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Kathleen Cadman...

"The fort in Garavogue was part of our childhood and growing up...we played on it as children and had fantastic times. But we were always aware of the folklore that there were fairies. And there was a hawthorn tree in the center of the fort, and we would play around in it and everything. But nobody dare would touch it or anything. But in 1954 it was coming up to the Marian Year. And the cathedral parish decided that they would build a monument for the Marian Year. It was the cross that's on it now, and the statues.

The men in Garavogue all decided that were going to give a hand and help, and the whole lot. So they started the work on it. They started the work on it, and in the meantime the priest said that this tree had to be taken down. The men refused, and the priest went ahead anyway, and said, "No, that tree has got to come down." So the tree was taken down.

Now the story begins there of what I have to tell. In 1953, which is coming up to almost 70 years [ago], three young men were tragically killed, from Garavogue, in Sligo. The first one would have been my father, which was Morris Langon. The second was a man, he was outside where St. Anne's Road is; he was killed tragically by a lorry. And the third man was a very good swimmer, and he also lived in Garavogue. So three men were tragically killed with different accidents when that tree was cut down.

Now the people firmly believe that this was due to the tree being cut down.

[interviewer interrupts to ask if she believed her own dad's death caused by tree.]

Yes, because 70 years ago everyone believes in fairies. And fairies were kind of brought into everything that there was in Ireland, especially where there was green forts, and where there was tress and stuff like that. People believed in the fairies, Now today, it's a different story. Because if you say things like that to some people now, they laugh at you. No, there is something there, and that. But it's just the fact that the three men were tragically killed, and my father, there was eight of us left behind and the youngest was only six months old, and the oldest was 15 years of age. So my mother was left with eight children and the other two gentlemen who were killed, they also had family. So they were also left with no father, and that. It was a dreadful time.

My father was going to celebrate his birthday the day after he was killed. He was 41 and my mother was 40. And she, as I said, she was left with eight children and that. And it was dreadful.

The stories when we were growing up as children, we would be told about people who actually went up on that fort at night, to go from one house down to the next house to visit, that on several locations they actually could not get off the fort. No matter how hard they tried and this would have been at night time. And even up here in Magheraboy, where I live, I remember being told by Mr Devins, who is long gone now, that there's some of the fields up there, and he himself was included in this, that he tried to get out of the field, and no matter how he tried he could not get out of the field and he told us that story himself, so there is something there.

[One listener wants to know, that the men you talk about, including your own father, Kathleen, they died shortly after the tree was removed? What was the time that...]

Yes, it was within I'm 12 months, and all of the accidents were tragic and again you know, they were all young men and you know it was a dreadful time for Garavogue, and that, and a dreadful time for the loss of, you know, and the wives who were left behind and the children and that. You know, I mean, I was only 10 so there's only certain things that I remember about my father because he was away, he was in the RAF and I we would not have seen a lot of him, and that.

(But you're convinced as are most people who remember that there was a connection between what happened with the memorial being erected?)

Absolutely.