

## THATCHING

Michael Moran of Knockaderry was a great thatcher. He used to do about six stacks of straw in the day. He is dead for the past fifteen years. There are very few thatchers in our district because there are not many thatched houses there. The local thatchers are Jim Clancy, Ballingarry; Martin Gready, Ballyhea and Tim Ahern of Raheen. John Finnerty of the Spar who is dead twenty or thirty years. They thatch with scallops and sheaves. The people for whom they thatch prepare it for them. They are paid 5s.6d. each day for thatching. Sometimes they work outside the district. John O'Gorman, Ballyagran was a famous thatcher a good many years ago. He used to thatch for many people in his locality and he was well known as a thatcher outside his own district. His son was also a famous thatcher some few years ago.

## RIDDLES

What part of a cow goes over the ditch first? Her breath.

Middy, noddy, round body, three feet and a wooden hat? A pot.

## FUNNY STORY

An Inspector was examining children. When finished he said he would give five shillings to anyone who would give him a riddle he could not answer. One little lad asked, "Why am I like the Prince of Wales?". The Inspector could not answer. The little lad said, "Because I am waiting for the crown".

*(Got from my father, Mr. John Murphy. Written by Patrick Murphy, aged 65, Ballyroe, Ballingarry)*

## LOCAL CURES

**SORE THROAT** - the juice of a dandelion cures a sore throat.

**CHIN COUGH** - a child put under a grey mare's leg is a cure for chin cough.

**TOOTHACHE** - a cure for a toothache is to put a frog into the mouth.

**YELLOW JAUNDICE** - the flowers that grow on furze are a cure for yellow jaundice.

**HICCOUGHS** - the cure for hiccoughs is to get a sudden fright. Another cure is to chew your small finger.

## HERBS

Comfrey is used as a cure for sprains.

Swamp root is good for cuts and blistering animals.

Tea made from dandelion is good for consumptive people.

Nettle water revives the colour in navy.

Ivy water is good for taking stains off clothes.

*(Charles O'Connor, Doonbeirne, Ballingarry)*

## HERBS

Burn leaf of cabbage and apply it to sore head and it would cure it.

Boil wild violets and drink the juice and it would cure a pain in the head.

Burn a leaf called hartstongue and apply it to a burn and it would cure it.

A cure for a sore throat is to boil the juice of a dandelion and drink the juice.

To rub the milk of plant called spurge to warts and it would cure them.

Tea was made long ago from sloe leaves. The method for making the tea was to dry the leaves and put them into the teapot and make it the same as ordinary tea. Tea was also made from agrimony.

Sloe wine - sloes are put into a vessel. Hot water is poured on them. After a week the juice is taken out. Add sugar. Bury it for two months in the ground in a crock. Then it is fit for use.

The bark of alder boiled in cream is good for curing pox in cows' teats.

Comfrey is used for sprains. The root is pulped and applied to the sprain for eight hours.

Swamp root is good for cuts and is used as a blister. The juice is extracted by cutting and bruising the root and the juice is rubbed to the sores.

Furze blossoms are boiled. The juice is used for yellow jaundice.

Yarrow is boiled and the juice is drunk for rheumatism.

It is said that cabbage water let flow by a cowhouse in which cows are causes the cows to sling.

*(Christy Cronin, Lisavara, Ballingarry)*