

Rothe House Youth Heritage Project

The two years 1983 and 1984 saw continued and increased enthusiasm for this venture sponsored by The Irish National Insurance Co. Ltd., under the direction of a sub-committee of the Archaeological Society.

In 1983 twenty five entries ranged from Crafts in Kilkenny to Bygone Days in the Rower, from Historical Rhapsody to Stoneyford, Our Heritage. May 1984 saw almost double that number of projects, most of them still coming from the junior sections, both group and individual. They came as usual in notebooks, as wall-hangings, on stands accompanied by artefacts, photographs, drawings, so that the Cronin and adjoining rooms were alive with colour and data freshly gleaned by youthful enthusiasm, and thus exemplifying the conditions laid down in the rules, viz. that the area of study is Kilkenny and environs, that there must be considerable depth of research and that there must be elegance of presentation. The variety of method added to the range of subjects chosen makes the task taken on by the judges one that requires great knowledge, expertise and patience, but all give their time and learning most willingly. To them — Mrs Margaret Phelan, Mr G. Dooley and Mr Pat Nolan for 1983, and Mrs Anna De Loughry, Mr Jim Fogarty and Mr Peter Seavers for 1984, the members of the sub-committee express sincere thanks.

Both years, a full, perhaps vociferous, Rothe House awaited the results. Prizes were presented by the presidents of the Society, Rev. Sean O'Doherty in 1983 and Mrs K. M. Lanigan in 1984.

RESULTS, 1983 :

Over-all Winner of Trophy & 1st Prize in Junior Group:

6th Class, St. John's Girls' School, Kilkenny.

Project — "Some Bridges of Kilkenny".

2nd Prize in Junior Group:

Skeaghvosteen National School.

Project — "Powerstown, Our Electoral Area".

Senior Group, 1st Prize:

Stoneyford Foroige Club; "Stoneyford, our Heritage".

Senior Group, 2nd Prize:

Loreto Post-Primary School; "Between Two Bridges".

Junior Individual:

1st: Dorothy Daly, "History of Galmoy". 2nd: B. Doyle, "Graignamanagh Bridge".

Senior Individual:

1st: Ann Hamilton, "Historical Rhapsody", 2nd: Catherine Walsh, "Kells Was ..."

RESULTS, 1984 :

Over-all Winner of Trophy & 1st Prize in Junior Group:

Boys' N.S. Castlecomer, "Curing in 'Comer".

2nd Prize, Junior Group:

Vocational School, Graignamanagh, "Crafts Industries".

Senior Group, 1st Prize:

Stoneyford Foroige Club, "The Merino Mill".

Senior Group, 2nd Prize:

Heritage Group, "Tullaherin Parish Heritage".

Junior Individual

1st: Geraldine Tierney, "History of Loreto Convent Site".

2nd: Maria Dunphy, "Danesfort Races and Stand House".

Senior Individual:

1st: Nuala Roche, "James Stephens Barracks". 2nd: Niamh Doyle, "History Trail of St. Mullins.

Several certificates of merit were also awarded, and richly deserved.

The Archaeological Society is deeply grateful to the Irish National Insurance Co. for making the project possible by its generous sponsorship over the last four years. It is good news to hear that the subvention is to continue. At the prize giving ceremony, the Kilkenny Branch Manager, Mr. Durcan, said that he hoped that the high standard would be maintained in 1985. This is the pleasant indication of future sponsorship. With so many schools, clubs, individuals all interested in local history of the county, the city and the diocese, it is hoped that the enthusiasm for the venture will continue to grow.

MAUREEN HEGARTY.