

When I was a child, my father wore a Panama hat and had a belt and braces of plaited leather that he had made himself in a New York factory. Born in a Waterford farmhouse in 1898, he was referred to as 'the Yank' because of a sojourn in the USA in the 1920s and 1930s. In an era when adults did the talking, we children were imprisoned listeners for his reminiscences around the kitchen table.

The Empire State Building, he told us, was the tallest building in the world. The Irish built it and he was one of them! The job was finished in just over a year!

'You wouldn't build a chicken house in that time!' my mother



While there, he discovered that a man working on the fifty-second floor had emigrated from a neighbouring townland years before. So, every day he climbed the stairs, stuck his head in the door and shouted 'Up Ballyguirey!', before running for all he was worth. One day, the Ballyguirey man, mad with frustration, managed to grab him 'by the scruff of the neck', as my father put it, shouting, 'What do you know about Ballyguirey, ya little thrawneen?

'I was at a funeral in New York,' my father said, 'and the like of it you never saw! They came from all over America and every woman there was bawling her eyes out!'

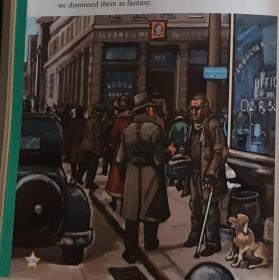
'Who was it?' we'd ask. 'Wan of them film stars. Rudolph Valentino.'

He told us that a hawker who sold knick-knacks on street corners founded Woolworth's and became a millionaire. A relative in Philadelphia was reputed to have bought buttons from him, when the seat of the hawker's pants was in a questionable condition!



egnach gach ainmfhocal le dhá shiolla a chríoch annacht, mallacht, gluaiseacht amfhocail le siolla amháin a chríochnaíonn ar cl cáis, cill, scoil, ach

My favourite story was that of the blind man who used to beg outside Bloomingdale's. One day, he dropped dead and the police discovered that, not only had he never been blind, but police discovered that, not only had he never been blind, but he owned a mansion in New Jersey and had a million dollars in the bank! My father was outraged, since he had occasionally deposited a few dimes in the man's hat. I took a different view, for weekly I practised going about with my eyes shur. I have deposited a few dilines in the about with my eyes shut. I became For weeks, I practised going about with my eyes shut. I became an expert at 'blind man's bluff' and was of the opinion that a an expert at small mans a white stick and dark glasses were far better career tools than a head full of catechism and Irish. As we grew older, the stories began to lose their appeal. With typical teenage scepticism, we dismissed them as fantasy.





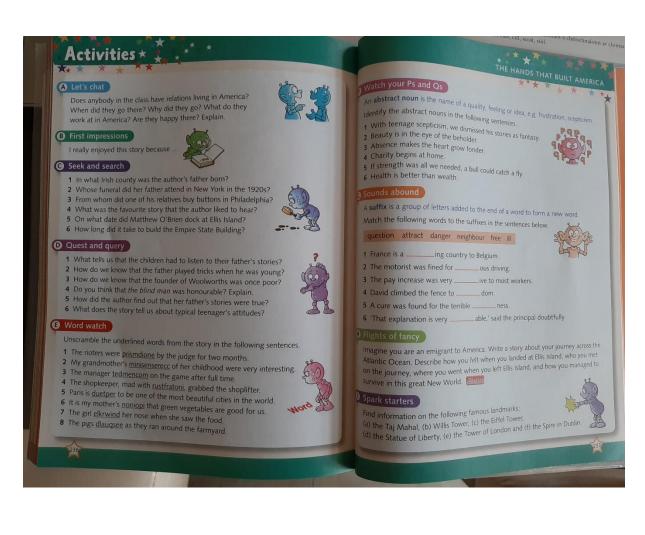
Surfing the net recently, I logged on to the Ellis Island website and, lo and behold, there he was! Matthew O'Brien, Cappagh, County Waterford, on the SS Regina out of Queenstown, docked at Ellis Island, 27 March 1923. On a whim I decided to check out the Empire State Building. At almost 1,500 feet, it was the tallest building in the world at the time and built almost entirely with immigrant labour. Work began on St Patrick's Day, 1930, and President Herbert Hoover opened it on 1 May 1931!

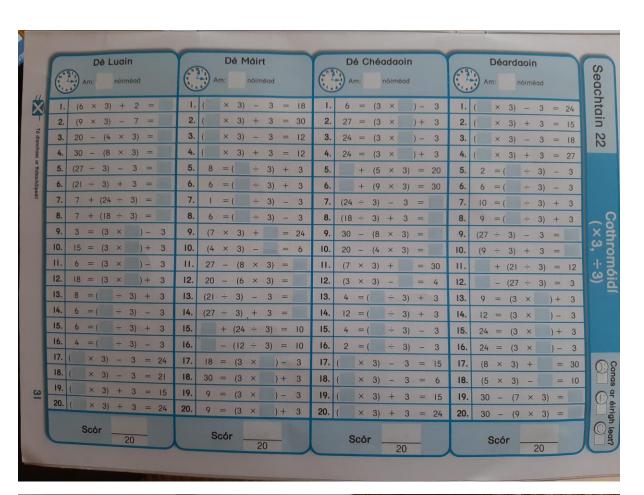
Fourteen months! A few clicks more and I was looking at Rudolph Valentino. Best known for the film Son of a Sheik, he died at thirty-one and more than 100,000 people attended his New York funeral in 1926!

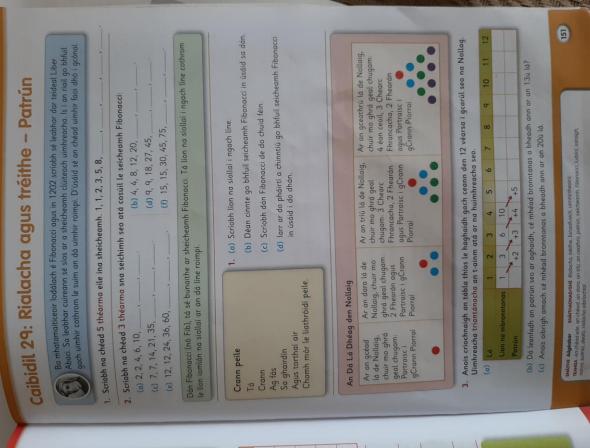
So he was right about that too! If only I had believed him, I too might be a dollar millionaire by now, with a white stick in my closet and a big mansion out in New Jersey.

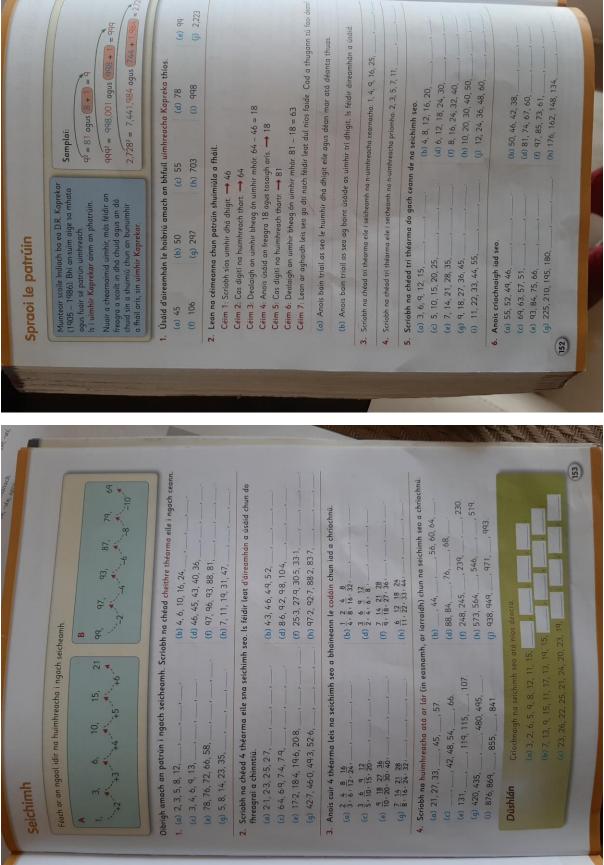
From Sunday Miscellany, by Carmel Shaw Town House Book











Spraoi le patrúin

Muinteoir scoile Indiach ba ea D.R. Kaprekar (1905 – 1986). Bhí an-suim aige sa mhata agus fuair sé patrún uimhreach. Is i uimhir Kaprekar ainm an phatrùin.

freagra a scoilt in dhá chuid agus an dá chuid sin a shuimiú chun an bunuimhir a fháil arís, sin uimhir Kaprekar.

2,7282 = 7,441,984 agus (744 + 9992 = 998,001 agus 92 = 81 agus (8 + Samplai:

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(j) 2,223 (e) qq

866 (1)

(h) 703

cha Kapreka t	87 (b)
bhfuil uimhrea	(c) 55
briú amach an	50
reamhán le hoi	(9) 2
1. Úsáid d'ail	(a) 45

2. Lean na céimeanna chun patrúin shuimiúla a fháil.

Céim 2: Cas digití na huimhreach thart. → 64

Céim 3: Dealaigh an uimhir bheag ón uimhir mhór, 64 — 46 = 18

Céim 4: Anois úsáid an freagra 18 agus tosaigh arís. → 18

Céim 5: Cas digití na huimhreach thartr. → 81

Céim 6: Dealaigh an uimhir bheag ón uimhir mhór. 81 - 18 = 63

(a) Anois bain triail as seo le huimhir dhá dhigit eile agus déan mar atá déanta thuas.

(b) Anois bain triail as seo ag baint úsáide as uimhir trí dhigit. Is féidir áireamhán a úsáid

4. Scriobh na chéad trí théarma eile i seicheamh na n-uimhreacha príomha: 2, 3, 5, 7, 11,

5. Scríobh na chéad tri théarma do gach ceann de na seichimh seo.

(d) 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, (f) 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, (b) 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, (c) 5, 10, 15, 20, 25,

(h) 10, 20, 30, 40, 50,

(1) 12, 24, 36, 48, 60,

6. Anois críochnaigh iad seo.

(b) 50, 46, 42, 38,

(h) 176, 162, 148, 134, (d) 81, 74, 67, 60, (f) 97, 85, 73, 61,