

Tailors

There is a
tailor in our district
is Patrick Fagan.
He makes
for men and boys
being for a pound
shillings when supplied with all
materials. He is also a merchant
tailor. He makes and supplies suits
from two pounds ten-shillings
to six pounds.

here the
the tailors
used to go
use making
from which
made was spun
at local mill
ted in Bally-
as mill all sorts
of tweeds, fizes blankets and
In our house
of these rugs
my father told
me a story about how the

Here is an example of a story from the Folklore Commission School's Folklore Survey from one of the Longford schools.

It was a special moment when one of the children from Melview realised that the tailor, Patrick Fagan, referred to in the story was her great Grandfather. She brought in his birth certificate to show the class.

The children from Tashinny read this story as well. They found out that tweed and other cloth was spun and woven locally at a mill in Ballymahon, not far away. It is now apartments. The girls from St Joseph's were interested in all the different old names for fabrics. They wanted to find out more about what they were like and what clothes they were used for.

It would be interesting to test out if it is really quicker to sew with a shorter thread but could a fair test be devised?

My father told me a story about how the tailor beat the devil. One day, the devil came up to the tailor and said he would sew a yard of tweed quicker than him. So, the two of them started, the devil sewing with a long thread and the tailor with a very short one. The tailor was able to sew quicker with the short thread because the devil's long thread was getting knotted. The tailor had finished first and won the bet.

Collected by Martin Doyle from his grandfather.