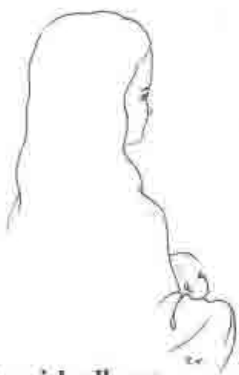


TUAIRE



CHRISTMAS 1980

'10th Number



We wish all our
Readers a Happy
Christmas



GUAIRE



CHRISTMAS 1980 10th number

Editorial Board: Fr. Enda Glynn, Peadar Ó Conaire, Josephine Ward, Chris O'Shaughnessy, Michael Finnegan, John McLoughlin, Frank Lally, Irene Gill, Michael Cooley, Bernadette Fennessy, Noreen Corcoran.

Advertising: Tim Gleeson, Patrick Flaherty and Gearoid Keating.

Photographs: Jimmy Walshe.

Guaire is an independent magazine about Gort parish.

All articles copyright.

CONTENTS

Features

A Trip of a Lifetime
The Wren
The Wrenboys
Poetry
The Mannions of America
Christmas Cookery

Sylvie and Margaret Linnane interviewed page 5 & 6
Patrick Flaherty page 10
Brendan Long page 10
Sean Leahy page 18
Noreen Corcoran page 31

Reports

Gort Drama Festival
St. Colman's Day
St. Joseph's Secondary School
The Mayoral Elections
Out and About
Gort Catholic Boy Scouts
A Dream come true
Gardening
Night Classes
Camogie
Youth Clubs Gort and Kiltartan

Joan Flannery & John Finnegan page 3 & 4
Clare Cahill page 7
Sr. Mary de Lourdes page 12 & 13
Junie Finnegan page 15
Jerry Sheehan page 16 & 17
S. Cunningham and J. Fahy page 20
Michael Bermingham page 21
Brendan Winston page 21
page 29
page 25
page 26

Guaire thanks all its wonderful sponsors. Without their generosity the magazine would not exist.

The following were kind enough to advertise in the 10th number of Guaire:

Michael McMahon & Son, Coens of Gort, The Local Inn, The Punch

Bowl, Finnegan and Co., Kilroy's, P.C. Piggott's, Oliver Roche, Gallagher's, Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Banks, Rochford Insurances, White Horse Inn, Gort Motor Works, Michael Cunningham, Spelman's Supermarket, Jordan's Supermarket, P.J. Hawkins, Joseph,

Mc Inerney, Don Coen, Angela Corcoran, Walsh's Bar, Christy Fennessy, Killeen's, Tomas O'Quigley, The Cafe Toyland, The Corner Confectionary, Boxing Club and Chamber of Commerce.

"MONKEYS PAW" GRABS MAJOR AWARD

Our Drama Correspondent



The winning cast from the Gort Drama Group (from left): Seamus Waters, Frank Mitchel, Caroline Concannon, Tony Walsh, and Colman Sherry.

Gort Dramatic Society could boast of two victories when the South Galway Drama Festival for senior one act plays ended on Sunday night 23rd November last. They had organised a highly successful festival without a hitch throughout and their own entry "The Monkeys Paw", by W.W. Jackobs won the best play award.

The task of organising the festival, the third such festival of its kind in Gort, commenced back in September following the Annual General Meeting of the Society, when a record fifty new members were enrolled, bringing the total membership to over seventy. Robert Coen was given full responsibility of organising the festival and as the Society Chairman John Finnegan said when closing the festival, "he brought the standard of the festival this year higher than was ever envisaged, attracting groups from far and near." Robert also acted as master of ceremonies during the four night festival.

ADJUDICATORS COMMENTS

There were three plays presented on each of the first three nights and two on the final night, with the final adjudication by Mr. Ml.

Horan, (F.L.C.M. (Eloc)) Galway, his second year attending this festival. On the opening night, Thursday, November 20th, Mr. Horan, spoke of his delight at returning to the Gort festival where he was always made welcome. He congratulated the organisers on preparing such an excellent programme and the people of Gort for their well known support of live drama, something, he said, with regret, many towns nowadays cannot boast of.

The Gort group got the show on the road in fine style with their interpretation of that fine tragic play of the 1930's "The Monkeys Paw". Produced by John Finnegan, the cast consisted of Frank Mitchell, returning to the spotlight after a lapse of nine years, Caroline Concannon, Colman Sherry, Seamus Waters and Tony Walshe. The stage decor and lighting showed a very hard working back stage crew, who received public praise on several occasions during the festival.

This play was followed by "The Romantic Lover", a comedy by the Maree Drama Group, produced by Fr. F. Larkin C.C. The first nights programme concluded with another comedy "Bedtime Story" presented

by St. Brigids Dramatic Society, Ballinasloe produced by Barry Lally.

The three plays on the second night were "Kinship", a tragic play by Clarinbridge Dramatic Society, produced by Bob Sillery; "Hewers of Coal", a comedy by Kiltullagh drama group produced by Michael Mc Gloin; "Joe and Friends", a tragic play by Headford drama group, produced by Liam Thornton. On the third night the plays were "The Only Way", a dramatic play by Ardahan Macra na Feirme, produced by Pdraig Higgins; "Cathú", the only play of the festival in Irish - a comedy, by Kiltimagh Dramatic Society, produced by Proinsias Ó hOireachtaigh; "Kate Plays her Part", a comedy by Mountbellew drama group, produced by Anne Kelly. On the final night, the plays were "Goshforths Fete", a farce by the Quarry Players, Limerick, produced by John Gibbons and "The Rape of Bunny Stuntz", presented by the Relay Drama Group, Ballinasloe and produced by Eamonn O'Donoghue.

WINNERS

Following final adjudication of all plays on the Sunday night, the



Backroom helpers of the winning Gort production. From left: Tommy Minogue, Mary Fahy, Pat O'Donnell, Joan Flannery and John Finnegan.

adjudicator announced his decision. Gort winning the best play award as earlier mentioned, Liam Thornton, Headford Dramatic Society was awarded the best producer award. J. McHugh won the best actor award. Best overall effort went to Killtullagh Drama Group. The best actress was Deirdre Crowley, Mountbellew Drama Group. Five other awards for exceptional acting were also allocated including Caroline Concannon from the Gort group.

"The best value ever," said one drama enthusiast; "Three plays each night for £1," while all of the visiting groups had high praise for

the hospitality shown them by the organisers. "We definitely want to be included in future festival programmes in Gort" commented. Eamonn O'Donoghue, Producer of one of the Ballinasloe plays and National Secretary of the Amateur Drama League.

VERY SATISFIED

"We don't know ourselves", commented Joan Flannery, P.R.O. of Gort Dramatic Society. "We have the biggest membership ever in the society this year, our festival was a huge success." "Although the festival expenses were high at £500, over £1,000 was realised over the

four nights, a high quality programme was presented to capacity audiences each night except the night when all Gort wanted to see who dun it to J.R." "Our involvement within the youth club has been fruitful in promoting some great talent and resulting from our recent senior festival success, we are more confident than ever that the forthcoming one act junior and concert festival next March will be another outstanding success, many groups already having indicated their interest in participating." "We now see," she said, "how great a pastime involvement in the dramatic society can be, particularly during the winter." "Our next venture will be a three act comedy in January." "A special word of thanks must be extended to Fr. M. Carney, President of Our Ladys College, Gort, for the use of the College Auditorium, the sponsors - Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Banks, Finnegan & Co. and the Chamber of Commerce; the media and of course our supporting audiences." Anybody interested in joining the drama group should contact Miss Bernie O'Callaghan, Secretary, Bank of Ireland.

A TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO THE U.S.

Sylvie & Margaret Linnane talk to Peadar O'Conaire.

Did you enjoy the U.S. trip, Sylvie?

Yes, it was terrific. We regarded it as a bonus for winning the All-Ireland. We went out there to enjoy ourselves, and also to give a good account of ourselves as champions. I think we managed both. The spirit among the players was fantastic.

Tell me about the bug that you picked up.

Well, I still don't know exactly what it was. It may have been food-poisoning. It kept me quiet for the last four days of the tour, while we were in Los Angeles. Dr. Mary McInerney gave me tablets and injections, and I felt well enough to play in the final match against the All-Stars, but I fainted in the hotel afterwards.

What were your impressions of New York, where you played your first match?

We got a rousing welcome from Galway supporters at the Airport. We stayed in the Starkler Hotel.



Sylvie & Margaret Linnane

Some of us went on a tour of the city the following day - through Harlem and Chinatown. You'd be afraid of being mugged. There were two men shot dead opposite the hotel the night before we arrived. It's not the kind of place one would go for a stroll!

We met a few people from the Gort area there - Mike Shaughnessy from Beagh; Colie Lally, Rinrush and Michael Fannian from Kilbeacanty and Ger Curtin's brothers who brought us out 'on the town' for an evening. The Galway men's association gave us a lovely reception. The ground was rock-hard in Gaelic Park, but the day was ideal for hurling. Noel Lane's goal won the match for us that day.

SIGHT-SEEING AND SHOPPING

I suppose you had a look around the stores Margaret.

Yes, indeed! I did most of my shopping in Chicago. There are some massive stores there where you can buy literally anything and everything. Prices are very

**Covering
the Mid-west
since 1900**

<p>PROPERTY SALES from farms to factories, shops to homes</p>	<p>FIRST NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY house hunters please note</p>	<p>INSURANCE BROKERS the right insurance cover at the right price</p>
<p>MANAGEMENT AGENTS responsible for million pound Shannon Town Centre complex</p>		<p>FINANCE completing the McMahon group</p>



Michael McMahon & Son
ESTD 1900

2, Cecil St., Limerick Tel: (061) 49799
O'Connell Square, Ennis Tel: (065) 21307
Town Centre, Shannon Tel: (061) 81906

Also at: Bridge Street, Gort
Contact Eileen Sylvar TEL. GORT 265

Directors: B. Dermot McMahon (Managing), M.G. McMahon, W.C. McMahon



Michael McMahon & Son (Auctioneers) Limited MIAVI MIREF
Michael McMahon & Son (Insurance Brokers) Limited
Michael McMahon & Son (Finance) Limited

Through our Auctioneering, Insurance and Finance companies, we offer the complete service in Ireland's Mid West region.

BERNARD COEN & SON

PHONE GORT 2

Call to our new complex at
STATION ROAD

Where we stock everything for the Farmer, Builder Plumber and Handyman

Happy Christmas to all our customers

reasonable. Dining out is less expensive than here in Ireland. A first class meal for two can be bought in New York for \$24. Tea or coffee is served free with the meal and service in restaurants is excellent. Alcoholic drink is dear. Everything is 'on the rocks'. All types of beer seem to be popular in the States. People are not allowed to carry beer packs etc. in the streets, you wouldn't even be allowed to carry a drink in an elevator from one part of a hotel to another. The phone service there is terrific. I got through to home from Los Angeles in 2 minutes, spent 10 minutes on the phone and it only cost \$15.

Did you do much sight-seeing Margaret?

Quite a bit. We went to the top of Sears Tower in Chicago (all 114 storeys of it!) in one minute. It is the highest building in the world. We stayed in the Holiday Inn which is a half an hour's drive from the city. Los Angeles is beautiful. Mrs. Nicolai (Damien McGrath's mother) who is really a charming woman, brought us to see Disneyland. It's hard to describe it, it's just fantastic. I would say that the "Matterhorn" and the circle cinema are the outstanding things there. We saw Ralf Waites from "The Waltons" there. Some members of the group saw J.R. and other members of the "Dallas" cast at a Western Shing Ding. Los Angeles is really on the edge of a wasteland that is very bleak. The captain of the plain pointed out a place where a tribe of Indians was discovered in 1977.

THE WINDY CITY

What did you think of Chicago Sylvie?

They call it 'The Windy City' and for a good reason! I preferred it to New York. There was a surprise reception laid on by Galway supporters for us. We had the best night of the tour in Chicago, in Glendora House, where there was a banquet in our honour. The match was played in the grounds of Argo High School. The pitch was very small and because we were playing under floodlights it was difficult to see the ball. It was a great experience just the same.

Was there a demand for Joe McDonagh's record?

Yes, hundreds were sold. Joe himself was in great demand to sing at all the functions.

Any funny incidents that you can recall, Sylvie?

Yes Mrs. Nicolai brought us to a Western Restaurant in Los Angeles. She told us dress was strictly formal there. I put on a tie. No sooner had we sat down at a table than a waitress started ringing a bell. Everybody looked at us. Next thing the waitress produced a scissors and cut off half my tie and pinned it to the rafters! It is a custom! I had a 'cow-girl steak'; I couldn't face the 'cow-boy steaks' (2 lbs weight) that were being served. Quite a place.

On the flight from New York to Chicago the American hostess had a special word of welcome for "His Excellency, the Lord Mayor of Bullaun" (Jimmy Cooney). Her

pronunciation of Bullaun was really comical.

The tour must have been a very tiring experience, Margaret.

Yes. It was go, go, go. Between travelling, attending functions, sightseeing, shopping and getting a maximum of five hours sleep every night, it was really hectic. There was too much crammed into the twelve days. The journey home took the best part of a day; we had a long stop in New York. Incidentally we got a good view of the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas on the trip from Los Angeles to New York. There was a surprise function for the Galway team the previous night. A plane load of Galway supporters flew in from San Francisco and organised it. Bishop Casey entertained the audience with some lovely songs at the last function held in the Holiday Inn in Los Angeles. We arrived in Shannon Airport at 7 a.m., attended a wedding that afternoon and spent the following week recovering from jet-lag.

Will you be going again next year Sylvie?

With the help of God. The team is good enough for two, if not three in a row, now that the hoodoo is broken.

Finally I asked Sylvie and Margaret's young son, Shane, how he'd win a match for Galway. "I'd hit the ball on the ground, and put it over the bar" he answered. A budding star of the future!



N.U.T.S.

(National Union of Turkey Strippers)

The N.U.T.S. held their annual turkey plucking competition at the Local Inn, on Friday evening last. The entrants were not as plentiful as previous years, (no doubt the weather was at fault).

First prize went to Matt Odowde; Second claimed by Micky Roach; Third and last Paul Keighrey.

Prizes were donated by Pat Burke, owner of the Local Inn.

First prize - A tour of Kinvara; Second - A free pass to the Gort cinema for one; Third - A boating holiday on the Blackwater.

The secretary of the N.U.T.S. praised everyone concerned, and gave a splendid speech on those that lost with dignity (a few did not loose with dignity). In his speech he said he never saw anyone pluck as fast as Flaherty and Leahy, but they still had that old bad habit of tearing the birds. Micky Roche had the right solution this year (note the push Micky got) he took his time, so gaining second place. While Billy Quinn acted as time-keeper, he could not take part. Music was supplied by Joe Clancy, Jimmy Jennings, and a passing mouth organ player, but sorry to say music had to be abandoned half way, as feathers got stuck in the instruments. The feathers were donated to the I.C.A. for cushion making.

Sean Leahy

ST. COLMAN'S DAY



A View of St. Colman's Well

In this parish we are honoured by having a patron saint whose feastday is celebrated on the 29th October each year. Many people mainly from Kiltartan, Gort and surrounding parishes go on a pilgrimage to the well where our well-known saint was baptised. Preparations for the feast included the practising of the Kiltartan choir under the expert instruction of Mr. and Mrs. Long.

Everything was ready by Wednesday 29th but the only worry which remained was the weather! If it rained Mass could not be celebrated at the well. The only option which would remain would be to celebrate the Mass in Kiltartan Church which would not make it the special occasion which it is meant to be. Luckily St. Colman did not let us down and the bright sun came out suddenly.

THE ROUNDS

People began to arrive at the well before half past two and started to recite the rosary. Others kept up the custom of doing the 'rounds', i.e. the recitation of seven

Our Father's and seven Glory be to the Father's. By three o'clock a large crowd had gathered and awaited the beginning of the Mass.

The entrance hymn, "Christ be Near", was sung by the choir and backed by tin-whistles, accordians and percussion instruments. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. O'Halloran P.P. Before leaving for the second part of the ceremonies everybody got their annual supply of Holy Water which cured many people in the past. The people then made their way to the Kiltartan Church where Rev. Fr. Glynn C.C. recited the rosary followed by benediction.

HYMN TO ST. COLMAN

Celebrations were ended by the choir singing, "Hymn to St. Colman". This was the finalé of a very happy and successful day for another year. Let's all hope that this precious custom is continued for many more years to come.

A special word of thanks is due to the Fahy family whose gates are always open to all the pilgrims.

Clare Cahill

For Best Drinks call to:

THE LOCAL INN

Church St.

Prop.: Pat Bourke

Color Kosangas and stockists of Berger Quality Paint

DRINK IN COMFORT IN

**THE PUNCH BOWL
BAR**

Prop.: Bill and Eileen Kelly

*Teas, coffees, soups, snacks
Bed and breakfast*

*The Square,
Gort*

GORT OLD BOYS ST. LEAGUE

OLD BOYS RETURN

A decade of St. League football was celebrated in Gort on Sunday, November 2nd when arch-rivals Crowe St. and the Square met in the final, at cold but crowded St. Colman's Park.

Crowe Street had gathered their forces from far and near and were firm favourites after their trashing of Ennis Rd. in the semifinal.

The first half was very hard fought with both sets of backs marking very tightly. The Square forwards took the few chances that came their way and The Square was ahead by three points at half time. The game opened up a good bit in the second half and the Crowe St. forwards looked dangerous. Pierce Piggott pointed a free and Gerard Wallace, Michael Murphy and John Counihan seemed to be putting it together for Crowe St. Just as things seemed to be going right for Crowe St. disaster struck them. The Square skipper Michael Kilroy sent a probing ball through the middle. The Crowe St. goal-keeper, David McCarty seemed to have it covered, but Brian Kilroy ran onto it and punched it to the net.

GOOD GOALKEEPING

Crowe St. didn't give up, however. They laid siege to the Square goal but some courageous goalkeeping by Stephen Fahy kept them at bay. When Frank Lally, sounded the final whistle the Square were two



The winning Church St. team: (back row from left): Paddy Joe Lyons (coach), Colman Roche, Gregory Scully, John Sullivan, Dermot Duffy, Stephen Fahy, Tony Monahan, Kieran Reddy, Jarlath McInerney and Francis Sullivan. Front row: Gerard Kelly, Billy Kelly, Derek Kenny, Paul Roche, Gay Fahy, Enda McInerney, Brian Kilroy, Brendan Long, Michael Monahan, Gerald McGann

points ahead. The winners were best served by the Kilroys, Sullivans, Fahys, McInerneys, Monahan brothers and Dermot Duffy. Crowe St. had fine players in the Piggott, Murphy, Spelman, and Crowley brothers, Gerard Wallace and John Counihan.

AFTER MATCH THANKS

After the game plaques were presented to the winning team by Sean Duffy, sponsor of the event. There was a presentation to Mr. Conroy and Frank Lally on behalf of the past-pupils by Michael Kilroy and Pierce Piggott. Mr. Conroy thanked the old boys for coming back to participate in the special competition and said that he hoped they would continue to enjoy the game for many years to come. He also thanked Frank Lally whom he

said was always part and parcel of Street-league final day in Gort.

Crowe St. (blue and white): David McCarty, James Fahy, Christopher Crowley, John Counihan, Gerard Wallace, Dan Donovan, Pierce Piggott, Gabriel Piggott, Andy Murphy, Eamonn Fennesy, Brendan Spelman, Michael Murphy, Declan Spelman, Frank Crowley, Patrick Crowley.

The Square (all white with blue): Stephen Fahy, John Sullivan, Colman Roche, Michael Kilroy, Michael Monahan, Gay Fahy, Francis Sullivan, Brian Kilroy, Dermot Duffy, Jarlath McInerney, Enda McInerney, Greg Scully, Tony Monahan, Gerard McInerney, Patrick Piggott, Brendan Long.

by John Murphy

Finnegan & Co. Ltd.,



INSURANCE
Our rates and back up service, particularly for commercial Fire Insurance, defy all competition. For proof contact the professional Insurance Consultants in Gort.

Insurance, Finance and Auctioneering
Consultants
Bridge St., Gort. Tel. 195

THE PRESENT BOYS FINAL

by Michael Cunningham



The winning team from the Square: Back row from left: Brendan Carr, Joe Kelly, Frank Glynn, Christopher Piggott, Patrick Kelly and League organiser Peadar O'Conaire. Front row: Garrett Piggott, Patrick Jordan, Alan Delvin, Master Roche, Alan Glynn and John Delvin.

Very few people left St. Colmans park after the "Old Boys" final as the present pupils final, between Galway Road and The Square promised to be a thriller. Galway Road won the toss, and opted to play against the stiff breeze, blowing from the Tubber end of the field.

The game wasn't long in progress when Alan Devlin opened the scoring with a good point for the Square. Galway Road had many fine moments but failed to score from good scoring positions on several occasions. The Square were ahead 3 points to one, at half time.

VITAL GOAL

Everybody expected big things from the Galway Road boys in the second half with the wind behind them. Instead it was the Square who dominated with Alan Devlin playing a captain's part at midfield ably assisted by Patrick Kelly. The best score of the game came from Kevin Roche who soloed his way through for a beautiful goal. He tacked on two points as well before Patrick Jordan sealed Galway Road's fate with a good goal near the end. Joe Gleeson tried hard to rally his team-mates but at the final whistle the Square were worthy

winners. This was their fourth victory in the competition.

The Square (Red): Brendan Carr, Frankie Glynn, Christopher Piggott, Joseph Kelly, Patrick Kelly, Alan Devlin (Captain), Garret Piggott, Patrick Jordan, Kevin Roche, John Devlin, Patrick Gillane, Alan Glynn.

Galway Road (Blue): Colm Molloy, John Kenny, Barry McNevin, David Casey, Richard Coen, James Donovan, Joseph Gleeson (Captain), Paul McCarthy, Kevin Mc Carthy, Stanley Cahill, Roger Carey.

A Happy Christmas from

KILROY'S
The Square, Gort

Keep up the good work, Guaire

FOR FRIENDLY SERVICE AND
GOOD VALUE,

Come to: **P.C. PIGGOTT**
The Square

We wish all our customers a happy Christmas

THE WREN

If you want to show how clever you are you can explain the wren family by giving them their generic name. The generic name is indicated by capital letter when its initial is used also. Scientific names of birds are in Latin. An American family of wrens are called Troglodytidae.

They are small brown birds with slender curved bills and short wings. The Irish family of wrens are called Troglodytes. They build nests in holes, sometimes use nests after other birds have left. Their nest is neat domed, and has a structural door at one side, made of moss, bracken or brass, built by the male wren. He may build more than one nest, when his mate chooses one she decorates it with feathers etc.

She does all of the hatching. (She hasn't heard of Women's Lib.) Both parents feed their young. Eggs layed in April are hatched approximately three weeks later.

The wren eat insects and are among the widely distributed birds in the country. They live in small groups and often live solitary lives.

They imigrate in Autumn but many stay put. The Irish wrens belong mostly to a North West European Group. They also breed in North West Africa, North U.S.A.

The wren was always hated by the Irish for on one occasion the Irish troops were approaching to attack a portion of Cromwell's army. The wrens came and perched on the Irish troops and by their chirping and tapping on the drums aroused the English soldiers who fell on the Irish troops and killed them. So ever since the Irish hunt the wren on St. Stephen's Day.

In legend the wren is famous for his cunning in claiming the title of King of the Birds. Long ago birds were trying to decide how to pick a King. It was decided which ever



Patrick Flaherty

bird would fly highest would be crowned "King of the Birds".

The eagle soared away above all the rest, as he was just about to shout "I am the greatest" the little wren popped out from hiding under the eagle's feathers. He flew a little higher and thus was crowned "King of the Birds".

The wren is also blamed for trying to betray the hiding place the Holy Family on their flight

from Herod. Hiding in thick gorse they were being searched for, by Herod's soldiers with bated breath, they listened as the cruel searchers moved about. Not finding anything they were going to move on when a wren flew out of the gorse and bushes where the Holy Family were hiding. One soldier was going to search, when the rest shouted "come on" that there was nothing there.

The wren was hunted some days before St. Stephen's Day, his body tied on a sprig of berry holly, or some such branches, and carried by a group of men or sometimes youngsters of both sexes and cries of:

The wren, the wren, the king of all birds

Was caught in a furze in St. Stephens Day

*His head is big, his body small
He is the greatest rogue of them all
Up with the kettle and down with the pan*

Give me a penny to bury the wren".

Padraig Flaherty

THE "WRAN'S DAY"

Folk tale:

The tradition of hunting the wren on St. Stephen's Day goes back nearly two thousand years.

It is said that when The Holy Family on their way into Egypt were sheltering under a road side bush a wren flew out, thus disclosing their hiding place to pursuing soldiers of Herod. Only by a miracle the life of the child was saved. Old stories say that because of his informing on our Saviour the wren is hunted and killed on the day after Christmas Day.

St. Stephens Day has now become the wransday. Groups of young wrenboys dressed in gaudy

costumes go around in that day from house to house collecting money to "bury the wren". The holly-holder carries the wren on a hollybush. The wrenboys dance to the music of tin whistle or accordeon.

DIFFERENT CUSTOMS

In some places they are termed "mummers". Wexford, Clare and North Kerry are noted for their mummer groups. They visit the houses throughout the countryside, execute the dances, jigs and reels requested by the householders and dance sets with the fair sex — thus

being rewarded for their entertainment.

In other parts of the country the wran's day becomes a carnival day.

Parties of up to forty grown-ups in perfect disguise parade the town. The costumes depict famous characters of past and present day. The "wran" marches through the principal streets headed by a banner with the "name" of the "wran". Coming at the rear of the parade are the "sursups" or strawboys and the flag-bearers. "Sursup" is a corruption of the term "Sean a tSoip". Sursups are still in places — the invited guests at a wedding.

The wranboys then break ranks and "do" the houses. They dance in the streets to the music of the fife and drum. The hobby horse figures prominently in the "wran". The hobby horse consists of a wooden frame covered with a white sheet — a housewife dare not put out her sheets immediately preceding Christmas! The hobby horse is carried by a "boyo" — the terror of the youngsters — who by a contraption is able to make the horse turn its head from side to side and "bite" at passersby.

The hobby horse tradition goes back to pagan times and is observed in places as far apart as West Kerry and Somerset!

A ball night is held with the gatherings of the "wran". There is music and dance, beverages are profusely distributed and large abound.



THE GALWAY TEAM GO DEO



(Air: "Mor-iar-ity")

*We'll sing a song of the Galway Team
The men with the will to win.
Though victory failed them year by year,
They still would not give in.
With courage rare and determined air,
They met and trained and planned
And now this gallant Galway Team
Are famed throughout the land.*

Chorus:

*Hurrah! The night is ended
Of fifty years and more
So shout it high with pride and joy
"The Galway Team go deo".*

*On Final Day they met to play
The men of the White and Green
"Tis Limerick's day" so all said they
"Tis plainly to be seen"*

*But how wrong were they in their
judgment then,
The match so surely told.
The Maroon and White were masters
when
The final whistle rolled.*

*The Maroon and White were masters
when
The final whistle rolled.*

The final whistle rolled.

Chorus

*The goalie was a tower of strength,
The midfield pair were there.
The backs were a stonewall defence,
The forwards swift and rare.
The wingmen too, were tried and true,
And sped the sliotar on*

*The whole fifteen played as a team,
And that was why they won.*

*Then here's to each man of the Galway
team
who brought honour to his club.
Each played his best, just like the rest
To win the McCarthy Cup
God bless you all and may each of you
Be to us a guiding star,
To lead us on to victory,
And go like you afar!*

Chorus

*Fimbarr, Steve, Sylvie, Bernie, Noel,
Sean Silke and Conor Hayes,
The Connollys three and Conneely
Were well to the fore always.
McInerney, Coen, Burke, Ryan, Mulloy
And Cooney to make the count.
Oh! who could dare these men to match
Of victory they were the fount.*

Chorus

*So rally boys around the flag —
Maroon and spotless white
And keep the colours flying high
The future for us looks bright.
So play the game of our country's fame
And answer to the call
For our county's honour and our pride
And let us be heroes all!*

Longach

OLLIE ROCHE'S GARAGE

Bridge St.

Morris Dealers
Firearms, radio and Cycle dealers
Repairs to cars, motor cycles and cycles
by expert mechanics

Phone 30

GALLAGHERS

George's St.

Quality Christmas fare at the right prices
Chocolates, Biscuits, Christmas Cakes etc.

Nollaig shona dhíbh go léir

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Sr. Mary de Lourdes Fahy



The Early Days

When the Sisters of Mercy came to Gort in 1857 their immediate apostolic concern was the education of primary school children. The Sisters came from Carlow — where the Foundress of the congregation, Catherine McAuley, had established her first intermediate or “pension” school. Sometime between 1857 and 1870 an intermediate school was opened in Gort by mother Aloysius Doyle, who had nursed with Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War.

In the returns of the Powis Commission (1870) we find there

The staff of St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Secondary School: Back row from left: Joan Murphy, Eileen Mulkevrens, Brid O'Meara, Teresa McHugh, Michel Pierrot, Mary Duane, Anne Newell, Mary Darcy, Sr. Catherine and Maureen Coppinger. Front row: Mary Cunningham, Sr. Michael, Anne Keane, Sr. de Lourdes (Principal) Mary McNamara, Sr. Damien, Dolores Donnellan, Mary O'Brien, and Mona Kennedy.

were twenty pupils learning French, thirteen drawing, fifty-six vocal music and twenty instrumental music. The census of 1871 records twenty-six Catholics and five Protestants receiving in our school, what was then termed “superior” education, that is, they were taught one or more foreign languages.

Special attention was devoted to all branches of needlework and crafts. In a well-researched article in the 6th issue of “Guaire”, Mr.

Seosamh Mac Eoin pointed out that the Sisters in Gort worked under the Co. Galway Technical Instruction Committee and they made their premises available for class... Accommodation was very limited and most of the work was done in what is now the lower level of the convent chapel. Lady Gregory of Coole Park took an active interest in the work and she was instrumental in gaining the support of Sir Horace Plunkett,

founder of the I.A.O.S. and head of the Irish Department of Agricultural and Technical Instruction. However, it was realized that the industrial department was proving to be a severe financial encumbrance on the community. Reluctantly they closed the workroom on 30th September 1914.

SECONDARY TOP

When our country gained its independence the Board of Education was replaced by the Department of Education and the Intermediate and Leaving Certificate examinations were instituted. For many years our school was a Secondary Top where girls pursued their education as far as Intermediate Certificate. Many then went to Seamount College, Kinvara to complete the Leaving Cert course.

BOARDING SCHOOL

In 1942 St. Joseph's, Gort became a “recognised” Secondary school and the Superioress, Mother Brendan Mitchell, opened a boarding school. The staff was comprised of Sr. Finbarr Keane, the Principal, Miss Dolan and Sr. M. Sacred Heart Minahan. Tragedy struck in January 1944. The school was destroyed by fire and temporary accommodation was generously provided by the late Miss Kilduff and the late Mr. Thomas Burke. When the primary school was rebuilt the Secondary classes occupied three or four rooms in the school. As numbers increased it became imperative to build a new secondary school. With the aid of a government grant and community funds, work began on the new building in 1964.

THE NEW BUILDING

In 1966 the first wing was opened. This coincided with the introduction of free post-primary



Junior Basketball team in St. Joseph's: Back row from left: Joan Canny, Geraldine Crowe, Brid Nilan, Patricia Cahill, Tina Broderick. Front row: Eithne Egan, Noreen O'Regan, Marie O'Reilly, Teresa Fallon and Anne Enright



Senior Basketball team. Back row from left: Eileen Killeen, Brid Fallon, Fidelma Larkin, Marie Moloney, Geraldine Canny and Carol Casserly. Front: Dolores Fallon, Maureen Kerr, Annette Kennedy, Anne O'Keefe and Darina Fahey

education and transport. The number of pupils for 1966–1967 was 168. The second wing was completed in 1968 and the school was blessed and officially opened by His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Browne on 4th May 1968. Nobody was more pleased than the Principal, Sr. Stanislaus O'Donohue who had worked with tremendous dedication to provide a worthy school for the girls of the area. Thanks to her and to her successor,

Sr. Catherine Hayes, the “spadework” was finished by the time I became principal four years ago. I merely enjoy the fruits of their labours

No account of the progress of our school would be complete without mentioning the trojan work done by our teachers. In an article of this nature it would be impossible to name all of them. They know we value them and that they are held in highest esteem by

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

Call to the

Bank of Ireland

Bridge St., Gort

Manager Frank Shaw

Assistant Manager Padraic Giblin

Great Bank, Great Branch, Great People, Great Service, thats

**THE ALLIED
IRISH BANKS**

Gort

Manager M.J. Durand Assistant Manager James Hannigan

their pupils, past and present. The ratio of lay teachers to Sisters is at present 7:2.

By any standards our school is a fine one. It consists of ten full-time classrooms, a few auxiliary rooms, kitchen, laboratory, art room, music rooms and one of the best-equipped gymnasiums in the country. The library contains everything from Louisa Alcott to Reiner Zimnik. Outside we have basketball, volleyball and tennis courts. But fine buildings alone do not make a school; people do. I believe that our pupils are among the finest in Ireland. Most of them are natives of South Galway or Clare. They come from homes steeped in true Christian values. In fact the pupils of the three post-primary schools of the town come from the same backgrounds and this fact eliminates any tendency to class distinction. This year we have 291 students.

I feel honoured to be a past-pupil of St. Joseph's Secondary School. To all who have made it what it is today: "go gcúitigh Dia sibh".

THE PRESENT

Much has been written of late about the purpose of education — preparation for life, for work or for exams. We, in St. Joseph's, believe that each of those elements can be combined with the others. We try to educate the whole person, not just the mind. As well as having the usual academic subjects we cater for subjects such as public speaking, computer science and typing. Music



A successful set dancing group from St. Joseph's (from left): Gene O'Reilly, Cora Killeen, Deirdre Lee, Marie O'Reilly, Paula Enright, Maureen Kerr, Anne Enright, And Mary Whelan

and singing play an important part in our school and during the 1970's we produced "Patience" and "Lilac Time" under the able baton of Sr. Cecilia Corless. Our Vice-Principal, Miss Eileen Mulkerrins rarely lets a Christmas concert pass without presenting some drama "on the boards".



Maura Greaney who tasted success in the National Fish Cookery competition

At present the main interest centres on debates. As we go to press our 4th year team has reached the semi-final stage of the Galway area Junior Chamber of Commerce debates. Three of the four teams to have reached that stage are from the Gort schools. Who will come out on top in this battle of wits is anybody's guess. Really, we do not mind who wins as long as we don't lose! We have two public speaking teams in action next Sunday and a second debating team in U.C.G. on 6th December. So the ancient art of oratory, or if you wish, the gift of the gab, is alive and well in Gort.

There was tremendous excitement at the close of the Pioneer Talent Competitions when the School Centre, represented by second and third year boarders won the set dancing competition for the South Galway area. They carry our hopes into the semi-final in Corofin, Co. Galway. Talking about

excitement, nothing could equal the atmosphere of the day when the hurlers visited the school with the McCarthy Cup: "Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís"! Since their visit camogie clubs have sprung up all over the place.

We are doing very well in basketball this year. Our senior team has taken all the honours in Round 1 and our Cadettes have also qualified for the next round. We hope to emulate the success of our great teams in the early 1970's who reached the Connacht final every year.

Above all, we are a Catholic school and in the long run true success can only be measured by the way we are true to our Christian commitment. With God's help, we will keep striving.

Academically and practically the school has provided a basis of training and a foundation for the many pupils who passed and continue to pass through it embarking on their own careers in life.

the opinion I hold that the school and all that it represents is a credit and a modest indication of the values, talents and integrity of the staff, both lay and religious, who unselfishly benefit the whole community, by their services and example to the pupils who attend it.

STAFF APPRECIATED

I know that I am not alone in

Brigid Noone

GORT MAYORAL ELECTION 80/81



The Mayor, Mattie Collins presenting a cheque to John O'Shea for Third World Development from the proceeds of the 1979 Mayoral Elections.

A PAST-PUPIL'S VIEWS

There is a lot that one could say about one's schooldays. Looking back now, a short three years later, on five year's attendance at St. Joseph's Secondary School, I know that they were years not wasted. They were not altogether easy or "hassle-free" but nevertheless a period of one's life not easily or readily forgotten.

This year's Mayoral Election will donate half the Mayoral Fund towards the Gort and South Galway Social Services Organisation. The other half will be directed towards the Gort R.F.C. development Fund for the improved running of the Club for the present and future seasons. Last

year the Rugby Club ran a very successful election and at the press conference last year a figure of £4,000 was aimed at and this figure was reached and even just passed. This resulted in the new Mayor Mattie Collins presenting a cheque of £1,800 to the very worthy G.O.A.L. organisation. *Cont. Page 16*

Michael Cunningham Gort

Phone 158 or 164

Auctioneer
Land Sales and Houses
Land Lettings
Property Content
Also Irish Permanent Building Society

For all information call to our office in Bridge St.

Rochford Insurances

All classes of Insurance transacted
Please give us a call before going elsewhere
Happy Christmas to all our customers

All Welcome to WHITE HORSE INN

Croze St., Gort

Prop: Paddy and Vera Connolly
Drink and relax in pleasant atmosphere

For best value shop at

SPELMAN'S SUPERMARKET

Drink at leisure in our Bar and Lounge

T.C. Spelman and Co.

Croze St., Phone Gort 8

G.O.A.L.

How the money was spent was shown to the Rugby Club in the form of films and a very informative talk given by the Hon. Sec. of G.O.A.L. a Mr. John O'Shea who came to Gort to receive the G.O.A.L. cheque. In turn the Rugby Club used their funds towards floodlights for the Rugby Pitch and at the moment on Wednesday and Friday nights as many as thirty five people train under these lights and as a result the rugby teams are much fitter and so getting better results. Also at the moment four other clubs are using the rugby club's facilities—Gort's new soccer team, the members of the athletic club and also Tubber and Beagh hurling teams on different nights.

THANKS

While talking about last year's election on behalf of the Rugby Club I would like to thank the candidates Mary Rochford, Teresa Moloney, John Finnegan, Michael Glynn, John Sullivan, James Lee and the elected Mayor Mattie Collins who we hope will return to good health soon. We also want to thank the Sponsors Don Coen and Rynal Coen who presented the Mayoral Robe and chain respectively. Finally "Good Luck" to the present candidates and I hope the big winners will be the Social Services and the Rugby Club.

*Junie Finnegan,
Director of Elections*

NEW VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

A new Vocational School for Gort was sanctioned recently. This bare statement does not reveal the behind the scenes drama that preceded the announcement. The Dept. of Education informed the Vocational Education Committee (Co. Galway) that it would sanction the building of two new Vocational schools in the county. Four towns were keenly in the running — Ballinasloe, Portumna, Tuam and Gort. The voting at the V.E.C. meeting went: 8 Ballinasloe, 8 Gort, 7 Tuam and 5 Portumna. Ballinasloe and Gort scraped home. Each V.E.C. representative had two votes and the eight members believed to have voted for Gort were: Toddie Byrne, Paddy Haverty, Ulick Burke, Pól Ó Foighil, Hugh Griffin, Niall Kelly, Brendan Holland and one Ballinasloe representative. They deserve the thanks of the people of South Galway for supporting Gort.

RETIREMENT

Guairé wishes Tadhg Kelly, Church St., Gort many happy years of retirement. Tadhg served for many years as postman in the Gort region and contributed most interesting hurling memoirs to an early number of Guairé.

*Congratulations to Colin O'Quigley and Hilary O'Quigley on their recent marriages. Colin married Margaret Ryan and Hilary married Thomas Ruane.

CHOIRS

*The work done by Sr. Noírín, Sr. Raymond and Sr. Peter for

out and about



Mary Nolan, Rineen, who graduated from U.C.G. in October with an honours B.C.L.

Tiernevin Church Choir is much appreciated by the Christians of that region. A Choir practice is held every Wednesday night in Tiernevin Church and the Sunday Liturgy has benefited greatly from this development.

Twelve young people have given a commitment to read at Sunday Mass in Tiernevin and this too is progressing satisfactorily.

*Meanwhile back in Gort three Choirs are functioning. The Youth Choir practice on Saturday nights at 6 p.m. for 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday. (Organist is Mary Moloney). The Adult Choir practice on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. for 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday. The Children's Choir under the direction of Sr. Peter sing at the Children's Sodality Mass on the third Sunday of every month. This situation is a welcome improvement but there can be no slackening of commitment in any area.

If you have been blessed with a talent for singing why not use this talent and join one of the Choirs.

For young people this would be a constructive response to Pope John Paul's call in Galway.

*The Kiltartan Choir is under the direction of Mrs. Bridie Long and the response of young people here is most encouraging. Mrs. Long also gives constructive advice to the Youth Choir in Gort. Her experience, derived from participation in numerous courses, including this year's Church Music Congress in Colrairie, is invaluable.

DEGREE

*Congratulations to Peadar Ó Conaire, a founding member of Guairé, on recently being conferred with a Master's of Education Degree.

*George's St. recently had cause to rejoice when one of its native sons, Tomas Roseingrave, became Chairman of the E.E.C. Economic and Social Affairs Committee. Mr. Roseingrave officially opened the 1979 Gort Autumn Festival.

*Congratulations to Rosemary Mannion and Finola Johnston, two members of the staff in St. Patrick's Primary School, Gort on their recent engagements. The two lucky men are Robin Lahiffe and Bernard Murphy respectively. Congratulations also to Ralph Keane and Elaine Piggott.

*Brigid Noone, a past contributor to Guairé, was recently conferred with a B.A. (Honours) degree in U.C.G. Well done Brigid.

*Joe Muldoon, Kinvara, was recently made an Honorary Life Member of Gort Bridge Club. The honour was richly deserved as Joe has given a lifetime of service to the game. He is presently conducting a series of Bridge Classes in St. Colman's Vocational School and his enthusiasm is responsible for

winning over new converts to the game of Bridge.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*The Chamber are bringing Santa Claus to Gort on Sunday 21st December. He will be calling to Sullivan's Hotel at 3 p.m. Since September the Chamber have been active on a number of fronts. The most significant development was a meeting with T.D.'s and public representatives in Gort on Thursday 13 November. Support was enlisted for a new regional water scheme, for new Fire Brigade premises and training centre, for the building of 20 new Council houses and for the building of a 20 bedded Welfare

cemetery and laid a wreath to her memory. Mass was later celebrated in Gort Church for the happy repose of her soul. Pauline's parents attended both ceremonies.

SOCCER

*Church St. beat Crowe St. by seven goals to five in the final of the Street League Soccer organised and sponsored by Paddy Joe Lyons. It was a thrilling final and the winning Church St. team was: Bernard Costello, Ger Kelly, Derek Kenny, Paul Roche, Gerard McGann, Alan Devlin and Austin McInerney. Subs were John Reddy, Pat Flaherty and Jason Kenny.



Three Gort golfers who were members of the winning team: Sean Devlin, Tom Lambert and Joe McInerney

Home for Gort and South Galway.

The new Automatic Telephone exchange is expected by mid 1981. The Chamber is also considering the possibility of organising a Commuter Service to 3rd level Colleges in Galway from the Gort region. Anyone interested in this idea should contact Mrs. Teresa Moloney, Ennis Road.

REMEMBRANCE

On 23 November 1980 the third anniversary of Pauline Lynsky's tragic death was remembered by her classmates in St. Colman's Vocational school. All her classmates attended a special prayer service at her grave in Labane

GOLF

*Gort golfers played a significant part in helping the Galway team to win the All Ireland Inter Co. G.A.A. Golf competition. Tom Lambert had the best score of the day and Sean Devlin and Joe McInerney also contributed winning scores. Miko McInerney, a native of Ardrahan, captained the team and Gerry Cahill was also a member of the winning team.

On the home front January will see the installation of some new officers in Gort Golf Club. The Square and Glenbrack are favoured for the mens posts while the Lady/Captaincy could well go to George's St/Kiltartan.

GORT MOTOR WORKS

Church St. Prop.: Michael Roche

Tyres, batteries, oil and full range of car and tractor accessories on display at our new stores.

Phone Gort 17

For shopping in a relaxed atmosphere
pay a visit to

JORDAN'S SUPERMARKET

THE SQUARE GORT.

Good service and the keenest of grocery prices



HUNTING THE WREN

(Gort Style)

On St. Stephens Day last year, for the want of something better to do, it was suggested by one of my friends, that hunting the wren would be a very pleasant way of spending the day. Nearly all at the Local Inn, got dressed up and with our faces painted for the occasion we started out. We played the streets and some of the larger pubs. Then it came to the homeward bound journey to the Local Inn, where the money was to be counted, and divided ten ways. It was Pat Burke and Fiona O'Carroll who were the dividers, and this is what happened after the second count.

*Pat made it twenty, Fiona eighteen, and when counted again, it was only sixteen
Then a hand it was seen, to come from a coat, and silently pocket, a single pound note.
The argument started, and all were accused,*

*and poor Willy Quinn, was highly abused.
With curses and swears, the fighting began,
the day we went out, a hunting the wren.*

*Leahy was mad as a Kerry puck goat, for Clancy tore, all the back of his coat.
And poor Matt O'Dowd, who is quite as a saint,
was covered all over, with Flahertys paint.*

*Then Jennings the whistler, got caught by the throat,
they said it was Leahy, the Ballyhugh poet.*

*But who could be certain, in all that great din,
the day we went out a hunting the wren.*

A Kiskadee bottle, hit Josie McNevin, and laid him out flat, without movement or sound.

*But when he woke up, he thought it was heaven,
he looked for St. Peter, all over the ground.*

*Then a kick from Tom Staunton, to poor old Sean Carroll,
a hopping and roaring, all over the Inn.*

He tripped and fell heavily over a barrel, the day we went out a hunting the wren.

*Then bold Larry Roche, the maker of records,
was singing like Crosby, and perfect in note.*

*When a bag of stale crisps, were fired from a distance,
and ended up jammed, half way down his throat,
My God was he mad, when he spat out the contents,
made straight for a bottle, of half opened gin,
He spun it around and hit poor old Killeen,
the day we went out, a hunting the wren.*

*The fiddle was broke, and mouthorgan swallowed,
the tambourin pushed, over Willy Quinn's forehead.*

*A punch from O'Dowd, knocked the wind out of Roche,
while Keigrey he fought like a wounded cockroach.*

*But Pat got a clatter, that finished the fun,
the guards they were sent for, and quickly did come.*

*We were all shifted out, from the Gort Local Inn,
that finished our day, at hunting the wren.*

Sean Leahy



The organising Committee of the Kidney Dance at the Classic Ballroom in October. Back row (from left): Mick Cahill, Johnny Walsh, Noel Nestor, John Quinn. Front: Mick Reddy, John Finnegan, Marianne Nestor (Wild Rose of Gort), Eddie Fennessy, Sheila O'Hanrahan (Rose of Tralee), Pat O'Donnell, Albert Mullins and Mick McGann. Over £1800 was raised through the venture for Kidney research.

THE MANNIONS OF AMERICA

On the 23rd of October last a bearded gentleman called to our house. He introduced himself as Brian O'Connor, producer of a film called the "Mannions of America". The film company is called Argus. He requested permission to use one of my fathers fields, on the following day, to shoot some scenes for the film. My father gladly gave him permission.

On the following morning when I got up for school, the car park opposite my house was packed with caravans, lorries, cars, horse boxes and even the Galway Fire Brigade. I was so excited about it all that I didn't want to go to school. I just hoped that they would still be there when I got back. Thankfully I was back in time to see some scenes being shot in Kilmacduagh.

CONNEMARA FAMILY

The main story of the film is about a family called Mannions who left Connemara during the famine period, in the mid nineteenth century, and emigrated to America. The leading role is played by a Navan born, Irish actor, Pierce Brosnan. Kate Mulgrew better known to television viewers, as "Mrs Colombo" is the leading lady. Also taking part is Peter Gilmore, the English star who plays "James Onedin" in the "Onedin Line". It also star internationally known actors like Anthony Quail, T.P. McKenna and another young actor called Simon Mac Corkindall. Even some of our own Irish actors are taking part in the film, Joe Pilkington and Vincent Smith of "The Riordans" and Paul Daly from Frank Hall's programme.

AUSTRALIA

Part of the film was shot in Spiddal where three of the native



Kieran Finnegan

children took part. More shots were taken in Co. Wicklow. The main part of the film is being shot, at present in Australia. They had seven horses and the leading people in the film jumped the horses several times over the wall. They

knocked each other off the horses and then had some quarrelling on the ground.

FILM CREW

They had their own dressing room and wardrobes in a very large van. They had the use of our dining room for putting on the make up and all the different head gear and wigs etc. They also had their own mobile canteen and I assure you that the cooks were kept busy as there was about a hundred film crew altogether. There were two guards on duty all day. The fire brigade was at hand in case it was supposed to be raining when shooting some of the scenes.

The actors and actresses stayed in the Corrib Great Southern Hotel while they were filming in the West of Ireland. They worked very hard on location, starting sometimes at 6 a.m. and finishing at night fall, and in very bad weather conditions.

The film will be seen on our screens in about eighteen months time. Is it costing around three million pounds to make. They thought that Kilmacduagh was an ideal place to make a film. They praised highly our monastic buildings and Round Tower and also the Burren Mountains in the background. It was a memorable day for the people of Kilmacduagh.

Kieran Finnegan

TOYLAND

The Cafe, Bridge St.

Large selection of toys on view—also Christmas cards and other gifts.

Prop. Rita Conway.

CATHOLIC BOYSCOUTS OF IRELAND

J. Sheehan

7th Galway Unit, C.B.S.I., Gort

HISTORY MADE

As you will recall in a previous issue of this magazine, the history of the earlier years of the Scout Movement in Gort was reported on. History was again recorded on Sunday the 16th November, 1980 when the Investiture of twenty Gort boys took place. This is a ceremony with strong religious connections and the scene was St. Colman's Church, Gort.

The inspiration which led to the re-activating of the Scout Movement in Gort in these recent years came from Canon George Quinn, recent Parish Priest of Gort. It was so sad that he was not amongst the congregation on that day. However, he was there in spirit if only from his hospital bed.

SCOUT PROMISE

The weekly meetings at the I.C.A. Hall, Gort on Friday evenings created the atmosphere for this occasion. The boys knew from constant repetition and examination the purpose of the Scout Law, the Scout Promise, Signs, Salutes and Scout Prayer. Army Sergeant Arty Kenny had given them the best of drill. Following a number of meetings in recent months a number of additional members were added to the Committee. At this time there is a very interesting variety of activity and it is hoped that the Annual General Meeting in January will serve to have a very organised movement by the

standards now created by the participation of the many who have offered and have been giving of their services and time in these recent months.

CEREMONY

The Investiture ceremony itself was set for mid-day after the 11 a.m. Mass. Invitations to a number of Troops brought response from Galway and their participation at the 11.00 a.m. Mass was indicative of what Scouting is all about. The Parade from the I.C.A. Hall to the Church and the awaiting Colour Party led the boys to the Altar. Each boy placed his beret and emerald green neckerchief on the Altar rails. Fr. Liam Power, C.C. and Chaplain to the Gort Boy Scouts blessed these items and the Scouts. The Scout Leader then asked each boy, in turn if he wished to become a Scout and as expected the answer always was 'Yes'. Each in turn was asked to make the Scout Promise which reads "On my honour, with the Grace of God, I . . . (name) . . . promise to do my best to love, honour and serve Christ my King, His Holy Church and His Blessed Mother, to help my neighbour at all times, and to obey the Scout Law". The Scouts have their own sign and it is used when making the Scout Promise. The ceremony concluded with the Scout Prayer. Then there



Back row from left: Dan Casey, John Roche, John Gleeson, Paul Diviney, Seamus Walsh, John Spelman, Michael Gormally and Tony Conway. Middle row: Liam Burke, Fabian McGrath, Norman Rochford, Christopher Piggott, Seamus Cafferky, Michael Cunningham and Gerry Sheehan. Front: Joe Kelly, Joseph Gleeson, Colm Molloy, Austin McInerney, Michael Cahill, Alan Devlin and John Murphy.

was a Parade from the Church to St. Colman's Vocational School where the Gort and visiting Scouts enjoyed soup, sandwiches and refreshments, thanks to the help of Pearse Piggott, Mrs. Sheila Duffy, Gerard Keane and others. They also helped to make the occasion a most enjoyable one with the kind and generous assistance of the Breathnach sisters, Sheila and Mairéad; Avril Duffy; brothers Colman and Ralf Keane and Mrs. Mary Cunningham.

Amongst the attendance at the ceremonies were Rev. Fr. A. Halloran, P.P., Gort; Fr. Enda Glynn. The Colour Bearer, who was responsible for holding the Scout Flag inside the altar was Scout Leader Dessie Murray, Galway. The Diocesan Commissioner Thomas Naughton, Galway; The Diocesan Secretary, Michael Cunningham, Moycullen and Galway Scout Leaders Martin McDonagh and John O'Toole were also present. The surviving members of the original Gort Scout Movement, Desmond Coen, Pearse Piggott and Thomas Shaughnessy participated in these ceremonies. Here history repeated itself.

Those invested were (1) Seamus Breathnach, Ennis Road; (2) Liam Burke, Castletown; (3) Michael Cahill, Glenbrack; (4) James

Cafferky, Coole; (5) Michael Cunningham, Galway Road; (6) Tony Conway, Loughrea Road; (7) Alan Devlin, The Square; (8) Paul Diviney, Laughtyshaughnessy; (9) John Gleeson, Galway Road; (10) Joseph Gleeson, Galway Road; (11) Michael Gormley, Crowe St.; (12) Joseph Kelly, The Square; (13) Fabian McGrath, Church St.; (14) Austin McInerney, Church St.; (15) Colman Molloy, Crowe St.; (16) John Murphy, Galway Road; (17) Christopher Piggott, The Square; (18) Norman Rochford, The Square; (19) John Roche, Bridge St.; and (20) John Spelman, Glenbrack - in alphabetical order.

VISIT TO FOUNDER

To complete the day's events and to express thanks in appreciation, representatives of the Scout Movement founded by him visited Cannon George Quinn in his hospital bed in Newmarket-on-Fergus. The Unit Leader Gerard Keane and Scout Leader, Gerry Sheehan brought good tidings and best wishes for a speedy recovery to him from Gort Boy Scouts. Later that evening the Gleeson brothers, in Scout uniform visited him. This is part of the Scout Law in being helpful, friendly and kind.

During the following week a cloud of sorrow passed over this Gort unit when the sorrowful news of the death of Mrs. Annie Casey, the Neale, Co. Mayo was heard. She is the mother of Dan Casey, Glenbrack and a Scout Leader with the Gort Scout Unit. As a mark of respect last Friday night's meeting of the Scouts was adjourned after prayers for the repose of her soul. May she rest in peace.

We thank all who assisted in every way on this occasion and those who provided the refreshments; the Management of St. Colman's Vocational School and the I.C.A. who have, for so long given us the Hall facilities.

A DREAM COME TRUE

Sheila Cunningham and Jacqueline Fahy



Sheila Cunningham and Jacqueline Fahy

It all began on the 1st October when we were informed by our dancing teacher, Miss Anne O'Loughlin, that we were to appear on the T.V. programme S.B.B. Needless to say, we were delighted to get the opportunity. We were then required to practise quite a lot in the meantime.

On the 10th October, we left Gort at 7.00 a.m., by bus, picking up the remainder of our group in Loughrea and Ballinasloe and arrived in Dublin, at R.T.E. studios at about 11.00 a.m.

After practising there we had lunch at the canteen. We then had a dress rehearsal in the studios. The big moment had now arrived when it was decided to record our dance. We were all shaking with excitement. The group consisted of 16 girls, 3 boys and 3 musicians. After it had been recorded we felt a great sense of relief.

During our stay at the studios we met well-known T.V. personalities such as Eamonn Kelly, Cyril Smith, Anne Doyle and some others.

It was wonderful watching the programme being shown on T.V. on Wednesday 22nd October and being "dubbed" as T.V. stars by our friends.

GORT AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



Eithne and Michael Bermingham in their Greenhouse.

The Club is now 6 months old with a membership of 65 but plenty vacancies for new members, particularly men to preserve the balance. The first Wednesday of every month is set aside for its meetings - lectures and demonstrations in St. Colmans Vocational at 8 p.m. (with the kind permission of the headmaster).

Judging by the interest in the

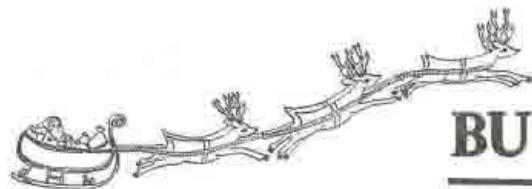
programme which includes all aspects of gardening under the supervision of Dick O'Gorman the local Horticulture Advisor our club could be rated as successful. The needs of the District and wishes of the members are very much the deciding factor in inviting visiting lecturers.

FLOWER ARRANGING

Our most recent lecturer was J.J. Campbell, Ennis who gave a most interesting talk on shrubs. The next demonstration was on Wednesday 4th December and featured Christmas Decorations. Some ladies from the Ennis Flower Club who are very skilled in the art of Flower Arranging attended and were most helpful.

According to the experts this is the time to take cuttings and propagation.

Michael Bermingham



BUYING THE CHRISTMAS

I never experienced what must have been a small boys joy and thrill of going to "buy the Christmas" in the 30's, for, like "Brownie the Ass" we had a shop at home, so, perhaps I had an unusual advantage, and a "Bird's Eyeview", or should I say, a "Behind the Counter" view of the comings and excitements of women with their husbands and children, arriving for the great event of the year.

ONLY THREE MOTORS IN ARDRAHAN

The thrill of "Astronauts" and micro-chip machines were then happily unknown. It was a simplistic time when the big parish of Ardrahan had only three motor cars — Mr. Edward Martyn of Tullira Castle; John Henry Taylor of Taylor's Hotel (later Mr. Mc Hughes and now Mr. Burkes); and Mr. Hogan's of Maryville House near Cahermore.

It was an age before the coming of "The Combine Harvester", when harvesting depended on the scyth or the mowing machine and threshing the corn was a great occasion, with Pete Howleys "Finisher" driven by a "Ruston-Hornsboy" engine brought a thrill to every Haggard, and the hum of the mighty machine still beats musically in my memory — or hay making — turning the swarths with a rake (if you were lucky), or a two pronged fork; for rakes were scarce.

No baler machines then. Haymaking was a slow and long drawn out operation — the swarths gathered into small cocks — later made into "tramp" cocks — and the big day when Paddy Reilly with his

hand operator "float" transferred the cocks to the haggard for the makings of "The big sheep cock" — and as the cock grew taller a ladder was used and the hay was passed on to the two "tramp makers" overhead.

Women were more muscular then and more hard worked and sometimes a man would call out to over exuberant forkers — "be aisey with the hay, there's a woman in the ladder."

They were great occasions and 'twas a poor house hadn't jars of porter for the neighbouring helpers — and a big dinner of cabbage and bacon — some "more" people would arrange the coming of the Thresher or "The Sheep Cock Making", so as not to coincide with dinner time — so, with "apologies" it was plane tay and bread and butter.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

But of all the big events of the year, I feel that "Buying the Christmas" holds pride of place. Christmas comes but once a year And when it comes it brings great cheer,
With barm brack and roasted goose
And lumps of salted bacon —
When Purse strings everywhere were loose
And Santa down the Chimney came —
Alas! no fire we see today
(Aw! God be with the simple way).
(Thanks to Michelle Fennessy for this nostalgic rhyme.)

CHRISTMAS TODAY

But said Mrs. Hanrahan, as we had both emerged from early morning Mass — "Haven't we

Christmas time every day, today — frozen chickens and ducks and as for geese — where could you find one, and as for dream — topped off the crocks long ago, you can buy it in cartons and not half as good."

But do I regress or yearn the old days, when our small shop at Labane hadn't progressed to such refinements as ice cream and I can recall cycling to Gort for my first ever ice cream at Glynn's Hotel — tuppenny ice cream — delicious H.B. served by Mollie Glynn's mother — a refined generous woman and one of the Daverns of Clare.

Each drinker at the bar was served with a ha'penny Gearys biscuit every time they bought a drink — today with rising costs, I heard a man say, at a wellknown Gort Hostelery — (for he had been served a poorly filled pint) — "misthar d'ye ya mind given' me a pint more like a Christian Brother than a Jesuit" — for all the heed he got.

BUYING THE GOOSE

You can get frozen geese in supermarkets today. In my time every farm house reared geese — they kept a few for themselves and sold the others — but kept a gander and goose to ensure future progany. If you didn't have geese, you made sure to have one "engaged" from a neighbour, for Christmas dinner. Without a goose was like the Gourmet Fare of Smoked Salmon-Cutlets, without the "Starters" of Shrimp or Prawns at Raftery's Inn or Morans of the Weir or Paddy Burkes for £10 or more.

LOOKING BACK

I wonder; the rising generations are aloof from my realism I can

AND OTHER REMINISCENCES

never vision my past — when jeans were unknown and

"I saw a woman drinking orange crush

In a big posh Lounge last night

If she was seen today —

She'd be a most unusual sight".

But let me recall the kitchen of our house in 1930 — decorated with natural holly and ivy and colourful Scrolls proclaiming "Happy Christmas", "God Bless Our Home" and the big fire leaping joyously up the chimney.

One Grandee — repeat Grandee, for he ever dressed immaculately with a red handkerchief dangling from his breast pocket — Pat's. Christmas Eve was his big occasion and after over rubbing at Kerinse's Bar, he'd sajourne to our kitchen — where like all Christians of that area, we had a large picture of the Sacred Heart and beneath it a small red globed lamp and underneath a card with the large printed word "Jesus". As well-oiled Pat was leaving one midnight, my mother fearing for his sajourne home beckoned him to take a dip from the Holy Water Font that hung beside the Sacred Lamp. As Pat was about to dip his finger in ritual rectitude, he spotted the card JESUS — and turned away — "Jesus Fluid" I heard him say; no Pat ever needed that stuff, for we're the cleanest breed in all Ardrahan, and he made his exit.

PRE-CHRISTMAS

Pre-Christmas was, as I said a big occasion — every kitchen was newly white-washed (awh! for that lovely aroma of fresh white wash — it still lingers in my nostrils) and holly branches around the big open fire and dangling from the host of holy

pictures — a sad remiss today and the colourful scrolls on every wall. A kitchen was a veritable "Home of Bethlehem" then. Space precludes me from recounting the many inspiring sights, so I must dwell on

CHRISTMAS TIME AT HOME

Having a shop, it required great ammunition and hard work — no fancy plastic packaging then — everything came in bulk — chests of tea — boxes of currants and raisins and the bread soda came in small wooden barrells — and sweets were sold by count — arranged in glass jars of many varieties — bulls eyes and white lozenges — twenty a penny. Today a shop assistant wouldn't even count them for five times that sum.

Fry's cream chocolate for tuppence and Gearys Currant topped biscuits — a ha'penny each.

One man I recall used to pick the currants from the currant tops & take home the biscuits for tea, signs is on, he's the richest man in the old cemetery at Ardrahan today.

Now where was I? Oh! yes; from early November the store over our shop was a veritable packing "factory" — packaging and weighing pounds of currants, raisins, lemon peel and sugar from two hundred weight sacks — with a staff recruited from the neighbours — Mike Hynes; Pat Roche; Patsy Gillane; Mattie Casey and Paddy Reill — while down below in the kitchen "The Ladies Committee" — Chris Leary, brother of the famous and lovable Joe, and today Mrs. Pappy Brady of Gortavoher, Tubber; Nance and Moll Reilly; Cecilia Flanagan etc., ensured a plentiful supply of tea and sweet cake and fags for the "staff"



overhead.

Village life was a closely knit entity, where a gentle people found all their worldly needs — for a farmer then was not dependent on packaged soups, tinned vegetables and shop ham from supermarkets. Every house killed a pig or two each year and butcher's meat was a rarity — six days a week it was cabbage and bacon (slivered from the hard-cured side, hanging above the kitchen fire) with herrings, grilled on the tongs over the red coals or fried eggs or onions on Fridays. How erroneous and pagan to abolish the "Friday Fast" — or the time when we "fasted from midnight", lending reverence and occasion to Holy Communion.

But again (in haste) I digress.

SPECIAL PURCHASES

"Buying the Christmas" was a great annual event, when even the poorest saved up for something special (or the American Dollars and parcels of clothing came to the rescue).

We'd have scores of empty boxes ready for the shoppers — most prized was an empty tea chest, for with an old rimless bicycle tyre tacked around the top, it made an ideal pen for a child (or a motherless lamb) beside the fire.

Every woman had her "list" carefully written out — a pound of tea; a ½ stone of sugar, currants, raisins, barm brack and of course jelly and custard — later made in big enamel basins — the feast of the year and small candles to light each window — what a heavenly scene to see the quiet glow in every window — a beacon of Hope and Joy and Faith — not forgetting the Christmas Candle — two feet tall in

cont. from previous page

red or blue colour (costing 3 old pence), and stuck in a carved scooped out turnip, decorated with crepe paper and holly and holding pride of place in the kitchen.

"CHRISTMAS BOXES"

Maybe the big supermarkets today give "Christmas Boxes", but in our small shop, each purchase was duplicated - it 'twas a pound of tea - an extra free pound was added and so on, with an added bottle of rasberry wine for the children and women crowded the kitchen for tay and cakes and a glass of port that russeted their cheeks and induced great verbosity, while the husbands found patient relaxation in nearby Kerinse's Pub, where a pint cost 9 old pennies and a 5 gallon jar was on the cart going home - for 'twas a poor house couldn't offer a glass to all visiting friends or neighbours at Christmas time.

POTEEN

Awh! them was the days when "real" poteen arrived with every cargoe of turf at "Ould Kinvara Quay" - 'twould "rise the cockles of your heart" - and the "bádóirs" travelled miles selling the "suff" and our house was never without a "five gallon jar" for visitors and "home consumption".

Christmas is still a "great occasion", but we have grown so accustomed to regal fare, that it has lost its "excitement" and the "Santa Stocking" that hung above the turf fire is but another "event", that once thrilled our simple expectations.

Jack Forde of Knockanes in Boston, says, "Bring back the Ass".

There is a lot of truism in his yearning - the wonders of our lives seem to have reached their climax.

Still it's nice to look back though we can't put back the clock and vision the freshly white washed little kitchen, holy pictures and colourful scrolls on every wall, and the fat goose sizzling in the big oven dangling from the pot hooks above the turf fire, with chunks of salted home cured bacon roasted to a crackle... and the lovely potatoe "stuffing".

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY

Or as they say in the States "Boxing Day" was no anticlimax, apart from the many with sick heads - and like the poor they will "be always with us" - so do take care and be able to enjoy the carcass of the crawn (goose) or best of all pigs cheek and turnips - a great "cure" after all the luscious feasting.

For us children, St. Stephens Day was another exciting time - doing the "Mummers" - all dressed up in long ladies dresses and Ascot" hat, for no woman would appear at Mass or other visitations without a hat elaborately decorated with cluster of artificial flowers.

We travelled all over the parish doing the Mummers, calling to every house jingling our money box and calling out -

The Wran the Wran the King of all birds;

St. Stephens Day he was caught in the furse;

Up with the kettle and down with the pan -

Give us a penny or two to bury the wran.

None ever refused to insert a coin in the slit on the lid of our cocoa tin and we often collected over £3 in those "bad" old days - from Lisnagranchy to Cahermore. Many groups of men went "professional mummers". If they wished to travel after St. Stephen's Day they needed a "permit" from the local Gardai, which covered "The Seven Days" and then followed the "Mummers Dance" - but that's another tale of romance; half-barrells of porter and free "high tea" for the invited - for gate crashing was frowned upon.

Now, or then, it would be a sad void without the 7 days of Christmas - we're for ever cribbing; but how about, if our worthy Carol Singers; this year for a change, donning unusual head-gear and carry at least one lantern. They do look so dark and depressing for many years. Nollaig faoi mhaise dh'ibh go léir.

W.M. Quinn



CAMOGIE CLUB FORMED

Our Camogie Correspondent

A Camogie Club for the Gort region was started in October. It is a welcome addition to the choice of sporting pastimes available to the young girls of South Galway.

Camogie has been keenly supported in Gort Vocational School for many years. Gort also entered a Camogie team in the 1980 Community Games competition and enjoyed some success. A natural progression was the formation of a Club to cater for all the Camogie potential in the region.

Fittingly the Club was founded on October 29th, the feast of St. Colman at a meeting in Gort's Vocational School. The Club officers are:

Chairperson: Fr. Enda Glynn; Vice Chairperson: Michael Cunningham (Garda); Secretary: Anne Mulcaire; Assistant Secretary: Sheila Cunningham; Joint Treasurers: Maureen McGann and Mary Reddy; P.R.O.: Mary Roche; Assistant P.R.O.: Christy McNevin.

At this meeting a wish was expressed to enter teams in the under 14, under 16, junior and senior grades. For the past couple of months girls of post primary school age have trained once a week in St. Colman's Park and after Christmas it is planned to get a definite training schedule for all grades.



Anne Mulcaire, Secretary of the Camogie Club

FUND RAISING

Some fund raising has already taken place. The people of Gort, Kiltartan, Kilmacduagh, and Kilbeacanty generously supported a Church gate collection in November. Gort Youth Club contributed a three figure cheque after their Halloween Disco and the Community Games Committee gave a generous donation.

Finance is needed to buy hurleys, sliothars and jerseys. Hurleys are an expensive item today and the Club subsidises these for the players.

If you would like to join or help the Club contact any officer or one of the following.

Under 14: Caroline McGann and Carmel Burke.

Under 16: Anne Murray and Eva Martyn.

Junior: Noreen Burke and Brid Fallon.

Senior: Anne Mulcaire and Mary Jordan.

The Club caters for a long-felt need in the area and could well have a bright future.



PROPOSAL

*I walk amongst the Sycamore, the Elm and the Ash;
I listen to the call of the birds, their notes both sweet and harsh.
The multicoloured rows of flowers, are beautous to my eye,
So wonderful their many shades, beneath an azure sky.
I think of Nature and of God, but 'specially of you,
As I walk along the emerald grass, that's dressed in gentle dew.
If I were in a foreign clime, or on a lonely isle,
Or in a built up jungle, my thought would be your smile.
No matter where my feet would roam, upon this globe of earth,
Or dangerous perils of the time, my very life engirth,
The only moments in my mind, whatever be the scheme,
Would be the days of happiness, we shared within our dream.
My love for you is like a flame, that never can expire,
But kindle for eternal life, an everlasting fire.
So wonderous darling of my heart, I beg you, stay with me,
And 'low me prove to you, my Dear, my care and love for thee.*

Finance available for House Purchase and Construction

Details from

Joseph McInerney

Manager Gort Office of the

IRISH NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY

P.J. HAWKINS

Foodstore and Newsagent

For all your Christmas shopping with lots of special offers

Wishing all our customers a Happy Christmas and New Year

Phone Gort 217

Call to



DON COEN

Mens and Boys Shop

To view new styles - all colours in Lois and Wrangler jeans, in cords and Denims.

Sweat Shirts by Wrangler and Lois in a wide colour range.



GORT YOUTH CLUB *Enda Glynn*

The arrival of Colman Sherry, Robert Coen and Tony Walsh to the Club to produce a play and some sketches for a Christmas Concert was a great shot in the arm to Gort youth. The play "Spreading the News" by Lady Gregory was an excellent choice and rehearsals were enjoyed by the cast and helpers. The Club are grateful to Gort Dramatic Society for their help.

Another popular Club activity is Mixed Cookery from 9 to 10 p.m. in the Vocational School (Friday night). The two housewives conducting the classes are Mrs. Bridget O'Regan and Mrs. Maureen Spelman who have kindly given of their time.

Badminton, Table Tennis and Indoor Soccer are also Club activities and an Inter St. Quiz (with the option to putt) will be starting shortly.

Some criticism was voiced when the Club did not join the National Federation of Youth Clubs. The feeling in the Club was that its freedom and independence would suffer by joining. The last two years were successful ones for the Club when decision making at all times rested within the Club. Several attempts to impose dates and hours for disco's were resisted. If the Club joined the National Federation its independence in this area would be at an end. So for the moment the Club is happy to go it alone.

Contact with other Youth Clubs in South Galway is a vital part of

the Club's programme. Many other Clubs have sent members to the Disco's organised by the Gort Youth Club. Gort in turn have supported other Clubs: many Club members travelled to Ballyturn for the Kilbeacanty Club Disco and to Ballindereen for the Kinvara/Ballindereen Disco in November. Last year Gort entertained Kinvara Club (twice), Kiltartan and Labane to a night of activities in Gort. These were greatly enjoyed by all.

So the Gort Club, while retaining its independence, is fully aware of its obligations to other young people. It has also helped in

the formation of other Clubs in Gort. Last year a Boxing Club sprung out of a Youth Club activity and this year the Club played a prominent part in the formation of a Camogie Club.

At some stage in the future Gort may join the National Federation. There is of course no point in joining unless they pull their weight. The chore of going to extra meetings and sitting through an inordinate amount of waffle is a further point for consideration.

At the end of the day the important point is that young people, no matter what organisation they serve, cooperate in a spirit of harmony. I hope that Gort Club will, at all times, be open to that spirit.

KILTARTAN YOUTH CLUB

Kiltartan Youth Club has been running for three years now, with great success. The club meets on Friday nights in Kiltartan Old School. Although the accommodation is limited a wide programme is catered for.

Our parents meet occasionally to discuss the functioning of the club and how they can give us their support.

The club is constantly putting new ideas into practise and revising the old ones.

Each year the club elects a committee of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and P.R.O. The committee with the assistance of a number of adults handle the affairs

of the club.

Una Burke

The club starts at eight and finishes at eleven. The youth club is affiliated to The National Federation of Youth Clubs.

We enjoy the activities of the club immensely. We also enjoy meeting one another in a social atmosphere. It is a great opportunity for us to meet our friends who are attending various schools during the week.

In the club we have freedom to decide what activities we should organise and also the responsibility to carry them out properly and effectively. This gives us a great chance to develop our social skills and to become responsible members of the parish.

"A MOST INTELLIGENT FELLOW"!

If somebody said to you that Mr. X was 'a most intelligent fellow' what exactly would he mean? That Mr. X can discuss many and varied topics? That he has a vast store of knowledge? That he is cultured? That he has spent a long time in school? That he can sow potatoes properly? etc. etc.

It is difficult to give an adequate definition of intelligence. It is a hypothetical attribute that is supposed to vary in amount from one individual to another. Therefore it makes sense to say that one individual has more intelligence than another. There is a general consensus that intelligence is best defined as the ability to benefit from experience and to adapt to new situations.

THE I.Q. TEST

A cynic once said that intelligence was 'what the tests test'. Nowadays the idea of 'intelligence' is symbolised by the I.Q. (intelligence quotient) which is obtained through an I.Q. test i.e. a test of performance over a given period of time relative to a person's age. A six year old might be asked such things as, the meaning of certain words e.g. clock, to recognise parts missing in a jig-saw, to count up to a dozen objects, to point out similarities and differences in two pictures, and to trace the correct path through a maze.

There are many factors involved in intelligence test performance. Since mental growth is not regular, it is difficult to say at what stage a person reaches his peak as regards intelligence. There is a general belief however that performance on intelligence tests reaches a peak at age thirty, and shows a decline after



Peadar Ó Conaire

that age. Intelligence is affected by environmental factors, education, and special training. It embraces many functions, not just one ability. It varies according to culture.

A person of low I.Q. is not necessarily unable to cope with daily living, nor is a person of high I.Q. essentially a genius. Indeed people of low I.Q. very often show more social maturity and emotional adjustment than their I.Q. counterparts. 'The famous French writer, Balzac, who was regarded as a literary, displayed a marked inability to cope with ordinary living.

"LIKE FATHER LIKE SON"?

It is generally felt that intelligence is influenced by genetics i.e. the closer the genetic relationship the closer in intelligence. Twins tend to perform equally well on I.Q. tests. The I.Q.'s of children in adoption and those of their biological parents show a

positive correlation. There is no definite trend of similarity between the I.Q.'s of fostered children and those of their foster-parents.

A major weakness in I.Q. tests is in fact that they are verbal in form. If the person being tested hasn't got a sophisticated language structure he is unlikely to do well. Thus people living in slum areas, who are normally culturally deprived, are unlikely to score highly. I.Q. tests are geared towards the middle classes. They take account of one culture, and therefore a person who is a good warrior, an expert boatman etc., i.e. a person who is highly successful in his own small community does not get a fair chance to score highly.

INTELLIGENCE AND SCHOOL

There is a tendency to equate intelligence and schooling — the more schooling a person gets the more intelligent he is supposed to be. But one does not have to go to school to be intelligent. Indeed one does not have to go to school to be educated. (The great philosopher, John Dewey, pointed out that the only time his education was interrupted was when he was in school!) School is a garden in which some of the seeds of intelligence are planted. If the soil is right, normally the seeds will grow. More of the seeds are planted in other gardens with enriched soil. They thrive. Some seeds, because of their poor quality, won't grow in any garden!

No matter how intelligent a person is he doesn't 'know it all'. Consoling isn't it? We live and learn. "Is a computer very intelligent?" the boy asked the teacher. No answer! An intelligent question?

*For all your Christmas shopping
come to*

ANGELA CORCORAN

Church St., Gort
cards & chocolates a speciality - we also
stock a wide variety of your requirements in
grocery, fruit and confectionary

Personal Attention. Seasons greetings to all our customers

WALSH'S BAR & LOUNGE

The Square,
Gort.

We don't keep good drink — we sell it

Phone 205

JOHNO MAC ALLEN AND SET-DANCING

I began set-dancing when I was about 15 years old. We used to go to a different house in the village every night because that time there were no dance halls. Most of the great set-dancers are gone now – Ben Shaughnessy, Lar Nolan, Jack Forde, Willie Daly, Mick Lally, Mick McLoughlin, Maggie Nolan, Margaret Forde, Mary Donoghue and Mary Curley. These were just a few and it was from watching these dance that I first learned to dance. I remember the day Maggie Nolan got married, all the people in the village and from the neighbourhood came. While they were dancing I remember getting a piece of paper and making a sketch of the figures they were doing and the next night there was a dance I was able to do it, and the old people were surprised.

There were seven different kinds of sets – (1) The Paris; (2) The Galway Set; (3) The Lancers; (4) The Caledonian; (5) The Kilfenora Plain Set; (6) The Orange Set; (7) The Clare Set.

Aged 89 years Johno is probably one of the oldest set dancers in County Galway. In this article he recalls his set-dancing days.



John McAllen

LANCERS

Of all these the Lancers was my favourite. The dances often went on until dawn but we didn't care as long as the smoke wasn't coming out of the chimney when we went home. In the 1940's we stopped set-dancing for a while because the dancehalls started opening up and

anyway people were saying our dances were foreign dances. We had our own hall in Crowe Street called "Liberty Hall" where we went every Sunday night and often on a weeknight too. Canon Quinn who was a curate in Gort at this time encouraged us to start set-dancing again. He invited us in to the town-hall and I said we would if we could dance a Lancers. He agreed and said that we could have whatever music we wanted. We had our own local musicians in those days, notable amongst them was Jack Mulcair.

I've danced in nearly every county in Ireland and even in New York. I went there in 1969 and I danced a set in brooklyn with old friends and family over there. One day when someone asked me about the things I thought I'd never do I said – I never thought that I would – (1) Dance in the Church at Clarinbridge; (2) Dance in the Convent with a nun; (3) Dance in the College; (4) Dance in the Square at Gort.

SCHOOL – WITHOUT TEARS

Brendan Winston

Adult Education, second-chance Education, "Night Classes" these are some of the titles given to the Education that is being made available to our Adult Population.

This would seem to be ideal concept in Education where there is no exam pressure, no tears, and no qualifications needed.

Six courses have been completed in first term, these are Farm Accounts, Bridge, Oil-Painting, Graphic Art, Gardening and Rushwork. If required some of these will continue into second term but as they represent only a fraction of the forty-eight courses that were made available in September it is hoped that each new term will bring new courses with new enthusiasm.

12 NEEDED

Courses are organised on the basis of having at least 12 people for each course with a set course fee of 50p per hour.

As courses are organised by the Co. Galway Vocational Education



Three 'graduates' from the Rushwork Class: Gretta Cafferky, Pat Craddock and Maura Grealish

Committee it is usual, but not essential, to have the courses take place in the nearest Vocational School.

Enrolling for the next session will take place in January and as well as the topics already listed it is hoped to make the following courses available – First Aid, Photography, Car-Maintenance,

Spoken Irish, Franch, Set-Dancing, Violin and Mandolin, Keep-Fit, Floral Arrangement, Guesthouse Management and Woodwork for gardeners.

If you require any additional information contact:

Brendan Winston, Adult Education Officer at St. Colman's Vocational School, Gort.

A new T.V. for Christmas?

Why not rent it from

CHRISTY FENNESSY

Radio, TV Rentals and Electrical Contractor

Bridge St., Gort. Phone 64

Santa Claus comes to Gort

Sunday 21st December 3 p.m.

Sullivan's Royal Hotel

Be sure to bring the Children to see him.

KILLEEN'S

Body Builders and Welders



CHURCH ST.,
GORT

wishing all our friends a Happy Christmas

TOMÁS O' QUIGLEY

Unisex Hairdresser

Come to my premises at the
SQUARE, GORT.

Happy Christmas to all my customers



The Overall winning Float at the 1980 Gort Festival

CHRISTMAS COOKERY



Noreen Corcoran

MENU

Appetiser

Avocado & Grapefruit Cups

Main Course

Roast Stuffed Turkey
Roast Potatoes
Honey Glazed Ham
Brussels Sprouts
Carrots
Cranberry Sauce

Dessert

Plum Pudding
Mince Pies
Christmas Cake
Christmas Cracker Cake

AVOCADO & GRAPEFRUIT CUPS (To serve 4)

Ingredients:
2 good sized grapefruits
1 avocado
Lemon juice
4 tablespoons ginger ale
Garnish:
A few sprigs of mint

1. Halve the grapefruits and carefully remove the segments.
2. Zig-zag the edges of the grapefruit shells.
3. Peel the avocado and remove the stone.
4. Chop the flesh roughly and sprinkle with a little lemon-juice.

5. Place the halved grapefruit segments and avocado flesh back into the grapefruit shells and pour one tablespoon of gingerale over each. Garnish with mint.

ROAST STUFFED TURKEY

Ingredients:
10-12 lb Turkey
3-4 oz Margarine
Seasoning
Oil or fat for roasting

Oven Temp.: Pre-heat to Gas Mark 7 - 425°F - 220°C for first ½ hour. Reduce to Gas Mark 4 - 350°F - 180°C for remaining time. Cooking Time: Calculate cooking time after bird has been stuffed. Allow 15 mins per lb and 15 mins over for birds up to 12 lbs in weight.

1. Wipe the bird inside and outside with a damp cloth.
2. Fill the breast cavity with parsley and thyme stuffing. Pull skin gently over stuffing and fasten under wing tips with a skewer or stitch with fine string or thread.
3. Weigh the bird and calculate the cooking time.

4. Season the breast of the turkey and spread with margarine or cover with pieces of bacon fat.
5. Heat the oil or fat in a roasting tin and place the turkey in the tine basting well.
6. Roast at the high temp. for the first 20-30 mins.
7. Reduce the heat and cook for the remaining time, basting frequently.
8. Test by piercing the thigh, no pink juices should be seen.
9. When cooked remove the turkey to a heated serving dish.

HONEY GLAZED HAM

Ingredients:
4½ - 5lb piece of ham
Whole Cloves
4-5 tablespoons brown sugar
4-5 tablespoons clear honey
1 tablespoon mustard
White wine vinegar to moisten

1. Remove the ham from the steeping water.
2. Place skin side down in a large pan and cover completely with cold water.
3. Bring slowly to the boil, removing any skum which arises.
4. As soon as it comes to the boil turn the heat down to a simmer, cover with a lid and cook very gently allowing 25 mins to the lb plus 20 minutes extra.

5. Approximately 45 mins before the cooking time is to be completed remove from water and cool a little.
6. Strip the rind and score the fat in diamonds. Press a clove into each diamond and place the ham on a rack in a roasting tin.
7. Mix the sugar, honey and mustard together, moisten with a little vinegar and spread over the fat.
8. Cook in the preheated oven (Gas Mark 4 - 350°F - 180°C) for the remaining cooking time.
9. Baste with the glaze once or twice.
10. Allow ham to cool before carving, about 15 minutes.

CRANBERRY SAUCE

Ingredients:
1 lb Cranberries
½ pint water
¼ lb sugar

1. Remove stalks from Cranberries.
2. Wash and put into a saucepan with the water.
3. Stew slowly until reduced to pulp.
4. Rub through a sieve, return to saucepan, add sugar and allow to reheat thoroughly.

PLUM PUDDING

Ingredients:
8 oz margarine
8 oz dark brown sugar
7 oz plain flour
12 oz currants
8 oz raisins
6 oz sultanas
2 oz mixed peel
1 oz blanched almonds (chopped)
1 oz chopped cherries
6 oz breadcrumbs
grated rind of 1 lemon
grated rind & juice of 1 orange
1 teaspoon nutmet
1 teaspoon mixed spice
2 large eggs
3-4 tablespoons Guinness

1. Melt the margarine and add to the remaining ingredients in a mixing bowl. Mix very well.

2. Place the mixture in a greased 2 pint pudding bowl.
3. Cover in the usual way.
4. Steam for 5-6 hrs.
5. Cool, re-cover with clean greaseproof paper and store in a cool dry place.
6. On Christmas day re-cover with greased greaseproof paper and foil. Steam for 2-3 hours.

MINCE PIES

Ingredients:
Pastry- 8 oz plain flour
2 oz icing sugar
5 oz margarine
Beaten together- 1 egg yolk
1 tablespoon ice cold water
½ teaspoon lemon juice
¾ lb mincemeat

To make pastry:

1. Sieve the flour and icing sugar together.
2. Place one third of the flour mixture in a mixing bowl together with the margarine and the beaten egg mixture.
3. Cream with a fork until well mixed.
4. Add the remaining flour and mix to a firm dough.
5. Knead lightly until smooth.

To make pies:

1. Make ready 12 ungreased tartlet tins.
2. Roll out ⅔ of the pastry thinly on a lightly floured board.
3. Cut into rounds, a little larger than the tins.
4. Line the tartlet tins with these rounds. Place 1 heaped teaspoon of mincemeat in each.
5. Roll out remaining pastry and cut into rounds with a slightly smaller cutter to fit the tops.
6. Brush round the edges of the tarts with water and place the smaller rounds on top, seal with the fingers.
7. Mark 2 slits in the centre.
8. Lightly beat the leftover egg white with a fork, brush over the pies and sprinkle with castor sugar.

9. Bake in a preheated oven (Gas Mark 6 - 400°F - 200°C) for 15-20 minutes.

CHRISTMAS CRACKER CAKE

Ingredients:
1 Swiss Roll
Filling- 2 tablespoons mincemeat
2 tablespoons apricot jam
Almonds Paste- 8 oz ground almonds
4 oz castor sugar
4 oz sieved icing sugar
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 medium egg
green colouring

1 - 2 tablespoons warmed sieved apricot jam (for brushing almond paste see No. 7)
Decoration: Red Ribbon, Christmas Decoration.

1. Fill Swiss Roll with warmed mince-meat and apricot jam and roll up.
2. Put the icing sugar into a bowl with the castor sugar and ground almonds. Mix well.
3. Add the lemon-juice, almond essence and enough beaten egg to mix into a smooth paste.
4. Gather together with the fingers. Turn out onto a table dusted with icing sugar and knead until smooth.
5. Work a few drops of green colouring into the almond paste.
6. Roll out to an oblong on a sugared table, the length of the Swiss Roll and slightly larger than the circumference.
7. Brush the almond paste with the warmed apricot jam.
8. Cut a groove out of each end of the Swiss Roll, leaving a core of cake in the middle.
9. Place the almond paste around the Swiss Roll gently pressing it into the two grooves.
10. Snip ends of the almond paste with a scissors or pinking shears.
11. Tie a red ribbon around each groove.
12. Pipe a little glacé icing on the cracker if required. Decorate with a suitable decoration.

Late night opening for your

BURGERS STEAK & KIDNEY PIES

THE CORNER CONFECTIONARY

Fresh Pastries, Cakes, Fruit - a Christmas call is a must

Phone Gort 77

THE GORT BOXING CLUB

wishes a Happy Christmas to all its sponsors and to all those who subscribed so generously during the year.

Colm Ward (Secretary)