

SUAIRE



guaire

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Gort L.D.F. Band April 4th 1943.

Back Row from left: Colie Carew, Eddie Treston, Joe Egan, Jimmy Mullins, Josie Gallagher, Paddy Millins and Tom Skehill.

Front Row: Vincent Moloney, Brendan Buckley R.I.P., Willie O'Connor, Devin Treston and Deeley.

The Papal Visit

Maria Long

The speculation, the doubting, the hoping, the uncertainty of months ended when it was officially announced from the Vatican that the Papal visit was on. What a tremendous joy it was for the people of Ireland to hear that Pope John Paul II would spend three days among us. The dates were 29th September — 1st October. Immediately the arrangements and preparations got under way. At a meeting of the Hierarchy in Maynooth the venues were selected — Phoenix Park, Drogheda, Knock, Limerick and to our great surprise and joy Ballybrit where he would celebrate a Youth Mass and address the Youth of Ireland. Young and old, laity and clergy busied themselves with preparations, meetings and discussions.

Tension and excitement grew as the day was approaching. At last, September 29th The Great Day arrived. Televisions all over the country were switched on as everyone was anxious to see the great touch down. Millions of people all over the world joined him in the last two miles of his journey. Church bells all over the country heralded his arrival. At 10 a.m. the oldest jumbo in Ireland St. Patrick, which had been escorted by a squadron of army jet fighters, came to a halt on the runway — a great plane bringing a great man. The Bishop of Rome, the successor of St. Peter, the Head of the Church, the Vicar of Christ had arrived. He was greeted by Cardinal Ó Fiach and after descending the Aer Lingus stairs he knelt to kiss the Irish soil. Then he was greeted by President Hillery, an Taoiseach and other Church dignatories. Dublin Airport was stormed with cheers, shouts of jubilation and thunderous applause beneath the blue Irish skies bathed in the sunshine of a bright harvest day.

"ON MY KNEES I BEG YOU"

A million and a half attended Mass in the Phoenix Park. As his red helicopter touched down behind the huge white and gold altar area the crowd burst into a roar of welcome. This won smiles and waves from the Holy Father. Here the Pope celebrated Mass and his homily which was a long one dealt with the faithfulness of the Irish to the Mass and the missionary work which they are doing.

The Pope's second meeting with his congregation took place in Drogheda. Again he got a rapturous welcome. They heard him condemn violence and heard his immense appeal for peace. His very words were "On my knees I beg you to turn away from the paths of violence and to return to the ways of peace" — an appeal which must have touched the hearts of Irishmen everywhere. "And", he said, "even if it were not listened to, let history record that at a difficult moment in the experience of the people of Ireland, the Bishop of Rome set foot in your land, that he was with you and prayed with you for peace, reconciliation for the victory of justice and love over hatred and violence".

BALLYBRIT

Sunday September 30th was our great day. Transport for our youth group had been arranged by Miss Birdie Sylver. Accompanied by our Youth Priest Fr. Glynn and our Youth Leader Mrs. Cafferky N.T., we left Gort at 3 a.m. After attending a penitential Service at Oranmore we trudged in the darkness, to Ballybrit five miles away and began our happy vigil, full of joyful expectations. Our corral was very well placed. We partook, of our meal.

At about 8 a.m. Fr. Michael Cleary amused, entertained and led the huge gathering in song before the Pope's arrival. He welcomed the young people from the 1,298



Maria Long

parishes of Ireland which included a group of 36,000 from the North. Special places had been reserved for them on the stands. The torch, the symbol of the faith which Patrick brought to Ireland was carried in relays from the Hill of Slane to Ballybrit and was placed before the Altar. Excitement built up to a crescendo of clapping and cheering as the orange helicopter came into view. After having encircled overhead twice it eventually landed on its pad.

The antiphon Walk, Walk in the Light took on its full meaning when the Holy Father stepped from the helicopter. As the Pope made his way to the Altar on the route which was lined by invalids the people chanted "Rivers of Babylon". Did he not resemble St. Patrick, vested in green chasuble as he came on the Altar to celebrate the Eucharistic Sacrifice? It was for us the most joyous moment of our lives. We had seen him on television, we had read about him in the paper but now we had seen him in the flesh — the man whose choice for the Papacy had surprised the world, the man from Cracow, the mountainy man who knew what he was at, and where he was going. His "In ainm an Athar" and his "Go raibh an Tiarna libh" brought a further cheer as the Holy Father smiled and nodded his head as if to say "You never expected that".

"I LOVE YOU"

His homily which was specially directed towards youth began with the words "Young people of Ireland I have faith in you, young people of Ireland I believe in you". He entrusted the future of his mission to Ireland to Irish youth. He entreated them to observe three simple words from the Sermon on the Mount: "Love your enemies". He declared



A group from St. Colman's Vocational School who attended the Youth Mass in Ballybrit. Front row from left Teresa Browne, Claire Forde, Teresa McInerney, Rosaleen Roughan, Teresa Healy and Ann Marie Browne. 2nd row: Marie Greaney, Pat Monaghan, Ann Bermingham, Patricia Pyne, Kathleen Gill and Geraldine Conroy. Back row: Catherine Cummins, Celi Burke, Bridget Coen, Martina Burke, Evelyn Murtagh, Emer Johnston, Mona Lally and Mary Linnane.

"In the long run, love always brings victory, love is never defeated". He went on to say "When I look at you I see the Ireland of the future". "Tomorrow you will be the living force of your country, you will decide what Ireland will be". He urged young people to stand by their religious and moral principles because "a society that has lost its high religious and moral principles will become an easy prey for manipulation and for domination by the forces which under the pretext of greater freedom, will enslave it evermore".

He raised their hopes for the future with the uplifting words: "Tomorrow you will have the power to make dreams come true. You will decide what Ireland will be". Never once did he use the majestic "We". He did not come as a Prince of the Church but as a Pastor and Pilgrim. The most moving moments of his visit came towards the end of his address to the youth, at the point where he said: "Young people of Ireland I love you". The congregation burst into applause which prevented the Pontiff from continuing his homily for fifteen minutes. They sprang a surprise on

him by singing "Stolat Stolat" which had been secretly rehearsed. Next came a Polish tune which again was familiar to the Pope and he joined in the singing. After this he managed to get in a few words "Very nice - it was necessary that the sun shine for us a little". This was followed by another burst of song. This time it was "He's got the whole world in his hands". Only at the end of this song could Fr. Cleary appeal for silence for the Pope to finish his homily. This was shortly granted. The Pope ended his address with the words of St. Patrick's Breastplate "Críost liom, Críost i mo dhiaidh." We joined in at his request.

At the Consecration of the Mass when St. Patrick's Bell was rung we were brought back to the beginning of Christianity in Ireland when the

same bell was used to call the people to prayer.

DEPARTURE

After the Mass he boarded "The Popemobile" and zig-zagged through the cheering crowds, who dashed from all sides to view him at close quarters. Then, as he was borne away in the helicopter the crowds waved Good Bye. An air of silence and loneliness fell over Ballybrit at his departure. The vast throng of about 285,000 began to file away back to the four provinces - tired eyed with weary feet but each with his own thought and his own memory.

At Knock the Pope celebrated Mass and addressed 350,000 pilgrims and told them that this was the goal of his journey. He urged them to continue their great devotion to our Lady and spoke on the importance of family prayer and apostolic service of the sick and suffering. He consecrated the Basilica to Our Lady Queen of Ireland.

On Monday at the ecclesiastical College of Maynooth he addressed the great gathering of Seminarians, Priests, Nuns and religious who mingled with the crowd of 60,000. He urged the priests to continue to respond generously to their ministry. Then on to Limerick Racecourse for the last meeting. Here half a million people heard him strongly condemn divorce and abortion.

There were feelings of sadness as he left Shannon Airport for the United States to continue his pastoral mission and Ireland was left to relax and relive the extraordinary experience of a memory to be cherished - a memory that will live in our history forever - the first visit of a reigning Pope - John Paul II.

Long live Guaire

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YEARS OF GLORY

A. Brennan

Most people will associate 1914 and 1916 with world War I and the Easter Rising, few will associate it as the most successful period in the history of Gort G.A.A. Despite the turbulence of the time, Gort won the Senior Championship in 1914 and 1916 and only lost their crown on an objection in 1915. This achievement is all the more noteworthy considering with the exception of 1934, the home team have failed to regain the championship.

Why have the home club failed to win more County Championships in the intervening years. This question becomes all the more baffling when one considers the exceptional players and teams representing the Club through the years.

No doubt many will point to emmigration but then every club in the county suffered from emmigration. A more satisfactory answer to this question may be obtained indirectly by looking more closely at the earlier team.

The late Jack Fahy was a member of the early team, with his passing we have lost his acquaintance with those early matches and events.

Some years before his death I heard Jack reminising on the "good team" as he referred to it and the names associated with it.

EARLY TEAM

The team consisted of players living in the town and Ballybane. At this stage both Kiltartan and Kilmacduagh had their own clubs. Jack, while living in Kilbeacanty, choose to play his hurling with Gort.

To the best of my memory, he mentioned the following as the first



The Gort team of the era. Front row: Jim Stanford, Mickey Stack, (l.), Martin Farrell, Pat Cooke. 3rd row: Mick Nelly, Hugh Courtney, Josie Kelly, Pat Hayes, John Spelman, Micky Hayes, John Brennan and Micky Deeley. 4th row: T. Nestor, Micky Kullilea, Paddy Joe Cooney, Josie Faby and Matt Halvey.

fifteen. In goal, Coleman Quinn; Full backs Jim Stankford, Pat Hayes and Matt Halvey; Half backs Josie Fahy, Jack himself and Joe Stankford. At centre field team captain John Hayes and Pat Cooke. Half forwards B. Stack, S. Stack and P. Joe Cooney. Full forwards Tom Mac, John Quinn and Eddie Nestor. The subs being Michael Hayes, J. Spelman and M. Farrell.

By any standards this was a very formidable side. Proof of their ability can be gaged when they lost by a mere 2 points in a challenge match against the All Ireland, winning Clare team of 1914. According to Jack Fahy they were "short Pat Cooke the same day".

The team possessed strength and ability while team work was perfected through constant practice. "There was nothing else to do", said Jack, "the number of dances was limited while transport was inefficient and slow." In addition the competitive spirit was cultivated through frequent matches, tournaments were held regularly, Tubber being a popular venue at the time.

CLUB OFFICIALS

Another feature in the club success was the high standard of co-operation achieved through the club administration. Among the officials were John Brennan who was both President and Trainer, James Cunningham, Secretary and Jack Fahy, Treasurer.

An indication of the discipline

expected is evident from an incident related by Jack Fahy.

"On one occasion the team was travelling by sidecar to Russane where they were to play Kilbeacanty. When John Brennan, who by a number of accounts possessed a direct manner, discovered one or two of the team indulging in a quiet drink. The cavalcade was immediately halted, the bottle handed over and duly smashed against the wall. Needless to say unlike Fr. Matthew this policy was not carried out for the glory of God but for the glory of the club.

BREAK UP

And glory they certainly achieved. They beat Tynagh and Woodford in the 1914 and 1916 finals respectively. Not bad for a club founded in 1910.

The teams sudden rise to fame was paralled by its sudden break up. The reasons were largely political and economic. The consequences of the Rising in 1916 spread through the whole of Ireland, intensifying the Republican cause but also creating division, while some members of the team emigrated to America.

But then if the 'Lament for Tommy Daly' is anything to go by they may all meet again.

*Beyond this place of toil and tears
Beyond this vale of woe
There is a spot in Paradise
Where all the hurlers go,
And there in prime their goalie
Will race across the sod
To thrill our dead forefathers
On the level lawns of God.*

Wheelchair Holiday

GORT '79 -

JULY 16th-30th

The first meeting regarding the Irish Wheelchair Associations Holiday in Gort was held in May last. Not many attended the first meeting but there was a very good attendance at the second meeting. In the beginning I honestly didn't believe that such an undertaking would be successful in a small town like Gort, but thank God I was proven wrong. In the course of the meetings many different aspects of the holiday were discussed. Beds, kitchen equipment and all the other necessities had to be got and so they were in due course. Finally the programme was taking shape. Arrangements for the collection of beds from the Galway Army Barracks were made and they arrived and were assembled on Friday, July 14th. The beds were dressed and slowly but surely the classrooms were transformed to lovely bedrooms. The kitchen was also installed on Friday and so, only the final touches needed to be added. Thanks to the ladies of the I.C.A. flowers were arranged throughout the College on Monday morning. During the weekend some of the helpers arrived (a group of clerical students from Donamin and the girls who were to run the kitchen).

FIRST DAYS IN GORT

So everything was ready for the arrival of the

holiday makers. They arrived on Monday afternoon and were given a warm welcome by the helpers. A cup of tea, was provided for whoever wished, followed of course by a sing-song and a chat. When the last of the members and helpers had arrived dinner was served. This was followed by a Sherry Reception and Official Opening. An evening's entertainment was then given by Seán Leahy and Tom O'Shaughnessy. After a long day and a most enjoyable evening everyone retired for the night. Next day a tour of the Corrib was arranged and at 2.30 the members and helpers departed. After their tour, tea and entertainment was provided in the Anglers Rest Hotel, Headford. This was hosted by the Tuam branch of the I.W.A. Wednesday morning brought hairdressing and trips to the special 'salon' in the back of the 'Holiday Centre'. This was all done by local hairdressers who gave their time to the members. After lunch the members left for a tour of the Burren. Tea was served in the Holiday Centre and after tea a group from Ardahan provided entertainment in the College.

Thursday morning brought a demonstration of Aids by the Occupational Therapist. This proved to be very helpful to all. After lunch



Maura Cummins, one of the many voluntary workers who helped make the Wheelchair Holiday a success.

everyone left for a tour of Clare and afterwards the Clare branch of the I.W.A. hosted supper and an evening's entertainment in the West County Inn, Ennis. On Friday morning after Mass a shopping expedition was organised to the Shopping Centre. At 3.00 they came 'home' to dinner at the Holiday Centre. And to finish off the day they left for Ballindereen where they were entertained by the local community.

ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday was the day when different events were arranged and members could do as they wished. (Members could do as they wished every day but today nothing specific was planned). In the evening one had a wide choice of activities to choose from. There was T.V., Bingo, the pictures, a trip to the Golf Club, for a quiet drink and singsong.

A Folk Mass was planned for Sunday

morning. It was a beautiful Mass (with the youth choir). After lunch there was a trip to Ballyvaughan or a trip to Galway for a 'sponsored push'. After both of these tea and entertainment was provided at Seamount Convent hosted by the Kinvara Community.

Monday started the final week of the holiday. The members left for a tour of Portumna Forest Park and tea and entertainment in the West Park Hotel. This was hosted by the Sisters of Mercy, Portumna. On Tuesday a trip to Ballinasloe via Loughrea was arranged. After this trip tea and entertainment was provided in the Shamrock Inn, Ballinasloe, hosted by the Ballinasloe branch of the I.W.A.

Wednesday brought a trip to Connemara and afterwards a trip to the Glenina Rugby Club where a meal and entertainment were hosted by Galway branch of the I.W.A. Some of the members who didn't go on this trip spent a very enjoyable evening at an Irish Night here in Gort hosted by the local branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. A trip to the Army Barracks in Galway was on the programme for Thursday. A splendid exhibition was given by the army. After tea that evening in the Holiday Centre there was a nights entertainment at home. The entertainment included Bingo, musical chairs and there was

plenty of music from two of the helpers. It was really an enjoyable evening.

Friday brought the most important tour of the two weeks. It was a tour to Adare Manor. The home of the President of I.W.A. Supper and entertainment in the Manor were hosted by the Limerick branch of the I.W.A.

LAST DAYS

Saturday brought the climax of the two weeks - the Gala night. An excellent meal was prepared by the helpers in the kitchen. After this meal a Gala Dance was held in the Classic Ballroom. Music was by a local group 'The Virginians'. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Sunday once again brought a lovely folk mass with the youth choir and after lunch there was an outing to Coole Park. After tea on Sunday evening there was an evening's entertainment by the Gort and Kiltartan youth clubs. Followed by

the music of the South Galway Group. It was a lovely but lonely evening, as we were all well aware of the fact that the next morning meant departures.

TEARS

And just like all good things come to an end so did the two weeks holiday. The visit was to everyone involved a very happy occasion. During the holiday we all got to know each other very well. One could see that everyone, members and helpers had a very enjoyable holiday. Tears flowed freely. Addresses were exchanged and everybody left. Many of the friendships made during those two weeks in July will go on forever.

I feel personally that special thanks is due to everyone who contributed in anyway to make this holiday such a success. A special thanks is due to Pauline Faughnan and Paddy Burns the organisers. All the helpers both resident and local. To the I.C.A., the Youth Club, Civil Defence, Golf and

Rugby Clubs, to all the companies outside Gort and to many individuals who are too numerous to mention. I just hope that Gort will be host again in the future to another

Wheelchair Holiday and that someone else will experience the great happiness and joy that this holiday brought to my friends and I.

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The Bane of



Geraldine Killeen

my Life

While I embark on this, my last year in attendance at those Hallowed Halls of Learning, Saint Josephs Secondary School, Gort, I find myself recalling incidents in times gone by, and getting slightly sentimental. There have been very few misfortunes in my school life but it is with chagrin that I call to mind the worst. I speak of the times when I have fallen victim to the dreaded curse of the Red Shoe.

The uninitiated among us cannot begin to imagine the heartbreak, anger and torment involved in the wearing of red shoes. No! Don't let me mislead you, I do not object to the actual red shoes (they are a necessity) but it is the unavoidable occurrences involved in wearing the said red shoes that has prompted this outburst i.e. the loss of the wretched things.

Let me impart unto you the nature of this dreaded affliction. You arrive in the morning (only just on time) and you reach, in haste, for the contents of your shoe rack when, tragedy!! Your shoe is gone. You scout the area swiftly, exploring all possible places, but Alas! The blessed shoe is not to be found.

The bell indicating the beginning of class summons you back from smouldering anger. You must fly to class for you cannot risk disenchanting the tutor in whose company you must spend the next forty five minutes of your life. O, Woe! What is to be done?

You plan speedily. Yes! you will enter the sanctum sanctorum less the

specified footwear. You put a hesitant head through the Hall Door to make sure that all is clear, then nonchalantly, you glide through the door and down the hall with a false calm. But Disaster! The phantom of the red shoe in the form of a sister beloved of us all, spies your scuddling form and calls you to a halt, her voice resounding through the building. You turn to face the consequences with shallow courage. You cross your fingers and pray-hard.

FRIENDLY ADVICE

Then the stinging stream of reprimands: "Where are your red shoes. What do you mean, gone? Get out into that cloakroom and find them. If you replaced your shoes properly in the evening you would find them there the following morning". All explanation is useless, it falls upon deaf ears. You endeavor to tell her that you are indeed careful with your shoes at four o'clock but that you surmise that during the course of the shifting of the shoe-racks, which is necessary to allow the sweeping of the floor, that your shoes fell out and were misplaced, horror of horrors! And that your beloved shoe graces somebody else's foot. All effort to abate the menacing flow of contempt for your negligence is unheaded. You retire to the cloakroom seething with suppressed rage, swearing, vengeance

on a certain person of the cloth and proceed to look for that elusive red shoe.

You can hear the ghosts of a thousand past pupils, who all fell victim to the same folly, spur you on, console you and encourage you. When all your efforts fail you repair to your class painfully late and you hear yourself within the immortal phrase: *Tá mo bhróga á lorg agam!*

The worst may not be over yet, however, for if your efforts at lunchtime have been fruitless you find yourself subject to the wrath of the red shoe sentinel who must lie in wait for breaches of the uniform code (well, after all if she didn't we would chap up coming to school in the red polkadot).

If you search for days without luck, you find yourself scurrying here and dashing there in avoidance of that person.

NEVER ENDING TROUBLE

Eventually you have the showdown (in the cloakroom, most likely) you are enraged and both of you tearing the cloakroom apart. You vent your anger on the accursed shoe-maker (who caused your trouble in the first place) on even on the defenceless bin while the neverending scholding session continues.

In the end when nerves are shot and all hope is gone you find yourself buying new shoes. Even then you find no peace for you are constantly being reminded and warned to exercise care with your footwear.

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So all you newcomers to Saint Josephs (of which nevertheless I am very proud), be warned, guard your Red Shoes as you would guard your most prized possession for verily I say unto thee that few tasks that thou shalt undilike while in attendance at the afore-mentioned school shall be as backbreaking defeating and enraging as endeavouring to track down a lost red shoe.

Take it from one who knows!!

'My Labane Youth'

Oft' times I've wondered if Education

Is the Ruin of Man's Creation -

For Visioning the Past -

Long years ago -

When I a simple boy

Saw Christ Child on the Altar

In simple rustic yearnings

About the happy open fire

With hob-stones polished on each side

By constant patronage of old neighbours -

Johnny Helly or Jim Casey -

Patsy Gillane - Ned Conole

Who swopped a "drag"

From the Pipe of Garryowen

(For 'bacca was scarce and precious).

Kissed by the curling peat smoke

As the Pot Hooks dangled

From the swivelling crane

In silent tribute to the many

Pots of broth or simmering cabbage

Bacon and Spuds

That made a welcome meal

In simple gratitude

To the Great Creator

Where every drunk

Or tinker visitation

Was full replete -

And "Kitty the Hare"

Was high fulfillment

To every boy.

And Dad in his quiet bang-over

Knelt on a Morning Chair

Of sturdy Mike Mullins make

In peaceful prayer

Before a clay-won toil

In horse drawn drill -

Or Granny with her treasured beads

Was lost in heavenly reverie -

And Mamma with her frugal means

Set everyone at ease

With her remarkable benevolence

Of cups of tay and barmbrack -

Or from the open press -

A mound of meat

Sliced with reckless generosity -

Old women in their great black shawls

After mass by Father John

Came crowding to our kitchen

To break the midnight fast

In simple grateful ecstasy.

Awh! God, give back, give back

That bumble carefree crack

Before the tomes of knowledge

Warped our minds

With Education...

Of Lesbian life and Homosexuality

And blatant cursed Pornography -

And lating verbs

And knowlege best left unsaid

Or useless Trigonometry.

Would that such knowledge

Was never born

And I was back again

In my uncluttered Virginal Morn

Of Peat smoke by the kingly fire

When all my world held simple toys

-

Of "Kitty the Hare" of loved "Our Boys"

And "Ireland's Own".

I sit and grieve my Erudition

And solace find beneath the trees

Of Lady Gregory's Coole

In a tranquil picnic garden -

So desolate, but yet so calm

The treasured Autography Tree

Wrapped in the mists

Of a dew filled bird song morn.

And now I know too much -

For loss of faith

Is worse than poignant misery -

No oasis in an endless desert

Of despairing sand -

Bring back - Bring back

My innocence of untutored sanity

When I, a boy saw

Christ Child in each precious host

And visioned most an after life

Of sweet tranquility.

Cursed be this Education

That has deprived me of the joy

Where ignorance was bliss

And I, a simple boy,

Saw grandeur in each cabbage drill

And Heaven shine from each bough.

Cursed - thrice cursed education

That leaves me now

A man of erudition

A symbol - not a soul

A pain drenched microcism.

Without a goal -

To be or not to be -

That is the question

Since Adam bit Forbidden Fruit

I long to learn -

Where lies my root - that is the question?

W.M. Quinn (copyright)

Gort 50 years ago

Tommie McGovern

I would like to write a few lines about Gort, not the Gort of to-day that we all know so well but the Gort of 50 years ago — and to recall some of the changes that have taken place since then.

The first event that comes to mind happened in the month of April 1929 when three Redemptorist Fathers conducted a three weeks mixed Mission in the town. Their sermons on the many evils of mankind, but in particular the evil of



Tommie McGovern today.

intoxicating drink, impressed or frightened me so much that I now display in the label of my Sunday jacket a Golden Jubilee Pioneer Pin.

A lot of water has passed underneath the Convent Bridge since then, water that at that time was used to turn the wheels of Hynes's Mill to grind wheat and to supply electric light to a limited number of town houses.

Gas was used for Street-Lighting and I can still recall something which would now be regarded as primitive — a man carrying a short ladder on his shoulder went around the town twice each night, first to light the lamps and

secondly to extinguish them.

Motor cars were few and far between in 1929 but we were well served with public transport. Six passenger trains passed through Gort Railway Station each weekday, three travelling South towards Limerick and three North towards Athenry.

ENJOYMENT

During the summer months we had what was known as "Sea Breeze" excursions from Gort to

Galway on Thursdays and the fare, believe it or not, was three shillings return.

The mood of Gort people at the time was one of quiet relaxation. Children played the usual children's games on the streets, no traffic wardens were required, or no warnings to look right or left when crossing the road. People didn't go so far afield in those days but we were well provided for at local level. It was a rare Sunday there wasn't some local sporting activity; be it a hurling match in Ballynamantan, a Feis in Kilbeacanty, a sports in Tubber or a Swimming Gala on the river Beagh. We also had the occasional coursing meeting,

Agricultural Show and Horse Races. Indeed at a Flapper meeting in Flenbrack in those early years one of the riders was no less a person than the now Ex-Taioseach Mr. Liam Cosgrave.

SATURDAYS OF LONG AGO

Saturday in 1929, and for some years later, was Market Day in Gort and the Square on Market Day presented what would now be regarded as a most unusual sight, every square yard taken up by horse carts, their shafts pointing towards the sky like anti-aircraft guns.

There were also numerous street traders conducting auctions of leather goods, cutlery and second hand clothes. Sellers and buyers were entertained by street singers and travelling musicians. Rising above the din you might hear the ringing of a bell and the shouts of the Town Crier announcing a local auction, the arrival of a circus or a play in the local town hall.

A man eagerly awaited by toothache sufferers on Market Day was the Black Doctor who, in full view of onlookers, removed your aching tooth

painlessly for the modest fee of half a crown.

CHANGES

Many of the business premises in the town have changed hands during the 50 years I am writing about. Sad to say a number of useful services have disappeared altogether. In 1929 Gort had four tailoring establishments, four boot and shoe repair shops, three harness making premises, two Blacksmith forges — all now vanished.

Today we have facilities that we didn't have in 1929 — such as an up to date Cattle, Sheep and Pig Mart, Supermarket shops, Ladies Hairdressing saloons, two factory premises, new Secondary and Vocational schools etc.

Personalities who visited the town during the years included Mr. W.T. Cosgrave, Mr. E. de Valera, Mr. Charles De Gaulle, Cardinal Cushing all now deceased and Princess Grace of Monaco.

People are better off now so they say. It all depends on what you mean by better off; if it means more money I would agree, if it means more happiness I would disagree. But then I'm one of the old stock — an old age pensioner — no, not at all. A senior Citizen, yes, I'll settle for that.

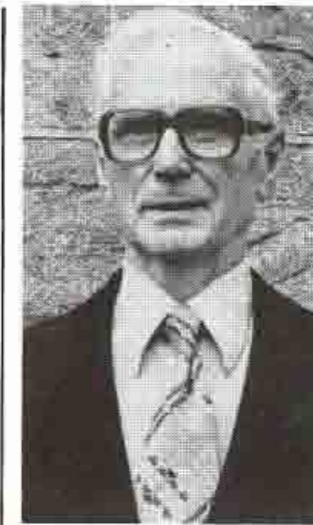
Best wishes to Guaire from

Ollie Roche's Garage Bridge St.

Morris Dealers, Radio, Television and Cycle dealers.
Car repairs a speciality. Also repairs to Motor Cycles and Cycles by expert mechanics.



The Gort that was



Patrick O'Connor

they had made enough to buy the other groceries.

Int.: Was the town advancing well in those years?

Patrick: Only very slowly. There was no waterworks or electric light in the town. The town had several water pumps — one opposite Jack Burke's, another in Church St. and a third below Spelmans at the entrance to Kinnincha. There was also a Gas station in Kinnincha. Pat Macklin lit the lights in the town each evening and went around with a ladder, turning them off at 11 p.m.

Int.: What were the services like in the town?

Patrick: Quite good. There were even more public houses then — 32. There were also a lot of halls. Liberty Hall was at the end of Crowe St. There was also a hall in George's St. — a brass band trained here and performed on special occasions — Sports Days and on New Year's Eve. Years later the town had a Pipe Band. Of course the present St. Colman's Hall was once a school. In Dean Cassidy's time and with his permission, the Town Hall was the scene of many dances. Two married women had to supervise the dances. Dean Cassidy would always consent to give permission for the dances if Lilly Gibbs or Baby Hazlett were supervising.

Int.: What about sport?

Patrick: Hurling was very strong. There were three hurling teams in Gort also

two in Kiltartan and two in Kilmacduagh. The County Board was not established and there were a lot of matches with very keen rivalry. There were also great Inter-Street matches. And of course Gort had strong connections with the 1923 All Ireland winning team; Jimmy Morrissey, Bernie Gibbs and Ned Gilmartin played and Jack Berry of George's St. trained the team. I remember many from Gort cycling to the All Ireland Final in Dublin — they would leave at 4.30 in the morning. There was great unity and spirit in the hurling group.

Int.: Any other sporting memories?

Patrick: I remember Horse Racing in Newtown down at Barry's field — years later there were Flapper races in Lahiffe's. The Circus field was where most of the hurling was played. Gort had its own Agricultural Show and the present Tubber Road

factory was then an Agricultural Hall. Jumping and judging of stock took place in the hurling field. There was also Boxing. Tim Kelly returned from America and trained young boxers in George's St.

Int.: What about the old Mill?

Patrick: Hynes' old Corr Mill was the only grinding Mill in Gort. It was packed with cars every Saturday. The first Saw Mill was at the back of where the Irish Permanent Office is to-day. It was owned by the Mitchel family who also owned the Post Office. And there was the Workhouse. The old and sick people were looked after in the workhouse. Quite near the workhouse there was a Fever Hospital, where Paddy Counihar lives now. Between the Workhouse and the Hospital there was a Church — mass was said there ever Sunday. It was later a Badminton hall.

Int.: Finally Patrick is there anything else that strikes you about old Gort?

Patrick: There was a lovely footpath built by Lord Gort from Gort to Lough Cutra. He looked after it and kept it beautifully. I also remember the town when it had 7 tailors, 4 blacksmiths, 3 harness makers and 3 shoemakers. It has none now. To-day the town had 7 hairdressers. It had none then.

Int.: May you have many more happy years of retirement, Patrick.

Gort Autumn Festival

by John Finnegan,
Chairman,
Gort Chamber of
Commerce.

Since the last edition of this magazine, Gort's annual Autumn Festival was held, the 3rd Festival of its kind since the organisers, Gort Chamber of Commerce, were formed in 1977.

Bunting, banners and street music gave the town that carnival atmosphere on the opening day of the Festival on Thursday, 16th August. To the beat of music over the public address system, provided by such artists as Neill Diamond, Brendan Shine, Big Tom and Shaskeen, members of the committee could be seen on that Thursday afternoon working at trojan pace putting the finishing touches to the open air Festival platform at the Square and attending to other unfinished business.

Despite the heavy rain, quite a large group of towns people, passing tourists and returned emigrants had braved the weather at 6 o'clock in the evening to view a Band Parade through the town presented by the Ennis Brass Band and then participate at the Official Opening Ceremony which took place on the Festival Platform at the Square. Performing the official opening ceremony under the protection of umbrellas was Mr. Thomas A. Rosengrave, former national director of Muintir na Tíre and Vice-President of the Social and economic Committee of the E.E.C., who is a native of Georges St., Gort. He had travelled from Dublin, where he now resides and accompanying him on his trip to Gort were his wife and daughter and his sister Mrs. Grant. During the official opening ceremony, Mr. Rosengrave was assisted by the Town's P.P. Cannon Geoge Quinn, Mr. Ned Roche, one of the town's more senior citizens and members of the Chamber of Commerce. During his opening

speech, Mr. Rosengrave told of all the various places throughout the world which his job takes him to, but returning to Gort, his native home, meant something very special to him. He joked from the platform to members of the audience whom he recognised as being close friends of his in his younger days and with pride referred to his Birth Certificate



Festival Queen Richella
Treston.

which he says states that he was born in the old Work House, which then had a maternity unit attached.

ACTIVITIES

Following the official opening ceremonies, the action packed four day festival got underway, the programme being somewhat a photocopy of the previous year's programme, but with only the most popular events retained and omitting the events least supported on the previous year. A firm favourite with the ladies was the fashion show held on the opening evening at Sullivan's Hotel, featuring a host of local models male and female, assisting models from the Pauline Conway Model Agency in Limerick. A festival would not be complete without dancing and the Gort Autumn festival was no exception with dancing each night to Ireland's top

bands held at the normal dancing venues in the town. At these dances, old-time waltz and set-dancing competitions were held and selections were made each night for the 1979 Gort Wild Rose and Gay Batchelor. It was a moment of great joy for local girl Michelle Treston, who, at the Saturday nights dance, was selected by the Judges as this year's Gort Wild Rose, receiving her crown, sache, bouquet of flowers, a Clarenbridge Crystal Bowl and a cheque for £50. Sharing some of the glory on that same night was Mr. Shane Finnegan from Loughrea, who was selected the 1979 Gay Batchelor, he receiving a trophy and a cheque for £50. A new item on this year's programme was the introduction of a Pub-Quiz, confined to the pubs of Gort. The preliminary rounds of the pub quiz commenced a fortnight before the actual festival, with the final rounds falling into place during the festival week. The honours in this competition went to the team representing Josie Harte's Bar, beating the team representing Spelman's bar in the final. Sporting activities were also well catered for, with Badminton each night at St. Colmans Hall, a Golf competition at the local club, a senior and junior basketball blitz, athletics held through the streets of the town and a tug-of-war held across the Convent River for local teams and at the circus field for out-side teams. The Bonny Baby contest was again a huge success, held on Friday afternoon at Glynn's Hotel, where the proud parents Dodo and Jimmy Gormley were presented with the main award. To the constant click of tourists cameras, the open air feis, confined to the Ann O'Loughlin School of Dancing, was held on the Festival Platform at the Square on Saturday afternoon. Simultaneously, the dog show was being held at the circus field and tractor-trailer reversing competitions at the Mart Grounds.

LAST DAY

Naturally, Sunday is geared as the

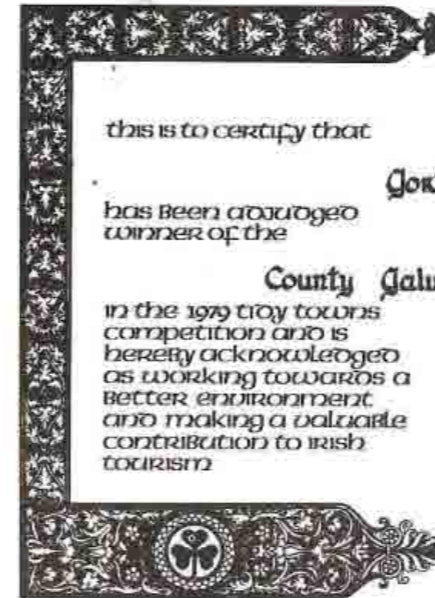
most important day of the entire programme, starting at 12 noon with athletics held through the streets of Gort, as mentioned above. These were immediately followed with the more humorous side of the town sports, an egg and spoon race, a slow bicycle race and a donkey derby, again all through the streets of the town. A quick break for lunch and then on to the Mart Grounds for an exhibition by a Balloonist, the first such exhibition ever seen in the locality. This was immediately followed by what is possible the main highlight of the festival programme, the Industrial and Fancy Dress parade, which paraded through the town from the classic ballroom to the square, led by the Ennis Brass Band, 14 floats, the Loughrea Youth Band and a host of entries in the fancy dress parade, with entries covering every topical issue from the oil crisis to the Pope's visit to Ireland, and with such a large entry

in the fancy dress parade, particularly the junior entry, all of a very high standard, it was regrettable that all entries could not have been winners.

Despite the hard work that goes into organising such festivals, that familiar air of sadness was experienced by all committee members concerned, when approaching that final event in the festival programme, which was the final festival dance and presentation of awards held on Sunday night in the Classic Ballroom, with a double band attraction, featuring the Memories Show-Band and the South Galway Group.

For the period of its existence in the town, it is the policy of the Chamber of Commerce to continue the holding of these festivals

annually, because of the entertainment they provide, over 80% of which is free entertainment and because of the additional revenue which festivals generate for the traders. A sincere word of thanks must be extended to all who assisted in the running of this year's festival, particularly non-committed members, who offered their time and talents to the Chamber in the preparations of the festival. A word of thanks also to the sponsors who supplied the material and the traders in the town for their generous contributions towards the festival fund and especially to those who placed advertisements in the Festival Publicity Feature in a local provincial paper. Those who left their premises at the disposal of the committee must also be thanked, as must the Gardai and County Council. Last, but by no means least, sincere thanks to those 10,000 or so people who supported the festival events.



TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION 1979

Gort won a special prize in the 1979 Tidy Towns competition for being the tidiest town in County Galway. John Finnegan, President of the Chamber of Commerce, accepted the prize of £300

and a certificate of merit at a function in Glaslough, Co. Monaghan in September. Mrs. Teresa Moloney and Mrs. Rose Mullins also represented Gort at the presentation ceremony.

The Tidy Towns Competition is organised

by Bord Fáilte and it is only in the past two years that Gort became seriously conscious of the competition. The Chamber of Commerce are delighted that efforts made during the year have culminated in this success.

We now quote some of

the more pertinent comments made by the Judges in their adjudication of Gort.

FIRST SUCCESS

"Congratulations on reaching the final stages of the Tidy Towns Competition for the first time. Now the long haul commences of effecting further improvement so as to compete for one of the major awards. As well as the main streets and approaches special attention must be given to back areas and lanes, the sides and forecourts of buildings and all those out of the way places which help towards a clean and tidy town."

"It is in attention to details that most improvements can be made as regards Gort. Gort is, architecturally speaking, one of the best small towns in the country with a rare and fine

heritage of early 19th century buildings, many of them still in good heart and appearance. The entire town centre from the Galway approach to the river bridge is a perfectly preserved example of Irish town architecture at its best. It is important that local people realise this. There are many fine traditional shop fronts. In the last few years a number have been removed and their replacements are completely unsatisfactory."

Tidiness

"There was an overall impression of tidiness and good litter control. But the back areas and some approach roads revealed that litter is still a problem. The side street off Market Square and beside the Renault garage could become a problem. A solid gate would help to screen off the old dumped cars - better still these should be removed altogether. The grounds and forecourt to the Advance Factory on the Ennis Road are weedy - this could become unsightly if not attended to."

Presentation of Buildings

"Gort has many fine traditional shop fronts - to name a few Piggotts, Burke's, Roger Fahey, Brady's, J.J. Noone. It is encouraging that so many of them have been retained. It is also encouraging to note that in the Market Square there are two new shop fronts - O'Grady's restaurant and a bar closeby which are reasonably sensitive and fit in to the character of the



Included are Mary Bennett, Director Ireland West; P.V. Doyle, Chairperson Bord Fáilte; Padraic Faulkner, Minister for Tourism; Joe Malone, Director General Bord Fáilte; John Finnegan; Teresa Moloney and Rose Mullins, Gort Chamber of Commerce.

area. The Church of Ireland is nicely presented, indeed all the Churches and public buildings in the town are generally good. The Convent complex, which occupies an important position beside the river is particularly nice.

"Glynn's Hotel is an impressive building - it stands out in its own right and it hardly needs the large ugly sign which disfigures its appearance rather than adding to it.

The garages throughout Gort are reasonably tidy without being of outstanding quality. The Cattle Mart, like most of its kind, pays little attention to its environment and to the effect it might have on its neighbours.

Natural Amenities

"The river and the attractive gardens beside it are maintained to a very high standard - those responsible deserve the warmest congratulations. The older tree planting is quite nice throughout the town and wherever possible new and additional trees should be planted. There is a very nice shrubbery on the Galway Road which is

carefully tended and maintained. The town also has some nice window boxes.

(This section was where Gort fared best in the marking).

Approach Roads

"Mountshannon or Adare should be visited. Both have a crisp presentation of approach roads. The main problem lies in the side streets and back roads. These have many weedy verges, untidy hedges and uncreed for open spaces. Perhaps people living nearby could take them in hand. Some footpaths in the town need repairing. The

Restored Weigh House is successfully executed - those responsible for this sensitive piece of architectural restoration are to be highly complimented.

Residential Areas

"New houses - spaces between these often become unsightly and overgrown with weeds. This makes presentation of approach roads difficult. Also the gardens of new houses and roadside verges can remain undeveloped for years.

"Congratulations to Gort on a fine effort. We look forward to further improvement."

Look out for Don Coen's Great October Sale of O'Coats, Rain Coats, Top Coats, All wool tweed O'Coats

All clearing at Under Cost.

Also on sale Suits, Jackets, Jeans, Footwear, Knitwear, Shirts.

Drop in to

DON COEN

Bridge St., Gort

Jubilarian visits Gort

M. Bn.
Uí Dbombnalláin

Sr. Anne Marie Macklin, C.S.J., Brooklyn, New York was one of the many Irish-American visitors who called at the Information Centre, The Square, Gort this summer. Sr. Anne Marie was treated to an unexpected trip to Ireland to celebrate her Silver Jubilee.

Her father, John Macklin who now lives in the U.S.A. was a native of Gort, and resided in Crowe St. He worked for W.B. Yeats in Thoor Ballylee before emigrating. He was the father of sixteen children. Her grandfather Patrick Macklin was in charge of Gort gas supply, and was responsible for the functioning of the street gas lights. He was also a master carpenter, cabinet maker, and weaver.

Sr. Anne Marie studied periodically at the Yeats school in Sligo, and for her Master's Degree she wrote a thesis entitled "The Critical Reputation of William Butler Yeats in Ireland and England up to 1900".

She purchased a copy of "Guaire" for her father, and I promised to send her the next issue of Guaire if this article appears in it. She took some snaps of the "Crane", and recorded a greeting for her father from Mrs. N. Burke, The Square, and also from me.

The Pope is gone

But **Keane's** linger on

★★★

Compliments of the staff to Guaire

Fág a' bealach

Leaving Cert Buffet

by our Night and early Morning correspondent

I feel compelled to share with you some memories of our most enjoyable Leaving Cert Buffet of June 1979. It was a festive occasion. Our exam worries were all forgotten - these were many. There were times when we thought the school year would never end. But at last it was all over and most of us never wanted to hear about books again. On this beautiful June evening we wanted just to enjoy ourselves. We really had a 'fab' night.

For old time sake we wanted the venue as near as possible to the Convent so we settled for Glynn's Hotel. The meal was lovely - we really weren't too worried about the menu. Very few of us noticed that the soup failed - if we had known this in time I am sure Sr. de Lourdes, looking resplendant on the night, would have performed the necessary miracle.

It was on to chicken and mash, carrots and peas, followed by trifle and cream with tea or coffee to close. J. O.R. gave a lovely speech and thanked the distinguished guests for honouring the occasion. Among the distinguished guests were Fr. Carney, Micheál Breathnach, Sr. de Lourdes, Mrs. Joan Murphy, Mrs. Ami Talbot, Marie Forde and P. B.

One Night Stands

But of course the main guests of the evening were the three Leaving Cert classes from Gort's three schools. For the record here are the partnerships that graced the occasion. The boys, I'm sure, won't mind, if the girls do the honours with

their names first.

M.K. (Tubber) and P.C. (Beagha, C.K. and J.K., L.J. and E.S., A.S. and M.C., M.O'L. and J.O'D., C.H. and F.H., F.E. and M.F., R.W. and L.K M.P. and F.S., S.C. and M.S., T.N. and R.H., L.H. and G.B., J.C. and P.H., A.B. and T.S., P.W. and M.C. T.L. and M.D., S.M. and M.Q., M.L. and P.M., C.C. and M.M., G.C. and K.C., S.O'D. and P.P., K.O'R. and G.P., F.O'C. and J.C., R.C. and N.E. M.S. and E.C., J.W. and S.F., M.M. and J.O'R., M.C. and B.R., C.D. and M.K., P.M. and L.O'Q., M.W. and S.L., P.B. and P.C., M.Q. and P.M. G.M. and B.K., F.C. and P.J.O'B. P.D. and M.L., I.F. and J.O'C.

Music was by John Sullivan of the Silver Disco who took time off every



now and then to enjoy the music with J.M. The supporting cast was large - these add lustre to any occasion of importance. So we thank the following for their support: B.G. and F.M., M.M. and A.C., C.R. and K.G., M.M. and A.M., C.S. and M.O'S., C.H. and O.C., M.C. and N.H., J.D. and J.M., E.C. and S.M., M.W. and P.L., C.M. and E.F.

We never felt the night passing. All enjoyed the music and before we knew where we were it was 4 a.m. So it was out into the night mist and five years of secondary school had fittingly come to a close.

We enjoyed our passing through. We had ups and downs, we were young and made mistakes. We thank all who helped us and we hope those we gave headaches to forgive us.

School was a great experience. The friendships forged there - we will never forget.

out and about

The attempt by Galway to bring the McCarthy Cup across the Shannon was watched by many Gort hurling enthusiasts. Sylvie Linnane, when he came on as a substitute early in the 2nd half, did a good deal to turn the tide but it was not to be Galway's day. The Galway effort also had another Gort association. John Connolly's wife, Nuala, comes from Kiltartan. How refreshing it was to hear John and Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh converse spontaneously in beautiful Irish in an R.T.E. interview after the Galway Cork match.

*We would like to congratulate the following couples on their recent marriages: Patricia Lally and Peter Melville, Geraldine Roche and Michael Mahony, Philomena Glynn and John Hynes, Josephine Hassett and Gerard Lally, Vincent Keane and Ellen O'Connor, Anne Forde and Joseph Cochrane, Mary McCormack and John Hynes, Anne Sullivan and Michael McCann, Mary Carr and Vincent Fahy, Patrick Martyn and Angela Gatt. Dorothy Kilroy and Francis O'Grady.

*Many Gort people attended the ordination and First Mass of Fr. Martin Glynn, Killanena during the summer. Fr. Martin was captain of the team from Our Lady's College that almost brought the All Ireland to Gort in 1973. At the moment he is serving as curate in Salthill parish.



Tom Feeley Field Manager Guinness Group Sales presenting the Galway Scratch Cup to Frank

*We welcome back to the town Paddy Cooke, his wife Annette and family. Paddy has returned from Dublin to take up a post with Aer Rianta in Shannon. We also welcome to the town Garda Martin O'Connor, his wife Kathleen and family.

Fr. Healy

*A man who will be missed by his many friends, colleagues and pupils (past and present) is Fr. Paddy Healy who served for 19 years on the staff of Our Lady's College. Fr. Healy is to take up an appointment as curate in Lisdoonvarna. For many years he served as Secretary to Gort Credit Union where his quiet efficiency was greatly valued. His work as a teacher in Our Lady's College for almost two decades has already been referred to in this magazine. Everyone in Gort wish him success and

Cooney. In centre is Des Mahon runner-up and 1978 winner.

happiness in his new posting.

*It is early days yet before the annual general meeting of Gort Golf Club scheduled for January 1980. The A.G.M., among other things, will see the installation of a new President and Captain for Gort Golf Club. Reports coming in to date to Guaire indicate that Church Street and Glenbrack are earmarked for these plum jobs. However it is early days yet, there is a rocky road ahead and many unseen hurdles remain to be cleared. A week is a long time in...

*Gort had a direct interest and involvement in this year's Rose of Tralee contest. For representing Limerick in the final was Colette Stevenson whose family home is now in Kiltartan. Her younger sister, Barbara, is a pupil of the Convent of Mercy Primary school.

*Sr. Carmel, former principal of the Convent Primary School has been transferred to Spiddal. Her pupils were sorry to see her leave for pastures new. Sr. Peter is the new Principal and Rose Mary Mannion has joined the staff. Ann Coen has taken up a teaching appointment in Maynooth and Teesh Piggott has started in Crumlin. Mary Carney, a past pupil, has joined the staff of St. Colman's Vocational School.



Mary Kearney a past pupil who joined the staff of St. Colman's Vocational School in September.

Disco Dancer of Gort

*A unique competition in youth circles was run in conjunction with Gort Autumn Festival. It was the Disco Dancer of Gort competition and the winners were Francis Sullivan and Noreen O'Regan. Adjudicators were Colm and Shirley McNevin.

*Colette Griffin has taken up a teaching appointment in Newbridge

College, Kildare. Colette was a contributor to the third issue of Guaire and will, we hope, contribute many more fine articles to this seasonal publication.

New Library

The new premises for Gort Library in the Protestant Church opened on 25th June. The new premises are in beautiful condition and a credit to all involved in the project. An extensive selection of books are available, almost 3,000 in the fiction section. There is also a reading compartment. Mrs. May Brennan, George's St. runs a most efficient service. Hours of opening: Monday to Friday - 3 to 5.30 p.m. In addition to this Thursday 6.30 to 8 p.m. Saturday: 11 to 1 p.m.; 3 to 5.30 p.m.; 6.30 to 8 p.m.

*A most popular winner of this year's Galway Scratch Cup was Frank Cooney, Gort G.C. He shot rounds of 72 and 70 and won by a shot from Des Mahon. Frank has been a Connacht Senior interprovincial player for many years and



Disco Dancers of Gort - Noreen O'Regan and Francis Sullivan.

is Gort's finest golfing ambassador. His many friends were delighted to see him win his first senior scratch cup.

Gold Medals

*The 1979 Kidney Olympics saw Maxie

Scully turn in another magnificent performance. This year's event was staged at Portsmouth and Maxie won four gold medals. He also captained the Irish team to overall success winning the Rose

Bowl trophy. By a standards this is outstanding achievement and a credit to the courage and versatility of Maxie.

*Guaire would like to extend good wishes to a former manager of All Irish Banks, Gort, Gera Liston, his wife Nuala a family who have moved Limerick. Nuala was member of the teaching staff of Seamount College Kinvara and her daughter Jennifer, was a prominent member of Gort Youth Club.

Special congratulations to Bernard Stanford George's St., Gort who won the Green National Championship with 'Ballybane Grace' Millstreet, Co. Co. recently. This leading Irish draught horse competition was worth Bernard £500 and a beautiful Silver trophy.

*Marian Mulcare has returned from a spell nursing in Nigeria. At the moment she is working as a Mentally Handicapped Nurse in Glenina Heights. She will shortly take up permanent post in Kilcoran, Clarenbridge.

Great Bank, Great Branch, Great People, Great Service that's

The Allied Irish Banks,

Gort

Manager: M.J. Durand
Assistant Manager: Desmond Fitzgibbon

For finest qualities of meats, groceries and vegetables at keenest prices call to

LEE'S

Bridge St., Gort

We cater for deep freeze orders - green shield stamps.

Phone Gort 206

The restored Weigh House

The history of the Gort Weigh House dates back to the seventeenth century. In 1608 Roger O'Shaughnessy the local ruler at the time was granted a patent for a weekly market in the Square, and part of his income was derived from the tolls collected at those markets. The O'Shaughnessys had the right to the tolls up to the end of that century, when John Prendergast Smith of Lough Cutra Castle, (an ancestor of the first Lord Gort) acquired their estates.

It is believed that the Weigh House, a beautiful cut-stone building measuring 13 ft x 11 ft was built in the 1760's, and replaced a much older building. From the very beginning the venue for the weekly market was the spacious square, with the crane or weigh house as the focal point. The market was always held on Saturdays. It was obligatory on all who offered farm produce for sale to have the goods weighed at the Crane, and to pay tolls in accordance with the weight of the produce. No business man was allowed to operate a privately owned weighing apparatus. The Crane was in fact a local custom house, which was in charge of a validly appointed Weigh Master.

Past Weigh Masters

The Weigh Master was usually an ex-member of the British army, or police force. Some of the local senior citizens who visited

the Crane this summer remember some of the Weigh Masters. They say that John Waters who owned a public house beside P.J. Pigotts, The Square was weigh master C.1940. His predecessor was Sergeant Jim Broderick. Before him was the grey-haired Jack Berry the trainer of the winning All Ireland hurling team in 1923, and whose photo appeared in one of the Sunday newspapers on 2nd September, the day of the 1979 All Ireland Hurling final. Jack boasted that he was unique in being a grey "berry". Before him was his father Ex-Sergeant James Berry of the Leinster Fusiliers. Sergeant James O'Donoghue was his predecessor. Slaters Directory records the name of Thomas Gill as Crane Master in 1870. Before Thomas Gill was Anthony Hynes, who succeeded Michael Keane a local shopkeeper.

New Developments

A few months before the 1921 Treaty, the Gort Improvement Company was formed, to take charge of the tolls and customs. The inaugural meeting of that company was held on 15 Nov. 1921. The directors were Messrs Martin Coen, Batty Fahy and Dan Burke of Bridge St., Pat Keane, Peter Greene and Pat Lally of the Square. It was agreed that the company would purchase the right to the tolls from Viscount Gough, Lough Cutra, for the sum of £500. A Mr. Kennedy was appointed

secretary and Mr. James Berry was re-instated. It was the duty of the secretary to appoint suitable men to work at the customs gaps (located at the entrances to the town) and also at the Crane. All records were kept at the Crane.

Agreement was reached on the question of charges for weighing the miscellaneous goods, and on the tolls for animals not sold by weight. The company provided a suitable scale for weighing wool and the crib for use when weighing cattle was repaired. A considerable revenue was collected on big fair days - 16th March (known as the St. Patrick's day fair) 10th May, 11th August and 7th November. Those were cattle fairs held on the streets. Sheep fairs were held on the previous days.

MARKET SQUARE

The oldest native residents of Gort remember the square been literally packed with horse cart loads, and donkey loads of farm produce on market days at the time the Gort Improvement Company was founded. Queues often extended into Bridge St., Crow St., and Church St. Tolls were collected on the weight recorded at the Crane. The load plus the cart was first weighed and the weight of the empty cart was deducted from the gross weight. Loads of timber from the woods at Chevy Chase, Lough Cutra and Bunnahow were to be seen in the queues. The timber

was drawn in by part-time farmers and disposed of at Mitchell's saw mills situated in a yard at the back of Barry's, Georges' St.

About the middle of this century the market gradually diminished, and ultimately there was no further use for the Crane. The last directors of the Gort Improvement Company were Messrs. Gerard Keane, Jack Spelman, Jack Burke, Edward Treston and the late J.J. Coen. In 1975 when a truck struck the cross girder, and knocked down some cut stones, Mr. John Monahan a Co. Council employee and his co-workers removed the fallen stones and the balance for safe keeping.

RESTORATION

About the middle of 1976 "An Taisce" (which is 31 yrs old this year) acquired the Weigh House and had it restored. They got contractors to fit three new windows with re-enforced glass, and a double door to match. A slated roof was put on the building, and the ceiling was hard-wall plastered.

The Co. Council employees were responsible for collecting corn-stand stones some distance from the town, and for placing them around the crane to support a galvanized chain to enclose the area. The stones are remarkably uniform and are skillfully set in position. Mr. Monahan fitted a neat stone step at the door, to prevent the water from

flowing down into the building off the street, which is at a higher level. The Council men fitted the original iron balance and placed a village pump and trough inside the area. The pump is similar to the one which was in the Square some years ago, on the site where the statue of Christ the King is now.

At meetings last June presided over by Mr. Mayer-Jones, President of An Taisce, it was decided to operate the restored Weigh House as an Information centre for the summer season each year, and to have it worked on a voluntary basis. We succeeded in getting a sufficient number of volunteers to attend on a rota basis, to keep it open for six days of the week - Monday to Saturday. This responsibility for a half-day each week was freely accepted by each volunteer and on 12th July it was first opened. Two tables were lent by the Sisters of Mercy, and a súgán chair, the property of the late Miss Kilduff was donated. Window boxes containing a variety of flowers were presented by Mr. H. Diezi, Derrycallan, and were greatly appreciated by members of An Taisce.

Information Centre

The "Crane" is now a great asset to the town as an Information Centre. Ample evidence of this is the number of tourists who have called there seeking information. Over 700 have signed the visitors' book. We have had visitors from Australia, Africa, the U.S.A., Canada, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland



Mrs. Mary Donnellan N.T. of the Gort Branch of An Taisce pictured at the desk in the restored Weigh-House.

and most European countries. Enquiries at the centre varied. Some historians asked to be directed to Kilmacduagh. People with literary tastes were asking the way to Coole, and Thoor Ballylee. Some Americans of Irish extraction were trying to find their roots, while others with no particular interests were grateful when given information on local places of interest (such as the Punchbowl) which they could visit. Many commented favourably on the generosity of the voluntary workers. Others commented on the appearance of prosperity which the fine Square and well kept buildings presented to visitors.

Our Secretary and historian Sr. M. De Lourdes provided copies of nine different papers (of local significance) for sale at the nominal price. Those papers have been very much in demand, and Sr. de Lourdes has been kept busy replenishing stocks. A collection of free

setting up of the centre has reached London already, as a letter has been received by us from the Central Reference Library there, requesting some complimentary copies of guides of Gort area.

The Information Centre is understandably only in the embryonic stages yet. A number of meetings will be held soon to discuss the question of getting permission to erect the two octagonal granite centre-pieces of water-mil wheels, donated by Mr. Tom Minogue, and the two large querns donated by Mr. Peter Hallinan Kinincha. During the winter we will have time D.V. to think of means of developing the centre to its full potential. The membership of the branch is small in comparison to the population of the town. New members would be welcome and also some volunteers for 1980 (who need not be members). Before next summer we hope to get an increase in the number of voluntary helpers as well as an increase in the membership.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.

M. Bn. Uí Dhomhnailláin

Your Bank of Ireland Cheque Book is a very important book for everyone who earns money.

Call to the **Bank of Ireland** Gort

The bank of a lifetime.

Manager: Frank Shaw
Assistant Manager: Padraic Giblin

The Possibles

by Juvenile

"No matter how high a throne a man sits on he still sits on his bottom".



Up Dev

A most serious virus broke out in Ireland in September. Doctors were busy attending patients in many regions, particularly Bodenstown, the G.P.O. and Fermoy. Gort was not too badly affected but serious outbreaks were reported from Ennis Road (East and West), Bridge St. and Galway Road.

Medical experts had great difficulty in diagnosing the precise nature of the illness. It is feared to be hereditary and prone to hit in rural areas. One doctor claimed that the main symptom leading up to the disease was "an acute form of verbal republicanism". Though contagious, he was confident that the virus could be controlled and would not be as harmful as its last recorded outbreak of May 1970.

New Magazine

Gort is to have another new magazine. It is expected to be a high-powered affair and it will fill in the many gaps left by Guaire. Its editor and back up team are, at the moment, lying low. Readership of the new magazine will be comprised of historians, archaeologists, reservationists and educationalists of long standing repute.

A spokesperson for Guaire has welcomed the development. Competition is the spice of trade - "I say the best horse win", she added.

Missing Document

A mysterious document has been discovered in the Gort region. It bears the postmark Ballybaun, aughtyshaughnessy, Gort and is believed to be the distinguished work of five Gortonians. The document contains a list of names and numbers the numbers range from 3 to 24 - most are in the 14-24 category.

Gardai are continuing their investigations of the document. But they have discounted suggestions at some names on the list were members of a secret caucus group in the region. "We do not

allow caucus groups function in our district", a Garda aide explained.

Miss Rose Exchange 1979

*Representatives of the Gort Commerce Chambers and the P.O.W.U. have commenced the search for Miss Rose Exchange '79.

Representatives from both groups met briefly recently to announce details of the competition and a statement was later publicised.

Contestants will be judged on the standard of spoken Connaught English. A facility with other tongues will be considered a bonus. It's expected the future Rose will not just hang up or hang on but exude a fresh and warm personality.

A spokesperson for the Chamber said they will be primarily looking for an efficient Rose. While the P.O.W.U. spokesperson said he would overlook minor outbursts of anger as one cannot expect to find a Rose without some thorns.

A general feeling from contestants is that Irish telecommunications is in a very weedy and overgrown state. Far from blooming one is more likely to be mauled by the whole atmosphere.

Papal Security

The special mobile force of stewards from Gort on duty at the Papal visit to Ballybrit have been highly commended by Vatican security in a report prepared for top ranking officials in Rome. This special force, drawing on F.C.A. and Civil Defence experience, was positioned around the High Altar and required to deal with many suspect characters during the ceremony.

Rumours that the Vatican has offered a number of attractive positions in the Swiss Guard to members of the force are without foundation. However after the success of one member posing as a detective there is a possibility that the Special Branch might employ the men as a specially trained anti-terrorist combat force. Their future certainly looks bright.

Clean Streets

At a reception in the Ireland West H.Q. Mr. Mitch Corbett was presented with the Bord Flaithiúil prize for 'Clean Streets'. This largely unsung hero fully deserved this award for his unrelenting war on littered foot paths over the years. Asked about his plan for attacking the litter problem Mitch replied that his methods were neither chemical or biological but relied for the most part on good old fashioned "elbow grease". This approach must surely make the authorities stop and think before introducing advanced technology when the simple wisdom of the man on the ground can complete the task just as well.

Youth Protest

A big youth protest is planned for early next month. It promises to be a lively affair - smoke bombs are under construction and there will also be a special waterworks display.

A youth spokesperson explained: "Youth are no longer going to allow themselves to be trampled upon. All we want is equal rights and fair play from the 'adult' community. This is 1979 and after all the Pope said he loved us. Does anybody else?"

The demonstration will feature many popular youth numbers like "Oh when the Saints", "She has got the whole world in her hands", "The Hills of Clare", "Nosing Round the Corner", "It's a holi-holi-day", "We're not like a tree standing by the wall", "Do you want your old lobby..." and "We shall not be thrown around".

Martin Lawlor Remembers

In this interview with Peadar Ó Conaire



Martin Lawlor in retirement.

P.Ó C: Is it true that you are a Dubliner Martin?

Yes, I was born in Dublin. The family moved to Ballybrophy when I was four years old. Of course, I have been so long in Galway that I regard myself as a Galway man.

P. Ó C: When did you come to Gort?

In 1966. Prior to that I was station-master in Ballybrophy (1934-1950), Kildangan, Co. Kildare (1950-1958), Ardahan (1958-1966). While I was station-master in Ardahan, Mary and Patricia used to travel by train to school in Gort. As well as that we used to do our shopping in Gort every Saturday, so we knew the town very well before we actually came to live here.

But my own personal memories of Gort go back to 1929 when I visited my brother, Patrick, who was C.I.E. Clerk here at the time. Mr. Glavin was Station Master. Later on, in the mid-thirties, I left C.I.E. for a while to take up a job as a lorry driver. I used to deliver coal from Quilty to Hanrahan's in Gort.

So I certainly was no stranger to

the town when I came to live here in 1966.

P.Ó C: Gort Station must have been a busy place when you came.

Yes. There were nine people in permanent employment at the Station. Mary Barrett was lady clerk, P.J. Cunningham (Goods checker), Mick Pender and Paddy Hanrahan (signal men), Johnny Fahy (porter), John Corcoran and Martin McMahon (linesmen) and Larry Loughrey (carter).

Most of the shops used to get goods by rail that time and of course the mail used to come to Gort station as well. About sixty post primary pupils from Ardahan, Craughwell and other areas used to come to Gort by train. They would arrive at 9.20 a.m. and would catch the 5 p.m. train for home in the evenings.

We used to carry a lot of agriculture produce as well. About six wagons of beet a day would be loaded in Gort in a good season.

The first Tuesday of every month, fair day in Gort, was very busy. Thirty to forty wagons of cattle and sheep would be loaded in Gort. The bulk of them would be for the North Wall and some for Mullingar and other midland towns. With the advent of the Mart it became even busier, up to £1,000 in transport charges was taken every Thursday at Gort Station.

P.Ó C: These were the busy years at the Station. What caused the big decline?

A number of factors. First of all C.I.E. hadn't enough wagons to cope with livestock from the Mart. Cattle trucks became more common and eventually the livestock service was withdrawn completely.

C.I.E. carried out a complete re-organisation of the rail system in 1970. It was meant to be an

economy measure. Goods to Gort Shops were diverted to Ennis for road delivery.

The Beet acreage continued to go down in South Galway. There was less use of Gort station as a result.

Gradually the work force at the station dwindled. In 1975 a mechanical device was installed at the station so that trains could pass from Ennis to Ardahan without the Gort Signal man being involved.

P.Ó C: How many are employed at the Station now?

Only one, P. J. Cunningham. Gort Station is a cement Depot now. The store was reconstructed and a forklift installed for loading. 1500 - 2000 tons of cement a week are delivered to the Station. Special trains bring fertilizer at times as well. There are days when no train at all passes through Gort. Passenger Train ceased as from 1st April 1976. The Station was officially closed on April 6, 1976.

P.Ó C: The Railway Bridge in Georges St. must have been a major headache. How did you cope before the new bridge was erected?

Thank God there was no accident anyway! The old bridge was battered by trucks regularly. We inspected it very often. If the line was moved two inches it was considered too dangerous for a train to pass. I remember one day, a passenger train stopped at the station, was ready to leave when somebody rushed up from the town to tell me that the bridge was hit. We had to stop all trains for two days so that repairs could be carried out. On June 23rd 1975 the new bridge was opened. That solved all the problems.

P. Ó C.: You must remember some great occasions when there was plenty of hustle and bustle at the station.

Oh yes, there were many exciting days - excursions, school tours, special all-in-trains to football and hurling matches, trips to the Spring Show and the Horse Show in August and of course, pilgrimages to Knock Shrine and Pioneer Tours. We used to carry up to three hundred people to

Knock on each of five different excursions.

P. Ó C.: *What was the most satisfying part of your work?*

What gave me most satisfaction I would say was when a tour or excursion I had organised turned out well – when everybody came home safe and happy. You can imagine the worry when we were carrying 300 – 500 children!

P. Ó C.: *You were obviously very conscious of your responsibility*

Very much so. I remember one time a little girl fell out of a train near Craughwell. The train went back to

pick her up. I was notified about the incident in Gort and realising that the Athenry train was due in Craughwell, I got a message through immediately to stop it. I then drove to Craughwell to be on the spot, as it were.

P. Ó C.: *What about passengers who were overcarried?*

Legally they were supposed to pay their fare back. This was never enforced of course. I would put them on a goods train or find some other means of transport for them. Charity always prevailed.

P. Ó C.: *How did you manage to get a*

good night's sleep with trains passing so near?

I wouldn't even hear them! I would if they stopped, though!

P. Ó C.: *Finally, what are your plans for the future?*

Well, I can stay in the house as long as I like. Eileen and I intend to stay on in Gort. The people here are lovely. We can relax now and that's what we intend to do.

We wish Martin and Eileen many happy relaxing and carefree years in Gort!

Fashion: Gort in Vogue

Jane Regan

Gort was proved to be a very fashion-conscious town recently by the large attendance at a Fashion Show held in Sullivans Hotel, in conjunction with the Gort Autumn Festival.

It was decided to repeat the event during this years festival because of the great interest it attracted the previous year amongst all age groups.

The show was organised by a group of local ladies, under the leadership of Mr. Junie Finnegan.

Professional models from a Limerick Model Agency took part in the show and provided an interesting commentary on the various outfits.

Clothes for the younger generation, aged from five to twelve years, were delightfully modelled by local children and teenage outfits were also included modelled by local girls.

Of course, the fashion-conscious male was not forgotten, and the show included several outfits for the fashionable gent modelled by two brave gentlemen, who really stole the show!

Tastes Differ

Clothes featured were supplied by the various fashion shops in the town and the evening proved to be an "eye-opener" for many people as to the variety of garments and outfits available in our local shops.

Outfits for all sizes and tastes were included, both formal and casual in style.

Garments included were coats, rainwear,

dresses, suits, skirts, sweaters, slacks, Aran knitwear and shawls, and a variety of sportswear for the young sports enthusiasts of the town.

Outfits were complimented by accessories and footwear



Jane Regan.

also supplied by Gort shopkeepers.

The evening was a great success and was greatly enjoyed by all. Of special interest, in these days of high transport costs etc., was the fact that we can obtain such a wide selection of fashionable clothes so near to home.

Gort is certainly "in Vogue".

Low heels, high heels, stilettos and wedges, Flared skirts, straight skirts, Hems with zig-zag edges.

Military coats, tent coats High boots and ankle straps. Whatever their cost We are caught in the trap.

Fashion trends change so often these days. And outfits are varied in so many ways.

We all try to follow the latest fashion trends. All trying to look more stylish than friends.

Fashion is a gimmick, Just stop and think What matter the outfit if you're happy in it!



Jane Regan

Gort and District Gun Club



Gort and District Gun Club was born in the house of one Thomas Collins, Caherbrien, Gort, in the early Spring of 1963.

Its aims at the time were to promote the control of shooting in the area, to develop and increase game stock, in particular pheasant and mallard.

The six founder members were, Michael Quinn, Prospect, Tom Jordan, Lakefield, Patrick Kelly, Shanaglish, Finn Forde, Bunnahow, Seamus Clondillon, Lough Cutra and Mícheál Ó Broin N.T. who was the Secretary.

Still Alive

The club has had its ups and downs since those early days but is still alive and shooting. The Game Sanctuary at Coole has helped greatly with the development of pheasant and mallard stocks in the area.

by Jimmy Molloy



Jimmy Molloy, past-President of the Club and still a very active member.

Club members put a lot of effort into control of predators, in particular the eradication of grey crow and foxes.

Since 1973 the Club has engaged in running clay pigeon shoots with some considerable success. This year the open shoot was the most successful to date.

Due to the introduction of new laws in relation to the holding of licences for shotguns, the club has been informed by the Local Garda Sergeant it will be necessary for the club to furnish a list of members to the Garda Station.

Membership of the club also gives a member first class Insurance Cover "in the event of an accident" which can be very important at times.

For a pleasant drink in a relaxed atmosphere

HARTE'S PUB

Music Saturday and Sunday
Well worth a call

Gort Sports and Trophy Centre

All types of Sports Wear and Equipment at keenest prices.
Large range of trophies, medals and Crystal.
Engraving facilities available.

"THOUGHTS ON FASHION"

*From season to season
The fashion scene changes,
According to styles
The designer arranges.*

*Mini skirts were popular,
A who in their time.
Now they have been dropped
For a lower hemline.*

If you break it
We can repair it
Nothing too big or too small

Daly's Engineering Works



The Square, Gort

Kiltartan notes



Regional winner Martina Egan pictured with her sister Aileen.

COMMUNITY GAMES

Aileen Egan

Our county community games were held in Galway City. The children who came first in our local community games were competing there. Children from all parts of Co. Galway competed there. My sister, Martina, was running in the 80 metres under 8. She won. Portumna came 2nd and Castlegar 3rd. She was awarded a gold medal and a weekend in Butlins Holiday Camp in Mosney,

Co. Meath where the national finals were held.

There was another girl from South Galway in the under 10 hurdles. Her name was Edel Leech from Kinvara. There were four heats in Martina's Race. She was in the second heat and she came fifth but only four were taken for the semi-final. Edel came fifth too in her race. There was a girl, Deirdre Costello, from Athenry running in the under-10 100 metres and she got first place and a gold medal.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Carmel Burke



Carmel Burke

1979 saw the beginning of a new competition involving girls under 14 years in the Community Games. A team was selected from Gort including subs namely

- Pauline Cahill*
- Margaret Neilan*
- Patricia Connors*
- Noreen Burke*
- Carmel Nolan*
- Ann Murray*
- Myra McAllen*
- Aileen Egan*
- Rynagh Piggott*
- Chrissie Carr*
- Mary Linnane*
- Ann Nolan*
- Tracey Brennan*
- Louise Nolan*
- Carmel Burke*
- Rita Diviney*
- Una Burke*
- and Deirdre Reddy*

We trained hard for a couple of months before our first match. Then we played against Oranmore and we were successful there. Our next match was against Asahcragh Caltra. Our next journey was to Roscommon for the Connaught semi-final and finals. First we played Strokestown and we won. By now we were into the finals. We met a team named Bonnieconlon from Mayo. They beat us in the final. It was a hard match and our girls were tired after their long journey. We would like to thank our trainers Mrs. Una Murray and Garda Christy Moran who gave all their spare time to train us.

RIDDLES

by Brenda Daly

- Q: Why did the burglar cut the legs of his bed?
- A: To lie low for a while.
- Q: If your grandmother stood up where would she be?
- A: Of her rocker.
- Q: What has an eye but cannot see?
- A: A needle.

- Q: What would happen if pigs could fly?
- A: Bacon would go up.
- Q: What can you take off but never put back?
- A: An orange peel.
- Q: How do you get rid of a boomtang?
- A: Throw it up a one way street.
- Q: Why does a donkey eat thistles?
- A: Because he is an ass.

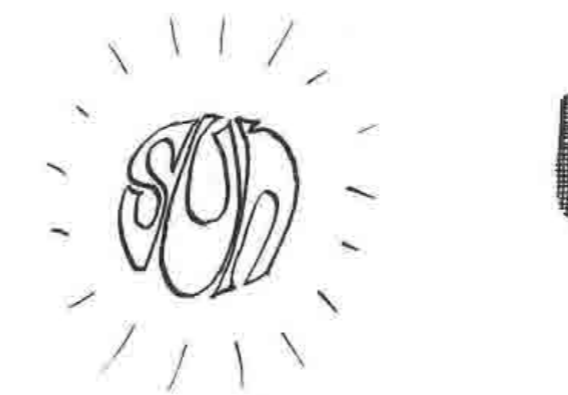


Brenda Daly

Word Play



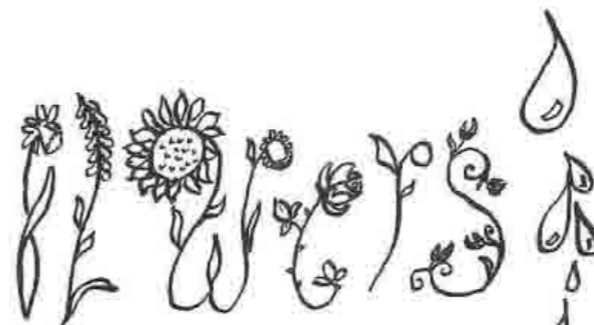
tweed



SHADOW



Jump



DISAPPEARING



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Crowe St., Gort

Phone Gort 8



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B. Coen and Sons Ltd.

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Keenest prices for all building materials and plumbing goods. We carry large stocks of Mild steel angles, Flat and Rounds. Visit our Supermarket, Chemist Dept. and Hardware Dept. where you can do your one stop shopping.



THE NEWTOWN RACES

One of the Gort Steeple Chases which was run on the Newtown course was held on Tuesday the 6th of July 1875. There were 8 stewards for that race. Captain John P. Nolan, George Morris, Hyacinth D'arcy, Burton R.P. Persse, Henry F. Persse, James B. Lahiff, Captain Richard Galbraith, and Henry De Blaquiére. The man who started the horses was Burton R.P. Persse. The Judge was R.J. Hunter. The treasurer was John Boland. The secretary was John J. Mac Namara.

There were four races. The first race was at 2 o'clock. The second race was at 2.45 and the third race



The winning Horse Ballybane Grace pictured with Bernard Stanford receiving the winning trophy from M. Plower of the Irish Sugar Company, at the Gort Show and Regional Final. Last year's winner was also from Co. Galway — owned by Michael Duane, Kilrickle.

Billy Glynn



Kilmacduagh Notes

A DOLMEN

There is a Dolmen situated on a rocky part of our land. It consists of four large rocks, two upright rocks on each side parallel to each other, and one at the back. On top of this there is a cap-stone. It is the largest of the rocks.

Each rock weighs approximately two tons. They are about five feet in height. The area inside is about twenty sq. ft. Many visitors have carved their initials on the rocks.

I saw N.C., P.F., J.C., J.K., 1961, P.M. and M.C. Historians say that a dolmen is a monument over the grave of some important person.

Billy Glynn, (12 yrs.)

GLYNN'S HOTEL

GORT

We cater for weddings, functions, dinner dances and private parties. Still some weekend dates available for dinner dances and Buffets.

This is ours to offer at Glynn's Hotel

For reservations phone Gort 186, 27 or 7.

Crannagh people say that this dolmen is Diarmaid and Grainne's bed. It must have taken a lot of strong men to put up the rocks. Long ago there was no machinery for lifting heavy weights.

James McMahon, (12 yrs.)

DR. FAHEY

Dr. Fahey who was P.P. D.D. and V.G. of Gort was born in 1843 in Killomorán, in Donoghue's house, which was at the end of the road to Cruchane from the Killomorán road. The house that he was born in is now demolished. He was Parish Priest of Gort from 1883 until 1919.

He was a relative of the Claytons in Caherlissane. Mrs. Niland Mac Namara, who now lives in Caherlissane was a cousin of his. When Dr. Fahey was in Gort, he came down to Kilmacduagh every day and prayed to find out the spot where St. Colman was buried. One day while he prayed, a little rose appeared in the spot where he was praying. Then he believed that St. Colman was buried at the spot where he was praying.

He was a tall man. When my grandmother knew him he had grey hair. Dr. Fahy gave my grandmother First Communion. Dr. Fahey was the celebrant of the mass at the first stations my grandmother attended. He arrived on a horse and side car. He wrote the history of Kilmacduagh. He died on the 15th of

March 1919, and he is buried in Gort church grounds.

Words of Welcome

His relative Mrs. Mac Namara who lives at Caherlissane, has the bed he slept in, while he was in Gort. She also has his photograph with the following address to him on his return from Rome, in December 1904:

Very Reverend Father

We the children of the Convent of Mercy Schools bid you a hearty welcome home to Gort.

We have felt your absence from amongst us. Though we knew that



Bernard Connolly

we would not be absent from your thoughts, when you knelt before the Head of Christendom in the Holy City, to ask for a Blessing for your people at home.

You have seen many cities and prayed in many churches while we at home in imagination followed your footsteps on the road so often trodden by Irish priests since St. Patrick first brought the light of faith from Imperial Rome to our own Western Isle, and we have prayed that you might be brought back in safety, and health to us. Your spiritual children, who grow up around you, and who bear for you the love and reverence which your high character as a priest, a scholar, and a friend have earned for you.

Again Very Reverend and Dear Father, we, one and all bid you a hearty céad míle fáilte abhaile. Signed: The children of the Convent of Mercy Schools, Gort.

Bernard Connolly (11 yrs.)

The Demolition of Coole House

In 1940 Coole House, owned by Lady Gregory, was sold to a contractor in Galway named Malachy Burke. The house was owned at that time by the Irish Land Commission. They sold it to him for £600. He bought it because he wanted the cut stones to help to build Portumna church.

The house was a three storey white building with a basement. It had a porch in front. The hall door was facing North. One of the front middle windows was semi-circular. There were six steps about two metres wide leading up to the hall door. Very few people have a photograph of the house.

In 1941 the contractor demolished it. There was an auction of furniture, and some of the local people bought it. The contractor sold the slates also. If An Taisce were founded when Coole House was knocked, it would not have allowed it to happen. An Taisce was just seven years late.



Ian Cahill

Recollection

Ten years before his death, W.B.

Ian Cahill (11 years)

Drink in comfort

THE PUNCH BOWL BAR

(Prop. Bill and Eileen Kelly)



Teas, coffees, soups, snacks, bed and breakfast.



The Square, Gort

SILVER DISCO



John Sullivan

Phone: Gort 128 or 152



Available for

weddings, parties and functions

sounds to suit every age.



ENTERTAINMENT

A Personal View

In this article I wish to mention some films, books and albums which I enjoyed seeing, reading and listening to. These three forms of entertainment provide a stimulating interesting way of spending any day and one can vary them to suit one's own tastes. They provide a good service to entertain when one is not feeling too creative or energetic one'self.

Films

First of all I will mention just a few films which impressed me very much. Take "Magic" and "Equus" for example. In both of these a young man is preoccupied with either a ventriloquist's dummy as in "Magic" or a horse as in "Equus". The two youths have physiological problems which they won't face up to. The ventriloquist rely's completely on his dummy "fats" to speak up for him and to advise him.

The film the "Lacemaker" is a heartbreaking love-story where the young girl is not able to keep pace with the college career of her boyfriend. She also has a communication problem so that when the two split up she just can't take this. Finally, she ends "the affaire" by spending her days in a mental home. The film is well produced and very credible.

An intriguing film with a bit of ingenuity is "the Silent Partner" where one asks, "Who is doing the robbing, who is doing the telling?" as it is about a young man, a bank teller, who manages to acquire a lump sum for himself!

"Midnight Express" is a film based on fact, which tells a very moving story. A youth on holiday in Turkey tries to smuggle drugs out of the country and suffers severe consequences. For comedy one should not miss "My name is Nobody", which is set in the Wild West. Also the Clint Eastwood film,

"Every which way but loose" is worth seeing. Two films, which are of good repute are "the Deer Hunter" and "Dog Soldiers".

Books

Now to give a short rundown on some books! "The Thorn Birds" is a good novel of a family history with all its joys and sorrows. If you like something more controversial you should read "The Necromancer", a book in which the writer is aware of the powers of nature especially those held in the ley lines of the world and in the molecular structure of crystal. The book "Salems Lot" is a type of horror story with an impressive logic throughout.

For science fiction with a very convincing story of life on the planet "Dune" one should read the book(s) of that name. On that planet there is a water shortage so the descriptions of the technology used to conserve the precious water are excellent e.g. the inhabitants must wear "still suits" to recycle the body's own water. If you like a book of past history, culture and tradition full of the sayings and wisdom at the past you should read "Shogun", a novel by James Gavell. The book "City of the Dead" tells of the life of a pathologist who has to deal with all types of crime in a big city as mutilated bodies etc. come to his department every day to be examined. He must work in co-operation with the police to find the true story. He wonders when he comes of age to retire, if it were a futile existence as he can't even handle his own family affairs.

These books all show the diversity of the reading material that is available and are all well worth reading, in my opinion.

Music

When it comes to writing about music there are so many albums which are worth mentioning, I will just list off a few. Eric Clapton's *461 Ocean Boulevard* and also *Slowhand*

are beautiful. Fleetwood Mac's Album *Rumours*, the album *Bat out of Hell* by Meatloaf, the album *Dire Straights*, the albums *Wind and Wuthering*, *Trick of the Tail* by Genesis, the album *Me and Bobby McGee* by Kris Kristofferson, the album *At the sound of a Bell* by Parlous Dog, Leonard Cohens album, *Greatest Hits*. The Albums of the *Last Waltz* which have all the different artists, Neil Young's album "Harvest", Dory Previns Album *Mythical Kings and Iquanas*, All Bob Dylan's albums, David Bowies albums *Hunky Dory* and *Heros*, all the Supertramp albums e.g. *Crime of the Century*, *Even in the Quietest Moments*, *Indelibly Stamped* and *The Best of Joan Baez* are all incredibly beautiful to listen to. I suppose that the music I have mentioned will appeal mainly to the younger generation but these are just examples of what I like to listen to.

I hope that I have shown that one never needs to be fed up or bored espially as a good book or film are easy to find.

Marie Healy

Youth Clubs

*Gort and Kiltartan Youth Clubs have commenced activities again after a summer recess. Officers for the coming year are -

Gort: Chairperson Padraic Cummins, Secretary Elizabeth Joyce, Treasurer Joe Roche, P.R.O. Frankie Conway.

Kiltartan: Chairperson John Melville, Treasurer Francis Burke, P.R.O. Imelda Nolan.

When Lint was Lint

(Continued)

In the last issue of *Guaire*, Mrs. McNamara was chin wagging with Mrs. O'Brien at Brodericks Corner on the *Hard Ould Lint* of long ago, and today's "Soft Lint", when Mrs. Moroney called them across to the *Little Wonder Bar* for a few *Hot Paddies*.

Our intrepid reporter gave chase, taking up a stance with his note book on the Hall-way, entering by the Barrack Street door, to capture further interesting morsels from the three good Ladies revelations, who had by then planked their backsides on the leather cushioned seats in Paddy Kerins' Lounge Bar. He sends us this report of their Conflab.

"Now girls we might as well do it in style", says Mrs. Moroney, "Three Hot Paddies Mr. Kerins", "Right Oh, Mrs. Moroney, coming up."

"No Paddy", says Mrs. O'Brien, two, and make mine a Gin with a good jollop of lime in it. What's wrong Mrs. O'Brien, you always took the Hot Wan to warm you up - as if that would be any good in our stages?"

'Tis, at lesth it t'was 'till Dochters Orders.

Says Dr. Marlborough to me - an odd drop of Gin, for I have a kidney infection - thanks to me Grand Posh daughter, Phyllis - the wan in the Civil Service.

"Isn't she up in Dublin?"

"She was and still is,

but wasn't always if you get me."

"And what happened, Mrs. O'Brien?"

"I'll make no bones about it, if there's no wan listenin. Phyllis as you know was always the grand wan - even Sr. Bernadette says to me - that wan 'll never enter - too flighty and too full of High Notions - and faith Sister Bernadette was right as she was always right."

But g'wan, Mrs. O'Brien about the kidney thing for mesel have -

"I'll tell you all Mrs. Moroney and how it happened. Phyllis is up in Dublin as you know in a big office job, sharin' a flat in Ballsbridge no less, where the hoietety toity sect live, and with a suicide blonde from Cork. She's no more a blonde than is myself, for I'll be straight about it, Hilary Quigley changed me from a drab ould grey hair for what you see me now - an Auburn Dolly - Dolly me eye, but we must be talking."

About that kidney perfection. Mrs. Moroney."

I'll come to that if you give me half a chance - as that lively and dacent man, Pat Lally would say.

"Hold the Fort and give the Donkey his head."

"Well, to go back to Phyllis, hadn't I a letter from her four weeks ago this very day - oh she was always good to write and sent the odd pound too, God Bless her.

"Says she in the letter, handed to me personally by Michael Cotter, that most correct Postman - "Mamma I have big news for you. I'm engaged as if that was the Seventh Wonder of the World for they're engaged now before they have the Gym Frock off. As I said -

"Right now Ladies, two Hot Whiskey's and a Gin & Lime comin' up."

Thank you, Mr. Kerins.

"But, as I was sayin' about that letter - "We'll be down Saturday morning, mesel' and George - he's rale posh and have everything clean and suitable, and get rid of that goat that do be 'round the house - faith t'was on goat's milk she was reared, but that's another story.

I had everything spankin' and got David Flaherty to touch up the doors and windas and fair play no better man - and he left the few bottles of stout I drew for him, untouched. Come Saturday evenin' and arrives her ladyship in a

posh red car with George of course. Oh! a grand lookin' man - an accountant in Switzers big store - they're all accountants now or so we'd have them believe.

I was petrified but all went well - I had everything ready and we had a grand Supper, and they both went off to Lee's Hotel for dancin' or what have you. Needles to say I didn't go, though they axed me. For Hotels frightens me. I was used to Maa Quinn's and the little Snug.

Sunday mornin', another big breakfast with Haffners sausages and ham that Phyllis had brought down from a big shop in Gratten Street in Dublin, and we all sat down at the fireplace, waitin' to go to Mass.

Conversation was good and no denyin' George was a proper gintleman.

All goin' grand, 'till in the middle of the conversation, Phyllis got up, as if she was on Springs, crossed the kitchen and into the room where I slept and where we kept the few bags of barley.

"Mamma, just a minnet," and I followed her - excusin meself to Mr. George.

I went into the room behind her and she shut



door and bolted it. I told I'm in for a thing big says I to I' when I saw that for Phyllis. Mamma, says she, you see yourself e the fire? How in the name of it could I see meself s I was in the Hall of Mrs. What are you n' at?" "I'll tell you what I'm

comin at, says she, I saw you and what's worse, George saw you and for you was sittin' opposite him in that small low stool with them awful knickers down below your knees — and to make matters worse says she, wan leg tied by an ould black lacer, and says she, George and his mother live in Foxrock, and she's years older than you, but never wears but

black lace pantees — and you disgracing me like wan of the Kiolties or a Connemara wan. She was foamin' at the mouth and I nearly had a strong weakness. What's wrong with them says I. I always and ever bought my heavy fleece lined knickers from Joe Cooney at Tommy Burkes and wanded in the good ould days for wan

and sixpence, and I'm not changin' now. Take them off, I tell you and don't disgrace me, and she dragged the wooly cardigan off me and nearly tore the heavy skirt I always wear.

She frightened me, for she's a determined divil, and didn't I give in to the

bitch, and she produced from her week-end bag, a bit of a thing that wouldn't cover a thimble — put them on — and on I had to put them — black laced briefs or whatever you call them and a scribe of a black thing to cover me breasts that wouldn't cover two tomatoes where I always wore the broad cosy brazzers. To make matters worse, th'ould homely skirt and cardigan; she wanted to burn them only I wouldn't let her, was replaced by a silk slip and thin flowery dress that you could see the daylight through above me knees. Mrs. McNamara, I felt more naked than the woman that tempted Adam.

"We're right now says she for Mass in Labane." What's wrong with Kiltartan says I, and anyhow it's nearly eleven and we'll be late for Labane. "That's what I want says she. No wan, only the Ballyaneen crowd 'ed see us in Kiltartan's little church — we want to see and be seen in Labane when they're all in, for 'tis the biggest parish of big shots in all the Dioceses.

I came out to that kitchen as naked as Marilyn Munroe and George was waitin' to drive us, and of course when we arrived at Labane, the Acts was over, and Fr. Horan Now Canon Horan I believe was nearing the Consecration — and up the aisle I had to follow the couple — right up to the fifth or sixth seat from the Altar — and all eyes on us — and they planked down just

opposite the side door that shows on to Bradley's Pub if you get me. Fair enough, but when that side-door open's and shuts, there's a breeze like the Bay of Biscay — and open and shut it did all through the Holy Sacrament, for the Cahermore and Ruanmore was never in time.

Needless to say, what with the bits of things I had on me and the hurricane wind from the openin' and shuttin' of the damned door, I had gooses pimples from me ankles up to you know where, and to put inectely on the persuasion, didn't the Canon up in the Pulbetor keep trapeesin on and on how Brendan the Naggator set sail in a cowskin boat to conquer the Heathens in some part of America.

I only wish the same Saint Brendan was sunk after he left the coast of Kerry — I think it was, for I thought 'twould never be end — Benediction and the Litany made it worse and I was never more pleased to get out of Labane Chapel.

I could never do more with a Hot Wan in Bradleys, but says Her Ladyship — "No George we'll go back to Lunch" and back we went to a mighty Dinner no doubt — for she had brought Dublings from Switzers in Dublin and roast ham — and White Wine on the table. White wine Mrs. O'Brien? I always thought that wine was red. So did I Mrs. McNamara 'till I drank it at Matty Markham's weddin breakfast in Sullivans Hotel when he captured

that lovely french blonde that he used have on his knee at the West Bar and a great and elegant speaker he proved himself when they 'cut the cake'. Aw! Matty was always a great wan for the foreign birds but to make a long story short — after Dinner and White wine we did a trip to Lady Gregory's, Coole Park, and how I envied the Five and Twenty swans with their layers of Fine Feathers and me and me See-Thrus, and me Goose Flesh shiverin like an Eegit.

Back we come to th'ould shack and hopin' to Christh I'd see and end to them, and when they left for Dublin no wan was happier than yours truly, I waved them good-bye and God Bless them from the head of the boreen. Peace Perfect Peace — as the Protestants say to their dear departed — I changed back to me ould fleecy knickers — but the harm was did and to this day I have a kidney affliction — Give us another round, Mr. Kerins, or are you puttin' us out."

"Not at all, Mrs. O'Brien, I'm just drawing the curtains. There's a funeral passin'."

As they used to say durin' the War Years, 'Who gave up his Ration Book today'."

'Tis a man be the name of McGilludy — he was found dead in his bed Tuesday mornin' and 'tis going on to Shanglish Chapel."

And how is he passin' Gort if he died in his bed in Shanaglish?"

That's the way

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But, ladies I was just talkin about the great ould funerals and weddins we had long ago — only a very big shot had a hotel weddin — or a honeymoon in Spain and if you didn't die in the county home in Loughrea, a wakenin at home was a great occasion. I'll tell you about me own mother's Wake and . . .

Right Ladies two Hot Paddies and a Gin and Lime for Mrs. Moroney."

In our next issue of Guaire, Mrs. O'Brien recalls the Wakes and Weddings of her childhood — once when they lost the coffin and Corpse on the way to the chapel and the other time when . . . (See next issue for full details)

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"Mamma, says she, "did you see yourself beside the fire?"

"How in the name of Christ could I see meself unless I was in the Hall of Mirrors, What are you comin' at?"

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