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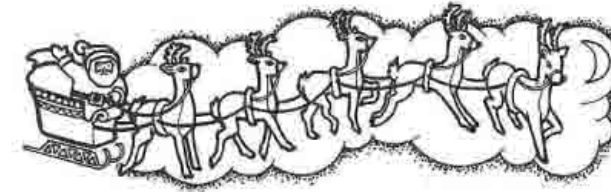
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GUAIRE

C H R I S T M A S 1 9 8 4

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

Editor:

Peadar Ó Conaire

Design:

Josephine Ward

Photography:

Mossy Clabby

Editorial Board:

Letters and comments will be greatly appreciated. We thank all our advertisers for their support. Without this help Guaire would not exist.

Frank Lally, Nicholas Cafferkey,
Paddy Cooke, Evelyn Roche,
Chris O'Shaughnessy, Bernadette Fennessy,
Michael Bermingham, Seán Leahy,
Michael O'Dwyer.

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OUT AND ABOUT

A recent visitor to Moloney's of George's Street was Captain John Moloney and his wife Jane from New Hampshire. A pilot with Delta Airlines John is a grandson of the late Michael Moloney who emigrated from Gort at the end of the last century. He is cousin of Vincent, Séamus and Joe.

History of Kilmacduagh

Dear Editor,
Over 20 years ago I loaned my precious *History of Kilmacduagh* by Dr. Fahy.

As I had not my name on it, the borrower may not recall the giver, but in many places it has the rubber stamp "Mountain View", Kinvara.

I would be thrilled to get it back.

Yours sincerely,
W. M. Quinn,
Church Street, Gort.

GORT ICA

The Guild is very active since it resumed in September after the Summer recess with work nights on every Wednesday night.

The Jubilee cup is on display in the Hall since winning it for the best hand made souvenir to commemorate the Quincentennial year celebrations. The competition was organised by Galway Federation.

Mrs. Concepta Quinn came first in the Pork and Bacon competition and

was awarded a scholarship to An Grianán for a week in October. She represented Galway and did Gort proud. Also in October Mrs. Nell Giblin got through to the Regional Final of the Housewife of the Year Competition but was narrowly defeated.

A number of members passed tests in jam making, freezing and quilting, all receiving Brannraí's for same. A very successful dance was held in McCarthy's, Kilbeacanty. Proceeds in aid of instalation of water and sewerage to premises in Bolands Lane.

If there are any ladies who wish to join come along any Wednesday night, you are always welcome.

Céad Míle Fáilte to our new parish priest, Canon Christy Walsh. Prior to his recent posting to Gort he was President of Coláiste Éinde, Salthill. He is no stranger to Gort—he served as curate in this parish some years ago.

We wish Canon Christy's predecessor, Fr. J. A. O'Halloran many years of happiness in his new appointment, as parish priest of Ballindereen.

We wish, many years of "sweet retirement" to Sergeant Peter Walsh who retired from the force recently after 30 years service. A native of Killanin he was a prominent sportsman in his youth and since his

arrival in Gort he was closely associated with South Galway Athletic Club.

We wish many happy years of retirement to Mr. Frank Shaw (Bank of Ireland) and Mr. Michael Durand (Allied Irish Banks) who retired since our last issue. We also wish their successors Mr. Dudley Solan and Mr. John O'Connor, every success in their new postings.

Orienteering has really taken off in Coole in recent times. On the 30th September there were more than 260 participants, many of them foreign visitors.

"Swat that fly" was the cry of many a Gortonian last Summer and Autumn. The winged pests were everywhere. Even allowing for an inevitable increase in the fly population during the exceptionally warm year it is the general feeling that contrary to what would be expected there are more flies around Gort since the new dump came into operation.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

The Gort Branch of CCE are still as active as ever, having put on a one night a week programme for tourists during the summer period, at various venues. It is well known that this type of entertainment is much appreciated by the tourist. The musicians and dancers who do it voluntarily, get much pleasure from sharing their talents with the overseas visitors.

The branch's one ambition had always been to own a "Teach Ceoil" locally. We are happy to report that this ambition has now been achieved.

The purchase of the "Classic Ballroom" is now under negotiation, the deal to be finalised in the near future.

The Branch are happy to report that the local half set dancers pictured in the last issue of *Guaire*, won the All-Ireland title.

We would like to remind you that our Irish nights are held every fortnight.

GORT YOUTH CLUB—AGM

Friday, 14th September saw the beginning of the Gort Youth Club once again. It began with an A.G.M.

OUT AND ABOUT

and an election of a new committee. Votes were cast and the following committee was elected.

Chairperson: Attracta O'Regan
Vice-Chairperson: Fergal Hickey
Treasurer: Ann Marie Coen
Secretary: John Murphy
P.R.O.: Alan Devlin

The old committee gave in their reports for the year past, which truly showed how hard they had worked. I would like to thank Derek Kenny, Gerard Mahon, Thomas O Driscoll, Niall Clabby, Caroline McGann and Mary Daly for their time and effort they put into making a Friday night enjoyable for young people in Gort.

Youth Club Competitions

Friday, 5th October saw the beginning of table tennis, badminton, chess, draughts, poker and novelty competitions such as curryeating, coke drinking, raw egg and banana eating competitions. The competitions went on for four weeks and about sixty young people participated in all.

Saturday, 6th October, also saw the beginning of more competitions. Basket ball and volley ball competitions also began in the Convent of Mercy, Gort.

Inter Club activities

Saturday, 20th October, proved to be a very enjoyable night for Gort Youth Club. Thanks to Kinvara Youth Club. Gort and Kinvara participated in a wide variety of games. I would like to thank Kinvara committee, Fiona Corless, Cathal Connolly, Kenneth Corless, Ronan Burn and Caitríona Monaghan for their kind invitation and hopefully we can repay the compliment in the future.

Gort/Kinvara Youth Club Disco

Friday, 26th October set the scene for the first youth club disco in Gort for over a year. many clubs from all areas of South Galway decided to come for a night that promised to be

very good. Novelty games and spot prizes helped brighten up the night

On behalf of the Gort Youth Club I would like to thank Fr. Carney for his generosity in giving us Our Lady's College every Friday night. I would also like to thank Sr. Francais for her generosity also in the giving of the Convent of mercy grounds and premises.

Finally I would like to thank Colman Keane and Fr. Jimmy Walshe for their time on a Friday night, they are greatly appreciated by all the youth of Gort. The Gort youth Club would like to hear from any adults who wish to give us a few hours of their time on an odd Friday night.

1985 the year of Youth

As 1984 is slowly coming to an end. Our committee hopes that we can arrange more games, participate in Federation games, and programmes, tours, holidays and live concerts. We hope to make 1985 truly a year of the youth and hopefully for the youth of Gort it will be a year to remember.

Country Markets Ltd, Gort

Country Markets Ltd. hold their weekly sale on Friday morning from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Courthouse and is going from strength to strength. It is the place to be on Friday morning for your genuine home produced fresh produce. The members who are extremely competent in their fields come with, jam sponges, coffee cakes, yeast bread, fruit cakes, brown soda bread, jellies, jams and marmalades. Also vegetables, cut flowers and pot plants. Orders can be placed for machine knitted garments also cribs for Christmas. The market this year lost one of its founder members also Chairperson of the Market, Mrs. Mai Brennan, R.I.P. Since the Market's foundation she was an inspiration and tonic to all members and customers alike, and is sadly missed by all.

GORT BRIDGE CLUB

The members of the above club have started the new bridge season.

President: J. Moylan
Secretary: P. Cunningham
Treasurer: C. O'Shaughnessy
Tournament Directors: J. Muldoon
J. Griffin
Committee: Charles Foley
Marie Fennessy

The first competition of the season was played on October 10th, the Sullivan Cup.

1st Greg Landon, P. Cunningham.
2nd Charles Foley, Don Coen. 3rd Bríd Burke, C. O'Shaughnessy. Best Gross M. Fennessy, Darien Coen.

GORT APOSTOLIC WORK SOCIETY

The members of the above Society are back to work at their weekly meetings held in the Convent of Mercy. There is a bigger interest this year due to the starvation and poverty in the Third World and new members are always welcome. Priests, nuns and lay people come back with stories of such suffering and poverty that members feel the apostolic work is most rewarding.

Gort and District Musical Society

Rehearsals for this year's Pantomime *Aladdin* are now at an advanced stage. Rehearsals are being held twice a week, the chorus at Orchard Centre, and the cast at Our Lady's College, with kind permission from the Brothers of Charity and Rev. Fr. Carney.

The Society is thankful that the talents of Mary Kealy, Musical Director and Lily Slevin, Choreographer are again at their disposal. However, a new name appears this year as Gerry Slevin takes over as Producer. Gerry



Mrs. Concepta Quinn receiving her certificate at An Grianán from Mr. Coleman L. Doyle, Chairman of Pork and Bacon Board.

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OUT AND ABOUT

is well known in Musical circles, having performed with distinction in productions by Birr, Ennis and Miltown Malbay Musical Societies.

The story of *Aladdin* is well known to all, however, as the script this year is again by Dick Meaney, we can expect some major surprises. The following are members of this year's cast.

Dr. Ebenezer Sneczer
(A Magician) Colman Keane
Sniffler
(his right hand man) . . . Maisie Arams
Ike
(his left hand man) . . . Tom McNevin
Mike (his other
left hand man) Ml. Cunningham
Aladdin Attracta O'Regan
Cynthia
(Aladdin's Sister) . . . Celine Mullins
Dame Aspidestra
(Aladdin's Mother) Kevin Glynn
Rose Petal (Ebenezer's
Niece) Katherine Donoghue
Paddy O'Goblin (Leprechaun of
the Lamp) Gerry Murray
Ivan the Terrible (Landlord of
Hammer & Sickle) . . Jimmy Hannigan

At a public meeting to announce

details of the pantomime, the Producer stated that the show will be lively and colourful with plenty of song, dance, comedy and of course, romance. So, for good family entertainment come along to Our Lady's College on Sunday, February 2nd (Matinee) and night performances on Thursday, 6th February to Sunday, 9th February.

J. B. Hannigan,
P.R.O.

GORT BOXING CLUB

We're delighted to report that the new season is under way with training every Monday and Wednesday night at Our Lady's College.

The A.G.M. which was well attended brought some changes at the top, and the present rankings are as follows:

President	Colm Diviney
Chairman	Gabriel Piggott
Secretary	Malachy Quinn
Treasurer	Francis O'Donnell
Trainer	Jim Regan
Assistant Trainer	Jim Regan

Jim Regan thanked everybody who had helped with the running of the club during the year. He was at pains to stress that amateur boxing, as a sport, requires one hundred per cent fitness and dedication to training; only boys who had reached the required levels of fitness and skill would be allowed to box; for at all times, the health and well-being of the participants must be the first consideration.

Gabriel Piggott, Chairman, exhorted the new officers and committee to "get down to business" and make this a great season for the club. Members were very pleased to have our new P.P., Canon Walshe at the A.G.M., and the chairman duly recorded this, and welcomed him to Gort.

K.O. Punch

GORT G.A.A. CLUB

After a great season last year, 1984 was to prove a case of so near and yet so far for Gort G.A.A. Club.

The senior hurling team won its way to the final of the special Galway

OUT AND ABOUT

Centenary Cup, only to be defeated in the third minute of injury time by literally the last puck of the ball by old rivals Kiltormer. In the All-Ireland Club Championship, at Limerick, giving what many followers considered to be the best display by any Gort senior team, they overcame Cork and Munster champions Midleton which boasted no fewer than eight of the Cork county panel. On the following day at Birr, in a marvellously contested game, Gort, despite being down a man for a period, were held to a draw by Kilkenny and Leinster champions Ballyhale Shamrocks who snatched a last minute point. In a much delayed replay at Thurles, despite Gort's best efforts, Ballyhale proved superior. The great disappointment of this defeat was evident in Gort's subsequent games in the Galway Co. Championships as the team never succeeded in regaining their earlier assurance and composure, and none more so than in their defeat by ultimate Co. Champions Castlegar, in the championship semi-final.

The junior team qualified for the knock out stages of the Co. Championship, only to be defeated by Kileenadema in the quarter final. In a drawn out championship, the under 21 team, were unsuccessful, while the minor team after displaying much skill in the qualifying stages, disappointed when defeated heavily in the quarter final by Castlegar. The under 16 team, after a hesitant start to their season, improved with each game, and qualified for the final, only to be overcome by a physically stronger Craughwell side. The under 14 and under 12 sides, while not winning any trophies, gave good accounts of themselves in the various school and under age competitions.

All in all, while no trophies were won, the game of hurling is in a relatively healthy state in the parish, with some progress being made in football in under age competitions and street leagues. However, as with all organisations in the parish, there is

a great need for extra parents and ex-players to help with the coaching of younger players and overall running of the club, so why not come along and lend a hand. Everyone will be welcome.

KILBEACANTY AND DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB

We, the members of the above club, invite you to dwell for a few minutes on this page and be introduced to our activities. Let us start with the following quote:

"If you want to be happy for a short period of time, get yourself a nice girlfriend."

"If you want to be happy for a little longer get married."

"If you want a lifetime of happiness get yourself a nice fly fishing rod and join the Kilbeacanty and District Angling Club!"

Then, having acquired same, head towards Kilbeacanty to the mouth of the Beagh river at Lough Cutra Lake, and follow its banks westwards. Then, your fly rod at the ready, with a small amount of knowledge, expertise and skill, brace yourself for a challenge as you set out to outwit those water creatures known as brown trout. The following fact alone places angling well ahead of other sport; you may have the finest flies, rods and reels and fail to catch a fish. Why, you might ask? Scientists have declared that fish have a very small brain, which may account for their strange and punitive behaviour. Then man, the highest product of animal evolution, finds it difficult to conceive the world of fish; a world perceived so differently through radically different senses. Yet, it should be remembered that the basic principles of angling have altered very little—it is important to know where to fish, the right tackle to use, successful angling demands a lot of concentration.

Fishing for brown trout in the Beagh River goes back to times some of us do not wish to remember. But, as we have

travelled around to other Clubs during the past two years and have met with other anglers, indeed many local ones; the following comment has been expressed: "I brought many a big trout out of that river." This fact is true, but alas, these anglers did not seem to give any thought to the fact that over the years, with constant stories of success, they have left the river impoverished of brown trout.

This situation has led a very small group of men, with a creative interest in angling for sport, to form a committee. This committee was formed on the 23rd of June, 1983 in McCarthy's Meeting Room, Kilbeacanty, the purpose of which was to return the river to a standard in which angling could be enjoyed as it had been in years past. The following plan of action was drawn up:

1. Prepare Club Rules.
2. Organise fund-raising campaigns.
3. Improve the free flow of water.
4. Affiliate to the Trout Angling Federation of Ireland.
5. Seek help and guidance from the Central Fisheries Board.
6. Organise with the Central Fisheries Board to clear the river of predators.
7. Get professional advice on restocking the river with brown trout from the Central Fisheries Board.

This plan of action was to cost a good deal of money and involve a lot of time. By transferring the most senior members of the original, disbanded Club they brought with them the bank account, containing the sum of £45.00, which had remained in the safe guardianship of the old, and now new Treasurer, Michael John Cahill.

Now, in October 1984, I am happy to announce that the eight points mentioned above have become a positive reality. Some of our members have fished in open competition and, through their success, have implanted our club's name firmly in the Irish trout angling field. We sent a team to Lough Arrow this year to fish in the

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OUT AND ABOUT

Connacht Cup, John Moran returned the biggest catch of the day and, of course, was selected to represent Connacht in the Inter Provincial Trout Fly Fishing Competition, which was also held on Lough Arrow.

Our Club was also invited to fish in the Connacht Club Inter Club Competition held on Loughrea Lake; a full team participated. We have held five Pike and Perch Competitions on our river, in which 95 Junior members and 90 Senior members participated. We also made certain history in being the first local, registered Club to be invited to fish a Pike and Perch Competition on Lough Cutra Lake and for this we are truly thankful to the management of Lough Cutra Estate.

The dry summer prevented us from fishing in our river as the water was very low. Of course, this may be a blessing in disguise for the 11,000 fingerlings which we put into the river in Spring, it has at least given them time to mature in safety, but we might add that, at this stage, we are certain of fruitful fishing in the years ahead.

Our Club will be open for new members in March 1985—the qualifications necessary for membership—be a creative sportsman—attend our opening meeting early in March, 1985.

Our presently elected Committee:

President: Donal McCarthy
Chairman: Josie Gallagher
Vice-Chairman: Tom Minogue
Treasurer: Michael John Cahill
Secretary: James Regan
Assistant Secretary: Padraic O'Griallois

P.R.O. Committee: Noel Lambert
 James Curley
 Tom Cahill
 John Moran
 Michael Hayes
 Peter Leonard
 Martin Cahill

Junior Rep.:



Three proud anglers: Tom Casey, Adrian Quinn, Patrick Lally display their catch.

THE DAY IN LOUGH ARROW

*The day in Lough Arrow I never forget,
 The two piece fly rod and the lend of a net.*

*We left at dawn, with our fishing gear
 At 9.30 arrived at Flynn's Pier.*

We sat into our boat, her colour was blue.

The engines started and through the water she flew,

*Casted our lines without delay
 After one hour; caught the fish of the day!*

A DAY'S FISHING BY OUR YOUNGEST MEMBER (SIX YEARS OLD)

The first day I went fishing, I was in the boat. There was a long piece of line with a bait on it. I threw it in the water. After a few minutes, a pull came on the line. I called to Daddy and he said pull it in. It was hard to pull it but I had caught a nice pike.

After that, I joined the Kilbeacanty Angling Club. We had fishing competitions. We fished from the river bank for pike, perch and trout.

Fishermen go out fishing in big boats with nets to catch fish.

Fishing is my favourite sport.

James Curley, Junior



Successful local angler Johnny Moran.

OUT AND ABOUT

GORT GOLF CLUB

Officers and Committee

Captain: Christy Fennessey
President: Ml. Birmingham
Vice-Captain: P. J. Brennan
Hon. Treasurer: Bob Forde
Hon. Secretary: Paddy Grealish
Committee: John Moylan
 Gerry Cahill
 Noel Mullins
 Paddy Moloney
 Gerard Cooney
 Niall Finnegan
 Oliver Roche
 John Forde

Lady Officers

Lady Captain: Mary Noone
Hon. Secretary: Eithne Birmingham
Hon. Treasurer: Evelyn Roche



President of Gort Golf Club, Michael Birmingham, Lady Captain, Mary Noone and Men's Captain, Christy Fennessey with prizewinners Florence McCarthy (President's prize) and Sheila Duffy (Lady Captain's prize).

HOUSEWIFE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 1984

Representing Gort in the Regional Final of the Housewife of the year 1984 was Nell Giblin, Glenbrack Road, Gort. This year a total of 957 ladies throughout the country entered for the competition. Each lady was interviewed and 36 were chosen to go forward to six regional finals. Nell was one of the six chosen to take part in the Galway Region, which covered Limerick, Clare, Mayo and Galway.

The competition which was held in Leisureland entailed cooking a two course meal, dinner and dessert (own creation) for four people and also setting a table for same. The competition concluded with an open interview on stage with compere Gay Byrne in front of a live audience of 1200. Nell put on a fine performance and was very narrowly defeated.



Mrs. N. Giblin with Gay Byrne

GORT ARTS GROUP

This group has invited the Irish national Opera to perform Verdi's "La Traviata" in the Convent of Mercy on 23rd March next. A reminder will appear in the *Connacht Tribune* near the date and we look forward to a very enjoyable evening.

KILTARTAN YOUTH CLUB

Kiltartan Youth Club reopened in September with the election of a new committee which is:

Chairperson: Séamus Cafferky
Secretary: Carmel Burke
P.R.O.: Sheila Burke
Treasurer: David Murray

A wide range of activities have been planned for the coming year. Any adults interested in helping out with the Youth Club please contact one of the committee members.

GORT CO-OPERATIVE LIVESTOCK MART LTD.

Mr. Séamus McCarthy, Lifford, Ennis has been appointed manager of Gort Co-Operative Livestock Mart. A native of Quilty, Co. Clare, he has had experience of mart work with Clare marts Ltd. for the past twelve years. During that time, he has developed a good understanding of the operation of livestock marts and of the farming community.

He replaces Mr. Martin O'Donnell, Tourkeel, Athenry, who recently

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OUT AND ABOUT

retired after twenty-two years as manager of Gort Mart.

Officers and Management Committee

Chairman: John C. Kelly, Ballindereen
Vice-Chairman: John O'Rourke, Boston, Tubber
Secretary/PRO: Paddy O'Grady, Cahermore

Committee

Andrew Quinn, Ballyaneen; Peter Linnane, Tiernevin; Michael Hennelly, Kilbeacanty; Joe Halvey, Cloughnacara; Thomas E. Lahiff, Peterswell; James Nolan, Burrin; Jack

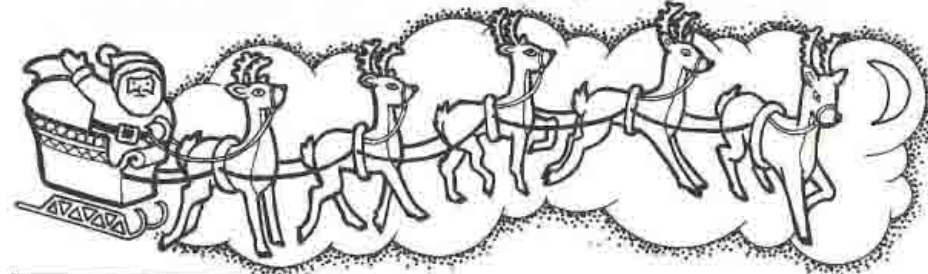
Higgins, Ardrahan; Michael J. Finn, Ennis Road; John Murray, Castledaly; Jack Tarpey, Ardrahan; Robin Lahiffe, Cloon; Seán Spelman, Killanena; Brian McGuane, Crusheen; Chris Droney, Bellharbour; Michael Loughrey, Shanaglish; Bal Mahon, Kinvara.

At the A.G.M. held recently in Sullivan's Hotel the attendance of over 100 share holders heard calls for greater support for the Mart. The Chairman, Mr. John C. Kelly in his report said that while turnover increased in 1983 the situation was not a satisfactory one as running costs increase each year. He continued, "We have had very successful cattle and sheep sales recently. The most

notable feature of these sales was the big number of buyers in attendance. It is proof of the fact that when we have big numbers of stock at our sales, we always have large numbers of buyers to ensure an excellent trade".

Ethiopia Fund

Three young girls—Mary A. Sheehan, Deirdre O'Donnell, and Martina O'Regan wish very much to thank all who supported them when they went out to collect funds for Ethiopia at Hallowe'en. The money (£28) has been forwarded to Concern.



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OUT AND ABOUT

GORT AND DISTRICT SHOW SOCIETY

There were over eight hundred entries for the fourth Annual Show held in St. Colman's Vocational School on Saturday, 25th August. The Annual Show has classes in Home Produce, Garden Produce, Flowers, Handcrafts and Dogs sections, as well as a section confined to children attending National Schools and one for Post Primary students.

The Show Society also encourages displays by voluntary organisations and individuals as well as providing trade stands for the display and sale of goods, crafts and services.

While the Show can now be regarded as being established—new members with new ideas are most welcome. The AGM will be held in Spring.



Pictured with samples of their exhibits for the Show, Tess Diviney (Handcrafts and Home Produce) and Margaret Keehan (Flowers) both of Lough Cutra. On extreme left is Mary Casey (Organising Secretary) and right Josephine Helly (P.R.O.) Gort and District Show Society.



From left: Pádraic Giblin, Sandra Helly and Anne Clabby, special prize winners Children's and Garden Sections; Michael Casey and Robin Lahiff who won a gas cooker presented by Calor Kosangas.



On left is Michael Casey, Ennis who won the Qualcast Electric Lawn Mower presented by B. Coen & Sons Ltd., Gort and Pádraic Giblin (Honorary Secretary, Show Society).



Bernie and Anna Costello and Michael Bermingham. Anna won a week-end for two in the Glentworth Hotel, Limerick.



From left: Stan Mac Eoin (Sponsor Handcrafts Section), Mary Keeley, Orchard House (Sponsors Post Primary Section), Tara Nestor, Eileen Corcoran, Galway—most successful exhibitors in Post Primary and Handcrafts Sections, respectively and Michael Bermingham (Chairman of the Show Society).



Enjoying themselves at the Show Dance held in McCarthy's, Kilbeacanty, Mary Carey, Jean Leahy, Eithne McCarthy and Patsy McNevin.

OUT AND ABOUT

Gort and District Community Development and Employment Council

In an effort to focus attention on the necessity for employment for the young people of Gort and district, the above newly formed Council succeeded in getting AnCo to undertake and finance a survey of the job possibilities and tourism potential. The research was most efficiently carried out by ten local, young unemployed boys and girls, under the direction of Mary Heneghan and her deputy, Rose Gardiner.

This survey took seven months to complete and was presented to Michael Bermingham, Chairman, by Michael O'Sullivan, Manager AnCO at a very well attended function in Sullivan's last month. Mr. O'Sullivan

congratulated the council for its initiative in organising the venture and wished it every success in the follow up. The feasibility of seven projects was surveyed, assessed and showed favourable possibilities for future development.

The tourist potential of places of interest was studied and reported, with a view to collecting information for inclusion in a Tourist Promotion Brochure.

The survey also identified that a substantial market for confectionery exists in the area. It points out that all the avenues of business that existed while there was a bakery there still exist, added to which there are now

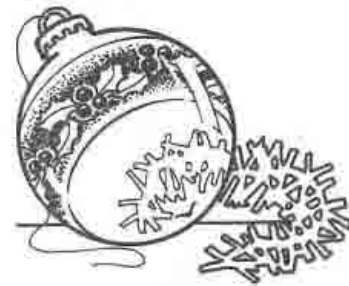
two fast food outlets in the town which have a daily requirement for bread rolls.

On receiving the report, Mr. Bermingham said "Solutions to youth unemployment problems are more easily found when the local community works closely with the government agencies. We are hoping the Youth Employment Agency, the national Development Team, the National Manpower Service and the I.D.A. will leave their doors open to us".

The report was discussed at a public meeting following the presentation of the report, at which a number of projects were discussed.



Survey Report being presented to Chairman, Michael Bermingham by Michael O'Sullivan (AnCO), also in picture Brendan Winston, Mary Heneghan, Frank Fahey, T.D.



On June 22 last, Boys' National School, Church Street ceased to function as a school. Our cameraman was there to record the symbolic closing of the door by Peadar Ó Conaire (Principal) and Mrs. Mary Connolly (Vice-Principal).

HAIR

Hair undoubtedly is one of the most important aspects of one's appearance. Take a good look at the condition of your hair. Has it a bouncy, shining glossy, healthy look? This is most important before one contemplates style.

protein, and a sufficient supply of carbohydrates such as potatoes and brown bread.

By MAI COUNIHAN

In the case of greasy hair, the sebaceous glands are overproductive. It is advisable to avoid, animal fats, starch, all kinds of oils, and salad creams. Take an adequate mineral supply of fresh fruit and vegetables, lean meat and fish, which contains

Vitamin A has been proven by scientists as the "Hair Vitamin", a deficiency of this can make the hair look dull and dry, as it effects the sebum, which supplies the natural lubricant to the hair. Cereals, eggs, liver, coleslaw, cod liver oil are particularly rich in Vitamin A.

Premature greyness is caused by lack of Vitamin B, the best sources of this vitamin are kidney, brewers yeast, broccoli, cabbage and watercress. A constant diet of these foods have been known to restore pre-mature greyness to its natural colour. Hair with a slow growth rate lacks mineral stimulation, which can be found in shell fish and seafood, sulphur, which is present in cheese, eggs and chicken. If you really care about your hair have an adequate intake of these two vitamins.

GOING TO THE DOGS

By MR. MOON

Irish greyhounds are famous throughout the world, down the years, they have carried off the major prizes wherever they raced, especially in Great Britain where, since the War they have won thirty four of the forty Derbys run at White City.

Dogs like "Pagalle Wonder" reckoned by many to be the fastest ever, "Mile Bush Pride" whose 32.65 for 600 yards at West Ham was a world record, "Faithful Hope" and "Oaks Heroine Cranoe Bet" are just a few of an endless line.



But surely the greatest ambassador of them all was the immortal "Mick the Miller", winner of two English Derbys 1929-30, unequalled until 1972/73. Some people swore he could talk and whilst that's stretching it a bit, there was no doubt "Mick" was a bit of a "gallery man".

Presented at Court to the Queen of England "Mick's" effigy can be seen in the National Gallery in Kensington.

Whilst Connacht is not noted as an ideal breeding area, compared to the lush pastures of Munster, nevertheless, we've bred our share of

fast ones and many of the top dogs down south owe their bloodlines and pace to Connacht dogs such as "Rebel Light" and "French Rebel", trained by the late "Ginger" Murphy. Others like "Oran Jack" who broke Limerick's track record on his way to winning the St. Leger, and "Spring Play" who broke Noel Mullins hoodoo in the Classics by winning the National Produce Stakes at Clonmel to make this success even sweeter. Noel bred two winners himself. We have trainers like Mick Sylver from the Square keeping the western flag flying, by sending out a host of winners each season from his Dunboyne kennels.

Galway, the only track in Connacht is on par with the best, with its Tote and bookies only too glad to relieve you of your lolly.

Stories abound in greyhound circles of coups and fixes, etc., most of them grossly exaggerated.



Like an experience of my own a few months ago, when my own "Lady" was drawn in her favourite trap one, trained to the tee, not an ounce of surplus weight on, a dead cert if ever

there was one. But when the hare came round she decides to leave the trap in slow motion, then runs on well to finish last, a few weeks later she is sited in the middle box, a few pounds too heavy, could have done with a few more gallops, no chance. Then she decides to leave the traps like a scalded cat, and gives the rest a rear view as she flies past the post.



Then the back claps and hand shakes. "Good man yourself, you pulled it off tonight." Naturally I heard the little "scéals", "Sure he had her stilled the last night", etc.

"On the joys of greyhound racing", the blue riband of tracking, the Irish Derby is every owners ambition, won on three occasions by the legendary "Spanish Battleship" a feat I am sure will never be equalled, it is now worth £25,000 to the winner plus another small fortune can be had at stud.

I haven't had the honour of leading in the winner yet, but the latest crop of puppies look champions in the making—and one of these days—and, sure every man is entitled to his dreams.



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CRUINNIÚ NA mBÁD

Crúinniú na mBád has catapulted the village of Kinvara into the forefront of tourist meccas in Ireland. Many people now take their holidays to coincide with this three day festival and so the population of the village multiplies.

The festival has all that the visitor could ask for. There is the excitement of the boat racing. Bád Mór, Gleoteóg, Pucán and Currach races take place right through the weekend. There is the pageantry of the arrival of the boats. There is a sense of expectancy in the air. The vast array of boats, old and new, offer a visual feast to the eye. There is the crowd. The conversation! The drinking! The music! The pleasure of sitting around a turf fire on the pier at 4 a.m. sipping a pint and listening to Josie Seán Jack or Garry O'Brien! But most of all there is the friendship and céad míle fáilte extended to all. No wonder then that the visitors enthuse over the events of this August weekend.

Crúinniú na mBád is not just about boats although these are the focus of the festival. It is much more about people. It is about the bádóirí who sailed the boats. It is about the craftsmen who built them. It is about the family and commercial links that bound the people living around the coast of Galway Bay together. Links that most people had forgotten about and that many young people were unaware of.

Our Seafaring Forefathers

Many families in Kinvara trace their origins back to the bádóirí who sailed from the harbours of Connemara with their loads of turf and consignments of poteen! Intermarriage was common and so many Connemara men and women married into communities living around the harbours of Galway Bay. Crúinniú na mBád has created the mechanism for renewing these family ties and tracing the lines of our

By JOHN CONNEELY



Tying up at Kinvara Quay

we never even realised that we had. This occurs because hundreds of Connemara people come to Kinvara to renew old acquaintances or to visit places that they heard about from their fathers or grandfathers.

In those days when it is fashionable to look on our past as being more primitive and backward than the present, Crúinniú na mBád serves as a reminder to us of some of the qualities of our fathers and grandfathers, many of them were sailors—bádóirí. Without the benefit of radio, weather forecasts or navigational equipment they sailed some of the roughest waters of the Irish coast. They learned their craft in the hard school of experience where a mistake could lead to shipwreck or death. As we look at the deft handling of An Mhaighdean Mhara by John Jimmy McDonagh on "St. Jude" by Josie Connolly we are forced to realise what we in Kinvara have lost. There are no Hollands, no Greenses, no Keanes, no Shaughnessys left. The last link with

ancestry. Johnny Jennings of Carna, one of the greatest living authorities on the origin of Irish names, can easily demonstrate the links between many Kinvara families and their Connemara counterparts. Family names such as Greene, Griffen, Joyce, Conneely, etc can be traced back to particular communities and even to particular small islands in Connemara. It is a source of great interest to many of us living in Kinvara to meet relatives that



Hookers in Kinvara Bay

But what of the locals? What does Crúinniú na mBád mean to those of us who live in Kinvara? There is no doubt that we too are caught up in the excitement of the weekend. We also enjoy the "craic". Few pints taste as well as those during the "Crinniú! But unlike the visitors Crúinniú na mBád is more important to us than just an opportunity for enjoyment. It offers us the chance of looking into the past and discovering our roots.

CRUINNIÚ NA mBÁD

our sailing past is John Joe Conneely who remembers well that stormy day sixty years ago when "The Catherine" foundered off Deer Island.

Crúinniú na mBád recalls for us the great tradition of boatbuilding that existed in Kinvara. Cruacán na Bháid overlooked Cladagh and finished boats were eased gently down the hill into the sea at high tide. Much of the timber used in the boatbuilding and repair work in Kinvara and Connemara

came from the Gort area according to the late Mike O'Brien of Grufán. He remembered borrowing a horse and cart in Kinvara and bringing a load of larch and oak from Gort to be transported to Connemara. But these days are gone. Crúinniú na mBád alone brings them to mind.

The main importance of Crúinniú then is to remind us of the things that made us what we are. We are allowed

to see again a harbour thronged with boats. We hear again the Gaeilge on the quay side. We feel again the atmosphere of industry and excitement and energy that existed in the village. We meet again the bádóirí who sailed those magnificent craft the length and breadth of the bay. We wonder again as our fathers did at the grace and beauty of the Bád Mór as: "She lands her silvery store the first At auld Kinvara Quay".

THE FIRST ALL-IRELAND

An tATHAIR P. Ó LAOI

When the hurlers of South Galway took the field in Phoenix Park against the men of North Tipperary on February 16th, 1886 the match was billed as "for the Championship of Ireland". Eventhough this game was organised by Michael Cusack himself, who was then secretary of the young Association, it has never been accorded the status of an All-Ireland. The reason for not accepting the game as a true All-Ireland is due to the fact that the teams were not true county teams but only regional teams and they were invited to Dublin more to give an exhibition of the art of hurling, and to test and settle the rules of hurling than for any other reason.

Cusack wrote to his friend Dan Burke in George's Street, Gort, asking him to pick a team from South Galway. Edward Treston was the Gort captain and Dan Burke and Edward Treston picked the team. Because Ardahan claimed they should have six men on the team and Gort would not accept this it was decided to ignore the Ardahan hurlers altogether in the selection. The team of 21 was chosen from Gort, Kilmacduagh, Beagh, Kilbeacanty and Peterswell. Cusack had asked them to bring with them a distinctive dress for the match. It so happened that Huban's drapery, where Ned Gilmartin later had his chemist shop, had a large roll of cordero cloth for sale which was

being sold at a bargain price. Dan Burke bought the roll, and "Pake" Shaughnessy, the tailor in Church Street, made knickerbockers for the team. The team travelled by train from Gort on Monday, February 15th and was met at the Broadstone by Michael Cusack who took them to the Clarence Hotel where they met the North Tipperary hurlers. After a meal Cusack discussed the rules with both sides and was adamant that there was to be no tripping, no wrestling.

The Tipperary hurlers produced a big awkward sliotar to which Dan Burke objected. When asked to produce their own idea of sliotar they discovered they had left it at home in Gort.

Early the following morning Edward Treston, himself a saddler searched all the streets at the back of the Clarence Hotel looking for a harness-maker who would cover with leather the "Cork ball" he had put together the night before. Five harness makers refused him, and the sixth said to Edward "Maybe you could do it yourself", which Edward Treston did. It was the forerunner of our modern sliotar, based on the design of the cupped hands.

The field was marked with coats all along the sidelines. Tipperary used

their sliotar for the first half, and Galway the smaller and lighter sliotar in the second half.

History records that Tipperary won the match by one goal scored in the second half. What it does not record is that Pake Shaughnessy's thread was not equal to the strain on the Knickerbockers and that many of them ripped, causing amusement and embarrassment.

Further embarrassment was caused when on Wednesday, 17th February, 1886 the whole town of Gort with its Brass Band thronged to welcome their heroes home! Only four of the team arrived. The rest, unaware that there was a second station in Dublin, took the train at Kingsbridge and didn't discover their mistake until they reached Limerick Junction. They arrived home on Thursday.

(*This article was first published in Féile na nGael Programme, 1980).



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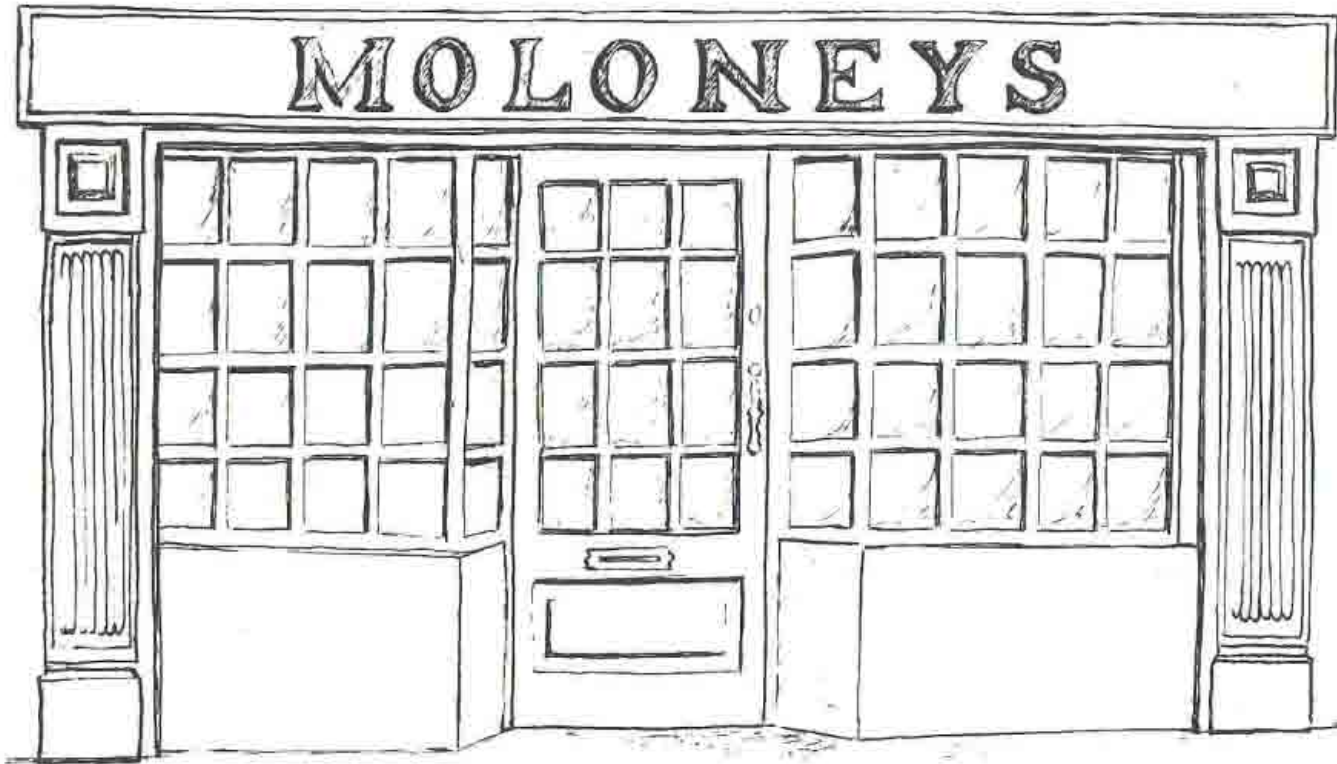
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SHOP FRONTS



Above: Building about 130 years old. It belonged to the Moloney family from the start. Originally it was a bakery and confectionery—Moloneys bread was delivered around the town and as far as Peterswell and Loughcutra. Bakery discontinued about 35 years ago.

Right: Building over one hundred years old. Present residents have occupied it for the past 35 years. Formerly owned by J. J. Ward.



BRIDGE STREET IN TWO ERAS

BRIDGE STREET 1930

In compiling information about Bridge Street in 1930, I got a lot of pleasure listening to various people and their memories of people now long gone to their reward. My thanks to Josie McInerney and many old residents of Bridge Street for their help with this article.

Starting at the Square 1930

- Michael Broderick, Publican.
- Michael Tuohy, Teacher.
- Bartley Fahy, Draper.
- Thomas Fahy, Shop and Guesthouse.
- P. J. Melville, "The White House", Draper.
- John Williams, Barber.
- Louise Geaghan, Publican.
- Hogan and Shields, Solicitors.
- Mrs. Huban, Draper.
- Thomas Burke, Draper.
- Miss Clarke (Over Burke's) Seamstress.
- Timothy Quinn, Publican.
- John J. Coen, Draper.
- Michael McCarthy, Baker.
- Martin Glynn, Postman.
- Kate Farrell, Paper Shop.
- James Cunningham, Shoemaker.

Here Street intersects with Queen Street.

- Margaret Glynn, Hotel.
- Martin Walsh, Guesthouse.
- National Bank Ltd.
- Convent of Mercy.

Crossing Bridge Street from Convent.

- Lillian Lahiffe, Private House.
- Cyril Carter, Dentist.
- Edward Roche, Garage.
- Sarah Brady, Sweetshop.
- Dr. Fallon, General Practitioner.
- Eliza Quinn, Post Office.
- Mitchell's, Sawmill.
- Fred Barry, Flour Shop.
- Martin Coen, Hardware and General Store.

- John J. Coen, Draper.
- Ralph Keane, Shopkeeper and Publican.
- Bartley Fahy, Draper.
- Patricia Connolly, Confectionery.
- Nora Nolan, Publican.

Queen Street 1930

- Back of Glynn's Hotel.
- Baby Kilduff, Sweetshop and Confectionery.

Opposite Side

- Mack's, Cattle Dealers.

Starting at the Square 1984

- Paul Kelly's "Landmark", Public House.
- McMahon's, Gift Shop.
- First National Building Society.
- Mary Finnigan, Newsagent.
- Christy Fennessy, Electrical Shop.
- Jack Williams, Private House.
- Christy Fennessy, Workshop.
- Geaghan's (Mrs. Marie O'Donnell), Public House.
- Paddy Coen, Pharmacy.
- Burek's, Drapery.
- Josie Harte, Public House.
- J. J. Coen & Co., Lady's Drapery.
- Rita Conway (Madge Burke's), Sweet and Toy Shop.
- Waters (Farrell's), Newsagent and Souvenir Shop.
- Supermac, Take-Away Foods.
- Glynn's Hotel (Joe Lee), Hotel.
- Burke's, Private House.
- National Bank Ltd.
- Convent of Mercy.

Crossing Bridge Street from Convent of Mercy

- Gort House (Formerly Our Lady's College), Private House.
- Oliver Roche, Garage.
- Brady's, Sweetshop.
- Chris Nestor, Private House.
- Gift Shop (Michael Cunningham), Gift Shop.
- Irish Permanent Building Society.
- Burger Hut, Take-Away Food.
- The Cash Shop (Barry's), Ladies and Children's Drapery.
- Barry's, Flour and Meal Shop.
- Fallon's, Supermarket.
- J. J. Coen & Co. Ltd., General Drapery.
- J. J. Coen & Co. Ltd., Men's Drapery.

I give hereunder a comparison of prices in 1930 and 1984, I will leave it to the reader to judge who was better off, those shopping in 1930 or now?

	1930	1984
Bottle of Whiskey	15/-	£12.50
Bottle of Port	4/6	£8.70
Tin of Biscuits (11¼ lbs.)	7/6	
Loaf of Bread	1/5*	£0.55
4 Stone of Flour	10/-	£9.00 and £9.50
4 lbs. Jam	2/4	£0.80 per ½ lb.
Newspaper Death Notice	7/-	£26.00 to £40.00
New Bicycle	£2.10.0	£150.00

*(pence)

- Gerry Keane, Grocery and Public House.
- Roger Fahy, Draper.
- Bernie's (Bernie Hennelly), Ladies Boutique.
- "Gerry's" (Gerry Niland), Public House.

Queen Street 1984—Glynn's Hotel Side

- Social Services.
- Orchard House, Brothers of Charity Group Home for Girls.
- Brothers of Charity, Training Centre for Boys.

Opposite side of Queen Street

- Mrs. Jordan, Private House.

LITTLE POINTS OF INTEREST I CAME ACROSS

John Joe Coen started in Bridge Street at 9 o'clock on Easter Saturday Morning 1916 and was jailed by the British Army at 12 o'clock.

Patrick J. Melville "The White House" Drapery. On his Bill Heads in 1928 was printed "We specialise in Irish Goods".

Errors I am sure there are some in above article but I hope readers will bear with them and remember "To err is human, To forgive Divine".

Evelyn Roche

Editor's Note: Kevin Treston has reminded us that in the Summer issue the article on The Square did not include a shop situated between Edward Walsh's and Pat Keane's. In 1930 it was occupied by either Madge Burke (sweetshop) or Pat Ward (tailor) and was probably rented from Pat Keane.

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Gort team that won the cup in 1929. Front row, left to right: Gerry Heenan, Paddy Joe Cooney, Patrick O'Connor. Middle row, left to right: Pete Howard, Micky Linnane, Thomas Sheedy, Colie Cooney. Back row: Paddy Rock, Tom Fogarty, Joe Stadium Quinn, Jack Hardiman, Stephen Carty, Florie Nestor, Tom Cooney and Jack Daly.



Pupils in First Class, Convent N.S., Gort, 1948.



Old Gort L.S.F. Group. Froup row, left to right: Supt. Tom Reilly, Supt. Kelly, Chief Supt. Doyle, ?, Phonsie O'Flynn, Dr. Sexton (Ardrahan), ?. Back row, left to right: Mr. Conway (Munster and Leinster Bank), Edward Roche, ?, John J. Coen, Dr. J. Marlborough, Supt. O'Halloran, John Spelman, ?, Jack Murphy, ?.



Tiernevan group in the 'twenties. Names uncertain. Let us know if you can name them.

"Time on its journey ever winds and old old scenes pass away, but memory of old time friends, is present everyday."

From Fanny Donnellan's (Barrack Street) Autograph Book, dated April 25, 1923.



A face in the crowd! Fr. Peyton surrounded by an enthusiastic crowd in the Square.



The late Miko Glynn singing at Gort Autumn Festival 1979. Also present were musicians Colie Moran, Chris Nestor and Paddy Jordan.

(Photograph: W. M. Quinn)



Gort South Galway Schools Champions 1930. Back row, standing: Fr. Feeny, Pat Cooke, Fr. Quinn. Players, left to right: J. Gillane, W. O'Connor, S. McDonagh, K. Treston, B. Moloney. Middle row: M. Halvey, J. Griffin, B. O'Connor, J. Spelman, Jim Griffin, J. Kane. Front: J. Moloney, G. French, T. Howard.



Tokens minted for John Boland, 19th Century Gort Merchant. (Information re Boland's tokens would be greatly appreciated.)



Thomas Hynes (Tomás Ó Heidhin) photographer from Killina, well-known to Gort people in the first three decades of this century.

CHILDREN'S PAGE by JOSEPHINE WARD

A Story For Christmas

Woofy was sad. He knew that he had a torn ear, and that no one wanted a damaged toy. It was a week before Christmas, and all his little friends on the soft toy shelf were gradually disappearing. They were all brought in there in October and Woofy's dearest wish was to belong to some small child.

He was especially sad today because only this morning when the shop was very crowded, he suddenly became aware of two very round blue eyes gazing up at him. "You're Woofy", said the little girl in a small voice, and never before did he want so badly to belong to someone. She whispered shyly to her mother that she would love that little doggie on the top shelf. "But he's damaged, Mandy dear", said her mother and walked away. Woofy's eyes followed her as she continued on with her shopping and he wished fervently that she would turn back and buy him. The little girl looked back many times and Woofy thought she had the kindest face he had ever seen.

How he wished he wasn't damaged. He remembered the day it happened only too well. Two children came into the shop with their mother and while she was chatting with a friend the boy and girl, together, pulled out all the toys and opened lots of packets. Then they came to Woofy. "He's going to be mine", said the little girl. "No, he's mine," shouted the boy. "I saw him

first", said the girl and started to cry and scream. They pulled him between them and so his ear got torn. "Now look what you've done, wait 'till I tell



Mother", said the boy. "I'll tell her you did it", replied the girl and left Woofy back on the shelf. Just then their mother called "Come along children", and they followed her out onto the street. Woofy sighed a great sigh of relief. "Weren't you lucky", whispered the toy cat sitting beside him; "you wouldn't last a day in their house". "I know", whispered Woofy back.

Now Santa had a habit of calling on all the major shops a few days before Christmas where he got all the slightly damaged toys at a bargain price. The elves were very good at giving a lick of paint where needed and tightening the odd screw, and so making toys as good as new. But best of all was Mrs. Santa who loved sewing and especially loved little stuffed animals. She and Santa always knew which little animal suited each little child. How Santa remembered them is anyone's guess but each toy always seemed to end up

in the right house on Christmas morning.

Woofy was right on top of the box of soft toys. Mrs. Santa took him up and gave him a hug. Then she looked long and hard at him; "I know just who this should belong to". "You need not tell me", replied Santa with a wide grin, "I spotted it right away", and went ahead with sorting the other toys. "I wonder who" thought Woofy and hoped fervently that it wouldn't be one of those two awful children.

Well his ear was mended, and he was put into a large sack with other cuddly toys; squeaky ducks, fierce lions, beautiful dolls and he was sure he could hear a large teddy bear growl way down at the bottom. Although it was a tight fit in the sack, it wasn't long before they were travelling at great speed, and after many stops, Woofy could feel his sack being taken down a warm chimney and he was left under a tree all beautifully lit up for it was Christmas night.



There were quite a few toys under that same tree, and Santa said goodbye to all of them and disappeared up the chimney again. They could hear him call to the reindeers and they took off again into the night.

As Woofy looked around the large kitchen and all the toys under the tree he thought: "At least I won't be lonely, this looks like a large family." Before daylight he could hear tip-toe footsteps down the stairs, and next thing lots of excited little faces appeared with great squeals of delight; and among them was Mandy—She spotted Woofy—"Oh! I knew Santa wouldn't forget", and she gave him a big hug. Woofy knew he would never be left alone again.

CHRISTMAS WORD PUZZLE

Find the list of words in the letter square. Some read backwards. An example is given.

P	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	V	N
L	I	C	J	E	T	B	N	Y	A	O	R
U	N	D	A	N	I	R	S	O	N	T	P
M	O	O	T	R	S	N	E	O	T	N	S
P	T	I	C	L	O	E	D	R	A	E	F
U	S	R	K	W	P	L	M	E	P	S	Y
D	A	K	E	L	E	I	S	B	E	E	U
D	H	G	I	E	L	S	G	L	K	R	L
I	O	G	A	M	T	I	D	R	L	P	E
N	L	V	N	A	R	N	U	O	M	O	L
G	L	I	R	N	A	T	X	L	I	U	O
E	Y	S	T	C	V	A	T	O	Y	N	G

- Candles ✓
- Santa
- Turkey
- Present
- Yule log
- Carols
- Christmas
- Plum pudding
- Reindeer
- Sleigh
- Snow
- Crib
- Stars
- Tree
- Holly
- Toy

WORKSHOP DONATION BOX

Many years ago Christy Minogue gave me this old donation box. It came originally from the old Workhouse, Gort, where it was embedded in the wall (most likely in the hall). Those who visited, if they could afford it gave a little donation on the way out. There is strong reason to believe that this box was made at the Gort forge by Kevin Burke's grandfather, George St. If this old box could talk, what stories it would tell, stories of poverty, heartbreak, misfortune and humiliation. Stories of famine days, fever days, frightening days, hopeless wishing, tears, prayers and death.



Sean Leahy holds the Workhouse donation box.

The Workhouse

The Workhouse was built in 1841 at a cost of £5,350. In December of that year saw the first admission of paupers. A school was set up inside the Workhouse in 1842 for the children. Teachers were appointed, and paid an average of £18 yearly. The Workhouse was unable to cope with the vast number of paupers during the famine years. The building was built to house about 500, but during the famine years, sheds were built to the

right of the workhouse, which housed about 300 women and children. They were called "the black women", and were so called to distinguish them by their rags and dirt from the cleaner

people of the wards. These "black women" slept closely packed together in sheds, no bed clothing, some slept naked, others in their rags. It was from their ranks that cart loads of dead were driven to their final resting place, the paupers grave. A fever hospital was built in 1847, and in 1848 the schoolgirls (25) were transferred down to Bridge House, the present "Convent of Mercy" the old home of Lord Gort, under a teacher by the name of Anne Harte, N.T., and the 200 boys to Lawn House, their teacher being Cornelius O'Loughlin. The workhouse was closed in 1922, leaving but a memory of those dreadful days. It was later pulled down, all that remains is a pile of rubble. The fever hospital is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Counihan. Oh yes, if only this box could talk:

*I saw the cart go out today,
Five bodies dead, it took away.
To bury quick, in a paupers plot,
Mourned for a while, then forgot.*

Sean Leahy

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PICTURE PARADE



Colman and Ruth Cooney, Newtown, Gort with their giant sized mushroom.



Gort Inse Guaire, not An Gort is the proper name of our town. Galway County Council please take note.



For the record! Five potatoes grown under the one stalk by Val Williams, Ballylennon, Gort, weighed just under one stone.

An Garda Siochána/Ban Garda—A Career For You

By MARY R. HANNON
(Ban Garda)

A Brief History

The question of employing women in the Garda Siochána had been under review for many years, and it not only became desirable but necessary that they become part of it. This was due to the fact that an increasing number of females became involved in crime either directly or indirectly. Thus it became a reality when in July 1959 twelve Irish girls were attested to the Garda Siochána becoming Ireland's first Police Women or Ban Gardaí. The first Ban Gardaí were assigned to Pearse Street Station, Dublin and appeared in public in uniform for the first time on the 8th of December, 1959.

Duties

Generally speaking the duties of the Ban Gardaí are similar to those of the male members with whom they work. They perform beat and patrol duties in uniform and in plain clothes and sometimes they specialise in the investigation of cases in which women and children are involved. In cases where the latter are injured parties they may relate to a woman better and this is vital in the taking of lengthy detailed statements.

Within the force there are a large number of varied duties that the Ban Gardaí can become involved in. Briefly they include, the Drug Squad, Clerical Work, Detective Work, Juvenile Liaison work. I will explain briefly the work involved in the Juvenile liaison section.

The prevention of crime is of course foremost in any Police officer's mind

and in this regard the supervision of potential criminals or juveniles who may turn to petty crime, is of great importance. The Juvenile Liaison section of the Garda Siochána, of which I am a member, has a vital role to play in this field. Our work involves the guidance of children who have been involved in crime. We visit the children at home regularly, introduce them to clubs, and get involved in all other types of youth activities. This type of work, as well as being a good

From this outline of duties it can be seen that a Ban Garda must possess qualities uncalled for in other professions. In one situation she must be sympathetic and consoling while in another she will be firm and determined. The work can be demanding but it has its rewards too. The satisfaction derived from a job well done; a problem solved, etc. more than compensates for the demands.

Qualification

If you have the following qualifications you can make application to your local Garda Station when recruiting is open. Candidates must be of good character and have the following qualifications:

- Age: Between 18 years and 26 years on the first of the month in which the examination is held.
- Height: Not less than 5' 5" for females. Not less than 5' 9" for males.
- Education: Pass a Competitive Examination which will be conducted by the Civil Service Commission and which will include a qualifying Oral Irish test.
- Health: A good physical standard of health is required, and all candidates must pass a medical examination by the Force's Surgeon.

Appointment to the Garda Siochána will be made from suitable candidates, but passing the Entrance examination or being exempt from the entrance examination will not give any entitlement to appointment.



community relations exercise, can also create an awareness amongst young people of the role that the public must play in assisting the Gardaí in the never ending fight against crime and will also help them to understand the difficulties the Gardaí have in this area. A good percentage of the children that we associate with seldom break the law a second time.

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COMMUNITY GAMES

The 1984 Community Games will be remembered in Gort for a long time. It is the year in which the boys under 12 relay team won the All-Ireland title. It is also the year in which Gerry Burke and Colin Casey won their third County Community Games title in a row. While I have not got the records to hand, I am quite sure that they are the first two young athletes in the County to have this distinction. In addition I think Gort is also the first area in the County to have won three County titles in a row. Both have collected several individual medals at County and National level in sprints.

Few people realise the effort it takes to mould together a relay team. Early this year Dan Casey and Jimmy Hickey set about their task and enlisted Irial Conroy and Oliver Roche. They moulded them in with the well established runners Colin Casey and Gerry Burke. What a delight it was to watch them in the County Finals of the Community Games at the Sportsgrounds, Galway in July. With over 50 areas taking part and all having the common goal—to dethrone Gort. But dethronement was not to be as the Gort team fired on all four cylinders in heats, semi-final and final and romped home in brilliant fashion. Then to Butlin's Mosney and the National Finals. All 32 counties had their best teams in action but it was Galway represented by Gort with brilliant power running and precision baton changing that emerged from the heats. In the semi-final they were placed second behind Kildare, but in the one that really mattered, a never to be forgotten final, Gort pulled out all the stops and left Kildare and the other finalists floundering in their wake. The team received a tremendous reception on their return from Mosney with the Coras Iompar Éireann Cup and Gold Medals.

Other outstanding performances this year was the girls under 12 relay team of Emer Cunningham, Aileen Hickey, Elaine Diviney and Siobhán Walsh. They also clicked as a unit and won their heats and semi-final but competition was very keen in this



All-Ireland Champions, Gort Under-12 Relay team that won the Final in Mosney. Left to right: Oliver Roche, Colin Casey, Gerard Burke and Irial Conroy. (Photo: Courtesy of The Connacht Tribune)

competition and they failed to make it into the medals. In the individual events, Colin Casey won the sprint, Gerry Burke won silver in the long puck and his sister Concepta won the bronze in the sprint, Caroline Linnane, Silver in the shot and Ivor Casey silver in the hurdles.

By Our ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

While we can all glory in the achievements of 1984, we must now look forward to 1985. Irial Conroy is the only member of the relay team eligible for next year and Siobhán Walsh is the only member of the girls relay team eligible. This means that at least three new members are required for each team. There is no such thing as automatic selection even for members of All-Ireland winning teams, their selection is based mainly on performances at running and baton changing. All this can only be achieved by regular attendance at training

sessions. When I mention training sessions, this consists of roughly one hour per week in the early part of the season and two hours per week later.

As Community Games Athletics cater for running, jumping and throwing, it is estimated that 90% of boys and girls have talents in some of these events. It is really up to the parents to give them the opportunity to try out these talents.

While basking in the glory of our achievements of 1984, the year also brought sadness with the death of the Chairperson of the County Community Games, Catherine Cunningham. Catherine was one of the founder members of the County Community Games back in 1972 and was its chairperson since then. A widow with a grown family, she gave all her time and energy to promoting the games and the silver hair of this kind and gentle lady was conspicuous at every Community Games gathering. May her soul rest in peace.

WHEN LOOKS DECEIVE By GERALDINE KILLEEN

Once there was a great man who sat in his castle and practised looking wise. Then others heard of this man who practised being wise and they thought they would do so too, as being wise was wise.

For this was a land of wise men. At least, of saintly and scholarly men. And everyone knew saints and scholars were wise. So, many practised looking wise.

And soon, a day came when the people decided to pick wise men to look after the affairs of the land for them, as the wise men of old had done for as long as the living cared to remember.

So those who had been practising how to look wise, did so in public places, and said strange things about the number one, and many wore spectacles for effect. And the people picked them because they were so very good at looking wise.

These practitioners of wise and sagely looks went and sat in a place called a Dáil where they began to practise making wise speeches, full of wise words, to go with the wise looks they were now good at, so that the people would be pleased with their choice and they all thought that using many words but saying very little was the very wisest thing of all to do, and they worked hard at getting good at this and they became quite brilliant at it!

So for many years, this practice of what was wise, and what was thought to be wise, was carried on. Until at last these people, who really weren't wise at all, forgot that they were only

practising and, at length, became convinced that they were truly wise.

Money, Money, Money!

And it had been their wont for many years, to ask their friends and neighbours from other lands for that which they needed to fill the national purse, because they also thought that this was wise. Because there was no trouble in the beginning they began to forget about it and take it quite for granted. The people of the land thought them even more wise as they seemed to invent money from nowhere and they were very happy as it was costing them nothing.

But one day, there was no more money left, and the friends and neighbours from other lands had no more to give. Indeed it was even worse because no money meant no jobs for the people and the other lands wouldn't let anyone in to work there either.

And the people got very angry and demanded answers from the Dáil, but the practitioners of wise looks just read lists of wise words and used a few new and hitherto unseen wise looks, and everyone thought these wise men would surely prevail, so their lists included such words as "short lived," "temporary", "minor", and "no cause for concern". So the people were convinced and went home to tighten their belts.

Recession

But soon it became clear that things were worse and that very dark clouds loomed on the Horizon, clouds,

perhaps that would rain miserably on them forever, it seemed. The people marched on the Dáil and demanded words from the wise. And words they got. Many wonderful and impressive words. The newest one was "recession", a big monster which had sickened other lands and which therefore caused the trouble in their own land. New words and new looks were heard and seen. Some were impressed, many more put at ease, but few were not sure if these wise men were entirely as wise as they appeared, and these went home with heavy hearts.

Soon when the people became even more displeased, the practitioners of wise looks began to fight among themselves and after each battle they "went to the Country" to find new words, looks and excuses to make as they were fast running out of all these.

But by now the people were aware that all that was to these men were looks and words and that they were not really wise at all. But they could find no one to take their place in the place called the Dáil, because they sought words and looks as they had no other measurement of wisdom, so all they could do was put the same pigeons back in different holes and curse the decades that had preceded.

And the truly wise sat in their houses with their tightened belts, and their tax free allowances shrivelling before their eyes, with no look but a look of sadness, and no words but silent aspirations, waiting to be discovered.

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THE BROTHERS OF CHARITY SERVICES

ORCHARD CENTRE

The Brothers of Charity provide an International Christian service with centres in sixteen different countries and on five continents. The Congregation was founded in Ghent, Belgium in 1807 and established its first service in Ireland at Belmont Park, Waterford in 1883.

The Brothers of Charity in Ireland play a major role in the provision and development of services for mentally handicapped people in four of the eight Health Board areas into which the country is divided. Their main centres are located in Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Galway and they provide a wide range of services. Services have been provided for mentally handicapped persons in counties Galway and Roscommon since 1952. These services include: (1) Diagnostic, Assessment, Advisory and Support services provided by multi disciplinary team (2) Programmes of education on prevention and early discovery (3) Schemes of early intervention with infants and young children (4) Specialised educational programmes for children of school-going age (5) Residential, social and vocational training programmes (6) Activation programmes and sheltered employment schemes (7) Semi-independent and independent employment opportunities in the community (8) Community based hostels, group homes and flats (9) Public awareness programmes and research.

In pursuit of their tradition of emphasizing the Christian dignity of each human person, the Brothers

have been amongst the first in this country to introduce normalised accommodation, intensive training towards community living and community based living and working opportunities for mentally handicapped persons. It is the objective of the Brothers that the most normalised lifestyle and the highest possible quality of life can be achieved by all persons entrusted to their service for care and training. This policy includes the provision of home based programmes where possible, full parental involvement in planning

and implementation of programmes and community involvement in the development of localised day and residential services.

The Community Programme for Adults (C.P.A.) was initiated as a separate division within the Kilcormac service in March 1981. Thus began the development of localised services for adult mentally handicapped people in convenient locations in County Galway and Roscommon. It was decided that each service should be small, intimate and personalised and that it would form an integral part of its



Mr. Desmond Coen, Gort presenting a cheque for £1,500 to Brother Alfred Hassett, Director of Services, Brothers of Charity, Kilcormac, on behalf of the Friends of Orchard Centre watched by Bob Sillery and Mrs. Anne Clabby. These monies were raised through a church gate collection throughout North Galway, and a sponsored run by Solomon Ori-Orison from Galway to Gort earlier this year.

THE BROTHERS OF CHARITY SERVICES

own local community. Local facilities would be utilised as much as possible and family and community involvement would be encouraged at every opportunity.

It was immediately decided to build a Training and Employment Centre in Gort on a site adjoining "Orchard House", a hostel which had been opened in 1980 as facility directed from Kilcormac Centre which was subsequently transferred to the services at Gort upon the opening of Orchard Centre.

In June/July of 1982, personnel including the Area manager, Miss Mary Kealy, were recruited for the project and suitable candidates for admission were identified. The first group of trainees was accepted in to the new Orchard Centre on September 17th, 1982.

Though the Centre is built on two levels, there is ground level access to both floors. The ground floor of the Centre has administration and assessment offices, two work areas, kitchen, canteen and toilet facilities. The lower level area is an open plan facility suitable for larger work projects and recreation. A second hostel, "Hawthorne", was opened in Gort on October 11th, 1982 and two additional hostels were later opened in Loughrea and trainees residing there commute to and from Gort each day by minibus.

There are 35 people currently attending Orchard Centre and the majority of these reside in hostels/group homes, the remainder live at home with their families.

A special feature of the Centre is the extent of involvement of the local community. Many people have volunteered their time and expertise to assist during the day with training programmes within the Centre and by befriending the trainees and paying social visits to them at home in the evening. The trainees are fully involved in all aspects of the life of the town and participate in numerous clubs and social events. The local community set up a special group, "Friends of Orchard Centre", to promote community involvement with the service and to assist in the integration of the trainees. Their success is due to much hard work and commitment from all members of the committee.

Trainees attending the Centre participate in a three year training programme and thereafter are placed either in open or sheltered employment and have residential accommodation for as long as they so need.

The programmes in each Centre are geared towards serving the needs of the individuals and cover the two broad areas of Vocational and Social training.

The training programmes carried on at Orchard Centre are included under the following headings:

Vocational Training

Industrial sub-contract work, stool assembly, woodwork, industrial sewing, horticulture, printing. Trainees also work in the Social

Services Centre, Gort, and in some local businesses on a work experience programme.

Social Training

- Self-help skills:* P.E., relaxation, good health and grooming, cookery and domestic skills, community orientation.
- Social Academic skills:* Visual perception, arts and crafts, literacy and numeracy.
- Interpersonal skills:* Speech therapy, current affairs, group discussions, hostel meetings and religion.

The C.P.A. programme is geared primarily towards persons in the moderate range of mental handicap, though it does include in its programme some persons in the mild and upper severe range of disability.

There have been many changes in the lifestyles of persons attending the Centre, most especially for those persons who have spent some years in large institutions. The movement of persons from these institutions to homes in the community for example has led to positive and sometimes dramatic changes in the areas of self-esteem, self-reliance, self-care and general confidence on the part of the trainee. It has also led to a greater community awareness of mental handicap. This project has also benefitted families of mentally handicapped persons to the extent that they can now be assured of local service which meets their own needs as well as those of the trainee.

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THE BROTHERS OF CHARITY SERVICES

Clients of the service are referred to the C.P.A. through the "Brothers of Charity Services" admission committee. This committee, under the chairmanship of the director of adult services, meet on a monthly basis to discuss: (a) new applications for admission to the service and (b) transfers within the service.

Support services are provided to the Centre by the Medical Director, a physiologist, social worker, speech therapist and physiotherapist all of whom are attached to the Woodlands Centre of the Brothers of Charity at Renmore, Galway.

Many new activities were undertaken this year and one of them

included a trip to France for a group of twelve trainees. The group spent a week in Lourdes and almost a further two weeks in the south of France where an exchange of houses was made with a group from the L'arche Community. The group were accompanied by five staff members and Fr. Brendan Kelly who works in the Centre as a volunteer. The people of Gort contributed generously towards the cost of the holiday through a church gate collection and a sponsored run by Solomen Ori-Orison.

RTE recently paid a visit to Gort to make an Access Community Television Programme on Orchard Centre and the life of the trainees.

They spent three days filming in the town and the scenes taken included the resources used in the community by the trainees in their every day lives. This half hour long programme was produced by Michael Murphy and the presenter is Ciana Campbell. It is expected that it will be broadcast on RTE after Christmas.

If anyone is interested in becoming more involved with Orchard Centre or in their family life feel they could offer support and friendship to any of our trainees, their contribution would be indeed very welcome. If you would like to help, call to Orchard Centre anytime or contact a member from the "Friends of Orchard Centre".

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ROWDY SCENES MARK MAYORAL ELECTION

The Mayoral election of 1983 lacked the stupendous excitement generated by the first contest in 1980, when the universally popular Mattie Collins was enthroned as our First Citizen.

The venue was unchanged—Sullivans Royal Hotel, but in contrast to Mr. Collins' acclamation, there was an uneasy air prevailing as crowds gathered in the bar and the ballroom, where the Dias was placed, and revolutionary whispers were discernible.

Candidates sealed off:

Many wore party badges, the pale blue and lemon of Rome predominating. The candidates, Michael Cunningham, Fr. James Walsh, Christy O'Connor (Jnr.) and the sole women's lib candidate Aggie Jennings (wearing a blouse and top of green and gold) above slim fitting maroon jeans).

In the far right hand corner of the Counting Room, they sat on gilded chairs of red velvet surrounded by a bullet proof steel grill under the guardianship of Mr. Christopher Minogue—a veteran of the F.C.A. and Dún Uí Mhaolaosa who kept a watchful eye whilst occasionally seen to sip Coke or orange crush.

Happily it was not revealed that he was armed with a rifle used by his father, James Minogue during his service as a Connaught Ranger in the First Great War of 1914-18.

Gratetious Liqueur

There was a "visible" presence of unusual tension, as Mr. Sullivan (Snr.)

arrived in the bar, to announce that the election would take place in eight minutes, and he appealed to all and sundry to remain calm and accept the democratic decision of the proletariat.

He directed his manager Mr. Kearns to dispense gratuiteous liqueur to all patrons—which was in fact a disastrous mid-direction, for, at this stage, many present were clearly beyond the "green bag blow stage", which Garda McGann intimidated to Mr. Sullivan in a whispered remonstrance.

But the liqueur flowed and conversation grew more animated and contentious.

I had an inkling of doom of some sort. From a tally count, His Reverence was favourite, but a small but vociferous section were already proclaiming Mr. Cunningham or Mr. O'Connor as victors.

Local bookmaker Paddy Piggott accepted bets at 4/5 Fr. Walsh; 2/1 Aggie.

Aggie's extensive canvass

Aggie, who sat quietly confident in the security cage acknowledged the many salutations from well wishers. She had canvassed extensively in a chaffeur driven car, courtesy of Mrs. O'Hanrahan, with driver and body guard, visiting such rugged terrain as Ardahan and Kinvara, but made a big impact in her native Duniry where she made an after Mass speech, that brought cheers of joy and animation from the large crowd, with none less than the parish priest, Very Rev. Fr. O'Reilly, who in a few short introductory words said, "We are glad

to welcome back a kind and gentle daughter of our parish, a young lady who has given over 35 years dedicated and honest service to her adopted town of Gort. I ask you on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Duniry, Mullagh and its neighbouring parishes of Tynagh, Leitrim and as far a field as Cappataggle, Kilrickle, to, without hesitation give her your No. 1 Vote, "beannacht Dé oraibh go léir agus go neirgh len ar gcaitín deas dílls".

The explosive hat

Though tempers were frayed, and jostling occurred spasmodically, it was the entrance of tipsy local photographer—who shall stand named—Willie Quinn, bearing the explosive message "Aggie for Queen—or else", that spanked the signal for pandemonium—fists flew freely—Dan was knocked to the floor still proclaiming "Aggie and no one else".

The hat was snatched and Quinn received a number of wounds to his bald head, but, thanks to the mighty John Joe and Mattie, it was retrieved, and the pro Aggeties marched defiantly into the counting room.

When the chairman mounted the rostrum and called for order amid the bedlam, there were shouts of "Double Voting", "Impersonation", "False Ballot Papers". One well known Agnostic shouted, "Rome Rule is Rome Rule".

A willowy blond in a topless dress ("she was not a native of our parish", stated Fr. Power later), screamed "Give us Paisley—Up the Bogside".

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ROWDY SCENES MARK MAYORAL ELECTION

The girl obviously had more vodka than sense and was discreetly led away by Tom.

Result announced

Amid hissing and booing and the odd scuffle, the voting papers were allotted into their respective niches, and, as anticipated the Rev. James was "Elected on the First Count", and was duly chaired high on a Papal Pedestal.

When interviewed by a *Sunday World* reporter immediately afterwards, Aggie asked for a comment, shyly quoted the famous words—shock—"beidh lá eile ag an bPaorach" (literally translated, "The Voters will have another day".)

Despite the disruptive and unseemingly behaviour, the contest netted a lot of money for our community centre, so, congratulations to all who contributed, and a special word of thanks to our great and dedicated

doctors Joyce, Jennings and Marlborough, who so expertly camouflaged the "relic" of a most memorable and dramatic night.

Parish Priests denial

When roused from his bed at 3 a.m. following the result, the parish priest, Very Rev. Fr. O'Halloran was visibly shaken by the account related by a "Galway Star" reporter.

He categorically denied that the Papal Legate, Dr. Alibrandi of the Phoenix Park had voted in the election, and scooped rumours that his Excellency had teleaxed Rome in an effort to sway the decision.

When asked for further comment, Fr. O'Halloran said, "I will be issuing a statement to be read at all masses in Gort, Kiltartan and Tiernavan—and a copy of which will be sent to Rome".

Mass of Appeasement

As we go to press, it is reliably speculated that the new King proposes offering a special mass on the Carron Mountains, in an effort to appease the Spirit of the real king Guaire, following stories that dishes and goblets of meade were seen to rise at a medieval banquet at Dún Guaire beside the ancient fishing village of Kinvara.

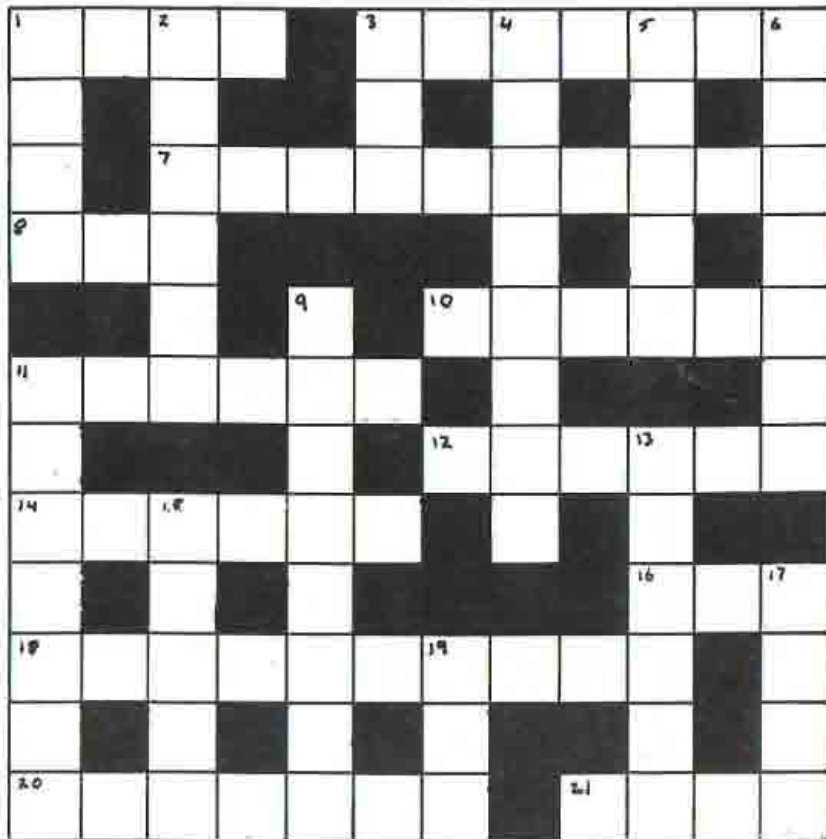
An old local woman, Mrs. Bridget Earley declared that it was a recurrence of "Bóthair na Mias".

Nonsense

"Fantastic Nonsense", replied the new King, when told that the manner in which the elections were conducted was in contravention of the Charter of Human Rights, and that the lady candidate had an appeal listed for hearing at Strasbourg, in 1998.

W. M. Quinn

CROSSWORD



FIRST CORRECT ENTRY RECEIVED GETS £10.00

Clues Across

- Has Limerick origins.
- Moves through a quadrant to support a leaf, 3 and 4.
- First-aid for casualties and shoes.
- Consume.
- Common to tide and hairline.
- Penman or joiners tool.
- Falcons Shackles.
- A.W.O.L.
- Hostilities.
- Capable of retraction or protrusion.
- Determined.
- Detail.

Clues Down

- Un-punctual.
- Turn Co-star and things move easier.
- Sounds like an Irish symbol.
- A polishing instrument.
- A loyal vassal.
- Engine seals.
- Sidebone rearranged describes blackened wood.
- Commenced.
- Displaced timber.
- Law excluding females from succession.
- Printers paper reference.
- Strange.

BURREN PILGRIMAGE

A lone piper playing a lament, a group of pilgrims, carrying a large white cross, led by four priests along a stoney mountain-side on a beautiful April Sunday afternoon; you'd be forgiven for thinking that you were watching an enactment of a Passion play, but no, it was instead the people of South Galway and North Clare reviving the old custom of pilgrimage to St. Colman's Retreat at Ceann Aille in the Burren. It was truly a sight to stir the imagination as young and old, priest, nun, and lay-person, toiled over the rocky terrain from white small cross to small white cross representing the fourteen stations of the Passion of Christ.

Ceann Aille—the place

Finally, the site of the ruined oratory beneath the cave on the side of Colman's mountain was reached. Tradition has it that in this place the sixth century man of God fasted and did penance for the forty days of Lent, living in the small cave on this bleak mountain-side. Many miraculous happenings are attributed to this spot, probably the most amazing being the transportation of the dishes from the table of King Guaire at Kinvara to provide the Easter meal for Colman and his starving attendant after the rigours of Lent!

The Mass

On this Sunday, however, there were no such happenings, although on reflection maybe one could consider the fact of so many people being gathered in this remote place to pray, was indeed a kind of miracle. Fr. Jimmy Walshe and Fathers Paddy Callinan and Brendan Muldoon, who was on holiday from Florida. It was truly moving to see the Host and Chalice raised over the people and to hear the people raise their voices in hymns of praise in this place where silence and scrub had held sway for centuries.

Father Walshe, in his homily, neatly put the whole experience in perspective, pointing out that Penance has been and is always necessary for mankind—now more



Fr. Jimmy Walsh preaching. Behind him is Fr. P. Callinan, C.C.



The Cross is raised at Ceannaille

than ever. As he spoke one began to think of all the work that had gone into this venture; the making of the large white Cross and the fourteen smaller ones, the clearing and preparation of the site itself, all in all, truly a mammoth effort!

Conclusions and reflections

After the ceremonies, people broke up into groups as they investigated the cave, the monks tomb, the penitential bed of stone—with its cure for back-ache—and the stream. Some renewed acquaintances with people they had not met for years, and there seemed to be a general good humour in the air!

As the groups made their various ways home, one noted some of the comments; one older woman said she thought she'd never have been able for the trip!; a man said it should happen more often; and perhaps the most telling comment that of two young people who said they enjoyed it all and would certainly go again! And if any of these comments are to be translated into wishes, may it be that last one!

The Pilgrim



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GOOD SERVICE AND THE KEENEST OF GROCERY PRICES

Greetings to all our Customers

The Gort Community Council Sponsored Walk

By MARY LARKIN

"I want you to know that you are being warmly received" and "You should go away in good heart." A rather unusual welcome you will agree, more reminiscent of the Court of an elderly feudal Lord than a modern young Minister for State. All things considered, it wasn't a flat "No" and from what we could glean, unless there was a General Election before January 1985 it could be said that we had it in the bag!!! You may ask what is in the bag—a mere £100,000 capital Grant!!!

Perhaps it would help to begin at the beginning. The Gort Community Council Limited have up until we heard those kind words spoken by George Bermingham been totally dependent on the good will and generosity of the people of Gort and the surrounding Parishes. They contributed to the weekly Draw organised by the Council and have been the life blood and main-stay of the construction fund. Perhaps this is as it should be, but as there is unlikely to be a repetition of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Government or other support is sorely needed.

The latest fund raising scheme was the brain-child of Frank Fahey. It was anticipated that the idea would be

doubly effective; Walk to Dublin in which the local Public Representatives would participate and which would coincide with the opening of Dáil Éireann; and at the same time sponsored by Suppliers of goods and services to the Town. The Suppliers agreed to sponsor the Walk to the tune of £12,000 and we hoped that the Government, would, given the stated objective contained in their Youth Policy Document, come forward with the promised Capital Grant.

The preparation for the Walk/run required many long and tiring hours of planning and work. Finally after many hours of preparation and planning, the walk got under way on Sunday, October 7, 1984, with a group of thirty or so volunteers touring the town with great fanfare. Our undertaking was blessed by Canon Walsh, and the townpeople, ever patient, contributed generously, and thus fortified both spiritually and materially we set off for Galway.

There we were received by Bobby Molloy, T.D. and Fintan Coogan, T.D. Lots were drawn, and Gerry Nolan, the Gort Boxing Club representative commenced the run and led Frank Fahey, the Galway T.D.s and the Gortonians out of Galway.

Sunday was a demanding day for our athletes, Gerry Nolan, Gerry Linnane, Noel Lane, Solomon Ori

Orison, Kieran O'Dea, Michael Coen and Barry McNevin, who were ably assisted by Jimmy Regan being the resident medic and masseur of the day. As we, followed the runners through the Towns of Oranmore, Craughwell, Loughrea and Ballinasloe, we were joined by other Politicians and the populace enjoyed the dulcet tones of Frank Fahey per the P.A. system explaining the purposes of the walk, requesting support and asking for generous contributions.

The collectors soon devised means of holding up the lines of traffic, whereupon swot teams fell upon the innocent drivers headed by the able Rose Mullins and Mary Coen. Sums large and small were gratefully accepted.

At Duggan Park, our efforts were well rewarded and our day ended happily as the County Galway Hurling Team beat Tipperary.

On Monday morning we set off from Ballinasloe and were met by more Politicians along the way. The weather was awful, a constant down-pour hampered the efforts of the athletes and collectors. Despite the dampening and depressing day however, Bertie Keely, Gerry Nolan, Gerry Linnane and Noel Lane and Solomon Ori Orison continued valiantly. Their performance was assisted by Fred Smith, Masseur, who proved invaluable with his years of army and G.A.A. experience.

That evening at Harry's in Kinnegad the day's deeds were recounted. After many pints an extraordinary meeting of the Council was chaired by John Melville, finally, having resolved the Word's more serious problems the Crew retired to bed.

On the road again, Tuesday was notable on two counts, the very fine weather and our television debut. Approaching Moyvalley, we came upon Maggie O'Kane of *Newstime* and her team of assistants. The runners were most impressive and their ability noted by the cameras. The collectors performed admirably, stopping traffic, way-laying drivers



Gerry Nolan, Norman Rochford, Gerry Linnane, Fr. Jimmy Walsh, Noel Lane, Micheál C. Breathnach and Canon C. Walsh pictured in The Square prior to the start of the Walk.

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The Gort Community Council Sponsored Walk

and pedestrians. No one was safe as they persuaded all and sundry to part with pounds, shillings and pence. Somewhat to our surprise we were giving interviews and even exchanging witty remarks with the media—we thought they were witty. Everyone was superb—all Academy Award Performances!!!

In Lucan we were joined by Francis Fahey and Máire Geoghegan Quinn and later that night we were to toast their new appointments in nothing less than champagne. Spirits were high, as we relaxed that evening and discussed the day's events and planned for the morrow.

And then at last D-Day arrived. As we approached the City, we were met by a Garda escort. Is it possible they thought we might get lost? At Christchurch we were joined by Máire Geoghegan Quinn, T.D. Noel Treacy, T.D., Fintan Coogan, T.D. and Francis Fahey, T.D., whereupon, we all marched upon the city to Leinster House. Through the good graces of our local representatives we were all admitted to the House, and viewed the opening session of Dáil Éireann.

We were introduced to both the Taoiseach and Charles J. Haughey. We may have been pleased, and, indeed, honoured to meet our leaders, but they appeared far from relaxed at the prospect of sharing each others company. The press, naturally enough, rallied around, cameras flashing and delighted to witness the discomfort between Garret and

Charile. We ate a fine lunch, savouring the knowledge of its Government subsidy. Later our delegation was received by Minister George Bermingham and was led by Michael Breathnach, Mary Larkin, David McConn and Michael O'Grady. Each of these individuals in turn outlined various aspects of the necessity of the centre, our urgent need for a capital grant, the large sum collected locally to date and in particular our present progress on site.

The Minister complemented the efforts of the organisation and noted in particular the large amount of money collected locally. He also congratulated us on our presentation. A great deal of discussion ensued and despite the fact that the Minister sounded more than hopeful we did not appear to be receiving any positive commitment. However, members of the deputation continued pressing their point in a gentle but firm fashion. Eventually, it was indicated that precise details of the capital grant which we would receive would be ironed out within the next six to eight weeks. However, even when the amount is decided its sanction will be subject to—Ah! he was a real politician—ratification of the national plan by a majority in the Dáil and further sanction by the Department of Finance.

We live in hope.

It would be unfair to end on the rather indecisive note set by the last

paragraph and we should say, that the Minister Mr. George Bermingham did visit Gort a week later and laid the first block of the building, while promising that he would be back again next year to open the centre.



Mr. George Bermingham, T.D., Minister of State lays the first block of Gort Community Centre, watched by Micheál Breathnach, Fintan Coogan, T.D., and Frank Fahey, T.D.

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POET'S CORNER

A TRIBUTE TO FREDDY SMITH

By Sean Leahy

I am delighted to put pen to paper, and write a few words of praise for one of our own, Freddy Smith of Galway Road, a first class masseur with the Galway team from 1964 to 1982, helped I'm sure to win the three in a row for Galway in 1964, '65, and '66. A man always in good spirit, and always ready to help, no matter what the hardship to himself. I on behalf of the staff of Guaire, wish him years of future happiness. As a tribute to you Freddy I dedicate this little poem to you.

THE BOLD FREDDY SMITH

*Away up in Dublin, when Galway were playing
lagging they were, by a goal and three points.
The team were not ready, so they sent down for Freddy,
To massage all the muscles, and loosen the joints.
He rubbed all the players, massaged all the muscles,
and soon had them running like bulls from the Vet
When they got the ball, there was no hanky panky,
but drove it three times through the back of the net.*

CHORUS

*For tuning up muscles, removing old fossels,
or making a body, so straight and so fit.
Forget about cures, from knock or from Lourdes
and come to see our man, the bold Freddy Smith.*

*A woman from Kerry, a little bit merry
had slipped on some cowdung, and put out a joint.
She prayed to St. Martin, St. Jude and St. Patrick,
Lit candles to heaven, but what was the point.
She read in the Guaire, of a man down in Galway,
who could ease her pain, and perhaps cure them all.
So she came to see Freddy, who soon had her ready,
She's dancing each night now in Sullivans hall!*

Chorus

*Now all you who suffer, from pains and discomfort,
take heed of my song, and you'll have to admit.
For swellings, flat feet, or muscle bound lovers,
there's none in old Ireland, like bold Freddy Smith.
If you have a stiff leg, corns or bunions,
slipdiscs, lumbago, or somewhere you hit.
No need for a doctor, or that Lisdoon water,
come down to our town, and see bold Freddy Smith*

Chorus

THE VISIT

By Michael O'Dwyer

*Sandwiched in crisp starched sheets
pale features drawn, white crown, neat
arms flat, transparent,
skeletal form apparent,
class soft hand, gently touch,
have stare, blue eyes, big, too much.
No words, a look tells all,
Glad you had time to call,
Brisk business feet, dishes clatter,
Time in here, doesn't matter.
Quiet rest, a little smoke or two,
Do not I beg, overdo.
Helplessly watch time go by
Bell rings . . .
Kiss, say good bye.*

EASTER

*This little graceful town
So beautiful
As old as Guaire and as generous
Stamped with glory
In the late spring sun
It looks so charming now.
So long a memory
Lost in the busy streets
Of great cities far away
or in the hearts of deep forests
Beyond the rolling sands
Of the great Sahara
Memories of loved ones fade
At times, become obscure
But never die
Oh! what happiness
To pass through these streets again.
The streets I love
To meet the friends I knew
So young, so long ago.
Now joy is in my heart
This lovely sunny day
As I realise
Old friends are true.
I see the faces that I love
I hear the sounds I knew
I know it, I feel the spell.
IT'S GORT
The town I love so well.*

Father Fintan P. Nelly, S.M.A.

THE SITUATION

By Alan O'Donoghue, Our Lady's College

*I want to make myself
into something I've never known
And depart from this queue,
A queue that's overgrown.
Though it's truly not my fault,
I'm somewhat different to the rest,
Sadly I'm described as part of a
minority unprogressed.*

*This antumacy in society
has bared me out of mind.
I seek and apply
with little or nothing to find.
I feel just like a failure
though I'd sooner not.
"Experience a necessity", experience I
haven't got.*

*Automation has deprived me
of my chance to prove
That I am worthy as a man
To make this world move
I resort to the hope
Of a new epoch to appear
And make meagre this reality
So many fear.*

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