

Report on "Our Heritage" The Rothe House Youth Project 1987

The Irish National Insurance Company Ltd. do it again.
What?

Sponsor the Rothe House Youth Heritage Project.

This is the seventh year the Company sponsored the work, and did it so generously the prizes were much bigger than formerly. The Over-All winners, The Boys' National School, Castlecomer, won The Perpetual Trophy and £125. There also was a bigger entry, eighty projects being mounted from all over the county. The title list gives some idea of the geographic span: Conahy Parish, Tullaroan then and now, Stoneyford, Danesfort, Gowran, Dunbell Excavations, The Mouth of Ragget's Ford, History of Urlingford, Mining in Castlecomer, Tales from Castlewarren, History of Ballyfoyle, History of Old Windgap.

Miss Ellen Prendergast, M.A., the resident judge so to speak as she has so often been involved, though she prefers to be called an assessor, used a very telling word to describe her first reaction. "SPECTACULAR", she said and went on to give a serious and detailed analysis of the projects, the high standard they revealed and the depth of investigation the young students had achieved. She gave good advice for future years: that students would be required to limit themselves strictly to one subject. Indeed she hoped that the committee would consider limiting the subject choice, varying it every year. This, she felt would lead to more equitable marking.

The two new judges were equally constructive. Dr. William Nolan from Carysfort Training College complimented the students on the work and on the unexpectedly high standard they had achieved. He had learned much about Kilkenny from his scrutiny of the projects. He had been looking for originality of approach, but he made a very strong plea for accuracy in basic English. Nothing detracts more from a good subject than poor grammar and careless spelling.

Mr. Proinnsias O'Driscoll from the Adult Education Centre who was concerned with presentation spoke of the pleasure all the work gave him. His main advice was that students should aim at making the presentation an integral part of the project.

He wanted original art work, three dimensional where possible. Actual hand writing was a very important part of presentation. As projects were competing for the viewer's attention there should be something to grab that attention. In this the use of models was very useful.

Mr. E. W. Hughes, Chairman of the sub-committee of the Archaeological Society that runs the project scheme, thanked everybody that participated in the work, most especially The Irish National Co. without whose generous help it would be impossible, the judges who gave willingly of their time and expertise, the students, parents and teachers whose work is the *raison d'être* of it all. Mr. Flanagan from Head Office in Dublin, and Mr. Durcan, Manager of the Kilkenny Branch, both expressed pleasure and satisfaction with the completed work.

The occasion of prize-giving was honoured by the presence of two of Kilkenny's most distinguished citizens, Mayor Margaret Tynan and Most Rev. Laurence Forristal, Bishop of Ossory. The Mayor complimented The Irish National on its funding and hoped that the work done by the students would make them more aware of our environment and heritage. Dr. Forristal continued with the theme of environment, urging everyone to look after it as fully as possible. It was good, he said, of the Society to promote the competition for it gave young people the opportunity to study the truth. As a priest he had to look for the truth. Through the work done they were being helped to present the truth, and that is why it was so very important.

As usual a vast and enthusiastic audience attended to hear the reports and the results.

Maureen Hegarty.
Hon. Sec. of Project.

RESULTS

Senior Winners, individual and group :

Edwina Farrell; Darmhaigh na nDuath:

Maeve Murphy; Walk this Way . . . Pedestrianisation of Kieran Street.

Senior runners-up :

Olive O'Neill; Ballinaboola, A See Land of Ossory:

John Dowling; The Donnelly Connection.

Junior Winners, individual and group :

Annette Metcalfe; We Have Travelled Far:

Edel Murphy; Flora and Fauna of Johnswell.

Junior runners-up :

Matthew Seaver; Life Below Stairs:

Sheena Friel; Farming and Forestry.

There were also four Very Highly commended and ten Highly commended awards.

Maureen Hegarty
Hon. Sec. of Project