flavies ay dul anis

Births.

It is considered unlucky for a person to be a god-parent to two children in the same year. The ill-luck supposedly falls on the second child instead of the first.

Deaths.

Funerals take the longest route to the graveyard.

The grave diggers place shovels and spades in cross formation over the open grave. They are removed at funeral time.

Chairs on which the coffin rests are tipped over on the ground as soon as the coffin is brought out to the hearse.

The number of candles at a wake are always an odd number. Candles are sometimes stopped when a death occurs. They are reset when the funeral is over.

Some people retain the custom of stepping three times over the grave of a relative. This particularly if there has been a series of deaths over a short period. The idea is to ward off further affliction.

Marriages.

The bride must not return to her own home until at least a month after her marriage.

On the wedding night - neighbours, folk gather to the new home of the married pair. Some dress up in straw hats and are called "straw boys". There is music and dancing.

On January 1st many people will not pay out money.

On May Day many folk will not sell, lend or give away milk. Or a coal from the fire.

On June 23rd night - fires are lighted in the open air.

On Rosemary's night - the custom remains in parts, of

"hicking the cabbage". Heads of cabbage are taken and kicked
around streets and roads.

On St. Martin's Eve a fowl is killed and its blood
sprinkled in the four corners of the house.

On St. Stephen's day there are the "ween-boys" or mummings
who are youths dressed in fantastic clothing. They visit
neighbouring houses, play and sing, and are suitably
rewarded in cash or kind.

Of cures there now remain only that held by the secret
row for ringworm; R. "Jewel's" leavings of milk for
chin-cough, and some very minor home remedies for
various ailments.