

SUARE

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A school photo from the early 1920's.
Back row from left: Annie Flaherty, Maggie Joynt, Babs Flaherty, Nora Roche, Delia Geraghty, Tessie Naughton, Mary Kate Flaherty, May O'Neill, Maggo Casey, M.J. Burke, Frank Naughton and Marty Carr.
4th row: May Moloney, Kathleen Flaherty, Eileen Flaherty, Kitty McGann, Agnes Carr, Mary Waters, Coilín Cummins, Pakie Shaughnessy, Michael Flaherty, Eddie Carr, Jimmy Murphy, Tom Brady and John Carr.
3rd row: Brigie McNamara, Johanna Brady, Annie Cummins, Maggie Rock, Julia Carr, Packie Flaherty, Jack Nestor, Louis O'Connor, Mick Geraghty, Jack Murphy, Willie Carr, Paddy Fahy and Mattie Cummins.
2nd row: The teacher Michael Tuohy, Miko Nestor, Dermot Shaughnessy, Matto McGann, Bernie Shaughnessy, Paddy Joe McGann, John Finnegan, Tess Murphy, Kathleen Cummins, May Crehan, Maria Flaherty, Mary Geraghty, Pauleen Murphy.
1st row: Tom Roche, Bernadette Brady, Agnes Crehan, Nell Roche, Susan Brady, Chrissie Carr, Molly Cooney, Miko Flaherty, Maureen Finnegan, Mary Teresa Brady, Kitty McGann, Paul Crehan and Paddy Helebert.

Kidney Benefit Dance



From left: Mick Cahill, Michael McGann, Dr. Brendan Duffy, Pat O'Donnell, John Finnegan, Johnny Walsh and Eddie Fennessy. Dr. Duffy is holding cheque, the proceeds from the Benefit Dance.

A Special Correspondent

In Sept. 1978 Johnnie and Anne Walsh, and their customers from their pub in the Square, Gort were so impressed by the successful achievements of the Irish Kidney Team at the 1978 Kidney Olympics that they decided to extend a welcome to the team to visit Gort in acknowledgement of their brave feats.

The team was led by Maxi Scully, a young lad from Church St., who a short time before had returned from death's door through a successful Kidney Transplant.

It was decided to hold a Benefit Dance at the Classic Ballroom and have the Kidney Team as Guest of Honour. This was arranged and Gort and surrounding area did themselves proud through their support in raising the sum of £1166 which was

presented to the Irish Kidney Association. This sum was the largest single donation received by the Association for 1978.

September 1979 Johnnie's pub was again the scene of a meeting of he and his customers and having Dr. Duffy head of Merlin Kidney Research, Galway, present it was decided that his unit would benefit from this year's venture.

Olympic Team

The ticket sellers went to work and the 19th October 1979 was "D-Day". In the Classic which was again put at the Committee's disposal for the occasion by Noel Mullins ex gratia, Brose Walsh and his band had the floor in the Modern Section swinging. A large entourage of local traditional musicians, giving their services free, had Céilí lovers on their feet throughout the night in the Céilí Section.

Near the end of a very enjoyable night the 1979 Kidney Olympic team were introduced to the audience and were presented with a commemorative plaque by the Dance Committee.

Kieran Claffey, well known Offaly inter-county footballer of the 1970's, who has had a Kidney Transplant, his brother Liam being the donor, came direct from Dublin to Gort to register his appreciation to the supporters of this venture. Kieran and Liam were each presented with silver tankards in remembrance of the occasion.

Among the audience we had quite a number of Kidney Patients who travelled from all parts of Clare and Galway, here I must relay the wishes of their Gort friends that they all have a long and trouble free life.

A cheque for £1862.50 was presented to Dr. Duffy for his unit by the Dance Committee, this was the proceeds of the Dance and included the proceeds of a raffle held in conjunction with the dance for valuable prizes which were donated by local people.

This venture shows what a little effort and initiative can do to help fellow humans who have been struck down with this ailment. Dr. Duffy in his thanks to the Committee and supporters of this Dance stated that the money raised would greatly help in the research into this deadly disease and hopefully would lead to better knowledge about the causes of this illness.

St. Colman's Park Dressing Rooms Committee

Thanks sincerely to all who have helped with money, time and equipment

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Damian McGrath, Chairman
Frank Lally, Secretary
Matt Murphy, Treasurer

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The Mayoral Election

By our Rugby Correspondent

The election of Gort's first Mayor/Mayoress is now entering the home straight with the candidates apparently running neck and neck. All have expressed confidence in the outcome. But there can be only one winner. The seven candidates with their vital statistics are:

Gort insurance broker. Deeply involved in Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann and many other well known organisations. Height 5-6. Interests Ceili Music and cooking.

3. John Sullivan: Age a little over 25. Hotelier, Estate Agent, well known and widely heard around



Five Mayoral Candidates: From left Billy Kilroy Captain Gort R.F.C., Jamesie Lee, Teresa Moloney, John Finnegan, Mary Rochford, Johnny Sullivan and Junie Finnegan President Gort R.F.C. Inset (left) Mattie Collins. Inset (right) Miko Glynn.



1. Teresa Moloney: Ages about 30. Well known in Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann and the Chamber of Commerce - honorary Secretary of both. A housewife and JCB driver. Clarewoman, height 5-8. Interests bookkeeping and cooking for her husband.

Gort. Native of Cork and still retains Cork accent. Height 5-10. Interests: Making money, shooting and politics.

2. Mary Rochford: Age about 29.

4. James Lee: Age over 20. Hotelier, Supermarket Owner. Well known dancer, holder of many dancing trophies. Native of Tubber, Co. Clare. Height: 5-10. Interests: Dancing, Cooking.

5. Mattie Collins: Over 25. Driver, well known character around Gort. Height: 5-9. Weight: Not known. Interests: Driving, watching T.V.

6. Micko Glynn: Age over 30. Well known singer, sang on the U.S. circuit for many years. A chauffeur by profession, sideline occupation - car salesman. Native of Gort, height 5-7½. Interests: horse-racing, selling cars.

7. John Finnegan: Over 21, Insurance broker. Well known in drama circles in Gort and Ennis. Former Chairman of Gort Chamber of Commerce. Gort native, height 5-6, Interests: Girl friend, Drama.

System of Voting

Cards for each candidate are already in circulation. A card will have twenty lines and each line will cost 10p. Each line has the value of one vote. The seller of the most votes/lines will be the Mayor/Mayoress of Gort for 1980.

The result will be announced at the Gort Rugby Club's Mayoral Ball to take place at Sullivan's Hotel on New Year's Eve. The Mayor/Mayoress will be robed and chained on that night.

On a later date a draw will be held on the cards and there will be a £100 first prize and many other prizes.

The object of the exercise is to raise funds for Gort Rugby Club's New Lighting System. This new floodlighting system is one of the most modern in the country and cost £3,000. Part of the proceeds from the Mayoral Election will also go to Cambodia. Many members of the Rugby Club were anxious to help this worthy cause.

Gort Rugby Club would like to thank everybody helping out in the project and hope that the new Mayor/Mayoress will have a happy and peaceful term of office.

Street League Final '79

On Sunday the eleventh of November at a quarter past three this year's Street League Final was played in Saint Colman's Park. The teams were Church St. and George's St. Church St. were hot favourites having defeated the much fancied Ennis Rd. team in the semi-final. George's St. beat Galway Rd. and Crowe St. on their way to the final.

Shortly after the start of the game, Alan Devlin got the ball at mid-field, got inside the backs, and sent the ball to the back of the net to put Church St. one goal up. Shortly afterwards Derek Kenny playing a captains part got another goal and Church St. were clear leaders. Gerard Kelly then scored for Church St. Billy Kelly then scored two goals to leave the score three two at half time.

After play resumed Derek Kenny increased Church St. lead with a further goal and a point. Church St. at this time sure of victory did not keep up the pressure. The wily George's St. lads shot in three goals; two from Kieran Burke and one from Billy Kelly in the final five minutes of the game.

Best for George's were Kieran and Anthony Burke and Billy Kelly. For



The winning George's St. Team. Front row from left: Stephen Cunniffe, Derek Hallinan, Kieran Burke, Kevin Roche, Pat Kelly, Billy Kelly. Back row from left: Joseph Kelly, Alan Flynn, Michael Roughan, Patrick Lally, Anthony Burke and Barry Cunniffe.

| Georges Street | | Church St. | |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Pat Lally | Kevin Roche | Bernard Costello | Kieran O'Dea |
| Billy Kelly | Derek Hallinan | Johnny Reddy | Adrian McGrath |
| Anthony Burke | Barry Cunniffe | Michael Hayes | John Hayes |
| Pat Kelly | Joe Kelly | Gerard Kelly | Pat Flaherty |
| Michael Roughan | Kieran Burke (Captain) | Alan Devlin | Enda Kerins |
| Frankie Glynn | Trainer | Gerard McGann | Trainers: |
| Stephen Cunniffe | Mr. M. McCarthy | Austin McInerney | Mr. P.J. Lyons |
| | | Derek Kenny (Captain) | Mr. D. McGrath |
| | | Jason Kenny | |

Church St. Derek Kenny, Alan Devlin and Gerard McGann were best. Next year the street league will be ten years old. It is hoped that there will be a special programme of

events including some for past pupils. Final Score: George's St. 5.0; Church St. 4.1. **John Murphy Micheal Cunningham**

The Story of Silent Night

Irene Gill



Many years ago in a little town near Salzburg in Austria the famous hymn 'Silent Night' was composed. Very early on the morning of Christmas Eve 1818, Franz Gruber, the organist arrived at the tiny Church where he intended to practice the hymns for Midnight Mass that night. Unfortunately the organ refused to work and as Gruber, sat there, awestricken, Father Mohr (came in) to the Church.

As he had already been there, Father Muhr explained to Gruber that a mouse had gnawed a hole in the bellows and that there was no possibility of having the organ



Irene Gill

repaired in time for Midnight Mass. Father Mohr explained that when he had discovered the fault, he sat down and wrote a little poem. He explained to Gruber that he would like him to put music to the words and as Gruber was an accomplished guitarist that they could sing it later

at the Midnight Mass.

He handed Gruber the words and as Franz read:

Silent Night, holy night,
Darkness flies, all is bright,
Shepherd's hear the angels sing,
Allelujah, hail the King,
Jesus, the saviour is here.

Gruber went home and read through the little poem. He sat down and spent hours composing a beautiful, soothing lullaby to suit the words. Later he went back to the Church where the Choir had already assembled and together they rehearsed the new hymn, "Silent Night" and at the Midnight Mass they sang the Hymn that is now one of the most popular Christmas Carols.

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'Would ya like some fresh air?'

off. 'Do you feel like an orange?' will trigger off the spontaneous answer, 'No!' Do I look like one?'

He has worked his way through his entire repertoire now and you know what is coming. You say a swift novena to Saint Jude that he will not do the expected but St. Jude ain't listen' and the 'Yoke' pops the question.

'Would ya like some fresh air?' This is the last straw. You refuse emphatically. He will tell you that he has a car but your chagrin has taken over and you blurt out that you were under the impression that he wanted fresh air.

When the dance finishes you wriggle free, leaving him in the middle of his persuasive explanations, throwing him a feeble 'Thanks' as you beat your retreat.

The night wears on in a similar fashion. If the Gods are really against you, you can fall victim to a cinnamon bear hugging Yob anything up to four times in the one night.

Finally you will go home, if not wholly disappointed, totally exhausted.

You swear as you keel over into bed that you will never be caught in that Den of Vipers again, even if you live to be normal!

The following Sunday you are leaving the Church yet again, a mention of that solemn exodus:

'You goin' out tonight?' someone asks. 'Sure!'

out for equals because, kiddo, your trapped.

He will then execute a manoeuvre, not unlike that employed by a bua constrictor when it is squeezing its prey to death, a situation from which there is no relief. But the agony does not begin in any real way till he endeavours to make conversation.

'What do ya think a' tha Band?', will knock a year's growth out of you. Your spirits flag and it takes willpower to stop your hair from falling out!

Worse to Come

But this is only the beginning however. You have yet to cringe in spontaneous nausea when he enquires, 'Are ya enjoin' yourself?', You have yet to offer your penance to the Holy Souls when he enquires as to your name and place of abode. You pray hard to gain relief from the doom of your present situation and that things may improve in the future. Your wily knave will then enquire as to the frequency of your attendance at that establishment. Now, however, your spirited fortitude renewed (Oh! the power of prayer) you answer Ah! No, only when there is a dance. This will not dissuade his incesant advances. And he will now begin to croon in your ear to the music being played. He will be quite off key but you forge on thinking that your deliverence is not far

bombarded by decibells in their hundreds that do all in their power to disintegrate your eardrums.

Finally, the music ends and you find your friends. But as you have surrendered your powers of hearing when you paid your £1.50 and you do not lipread you refrain from making any effort to communicate verbally with your companions you stand about and wait for the arrival of a member of the opposite sex.

Eventually your patience will pay dividends and a veritable apparition will catch your eye as he works his way in your direction. Your hopes escalate as you catch his eye and you get the vibes you just know he will ask you onto the floor.

But while you are going ooooh!... aaah! inside, tragedy will invariably strike. Out of the great undulating mass of bodies will emerge an example of humanity in its simplest form and it will extend a weedy little claw in your direction. This egit will frighten away your prince charming and in the ensuing awe and disappointment you will find yourself responding to your twirp's megalithic address and you move onto the floor in a daze in answer to his beckoning gesture or at best a 'e'mon'.

If perchance the dance is a fast one you still have some chance of escaping this excuse for a man. But if the the dance is a slow one you had better look

'Going out tonight?' The burning question on a Sunday morning as the congregation alight from the church.

'Sure', you will reply. Then the enthusiastic talk of atire - new clothes and changes of ensamble.

'I heard this band before and they were great!' one member of the gaggle will say. You reply, hoping that they can keep up to their reputation.

'See you all tonight then,' and with that you will take your leave.

On Sunday night your built in alarm will click at that certain time and you will swing into preparatory action. A bath and the washing of hair, the painstaking drying and setting of said hair (in an effort to look respectable). The pressing of the selected clothing and the gnashing and blinding at your propagation of spots. You then practice the acquired art of "dressing up to go out" and with a spray of your mother's most expensive perfume, you depart your residence.

Inside

On reaching the ballroom you carry out the sacred rituals of paying, dispensing with your coat and stealing a swift glance in the mirror before you bare yourself to the surging throng.

You step into the dance floor in an effort to find friends but the milling populace prevents any worthwhile advance on your part, so you stand and patiently wait till the end of the music. You are

male counterparts. Women in general are getting a better deal though the discrimination still exists as there are no priestesses in the Catholic Church, probably stemming from the fact that our Lord had twelve Apostles - none of whom were women. There is only one female astronaut in living memory and Aer Lingus employs only one female pilot.

In conclusion while it is largely a man's world one fact must be faced. Man and woman are two hemisphere, each incomplete without the other. Few people realize this. A woman in realistic terms is man's companion and vice-versa. Her traditional role is that of childbearer and homemaker and the man's is that of breadwinner. Maybe in our lifetime we will see the day when these roles are substantially modified. Men are born free, women are not. Anatomy is destiny and for many women it is tyranny. To change the man's world is to swim against the current.

Bridget Noone, 19/11/'79



Bridget Noone

typically as in the past. She has been to some extent liberated. In the 1830's she got the vote at the expense of many deserving and long suffering Suffragettes. In 1970 she got into the Stock Exchange. Yes, you

marriage is based on the wife's subservience to her husband.

Spinsterhood

In Jane Austen's time 'spinster' was a dirty word in the English language. No woman could ever dream of having a career. The most she could hope for was rulership over domestiques during her married life. Marriage or spinsterhood were the only options open to women then. Between the

A MAN'S WORLD

ages of eighteen to twenty six years, women automatically came on the 'supply and demand' market for marriage. Once you reached the age of thirty five years you were no longer eligible for marriage, at least your chances of being wed were pretty slim.

No matter what changes are being brought about in our society, I am convinced that there will always be an existence more favourable to the male. A woman's anatomy still determines her destiny, though not so

may agree that the wheel is turning, though not full cycle.

In government jobs, few women hold prominent positions but 'la grande exception' is Mrs. Thatcher, whose rise to power as Leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister of U.K. has stunned many, though not all of her critics, into silence. Mrs. Golda Meyer and Mrs. Indira Gandhi were other great exceptions but not without their share of fire from the world media, much more so than their

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— THE POSSIBLES —

Juvenile

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

NEW RESIDENTS IN GORT

Gort's newest resident is Mrs. Minnie Brennan (nee Dalton) a widow and formerly of Leestown, Co. Wick.

She followed the best available advice and joined the I.C.A., the Bridge Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

She moved swiftly and under the best coffee tables and cooperated in the appointment of Very Rev. Pádraic Ó Laoi to the See.

The credit squeeze has prevented her purchasing a permanent residence in the locality but she prefers a living commission feeling.

When asked if she would contribute to the fair she declined the offer — "I prefer the spoken word to the written one", she added.

GUEST OF HONOUR

The Minister for Local Government and Overflying

our Fishing Waters was Guest of Honour at a recent dinner in Gort. The dinner, held secretly in a local hotel, was a serious affair, opening and closing with a vote of confidence in the Fianna Fáil leadership.

A notable absentee from the dinner was Mr. Burmah Oil (Bridge St.). However a spokesperson explained: "No political point is to be attached to this point. The point is that he had a particularly important point to point to".

GORT'S FIRST CITIZEN

It now appears certain, after months of prolonged speculation, that the town of Gort will have a new Mayor/Mayoress in the new year. The position is non-political; in fact it developed out of a rut in the Rugby Club — lack of finance.

While the relevance of a Mayor/Mayoress may be questioned, the relevance of the candidates is beyond debate. Seven nominations have been declared lawful by the Returning Officer Mr. J.P.R. Finnegan. The campaign is expected to be carried out in the best traditions of Rugger — lofty ideals, a fairminded portrayal of all the issues and a gentlemanly camaraderie esprit de corps between all the candidates for high office.

A spokesperson explained that the "gregariousness, bonhomie and savoir vivre of Rugger would permeate the entire

campaign". The declared runners are: Mr. John Sullivan, well known Hotelier and Auctioneer, a follower of the pragmatic tradition, guarantees if there is a problem he'll shift it.

Mr. James Lee, Hotelier and Supermarket proprietor; a man with boundless appetite — promises he'll make more, do more, extend more, get more and more.

Mr. Matty Collins: A member of the working class although believed to be backed by the Coen Corporation, much more than a puppet for big business.

Mr. Micko Glynn: A man who treats life as a gift, popular entertainer with international links. All the evidence suggests he has a good track record.

Mr. John Finnegan: Insurance Magnate, a very polished performer, recent events make him less eligible.

Mrs. Teresa Moloney: Housewife possesses a charismatic personality believed to be popular with the Jesus Movement.

Mrs. Mary Rochford: Insurance Queen, a welcome return to the public arena, tireless worker for the feminist movement.

While the election is being conducted all Rugger players will get off the booze; resulting savings to be contributed to Cambodia, while the remainder will be used to build a Rugby stadium.

LEAGUE STIMULATED

The serialization "When Lint was Lint" in the Guaire magazine has run

into unexpected difficulty. To date the articles deal with life in a small closely knit rural town in the West of Ireland. Many attribute the international popularity of the magazine to this particular serialisation.

However the last installment has occasioned much criticism from the home front — notably from the League of Decency (female section, South Galway Branch).

A spokesperson for the League claimed: "the last issue contained undue exposure to articles of clothing better unmentioned — such as 'drawers' 'see-throughs' etc.". "The author himself" (who now seems certain to be in line for the Nobel prize for literature) "described in a recent poem how knowledge (unspecified) is the bane of his life". "Yet", the spokesperson continued, "the presentation of such a distorted picture is exposing the innocent and sheltered to a similar fate".

A spokesperson for Guaire advised the female members of the League not to read this particular part of the magazine if it was an occasion of sin. "It would be the last thing on our mind to lead anyone into temptation," she added.

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— Our school Days in Tiernevan —

Maria Cummins and Tom Hannon interviewed by Peadar Ó Conaire

PÓC: Did you go to school around the same time as Tom, Maria?

No, Tom was only a very small boy when I left school. He was in the infant class I would say.

PÓC: Do you remember your first teacher, Maria?

Yes, her name was Miss Leach. Agnes Mullins was the other teacher in the school at the time. The next pair of teachers were Mr. Touhy and Miss Markham. Miss Costello and Miss Cummins came afterwards.

I don't remember my first day in school, but Mama told me years afterwards that I came home crying because I spilled ink on my white pinafore!

PÓC: What do you remember of your first years in school, Tom?

Well I started school in May 1927. Bridget McNamara (an aunt of Frank Cooney and sister of Mrs Cooney of Seehan) brought me to school. Miss Cummins (now Mrs. Heenan) was my teacher. Mr. Touhy was the master. There was only one classroom in the school. There were big lads in the room, some fit to be married! They used to come for the winter months only.

PÓC: Did you get a lot of home work Maria?

Indeed we did. I didn't like sums. My brother Miko used to laugh at me when I couldn't do the sums. I started learning Irish in third class. I never liked it.

PÓC: Did you get punished, Maria?

Oh yes, for different things — such as using an N-pen. I remember the day Maria Mitchel married Tony Helebert. A few of us stayed at the church to watch the wedding. One of us (Julia Quinn) was wearing a red coat and the teacher spotted her from the school. We got a banging the following day!

Catechism was taken very seriously in those days — not knowing it meant trouble. We had Catechism in church for an hour on Sunday. I remember Msgr. Fahy coming to the school to question us.

PÓC: Do you remember anybody else beside the priest calling to the school, Tom?

Well, there was one character I will never forget — Dan Murphy. He used to call regularly. He was down in the world the poor man.

I remember two Punch and Judy shows in the school. We were charged 1 penny each to see them. The inspector at the time was Mr. Ó Siocradha, brother of 'An Seabhaic', the writer.

PÓC: What are the outstanding memories you have of your school days Tom?

I remember the fights after school. There used to be great ones between the Seehan and Tiernevan pupils. We were always great friends afterwards. Girls always brought milk to school. A particular girl milked a goat on the way to school. Another lad and I saw her at it. We crept up

behind her and while he held her I forced the contents of the bottle down her throat. We were awful devils!

Every third Friday of the month and the following Monday were great days. Three lads would be appointed by the teacher to bring the harmonium down to the church and back again. We used to have Mrs. Carr's ass and cart. It was hard work too. It toppled over one day and got broken.

When I was in second class one little fellow went out to the toilet one day but didn't come back. After a long time the teacher sent me out to see if there was anything wrong. I came back without him. When the teacher asked me what was wrong, I was afraid to answer her. After a good while I told her. "He is trying to tie his trousers Miss", I said. No further questions!

I remember the teacher reading out an excuse that a pupil had for being absent — "Not in yesterday, had the diary". The teacher had a special red book into which very good compositions were written. It was regarded as a special honour to be allowed to write in it. Three of us got the honour in my time, Jack Murphy (solicitor in Gort now), Johanna Brady and myself.

PÓC: You must have outstanding memories as well Maria?

The most frightening thing that ever happened to me occurred when I was going to school. I was sent to town on a message after

school — the day before the Loughane brothers were killed. I met the Black and Tans on the new-line. They ordered me to walk the high wall, keeping their rifles pointed at me all the time. They came out and shot all the cattle and sheep in the area the same evening.

I remember Annie Leary who lived near the school. We used to raid her orchard. She caught Paddy Sullivan up in a tree one evening and kept jabbing him with a fork!

The lads used to throw stones at Des Kennedy's ('Dashin') shed and then leave the girls to face the angry man!

PÓC: Do you remember any great characters in school Maria?

I can't remember them all now but Mick Naughton and Tommy Lee stand out in my mind.

PÓC: One final memory from you, Tom?

I'll give you two! I remember being sent to the well (near Johnny Flaherty's house). I was afraid of being away too long. One couldn't chance anything more than three quarters of an hour. I didn't make it back in time! Of course one never could forget the big can of sweets the teacher used to give us the day we got the Summer holidays!

PÓC: A final word from you Maria?

I remember buying 4 nibs for a penny, making my own bib and bringing a sod of turf for the fire! It was a happy time.

The Late Joe Dooley

passing of Joe Dooley, leaves a void, for many reasons — he was kind and gentle and helpful neighbour. His Gate Lodge home at Coole was the last Gate Lodge attached to Lady Gregory's Demesne, a hospitable one with its Céad Míle Fáilte for all comers and gate-way to the famed Garden Woods of Coole — his suggestions and kindly advice to many pilgrims will be greatly missed. Despite his "farming hands" he was an expert watch and clock repairman — and brought back a tick for thousands of time pieces — and was a "Harmless Charge", or no charge at all. His likes are growing too little scarce in this hurrying spinning world. He had many prized possessions, most sacred among them paintings done by Lady Gregory's son Robert, of Joe's brother John and an excellent one of his grandfather, Michael Dooley, painted 1897.

Wealth would not induce Joe to part with them. Incidentally Robert Gregory, an only son, was killed in an air crash over Italy in the Great War of 1914-18, and the tragedy inspired W.B. Yeats poem, "An Irish Airman forsees his death."

Unique Drawing

He did part with a large drawing of "A Donkey", the work of Lady Gregory's daughter Ann, to Mr. Denis O'Brien, then proprietor of Glynn's Hotel for £10 — but "only because he kept coming" related Joe.

After Mr. O'Brien's death the "Donkey" was purchased at the subsequent auction for £8 by Mr. Gerard M. Keane, President of the Gregory - Yeats - Martyn Society and now hangs in the Kiltartan Room off Mr. Keane's Bar in Bridge St. Gort, but its not for sale. When offered £300 sometime after the purchase, Mr. Keane with his delightful typical shavian wit, replied — "Not

interested unless I go broke. If I bought "The Donkey" it doesn't mean I'm "An Ass".

Preserve the Lodge

Joe's next of kin are, as of yet not clearly defined — he has some first cousins, but preservationists are worried about the fate of the Lodge in new hands — will it be bulldozed and replaced by a gaudy bungalow.

As remarked earlier, it is the Last Gate Lodge of the internationally famous playwright/ Owner Lady Augusta Gregory.

The Big House was demolished in 1941 and even today brings sighs of regret. Let this not be the fate of the quaint lodge, with its angular porch and white washed walls and an old world atmosphere that cannot be replaced.

May it live on as a symbol of a great lady — and a great family — the Dooley's of Coole.

W.M. Quinn and the Grateful Neighbours



Scouting is a worldwide brotherhood founded in 1907 by an English man, Mr. Baden Powell. Today the scout movement has more than fifteen million members in over 100 countries. Mr. Powell liked the open air life, and he became an expert backwoodsman during his army life. During the Boer War he became famous when he led the defence of Mafeking. During the siege, which lasted 217 days, he started a Corps of boys to act as messengers, signallers and first aiders, and relieve the soldiers for defence.

He later thought of a programme of activities based on his experiences. In 1907 he tested this event at a camp on Brownsea Island, with 20 boys divided into four Patrols, learning Scouting skills. The camp was a great success, and during 1908 he published his programme on "Scouting for Boys."

Scouting formed in Dublin

Scouting quickly spread beyond England. In 1927 a Dublin Curate, Fr. Tom Farrell founded the Boy Scouts in Dublin. Today there are more than 21,000 Boy Scouts all over Ireland.

Scout promises

The most important thing a Scout does is to make certain promises. It is something he must mean, and something he must always try to carry out.

Scout laws

The Scout law is divided into twelve parts. The following verse will help a Scout to remember the Scout law:

"Loyal, Trustworthy, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Pure, Gods Glory in Mind."

A Scout is not asked to do anything he cannot do, but he should keep the Scout promise to the best of his ability. A Scout is never on his own. God is there to help him to live up to his promises. St. Ignatius wrote a prayer which is ideal for the Scouts, and it is called the "Scout Prayer".

The uniform

Wearing your Scout uniform is part of being a Scout. The uniform consists of navy trousers, a blue shirt, a Scout belt, A Neckerchief and woggle, a Lanyard, Black or Brown shoes.

The Sign

A Scout uses the Scout Sign, Salute and Handclasp. The Scout sign is used when making the Scout Promise, during the Gospel of the Mass, and as a greeting between the Scouts.

The Salute

A Scout salutes passing a Church, or a place where the Blessed Sacrament is kept, when the National Flag is raised or lowered, when the National Anthem is played, and

when Flags are carried past him.

Hiking

Part of Scouting is the outing. A hike is a walk with a purpose. It has to be planned, and you must know where you are going. A Scout must bring sufficient clothes and sufficient food. He must know how to pack a Rucksack. A hike is fun, and you will enjoy a hike all the more if you achieve something worthwhile during it.

First Boy Scouts in Gort

The first branch of the Boy Scouts in Gort was founded in the year 1931. Their picture has already appeared in Guaire. After a number of years it lapsed, and was revived in the early sixties, when Fr. Walshe was curate in Gort. Their first leader of that time was Mr. Barney O'Reilly of the Forestry Dept., and Mr. John Kelly of George's St. took his place when Mr. O'Reilly was transferred.

Adventurous outing

At that time they had been on several outings with Mr. O'Reilly. They had one very adventurous outing when they went on a camping holiday to Sligo. They went mountaineering there. The weather was exceptionally bad. Some of the boys got lost in a mist, but they were found again. Their worried mothers were ringing up asking them to come home.

Fr. Walshe took them on a memorable camping holiday to the south of

Wexford. From there they went by frowler to the Saltee Islands.

Present Scouts

The Boy Scout movement lapsed again until 1978, when Canon Quinn revived it once more. He appointed two leaders and a treasurer. The two leaders are Mr. Dan Casey, and Mr. Gerry Sheehan, and the treasurer is Mr. Michael Cunningham. We assemble every Friday night at 8 p.m. We each bring 10p every time we meet. Then when we have enough money we buy food and go on an outing. At the meetings we do drill, and play games. We learn how to light a fire with dry grass and twigs. We learn ropework, and we learn to pack a rucksack.

We have gone on one outing to Raheen. It was an enjoyable day. We did some drill first of all. Then we had a game of soccer. Next we lit a fire.

We had three sliced loaves, three pounds of sausages, two pounds of butter, half a pound of tea, a kilogram of sugar, four large tins of beans, two tins of spaghetti, seven cartons of milk, a fork and knife, and a spoon each, disposable cups and plates, a pot and a frying pan, a kettle, and aluminium teapot, and two bottles of water. We had a bucket to get water in the river to make tea.

We hope to meet regularly on Friday nights during the winter. Hopefully next summer we will have enough money in the funds to go on a camping holiday.

Tomás Ó Driscoll
(12 yrs)

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St. Colman's Vocational School a special feature

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

Seosamh Mac Eoin

BACKGROUND

In 1889 an act was passed in the British Parliament enabling local authorities to strike a rate of "not more than one penny in the £" to develop technical education in its area. A further act, the Local Government (Ireland) Act was passed in 1898 following which County Councils were set up throughout the country. The process was completed the following year with the establishment of the Dept. of Agricultural and Technical Instruction for Ireland; it was this body which laid the foundations of vocational education as we know it to-day.

The Sisters of Mercy in Gort worked diligently under the County Galway Technical Instruction Committee, and they made their premises available for classes. However, at their meeting of the 25th February 1901 the committee urged "... on the Department the necessity of immediately considering the proposal of the County Council to expend £2,000 in building a new technical school at Gort as the present rooms are about to be taken up for other purposes".

However, the Department did not move at the pace required by the

Committee for we read in the minutes of 16th April, 1901. "That this committee considers the question of the Gort Technical School is one of extreme urgency owing to the fact that the building in which the classes are being carried out are about to be taken up by the Sisters of Mercy.

"That the County Council over a year ago unanimously agreed to borrow a sum of £2,000 for building purposes in Gort and the Committee considers that the postponement of the question for a year will be most injurious to the Gort Technical School which the Committee recognises has done good work for technical instruction with very inadequate assistance".

The application for the grant of £2,000 was subsequently refused.

The Sisters of Mercy taught Cookery, Laundry work, Dressmaking, Crochet and Lace making, and the committee was very satisfied with their services, and it urged that the Department grant Certificates to the nuns as recognised technical instruction teachers.

"If this be done the number of expert teachers required by the Committee will be



Some of to-day's staff. Front left: Maura Grealish, Kathleen Croffy, M'iche'al Breathnach, Orla Breathnach, Judy Conroy. Middle: Paddy Loughnane, Regine Freny, Mary Kearney, Brid Lydon, Helen Andrews, Patrick Murphy. Back: Fr. Enda Glynn, Pat O'Toole, Brendan Winston, Dick Burke, Christy Monahan and Pat Craddock.

lessened and more continuous teaching ensured".

On the 3rd December 1901 an application from Gort Convent Technical School was read requesting the recognition of the following as teachers under the County Scheme:

Mr. John Geraghty, (Linen and Woolen Weaving) - £26 per annum.

Miss Maloney, (Embroidery) - £20 per annum.

Miss Mac Mahon, (Lace-making) - £20 per annum.

Miss Halvey, (Crochet) - £20 per annum.

Miss Shaughnessy, (Knitting) - £20 per annum.

Sr. Philomena, (Cookery) - £26 per annum.

Mr. B. Higgins, (Shorthand, Typewriting) - £26 per annum.

Miss Neilan, (Embroidery Expert - Salary not recorded.

Most of the above were probably local people.

However, the only one I have been able to identify so far is Miss Halvey, whose Christian name was Delia. She was from Cloughnacava.

It is interesting to see that in the following year, 1902/3, the Salaries for seven teachers plus £20 expenses for materials rent and all expenses of classes mounted to £186!

In time the Sisters of Mercy withdrew from the Technical Instruction scheme and concentrated on building up their own Secondary School. Teachers under the Committee of Technical Instruction continued to service the area and provided classes in such subjects as woodwork and Home Management in different places in the Gort area.

THE 1930 ACT

As a result of the Report of the Commission on Technical Education, 1926, the Minister, John Marcus O Sullivan from Kerry, introduced the

Vocational Education Act in 1930. Under this Act the old Technical Instruction Committees were abolished and Vocational Education Committees were established in their place. Their function was "(a) to establish and maintain in accordance with this Act a suitable system of continuation education in each area and to provide for the progressive development of such system; and (b) to supply or aid the supply in accordance with this Act of technical education in each area."

Continuation education means the development of the education acquired in the National School. It was seen by the Minister and his advisers as a necessary pre-requisite before a student could benefit from technical education proper.

Mr. Eamon Corbett, M.C.C., from Killeeneen, Craughwell was the only member of the first Vocational Education Committee from the Gort area. However, he took a particular interest in the provision of technical education in Gort, and he continually urged that better accommodation be provided for classes. He was supported in his efforts in January 1935 when representations were made to the Committee by Mr. J. Nelly, secretary to the Gort Industrial and Development Association pointing out the necessity for providing more suitable accommodation for classes in Gort.

A sub-committee was established in Gort to make recommendations on the development of

technical education in the area. The original members of this committee included the following:

Very Rev. Archdeacon Cassidey P.P., V.G.

Rev. Fr. Henry Feeney C.C.

Mr. Lally, Hotel proprietor.

Mr. T. Hynes, Miller.

Mr. Bartley Fahy, Draper.

Mr. P.G. Heneghan, Teacher.

Mr. Henry Shaughnessy, Business man.

Mr. Eamon Corbett, Chemist.

Mr. William Keane, Publician.

On the 11th December, 1935 progress was reported on the efforts



Alan O'Shaughnessy and John Burke at work.

towards building a school in Gort when a letter was read from the Secretary of the County Galway Board of Health stating "that the Board had recommended to the Minister for Local Government and Public Health that the position of the Old Workhouse Grounds shown on Ordnance Survey Map be leased to the Vocational

Education Committee for the purpose of erecting a new School there..."

NEW SCHOOL

At this time, Coole House was offered for use as a Vocational School. However, after inspection by Monsignor Cassidy, P.P. V.G.; Mr. E. Corbett, T.D.; Mr. Lee, B.E. and Mr. Sheridan, a Department Inspector, the offer was declined, and the site at the Workhouse was accepted, and sketch plans of the proposed new school were presented to the Committee by Mr. Lee on the 13th October, 1936.

Mr. Liam Martin,

new school for the sum of £3,922-13-2. In spite of many difficulties the school was handed over to the Vocational Education Committee on 14th October 1940.

There were about thirty pupils in the new building and along with Mr. Martin, there was a Home Economics teacher, and a General Studies teacher. By 1946 enrolment had increased to nearly forty and the number of teachers had increased to six. Mr. Seamus O Donohue had succeeded Mr. Martin as Principal; Sean Mac Lochlainn taught General subjects; Miss Mary Bohan, Commerce; Miss Curran, Home Economics and Mr. Martin Folan, Woodwork.

Seamus O Donohue afterwards resigned on being appointed Chief Agricultural Officer in County Roscommon, and he was succeeded by Miss Mary Bohan. Mr. Micheál Breathnach succeeded Miss Bohan in 1972.

THE FUTURE

Technical and Vocational Education in Gort has developed since the beginning of the century in response to the educational needs of the region. I believe that the authorities of all second level institutions in the area must discuss the drawing up of an education scheme, so that the students of the future may be assured of as good an education as their predecessors received.

Contd. overleaf

ADULT EDUCATION

Many chairs, dressers, kitchen tables and other household furniture are to be seen in homes in the South Galway and North Clare area that were either bought or received as gifts.

No! They were made in night classes over the past forty years in St. Colman's Vocational School, Gort, or in one of the centres such as Invara, Clarebridge, Ardara and other places which were served by teachers from Gort.

While the Woodwork classes are probably the best known, the School is also provided many others as the demand arose. These included subjects such as rural science, Irish, French, English Literature, Car maintenance, Welding, Metalwork, Cookery, Dressmaking, Art, Typewriting and many others.

Every effort is made to provide any class that is requested by a group of at least twelve people. The person to contact is the Adult Education Officer in the School, Barney Weston.

CAMOGIE

Seosamh Mac Eoin

There is a fine tradition of camogie in St. Colman's Vocational School, Gort where the undisputed Connacht Vocational Schools Senior Champions of the 70's until this year had though never winning the Connacht Post Primary Schools title, the memories of exciting finals

against Presentation Athenry are vivid in the minds of both spectators and participants.

Many girls from the school went on to star for their county. Mary Dolan and Rose Kelleher won Junior All Ireland medals with Clare while this year Bernadette Linnane was on this year's Galway All Ireland winning Junior team. Others to represent their county include Philomena Fay, Teresa Larkin, and Maura Armstrong.

In recent years the younger girls have been to the forefront. The First year's captained by Ann Woods, reached the Post-Primary Schools Semi-Final last year while the under 15 team, captained by Patricia Jordan were also beaten in the Semi-Final.

Hopes are high for this year's Junior team. With Christina Glynn as Captain they expect to go the whole way.

Past Pupils

The St. Colman's Vocational Past Pupils Union was launched in March 1979. To mark this occasion and the winning of the 1978 All Ireland Hurling title a dinner dance was held in Lee's Hotel. The aim of the Past Pupils Union is to keep past pupils in contact with each other and with the school. The Union would also hope to help any past pupil in need. Its Officers are:

Chairman: Fintan Kealy,
Secretary: Mary Smyth,
Vice-Chairman: Michael Glynn, Treasurer: Jimmy Lynsky.

Mary Bohan Looks Back

I was appointed to the staff of the school in September 1944 as teacher of General and Commercial subjects. On my arrival there, I found what was, by standards of that time, a modern and well-equipped building, built in 1939, staffed by four devoted and enthusiastic teachers. The number included the Headmaster - a gracious gentleman who could be classed as one of the pioneers of the system. Those pioneers were men and women who travelled about to various centres to conduct classes - generally in the crafts and in the Irish language - and worked under very difficult conditions.

My first day in the school was a little disappointing. I found just a handful of students in the day classes. However, the respect and appreciation shown by that little group was very encouraging. There were evening classes too, and the attendance at those was somewhat better. Nevertheless, one felt that more use should be made of the facilities offered by the school. Shortly after my arrival, one staff member was withdrawn, on the grounds that the attendance in the day classes did not justify a staff of four teachers; this resulted in another subject being added to my already wide range.

The Domestic Science and Rural Science teachers, at that time,

conducted classes at outside centres two evenings each week, together with the classes they conducted in the school. Their means of transport was the bicycle, but I never heard a word of complaint. Working conditions for Vocational teachers, then, were difficult. I myself used the bicycle, sometimes, to visit parents and have a chat with them; the warm welcome extended to me was a sufficient compensation for my journey.

Many factors were responsible for the small attendance at the day classes. One was transport difficulties, although I have vivid memory of a girl who travelled from Crusheen every day to attend the classes.

ATTRACTING NEW STUDENTS

Gort Vocational School was then very much the rural school, catering for rural requirements, but as was the case throughout the country at the time, there existed the erroneous idea that the boy who was to inherit the farm had no need to further his education beyond the primary school level. One could say that the same idea obtained in connection with the girls, unless they intended to take up a professional career for which a post-primary course of training was essential.

At that time a girl had little difficulty in

proceeding to a nursing career, if she held the primary school leaving certificate. Nursing then did not prove to be the very attractive profession that it now does, consequently, applicants were not very numerous, and competition not keen.

Also, parents at that time were anxious to send their sons and daughters, who wished to pursue a post-primary course, to boarding schools. This meant that the local post-primary schools were drained of many good students.

Needless to remark, it was the desire of every member of the school staff to do something to attract more students to the school. It seemed a pity that this beautiful and well-equipped building was not made more use of, particularly by the youth of the locality. We put our heads together and decided to hold an exhibition of the students' work - day and night students - and invite the public, but in particular the students' parents, to come to the school to see the work and meet the teachers. The exhibition was arranged for a Sunday afternoon. We had a constant flow of visitors, and it was quite evident that they were very pleased with the high standard of the work, particularly in the Crafts and Rural Science sections. My contribution was: the setting up of a Model office in the class-room in which the students worked all through the afternoon - typing, drafting documents, filling in accounts and aptly

answering questions asked by the interested visitors.

The exhibition proved so attractive that it became an annual event, but as years went by and the student numbers grew we had to confine it to the students' parents.

The school grew and we soon experienced space and staff problems. We had even to use the little school office as a class-room. The Department of Education had to tighten up on expenses as demands were being made on them from many angles, so the schools suffered. We had neither sufficient class-room space nor sufficient staff, so working conditions for the staff members who were there were far from being ideal, but we made the most of them.

SCHOOL EXTENSION

In March, 1956, through the negotiations of a very helpful committee and a dynamic Chief Executive Officer, the Department of Education sanctioned a three months' scholarship course for 15 young men, all past students of Vocational schools and among whom were some of our own past students. This course gave an opportunity to the students to use, in a very practical way, the training they had already received. Under the guidance of a highly efficient Clerk of works - a member of the Committee's staff who later became Headmaster in one of the Western schools - a new school building was completed by the young men and ready for the official opening in mid-July of that year. One

of the Department's inspectors who was among those who came for the official opening referred to it as the "Mushroom" building on account of the rapidity with which it was erected. It is, of course, a very substantial structure. This gave us a little more breathing space.

At that time, we prepared students for Group Certificate examinations only. I always considered these certificates - there were five categories - as an excellent assessment of the student's knowledge and ability. They were set on very practical lines, and holders of them went directly into excellent employment. I meet some of those students now and find that they have mounted to a high scale in the ladder in their different spheres. Some teach in some of the Dublin City Vocational Schools, in the evening classes, after having finished their day duties in their permanent posts.

Many and varied were the positions which the students filled. Some entered the religious life, some became nurses, some technicians, electricians, skilled carpenters etc. A very large number took up secretarial posts and some became teachers.

LEAVING CERT

In 1965, we began to agitate for the extension of the school curriculum to the Leaving Certificate standard. This called for some hard bargaining with the authorities. The Vocational Committee who were always so helpful were reluctant to grant our request, as it

would necessitate large expenditure to provide the essential accommodation and staff. I have a very vivid recollection of fighting hard, at a meeting in the committee's offices in Galway, to have the course sanctioned. One of the Department's inspectors who was present at the meeting backed me up, so I won my argument.

We now had entered another new era in the history of the school, and were again, confronted with new problems - space and suitable staff. The space problem was solved almost immediately in the form of prefabricated structures; so there remained the staff problem which was very much more difficult to solve. Student numbers had to be submitted to the committee to justify each appointment. This was not an easy matter as one could not be certain of the number of students who would wish to pursue their studies to take the Leaving Certificate. However, we gradually solved the problem, and our students sat for the Leaving Certificate examination, for the first time in the history of the school in June, 1971 and the results were most encouraging. The school has continued along these lines with the same creditable results.

I have written, chiefly in the plural, as the team spirit was always, with very few exceptions, very strong in the school, and never stronger than during my final years there.

THANKS

I want here to pay a well-deserved tribute to

he parents of the students with whom I dealt through the years. I cannot remember having a disciplinary problem. The students were a credit to their parents. We met the parents once a year — although they were free to all at any time — as we organised a parents' day at the end of each session. It was a pleasure to meet those parents — one always heard the word of thanks and appreciation, which left the teachers with a feeling of pleasure and pride in their work.

How I cherish those memories and would like to say now: Thank you parents for your co-operation and kindness.

We always owed a great debt of gratitude to the Gort clergy — all without exception — who were so understanding of our needs and so ready to help us out in every way. We felt we needed their advice and it was always readily given.

I would also like to say "Thanks" to the many friends we had in Gort and the surrounding districts

who often left their work to give us their support, in coming to attend the different functions we organized in the school. This support meant a lot to us. Some, I know have since been called to their eternal reward, but memories live on.

I will now come to the present principal and staff of the school and address them in a few direct phrases: "You were a marvellous team! It was a pleasure to work with you! I get news of your achievements, and it gives

me great pleasure to know that you are doing so well."

My greeting to you all — principal and staff — is: Beannacht Dé, na Maighdine Muire agus Naomh Colmán oraibh go léir, ar bhur mic léinn agus ar bhur gcuid oibre.

I know that a few members of the staff who were there in my time have left to take up positions nearer their homes, and I want to convey these greetings to them also.

Máire Ní Bhotháin

Through a Pupil's Eyes

Martina Cunningham



Martina Cunningham think this is just as important as study as they bring students together for a common aim, in a spirit of co-operation and friendliness. I'm sure all great educators would recognise this as true education.

I have enjoyed my years in St. Colmans V.S. I look forward to getting a good Leaving Cert. in 1981 and though I have not yet fully decided on my career I appreciate that every vocation in life is open to me. Regardless of my choice, I think my education in the friendly atmosphere of a mixed school will have been of a great benefit to me.

On September 1, 1967 the first of my sisters Kathleen began her secondary education in St. Colman's. The following year my other sister Margaret enrolled. Then in 1976, it was my turn to go and there was no doubt in my mind, nor in my parents' mind, where I would attend.

From about the age of ten, I was determined to go to the "tech". Often I crept out to the room where my sisters were doing their homework and listened to them discussing the day's happenings at school. Even at the age of ten, I realised that my sisters, while in St. Colmans, were part of a large family, a family which included both teachers and pupils. Kathleen would talk about her friends and about jokes they shared with teachers. (This I found hard to believe until I went there.) Margaret talked a lot about the plays in which she participated and the camogie matches she had played.

When I told my parents that I wanted to go to the "tech" there was certainly no complaints on their side. Kathleen had done two years secretarial after Inter. Cert. and was now very happily working in the E.S.B. as a Clerical Officer. Margaret after getting good results in her Inter. Cert. started work in a supermarket in Portumna. So, as far as results were concerned my

parents didn't have any complaints.

What awaited me

I can account for almost every second of my first day at school. I was the only girl leaving Derrybrien N.S. and I knew none of the girls who would be in 1st year. This worried me a bit, but once I was there, the atmosphere was just as I heard my sisters describe it. The older students did all they could to help us and it wasn't long before I made some very good friends in my class of fifteen.

Of course there was the occasional argument but I am glad that I am part of this class. In first year, with the help of the teachers we organised a Christmas concert. This showed us all, both boys and girls that when we

work together we produce the best. Then, as time went on, I began to take part more and more in the activities of the school.

Camogie of course is a very important game here in the tech. Last year, I was part of the Junior Camogie Team which reached the Provincial Final but unfortunately we were beaten by Glenamaddy. Even with this defeat, the spirit lives on and our juniors this year are giving excellent performances.

Other extracurricular activities include debating, plays, school tours, hurling, football, basketball, end of term ceili, the publication of the school magazine and the management of the school shop. There is plenty to hold the interest and enthusiasm of every student in the school. I

Miss Bohan — A Tribute

By Paddy Moloney

Over the years I grew fond of her though she did nothing to encourage affection. In saying this I feel I am echoing the sentiments of all who had the privilege of working with her as a teacher or as a student. The fondness I speak of grew from her total dedication to the welfare of her school and students to the exclusion of almost every other aspect of life — she simply had no other interest. And so she sought to lead not by the weight of her authority but by her personal example. Every facet of youth formation was incorporated into school work — religion, honesty, dedication, truthfulness and integrity — she believed in making them live.

In effect she was constantly saying to everybody "you can be a lot better and you know it." But where example failed the weapon of authority could be felt blowing like a storm. Cutting straight to the

heart of differences she quickly resolved the problem and immediately became your friend and adviser. Every word and every act was in the interest of the pupils who came first, last and in between.

GAMES

Although steeped in the traditions of the educational straight jacket of the '40's and '50's she experienced little difficulty in adjusting to the innovations of the '60 and '70's but found some of the new methods deeply disturbing. She preferred the old, the trusted and the tried. However, the transition went smoothly in most areas of learning but I cannot say this for games. She really never saw their relevance in the same as I did, and it was here I encountered my deepest difference with her. I remember returning one

evening from a match in Ballinasloe, cold, wet and hungry after suffering our first defeat for five years in the Juvenile Championship. She accosted me at the door and enquired, "Did ye win?" — "No" — came the reply. "I'm delighted." — (delighted that there would be no further disruption of classes for the rest of the year.) words not spoken but meant so I had to forgive her.

Those of us not of the old school usually proclaim antipathy to authoritarian generals but despite this she was always the centre of attention. Her personality was such that when she entered a class room everybody got the feeling that if she moved to a window there would be a distinct possibility that the centre of gravity might shift and the whole room might tilt everybody into the yard.

STILL REMEMBERED

Education and herself went through a lot together and as her retirement drew near she could look back over a life of success, but she never became a spectator of her own achievements. A melancholy air of withdrawal never developed around her. Her enthusiasm and interest remained in full bloom to the very end. She left behind a heritage of dedication and service which is automatically recalled whenever and wherever past pupils meet and surely there is no better way of marking your esteem than to link her memory with something that is of lasting value to yourself.

I sincerely wish her the same fulfilment in retirement as she certainly enjoyed during her long years in Gort.

HURLING



Pat O'Toole

The late John D. Hickey once remarked how Tipperary babies were born with hurleys in their hands and I think the same can possibly be said concerning the babies from South Galway as over the years it has produced the best of hurlers.

And so bearing this in mind it is with a sense of pride and sadness that one looks at the game of hurling in the Vocational

School. Pride because one sees the youth continuing in the tradition of their forefathers and play hurling; sadness when one ponders on the number of schools in Ireland where hurling has actually died. This is certainly not the case in the "Tech" where over the last twenty years the game of hurling has gone from strength to strength. Since the formation of the school competitions the Tech has

proved to be a major stumbling block to all other Techs in the various competitions and in fact under the dutiful eye of trainer Mr. Paddy Moloney won the Under 15 competition five times in a row during the late sixties and early seventies.

In 1969 a new era began for the Vocational School as pupils now continued on to Leaving Certificate and so now the school became involved in hurling at senior level. As all realise the commitment at senior level must be 100% and the lads from the Tech duly gave of their best both in training and on the field and so in 1975

won our first senior ring competition when we beat Ballinasloe in the final. Tears swell to my eyes as I think back on that day remembering the power of "Ger Connaire at the back, the strength and tenacity of captain Kevin O'Mogháe, the elegance of the midfield pair Pat Lally and Leo Donoghue and the beautiful striking

back Michael Clune surely a contender in the years to come for the "Puck Fada", the courage of Joe O'Grady, the Munster type hurling of centre half and captain John Moylan, the ballerina like poise and balance of Ger Loughnane, the never say die attitude of Ollie Higgins and the artistry and craft of six-foot plus John Ryder.



All Ireland Senior Vocational School's Hurling Champions 1978. Back left: James Kennedy, Ollie Higgins, James McInerney, Pat Healy, Jack O'Grady, Gerry Glynn, Thomas Mahon, Billy Conneely, Tom Gardiner, Barney Murtagh and Val Niland. Front left: John Ryder, Declan Gardiner, Pakie Caulfield, Gerry Viland, John Moylan, Joseph Callinan, Michael Clune, Michael Greaney, Gerry Loughnane and Michael Mooney.

the forwards as they scored after score in the second half. Standing here in Athenry that evening one thought the school had reached the highest pinnacle in vocational hurling but more was yet to come, in fact a dream became a reality when in 1978 the vocational school won the first ever All Ireland Vocational School's final. St. Colman's Vocational School had now surely reached the highest peak in the sporting field. How in one ever forget that day in Birr, when the Tech team consisting of players from South Galway and North Clare beat Wexford convincingly from Wexford in a thrilling final. Every player was a hero that day but if one could single out one for special mention full

I think also the clubs and county have benefitted from the graduates of the Tech. this year alone Joe Callinan captained the Co. Minors. Last year Gerry Lally was a Co. Minor - there have been many others. Gerry Linnane was on this year's Co. Under 21 team, while Sylvie Linnane, Gerry Bond, Michael Coen and Steve Mahon have donned the Maroon and White with the Seniors.

No doubt more will be heard of names like Callinan, Moylan, Gardiner, Bond, Niland, Loughnane and so I revert back to John D's statement - I think it can be said about South Galway.

A PAST PUPIL REMEMBERS

"SCHOOL DAYS ARE THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE"

Everyone has heard that old saying at some stage during their schooling, but do they believe it? I for one could never understand how anyone could class those days of learning as happy, above all the "Happiest days". I saw my future days, full of money, work, boys, and all kinds of everything. But boy! did I come down with a bang! To all you at St. Colman's Vocational School, enjoy every minute of it and learn to "Take one day at a time"

For me, the entering of those green gates each morning for 5 years was in itself a heart-ache, and to this day its memories stand clear in my mind.

I began my schooling with the intention of doing my Group Cert. and Inter Cert. and then going on to do Shorthand and Typing. Things didn't work out that way as Miss Bohan, being headmistress at the time, had a way of persuading one to think her way. And so she did to me, making me remain on to do Leaving Cert. She also had a way of creating quiet a stir, when peering around a corner unexpectedly, as Mr. Walsh, present Headmaster does to this day.

There were old timers in St. Colman's too, which



Eileen Kearney

everyone respected and associated them with nothing but teaching - Mr. Moloney, Mr. Burke, Mr. Monaghan and Miss Coen. Young teachers, changed their names and then left, while I was a pupil.

- Mrs Quilty gone to take care of her home.
- Miss R. Carney became Mrs. Little, left.
- Miss Kirrane became Mrs. Tyrell, and left.
- Miss Flaherty became Mrs. Conroy but still remains to this day.
Miss A. Andrews didn't change her name but also left.

Mr. McLoughlin went to Moneenageesha.
Mr. O Neachtain to "God knows where" with his History and Geography.
Mr. Curran to farming, I think.

Mr. O'Toole is becoming one of the old timers now, so also, is Mr. Craddock if they stay on much longer.

Between all those teachers, we were taught a wide variety of subjects which still happens today.

Those teachers were responsible for the making of those good and bad times in St. Colman's, so also were the students, themselves, of course.

A Break

The making of the tea for

the teachers at eleven was always a great worry to each girl, but looking back on it now, gives cause for a good laugh. Having to go to Gallagher's for those lovely biscuits, was a handy way of wasting a few well earned minutes. If one hadn't got the washing up done properly, you were sure of being called back again, by none

other than the faithful Miss Coen to repeat the job - under supervision this time.

As a past pupil, may I say on behalf of all other past students, that each day at "St. Colman's" is a day well spent. Long ago, one was of the opinion that only those who hadn't got brains went to the Vocational School, but

thank God, this has all changed for the better, due to the work of the teachers.

And now before I finish I would like to wish all of those who attended St. Colman's with me every good wish in the future, especially those who have got married, Rose Kelleher, Mary Frances Lally, Mary Dolan, Nora

Hanrahan, Mary Conroy, Dorothy Monaghan, Kathleen Marlborough, Geraldine Kilkelly. And to those who have remained single - so far, Anne Howley, Criss Glynn, Bridget Hanrahan, Rita Walsh and yours truly,

Eileen Kearney

Past & Future

Micheál Breathnach

I arrived in Gort in 1956 to take up a position as Metalwork Teacher in St. Colman's Vocational School. As I came through the gates beautifully laid-out lawns and numerous trees and shrubs caught my attention. Behind the main building were endless drills of potatoes and other vegetables. In vain I searched for the Metalwork room! I wondered had there been some mistake! How could a Metalwork Teacher be expected to teach his subject without the necessary accommodation and equipment.

I met Miss Bohan and she assured me that there was no mistake. The Metalwork room would soon be under construction and if I was very anxious to get using it I would try and hasten its completion by helping in its erection. This I did. But I wonder how many teachers in the country had to help build their own classroom?

There were six teachers

on the staff that time. There were about 90 students on the rolls. Each teacher had 30 contract hours per week with his day class and four to six hours with night classes.

Since that time many things have changed. Instead of the beautiful lawns and shrubbery in front of the school we now have a functional tarmacadam area. The extensive garden at the back of the school has diminished to a fraction of its former size, and eleven prefabricated class-rooms now cover the remainder.

The school has grown in student numbers to its present enrolment of 300. There were three major reasons for this:

- (i) The introduction of free post-primary education for all children.
- (ii) The development of technical education to Leaving Certificate level.
- (iii) The introduction of the Free Transport scheme for all students living more than three miles from a post-primary school.



To-day's Principal Micheál Breathnach.

Undoubtedly, it was the third factor which led to the greatest increase in school numbers.

Progress

It has made me very happy to see the school develop to the stage it has reached today. Our students are prepared for all walks of life, though the present Leaving Certificate class is but the ninth in the school's history.

The pre-fabricated classrooms were erected as temporary accommodation for the huge increase in student numbers. Since then we have been demanding that a new school be built that would adequately cater for the area. However, the major obstacle we encountered was that we could not acquire a suitable site for expansion near the present school.

However, that difficulty was overcome when the Western Health Board agreed to sell its land at the rear of the school. Messrs Colie Brennan, Tom Lambert, Johnie Burke, Tommy

Minogue and others had been tenants on that land for a long number of years, but in a gesture of civic mindedness and concern for the educational welfare of future generations they readily gave possession of the land to the Vocational Education Committee. Hopefully, a beautiful building complete with the latest audio-visual aids, equipment, Library and Hall will soon rise as a monument to the selflessness of the previous occupiers of the land.

At present the "plots" are used as playing fields, and it is envisaged that much of the land will continue to be used for this purpose when the new school is built.

WALSH'S LOUNGE BAR

The Square,
Phone: Gort 205

We specialise in best drinks - service and comfort.

Happy Christmas to all our customers.

out and about

The annual general meeting of Gort Chamber

Commerce saw the retirement of John Megan as Chairman of Association. John was dedicated advocate of Association's interests and tried hard to awaken a sense of community in Gort. He made significant contributions to the festival, Christmas lighting, Tidy Towns, Carillies and many other projects. His successor as chairman is Micheal Cathnach. Other officers elected at the A.G.M. are: Vice-Chairman, Donen; Secretary, Teresa Moloney; Assistant Secretary, Paddy Cooke; Treasurer, Mim Moloney; Assistant Treasurer, Joe Roche; P.R.O., Enid Carthy; Assistant P.R.O., Jim Casey.

The main concerns of the Chamber at the moment are: A Fire station for Gort, an extension in the Public lighting on both ends of the town, improvements in a footpath situation in Blyhugh and Gallagher's lane, an attempt to get next year's Festival into a Bord Failte Calendar events, and the Christmas Lighting.

BRIDGE

The Bridge Club is in full swing again. Officers for 1979-80 are: President, Pat Cunningham; Secretary, Brid Burke; Treasurer, Mary Sadlier; Permanent Tournament Director, Joe Muldoon; Assistant, Joan Griffin; Committee, Paddy Piggott,

Maire Fennessy, Greg Landon and Mary Kelly.

The Club meet on Tuesday nights in Sullivan's Hotel at 7.30 under the direction of Joe Muldoon. In October members travelled to Athenry and in November they played hosts to Athenry. Both nights were very enjoyable.

COMHALTAS

Another group to hold their A.G.M. recently was the Gort Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann. The highlight of a successful year was the hosting of the County Fleadh and Gort was highly commended on the efficient running of all the competitions. The new Committee is:-

President: Brendan Long; Vice President: Pat Walsh; Chairman: Michael Cunningham; Joint Secretaries: Teresa Moloney and Attracta O'Dea; Joint Treasurers: Mary Rochford and Paddy Jordan; Joint P.R.O.'s: Paddy Darcy and Tommy Casey.

MARRIAGES

We congratulate the following couples on their recent marriages: Breda Burke and Michael Ryan, Michael Cahill and Patty Hough, John Kilroy and Ascinta Kelly, Rita Fennessy and Gerry Mannion, Tera Donovan and Michael Ward, Peter Cunningham and Bernadette McNamara, Theresa McInerney and Thomas Curran.

APOSTOLIC SOCIETY

The Apostolic Society

have re-commenced their meetings after the summer recess. Thanks to the courtesy of the Sisters of Mercy they meet in a room in the Convent every Thursday night from 7.30 to 9. On the last Sunday of October they had a very successful Church gate collection in the parish churches and were delighted that the people were so aware of the mission needs. New members would be particularly welcome - this is a very unostentatious way of living out the Gospel.

THANKS

The Youth Club are very thankful to Micheal Breathnach, Fr. Carney and Noel Mullins for allowing them free gratis to use the facilities under their care. Friday night is Youth Club night and the cooperation of other organisations and political parties in this matter would be appreciated.

Congratulations to Brian Treston, Foxrock, Dublin son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Treston, Crowe St., for successfully qualifying as a Chartered Accountant at recent final examinations. Brian also holds an Honours M.B.A. degree from Trinity College.

Gort Social Services hosted a group from St. Brigid's Hospital, Ballinasloe in November in the Convent of Mercy. It was a very enjoyable night of music and entertainment. The Youth Club hope to host a group from Kilcormac Training Centre shortly - this was also done in 1977 and in 1978.

HURLING

Gort's failure to Kinvara in the County Hurling Semi-Final was a severe disappointment to the team and to the many hurling enthusiasts in the parish. The gloom was partially lifted by outstanding 2nd half displays from Sylvie Linnane and Gerry P. Fahy. Sylvie has since, not before time, become a regular on the Galway senior team, though there are many who would prefer to see him selected in a half back position.

The continued absence of Gerry P. Fahy from the panel is difficult to comprehend. It is true he got a couple of trials last winter but he was placed out of position and after the League final he was unceremoniously removed from the panel.

Are there 26 better hurlers in Galway than Gerry P? It is the opinion of quite a few shrewd hurling enthusiasts that Gerry P's courage, speed, ball control, intelligence and positional sense would gain him automatic selection on any other county team.

Will the New Year see this injustice redressed by the Galway hurling selectors? Can Galway hurling afford to lose the Gerry P. Fahy's?

Little new from the golfing administrative front. Church St. and Glenbrack, despite some soundings to the contrary, are still favoured for the Presidency and Captaincy of Gort Golf Club. A late challenge from Ennis Road

cannot be discounted but on the night things usually fall into place.

On the ladies front matters are more streamlined and the captaincy for 1980 is expected to go to Bridge St., with Church St. following in 1981.

KILTARTAN YOUTH CLUB

Imelda Nolan

In September the Kiltartan Youth Club reassembled after the Summer break. Last year's committee resigned and the new committee elected for the

coming year is:

Chairperson: Teresa Neilan; Vice-chairperson: John Melville; Treasurer: Francis Burke; Secretary: Carmel Cahill; P.R.O. Imelda Nolan.

A number of parents, under the leadership of Mrs. Cafferky N.T. have volunteered to help in the supervision of the different activities carried on in the Youth Club. They held a meeting in Mr. John McLoughlin's house and they discussed ways in which the youth could benefit most from the club.

Both Fr. Glynn and Fr.



Imelda Nolan P.R.O.

Tarpey are involved in the running of the club and we are most grateful to them for their help.

Every Wednesday and Friday night Mr. Furlong gives karate lessons at Kiltartan old school and on Friday nights as well, an instructor from Galway gives First Aid classes in the National School.

At present there are various competitions being held, they include debates and table tennis and the winners will receive trophies.

A very successful cake sale was held on Sunday 11th Nov. a sum of £40 was realised. The club members are grateful to all those who contributed to their fund raising effort.

They are a little disturbed that some people in the locality criticise the Club. They would like if people, who cannot say something good about the Club, would say nothing at all about it.

A Gort Mother of Four has her queries on the Youth Club seen to:

Mother of Four: Why have ye this Youth Club at all? Aren't ye only putting notions into their heads? Wouldn't they be far better off at home. Time enough for them to go out.

Youth Club Spokesperson: Now Mrs. we're in the 20th century and you must be up with the times. Youth have to have some freedom. It's up to yourself and himself decide how much. But for God sake don't lock them up all the time.

Mother of Four: What in the name of God have ye in the Club anyway? Maggie down the road tells me 'tis galivanting 'round the streets they do be most of the time.

Y.C.S.: Oh no Ma'm. We have lovely things in the Club - boxing and cooking, plays and badminton and

football. They do cook lovely things and have grand Keep Fit classes to help the figure. Never mind the galivanting - have a chat with himself and he'll put an end to the galivanting. Sure they must have a bit of fresh air now and again. With the crowd around 'tis inclined to get very stuffy.

Mother of Four: Don't ye have Disco's till all hours and off to Tubber and Ballyturn into the bargain?

Y.C.S.: We had only one disco in the Club this year - Halloween. The Young Sullivan lad played the music - he was mighty - there was a great crowd. Sure they must have some bit of enjoyment. 'Twas over at one. Sure if this is too late tell the young ones to be home earlier. A good few

mothers come to collect their offspring and no one takes any notice. But this Tubber and Ballyturn business is more serious. Sure if yourself and himself can't keep them from going how do you expect us.

Mother of Four: I believe ye have no law and order at all up there - everyone can do what they like.

Y.C.S.: Who in the name of God told you that? 'Tis too much order we have. Sure 'tisn't a school or a suassage factory we're running? We have one adult with every activity and there wasn't a window broken or a fly killed since we started. Never mind the old gossip. 'Tis a good sign to have people talking about you - when they stop then 'tis time to get worried.

Mother of Four: And why haven't ye more parents involved?

Y.C.S.: Ah sure they're all very busy, a lot of things to be seen to. But

For your electrical pipe threading and portable welding call to

MICHAEL ROUGHAN

George's St.
Phone Gort 89

Best wishes and long life to Guaire.

For your Christmas meat come to

SEAN DUFFY



The Square
Phone Gort 82

Best quality beef, mutton and lamb.

MASS IN KILMACDUAGH *Michael Cooley*

On All Souls Day 1979 Mass was said in Kilmacduagh for the first time since the 17th century when it was said by Father Duffy. He said it during a plague of Cholera, which had claimed many of the lives of the people in the locality.

Father Duffy decided to say Mass in Kilmacduagh and he asked the people to pray to Saint Colman and to God for help to overcome this deadly disease. Very soon afterwards the disease gradually began to die out. This encouraged devotion to St. Colman.

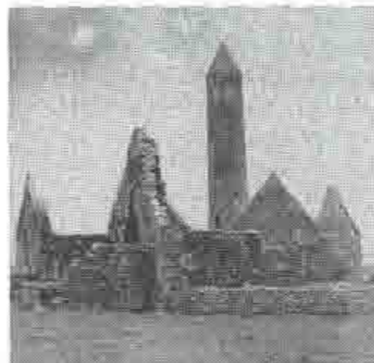
RESTORATION

Canon Quinn P.P. of Gort and devoted historian of St. Colman and Kilmacduagh approached the Board of Works on numerous occasions for the restoration of the Bishop houses and surrounding buildings. After much effort on the part of the Canon, the Board of Works finally decided to start work on the Bishops house in 1977. This year although the Bishops house was not quite completed the Canon decided to say Mass in the Abbots House.

The day came the Mass was to be said at 12 o'clock. The new car park started to fill, people came from all over the parish. At 12 o'clock the Mass began. By now the small section of the Bishops house was full to capacity and a considerable amount of people were left outside.

The St. Colman Mac Duagh N.S. choir from the middle and senior divisions sang appropriate hymns for the mass. As the Canon and the altar boys — Kieran Helebert, Dermot Flaherty, John Grealish, and Bernard Connolly, all local boys — took their position at the altar. They sang the entrance Hymn: "All people that on earth do dwell." The Canon started the Mass which was offered for the souls of all the people who are buried in the cemetery. Then the head teacher of the Kilmacduagh National School read the appropriate readings for all souls day. The Canon gave his sermon and in it he gave a lot of the history of Kilmacduagh and he

explained the connection of Clonmacnois (where the Pope made his recent visit) with St. Colman and Kilmacduagh. The choir sang the offertory Hymn "Men sow the fields in the Spring." At holy communion time they sang "O sacrament most




Kilmacduagh 300 years later.

holy." Then after holy communion the Canon said some prayers for the dead in Kilmacduagh. As mass drew to a close the choir sang the recessional topical hymn "One Day at a Time".

The Choir was conducted by their teacher and accompanied by Chrissie Carr on the Stylophone, Margarita Burke on the melodica, Peggy Flanagan and Tomas Linnane on their tin whistles. Ian Cahill and Gabriel Glynn also accompanied them on the instrument of the Percussion Band. The singers were Thomas O'Driscoll, Chrissie Carr, Gabriel Glynn, Billy Glynn, Ian Cahill, Gary Linnane, Declan Coppinger, Geraldine Coppinger, Monica Glynn, Marie Fahy, Martina

Happy Christmas from



KILROY'S

The Square

a quiet drink in comfort

Kelly, Helen Burke, Tony V. Cummins, Lorraine Lally, Lorraine Grealish, Anne Finnegan, Teresa Flanagan, who all showed great enthusiasm during the mass.

The Canon intends to say Mass every year in Kilmacduagh on all souls day.

A STORY DEPICTED IN GLASS

Gabriel Glynn

About five years ago Canon Quinn put a beautiful stained glass window into Tiernievan church. There are many pictures on the window. Each picture depicts a story. St. Colman is one of the figures on the window, and his three pets are there too. St.



Gabriel Glynn

Colman's pets were very peculiar and each one had his own job to do. A cock, a mouse, and a fly were the pets he had.

The cock used to crow in the morning, and wake him up. The fly used to walk along the line of the Bible when St. Colman was reading psalms. While he was praying, and if he fell asleep his mouse would bite him on the ear, and wake him. His pets did these jobs because St. Colman was a hermit at the Burren mountains, and he was all alone except for his servant.

KING GUAIRE

There are other pictures showing King Guaire, his men, and plates. These pictures tell us the story of the flight of the dishes. St. Colman ran short of food, so himself and his servant were very hungry. Every day the two men prayed very fervently. After a long time King Guaire was having a great feast in his castle in Kinvara.

Just before everyone started to eat, all the plates rose up from the table as a result of St. Colman's prayers. The plates flew to St. Colman's hut. King Guaire gave

orders to all his men to mount their horses and follow the plates. By the time the soldiers got to the hut Colman and his servant were still eating. Guaire was furious, and he might have held him prisoner, but the horses hooves stuck to the rocks.

After St. Colman had a long talk with the King they discovered that they were first cousins and they became great friends. There is also a picture of King Guaire's castle and another picture of St. Colman's church in the window. Those are the stories that the pictures tell us. The colours and workmanship of the stained glass window is magnificent. The window must have cost a lot of money.

OUR SPONSORED WALK

Martin Cooley

Recently our school in Tiernevan, went on a Sponsored Walk for An Taisce. We enjoyed it very much, it was a great experience.

First the teacher made out cards for the Sponsors. We all got as many sponsors as we could. We prayed for a fine day for the Walk and we were rewarded.

We set out from the school at 11 o'clock. Our first stop was Kilmacduagh and we went in and prayed silently in respect of the dead. We said a special prayer at the grave of Mrs. Hanley, the person responsible for the restoration of Thoor Ballylee. We also prayed at the grave of St. Colman. The date on which he died is carved out on the tombstone. We saw the Bishop's House which is being restored.

It was on then to the cross. Here we learned Road Safety by crossing the road and keeping to the grass margin. We came to St. Colman's Well, outside the Well we saw a Shrine with statues to the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and St. John.

Next we reached the Clare-Galway Border and saw the surface of the road changing. We put one foot into the banner County and kept the other in Co. Galway. We kept going until we reached the 2½ mile spot our teacher had planned for us.



Martin Cooley

Our teacher showed us some walls with big boulders on them — the monks had built them long ago. They also reclaimed all the land — today people say Kilmacduagh land is as good as any land in Ireland because of the monks work.

On our way back we saw a big crop of fodder beet — and we learned about it and our environment. We learned history in the graveyard, we learned geography on the Clare/Galway border. We learned Road Safety and English when we wrote a composition about our experience.

We were all exhausted when we arrived back at the school. The walk took 2½ hours and we raised a lot of money. I am sure the members of An Taisce are pleased with our efforts.

Happy Christmas to all our customers from Rose and Michael Hennessy in THE LANDMARK BAR Delighted to support Guaire

CLASSIC GORT

Christmas Dancing

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday Dec. 23rd | The Apaches |
| Tuesday Dec. 25th | The Midnight |
| Wednesday Dec. 26th | Johnny Flynn and the Tulla Céilí Band. |
| Thursday Dec. 27th | Shaun O'Dowd and Ding a Ling |
| Sunday Dec. 30th | Tony Stevens and his Band |
| Tuesday, Jan. 1st | The Indians |
| Sunday, Jan. 6th | The Conquerors. |

GORT SENIOR TEAM

So near and yet so far

As another year draws to a close and the Hurling Championship reaches its final stage, the memories of the games come flooding back again. It was a year that could be looked at in many ways: to a player as a year of commitment and dedication and yet another narrow defeat; to a supporter as one of promise that failed to materialize; and to our opponents as one that again increased their doubts about their true ability.

As a team, this year was our most successful one in recent times. Indeed, this season could be seen as a critical one since most of the present panel had been together for several years without registering a major championship breakthrough. The panel this year was P. Quinn, T. Monaghan, Brian Brennan, J. Regan, J. Nolan, G.P. Fahy, S. Linnane, P. Piggott, Fr. M. Brennan, G. Linnane, G. Fahy, M. Cahill, M. Gallagher, G.annon, M. Murphy, K. Donoghue, J. Brennan (Capt), O. Forde, D. Lally, D. Duffy, F. Shaw, G. Lally. Also, the decision to revert to the traditional Gort colours seemed to dictate the start of a new era.

The Campaign
The defeat of Liam Mellowes in the first round augured well though it

was only in the last quarter that Gort's superiority on the day prevailed. This led to a confrontation with the then firm favourites, Kiltormer and I rate our defeat of them as the finest display to date of the present team. I can still see the joyful faces of our supporters after that match and we all thought that at last the tide had turned. But, alas, it was not to be.

Gort's last occasions to reach the Semi-final were in '62 - lost to Turloughmore, '70 lost to Killimordaly, and '72 lost to Turloughmore. Thus, for many of the team it was their first time to play in a County Senior Semi-Final, and the fact that our opponents were neighbours, Kinvara increased the pre-match tension. To a Gort man, the Semi-Final will be counted as a match we should have won convincingly instead of losing by a single point. But, such is the game of hurling and we can only hope that Kinvara will now complete a great season with a County Title win. Meanwhile, I hope we have all learned a little from the experience and hope that next year we will go one better.

County Players

Often a club's importance is measured by its success but surely the spirit, enjoyment and also discussion engendered by it are more



Sylvie Linnane and John Nolan in action against Kinvara.

important parameters. Gort also has been represented on Galway County teams by

Sylvie Linnane (played in All-Ireland '79) Senior Team; G.P. Fahy (Galway League team 78/79); G. Linnane - All Ireland u-21 Hurling Team; Pearse Piggott, Derek Fahy and Frank Shaw and Colie Roche on the Galway Minor Team.

The Gort Senior team also reached the final stages of the County League in '77/'78 and '78/'79, none of which have been completed yet. It is interesting to note that seven of this year's County Semi-Final team were members of 1974 Gort Minor Team that won the county final, under the guidance of Frank Lally and Brendan Murphy.

Eventhough Gort may have lost this year, our hurling has always been described as fair and skilful even in defeat. This reminds me of the saying that I think aptly describes our attitude -

"When the one Great Writer comes to write against your name He writes not what you won or lost, but how you played the game."

G.P. Fahy

JOHN SULLIVAN & SON

Auctioneer and Valuer

Sullivan's Royal Hotel

Phone Gort 128 or 152

A Happy Christmas to all our many friends



Christmas Cookery

ROAST TURKEY WITH APPLES

You will need:
1 turkey (12 lbs)
Salt & pepper
2 lbs chestnuts
1/2 pint of milk
1 lb. cooking apples
2 oz castor
1/2 lb pork sausage meat
4 oz. butter
2 sprigs parsley
4 apples to garnish.
Preparation time: 20 minutes.
Cooking Time: 3 1/2-4 hours.
Over setting: 350°; Gas mark 4.

Prepare turkey for oven. Season well with salt and pepper. Peel the chestnuts, put into a pan with the milk, bring to the boil, cover and cook for 20 minutes.

Peel, core and slice apples. Cook them in a pan with sugar and 1 tablespoon water. Shake pan to prevent sticking. Drain chestnuts and chop finely, add to apples and sausage meat, mix well and season with salt and pepper. Add 1 oz butter and beat until smooth. Stuff the turkey with mixture and spread turkey with remaining 3 oz butter. Bake in centre of oven for 3 1/2-4 hours. Baste turkey frequently with juices. For garnish, bake 1 apple per person on shelf underneath turkey, fill centres with chopped pork

or sausage meat. Dish turkey, garnish with apples and parsley.

Quick Tip: To make a decorative finish to the apples, cut the skins from top to bottom in several places instead of once round so that when they split the result is petal shaped.

Cocktail des Crevettes (Prawn Cocktail)

1/2 pint shellfish cocktail sauce
1 head of lettuce
8 oz. prepared prawns
Lemon wedges
chopped parsley
cayenne pepper.

Method: Wash, drain and finely chop lettuce. Place in cocktail glasses. Add the prepared prawns. Coat with sauce. Decorate with lemon wedges, parsley and lemon wedges.

Sauce:

1/2 pint of oil
2 teaspoons vinegar
salt and pepper
2 egg yolks
1/2 teaspoon English mustard.
1 teaspoon boiling water
2 teaspoons tomato ketchup

Method: Place yolks, vinegar and seasoning in bowl and whisk. Gradually pour on the oil very slowly, whisking continuously. Correct the seasoning.



Enda Daly

DESSERTS Omelette Norwegienne (Baked Alaska)

Method: Prepare a Genoese sponge and sprinkle with a fruity syrup and place on a flat dish. On top, place enough vanilla ice cream for the number of people it is required for. Place into a deep freeze until the covering meringue is whipped and ready for use. Allow about one and 1/2 egg whites per person. Whip these to a very stiff peak. Then add 1-1 1/2 ozs castor sugar per white of egg. Mix. Cover ice cream completely. Replace in deep freeze until needed. When required, flash in a hot oven until a light brown colour. Serve immediately.

FRESH FRUIT SALAD

Syrup:
1/4 lb. sugar, 2 tablesps.
Sherry, 1 gill water, juice of half lemon, colouring. 2 oranges, 2 bananas, 2

pears, 1/4 lb. black grapes, 1/2 green grapes, 1/4 lb. red cherries, 1 small tin of pineapple, 1 oz chopped walnuts.

To serve: 1/2 pint of whipped and sweetened cream.

Put the sugar and water into a saucepan. Allow the sugar to dissolve, then bring to the boil. Boil for 3-4 minutes. Add sherry, lemon juice and colouring. Cool a little.

Peel the oranges and cut into small pieces. Peel the bananas and cut into slices. Peel pears, cut in eights, core, then cut each piece across in two. Cut the grapes in halves and remove the stones. Remove the stalks from the cherries. Cut the pineapple into small pieces.

Put all the fruit into a large bowl, add the chopped nuts, then pour the syrup over and leave until cold.

Serve in a glass dish.

BRANDY BUTTER or Hard Sauce

4 ozs. unsalted butter
6 ozs. icsing sugar
4-8 dessertspoons brandy (rum maybe substituted)
Cream the butter until white. Gradually add the sugar and the brandy. Stand for some little time in a cold place to get really hard. Pipe or pile into pyramid shape - decorate with cherries and angelica.



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Gort Social Services

help in the catering and entertainment.

The largest item of expenditure is the Meals service. More than 6,000 meals are served during the year, three course lunches cooked in the hotel. There are many other useful services available as a result of the Gort Social Service grouping. The fuel needs of the elderly are looked after, laundry when necessary, a chiropody service is available and some houses have been repaired and furniture items supplied.

Perhaps the most vital service to the old is that of visitation - particularly for people living alone or in hospitals. This is carefully monitored by the Gort Social Service grouping - there is also a Home Help service which enables people to live at home and receive the necessary care, instead of having to spend their failing years in far-away institutions.

Finance is not a problem thanks to many generous benefactors and other fund raising activities. A devoted band of ladies form a knitting club which meets weekly and make pure wool knitwear at reasonable cost. More volunteers would be greatly appreciated in this area - anyone interested should contact Mrs. Brennan or Mrs. Breathnach.

Gort Social Service grouping is thankful for all the help it received from the community. It hopes to continue in the service of the ideals for which it was founded.

Officers:- Chairperson: Rev. F. Larkin; Vice-Chairperson: John Kelly (Kilcolgan); Secretary: Sr. M. Celsus; Treasurer: T. O'Quigley; P.R.O.: Mrs. May Brennan.

Delegates on District Care Team Rev. L. Power and Donal Barry (Kinvara).

For some years now the Gort and South Galway Social Service grouping has made a valuable contribution to live in the community of South Galway. A number of voluntary workers sacrifice a few hours each week to improve the quality of life for others, especially the old and infirm.

The Gort Senior Citizens Club is the offspring of this ideal. About 30 senior citizens from the locality spend a very enjoyable Tuesday night during winter months in the Credit Union Hall - there is music, song, dance, card games and some nice refreshments. Music is provided by the Gort Branch of Comhaltas and it would do one's heart good to see the lovely set dancers who grace the occasion.

The Christmas Old Folks Party is also a highlight. Townspeople contribute generously and the youth

LOVELY OLD GORT

Sean Leahy

*From the slopes of your mountains
pass the Burren so grand,
To the town of my dreams
and King Guaire's long hand;
They say his hand reached
to those that were short
His memory and deeds
are still with us in Gort.*

*From Barrack St. up
to old Carron Row
Church Street, Main Street
And Crowe Street below;
Boland's dear avenue
I won't cut you short
I shall praise thee forever
dear wonderful Gort.*



Sean Leahy

*Your streets and your people
I know they are mine,
That smile that says welcome
Is there all the time;
The long hand of Guaire
has beckoned me forth
And the Blackwater wants me
in lovely old Gort.*

*I'll never more stray
from this town of mine
For if I should venture
my heart it would pine
Your flowing Blackwaters
and for what it is worth
keeps me forgetting
of leaving old Gort.*

rice should be cooked and all the liquid absorbed. Add the turkey, raisins and the remaining 1 oz. of butter, stir well and keep hot. While the Pilaffs is cooking, prick the sausages, and fry slowly in a little hot fat until cooked; about 15 minutes. Pile the Pilaff in the centre of a hot dish, arrange the sausages around it and garnish with almonds or chopped parsley.

GLAZED HAM

You will need:
1 piece of middle or corner gammon (about 4 lb.)
2 pints of water
1 large onion
1 bay leaf
6 peppercorns
For the glaze:
3 ozs. soft brown sugar
2 teaspoons dry mustard
cloves.

Preparation time: 10 minutes plus soaking time for bacon.
Cooking time: 1 3/4 hours.
Oven setting: 425 °F; Gas Mark 7.

Soak gammon overnight in cold water. Put into a saucepan with 2 pints of water, quartered onion, bay leaf and peppercorns. Cover and bring to the boil. Simmer for 1 1/2 hours. Peel off skin from gammon, mark fat into diamond shapes with a sharp knife and place in a roasting tin. Mix sugar and mustard together and press on to fat. Stick a clove in the centre of each diamond.

Place in a hot oven for about 15 minutes until fat is crisp and golden. Serve with beans and carrots if liked.

Quick Tip: Uncooked bacon joints may not be stored in the refrigerator. They should be wrapped in pieces of muslin and stored in a cool place.

ROAST DUCK

How to Cook: Roasted - 15 minutes per lb. and 15

minutes over. Start in hot oven, then reduce to moderate.

Accompaniments: Sage and onion stuffing, apple sauce, thick brown gravy, or orange and Port Wine Sauce, orange salad.

Prick skin after first 30 minutes so the fat can run out and give a crisp outside. If wished brush with a little melted honey to aid crispness. Garnish with slices of orange and serve if wished with orange sauce.

ORANGE SAUCE with Port Wine

Peel 2 oranges and cut and peel into very narrow ribbons, removing white pith. Simmer in a little water until tender. Make brown sauce with stock from giblets, but add a little port wine, the orange strips and some of the orange stock. If desired add little extra orange juice and pinch of sugar.

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NOTE: GROUP PENSION SCHEMES ALSO ARRANGED.

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read Sauce:
teacup breadcrumbs
-2 oz margarine
small onion
pint of milk
or 3 cloves if liked
salt and pepper
eel the onion and if you re using cloves, stick these firmly into onion. Put this into the milk together with the other ingredients. Slowly bring the milk to the boil remove from the heat and stand in a warm place for as long as possible. Just before the meal is ready heat suace quickly beating with a wooden spoon. Remove onion before putting into sauce boat.

Cranberry Sauce
-12 ozs. cranberries
pint of water
-3 ozs. sugar
nob of butter.

Simmer the cranberries in he water. Rub through a sieve, add sugar to taste and a little knob of butter. For an unsieved sauce make a syrup of water and sugar. Drop in the cranberries, cook until a hick mixture, add butter.

TURKEY PILAFF

An ideal way to use up Christmas turkey

ozs. cold cooked turkey
oz. Butter
large onion finely chopped
oz. Patna rice
pint stock or water
salt & pepper.
ozs. seedless raisins
1b. pork sausages
ttle fat for frying
oz. fried shredded almonds
r little parsley for garnish.

Method: Melt 1 oz. of butter and gently fry the onion until soft but not browned. Add rice, stir and fry for several minutes, add stock and seasoning. Bring to the boil, then cover and cook gently for about 15 minutes. By this time the

KILTARTAN SNIPPETS

SAINTE PATRICK'S BELL

Glenn Cahill.

On Sunday the 30th of September 1979 at theillybrit racecourse, before three hundred thousand people, the tink-clank-clank of Saint Patrick's bell was heard, when Pope John Paul II came to give his message to the youth of Ireland. He was dressed in green



Glenn Cahill

like Saint Patrick. It reminded us of the faith brought to us so long, long ago.

This bell was heard at the Eucharistic Congress held at Dublin in 1932. At the benediction on Connell Bridge there was heard a "tap-tap-tap" - it was the Saints Bell that sounded. The crude old bell of iron was struck

with a rod, as the Saint himself struck it.

This old bell is kept with very great care in Dublin. It is over fourteen hundred years old and is thought to have been made for him by three smiths who were his friends. It has four sides and is made out of two plates of sheet iron bent over so as to meet. The plates are held together by iron rivets with large heads. Bronze was poured into the joints to make them firm and also over the surface both inside and outside so as to give it a good sound. The bell has an iron handle. When the bell began to show signs of wear and was too old to be used much, it was put away in a metal case, the shape of the bell itself. This case was covered with gold and studded with precious stones. It had its special keeper from the beginning, and the task of looking after it was handed down in the same family for long years. It is now kept in the National Museum in Dublin.

TOMMY McLOUGHLIN R.I.P.

Aileen Egan

The news of the unexpected death of Thomas McLoughlin, was received with deep regret in the parish of Kiltartan, "Tommy" as he was known to his many friends died at his home on "All



Souls' Day". He was in his 79th year and had been in hospital only once in his life, last year when he was there for a few days.

He was born in Derrybrien and his father and mother, four sisters and his brother, Michael



Aileen Egan

came to Kiltartan in 1920, where he inherited his aunts farm.

He is survived by his wife Molly, son John and daughters Mary and Anne and nine grandchildren and by his four sisters.

His funeral on both days was largely attended. He was a kind and helpful neighbour and will always be remembered as such.

PROVERBS

Ken Murray

1. Nuair a bhíonn an cat amuigh bíonn an luch ag rince.
When the cat is out the mice can play.
2. Aithníonn ciaróg, ciaróg eile.
Birds of a feather flock together.
3. Ní dhéanfaidh an saol capall rás d'asal.
You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.
4. Is fearr an tsláinte ná an táinte.
Health is better than wealth.
5. Is minic a bhris béal duine a shrón.
A closed mouth catches no flies.
6. Tús maith leath na hoibre.
A good beginning is half the work.
7. Is binn béal ina thost.
Silence is golden.
8. Níl éinne chomh bodhar leis an té nach n-éisteann.
There are none so deaf as those who will not hear.
9. Más maith leat do cháineadh pós, más maith leat do mholadh faigh bás.
Marry and be criticised, die and be praised.

Portrait of a Village

I was born in the village of Cloughnacave, and Gort was my home town. The village contained ten houses, built adjacent to each other, hence the name "village". All the dwellings were thatched, and white-washed with lime from a limekiln, situated some distance south of the town. There was no central heating in those days, but the thatch kept the cold out, and a small fire of peat or logs was sufficient to heat the house, even in severe wintry weather. Each house had a full door, and a half door in front, and a familiar sight was the woman of the house, leaning over the half door, greeting the passers by, and offering them a bunch of daffodils in spring, or a bouquet of roses in summer. Every householder had a vegetable garden, and an orchard, and many kept bees.

BIRTHPLACE REVISITED

I visited the place last summer, and found, not a "Deserted Village", but to my chagrin not a trace of the old homesteads remained. Most of the residents have moved nearer to the town, and all the old thatched houses have been replaced by very modern dwellings. What a pity that the old village was not modernized, and preserved. It would attract many tourists, who could avail of the fishing and swimming amenities close by in the Beagh river. That river was my delight, to see it appear and disappear on its way through Gort to the sea. In her Journals, Lady Gregory mentions the village been nearly flooded, when the river burst its banks, around the nineteen twenties. A tramp-cock of hay had blocked a swallow-hole near The Punchbowl. Luckily boats were got to remove the hay, and a calamity was averted.

THE LADY'S GROVE

At that time a walk through The Lady's Grove was most enjoyable. In

late autumn Siberian Swans, and Canadian geese were to be seen flying to Lough Cutra lake. The Grove abounded in massive oaks, and beeches, and in summer lilac trees, and laburnum (which we called trees of gold), were in full bloom.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment for a teenager at that time was very limited, and would not satisfy the youth of the present day. I have a few vivid memories of what I then considered great treats. One was a day at a coursing meeting in Coole, another a St. Stephen's Day outing with the "Wren Boys", while another was a home coming of Yanks to the village.

THE COURSING

The day my father and Pat Regan took me to the greyhound coursing in Coole I was only eleven years old. They backed Jimmy Murray's (Rindifin) Slippery Sam, and they treated me to minerals when they drew their winnings. Somebody put some alcohol into my glass, and fortunately I didn't come rolling home. I remember seeing Lady Gregory there. My father told me that she was dressed like Queen Victoria. She kindly lent the field for the day, but the cruelty to the hares shocked her to such an extent, that she made a hasty retreat. On that day I saw Her Ladyship's three famous horses, Napoleon, Roosevelt, and Sarsfield.

THE WREN BOYS

When I went out "on the wren" with my pals, Dan Hoarty and John J. Hoarty (brothers), Martin Brennan, John J. Glynn, Paddy Burke and John D. Hoarty, we went first to Coole House, where we expected to get the usual treat of lovely eating apples, and silver coins (never coppers) from Lady Gregory. When we knocked at the hall door the cook, dressed in white allowed us into the hall. J.J. Hoarty (our best

singer) began to sing "My only son was shot in Dublin", and immediately all the others except myself joined in. I was a non-singer. It was only then Lady Gregory appeared. She took an interest in the song, as her only son had been killed in an air crash in Italy. She asked J.J. Glynn for the words of the song, and seemed very pleased when he gave them to her. She then turned towards me, and, asked me was I not a singer. I replied by saying "I can dance". She said "well then come and dance with me", and much to my embarrassment I clumsily danced a waltz around the hall with her. I can now boast that I danced with Lady Gregory!

She then got a "skep" of ripe rosy apples, and said skibscab, throwing them down the steps outside the half-door. While we were greedily trying to get as many apples as we could, she threw us out two bright half-crowns, which would be the equivalent of 25p in our present day currency. That was a lot of money in those days, when the most we got in any other house was a mere penny.

THE YANKS

The occasion of the arrival of yanks to the village before the Wall St. crash, is a very pleasant memory for me also. They were fabulously rich in my estimation. Their gold teeth, and many changes of expensive looking clothes amazed me. Their trunks were so large that in some cases the half-doors had to be taken down to get the luggage in. I remember a huge gramophone with a large horn which served as an amplifier, been taken out of a trunk. The overjoyed neighbours danced Foxtrots and Charlestons, to celebrate the home-coming of their friends, who had come from America, which was considered far away in those days.

They were the good old days.

John F. Donnellan,
74 N.C. Road,
Dublin.

When Lint was Lint

(Continued, part 3)



(In the last issue of Guaire, Mrs. O'Brien was bewailing her changed "Underwear World" at the behest of her swanky laughter Phyllis, with her resultant kidney infection, when a funeral passing by to Shanaglish brought back memories of The Great Ould Wakes and Weddins of her girlhood years.)

"You was sayin' there when Mr. Kerins let up the blinds, about your own poor mothers wakenin' when..."

"I was surely Mrs. Moroney whats wrong with Mrs McNamara she's as silent as the Church Clock - wake up Mam."

"Lave her be Mrs. O'Brien she's sleepin, for do you know, dhrink have different effects on different people - some will fight - some will fall fasth ashleep and the amadawn that never opened his mouth will starth makin' love to another man's wife and again..."

"You took the word outa me mouth Mrs. Moroney - about the effects, for I'll be comin' to that very subjection in me first true story (not about me mother we'll have that later) but about the most drunken wakenin in all kingdomcome when an ould man died near Labane. He was ould no doubt, about ninety - no wan was rightly sure, but

he arrived years before my time - and took this little cabin and the few acres afther workin' for farmers all his life - (so he musth be a miracle man) - and he lived all alone - no dhrab, no drink only slavin' from morn to night gatherin' every penny - and no maner or Crossacklin ould divil ever lived in the parish of Ardrahan and when he died divil a tear - but sthoph me, I'm ravelin - there was a tear and floods of big tears at his wakenin'..."

"Who would that be now - ould Dinny Langan?"

"The very wan - the very wan Mrs. Moroney. When he took to his bed and the good neighbours Mrs. Pat Mannion and Mrs. Mike Mullins brought tay and things to 'em, and the parish priest, Fr. Carr, god resth 'em came every day to visit 'em - hopin' he'd knock a noggishin' out of 'em before he passed away, for Fr. Carr, poor man hadn't a tosser to his name, for the lord between us and all harm, he had the 'Failin' - and if there's no wan listenin took a little more than the Altar Wine."

"Dinny" His Reverence used to say every time he called "wan Mass before your death is better than a hundred after 'ed'."

But ould wizened Dinny crouched up under the two dirty blankets and

th' ould shawl would put his bony hands on the priest's lap - "God bless you Father but you're a livin' Saint, but I'd rather do a whileen in Purgatory first to make atonement for me reckless life" before passin' on to the 'Big Place' - you'll be helpin' me to get out Father when I'm gone and I won't forget you." His Reverence had no answer to that wan.

Anyhow th' ould rascal died, with as I said no livin' wan to claim 'em - and worse sthills didn't Fr. Carr miss the final important moments (for he was away at the retreat in Saint Mary's big College) and rushed back too late.

A lonely corpse in a lonely shack, but faith didn't Tommy Browne and Joe Carrick took over - as "Wards of Court" or executers as they call them and took charge.

They ransacked the shack and found sovereigns in every ould jug and cocoa tim in the place - and handed

them up - (but we hear otherwise) - and they came on the Bank Deposit - thousands I believe and straight into Gort with them and the Bank Manager and Mr. McKeever was satisfied and gave them 'a written note' to get what they wanted - coffin, refreshments, and what he said to them "whatever is justifiable - I'll see tis honoured."

A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse - the two buckoos hit for Labane, and I can tell you tight gather loose schatter they didnt spare 'ed.

Ould Kelly - "two more Mr. Kerins, let Mrs. McNamara sleep on" - ould Kelly; he was there before Kerins married into the Wida, said twas the besth wakenin' order he got for all his years. I have it here in me purse - how I came on it nobody knows but meself. Shut mouth carries no flies. Don't waken' Mrs. Moroney, read that:-

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 5 gallons of Whiskey at | 18-0 a gallon | (£42.00 a gallon today) |
| 16 gallons of Porter at | 1-4 a gallon | (£ 4.00 a gallon today) |
| 2 Doz bottles of Port | £2- 8-0 | (£72.00 a gallon today) |
| 3 doz Ginger Wine | £1-16-0 | (£60.00 a gallon today) |
| 3½ lbs of Tobacco | £0-15-9 | (£33.60 today) |
| 1 Doz. Jars of Jam | 8-0 | (£ 4.80 today) |
| Large tin of Biscuits | 3-6 | (£ 4.00 today) |
| Snuff | 1-0 | (£ 1.25 today) |
| 7 large Candles | 1-9 | (£ 4.20 today) |
| 2 lbs small Candles | 8d | (£ 1.80 today) |
| 1 lb of Tea & 14 lbs of Sugar | 5-0 | (£ 4.40 today) |
| 2 doz Batch Bread | 5-0 | (£ 7.68 today) |
| 2 gross of Clay Pipes | 6-0 | (£11.00 today) |
| | £12-08-8 | (£251-23 today) |

They say 'twas the chape days, but who else could afford it but an ould 'screw' or merchant or big farmer with the servant boy at £5 a year - day in day out and pigs feedin' in the back kitchen - thanks be to God for Hitler and the embarcation of the workin' classes.

Brown and Carrick had to get a double supply to that, at Tarpeys in Ardrahan... and thanks to the neighbours ould Dinny was decked out in the "Suit with No Pockets" bought at John Coens for 3/- and the first white sheets he had ever slept under. They even said he was a lovely corpse and looked better dead than alive with a heavenly resigned face replacin' his sour ould meangy gob - and with the plate of snuff restin' on his breast - he even looked - dacent, as neighbours knelt for a prayer (if they said wan) before takin' a pinch "In anam na marabh".

"Have another dhrop there Mrs. O'Brien?" No thanks Mrs. Moroney, enough is enough, let me be spakin'. Dinny never smoked, only turf moul tobacco was too dear for him but you should see, or should I say small th'ould shack that day, for young as well as old borrowed coals from the turf fire to light up the "Dudeens" filled with the chopped up rough twist tobacco, 'till the whole place reeked with the accarid fumes and a man wouldn't know his own neighbour across the floor, but all was merry - for no wan was really mournin for 'cause of it all".

Then was the chape times accordin' to your carculations Mrs. O'Brien

- to day the dhrop in me hand - half a pound or damn near it".

"But wait till I tell you - the coffin they washth with the villian - a hand carved oak was 37/6 from Mr. Blake in Gort - how much is that in our money to day Mr. Kerins" - "Oh, let me see Mrs. O'Brien - a hundred pence and... I'd say around the price of four pints".

"Oh lovingly God Mr. Kerins and we payin you more for wan round."

I was at the Corpes House meself and Mrs. Rankin and afther we said our prayers at the bed-side in the little room off the kitchen, Mrs. O'Hara the teacher's wife kindly handed us two small little wine glasses of Sandemans Five Star and we was thankful and told her so. "Gi'e me them" says Pakie Gorman and he put two cupfulls no less and followed it up with a second round. "Good luck says he, 'tis the first time ever Dinny Langan stood to anywan."

Pon me oath I was seein' more than Five Stars as meself and Mrs. Rankin half staggered out towards the front of the house to await the coffininn and the removal.

They was crowded about the barn door where the half barrells was tapped - the spirits was been given out in the Cart House - in cupfulls - and even young lads staggerin' around and some shoutin' "Good luck to ould Dinny and may the divil have 'em."

As we was goin' out, Johnny Helly was sittin' on a big stone - his legs spread out and his two elbows restin' on his knees - and he sizin up the

whole situation, for nothin' escaped that Helly's eye.

"God bless" you says I - "poor Dinny is gone God resth 'em".

"This aisey see that says Helly or the suckers wouldn't be where they are to day".

"There was no harm in 'em" says Mrs. Rankin, puttin' her foot in 'ed. "And shag all good" says Helly, never takin' his eyes off the ground - "a damn small loss".

"Sthill" says I (for I musth have been half cocked), "he's missed, for Mickey Woulfe and Billy Moore is cryin' their eyes out most fearsome".

"In the name of Christh woman will you have a bit of sense or is it out from undher a hen you came or me with you - damn little cryin' a lot of them did before the chape whiskey arrived, for there's no better tear makers on this earth than free whiskey or peelin onions".

Father Carr had two minds not to let the corpse into the chapel - a dhrunked lot of desecraters someone said he said, and only for two respectable men from the parish - Johnny Fahy of Coolfin and Thomas Coen of Ballymaquive went into the Parochial House to entreat his pardon, he'd never throw Holy Water on the Breast Plate.

'Twas said 'twas vexed over the Mass money he was, but Tommy Browne and Carrick saw to that, and was seen comin' out of his house a week later - reelin' drunk for he was a great man to 'give and take'.

They put ould Dinny

down in th' ould cemetry near the Protestant Church in Ardrahan next day, and Tarpeys and Taylors Hotel was crowded afterwards. A drunken young Buck shouted "if only poor Dinny could look down from Purgatory" - "or Hell", Johnny Helly was heart to say, "the pubs 'ed do damn little business - for twould brake his heart."

"You was sayin Mrs. O'Brien about your own poor mothers' funeral and them that losth the coffin and corpse?"

"I'll come to that Mrs. Moroney - another round Mr. Kerins - just wan for meself and Mrs. Moroney - Mrs. McNamara is in slumber land sthill."

"Me mother as you may or may not know was one of the hardy McMahons from Clare. She fagged them all out - they was 21 nights up 'Watchin' her and the night she got the 'Death Rattle' dident Patsy Gillane meet the Bean Shee at Mary Hehirs boreen, screamin like a hare caught be the hounds - and Patsy ever a darin' divil lifted her up in his arms - 'A small little wrinkled woman and as light as a feather wrapped in black clothes and a shawl and...'"

"Time up now ladies". "What's it Mr. Kerins?" "Andrew Regan is outside waitin' to drive ye home". "In that case Mrs. Moroney we'll meet one another when we have more time for I'm groggy, and I'll tell you a right good wan about...".

W.M. Quinn (copyright)

(See next Issue of Guaire)