

SUAIRE



# guaire

June 1979 4th issue



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Special thanks to Patricia Cahill and Annette

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## THIS ISSUE

Page 3-4	Horses in the Blood
Page 5	Gort Pioneers
Page 6	Paris in the Springtime
Page 7	Gort - Our Town
Page 8-9	Memories
Page 10-11	The Possibles
Page 12	Confirmation
Page 13	Sr. Bernadette looks back
Page 14	The Three Teas
Page 15	Fleadh Cheoil Report
Page 16-17	Out and About
Page 18-19	Kilmacduagh Notes
Page 20-21	Drama in Gort
Page 22	A Visit from Bishop Casey
Page 23	The Year of the Child
Page 24	Kiltartan Youth Club
Page 25	Gort Youth Club
Page 26	Word Play
Page 27	An Taisce in Gort
Page 28-29	When Lint was Lint
Page 30	Truth
Page 31	Old Pantomine, Gort.

Peadar Ó Conaire  
Honor Lally  
Louise Joyce  
Survey Report  
Fr. Fintan Nelly  
Juvenile  
Sharon Morrison

W.M. Quinn  
Maureen Spelman

John Finnegan  
Brendan Long  
Dr. Mary Finnegan  
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Cover: A View of Bridge St., Gort.

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## Horses In the Blood

P. Ó Conaire

I'm sure you have often wondered, like I have, where all the cars parked in the Square in Gort on a Saturday evening come from. The four-wheeled 'beasts' take over the town on all important occasions. Forty years ago how different it was? Four legged beasts held sway. Indeed the Square used to be so jammed with horses, common cars, side-cars and traps on market days that crossing was a particularly difficult task.

Most of the horses on view were working horses and although most of them were heavy and cumbersome the young horsemen, feeling merry after a day at the fair, would race them home. There are very few working horses in the Gort area at present, the tractor being mainly responsible for their decline. Ponies (Connemara and other strains) are in great demand however, and there are a number of fine stallions in the parish.

### HORSE RIDING

Gort at one time held its own Annual Agricultural Show in St. Colman's Park. A feature of the event was show jumping, which attracted Army teams and such well-known combinations as Tommy Wade and Dundrum. Point-to-Point races, held in Cahill's field on the Galway Road in April, were also very popular. These races were switched to Athenry some years ago. Flapper meetings were held regularly in Spelman's field in Glenbrack. Liam Cosgrave rode a chestnut mare called *Avondale* at one of those meetings. He was not successful in the race however. The winner was local man Colie Cooney regarded by many as one of the finest jockeys in the West of Ireland in his day. In the not too distant past Newtown racecourse was famous throughout the west. Mr. Dan Burke, father of Jack Burke, Georges St., was official at Newtown. One family that epitomises the

tradition and spirit of pony-breeding, racing, hunting and show jumping, in the Gort area, is the Kilroy family of The Stirrup Bar in the Square. Three generations of Kilroys have been dealing in horses. So when Billy and John Kilroy took a lively interest in horse riding their father, Jack might be pardoned if he said, "it wasn't from the wind ye brought it lads"!

Jack actively encouraged his sons to take up horse riding and his wife,



Maxie Scully, John and Billy Kilroy after winning at the Oughtterard Show.

Eileen (who doesn't remember her father's farm ever being without horses) did not put any obstacle in their way either.

### IN THE BLOOD

Billy remembers being put on a horse by his uncle, Tom Linnane of Belharbour, at the age of five. The horse galloped around the field, the youthful rider holding on for dear life, till his mount jumped a fallen tree sending the unfortunate jockey somersaulting through the air, and landing him in the middle of a whitethorn bush! This unfortunate experience did not deter Billy one bit. Practically all his free time from school was spent grooming and exercising his father's ponies. He was often joined by his younger brother John, who carried buckets of water

up and down Church Lane to strengthen his arms in preparation for horse riding.

In order to learn the finer points of horse management the boys joined The Galway Pony Club - a branch of The Galway Blazers founded by Lady Hemphill of Tulira. There were instructed at the club by Col. Dick Lovett and Paddy Lynch, groom for John Heuston. There were about one hundred members in the club, including Olga and Maxie Scully and David Fitzgerald from Gort.

Billy Kilroy's first mount in a competition was *Merry Legs*. The

pony that brought most success to the family, however, was *Spider*. Billy and John in their turn, competed successfully on the 13 hands, Ennystmon bred, pony at Gymkhanas all over the west and as far afield as Athlone, Birr and Limerick. The Kilroy brothers accompanied by Maxie Scully on *Patience* were a formidable force wherever they went, rarely being 'out of the ribbons'. The Kilroy girls Dorothy, Mary and Elizabeth travelled in the entourage to shows as well. The last outing of the year for the young Gort competitors was usually the October Fair in Ballinasloe. It was at Ballinasloe Fair that Jack Kilroy regretfully parted with the remarkable *Spider*. It was bought by an Omagh hotelier, and went on to win major competitions

at the R.D.S., Hickstead and Balmoral afterwards.

### HUNTING

Billy and John have happy memories of hunting with the Galway Blazers and the Clare Harriers. On one occasion John Heuston came a cropper when his horse jumped a fence only to land in tar barrels on the other side! On another occasion Mickey Roughan was lifted off his horse when he came in contact with a brach at top speed.

The hunting season was long and demanding for the youngsters. They had to sacrifice much of what went on locally in hurling, football etc. to concentrate on horses, but Sunday evenings brought rewards in the form of rosettes, trophies and prize money. They made friends with many fine riders throughout the country such as the Lynches (whose father was groom for John Heuston); James Burke (Claremorris); the Dempseys (Loughrea); Brian Murphy

(Athenry); Val O'Brien and the McCarthys (Galway).

The most memorable day in the jumping careers of Billy and John was the day they represented Galway at Punchestown with Brian Murphy and Diana Pickersgill. They won the premier award from a field of class riders from Ireland and England including Con Power representing Wexford. Another outstanding day in their careers was the day they won the coveted Gough Cup for the third year in a row. This beautiful trophy holds a special place on the Kilroy sideboard.

Later Billy got an opportunity of viewing the American horse show scene. An American visitor (Mrs. Clough) bought two ponies from his father and invited Billy to travel to the States to 'show' some of her horses at Horse shows throughout the States. He spent four happy months there at the Clough Stud in New Hampshire. After he returned

home he commenced work as a forester in particular. He works in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon at present.

Asked if he knew any person who was really gifted with horses Billy said unhesitatingly that he knew two Paddy Joe Cooney, whose brother Tom in the U.S. keeps race horses with names like *Gort Sweetly* and *Gort Lassie*, and Liam Burke the blacksmith - to whom Yeats referred in his poem.

What qualities would he look for in a pony if he were buying one for show jumping?

1. Everything should be in good proportion in the animal.
2. Good rein.
3. Brisk straight trot.

Any regrets about the time he spent with horses? None!

Ambitions for the future? To own and ride his own horses.

We wish him well!

## Gort Pioneers

*Honor Lally*

Records show that St. Colman's mens centre Pioneer formed the branch, some still alive and well, others gone to their reward. By the end of 1928 there were 20 members and by the end of 1929 this number had increased to 70. Members were enrolled from town and surrounding areas, such as Ardahan, Kilbeacanty, Tubber, Roo, Kinvara and Peterswell.

In these pre-feminist times Gort Pioneers also had a Ladies Centre. This was founded in 1930 under the direction of St. Agatha and meetings were held in the Convent of Mercy.

Many old Gort names have been associated with the Pioneers since its earliest days. Among the first were

the pioneer ideal burning through the years.

The Pioneers were reorganised in Sept. 1948 by Fr. Colm Whelan after a lapse of 13 years. Committee was: Spiritual Director Fr. Whelan, President Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Secretary Thomas Lally, Treasurer J.



Two who joined the Convent Pioneer grouping in its early days Dympna and Angela Coen.

Honor Lally, Secretary to Gort Pioneers today.

John Burke of George's St., Eddie Treston Crowe St., Dan Hoarty, Cloughnacave, Brendan Downey Carrabane, Birdie McGovern, Mona and Molly Sylver.

There were many others - Pierce Piggott, Sean Gleeson, Michael Cunningham, Paddy Lally, Micky Roughan, Brendan Long, Christy Fennessy, John Murray, Martin Lawlor, Micheál Breathnach, Agnes Fahy, Dympna and Angela Coen, Ita Clandillon, Elly Carty, May Gallagher and many more who kept

Watson and Council member J. Corcoran. Meetings were held on the third Sunday of the month in St. Colman's Hall. 5 probationers were admitted.

Further reorganisation followed with Fr. Eaton coming to Gort. After the death of Thomas Lally, Brendan Long became Secretary. The Club organised an Annual outing which was most enjoyable for members. In 1957 the Club had their first Social. Tickets were 3/6 and profit from the venture was £13.3.6.

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1964 saw the amalgamation of the Ladies and Mens Centre and from 1972 on meetings were held in the Credit Union Hall. July 1977 saw the pioneer movement turn its attention to further social activities. A ladies football team was formed and also a mens hurling team. This idea proved very successful and an annual tournament is still held in Ballindereen every summer for all South Galway centres.

Members also take part in Talent competitions, Drama, Debates, Quiz's, Volley Ball, Basketball and Badminton competitions. A Pioneer Dance is also one of the highlights of the year.

This year we hope to see vigorous signs of Pioneer activity at centre, regional, diocesan, national and interantional level. A very successful Pioneer pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Ireland, Knock was organised on Sunday 27th May. It was nice to see old pioneers rally to the cause and even more encouraging were the many new young faces.

The Pioneer Movement has benefited Gort in the past and will continue to benefit the area in the future. The real motive of the pioneers is "Love of the Sacred Heart. We are pioneers not because drinking is evil but because we give up something that is pleasant for love of God. If we wish to keep the perfection of membership we must wear the Badge. By doing this we give good example to others."

Would you like to join? You will be very welcome. Our meetings are on the 4th Friday of the month at 9 p.m. in the Credit Union Hall. Our next meeting is on Friday, June 29th. Do pay us a visit.

### COENS OF GORT

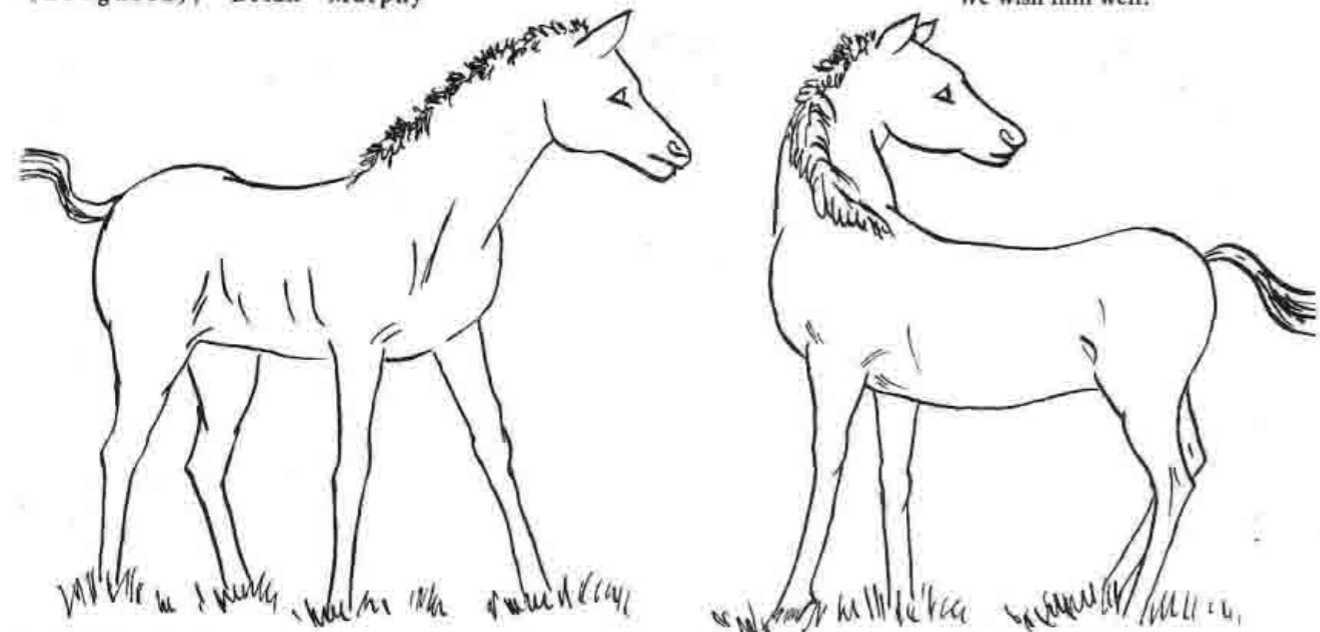
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# PARIS IN THE SPRINGTIME

by Louise Joyce



Louise Joyce

On the 8th of April 1979, thirty excited schoolgirls, myself included, accompanied by four of the teachers from our school set off on a tour to Paris. The tour was primarily educational and cultural, but we also had a little time for leisure!

We left Gort at 9 o'clock on Sunday morning to catch the ferry at Rosslare harbour. The coach trip across Ireland was dull and uneventful, mainly because of the long period of confinement on the bus arriving at Rosslare harbour. We boarded the St. Killian car ferry and left on schedule. The sea voyage was calm and very pleasant and even though it took about 19 hours, the excitement of being on a large cross-channel ferry kept us free from boredom, and we had plenty of entertainment, such as film shows and discos. Many of us had our 1st experience of a sauna bath. We had "high - jinks" in our cabins, but eventually fatigue overtook us and we went to bed at about 3 a.m.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

When we awoke in the morning there was no sight of mainland, but eventually we saw the coastline of France about 1½ hours before docking-time. After disembarking at Le Harve, we boarded a luxury coach for our trip to Paris. We drove through the fertile lowlands of the north-east French countryside along dual-carriageways, almost in a straight line to Paris. An interesting feature of this trip was the number of toll bridges on route which are automatically operated. At about 7 o'clock p.m. we arrived at the University campus in the Parisian suburbs which was to be our headquarters for our stay.

New Paris is a vast city with a population in the greater city area of about 12 million. We then had our first meal in France which was not up to the standards of the famous

French cuisine. We spent a short time at a disco which was quite enjoyable and exhausted, we went to bed. We started our guided tour of Paris the next day, by coach. This was the 1st of four tours, two during daylight, and two after dark. These tours were well-planned and comprehensive and we saw all the sights of Paris that we could possibly see in such a short time.

The following were the highlights of the tour; We visited the Louvre and Suires, the famous Leonardo da Vinci painting the 'Mona Lisa'. There were hundreds of other famous invaluable paintings apart from this, we saw the famous Notre Dame and Sacre Coeur Cathedrals, Sorbonne University, L'Opera, L'Arc de Triomphe les jardins du Luxembourg and the famous Eiffel Tower, which because of its height is visible for miles around. One can ascend on elevators to great heights on the tower to get panoramic views of the metropolis. We also saw the Centre Pompidou, the most modern museum in the world. A feature of this museum is that all the drain pipes are on the outside of the building. These drain pipes are multi-coloured. While on our stay there, we also went on a boat trip of the city, down the Seine and passed under the famous Parisian Bridges. We walked the tree-lined boulevards and along the famous Champs Elysees which is one of the most famous shopping areas in the world,

and needless to say one of the most expensive too.

Paris by night is a sight to behold. The sky over the city is a glow from the street illuminations and the flood lights on the various buildings. It really is a magical sight. A further new experience for us in Paris was travelling on the underground railway system, which is operated in tunnels excavated under the streets and buildings of the city. It is a fast, efficient, safe inexpensive method of travelling, and it is used by hundreds of thousands of commuters each day.

The final part of our trip consisted of a visit to the famous palace of Versailles. There, we saw Marie-Antoinette's bedroom and we also saw the Hall of Mirrors, where the treaty of Versailles ended World War 1, was signed. The building is massive and beautiful and was at least at one time, the largest building in Europe, under one roof. We made our way back to Le Harve, via Rouen, where we stopped to buy some Souvenirs and presents for our families at home, we returned on the 'St. Patrick' a sister ship of the St. Killian. It was a rough crossing home, with a little sea-sickness, and finally glad to be back on 'terra-firma', we must admit the whole trip was well worth the effort and discomfort.

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# Gort - Our Town

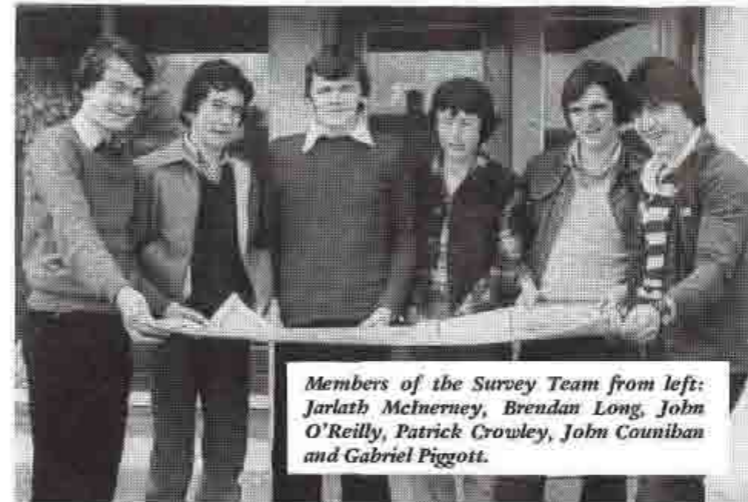
Survey Report

An interesting project on the town of Gort - the work of pupils from Our Lady's College - was presented to the people of Gort on Thursday 3rd May. The form of presentation was a series of talks from those involved in the project combined with a video tape of the views of various townspeople.

Six specific areas were examined: the work of government agencies, industry, housing, amenities, local people looking at the town to-day

6) Only 50 houses have been built in the town since 1970.

7) No new housing scheme will get under way until there is a decent



Members of the Survey Team from left: Jarlath McInerney, Brendan Long, John O'Reilly, Patrick Crowley, John Counihan and Gabriel Piggott.

and yesterday and the work of the Chamber of Commerce.

The object of the project was to provide up to date data on the town, to show what the town had to offer for the attraction of new industry and to find out what improvement were required by townspeople.

Some findings from the survey were:

- 1) The population of the town is static - increasing only by 25 people since 1970.
- 2) There are 40 families in the town requiring housing.
- 3) There are only 35 people involved in any kind of industry in the town. There are only 20 available for work.
- 4) The price of land is a deterrent to new sites for industry.
- 5) There is serious dissatisfaction with the water supply in parts of the town.

that young people are leaving the town.

Many interesting viewpoints came to light in the interviews with townspeople. Mily Killeen when asked to what he attributed his relative success said: "Hard work - you must be prepared to take off your coat". Julie Finnegan thought Gort people were too apathetic while Gerard Keane recalled the days when seaweed from Doolin was sold on the Square.

Jarlath McInerney who summed up the project's findings said the town needed revitalisation. Gort people should unite and work together for a better future. Local initiative was very important. Waiting for outside agencies to deliver the goods was a wait in vain.

The boys involved the project were: Gabriel Piggott, Brendan Long, John Counihan, Declan Spelman, John O'Reilly, Patrick Crowley and Jarlath McInerney under the direction of Francis Fahy.

water supply in the town. This is only at the planning stage at the moment.

- 8) The town has very poor amenities for young people and young adults. The majority of townspeople are in favour of a community centre. Only 1% want a Swimming Pool.
- 9) The general view of the people is

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# MEMORIES

Fintan P. Nelly

It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. I was leaning on the starboard rail, on the top deck of the M.V. Accra, as we ploughed steadily northward through the deep tropic waters heading for the far distant colder latitudes, where the hills of home and our loved ones awaited us.

We had been only four days at sea and had not yet reached the Canary Islands where we would have a day's stop-over.

I watched the distant horizon. Somewhere out there, but not now visible, were the low brown beaches of West Africa, studded with tall palm-trees. Behind them would stand the tall evergreen tropical forest, stretching for miles inland, the monotony broken by little dirt roads and the occasional town or village — a great carpet of green.

The sea was calm and beautiful with a great slow lazy swell that glistened in the tropical sun. Every few minutes a shoal of flying fish would break the surface and fly low over the water for 300 or 400 yards and then suddenly disappear once more into the gently waves.

## ALIVE

Quite near the ship we were accompanied by a large school of porpoises their great sleek bodies rising in a long ark and then diving into the sea. They seemed to love to follow us for hours. I think porpoises like humans and feel happy to be near them.

Behind me was the swimming pool. Very busy at this time of the afternoon in the sweltering heat. Most of the bathers were bronzed after their time in Nigeria but they still wanted to enjoy the last few rays of glorious heat, tempered by the cool sea winds and the fresh water of the pool. How different from the simmering heat and drenching humidity of the land they

had just left. Others lay around just chatting or drowsing or having a drink.

## JOCK

Suddenly I thought of Jock. Poor Jock. Each day I made it a point to go and see him. He was a Scottish miner going home and dying of cancer. He had spent many years in Nigeria, a hard dour Scot and a Presbyterian but very likeable in so many ways.

So I made my way down to the lower deck, then to the poop deck and into the Sick Bay. But poor Jock was dead. The doctor was just leaving and he told me that Jock had died just five minutes before I arrived. The Sick Bay attendants were there. I looked at this worn bloodless face and withered hands and I felt rather sad, I said a few prayers.

The action was swift and orderly like all such events on board ship. A bell rang and the order went to the Bridge "Stop Engines". Immediately the steady thump and shudder of the mighty engines ceased and all was strangely still and quiet at least to us who knew what was going on.

Of course the fun and laughter continued in the swimming pool and on the forward deck — the games and noisy clamour as happy passengers amused themselves at the card tables and in the bars and on the deck chairs. Only the seasoned sea-farer would have realised that the great wheels and shafts had ceased to turn. The tannoy still blasted away and well I remember that, as I entered the Sick Bay that afternoon — the song coming over the tannoy was something about "A vine covered cabin on a hill etc."

Soon a large heavy green canvas was laid on the companionway outside the Sick Bay. Jock's body was laid on this and two great lead

weights at his feet. A couple of members of the crew quickly stitched the canvas round the body. Then the canvas was laid on the stretcher and the crew members carried it to the after-rail. Part of the rail had been removed and there was a long heavy plank attached at its centre to the base of the rail. Like a see-saw.

His body was laid on this as it sloped in towards the deck. After a couple of minutes the chief officer accompanied by four or five other officers, all dressed very formally, arrived on the scene. The usual psalms were read by the chief-officer. The formal prayers were said.

Then at an order the crew lifted the heavy plank and Jock's green wrapped body began to slide slowly at first and then more quickly out over the stern. Then I watched it drop and then splash into the sea far below. All was over but I stayed and watched a little sadly as the green bundle turned and turned as it sank ever deeper into the clear tropical water. At last it was out of sight in the black depths. I wondered how long it would take the sharks to rip that tough canvas apart.

The bell rang again and the order was "Full speed ahead".

## GOING HOME

You may wonder how I became friendly with Jock. I had just completed four and half years in Nigeria. During the last three months malaria got the better of me. Every three weeks I was down with the fever. My blood had gone thin and my resistance was low. I was very yellow from the constant taking of mepacrin and daraprim. So in June the Bishop allowed me to go home. My joy was unbounded.

I went to Lagos with two older men and we were all set to fly in 3 days time. We had to buy some heavier clothes for the colder world of the north. But to my great dismay I was suddenly down with fever again the day before the flight. The doctor ordered me to hospital and when I recovered he advised against flying.

He said a couple of weeks at sea with the good air, food and relaxation would make me more fit and in a better position to enjoy my holiday.

So I went along to Archbishop Taylor of Lagos a kindly man and a great personality. He told me my chances of going on the next boat were slim. At that time Nigeria was under British rule and at this time of year thousands of colonial officers and sometimes their wives and families travelled home to have the advantage of the summer for their holidays.

However the "M.V. Accra" was due in a couple of days. The captain was Captain Smith, a good friend of his and a Catholic. When the boat docked and the phone lines were connected ashore the Archbishop got on to Capt. Smith. No, there was not a single berth available unless I would agree to travel on the Sick Bay. I agreed.

I was delighted. Two weeks at sea and then Liverpool and Dublin and good old Gort with family and friends — all the good pals to be with once more. Life was great.

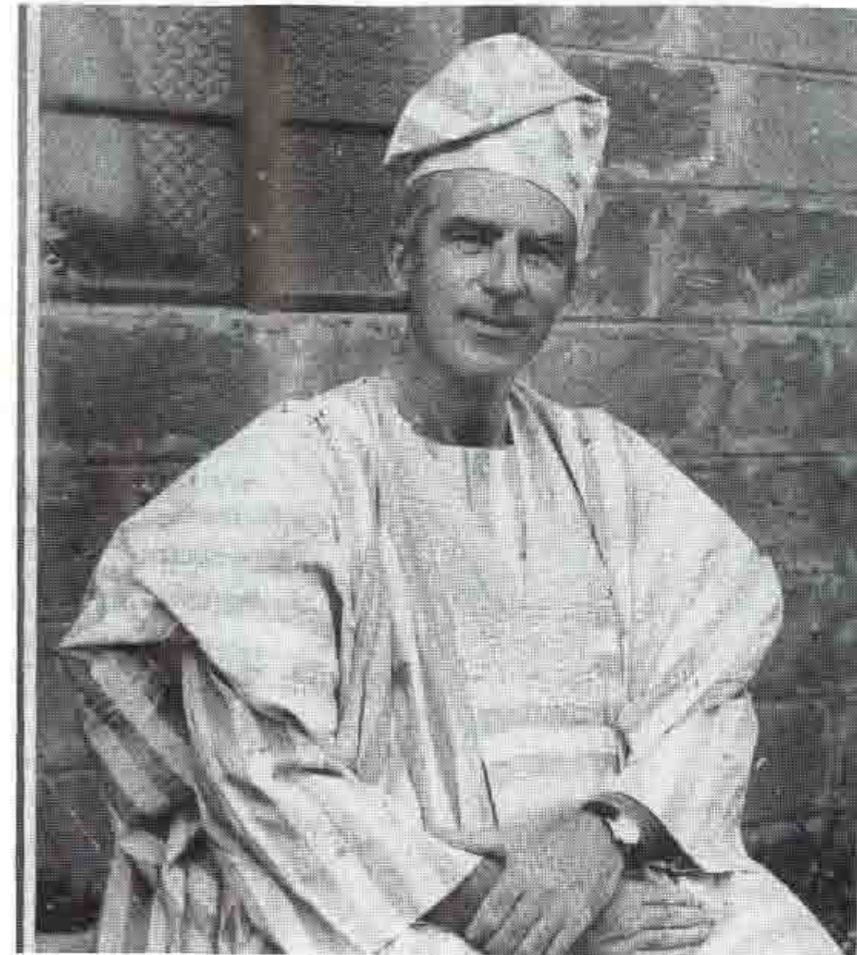
## NO SLEEP

As I entered the Sick Bay with my luggage I noticed an older man in the second bed. I greeted him but there was no reply. I decided to go up and look around the ship. I felt tired that night and sleepy. I soon realised I was not as well as I thought.

It was Jock who was in the bed beside me and all that night he moaned and turned and twisted. He was in great pain. I never slept a wink. Next night things were even worse. Some time of night he fell out of bed and this alarmed me. I jumped up, rang for the Sick Bay attendant and together we got him back into bed. No sleep again.

Next day as I was standing by the swimming pool a steward came along and asked me if I was Fr. Nelly. I told him I was and he told me the Captain wanted to see me.

This rattled me. What was I up for? Caught after hours in the pub? Causing a breach of the peace? What could it be? Anyway I braced myself and followed the steward to the



Fintan P. Nelly in native attire.

Captain's Quarters. The captain greeted me nicely and we sat down. Then he told me he would be very grateful if I would hear his confession. What a relief! Afterwards he produced a bottle of whiskey and we had a couple of drinks. How are you doing in the Sick Bay, he asked. Okay, said I. He noticed some hesitation in my reply. Then with his sharp seafarers eyes he told me to tell him the facts.

When I told him he was a little annoyed with me for not having reported the matter at once. He called the Chief Steward and arranged to have a bed prepared for me in the Officers Lounge each night at 9 p.m. I thanked Capt. Smith and left.

Each day I went to see Jock. We discussed this and that. I was in civies and then one day I told him I was a Catholic priest. But Jock was having none of that. Good old Scots

Presbyterian. Still we remained good friends.

Jock's was my first experience of a burial at sea and I suppose my last. Now when I remember that incident I can still hear the song that was coming over the tannoy as Jock died. I can still see the green canvas bundle sinking into depths of the sea, turning and turning as it disappeared from my sight.

Memories are good for us. Some are happy and some are sad. Others are a mixture of both. But all memories enrich our lives.

\*\*\*

I wish to congratulate everyone in their great work of producing 'Guaire'. I think that a parish magazine has a lot of binding effects on the people of the parish whether at home or away.

Guim rath Dé ar 'Guaire'. Go maire is go n-éirigh libh.

# THE POSSIBLES

by Juvenile

**Motto:** No matter how high a throne a man sits on, he still sits on his bottom.

## Unclear Scare

Ever since the recent nuclear scare near Harrisburg in the United States, many false alarms have been raised throughout the world. One such incident occurred in the Blackwater area of Gort when nearby residents noticed highly flammable material accumulated by the roadside. The authorities were alerted and emergency procedures were put into force immediately, residents in the area having evacuated their homes.

On investigation scientists discovered ingredients for a massive bone fire, materials consisting for the most part of broken branches and used tyres.

It is believed the bone fire is the work of a disillusioned Galway supporter. When questioned by the authorities it was reported that the man intended to burn effigies of the county's hurling selectors.

## Golfing News

One of the town's most exclusive clubs, Gort Golf Club, has designed a competition for local non-members. It is a 26 week draw with £120 prize money weekly; on the 13th week there is a special bonus of £500. Participants are confined to supporters in possession of a banker's card and at least one golf club. Handicaps will be reviewed at the end of the competition by the Handicapping Committee.

This is just one of many projects envisaged by the Clubs new steering committee, designed to get "locals" more involved.

## V.I.P. Visit

Mr. Gerry Mander, well-known Irish personality, paid a visit to South-Galway recently. As usual Mr. Mander was travelling incognito and

so escaped public attention.

In a brief interview Mr. Mander said he attributed his success to fast inspirational decisions, coupled with an ability of aligning himself with the people in power. Procedures, he felt, very often served only to complicate matters.

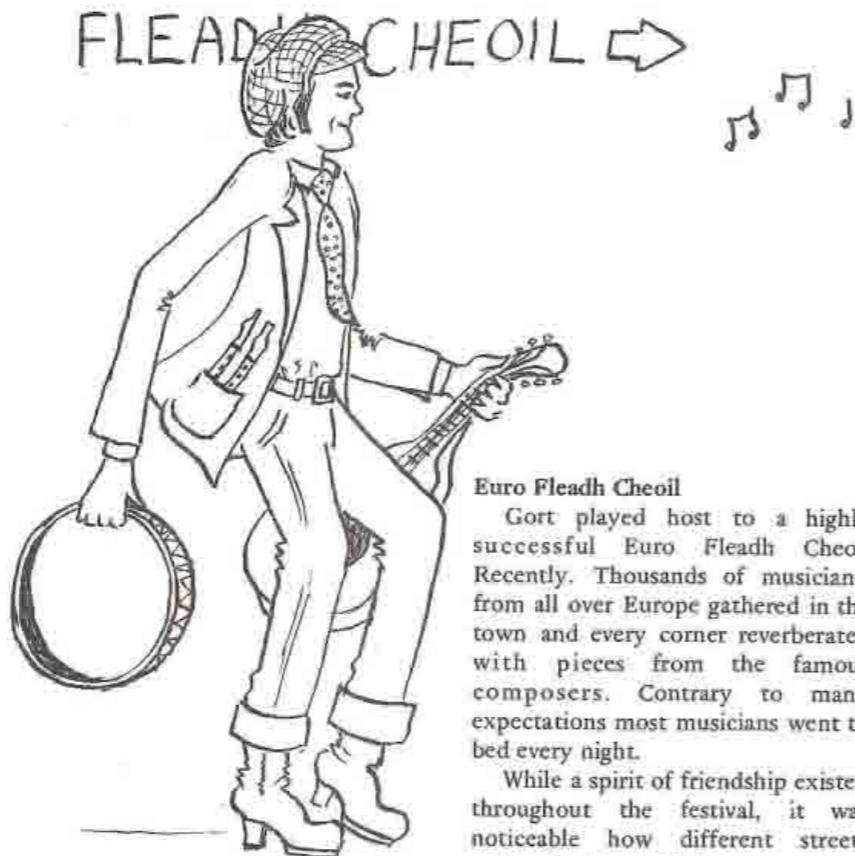
## International Trip

Gort Rugby Club ended the home season with a taste of international competition when they were narrowly defeated by Old Bedeians from Manchester. The game was particularly welcome as Gort R.F.C. prepare to tour Australia during the closed season.

A party of 30 players, selectors,

coaches, managers, administrators and very important officials has already been selected. There was some embarrassment when it was inadvertently discovered that a number of the party had not paid their membership fee for the year. However they hope to rectify this next year. In the meantime it is proposed that a collection of the town be made before departing 'down under'.

Club Supremo the effervescent J.P.R. Finnegan at a recent press briefing indicated that the Australian tour would not only serve to keep players in top condition during the summer months but also provided the opportunity of attracting the attention of the Irish selectors to the clubs most promising prospects. The experience 'gained down under' should also help players give a better account of themselves against Tubber next Christmas.



## Euro Fleadh Cheoil

Gort played host to a highly successful Euro Fleadh Cheoil recently. Thousands of musicians, from all over Europe gathered in the town and every corner reverberated with pieces from the famous composers. Contrary to many expectations most musicians went to bed every night.

While a spirit of friendship existed throughout the festival, it was noticeable how different streets catered for different tastes. Beethoven lovers predominated in

George's St. Lovers of Mozart tended to occupy Bridge St. while Church St. proved the ideal setting for the solemn tones of Bach. If a person was still dissatisfied, Crowe St. provided the setting for a modern jazzed up interpretation of the classics.

The festival climaxed with a monster classical ball (dance) held in the Classic Ballroom with music by the Tulla philharmonic orchestra. Stringent security precautions were enforced and people wearing Dickie Bows were turned away at the door.

## This is Our Generation

A meeting was staged lately in Our Lady's Convent, entitled "Adolescents in Perspective".

At the meeting school leavers defended the younger generation from wild attacks by the adult community. Various young spokes-people challenged adults to justify charges that the younger generations drank, caroused, gossiped and engaged in wild cocktail parties. Many adults appeared to hold the opinion that if you spared the child you spoiled the rod. 8 adults were present.

Many young people felt frustrated that there was nothing for them to do. One school leaver complained that he was getting too much homework at school while the prospects for homework after he finished were slim.

A disco followed, after the adults left.

## New School for Gort

Gort is to have a new school. It will be a community school, an

experiment in educational cooperation. Its first Principal is expected to be Fr. Michael De Lourdes Breathnach. Funds will come from Dail Chonnacht, Dail Eireann, Dail Eoraip and the E.M.S. The local Chamber of Commerce hope to have a collection of the town. It is expected that the Board of Works will serve as contractors. Their service is expected to be of some duration. No date has been fixed for the schools new opening.

## Lounge Bar Society

The Lounge Bar Society in Gort is to continue. This conservation measure was sanctioned at the last Cabinet meeting. A Government aid stressed that the Lounge Bar society was something uniquely Irish and all precious facets of Irish culture should be conserved.

Special measures to aid conservation are under active Cabinet consideration. These include extending closing hours of licensed premises from 2 to 3 a.m. and dropping the age of admission to Lounge Bars from 14 to 10 years of age. The measures, if introduced, will be retrospective.

The Lounge Bar Society enables Irish people to relax and get away from it all. "What crisis", a lounge bar enthusiast was overheard to remark recently.

## Euro T.D.

Mr. Tull MacAdoo has just been elected to the Euro Parliament for the constituency of Connacht Ulster Coole and Kilmacduagh. His election follows a vigorous campaign in which the issues were put to the people



with great clarity and at considerable length. Political scientists attribute his success to a thorough door to door canvass, a concentration on green white and gold car stickers and a lucid presentation of key campaign issues at after Mass meetings.

Thanking election workers Mr. MacAdoo promised to strain every sinew in his body on their behalf in Europe. He would speak out in Europe in defence of the small farmer, the large farmer, the industrial worker, the factory owner, the P.A.Y.E. sector, deserted wives, one parent families and if after all of this there was any sinew left he would strain it unceasingly to provide jobs for all our young people. He would strenuously oppose, with all the moral fibre in his bones, the pill, contraception, divorce, abortion and drugs being allowed by the European Parliament or the E.M.S.

In conclusion Mr. MacAdoo urged election workers to take a long well-earned rest as he would see and need them again in 1984.

## GLYNN'S HOTEL, GORT

We cater for weddings, functions, dinner dances and private parties.

Make a stop and relax in old world comfort.

This is ours to offer at Glynn's Hotel.

For reservations phone Gort 186, 27 or 7.

Best wishes to Guaire



# CONFIRMATION

Sharon Morrison, 12 years of age

On the thirtieth of April we were confirmed by Bishop Eamon Casey of Galway. We were confirmed at St. Colman's Church at the eleven o'clock mass, on a Monday. The mass was especially for the confirmation.

When I awoke in the morning I felt very excited and also very nervous. I got up at 8 o'clock, had a bath and washed my hair. I couldn't wait to try on my new uniform for the first time. My uniform consisted of a navy gym slip and tie, cream blouse, white knee length socks and I wore black shoes. Before the confirmation a few of us went over to the school and Sr. Carmel told us not to go up to the altar as if we were in an ordinary place, but we were to join our hands.

I then went over to the Church and sat in my place. About five past eleven the Bishop came up the aisle and said a few words to the Confirmation classes. He was a very friendly and happy person. He was well liked by all the people. I thought he was a very natural person. He told us he was going into the sacristy for a few minutes but would be out again soon.

## ANOINTED WITH CHRISM

When he came out he started the mass, through the mass we had to go up to the altar rails and our sponsor behind us. The Bishop went to each child individually anointing them with Chrism. When he came to me he said "Sharon Catherine, be sealed

with the gift of the Holy Spirit". I answered "Amen". He then said "Peace be with you". I answered, "and also with you". While he was saying this he was anointing me with Chrism.

Chrism is the holy olive oil blessed on Holy Thursday by the Bishop. This oil is mixed with balm which is a sweet smelling perfume. The holy olive oil is a sign of strength and the balm a sign of beauty.

## THE BISHOP'S MESSAGE

When the bishop had finished anointing we all went back to our seats and then the Bishop continued the mass. A little while after there was holy communion. Then the Bishop finished mass. His sermon was beautiful and had a lot of meaning to it. I could understand what he meant, because he was explaining things clearly. After mass he talked about the pledge and told us the harm drink can do to young growing people. He then gave us a souvenir for Confirmation, a prayer which we were to say after Holy Communion.

When all that was ended everyone went outside the Church and the Bishop had his photo taken with anyone that asked him. I had my photo taken with him, Auntie Nancy and Uncle Reg were in it too. Then all of the girls who were confirmed had their photos taken with the Bishop all in a group. After that most people went for a meal. I went to the



Sharon Morrison - one of 39 confirmed from Gort parish.

Shamrock Inn and around Bunratty Castle. I had a wonderful time and enjoyed every minute of it. It is a day I shall never forget for the rest of my life.



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## The Allied Irish Banks, Gort

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# Sr Bernadette

## looks back

*Interviewer:* What, Sister, are your earliest memories of Gort?

*Sr. Ber.:* I remember coming to Gort for the first time 53 years ago. It was the 25th of March 1926 that I entered the convent. I was a young gawk given the job of looking after 7th standard and the Monatresses.

*Interv.:* Explain about the Monatresses.

*Sr. Ber.:* Monatresses were trainee teachers in those days. There were four in particular I remember: Lena Hardiman, Sr. Amata (a sister of Garnett Griffin's), Molly Brady (now a Sr. Ligouri in Longford) and Rosie Kelly R.I.P. They all went on to be very good teachers.

*Interv.:* What was the town like in those years?

*Sr. Ber.:* It was a good market town, fairly prosperous. The people were very co-operative. There were some fine shops - Fahy's, Keane's Coens and Spellmans and many others. The two hotels, Glynn's and Lally's were also striking.

*Interv.:* Do you remember any pupils?

*Sr. Ber.:* Well of course I left Gort in 1933. But the pupils were very solid and kept to the books. There were no distractions. I remember Josie Gallagher - he was very bright and solid. I had him for First Communion. There were many others - The Griffins, Piggots, Fennessy's all started off in the convent.

*Interv.:* Why did you leave Gort?

*Sr. Ber.:* I had no choice. You did what you were told in those days. The Reverend Mother said I had to go to Kinvara and to Kinvara I

went. I spent 16 years in Seamount and I came back to Gort in 1949.

*Interv.:* Was it to teach?

*Sr. Ber.:* Yes. I had the First Communion Class. First Communion Day was a great occasion then. One of the highlights was a big breakfast for the children in the convent. The menu was bread and butter, cake, jelly sweets and a hard boiled egg. You could nearly kick the egg it was so hard. It was nearly boiled for a month to save clothes. There was great spirit everywhere and loads of photographs.

*Interv.:* As a teacher you had a reputation for being strict. True?

*Sr. Ber.:* Yes, I was strict. I didn't give that many wallops - it was my attitude. Without strict discipline no progress is possible. I meet a past pupil now and then who tell me "Do you remember those wallops you gave me in the ear". I say to them "Yes, that's what made the good man out of you". You must have fear or you can close down.

*Interv.:* Any priests that stand out over the years?

*Sr. Ber.:* I have fond memories of a Liscannor man Fr. Andy Sexton, also Dean Cassidy, Fr. John Considine, Fr. Joe Tarpey, Fr. Jim Larkin and Fr. Willie Moran from the old days. Fr. Jim Larkin started the Boy Scouts and in the 1960's the Legion of Mary flourished under Fr. Morahan.

*Interv.:* Looking back do you think Gort was an attractive town?

*Sr. Ber.:* It was a fine market town. There was a very big mart every Saturday in the Square - turf, fowl, vegetables etc., where the

Weigh House is now. You could also go to Dublin by train from the Railway Station in the morning at 8.30 and be back at 7 p.m. There was a good spirit in the town.

*Interv.:* Do you think the town has developed well?

*Sr. Ber.:* It has, especially the schools. The Vocational School was built on the site of the old workhouse. Miss Bohan was a very capable Principal. Fr. Burke too was a marvellous man. I remember the old Our Lady's College when Miss Lahiffe lived there and a dentist had rooms there. The Mart also has been a great success. And of course the physical appearance of the town has changed a good deal especially George's St. and the suburbs with all the new houses - St. Colman's Terrace, Crowe St and Ballyhugh. The Festival, the Fleadh and the three schools put life into the town.

*Interv.:* How long are you professed?

*Sr. Ber.:* I had my Golden Jubilee on 8 December 1978. It was a quiet celebration.

*Interv.:* Any sad memories?

*Sr. Ber.:* I think the deaths at a young age of two past pupils Caroline Foley and Barbara Scully, were the saddest. They were both lovely children.

*Interv.:* Thank you very much. May you have many happy years of retirement.

# The Three Teas

W.M. Quinn

According to the add. men, the Irish are the most discerning in the world when it comes to tea drinking. But, as with beer, the type of tea depends on the 'brewer'.

The most derogatory thing you could say about a woman, is, that "she couldn't boil an egg".

I don't care if she won prizes at the local Horse and Agricultural Show for Strawberry Sponge Cake or Plum Jam - if she can't serve up a mug of strong steaming Tay, she is no better than a Dublin Foxrock-er or a London Park Lane-r.

## THREE BREWS

I may not be a connoisseur of wines. Of Cayier and Champagne I know nothing, but I've drank tea in Hovels and Drawing Rooms, and I declare that there are three distinct and different qualities of brew - tea; tay and chaa.

## FIRST... TEA

I sipped tea in a Convent Parlour ... sedate creamy texture which



went well with the dainty biscuits and gossipy chat of Rev. Mother.

Drawing Room tea is artificial and anaemic, and to me unsatisfying. Quote me the Muse -

*I sipped tea in posh Foxrock  
My belly never got over the shock;  
Half was tea of a pucey bue  
And half was freezin' milk,  
And madam who served it  
In Dainty Cups  
Was clad in See-thru' silk.*

## SECOND... TAY

Beloved of muscular men and army men on manouvers. It has 'Body', a healthy tan and vigour.

My most delightful Tay was on a building site. At 10 o'clock break we sat on concrete blocks, reminiscing and swopping harmless jokes. I truly enjoyed its strength and inspiring properties, sucking the last dregs



from a yellowed mug, as a lady would her last drip from her dainty Cocktail.

Location means a lot. El Fresco tea is far superior to that in Buckingham Palace or at Áras an Uachtaráin.

Campers at tea set the taste buds of passers-by in motion, but oh! for tea in the Meadow when the horse was master and the slide-rake tonsled up scent of New Mown Hay -

*Don't talk of tea in Grand Hotels  
From Silver Pats midst swanks  
and Belles;*

*For where on earth is Tay so nice  
As in an Irish Meadow*

*Mid lovely scent of new Mown  
Hay*

*'Neatb soft blue clouds that seem  
to play -*

*Ab! that's the gorgeous mug of  
Tay*

*In a fragrant Irish Meadow.*

Or away from the wide open sun drenched spaces, give me the Housewives Tay after a hard earned 'bleach' has been spread on the Clothes Line for -

*A drop brewed in the cup  
While covered with a saucer  
Ab! that's the lovely sup.*

## THIRD... CHAA

Chaa is a brew denied the sophisticated or the upper eschalon.

The fireglow at the road-side camp always attracts me with its bubbling brew in a billy-can that hangs from a hazel tripod above the playful flames of warm ash, hemmed in by the eerie Comerake night.

Tinkers Chaa is a delightful combination of good fellowship, uninhibited chat - boiling water, fistfull of Tay and sugar and full cream milk from the tin.

It has the colour of ochre and a mule kick - highly recommended for drosy drunks or tycoons - brow furrowed by a fall in the Stock Market.

It's aloof from the simulated chatter of the Drawing Room or Vice Regal Lodge, or the rectitude of the Convent Parlour.

Sales people may try to inveigle me with their prize coupons or



coloured ads. parading the excellence of their particular weed, but as a tried and trusty dedicated imbiber - of the three give me Chaa.

For second choice Tay, but, as for Tea, I'd much prefer a mug of fresh buttermilk - or a jug of plain black porter.

W.M. Quinn, Gort, Co. Galway  
(Copyright)

# Fleadh Cheoil

Maureen Spelman

## BACKGROUND

At a County Board meeting held in Galway earlier in the season members of the Gort branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann were asked if Gort would host the County Fleadh.

Even at this early stage we realized the great challenge involved



The Organising Committee of the Co. Galway Fleadh Cheoil in Gort. Back row from left: Paddy Jordan, Brendan Murphy, Theresa Moloney, Paddy Grealish, Paddy Darcy and Chris Nestor. Front row: Maureen Spelman, Rose Mullins, Michael Cunningham, Mary Rochford and Attracta O'Dea.

and the enormous amount of organisation entailed in the hosting of a County Fleadh.

It was agreed, nonetheless, to accept the invitation. We regarded it as an honour for Gort and the weekend 27th to 29th April was chosen as a suitable date for the event.

A major disadvantage to this year's Fleadh was that the Organising Committee had to contend with the postal dispute. The taking of entries was disrupted - normally entries are

finalised three weeks in advance.

The Fleadh got under way on Friday night with an Irish night - musicians from many areas, including the South Galway group. On the following nights enthusiasts enjoyed the Tulla Céilí Band and Shaskeen.

## COMPETITIONS

Competitions got under way on Saturday morning - starting with the Juniors. There were three venues - Our Lady's College, Convent Gymnasium and Sullivan's Ballroom. Competitors were from Galway county and from many outside counties. The adjudicators, who travelled from Dublin, were extremely pleased with the high standard of traditional music, singing and set-dancing.

On Sunday afternoon once after the official opening at which members of the County Board presided, the Senior competitions commenced. In both Junior and Senior competitions there was a record number of entries. Medals were presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize-winners - a number of cups and trophies were awarded also.

The Gort Branch of Comhaltas received tremendous co-operation from the traders of the town, townspeople, Garda Síochana and from many outside areas. We would like to say a sincere thank you to all of these.

The organising Committee worked hard to make the County Fleadh a success. We believe that the hosting of the Fleadh brought credit to everyone associated with it.

## Brian and Margaret Honan

Antique Shop, Crowe St., Gort

Old furniture, old guns, pistols, swords, silver and silverware, brass and copper ornaments, old coins and garden ornaments.

Top Prices Paid.



# out and about

Gort's first dual minor is Pierce Piggott. He is a member of this year's Galway Minor Hurling and Football teams. Colman Roche and Derek Fahy are also members of the Minor Hurling panel.

Mrs. Gretta Cafferkey has just taken up an appointment in Gort Boys School. Eileen Brennan is after taking up a teaching appointment in Emyvale, Co. Monaghan. Gretta is one of the mainstays of Kiltartan Youth Club and Eileen did tremendous work with Gort Chamber of Commerce.

The Bridge Club has entered its closed season. Nuala Spelman was a very popular winner of the President's Prize, with Marie Fennessy 2nd and Bridie Murray 3rd. The incoming President is Pat Cunningham. Joe Muldoon was a most capable Tournament Director during the year.

While visiting Gort for Confirmation Bishop Casey took time off to visit the new library quarters in the old Protestant Church. He was shown around by Canon Quinn. He also visited the Churches in Tiernevan and Kiltartan and went for a short walk around Coole.

The graveyard in the Protestant Church grounds went through a facelift in April. The work was under the direction of Canon Quinn.

At the recent County Athletic Championships for Juveniles Gort athletes fared remarkably well. Caroline McGann won 1st Prize in the Shot Under 12, Carmel Burke came 2nd in the Shot Under 11, and 3rd in the Under 11 600 m, Noreen Burke came 3rd in the High Jump under 13 and 3rd in the Discus under 13 and Brian Murray came 3rd in the Triple Jump Under 14.

A Buffet Supper involving the three Post Primary Leaving Certificate classes in the town is planned for Friday 22nd June at Glynn's Hotel. Music will be by the Silver Disco.

Partnerships for the occasion are already giving rise to much



Caroline McGann — County champion in her class.

speculation. The night should be a fitting finale to five years of learning in Gort's three post-primary schools.

Guairé has made arrangements to have an aide keep a close eye on events of the night. Her report will be featured in the autumn issue of Guairé.

In the meantime we wish the following partnerships every success on the 22nd. Boys names first: N.E. and R.C.; D.D. and G.K.; P.P. and S.O'D.; B.L. and M.R.; J.K. and C.K.; M.C. and A.S.; J.O'D. and M.O'L.; F.H. and C.H.; L.K. and R.W.; F.S. and M.P.; M.S. and S.C.; E.S. and L.J.; R.H. and T.N.; M.F. and F.E.; G.B. and L.H.; E.C. and M.S.; S.F. and J.W.; L.O'Q. and P.M.; P.H. and J.C.; J.O'R. and M.M.

When going to press nothing definite on I.C. or G.P.

The Apostolic Society held their annual display in Sullivan's Hotel on Sunday 13th May. It was a beautiful display of mass vestments, altar cloths, a benediction cope, crosses, leather work, purses and knitwear of

all kinds. The display also featured work done by the Tiernevan school pupils under the direction of Mrs. Donnellan. The display was a credit to all who worked in the Apostolic Society during the year.

Guairé would like to congratulate Brian Brennan and Rene Muldoon, Eric Counihan and Jeanette O'Shea, Pat Kilkenny and Annita Madden, Declan McCarthy and Vivien Gannon, Jimmy Lynsky and Nellie Walsh on their recent marriages. Also Mary Teresa Carr and Vincent Fahy, Valerie Broderick and Paddy Regan on their recent engagements.

Our Lady's College scored notable hurling victories recently. In the Ryan Cup, a competition open to all Post Primary schools in Galway, they beat Portumna in the Semi-Final and Loughrea by 3-6 to 0-6 in the final. They also won the Connacht Junior championship beating Garbally College in the final.

In the final of the Club Cup in Gort Golf Club Niall Finnegan beat John Moylan at the 20th.

## GORT'S FIRST BANGARDAI

Thursday May 3rd was a historic first for Gort. Two girls from the outskirts of the town, Mary Moran and Anne Walsh qualified from Templemore as BanGardai.

The passing out ceremony in Templemore was impressive. For two hours the 72 recruits, twenty five of whom were BanGardai, put on a fine display of drill for an appreciative audience of parents and friends. They were accompanied by the Garda Band who played many beautiful tunes, none nicer than The Boys from the County Mayo.

At the end of the ceremony the acting Garda Commissioner Patrick McLoughlin spoke to the new recruits. His remarks were thoughtful and to the point. He counselled a common sense approach to the public. Often a friendly word of advice might prevent a traffic offence or the occurrence of a crime. He told them to be courteous civil but firm.

He urged them to keep standards — a professional approach to everything they did was essential to-day. If they had commitment and dedication they would get great fulfilment from their work. He wished them God's blessing in their years in the force. Commissioner McLoughlin came across as a warmhearted man, well suited to his job.

We wish to two new BanGardai success in their careers. Mary Moran is now stationed in Limerick and Anne Walsh in Store St., Dublin.

## TOWN PARK DRESSING ROOMS

Work has recommenced after the long winter hold-up, at the New Dressing Rooms at St. Colmans Park. This week saw the completion of all the "First Phase" work and all is now ready for the 2nd Phase which consists of plastering, plumbing, installing of doors etc. At their most



Dressing Rooms for two teams and officials with shower and toilet facilities. The Dressing Rooms will replace the present facilities which consist of a long wall which is very primitive, to say the least. Also the committee are concerned with the lack of support in the physical sense



Pierce Piggott — the first dual minor from Gort.

and appeal to anybody who is interested in lending a hand to contact any of the committee who will inform them when help in the physical sense is needed.

Among the collectors are expected to be:

Mr. Richard Burke; Mr. Sean Gleeson; Mr. Martin Murphy; Mr. Mossey Clabby; Mr. Colie Molloy; Mr. Michael Roughan; Mr. Junie Finnegan; Mr. Paddy Faby; Mr. Joseph Stankford; Mr. Peter Burke; Mr. Brendan Murphy; Mr. Frank Lally; Mr. Peter Walsh; Mr. Damien McGrath; Mr. Colman Keane; Mr. James Molloy; Mr. Donal Connolly.



# Kilmacduagh Notes

## THE LAST MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL OF KILMACDUAGH

In 1807 Fr. Duffy became the Parish Priest of Gort. He did a lot for Gort. In 1832 there was an epidemic of Cholera in the area. It was a disease like fever, and was fatal. There was a hospital down in Kinvara where the patients were treated. It was called the "sick house" because many people went there to be treated. That hospital is now demolished. There is a cemetery beside the hospital, where the victims of the disease were buried.

### THE MIRACLE

One day Fr. Duffy called together all the people of the parish and asked them to pray to St. Colman that the disease would go. They prayed fervently through St. Colman to God to grant their request. Then Fr. Duffy gave a sermon. He showed them a human skull which he found in the Cathedral. He reminded them of their last end. He told them that life is very short. When they prayed again on their bare knees they prayed even harder, and most of them sobbed during the ceremony. Gradually the disease went and the people were very happy.

Fr. Duffy died in 1839. Mr. Forest the generous owner of Sullivans Hotel at the time, erected an altar in Gort Church in memory of Fr. Duffy.

Peter Coen



Peter Coen

### A MEGALITH

My father has a wedge shaped grave or megalith on his land. It is about five feet over the ground. The large slab on top has channels worn into it as a result of the weather. The length of the top stone is four metres. The breadth of it is almost three metres. It is nineteen cm thick. The stone on the left hand side is four metres. Its breadth is one metre and a half, and it is twenty seven cm thick. The stone on the right hand side is three metres. The breadth of it is one and a half metres, and it is twenty six cm thick.

Several archaeologists came to see it. They are coming for the past thirty five years. They are coming from Dublin, University College Galway, and from many foreign countries also. It must be more than four thousand years old.

### THE TOMBSTONE

There is a tombstone behind it. The writing is illegible. It is in the middle of an arable field, and it is very difficult to understand how this large megalith or wedge grave came to be erected here, as the rocky area is at least a quarter of a mile away from it. This is one of the things that has puzzled all who have come to see it, because on account of its great weight they don't know how it was brought there. The slab on top must be surely five tons at least, and the two at the sides are not much lighter than this weight either.

My father met a lot of the people who came to see it, and most of them told him there are several of these wedge graves in Ireland, and

this one is the second largest in the country. The largest megalith is on rocky land, and people do not wonder much at its size, because it is surrounded by large stones. The Ballinastague megalith is on arable land, and people are surprised that such big stones could be got in the area.

Pauline Kerins

### KING GUAIRE'S HOSPITALITY

Long ago every king had a poet to entertain himself and his guests at dinner. King Guaire who was the king of Gort in the seventh century invited the chief poet of Ireland Seanchán Torpéist to his castle. He did not come alone. He brought his family, one hundred and fifty more poets, some women, and some pets. Seanchán was only just elected the chief poet of Ireland. After a year, a quarter and a day Guaire got tired of them, because he had to give them accommodation. The castle was full. He went to his brother Marbhán who was a hermit in Killomorán. Marbhán had a church near Lough Deechan. King Guaire asked Marbhán for advice. Marbhán said to ask Seanchán Torpéist to recite the Táin. The Táin was an epic about Queen Maeve and a bull. It was very long. Marbhán knew that everyone who knew it was dead. King Guaire went back to his castle and asked Seanchán to recite the Táin. He said the first part of it but was unable to continue, and was very embarrassed.

The poet immediately left the castle with his companions. Before he left he composed a poem about King Guaire and his hospitality, and promised to visit him again.

Anne Flanagan

### THE ROO CEMETERY

In Mr. Carroll's land in Roo, there is a cemetery. Some of it is in Mr. Moylan's land. There is a road leading into it through Carroll's land, and if you want to get in through Moylan's land, you have to open two gates. It is at the back of Mr. Kearns' house. The cemetery is now nearly all overgrown with moss and bushes.

The cemetery is divided into two

parts by a wall. On one side of the wall are the tombs of unbaptized children. On the other side of the wall there are large graves covered with flags. People say that there was a convent on this spot many years ago, but there is no trace of it now. The flags must be over the graves of the nuns who lived in the convent.

The flags are the length of an adult's grave, but they are broken, because they are very old.

Mr. Moylan owned a tree near the cemetery. When he went to saw it some years ago, a red liquid came out when he was half way through the tree, and the saw got stuck. That tree is still standing, but some of the top of it has fallen.

Chrissie Carr



Chrissie Carr

### WHERE THE 3 PARISHES MEET

### A MONUMENT IN OUR LAND

There is a stone like a tomb stone in our land near our house. It is at the place where three parishes meet, Gort, Kinvara and Ardrahan. There is a bush behind it. When we plough the land we leave about four or five metres unploughed around the stone. There is an oval shaped rough stone on top of it. It is very loose. It is about one and a half metres high. The breadth of it at the top is about sixty centimetres and at the bottom it is about forty.

Some people say that a Dane killed an Irishman called P'lag

McMahon and he is supposed to be buried under the monument which is also the place where the three parishes meet.

Margarita Burke



Margarita Burke

## Guess Who?

This is a drawing of a 'famous' personality. Can you guess who he is?



We will give you some helpful hints:

He never smoked or drank, has thousands of pounds in the Bank of

Ireland and the Allied Irish Bank and is given a kingly salute by Mr. Shaw and Mr. Liston at the Golf Club, of which he is a life member.

He loves the nuns, especially Sr. Bernadette (because she's a voluble Clare woman) and Sr. Celsius (because she comes from my own parish of Ardrahan).

He has always hob-nobbed with the elite and Big Shots - Paddy Nolan (The Cobbler), Tommy Murphy (The Connacht Ranger), Paddy Moran (the philosopher and teller of Doon), Jim Minogue because he came from the Flagggy Shore, New Quay in the Burren Country and was a Connacht Ranger, Pat Shaughnessy, the Church St. descendant of the famous O'Shaughnessy clan and who served with the old Great Southern and Western Railways; John Kelly of George's St. (because he was a personal friend where he sipped pints of 'Lucozade' 365 night a year with Jimmy Cummins, Joe Pete Hehir, Paddy Hayes, Guard Ned Cuniffe, Joe Courtney, Bobby Stack and others.)

He includes amongst his lovable lady friends Auntie May (of Cahill's Bakery, Crowe St.) Bridgie Donoghue of Ballyhugh, because she was a sister of Connacht Ranger mutineer Pateen Donoghue, Mary Ann Stack of George's St. (because she gave him extra white lozenges for his tuppence) and Bridgie Ballanger of Ballanger's Corner, Galway Road, later Mrs. O'Grady and in later life Mrs. Jimmy Small (her husband a soldier at Lough Cutra during the Emergency and through the years his personal Barber.)

Further clues: He doesn't know the Lens Side from the Hind Side of a Box camera and has no more ability to write about current affairs than "Our Ass."

If you still haven't deciphered the clues of this issue's "Hidden Personality", then turn to Page 31 for the answer.

# Drama in Gort

## PAST AND PRESENT

by John Finnegan

*I have been familiar with the Dramatic Movement in Gort for the past 16 years, having first performed on stage there at the youthful age of 14 years. However, as Drama has always been part of the social calander of our town, I thought it only fair, when asked to write this article, to go back in time farther than my involvement in the Dramatic Movement. In researching this article, I thought it best to contact certain residents of the town more senior than myself, whom I noticed attended all the recent productions of the present Gort Dramatic Society. Their present obvious interest in Drama indicated that they must have been involved in the Dramatic Movement in earlier days. People like May Brennan, Molly Faby and Gerard Heenan came to mind and I wish to thank them, and many others for the great help they gave me with research.*

The Dramatic Movement in Gort is somewhat similar to the cat with nine lives! Drama in the town has never continued on a permanent basis, but has died on a number of occasions, only to relive again, usually when some individual with a dedicated interest in Drama arrived on the scene to revitalise the Movement.

## EQUIPMENT

I take you back to the period circa 1929 when a local priest, Fr. Tarpey R.I.P. with a style of production similar to that of the Abbey Theatre, laid the foundation for Drama in the town, with many successful productions of plays, supported by large appreciative audiences. In that era, good comedies seemed to be the main choice of the producer, "Professor Tim" and "The New Garsoon", being two of the earlier 3 Act comedies selected. Fr. Tarpey's acting team at that time included Peter Brady R.I.P., Gerry Heenan, Baby Hazel R.I.P., Michael Tuohey R.I.P., Bridie Hickey (nee Keane) and Dan Sullivan R.I.P.

Productions were held at St. Colman's Hall and by all accounts it was a different hall to the one we know today, its stage being fully



Dolores Oakley who won the Best Actress Award at the Gort Drama Festival.

equipped for acting purposes, with built-on wings, adequate lighting and back drops. The hall at that time had fully equipped dressing rooms and a balcony, which increased audience space to cater for some 300 people.

## NEW INTEREST

That group enjoyed a spell of successful productions for about 4 years, until the interest in Drama began to diminish and it was not until 1947, 15 years later that Gort was to again enjoy stage entertainment, when the musical "H.M.S. Pinafore" was produced by the town's present Parish Priest, George Canon Quinn P.P., then a Curate in the town. Prominent in



that production at the town hall were Lily McCormack (nee Broderick), Tom Finnegan, Pakie Broderick R.I.P., Pete Brady R.I.P., May Hanberry, Noreen Lambert and Tom O'Shaughnessy.

Regretfully, with such talent, this was a once off production and for many years, the stage in Gort was again empty. Then, the pantomimes came, which to this present day are hailed as the biggest dramatic success in the town. Under the very capable production of Lieutenant Carroll of Renmore Barracks, assisted by Mr. Gerry Heenan who was also Stage Manager and Mrs. Considine, R.I.P. Musical Director, pantomimes were staged each Christmas. The characters most talked about from the pantomime era include Kieran Moylan, Josie Gallagher, Johnny Spellman, Martin Dolan, Johnny Counihan R.I.P., Pat McCarthy (nee Corbett), Mary Carolan R.I.P., Robbie Lahiffe R.I.P. and Mai Counihan. The earlier pantomimes were staged at the Town Hall, later moved to the Central Cinema.

## SUCCESS

Once again, the interest in the stage died, until 1964 when Fr. Edward Kelly, a new Curate to Gort and now Parish Priest in Mervue, revived the Drama interest in the town, with his production of the pantomime "Continental Journey". Written, directed, rehearsed and produced by Fr. Kelly, this production was my first experience of stage work. I was still at primary school at the time, but, it was a great experience for me and has embedded in me an interest in Drama, which I know I will never lose. Fr. Kelly's "Continental Journey" was a huge success, involving both a host of

children of all ages and many adults, some of whom had been in the earlier pantomime productions. Prior to his transfer from the Parish, Fr. Kelly presented two pantomimes in all, the second being "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", Productions were always held at the then Central Cinema at Barrack Street.

## NINTH LIFE

On his departure from town, the Dramatic Movement again fell on its face until local Pharmacist, Paddy Coen, a distinguished producer/actor, with many awards to his credit, produced a number of plays, mainly kitchen comedies. Apart from his production, Paddy Coen also participated in the acting, a most difficult thing to do, but, with his expertise, Paddy always managed successfully, to carry out this most difficult task. Others involved with Paddy at the time included Val Burke, Mossy Devlin, Sean Devlin and Joe Cahill, to name but a few.

But, believe it or believe it not, the Dramatic Movement in Gort again died, but this time for its shortest ever period, about 3 years. Fr. Edward Crosby then arrived as a Curate in the town and his revival of interest in Drama must surely have brought about its ninth life, as it has never died since. When Fr. Crosby left Gort, Fr. Frank Larkin followed in his footsteps, keeping the Dramatic Movement alive. On Fr. Larkin's recent appointment to the



A winning Gort Drama Group. Back row: Dan Casey, Robert Coen, Val Burke. Front row: Vera Killeen, John Finnegan and Dolores Oakley.

teaching staff of Our Lady's College, I was given the opportunity of producing my first every play with the local Drama Group.

## SUFFERING

During this latter era in the Drama

Movement, the majority of John B. Keane's plays were produced and presented, plays such as "Sive", "Big Maggie" and "The Field". Preference was always given to John B. Keane's plays, as he was, at the time, at his peak as a writer and his plays always assured us of a packed house. However, other plays were also selected for production.

At that time, only some three or four years ago, our group was always assured of large audiences, being able to fill Sullivan's Ballroom for 2 nights on each production. However, in more recent times, audiences appear to have dwindled but, the Gort Dramatic Society is not the only Drama Group suffering in this way, in fact, it seems to be the biggest problem in present times with all groups, right up to the standard of the All Ireland Drama Finals.

## THE FESTIVAL

Perhaps the biggest success of the present Drama Group in Gort was the founding of its own Drama and Concert Festival, which was organised last year for the first time with great success, offering the opportunity to Junior and Senior Groups throughout the region to compete in this Festival, confined to One-Act Plays and Variety Concerts. Adjudication last year was given by Mr. Billy O'Connor from Galway and this year by Mr. Michael Horan, also from Galway. Groups from Kinvara, Ballindereen, Clarinbridge, Kiltulla, Esker, Duniry, Ennis, Peterswell and Gort participated for some beautiful trophies, kindly donated by the traders of Gort. To take advantage of the purpose built stage for Dramatics, the venue for the Festival known as the South Galway Drama and Concert Festival was the Auditorium of Our Lady's College. On the first year of the festival, those of us involved in the Drama Group felt we had the small audience problem solved, packing in over 1,000 people into the college Auditorium over the 5 night period. However, for some unknown reason, the audiences were down again this year. The Gort Drama Group won 4 Awards at this year's Festival - the

Best Play Award, the Best Producer Award, the Best Actress Award and an award of merit for acting, which thankfully, gave our Group an injection of added interest and long may it continue.

## SUMMARY

The Drama Group's future plans include offering the general public



John Finnegan

good quality productions of plays, together with the continuation of the South Galway Drama and Concert Festival with the hope of having it affiliated to the Amateur Drama League or Amateur Drama Council. This would enable Groups from farther afield to participate in order to obtain valuable marks, thus steering them to the All Ireland Festival of Drama.

As a final note, it must again be stressed, that although the present Group are the longest standing in the Dramatic Movement in the town, the Movement could collapse again, as its reason for doing so on so many occasions in the past was always due to the absence of a figurehead. A leader is always essential for the group and it is only the constant inflow of new membership that will ensure future figureheads for the Group. The Gort Dramatic Society are always anxious to attract new membership, people interested in production, acting and helping out backstage, the latter being one of the most essential departments of any Drama Group. I myself am involved in many organisations, but I honestly feel that there is none to compare with a Drama Group for meeting friends and the experience gained therein is vast and will be of benefit to you all through life. All productions take place during the winter months and there is no better way of occupying yourself during those lost winter nights.

# A Visit From Bishop Casey

## A VISIT FROM BISHOP CASEY

Brendan Long

When the greetings were over we all filed slowly down to the assembly hall. For the mass he had brought special booklets specially prepared for Leaving Cert classes. Already his homely attitude had warmed the air. And so the mass began under the same bone.

His sermon contained a special message for us. No mistakes were to be made but that suffering could not be evaded. It is certainly true that one may talk and talk for ever without clarity but just one example makes for understanding. He gave us an insight into his own life and the suffering he had met. Personality changes he said were hardest to comprehend. With clenched fists he told us that once he had grabbed a chair to belt a fella over the head, who had been beating his wife. With a changed calm he told us of how he prayed beside the bed of a youth dying because of an overdose of drugs. How he had asked God to give him a chance in life and he got it.

### MESSAGE OF FAITH

Faith he said was the precious gift which we had all been given and the mind was a vacuum if we ever lost it.

The conversation lasted one hour or so and yet during that time we found no urge to gaze at our watches wondering when it would be over. After the mass we had a short snack and he moved around from table to table asking us our future plans and passing his own views.

The visit would hardly have been right without a finishing sing-song. We all joined in the chorus as he sang the verses with his hands. And then with the chorus still ringing out he left leaving more of an imprint than an impression.



Brendan Long

# Year of The Child

'THE YEAR OF THE CHILD' - THE WEST IS AHEAD!

In January 1979 the first unit for emotionally disturbed children in the West of Ireland became operational. The Unit is at St. Anne's Children's Centre in Taylors Hill, Galway. At present there are approximately 15 in-patients and 10 day patients attending St. Anne's.

The general public to a large extent seem unaware of the existence of this unit. This could be accounted for by the fact the 'official opening' has yet to take place. In addition, many people seem confused about the need, function and aims of such a unit.

A look at the history of Child Psychiatry in the West might help facilitate understanding. Up to April 1975 there was no Child Psychiatric Service in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. If a child needed specialist help he was normally referred to Dublin. This necessitated much hardship for parents and children alike.

The appointment of a Clinical Director, Dr. A.G. Carroll in April, 1975 resulted in the provision of an out-patient service in the Regional Hospital, Galway for such children. As the workload increased a headquarters was provided and equipped at the Lyradoon Family Centre in Salthill. At this stage, Dr. Carroll had recruited Doctors, Social Workers, Psychologists and Play Therapists in an attempt to provide a comprehensive service for the 3 counties. Peripheral Clinics were held once monthly in Castlebar, Ballina, Roscommon and Ballinasloe. However, it became increasingly evident that some children needed short term in-patient care if they were to be fully assessed and treated. St. Anne's Children's Centre has fulfilled this need. Nursing Staff and Child Care Workers have been appointed to work there.

### TYPE OF SERVICE

You are still probably confused



about the type of work that we do. Our patients are primary school aged boys and girls of normal intelligence. They suffer from a wide range of childhood emotional disorders e.g.:-

1. Neurotic complaints: depression, anxiety, school phobia.
2. Psychosomatic conditions e.g. asthma, where psychological factors play a role in precipitating, maintaining and exacerbating an allergic condition.
3. Habit and developmental disorders e.g. enuresis (wetting), encopresis (soiling), tics, spasms, disorders of sleep and appetite (anorexia, obesity).
4. Conduct disorders - i.e. child is out of parents control.
5. Educational problems - where psychological factors have a role in causation.
6. Psychotic conditions e.g. autism.

Some of these children have fallen behind academically because of illness. While receiving special treatment at St. Anne's they also

attend the special school which is associated with the treatment unit. The school functions under the Department of Education and caters for the special academic needs of our patients while they are under treatment.

Lyradoon continues to cater for out-patients only. If a child is referred to Lyradoon by a general practitioner, an initial family assessment is made by staff there - the entire family being invited to attend at the first appointment. From there a decision is made whether to treat the child in the context of the family - "Family Therapy" or individually. If admission becomes necessary St. Anne's will be considered.

Hopefully, when childhood emotional disorders are treated promptly and effectively, the incidence of adult psychiatric disorder will diminish.

Mary Clarke-Finnegan, M.B., M.R.C. Psych.



# KILTARTAN YOUTH CLUB

*Irene Gill*

A Youth Club was formed in Kiltartan in March and already there are 36 members. The Club meets every Friday night from 8 to 11 p.m. Officers are:

Chairperson: John Nolan;  
Vice-Chairperson: Sheila Cahill;  
Secretary: Johanna Burke; Treasurer: Rose Connors; P.R.O.: Irene Gill.

Adult helpers are Mrs. Gretta Cafferkey, Mr. Richard Burke, Mrs. Teresa Fahy, Mrs. Margaret Burke and Fr. Enda Glynn. Special thanks are due to Peadar Burke who fixed up the old school, which is the main meeting place for the Club.

On an ordinary Club night upwards of 30 attend. Some play volley-ball, others play table tennis. At present a table tennis tournament is being organised for members. Some boys go to Mrs. Tom Nolan's house for cookery lessons - these are enjoyed very much by the boys.

A play and concert items are also undergoing preparation. The Play 'The Matchmakers' is being directed by Richard Burke and the concert items by Gretta Cafferkey. After a while it is hoped to organise a Quiz and debates between the various townlands. Kiltartan competed in the Quiz organised by Gort Youth Club and were narrowly beaten by Ennis Road.

A disco is held every Friday night between 10 and 11 p.m. This is the highlight of the night. Recently a Cake Sale was organised to raise funds for a stereo unit. A high selection of cakes were presented after being priced by Mrs. Nolan. They were sold in the open air outside Kiltartan Church after 9.30 Mass on Sunday 6th May. A sum of £43.25 was raised. The Youth Club thank everybody who contributed in any way, either by buying or supplying cakes.

Also a Church gate collection was held some weeks ago and again the public responded magnificently. So far Kiltartan Youth Club has been a great success and we hope it will continue in this way.

## WHAT GOLF ONCE WAS

Golf is a science, the study of a lifetime, in which you may exhaust yourself, but never your subject. It is a contest, a duel or a melce calling for courage, skill, strategy and self-control.

It is a test of temper, a trial of honour, a revealer of character. It

affords a chance to play the man and act the gentleman.

It means going into God's out of doors, getting close to nature, fresh air, exercise, a sweeping away of mental cobwebs, genuine recreation and tired tissues.

It is a cure for care, an antidote to worry. It includes companionship with friends, social intercourse, opportunities for courtesy, kindness and generosity to an opponent.

It promotes not only physical health but moral force.

*D.R. Forgan*



*Chairman: John Nolan.*



*Kiltartan Youth Committee - Rose Connors, Sheila Cahill, Johanna Burke and Irene Gill.*

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Contact Michael Cunningham or Anthony Brennan.

# Gort Youth Club

*Katblene O'Regan*

The Youth Club has been running successfully for over six months now. Perhaps the highlight to date was the first variety concert held in the Convent Gymnasium in the end of March.

This featured the youth club play 'Riders to the Sea' (it was later entered in the Drama Festival and Mary Fahy who played the part of the old woman won the Best Actress award in her section). The most enjoyable act of the evening was The Boom Town Rats. Francis Sullivan played the part of none other than Bob Geldof and he was supported by Adrian Moloney, Paul and Eamonn Fennessy, Michael Shields and Kevin Glynn. This act also won a prize at the Drama Festival.

The final of the Youth Club Debating competitions followed. Frankie Conway won the individual Best Overall Speaker prize and

Church St. beat a team from the Convent of Mercy in the Inter St. competition.

Other items included "The Mad Hatters Tea-Party", Olivia Newton John, and John Travolta, the Beatles, and some step-dancing. At the end of the night a cheque of £50 was presented to the Boys Scouts from the Youth Club. Attie Brennan was a competent M.C.

## LITTER

At the moment the Tidy Towns Anti-Litter campaign is in progress. Each street is tidied up each evening at 7.10 by five young people who pick up your littler. This work is sponsored by dedicated townspeople - some of the funds will go to the Youth Club and the Boy Scouts. On a long term basis it would help immensely if you could use the dustbins as the posters in the Square say.

Other activities include



*Frankie Conway winner of the Best Overall Speaker of Gort Youth Club Debating Competition.*

Orienteering, thanks to Damian McGrath, and Basketball and Volley Ball. The occasional Disco is also enjoyed by all. We are very grateful to our adult helpers and hope they can continue the good work.

The Youth Club is a good amenity in Gort. Please help us if your can.

*The winning Church St. team in the Youth Club Inter St. Debating competition. Bernadette Fennessy, Jarlath McInerney and Declan Spelman.*



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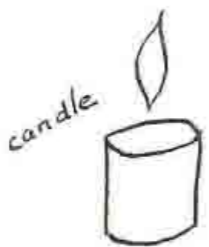


can

# Word - Play.



candidate



candle

take a word like can and dress it up....



cannibal



candy



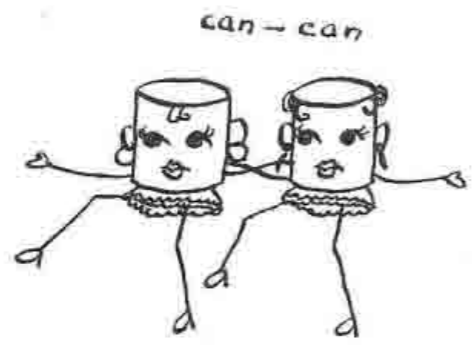
cannibal



canter



mexican

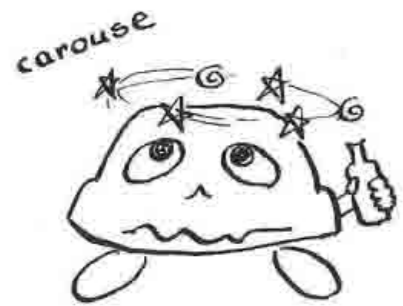


can-can



pelican

or take the word car .....



carouse



carnage



carol

try some of your own!

# An Taisce in Gort

Brendan Long

## RESTORATION OF WEIGH HOUSE

Since its inception only a few years ago the Gort Branch has not been idle. The restored Weigh House in The Square is evidence of its activity.

A preliminary meeting was held in Sullivans Hotel in January 1977 to inform people of the proposed restoration. The meeting was organised by Mr. L.B. Mayer-Jones National Executive An Taisce who had issued an invitation to the residents of The Square and to interested parties.

Mr. Mayer-Jones was happy to say that the Weigh House is now the property of An Taisce who wish to go ahead with its restoration, but who would like the fullest co-operation of the peoples efforts. The re-furbishment of the House would involve:

(1) Obtaining slates, new roof, timbers, lead flashing, new window frames and new door.

(2) Arranging a work-party to do as much of this freely as can be done - but obviously with the co-operation of the local people themselves. There will be some jobs which will need to be done by local contractors.

At another meeting in January 1977 a working Committee was set up:

- Chairman: Michael Cunningham.
- Secretary: Sr. de Lourdes.
- Treasurer: B. Long.
- Committee: Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Daly, Mrs. Kilroy, Gerard Keane and Howard Koenic.

Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Daly and Mrs. Kilroy were appointed to collect in The Square - the maximum of £5 to be collected from each house. There were offers of materials and labour from these present.

At a subsequent meeting in May 1977 it was stated that the sum in

excess of £200 had been collected, some of it from the Galway Branch of An Taisce.

Mr. Mayer-Jones informed the meeting that he had got permission from the County Council to erect a protective railing around the Weigh House. John Daly volunteered to make the railing. Howard Koenic was appointed as Architect and Michael Slattery offered to do the painting. The restored Weigh House will be used as an Information Centre.

It was suggested that a responsible adult might act as custodian assisted by members of the Youth Club in rota.

Members of Gort Branch of an Taisce include Mrs. St. John Collins antique collector, London and Kiltartan Cross, Howard Koenic B.Arch. U.S.A. and Michael Slattery expatriate of Dublin.

## PROJECT

A very fine project by students of the post primary schools, under the direction of Sr. de Lourdes indicated

future possible uses of the weigh-house. The students collected information on the social commercial and industrial life of Gort and district from earliest times to the present day.

The topography and wild life of the area was recorded with a view to the production of a series of simple leaflet reports for sale to the public using the restored weigh house as the distributing centre.

It is hoped to produce a series of leaflets 500-1000 words around four simple drawings, a standard map cheaply printed for sale. Valuable and very interesting information regarding the activities of the Gort improvement Centre was supplied by Gerard Keane. The project is now in possession of an Taisce.

## TOUR

Members of Gort branch, An Taisce, joined a party from Galway on a tour of the Lake district of England during Easter week. They were guests of The National Trust, Britain's equivalent to an Taisce. The National Trust have acquired by bequest a very large portion of the District which they have let to sheep farmers.

The tour was most enjoyable.



Members of the Gort Branch of An Taisce: Brendan Long, Mrs. Burke, Mr. Gerard Keane and Mrs. Kilroy.

"Do you know what Mrs. McNamara, there's no Lint now. God be with the times when Lint was Lint — Black Tay on Ash Wednesday and every other single day without a drop of milk and his Reverence made it clear from the Altar — one full meal and two Coalitions between the ages of fourteen and sixty five, and the Ashen Cross on your forehead to remind us of our mortal existence — and mate — as for mate, if the smell of a fryin' pan came out on a Friday (or even on a Wednesday) for th'ould people kept Wednesdays as well, twould be the tokens of a pagan or a protestant house. And the stations of the Cross every evening in the Chapel — and of course the Family Rosary and the trimmings before we went to bed, with no Television to distract us, and indeed no Wireless Sets, 'cept in an odd Big House where we'd not dare to enter — and we'd look forward to Easter and the Easter eggs

"A Loan for what says I" — "the buy Leger and Crake" says she — "and fags."

"Fags", if we was seen smokin a fag in Lint or no other time, twould be like the smokes of Hell.

And me own ould fella, bed of heaven to his soul, and he was indicated to the droph and would drink the Cross off an asses back, never touched it during the seven holy weeks, barrin' Patrick's Day when 'twas excepted to drown the Shamrock . . . and they all got "Bean na Leann", but never a drop down his gullett 'till the sun danced on Easter Morn'.

Now they're drinkin in big high stools in Loungin Bars without a shadow of shame in their faces — Wodkas and Cooke and even big pints of Leger and porter no less.

In our days Mrs. McNamara, if a woman barely entered a Public

Sunday again the correptin' influence of unsupervised dancin' and the occasion of Sin — and faith it was a sin that time to "carry on" and you couldn't even marry within the seven weeks of Lint. If you didn't tie the knot by Shrove Tuesday it meant a long wait and 'tis many the slip twixt the Cup and the Lip and many a girl missed the Altar by that same delay and ended up in "The Magdelan".

#### CALICO TROUBLE

"This true for your Mrs. O'Brien, every word you spoke is the solid truth, but maybe if we was young to-day we'd be worse than the present crowd who have a divil in every pocket — wads of notes which we hadn't then.

In our day, wheat kept man and woman holy and content with small mercies was — Calico Trouble, for in



hadn't the price of a half wan of Johnny Power or Johnneen Jameson or what 'ed make noise on a tombstone.

As for black tay, 'tis often we had to drink it black, Lint or no Lint, for all we had was wan ould carcass of a cow — half the year dry and the neighbours hadn't a bottle to lend you 'till she calved.

For I tell you Mrs. O'Brien we hadn't the occasion of sin and more luck to them today and their Joy Ridin'.

"Sthill Mrs. McNamara, maybe they was happier in the poor ould days, for though poverty brought hardships, money and wealth brings greater misery."

"Happy me eyeball Mrs O'Brien — we wasn't happy then and they aren't happy now, for every babe that laves the womb has a germ of discontent attached to it — be you destinated for the 'travellin' man's camp or for four posther in The

White House in Boston. We can only trust "the next place". 'll be happier for all concerned — at least I hope so.

All right Mrs, Moroney, wan minnit. She's callin us into The Little Wonder Bar for a coupla Hot Paddies. We might as well make the most of 'ed while we're in ed — ar keep up with the Changin' Time! Lint or no Lint.

W.M. Quinn, Gort, Co. Galway



## When Lint was Lint

— rare hens eggs or blue duck eggs — boiled over a little turf fire we'd make in the cabbage garden and enjoy to our hearts content.

And as for sweets — Cough Lozenges or Gearys Bombs, a big treacly thing that was full of your mouth, then was out — twas rale Fast and Abstinence (I could never tell wan from th'other), but I kept them both thanks be to God. Awh, them was the days of rale Lint.

To-day! no respect for God or man — Heaven help the risin' generation and their distination of the Holy Season.

Says my grandchild to me; indeed she's no child but a sixteen year old convent girl, when I axed her "what is she doin' for Lint" — "Lint," says she, "what has Lint ever done for me, twould be more in your line to give me a Loan."

house, the man behind the bar would beckon us hastily to the Snug — for no decent female only a hussy would be seen at a counter, bein' it only for a half of Port, or a hot Claret on a couldh fair Day — or even an Orange Squash.

Awh! times is changed Mrs. McNamara and I worry for the young people today compared to our generation of God fearin people when a Hooley in the kitchen to the music of the Gramophone brought a visitation from the man of God. Wance when Mick Cooley and Pake Davenport was playin to half sets in our ould kitchen — his Reverence came hammerin' on the door with his big black-thorn stick — and they fled in all directions helther skelther — out the back door or hid under the stairs, and I had to "face the music" and the terrible sermon the next

them days pockets was lined with good hard wearin' calico and when a wan put his hand in the pocket — he felt sweet damn all but Calico — they hadn't a Jingle, and that, for your information was how the sayin, arose, when one was stony broke — that he had Calico Trouble.

My ould grandfather Mikey, and your own grandfather Patsy Nad bony jaws without a pick above on them — for they never had, let us admit it, half enough to ate, so 'twas bloomin aisy for them to do with one full meal (if 'twas in th' ould shack) and two Colitions.

Today 'tis fresh mate at a pound a pound and choclate cake and coffee no less for afther courses.

Both the craythurs passed the ninties and 'twasen't sercosus of the Liver kelt them ayther, for they

—  
—  
Come to the **SILVER SPRUCE** Church St.  
Approved Bord Failte accommodation. Darts, cards, billiards in a pleasant atmosphere for all seasons.

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Phone Gort 9.

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**Angela Corcoran**  
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# Truth

by our Religious Affairs Correspondent

"Truth", said Pilate, "what is that?"

For a few marvellous moments Pilate grappled with the truth. However it proved too elusive for him and slipped from his grasp.

Pilate held a position of authority at the time. This authority came from the status of his position — not from his own inherent qualities. For when the crunch came he was shown to be weak — opting to play to the gallery. He lacked the intestinal fortitude demanded by the occasion.

We all have spot for Pilate, for we are a little like him. It is the Pilate's of this world who get on — the 'nice' people who will let others put the boot in for them.

The man of basic integrity who upholds truth at all costs is often a figure of ridicule and rarely ascends the ladder of worldly promotion.

The system ordains that the man with the ear in the right place possessing a friendly charm and a fickle tongue will make it to the top — while the person who questions the prevailing wisdom of the hour is destined to remain an acolyte on a lesser stage.

Is this the hour for reasserting the primacy of truth? The ideal of truth is something we grope towards and search for in a lifespan of activity.

It means upholding certain values: standing with people in their hour of need, talking justly and charitable at all times, working for the good every day. It is a long struggle — calling for patience, perseverance, at times anger and at all times honesty.

Truth is summed up in the word integrity.

Maybe we could begin in our own court and start talking justly and charitably. How often do we rush to judgement with our rapier tongues without knowing the full facts and thereby cause injury to the good name of an honest citizen.

How often do we use people in

our quest for advancement — this is abhorrent to the pursuit of truth.

How often do we drift along with injustice and fail to cry 'Stop'? How often do we take the easy way out and from our cosy armchairs engage in polite meaningless conversation.

"The truth shall set you free". We are enslaved in an unedifying web of affluence, apathy, gossip and intrigue. What in God's name have these to do with the truth and the good? God too has been pushed aside — our conscience occasionally trouble us but Jesus is boxed away in a nice cosy Sunday compartment.

We offer young people a world of trickery, competition, money-grabbing and drink. We knock them for their faults while we ourselves go on to build a world that is sick and getting sicker.

The vicious circle goes round and round. But if enough people believe passionately in working for the truth, in every activity of their life no matter how small, a resurrection of the truth is possible.

Things looked rather hopeless after Pilate washed his hands. 2000 years later are we prepared to soil our hands?

## Gort Youth Club

LATE FLASH

A second very enjoyable Youth Club concert was held in the Convent Gymnasium on Friday 25th May. It was a joint effort by Gort and Kiltartan Youth Clubs.

The first item of the night was a play 'The Matchmakers' by Kiltartan Youth Club. It was very well acted and enjoyed by the audience. Leading parts were played by Francis Burke, John Nolan, John Melville, Johanna Burke and Rose Connors. Produced by Dick Burke the venture was a credit to all involved.

Anna Kelly, Patricia Kelly, Joan Hallinan and Eva Martyn followed

with renderings of *A Rose has to Die*, the *Gypsy Rover* and *All Kinds of Everything*. Their presentation and dress was most attractive.

A sketch 'The Year of the Child' played by Kevin Glynn, Francis Sullivan and Adrian Moloney proved a great hit. Kevin Glynn looks to have a great future on stage.

One of the most popular presentations of the night came from Noreen O'Regan and Avril Duffy — they did two miming acts from the group Baccara. Again their dress was most effective.

Kiltartan Youth Club singers presented a number of songs which showed careful rehearsal with Gretta Cafferkey, Patricia Moloney, Teresa Fallon, Ann Enright, Geraldine Crowe and Paula Enright, first years from the Boarding end of the Convent of Mercy did a lovely sketch called "Minnie's mistake" — script written by themselves. Talent in the making.

Elton John (Jennifer Liston) was also on stage — this was a wonderful act, showing initiative and talent.

Patricia Moloney read the News with help from Maurice O'Doherty and the two Quiz Finals brought the proceedings to a close.

First in the Individual Quiz Youth Brain of Gort Christine Deeley was a worthy winner from Mary Murphy, Mary Moloney, Mary O'Loughlin, Jennifer Liston and Edel Cunningham.

In the Inner St. Quiz final Ennis Road beat Convent of Mercy by 112 marks to Geraldine O'Reilly, Maura Cummins, Enda Cunningham and Darina Fahy were on the Ennis Road team and Fionnuala English, Catherine English, Mary Cahill and Patricia Moloney were on the Convent team. Trophies were sponsored by Gort Sports Centre for the competition and the Youth Club wish to thank Joe McInerney for his kind help.

Finally thank you for supporting the occasion and if you weren't there maybe you might come next year. The Club are grateful to Sr. de Lourdes for giving the use of the Convent Gymnasium to the Youth Club.



A 1957 Gort Pantomime photograph.

Front Row from left: Mark Scully, Patrick O'Connor, John Couniban, Josie Gallagher, May Couniban, Kieran Moylan, Mary Carolan, Pat McCarthy, Micko Mulcair, Anne Fitzgerald, Martin Dolan, Mick Cabill.

2nd Row: Joe Keane, Bill Loughnane, Mrs. Considine, Kitty Duffy, Eamon Spelman, Nuala Spelman, Mary Gilmartin, Gerard Heenan, Ita Coen, Bridie Long, Philomena Gilligan, Anne Coen, Kitty Moran, Bernie Cummins, Lily Spelman, Maureen Burke, Flan Considine.

Back Row: Thomas O'Shaughnessy, Seamus Moloney, John Cabill, Danny McNamara, Joe Cabill, Beta O'Connor, Colm Spelman, Pdraig Cabill, Johnny Spelman, J. Collins, Joe Leary, Fergus Carolan and Dick Treston.



A function was held in Gort some years ago to commemorate the 1923 Galway All Ireland winning Senior Hurling team. 7 of this team still alive. Pictured at the function are:

Back row from left: Tadbh Kelly, Tom Staunton, S. Quinn, J. Egan.

Front row: Donal McCarthy, Josie Harie, Josie Gallagher, Stephen Carty and Willie Faby.

### GUESS WHO

The person in question is of course the inimitable W.M. Quinn, one of our regular correspondents — an illegible bachelor who would like to hear from marriagable girls over 60 and under 75. Ed.



Adrian Moloney on behalf of Gort Youth Club presenting a cheque of £50 to Michael Cunningham for Gort Boy Scouts.