

E.S.B. FIRST CAME TO CASTLETOWN IN 1952. FOREMAN WAS JIM CARLTON, UNCLE TO PETER CARLTON. SOME OF THE MEN WERE ACCOMMODATED IN LOCAL FARM HOUSES. PADDY COLLINS THE (SENATOR) AND SEAN CLANCY WHO WAS FROM BALLINASCARTHY STAYED IN MY HOUSE AT DERRYMIHAN UNTIL THE WORK WAS FINISHED. SEAN WHO WAS ONLY 17 OR 18 YEARS AT THE TIME LATER JOINED THE PRIESTHOOD AND ADMINISTERED IN SWANSEA AND ONLY DIED 3 OR 4 YEARS AGO R.I.P.

WORK WAS SCARSE AT THE TIME AND A LOT OF PEOPLE WENT TO ENGLAND. THERE WAS NO I.C.B. THAT TIME ONLY A TRACTOR AND COMPRESSOR FOR BORING THE ROCK HOLES, AND A PICK BAR AND SHOVEL, AND TOLD GO DOWN 6 FEET.

THEY TOOK ON LOCAL MEN WHILE THE JOB WAS GOING ON, INCLUDING JIMMY SPENCER, AND CONNIE SULLIVAN BAWN, AHABEG JACK THE COOPER HARRINGTON, CRISTY MCGUINNESS, WILLIE NEIL DERRYMIHAN EAST, JOHN JOE SULLIVAN TAYLOR WITH HIS RED HORSE DRAWING THE POLES INTO POSITION IN THE ROUGH GROUND WHERE THE TRACTOR COULDN'T GO. I REMEMBER THE EVENING THE STREET LIGHTS WERE TURNED ON IN TOWN IN JUNE. I WAS STANDING IN MCCARTHY'S DOOR AND THE LINESMAN CLIMBED THE POLE NEAR DONOGHUE'S CORNER AS YOU GO DOWN TOWARDS BARRACKS POINT. 200 WATT SCREW TYPE CLEAR BULBS. WE THOUGHT WE WERE IN HEAVEN.

THEY CONTINUED ON DOING GROUPS BIT BY BIT AFTER THAT, MY GROUP WAS TURNED ON ON A TUESDAY EVENING ON THE 14TH OF OCTOBER 1952.

THE SUPPLY WENT ON AS FAR AS ARDGROOM THAT TIME AND WEST TO CAHIRKEEM OVER THE HILL INTO ALLITIES. THERE WAS A LULL THEN UNTIL 1956 WHEN THERE WAS A FEW MORE GROUPS DONE.

THEN IN 1957 IT WENT INTO BERE ISLAND, JIM LAVERS, PADDY MOYNIHAN, AND TOMMY BARRY WERE THE LINESMEN, HARRY BAILLIE DID THE CANVASING, I REMEMBER THE DAY IN MARCH THEY PAID OUT TO

CABLE FROM BRENDAN MURPHY'S BARGE, STARTING FROM SMALL MINANE ISLAND STRAIGHT ACROSS ON A GOOD STIFF WESTERLY WIND. JOHN HALL USED TO BE WITH THEM WITH HIS WOODEN PUNT AND SEAGUL OUTBOARD ENGINE, HE USED TO CARRY HIS BRODOG WITH HIM ALWAYS IN CASE THERE WOULD BE A SHADE. THERE USED TO BE PLENTY OF SCALLOPS THAT TIME.

THEN IN 1965 THEY CONTINUED THE H.T. LINE FROM JOHN JOE HARRINGTON'S WEST TO THE LIGHTHOUSE I THINK IT TOOK 28 POLES JOHN GORMAN WAS THE LINESMAN WITH HIS SON DONIE, JOHN JOE TAYLOR JOHN GER HARRINGTON FROM GREENANE BOBBY BYRNE WHO WAS MARRIED TO DANNY HARRINGTON'S SISTER FROM GREENANE, JOHN DENNEHY AND VINCE HARRINGTON GOUR WERE WORKING AT THE LIGHTHOUSE THAT TIME AND I THINK JERRY MURPHY WAS DRAWING THE POLES WITH THE TRACTOR.

THEN IN LATER YEARS I USED TO READ THE METERS IN THE ISLAND IT USED TO TAKE NEARLY 2 DAYS FROM ARDARAGH EAST TO THE LIGHTHOUSE AT WESTEND, JOHN SULLIVAN THE POST OFFICE USED TO READ THEM ALSO, HE HAD THE CONTRACT I USED TO DO CHECK READINGS, I REMEMBER CALLING TO MICK O'SULLIVAN ONE TIME HE WAS LIVING IN THE OLD HOUSE WITH HIS MOTHER AND SISTER KATHLEEN HE HAD A SMALL WOODEN PUNT HE WAS A GREAT OARSMAN HE USED TO ROW ACROSS THE BAY TO THE FAR SIDE SHOOTING POTS AND HE USED TO HAVE A SAIL AS WELL, I SAID DO YOU REMEMBER THE SATURDAY NIGHT LONG AGO THAT WE HAD THE TIDAL WAVE THAT KILLED ALL THE FISH I SAID IT WAS THE 13TH OF DECEMBER 1942 OH! DO WELL HE SAID IT CAME UP TO THE FRONT DOOR THAT WAS SOME WEATHER, IT CAME OVER THE PIPERS BIGHT THAT TIME AND DOWN INTO TRINEAN, I WAS ONLY 8 YEARS AT THE TIME AND REMEMBER MY BROTHER DONAL COMING UP FROM THE STRAND WITH SOME FINE BIG LING ON HIS FINGERS THEY HAD BEEN CHOKED BY THE SAND, PEOPLE SALTED THEM THAT TIME THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THEM, MY BROTHER PULLED A HUGE CONGE

UP THE SCOUT NEAR TOM O'BRIEN'S AND HE STRETCHED ACCROSS THE ROAD THERE WASN'T MANY CARS AROUND AT THAT TIME,

WHEN THE E.S.B. FIRST CAME TO CASTLETOWN BENNY MURPHY WIRED MOST OF THE HOUSES WITH HIS HELPER DERRY MULLINS BOTH PASSED ON NOW, ONE BULB IN EACH OF THE THREE ROOMS UP STAIRS ONE BULB IN THE KITCHEN ONE SOCKET AND A SACRED HEART LAMP AND ONE BULB IN THE SITTING ROOM, MONEY WAS SCARCE AT THE TIME,

WHEN I LEFT NATIONAL SCHOOL IN 1948 I WENT TO THE TECHNICAL SCHOOL UNTIL 1950, I THINK THERE IS ONLY 2 OF MY SCHOOL MATES STILL LIVING, RITCHIE SPENCER FROM CURRADUFF AND ALBERT SULLIVAN CUMBA FROM BALLYNAKILLA BERE ISLAND, DENIS CROWLEY AND JOHN FINBAR SULLIVAN ONLY PASSED ON RECENTLY, I THINK FOUR OF THE GIRLS THAT WENT TO TECH AT THAT TIME ARE STILL LIVING EVELYN AND PEGGY HARRINGTON BAWRS, HANNAH HEALY BARRAKILLA AND CRISSIE HARRINGTON KILMACOWEN, PADDY COLLINS WAS HEADMASTER AND SEAMUS LORDAN WAS THE WOODWORK TEACHER,

I FIRST STARTED WORK WITH THE ESB IN FEBRUARY 1959 FOR 4 MONTHS FOR £5 A WEEK AND WORKED $\frac{1}{2}$ DAY SATURDAY DOING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AROUND THE HOSPITAL, CREAMERY, AND COTTAGES, I REMEMBER THE DAY JACK HARTE CAME FROM EAST THE ROAD ON HIS MOTOR BIKE WITH BELT PLIERS AND CLIMBERS TO START WORK IN CASTLETOWN FOR ABOUT 3 YEARS, MICKIE O'ROURKE CAME FOR A SHORT TIME AFTERWARDS, PAT SMITH R.I.P. CAME IN 63 UNTIL 66 AND ON TO NEWCASTLEWEST FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS LIFE, THEN CAME JOHN MURPHY FROM BANDON FOLLOWED BY SEAN CONNOLLY FROM DURRUS, THEN FRANCIS LEHANE FROM BALLYDONEGAN IN 1972 UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT, FOLLOWED BY THE PRESEST MAN MIKE CAHIL FROM KILLARNEY.

THAT'S ABOUT MY LOT I COULD GO ON AND ON

JOE HOULIHAN