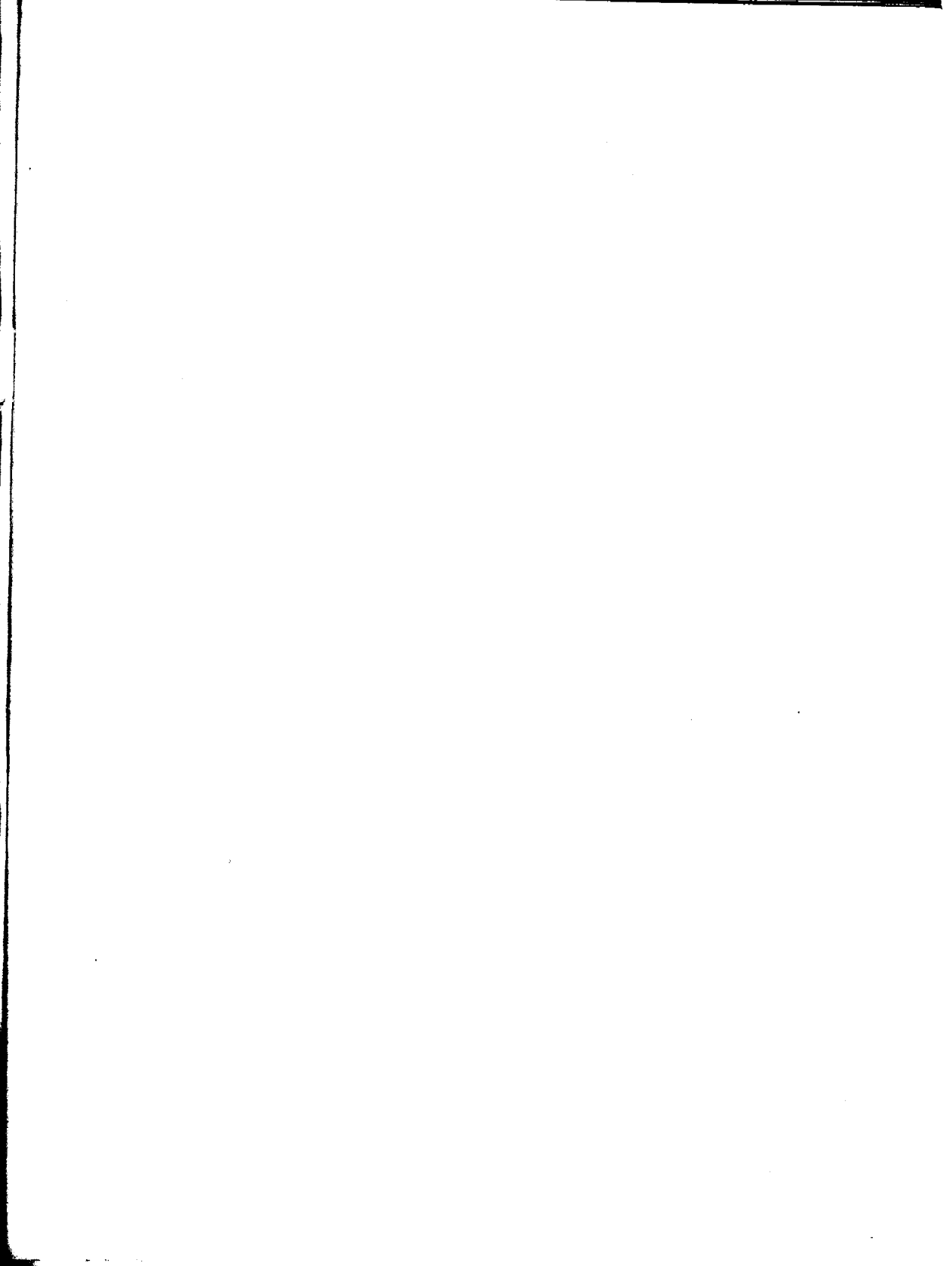
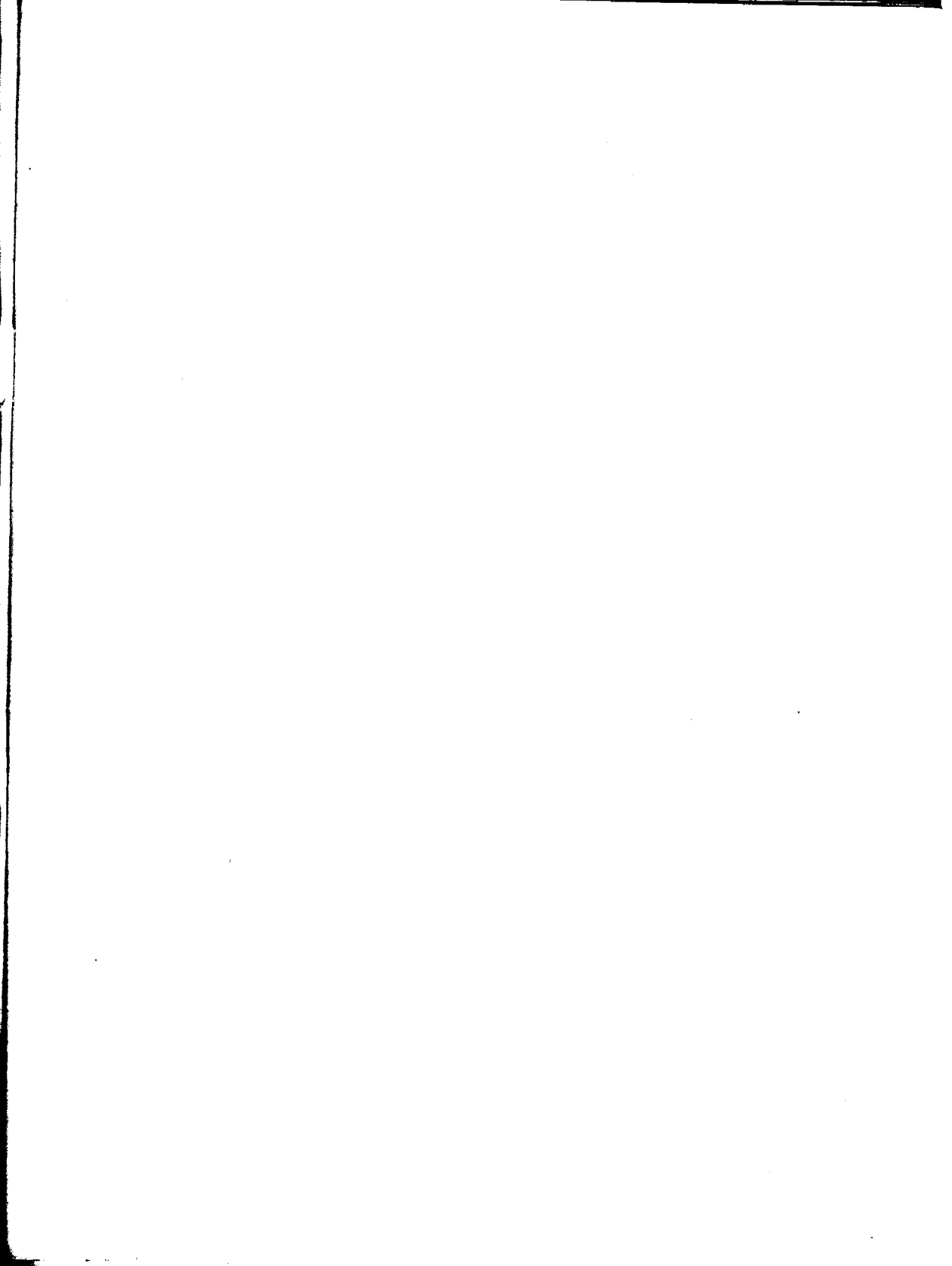


THE GRANITE HILLS



A Guide to Killiney and Ballybrack





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

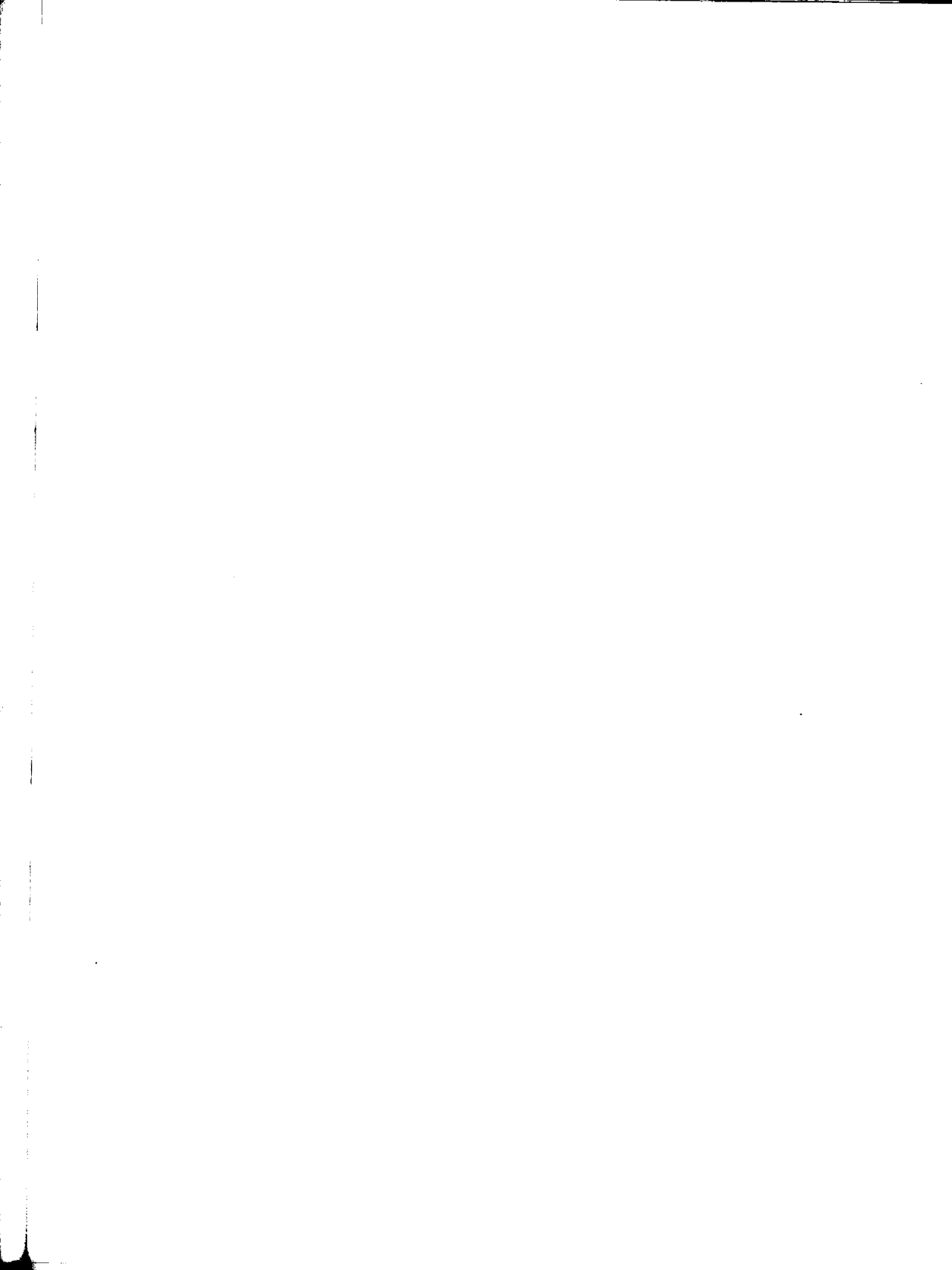
*"The men of Ireland are mortal and temporal,
but her hills are eternal."*

G.B. Shaw

This booklet is about the neighbourhood of the three hills whose rugged mass dominates the coastline from Dublin to Bray – Killiney Hill with its obelisk, flanked by Rocheshill and Dalkey Hill surmounted by Telegraph Castle. A short walk from any of the approach roads will reward you with splendid views of South County Dublin, the Wicklow mountains and the seascape from Bray to Howth. The 200 acres of open spaces on these hills constitute one of the major amenity areas in the county, and are a continual source of pleasure to the residents of Ballybrack, Killiney and Dalkey.

To share with you the attractions of our district and the pleasure we had in learning about its history, its people and its natural assets, we have prepared this guide. Taking Killiney Hill as the centre, and covering an area of about 3 miles radius, it includes an 8½ mile drive around the district and several interesting walks.*

**Compiled by The Irish Countrywomen's Association, Ballybrack Guild.*



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

THE EARLY SETTLERS, 3000 B.C. – 500 A.D.

It is difficult to stand on Killiney Hill today and imagine the surrounding district without a single inhabitant – nothing but bare rocks, dense forests and wild creatures. The first people in these parts came down the East Coast and settled on Dalkey Island. Flint tools and charcoal from their kitchen midden tell us that they were hunters and fishers who lived about 3000 B.C. The dolmens at Ballybrack, Brennanstown and Kiltarnan are evidence of later settlers who penetrated inland along the river valleys. They wrested land from the forest and farmed it with their primitive implements. They must have had a stable form of government, a considerable labour force and an intellectual class to plan and erect the dolmens, stone circles and monuments which abound in the area. We may surmise that these primitive people worshipped the Sun, Moon, Stars, Fire and Water, and their Priests or Druids were very learned men, with profound belief in the Afterlife. ~~The old name for the Ballybrack dolmen was Labbanasee, which could be translated as the Bed or Grave of the Learned Men (Leaba na Saoithe).~~ Many other monuments of this period have been recorded – a dolmen surrounded by a stone circle on Dalkey Common, another on Killiney Hill, Cloch Thobair Ghailine which overhung a holy well on Dalkey Hill, and the cemetery mound now known as the Druid's Chair.

THE EARLY CHRISTIANS 500 A.D. – 1100 A.D.

Centuries of primitive agriculture using stone and iron tools made little change in the landscape, other than to reduce the forests. This territory of Cuala was a wild area of bogs, woods and stony pastures. Here and there were small groups of round mud and wattle huts, perhaps enclosed in ringforts as at Rathmichael, and, dating from the 6th and 7th centuries, the early Celtic Christian churches or cills (see map). There was a cill named for St. Mochunna, Bishop of Holmpatrick at the old graveyard of Carrickbrennan and St. Fintan's cill at Clonkeen. Tully Church was associated with St. Brigid, who may have been a sister of the daughters of Leinin who established the Church at Killiney. St. Mac Tail of Glencullen founded Rathmichael and St. Begnet the Churches at Dalkey and Dalkey Island (Kilbegnet and Deilginis). The original cills were tiny

wooden huts, but the later stone buildings on the same sites are still to be seen. Some developed into monastic settlements like Rathmichael, Clonkeen and Carrickbrennan.

On Dalkey Island and at Dun Laoghaire (Laoghaire's Fort), a stone or earthen fortification guarded against foreign invasions. These did not prevent the Norse raiders who plundered the churches, monasteries and farms along the coast for many years. At Rathmichael, the monks started to build a round tower to protect the monastery, but it was left unfinished, perhaps because the Danes had by then established themselves at Dalkey, and for over a century they traded with England and the Continent. A hoard of 12th century Saxon coins was found on the site of a Dalkey castle, and a coffin at Killiney contained Danish and Saxon coins.

THE NORMANS, 1172 – 1539

1172 saw the Irish troops encamped at Dalkey in a vain attempt to prevent the Norman Conquest of Ireland. The Normans appropriated and apportioned lands with scant regard for the Irish system of land tenure. Dalkey was granted by Hugh de Lacy to the See of Dublin, and became known as the Port of the Archbishop of Dublin. Because of the deep water in the Sound and the shelter given by the Island, for 400 years it was the port at which cargoes for Dublin were unloaded and passengers disembarked. The tolls and customs were spent walling and paving the town. A weekly market was held on Wednesdays and seven fairs annually. Ships moored in the Sound and boats unloaded their cargoes at the Corn Rock, Salt Rock and Coal Quay; the goods were hauled across the Common to be stored in one of the seven castles before being dispatched to Dublin. From this time Coliemore got its name (An Caladh Mor - The Big Harbour). The town contributed 200 men-at-arms for the county levy. Even though Dalkey was in one of the four obedient Shires of the Pale, and, thereby, enjoyed the protection of English laws, it was not proof against the frequent raids of the dispossessed O'Byrnes and O'Tooles from the surrounding hills. Loyal Norman subjects – Walshs, Harolds, Archbalds, Talbots etc. were granted land on the borders of the Pale. They lit fires on the hilltops to warn the inhabitants of the approach of a raiding party, at which signal people and cattle sought refuge in the bawn or courtyard of the castle.

Before the Norman conquest, two Dublin monasteries had been endowed with land in this area by Irish Chieftains, the Augustinian Priory of the Holy Trinity, and the Cistercian Abbey of St. Mary. Now English monks replaced the Irish, bringing with them improved methods of farming and fishing. The monks of St. Mary's Abbey built a castle at Monkstown to guard their farm at Carrickbrennan and one at Bullock, where they had a pier and took a toll of fish from every boat entering the harbour. They also dispensed hospitality to travellers.

The farm of the Priory of the Holy Trinity at Clonkeen (Kill of the Grange) likewise flourished and included all the land from Killiney to

Murphystown at the foot of Three Rock Mountain. The Accounts Roll of the Priory traces the seasonal pattern of a settled agricultural structure. The farm was worked for the monks, and the nearby village (Town of the Grange) had 35 houses for employees including a bailiff, 2 smiths, a weaver and chamberlain. There was a church, served by a clerk and a seneschal to look after the weapons etc. of the men-at-arms whom the Priory contributed to the County militia. The Prior had civil responsibilities and held court at Kill of the Grange. Farm work engaged a large labour force, drawn from the surrounding district – an average of 30 men for three weeks in harvest time.

The medieval scene from the top of Killiney Hill was a peaceful one. The huge parish of Killiney which then included Loughlinstown, Ballybrack and Hackettsland was inhabited by cottagers who contributed 15 reapers at harvest and did 'divers works' on the home farm of the Priory. Dalkey Sound was crowded with shipping and the streets of the town were full of busy merchants. Beyond the demesne of the Priory, the Goodmans of Loughlinstown and Rochestown and the Talbots of Fassaroe guarded the lands of the Pale from the Irish, becoming in the process 'more Irish than the Irish themselves'.

The Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 by Henry VIII brought many changes. The Priory was reconstituted as the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral, the Prior becoming the first Dean and the Canons Prebendaries. The demesne lands were let. St. Mary's Abbey became Crown Property. Monkstown Castle and lands were granted to Sir John Travers. Bullock was then a walled town with a church, a castle and tower, 2 houses, 6 cottages and a pier. It was leased by the Crown to Peter Talbot of Fassaroe, and when he was killed fighting off kerns, passed to the Fagans of Feltrim, under whom it prospered. St. Mary's Abbey also had property in Dalkey which came into the possession of Peter Talbot. The Cathedral received tithes and owned land in Dalkey which it leased to tenants.

SIXTY YEARS OF STRIFE, 1641 – 1700

Life became more and more difficult for the Anglo-Irish landowners who were Catholics, and in 1641 they rebelled. All South County Dublin was in revolt. John Fagan of Bullock gave assistance to the rebels so Bullock was attacked, and 56 of its inhabitants drowned. Carrickmines Castle was the H.Q. of the rebels, and Fagan sent fish and a small cannon to his relatives the Walshes there. Carrickmines was razed to the ground, Bullock was seized and garrisoned with a force of 60 men and 7 N.C.Os. The rebels descended on Dean's Grange and carried off cattle and hanged the wife and maid of the Curate. In the ensuing battle a large force of soldiers routed the rebels, killing 100. The rebel families Walsh of Carrickmines, Fagan of Bullock and Goodman of Loughlinstown among others were attainted and their lands confiscated.

The Down Survey of 1657 lists the parishes at that time and the townlands they contained.

THE LANDED PROPRIETORS, 1700 – 1800

The 18th Century brought many changes to the district. The Rochestown estate, including Killiney Hill, which had been granted to the Talbots by the Crown in 1218 for the annual rent of 1 goshawk, was claimed by the Mapas family of Co. Louth, and developed to make 3 large houses, each with its own property – Mount Mapas on Killiney Hill where lead was mined intermittently from 1751 on, Rochestown House which had a bowling green, pleasure grounds and a brewery, and Granitefield with its fine trees, vineries and hothouses.

Loughlinstown was granted to the Attorney General, Sir William Domville in 1660 who built a house and bred cattle and horses there. Later in the century Owen Bray dispensed hospitality to travellers and the local gentry at the Inn, and many wild revels took place there.

On Rocheshill the townland of Ballinlecka is mentioned as the property of Sir Oliver Crofton, a 'rollicking blade' who was at loggerheads with his neighbour.

A detailed description of the district in 1768 is given by Peter Wilson. Writing from Dalkey Lodge he describes the ruinous state of Dalkey which had been superseded by Ringsend as the Port of Dublin – 'ruined castles and church, some good houses and about 20 cabins, which served indiscriminately for the owners, their cattle and swine'. On Muglins Island the bodies of two pirates hung in chains. Rochestown demesne had good plantations with sheep and bulls grazing on the pastures. 'The air here is remarkably healthy; frost seldom becomes intense, nor snow remains longer than 48 hours Goats' whey in perfection may be had from the adjacent hills'. He lists the improvements made at Roxboro' (formerly Mount Mapas) by Lord Loftus, and says Bullock was a fair ancient town of fishing where Mr Watson's house under the shelter of the castle was renowned for its hospitality.

In 1726, Dean Swift, on his return from England anchored in Dalkey Sound and was given a civic welcome. Dalkey Island was the scene of boating excursions by the Viceroy while staying at Blackrock House, and sod parties on Dalkey Common were a fashionable entertainment for the gentry. Towards the end of the century revels were held on Dalkey Island, and each year "King" Stephen Armitage, a Dublin pawnbroker was crowned with mock solemnity. Hundreds came out from Dublin to join in the merrymaking, and Thomas Moore wrote the Coronation Ode for 1797. Because of the liberal views of the "Court" and the political satire connected with the ceremonies, they became suspect, and the revels came to an end.

THE SECOND 'STONE AGE', 1800 – 1900

Fears of a Napoleonic Invasion at the beginning of the 19th Century led to the presence of a big military camp at Lehaunstown and the building of several Martello towers and batteries as the area from Dalkey to Bray was considered most vulnerable. Unfortunately, the stone circle and dolmen

on Dalkey Common, the Rocking Stone at Bullock and Cloch Thobar Ghalline were destroyed at this time, and used as building stones. It is sad to think that these relics of the past, having survived for thousands of years were demolished, and that the remaining ones are in danger today from vandals and developers.

The large estates of the previous century often became encumbered, and in 1811 over 100 acres of the Domviles at Ballybrack were leased to Messrs Moore and Oxley with the proviso that they build houses of good quality. A map of 1843 shows about 30 such good houses between Killiney and Loughlinstown with plenty of open ground which was ridden over by the Kilruddery and Powerscourt hunts. In 1815, the young Duke of Dorset was thrown from his horse while hunting, and died in Mr Oxley's house.

As the district became more fashionable and 'desirable residences' were built, mostly of local granite from Rocheshill, more antiquities were discovered.

Between the Druid's Chair and the shore an ancient burying place was uncovered wherein slate coffins were laid in rows of 10, and 15 large urns of baked clay containing calcined bones were dug up in a field near Killiney.

The Dalkey granite quarries yielded vast quantities of stone, some of which was used to build Dun Laoghaire Harbour which was started in 1817. The wagons conveyed the stone along a track called the Metals to the pier by a funicular system. Dalkey Hill village grew up at the base of the quarries, and a windmill on the 'Flags' pumped water up to it from 1860 to 1899.

With the coming of the railway to Ballybrack in 1854 the population increased rapidly, and land in this vicinity was in great demand for building, as Dublin was now only 25 minutes away. A map of the Killiney — Loughlinstown area shows over 60 large residences in 1871, with a Police Barracks, Post Office, shops and tradesmen's premises at Ballybrack. The larger population is reflected in the building of 5 churches between 1835 and 1860 at Dalkey, Ballybrack and Killiney, and the formation of Townships where previously there had been isolated villages. The building of upperclass residences continued until the end of the 19th century, and the district had a distinctly West British appearance. But the hard core of Irish peasantry survived, and names like Mullin, Byrne and Cullen figure in the records. Michael Davitt, who lived in Land League Cottage, now Rose Lawn, in Ballybrack, campaigned for tenants rights, and the balance was restored when in 1899 the Killiney and Ballybrack Town Commissioners started a programme of working class houses.

Looking from Killiney Hill at the district today with its many housing estates, one realises how many changes have taken place over the years, how interesting it is to record them, and how necessary to preserve, for future generations, the heritage we enjoy.

A DRIVE AROUND THE HILLS

A car tour — approximately 8½ miles.

We start our tour from Killiney Station, approximately midway along Killiney Bay. From our starting point can be seen Dalkey Island and Sorrento Point, both of which will be discussed later on. We also get a splendid view of Killiney Hill. We start out following the railway, with the Court Hotel on our left hand side. This house, formerly known as Courtna-Farraga has a delightful story attached to its origin. It was built using the proceeds of a legacy by the nurse of the Exham family, for the family with the stipulation that she might be allowed to continue in their service.

We turn inland into Strathmore Road, passing on our right "Undercliff", once the home of the Starkie family, and further up on the left the Canadian Embassy. At the next junction we turn right into Vico Road, again seeing the great granite bulk of Killiney Hill. Three or four hundred yards along, we pull the car into the right hand side where the wall is low and admire the views. Southwards we see the sweep of Killiney Bay to Bray and both Big and Little Sugarloaf Mountains. Northwards we see again Dalkey Island and Sorrento Point. On our right the Vico Fields slope towards the sea; this land was purchased in the 1920s by public subscription to prevent further building on this beauty spot.

A path runs from here to White Rock, a very popular bathing place. Where the cliff juts out into the sea at this point, the rock formation is interesting as it displays the junction of the granite which forms the predominating rock of Dalkey and Killiney Hills, with the under-lying mica-schist.

Continuing on our way, we drive to the end of Vico Road until we reach Sorrento Road where we turn right, as we do so, seeing our last glimpse of Killiney Bay through the trees in the grounds of Sorrento Cottage. This house was for many years the home of Lennox Robinson, the playwright. We pass the fine Victorian houses of Sorrento Terrace. A sharp turn left at the end shows us Sorrento Park, the last remnant of Dalkey Commons and almost immediately to the right another small park, known locally as Miss Dillon's Park, extends to the cliffs at Sorrento Point and eastwards to Dalkey Sound. This was the scene of a curious episode in the early 19th century, when ETTY Scott, a miner's daughter, experienced a vivid dream of a hoard of Danish gold in this spot, to which the miners staked their claim and began their search, only to be foiled by the exploits of some medical students who painted two black cats with phosphorus,

tied their tails together, and released them at night, thoroughly terrifying the treasure seekers with what appeared to be spectral visions and supernatural screams!

We continue on to Coliemore Harbour, said by some to be the smallest in the world. Until the port of Dublin was developed, ships used this part of the coast with its sheltered anchorage, to discharge their cargoes for Dublin. There was no real harbour, salt, wine, coal, etc. were unloaded at certain rocks and then transported over the common to Dalkey for safe-keeping. The present harbour was completed in 1867. Across the bay may be seen the peninsula of Howth and just across the sound is Dalkey Island and the Muglins Rock with its automatic lighthouse. Dalkey Island may be visited by boat from Coliemore Harbour. Nowadays, the only inhabitants are goats and colonies of seabirds, but the ruins of St. Begnet's Church, the Martello Tower and the Battery Fort may be explored. The garrison on the island was forgotten in military circles after the battle of Waterloo, and remained for a further 40 years. Towards the end of the 18th century revels were held on the island and a well-known personality was 'crowned' annually, as 'king'.

We leave this delightful spot and follow Coliemore Road until we reach Dalkey where we turn sharp right at a garage into Convent Road. At the intersection with Leslie Avenue we bear left into Harbour Road, formerly known as Ballast Office Road. ^{who?} On our left is a house called Charleville with a tower built by an emigre French Royalist Officer as a look-out so that he could have advance warning of any landing by French invaders, in order to make his escape in time. Beside this house is St. Patrick's Church of Ireland.

As we descend the hill we see the great piers of Dun Laoghaire Harbour and the two high chimneys of the Pigeon House Power Station. Bulloch Harbour is a little further on to the right, with its many small brightly coloured pleasure boats. This is a very ancient harbour, as long ago as 1346 the Cistercian monks of St. Mary's Abbey, the builders of Bullock Castle, established the right to one fish (herrings excepted) from every fishing boat entering the harbour and from every herring boat a "meise" about 600 fish annually. The present harbour was built in the mid-18th century to export granite from the quarries in Dalkey.

We continue up the hill to the junction with Ulverton Road, where we turn left, passing Castle Park School on our right and on our left the ancient castle of Bullock, which has been restored and is now a museum open during the summer months. A nursing home is maintained in its grounds by the Carmelite Sisters. Continuing along Ulverton Road we see in front of us the great granite quarry of Dalkey, eventually reaching the historic small town of Dalkey, well worth a visit on foot; with ample car parking available beside the Church of the Assumption in Castle Street.

Castle Street has been the main street of Dalkey for over 700 years. At its junction with Ulverton Road stood one of the seven 12th century castles of Dalkey – Wolverton's Castle. At that time Dalkey was the port

of Dublin and these "castles" were built as warehouses, where merchandise and valuables landed at the port could be protected against the predatory incursions of "The Irish" until they could be safely escorted to Dublin. It is thought that to the left – at the junction of Barnhill Road and Dalkey Avenue – there was probably a toll-gate, just outside the walls of the town, where the old road from Dublin met the road to Loughlinstown.

Proceeding along Castle Street we see the Town Hall on the left which incorporates the remains of Goats' Castle, restored by the Town Commissioners in 1863, and beside this the remains of St. Begnet's 7th Century Church and an ancient graveyard. Across the road, beside the Church of the Assumption, which was completed in 1840, are the ruins of Archbold's Castle.

Continuing on our drive, we leave Dalkey by retracing our way along Castle Street, turning sharp left at the end up Dalkey Avenue. In a short distance we cross a bridge where a celtic cross may be seen carved into the stonework on the left hand side. Here in the penal days, coffins, used to be rested and prayers said on the way to the burial ground at Dalkey. Later on we note on our left the path of paving stones known as the "Flags" – the old path used by the men who quarried the great blocks of granite which were used to build Dun Laoghaire Harbour between 1817 and 1859. Their cottages were on Ard Brugh Road and this was the track used to bring the stone to Dun Laoghaire. We continue on passing Killiney Castle on our left, and later on Holy Trinity Church, to Killiney Village where we bear right down Killiney Hill Road, eventually taking a sharp right turn into Killiney Avenue. On our right is a very interesting feature called the 'Druid's Chair', also well worth a visit on foot. So, we leave the car and turn right along the wall of the house known as 'Druid Hill' to reach it.

The Druid's Chair was originally a cemetery mound containing three stone-lined graves, surrounded by a kerb of upright stones. At some time prior to 1778 it was opened and some of the stones re-arranged to form a chair and enclosed in a circle of oak trees, some of which still survive. In recent times the chair has been vandalised, but it is hoped that in the near future it will be restored. In the centre of the circle stand two stones, the subjects of much speculation, one of which is inscribed with a circle and an arc.

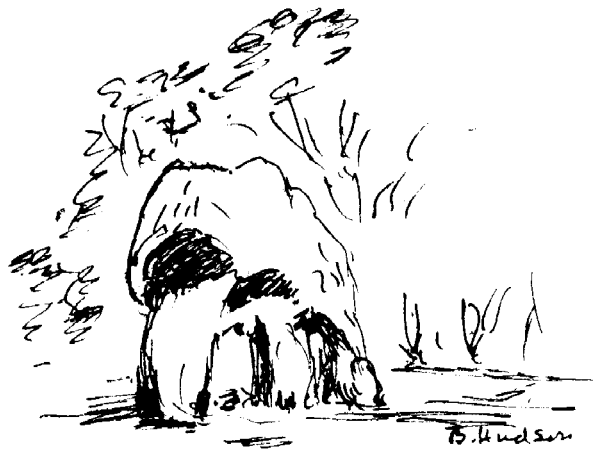
Having visited the Druid's Chair, we return to our drive; the road takes a turn left and we see on our left a red brick house with a Dutch gable which was the Town Hall when Killiney was a separate administrative district.



At the end of Killiney Avenue we join the

splendid new dual carriageway, seeing on our right the Parish Church of St. Matthias (1835). In front of us is a magnificent panorama of mountain scenery — Little Sugarloaf to the left, Big Sugarloaf, Kattigallagher — a corruption of Carrick Gollogan and Ballycorus, topped by its tall chimney, used in former times by the lead smeltingworks at the foot of the hill. At the end of the dual carriageway, a huge sycamore tree used to stand in the middle of the road. Once a mass meeting for Land Reform was held there by Michael Davitt and Charles Stewart Parnell. Here we turn left along the Bray Road. We pass "The Silver Tassie" formerly a school on our right. Later we see the large building of Loughlinstown Hospital, built in 1841 as the Rathdown Union Workhouse, to accommodate 600 paupers. Opposite this building we turn left into Commons Road, by the Loughlinstown river — a very pretty road. On our left we see the trees of Loughlinstown House, formerly the home of the Domville family and now used by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working conditions.

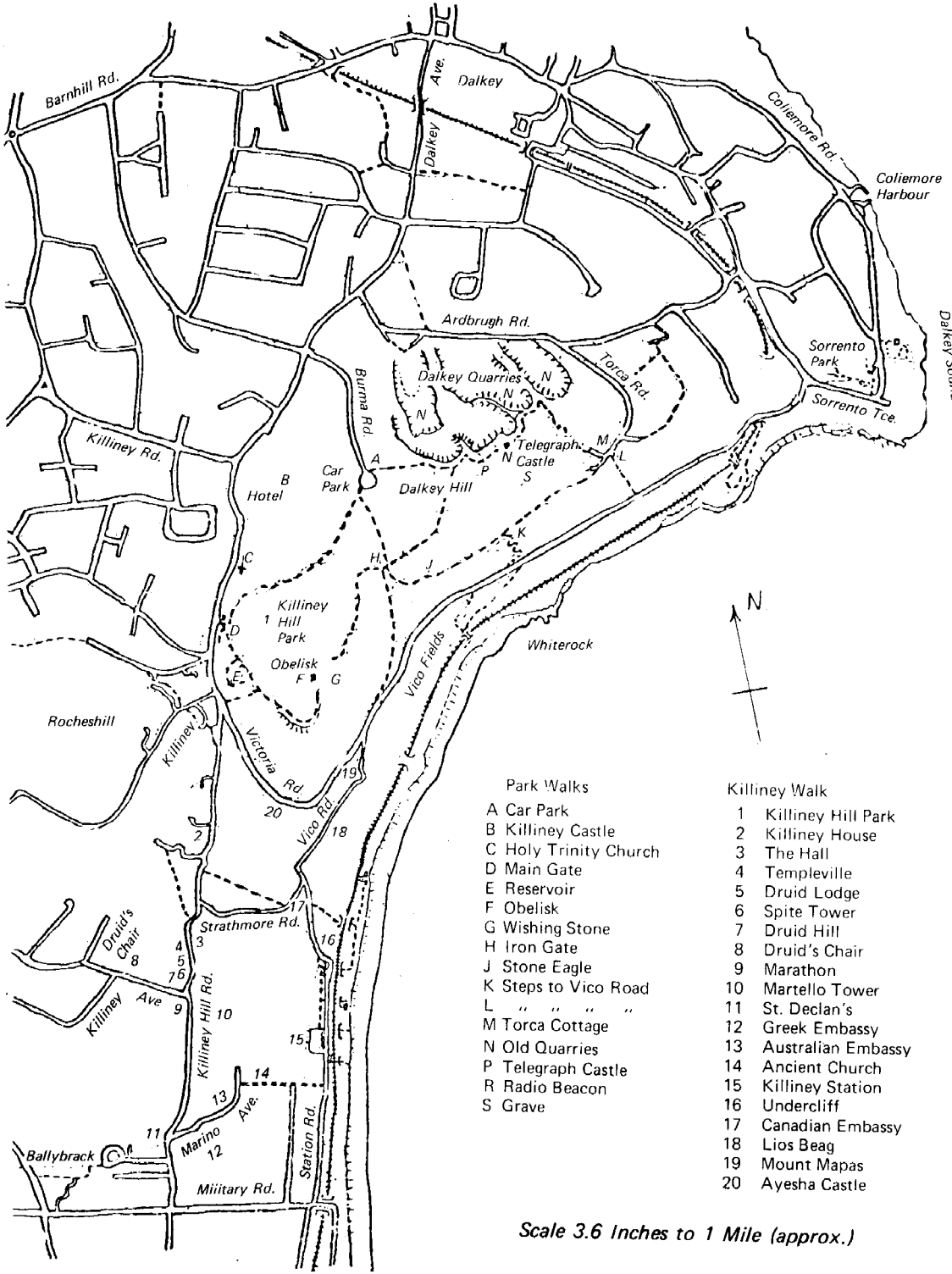
At the end of Commons Road we turn left at the stop sign and immediately cross a bridge, seeing Killiney and Dalkey Hills ahead. We bear left at the signpost marked "Dun Laoghaire" into Ballybrack Village. In a field on the left of the road stands a Portal Dolmen, known generally as the Ballybrack or Shanganagh Cromlech. This 5000 year old tomb is the only surviving dolmen in the Borough. On the opposite side of the road is a house called "Farm Lodge" originally part of the Loughlinstown House property, one of the walled gardens of which was the Stallions Yard, the house itself possibly lived in by the grooms.



We soon reach Ballybrack, which has recently developed rapidly from a small village to a thriving dormitory suburb.

At the crossroads in Ballybrack we turn right into Military Road which leads us back to the sea. This road was built to give access to the Battery which stood on the cliffs and was a vital link in the chain of defences against a possible French invasion in the beginning of the 19th Century. On the left we see a house called "Roselawn" which was the home of Michael Davitt and at one time called "Poverty Hall".

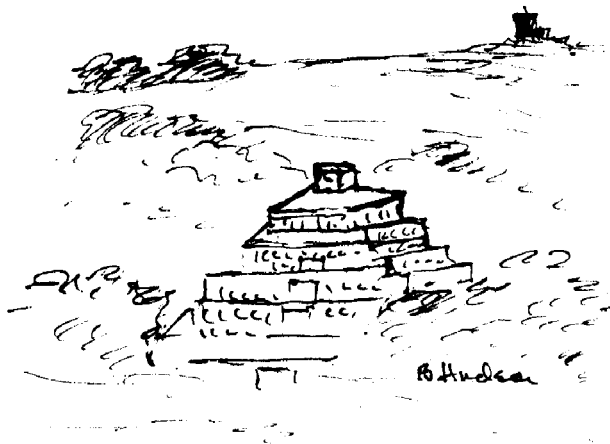
At the end of Military Road we meet again the railway and turning left, parallel to the sea coast, in a short distance arrive back at our starting point, Killiney Station.



- Park Walks**
- A Car Park
 - B Killiney Castle
 - C Holy Trinity Church
 - D Main Gate
 - E Reservoir
 - F Obelisk
 - G Wishing Stone
 - H Iron Gate
 - J Stone Eagle
 - K Steps to Vico Road
 - L " " "
 - M Torca Cottage
 - N Old Quarries
 - P Telegraph Castle
 - R Radio Beacon
 - S Grave

- Killiney Walk**
- 1 Killiney Hill Park
 - 2 Killiney House
 - 3 The Hall
 - 4 Templeville
 - 5 Druid Lodge
 - 6 Spite Tower
 - 7 Druid Hill
 - 8 Druid's Chair
 - 9 Marathon
 - 10 Martello Tower
 - 11 St. Declan's
 - 12 Greek Embassy
 - 13 Australian Embassy
 - 14 Ancient Church
 - 15 Killiney Station
 - 16 Undercliff
 - 17 Canadian Embassy
 - 18 Lios Beag
 - 19 Mount Mapas
 - 20 Ayesha Castle

Scale 3.6 Inches to 1 Mile (approx.)



WISHING STONE

WALKS IN THE PARK

- No. 1 From Burmah (Burton) Road Car Park around Killiney Hill – distance 1 mile
 No. 2 As above, continued to include Dalkey Hill – distance 2 miles

WALK NO. 1

We leave the car park by the path that bears right, with Killiney Castle downhill on our right. This was one of the principal residences of the district and the 150 acre estate included all Killiney Hill. Col. John Mapas built the original house about 1740 and called it Mount Mapas; it was later owned by a Mr Maunsell who changed the name to Roxborough and in 1764 Henry Loftus, Viscount of Ely, bought the estate and called it Loftus Hill. He cut a carriage-way round the hill and planted the west side with trees and shrubs. In 1790 the property was taken by Lord Clonmel, (Copperfaced Jack) who employed 200 men to work on the estate and stocked it with deer. Robert Warren owned it in 1840. He enlarged the house, calling it Killiney Castle, restored and added to the monuments on the hill, and built several fine houses in the neighbourhood, one of which, Wyvern, opposite the Castle, was occupied by his son.

The path enters the wood and continues through a gap in the wall. On the right, apartment blocks occupy the ground between the Castle and Holy Trinity Church.

Now we come to the stone lodge at the entrance gates. When the park belonged to the Castle this was the Keeper's house, and here he admitted privileged persons to admire the view from the obelisk and partake of refreshments on the hill as we see them doing in 19th century prints. Many of us remember when the lodge was used as a cafe.

The park was purchased by Queen Victoria's Jubilee Memorials Association from Robert Warren Jr. for a nominal sum. It was opened for public use, and named Victoria Park by Prince Albert Victor of Wales in 1887. The names of the trustees may be seen on the pillars at the entrance.

As we proceed up the main avenue we pass a modern reservoir and pumping station. The barn-like structure at the head of the steps up from Killiney village was used for socials and dancing on summer evenings.

A little further up we can lean on the wall overlooking the village. On a fine day there is a wonderful vista of Killiney beach, the Vale of Shanganagh, Bray Head and the Wicklow mountains. Below us is the beautiful granite tower of Ayesha Castle, originally called Victoria Castle and built by Mr Warren about 1830.

The obelisk on the summit is a landmark to be seen for many miles. The inscription on the plaque reads 'Last year being hard with the poor, the walks about these hills and this were erected by John Mapas., June 1742'. Originally there was a flight of steps up the outside to the balcony and a door at ground level, which has been bricked up due to vandalism. It was repaired by Mr Warren in 1840.

Across the sea to the east we see Dalkey Island. Walking in this direction we come to the Wishing Stone, dated MDCCCLII (1852), a curio quite undocumented, but legend says that if you walk around each level from base to top and stand facing the Holy Island of Magee (Dalkey Island) your wish will be granted. Never mind the legend — the view is worth the effort.

There is another little obelisk to the right of the Wishing Stone known as Boucher's obelisk, but with Mount Mapas inscribed on it. John Mapas left monies for a memorial to be built to his family, and this may be it.

From the tarmacadamed path on the sea side of the hill there is a good view of Sorrento Terrace. Killiney Bay has been compared with the Bay of Naples hence there are a lot of Italian names on houses here, Monte Alverno, San Elmo, Capri, etc.. On the left there is a stone 'chair' and one of the picnic tables that were built on the hill; these and the flights of steps, granite walls and cobblestone drains bear witness to the amount of work the various owners put into the estate.

Where the paths meet below the steps there is an iron gate on the left, and the path through the gate along the wood leads back to the car park.

WALK NO. 2

This walk continues through the more recently acquired Dalkey Hill section by taking the path opposite the gate on the left hand side of the old wall. This is called the Green Road as it was greensward until due to increased usage the corporation had to tarmacadam it. It was part of the carriage way laid out by Viscount Loftus and would have been used by Mr Warren to gain access to the Railway.

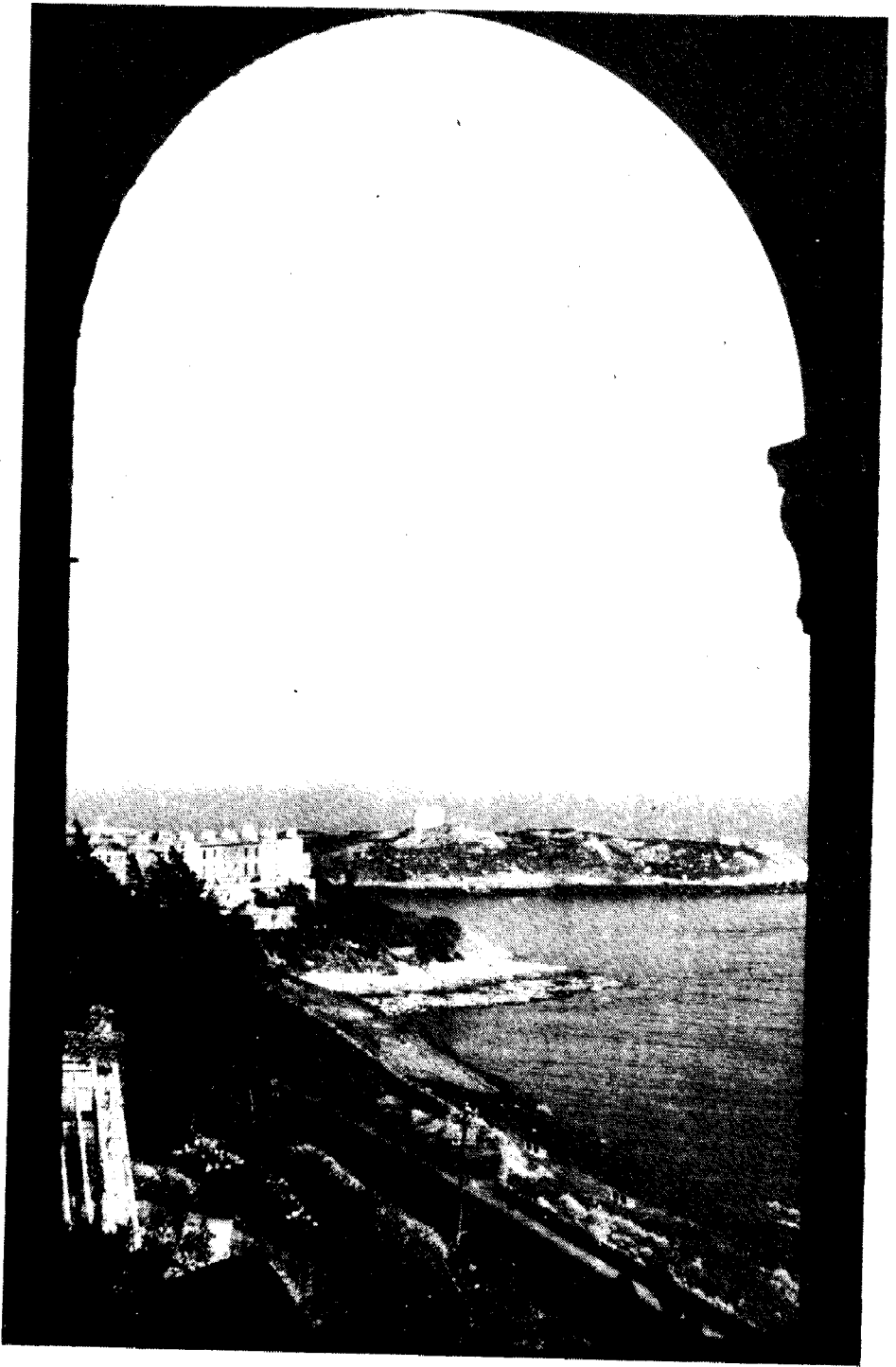
Standing here above White Rock beach we get a view of the railway which was extended from Dalkey to Ballybrack in 1854. When it became known that the line was to be constructed as far as Bray this caused much building speculation and land became very valuable. Between 1851 and 1861 the population increased by 60%. At first there were two stations on this section of the line; Ballybrack and Seafield Road where the Station House can still be seen, and Obelisk Hill, described as 'perched halfway up a cliff in Mr Warren's Deerpark', probably a concession for allowing the line through his property. We think it was sited on the ramparts to the left of the footbridge. It only lasted 3½ years and in 1859 a new station was opened at the bottom of Strathmore Hill, on the site of an old fort. When the double tracks were laid in 1882, the present Killiney Station was built on Station Road to serve the whole area.

At sea level to the left of the footbridge is a cave known as Decco's Cave, from an Italian who lived there. It was originally the opening to a lead mine on Killiney Hill which was worked for some years from 1751. When the railway was being constructed, more lead was found, but it was soon exhausted. A narrow passage leads to a larger chamber where there are footholds cut in the rock by the miners. The shaft has been blocked up for safety. The ore was exported to England. It was taken out to the ships in barges which were floated ashore on one tide, filled with ore and refloated on the next high tide. One of the skippers engaged in this work was a Mr Homan, ancestor of the present owner of the White Cottage on Killiney Beach where boats may be hired for fishing and pleasure trips.

Up on the side of the hill behind us is the Vico Eagle, probably a natural phenomenon, but it may have been fashioned from local granite by two brothers Joe and Tom Cooper, stone masons, who lived in a lodge at the end of this path.

There was a tea house or summer bungalow past the first flight of steps down to Vico Road. Mrs Chippendall Higgin bought it at the Dublin Exhibition of 1907 and used it to entertain guests. It is at this point that the carriage drive used to wind down in hairpin bends to the Vico Road. It has now been built over.

The Green Road leads on to Torca Road and on the right a flight of steps known locally as the Cats' Ladder connects with the coast road. A little farther on the left is Torca Cottage. George Bernard Shaw lived here from 1866 to 1874. He once remarked that he was the product of Dalkey's outlook.



A VIEW OF DALKEY ISLAND

We turn back and take the right of way beside Mount Henry which is signposted for Dalkey Hill. The path runs above the disused Dalkey Quarries. Looking down on the grass floor, one can see the outline of the tennis courts of the long defunct Torca Tennis Club. The Quarry was also the site of the Dalkey Rifle Range; during shooting competitions a man used to hold a red flag on the road to avoid accidents.

Dalkey Hill is often called Telegraph Hill from the tower or castle on the top which was built about 1807 as a signalling station to communicate between the Martello towers along the coast, which were part of the defences against a possible French invasion. It was used to store ammunition for blasting when the quarries were in use and it also housed prisoners during the Civil War. It was repaired by Robert Warren and later by the Borough Corporation.

We shall stop here and look down on the quarries below, which with other Dalkey quarries provided the material for many of the buildings seen in the distance, Dun Laoghaire Harbour, the South Walls of the Liffey and as far away as Bristol and London. Skilled stone cutters were brought over from Scotland and Dalkey Hill Village grew up at the foot of the quarries. The stone was loaded on horse drawn trucks and hauled down a metal-plated track (known as the Metals) to Dun Laoghaire. 'A friction wheel on the quarry floor enabled the full trucks to bring the empty ones back there, where the tracks spread out like fingers of a hand to the quarry face.' Now the quarry is used by mountaineering clubs who find the rock faces useful for climbing practice.

One most obvious landmark is Dun Laoghaire Harbour, built of granite taken from here. The east pier was started in 1817, but the work on the Harbour went on for many years. George IV of England visited Dublin in 1821; he landed at Howth on 12th August and departed from Kingstown on 3rd September, having given his name to the town and the harbour. Up to this time the place had been called Dunleary – the fort of Leary. The growth of the town dates from this period.

Below us is the town of Dalkey, which deserves a historical guide of its own, but is described briefly in 'A Drive Around the Hills', page 13.

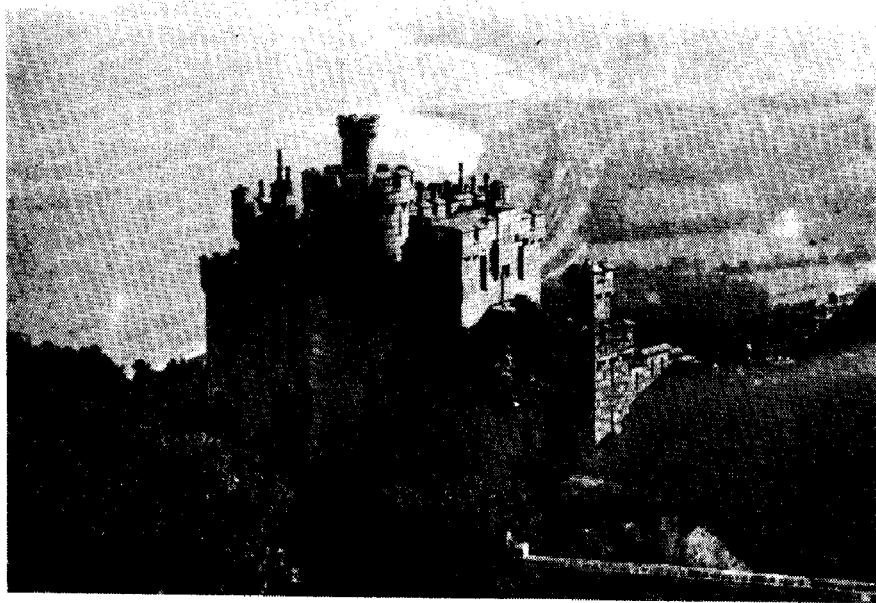
Farther along the summit of the hill is a Radio Beacon, used as a navigation aid for aircraft. It marks the 10 mile radius from Dublin Airport.

Looking down from the seaward side of the beacon, we can see a broken celtic cross. One owner of the property loved the view so much that he requested to be buried here. The inscription reads:

Dust thou art, to dust returneth,
Was not written of the Soul.

Thomas Chippendall Higgin
July 16, MCMXI (1911)

Beyond the beacon, the path follows the wall by the quarry down through the wood to the car park.



AYESHA CASTLE

A WALK AROUND KILLINEY

Killiney village – Killiney Hill Road – Marino Avenue – Station Road – Vico Road – Victoria Road – Killiney. Distance 2 miles (of which two-thirds of a mile is uphill)

Killiney village nestles on the east side of Rocheshill, nearly 500 ft. above Killiney Bay, with a fine view over the Vale of Shanganagh and the north

