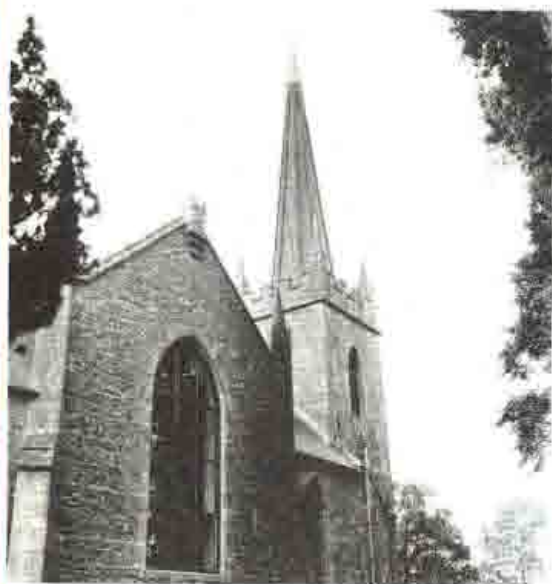


TUAIRE

Summer 1982



Price: 80p

GUAIRE

Summer 1982

Guaire is a community-based magazine and depends on community support and involvement.

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Letters and comments to the Editorial Board will be greatly appreciated.

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Out and About



NURSE RETIRES

Earlier in the year, a presentation of a silver tea-set and tray was made to Miss Lilly Callinan at the Gort Health Centre, to mark her retirement after a long number of years as Gort's Public Health Nurse. At the function, tributes were paid to Nurse Callinan by Dr. Patrick Joyce (Gort) and Miss Dymphna O'Reilly, Superintendent Public Health Nurse (Galway). Lilly also attended a similar function in Kilbeacanty where she was the recipient of Waterford Crystal presented to her by Father P. Callinan C.C. on behalf of Kilbeacanty Social Services. Other speakers at this function included Councillor Michael Fahy, Fred Broderick, Chairman of Kilbeacanty Social Services; Galway County Manager; Mr. O'Donoghue; Aine Fahy, Community Welfare Officer; Agnes Fahy, Public Health Nurse, Ardahan, and Lilly's successor, Miss Mary Fitzgibbon. We wish Lilly a long and happy retirement. Ad multos annos!



MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

Work is now at an advanced stage on the £150,000 extension to the Brothers of Charity premises for Mentally Handicapped Children at Queen Street. The new building, which promises to be very attractive, has been designed in a semi-Gothic style and is very much in keeping with the nearby Church of Ireland (now the Library).

FASTEST TIME

Congratulations to local men Pete Leonard and Michael Cleary who triumphed in the recently held Circuit of Galway International Car Rally. They received their reward for clocking in the fastest time of all the Galway Motor Club members participating in the event.

INTERNATIONAL GOLFER

We welcome to our town Christy O'Connor Jnr. the celebrated golfer, who took up residence with his wife and family at Coole Demesne, Gort, last March. No doubt his presence in the area will be a great boost to the local thriving Golf Club, where, incidentally, his uncle established the course record of 65 in the mid-70's.

FURTHER INVESTMENT IN GOLF CLUB

Gort Golf Club has recently purchased additional land in order to extend the course at the railway end. The purchase price is understood to have been £12,000 and a six month draw has been organised by the club committee to defray the cost.



GOLDEN JUBILEE

Congratulations and heartiest best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Peter

Kelleher, Glenbrack, Gort, who celebrated their Golden Jubilee Wedding Anniversary.

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Out and About

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Glad to see that a suggestion made by this magazine (Christmas issue) has not fallen on deaf ears — our suggestion being to have the local Chamber of Commerce act as an umbrella group in calling a public meeting to discuss the possibility of providing a Community Centre in Gort. The Public Meeting was convened in early April and was very well attended. A working committee was elected at this meeting and has been holding regular weekly meetings since, (Wednesday nights, 9.00 p.m. at Sullivan's Hotel). Several sites in and around Gort have been visited and examined in detail by the Committee with a view to their suitability for the proposed complex. The following sites were visited and considered: Lahiffe's Field; The Town Park; The Town Hall; The Circus Field; Boland's Lane; The Old College, Bridge Street; Coen's Site at George's Street; a site at Barrack Street; and the site adjacent to the Vocational School. It is hoped that one of these sites will be selected and purchased within the next couple of weeks. The Committee's Fund Raising plans should have begun by this magazine having been printed. The following is the full Committee Membership:

President: Fr. Jimmy Walsh C.C.
 Chairman: Michael Breathnach
 Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Sheila Duffy
 Secretary: Mrs. Teresa Moloney
 Treasurers: Paddy Moloney and Paddy Grealish
 P.R.O. Fr. Jimmy Walsh
 Architectural Adv. Paddy Grealish
 Legal Adviser: Mr. Colman Sherry
 Committee:
 Michael Linnane
 Vincent Carr
 Eamonn Fahy
 Junie Finnegan
 Mattie Kilcooley
 Christy McNevin
 Michael O'Grady
 Michael Cahill
 Mary Carey

RURAL HOUSING SCHEME

The Chamber of Commerce, as indeed 'Guairé' magazine have received numerous items of correspondence from interested parties following an article in our last issue (Christmas) announcing that the Shannon based Rural Housing Organisation were anxious to build a scheme of reasonably priced houses in Gort. Fears have now been expressed that the scheme may now be abandoned. With the assistance of the local Chamber, Fr. Harry Bohan, the Organisation's Chairman, found the most suitable site at the Loughrea Road, but after intense negotiations to purchase the land, the owner declined to sell. Apparently, Fr. Bohan is unable to find any other site as suitable as the one originally chosen.



LADY MAYOR

We heartily congratulate Mrs. Teresa Moloney, Ennis Road, Gort, who has recently been elected Mayor of Gort, for a term which expires on 31 December next. The event, organised by the Gort Rugby Club, realised in excess of £3,000 — half of which went to the Association for Guide Dogs for the Blind, the remaining amount going towards the Rugby Club's funds.



TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION

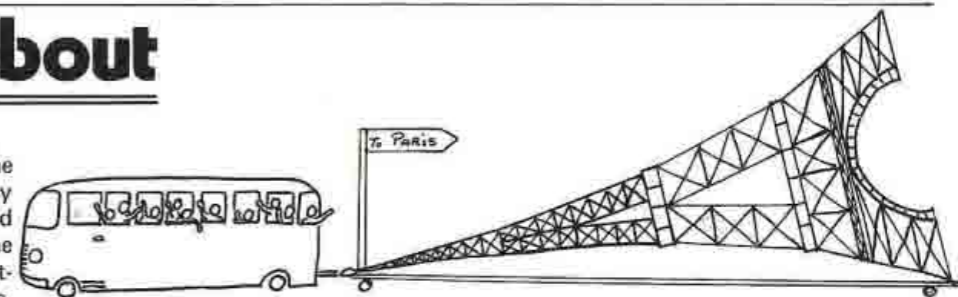
At a recent meeting of Gort Chamber of Commerce, it was decided to divide the Chamber membership into sub-committees each sub-committee being responsible for the Chamber's various activities. One such sub-committee spear-headed by Mr. Michael Birmingham, is responsible for preparing the town for its entry in this year's National Tidy Towns Competition. As judging is presently being conducted by Bord Failte, organisers of the competition, this sub-committee

are hard at work painting derelict buildings, building knocked walls, mowing lawns etc. What is expected to be a big asset in this year's competition is the fact that the Canon Quinn Memorial Park, at the rear of the Church and fronting the Town Library, has now been transformed into a most pleasant park, which, in its original derelict state, continually lost marks for the town in this competition. In last year's competition, Gort finished just a few marks from gaining a National Award.

Out and About

DEBATES:

Congratulations to Catherine Clandillon and Pauline Diviney who were unlucky to be defeated in the All-Ireland semi-final of the Universities' Debating Competition, held in Trinity College, Dublin, on 6 March, 1982. They proposed the motion "that the World Needs Stronger Leadership." Both girls are Fourth Year Students at St. Joseph's Secondary School, Gort.



TRIP TO PARIS

During last Christmas holidays a group of students from Our Lady's College, Gort travelled to

Paris on a visit. By all accounts they made their presence known to the Parisians as can be seen from the cartoon!



BOXING

We also send our congratulations to James Fahy, Crowe Street, who was awarded the title 'Best Boxer of the Year' at a Boxing Tournament held at Our Lady's College on April 2nd last.



DANCERS

Congratulations to eight young dancers, members of the O'Loughlin School of Dancing, who won medals in the World Irish Dancing Championships recently. They are: Maeve Conroy, Tony

Cummins, Gina Cahill, David Casey, Kieran O'Dea, Declan Fahy (all of Gort), and Elaine Smyth and Colm Lyons (Ballinasloe). The group danced the 'Morris Reel'.

GOR T DRAMSOC

Hats off to the members of Gort Drama Society, who, under the guidance of their energetic Chairman, Robert Coen, recently purchased a premises at Boland's Lane for £500, which, following its refurbishing has been transformed into a very cosy venue for the Society's meetings and rehearsals. It must certainly be a step in the right direction for this group whose most recent venture was an inter-school One Act Drama Festival, held last March, at Our Lady's College, Gort, under the adjudication of Mr. Sean Stafford, An Taibhdhearc, Galway. Awards were presented to each of the participating groups As our educational system can

easily be criticized for its little emphasis on the creative and dramatic, the Drama Society's venture — which we understand is to become an annual event — can only be a benefit to the local schools and to the students themselves.

AUTOMATIC SERVICE:

At long last, telephones in the Gort area have gone automatic from June 16th last. The promise to automatic conversion has been the greatest political football since the last quarter of 1979. Its fulfillment will be welcomed by all subscribers.



EXAMINATIONS

Again examination time has come round. All on the Staff of 'Guairé' magazine wish every luck and success to all candidates in the exams — especially those in Leaving Cert.

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Out and About



GORT HAS OWN T.D. AT LAST
 Congratulations to Francis Fahy on his election as a deputy to Dail Eireann. Our photo, taken just after the General Election shows

two successful candidates in the Galway West Constituency — Francis and Bobby Molloy, Galway.



Fr. Liam Power, attending to the shrubs in the Canon Quinn Park
 (Photo: T. Quinn.)

GARDENING CLUB INITIATIVE:

Recently the Gort and District Gardening Club have come with the idea of forming an Educational Gardening Centre in the area. Such a centre is needed, the club maintains, because of the increase in public interest in growing and marketing vegetables and also because of the need to correct the vast importation of vegetables, fruit, etc. They had the following to say:

One possibility and suggestion which could be examined is that since we have Coole Park on our doorstep, and since it has been made famous by Lady Gregory, one of Ireland's most revered Ladies, her memory could be most effectively perpetuated in Coole Park itself by the inclusion of a well laid out Garden Centre as an additional monument to her memory. We appreciate the wonderful work being carried out by the Department of Forestry and Wild Life but with additional local interest and effort we could work towards a Lady Gregory Garden Centre. We do not have to elaborate on the additional Prestige this would bring to Coole Park and to Gort, but we venture to say that it would attract visitors from every part of Ireland and overseas in large numbers.

THE SUGGESTED AIMS AND OBJECTS:

- Advice and Guidance be always available to the community and students of Horticulture and Gardening.
- Only Best Quality Seeds, Plants, Shrubs, Equipment machinery be on sale.
- The standard of the Layout, maintenance and general appearance be at all times a priority and worthy of any link with the Name Lady Gregory.
- It should at all times be a focal point in the District and always a place worth visiting on week-ends and in the busy Gardening Season.

RESEARCH:

would indicate that there is only one well planned and managed Garden Centre in South Galway. This is the one in Clarinbridge under the supervision of the Brothers of Charity. If Vegetable Growing is to be a worthwhile Industry in the Area a co-operative and Educational Centre would be a very valuable asset.

The London Connection

It was to be an unforgettable weekend, according to Johnny Sullivan, the main organiser of the Gort G.A.A. Club's weekend trip to London, which took place from the 19th to the 22nd of February last. Two members of "Guaire's" Editorial Board went along to sample the atmosphere of the outing, and quite honestly the entire trip was everything the organisers claimed it would be.

Initially, there was difficulty in obtaining the number required to justify the trip, but, no doubt, with the success of this year's trip, the organisers should never experience this difficulty again. The main purpose of the trip was to enable the Gort senior hurling team, County Champions this year, after a lapse of years, play a friendly hurling match with a Galway/London selection, compiled by the Gort Association in London. Incorporated into the trip was the Gort Association's plans to make this trip a re-union get-together, which indeed took precedence over the hurling match.

The meeting place for all involved was the Lounge Bar of Sullivan's Hotel, where 38 imaginary thirsts had to be quenched before boarding Michael Donoghue's bus for Shannon Airport. At 11.45 a.m. we were eventually on our way to the airport to board the 2.20 flight EI 144 to London. Already, the atmosphere was becoming electrified and despite several attempts to relieve Eddie Fennessy of his Kruschev style hat and John Finnegan of the pig's head and crubeens which he was bringing to the "Grip" Minnogue, both managed to hold on to their prize possessions. At Shannon Airport, we almost missed our flight, when it was learned that someone had dipped into Johnny Sullivan's hand-baggage and removed the boarding cards. After everybody but the culprit was blamed, innocent looking Sylvie Linnane eventually owned up to the crime and following a brief visit to the Duty-free Shop, we

were on board our plane en route to John Bull's country.

On arrival at Heathrow Airport, we were introduced to Ambrose Gordon, a native of Kiltormer, now living in London, who was to be our Official Chaparone for the weekend, which role he carried out magnificently. From there by coach to the Regent Palace Hotel in Picadilly Circus, in the safe hands of Alex, our cockney coach-driver, a man, who over the weekend, gave us the greatest example of the virtue of patience. After settling in to the 1,000 bedrooomed Regent Palace Hotel, we had a quick bite to eat and then whisked off by coach to Paddy O'Donnell's (Peterswell) Seven Stars Pub in East Acton, where a most enjoyable function in honour of the Gort contingent went on into the early hours of the morning. The following day, Saturday, was touring day, where we were taken on a comprehensive guided tour of London, our guide being Fr. Jimmy Walsh. Among the places visited were the houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral, 10 Downing Street, where we were unsuccessful in having a private audience with the Prime Minister, Trafalgar Square, St. Paul's and Madame Tausaud's, where we could examine in particular the most recent inclusions to this world famous wax-gallery, including the Royal Wedding and J.R. Ewing himself. Following our tour, we were back sampling the delicacies of the Hotel Carvery and after a quick wash and change, on to a Dance at the Oak Tree, Western Ave., Acton.

Sunday was of course, the action packed day, which began with Mass being celebrated for the Gort contingent in the basement of the Hotel, the celebrant being Fr. Michael Brennan. Following a quick snack, we were back on the coach in route to Hayes for the high-light of the trip, the clash of the ash featuring

the Gort Senior Hurling team and the London based Galway selection. Up to this point, it was easy count the number of Gort emigrants whom we had met since arriving in London, but this was soon rectified, for on arrival at the pitch, some 500 cheering Gort emigrants were there to greet us. Any of the 38 visitors could not be blamed for feeling somewhat like a member of Dail Eireann with the numerous handshakes circulating when we disembarked from our coach. This huge gathering, and indeed more, were to meet us again later that evening at the Irish Centre, Camden Town. It was a bitterly cold afternoon, the only sample of bad weather we had experienced since our arrival. The reigning County Champions, whose side included five members of the Galway inter-county panel had to fight all the way to overcome the gritty London selection, which led by 3-4 to 2-3 at the interval. In fact, the London based Galway selection led all the way with only ten minutes remaining. Gort's fortunes changed with two late goals, one from a 70 by Galway County mid-fielder, Gerry Lally, giving Gort a four points winning margin. Best for Gort were goal-keeper Tony Monaghan, Josie Harte, John Nolan, Sylvie Linnane, Gerry Lally, Michael Cahill, Mattie Murphy, Gerry Linnane, Kevin Fahy and Padraig Niland. Best for the London based Galway selection, which comprised of players from St. Gabriel's, Brian Boru's and Bro. Pierce were Tommy Burke, Mick Nevin, Frank Deely, Pat Fahy, Tommy Donoghue, Jimmy Duane, John Lynch, Martin Linnane, Tom Connolly and Pat Tierney. This exciting and hard fought match was followed by a meal at the Oak Tree and from there to Sean Flaherty's (Inky's son) Pub in Finchley Road, for a very short stay prior to our visit to the Irish Centre, Camden Town, for a special function organised by the Gort emigrants Association in honour of their guests. To the music of the West's

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The London Connection

Awake from the resident Band, we were welcomed to the Irish Centre by Wally O'Connor, Miko Corless, Dympna Killeen and Fr. Gantley. So many Gort people introduced themselves to us at that function that one couldn't be blamed for wondering if in fact we had ever left Gort, so many that it would be impossible to retain all of the names. The Corless's were there, the Spelman's, the Fahy's, Ronnie Quinn, the Regan's and so many, many more. The atmosphere was brilliant and as the saying goes, a great night was had by all. The high-light of the night was perhaps the presentation of Trophies made to each member of both Hurling teams, not to mention that unforgettable speech made by Joe Pete Hehir on accepting his Trophy as honorary Life President of Gort G.A.A. Club. Joe Pete made it quite clear that 1982 was 40 years too late in making the trip to London and nobody disputed the fact. At one o'clock in the morning, when the Irish club was closing its doors, we still had 22 members of our Group suffering from a most dangerous thirst, perhaps imaginary in view of the fact that a most memorable and enjoyable week-end was coming towards an end. The Gort man will never die of thirst in London, as many Pubs there are managed by Gort and South Galway people, which did not take us long to find out on our final night, and Alec, our most patient coach-driver was diverted from the Hotel route to the comforts of a Lounge Bar, outside of which he was to remain seated in his coach until six o'clock in the morning, when he next laid eyes on us.

The following morning, Monday, was the only opportunity to fit in a quick hours shopping before departing from Heathrow Airport for our return journey and within the space of a few hours, we were again back in familiar surroundings. Our final venue was back

where we started, in the Lounge Bar of Sullivan's Hotel, reminiscing and recalling the events of a great weekend.

THE RETURN TRIP

For the Gort G.A.A. Club, it was to be a repeat re-union last April, for having beaten the Mayo Champions handsomely in the Connaught Club Championship, they found themselves meeting again St. Gabriel's, the hurling champions of Great Britain, in the All Ireland Club Championship quarter finals. On the eve of this match, the visiting team were met in Athlone by the Chairman and other member of the Gort G.A.A. Club. The match held in Ballinasloe was an unusual case of total opposition for one hour, especially for the Linnane household, as both teams had members of the Linnane family on their panel. The first quarter of the game was dominated by very fast hurling, but some unfortunate incidents lessened the match quality, nevertheless, the superiority of Gort, was clearly shown in the final score, Gort 4-12, St. Gabriel's 0-9. Following the match, St. Gabriel's were hosts of Gort G.A.A. Club to a special function held at Sullivan's Royal Hotel, Gort, during which, to a capacity attendance, Mr. Peter Crehan, former Chairman and founder member of St. Gabriel's, now living in Loughrea, presented a beautiful plaque to Mr. Pat Tierney, present Chairman of St. Gabriel's, to make the 21st Anniversary of the founding of this thriving London based hurling club, which has done so much for the promotion of our national game over-seas.

THREE CROWNS

On Sunday 28th March, 1982 three Connaught Senior Hurling Finals were won by Teams from Gort.

Is the winning of three provincial titles on the same day by teams from one town a record?

In the Connaught Clubs Final, Gort beat Tooreen (Mayo) 8.13 - 0.3.

Our Lady's beat Garbally College, Ballinasloe, 2.7 - 0.3 in the Colleges Final, and St. Colman's Vocational School overwhelmed Moneenageisha by 3.11 - 0.1 in the Vocational Schools decider.

One must overcome a strong chauvinistic urge and point out that the Schools teams were comprised of boys from a wide area of South Galway and North Clare, not just Gort.

After scoring 4.12 - 0.9 a victory over St. Gabriels (London) the Club team travelled all the way to Kilkenny on 25th April to take on the local County Champions in the All Ireland Semi-Final - a formidable task. However they gave a fine display when going under to James Stephens by the relatively narrow margin of five points (1.13 - 1.8) in a match which could have been won.

On the same day Our Lady's went under to St. Peter's, Wexford, (2.18-1.9) in the Colleges Semi-Final at Thurles, Gort teams playing at venues 90 and 70 miles from home on the same date. Why not together???

On May Day, St. Colman's succumbed to St. Brogan's (Bandon) in the Vocationals semi-final played at Cloughaun Ground, Limerick. The absence, through injury of ace marksman Patrick Flaherty is reflected in St. Colman's total of 1-1 against St. Brogan's 2-8.

So, no All-Ireland glory but, always the memory of Sunday 28th March and Three Connaught Crowns.

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The London Connection



Joe Pete's Moment of Glory picture shows Joe Pete Hehir, Honorary President Gort G.A.A. Club holding the County Senior Hurling Championship Cup assisted by Wally O'Connor, with Fr. Paddy Gantley looking on. Photo was taken at the Irish Centre Camden Town.



THE PRESENTATION: The Gort Senior Hurling Team, with officers, after the presentation of trophies at The Irish Centre, Camden Town, to mark the teams victory over a London Based Galway Selection during the clubs recent London trip.



The London based Galway Selection team, comprising of players from The St. Gabriels, Brian Boru's & Brother Pierces Clubs who were beaten by the Gort Senior Hurling Team during their London trip earlier in the year.

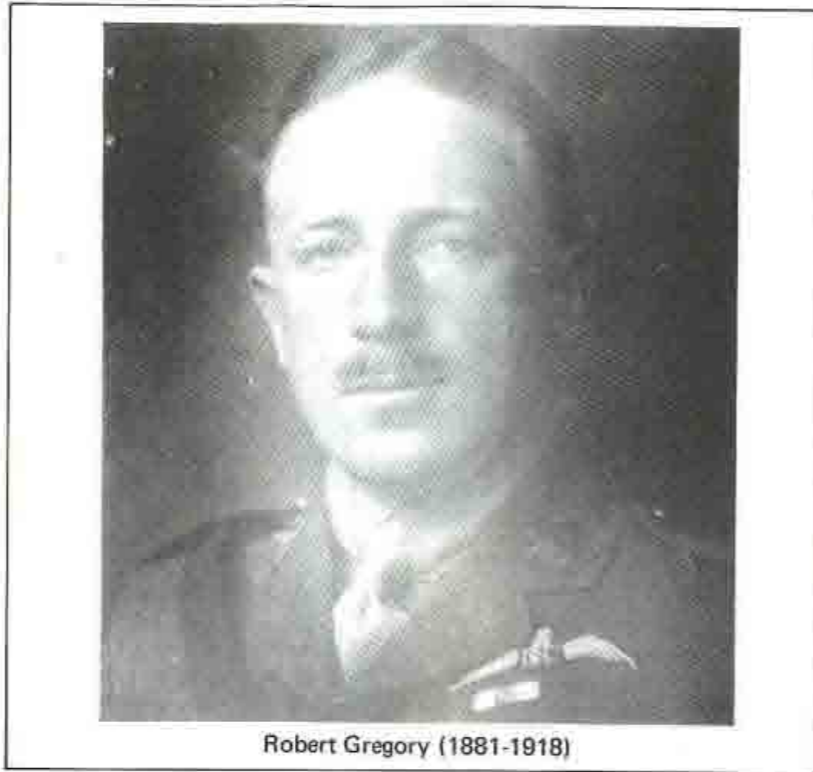


Picture shows members of Gort G.A.A. Club with members of the Gort Association in London, who jointly organised the Gort G.A.A.'s recent trip to London.

Few people have had the opportunity of deciding whether or not Robert Gregory was a great painter for he always remained a young artist of considerable promise. This promise was never fulfilled as he was tragically and erroneously shot down by an Italian pilot on the Italian front on January 23rd, 1918. He was 36.

Although most of his work was done in South Galway and north Clare his paintings have never been seen collectively in this country and all have long been scattered like the stones of his home at Coole. His drawings, particularly his portraits show a strong resemblance to those by Augustus John and his painting shows a little of the influence of Jack B. Yeats in its colouring. Both men were regular visitors to Coole and were personal friends of Gregory's. There is no doubt however that his landscapes were influenced only by the landscape he worked in and its light. His "Bellharbour" is probably his most exciting response to the challenge of painting in this area (The Burren) and is not dissimilar to the response of Brian Bourke to the same landscape over fifty years later. When this picture was exhibited in the Chenil Gallery in London in 1914 the *Observer* critic wrote, "Mr. Gregory's most significant paintings deal with the sad, colourless life and the equally sad, barren scenery in the west of Ireland, the melancholy aspect of which is expressed with passionate intensity; volumes of printed books could not reveal more of the character of the land and people than these invariably well-arranged designs, which have a quiet charm of colour, in their restriction to slate-grey, greyish purple and green, of which Mr. Gregory alone holds the secret. Even where he extends his palette to embrace more hopeful notes of blue, as in his delicious "Bellharbour" the dominating feeling is still a dreamy sadness which is in absolute harmony with the barrenness of the soil."

If his landscapes were his best paintings his set designs were his best known as they were used for plays by his mother, Lady Gregory, Yeats, Hyde and others. As well as designing he also painted them. This is remembered by Yeats in a note of appreciation published in the *Observer*



Robert Gregory (1881-1918)

in February 1918....."I first came to understand his genius when, still almost a boy, he designed costumes and scenery for the Abbey Theatre. Working for a theatre that could only afford a few pounds for the staging of a play, he designed for Lady Gregory's 'Kinkora' (sic) and her 'Image' and for my 'Shadowy Waters' and for Synge's 'Deirdre of the Sorrows', decorations which, obtaining their effect from the fewest possible lines and colours, had always the grave distinction of his own imagination."

Yeats goes on: "When he began to paint, accustomed to an older school of painting, I was long perplexed by what seemed to me neglect of detail. But in a few years I came to care for his paintings of the Clare coast, with its cloud shadows upon blue-grey stony hills, and for one painting of a not very different scenery by his friend, Innes, more than for any contemporary landscape 'painting'."

Yeats also wrote four poems connected with Robert Gregory after his death, *An Irish Airman foresees his Death*, *In Memory of Major Robert Gregory*, *The Shepherd and the Goatherd*, and a short bitter poem called *Reprisals* which made references to atrocities being committed by the Black and Tans against Gregory's

tenants while he was fighting in Italy. Because of its nature this poem which illustrates the waste and futility of war was not published until 1948. In 'An Irish Airman foresees his Death' he writes:

I know that I shall meet my fate
Somewhere among the clouds
above;

Those that I fight I do not hate;
Those that I guard I do not love;
My country is Kiltartan Cross,
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,
No likely end could bring them
loss

Or leave them happier than before
Nor law, nor duty bade me fight
Nor public men, nor cheering
crowds,

A lonely impulse of delight
Drove to this tumult in the
clouds;

I balanced all, brought all to mind
The years to come seemed waste
of breath,

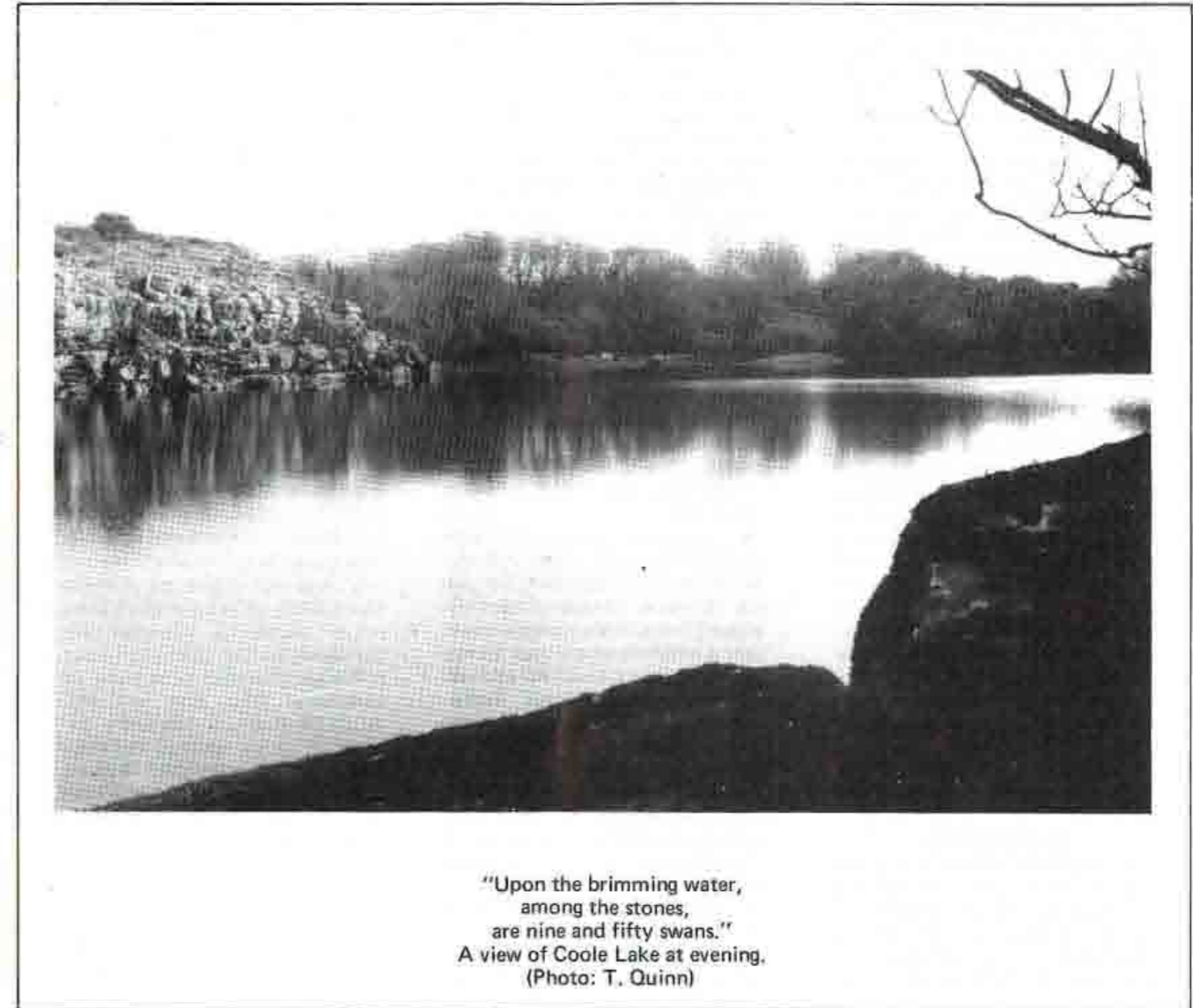
A waste of breath the years
behind
In balance with this life,
this death'

Death of Lady Gregory.

Last April, the Gort Branch of 'An Taisce' and the Kiltartan Society, planted an oak sapling at Coole Park to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Lady Augusta Gregory, co-founder of the Abbey Theatre, who lived at Coole Park. Lady Gregory died on 22 May, 1932. Yeats wrote of her in his diary in 1909, when she was ill: "She

has been to me mother, friend, sister and brother. I cannot realize the world without her. She brought to my wandering thoughts steadfast nobility. All day the thought of losing her is like a conflagration among the rafters. Friendship is all the house I have." The poet also wrote of her in old age:

*I am in despair that time may
bring
Approved patterns of women
or of men
But not that selfsame
excellence again.*



"Upon the brimming water,
among the stones,
are nine and fifty swans."
A view of Coole Lake at evening.
(Photo: T. Quinn)

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GOD, in His infinite wisdom, created woman and in so doing began a saga which is still in it's telling. (Well done God!)

And His gifts to man, throughout the ages, have been employed to immortalise the female of the species. Man has proclaimed his goddesses, lovers, mothers, wives, mistresses, but sirah! where in history are we to find an ode, statue, or painting that sings the praises of the genre of which I am now to write? Nowhere sir! for everyone has grossly and sinfully overlooked this creed of heroines whose services are among the greatest ever known. Of whom do I speak? Why, of the Eldest Daughters of the Mothers of 7 (or more!).

Oh! you will find pictures of the Lady with the Lamp, You can hear tales of any one of a legion of religious. Foundresses, you can often encounter experts on the ancient queens, but, alas! you will not, and have not, heard of the said Eldest Daughters.

And it is not that they are very rare (though their virtue is!) for they are found everywhere in the modern (and not quite so modern) world. Yeal they are in your midst in great strength and it is for that reason that I bring this their case to light now. Yes, they are among you all, silent in their pursuit of a better world for humankind, right under your very noses. These saints, veritable fountains of the Lord's Spiritual and temporal mercy, walk these very streets of Gort, doing good — and the shopping. Reader, it must be said that society as we know it in our south Galway would not be the same without them, I should know, I'm one of them.

OUR SILENCE

But this is not merely a boasting session on our part. In fact my colleagues on the committee of the "South Galway League of the Daughters of the Amalgamated and unlisted Mothers of 7 (or more)!", begged me not to send this to print. They protested that

we, as part of our nature as well as the Fraternity Code, are willing servants of society and it's basic unit, the family, and we are silent about our tasks. They held that you, the reader, were not about to understand our unusual commitment to our apostolate (that of faithful service in the home). They were adamant about their fears that our motives, and dare I say, merits would find an aggressive reception and thus, valuable ground might be lost. But my faith in you is old and long standing. I know you to be above subjectivity and bias, that you would not point in scorn, and so, assuring them of this they bowed to the judgement of their founding member, that the time was, indeed, ripe for our exposure and the stating of our case and, that we were duty bound to do something to fill that void in praising art that we were pre-destined to fill and that it was now time for us to write our particular chapter in the saga of womankind.

Yes, we are very special indeed, Yet, if I were to wager my left leg that you have not (you think!) seen one of us, I would walk away after all. But you have seen us all right, you simple failed to notice us!

So how, you ask, are we to be recognised? Well, we will be found holding the fort, for we are the long standing (literally!) unpaid babysitters, ever constant as the northern star in our service to Mum. There could be no First Holy Communion, no Confirmation (or clothes bought for either), no trips to Galway to shop for anything at all, no odd parental night out, no quiet night in, no visiting little ones in hospital (NOTE: in houses of 7 children or more, the hospitalisation rate is of a direct proportion to the actual number of offspring under the age of 12 at any given time. It is also worth noting the most 'popular' ailments in order of appearance are tonsils, appendix. Concussion,

surprisingly enough, is not in the top ten. These facts do not belong to Dr. Spokk!) no time to paper the bedroom, hardly time to go to the bathroom, no relief from a windy baby, no chance for a bite to eat, no time to sow flowers in the garden, and definitely NO chance for a by-themselves holier for MA an' DA, without the trustworthy Eldest Daughter on the scene.

SECOND MOTHERS

We are those second mothers; the wielders of tissues and blowers of noses, and the sentries of those well-filled, and apparently bottomless, sinks, and the kissers of the million daily hurts, and the soothers of a thousand wounded little warriors, and the consolers of the newest hurling star when triumph wasn't his, and the bakers of all those cakes and tarts when Mum isn't free to do it herself.

And where would the "aimsir laithreach" of "bhi" be found if big sister was not around? Who would treat the wee 'uns to jelly out of time, remembering when she herself had such a heart's desire? Who else would light the fire on busy Sunday mornings? Who would make the sacrifice and share a room with toddlers who seem to much prefer the neighbouring bed to their own! (?) Who would take over and do a pile of washing when Mum is sick in bed? Who would ALWAYS accommodate the world and all therein without a thought for self, or a word of complaint? Who, pray tell? WE WOULD! And we constantly do.

For, in truth, we are the only few who truly can. Our Mothers trained us well, teaching us all we were able to grasp, that we might aspire to the highest heights of accomplishment as general sidekicks and head bottle-washers (AND washers of every other sort of ware and utensil known or in general use!). Our mothers instilled in us the ins and outs of homecraft, practical child psychology, family economy and

budgeting (-Oh! that Erin should see the day when a Mother of 7 (or more!) would take the helm of our listing bark and steer us to solvency and away from ruin!) male mentality, basis First Aid and foddering the meltheal, in order that we might never marry in ignorance of how, among other things, to turn an egg in the pan without breaking it (?). Yes, Mother began to tutor, and at an early age too. (Who marries at 6)? Thus they have their 'Aide-de-Camp' when they want her. And thus are we here, martyrs to the cause of common good, mastering this art of arts at the sides of the real pro's (ovation please.).....

SIRI SIRI SIRI

And are you, sir, a father of 7, sir? And is the list headed by a daughter, sir? And have you

overlooked her, sir? I think you have, sir! Who polishes your shoes, sir?, the tooth fairy, sir? And who irons your hanky, sir? the poodle, sir?! I think not sir, I think it's your treasure of an Eldest Daughter, sir!

And as for your Ma'am, you should know better, Ma'am, than to be so heedless as to think us less, Ma'am, than our (priceless!) worth Ma'am, Yeal to complain about us, Ma'am, and we your best friend, Ma'am. Shame on you Ma'am!

O reader, we are the modern-day Dodo! The world in which we thrive is ever growing smaller. There are fewer Mothers of 7 (wisdom?.....!) and so there are fewer of us. And we cannot be lost you, for our actions, stretch far beyond the home. We carry God's monumental justice unto man and such outstanding

miracles of fine example are fading faster every second.

So, will you loose the last remaining institution of our era? Will you hand us up without a thought? You can not, in conscience do so!

We have gone into the public view for the geremensioned reasons and also, that the female race, of it's genius, may be further acclaimed and celebrated, that womanhood may rise a stage higher by our effort's being known, and to tell the Legionary Daughters rather to please leave their shoes where we can find them!

Keep your eyes on us, my reader the hour for exercise of HIS Great Commandment is nigh and the greatest of theseis us! We seek first.....! We, your towers of strength!

in the trade, will join with us in taking whatever steps are necessary for the welfare of our youth.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Michael Carney
Our Lady's College

Michael C. Breathnach
St. Colman's Voc. School

Sr. M. de Lourdes
St. Joseph's Convent

FROM THE GARDAI

"The Gardai, when asked for a statement, were unable to give one due to regulations within their association."

FROM THE VINTNERS

The following statement was obtained from a spokesman representing the Gort Branch of the Licenced Vintners Federation of Ireland:

"With regard to underage drinking in Gort, we would like to bring to the notice of the community that the members of the Gort Branch of the Licenced Vintners Federation of Ireland strictly

UNDER AGE DRINKING

The following is the content of a letter sent by the Principals of the three post-primary schools in Gort to each Vintner in the town in relation to under age drinking, a copy of which was also sent to the Superintendent of the Garda Siochana with a covering letter urgently requesting him to have the law enforced in this area.

GORT,
2 December, 1981

Dear Vintner,

We have become aware that in recent times an increasing number of young people have been putting publicans and their assistants in the embarrassing position of having to refuse to serve them drink, or acceding to their request to avoid a scene.

This is a situation which you, we are sure, deplore as much as we do. We are therefore sending a copy of this letter to all public-

ans in Gort asking that they, as a group, unanimously ensure that no young people under the age of 18 years be allowed on their premises. We recognise that in many cases it is difficult to establish the age of young people, but we would suggest that you and your assistants put the onus on the youths themselves to prove that they are over 18 years before they are served with drink.

As the Gardai also have a responsibility in this matter, we are contacting them this week also, to ask that they co-operate with you in establishing an environment in Gort in which young people can grow to maturity without being pressurised into drinking by their peers, or being attracted by the atmosphere and entertainments of our bars, at an age at which they are unable to cope with drink.

We thank you for your consideration of the problem which we have outlined, and we anticipate that you and all your colleagues

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Ass./Manager: James B. Hannigan

UNDER AGE DRINKING

observe the laws with regard to the question of underage drinking and have done so over the years and will continue to do so in the future. Our members are willing to co-operate with the authorities at all times to stop this problem of underage drinking."

The statement goes on to comment specifically on the letter issued by the Principals of the three post-primary schools last December in relation to underage drinking in Gort:

"With reference to the recent statement published by the Gort post-primary schools authorities, we would like to point out that the large number of students who attend the post-primary schools in Gort come from outside the Gort area, which gives rise to the question as to whether these students were served drink in Gort. The Federation regrets that the school authorities did not consult them before making their recent statements, as a little more co-operation between both organisations might be more helpful than a lot of undue publicity."

REACTIONS OF SOME YOUNG PEOPLE:

The reactions of some young people to the letter and the problem it raised were varied. A general reaction seemed to be a disappointment that they were not consulted by their Principals before the action was taken of publishing the letter. The following are some other comments expressed:

"There's nothing else to do, or nowhere else to go!"

"Are our parents living in a fantasy world?"

"It's disgraceful to see 14 and 15 year-olds drinking alcohol!"

"Are bar-tenders blind, they can't tell the age?"

"Drinking has become far too accepted in our society. Young people are following the example of their adults."

"Parents constantly moan about how hard it is to make ends meet, yet many of their children have

plenty of money to spend on alcohol."

"Bring back the Dew Drop."

The Staff of Guaire would welcome any comments or views from other members of the public - especially parents. We would hope to be able to publish these

in the next issue of 'Guaire'. As a concerned member of the community what is your reaction to the various statements made? Do they reflect the reality of the situation as you see and experience it? We look forward to hearing from you!

"SINBAD SAILS IN"

A Special Report by
Our Drama Correspondent

Pantomime returned to Gort last February, after a gap of 22 years, when the recently formed Gort and District Musical Society presented "Sinbad the Sailor". The cast of 18, the chorus of 29 and indeed the children from the Convent of Mercy, gave this, the Society's first production the full treatment and it was a most enjoyable show throughout, a show which the producer, Sean Leahy, can feel proud of. The Society played to capacity audiences on each of the three nights, as well as the matinee and the local response can only inspire the Society with encouragement to continue their great work in this field. In these times of our over dependence on Television as a form of entertainment, it was encouraging to note the Chairman's (Colman Sherry) remarks on the final night when he stated how the show has been booked out a week in advance of the actual performances and his note of regret that some 200 people had not been afforded the opportunity of seeing the Show.

FROM THE OPENING

From the opening curtain, one could evidently see that this Society meant business. No expense or effort had been spared in the very high quality of set and costume. Here, a word of praise must be extended to the back-stage crew, totaling 20 in number, who, in the opinion of many, never received the full praise that they deserve. Without them, the on-stage crew would look and feel like fish out of water. The stage



Mrs. Considine, R.I.P.
who for many years was a guiding light in Gort Musicals.

was ably managed by Tommy Minnogue, assisted by Dick Burke, with Tim O'Driscoll, James Hannigan and Padraig Giblin as their crew. Lighting was very effectively controlled by Michael Quinn and Eamonn Fennessy, while Colm Ward was in charge of sound effects. Special praise must go to Josephine Ward, Kitty North and Angela Coen, for their excellent set and scenery design, while make-up was also of a high standard under the guidance of Monica McGrath, Sheila Duffy, Aine Fahey, and Fr. B. Kelly. Mary Coen, Vera Killeen, Teresa Hanlon, Jene Leahy and Eileen Lally looked after the wardrobe.

The main character was that of Sinbad, most professionally played by Niall Finnegan, who deserves special praise when one considers that he was experiencing his first sample of stage work. In fact, over 75% of the entire cast had never stood on a stage before this production, therefore their actual brilliance indicates the

"SINBAD SAILS IN"

dedication and hard work which went into this production. Throughout the show, the comedy, a very important part of any pantomime, was ably supplied by John Finnegan, an actor of long experience, playing the part of Salubria, Sinbad's mother. Other snippets of comedy, more of a local nature, were supplied by Stephen Fahey and Kevin Glynn, playing the parts of Alibad and Aliworse, two scoundrels. Jimmy Lynskey gave an excellent performance as Mustapha, a merchant, whose slogan throughout the show was "Minutes mean Money", while Vera Killeen gave a superb performance as his daughter, Celina. The Caliph of Baghdad was ably played by Colman Keane with Gabriel Cloonan taking the role of Prince Hassan, while the Caliph's daughter, Princess Shining Pearl was played by Shining Caroline Concannon. Frank Walsh played Prince Hassan's father, King Serindib and looked as powerful as any King. The apple of Salubria's eye was the Captain of the Crested Dolphin, played most convincingly by Eithne McCarthy. On the darker side, Pat Craddock played the part of Babba-Rum, a pirate chief. Equally evil was Tom McNevin playing the part of Black Abdullah, a Turkish magician. The long stage experience of Frank Mitchell was quite evident in his excellent role as the evil old man of the sea who swapped sea water for crested ten. Atracta O'Regan was illuminous in her part of the Geni of the Ring while Eddie Fennessy played the part of an Official, Bernie Costello the Chamberlain and Colie Moran a musician.

The chorus line under the baton of the musical director, Mary Keely, consisted of Eileen Brennan, Marian Carr, Ann-Marie Coen, Annette Cooke, Angela Fahey, Margaret Fahey, Mary Fahey, Kitty Gilane, Aggie Jennings, Annette Lally, Jean Leahy, Nellie Lynskey, Monica McGrath, Claire Maloney,

Kathleen Maloney, Ann Mullanne, Richella Treston, Kathleen Walsh, Dan Casey, Paddy Cooke, Bernard Costello, Frank Lally, James Hannigan, Aengus McCarthy, Damien McGrath, Thomas Minogue, Paddy Moloney and Tim O'Driscoll. The addition by some of the chorus of a sketch on T.B. eradication on slaves was very appropriate and humorous.

The orchestra consisted of Aine O'Doherty (pianist), Tom O'Shaughnessy (piano accordion) and Colie Moran (guitar). The choreographer was Ann-Marie Mannion.

All in all a most excellent show and one which the Society deserves the highest praise for their enthusiasm, where their courage in meeting a pre-show outlay of £2,800 was well rewarded, financially and otherwise.

A.G.M.

Following the Annual Reports from the out-going Secretary (Miss Eileen Brennan), out-going P.R.O. (Mr. Paddy Cooke), and out-going Chairman of the

Finance Committee (Mr. Michael Durand), the latter report showing a total expenditure for the year of £2,781.23, with a total income of £3,177.65, a nett profit of £396.42. The election of Officers for the coming year commenced. John Finnegan was elected Chairman, with Mrs. Diviney and Mr. Jimmy Hannigan, Assistant Chairpersons. Eileen Brennan was re-elected Secretary and Damien McGrath, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Assisted by Mr. Michael Durand, Mr. Pat O'Donnell, Miss Richella Treston, Mrs. Eithne McCarthy, and Mr. Martin O'Connor. Mr. Gabriel Cloonan was elected Public Relations Officer, assisted by Mr. Paddy Cooke. Nineteen members were elected to the General Committee, as follows - Pat O'Donnell, Margaret Fahey, Josephine Ward, Gabriel Cloonan, Richella Treston, Vera Killeen, Bernie Costello, Jimmy Lynskey, Eithne McCarthy, Caroline Concannon, Paddy Cooke, Mrs. Maloney, Mrs. North, Aine O'Doherty, Niall Finnegan, Frank Walsh, Martin O'Connor, Tom McNevin and Michael Durand.

HAIR BY HILARY

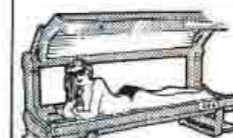
The Square

I would like to announce that Corina (late of Garry's Ennis) has joined my staff.

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*Waxing
*Ear Piercing
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Memories Are Made Of This



Members of Kiltartan Society laying a wreath at the grave of Lady Gregory on 50th Anniversary of her death.



A Group of School Leavers from St. Colman's Vocational School, Gort seen with Bishop Casey.



The Old Days — James O'Connor R.I.P. Georges Street, conducts one of the many sheep sales in his yard 30 years ago.

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GORT SHOPPING CENTRE



Memories Are Made Of This



Keeping a watchful eye on the vegetables, as he did on the enemy during the Civil War, 82 year old Jim Minogue, Ennis Road, Gort, could put many a farmer to shame with his fine garden of cabbage, onions, potatoes and rhubarb.



Corpus Christy Procession at Gort. Canon Quinn bearing the host.



Representing Gavins Lounge Bar Peterswell, This Happy Group won The Gort and District section of The Guinness/Sunday World Sponsored Pub Quiz 1982.



Greetings from London!



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Parish Priests Of Gort Since 1900

compiled by W.M. Quinn

From the Victorian era, Gort has had a happy litany of worthy Parish Priests.

MONSIGNOR FAHY

Illustrious historian, Monsignor Fahy, author of "The History of Kilmacduagh" erected the memorial cross at the entrance to St. Colman's Church in October, 1900.

MONSIGNOR CASSIDY

I may err in my sequence, but I recall the placid Monsignor Cassidy and his long up-lifting scriptural confession to an unworthy sinner as myself — blushing from the dark confines, a full ten minutes later.

Many a humble marriage ceremony he conducted for half a crown, if they had it, or a wave of blessing if they had not, for many penniless couples hadn't it, just forty odd years ago.

In later life, his pious sermons from the pulpit were but mumbling "Soliloquys", which we all endured and accepted from the Sagart Mo Chroidhe, just as we tolerated and enjoyed the loud volume of his big battery radio from the first floor of the presbytery — for he was then hard of hearing.

DR. FALLON.

Then came the brilliant Maynooth Professor — Rev. Dr. Fallon (beaten by just one vote in the Bishopric election, which went to most Rev. Dr. Michael Browne) Dr. Fallon was a quiet unassuming man, whose masses were a heavenly joy to behold.

Incidentally, his brother was schools Inspector at my village school at Labane and a native of Kinvara.

A staunch Gaelic speaker, he was ever dressed in heavy Connemara tweeds with a sparkling gold Fainne on his lapel.

DEAN HYNES

The angelic Dean Hynes, late president of Scoil Einde in Galway City and a native of the Ennistymon country, no doubt has a well deserved halo today. Another incidental, and a treasured possession — I still ride around on his blue bicycle, which motivated him in the early years in Galway. He took me off my feet, unlike Bowmaker, who put many better men on their feet. I purchased it at a sale of work in the town hall, conducted by Ardahan born Auctioneer, Joseph McInerney, for the sum of £1.00. No way would I part with a cycle of such a holy man,

and hopefully, it will be re-auctioned when (half hopefully, I join him).

THE LATE CANON GEORGE QUINN P.P.

(an appreciation)

But the Lord left the good wine 'till last, as he did at the Marriage Feast of Cana — and left them all merry, as did the next jolly encumbant Canon George Quinn, who is now fittingly commemorated in the Canon Quinn Memorial Park at Queen Street — no more worthy tribute to a Priest who loved the old and the young and hopefully will bring joy and relaxation for centuries to come.

HIS LIFE'S WORK

Fr. George, as we all lovingly called him, began his priestly mission from St. Mary's College with fellow students — the Murphy's of Lisheen House, the Carr's and Quinn's from Tierenevan, Gerard Keane of Gort, and the Kelly and Mulkerrins boys from Peterswell.

After St. Mary's, he went to the Irish College at Paris, acquiring a fluency in French and an abiding love for Lourdes.

His first Parish duties were in Scotland, where he formed life long friendships and was remembered for the daring rescue of a drowning boy.

He came to Gort as a Curate, infusing interest in the annual Pilgrimage to Lough Derg, St. Colman's Park, organising and perfecting the annual parades and the unforgettable pantomimes. His hobbies including tennis, fishing shooting and of course swimming, of which he was of championship class.

In the early '70's, as administrator and Parish Priest of Gort, he promoted visits to Lourdes, helped develop Coole Park into one of Ireland's most restful nature trails, improved St. Colman's Well at Kiltartan, acquired land for a new school site (the building of which is due to commence shortly), struggled for a swimming pool, renovated the monastic church at Kilmacduagh, restored the former Church of Ireland to it's present magnificent Library, made beautiful stained glass windows possible at Tierenevan and Kiltartan Churches, and produced a host of priceless colour photographs.

He was a talented writer, his

article on Humel Figurines was syndicated in over twenty magazines around the world and his commentaries on country festivals was high-lighted by the Spanish Tourist Board.

He was a great traveller, visiting not only Holy Shrines, but north and south America, Russia and many other places of interest and was a confrere of distinguished writers, Kees Von Hock and Colin Smyth.

PRIESTLY ADMINISTRATIONS
But ever, he was a dedicated Church man — a wonderful confessor and a full participant in wakes and weddings — one of "the lads" but always upholding his priestly presence.

Born at Headford, Co. Galway, he never lost the delightful infectious "brogue" of the north Galway men, growing eloquent in his sermons, especially in his homilies on matters historical. He had an irrepressible sense of good-natured humour and banter, ever approachable, tolerant and understanding.

Future memories may become misted in the passage of time, but the Canon Quinn Memorial Park at Queen Street will remain a fitting monument to a grand priest of the people and bring the happiness which all his life he tried to impart.

Bed of Heaven to his sparkling generous soul.



The Church of Ireland Bishop of Killaloe handing over the key of the Church of Ireland, Gort, to the late Bishop Browne of Galway

Parish Priests Of Gort Since 1900



At St. Colman's Well at the turn of the century: (l to r:) Monsignor Fahy, Fathers John Considine, Corcoran and Fallon P.P., Kilbeacanty.



The Blessing of the Colours 1947. (l. to r:) Terry McCarthy, altar boy Fr. W. Moran C.C., Bishop Browne Fr. G. Quinn, C.C. and Christy Fennessy — altar boy.



Diamond Jubilee of Mgr. Cassidy, Gort in July 1946
(l. to r): seated Frs. M. Corcoran P.P. Kilchreest, D. Hehir P.P. Peterswell, Msgr. Cassidy, P. O'Dea P.P. Kilbeacanty, Bishop Browne M. Mitchell P.P. Craughwell, Canon McHugh P.P. Clarinbridge, J. Considine P.P. Ardahan, M. Garahy.
(l. to r): standing: Frs. G. Quinn C.C. Gort, J. Larkin C.C. Peterswell V. Fitzgerald C.C. Craughwell, Fr. Canavan C.C. Kinvara, D. Glenon P.P. Ballinderreen, J. Quinn, Ardm. Beagh, Fr. Nelly AM; Fr. T. Burke C.C. Gort, Fr. M. Spelman, St. Mary's College.

Industry In Gort

By Our Special Correspondent

The history of industry in Gort makes poor reading indeed. In fact, it was relatively non-existent until the mid-1970's, when the then local Industrial Development Committee, spear-headed by Michael Cunningham, succeeded in persuading the I.D.A. and the Politicians to give Gort some of the industrial food, which other towns in the county had been enjoying for many years previously. One cannot find any reasonable excuse for the delay in promoting industry in the town, considering the I.D.A. had already acquired for some years a substantial parcel of land at the Ennis Road for the purpose of industrial development. Prior to the mid-1970's, the only form of industry was the former Braids factory at the Tubber Road, now the property of Topform Ltd., for the past five years. With the proper pressure applied, in the right areas, the I.D.A. built an advance factory on their site at the Ennis Road and two further factories have been built there since, with the building of a fourth having commenced recently. Some few years ago, the local Industrial Development Committee, voluntarily ceased functioning and their operations were taken under the umbrella of the local Chamber of Commerce, whose present Chairman, Mr. Michael Breathnach, is mainly responsible for keeping pressure on for further industrial development in the area and that is no easy job, considering that the availability of man-power far exceeds the availability of jobs. In fact, none of the four factories currently operating in Gort could be classed as big employers, their entire work-force of 70 being less than that currently employed by the local county council. Nevertheless their possible ability to remain operating for a long number of years will perhaps be sufficient compensation for the large grant aiding allocated to them by the I.D.A. and for the fact that they



are at present relatively small employers. Certainly, it must be said that the industrial scene in Gort looks much healthier than in previous years and the future prospects look very bright indeed.

Our roving reporter visited each of the factories in Gort and got on-the-spot comments from their management.

The first factory to be visited was the Topform premises on the Tubber Road, where our reporter met the newly appointed Manager. Topform, a subsidiary of a Canadian Company, have been in-

business in Gort for the past five years and are reporting very brisk business in the manufacturing of kitchen work-tops, 80% of their total production being exported, the remainder being sold in Ireland to firms specialising in the manufacture of kitchen suites. The manager can foresee his Factory being kept quite busy well into the future. There are fifteen people presently employed at Topform, with no immediate foreseeable plans for expansion of the number employed or of his Company's operations in Gort.

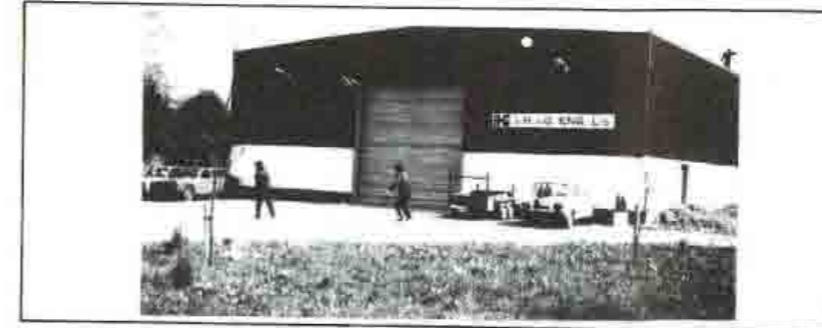


Our Reporter then went to the Ennis Road, which has now become the Industrial Mecca of Gort, and visited the 3 factories there. First call was to Mr. Frank Quinn of Lisk Ireland Ltd., formerly occupied by Eire Precision Ltd., which went into voluntary liquidation in 1978. The premises remained unoccupied until July, 1980. In just eleven months, Lisk have grown from strength to strength, presently employing 34 people, which they expect to increase to a total staff force of 80 within the next three years. They are

currently expanding their floor space from 7,000 sq. ft. to 17,000 sq. ft. to allow for their continued growth in the manufacture of solenoids for the European hydraulics industry, their entire production currently being exported to Europe. Negotiations are presently at an advanced stage to sell their product to certain Irish concerns. Frank sees a great future for Lisk in Gort and can foresee their present very busy trend continuing for many years to come.

Next on the Ennis Road our reporter visited Mr. Al Smith,

Industry In Gort



Managing Director of I.H. & G. Engineering, who have been in operation in Gort for the past four years, two of which were spent at rented property at Barrack Street, the latter years at an advanced 8,000 sq. ft. factory at the Ennis Road, where they currently employ eleven people in the manufacture of structural steel buildings. Al tells us that his Company have not as yet felt the pinch of the current recession, stating that they are currently busy with plans to expand their work-force to twenty people within the next twelve months. Their entire work is for the home market and a very colourful brochure reveals the Company having secured such impressive contracts as the installations of over-head travelling cranes for Coen's of Galway, McNaughton's Twist Steel of Dublin, the Irish Sugar Company, Bannagher Concrete Co., O'Dwyer Steel of Tipperary and Udaras na Gaeltachta. Their most recently completed Steel building was that of a Lecture Hall at University College, Galway. I.H. & G. also employ final year students of Gort Voc. School on work training courses.

Being so adjacent to Shannon Airport and Galway City makes Gort an ideal industrial location, & would like to see the school curriculum altered more towards technical training suitable to industrial purposes, where many school leavers could, following an extensive training course with AnCo, return to their home town

and take up a profession within industry.

Our correspondent's final call was to Mr. Michael Breathnach, Chairman of Gort Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber's Industrial Representative for the area, who, although disappointed with the small work-force presently involved in industry within the town, sees the future very bright indeed. The I.D.A., he says, have recently purchased

circa 18 acres of land at the Boland's Lane/Gallagher's Lane area, which is to be developed into an industrial estate. Mr. Breathnach, expects that this site will be fully developed with a number of industrial units within the next ten years, hopefully offering sufficient employment for all of the working force of South Galway, thus saving them having to travel to work, as many are presently obliged to do.

Mr. Breathnach, and indeed management of all factories in Gort are thrilled at the news of Gort's telephone service going automatic, as they have been more than dissatisfied with the telephone service in the past. The automatic telephone service, according to all interviewed, must act as a big boost towards attracting further industry into the area.

GORT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 500 CLUB DRAW

The above association would very much like to thank you, the public, for your very generous support in the launching of our '500 CLUB DRAW'. The draw began on June 11th last, and we are delighted to report that it has proven to be a great success. Total monies received from the draw to the end of June amounted to £6,534 (this includes all those who paid for the year in advance).

PRIZEWINNERS

The winners in the draw for the month of June are as follows:
June 11: Mrs. Finnegan, Shigana, (Video or £500, sponsored by O'Grady Construction).
 John Lawlor, Station Rd (£50)
 Caroline Concannon, Bank of Irl, Gort (£25)
 Tom Roche, Church St. (£25)

June 20: Ken Carr, Georges St. Gort (£100)
 Brid Quinton, Portumna (£50)
 Gerry Sheehan, Barrack St. (£25)
 Thomas Noone, Castlelawn (£25)

June 27: Frank Duffy, Loughrea, Co. Galway (£100)
 Cathleen Murray, Lough Cutra (£50).
 Teresa Maloney, Ennis Road (£25)
 Mike McDonagh c/o 'Supermac' (£25)

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We were very pleased with the reaction to our first Horticultural, Home Produce and Crafts Show held in St. Colman's Vocational School, Gort, last August. The Vocational School proved to be an ideal setting for the Show, the large pre-fabs let in plenty of light ensuring that all exhibits were seen at their best. Indeed, as it was one of the warmest days of the summer, our biggest worry was that the home-made butter would melt — thereby spoiling the good work of the ladies who had, no doubt, spent many hours making and presenting it.

REVIVAL:

Our Show is a revival, to some extent, of the Gort and South Galway Agricultural Show which lapsed in the late sixties. However, it is much smaller than the former Show — as there are no classes in horses, sheep, cattle or jumping still, there were 650 entries received in the 51 classes for last year's Show. They came from a large area of South Galway and parts of North Clare. The event certainly caught the imagination of the children in a big way and during the previous few days some young exhibitors are known to have covered many miles in the locality in search of the "Greatest Variety of Wild Flowers. Sheila Burke from Castletown was the eventual winner in this class where she competed against 23 other exhibitors.

Ian Cahill, Coole, was awarded 1st Prize for the hard work and imagination he displayed in his "Miniature Garden." Christina Mc Allen's exhibit was a close second, with Barry Quinn, Ballymarkham being placed 3rd. The Children's Handcraft class was so well supported that the Society are considering sub-dividing it into about three different classes for the 1982 Show in order to give children in the area an opportunity of expressing their many talents in the various handcrafts.



The recently elected Officers of Gort & District Show Society.

Seated: L to R: Sister Ide, Assistant Hon. Secretary Michael Bermingham, Chairman, Anne Coen, Jt. Treas. Standing: L to R: Brendan Murphy, Vice Chairman; Padraic Giblin, Hon Secretary, Pat Casey, Joint Treas.

FINANCE

The Show was a big undertaking in financial terms and I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of the Society, the various sponsors and subscribers who made the event possible and who have given us the courage to proceed again this year.



SHOW CLASSES AND PRIZES

There are five sections in the Show: Home Produce, Garden Produce, Flowers, Handcrafts and Children's Class. The Home Produce section has classes in Butter, Eggs, Jams, Cakes, etc. The Garden Section includes potatoes, apples, carrots and parsnips and other vegetables. There are eleven various flower classes. Handcrafts include, hand-knits, rushwork, etc. The section confined to children has classes in cookery, flowers and handcrafts.

Inscribed marble trophies were presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizewinners in each class at last year's Show. In addition there are extra prizes (specially sponsored) for the most successful exhibitor in each section.

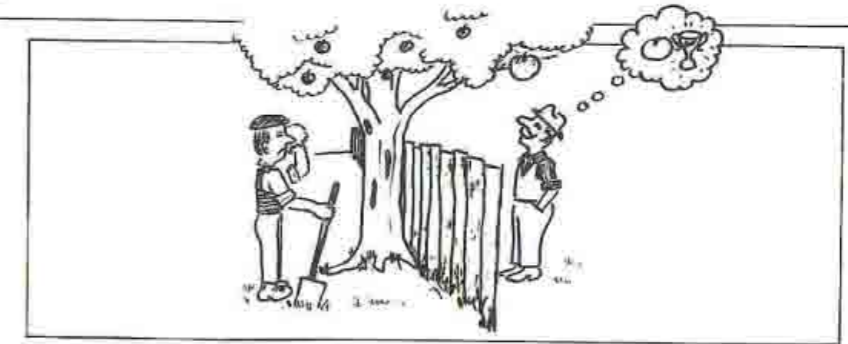
HOW TO ENTER

Schedules, which include a full list of classes, rules and entry form will be available in early August. As an additional aid to exhibitors this year, a list of

useful tips will be included with the schedules. This leaflet has been prepared by Mr. Dick O'Gorman B.Agr.Sc. (Hort), consultant to the Show Society. For this year's Show the completed entry form, together with fee, must be with the Secretary by Saturday 21st August at the latest. This is to allow the printer sufficient time to prepare the catalogue for the Show to be held on the following Saturday, 28th August, 1982. The exhibitor brings along his/her exhibits in good time on Show morning and displays them to their best advantage.

OTHER SHOW DAY ATTRACTIONS

Local business people have an opportunity of displaying their goods and services. One of the stands which attracted much attention last year was Christy Fennessy's T.V. and Video Centre. Members of the Galway Craftworkers Association put on displays in woodwork, rushwork,



etc. while Bord Iascaigh Mhara provided a Fish Cookery Demonstration. Local voluntary organisations such as I.C.A. Guilds and gardening clubs are always welcome to have their own stands.

These are all important extra features of the Show which will be further developed in the future and, combined with the ordinary class exhibits, will help to make Show Day a great day out for all the family.

A.G.M.

The Show Society developed from the Gardening Club which was formed two years ago and at

a recently held Annual General Meeting, the following officers were elected for the coming year: Michael Bermingham, Sr. Ide, Anne Coen, Brendan Murphy Padraic Giblin and Pat Casey.

The recently elected officers of Gort and District Show Society. Seated from left: Sister Ide, Assistant Hon Secretary, Michael Bermingham, Chairman, Anne Coen, Jt. Treasurer.

Standing: From Left: Brendan Murphy, Vice-Chairman, Padraic Giblin, Hon. Secretary, Pat Casey, Joint Treasurer.

HOME SWEET HOME IS A SCHOOL

by Peadar O'Conaire.

Ever thought of living in a school? Old folks will say 'of course not'. Middle-aged people will probably find the idea unattractive as well. Mention it to young people and they are likely to make an urgent call to a certain hospital on your behalf!

I visited a couple the other day whose dearest dream it was, for many years, to pass "sweet retirement" in an old schoolhouse. They had seen hundreds of such old schools, in most picturesque places all over Ireland, go to ruin. Imagine their delight when they heard that an old school on a hill, commanding a beautiful view of the Burren, was for sale.

The dream came true for Pat and Kitty North when they took possession of the old school house in Tiernevan in 1977. How did they hear about it, I asked Kitty, as we chatted over a cup of tea

in the studio-cum-sittingroom? It happened quite simply, she told me. The couple were talking to Mrs. Hannon (whose husband, Tom, they knew for many years from trips to the Burren) and mentioned to her that they would love to buy an old school. The old school in Tiernevan would be coming on the market the following week, they were told! Within a short time they were the proud possessors of a school nearly one hundred and twenty years old.

THE OLD AND THE NEW

Pat and Kitty lived in their caravan beside the school, initially, while necessary alterations were carried out on the building. It took six months to get E.S.B. power connected, and two years to get water. A telephone was eventually installed (98 poles from Gort)! One of the class-



A view of the 'Masters Room' November 1967

rooms was converted into two bedrooms, the other into a most elegant sittingroom. The cloakroom became a bathroom. More working space was needed, especially because of Kitty's painting, so a new studio-cum-livingroom was added on at the rear of the building. The scenes for 'Sinbad the Sailor' were done on the floor

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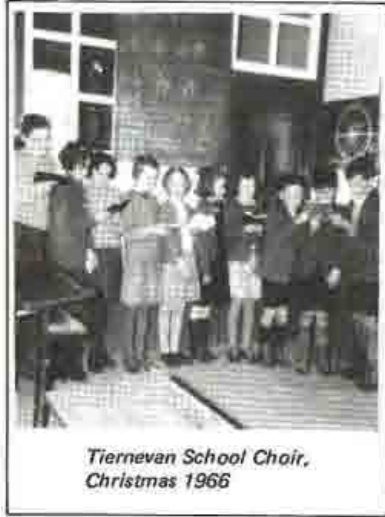
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HOME SWEET HOME IS A SCHOOL

of this large room, over a four week period. Kitty hopes to form art groups in the near future using the studio as a meeting place for them. One side of the room is practically all glass affording a panoramic view of the Burren hills. A large glass door opens out onto the garden.



Tiernevan School Choir,
Christmas 1966

THE GARDEN

And what a gorgeous garden. Pat dug the mucky old playground and transformed it into a spectacular array of rockeries and flowerbeds. Also included is a lovely garden pond. Pat's plan was to create a miniature Burren, and one has to say that he has gone a long way towards achieving that objective.

He has received able assistance from Kitty, who has brought flowers from far and near to enhance the splendour of the place. She has a keen interest in wild flowers. She recently catalogued the species found on the roadside between Tiernevan and Newtown. She found one hundred species, including one small patch of gentians. This important work has been verified by a Trinity College Professor. Indeed, Kitty has done her bit for conservation by going out with a shovel and cleaning around the patches of wild flowers she has discovered by the roadside.

Pat acquired some fine specimens of stones while digging his garden. Pat and Kitty have been collecting stones as a hobby for many years. They have many interesting samples, the most extraordinary being two they found near the top of Mt. Elva.

An interesting feature of the garden is the weather-cock (broken in the winter storms but about to reappear again after repairs). It was given to Pat by Kitty as a birthday present many years ago and lay on the office floor in Dublin for a long time. It was even used in a shoe display that Pat photographed. It now adorns the garden.

I asked Pat about the old dry toilets at the back of the garden. They were converted into a store, he told me. Nine families of jackdaws nest in them. The birds would soon be arriving home for their tea, he said. He was right. They arrived faithfully at four o'clock, to feed on crumbs of bread the couple had kept for them. They are not the only regular visitors, however. Hares come right up to the studio door to graze. "Our clover is exceptionally sweet", says Pat jokingly.

VISITORS' BOOK

Before I left, Kitty invited me to sign the Visitors Book she has been keeping since 1979. It has been signed by people from all over the world. It was twelve



Kitty & Pat beside the Weather Cock.

years since I last signed a book there — the Roll Book! What a transformation this remarkable couple has brought about. The old school house that I knew was extremely drab, with a guagmire beside it which passed as a playground. Now, both building and playground possess beauty, created by the imagination, care and skill of this fine couple. Long may they enjoy retirement in the serenity of this beautiful surroundings.



Tropical Coral
three hundred
million years
old one of
the many
beautiful
stones
collected by
Pat & Kitty

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OLD VETERANS REMEMBER

Do you remember.....

Charlie Boland, long-term organist in St. Colman's Church in the early '20's who owned a two-manual American organ which was sold at his auction for £5 to the S.M.A. Fathers in Cloughballymore, and is now in the Parish Church in Ballinderrin? He lived beside the recently sold Parish Priest's house. His people owned the Boland's Lane Property.

Lily Huban of the same era, who musically gifted was sent to study at the Conservatoire of Music in Paris returning to join the musically famous May Cosgrove (aunt of the former Taoiseach) and Joan Burke, the renowned contralto singer and violinist, at the Leinster School of Music, Dublin, where she taught until her retirement. She lived in Bridge Street in the house now occupied by the Coen family at Gilmartin's Pharmacy.

Sir Joseph Flynn, Papal Chamberlain, whose niece, Josephine O'Donnell became Secretary to the Convent Garden Opera House. She wrote a book of her experiences entitled: "The Stars of Covent Garden." illustrating it with autographed copies of their portraits, and recounting many exciting experiences. He was born in Bridge Street, became a solicitor, practiced in Tuam, and retired to Dublin.

His contemporary, Miss Lilly Lahiffe of Gort House, The Bridge, a Protestant, sought instruction in the Catholic faith, was prepared by Mother Gonzaga, Convent of Mercy, and received into the Roman Catholic Church in the first decade of the century.

Up in the hospital attached to the workhouse Mother Dominic snatched a razor from a suicide's hand, and staunched the wound until the arrival of the doctor.

A little further on the Ennis Road, a pretty cottage stood which is now the stie of Our Lady's College. It was occupied in the '20's by a certain Mr. Carroll, a retired English Army Officer, who donated the Town Clock. Two sisters of Mr. Seamus Clandillon, first Director of Radio Eireann, occupied it before their deaths.

Sadie Ward, a Gort girl in the '20's, was chosen by the Nurses' Association of London to present a bouquet to Queen Mary. Who will forget the Sunday Count John McCormack attended 11 o'clock Mass in St. Colman's Church when the Church was undergoing renovation and the organ dismantled? Nonetheless, Mrs. Mollie O'Brien instructed her boy soprano, Brendan Sweeney of Garrybeg, to sing John's favourite hymn, Lord, for tomorrow and its Needs", at the offertory.

And in the Square we saw erected the imposing statue of Christ the King by Mrs. Martin Coen whose descendants are with us still in business in Bridge Street.

During the '30's Herr Wolff — German Professor of Music — cycled once a week from Loughrea to train the Church choir at five shillings an hour, and to give piano lessons at two shillings per hour. One of his pupils was Georgie Daly, son of the Protestant minister, Archdeacon Daly, and sister of Miss Susanna Daly who died at the grand old age of 106! The Dalys lived in the Rectory, which is now occupied by the Scully family.

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BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

Congratulations to the following on the arrival of new family members:

- * John and Violet Finnegan, Coole, on the birth of their son, Jonathan.
- * Michael & Mary Hansberry, Shragh, on the birth of their son, Michael David.
- * David and Helen Curley, Loughrea Road, on the birth of their daughter, Fiona.
- * John & Ascinta Kilroy on the birth of their son, John Colman.
- * Gerard and Anne McMahon, Garryland, on the birth of twins, Sinead and Aoife.
- * Gerard & Rosaline Cahill, Coole, on the birth of their daughter, Nicola.
- * Thomas and Josephine Mahon, Ennis Road, on the birth of their daughter, Valerie.
- * Martin & Anne Connelly, Killamoran, on the birth of their daughter, Breda Patricia.
- * Patrick & Catherine Quinn, Kilmacduagh, on the birth of their son, Gerard Martin.
- * Thomas & Anne Griffin, George's Street, on the birth of their daughter, Teresa Bernadette.
- * William & Olive Kilroy, Ballyhugh, on the birth of their son, William.
- * Thomas & Anne Donovan, Travelling Community, on the birth of their son, Martin.
- * Juni & Mary Finnegan, Coole, on the birth of their daughter, Rachel.
- * Francis & Elizabeth Finnegan, Kilmacduagh, on the birth of their daughter, Louise Elizabeth.
- * Joe & Attracta O'Dea, Tubber Road, on the birth of their daughter, Eimear Mairead.
- * Joe & Nancy Stanford, Ballybane, on the birth of their daughter, Aine Mairead.
- * Kieran & Carmel Kerins, Barrack Street, on the birth of their son, Eamonn.
- * James & Mary Lee, 'Glynn's Hotel', on the birth of their daughter, Philomena.
- * Ronnie & Anne Killeen, Ballyhugh, on the birth of their son, Michael David.
- * John & Nora Monaghan, Tubber Road, on the birth of their daughter, Melissa Mary.

We also extend our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the happy couples who were married in the parish since the last issue of 'Guaire'

- * Bridget Rock, Garryland who married James Howard, Kilnaboy.
- * Bernadette Rock, Garryland, who married J.J. O'Reilly, Ballinakill, Gort.
- * Mary Hansberry, Shragh, who married Michael Hanrahan, Lucan.
- * Patricia Piggott, The Square, Gort, who married John Balfe, Dublin.

Since our last issue of 'Guaire' we have also been sadly bereaved.

To the families, relations, friends and neighbours of the following we extend our sincerest sympathy. Ar dheis De go raibh a n-anamacha.

- * James Fahy, Barrack Street, Gort, on January 8th, 1982.
- * John Glynn, St. Colman's Tce., Gort, on January 16th, 1982.
- * May Coppinger, Crannagh, on January 18th, 1982.
- * Mary Kerins, George's Street, on February 1st, 1982.
- * Brigid O'Halloran, Ballyhugh, on January 28th, 1982.
- * Very Rev. George Canon Quinn P.P. Gort, on February 7th, 1982.
- * Brigid Egan, Kiltartan, on February 12th, 1982.
- * Archibald Wightman, Church Street, on February 17th, 1982.
- * Bridget Burke, Loughrea Road, on February 17th, 1982.
- * John Porter, Ballyhugh, on February 18th, 1982.
- * Agnes Carr, Tiernevan, on February 20th, 1982.
- * Patrick McNevin, Glenbrack, on March 23rd, 1982.
- * Mary Donnellan N.T. Circular Road, on April 9th, 1982.
- * Rita Lally, Crowe Street, on April 10th, 1982.
- * Mrs. Anna Durand, Galway Road, Gort.
- * Joan Tymon-Quinn, New York and Ballyhugh, in April, '82.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been celebrated for their peaceful rest in the Lord.

POET'S CORNER.

THE TREE OF COOLE DEMESNE

by Mark Scully (1981)

I stand alone, my head unbowed,
My branches leafing to the cloud;
My coat a patron of the arts
Has played its role of many parts.

The mansion, great indominant tower,
No longer reaches from its bower
Of bordered paths, and flowered edge,
But lies subdued, a cratered ledge.

Where once great Yeats and Gregory strolled,
And Martyn, Syngé, and Shaw enrolled.
Bare fences, mark their majesty,
But I remain, a scarred old tree.

Proud swans, still grace the silent lake,
And nature lives for nature's sake;
My carved out frame a vast antique,
But cultures names no longer speak.

Beneath my boughs, no longer dwell,
Nor aid, nor add, that cultured spell,
To Eireann's lore, and priceless art,
Those gentle jewels, of nature's heart.

My sighs float on the gentle breeze,
My gaze sifts through those lesser trees,
In hope, my God, to visualise
My loved ones, in some spiritual guise.

But through, alas, those fleeting years,
The gusting gales brought nought but tears,
To this poor seasoned sentinel,
That marked their death, and tolled their knell.

The initials on the Tree at Coole



Photo: Jimmy Walsh.

WAITING by Aine Fahy

Waiting for a train?
Or for somebody?
Pondering doubt over the Paddy glass,
You too look ill at ease.
Wishing perhaps to pass the waiting hours,
In idle conversation.
Will you disturb this lazy morning
And talk with me?
I'll be going shortly.....
Up the roads, into other lives.
I'll probably never see you agin
So what does it matter if we break
This wall of silence now,
Even in romantic untruths.

POET'S CORNER.

DROWNING

by Luke

It seemed immaterial at the time
At least to the others,
Yet to him, it had drastic, horrifying implications.

Emotionally shattered, he desperately
Tried to maintain some sort of composure.

While expressing his resentment at
What had just been said
He then had to succumb
To yet another verbal attack.

This situation was hopeless
He'd have to come out – now
Regardless of whether or not he
could cope with it.

He stumbled over the coats and chairs
And scurried for the Bar door
Trying though not succeeding in
Holding back the tears, aching to explode
The tears that did nothing to comfort him
Or STOP – stop him from drowning.

THE AXEL OF THE GOOSE

by Sean Leahy

We all read in the papers, of an accident in town,
How a speeding yankee tourist, knocked a poor old gossie down.
The goose got board and lodgings, and lots and lots of booze,
Poor Johnie offered £50 for an axel for the goose.

They searched the bloody country, from here to Derrybrien.
But could not find a model, for the year of fifty nine.
Then Peter down in Limerick, saw an add placed in the news,
Advertising proudly, an axel for the goose.

Johnny bought the axel, he had no other choice,
passed as fresh and perfect, by our own dear doctor Joyce.
The crowd arrived in Sullivans, what a terrible night of ruse,
to watch the local experts, put the axel in the goose.

Johnny knocked the goose down, then placed him on a seat,
And Paddy Mick produced the gas, and put him straight asleep.
The butcher with a carving knife, and white coat rather loose,
He inserted very quickly, the axel in the goose.

Then Willy Quinn took photographs, for paper and for files.
Paddy Mitchell closed the holes, with bits of broken tiles.
Sean Whyte he made the crutches, from a piece of Silver Spruce,
Leahy wrote a song about, the axel for the goose.

Then Crowley talked to Conners, and they took the goose upstairs,
And all the lads down in the bar, knelt down and said some prayers.
Jordan played a hymn for us, while Johnie the booze,
That night when we inserted the axel in the goose.

The anaesthetic soon wore off, and he began to cackle,
Aggie danced a Highland Fling, while Desmond's glasses rattled.
The goose he did a quickstep, his crutches put to use,
The night that Johnies patrons, put the axel in the goose.

Then all the crowd felt hungry, and they went down for a feed,
They all felt rather happy, after such a wondrous deed,
But when the fridge was opened, there was nothing there to use,
So they ate the bloody patient, plus the axel in the goose.

MEET THE MANAGER AND STAFF

OF



Bank of Ireland



Seated from Left: Kathleen Conole, Caroline Concannon, Frank Shaw (Manager),
Patty Cahill, Joan Keehan.

Standing from Left: Maura Holland, Pat Casey, Anne Burke,
Padraic Giblin (Assistant Manager), Maura Corley, Gabriel Cloonan.

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