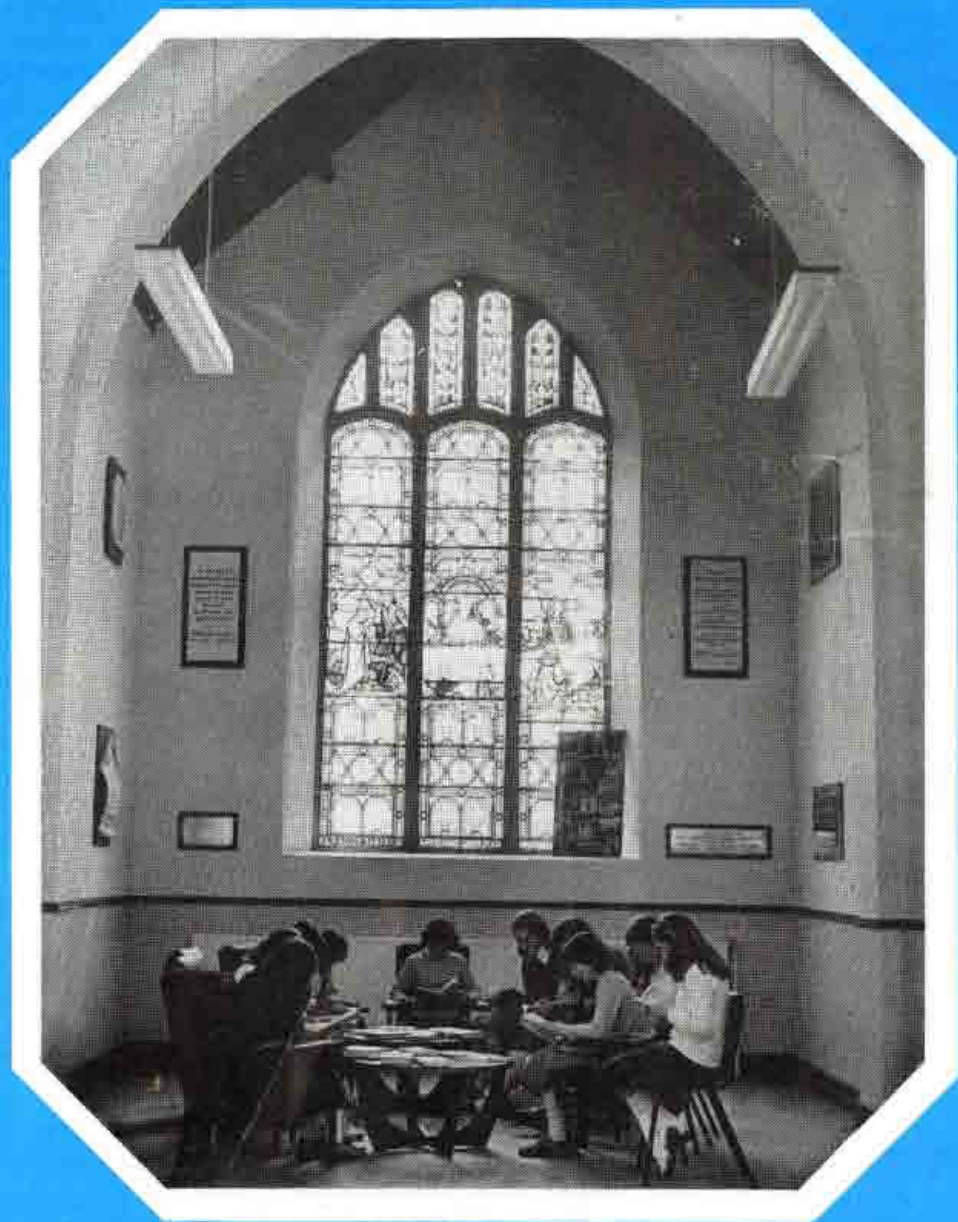


QUAIRE



June 1980

8th Issue

Price 40p

Editorial Board: Fr. Enda Glynn, Peadar Ó Conaire, Josephine Ward, Nicholas Cafferky, Michael Finnegan, John McLoughlin, Frank Lally, Irene Gill, Michael Cooley, Bernadette Fennessy and Ingrid McGrath.

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Photographs: Jimmy Walshe.

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Guairé thanks Fr. Martin Coen for forwarding the article on St. Colman's Park by Atty Brennan and the Gort Gleanings (to be continued).



Cover: *The New Library, Gort.*

A TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

by Mary M. Ward

To-day a phone call from Ireland told me that I had lost the best friend I ever had. I am heartbroken but thankful that God has released her from all her sufferings. I first met my friend over 40 years ago when I was a pupil at the Convent school in Gort. I had time on my hands waiting for a train to take me home and I spent that time mostly in her café and shop. I should have been doing my homework but more

home and out of my bag came a large sod of turf! Another time she had a large peeled onion on her chopping board and bet me I would not eat it all. She had a rather choosy stomach while I was quite the opposite. She stood fascinated and horrified, as I ate the onion as if it were a delicious apple. I won my bet but she 'shot' out the backdoor and came back later looking rather pale.

young Englishman and his friend came into the shop, where I was helping out for the day. We had a chat and they departed. Little did I know that I had met my future husband! For my wedding breakfast my friend made a beautiful four tiered cake, the photo of which left my English relatives and friends almost speechless as some food rationing was still in force over here.

A visit to her was a "must" on all our trips to Ireland and we shall sorely miss that privilege. A few short weeks ago I visited her in her



Two of Madge's nieces awaiting custom - Rita Conway and Mary Breslin.

often than not we joked and gossiped in between her running out to serve in the shop.

She was a great person - a trained confectioner - a good business woman who built up her business against many odds. Straight as a die she said out what she had to say and woe betide anyone who tried to pull a fast one on her but she had a wonderful sense of humour.

I remember once the kindly nuns gave me a large pot of rhubarb jam to take home to my mother. I put it in my school bag. I went to hand it to my mom when I got

In wintertime we would be sitting by the fire in the middle of a chat, when someone would appear in the shop outside. In a loud whisper she'd say "Well Blasht you outside what the devil do you want?" Then she would go out with a smile and say "Yes sir, No sir, I have sir, thank you sir - goodnight" or something similar.

Over the years we became firm friends. All my family got to know her and like her, as later did my husband and children and we all benefited from her friendship.

I Met my Husband
One fateful fair day in Gort a

sick bed in Galway. Though nothing was said I felt sure she knew at was our last "farewell". She had tears as I left, the first time I had ever seen her cry.

She was one of the great characters that dear old Gort manages to produce from time to time. She was a first class Christian, a do gooder on the quiet and had a host of friends and acquaintances.

She never married, yet, she was never a "Miss". She was "Madge" to everyone and especially to those in her adopted home-town of Gort - Madge Burke. May the light of heaven shine on her dear Soul!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation – Another View
The Preparation

by Niall Clabby.

For weeks before the Confirmation we were preparing, buying clothes, shoes and other such things to make us look "nice" and "decent" looking for the big day. And then there was the Spiritual preparation many long hours were spent learning prayers, questions and hymns.

On the advice of one of our teachers we all made a Novena to St. Jude to help us pass the Diosecan exam. The day of the exam dawned bright and sunny but the sun could not dispel the air of gloom that hung round the school. We had all been told how shameful it would be to get our question wrong, we would be unable to hold our heads up in public ever again. Then there was the more horrifying possibility – we mightn't get a half day. The Inspector came at half past ten and started to test us.

Personally I felt confident that I would get my question right mainly because I had spent hours the night before writing the answers on the back of my hand. At last the Inspector came to me and asked me could I make silage on a Sunday. I knew that you could make hay on a Sunday if it had been raining the week before and if Sunday was the only fine day so thinking that there wasn't too much difference between hay and silage I said "Yes, if it had been raining the week before" "but I think you can make silage on a wet day so I'm afraid you're wrong" he said. With those few words I knew I was doomed. I would have to walk around with a paper bag over my head for the rest of my life. But at the end of the exam we were told that we all had passed and that we could all take the rest of the day off. As

Shakespeare once said "Much ado about nothing!"

The Big Day

The big day really started for me at about eight o'clock in the morning when my two sisters announced that they were going to give me breakfast in bed (which in itself was a miracle.) After "breakfast" (which consisted of a half bowl of cornflakes and a cup of cold tea). I got up and got dressed and at about quarter to eleven we headed off to the Church. It was easy to see that something special was going on, the front of the Church was decked with bunting and flags and the statues on the way into the Church were so clean that it was the first time we had noticed they were there. I was one of the lads chosen to bring up the gifts and so the other lads who were doing the readings etc. were given the privilege of sitting in the front seat.

Bishop Casey Arrives

It was about quarter past eleven when his Lordship arrived but as little starts on time in Gort we weren't surprised. The bells began to toll announcing that his Lordship had arrived. His Lordship walked to the top of the Church and had a little chat with us, he asked us if we had the "jitters" and when we said yes he told us not to worry as he would let us know what we had to do. After speaking with us he went into the Sacristy to vest, a few minutes later he walked down the Church with the other concelebrants in procession to the Altar. The Bishop explained the meaning of Confirmation in very simple everyday terms. The Sacrament was conferred after the



Niall Clabby

reading of the Gospel. Surprisingly the ceremony wasn't as complicated as we expected – in all we had to say five words and we were strong and perfect Christians. After Mass we were given a little card with a prayer on it written by Bishop Casey. After his Lordship had had a few words with us he started towards the door to have his photographs taken with those who had been confirmed and their families but he wasn't quick enough before he had gone two steps he was set upon by autograph hunters. What I found funny was that everybody had brought prayer books to be autographed only one of us had brought a biro.

Donations

No Holy Communion or Confirmation day is complete without the usual contribution from favourite Aunts and Uncles. Perhaps I was luckier than others for a few minutes before I was about to go to the Church who pulled up for petrol but Uncle X from Oranmore. As I spotted I invited him down for a "cuppa". I hinted gently to him of the day that was in it. As he is noted in the family circle for his generosity he did not let himself down and more important he did not let me down.

Fr. Mathew Haughey



W.M. Quinn
There once was a Priest named Mathew,
To curb drink in Ould Ireland he tried;
He had little success
And the reason you'll guess –
Was, 'cause Charlie was not by his side.

The curse of the Irish is drinkin'
And fags bring them closer to die;
With one blow of his Budget
The Great Haughey Trumpet
Made them harder for addicts to buy.

Sir Humphrey Atkins, foolish man,
Said, "the Blanket men remain".
While the Empire doth die
Not a tear in his eye –
Awh! Gawd must the fools all remain.

Mugabe and Joshu Nkomo
Are Lords of the Bush and the Plain;
But says Bould Mister Smith
It's only a myth –
My Empire I still must retain.

There's a Bill in the Dáil called
"Conversion"
When a man can quote law for his wife;

While most hateful of men
Can sin and can win –
In this horrible unequal strife.

The Ministers say, "cut down petrol,
It's killin' our frail 'conomey –
Yet Mercedes they use
With ten miles to the Juice –
Cut out Hypocrites all do we say.

Majority in the North must Rule
Says the "Bible Thumpin" Paisley;
He can rant at his ease
His Coherts to please –
But he'd better take it more aisley.

She could drink 'till the cows
would come Home;
She drank bottles of Whiskey and Gin,
And from all she did drink
Her liver did shrink –
'Till autophesy could trace Nothing
withen.

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ST. COLMAN'S PARK

In its history as a sport's field St. Colman's Park has been the scene of many events — horse shows, gaelic games, rugby, athletics and the odd game of tennis.

Perhaps, the horse show above all else was the major spectacle. In its heyday it was deservedly called: 'the Ballsbridge of the West' — attracting such international partners as Mr. Tommy Wade and Dundrum.

The Guaire Cup, originally a competition between the hurling champions of Clare and Galway, was not to be out done for explosive action and entertainment value — a confrontation between Crusheen and Tommy Larkin's in 1971 was later called the 'Battle of Gort'.

A history of victories and defeats, joy and despair, controversy and reconciliation but above all many fine hours of entertainment.

Early Meeting

All this seems remote from a correspondence between Mr. Robert Lahiffe and Fr. George Quinn in 1947 in connection with acquiring a sports field for Gort. July 28th, Fr. Quinn called a public meeting at St. Colman's Hall where proposals for a new playing field were to be discussed. Details of the early meeting are well documented, the following is a copy of the agenda:

1. Do the people of the town want a playing field?
2. What kind of field
— a park: where any recreational activity may be held or
A gaelic pitch: where gaelic games alone would be held.
3. Mr. Robert Lahiffe is prepared to sell a ten acre field, situated

Some early issues and events

at Ballyhue on the Tubber Road, at one hundred pounds per acre. Are the people agreeable to buying it?

4. How is the money to be procured?
5. The election of a committee who will act in the name of the towns people.

The meeting was well supported



Members of the old Show Committee: Back row left to right — G.M. Keane (Treasurer), M. Brennan (Secretary), T. Consideine (Vice-Chairman), Fr. Moroney, J.J. Coen (Chairman), E. Roche, E. Walsh and P. Moylan. Front left to right: P. Shaughnessy, P. O'Connor, J. Murphy and J. Kelly.

with representatives from each street, however it appears to an all male affair.

A motion by Mr. J.C. Murphy: 'That a sports field for Gort was a necessity' was quickly passed; setting a decisive tone to the meeting.

The second proposal was apt to cause some friction considering the split in the Irish sporting world created by the ban. But the minutes record 'It was unanimously decided that every game would have free access and the freedom to be carried out according to their own rules.'

On the third item Mr. A.J. Flynn proposed and Mr. J.C. Murphy seconded a motion accepting Mr. Lahiffe's Offer.

As regard procuring finance, the minutes record, that a number of methods were discussed (none remotely resembling a mayoral election). Mr. G. Heenan proposed that a 'limited company be formed and shares issued'. On this point, the chairman, Fr. Quinn, indicated the danger of issuing shares and preserving the field status as the towns property. "One or two people could buy the majority of

shares and control the field for their own interests", said Fr. Quinn, "and this would defeat our primary purpose". More successful was Mr. B. Coen's motion that £2000 be raised from town's people at 2½%.

Next, the election of a committee to buy and govern the running of the field. The following were elected: Chairman, Fr. George Quinn C.C.; Treasurer, Mr. J. Morrissey; Secretary, Mr. J. Nelly; with committee members Mr. A.J. Flynn (Solr.), Mr. C.I. Foley (Solr.), Mr. J.C. Murphy (Solr.), Mr. B. Coen, Mr. J.J. Coen, Mr. Dennis O'Brien, Mr. Patrick Broderick, Mr. J. Keane, Mr. M. Brennan, Mr. E. Roche, Mr. T. Staunton, Mr. J. Kelly, Mr. J. Spelman, Mr. G.

Heenan and Mr. T. Lambert.

Rising out of the meeting it was decided to issue a pamphlet containing the following: "The people of Gort at a public meeting in St. Colmans Hall, July 28th, appointed a committee to purchase and develop a field containing ten acres at Ballyhugh. The committee have decided to borrow £2000 on loan from the people of the town in units of £5.0.0. The opportunity of soliciting your support for this laudable venture should not be missed."

By August 8th £1,085 was received from a street collection. In the meantime other methods of raising funds were underfoot.

Fund Raising Efforts

The effort to pay off the field, in many ways, brought the whole community together in a common purpose. Improvements to the field were carried out with the aid of free labourer — one man from each house for one day. Flexibility was a quality required for many enterprises as individuals were cast in unfamiliar roles, especially during carnival times. The minutes record that: "Derby Race Stewards, Mr. G. Keane, Mr. J. Gallagher; Pongo was left to Mr. J. Spelman and the late Mr. J. Keane; Roulette table, Mr. J.J. Coen and Mr. E. Roche; with Mr. T. Lambert and Mr. P. Broderick in charge of the slot machines. Members of the Legion of Mary helped by providing teas."

Money was also raised by clubs paying an annual fee, in addition to 15% of gate receipts — at a match between St. Colmans and Tynagh in 1948, £60 was collected. Of all the enterprises the horse cum agriculture show provided the most revenue as one member commented: "The Show society were the only people from whom the Park arrived any real worth while income."



The Gymkana Committee: C. Molloy, D. Curley, M. Quinn, M. Roughan and J. Gillane R.I.P.

The Show Society

What was later to be called the "Gort Agricultural Show" had attentive start. After a visit to neighbouring shows in Athenry and Loughrea a group comprising of Mr. J.J. Coen, Mr. D. O'Brien, Mr. J. Nelly and Mr. E. Roche decided to hold a modified show in September 1948.

From small beginnings it developed into a very comprehensive and prestigious meeting. A brief glimpse through an old catalogue will reveal the wide range of activities covered. The agricultural show included a livestock and tillage section, with competitions for horses, cattle, sheep and pigs, crops, garden produce, not to mention a home crafts section.

The most successful feature of the show was the jumping competitions, with a display cabinet holding six perpetual cups. It attracted the major jumpers in the country. Names like Mr. John J. Costello, Ennis; Mr. James Wade, Cashel; Mr. F. McGarry, Sligo; not forgetting local heroes like Maxie Scully and the Kilroy brothers Billy and John. The more coveted prizes were the Lahiffe Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Champion Hunter; the Gough Cup for the children's pony jumping; the O'Brien Perpetual Cup for children's pony jumping; the

O'Flynn Cup for a novice competition; the Dr. Browne Cup for the Carling Black Label Stakes and the Fitzgerald Cup for the High Pole competition.

Apart from the actual participants a tremendous amount of work was put in by the organisers. The major decisions were taken by an executive committee while a general committee gave support when needed. One of the dominant people behind the show was its chairman for many years the late Mr. J.J. Coen. Speaking at a committee meeting in 1954, when the Society had been six years in existence, he said, "during my time as chairman, the society has overcome many obstacles, there was plenty of hard work put into promoting and organising, but I enjoyed every minute of it — the shows had been an outstanding success". Another colourful character was Mrs. M. O'Brien, she was a generous sponsor contributing prizes to children's show jumping classes as well as a silver tea service for the home crafts competition. She was not, however, beyond criticising the men for ignoring the ladies committee.

By 1951, the Show was well established, with a sound financial position, stemming in the main from profitable marquee dances. They easily paid their £50 annual

rent to the Park committee. The air of confidence was evident in the way the organisation showed its gratitude — for her assistance to the show Miss Maureen Walsh was presented with a fountain pen before her departure to America.

After the 1951 show, the committee decided to buy a field where they could erect permanent show buildings — a five acre field adjoining the Park was purchased at £250 per acre. Work commenced on a show hall and largely through the efforts of Mr. P. O'Connor the building was soon completed. The show had reached its pinnacle. Show concerts attracted such stars as Albert Healy, Kevin Hilton, Rory O'Connor. Dances with céilí bands from Ballinakill, Abbey and Tulla in addition to the ordinary Agricultural Show. Without any doubt, the Show Society had assembled in its ranks the most effective community workers.

It is not surprising when a new initiative in industrial development was announced by the Government in 1952, that the show committee would be approached to form a local development organisation. Two years later in 1954, the show

hall and grounds were sold for £5,000 for the purposes of setting up a factory — Guaire Fabrics. While the Show continued on till 1966 it never regained its prestige of the early 50's.

Industrial Development

Through the sixties and early seventies the selling of the Park for industrial development seemed a very likely possibility. In the mid-sixties the newly formed Chamber of Commerce requested that the Park should be sold for the purposes of industrial development. In fact, the minutes record, that the committee were in favour of selling field for £2,000 but nothing appears to have come of it. A further effort was made in 1970.

At the time, Mr. Heenan voiced

the opinion that disposing the field for a factory was going contrary to its original purpose-providing recreational facilities for the youth of the town. Expressing another view, Dean Hynes, saw the great need in attracting industry to the town, "in my experience, the Dean, said, I see a lot of young people leaving town for want of employment."

Despite the many discussions regarding its future the Park has remained a sports field. In more recent years, the sports clubs in the town are taking a more active interest in its development with the erection of dressing rooms and floodlights.

Anthony Brennan

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Hello Mamma

by Anne Marie Dillon

Today, I decided to speak to you — to speak to your mind. I don't want to do this as it makes you feel guilty and sad, but I have to come and speak to you because today you are upset. I want to put your mind at rest.

Today, little Johnny, your next door neighbour was two years old. Why did you cry Mamma? Were you thinking that I would also be two years old around this time, had you let me live? Were you bitter because you knew that my father would not stand by me like Johnnys' father does? Were you crying because Johnny's mother has a modern home and not a run-down flat that you would have had for me had they not cruelly killed me?

Mamma, I am happy where I am, but you are not. I got a high reward because my weak delicate little limbs suffered a cruel torture that I did not even understand at that time. Only sadness rules your life Mamma. Every night you dream of a little boy crying out for mercy and crying out for life. Every night you awake in a cold sweat, feeling guilty and desperate. You sleep little and Mamma you have no one to run to.

Not Wanted

Mark — my father didn't want to know you once he learned that I was on the way. My grandparents didn't want to hear of me. Nobody welcomed me into my little life, not even you Mamma. I was much too young to know what was happening to me.

You know Mamma, I was sad when I saw that, instead of you waiting for me to show you how wonderful and good I could be, you were going to a backstreet to get rid of me as soon as possible. I suffered

Mamma. Not the pain of the cruel way I died, but the pain of knowing that I was not wanted. I am not bitter and Mamma I want you to know that I am content. Sometimes though I feel sad at the thought of you never seeing your little boy.

You never saw my wavy black hair and my deep blue eyes. You never saw my smiles, my happiness and most of all my sadness. You never saw that I looked just like you Mamma and I am glad that I do. You had nobody behind you and yet you survived the sadness of these last two years. Yes Mamma, I am proud of being like you. You are strong and when you cry, you do so behind closed doors.

I could have made you proud Mamma, but it is too late for that now isn't it? I would not have minded your beaten up old flat. I did not want Mark as a father — he was a coward. Mamma, all I wanted was you and life. All I wanted was to be your son and make you proud



of me. You know sometimes I think about all this and I cry out, "Oh Mamma, why did you do this to me?"

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Hurling in the Tech
Gearoid Keating

GORT G.A.A.

This year 1979/80 has proved to be a very successful hurling year in St. Colman's Vocational School, Gort. The year started unsuccessfully when the senior team was defeated in their first two games which crushed all hopes of winning the County Championship. The general opinion amongst most pupils was that this was going to be a bad year for hurling in the school.

But they were proved wrong, for on the 9th of May, the Vocational school fielded a team which won the under -15 Connacht Final. This team had encouraging wins up to the Final defeating Loughrea, Athenry, and Moneenagesha twice. Moneenagesha were expected to be a major threat but in the final, Gort were much too good for them. Responsible for this was the brilliant training and coaching of Pat O'Toole and Brendan Winston and the co-operation of the team. The team had some outstanding players in John Burke, Pat Flaherty and Capt. Gay Gardiner, other players that shone were Gerry McInerney, Kieran Niland, Gerry Connors, Michael Helebert and Goalie, Christy Niland.

Exactly 12 days later the under fourteen team won the Connacht Final beating Portumna by a staggering margin of 12 points. Once again the team was coached by the inevitable couple, Pat and Brendan. This was a good tough game, but Gort were much too good for them.

Players who stood out were Gerry McInerney, Joe Quinn, Martin Killeen, Michael Flaherty and Al Callinan. The last time they won the double before was in 1975, and in 1978 they produced a senior team that won not only the

Connacht Final but also the All-Ireland.

So things are looking up in the Vocational school for a repeat of 1978 in the near future.



St. Colman's Vocational Connacht Champions Under 15.
Back Row from left: Sean Joyce, Gerard O'Connor, Joe Quinn, Michael Helebert, Patrick Flaherty, Brendan Connors, John Burke, Francis Burke, Gerry McInerney, Tim Gleeson, Kieran Niland, John Mahon and Coach Pat O'Toole.
Front Row: Killian McGann, Al Callinan, Desmond Deeley, P.J. Pyne, Christy Niland, John J. Brennan, Martin Killeen, Patrick Neilan, Martin Kavanagh, Michael Flaherty and Michael Keenan.

HURLING IN THE COLLEGE

Michael Cooley

The Juveniles had a very good year but a very disappointing end. The matches went like this through the course of the year.

October 1979 - Gort v Portumna, Portumna won.

November 1979 - Gort v St. Mary's Galway, Gort won.

January 1980 - Gort v Athenry, Gort won.

February 1980 - Gort v Loughrea, Gort won.

March 1980 - Gort v Garbally, Gort won.

Connacht Championship:

April 6th Gort v Loughrea, Gort won.

Connacht Final:

May 14th - Gort v Portumna, Gort lost.

The team was: James Brady, Joseph Maloney, John Nelly, Neigal Harrington, Alan Naughton, Anthony Cunningham, Captain Johnny Lee, John Waites, Michael

Leech, Sean Donoghue, Pascal Sheehan, Tony Hogan, Sean Keane, Albert Kerin, David Murray. Subs: Brian Murray, John Cummins, Niall Shaw, Emmett Slattery, Eddy

Lynch, J.J. Morrissey.

The Juniors won the Connacht Championships this year in just two matches. First match was against St. Mary's, Gort won. Then in the final they played Garbally and won.

The Senior team got on fairly well in the Championship but got knocked out in the Semi-Final.

Gort v Garbally, Gort lost 1-4 to 0-8.

Gort v St. Mary's, Gort won 4-7 to 2-3.

Gort v Loughrea, Gort won 8-6 to 1-6 away.

Gort v Portumna, Gort lost 2-6 to 2-8 (at home).

Connacht Semi-Final:

Gort v Garbally, Gort lost.

The team was: Sean Moylan, Martin O'Donnell, Tom Helebert, Colman Roche, Joe Byrne, Joe Murphy, Ollie Walsh, Anthony Cunningham, John Keehan, John Fahy, John Lambert, Michael Conroy, Albert Moylan, Captain Michael

Monaghan. Subs: Pat Fogarty, Shane Murphy, Declan Spelman, Gerry Healy, Declan Kelly, Matt Cunningham.

So all in all the college did not have a bad year.



St. Colman's Vocational Connacht Champions Under 14:
Back Row left to right: Francis Reilly, Patrick Neilan, Sean Joyce, Denis Keehan, Shane O'Shaughnessy, Brendan Connors, Joe Quinn, Michael Helebert, Gerry McInerney, Tim Gleeson, Al Callinan, Michael Sullivan, Michael Flaherty and Coach Pat O'Toole.
Front Row: Patrick Lally, Gabriel Niland, Sean O'Connor, Patrick Canny Aidan Armstrong, Christy Niland, John J. Brennan, Dermot Stankard, Killian McGann, Martin Kavanagh, Martin Killeen and Thomas Keane.

G.A.A. - THE UNDER AGE SCENE

1980 has let loose a veritable explosion of activity for the juvenile hurlers and footballers of Gort. Already the under-14 hurlers have played 4 matches (3 wins, one defeat) and the under 16 footballers have won two out of two.

The lads have the following to anticipate:

Completion of Championship, Community Games, Inter-towns 11-a-side, and Féile na nGael - all under-14 hurling.

Under-16 Hurling Championship;
Under-16 County Football League;
Under-16 County Football Championship;

Under-13 Community Game, Football.

Guard Christy Moran has taken on the managership of the Under-14 footballers and has run a very successful inter-national school football league. Congrats to the winning Kiltartan team!

Pinnacle of the year for the under-14 hurlers will be Féile na

nGael 1980, which is to be held in County Galway from June 29th - July 6th. Thirty one clubs in the County will act as hosts to the Champions (under-14) of the other 31 Counties from Friday 4th to

Sunday 6th July. Gort guests will be the Champions of Westmeath.

All teams have been graded into



Our Lady's College Gort, Connacht Junior Champions.
Back Row from left: Joe Lambert (Trainer), Michael Monahan, John Lambert, Jarlath McInerney, Raymond Hynes, Tom Helebert, Aidan McGann, Gerard Regan, Brian Monahan, Gerard Healy, Matthew Cunningham, Michael Killeen, Ollie Walsh and Sean Devlin (Trainer).
Front Row from left: Richard Larkan, Pat Taafe, Sean Moylan, Joseph Byrne, Kieran Reddy, Anthony Cunningham, Andrew Forde, Gerard Fahy, Gerry Rochford, Declan Spelman and John Keehan.

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five different divisions. Each division will play down to 2 teams on Saturday 5th July and the divisional finals will be played in Pearse Stadium, Salthill on Sunday, 6th July. The Gort team plays its visitors at 11 a.m. on the Saturday, the winners going on to the next round.

The boys from the Midlands will arrive on Friday evening, 4th July. It is planned to have them stay, preferably in pairs in homes in the Parish. The weekend calls for a big effort by the Gort G.A.A. Club. The provision of entertainment, meals, and transport is only part of the task, but when the Champions of Westmeath return to their homes on the Sunday night it will be with fond memories of their stay among us.

by Frank Lally

RUNNIN'!

Gerardine Killeen

I'm down on my bended knee thanking God and his blessed mother that the "winter season" is over at last. Not that the summer holds much, I mean, there's the Leaving, but any penance, any toil or pain is better than the "winter season" and the cross country running!

WEEK-END FROLICS

The "cross country" of which I speak, reader, strikes fear and mortal dread in my heart. For during the winter months, the lithe members of the household, along with other youths from the local A/C, engaged in masuehistic training (for the enjoyment of the self infliction of pain is the only explanation for it) for the "frolics" at the weekend when we would get together, travel miles and run themselves into the mud. But the real agony was suffered by me. I was a member of the backing crew and (there are a few others, saints all God bles 'em who never get the glory but toil without end).

TACTICS

The pain of it as you felt the weekend approach. Friday nights saw me cringe and close my eyes for as the lads talked of Sunday's tactics over tea in the sitting room, I could envisage what was about to happen, for it was always the same.

The real "fun" would start on Saturday morning when my Mum, looking with deep melancholy at the rain (it always rained!) would declare that the washing would go on regardless. Then the ocean of socks and togs and singlets and how were we to dry them in the pouring rain? Oh! The boys didn't care, they would simply deposit the gear as if their task was done and

without any scruple leave the charring to us.

THE GRUB!

After my customary Saturday study preparation began with the shopping - food, sustenance must be got.

There were always chickens. Always! Chicken for sandwiches.



Gerardine Killeen.

They were to be cooked on Saturday night (but oft did a lovingly pore over them till the small hours of the Sunday morning) for Sunday, so we would stuff and baist and fry before an open oven so that food would be on hand the following day.

Then the baggage was collected. The boys packed their own gear, poor creatures(!) After I would air and run. Then we got the gas cylinder and blower to boil the kettle. All the food bread, butter, sugar, tea bags, cuttlery, paper cups and plates all were stowed away.

Water was always a problem in '76 early days so we took to taking our own. A 5 gallon can was scoured out every Saturday night and failed on Sunday morning so that they would have tea and a

wash when it was wanted.

Towels, sponges, soap were also packed as they were a great necessity on such a muckey venture. Oh! When I think of all they brought. All bar the kitchen sink!

I'd be at it till all hours ironing, checking, double checking, pleading with the boys to pack this and leave that Oh! What drugery I suffered.

THE ANTI-CLIMAX

But after all the toil, after all the early rising on Sunday morning, I was sentenced to stay at home to look after the younger of the clan and stew in my own juice while awaiting news of how they had fared. I spent dull Sunday evenings glued to the sports results in hope of hearing a word.

Finally after cramming to hear the car approach I would be put out of my misery by their return - often with glad tidings.

BACK TO THE SINK GIRLIE!

But no sooner would they be in the door than I would be charged with steeping all the gnotly socks and surdey gear in an undecidable state of absolute filth! Yeach!

But over the sink I oft times thought of the peace and quiet of the comming week. Oh! But Friday seemed to come round very fast.

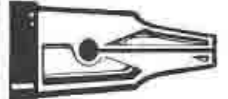
I suffered at the hands of the "winter season" reader so much that I now loath chicken, despise packed lunches am bored and figety on quiet Sundays - and all because of "The Runnin'".

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Letter from the Great Lakes



Greetings, Fellow Gortonians:

The first seven issues of *Guaire* made their way across an ocean and half a continent to the shores of Lake Michigan. Here in Milwaukee, I really enjoyed everything from Bridget Noone's introductory article about Gort to Willie Quinn's serial "When Lint was Lint". Congratulations to all those involved in this excellent Gort publication.

Others, too, enjoyed *Guaire*. For example, in November I was the guest of Sister Amata (my aunt), Sister Gertrude (Fahey), and Sisters Dympna, Kevin and Charles in St. Joseph's Convent in Peoria, Illinois. (These last three are, of course, the Walsh gals from Ballinruan. Sister Dympna came to the Midwest in August, 1912, and Sisters Kevin and Charles followed in November, 1920.) These five sprightly nuns from South Galway read the various issues of *Guaire* as devotedly as they do their office. They send their prayers and blessings to all at home.

My home these years is Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Lake Michigan, 100 miles north of Chicago. Here I share the pleasures of Irish literature with American students. We are having a particularly severe winter. In January we had a record snow blizzard, which caused havoc for Americans, who are so dependent on their cars.

Winter

Although daytime temperatures in winter are below freezing point, the sun is shining, the sky is blue, and everything is vivid. Personally, I prefer this dry cold to Irish drizzle.

I often walk on the bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan. The

view from there is like that from Howth over the Irish Sea. You imagine that you can see the opposite shore (or Wales) on the horizon. While flying east during Christmas, midway over Lake Michigan I could indeed see both shores. Over Lake Erie, that iced lake with its long cracks looked like a prairie of snow crossed by lonely roads.

The side of Lake Michigan is frozen solid, and you can walk out on it as if it were the Flaggy Shore. I sometimes think of lines from a song by Bob Dylan, who comes from the north country near Lake Superior:

Twilight on the frozen lake
North wind about to break
Footprints in the snow
Silence down below . . .

There was a strange incident here during the January snowstorm. Two icecutters were breaking ice together on the lake, when the ice decided to try ship breaking. As the *Milwaukee Sentinel* described it, the smaller ship "fell into the grip of a translucent blue vise. Winds forced together huge chunks of ice.

Christopher Griffin.



Tons of pressure pinched the 100 foot cutter." The ship was abandoned, and "its 20 crewmen hiked 300 yards through a blinding snowstorm over treacherous ice" to the other cutter.

Actually, it was a more tragic accident on Lake Michigan that may have prevented Milwaukee from becoming an Irish center. On a foggy night in September, 1860, the *Lady Elgin* was returning from an excursion to Chicago with the leaders of the Irish community in Milwaukee. A lumber boat rammed into its prow, and about 300 Irishmen were drowned. So Irish economic and political power never developed here.

Still, Milwaukee, with its people from Poland and Germany, is a friendly city, and has its fair share of Tom Shaughnessys and Molly Fahys.

Best wishes to all in Gort,
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out and about

All Star Trip

Brother Colman Flaherty, Tiernevan, won a trip to America with the All Star Football and Hurling teams next October. Purchaser of a Massy Ferguson tractor Brother Colman was one of the lucky names drawn from a hat to make the trip. He is a brother of Johnny Flaherty, Tiernevan, Gort.

All Ireland Medal

John Burke, Castleday, a third-year pupil in St. Colman's Vocational School, played centre field on the Galway team that brought the first All Ireland Vocational Schools hurling title to Galway on May 4th. John plays in goal for St. Thomas's senior team and was a key member of the 'Tech' team that won this year's Connacht Under 15 hurling title. With continued dedication John has a bright hurling career in prospect.

Cookery

Geraldine Moloney, a pupil in St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Secondary School qualified for the All Ireland Finals of this year's



Geraldine Moloney.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara Fish Cookery Competition. Geraldine won 2nd prize in the Western Regional Qualifying Zone. The finals were held in Killarney and were followed by a beautiful reception, dinner and Cabaret in the Great Southern Hotel. Geraldine is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paddy Moloney, Solair, George's St. At the Great Southern

function they met Ronnie Counihan, one of the Assistant Managers, who made them feel very much at home.

Twins

Two sets of twins were baptised in Gort Church in recent months. The first set were Helena Mary and John David Curley, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. David Curley, Loughrea Road, Gort. The second set were Dermot Joseph and Shane Christopher Donohue, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Donohue, now resident in Dublin. Mrs. Donohue was formerly Miss Maura Carty, George's St.

Bridge

The Bridge Club has adjourned for the summer after an enjoyable season. Prizes for the year were presented by the Club President Mr. Pat Cunningham at a function in Sullivan's Hotel on Tuesday 13th May. The main prizewinners were:

Team of Four

1st John Moylan, Tommy McGovern, Pat Craddock, Jack Farrelly.

2nd Greg Lundon, Pat Cunningham, Cecily Coen and Mary Sadlier.

3rd Joe Muldoon, Michael Cunningham, Paddy Piggott and Breda Piggott.

Presidents Prize

1st Greg Lundon.
2nd Fr. Enda Glynn.
3rd Rita Lundon.
4th Mary Noone.

Pairs Competition

1st Joe Muldoon and Michael Cunningham.
2nd Marie Fennessy and Fr. Enda Glynn.

3rd John Moylan and Tommy McGovern.

Sullivan Cup

1st Joe Muldoon and Michael Cunningham.

2nd Mrs. Pauline Glynn (R.I.P.) and Fr. Enda Glynn.

3rd Jack and Nuala Murphy.

Pat Cunningham was a most popular President and Brid Burke performed sterling work as Secretary. During the year Joe Muldoon capably performed the duties of Tournament Director, assisted by Joan Griffin.

An injection of new blood in September would greatly boost the Club.

Gort Youth Club

In the final of the Inter-St. Debating Competition Church St. beat Galway Road and won valuable trophies. The motion for the final was difficult: "That Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel". Adjudicators were Paddy Moloney, Mary Whelan and Carmel Kelly. In his summing up the Chairman of the Adjudicators, Paddy Moloney, congratulated all who participated in the Debates. Debating was a worthwhile activity - it helped people to research a subject, it gave them the discipline of putting together a speech and it gave them confidence in standing before a crowd. It was a valuable training for young people.

The Youth Club Committee are planning a Youth Week at the moment for its members. The week will start on Monday, 30th June and go on to Friday, 4th July. Soccer, Basketball, Treasure Hunts, Picnics, Slow Bicycle Races and several other novel activities will be

part of the week. Mr. Freddie Smith in appreciation of the Youth Club's presentation of 'This is Your Life' has kindly donated a set of Trophies for the Soccer Blitz.

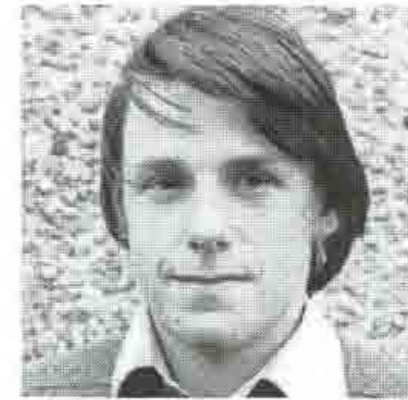
Disco's

During the year Gort Youth Club ran five Disco's for its members - all were run during Holiday periods in order not to interfere with school activities. The Club decided at its first meeting that the time for Disco's would be from 9.30 to 1 a.m. This decision was reviewed at a general meeting in March and re-affirmed. Parents who wished their children to be home earlier were advised to make their own arrangements to effect same.

Several commentators have been making their opinions known on the question of disco's. The airing of views is a healthy process in any society. The 1 a.m. finishing time has elicited much adverse comment. As mentioned already this decision was made at the Youth Club's A.G.M. last September and re-affirmed at a special meeting in March. It is a democratic decision taken by Gort Youth Club members. As such it must be respected.

A much more serious matter over which the Youth Club have no direct control is the question of young people getting home from disco's. It is clear for some time that parents have been falling down in this responsibility in a number of instances. Every effort is made to ensure that the disco's are well run and trouble free. Anyone with even a hint of alcohol is refused admission. Where are these young people getting drink? Do parents know that some of their children are drinking? Perhaps the commentators might direct their attention to these areas and try and effect improvement.

A number of parents bring their children home at 11.30 to 12 p.m.



Successful Youth Club Treasurer Joe Roche.

from disco's, calling in to collect them. These parents have never been heard to complain and their sons and daughters don't seem to be in any way retarded. This initiative by parents is commended.

As for travelling to outside disco's each family must make its own decision. That is where the buck stops.

Finally it must be noted that disco's occupy only a small percentage of youth club activities over the year.

Rugby

The Rugby Club had its most successful season to date. Highlights were the installation of Floodlights for training purposes, the organising of Mayoral Election and the feat of qualifying for the final of the Ard na Gregg Trophy against Sligo. Club Officers for 1980-1981 are:

President: Donal Connolly.
Treasurer: John Kilroy.
Fixtures Secretary: Greg Lundon.

Hon. Secretary: Donal Connolly, Capt. Billy Kilroy, Vice Capt. Brian Jennings.

P.R.O.: Junie Finnegan.

Thrift Sale

On a number of recent Saturdays at the residence of the late Miss Kilduff a thrift sale was held to raise funds for the Social Services. The sale was quite successful and

some fine articles of clothing were sold. It is hoped to resume the same again after the summer recess.

Taisce Campaign

The Gort Branch of An Taisce ran a most successful Campaign Week recently. Features of the week were a Whist Drive, a Raffle for a beautiful tweed painting of Thoor Ballylee (presented by Mrs. Kitty North) and a well-supported Cake-Sale. Sterling work was performed by the Committee, especially its Secretary, Mrs. Mary Donnellan.

The Crane has re-opened as a Tourist Information Centre for the Gort region. It is staffed for several



Taisce Sec. Gort Branch, Mrs. M. Donnellan.

hours each weekday by a group of volunteers. The Taisce branch in Gort was highly commended last year for this project. It is hoped to sustain the effort right through the summer.

Apostolic Society

The Apostolic Society Display will this year take place in September. In March it lost the services of one of its staunchest members - Mrs. Pauline Glynn R.I.P. By holding the Display Day in September it is hoped to enlist some new members.

Art Classes

Two Art classes have been taking

place each week in Gort over the past few months. They are being conducted by Mrs. Judy Crampton Kinvara and 13 members attend each class. Members are enjoying the classes and already some have progressed to Painting. The Classes will resume after the summer recess.

Gardening

Gort's newest Club is the Gort and District Gardening Club. Its officers are:

Chairman: Michael Bermingham.

Secretary: Brendan Winston.

Joining Honorary Treasurers: Mrs. Mernie Gleeson and Padraic Giblin.

Consultant Dick O'Gorman, Co. Horticultural Adviser.

Committee: Mrs. Heather Smith, Mrs. Betty Taylor, Mrs. Josephine Helly, Brendan Murphy and Michael Kelly.

The Club is a most useful service to all lovers of the garden and its prospects are bright. The idea is to bring a more organised approach to good gardening through lectures, discussions and demonstrations. It is also hoped to visit top class gardens and garden centres with a view to raising standards in the areas of vegetables, flowers shrubs and green house management.

The Club would also hope to research problems and advise on requirements for improvement. Good planning would lead to better gardening.

After all this garden lovers would get on with the job.

52 people attended the Club's first meeting and at the start a monthly meeting will be held - this is fixed for the first Wednesday of every month, in the Vocational School, Gort. Anyone interested in further information on gardening or the Club should contact Michael Bermingham, Glenbrack Road or any other member of the Committee.

Golf

The various teams representing Gort in the Connacht competitions have commenced their campaigns and local interest is high. It is worth mentioning that all players selected on teams try their best, a fact which is not always appreciated by the hurler or golfer on the ditch. A welcome feature in Gort G.C. is the construction of new tees. Perhaps the most beneficial long term amenity would be the provision of a suitable practice area. John Burke 8 times Irish Champion and one of the best amateur golfers this country produced had a favourite saying:

Good better best and you should never rest; until your good is better and your better best.

Exams

Examination fever is very much in the air for the past few weeks. 99 pupils are sitting the Leaving Cert Examinations in Gort's three schools, 170 pupils are sitting the Intermediate Certificate exam and 130 are sitting the Group Examination. To-days examinations are a searching test. One wonders what lies before all these pupils in the years ahead?

Badminton

Congratulations to Padraic

Cummins, Ennis Road, Gort on an outstanding treble in the recent Co. Galway Badminton Close Championships. Padraic won the Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Championships - all in the one day. It was a fantastic achievement. The doubles was won in partnership with Michael Mullins, Ennis Road, Gort.

New Boys School

Plans for a new Boys School in Gort are progressing satisfactorily. The site is between St. Colman's Park and Ballyhugh. The main entrance to the new School will be from the Tubber Road side and there will also be a path through Ballyhugh. The response to the appeal for financial assistance from the local community has been very good and when going to press a sum of £10,000 (all raised locally) has been invested through the banks. Financial contributions are still most welcome. When will work commence on the new school? Some transactions with regard to the site remain to be finalised but these are not expected to create any difficulty. It is expected that work on the site will be well underway in 1981.

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Fleadh na nGael comes to Gort

Our Comhaltas Correspondent

Fleadh na nGael, a traditional Irish Music Festival, will be hosted by the Gort Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann from Friday, July 25th to Sunday, July 27th. This is a major undertaking for the Gort Branch and one that calls for wholehearted support from the Gort community.

Preparations are already well underway. Labhrás Ó Murchú, the National Director of Comhaltas, and John McCracken, Projects Manager, have attended meetings in Gort advising local members on what the undertaking entails. Officials from the County Board and the Provincial Council are also assisting in preparations.

What will happen?

The main feature of the weekend will be the Senior and Junior All Ireland Finals of the Ceol an Gheimhridh competitions. Over 200 branches have already participated in this competition and the finalists from the four provinces will be in Gort. Friday night will feature the best of Connacht talent at an opening night Concert and two Céilís. Saturday night will feature the Special Fonntá Snao - this will bring the best of Ireland's traditional musicians before the Gort public. Sunday night will have the Special Prize Winners Concert - prizes being presented by National Director Labhrás Ó Murchú.

A target of £3,000 has been set for the Gort Branch to collect before the festival of music gets underway. The Gort branch are planning a special fund-raising concert for Sullivan's Hotel in mid June while they will also run a number of Irish nights.

Community Support

The support of the Gort business

community will be vital if the Fleadh is to be a success. A special programme for the weekend will be issued and advertisements for the programme will be essential. The Gort branch are fortunate to have good facilities for the competitions - the three post primary schools and the two Ballrooms - they are grateful for this assistance.

During the weekend there will be a Special Information Office in the town centre to fill in competitors and spectators on what exactly is happening. Sunday morning will see an tAifreann Traidisiúnta in Gort Church at 10 a.m., and at 2 p.m. there will be a Special Cultural Parade through the town, featuring marching bands and cultural floats.

The Fleadh injects a great boost to mid-summer tourism in Gort. Apart from B and B, Comhaltas are very anxious that snacks and light meals will be readily available in the town over the weekend; private householders are asked for their support in this area.



Comhaltas Branch Secretary in Gort Teresa Moloney.

A special weekend ticket at a bargain price will be available to the public. This will give the ticket holder free admission to all functions over the weekend.

This is the biggest undertaking to date by the Gort Branch of Comhaltas. It behoves every member of the Gort community to give it wholehearted support.

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The Parish Schools Football League

by Larry Diviney

On the 10th of March 1980 the inter-schools parish football league commenced. The first game was between Kiltartan and Kilmacduagh. Kiltartan had the advantage of some early scores and had 8 points to spare at the final whistle. The next game of the series was between Gort A and Gort B. Gort A had a comfortable win.

The most closely contested game was between Gort A and Kilmacduagh. Gort A won by the narrowest of margins by one point. Kilmacduagh had an easy win over Gort B. A very exciting match was the one between Kiltartan and Gort A. After a very evenly contested first half Gort A were easy winners by 8 points as the final whistle blew. The last game of the series was between Kiltartan and Gort B, Kiltartan winning this one easily.

The Final

The two top teams, Kiltartan, and Gort A contested the final, which took place on Tuesday, April 29th, a beautiful sunny evening. Kiltartan got some early scores and were leading by two goals at half time. The final was a hard well fought game. Gort A, the favourites, to win the league, were defeated by Kiltartan who well deserved to win. The referee for the final was Fr. Enda Glynn. We would also like to thank Guard Christy Moran and Frank Lally for their help in the series. After the final whistle Guard Christy Moran presented the school trophy, and a Connemara marble plaque to each player and to each sub.

The teams were:

Kiltartan: Tomás Melville, Ken Murray, John Neilan, Laurence Diviney, David Murray, Carmel Burke, Glenn Cahill, Seamus Cafferky, John Connors, Liam Burke and John Spelman.



The Kiltartan 7-a-side National School winning team in the Gort Parish League. Back Row from left: Liam Burke, Carmel Burke, Ken Murray, Tomás Melville, Seamus Cafferky and John Connors. Front Row from left: John Neilan, John Spelman, David Murray, Glen Cahill and Larry Diviney.

Gort A: Michael Gormley, Derek Kenny, Paul Mulcaire, Paul Diviney, David Coen, Kieran Burke, Anthony Burke, Gerard McGann, John Murphy and Sean Flaherty.
Kilmacduagh: Ian Cahill, Tomás Driscoll, Billy Glynn, Dermot Flaherty, Martin Cooley, Kieran

Helebert, Gabriel Glynn, Brendan Cooley, Thomas Linnane and Garry Linnane.

Gort B: Gerard Kelly, Seamus Breathnach, Billy Kelly, Alan Devlin, Joseph Gleeson, Guaire Piggot, Gerard Lally, John Gleeson, Tom Molloy and John Kenny.

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Meet the Jury

by Mary Hannon

To be part of the Irish jury for the Eurovision Song Contest, is an experience that one does not forget easily. Right from the day I was picked to represent Galway nothing else could have caused more excitement.

A very enjoyable evening was spent in the Montrose Hotel in Donnybrook, one week before the contest took place. There for the first time the eleven members of the jury met. There also we met Tom McGrath, Bill Keating and David Heffernan. We were given a general run down on proceedings on the day of the Contest.

On April the 19th the jury met for the second time at the Radio Centre in the R.T.E. complex at Donnybrook. Our day had been divided out and we began at 11.00 by listening to tapes of the songs. After lunch we were brought to Studio 1 of the T.V. centre which had been set aside for the jury. It was the actual studio where the Late Late Show is transmitted from. For the duration of the afternoon we listened to a live



Galway Jury Representative in Eurovision Song Contest – Mary Hannon, Roo, Gort.

transmission of the Contest Rehearsal from the Hague.

Familiar Faces

At 5.00 we got time to change our clothes and we were made-up professionally by R.T.E. make-up girls.

Throughout the day one could see many familiar faces every where we went, including Charles Mitchel, Noel Reid, Tom McGurk, Anne Doyle and while I was getting my make up on, Don Cockburn was getting made up to go on the 6.15 news.

Back in the canteen at 6.00 we enjoyed a six course evening meal. It was rather rushed as we had to be back in the studio by 7.00 for live transmission.

When the actual contest began

after each song had been performed, each juror filled in a standardised form awarding each song from 1 to 5 points. Once the voting started we were not allowed to watch it again until Éire had voted. The highlight of our day I think was when Éire won. Champagne was freely flowing for the rest of the evening at a reception afterwards in Montrose House.

It was a little sadening at the end of the night, as we had made some good friends and would probably not meet again. We had some momentos of our day in the form of literature, records, photographs and a bouquet of flowers for the ladies. For me 1980 was more than just another year.

EAMON SHIEL

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Gort Coole and District Anglers Association

our Angling Correspondent

The inaugural meeting of the above association took place on the 31st of March, 1960, and the undermentioned persons were present at same:—

J. Counihan, C. Piggott, V. Moloney, D. O'Brien, J. Williams, E. Treston, D. Treston, J. McNeill, D. Keran, J. Hynes, J. Moloney. At this meeting the following officers were elected.

Chairman: Edward Treston, Secretary: John Counihan now deceased and Treasurer: Gerald Piggott.

It was agreed the new association be known as Gort Coole and District Anglers Association, with the main object of stocking Gort river with Trout fry, and also to develop Coole Lake for coarse fishing. The annual subscription agreed on was ten shillings for adults and five shillings for youth under eighteen.

Lectures

Over the years the club has had many meetings and invited speakers from Loughrea Club and also the Inland Fisheries Trust to lecture on Trout and species of coarse fish with a view to stocking Gort river



A fishing photo from the late 1950's. From left: Dermot Kerans, Derek Murphy, Vincent Moloney, Tom McNevin, Jack Hynes R.I.P., Tommy Minogue, Peter Nelly, Kieran Moloney, Frank Lally, Seamas Moloney.

and Coole Lake with same.

The club has purchased some thousands of young trout fry and released same in the river, however these stocks rapidly declined as a result of a combination of Pike and a certain amount of pollution in the River.

In 1961 seventy Tench were released in Coole Lakes and since then we have very little information as to their progress. Cyril Piggott,

Crowe St. is one of the few members who has fished for tench since their release.

On the coarse fishing side we have one of the best areas for coarse fishing in the county, some of which have not been explored for some years past. With the co-operation and good will of all members we should be able to make the fishing facilities in the area equal to any part of Ireland.

Trout Masters

We were blessed over the years in having some first class Trout masters such as the Treston brothers, Moloney brothers, John Counihan and Paddy Nolan both deceased. Cyril Piggott and Thomas Minogue the latter who is also a first class Sea Angler and who has many trophies to his credit. Many of these are masters at tying flies, and have been kind enough to pass on their skill's to the younger members.

About four years ago in his last

year as secretary John Counihan recorded an entry of 81 in a coarse fishing competition in Coole and this is indicative of the interest.

It is hoped that in the near future the problem of pollution will be overcome and arrangements are also been made to remove as much pike as possible from the river and transfer them to Coole.

The new officers for the club for 1980 are as follows:—

President: Canon George Quinn; Chairman: Thomas Minogue; Secretary: Patsy Cusack; Treasurer: Jack Williams; Ass. Secretary: Tim O'Driscoll.

There are over 60 paid members in the club so far this season and committee would be grateful if the outstanding members paid their subscriptions as soon as possible. All new anglers are welcome to join.

A number of local business men have very kindly pledged their support to the club by donating some beautiful trophies for forthcoming competitions, and it is expected that these will take place when the water is suitably high in Coole Lake.

Depleted Stocks

It is noted for the past few years that stocks of pike have been depleted and the present committee are doing trojan work to ensure that all young anglers are made aware of the importance of conserving present stock of pike in Coole. Most of the present anglers return the fish to the Lake after catching same.

Perch have also got scarce over the past few years and as proof of this only one competitor at a recent competition Shane Minogue (Junior member) and son of the present Chairman outshone his elders by catching the only perch in the competition.

It is hoped that in all future

competitions a special sections will be allotted for junior members and a presentation of trophies to the winners afterwards in conjunction with the senior competition.

The club also hope to have competitions against other clubs commencing this year.

Tasty Coarsefish!

Most Irish people have little taste for coarse fish and I believe the French and Germans could teach us a lesson regarding the cooking and dressing of same.

In a recent article in the Clare Champion we were informed that

pike were £4 per pound in Germany.

There are numerous lakes within a few miles of Gort and if these were developed there would be little trouble in bringing the continental anglers to fish there with a subsequent spill off of cash to Hotels etc.

The club also wish to thank Vincent Moloney and Jack Williams for the work they did for the club in the past few years.

Finally I would appeal to all young people to respect the amenities abounding our lakes and rivers.

P.J. HAWKINS

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LOUNGE BAR

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Every Sunday night — dancing with
top groups

Phone: Gort 27



Community Games 1980

The Community Games movement was founded to involve young people in some form of sport and to promote a spirit of neighbourliness between communities. Gort has been associated with this growing movement for the last seven years.

Some of this year's competitions have already taken place — table tennis, basketball and badminton while preparations are afoot to field teams in the hurling, football, girls soccer and camogie competitions starting shortly.

The best effort to date in the boys table tennis where Dick Ryan (of Kiltartan and Tipperary fame) acted as Manager. The Gort team of Neil Cunningham, Enda McInerney, Brendan Gleeson and Brian Murray were beaten in the Semi-Final after a hectic contest.

The standard in the boys and girls basketball and badminton is high — more preparation is required by Gort teams particularly in basketball.

This year for the first time Gort are entering a camogie team for competition. A panel of 22 train every Tuesday and Saturday in St. Colman's Park and some challenge games have taken place against teams from St. Colman's Vocational School and Éire Óg, Ennis. A good run in this competition would greatly boost interest in camogie in the locality.

The hurling team is being prepared by Frank Lally and Eamon Fahy, the football team by Christy Moran and girls soccer by Una Murray and Peadar Burke.

Community games involvement should be encouraged by parents. Some sporting involvement for young people is essential for their future well-being.



Camogie Captain — Anne Murray



Gort Boxing Club

Colm Ward

At a meeting in Our Lady's College

on 21st April 1980 Gort Boxing Club began. Elected to office were — President: Fr. M. Carney (who so generously gave the use of the hall); Secretary: Colm Ward; Treasurer: Mossy Clabby; Chairman: Sean Devlin. Backing the officers is an enthusiastic and hardworking committee of Tim O'Driscoll; Sean Gleeson; Paddy Grealish; Ollie Roche; Fr. Enda Glynn; Trainer: Jimmy Regan; Assistant: Trainer: Colie Molloy.

The club developed from training sessions under the auspices of Gort Youth Club. These training sessions were conducted by Jimmy Regan on two nights per week since last October and proved so popular that it was decided to form a Club.

Training at present takes place on Monday nights at Our Lady's College and new members are welcome. The club held a church-gate collection on April 27th and wish to thank the people of Gort and surrounds for their very generous support. It's a very praiseworthy venture and could well prove to have a bright future.

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SILVER SPRUCE

Church St., Gort

Approved Bord Fáilte accommodation
Proprietors Damian and Monica McGrath

Gort as a Tourist Centre

B. Long

Gort possesses everything to make it a perfect tourist centre. It has situation, position, environment, historical associations, people, accommodation and entertainment.

Situated on the main Munster-Connacht road in level country it is of easy access from every direction. It has express bus service as well as the regular bus services. It is within an hours run of Shannon Airport and half an hours' run from renowned resorts is a quarter of an hour from the sea.

It is a useful stop-over for touring the West. Clare is at its doorstep, Connemara within easy reach, Limerick and Tipperary not too far away.

In fact the tourist can profitably make Gort his base. It has excellent accommodation, has first class hotels and comfortable guest houses, cuisine all that can be desired, proprietors generous and staffs efficient. Gort can cater for the most varied and discerning visitors.

Rooted in History

The historian will find here a wealth of material to draw in record, going back to Guaire and Colmán. Kilmacduagh is a study in itself. (Monastery and round tower tell of a glorious era). Here the scholar may take his stand in a place steeped in history and lore and emerge enriched with knowledge of the past. Coole and Ballylee of Raferty, Yeats and Máire Ní Eithin attract scholar from places as far away as Japan and British Columbia. The student of genealogy will find plenty to interest him here where the O'Hynes, the O'Shaughnessys and the O'Cahills held sway.

The angler can while away many a delightful hour by the sides of

Culough and Lough Cutra or by the banks of the river that meanders from Lough Cutra to Kinvara and has as many names as the townlands through which it passes. The Gort Angling Club will instruct how to hook the wily trout or ensnare the lethargic pike. Go in to Kilcolgan a short distance away and catch a record weighed salmon, consume dozens of oysters at Clarenbridge and you, you dreamer gaze into the enchanted water of the Punchbowl!

Rest in the Gort comfortable lounges and enjoy the pleasant rendering of traditional music (the

Ideal Location

Gort — a centre from which one may explore. Half an hour's bus or car run takes one to famed Salthill with its fine promenade, safe bathing beaches, diving board and Leisureland entertainment. From Gort may be explored Connemara with its breath-taking scenery of lake and mountain, its old world atmosphere and charming people. One may turn west from Gort into Clare that peculiar tableland, its scenic routes, its towering cliffs, its golden beaches and world renowned links. What botanist can resist the attraction of the Burren



Kilmacduagh to-day.

music maybe you have come to hear) song and dance as you sip your Irish brew or go on to Kinvara and partake of the medieval banquet and entertainment in Dunguaire.

Gort's spacious Square the largest in Ireland with its three main exits provides adequate parking space for buses and cars. The "Crane" in the middle of the Square restored and staffed by An Taisce will give you all the information you seek. The Square is convenient to hotels and guesthouses.

with its exotic and indigenous flora. This is not Naples but the warm limestone upland of North Clare where the blue of the gentian and O'Kelly native orchard contrasts with the singular shade of green of the maidenhair fern. Here is the friendly "winterage" where cattle thrive and they roam free.

And for you archaeologist visit the recently discovered and already famous Ailwee Caves whose murals go back to pre-history. View with awe the megalithic dolmen of Cahermacnaughton and the solid masonry of Máire Rua's Castle at

Leminagh!

Go deep sea fishing in a competently manned Kinvara motor-boat. Breathe in the ozone laden breezes and bathe in the sparkling waters of Trácht!

North Clare

Holiday maker seek the golden sands of Fanore just around Black Head and you comforter seeker bath in the spa waters of Lisdoonvarna and drink its famous sulphur water for health and vigour. Turn south to East Clare right on to Lough Derg where you can enjoy sailing and water-skiing.

From Gort go east to the rich land of County Galway. Proceed as far as Portumna, right on to Shannon river, board a river cruiser and enjoy the sweeping grandeur of river and lake! Board Aer Arann at its base a short distance from Gort,

get panoramic view of Galway (city), its oft sung Bay and idyllic island; land and discover — you are now a Lotus Eater. And all this wonderland is within easy reach of Gort.

Gort's earnest branch of An Taisce preserves the old world atmosphere in "The Crane"! An energetic Chamber of Commerce ensures tidiness and displays our produce and entertains you at its Autumn Festival. A dedicated Comhaltas gives you a feast of Irish Music, song and dance at its Fleadh. Our Arts Council will cater for your artistic tastes. Choose a book in our splendidly equipped library housed in the impressive Pregon Gothic structure, browse over your selection in the nearby newly laid out People's Park. Our Gun Club will raise wild fowl in chevy chase

for you to test your aim. Our Boxing Club will help you try your power in defence. In St. Colman's Hall you may try your skill at Billiards (Snooker). Take health-giving outdoor exercise in our friendly nine-hole situated in the O'Shaughnessy territory, a mere mile outside the town. Indoors you may exercise in Kilcornan's mildly heated pool. Our Angling Club provides you with coarse fishing in Coole Lake.

The proverbial hospitality of Guaire lingers on in Gort.

Wasn't it Roddy the Rover who when praising the generosity he experienced — a Gort Hotel wrote:

"...
but though Guaire's dead
You still have ...'s Hotel."
Can any place offer any more!

Salute to Lady Gregory

*Cradled in a Contrary Current
To Gaelic Aspirations
She outswam the birthright!
That should have enmeshed
Her in the Stream
Of "unseeing" dominance
But from the Throne of overlords
Emerged an "Irish Queen" —
Host to our Literary Renaissance —
That wins acclaim
From all Ecumenical men.
Coole House, Sanctuary
To men of fame
Is crumbled to the wavering grass —
But let not man deride
The worth of Her —
Horsman pass bye
But cast a kindly eye
On worthy Lady Gregory's
Efforts — in a controversial past.*

W.M. Quinn (copyright)

*Born Augusta Persee of the
infamous House of the Persesses of
Roxborough, Castledaly — noted
for their ruthless "Landlordism".*

POETRY

Country Children

by Helen Connolly

*Little fresh violets,
Born in the wild wood,
Sweetly illustrating
Innocent childhood
Shy as the antelope
Brown as a berry
Free as the mountain air
Romping and merry!*

*Out in the hilly patch
Seeking the berries
Under the orchard tree
Feasting on cherries
Tramping the clover blooms
Down 'mong the grasses
No voice to hinder them
Dear lads and lasses!*

*Blue eyes and hazel eyes
Peep from the hedges
Shaded by sun-bonnets
Frayed at the edges!*

Helen Connolly



*Up on the apple-tree
Heedless of danger
Manhood in embryo
Stares at the stranger.*

*No grim propriety
No interdiction
Free as the birdlings
From city restriction
Coining the purest blood
Strength'ning each muscle
Donning health armour
'Gainst life's coming bustle!*

*Dear little innocents!
Born in the wild wood,
Oh, that all little ones,
Had such a childhood!
God's blue spread over them,
God's green beneath them
No sweeter heritage
Could we bequeath them!*

LADIES... YOU ARE STILL THE WEAKER SEX

My lady will indeed submit to her male escort when it comes to fixing the cheque with the waiter or accepting his seat on the bus and such minor matters. But in most other things of life and living today My Lady considers herself no subservient creature playing no second fiddle for Miss, Mrs. M/s.

No sir, She's as free as the four winds. She's on top. **She's liberated.**

Gone are her days of masculine dominance and serfdom. She can crow haughtily about her great achievements ... she has the vote ... seats in parliament ... high executive posts ... trainers licences ... judo belts ... all-in wrestling medals.

She has frozen foods, dehydrated eggs and pre-cooked delicacies; magic tin openers and square shaped frying pans; thermostatically controlled dumb waiters; press button cookers, washing machines and spin dryers not to mention gadgets that make tea while she sleeps and rouse her musically ready to serve her while she's still a-bed.

From back-lacing straight jackets she's walked into girles that can't ride up and face lifts that can't flap down, non-run tights gossamer as moonbeams. She can unabashedly wear bads on her hips and falsies higher up.

What triumphs for the tantruming females!

But Ladies — your prizes have been filched. Oh, yes, you can still domineer your work-tired husbands but your boasts have been brought low by ... **your maid.**

You can't push her around ... not any more. There, you're licked. Once you browbeat her, locked her out, fed her crusts of the burnt cake (all her fault, of course); stopped her weekly five bob for

broken crockery, wrote complaining letters to her mother back home in the village. You were unremitting; insistent; you brooked no challenge; accepted no sulk. In the end you threw her out ... out ... out, then you pranced with hauteur and offended pride of the ad. counter of the local rag. "The Star".

Trembling with righteous indignation you scribbled your words for the "domestics wanted" column:

"Maid, all duties. Must be strictly honest, strong, willing and highly recommended. Small wage to start."

There was sadism in your gleaming eye as you sized them up and cut them down; gave gruelling interviews to the queue of answers to your ad; chose grudgingly, then commanded the "lucky" one to "start on the kitchen flags".

Now My Lady ... what of your much vaunted emancipation? Sure, you wear slacks, but it is the maid who wears the pants today. She alone of your "domestic" minded female fraternity is emancipated, not YOU.

Now you become gentle and coaxing, even sisterly. Your forked tongue is shrouded in a sigh of registration ... and thankfulness. You cry when she leaves. You beg even for the services of her smaller sister at home. You are maidless once more. All too rapidly your boasts disappear beneath dust caps and housework.

Back you go to the local rag. "The Star" again. Humbly your pencil shapes the not too hopeful message:

"Wanted. Girl, modern home, every comfort, own room; TV; liberal outings. Good wages

offered."

She (the maid) has deflated your conquests. You are as putty in the hands of one who stands where you fear to tread. Which, all things considered, is not at all a bad thing.

W. M. Quinn (Copyright)

Ladies, is 13 your unlucky number? Hereunder, 13 Hints on the road to ...

UNHAPPINESS

Almost every turn of the road opens up new vistas to unhappiness.

That song is right, "When you get what you want, you don't want 'ed."

Happiness is elusive and perverse; ethereal, yet very down-to-earth.

So here's your unlucky 13 signposts to unhappiness.

1. Tell the neighbours exactly what you think of them. (This also applies to the girl you pal 'round with.)
2. Get into debt with the grocer; the draper; the milkman etc.
3. Decide that your family is the only family of "class" in the neighbourhood.
4. Want for nothing ... wardrobe packed with dresses ... bedside table crammed with pills; fruit juices; perfumes ... your slightest desire within arm's reach.
5. Fall in love, because he's sure to let you down.
6. Take an exotic holiday, returning later to that horrible office or factory.
7. Keep up the fast social round ... parties; cocktails; racing etc. ... day-in, day-out ... slumping on your luxury electricity heated bed with

- sheer exhaustion . . . wakening up bored and depressed with a hang-over.
8. Refuse to take a walk in the fresh air . . . sit gloomily over the fire, sulking.
 9. Worry about the pain your'e going to get tomorrow.
 10. Come to the conclusion that all out nuclear warfare can't be avoided.
 11. Develop a nervous cough when

- you lie down to sleep.
12. Open your mouth wide in front of the mirror and examine all the terrible growths and symptoms of fatal diseases inside.
 13. Accumulate so much property and wealth that you'll be heartbroken at the thought of leaving it all behind.

W. M. Quinn.

GORT GLEANINGS

Rev Martin Coen

1793

The Gort Chase

There will be a meet at Denis Hynes's, Gort, on Monday the 4th of February. The Hounds, and a bagged Fox to be at the Four Roads at Ten o'clock and Dinner on the Table at Five.

Meeting in Hynes's Inn, Gort on Sat. 15th Feb. 1793 for the preservation of order and the constitution.

June: 10 Kegs of whiskey, brandy and gin siezed in Kinvara.

Nov. Gort Chase at gate of Coole. Dinner at 5 p.m. presided over by John Foster.

1823

Died near Gort in the County of Galway in the 48th year of his age, the Reverend Andrew O'Flynn, PP of Kiltartan, universally regretted by his parishioners who have to mourn the loss of a pastor of the most spotless and apostolical life.

1824

Lord Gort did not oppose the Catholic rent collection for Daniel O'Connell. He lately drove out Bible preachers. Lord Gort patrolled Gort on Christmas eve.

1825

Dr French confirmed 2,625 persons in Gort. On the following Sunday he lamented the size of the church. At a general meeting it was decided to build a church. Within a week £315 was paid to the Treasurer. The bishop applied to Lord Gort for a site. His Lordship received the bishop at this castle and desired him to choose whatever site in Gort he wished at a pepper-corn rent and a lease forever. He sealed the grant in the kindest manner with a present of a large beautiful scripture painting of the Holy Family for the new intended alter. The site is worth £16 p.a. Dr. French thanked Thomas Mangan of Messrs. Walker & Co. Limerick. Flanagan of Bunowen, four miles from Gort murdered by his brother. A Catholic meeting of Daniel O'Connell supporters took place in Gort under the chairmanship of Fr. Michael Duffy, P.P. Lord Gort warned the Bible preachers not to break the law. A local paper called on Bishop Ffrench to come out in favour of O'Connell. A public dinner was held in Gort to honour Counsellor Guthrie. Francis Blake Foster was chairman and Burke

Eyre of Cloon occupied the Vice-Chair. Father Nagle, Ardahan, Duffy, Gort and O'Shaughnessy, Shanaglish spoke.

1828

An O'Connell meeting took place in Gort under Fr. Duffy P.P. Mr. Blake Foster demanded "Why no Catholic rent in Gort yet?" A crowd waving handkerchiefs shouted "Grattan forever." "No," said Mr. Daly of Ballylee. "Three cheers for old Ireland." Mr. Foster was carried through the streets to the Head Inn. Mr. Foster addressed the people from the drawingroom window. On the following Thursday a public dinner was held in Gort in honour of Mr. Blake Foster.

1829

"We have great satisfaction in stating that the distinguished family of the O'Haras at Raheen in the county of Galway, have, with a degree of munificence and Christian liberality which reflect the highest honour on their character subscribed the sum of £100 towards the building of a Roman Catholic Chapel together with an acre of land as a site for it in the parish of Duniry. We need only state this fact for the purpose of extracting from our Catholic countrymen feelings of gratitude and admiration and we are sure that such sentiments will be considerably increased by the reflection that the O'Hara family by their munificence will have enabled the Rev. Mr. Fallon P.P., Kiltartan, the respected and respectable pastor of his flock to offer up the holy sacrifice on the same ground on which for ages it had been offered before and on which the blessing of virtue, religion and accomplished education were imparted to the rising mind of ages long gone by."

The hotel in Gort was owned by Hynes. In June 1829 there were badger fights in Gort.

Married in St. Thomas's Church Dublin, John O'Hara of Raheen in the Co. of Galway and Lady Anabella O'Donnell relict of the late Sir Hugh O'Donnell Bart. and eldest daughter of Sir John Blake of Menlo Castle, Galway.

Consecration of the New Roman Catholic Chapel at Gort.

This solemn and imposing ceremony will take place on Sunday 6th of September (1829) on which occasion the Rt. Rev. Doctor John Mac Hale, Bishop of Killala will preach the Dedication Sermon attended by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ffrench, Bishop of Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora and all the clergy of the united dioceses.

This beautiful edifice which is now recently completed has been erected within the last two years by the joint efforts of the local clergy with the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ffrench at their head and the inhabitants of this small but rising and liberal town at an expense exceeding one thousand pounds, not a shilling of which has been collected beyond the suburbs.

As a Committee of Gentlemen has been named to make the necessary arrangements for the accommodation of the public on this occasion, no inconvenience can possibly occur; it is therefore hoped that the liberal of every persuasion will give their attendance, attracted as well by the splendid talents of the enlightened preacher as the object in consecrating a Temple of Worship of the Living God.
Admittance to the Galleries 2/6
Admittance to the aisle 1/-
Tickets to be had from Rt. Rev. Doctor Ffrench, Galway, the Rev. M. Duffy, P.P., Rev. Mr. Geoghegan P.P., the Rev. Mr. O'Shaughnessy,



A view to-day of the old Protestant Church.

P.P. and from several Members of the Committee at Gort.

Affair of Honour

July 7th: In consequence of a misunderstanding which took place a few days ago, a hostile note was delivered on Thursday to J. Blake Esq. of Belmont by John O'Hara of Raheen, in consequence of which both gentlemen left Galway, on Friday last for the purpose of fighting but owing to a judicial of their friends, the affair was amicable adjusted.

Sept. 10th: We were misinformed when we stated in our last that a hostile message was sent by John O'Hara Esq. Raheen to James Blake of Belmont Esq. and that these two gentlemen left Galway for the purpose of a meeting, no such thing, we have since learned, having occurred.

Bishop Ffrench on last Sunday had his carriage upset, broken to pieces and the road obstructed while following the remains of Mr. Joyce.

Professional Announcement

AUSTIN M. SLATTERY, B. Comm., A.C.A.

has commenced practice as a CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

at Bridge Street, Gort, Co. Galway

Phone 265/266

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2.00 to 5.30 p.m.

Professional Announcement

F.F. CULLINAN & CO. SOLICITORS

Bryan McMahan B.A. L.L.B.

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Office Hours: Thursdays and Fridays, 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

THE BEAUTY OF THE THATCHED ROOF

Peadar Ó Conaire

When did you last see a thatcher at work? If you are a young person it is quite likely that you never had the privilege, for the art of thatching has practically died in Ireland. Most of the thatching in the Gort area is done by Paddy Lally of Peterswell, but Gort town had its own thatcher in the not too distant past — Stephen Kelly of Ballyhugh. One of his last jobs was the thatching of Joe Connolly's house in Church St. (adjoining Jack Burke's public house).

There were several thatched houses in Crowe St. until comparatively recently. They stood where the front row of new houses are located now. They were all one storey and a half and beautifully kept. They were demolished and the occupants rehoused at Ballyhugh. For sheer elegance and character Paddy Moran's thatched house on the Galway road close to Kiltartan would take a lot of beating. It has been photographed by tourists from many parts of the globe. This is not surprising as Paddy keeps his house spic and span, whitewashing it regularly and patching the thatch. A 'modern' feature of the roof is the wire-netting on the eaves to keep the wily wren at bay.

Straw

Paddy finds it increasingly difficult to get good quality straw. "The machines have it ruined", he told me. Wheat straw is the best for thatching, he reckons, but he has been forced to use substitutes like oaten straw and even reeds in recent years.

The roof of Paddy's house is 'hipped', making it particularly difficult to thatch but exceedingly warm. An unusual feature of the house is a protruding stone in the corner of the gable. There is a

beautiful cobbled yard in front of the house.

Opposite Paddy Moran's house is another gem from bygone days — the late Thomaseen Diviney's house. This little house became famous because of its association with people like the Gregories, Sean T. O'Kelly etc. It was popularly known as 'The Hole in the Wall'. The present owner, John Cahill, has the house in beautiful condition. It



Paddy Moran's beautifully kept thatched cottage today.

was freshly thatched last year.

Who owned the last thatched public house in Gort? I don't know, but I met a man who told me that there was a thatched pub down the lane at Sunset Corner many years ago. It had the rather fancy name of "First In Last Out"!

Scollops

"Ní hé lá na gaoithe lá na scolb", the Irish proverb tells us. "The windy day is not the day for scollops" a fair warning to the thatchers to be careful about the day they chose for their work. The scollops would be chosen very carefully and seasoned for some months, Mattie Markham (a fair hand at thatching himself in his day) told me. Scollops were pointed in the kitchen at night. The

children were often involved in getting the scollops ready, and later on, when the day for thatching arrived they would hand up the sheaves to the thatcher. Mattie maintains that thatch could last over fifty years if the ends of the sheaves were dipped in blue stone! "Blue stone is the life of thatch", he told me.

The Cailleach

A feature of many thatched houses in the West of Ireland was

the 'cailleach'. A little bit of the kitchen protruded from the main building at the rear of the house. This was a special place for the old woman of the house, where she had her settee bed in the warmth of the kitchen. Indeed Grandma had a vantage point from which to observe the many happenings of the kitchen — people coming and going, meals being served, music and seanchas on long winter night. The 'Cailleach' could be curtained off if grandma did not wish to participate in the gossip etc of the kitchen.

Two-storey thatched houses were rare (except in some eastern parts of Ireland) and as far as I can ascertain there were only one-storey and storey and a half buildings in the Gort area. Most of these had lofts, sometimes for storage but often to increase the

sleeping accommodation. The loft was usually over the "lower room" and reached by a ladder or wooden stairs. Windows on the back of the house were rare. This added to the cosiness of the house and also ensured that window-tax hadn't to be paid ('unnecessary' windows were regarded by landlords as a sign

of prosperity). Normally there were two or three small windows in front and one tiny window in the gable to light the loft.

On the way out

The thatched roof is doomed to extinction. Good straw for thatching is very difficult to get.

KELER GROWTH

by Sean Leahy

For months now reports have been reaching the Whitehouse, on the experiments being carried out on a wonder chemical. This chemical could grow vegetation and vegetables at an enormous rate. Reports had it pinned down as a chemical, that when sprayed or let loose on young plants, would increase their size one hundred times. They grew to this enormous size overnight. All those experiments were carried out in a laboratory in Kansas city, under the strict eye of Professor Hans Keler.

Professor Keler, a noted scientist in the field of bacteriology, had put years of scientific work behind him, with the hope that some day he would come up with the answer, to the starving millions all over the world. At last he succeeded with his experiment, and he was pleased when he was issued with an invitation from the President, to attend a dinner at the Whitehouse given in his honour. Soon several animals were sprayed and injected with no ill-effects whatsoever. Now it became a household word, even people seeking fame and publicity in the daily papers, were pictured drinking tots of this chemical, to prove to the world that indeed it was harmless. Soon people had given a name to it, Keler Growth they called it, after the man who found it.

Keler Growth on route to Ireland

Soon it became a household word, samples had already been sent to the poorer Asian countries. Of course there were those that said poppycock. More just ignored any conversation about the matter, while back here in Ireland, people took it with a grain of salt. Ireland was next on the list for Keler Growth, it was intended to help the poorer regions in the west of our country. One morning a Captain James Brown was called, to fly a cargo of Keler Growth to Shannon airport. On September the 21st 1980, Captain James Brown, and three crew members took off from Kennedy Airport, destination, Shannon Airport, to arrive at 10.15 a.m.

Energy Crisis

Ireland in the 1980's was concerned about energy. Our sources of energy had been drained, bogs had yielded the last bank of turf, while oil could only be afforded by the very rich. As a source of heating coal and gas still existed, but at an enormous price. Electricity was rationed. Our Government had sanctioned the building of Atomic power stations at three major points — the Wicklow mountain district, Cransore point and the last and nearest was built between Kinvara and Gort in the County Galway, right in the heart of the Burren

The straw that has been through a combine harvester is in a crushed, broken state and is totally unfit for a good roof. There is also of course the grave risk of fire in a thatched roof.

If you see a thatcher in your travels, feast your eyes on him, mar ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann!



Sean Leahy.

country. Miles of buildings and dome shaped structures raised their giant heads to the sky as people complained that it should never have been built in this beautiful land of King Guaire.

Every house was sent a pamphlet on what to do if a suspected leak had occurred, also with the pamphlets came our white suits and helmets, which were to be donned if the crisis should arise. Grants were given to those who built a bunker under their house, but they had to be up to Government specifications. Other specifications were that all bunkers were supplied with one months supply of food and drink, one generator, supply of reading material, sleeping room for all the family, a two month supply of bottled gas-air. Also you had to have a radio or any receiving set.

Now it is very easy to see why everybody did not run out and dig themselves a shelter, it was too dear. Any way the threat of nuclear fall out was a very high odds. My family and I built one and we practiced regular getting from the house to the bunker in the least

possible time. At first it took us fifteen minutes to complete, but practice made perfect, and in no time we had got it down to a fine art of four minutes.

The Great Explosion

It was on one of those manoeuvres that we heard this enormous explosion, and the tearing of steel against steel, and looking over in the direction of Kinvara we beheld the sky in a blaze of colour, unknown to us that aircraft from Kennedy Airport with Keler Growth on board had crashed into our Atomic power station. We had been advised if we heard any explosions from that district, to treat it as a fall out or a leakage and go immediately to our bunkers and await a report on the radio. This is what we did. We settled down to listen to the radio for any reports, or for the all clear signal.

We had not long to wait, till the disco music stopped, and the voice of the announcer came grimly over the radio:

"This is an emergency. I repeat this is an emergency. Would all the people in the district of Gort in the Co. Galway, please put on their protective clothing against fall out as an American aircraft has crashed on to the Nuclear power plant near Gort. It is necessary to take all measures of safety, and those with bunkers are advised to get to them as quickly as possible. We do not know just what damage has been done, but we are still treating this as a red alert.

10.30 a.m. — Attention please this is the latest report on the aircraft crash in Co. Galway. It is now known that one of the radium rooms at the plant has been damaged and that a certain amount of radioactive material has been exposed to the elements which in our estimation has been carried with the wind in a mile wide sweep. The amount of radioactivity in the area is

dangerous, but not fatal, if the protective clothing is worn. Spotter planes have been out taking samples of the air in and around the town of Gort. We will have more news as soon as possible. In the meantime keep quite, don't panic, and stay indoors.

Disaster!

11 a.m. — Attention please. The aircraft that crashed into the power station in Co. Galway was carrying a chemical called DH2 — otherwise known as Keler Growth became activated when in touch with fallout from the plant. Through some chemical reaction this has made the fallout one hundred times stronger and so what we called in our last broadcast as minor is now the worst known in history. Spotter planes reported no life signs in the town of Gort.

12 noon — Scientists now say that the chemical and fallout now called "Killout" had only a life span of three hours, and will become harmless at the end of that time, but people are still advised to stay in their homes wearing their protective clothing, please do not eat any thing, or try to sleep, babies should be kept awake, the army are standing by in Galway to enter Gort at 5 p.m. this afternoon. There has been no sign of life in the district and planes reported seeing many bodies on the street. Please obey all rules.

That Unforgettable Sight!

At 5 p.m. exactly, we put on our protective clothing, and getting our detector opened wide our steel doors and came up into our livingroom. The first shock we got was our front window. Not a light could you see through it. Our detector still registered nil, we ventured to go down town.

We should never have gone. To my dying day I shall never forget the scene that awaited us in our main street. People lay dead

everywhere, lying on the street, standing at doors leaning on counters, sitting outside shops and sitting behind the wheels of cars. The most horrible picture of all was that all were eyeless, just deep glaring sockets. My wife suggested we should go to the chapel and pray which we did. The chapel was occupied by three people (or should I say dead eyeless people). One was about to light a candle, the other was kneeling and the third was on the way out, when this monster struck. We left the church and rambled further up the town. Everywhere giant mushrooms had grown and in between the joining of the pavements grass grew to almost three feet.

We soon came in contact with other people who were lucky enough to have been at home when this explosion occurred. We had nothing to say to one another, words were not there, questions were, but we knew the answers. The rumble of lorries were heard in the distance and presently the army arrived, not with guns but with hoses, white suits and detectors. We could see by their faces that they too were shocked. We were advised to go home and we did, as the soldiers had a hard three weeks ahead as all houses had to be hosed, all clothing, rugs, carpets etc. burnen, all vegetation, food and vegetables destroyed. But the red glare of the sky was leaving, you could see blue patches appearing here and there as we made our way home. At the corner before you turned up to our house I picked a paper from the ground, the headlines read: "Watch out Keler Growth is coming to Ireland".

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LEAVING CERT BUFFET

by our Night and Early Morning Correspondent

Once again it is Leaving Cert Buffet Time. For a while it's staging seemed in doubt, then it almost turned into a Teacher's Buffet but in the end it reverted to its traditional formula — Leaving Certs with a strong supporting cast.

A breakdown on prospective partnerships is difficult this year as the situation is fluid and changes rapidly. The following is the state of play as we go to press. Like Duffy Circus some partnerships are For One Night and One Night Only.

Girls initials first: A. O'C. and S.M., D.K. and A.M., M.M. and L. O'Q., F.C. and E.F., G.L. and P.N., M. O'D. and J.M., N. O'R. and J.B., K. O'R. and F.B., N.M. and I.C., E.M. and C.N., S.M. and A.M., E.C. and S.M., M.W. and P.L., R.H. and G.P., F.F. and J. O'C., M.F. and E.B., J.G. and G.B., J.B. and M.M., L.F. and J.F., C.D. and M.K., A.N. and K.R., E.C. and G.S., I.G. and P.G., A.H. and M.C., M.M. and L.C., L.N. and M.B., M.D. and G.R., M.C. and N.H., B.N. and H.K., M.M. and J.F., T.L. and M.J.K., P.B. and F.S., P.N. and

M.N., R.K. and S.M., D.F. and G.H., M.M. and J.C., M.L. and M.M., B.M. and J.M., C.R. and T.B., M.T.F. and M.M., M.H. and P.C., A.M. and J.C., A.D. and P.F.

Some tickets for the Buffet are still available — £4 each. Mr. James Lee, proprietor of Glynn's Hotel, will provide his customary high standard meal (Turkey for the main course). For the music you can shine with John Sullivan and the Silver Disco. It promises to be an enjoyable night — more in the fall!

